

People

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TRAVIS, THERESA 'N' TYLER

Travis and Theresa Tritt are the proud parents of daughter, Tyler Reese. Talking to Travis' pal Marty Stuart on the phone, I asked Travis is "plumb crazy over that baby." When I asked, Marty also said he had a message from the ailing Johnny Cash saying he was in Jamaica, "scratching and thinking of him."

WAYS THE GIVER

Ways quietly giving, Billy Ray Cyrus is ready to rid himself of his beloved "Judy," a 1971 Chrysler he used on the cover of his *Trail of Tears* album. Billy Ray is putting the vehicle on the auction block, and the highest bidder not only gets the car, they will receive round trip tickets for two and hotel accommodations to Fanix, where they will be special guests backstage at the Mercury show. The money for the auction goes to St. Jude's Children's Hospital.

try to keep up with all of Billy Ray's generosity, but there's no way. His heart is big as they come.

AMY

Knowing that Russell Barnard came to Nashville for Tammy Wynette's funeral service and memorial, and knowing that he would write a far better tribute than I could am of doing, I will make mine short. I can't believe Tammy's gone, but I can't believe she would want to come back if she had the offer. She was in constant pain most of the time. Music was Tammy's life, and singing was the only way her pain seemed to subside. As J.D. Sumner & The Stamps sang "Peace in the Valley," I felt Tammy had finally found free peace. It was fitting that her friend, Dolly Parton, who looked and acted angelic, sang her song "Shine" honoring Tammy. It was comforting when Wynonna sang "How Great Thou Art" and it was healing when Lorrie Morgan sang "Amazing Grace" for her idol. Music could not have been more perfect. Norro Wilson eulogized Tammy with a few words but with a lot of heartfelt emotion. Norro, a man who knew Tammy enough to say he always thought of her as an angel, now he knows she is an angel.

Have to mention Nancy and George. The night of Tammy's passing, they had their four daughters (one of them, Kristy, was George and Tammy's daughter) to their house, and the next morning I understand it was George and

high above Music City on BMI's balcony, Steve was honored. Opry pals Bill Anderson and Jeannie Seely attended the event, as did a very frail Chet Atkins. Steve, who used to be a jeans and "T" man, was dressed in a black silk shirt (I had to straighten the collar) and a tan custom suit. Money might not make the man, but the man is making the money these days and nights. It's time, Steve. The latter event was also attended by a new Nashville resident, our own George Fletcher.

THE PROM

When Chely Wright received an invitation from an Altoona, Pennsylvania, high school graduate to be his date at the senior prom, she was a little dubious and had the guy checked out. Seems the young man is smart, does community service and has been accepted at Rutgers on a football scholarship. Did Chely go to the prom? Can a duck swim?

A TWO-DAN-HILL TOWN

Yes, I did take myself down to BMI on the Row of Music for the Number One party honoring "Love of My Life," and it was a Two-Dan-Hill kind of day. One of the Dances is a bigwig at Polygram Publishing. The other is a Canadian songwriting big-



Our Hazel and her man, Sam, at a recent do.

wig who co-wrote the Number One smash with Keith Stegall for Sammy Kershaw. If Sammy Kershaw is there, so am I. You might remember songwriter Dan Hill from one of the few pop songs I can actually hum, "Sometimes When We Touch." Killer song!

Before the party, Farmer Sammy had been out plowing on his ever-growing es-

ropotions any day now. Off the tractor, Sam ran by the barn to check a horse in labor and took a "proud parental" look at another mare and her week-old baby stud.

EARL & LOUISE'S 50 YEARS

Glen Duncan and Billy Smith have made enough music in their lives to determine who is the best living musician on the planet. "Earl Scruggs," they declared, and we did an iced tea toast. The occasion, honoring Earl and Louise Scruggs on their 50th wedding anniversary, was held at the Gibson Guitar Cafe, hosted by their sons, Randy and Gary, along with the grandchildren. Dressed in a stunning white dress with sequined and rhinestone bodice, Louise was lovely; however she feared that Marty Stuart might compare her dress to a Porter Wagoner stage outfit. He didn't, but Marty did attend with his bride, Connie Smith. Other luminaries included Tom T. and Dixie Hall, Waylon Jennings and Jessi Colter, The Del McCoury Band, Patty Loveless and Emory Gordy, Sonny Osborne and Osborne band members Terry Smith and Terry Eldredge, Travis and Theresa Tritt, Ramona (Mrs. Grandpa) Jones and family, The Whites, Kity Wells and Johnny Wright, Uncle Josh Graves, Marie and John Harford, Peter Wernick, Pete and Kity Kuykendall and others from all over this country. To say the music was great is like saying Mt. Everest is big. Russell, sorry you missed this one. I never had a better time.

TENNESSEE TORNADES

By count—according to Storm Tracker 2000, ABC-TV affiliate Channel 2 and our friend, super weatherman/meteorologist Davis Nolan—there were some 168 tornadoes traced in the State of Tennessee on April 16, the day of storms. My daughter-in-law, Sharon Collie Smith, seven months pregnant, was at her place of employment at Baptist Sunday School Board downtown when one of those tornadoes hit there directly. As she walked down several flights of stairs, with a window at each turn, she saw small flying debris get larger at each floor. She actually saw cars lifted off the ground. Sharon escaped injury. Her husband (my son, Jerry) picked up six-year-old Tyler and four-year-old Tara from school, and they were at home in Hendersonville, where there was hail but no damage. Billy and his boys, Adam and Jeremy, were home in Hermitage when they heard on TV a tornado would reach them soon. They went into their basement and pulled a sofa over the three of them in time to hear the whistle of the

PLANT A STAR'S TREE



The Oak Ridge Boys are among the stars whose trees you can buy—and plant—in a new program from conservation group American Forests. Tree seedlings have been harvested from the homes of participating stars, and are offered for sale by the organization. Among the country stars supporting the effort are Emmylou Harris, George Jones, Suzy Bogguss, Trisha Yearwood, Bryan White and Marty Stuart. Oak Ridge Boy William Lee Golden and American Forests President Jeff Meyer check out some of the country star saplings. For more information, call 800-320-8733.

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