CLASSIC COUNTRY TV

The Outlaw Archive

CLASSIC COUNTRY. NO APOLOGIES.



VOLUME VII · THE OUTLAW CIRCLE

George Jones

A free sampler from The Grand Tour, the new volume of The Outlaw Archive.

- ★ FREE SAMPLER: TEN RECORDS FROM THE POSSUM 50
- ★ TWO MEMOIRS, TWO LAWNMOWERS: THE STORY STARTS HERE
- ★ SEVEN THINGS MOST FANS NEVER LEARNED



WELCOME TO THE CIRCLE

In This Sampler

I — Duets & Deep Cuts

Nos. 41 to 50 of the Possum 50: the duet partners, the B-sides, and the rockabilly record he put a fake name on.

Page 3

II — Two Memoirs, Two Lawnmowers

Country music's most famous beer run, checked against the record. The first half of the story is here; the rest is in the full volume.

Page 4

III — What Most Fans Never Learned

Seven true stories about George Jones, from an 80-take first No. 1 to a borrowed guitar at the Opry.

Page 6



THE POSSUM 50 · TIER 5 · NOS. 41–50

Duets & Deep Cuts

The partners, the B-sides, and the record he wouldn't sign.

41 **"We're Gonna Hold On"**
GEORGE JONES & TAMMY WYNETTE · 1973
NO. 1
The first of their three No. 1 duets, written by Jones and Earl Montgomery.

42 **"Near You"**
GEORGE JONES & TAMMY WYNETTE · 1977
NO. 1
A 1947 Francis Craig pop hit, cut before the divorce and released after it. No. 1 in early 1977.

43 **"Two Story House"**
GEORGE JONES & TAMMY WYNETTE · 1980
NO. 2
Five years divorced and still harmonizing. No. 1 in Canada.

44 **"Yesterday's Wine"**
MERLE HAGGARD & GEORGE JONES · 1982
NO. 1
Two of the greatest singers alive on a Willie Nelson song. One week at No. 1.

45 **"We Must Have Been Out of Our Minds"**
GEORGE JONES & MELBA MONTGOMERY · 1963
NO. 3
Montgomery wrote it; it was her first national hit and the biggest of their duets.

46 **"Take Me"**
GEORGE JONES & TAMMY WYNETTE · 1971
NO. 9
Their first duet single, a Jones and Leon Payne song he'd cut solo in 1965.

47 **"Seasons of My Heart"**
GEORGE JONES · 1955
The B-side of "Why Baby Why." Johnny Cash, Kitty Wells and Willie Nelson all recorded it after him.

48 **"Small Time Laboring Man"**
GEORGE JONES · 1968 NO. 35
Bob Dylan named it one of the best songs of the year in a 1969 Rolling Stone interview.

49 **"Open Pit Mine"**
GEORGE JONES · 1962 NO. 13
A copper miner's confession with no chorus at all. As dark as country singles got in 1962.

50 **"Rock It"**
THUMPER JONES · 1956
Starday's try at rockabilly, released under a fake name. It flopped, and he never let anyone forget he hated it.

ARCHIVE EXCLUSIVE GEORGE JONES · THE LEGEND



Two Memoirs, Two Lawnmowers

Country music's most famous beer run has no police report, no newspaper story, and two different wives hiding the keys.

8 mi.	10 mi.	0
To a Beaumont liquor store, in his memoir	To a bar, in Tammy Wynette's memoir	Police or news records of either ride

DOCUMENTED CLAIMED UNRESOLVED Every paragraph in this piece carries one of these labels.

CLAIMED

In *I Lived to Tell It All* (1996), Jones writes that his second wife, Shirley Corley, hid the car keys while they lived outside Beaumont in the 1960s. So he climbed onto the riding mower and drove it about eight miles to a liquor store.

I imagine the top speed for that old mower was five miles per hour.

— GEORGE JONES, I LIVED TO TELL IT ALL, 1996

It's a good story, and he told it on himself. But his isn't the only version in print. Tammy Wynette published one too, seventeen years before his, and it doesn't put the same wife behind the keys.

CONTINUED IN THE FULL VOLUME

- Tammy Wynette's version, and where it parts ways with his
- One ride or two? What the record can and can't settle
- How he turned the legend into a running joke on camera

What Most Fans Never Learned

★ His first No. 1 took about 80 takes. They used the first.

On "White Lightning," by Jones's and biographer Bob Allen's accounts, the bassist blistered his fingers and Pappy Daily kept take one, flubbed word and all.

★ The man who wrote it never saw it chart.

J.P. "The Big Bopper" Richardson wrote "White Lightning." He died February 3, 1959. The single came out six days later.

★ There really was George Jones sausage.

Williams Sausage Co. of Union City, Tennessee, launched George Jones Country Sausage in March 2003. Jones said he didn't lend his name to just anything.

★ He owned a music park in the East Texas woods.

Jones Country, about 60 acres near Colmesneil, Texas, opened in the early 1980s. Nancy Jones recalled crowds of 20,000 in the middle of nowhere.

★ A punk-era Englishman wrote him a song.

Elvis Costello wrote "Stranger in the House" with Jones in mind, cut it solo in 1978, then sang it with him on *My Very Special Guests*.

★ Bob Dylan picked one of his B-sides.

In a 1969 Rolling Stone interview, Dylan named "Small Time Laboring Man" one of the best songs of the year before. It peaked at No. 35.

★ The Opry rookie had to borrow a guitar.

By Bob Allen's account, Jones learned just before his debut that he couldn't use his own guitar. George Morgan handed him one belonging to Little Jimmy Dickens.

More of the Possum's story lives in the Journal at journal.classiccountrytv.com.



★ ★ ★

The Top 10 Stays Inside the Circle

Join The Outlaw Circle free and get the full Vol. VII, all seven volumes of The Outlaw Archive, and every new volume first.

JOIN FREE

outlawcircle.classiccountrytv.com

THE VAULT

classiccountrytv.com/pages/the-vault

JOURNAL

journal.classiccountrytv.com

© 2026 CLASSIC COUNTRY TV · CLASSIC COUNTRY. NO APOLOGIES.