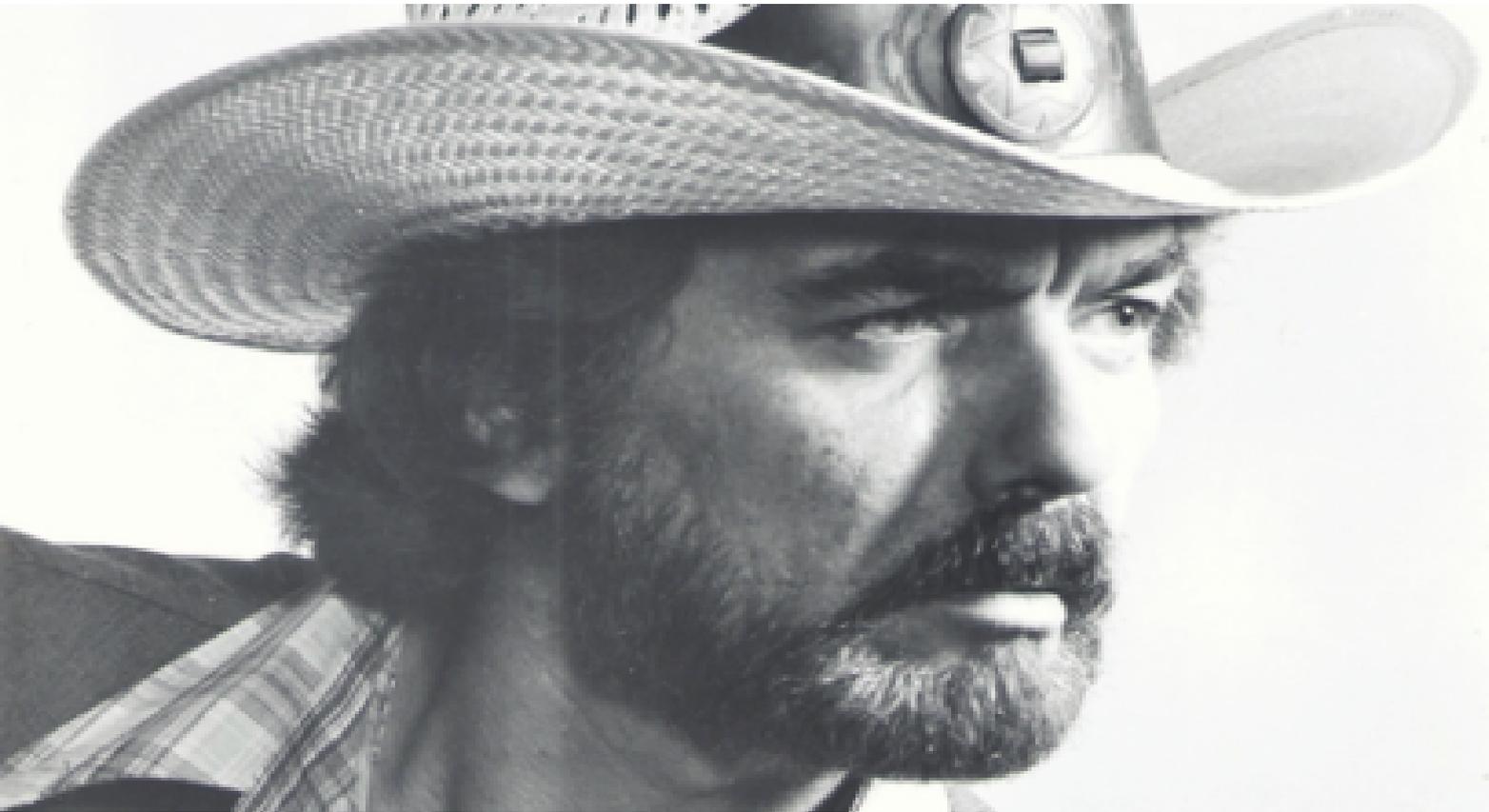


BOBBY JOHN HENRY

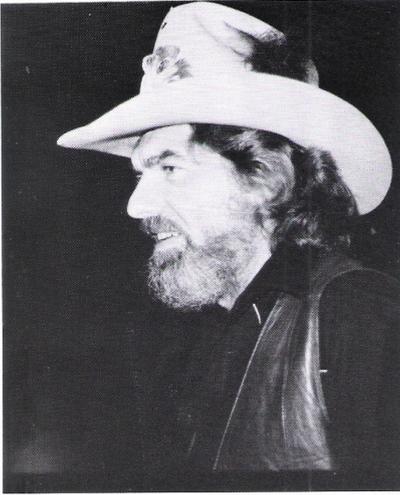
THE BAKER OF MUSIC ROW



Bobby John Henry, known in Nashville as "The Baker of Music Row," is a singer, musician, businessman and prolific songwriter. He has spent more than half a century in the music industry and boasts an impressive catalog of songs. Bobby John is a man of many interests who has stepped in and out of the industry to pursue many other goals. Now, at 81 years old he is giving the music business one more shot. He wrote a get well song for his friend Merle Haggard back in 2015 called "Fishin' With Merle". Bobby John made an iPhone video and sent it to Merle before he passed away. A new version of that song debuted on WSM Radio with Devon O'Day this April 6.

In the '70s, Bobby John had a ranch near Bakersfield CA, and an interest in the Bakersfield Inn; the foremost hotel and showcase in the area. He was also influenced by the cultivation of the "The Bakersfield Sound" during the '60s, '70s and '80s. His vast collection of songs has been recorded by artists such as Diana Trask, Millie Jackson, Frankie Avalon and the Jazz-Rock group Chase.

Born in Oklahoma and raised in the Midwest, his love for music started at a young age. As the son of a preacher man, he grew up singing in the choir and learning standards during the golden age of big bands and country western swings. His first gig was at age of nine and by the age of fourteen he was sneaking out to sing at clubs at night. He started pitching his songs in the early 50's and his first success on the charts came in 1954 with " Swamp Legend" by The Four Coachmen.



This sparked a string of recording deals and appearances on TV and radio shows such as Rox Allen and Jimmy Dallas. One of the first big breaks came in the late '50s when he sang with the Roy Laberto Band, at the Famous Door and Louis Prima at the Dream Room on Bourbon Street. His talent caught the attention of a famous Dixieland trumpet player and movie star, Johnny "Scat" Davis. Scat hired Bobby to join his band, so they were off to Las Vegas to play opposite Louis Prima, Keely Smith and Don Rickles. A year later he moved to headline the Golden Nugget with his own band.



Eventually, Bobby was running clubs as well as singing in them. He started several nightclubs in Bermuda at the Princess Hotels and employed some of the biggest names in the industry like Allen & Rossi and Ray Charles. He began managing an up-and-coming singer named Misty Walke. During a meeting for Misty with Metromedia Records, Henry found himself also walking away with his own record deal. This started another exciting chapter in his career.



Upon his request, the label bought him a ranch outside of Bakersfield, California, close to his idol Merle Haggard. He had a charting hit with "Mama's Gone" and "The Taker". He toured, but his home base was the Bakersfield Inn where he booked several artists such as Jimmy Wakley and Ray Charles. He toured with his "Wishbone Willie" Band for many years, sharing the stage with the likes of Rosemary Clooney, Della Reese, Marty Robbins, Bobby Bare, Freddie Hart and David Allen Coe. In 1988 he settled in Nashville, Tennessee, and bought the historic Spencer Manor Suites, where stars such as Elvis, Dean Martin and Frank Sinatra stayed. In 2000, he started the Bobby John Henry Bakery, which he runs to his day providing wholesale artisan bread to some of Nashville's finest eateries. He was never lost his love for creating and performing music and is still writing and performing.

