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Jones, Cash big winners of country music accolades

United Press International
NASHVILLE, Tenn. — George Jones, Emmylou Harris and Barbara Mandrell took top honors at the 14th Annual Country Music Association awards show Monday night.
Jones, who has endured a bout with the bottle, divorce and bankruptcy, captured the most honors at ceremonies televised nationally from the Grand Ole Opry House. But the only standing ovation of the evening went to the "Man in Black," Johnny Cash, who was inducted into the Country Music Hall of Fame.

Among the stars attending the show was Amy Carter, the president's daughter, who had a front-row seat.
Jones won the Male Vocalist of the Year award and also was honored for the top single, "He Stopped Loving Her Today." Songwriters Bobby Braddock and Curly Putnam, who penned Jones' hit, were awarded the Song of the Year accolade.
Emmylou Harris was named Female Vocalist of the Year and Bar-

bara Mandrell became the third woman in the history of the ceremony to be voted Entertainer of the Year by the more than 5,000 members of the CMA.
Mandrell was chosen for the award over last year's winner, Willie Nelson, plus Kenny Rogers, the Charlie Daniels Band and Larry Gatlin and the Gatlin Brothers Band. Rogers and the Gatlins were nominated for four awards, but didn't take any home.

Jones was waiting to perform at a Sparks, Nev., nightclub when informed of his awards.
"I can't believe it," Jones said. "I'm so happy. The good Lord's been good to us. I've got to thank the fans and friends who stood by us during my comeback. I'm on my way back and I want to thank everybody."
As Emmylou Harris walked on stage to accept the Female Vocalist of the Year award, she tripped on her long blue dress.

"You've got great timing," she said, brushing her long, jet-black hair aside. "I want to thank the guys in the band who are watching this show on the bus and tell them, 'Please don't drink too much tonight. We've got another show to do.'"
Cash's tearful acceptance of the Country Music Hall of Fame plaque brought the audience to its feet for the standing ovation.
"I'd like to thank my wife, June Carter Cash," Cash said of the daughter of country music great "Mother" Maybelle Carter. "June's the only one I know who has a mother and husband in the Hall of Fame."

The Statler Brothers claimed the Vocal Group award for the eighth time, while Daniels and his band, nominated in five of the 10 categories, were voted the best instrumental group.

The top album honor went to the original soundtrack from the motion picture "Coal Miner's Daughter," about the life of Loretta Lynn. She accepted the award for actress Sissy Spacek, who sang most of the songs on the album Lynn made famous.

Roy Clark took home the bullet-shaped instrumental award for the third time and Moe Bandy and Joe Stampley were named the Vocal Duo of the Year.

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Health fee rises little

United Press International
NEW YORK — Doctor fees are only 13 percent higher this year than last — less than the rate of inflation — because of growing competition for patients and closer scrutiny of medical claims by insurance companies, a survey shows.

The nation's expanding supply of doctors has fueled stiff competition and physicians have had to keep fees down in order to attract patients, said the survey published Monday in Medical Economics, a business magazine for doctors.
A sampling of 11 medical specialties, including rates for office visits and hospital services, found "physicians' fees, as measured by the Consumer Price Index, appeared to be rising at midyear at an annual rate of 13 percent."

"But that was about one point lower than the 'all items' section of the CPI and four points below 'all services' — with which physicians' fees can most fairly be compared," Medical Economics said.
Merian Kirchner, the senior associate editor who wrote the report, explained the comparatively moderate increases, saying, "The degree of restraint you're exercising can't be attributed entirely to altruistic concern for patients' pocketbooks or for overall health-care cost control."

Another major factor in physician's fees is insurance companies. "Third-party reimbursement policies are getting tougher," the magazine said.

Blue Shield has gotten pickier about doctor bills for their clients. So have many other insurance plans and Uncle Sam, who pays for Social Security patients.
Of the increases discovered by the survey, the largest were for comprehensive histories, physicals and for initial hospital care. Medical Economics said obstetricians, gynecologists and general surgeons have also hiked fees for higher-priced procedures.

The survey showed median fees for office visits haven't gone up at all since 1979. About half the doctors charge more than the median, however.

Medical Economics said \$40 or more fees for office visits were charged by 1 percent of the general practitioners, 2 percent of the obstetricians-gynecologists; 4 percent of the cardiologists; 10 percent of the neurologists; 5 percent of the neurosurgeons; and 19 percent of the non-surgical specialists — allergists, dermatologists, for example.

Median fees charged when visiting patients the first day of hospital care were: general practitioners \$50, family practitioners \$50 and internists \$52. Some charge much more — \$100 or more the first time.

The medians for subsequent "hospital rounds" or visits to a hospitalized patient were: general practitioners \$16, family practitioners \$16, internists \$21, pediatricians \$19. Some, however, charge \$30 or more for such visits.