

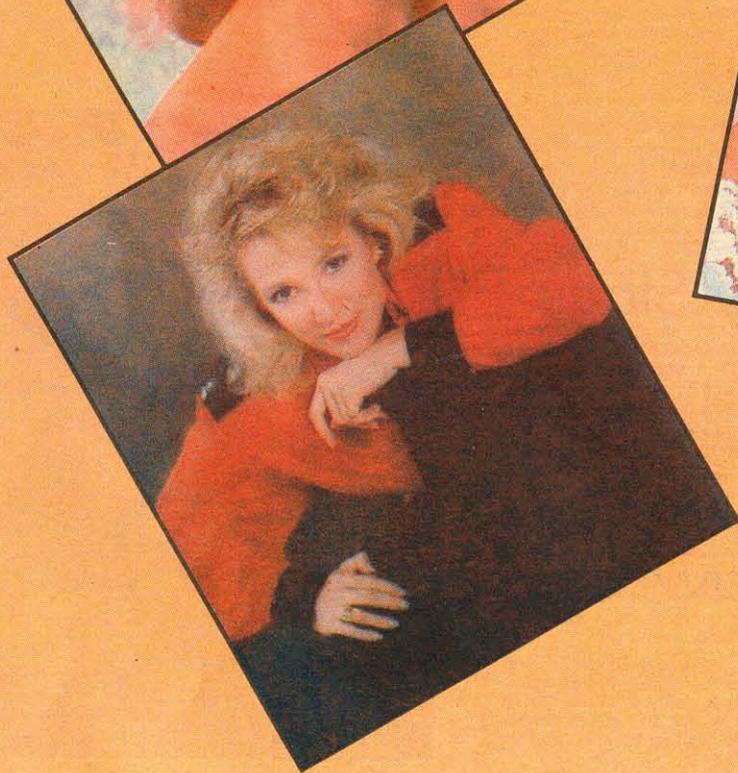
# SHOWCASE

ANTELOPE VALLEY PRESS, Aug. 28, 1987

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## Our Fair Ladies



Mother and daughter duet The Judds, top, Crystal Gayle, right, and Tanya Tucker will appear this week at the Antelope Valley Fair. The first week will also include the Association, Charlie Daniels (with Tucker Sept. 1), John Schneider (with Gayle Sept. 2), Ricky Skaggs (with The Judds Sept. 4) as well as Wolfman Jack, Bo Diddley and other 1950s stars. In addition, the True Value Showdown's state finals will be held August 29, with the Janie Fox Band representing the Antelope Valley. Jim Stafford will host. Many of these fair visitors talked about their past, and their upcoming performances, with Showcase, inside.

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## COUNTRY

By KARLA TIPTON  
Assistant Showcase Editor

Tanya Tucker wants to get back to her roots.

In 1972, at age 13, she burst onto the country music scene with the gospel-tinged "Delta Dawn." Like the song, her style continued to modulate. At one point, it crossed over into the realm of rock'n'roll.

Now she's getting back to "just plain ol' Tanya Tucker music," said the 28-year-old vocalist in a phone interview from Nashville. (Tucker will be performing with the Charlie Daniels Band Tuesday at the Antelope Valley Fair's grandstand.)

On her latest Capitol album, *Love Me Like You Used To*, Tucker sings some numbers that are rock-oriented or heavy on the blues, such as the humorous "Alien." But primarily she puts her sandpaper vocals to love ballads such as the tender, title cut.

## Tucker slows down to a simpler sound

"I just decided to slow down a little bit," she said of *Love Me Like You Used To*. "I want to get back to the way we made music before — and that was just a very raw sound, not a lot of technology involved."

However, "I'm not going to limit myself to one certain kind of music," she said. "It's just Tanya Tucker music."

It's not finding great songs that's difficult. It's *choosing* them that's time-consuming.

Potential songs come from several places. "People send us songs," she said. "All the writers in town are always constantly writing and pitching songs. (Also) I listen to most songs from my different songwriter friends."

From there, "we put them all in a pile and listen to all of them. You just know after you listen to about 100 songs, you know which ones stick out."

The process, "is very very tiring," said Tucker. "It wears the patience."

If a great song is offered to her, she'll do it. "I like any great song, fast or slow, short or long,"

she said. "If an enemy writes a great song, I'll cut it."

Occasionally, Tucker doesn't recognize a song's potential at first.

"I can hear a song and really dislike it, but my producer (Jerry Crutchfield) says, 'No, now. Listen to it again.'"

If the song sticks with her a week, "then I know that it's right."

But choosing successful *singles* is easy, she said. "It's not hard to pick the hits. They stand out like a sore thumb, usually."

One of those *obvious* songs launched her career.

As a precocious teen-ager, she turned down "Happiest Girl in the Whole U.S.A." when her producer suggested she put it out as her first single.

Instead, she chose "Delta Dawn." Shortly afterward, "The Happiest Girl" became a hit for Donna Fargo.

But "Delta Dawn" cast the die for Tucker's career.

She's been picking hits ever since.

Early on in her career, she discovered she had a slight credibility problem because of her age. "It's hard to give 30-year-old

See F6



CHOOSING THE RIGHT songs is a tiring process, says Tanya Tucker. Yet she has picked them well enough to have been a success since age 14.

## Tucker...

guys orders when you're 14," she said. "But that's OK, 'cause it makes you stronger."

Tucker has no regrets that she spent her teen-age years in the studio or on the road.

"In this kind of business you have to be almost fearless — and I was fearless at that age," she said. "It's that wonderful innocence, being naive and having talent; having the sense and intelligence but not the wisdom."

"It's wonderful to be fearless. When you get older, you get cautious."

But Tucker's aspirations remain ambitious. "I'd like to be one of the biggest recording artists. And, probably, later on, get into management or production of other artists."

## From F4

Helping other musicians in the studio would be fulfilling, she said. "And helping other people is only helping myself, you know?"

Perhaps the biggest problem in the music business is separating the music from the business. "Sometimes it comes between the artist and politics, but you have those things in any area (you work in)," she said. "Still I wouldn't trade it for anything."

She offered advice to teenagers starting out as she did — with talent and big ambitions: "I'd say, if they really want it, just go after it. I can't really say how to do it, because everybody's done it different. But if they have faith in themselves and believe — go for it."

Although she'd like to work with new artists such as Billy Joe Shaver — as well as her own sister — Tucker has devoted all her time to her own career since the release of *Love Me Like You Used To*.

"That's why most of us are unhappy in our love lives, because you have to put that second," she said. "Nothing comes before the career."

Right now, however, Tucker's content with her life. "I'm very, very happy," she said. "My family's very supportive. I have some great friends."

"Everybody has their sad times, but it's not a common occurrence (with me)," she said.

"I'm usually pretty much the life of the party."