

Gayle pleases crowd

(Continued from page 1)
 sponse. "I've always thought that Texas is a world of its own."

She laughed and brushed back her brown hip-length hair, crossing her legs which were clad in the same brown tan boots and tight Levis.

Crystal Gayle is the singer's stage name, and popular magazines say it was taken from "Krystal's," a chain of hamburger stands in the South. When she signed with her first record company in 1971, "Brenda" was not acceptable because another singer, Brenda Lee, already recorded for the firm.

"Loretta saw the name on a hamburger stand," she said. Loretta Lynn, Crystal's older sister in a family of eight children, is a long-time superstar of country music. "She just liked the name. But she had seen it before," Crystal said.

"I didn't care because I was getting to record. There was a time when I wanted my real name, but now I'm used to it."

She was never a part of her sister's show, but she did appear with Loretta during vacations from Wabash, Ind., High School.

"I learned from just watching her on stage. She told me a lot of things," she recalled, looking beyond the cinder-block walls of the dressing room. "She really helped me."

Crystal's career doesn't need much help now. Next week she's scheduled to record a new album, and last week she taped a segment for NBC's "The Midnight Special." Her touring schedule is also full.

"Last year was really, really good," she said. During 1977 she was named best female vocalist at the Country Music Awards in Nashville and won ovations at the International Festival of Country

Music in London.

Last month she won a Grammy for best female country and western vocalist.

"I was pleasantly surprised," she said. "When you get that high, with that competition, you just don't know what will happen."

"You want to hear the name, but you don't expect it."

She said she doesn't like to label her music, adding that she is glad country and pop music are "breaking down their barriers and getting together," with crossover records.

She said she is especially happy when that trend allows her to sell more records.

"I just record the material I like," she said.

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