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## LEFTY FRIZZELL

Lefty was Discovered In 1950, While Performing One Of His Own Songs At The Ace Of Clubs, In Big Spring, Texas. In The Spring of 1949 He Had Moved To Big Spring From Artesia, New Mexico, Driving An Older Model Studebaker, Taking A \$42.50 Seven Nights A Week Singing Job At The Ace Of Clubs. (Hoyle Nix & The West Texas Cowboys Were Playing Regular At Yale's Inn Across Town) Lefty Began A Recording Career, In 1950, That Would Produce Over 40 Career Hits Including "I Love You A Thousand Ways" (#1 For 3Wks. & Spent 32 weeks on the charts). A Juke Box Operator Was Doing Some Servicing, At The Club, And Was Impressed By Lefty's Style And The Song (Above) And Suggested Contacting, Dallas Record Promoter, Jim Beck. These Jim Beck Years, Concerning Song Credits, Would Later Come Back To Haunt Lefty. (Buddy Holly Experienced The Same With Record Producer Norman Petty) Lefty Frizzell Influenced More Singers, With His Singing Style, Than Anyone In The History Of Country Music And Included Among The Many Were Rockabilly Super Stars Roy Orbison And Buddy Holly. In 1951 A Big Spring Radio Station Did A Live Remote Broadcast From The Dixie Club, In San Angelo, As Lefty Sang To A Standing Room Only Crowd Of 600 Fans (400 Girls). Dressed In His, Soon To Be Famous, Fringed Jacket And Backed By Blackie Crawford & The Western Cherokees Lefty Was, At This Point In Time, America's Most Popular Country Singer (4 Of Lefty's Songs Appeared Simultaneously In The Top 10) In 1954 When Elvis Hit The Scene, With His Early Sun Recordings, Kids



Around West Texas, Started Doing A New Dance Called The Bop. In 1955 Elvis, Scotty, & Bill's "I Forgot To Remember" b/w "Mystery Train" Hit #1 Playing 43 Weeks On Country Radio Stations All Across America. In 1956 "Heartbreak Hotel", A Pop/Rock Song, Stayed At #1 On The Country Charts For 17 Weeks. (All Country Singers Felt The Effects As Record Sales And Vital Juke Box Plays Plummeted) After A Long Dry Spell Lefty Found New Life In 1959 With A #6 Hit, The Long Black Veil, Co-Written By Marijohn Wilkin From The West Texas Town Of Merkel, And In 1964 With His Last #1 & Grammy Nominated Saginaw, Michigan. Sadly, Lefty Burned Out At An Early Age. William Orville Frizzell Was Born In A Small House Behind An Oil Rig Near Tuckertown, Texas (Pure Oil camp near Palestine and Corsicana) Lefty's Singing Influences Were Jimmie Rogers And Ernest Tubb. Early Gene Autry Movies Influenced His Designer Clothes. Lefty was inducted into The Texas Country Music Association in 2003.



*img top right: America's Greatest Country Singers In Their Prime... Hank & Lefty*

*img middle left: Lois, Marlon & Lefty Rickey & Alice (1957)*

*img middle center: autographed image*

*img middle right: David Mark "Crockett" Frizzell Son Of William O. "Lefty" Frizzell & Singer/ Songwriter Delores "Cherokee Dee" Kellum.*

*img bottom: Lefty Frizzell and the Western Cherokees at the Clover Club.*

