

The Country Music Hall of Fame

by Wayne Walker, PDG, Tennessee



Dolly Parton 1986

This pin series was the brain child of Lions **Bob Meyer**, Clarksville, Tennessee, **Dave Casey**, Dickson, Tennessee, and **John Bunnell**, Nashville. In creating this wonderful series, the trio of Lions obtained permission from the Country Music Hall of Fame in Nashville to use pictures of their stars, along with the façade of the Ryman Auditorium. Lions Meyer and Casey are both deceased and Lion Bunnell is not able to recall a great deal about the actual creation of the pins in the series.

This all got started in 1986, twenty three ago, when the fabulously popular **Dolly Parton** was chosen for the first pin. At that time, a decision was made to alternate male and female stars, along with the decision to produce 300 pins each year. The limit of 300 pins was influenced primarily by economics since the manufacturer charged \$3.00 per pin. The process of including an actual photo of each star on the pin, encased in a plastic "bubble", contributed significantly to this almost unheard of cost back in 1986.



Minnie Pearl 1988

After getting all of the basics established, the stars followed in the order shown in this article, as denoted by the date of issue for each pin. A snafu occurred when the Ho-Ho Arts and Crafts company, which made the first 12 pins, ran into some serious financial difficulties and was unable to continue the series. Lion Bob Meyer negotiated with another authorized pin maker, Perfect Emblems, which made the last three pins from 1998 to 2000.

In 2000, the Country Music Hall of Fame was taken over by new ownership, and they informed Lion Meyer that they wanted a royalty on each pin produced. Obviously, due to the already high cost for each pin, this turn of events dealt a death blow to one of the most popular pin series in Tennessee sub-district pin trading history.



Barbara Mandrell 1990

To all of you serious collectors, you should know that in 1990 there was an absence of the first Dolly Parton pin and Lion Dave Casey ordered 125 extra pins. This new order of pins produced pins with a brighter face of Dolly and created what we consider to be the 16th pin in the series. This is a legitimate pin that was never intended to be a variation. If you are lucky and find one, you too will have the complete series.



Loretta Lynn 1992

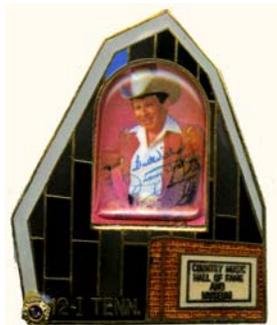
Considering that two of the principal creators of the District 12-I Country Music Hall of Fame series are now deceased, this brief history would not have been possible without the assistance of one young lady, **Carolyn Meyer**, and two old men who shall remain anonymous, but who were responsible for a lot of research for this brief history. I want to thank everyone for their assistance.



Hank Williams 1987



Roy Acuff 1989



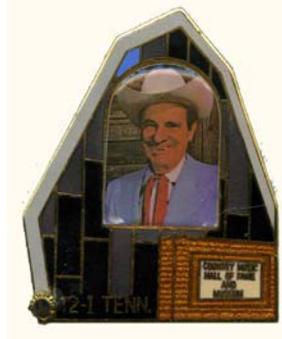
Little Jimmy Dickens 1991



Conway Twitty 1993



Miss Kitty Wells 1994



Ernest Tubbs 1995

Please see next page for the remainder of the Stars.

Country Music Hall of Fame



Patsy Cline 1996



Eddie Arnold 1997



Tammy Wynette 1998



Marty Robbins 1999



Patsy Montana 2000