

Films used as source of research

Thinking about using the movie "Gone with the Wind" for research into the wartime South? Or those Nazi propaganda films for a look into 1930s Germany?

Dr. John Lenihan, assistant professor of history at Texas A&M University, may be able to lend some tips. He will present a History Department colloquium Thursday on "Film as a Source for Historical Research."

The program is at 4 p.m. in Room 201 of Harrington Education Center Annex.

Tiny Tim hits the open trail for Opryland

United Press International
NASHVILLE—Tiny Tim fancies himself a musical athlete, knocking out hits in a quavering voice unique to country singing.

The flabby singer who trilled "Tiptoe Through the Tulips" and married "Miss Vicki" before millions in 1968 on a late night talk show is working now on an album of country songs.

"I'm Gonna Be a Country Queen" is one tune Tiny Tim and his backers hope will shove him back before the public eye. "I Ain't No Cowboy, I Just Found This Hat" is another.

As the last title suggests, Tiny Tim has not abandoned his long, frizzy hair and flowing cape for the garb country music fans prefer.

"No," he said. "I'm the same man I always was. I'm nothing but a songpluggler. I don't know why people think this is such an about-face. I've always practiced country songs in front of my mirror."

Tiny Tim is annoyed that reporters do not realize the range of his art.

"None of these things are new to me," he says petulantly. "My show often includes 'Have You Seen My Little Sue' and if that's not country, I don't know what is."

Tiny Tim says he has been a country music fan since 1947, but that longstanding loyalty is not what prompted the new album.

"I just love to record—whether rock 'n' roll or country. I'd like to record some Japanese songs. I'm very fond of that music. I'm like a baseball pitcher who will use a screwball, changeup or fastball, whatever it takes. I go for a catch, melody that will be a hit. I don't sing throwaways."

Nevertheless, Tiny Tim worried that "people would take it the wrong way" when he sang of a struggling ingenue who preens before her mirror in a wig and declares "I look just like Miss Dolly Parton."

"I did wonder," Tiny Tim recalls. But producers, managers and agents quieted his fears.

No matter what new songs he sings, the man whose mother named him Herbert says fans will always clamor for "Tiptoe Through the Tulips."

"I can do a million songs but all they want is Tiptoe, they yell for it at every concert," he says. "I don't mind, I never get tired of the hand that feeds you."

Toy maker didn't quite understand Dolly Parton doll

By PAULA SCHWED
United Press International

NASHVILLE — It was not easy to convince New York executives to market a doll with the generous curves and fat hair of Dolly Parton.

They were incredulous when Ann Warden tried to sell them the idea, describing her long-time friend and business partner with expansive gestures.

"Does she really look like that?" was what they asked," Warden said with a giggle.

"If I wasn't born with them, I would have had them made," Dolly once said.

But the toy company executives knew nothing of her sweet soprano or popular country tunes. Nor were they familiar with the flashing jewels and tight, gaudy spangled outfits made famous by the lush-bodied entertainer.

"They didn't know her," Warden explained. "They were thinking about Barbie dolls with conservative clothes and Dolly's face on them. They just didn't understand."

A photograph helped, but Warden finally took a Barbie doll and packed it with modeling clay in imitation of Dolly's remarkable measurements. That was two years ago.

"We've had an overwhelming response since the Dolly doll came out in June," Warden said. "Chain stores are placing big orders and we're getting letters from all over."

The doll has a wardrobe much like Dolly Parton's own gaudy finery: a beige chiffon frock trimmed in gold, a scarlet gypsy outfit with matching bandana and a shocking pink, skintight jumpsuit.

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