

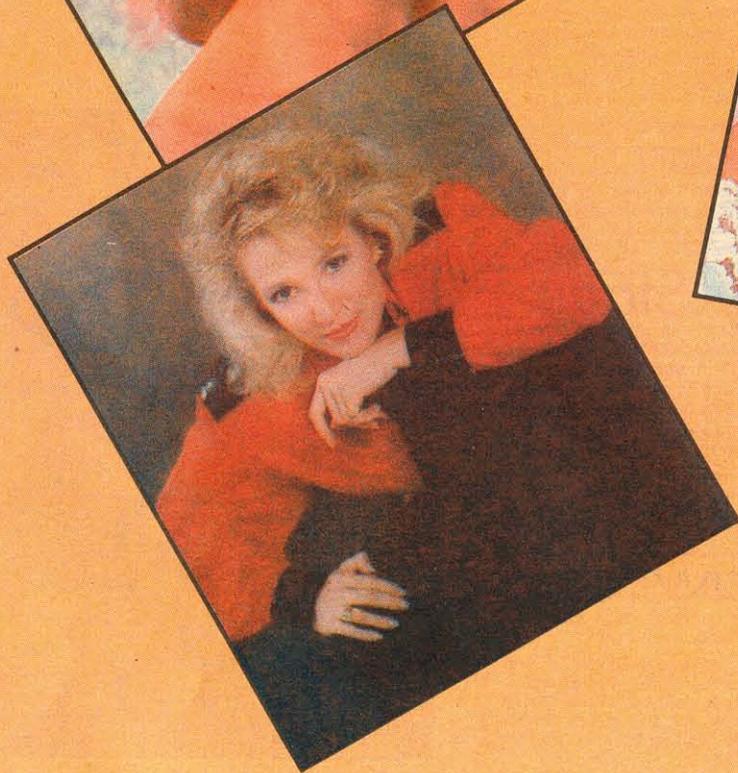
SHOWCASE

ANTELOPE VALLEY PRESS, Aug. 28, 1987

- Space exhibit 7
- L.A. Festival line up 14

Arts • Entertainment • Travel • Dining

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.

Our Fair Ladies

Gayle juggles two schedules: motherhood, tour

By KARLA TIPTON

Assistant Showcase Editor

Even before graduation, Crystal Gayle had reached celebrity status.

During her senior year at her Wabash, Ind., high school, Gayle recorded a debut single that reached No. 25 on the country charts.

"To record, I got time off from school," said Gayle in a phone interview from Denver, Colo., where she was playing a show in her current tour. "The teachers let me do make-up work."

But that's not the only reason people knew who she was. "Being the sister of a famous singer (Loretta Lynn) didn't hurt either," she said with a laugh.

Gayle, who will be performing Wednesday at the Antelope Valley Fair's grandstand on the same bill as John Schneider, recently released a duet album with Gary Morris, *What if We Fall in Love?* The LP followed on the heels of the 13th album of her career, *Straight to the Heart*, which she completed shortly after the birth of her second child,

Christos James.

But now that she's on the road, Gayle doesn't give up child-rearing to a nanny. Both Chris — now 17 months — and her 4-year-old daughter Catherine Claire accompany her on tours.

This makes for a hectic schedule. "It's not easy, sometimes," she said. "But they're pretty well-adjusted to my scheduling. They know when I'm getting ready that I can't be with them, because I have to get myself together."

"We're probably actually spending more time together than we would if I was home and gone (at a job) all day."

And although it makes touring more complicated, "I feel better when they're with me," she said. "I have them with me and I can raise them myself."

Like her children, Gayle was raised in a musical family. Not only Lynn — who was 16 years her senior — but most of the family was musically inclined.

"My mother would sing. My dad played instruments. Every one of my brothers played guitar and sang," she said. "The whole house was musical. Just had a good time."

In school, Gayle sang in glee clubs and school choirs, then

eventually joined her brothers in a weekend country band.

After high school, she toured with Conway Twitty and Lynn, who wrote her first hit, "Don't It Make My Brown Eyes Blue," in 1977.

She changed her name from Brenda Gail Webb to Crystal Gayle — after the Krystal hamburger chain — at her sister's suggestion.

And like hamburgers, Gayle's music appeals to many types of people because she records many types of music.

That's because she feels comfortable with a variety of styles.

"Because we moved from Kentucky to Indiana, my (musical) background when I was growing up was very different than most of my brothers' and sisters'," she said. "I grew up singing the folk, rock, pop, as well as country, because we moved into a bigger town."

During her childhood, Gayle often listened to rock ballads, including Johnny Ray's "Cry," which she covers on *Straight to the Heart*.

And although she enjoys singing ballads, "because I think my voice is suited for ballads," Gayle doesn't want to limit herself to one style.

"I just really call myself a singer," she said. "I never really tried to put a label on it."

"I do realize a lot of people like to label you," she said. "They want to know what you are. They either want to call you a country singer or a pop singer."

"As a singer, I feel like I would not be doing myself justice just to sing one style."

As a female singer on tour, Gayle has observed that life on the road is — in some ways — more difficult for women than it is for men. "Normally a guy jumps up and gets going. With a girl, takes awhile, you know?" she said with a chuckle.

On the other hand, "It also depends on the person," she said. "If you can take care of yourself on the road — try to eat right, get your sleep as well as you can, try to put your schedule in a way that's not too killing on you — then you can maintain it."

"Then when you have a few off days, it's like your body says, 'OK, I can collapse.'"

Gayle said she hopes to be able to slow down some in the next few years.

"Just settling back and getting in touch with myself a little bit more is one of my goals."



CRYSTAL GAYLE is raising her children despite a demanding tour schedule. The family comes to Lancaster Wednesday.