

"Makin' of The Roy Acuff Doll"
My memories start here when
I was about four years old,

In the late 1940's I was a first
child born to young parents, they
were very young almost 18 and 20 years
old, so I knew and remember them
real well. I had them a long time.

We lived in a community near
Lafayette, TN. A country home called
Galere. Mama was a housewife and
Daddy worked at my great Uncle's sawmill.
World War II had just ended and
money was scarce. Our grand-

parents had lived through the
Depression and as they called it,
The Hoover Days. We had very little
of worldly things. A little white radio and Roy Acuff.

My Mom told me when she was
a child her parents had a battery
operated radio. It was only
played for the best programs.

They listened to the Grand Ole Opry.
She remembers them staying up
to hear Roy Acuff sing for they said
he always sang a Gospel song on
his program. Then off to bed.

Staying at Grandma Holland's was
fun and a treat. On their radio the Opry
was on also. I still remember
Mother Maybelle Carter play the Autoharp
and "Wildwood Flower".

I love Country + Gospel music.
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Here is the Raggy doll story and begins to be told. The greaser sold 25 pound bag of flour. The flour was in cotton material usually with colorful patterns. It was good cloth. Ravel it out, wash and iron it. People made curtains, aprons, and doll clothes etc. (etc). My Mamma could sew and make things to fit to use.

One day the flour sack had a cut out of a Raggy doll. Front piece on one side and the back piece of the doll. The best I remember it was a sailor suit. It looked just like him and very good for a four year old. We got toys maybe at Christmas not like kids have so many now days.

Mamma cut, sewed, and stuffed it with saw-dust from the mill. I think the face was embroidered for eyes and mouth. I loved the doll.

You can laugh for it or cry for this part of the story. I had played outside. One day I left it outside in the night. It rained and ruined it.

But Roy kept on singing. I grew up, H.S. married, 2 yrs college at Lindsay Wilson College. I spent 37 years in sewing factory in Yonahie until I met, married and moved to Glasgow and married Floyd Boston.

The years didn't leave out Roy. Who could forget Hee Haw?
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Everyone I knew Watched it. It was always in our home on Sat. night. Can you remember his Gospel song? I remember "I saw the Light, Great Speckled Bird" and who could forget the Hee Haw Gospel Quartet, Kenny Price and the others song "Will you Ride that Glory Bound Train."

The story continues. In the 1970's some friends and I was walking in the Opey Land Park. There was Roy Acuff. No one was near him. He was slim and trim. He was wearing banana yellow pants/slacks. Still had the thick curly gray hair. Others got in line.

We went to him. I said, "Can I have your autograph, please, my mama loves listening to you." So he said, "I sure will or they might run me off from this place." So nice and so friendly. That made my day. It's been 48 years since that wonderful day. It is a happy ending.

The End
Sue Bishop

Note:

When Mr Acuff died a few years ago, I can't remember the date. I know the service was short, no big deal. He was buried quietly the day of his passing.

P.S.

Dear Cultural Arts Writing Contest,
Please, no type writer. Excuse my mistakes. If I did another P.S. It would have them too!