



www.JewellHouseTribute.com

"There is no greater burden than carrying an untold story"

– Maya Angelou

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: David House, jewellhousetribute@gmail.com

Website shares research on Country songwriter Jewell House

FORT WORTH, Texas – Hank Williams wrote songs with Jewell House as did Webb Pierce, Red Sovine and other artists. Nashville publishers Acuff-Rose and Cedarwood bought her songs and tried for years to recruit her as a staff songwriter. She was active at the legendary Louisiana Hayride and a productive part of Country music's golden age.

But try to find the late Jewell House in Country music's annals. She's missing.

Her oldest son, David House, hopes to change that. His new website, www.JewellHouseTribute.com, is devoted to honoring his mother and researching the Texarkana, Texas, songwriter's career in Country music during the 1950s and '60s. A companion Facebook page, *Jewell House*, supplements the website and its blog.

"Mother was just one tiny sparkle in the glittering universe of Country music," said House, a Fort Worth freelance writer and semi-retired newspaper journalist who began researching Jewell's career in 2011.

"She's obscure, but, as I have found already, there are Country music fans and historians who find value in learning about her life and work and who enjoy helping me in this project," he said.

"The website offers, as its title says, 'Footnotes for Country Music History.' And it springs from the truth within that great quote from poet Maya Angelou: 'There is no greater agony than bearing an untold story' This is a project I've intended to tackle for years. The time finally has come to tell mother's story to the extent possible and to honor her memory."

Jewell was born in 1920 on her hardshell Baptist parents' farm in Red River County, Texas, where she was reared. She was the next-to-youngest of eight children.

Her songwriting career took root at the Louisiana Hayride in Shreveport, La., after she sold "My Son Calls Another Man Daddy" to Williams in 1949. She worked further with him and went on to write for other artists and several music publishers, including Acuff-Rose and Cedarwood in Nashville, Tenn.

Among the hits she co-wrote are Red Sovine's "A Loveless Marriage" (1952) and Jean Shepard's "Tomorrow I'll Be Gone" (1957).

The website sketches Jewell's friendship and collaboration with Williams. House learned during his research that Williams would visit Jewell's home in Texarkana to work on songs with her. The website also carries an illustrated biography of Jewell, anecdotes about life around Country music artists in the early '50s and scrapbook memorabilia such as documents and transcriptions of columns and news stories about Jewell.

Content focuses as well on House's chief source – Texarkana steel guitarist Jim Evans, inventor of the famed Evans amplifier, longtime friend of Jewell and a former Louisiana Hayride staff musician.

Evans, a retired industrial electronics engineer, shares stories about how Jewell helped him to land a place on the Hayride's staff band and how he developed the Evans amplifier. He also tells of meeting a young, pessimistic Elvis Presley arriving backstage for his Hayride audition in 1954 and how Elvis found comfort in the company of Hayride musicians.

An ongoing project, www.JewellHouseTribute.com blends oral history, personal memories and documentation in a package designed by Kameshia Massey and Paul Sturiale, CEO of PAOLO Advertising & Marketing of Arlington, Texas.

Readers, particularly those who either knew or knew of Jewell, are invited to help with research by sharing memories, memorabilia or findings. Periodic updates will be sent to website subscribers. More pages are planned. House will consider sponsorships for pages to help defray costs of the project.

“We may never know the full extent of Jewell's work in Country music, because so much of it is hidden behind work credited to others,” House said.

“She typically sold all rights to her songs, and only a few are listed on her Cedarwood catalog now owned by Sony/ATV. A handful of her songs were registered with BMI,” House said. “Those who knew her best – from the Wilburn brothers to Fred and Wesley Rose, Shot Jackson, Faron Young and many others – have passed away. Plus, Jewell burned almost all of her files for some reason just before she died in 1971 at age 51.

“But I hope JewellHouseTribute.com will shed more and more light on her work. I think she would appreciate the website's purpose if for no other reason than the more lights thrown on Country music's history, the brighter it shines.”

###