

PRINCE ALBERT GRAND OLE OPRY # 1000

8:30 - 9:00 PM

SATURDAY

DECEMBER 6, 1978

8:30

12/16/78

51462 3177

GRANT:

From the Ryman Auditorium in Nashville, Tennessee...the country music capitol of the world...here's the 1000th broadcast of the GRAND.....OLE....OPRY...tonight featuring a star-studded cast, as we turn back the pages of time to present a special broadcast honoring the stars, the performers and the SPONSOR who have helped make The Grand Ole Opry an American Institution and a part of the American way of life. Now...here's the entire cast with the opening number !!

(APPLAUSE)

MUSIC:

"STAY ALL NIGHT, STAY A LITTLE LONGER.....ENTIRE CAST ON STAGE SINGING OPENING NUMBER.

(APPLAUSE)

8:31:20

GRANT:

Yes...that's The Grand Ole Opry today. Laughter...songs...a wildly cheering crowd. Bright lights...costumes and all the tinsel and glitter of show business with stars whose names are as commonplace on the lips of the American public as the names of our national leaders. But in the beginning...back thirty-three years ago.....

MUSIC:

"FADE IN SOUND OF SINGLE FIDDLE PLAYING HOEDOWN, ESTAB...  
FADE UNDER AS BG FOR:

(GRANT OVER)

GRANT: Yes...thirty-three years ago THAT was the sound of the Grand Ole Opry. A hoedown...played by a lone country fiddler named Uncle Jimmy Thompson...and the lonely sound of a Cumberland River steamboat whistle.....

SOUND: STEAMBOAT WHISTLE ..... (TAPE)

GRANT: .....sounded by a young publicity man turned radio announcer, George Hay. For three and a half hours Uncle Jimmy fiddled and George Hay talked...and the "ear-phone and crystal set" audience loved it. Quick to respond to their wishes, WSM made the Grand Ole Opry a regular Saturday night affair and started scouring the area for talent. Soon, Nashville was swarming with performers and the Opry grew bigger and better. One of those early performers who started so long ago is with us tonight...and his music is still as popular with the crowds as it ever was. Here he is....Bill Monroe...and his Blue Grass Boys !!

(APPLAUSE)

8:32:45  
GRANT: Bill...I know you're too choked up to say anything...but will you sing us one of those great songs you did on the Opry back in the early days? Here he is neighbors...BILL MONROE and " John Henry."

(APPLAUSE)

MUSIC: "JOHN HENRY".....BILL MONROE

(APPLAUSE)

(GRANT OVER)

8:35:20

GRANT:

Thank you, Bill Monroe.....thanks so much. (TO CROWD)

And of course....Bill is STILL one of the Opry's regular stars. But to step back in the past once more. A little over nineteen years ago a great corporation....a firm who's name and products are known far and wide....learned of the popularity of The Grand Ole Opry and of the loyalty and devotion of you...it's listeners. It was then that they began their sponsorship of this very portion of the show..a sponsorship which has continued, uninterrupted, down to this very moment. To the R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Company, makers of Prince Albert Smoking Tobacco, The Opry.....and all of us, owe a debt of gratitude we can never repay. One of the stars who was on that very first sponsored broadcast is unable to be with us tonight because he is overseas entertaining members of our armed forces. But by special arrangement....we present his voice....Mr. Country Music Himself.....ROY ACUFF !!

(APPLAUSE)

ENG. PLAY ROY'S SPEECH....ET.....TIME 58 SEC

8:36:10

ROY:

Yes....and I feel quite honored to know that that program has still continued so many years on The Grand Ole Opry and it's a pleasure to say hello to all you wonderful people that have been listening to our program for so many years. I had the pleasure of being on the first broadcast something like 19 years ago.

(TAPE CONTINUES...OVER)

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TAPE.....CONTINUED:

It seems like a long time, but I was one of the boys that was on it and I feel real proud and honored to know that they have stayed on so many years and have been such faithful people that we here at The Grand Ole Opry...and I speak for them all... are very proud of OUR PRODUCT....very proud of the product that they are advertising and through that, we hope that we've been of some benefit to all the people that are concerned with Prince Albert Smoking tobacco. Thank you very very kindly.... everyone has been wonderful to me. And keep listening to Grand Ole Opry and the greatest in Country Music. Goodbye, everyone !!

(APPLAUSE)

8:37:10

GRANT:

Thank you so much, Roy. We wish you could be with us tonight. But we do have one of Roy's co-stars on that first sponsored broadcast....and here he is ... PEE WEE KING !!

(APPLAUSE)

GRANT:

Pee Wee, how does it feel to be on the one thousandth broadcast of the show?

(PEE WEE KING OVER)

KING: Great, Grant ...but it makes me feel a lot older than I like to admit !!

GRANT: I don't suppose you happen to remember the first tune you played and sang on that show, Pee Wee?

KING: No...but I'm ready to sing and play one that I'll bet all the folks remember. And it goes like this. 'Bonaparts Retreat.'

(APPLAUSE)

MUSIC: "BONAPART'S RETREAT".....PEE WEE KING AND BAND

(APPLAUSE)

8:39:28

KING: Grant Turner....you got any idea how many times you've loaded that pipe of yours with good Prince Albert Smokin' Tobacco and settled back for a quiet smoke?

GRANT: ~~Hard to tell, Pee Wee.~~ <sup>Well</sup> A lot more times than the Grand Ole Opry's been on the air for P.A....that's for sure. And you know somethin'? Every time I've always got that cool....tasty....satisfyin', COMFORTABLE smoke I was lookin' for. An every time that good P.A. has been as fresh and mild as a mornin' in spring.

KING: Know what you mean, Grant. You just can't beat that good, crimp cut Prince Albert for downright pleasant smokin'.

(GRANT OVER)

GRANT: And that good, rich tobacco taste is always there, Pee Wee !

KING: ~~Naturally, Grant.~~ That's 'cause Prince Albert uses just the right blend of fine tobacco...and then LOCKS IN that natural flavor with a special process.

GRANT: Makin' men say the same thing about P. A. With P. A. and an OCB paper, you've got the makin's of a perfect smoke ! One that rolls easy....smokes mild and mellow.

KING: ~~You can say that~~ again. So pipe smoker....OR ....makin' man... if it's a tasty...COMFORTABLE smoke you want...time after time... year after year....try Prince Albert .....America's LARGEST selling smoking tobacco.

8:40:30  
MUSIC:  
8:40:35  
GRANT:

"BILL CHEATHAM".....FRUITJAR DRINKERS...FADE FOR:

Another of the earliest groups on The Grand Ole Opry was an aggregation of young men who called themselves the Fruitjar Drinkers. Here they are...along with The Opry Square Dancers with...." Bill Cheatham ."

MUSIC: "BILL CHEATHAM".....FRUITJAR DRINKERS  
(APPLAUSE)

8:41:45

GRANT: Thank you boys....thank you, square dancers. Doesn't that take you back, Pee Wee?

(KING OVER)

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KING: It sure does, Grant !

GRANT: Pee Wee....after YOU and Roy Acuff left this portion of the Opry.....who took over?

KING: Who else but the Old Red Head...The Country Gentleman himself, Red Foley. And take over is just what Red did, Grant. Those were the days, Grant !

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GRANT: Pee Wee....give a listen to this....and tell me what you think.

ENGINEER PLAY RED FOLEY ET.....(TIME.... SEC. ) :

8:42:10

RED: Yes....those were the days....and what wonderful days they were....for Red Foley, at least....workin' with Rod Brasfield, Cousin Minnie Pearl and all the other Grand Ole Opry stars. They were the days of youth.....the happy, golden days....the days of "Smoke On The Water"...."Old Shep"...of "Peace In The Valley" and a hundred songs that will live in my memory forever. Happy days...wonderful days....days that I'd give anything if only I could turn back the clock and relive them once more. Tonight... tonight I can't be with you in person....but my heart is there with all of you as the show goes out from the stage of the old Ryman. There's very little I can say...but I am truly grateful to all of you....and most especially to the wonderful sponsor who has made this great show possible and who made it possible for me....to be a part of it. Now...from me...Red Foley...to each and every one of you...."God Bless You....and ....goodnight."

(APPLAUSE)

( KING OVER )

8:43:30

KING:

That's Red Foley....one of the Grand Ole Opry Greats. But while you're talkin' about Opry greats, Grant...there's one name you can't leave out. Time after time he tore this old place apart as he walked out on the stage, dressed in his striped cowboy suit and his big hat....and sang that great, great song of his.....

(APPLAUSE)

MUSIC:

"I'M SO LONESOME I COULD DIE"....HANK WILLIAMS....

(TAPE.....30 SECONDS....FADE IT UNDER AND OUT:)

8:44:22

GRANT:

Yes....the immortal Hank Williams. He'll live in our hearts forever. But Pee Wee...there was another entertainer who worked the Grand Ole Opry when Red was seriously ill. An entertainer who has since gone on to make a great name for himself in the entertainment world. In case you don't know who I mean.....listen !!

ENGINEER PLAY ERNIE FORD ET.....( TAPE....30 SECONDS)

8:44:40

FORD:

Hello there, folks. This is Tennessee Ernie Ford. We're privileged to celebrate and congratulate WSM's Grand Ole Opry on its 1000th broadcast. This is an all-time record. The oldest sponsored network program on the air today...The Grand Ole Opry !!

(APPLAUSE)

(GRANT OVER)



8:45 -

GRANT:

Yes....Tennessee Ernie Ford...who so graciously sends his best to The Grand Ole Opry tonight. But speakin' of the best... one of the best guitar players in the country has been a regular on the Opry for a number of years. Here he is...to give us that old standard... "Back Home Again In Indiana"...

CHET ATKINS !!

MUSIC:

"BACK HOME AGAIN IN INDIANA".....CHET ATKINS

(APPLAUSE)

8:46:20

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GRANT:

Thank you so much, Chet...thanks a lot.

KING:

Chet plays a great guitar, Grant...but gettin' back to the days when I started on The Grand Ole Opry. I remember I had a girlfriend...and she was the best...

GRANT:

(INTERRUPTS) ...the best comediane who ever walked out on a stage? Was that what you were gonna say, Pee Wee? Well... she's still with us...and here she is...**COUSIN MINNIE PEARL!!**

(APPLAUSE & PLAYON)

AFTER OPENING, PEE WEE AND MINNIE AD LIB CREETINGS. HOW IT WAS EIGHTEEN YEARS AGO THAT MINNIE JOINED THE OPRY. CONFESSES TO PEE WEE THAT SHE LIED ABOUT HER AGE. SAID SHE WAS EIGHTEEN SO SHE COULD WORK...BUT WAS REALLY ONLY EIGHT. "Well I was... I was just BIG for my age." PEE WEE ASKS FOR HER FIRST JOKE...MINNIE TELLS "BROTHER & BANANA" STORY... PEE WEE ASKS HER IF SHE STILL SINGS... AND MINNIE SINGS "MAPLE ON THE HILL."

(MUSIC OVER...MINNIE

MUSIC: "MAPLE ON THE HILL".....MINNIE PEARL  
(APPLAUSE)

KING: Minnie...Minnie, those were the days. And may I tell you something, without any kidding at all. I think You're the greatest country comic that ever lived !!

MINNIE: (STRAIGHT) No...you're wrong, Pee Wee. The greatest country oomic that ever lived worked this show with us...but he' isn't here any more.

MUSIC CUE: SNEAK IN UNDERSCORE...SOFTLY...HOLD UNDER AS BG FOR:

MINNIE: He was a master showman, and he taught most of us all we ever knew about comedy. <sup>from</sup> From the minute he walked out on the stage ...in his funny little hat and his baggy suit...he held the audience in the hollow of his hand. He was...in a way..the very spirit of the Grand Ole Opry. Somewhere...I know Rod Brasfield is listening...and chuckling a little...and is here with us...as we do this show. (PAUSE) Rodney...we miss you. 'Bye now;

(APPLAUSE & PLAYOFF)

(KING & MINNIE OVER FOR  
COMMERCIAL)

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8:51:50

KING:

Ooucin Minnie, you look <sup>what you so happy about tonight</sup> sorta unhappy. How come?

MINNIE:

Ohhhh, it's that Hezzy again. This mornin' I put a diamond engagement ring in his can of Prince Albert Smokin' Tobacco, just as a hint, kinda...an' then said... 'Hezzy honey... I put somethin' special in your can of Prince Albert." An' you know what that fool said?  
*idiot*

KING:

I can hear Hezzy now. "Minnie" he said... "NOTHIN' you can put in a can of Prince Albert will make it any more special or better than it is already." <sup>Why?</sup> P.A.'s crimp cut...an' it's ALWAYS fresh. An' a special process locks in the fine tobacco flavor. P.A. gives a man a cool...tasty...satisfyin' COMFORTABLE smoke, every time. An' makin' men <sup>then</sup> like P.A. too. It rolls easy...stays put, Yep...for downright comfort an' smokin' pleasure, you don't need NOTHIN' extra...but Prince Albert Smokin' Tobacco."

MINNIE:

You forgot somethin'. Then Hezzy stood up an sung....

MUSIC:

JINGLE

(GRANT OVER)

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8:52:52

GRANT: Back in the earlier days of the Grand Ole Opry it was the custom then.....as it is now.....to give our audience some fine quartet singing. Here with us tonight is one of those groups....still active....still singing....The Old Hickory Singers with ....  
"Wait in' For The Robert E. Lee "

MUSIC: "WAIT IN' FOR THE ROBERT E. LEE"....OLD HICKORY SINGERS

8:53:40

(APPLAUSE)

GRANT: Thank you, Claude Sharp and The Old Hickory Singers.

KING: They were great, Grant. Great ! But we've heard a lot of how the Old Opry sounded. Tell me what the NEW Opry sounds like.

GRANT: Pretty much the same, Pee Wee. The names of the performers are different....and like everything else....the tunes are a little more modern. Still country though....and always will be. But rather than tell you about the new Opry....why not listen to it. Here ....representing ALL the present day stars of the Grand Ole Opry is that great entertainer and Columbia recording star....MARTY ROBBINS....with his latest hit....  
"Ain't I The Lucky One."

(APPLAUSE)

(MUSIC OVER....MARTY)

MUSIC: "AIN'T I THE LUCKY ONE".....MARTY ROBBINS  
(APPLAUSE)

8:56:04  
GRANT; Thank you....Marty Robbins....thanks so much.

MARTY: Thank YOU , Grant. It was my pleasure to be on this special broadcast and to sing and speak for all the present day Opry people.

8:56:10  
GRANT: Now Pee Wee....time is running out, so I think it's only proper that YOU close the show....with that great song you made so famous. And I want everybody on stage....in the auditorium, audience....and all the listeners, to join in and sing with us....as Pee Wee King and the band play and sing ....  
"The Tennessee Waltz!!" Come on, everybody.... sing !!

MUSIC: "TENNESSEE WALTZ".....PEE WEE....ENSEMBLE & AUDIENCE  
(APPLAUSE)

MUSIC: "SALLY GOOD IN.!!"....TOMMY JACKSON & FIDDLE

PROD NOTE:....WE MAY FADE ON THIS AT ANY TIME FOR....:

( GRANT OVER)

8:57:42

GRANT:

And so the one thousandth broadcast of this portion of The Grand Ole Opry comes to a close. We were so glad you could join us. Next week, Faron Young will be your star, with Lonzo & Oscar along as his guests. Now,...this is Grant Turner....speakin' for everyone and sayin' "thanks"...and we'll be seein' you NEXT week,...at ....THE....GRAND...OLE OPRY !!

(APPLAUSE & MUSIC UP TEN SECONDS )

8:58:13

ENGINEER SWITCH TO STUDIO FOR LIVE CAMEL HITCH HIKE :

ANNCR:

Won't be long now till 1958 steps aside to make room for '59. The turn of the year is kind of special this time for Camel cigarettes. When 1958 ends you see, it will mark the 10th straight year of Camel leadership as America's largest-selling cigarette. That's a pretty significant record. But even more significant are the reasons behind it. They're clear and compelling: the Camel blend of costly tobaccos has never been equalled. You get more rich tobacco flavor, more easy-going mildness, in Camels than any other brand. It stands to reason: the best tobacco makes the best smoke. That's just as true today,....with so many different brands on the market...as it always has been. And so, more people smoke Camels than any other cigarette of any kind: You ought to try the smoke that's No. 1 today in the U.S.A. Have a real cigarette....have a Camel!

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TWO SECONDS PAUSE

(ANNCR OVER)

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8:59:08

ANNCR:

This portion is broadcast to our Armed Forces around the world by Armed Forces Radio Service, and was brought to you by WSM, affiliated with the National Broadcasting Company !!

TWO SECONDS PAUSE

8:59:20

ANNCR:

This is ~~Monitor~~, the NBC Radio Service !!

(MAKE NATIONAL LIFE BREAK)