

### **JAMES RAE “JIM” DENNY (1911-1963)**



Music publisher, booking agent, long-time manager of the Grand Ole Opry, and promoter of Nashville's music industry, was born in Buffalo Valley, Putnam County, TN. As a young man, Denny found work as a mail clerk with the National Life and Accident Insurance Company, parent organization to WSM and the Grand Ole Opry. With growing interest in country music, Denny was running the WSM Artists Service Bureau by 1946, booking Opry talent and other WSM acts. Denny eventually managed the Grand Ole Opry itself.

Denny, along with his predecessor, Jack Stapp, is responsible for updating the face of the Opry. As promoters and developers of talent, they helped to transform the Opry from a popular barn dance to a showcase of country superstars, ensuring its growth and long-term success. During their tenure, the cast grew enormously, most major stars became Opry members, and an Opry appearance became a must goal for many performers.

In 1954 Denny and Opry star Webb Pierce formed Cedarwood Publishing Company, for a time the most important publishing house in Nashville. Driftwood Music, a companion firm, was a partnership between Denny and Carl Smith, another Opry star. These business interests led to conflict of interest allegations by WSM and eventually Denny's dismissal.

With his knowledge of WSM operations, Denny achieved immediate success as a booking agent. The Jim Denny Bureau served most of the artists Denny had signed while at the Opry. Billboard magazine estimated that, by 1961, the bureau was handling over 3,300 personal appearances worldwide.

Denny died on August 27, 1963, in Nashville, leaving his sons to take over his company. He was elected to the Country Music Hall of Fame in 1966.

Story by: Anne-Leslie Owens, Tennessee Historical Society.

#### **DENNY, JIM**

Give Name: **James Rae Denny**

Date of Birth: February 28, 1911

Place of Birth: Buffalo Valley, Putnam County, Tennessee

Date of Death: August 27, 1963

Marital Status: 1. Margaret Clement (div.) 2. **Dolly**

Children: J. William (Bill), John

Talents: Industry Executive, Booking Agent, Music Publisher

#### **BIOGRAPHY:**

Like so many captains of industry, Jim Denny only attended school to fourth grade but had an unassuaged appetite for reading and learning. When he first arrived in Nashville, he was still a young boy and he had several jobs including telegram boy for Western Union. He obtained a job with National Life and Accident Company, which owned WSM radio and staged the Grand Ole Opry. Jim gradually climbed the promotion ladder and worked his way into the Opry organization. In the late 40s, Denny assumed the position of heading up the station's Artists Services Bureau. In early 1953, he set up Cedarwood Music, which became the most important music publishing house in Nashville, until overtaken by Jack Stapp's Tree Publishing.

His partners in the company were Webb Pierce and Carl Smith. He then widened his empire by creating a booking agency, the Jim Denny Bureau. He took under his wing most of the artists he had signed while at the Opry.

It was estimated that by 1961, that the bureau was handling over 3,300 personal appearances throughout the world by Billboard. Denny was a firm believer in the handshake basis of doing business and called it the "Jim Denny Deal." He was a man who was as good as his word. On October 22, 1966, three years after his death, he was inducted into the Country Music Hall of Fame. His plaque acknowledged him as a "leader" who "served to promote, protect and encourage some of the most important artists in the industry" and confirmed that "his contribution to Country music is widely recognized, and his untimely death was a tragic loss to all." Jim Denny's son, Bill (b. August 25, 1935, Nashville, Tennessee), followed his father into the music business. While still young, Bill worked at the Opry on Saturday nights and traveled with a carnival during his summer holidays. While still in high school, he worked as both a prop man and a cameraman at WSM-TV. He also worked as a deejay at Nashville radio stations WSM and WMAK. He currently is a successful businessman in Nashville. Son John currently maintains a recording studio and publishing house. Bill attended Vanderbilt University and majored in business administration. In 1956, he became road manager for the Philip Morris Company Music Show. He worked for a while at an advertising agency and also for Columbia Records as Nashville Studio Manager. In 1963, Bill became General Manager of Cedarwood Publishing Company. Bill served as the youngest President of the CMA, during the mid-60's and was the youngest member of the Board of Trustees of NARAS.

<http://www.countryworks.com/index.asp> – Century of County Website

#### Country Music Hall of Fame Inductees

[http://www.djangomusic.com/features/2001/010409\\_F2.asp?djic=](http://www.djangomusic.com/features/2001/010409_F2.asp?djic=)

From cowboys outlaws like Hank Williams and Johnny Cash to all the Honkeytonk honeys, Nashville songwriters and new country "Hat acts," these folks are the best performers, composers, promoters and broadcasters that Country-Western has to offer - the embodiment of the American Country Music tradition. Here's a full roster of honorees, listed by year of induction. For more information on the Country Hall of Fame, head on over to [country.com](http://country.com) and take a gander!

\* 60's

\* Jimmie Rodgers - elected 1961 Fred Rose - elected 1961 (Composer)

\* Hank Williams - elected 1961

\* Roy Acuff - elected 1962

\* Tex Ritter - elected 1964

\* Ernest Tubb - elected 1965

\* Eddy Arnold - elected 1966

\* **James R. Denny - elected 1966**

Here Is The Official Country Music Hall Of Fame  
Member Listing & Dates Inducted

1. Jimmie Rodgers "The Singing Brakeman" Inducted 1961
2. Fred Rose "Songwriter, Music Publisher Inducted 1961
3. Hank William's "Performing Artist, Songwriter
4. Roy Acuff "The Smokey Mountain Boy" Inducted 1962
5. Tex Ritter "Radio And Motion Picture Star" Inducted 1964
6. Ernest Tubb " The Texas Troubadour" Inducted 1965
7. Eddy Arnold "The Singing PlowBoy" Inducted 1966
8. **James R. Denny "Publisher, Manager" Inducted 1966**

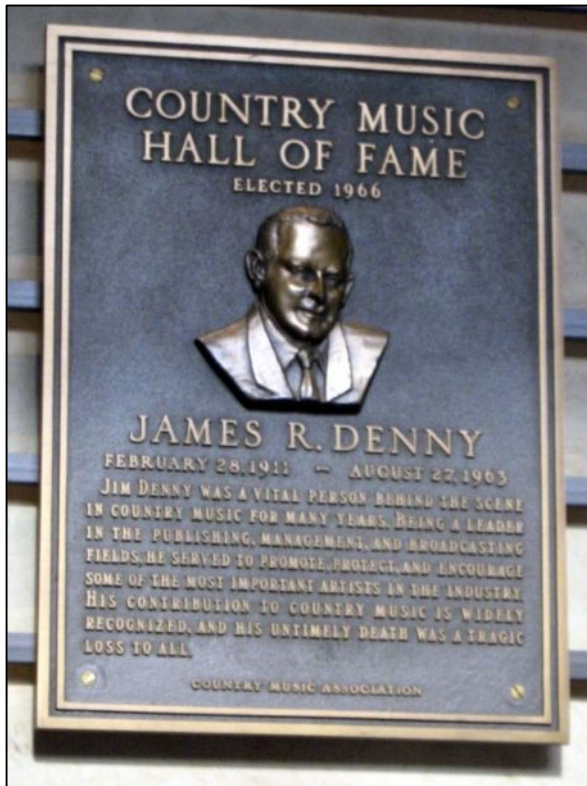
Opry Manager Jim Denny called Hank Williams at home, and fired him from the Grand Ole Opry 1952.  
(11 August 1963)

James R. Denny, the former talent coordinator for the Grand Ole Opry who booked Elvis in October 1954 and after the performance told him to go back to truck driving.

"You ain't going nowhere, son. You ought to go back to driving a truck."  
--The Grand Ole Opry's Jim Denny to Elvis Presley, 1954

**James R. Denny**, age 52, died on this date, 1963. Inducted CMHF 1966.  
(b. 28 February 1911, Silver Point, TN - d. 27 August 1963)

A list of the members of the Country Music Hall of Fame in order of the year of induction, with the information as presented on their plaques displayed in the Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum in Nashville. The years 1995 and forward are as yet incomplete.



#### **JAMES R. DENNY**

Feb. 28, 1911-Aug. 27, 1963  
Publisher, manager

**Jim Denny was a vital person behind the scenes in country music for many years. Being a leader in the publishing, management and broadcasting fields, he served to promote, protect and encourage some of the most important artists in the industry. His contribution to country music is widely recognized and his untimely death was a tragic loss to all.**

Behind every star there are people who make that singer a star, including talent promoters and publishers. **Jim Denny** was the premiere talent booker for country music artists and a leading publisher. He headed up the Grand Ole Opry's Artist Service Bureau for years, and when he struck out on his own in 1956, his roster included Webb Pierce, Ray Price, Kitty Wells, Hank Snow, Bill Monroe, Jimmy Dickens, Carl Smith, Minnie Pearl and many more. Denny was born on February 28, 1911 in remote Silver Point, in the Buffalo Valley, Tennessee. At age 16, he was put

on a bus to Nashville with a grand total of forty cents in his pocket. In the typical rags to riches story, he started out in the mail room at WSM, home of the Grand Ole Opry. Denny worked his way up the corporate ladder at National Life and Accident Insurance Company (owners of WSM) by day, went to college at night, and made himself increasingly indispensable at the Opry on the weekends. During World War II he took over the Opry's concessions and by 1951 had become manager of the Opry and was head of its Artists Service Bureau, which booked Opry members. Denny was the man who decided on the Opry's lineup, determined who the members of that elite organization were, knew every promoter in the country and sold sodas, popcorn and programs to the fans who flocked to the Ryman to see the Opry in person. In 1953 Denny went into the music publishing business with several companies, most notably Cedarwood Music, whose writers eventually included Mel Tillis, Wayne Walker, Marijohn Wilken, Danny Dill, Cindy Walker and John D. Loudermilk and hits like "I Don't Care," "More And More," "Are You Sincere?," "Waterloo," "Tobacco Road," "Long Black Veil" and "Detroit City." He also owned or co-owned a chain of radio stations.

By the time of his death from cancer, on August 27, 1963, at the young age of 52, he had been named "Man of the Year" by Billboard magazine, and had built a business empire on what was to become Music Row. He may have made a few bad calls, but when **Jim Denny** was named as the first non-artist to be inducted into the Hall of Fame in 1966, everyone agreed he belonged there. After all, the man was the power behind the careers of legends.

[http://www.cmt.com/artists/az/denny\\_james\\_r\\_/bio.jhtml](http://www.cmt.com/artists/az/denny_james_r_/bio.jhtml)

**DOLLIE DENNY**, 84, widow of Nashville music legend Jim Denny; April 6th from congestive heart failure.

Name: **DOLLIE D DENNY**  
SSN: 408-20-6214  
Last Residence: 37215 Nashville, Davidson, TN  
Born: 29 May 1917  
Last Benefit:  
Died: 7 Apr 2002  
State (Year) SSN issued: TN (Before 1951 )

**DOLLIE WANDA DEARMAN DENNY OBT.**

Age 84  
April 6, 2002  
Nashville, TN

April 6, 2002. Born in Lynchburg, TN grew up in Nashville attending Ward Belmont. **Daughter of Zoa M. Bowden and Walter O. Dearman. Married to James R. Denny who predeceased her.** Survived by step sons, John E. Denny and wife Pandora, J. William Denny and wife June; step daughter, Linda Gayle Denny of Hendersonville, TN; four step grandchildren, Jim, Scott, Kurt and Dawn; six step great grandchildren; her long-time very good friend, Mary Claire Rhodes; her good friend, Peggy Severs. Dollie enjoyed her early life as a dancer and dance instructor. She traveled with Minnie Pearl and others on the Camel Caravan Show and on USO shows in Europe during World War II. She then worked in sales at the Ernest Tubb Record Shop and the Grand Ole Opry, and in 1954 joined Cedarwood Music Publishing Co., retiring in 1983. Active Pallbearers will be Jim Denny, Scott Denny, Kurt Denny, Michael Heeney, Kent Westberry, Fred Burch and Tim Wipperman. Honorary Pallbearers will be Danny Dill, Mel Tillis, Carl Smith, Eddy Arnold and Pat Higdon. Funeral services will be conducted by Bishop James D. Niedergeses at Mt. Olivet Funeral Home on Wednesday, April 10, 2002 at 11 a.m. Interment Mt. Olivet Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to St. Thomas Hospital Foundation, 4220 Harding Road, Nashville, TN 37209. Visitation will be Tuesday, April 9, 2002 from 4-7 p.m. at MT. OLIVET FUNERAL HOME, 1101 Lebanon Road, (615) 255-4193.

**Census Place: 1880 District 9, Putnam Co., Tennessee**

Dwl: 233 – Family: 248

**Denny, James** W M 62 Married Farmer TN VA VA -

*James Mill Denny, s/o Zachariah Denny & Catherine/Katharine “Ciddy” “Caty” Stallings / Stallions / Stallins - \*See Zachariah Denny Family Sheet & Chapters 4 & 5: [www.ajlambert.com](http://www.ajlambert.com)*

**Martha** W F 29 Wife Married Keeping House TN TN TN

Martha A. W F 2 Dau. TN TN TN

James W. W M 0 Son 9/12 August TN TN TN

**US Census 1900 – Civil Dist. 9 – Putnam Co., TN**

Dwl: 160 – Family 160

**Denny, Martha** Head F W July 1850 – 49 Widow (5 children born 5 children living) Farmer TN TN TN  
(*Martha (Robinson ?) Denny was the w/o James Mills Denny, s/o Zachariah Denny & Katharine Stallings*)

Martha A. Dau. W F August 1877 – 22 Single TN TN TN

James W. Son W M August 1881 – 18 Single Farm Laborer TN TN TN

**Festus E.** Son W M May 1884 – 16 Single Farm Laborer TN TN TN

McGuffy, Frony Dau. W F December 1871 – 28 Widow 6-5 (6 children born, 5 children living) TN TN TN

Martha C. GDau. W F August 1891 8 Single TN TN TN

James Arthur Gson W M May 1893 – 7 Single TN TN TN

Willey Gson W M July 1894 – 5 Single TN TN TN

Lilly GDau. W F February 1897 – 3 Single TN TN TN

Lewis E. Gson W M January 1898 – 2 Single TN TN TN

**Census Place: 1900 Dist. 13, Putnam Co., TN**

Dwl: 90 Family: 90 – 1900 Dist. 13

**Wade J. WALLACE** Head W M 45 December 1854 Married (# of yrs. married, 25) Farmer TN TN TN  
(*James Wade Wallace, s/o William J. & Elizabeth “Betty Ann” Petty*)

**Polly A. WALLACE** Wife W F 42 Married (# of yrs. married, 25) 10-8 (10 children born, 8 children living) TN TN TN

(*Polly “Mary” Knight, d/o William Knight & Harriett Harris.*)

Columbus W. Son W M 18 October 1881 Single Farm Laborer TN TN TN

(*W. Columbus Wallace md 1<sup>st</sup> Stoshie “Stocie” Mitchell – md 2<sup>nd</sup> Emma Whitefield.*)

Fate WALLACE Son W M 13 January 1887 Single Farm Laborer TN TN TN

Sydney E. WALLACE Son W M 11 March 1889 Single Farm Laborer TN TN TN (*Sidney Everett Wallace md Dona Garrison.*)

**Martha A. WALLACE** Dau W F 9 April 1891 TN TN TN (*Martha A. Wallace md Festus E. Denny. Their son was James Rae Denny.*)

Roe D. WALLACE Son W M 7 May 1893 TN TN TN (*Roe Dow Wallace md Essie/ Effie Mitchell.*)

Beacher WALLACE Son W M 5 June 1894 Single TN TN TN (*Beecher “Beech” Wallace md Bessie Shanks*)

Teressa WALLACE Dau W F 3 August 1897 TN TN TN (*Tearessa “Teressa” Wallace md Toy Marshall “Otto” Lafeve.*)

**US Census 1910 –Civil Dist. 13 – Putnam Co., TN**

Dwl: 61 – Family 68 – 1910 Dist. 13

**Denny, Fes** Head M W 23 M1 (# of yrs. married, 4) Farmer General Farm TN TN TN

(*Festus E. Denny, s/o James Mills Denny & Martha (Robinson?)*)

**Martha** Wife F W 19 M1 (# of yrs. married, 4) 1-1 (1 child born, 1 child living) TN TN TN

(*Martha Wallace, d/o James Wade Wallace & Polly Knight*)

Walter Son M W 2 Single TN TN TN

**US Census: 1920 – Civil Dist. 11 – Putnam Co., TN**

Line: 77 Dwl: 55 Family: 55

**Denny, Festus** Head Own/Mortgage M W 37 Married Farmer General Farm TN TN TN

(*Festus E. Denny, s/o James Mills Denny & Martha (Robinson?)*)

**Martha** Wife F W 29 Married TN TN TN *Martha Wallace, d/o James Wade Wallace & Polly Knight: Chapter 15.*

Walter Son M W 11 Single TN TN TN

**Jim** Son M W 8 Single TN TN TN *James Rae Denny – b. 28 February 1911,*

*Silver Point, TN – d. 27 August 1963 md Margaret Clement (Div.) – md Dolly – d. age 84.*

Baley Son M W 7 Single TN TN TN

**Martha A. Wallace** – b. 3 April 1891, Silver Point, TN

d/o **James Wade Wallace & Polly Knight:** Chapter 15: [www.ajlambert.com](http://www.ajlambert.com)

md ca. 1906, **Festus E. Denny** – b. May 1884, Putnam Co., TN

s/o **James Mills Denny & Martha (Robinson?)** – \*See Chapter 5: [www.ajlambert.com](http://www.ajlambert.com)

md Arch Parker – b. ca. 1886 – *Lived in Centerville, TN.*

**\*James Wade Wallace was a descendant of Hugh Wallace who md Nancy Jared. Nancy Jared was the d/o Joseph Jared & Agnes “Aggie” Beard. Joseph Jared, Revolutionary War soldier was the s/o John Jared, Revolutionary War soldier & wagonmaker & his wife, Hannah Whitacre.**

**\*James Wade Wallace was the s/o William J. Wallace & Elizabeth “Betsy Ann” A. Petty:**  
Chapter 15: [www.ajlambert.com](http://www.ajlambert.com).

<http://www.countrymusichalloffame.com/site/inductees.aspx?cid=114>



## JIM DENNY

b. Buffalo Valley, Tennessee, February 28, 1911; d. August 27, 1963  
Elected to the Country Music Hall of Fame® 1966

**James Rae Denney (he changed his last name to Denny)** was a long-time manager of the Grand Ole Opry Artists Service who went on to become one of the most successful talent agents and song publishers in country music history. His skill as a promoter and developer of talent played a vital role in the growth of country music in the 1950s and early 1960s.

Born in the poor Buffalo Valley region of Tennessee, Denny moved to Nashville and found work at age sixteen as a mailroom clerk for the National Life and Accident Insurance Company, owner of WSM Radio and the Grand Ole Opry. While rising through the ranks of the insurance company's accounting division, Denny found himself increasingly drawn to sidejobs backstage at the Opry. When the opportunities presented themselves in the late 1940s, he eventually took over as director of WSM's Artists Service, or booking department, while also serving as house manager for the Opry.

During his tenure at the Opry, Denny dealt with dozens of major country music acts, record label executives, and top show promoters such as A. V. Bamford, Dub Albritten, Jim Halsey, Oscar Davis, X. Cosse, and others to promote Opry performers in venues nationwide.

Denny formed Cedarwood Publishing Company early in 1953 with Grand Ole Opry star Webb Pierce, eventually forming a separate company with Carl Smith, also a rising Opry talent. Over the next decade Denny's staff of writers churned out hit after hit, including "Detroit City," "Tobacco Road," and others. In 1955 Denny was voted Country and Western Man of the Year by Billboard magazine. But when he was fired from the Opry in September 1956, amid allegations of conflict of interest stemming from his involvement in booking and publishing, Denny formed the Jim Denny Artist Bureau and signed most of the Opry's top acts. Three months later, in what was then called the largest individual package sale in country music history, he signed an agreement with Philip Morris Tobacco Company to provide the talent for the Philip Morris Country Music Show. This show simultaneously made a fortune for Denny's talent agency and helped boost the popularity of country music across America. Denny's company booked most of the top country acts of the day, including Pierce, Smith, Minnie Pearl, Red Sovine, Hank Snow, Goldie Hill, the Duke of Paducah, Moon Mullican, and many more. By 1963 the Denny Artist Bureau was booking nearly 4,000 country shows annually.

Denny was a hard-nosed businessman whose charismatic personality and devotion to his acts and songs earned him respect and devotion—sometimes tinged with fear—from artists, writers, and others with whom he did business. He and Pierce, who quit the Opry a few months after Denny was fired, prospered from their investment in Cedarwood, and branched out to acquire several radio stations.

At the time of Denny's death, Cedarwood and the Jim Denny Artist Bureau were outstanding in their respective fields. Promoter Ernest "Lucky" Moeller quickly took over the artist bureau, but without Denny's guiding force it withered away within a few years. Denny's sons Bill and John managed Cedarwood until its sale to Mel Tillis in 1983. Jim Denny was elected to the Country Music Hall of Fame in 1966.

—Al Cunniff

adapted from the Country Music Hall of Fame® and Museum's Encyclopedia of Country Music, published by Oxford University Press

### **Webb Pierce and James "Jim" Rae Denny Early Cedarwood Music Publishing Contact from 1956.**

<http://www.thejukejoint.com/webpierconfr.html>

It's interesting to see these two signatures together on a Cedarwood Music Publishing contract because Pierce and Denny founded Cedarwood together in 1953. On this contract, Pierce has signed as the

composer and Denny as the publisher (though technically Pierce is both composer and publisher in this agreement).

Webb Pierce was, as you probably know, a famed early purveyor of honky ton style country music and star of the early Grand Ol' Opry.

James R. Denny is a name that Nashville music historians will be quite familiar with. The website for the Country Music Hall of Fame has this to say about Mr. Denny:

### James R. Denny (1911-1963)

James Rae Denny, one of the most prominent business figures in Nashville's musical past, was born in Tennessee in 1911. By 1946 he was running the WSM Artist Bureau, which booked Opry acts, while also acting as Opry House manager. In 1953 Denny and Opry performer Webb Pierce organized the Cedarwood Publishing Company. Following a dispute with WSM management about this and other business interests, Denny left the station in 1956 and started his own talent agency.

Denny's publishing, booking and promotion efforts furthered the initial boom period of Nashville's music industry. He died in 1963, still in his prime. Election to the Hall of Fame came three years later, in 1966."

Mr. Denny also has an interesting footnote to his credit in the world of rock and roll.

In 1956 a very young Buddy Holly had signed his first publishing contract with Cedarwood. Decca Records' Nashville division was more or less run out of Owen Bradley's studio (Bradley was the famed producer of Patsy Cline and many other country legends) - Cedarwood Publishing was directly across the street from Bradley's studio on 7th Avenue. When Holly got his first recording contract with Decca, the contract was given to Denny to forward on to Buddy.

As it turns out, whoever typed up the contract misspelled Buddy's name, dropping the "e" in "Holley". Young Buddy, who felt a bit intimidated by the big record company, decided to sign and return the contract with the wrong spelling. He was afraid that making the correction might anger the record executives into canceling the contract.

So, among his many great accomplishments in the history of country music, James R. Denny also gets credit for being the messenger who delivered Buddy Holly his new name!

The contract is for Webb Pierce's song, "Don't Leave Me Now".

12. "Writer" as used herein shall be deemed to include all authors and composers signing this agreement.

13. The Writer(s), each for himself, hereby irrevocably constitute and appoint the Publisher or any of its officers, directors, or general managers, his (their) attorney and representative, in the name(s) of the Writer(s), or any of them, or in the name of the Publisher, its successors and assigns, to make, sign, execute, acknowledge and deliver any and all instruments which may be desirable or necessary in order to vest in the Publisher, its successors and assigns, any of the rights hereinabove referred to.

14. The Publisher shall have the right to sell, assign, transfer, license or otherwise dispose of any of its rights in whole or in part under this agreement to any person, firm or corporation, but said disposition shall not affect the right of the Writer(s) to the royalties hereinabove set forth.

15. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary provided for in this agreement, in the event that any of the Writers are writer members affiliated with or members of BMI or ASCAP or of any other performance rights society, then so long as said Writer remains such a member, the Publisher shall not be obligated to pay to said Writer his share of the performance royalties hereinabove.

16. This agreement shall be construed only under the laws of the State of Tennessee. If any part of this agreement shall be invalid or unenforceable, it shall not affect the validity of the balance of this agreement.


17. This agreement shall be binding upon and shall inure to the benefit of the respective parties hereto, their respective successors in interest, legal representatives and assigns, and represents the entire understanding between the parties.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have hereunto set their hands and seals the day and year first above written.

CEDARWOOD PUBLISHING CO., INC.

By James R. Denny  
Writer Webb Pierce

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Writer \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Writer \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE SHOW PERMANENT MAILING ADDRESS 

Contract No. 400

CEDARWOOD PUBLISHING CO., INC.  
146 - 7th Ave. N.  
NASHVILLE, TENN.  
Songwriters' Contract

Agreement made this 20th day of November 1956, between

(hereinafter called the "Publisher") and  
Webb Pierce

Jointly and/or severally hereinafter called "Writer(s)";

Witnesseth

In consideration of the agreement herein contained and of the sum of One (1.00) Dollar and other good and valuable consideration in hand paid by the Publisher to the Writer(s), receipt of which is hereby acknowledged, the parties agree as follows:

1. The Writer(s) hereby sells, assigns, transfers and delivers to the Publisher, its successors and assigns, a certain heretofore unpublished original musical composition, written and/or composed by the above named writer(s), now entitled:

DON'T DO THIS TO ME.

including the title, words and music, and all copyrights thereof, including but not limited to the copyright registration thereof, and all rights, claims and demands in any way relating thereto, and the exclusive right to secure copyright therein throughout the entire world, and to have and to hold the said copyright and all rights of whatever nature now and hereafter thereto existing and to existing under any and all agreements or licenses relating thereto, including any and all renewals of copyrights to which the Writer(s) may be entitled hereafter, and all rights of any and every nature thereto existing, for and during the full term of all said copyright and all renewals and extensions thereof.

2. The Writer(s) hereby warrants that the said composition is his, theirs, and original work, and that he has full right and power to make the within agreement, and that there exist no adverse claims to or in the said composition. The Writer(s) hereby further warrants and represents that he is not a member of the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers, the International Publishers Association, or of any other entity or association which requires as a condition of membership the assignment of any right of any kind in said musical work and that no assignment of any of the rights herein set forth has been directly or indirectly made to Broadcast Music, Inc. or any other person, firm or corporate whatsoever.

3. The Writer(s) hereby warrants that the foregoing musical composition has been created by the joint collaboration of the Writers named herein and that said composition, including the title, words and music thereof, has been, unless herein otherwise specifically noted, the result of the joint efforts of all the undersigned Writers and not of any independent or separate activity by any of the Writers.

4. In consideration of this agreement, the Publisher agrees to pay the Writer(s) as follows:

(a) In respect of regular piano copies sold and paid for as wholesale in the United States of America, royalties of 7-1/2% (seven and one-half percent) per copy;

(b) A royalty of 5-2/3% (five and two-thirds percent) per copy of all net earned sales received by the Publisher in respect of regular piano copies and/or re-recordations thereof sold and paid for in any foreign country by a foreign publisher;

(c) The sum of One Dollar and no part thereof shall be paid to the Writer(s) in any follow-up or comparable work or in its sequels by the Publisher or licensee of the Publisher. Such publication may be made at any time in the discretion of the Publisher;

(d) In respect of copies sold and rights licensed or sold in the Dominion of Canada, the royalties to be paid to the Writer(s) shall be on the same royalty basis as herein provided for sales or licenses in the United States;

(e) As to "professional material" - Not sold or made, no royalty shall be payable;

(f) An amount equal to 50-1/2% (fifty and one-half percent) per copy of all net earned gross receipts and actually realized by the Publisher arising out of (1) the manufacture of the parts of instruments serving in substantially equivalent and comparable to (2) the use of said composition in re-orchestration with second motion pictures;

(g) An amount equal to 8% (eight percent) per cent of all net sales actually paid to and received by the Publisher from Broadcast Music, Inc. in respect of equal public performance for profit of the composition covered by this agreement, but said payments shall in no case exceed three (3) per cent per network performance and two (2) per cent per individual station performance.

**James “Jim” Rae Denny** – b. 28 February 1911, Silver Point, TN –  
d. 27 August 1963 – s/o James Mills Denny & Martha Robinson. James Mills Denny was the s/o Zachariah Denny & Katherine Stallings. James “Jim” Rae Denny md 1<sup>st</sup> Margaret Clement (div.) – md 2<sup>nd</sup> Dollie Dearman – b. 29 May 1917 – d. 7 April 2002.

Both Buried: +Mt. Olivet Cemetery, Davidson Co., Nashville, TN

**Music Publisher, Grand Ole Opry.** \*See Chapter 5: <http://www.ajlambert.com>

James Mills Denny was the b/o Timothy, Jonathan, William Ira, John Smith, Elizabeth Ann “Besty”, Lucy Whitley Woodson & Catherine Denny Huddleston.

**Source: Jim Sanders Beasley.** I reside in Pewaukee, Wisconsin:

I attended Buffalo Valley School in the first grade in 1942. My mother, **Nelle Sanders Beasley**, was principal at Buffalo Valley School during the 1930's and until 1942. She created the theater seating, local business stage backdrop for a series of Grand Ole Opry artist appearances and movies which were fund raisers for the school and the school athletic teams. She booked Roy Acuff, Minnie Pearl, Carter Family and other acts to appear at the school as they traveled East on Highway 70 on their way to major bookings in Knoxville and other states.

**Jim Denny was the name I recall as the WSM employee who handled these bookings. He later had his own talent agency in Nashville.** My father, Jesse Beasley, who was the rural letter carrier out of Buffalo Valley for 44 years assisted in promoting these events and securing sponsorships for the backdrop and various program underwriting. I remember riding with him in a car equipped with a microphone and PA system as he traveled the back roads of Putnam and Smith counties announcing the programs (e.g. "Big Grand Opry show Thursday night at Buffalo Valley School. Come see and hear Roy Acuff and his Smokey Mt. Boys with Minnie Pearl!!."



8. Johnny Cash on the Grand Ole Opry. (Saul Holiff Collection).

**Source: Johnny Cash The Biography by Michael Streissguth** – Author of Johnny Cash at Folsom Prison, pg. 74: It’s hard to say how much Johnny Cash yearned for status in Nashville. He’d visited the Opry on his Dyess High School senior trip to Nashville in 1950, but in later years he never dwelled on the visit other than to recall his setting eyes for the first time on the 27-year-old Valerie June Carter. Cash told Ben A. Green of the *Nashville Banner*, who covered his first night performing in the Ryman Auditorium (July 14, 1956), that he was fulfilling a dream. But the encounter with the Opry was anything but dreamlike. He’d been uneasy with the show from the very moment he met **Opry manager Jim Denny, who was one of the most powerful men in Nashville. Denny controlled who sang on the Opry as well as a powerful booking agency and the song-publishing company Cedarwood, which supplied many Nashville artist and labels with material.**

(Picture: Johnny Cash on the Grand Ole Opry. Saul Holiff Collection, Johnny Cash The Biography by Michael Streissguth).

**Cash** was understandably respectful of the man and dared not peep when he had to wait two hours for an audience with him. “Finally, he told me to come in,” he told *Rolling Stone* in 1992. “He didn’t even say, ‘Sit down,’ but I finally sat down across from him. He was busy with his papers, but finally he looked at me and said, ‘What makes you think you belong on the Grand Ole Opry? And I said, ‘Well, I got a record that is in the bestsellers now, and I think those people know it and would like to hear me sing it.’ And he said, ‘Okay, be here Saturday night.’ He didn’t ask me, he told me. ‘Be here Saturday night, I’ll put you on for a song.’”

<http://www.ajlambert.com>