



**Paige Elliott**

**WEST COAST**

**Favorite station/personality:** Classic Rock WBIG/Washington, DC. I was the only little kid in my class who knew all the hits of the '60s.

**Non-hit I thought should be a smash:** I probably shouldn't answer this, because anything current I listened to as a kid was Backstreet Boys or 'N Sync. Some things should stay in the vault.

**Huge hit I couldn't stand:** If the radio played it, I loved it. Even "The Macarena."

**Early radio interaction:** My dad did week-ends on Top 40 WHTZ (Z100)/New York. At six years old, I'd answer the request lines at the biggest radio station in the world. If people asked, I told them I was 23.

**Early artist interaction:** When I was about eight years old, I was backstage at a Four Tops/Temptations show. Melvin Franklin (bass singer for the Temps) walked up behind me at a water fountain and said, "Hello, little girl!" in his booming voice. Scared me so much I got water all over my face.

**First music purchase:** *Prolonging The Magic* by Cake.

**Music poster in my room:** I had some random new band sign a Jeep poster with outhouses on it because I didn't want to purchase their merch. That band turned out to be Maroon 5.



**Jeremy Gunther**

**SOUTHWEST**

**Favorite station/personality:** KSSN/Little Rock's Bob Robbins. He was always so nice and seemed to really love "his" listeners and the state.

**Non-hit I thought should be a smash:** Capitol's Mel McDaniel, "Louisiana Saturday Night," 1981. Whomever I was



in the car – or more likely, truck – with when that song came on, it had to be cranked! Peaked at No. 7.

**Huge hit I couldn't stand:** Billy Ray Cyrus, "Achy Breaky Heart."

**Early radio interaction:** I would call long-time KSSN middayer Jay Smith on summer break to request songs. He was always very nice. It was a great pleasure getting to work with him later in life as well.

**Early artist interaction:** My Uncle Ronnie took me to a Hank, Jr. concert and I somehow remember seeing him in the hallway of the Barton Coliseum. When he saw me he stopped and said, "How ya doing, Hoss?" I'll never forget it.

**Diane Lockner**

**NORTHEAST**

**Favorite station/personality:** WZZO/Allentown and Rick Strauss. He was good



looking! And he supported some of the regional bands – Robert Hazard, The Hooters, The Sharks.

**Non-hit I thought should be a smash:** "Heartbeat, It's A Lovebeat" by The DeFranco Family.

**Early radio interaction:** Calling WZZO

to request a lunchtime block of The Hooters, getting on-air and getting my lunchtime block while we hung out at my friend's pool. The good ol' days.

**Early artist interaction:** I wrote for local music magazine *PA Musician* when I was in college and interviewed Robert Hazard. It was a big deal! And going to *Dancing On Air* and the musical guest was an unknown singer named Madonna.

**First music purchase:** Doobie Brothers "China Grove" single.

**Music poster:** Don't judge – Shaun Cassidy.

Label of the Year



RECORDS NASHVILLE

A 2% chart share increase over 2013 and an impressive 5% lead has Capitol taking its sixth consecutive title as country's top airplay label. The milestone is bittersweet for Senior VP/Promotion Steve Hodges, who is leaving after 21 years with the company, the last six at the helm of the Label of the Year.

"I'm trying to soak it all in and appreciate it without being egotistical, because it really is all about the music and the artists," Hodges says as his final days on the job draw to a close. "You couldn't script a better way to end."

"You're only as good as the music and people you have to work with," he continues. "We have an incredible roster and staff and I'm very proud of both. It feels like perfect timing and I look forward to the next chapter and challenge."

This year, we gave the team the questions we asked the Power 31 group in September. As that list included UMG/Nashville's Mike Dungan and Royce Risser, as well as Hodges and incoming Capitol VP/Promotion Shane Allen, we're diving right in with the staff.

THE YEAR IN MUSIC

2014 TOP 10 LABELS

1. CAPITOL	15.1%	6. BIG MACHINE	5.9%
2. WMN	10.2%	7. ARISTA	5.7%
3. REPUBLIC NASHVILLE	8.9%	8. STONEY CREEK	5.1%
4. RCA	8.4%	9. EMI NASHVILLE	4.9%
5. VALORY	6.3%	10. BROKEN BOW	4.4%

**Brent Jones**

**MIDWEST**

**Favorite station/personality:** I would spend every Sunday after church listening to Casey Kasem's countdown and get upset when a song that I liked got jumped by another song that I didn't.

**Non-hit I thought should be a smash:** Donald Fagen's "Century's End."

I bought the *Bright Lights, Big City* soundtrack for it, saw the video a few times and never heard it on the radio.

**Huge hit I couldn't stand:** USA For Africa's "We Are The World" is a horrible, horrible song. I hate songs that pander and try to get by on their good will alone.

**Early radio interaction:** WZYP/Decatur, AL was at the Morgan County Fair when I was eight and I won a K.C. & the Sunshine Band album from them. I was excited for the next month!

**Early artist interaction:** The closest I got was yelling something to a member of Drivin' & Cryin' at a 1991 club show. I think they just nodded at me.

**First music purchase:** Hall & Oates' "Kiss On My List" 45.

**Music poster:** Styx *Pieces Of Eight* album gatefold image, any Iron Maiden poster with mascot Eddie.



**Bobby Young**

**SOUTHEAST**

**Favorite station/personality:** Dave Diamond on WNYR/Rochester NY. Was always quitting on the air over corporate policies. Lots of business and personal issues – early reality radio!

**Non-hit I thought should be a smash:** I was still a "kid" in 1989.

"Davy Crockett" by the Kentucky Headhunters. The lead single from the band's second Mercury release *Electric Barnyard*, one of the first digitally recorded albums out of Nashville. Programmers began reporting calls from listeners saying the song was "hurting" their ears. It sounds funny but I've always wondered if the digital recording technique that was used didn't somehow affect its delivery over the airwaves and actually cause discomfort to some.

**Huge hit I couldn't stand:** I was definitely a kid in 1966 when "Winchester Cathedral" by The New Vaudeville Band on Fontana peaked at No. 1.

My first boss at Mercury, Frank Leffel, actually worked this song, broke it out of L.A. Even though I always considered him a great promotion man, I still don't understand how it broke through.

**First music purchase:** The Kinks "You Really Got Me" with "I Gotta Move," Reprise. The Rolling Stones *Between The Buttons*.

**Music poster:** The Beatles in Nehru jackets and black ties.



**Ashley Laws**

**COORDINATOR**

**Favorite station/personality:** Rick & Bubba on WZZK/Birmingham. We listened on the way to school and I thought they were hilarious.

**Non-hit I thought should be a smash:** "Space Cowboy" by 'N Sync. I get it now

– it was a silly song. But to a nine-year-old, it was a fun one.

**Huge hit I couldn't stand:** Hard for me to say because Counting Crows will always be one of my very favorite bands, but I hated their version of "Big Yellow Taxi" featuring Vanessa Carlton.

**Early artist interaction:** The closest I ever got was tweeting at Taylor Swift.

**First music purchase:** Dixie Chicks' *Wide Open Spaces*.

**Music poster:** Britney Spears. My dad got me a "signed" headshot and it was my most prized possession for years.



**Katie Dean**

**UMGN VP/RADIO MARKETING**

**Favorite station/personality:** My parents listened to Chuck Boozer in Charlotte all the time. I was a huge fan of Casey Kasem because I loved the countdown shows and artist interviews.

**Non-hit I thought should be a smash:** It's embarrassing to admit, but "How Can I Live Without Her" by Christopher Atkins, which was on *The Pirate Movie* soundtrack. It is pure early '80s cheese and I still love it.

**Huge hit I couldn't stand:** "China Girl" by David Bowie, "Electric Avenue" by Eddy Grant, "She Blinded Me With Science" by Thomas Dolby and "Once In A Lifetime" by Talking Heads. Very

high burn for an eight-year-old. They did not test gold with me.

**Early radio interaction:** Requesting Heart songs once my full blown fandom kicked in as a teenager, and meeting my favorite local DJ in Nashville, Proud Mary, at a remote right after I moved to town.

**First music purchase:** Michael Jackson's *Thriller* LP on vinyl. It was \$6.33 at Music Land in Orange Park, FL and it was a gift.

**Music poster:** Lots of Heart posters.



**Donna Hughes**

**UMGN DIR./NATIONAL RADIO SYNDICATION**

**Favorite station/personality:** Coyote McCloud, Diana Lynn and Rhett Walker at WRVW (Y107)/Nashville. They seemed to truly enjoy working together and often made me laugh out loud in

the bathroom when I was jacking up my '80s hair and putting on the frosty baby blue eye shadow.

**Non-hit I thought should be a smash:** Pam Tillis' "Spilled Perfume" – genius and on the money. The females

of the early '90s were honest and genuine, but also flirty, fun and spoke straight to the complex and vulnerable woman.

**Huge hit I couldn't stand:** "Take On Me" by A-Ha, "Down Under" by Men At Work, anything by Culture Club.

**Early radio interaction:** I got so nervous finally getting through to Y107 to request a Kenny Rogers song that I forgot which song I wanted and can't remember it to this day. I just blurted out, "Kenny Rogers!" They took pity on a kid and played "Islands in the Stream" for me.

**Early artist interaction:** I remember a handful of country artists performing at Franklin High School. It was easier since they either lived in Franklin and had kids who attended FHS or somebody knew somebody famous. Gene Cotton, The Gatlin Brothers, Jerry Reed, the Hagar Twins from *Hey Haw*, The Judds (I attended school with Wynonna).

**First music purchase:** Paul McCartney and Wings "Silly Love Songs" on 45.

**Music poster:** Kenny Rogers – I was his "Lady." I fell for him and his music *hard*. I went to see him with my mother at MTSU's Murphy Center *twice*. Once with Dolly Parton and once with Dottie West. **CAC**