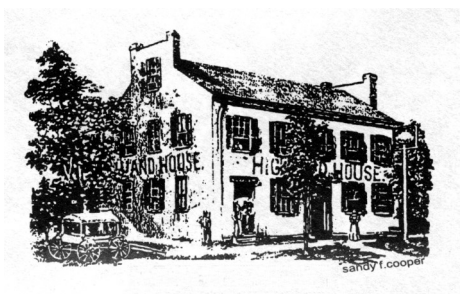


Johnny Paycheck (1938-2003)

Born Donald Eugene Lytle, 31 May 1938, in Greenfield, he began playing in local talent contests at age 9, billed as “The Ohio Kid.” Leaving home when a teenager, he played bar gigs and clubs around the country until joining the US Navy. Settling in Nashville, he had only moderate success on his own and depended on his talents as a band member of Porter Wagoner, Ray Price and Faron Young. Later reinventing himself as Johnny Paycheck, he began to succeed both as a songwriter and a performer. Again, trouble came and he began a downward spiral, but continued to have success on the charts. Paycheck found favored by being classified in the “Outlaw” movement and climbed up the success ladder even further, eventually reaching #1 with “Take This Job and Shove it.” Trouble with the law found him sentenced to a term in prison during which he became clean and sober. Keeping his life in order, he obeyed the conditions of his parole in community service and gave anti-drug talks to many youth around the country. He returned to the music industry and became a member of the Grand Ole Opry in 1997. He succumbed to emphysema and other medical problems on 19 Feb 2003 while a patient at Vanderbilt University Medical Center.



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