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Singer Roy Orbison dies from heart attack

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — Rock 'n' roll pioneer Roy Orbison, whose surging falsetto mourned the misery of fading romance, suffered a heart attack and died. He was 52, and was enjoying a comeback with a new generation of fans.
 The Grammy Award-winning Orbison, famed for hits like "Oh, Pretty Woman," "Only the Lonely" and "Cryin'," died shortly before midnight Tuesday at Hendersonville Hospital, where he had been taken by ambulance, Melanie Lamb, a spokesman for the suburban Nashville hospital, said.
 "He was and always will be one of the greats of rock 'n' roll," former Beatle Paul McCartney said. "We toured with Roy in the early days and he was a really good guy."
 A singer, guitarist and songwriter who was instantly recognizable by his ever-present sunglasses and dark attire set off by an ebony pompadour, Orbison had 27 straight records on the charts during his heyday in the early 1960s.
 But his biggest success came with "Oh, Pretty Woman," about a flirtatious episode, which sold more than 7 million copies in 1964. A cover version later was a hit for the heavy metal band Van Halen.
 In 1977, Elvis Presley, one year Orbison's senior, introduced him as "the greatest singer in the world." Bruce Springsteen saluted him in his song "Thunder Road."
 Last year, he re-recorded his 1963 hit "In Dreams" after the song had been revived in the movie "Blue Velvet."
 But it was Orbison's recent recordings as one of The Traveling Wilburys — along with ex-Beatle

George Harrison, Tom Petty, Bob Dylan and Jeff Lynne — that brought him a new generation of fans. The group's "Handle With Care" is No. 45 on the charts, and their swift-selling album "The Traveling Wilburys" is No. 8.
 The upturn in his career surprised him, Orbison said last week as he was leaving London's Heathrow Airport for home.
 "I've been rediscovered by young kids who had never heard of me before the Wilburys," he said. "They are getting into my original songs and apparently the old stuff is selling at the rate of 20,000 copies a day."
 "It's very nice to be wanted again, but I still can't quite believe it."
 Orbison was upbeat a few weeks ago when he met with record producer Fred Foster, who had worked with the singer since the early days.
 "He seemed in good health," Foster said Wednesday. "He was exercising and all that. He was the most talented man I ever worked with."
 Orbison got his early recording experience in the 1950s with Sun Records of Memphis, the label that launched the careers of Elvis Presley, Johnny Cash and Jerry Lee Lewis.
 His career peaked in the first half of the '60s but tailed off in the aftermath of two family tragedies: His wife died in a motorcycle accident in 1966, and in 1968, two of his three sons, ages 10 and 6, died in a fire that destroyed his lakeside home.
 His third son is in his 20s, and he had two teen-age sons from his second marriage. His wife and three sons survive him. The family lived in Nashville.

Lawman awaits credit based on skill, not race

DALLAS (AP) — The first black lawman to become a Texas Ranger says he is happy to be a role model, but looks forward to the day when publicity will come not because of his race, but because of his accomplishments solving a case.
 Lee Roy Young Jr., after roughly three months on the job, is taking special training and investigating cases from murder to kidnapping.

against them in other ways.
 Young is the first black to become a Ranger in the 165-year history of the force, which now numbers 94 men.
 He said he hasn't personally encountered discrimination, and he hasn't seen others discriminated against.
 "I don't see it," he said. "Of course, I haven't really been looking for it."
 Although he at first found the publicity surrounding his promotion annoying, Young said he's getting used to it and sees the benefit of being a role model.
 "There's always that possibility, that someone will see me and say, 'If he was successful in his chosen field, then I can go forth and do the same in mine,'" he said. "You set your sights on something, and you work toward obtaining that goal, and don't let anything else get in your way."

"I find the work to be very challenging. You're trying to find or to obtain something unknown... it's that challenge in itself that I find most exciting."
 —Lee Roy Young Jr., Texas Ranger

Young dreamed of being a Ranger as a child in South Texas and said the reality has lived up to the dream.
 "I find the work to be very challenging," he said. "You're trying to find or to obtain something unknown, or that's not easily found or disclosed, so it's that challenge in itself that I find most exciting."
 Young said that in the short time he has been a Ranger, he has been involved in cases including kidnapping, murder, narcotics, forgery, missing persons and wanted fugitives.
 Rangers are charged with four duties: protecting life and property by enforcing state criminal statutes, suppressing riots and insurrections, investigating major crimes and apprehending fugitives.

Familiar orange Gulf logo fades into motorist history

PORT ARTHUR (AP) — The familiar orange disc that shines brightly over thousands of service stations and oversees the pumping of millions of gallons of gasoline is going the way of the Packard, DeSoto and Studebaker — into the American motorists' memory.
 The Gulf name and orange disc logo is being retired in favor of Chevron, the name of the company that merged with Gulf in 1984.
 "It's something that marketing has done by studying the marketplace and determining that this is a more aggressive marketing program," said Art Spencer, spokesman for Chevron U.S.A. in Port Arthur, birthplace of Gulf Oil during the Spindletop boom years at the turn of the century.
 "What they're going to do is change the colors, upgrade the stations and make them more convenient for the customers' usage," Spencer said.
 By this time next year, the orange disc and Gulf name will be but a memory for thousands of motorists in the Southwest.
 Some stations and gasoline operators in the Northeast have licenses to use the Gulf logo until the turn of the century.
 "This will affect all Gulf stations in Texas, Louisiana, Arkansas and New Mexico," Spencer said. "There will be no change in the products or

the methods of operation, whether it's a jobber operation, a company-owned station or an independent."
 "I think it's a good idea," said Roy Bruno, owner of Alamo Service Station in Port Arthur, a Gulf station since the 1940s.
 "They are going to really make all the stations first class and I don't think the customers can help but like it," he said.
 While Bruno said he was in favor of the change, he couldn't help but feel a little twinge of sadness to see the old orange disc go.
 "I started here in 1941 and I bought the station in 1944 and it's always been Gulf," he said. "Sure, I'll be sad to see it go; it's been a big part of my life."
 The change is slated to begin early in 1989 in Houston, but will not be seen in the Golden Triangle area until next summer.
 "They'll start the procedure in Houston and Dallas in January," Spencer said. "Hopefully it will be done by the end of 1989. They won't get to the Golden Triangle until at least the third quarter."
 "We hate to see the Gulf name go away, but it was going to happen," Joe Darby of Darby Oil Co., a distributor for Gulf-Chevron products in the Port Arthur area, said.
 "We have a new image coming out and it will be attractive, one I think the customers will like," he said.

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