

COUNTRY SONGS ROUNDUP

Crystal Gayle

ALL-AMERICAN
GIRL IN CHINA

DC
7047

75¢

CHARLTON



PUBLICATIONS

APRIL 1980

BUCK OWENS

BACK TO THE BASICS OF BUCK

REBA McENTIRE

TAKES AIM ON TOMORROW

THE GATLIN BROTHERS

ORDINARY BROTHERS,
EXTRAORDINARY HARMONY

JIM REEVES &

DEBORAH ALLEN

UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY
OF THE DUET KIND

ROYT AXTON

"...MUSIC IS JUST A WAY
TO SHARE EXPERIENCES."

**WORDS TO THE
LATEST HIT SONGS!**



72246 00047

CRYSTAL GAYLE

ALL-AMERICAN GIRL IN CHINA

By Valerie Ridenour

People are always curious about just how much a person can be changed by success. Everyone, of course, reacts differently. When I first met Crystal Gayle, she was shy and unsophisticated, the pretty kid sister of a famous personality. Her beautiful face and voice were obviously going to take her far, but her career had barely begun. After a dubious stay on a label that probably looked upon her as a minor act, an association began that would endure while proving the depth of talent possessed by both Crystal and her producer, Allen Reynolds. Crystal Gayle has become a major act in the record business. How has she changed?

"Have patience with me," Crystal asked, "I've been on a treadmill. It's hard when you've been out on the road and come back in. It takes me a good four days to realize I'm home. By then I'm ready to go out again." With her records hitting the top of the pop as well as the country charts, Crystal spends a great deal of time performing.



Crystal Gayle and Bob Hope in China

"This year has been crazy," Crystal explained. "I think I've worked half the year on my new album. It's about ready to be released." The record will mark a major change in Crystal's career. She has left United Artists to join the roster at Columbia Records. "We started working on it in the beginning of February. Then I took the whole month of April in Europe. We worked on my album in May and finished it in June. I only worked a few (road) dates in those months. You know, this has been a year that Allen and I couldn't ... we wanted to get the album just right. When we came back from Europe, we recorded a couple of things over again, just because we wanted to hear them

a little differently. We also found a couple of more good songs."

It was obvious from the start of our conversation that this was not the same shy girl I first met. Sharing so many common interests, Crystal and I had decided to become friends back then. As her fame has grown she certainly has become a different person. Honest, self-assured, and growing, her values are strong, and she does not compromise. Deeply committed to her family and associates, Crystal has remained untouched by the hazards of fame. She is dealing with her life as it unfolds, rejecting the unpleasant and enjoying the good. Her developing intelligence may surprise

some who expected her to be a 'hick.'

The question, "But is she country," arises immediately. The answer: yes, of course. Country is an attitude, rather than a way of life. Crystal, as American as the earth of Tennessee, New York, or Kansas reflects the country in all of us.

"We went to China!", Crystal exclaimed, excitement shining in her blue eyes. Chosen personally by America's number-one export, Bob Hope, Crystal explained that the whole trip was arranged very quickly. "The whole show, the Bob Hope Special, they'd been working on it for a while, but I think they got the go-ahead and it was like ... you have to do it right now. This is when; that's the time. Bob even had a few dates he had to work around, and I had to cancel a couple of dates. Besides going to China," Crystal confided, "I've been waiting to be on a Bob Hope Special for ages. We'd been trying to work it out. He'd asked me to be on quite a few of his specials, but it hadn't worked out. This time we got it worked out so we could go. We were over there two weeks."

China was an enriching experience for Crystal. "The highlight of the trip, in my mind, was going to the Great Wall. They were filming Bob — I think that's the opening of the show — and we wanted to go." Crystal laughed, "We couldn't go to China and not go to the Great Wall. Everybody thinks of the Wall as being in working order. It's not. They just have certain points open to the public that you can walk on. They have part of it restored. When you get up to this one peak, there are little sentry boxes at different points. We walked way up to the top and looked down. On beyond that, it was in ruins. It went on forever. We got some beautiful pictures." Crystal described the Chinese countryside as "Just lovely."

Crystal is serious about sharing her unique experience with other Americans. "In Peking," she continued, "we went to the Imperial City, the Forbidden

City. They have museums there that are open on different days. One of the things that was stressed over there was that you do not tip. It's so different from America," Crystal commented with a laugh. "I noticed that they are very curious. You walk down the street and turn around, and they are following you," Crystal stated incredulously. "People just start following you. When you stop, they stop and just stare. But if you try to gesture to them, they run off. It's only been the last year or so when people have



been able to go to China. I don't know all the facts, but I don't think they were allowed to talk to us. Even now, they are a little shy. They don't know if they should. It was a little stiff in Peking." The journey continued to Shanghai.

"In Shanghai they were out in the open. There were some young kids who were learning English. They came up and talked. They just wanted to relate to us." Totally unknown to the Chinese people before their arrival in Peking, Crystal and the other entertainers did a gala performance open to the Chinese press. "When we went to Shanghai, they must have had a picture in the paper, because there were a few people who recognized me. That shocked me, because they do

not know us as entertainers. They know us as foreigners, doing something in their town. It was ... I keep saying the word interesting, because one of the things I first noticed on the way in to the airport to the Peking Hotel was that people were under the streetlights, reading and playing games. They don't have electricity in their homes, and these were the big cities. They're really more behind than you'd think. On the way to the summer palace — that's where I filmed one of my songs — I saw a couple of older women washing their clothes in the stream. I wish I could have had a picture of that."

The Bob Hope Special is already a memory, and Crystal is once more getting ready to face the cameras. This special will be her own. To be filmed in Nashville and New York, the show will feature guest appearances by Judy Collins and magician Doug Henning. The real news about the event is that the producer will be famed photographer Francesco Scuvollo, who has captured the most beautiful ladies in the world on film. Fresh young beauty is Crystal's stock in trade. Like her voice, her appearance is indeed crystalline in its purity. There's a quality that catches you and somehow touches you.

Crystal Gayle is the all-American girl. From a rural origin to small-town mid-America, she has grown up surrounded by a rich heritage of idealism coupled with dynamic individualism. Always looking for something a little different, whether a hairstyle, a recipe (yes, she loves to cook, a fact that elicits a huge grin from manager husband Bill Gatzimos), or an album cover. The new one is being shot by Scuvollo himself. Her single is 'different,' too. Crystal leaves the romantic ballad she's so famous for to sing a rousing up-tempo tune that is lifting her tour audiences out of their seats. Watch her face. She's everybody's picture of the pretty girl next door. Crystal Gayle is a true American beauty.

• CSR