

TALKING POINTS FOR PRESENTERS

What have Lonnie and Country Music got in common?

1956 to 1964

- 1. Just like Elvis, Jerry Lee, Conway Twitty, Crash Craddock, Johnny Cash and many singers who went from country to Rock'n'Roll and back again.. Lonnie has a similar story.**
- 2. In 1955 learnt guitar playing along with Hank Williams, Lefty Frizzell, Web Pierce and the Carter Family songs.**
- 3. In 1957 he form his first band mainly playing country. Lonnie Rythm Guitar, Barry Hands T-Chest bass, Billy Mostyn Lead Guitar, Kenny Hands Steel Guitar. Later added Canadian country star Billy Blinkhorn.**
- 4. In 1959 he sang on Reg Lindsay's theatre shows. In Tamworth Town Hall he had the first ever Rock'n'Roll concert with J.O'K.**
- 5. Played with country acts George Payne, Tom McNamara, Kenny Kitching and with the Father of Sydney's Country Music, 'Bill Kelly.**
- 6. 1960 he recorded country songs on first LP, 'A Night out with Lonnie Lee'**
- 7. Lee Gordon and Ted Quigg used Lonnie on many tours where he had Jimmy Little as support act.**

From 1963 through 1990

- 8. In 1963 he was the first pop star to record a country single on Leedon Records. It was 'Acres of Everything'**
- 9. In 1964 his LP, 'A Country Boy at heart' was the 1st Stereo album to be recorded in Australia. He wrote and recorded many country songs.**
- 10. In 1963 after The Slim Dusty Show, he toured Australian halls and showgrounds with Chad Morgan as Special Guest**
- 11. From 1972 he spent 9 years in Nashville writing with Roy Orbison and touring America.**
- 12. Wrote songs for Glen Campbell and Johnny Cash.**
- 13. 1975 Started the 1st country music computerised record promotion company in Nashville.**

- 14. Booked and promoted Nashville's biggest Country Music night clubs, Jerry Reed's Nashville Palace and The Rhinestone Cowboy where George Jones and Faron Young used to hang out.**
- 15. Booked major Opry stars, Web Pierce, Mickey Gilley, Tony Joe White, Lorrie Morgan etc., into clubs.**
- 16. Promoted Country restaurants in Nashville for Little Jimmy Dickens, and Ernie Ashworth.**
- 17. Wrote news page from Nashville for Jazzer Smith in his first version of Country Music Capital News magazine.**
- 18. 1975 promoted Lonnie Lee's Nashville Country Music Show, the first Modern Country Music show ever through Sydney clubs with country stars, Jimmy Little, Men of Country, Nev Nichols, Col Hardy and many others with 26 Square dancers. Had Steel guitar player Norm Bodkin in The Leemen. Promoted by Radio 2KA Country.**
- 19. Promoted first country show in the Sydney Town Hall with new singer, John Williamson and others on the bill.**
- 20. Wrote and produced songs in Tamworth for Country star Col Hardy.**
- 21. DJ'd Drive Time Radio show on Sydney's 2KY for Edels Record Stores.**
- 22. Helped 2KY become Sydney's first full country radio, 'KY Country'**
- 23. Booked band 'Alabama' for their first ever Nashville show where they were 'discovered' and became the biggest Country act in the world.**
- 24. Syndicated famous radio host Biff Collie's Country show to US radio.**
- 25. 1982 Was a co-founder Director of the American Society of Country Music (ASCM) in Las Vegas.**

1985 to now

- 26. Toured Lonnie Lee's Line Dance Ranch, the first big Australian Country Line Dance show. Released albums and DVDs of Country songs.**
- 27. Commenced Tamworth Country Music Festival Shows every year firstly at North Tamworth Bowls and now at Tamworth Services.**
- 28. Wrote and released, North West Mail album of country songs.**