

Phil Lloyd

by Jan Heaton

Phil's story starts back in the good old 60s when he was influenced by some of the greatest singers such as Hank Williams, Johnny Cash, Jim Reeves and George Jones. In 1966 with his friend Tony Freeman they became the Lloyd James duo, then a bass player, George Ashton, was added. The trio worked the club scene for about two years. In 1968 Phil was then asked to join one of the best outfits, the Larry Hinchcliffe Trio, along with lead guitarist John McConnell. Phil has always paid tribute to Larry for all the useful tips he gave him.

It was just after this that he worked for the first time with Ken Durrans on bass guitar, Charlie Currie on lead guitar, John Brady on pedal steel and Pete Tomlinson on drums. They became the Davisons. It wasn't long after that he was asked to form his own band, the Phil Lloyd Sound. The other members being Jimmy Henderson on lead guitar, Mick Johns on bass and Fred Harris on drums.

Three years later after that door closed another one opened when Phil was asked to join the Collier Dixon Line, one of the best live bands at the time. The line up was Dennis Collier on lead guitar, Phil on bass, Barry Ward on rhythm and Johnny Young on drums. They worked together for over four years picking up many awards along the way. Phil left in 1976 with the birth of his daughter and wanted to spend some time at home.

He wasn't at home long before three guys came to see him, they had been working with Doncaster based Jack Parks and the West Coast Sound and they now wanted him to front a new band. He didn't know at the time what an impact this new band was to have on him but Mustang was born. He knew this band was something special. Before long they were getting noticed. Phil believes their popularity was down to the type of music they were doing. Nobody was doing four-part harmony and they introduced the UK to bands like the Glaser Brothers, the



Stalter Brothers and of course the Gatlin Brothers. In 1979 this led to them winning the most coveted competition in the UK, the Marlborough Talent Competition with the final being held at the Wembley Festival over the Easter weekend. Winning the competition was a great experience.

After one more change in the band, during the next four years they worked tirelessly and with some of the great names in Country music.

One of the highlights of Phil's career was being on tour with the Drifting Cowboys, Hank Williams' original backing group. The stories they told him would, as they say, fill a book and also of course working with the great Merle Haggard. Just a few more to mention are Steve Young, Marvin Rainwater, Justin Tubb, Kenny Surratt and our very own Miki & Griff. Unfortunately due to financial problems in 1983 the band was forced to call it a day.

It seems that every paragraph has a different band. No sooner had Mustang disbanded than another chance came along to work with Ken Durrans and the Shackband was formed. For the next six years they worked like no other semi-pro band. Every band Phil had been in had always been special and

being in Shackband was no different. It was a laugh from start to finish. Unfortunately it did finish because in 1989, due to personal problems and then suffering a nervous breakdown, Phil had to retire. For three years he was out of the business, then he met Carole and she changed his life around. She just said one day 'why don't you give Ken a ring and see if he wants to form a duo?'. Henceforth another paragraph and another outfit.

That was back in 1993 and along came Phil & Ken. As most people know, they now work solo or as a duo. Whatever you ask for, you will be entertained, because that's what they do, they enjoy themselves while they do it. As he says every night, 'we don't come out to be miserable'.

After over 40 years in the business you would think Phil had seen it all. Not likely, there are still things that make him smile and he hopes will make him smile for many years to come. People ask, 'I bet you have many fans?'. He answers 'I may well but what I do know is I've got many friends'. Phil just hopes he can keep on doing what he loves and hopes everyone will enjoy what he does.

To all these people, he says thank you!