

Guide takes look at country music



VICTORIA DIAZ

BOOK BREAK

I once met cowboy singing star Gene Autry. I once stood under an umbrella with a guy who played back-up for Hank Williams (Sr.). I once dated a Nashville singer.

Despite all of these utterly earth-shaking events, I never developed much of an interest in country music.

Recently, that's changed. Though I'm still not particularly fond of the music itself, I find myself increasingly fascinated with the world of country music, its colorful history and its performers. This is due in large part of an unpretentious little volume titled "All American Guide to Country Music," which crossed my desk a few weeks back, compliments of Country Roads Press.

Surprisingly, the book's creators, Frank and Patricia Eichenlaub, don't hail from the backwoods of the Smoky Mountains or the hills of Tennessee and they have never been at home on the range in Texas, or any other place where there is much of a range to be at home on. Frank, a teacher, and Patricia, an Episcopal priest, live in Bedford Township.

Back in the days when her work took her on long road trips along, Patricia writes in the book's introduction, she began tuning in to country music stations on her car radio to while away the hours. Soon she discovered she'd taken a liking to "the stories told in song" she could pick up on radio stations across the nation.

Gilley's visit fateful

Then a few years ago, she and husband Frank traveled to Houston and found themselves wondering what to do one night out on the town.

As it happened, they visited Gilley's — of "Urban Cowboy" fame — and danced the night away. Then, they went home and discovered they had both become absolutely and completely hooked on country music. They couldn't seem to get enough of it. Soon they began looking for a guide-

book to help them find the best and the most of it. Only one problem: no guidebook could be found.

So the resourceful couple decided to do their own research, conduct their own treasure hunt and, finally, put the guide together themselves.

Before long, they were combing the country, seeking answers to their questions, either firsthand, through correspondence with friends or via helpful country music experts.

Just when and where were the biggest and best annual country music festivals held? What were the hottest country music nightspots in the United States? What were the top country music recordings of all time? What radio stations kept country music fans entertained all night long?

Country publisher bites

One thing led to another. The book, at first self-published under the title, "Travelin' Country," grew so popular that the authors sought an outside publisher and found one quickly in Country Roads Press. Then they decided to enlarge and elaborate on the original publication — which was essentially a compilation of lists — and the "All American Guide" is the result.

The book illustrates delightfully what is one of the most important things about country music: its diversity and farflung roots. Country is bluegrass. Country is cowboy. Country is gospel music. Country is Cajun. Country is your basic, git-down-at-the-Grand-Ole-Opay stuff. And these days, it's also over, under, around and through all of this, and a lot more besides.

In lively chapters written by the Eichenlaubs and other authorities on the subject, you can get closer to Cajun, meet the physician-cowboy-poet Kent Stockton, find out about the great bluegrass musician Bill Monroe, delve into a short history of gospel music or go backstage at the Grand Ole Opry.

Victoria Diaz of Livonia tracks the books and literary industry. You can leave a message for her on a touch-tone phone by dialing 933-2047, then her mailbox number, 1854.

Writer reasons with solid logic



LORENE GREEN

GRAPHOLOGY PROFILES

Dear Me:

I was born on Oct. 16, 1945. I am left handed. I do a lot of writing on the job and I mainly print when I make a draft. However, I notice that my printing consists of "written" letters.

R.C. Plymouth

ing tension and a lack of fulfillment in his life.

This man is a practical thinker with no frills or showy mental gymnastics. He reasons with solid logic. Even details receive assiduous attention.

Although he can vacillate at times, once he has made up his mind he can be firmly based. When pressed to the wall, he can stiffen his back, dig in his heels and remain immovable. Recently, I read some sage advice that may be applicable here. "The true test of maturity is the ability to admit you are wrong and accept criticism constructively." Perhaps many of us could benefit from an open assessment of this statement.

Mental efficiency characterizes this handwriting. In a position with flex time, I believe this man would function most effectively. He is an independent person and a self-starter. His is the ability to strip away non-essential aspects of the job or situation and get to the bottom line. He is idealistic about many things with an interest in the abstract, probably enjoys stimulating people.

The main area of interest, however, appears to be in the physical aspects of his being. He requires freedom of movement. Determination is strong and long! On the job, he will probably be uncomfortable if he has to sit still for very extended periods.

I was born on October 16, 1945. I am left handed. I do a lot of writing on the job & I mainly print when I make a draft. However, I notice that my printing consists of "written" letters also.

In dealing with people he can be tactful, even charming, saying what the other person wants to hear. In direct contrast, he can also call a spade a spade and let the chips fall where they may.

With a new year on the horizon, it might be an ideal time to come to grips with the discouragement and inferior feelings with which he currently grapples. These traits seem to be blocking his potential to bring his goals to fruition.

If you would like to have your handwriting analyzed in this newspaper, write to Lorene C. Green, a certified graphologist, at 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia 48150. Please use a full sheet of white, unlined paper, writing in the first person singular. Age, handedness and signature are all helpful and constructive feedback is always welcome.

Hospital class to help expectant mothers

To help expectant mothers prepare for one important aspect of caring for a newborn, Beaumont Hospital's Maternal Child Health Department offers a monthly prenatal breastfeeding class.

"Preparing for Breastfeeding" will meet 7:30-9:30 p.m. Feb. 8 and 15 at the hospital, 3801 W. 13

Mile Road, in Royal Oak, in the Administration Building West-Conference Dining Room.

A class at Beaumont, 44201 Dequindre, in Troy will meet 6:30-9:30 p.m. Jan. 23.

Maternal Child Health staff will discuss a variety of topics at the sessions including nutritional

value of breast milk; anatomy of the breast; breast-feeding positions; advantages and disadvantages of breast-feeding; returning to work; dad's role in nursing, and problem solving.

Expectant mothers are encouraged to take the class between their 34th and 38th week of preg-

nancy. Fathers-to-be are also welcome to attend. Class fee is \$29. for each individual or couple.

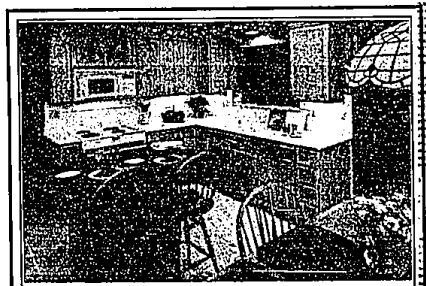
To register for the class, or for more information, call Beaumont's Physician Referral and Information Service at 1-800-633-7377.



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The Seven Day Wonder

This kitchen, designed and manufactured by DeGullo Industries, took just seven days for complete installation. Shown above is the warm Georgetown Forest Oak cabinetry with Corian working counters and Tuscan ceramic tile backslashes. Vermont natural marble tops the mobile island. The project included installation of built-in appliances, new soffit work, and all electrical and plumbing work.

For a free estimate on your kitchen or bathroom, visit the idea-packed DeGullo Showrooms. Hours: 10-6 daily, 10-4 Saturdays.

In Dearborn
16180 Century Drive
(S. of Michigan, off Greenfield)
271-4890

In Livonia
33286 W. Six Mile Road
(Corner of Farmington Road)
422-1100

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