

## JEANNIE SEELY

Grand Ole Opry star Jeannie Seely caused a stir the first time she wore a miniskirt on stage at the Opry. Back then, as today, Jeannie simply was leading the way for other female country stars who would follow in her footsteps at the Opry. Born in Titusville, Pennsylvania Jeannie's love for the Opry dates back to her childhood. Her mother recalled how this four-year old, barely tall enough to reach the knob on the family's big console radio, had found 650 (WSM Radio). That's where she tried to make it stay.

By age 11, she was performing weekly on WMG radio in Meadville, PA. Moving to Los Angeles in 1962, Jeannie worked as an executive secretary with Liberty and Imperial Records in Hollywood while pursuing a career in music. She first recorded for Challenge Records and wrote songs for 4 Star Music.

In 1965 she moved to Nashville. A recording contract with Monument Records led to her first hit record entitled "Don't Touch Me" in 1966. The single went to No. 1, won her several awards--including the 1966 Grammy Award for the Best Female Vocal Performance, Country---and led to Opry membership on September 16, 1967. In all she recorded some 27 country hits, including "It's Only Love", "A Wanderin' Man", "I'll Love You More (Than You Need)", and "Welcome Home to Nothing" for Monument and "Can I Sleep in Your Arms" and "Lucky Ladies" for Decca Records.

Jeannie toured some with Porter Wagoner and Ernest Tubb early in her career. Later she and fellow Opry member Jack Greene created a show that performed everywhere from New York's Madison Square Garden to London's International Country Music Festival. The two also enjoyed consistent Top 10 duet hits, including the No. 1 "Wish I Didn't Have to Miss You", "What In the World Has Gone Wrong With Our Love", "Much Oblige" and "You and Me Against the World" and were nominated for both CMA and Grammy Awards.

When she wasn't writing hit songs for herself, Jeannie was penning hits for other artists such as Dottie West, Connie Smith, Willie Nelson, Ray Price and Faron Young who had a Top 10 hit in 1971 with her song "Leavin' and Sayin' Goodbye". That song won her a BMI Award.

A near fatal automobile accident in 1977 has not slowed her down. In recent years the singer, songwriter and record producer has added stage actress and author to her list of accomplishments. In 1988 Jeannie released her self-published book "Pieces of a Puzzled Mind" which contained a collection of witticisms for a master of clever remarks. Also that year, she starred as Miss Mona in a local production of "Best Little Whorehouse in Texas" at Nashville's Tennessee Performing Arts Center. In 1990, she performed a straight comedy role in an area dinner theater's production of "Everybody Loves Opal".

The new millennium found Jeannie back in theatre playing the role of Louise in the "Always Patsy Cline Show" for a successful 9 week run in Atlantic City, New Jersey. The holiday season always finds Jeannie up bright and early to entertain folks at her "Country Christmas Breakfast Show" in the Gibson Showcase Theatre in Opry Mills from mid November through Christmas Eve morning.

Jeannie has recently added movie star to her credits filming a new feature film titled "Colored Eggs" directed by Martin Guigui starring Faye Dunaway, Tom Skerritt, Lauren Holly along with Rita Coolidge and fellow Opry star Jan Howard. The film will be an early fall release.

And of course, when she's not on the road, you can almost always find Jeannie 'at home' on the Grand Ole Opry Stage. The multi-talented and versatile Jeannie is celebrating 34 years as a member....and is still creating a stir every time she walks on the stage!