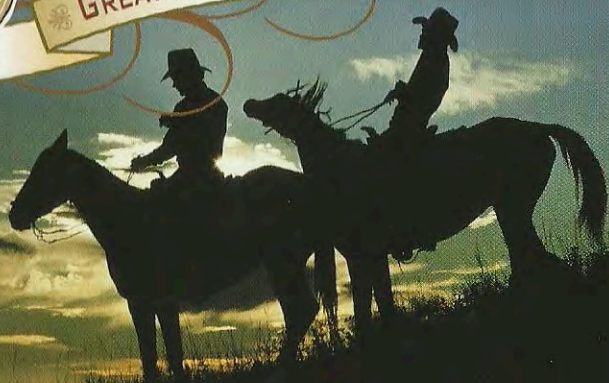


CLASSIC COUNTRY

GREAT STORY SONGS II



CLASSIC COUNTRY

GREAT STORY SONGS II

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R808-24
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DISC ONE

1. **KAW-LIGA** HANK WILLIAMS
2. **JOHNNY REB** JOHNNY HORTON
3. **RINGO** LORNE GREENE
4. **THE HANGING TREE** MARTY ROBBINS
5. **LIZZIE AND THE RAINMAN** TANYA TUCKER
6. **SKID ROW JOE** PORTER WAGONER
7. **MAMA SANG A SONG** BILL ANDERSON
8. **ODE TO BILLIE JOE** BOBBIE GENTRY
9. **THE BALLAD OF FORTY DOLLARS** TOM T. HALL
10. **HOT ROD LINCOLN** CHARLIE RYAN
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KRIS KRISTOFFERSON, JOHNNY CASH,
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14. **MARIE LAVEAU** BOBBY BARE
15. **UNEASY RIDER** CHARLIE DANIELS

CLASSIC COUNTRY

GREAT STORY SONGS II

DISC ONE

DIGITAL AUDIO
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CLASSIC COUNTRY

GREAT STORY SONGS II

DISC TWO

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1. TED TURNER'S DREAMS
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4. THE RIVERBEND MR. BLACK
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14. MARIE LAVEAU
15. UNEASY RIDER

1 **KAW-LIGA** HANK WILLIAMS

Music and lyrics by Hank Williams.

MGM 17416 (1953) No. 1 (Country), No. 23 (Pop)

Interpong U.S.A. Inc./Milene Music. ASCAP. Courtesy of Mercury Records Nashville under license from Universal Music Enterprises.

Late one summer afternoon while fishing near the Creek Indian town of Kowaliga, Alabama, **HANK WILLIAMS** felt another song coming on. That evening he beat out the rhythms on the dashboard of his fishing buddy's car and chanted "Kow-a-liga." The following month Hank cut **Kaw-Liga** at his final Nashville session, on September 23, 1952. Producer Fred Rose hired drummer Farris Coursey for the tom-tom part; he also faded the ending—the first and only time that was done on a Hank recording.



JOHNNY
HORTON

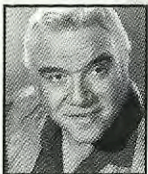
2 **JOHNNY REB** JOHNNY HORTON

Music and lyrics by Merle Kilgore.

Columbia 41437 (1959) No. 10 (Country), No. 54 (Pop)

Fort Knox Music Inc./Trio Music Co., Inc./Shelby Singleton Music Inc. BMI. Originally Released 1959 Sony Music Entertainment Inc.

The late-'50s folk boom gave a needed career boost to former Western balladeer and rockabilly artist **JOHNNY HORTON**. The one-two punch of *When It's Springtime in Alaska* and *The Battle of New Orleans* in 1959 suddenly made Horton the king of the saga song. With its banjo and military-style drum, **Johnny Reb** is similar in arrangement to *New Orleans*. It was written by Merle Kilgore, who boasts *Wolverton Mountain* and *Ring of Fire* among his many credits.



LORNE
GREENE

3 **RINGO** LORNE GREENE

Music and lyrics by Don Robertson and Hal Blair.

RCA 8444 (1964) No. 21 (Country), No. 1 (Pop)

Don Robertson Music. ASCAP. Originally Recorded Prior To 1972. All Rights Reserved By BMG Entertainment, Courtesy of The RCA Records Label Under License From BMG Special Products.

He wasn't a singer, but **LORNE GREENE**, better known to millions of TV fans as Ben Cartwright from the long-running Western series *Bonanza*, did study violin while growing up in Ottawa, Canada. More importantly, Greene had the "Voice of Doom"—a reference to his radio broadcast days at the CBC—which was perfect for the dramatic reading of **Ringo**. He got chills when he first read this poem about an outlaw gunman and correctly assumed that it had real hit potential.

4 **THE HANGING TREE** MARTY ROBBINS

Music and lyrics by Mack David and Jerry Livingston.

Columbia 41325 (1958) No. 15 (Country), No. 38 (Pop)

M. Witmark & Sons, Inc./Warner Bros. Music. ASCAP. Originally Released 1959 Sony Music Entertainment Inc.

Many boys used to dream about becoming a singing cowboy when they grew up. For **MARTY ROBBINS**, stirred by the sagebrush tales of his grandfather, a former Texas Ranger, that dream came true. Marty scored bit parts in two cowboy movies before his version of **The Hanging Tree**, the title song from the Gary Cooper Western, broke out in 1959. Months later he recorded the million-selling concept album *Gunfighter Ballads and Trail Songs*.

5 LIZZIE AND THE RAINMAN TANYA TUCKER

Music and lyrics by Larry Henley and Kenny O'Dell.

MCA 46402 (1975) No. 1 (Country), No. 37 (Pop)

Warner House of Music. BMI. Courtesy of MCA Records under license from Universal Music Enterprises.

TANYA TUCKER, whose husky, sensual voice belied her youth, burst onto the country music scene in 1972 at the age of 13 with *Delta Dawn*, the first in a string of provocative hits for Columbia. Tanya cemented her sexy Texas fireball image when she made the cover of *Rolling Stone* in 1974. She celebrated her 16th birthday by signing a million-dollar deal with MCA. *Lizzie and the Rainman*, her first MCA release, became her only single to crack the pop top 40.



PORTER
WAGONER

6 SKID ROW JOE PORTER WAGONER

Music and lyrics by Freddie Hart.

RCA 8723 (1966) No. 3 (Country)

Carrola Music Inc. BMI. Originally Recorded Prior To 1972. All Rights Reserved By BMG Entertainment.

Courtesy of The RCA Records Label/Nashville Under License From BMG Special Products.

Riches-to-rags tales about former country music stars are many and too often true, which gives *Skid Row Joe* that much more poignancy. In the '60s, **PORTER WAGONER** enjoyed considerable success with hard-luck and tragic stories. Wagoner himself appeared as the down-and-out cover subject for the *Confessions of a Broken Man* album, which included *Skid Row Joe*. That image, shot by esteemed Nashville photographer Les Leverett, won a 1966 Grammy for Best Album Cover, Photography.

7 MAMA SANG A SONG BILL ANDERSON

Music and lyrics by Bill Anderson.

Decca 31404 (1962) No. 1 (Country), No. 89 (Pop)

Tree Publishing Co./Universal-Champion Music Corp. BMI. Courtesy of MCA Records under license from Universal Music Enterprises.

As a songwriter, **BILL ANDERSON** penned hits for Ray Price (*City Lights*), Connie Smith (*Once a Day*) and Porter Wagoner (*The Cold Hard Facts of Life*), to name just a few. As a recording artist, Whisperin' Bill put his personal stamp on all of his material, most notably *Mama Sang a Song*. He claimed it as his favorite composition, though it didn't hurt that the song was his first No. 1 single.



BOBBIE
GENTRY

8 ODE TO BILLIE JOE BOBBIE GENTRY

Music and lyrics by Bobbie Gentry.

Capitol 5950 (1967) No. 17 (Country), No. 1 (Pop)

Northridge Music/Universal MCA Music Publ. ASCAP. Courtesy Capitol Nashville Under License From EMI-Capitol Music Special Markets.

A sultry new voice haunted the AM airwaves in 1967 with the mysterious *Ode to Billie Joe*. Like the characters in her story, **BOBBIE GENTRY** grew up in the Mississippi Delta. She cut the song in less than an hour for her first Capitol album. The tune originally exceeded seven minutes in length; Capitol edited the track and released it as the B side to *Mississippi Delta*. Within weeks, *Billie Joe* had topped the pop charts.

9 THE BALLAD OF FORTY DOLLARS TOM T. HALL

Music and lyrics by Tom T. Hall.

Mercury 72863 (1969) No. 4 (Country)

Unichappell Music Inc. BMI. Courtesy of Mercury Records Nashville under license from Universal Music Enterprises.

Songwriter **TOM T. HALL** had been around Nashville long enough to know the ingredients of a hit record, which is why he had little faith in *The Ballad of Forty Dollars*. It violated the cardinal rule of the craft: The title must appear in the song. Hall knew whereof he sang, though; he had seen a lot of funerals as a kid when he worked cleaning up a graveyard. The humorous bite of the lyrics helped him land his first top-10 hit as a singer.



CHARLIE
RYAN

10 HOT ROD LINCOLN CHARLIE RYAN

Music and lyrics by Charlie Ryan and W. S. Stevenson.

4 Star 1733 (1960) No. 14 (Country), No. 33 (Pop)

Acuff-Rose Music, Inc. BMI. Courtesy of Sony/ATV Music Publishing LLC d/b/a Masters International.

One of the surprise hits of 1960 was *Hot Rod Lincoln* by **CHARLIE RYAN**. Ryan initially cut the tune in 1955 for his own Souvenir label as an answer song of sorts to Arkie Shibley's 1951 hit *Hot Rod Race*. Steel-guitar sound effects mimicking screeching tires, car horns and a police siren dominate the version Ryan made for 4 Star. In 1972, Commander Cody and His Lost Planet Airmen took the old *Lincoln* for another hit ride.

11 ONE PIECE AT A TIME JOHNNY CASH

Music and lyrics by Wayne Kemp.

Columbia 10321 (1976) No. 1 (Country), No. 29 (Pop)

Tree Publishing Co. BMI. © 1976 Sony Music Entertainment Inc.

JOHNNY CASH hadn't scored a No. 1 country hit in five years when *One Piece at a Time* rolled up the charts in 1976. The plight of southerners who moved north to work at Detroit's auto plants had been well documented, but never with the comic touch that songwriter Wayne Kemp brought to the topic. His mongrel machine, made from parts stolen off the assembly line over many years, was as timeless as it was ugly.

12 ME AND BOBBY MCGEE KRIS KRISTOFFERSON

Music and lyrics by Kris Kristofferson and Fred Foster.

Monument LP 18139 (1970) Did not chart.

Combine Music Corp. BMI. Originally Released 1971 Sony Music Entertainment Inc.

After years of paying dues in part-time jobs, former Rhodes scholar **KRIS KRISTOFFERSON** signed a songwriting deal with Combine Music in 1969. Publisher Fred Foster suggested the title "Me and Bobby McKee," after songwriter Boudleaux Bryant's receptionist. Roger Miller charted with *Me and Bobby McGee* in 1969, and Kristofferson recorded it for his first album for Monument. But the definitive *Bobby McGee* belongs to Janis Joplin, followed closely by Jerry Lee Lewis's rollicking version.

13 THE NIGHT THE LIGHTS WENT OUT IN GEORGIA

VICKI LAWRENCE

Music and lyrics by Bobby Russell.

Ball 45303 (1973) No. 36 (Country), No. 1 (Pop)

Plu-Rus Music, ASCAP. © 1973 Garrett Music Enterprises. Courtesy of Garrett Music Enterprises.

The meteoric rise of **VICKI LAWRENCE** is one of those "only in America" stories. A journalist noted her resemblance to Carol Burnett at a concert by Lawrence's singing group. Lawrence sent the clipping to Burnett's office, got an audition, and joined *The Carol Burnett Show*. She met her future husband, Bobby Russell, while taping an episode. When Cher turned down his song *The Night the Lights Went Out in Georgia*, Russell offered it to his wife. The rest is history.

14 WILDWOOD WEED JIM STAFFORD

Music and lyrics by Jim Stafford and Don Bowman.

MGM 14737 (1974) No. 57 (Country), No. 7 (Pop)

Ensign Music Corporation/Parody Publishing. BMI, Famous Music Corporation, ASCAP.
Courtesy of Mercury Records Nashville under license from Universal Music Enterprises.

Although he never placed a record in the country top 40, **JIM STAFFORD** is regarded as a country artist, perhaps because of his down-home charm. He played with the Florida rock band Legends, which boasted Kent Lavoie (of Lobo fame) and Gram Parsons, before seeking his fortune in Nashville. Stafford later relocated to Los Angeles, specializing in novelty songs like *Wildwood Weed*. He hosted and co-hosted several network TV shows before settling in Branson, Missouri, home to the Jim Stafford Theater.

15 PANCHO AND LEFTY

WILLIE NELSON AND MERLE HAGGARD

Music and lyrics by Townes Van Zandt.

United 03842 (1983) No. 1 (Country)

United Artists Music Co. Inc./Columbine Music Inc. ASCAP. © 1982 Sony Music Entertainment Inc.

As **WILLIE NELSON** became a huge star, his songwriting fell off. Playing 300 dates a year certainly cut into his time. Yet his album sales weren't hurt by the lack of original material. Willie became a prolific duet artist, cutting records with Ray Price, Ray Charles, Julio Iglesias and Neil Young, among many others. **MERLE HAGGARD** proved to be one of Nelson's best collaborators; *Pancho and Lefty* gave Willie his only No. 1 hit for 1983.



CARL
SMITH

1 TEN THOUSAND DRUMS CARL SMITH

Music and lyrics by Carl Smith and Mel Tillis.
Columbia 41417 (1959) No. 5 (Country), No. 43 (Pop)
Universal Cedarwood Publishing, BMI. Originally Released 1959 Sony Music Entertainment Inc.

Johnny Horton's *The Battle of New Orleans* provided a recipe for saga-song success: Take a historical event, preferably a war, add a dollop of banjo, and stir with a martial cadence. It worked for *Ten Thousand Drums* by **CARL SMITH**, who didn't see the top10 again until 1967. After marrying singer Goldie Hill in 1957 and buying a ranch outside of Nashville, Smith operated at his own pace, finally retiring from the music business in 1977.



JIMMY
DEAN

2 THE CAJUN QUEEN JIMMY DEAN

Music and lyrics by Wayne Walker.
Columbia 42282 (1962) No. 16 (Country), No. 22 (Pop)
Wayne Walker Music/Universal Cedarwood Publishing/Universal Songs of PolyGram International Publishing, Inc. BMI.
Originally Released 1962 Sony Music Entertainment Inc.

Music fans who assumed that the title character of *Big Bad John* perished in that song's mine disaster were in for a surprise. Hoping for an easy follow-up hit, Columbia Records and **JIMMY DEAN** allowed the title character of *The Cajun Queen* to revive John against all odds. *Big Bad John* was still riding the charts when the Cajun queen appeared to retrieve her man and bring him back to New Orleans, where they eventually boasted 110 grandchildren.

3 BALLAD OF THE ALAMO MARTY ROBBINS

Music and lyrics by Paul Francis Webster and Dimitri Tiomkin.
Columbia 41809 (1960) No. 34 (Pop)
EMI Feist Catalog Inc. ASCAP. Originally Released 1960 Sony Music Entertainment Inc.

He was probably the most versatile country artist of his era, and arguably had the best voice of all. **MARTY ROBBINS** could sing anything well, though his heart remained in the West; he recorded almost 100 Western songs during his long career. *Ballad of the Alamo* is taken from the movie epic *The Alamo*, which was produced and directed by John Wayne. The Duke played Davy Crockett alongside Richard Widmark as Jim Bowie and Richard Boone as Sam Houston.

4 THE REVEREND MR. BLACK THE KINGSTON TRIO

Music and lyrics by Jed Peters and Billy Edie Wheeler.
Capitol 4351 (1963) No. 9 (Pop)
Blue Seas Music Inc./Bethell Music Corp./Jac Music Co. Inc./J.S. Songs Inc./Jerry Lieber Music/Mike Stoller Music. ASCAP.
Courtesy of Capitol, Under License From EMI-Capitol Music Special Markets.

With the success of *Tom Dooley* in 1958, **THE KINGSTON TRIO** fueled the folk music craze that blossomed in the '60s. They were prolific recording artists; *The Reverend Mr. Black* appears on their 17th Capitol album, oddly titled *The Kingston Trio #16*. John Stewart did an impressive Johnny Cash vocal impersonation in the song, which borrows the chorus from *Lonesome Valley*, a Carter Family staple from 1931. Future star Glen Campbell guested on banjo.

5 THE BALLAD OF IRA HAYES JOHNNY CASH

Music and lyrics by Peter La Farge.

Columbia 43068 (1964) No. 3 (Country)

Edward B. Marks Music Company, BMI. Originally Released 1964 Sony Music Entertainment Inc.

Acts of injustice fired up **JOHNNY CASH**, whose *Ballad of Ira Hayes* describes the plight of an Arizona Pima Indian following his World War II heroics on Iwo Jima. The bitter tone of the recording met with some resistance at first. Cash took out a full-page ad in *Billboard* blasting radio stations and DJs who refused to play it. A track from Cash's *Bitter Tears (Ballads of the American Indian)* LP, *Ira Hayes* eventually charted high.

6 GREEN, GREEN GRASS OF HOME PORTER WAGONER

Music and lyrics by Curly Putman.

RCA 8622 (1965) No. 4 (Country)

Tree Publishing Co. BMI. Originally Recorded Prior To 1972. All Rights Reserved By BMG Entertainment. Courtesy of The RCA Records Label/Nashville Under License From BMG Special Products.

Well-timed nostalgia helped *Green, Green Grass of Home* become a standard. Curly Putman wrote the song shortly after he moved to Nashville in 1965. In a twist on traditional values, the point-of-view character is a convict dreaming about the good old life back home. **PORTER WAGONER** hit with the song during the escalation of the Vietnam War. Many rural southerners, who were among the first drafted, related to *Green, Green Grass* from the confines of the Asian jungle.

7 COAT OF MANY COLORS DOLLY PARTON

Music and lyrics by Dolly Parton.

RCA 0538 (1971) No. 4 (Country)

Velvet Apple Music. BMI. Originally Recorded Prior To 1972. All Rights Reserved By BMG Entertainment. Courtesy of The RCA Records Label/Nashville Under License From BMG Special Products.

The fourth of 12 children born in a one-room cabin in Tennessee, singer-songwriter **DOLLY PARTON** drew from her own memories to write *Coat of Many Colors*. This autobiographical song remains Dolly's favorite among her large catalog. *Coat of Many Colors* was also the title track of an album that she dedicated to her mama and daddy. In 1994, Dolly adapted the lyrics to create a children's book of the same name.

8 HONEY BOBBY GOLDSBORO

Music and lyrics by Bobby Russell.

United Artists 50283 (1968) No. 1 (Country), No. 1 (Pop)

Universal-PolyGram International Publishing Company. ASCAP. © 1974 Capitol Nashville. Courtesy Capitol Nashville Under License From EMI-Capitol Music Special Markets.

Country radio ignored **BOBBY GOLDSBORO** until *Honey* came along. Goldsboro was raised in the South and listened to country music as a kid, but it took Bobby Russell's rather maudlin ballad to make him a star. Bob Shane, one of the founders of the Kingston Trio, cut *Honey* first. Goldsboro and co-producer Bob Montgomery loved the song, but promised Russell they would wait and give Shane's version a chance. Bobby G. nailed *Honey* in two takes.



DOLLY
PARTON



SONNY
JAMES

9 **RUNNING BEAR** SONNY JAMES

Music and lyrics by J. P. Richardson.

Capitol 2486 (1959) No. 1 (Country), No. 94 (Pop)

Fort Knox Music Inc./Trio Music Co. Inc./Universal Songs Of Polygram. BMI.

Courtesy Capitol Nashville Under License From EMI-Capitol Music Special Markets.

SONNY JAMES discovered a formula for country-chart action in 1966 with his remake of Adam Wade's *Take Good Care of Her*: Cover the oldies. Sonny let his pleasing voice and emphatic guitar strumming do the rest. **Running Bear**, written by J. P. Richardson (aka the Big Bopper), gave Sonny his eighth of 16 consecutive No. 1 hits. Johnny Preston had topped the pop charts with the song in 1960; Richardson and George Jones provided the "Indian" background vocals.

10 **THE YEAR THAT CLAYTON DELANEY DIED** TOM T. HALL

Music and lyrics by Tom T. Hall.

Mercury 73221 (1971) No. 1 (Country), No. 42 (Pop)

Unichappell Music Inc. BMI. Courtesy of Mercury Records Nashville under license from Universal Music Enterprises.

"There is a song in the people you meet. There is a song in the places you go. There is a song everywhere." These words are courtesy of **TOM T. HALL**, from *The Songwriter's Handbook*. Hall often found inspiration close to home, as happened with **The Year That Clayton Delaney Died**. He based Delaney on a small-time guitar picker named Floyd Carter, a Kentucky neighbor and childhood hero of Hall's who died young from tuberculosis.



TOM T.
HALL

11 **THE SON OF HICKORY HOLLER'S TRAMP**

JOHNNY DARRELL

Music and lyrics by Dallas Frazier.

United Artists 50235 (1968) No. 22 (Country)

Acuff-Rose Music, Inc. BMI. Courtesy Capitol Nashville Under License From EMI-Capitol Music Special Markets.

An artist who introduces a great song has no guarantee that his version will be the definitive one. Take **JOHNNY DARRELL**, who struck first with many tunes that went on to be blockbusters for others, including *Green, Green Grass of Home* (Porter Wagoner) and *Ruby, Don't Take Your Love to Town* (Kenny Rogers). Darrell could make a valid claim on **The Son of Hickory Holler's Tramp**, though, despite strong competition from Merle Haggard, Bobby Bare and even Kenny Rogers.

12 **BLOOD RED AND GOIN' DOWN** TANYA TUCKER

Music and lyrics by Curly Putman.

Columbia 45892 (1973) No. 1 (Country), No. 74 (Pop)

Sony/ATV Songs, LLC. BMI. © 1973 Sony Music Entertainment Inc.

Controversy clung to **TANYA TUCKER** like one of her skin-tight outfits. The precocious singer created another stir at age 14 with **Blood Red and Goin' Down**. The title refers to a Georgia sunset, the backdrop for a story in which a man and his daughter search for his cheating wife.

Writer Curly Putman initially pitched the song to male artists, but producer Billy Sherrill figured that after *Delta Dawn*, Tucker could handle this grisly number, and singing it from the daughter's viewpoint.

13 **DESPERADOS WAITING FOR A TRAIN**

**KRIS KRISTOFFERSON, JOHNNY CASH,
WILLIE NELSON AND WAYLON JENNINGS**

Music and lyrics by Guy Clark.

Columbia 05594 (1983) No. 15 (Country)

Chappell Music/World Song Publishing, ASCAP. © 1985 Sony Music Entertainment Inc.

They were a long time in the making, but at last, at the first Farm Aid benefit in 1985, Willie Nelson unveiled the Highwaymen: **KRIS KRISTOFFERSON, JOHNNY CASH, WILLIE NELSON and WAYLON JENNINGS**. The supergroup materialized only after each member's solo career had cooled off sufficiently that the four could record together. Their first album, *Highwayman*, won a Grammy for its title song; it also featured *Desperados Waiting for a Train*, by Texas singer-songwriter Guy Clark.

14 **MARIE LAVEAU BOBBY BARE**

Music and lyrics by Shel Silverstein and Baxter Taylor.

RCA 0261 (1974) No. 1 (Country)

Evil Eye Music Inc. BMI. © 1973 BMG Entertainment.

Courtesy of The RCA Records Label/Nashville Under License From BMG Special Products.

Waylon Jennings once described **BOBBY BARE** as "the best song hound in the world." Indeed, his nose for new material caused Bare to cross paths with some of the finest country songwriters, including Harlan Howard, Tom T. Hall and Billy Joe Shaver. For his 1973 album *Bobby Bare Sings Lullabys, Legends and Lies*, Bobby hooked up with the satirical Shel Silverstein. The LP yielded *Marie Laveau*, the first and only No. 1 hit in Bare's long, checkered career.

15 **UNEASY RIDER CHARLIE DANIELS**

Music and lyrics by Charlie Daniels.

Kama Sutra 576 (1973) No. 57 (Country), No. 9 (Pop)

Kama Sutra Music/Hat Band Music. BMI. © 1973 Sony Music Entertainment Inc.

Southern chauvinism played a big role in the early country-rock sound and attitude of **CHARLIE DANIELS**. Charlie didn't like Peter Fonda's portrayal of the South in the biker film classic *Easy Rider*, so he concocted a spoof about a longhaired hippie's brush with rednecks. In the movie, the hippies lose and die. In *Uneasy Rider*, the hippie outwits the local yokels and narrowly escapes. Dennis Hopper might have called this a "tune pang."

—Charles McCardell



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