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Membership Application and Renewal Form

Gawler Country Music Club Inc P.O. Box 1132 Gawler SA 5118 Ph: (08) 8255 8920

Name: (Please Print) _____ DOB (Day and month only): _____

Address: _____ Suburb/Town: _____ Post Code: _____

Tel: _____ Mobile: _____ Annual Membership Fee: \$10.00 Are you already a Member? Yes my Number is No

My Favourite Country Music Artists are:.....

Do you sing or play a musical instrument?.....

I agree to abide by the constitution and rules of the club: Signature.....Date.....

Please send this form with your cheque or P.O. (Not Cash) to The Secretary at the above address

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Dance Listen Eat 'n' Sip



Come along and Enjoy

Gawler Country Music Club Inc. PO Box 1132 Gawler SA 5118 (Outside)

Gawler Country Music Club Inc. is a non profit organisation dedicated to the development of all styles of Country Music. The activities of the club include regular monthly meetings and shows; providing opportunity and encouragement to amateur artists; producing this newsletter and showing support for all other South Australian Country Music Clubs.

Committee Members

Kay Dobie, Barry Warren,
Kevin Vardon, Carlene Oliver.
ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP \$10.00.

President/Entertainments Officer	Keith Warren	8255 8920
Vice President	George Dobie	8255 5789
Secretary	Helen Warren	8255 8920
Treasurer	Louise Vardon	8254 3440
Public Relations Officer	Fred Payne	0417 851 609
Newsletter/Web Editor	Les Parris	

ADVERTISING SPACE is available in this Newsletter.
Costs are: Half A4 Page \$20.00.
Quarter A4 Page \$10.00.
Eighth A4 Page \$5.00 (Business Card Size)

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE To ensure entry in the next issue please send articles, advertisements etc. to **The Editor, PO Box 1132, Gawler SA 5118** to reach us by the **Second Sunday of the month**. Additional copies of the Newsletter may be obtained at club functions or by contacting the **Secretary on 8255 8920.**

Website:
www.gawlercountrymusicclub.com.au

RENEWALS DUE ON APRIL 1ST



Gawler Country Music Club

Newsletter of the
Gawler Country Music Club Inc
March 2010
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'Honesty' and Merle Haggard.

Merle Haggard is now well into his 70's and still actively involved in making live performances. As a living Country legend he is a perfect example of what young people can achieve with motivation and determination...

Walking in the paths of right and wrong is often a matter of circumstances, personal choice and/or influences of the people we associate with.

This article looks at the interesting life choices of **Merle Haggard**.

Merle's songs express what he sees, hears and feels... His lyrics are uncomplicated and the music pleasantly listenable. Those who have lived their lives to the full will recognise the truth in the stories he tells... His real gift is that anyone who hears his songs recognises the truth in them.

Over the many years of his career **Merle Haggard's** songs have appeared at the top of the **Country** charts regularly.

In addition to forty plus **Number 1 hits**, Merle Haggard has scored many **Top Ten** songs. He has won almost every music award imaginable, as a performer and as a songwriter.

In 1994 he was inducted into the **Country Music Hall of Fame**. His body of work places him beside **Hank Williams** as one of the most influential artists in **Country Music**.

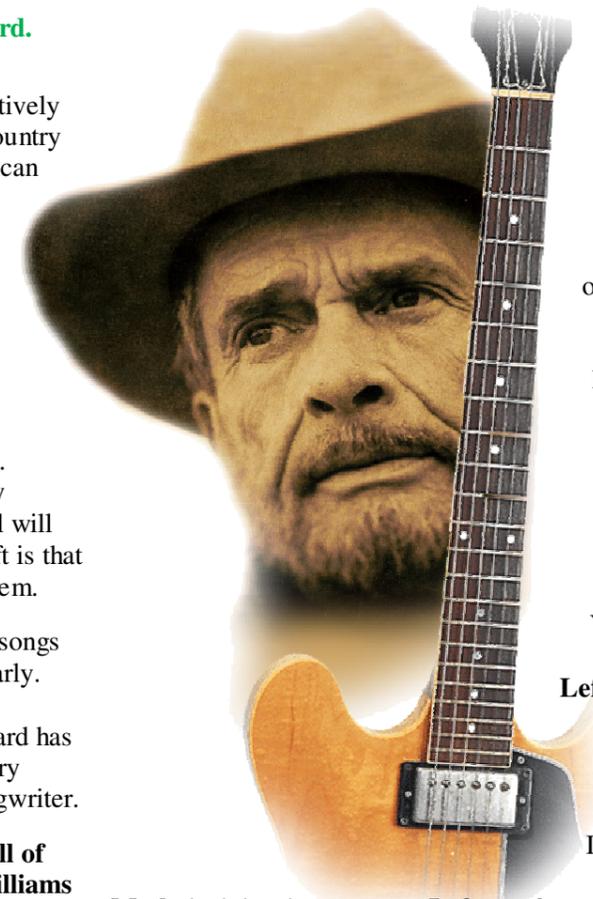
Merle Ronald Haggard was born in 1937, outside Bakersfield, California. His parents, **Jim and Flossie**, moved the family there after their farm in **Oklahoma** burned down, with **Jim** finding work as a carpenter for the Santa Fe Railroad. The family lived in an old boxcar that they converted into a home.

Although they struggled to make a comfortable living, they had a sturdy shelter, and food was always on the table. Things changed dramatically after **Jim** died of a stroke when **Merle** was nine years old. It was a devastating event for the young boy, who was very close to his father.

His mother went to work as a bookkeeper to make ends meet; often leaving **Merle** in the care of a great aunt and uncle.

With his world turned upside down, **Merle turned rebellious**. He hopped a freight train when he was just ten years old, making it to Fresno before being picked up by the authorities. It was the first step toward a youth of truancy from school and petty crime.

For the next few years, **Merle** would find himself in reform schools, sometimes making an escape, only to get thrown back in again.



Some of his father's musical talent was passed on to Merle, and he took to playing guitar. Starting out as a fan of **Bob Wills**, **Merle** eventually found his musical idol in **Lefty Frizzell**, and worked up a pretty impressive copy of **Lefty's** singing style.

"For three or four Years I didn't sing anything but **Lefty Frizzell** songs, and then, because **Lefty** was a fan of **Jimmie Rodgers**, I learned to imitate him too."

Merle had the chance to see **Lefty** perform in person. "He was dressed in white...Heroes usually are."

Merle left home at 15 with a friend, and the two were picked up as suspects in a robbery. Though innocent, he ended up in jail for two-and-a-half weeks. It was the first time he tasted prison life, but it wasn't the last.

In and out of jail over the years for small crimes, he found himself doing serious time in **San Quentin** at the age of 20. "Going to prison has one of a few effects. It can make you worse, or it can make you understand and appreciate freedom. I learned to appreciate freedom when I didn't have any."

Released from San Quentin in 1960, he began to make an impression performing in local clubs, and he joined Las Vegas star **Wynn Stewart's** band in 1962 as a bassist.

When he got a chance to record his own single, **Merle** chose the Stewart composition, "**Sing a Sad Song**." In 1964, it made it into the **Top Twenty**.

His next success "**Strangers**" went into the **Top Ten** and brought him to the attention of **Capitol Records**. He proved himself a hit-maker with **three Top Ten singles in 1967**, including his **first #1, "The Fugitive."**

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