



Mountaineer Jamboree: Country Music in West Virginia

Ivan Tribe

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Jamboree! To many country music fans the word conjures up memories of Saturday nights around the family radio listening to live broadcasts from that haven of hillbilly music, West Virginia. From 1926 through the 1950s, as Ivan Tribe shows in his lively history, country music radio programming made the Mountain State a mecca for country singers and instrumentalists from all over America.

Wilma Lee and Stoney Cooper, Little Jimmy Dickens, Hawkshaw Hawkins, Red Sovine, Blaine Smith, Curly Ray Cline, Grandpa Jones, Cowboy Loye, Rex and Eleanor Parker, Lee Moore, Buddy Starcher, Doc and Chickie Williams, and Molly O'Day were among the many who came to prominence via West Virginia radio.

Wheeling's "WWVA jamboree," first broadcast in 1933, attracted a wide audience, especially after 1942, when the station increased its power. The show's success spawned numerous competitors, as new stations all over West Virginia followed WWVA's lead in headlining country music.

The state also played an important role in the early recording industry. The Tweedy Brothers, Frank Hutchison, Roy Harvey, Blind Alfred Reed, Frank Welling and John McGhee, Cap and Andy, and the Kessinger Brothers were among West Virginians whose waxings contributed to the state's reputation for fine native musicianship. So too did those who sought out and recorded the Mountaineer folksong heritage.

As Nashville's dominance has grown since the 1960s, West Virginia's leadership in country music has lessened. Young performers must now seek fame outside their native state. But, as Ivan Tribe demonstrates, the state's numerous outdoor festivals continue to keep alive the heritage of country music's "mountain mama."

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Cynthia Richards:

A lot of people always spent their very own free time to vacation or perhaps go to the outside with them family members or their friend. Were you aware? Many a lot of people spent that they free time just watching TV, or even playing video games all day long. If you would like try to find a new activity honestly, that is look different you can read some sort of book. It is really fun for you personally. If you enjoy the book that you read you can spent all day long to reading a e-book. The book Mountaineer Jamboree: Country Music in West Virginia it is rather good to read. There are a lot of people that recommended this book. They were enjoying reading this book. In the event you did not have enough space to deliver this book you can buy typically the e-book. You can more easily to read this book from a smart phone. The price is not to cover but this book has high quality.

Helen Green:

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