



Hope Powell

July 3, 2014

Hope Powell, the doyenne of Nashville's celebrity photographers, has gone to with the Lord.

She was one of the first photographers, male or female, to forge a freelance career by shooting pictures of the city's country stars. Hope Powell's photographs became iconic images for such performers as Dolly Parton, Johnny Cash, George Jones, Willie Nelson, Larry Gatlin, Donna Fargo, Charlie Rich, Alabama, Tanya Tucker and hundreds of others.

Powell's photography won her a 1974 Dove Award from the Gospel Music Association for her LP jacket of The Blackwood Brothers On Stage. She was a 2007 SOURCE honoree for being a ground-breaking female force in the Nashville music industry.

She was also a songwriter, a poet and a singer who performed in the Christ Church Choir. The group backed Parton on the 1989 CMA Awards singing "He's Alive" and also sang with Bill Gaither, Charlie Daniels, Garth Brooks, Steven Curtis Chapman, Vestal Goodman, The Judds, Carman, Glen Campbell and other entertainers, as well as recording several albums of its own.

Born Sept. 14, 1923, Clarice Hope Goodman Powell was a native of Salisbury,

N.C., where she began her photography career. As a teenager, Powell worked in an honorary press corps in Europe, where she photographed The Pope and Queen Elizabeth, among others. She then ran her own studio in Salisbury in the 1950s and 1960s.

Her first photography encounter with show business was Hollywood blonde bombshell Jayne Mansfield. During a local nightclub appearance, Powell followed the star into the audience. As Mansfield sat in men's laps, Powell would take photos, then try to sell prints to the men.

She moved to Atlanta in 1968. Her initial clients there were nightclub belly dancers.

The photographer became more interested in the visiting country-music stars at a club called Mama's Playroom. She was soon a familiar face to artists such as Conway Twitty, Faron Young, Hank Williams Jr., Jim Ed Brown and Loretta Lynn. This led to her move to Music City in 1970.

For decades, she covered the annual performance-rights banquets, the CMA Awards, the disc jockey conventions, various syndicated TV-show tapings and productions of Hee Haw.

Among her most memorable album covers are those for Parton's 1974 LP *Jolene* and 1976 LP *All I Can Do*, Twitty's 1983 LP *Classic Conway*, Tom T. Hall's 1978 album *Places I've Done Time*, Porter Wagoner's 1979 album *Porter*, the 2004 Vern Gosdin collection *Back in the Swing of Things* and the 1985 Willie Nelson/Hank Snow package *Brand on My Heart*. Her work is featured in such Time-Life publications as *Classic Country* (2001) and *Legends of Classic Country* (2000).

In addition to virtually every country star, her subjects included George Burns,

Lucille Ball, Richard Nixon, Alex Haley, Arnold Palmer, Mickey Mantel, NASCAR drivers, Jimmy Carter, George Wallace and Billy Graham.

Hope Powell was as colorful and idiosyncratic as many of the artists she photographed. Her business card read, "If Hope can't do it, it's Hopeless." She was also frequently as glamorous as a star, invariably attending functions to shoot while dressed in finery.

She continued to work when she was well into her 80s. Powell was the official photographer of the annual International Fan Club Organization (IFCO) shows during her elder years. She documented 38 consecutive IFCO concerts.

She was twice divorced and had no children. Hope Powell's mother, Carrie Clontz Goodman, was a country singer who performed as "Betty Lou Demara." She recorded with Hartman's Heartbreakers for RCA's Bluebird Records in Charlotte in 1936-37.

Powell was predeceased by her parents Ernest and Carrie Goodman, by brother Odell and sisters Corrine and Gladys. She died shortly after 1 a.m. on the morning of July 3, 2014.

Hope is survived by 1 niece, 1 nephew, 2 great nieces in Salisbury, NC and a 2nd cousin in Winston-Salem, NC.

Hope's Going Home Celebration will be held at Christ Church, 15354 Old Hickory Blvd., Brentwood, TN on Saturday, July 12, 2014. Visitation will begin at 12PM until the time of Hope's service at 1PM.

In lieu of flowers, Hope's family has asked that donations be made to the Christ Church Choir or the Hope Powell Memorial Scholarship Fund.

PHILLIPS-ROBINSON FUNERAL HOME, 2707 Gallatin Rd., Nashville, family owned and operated since 1929.

Tribute Wall



“ *Hope Powell*

October 14, 2022 at 08:02 PM



“ *Did so love this lady.. had not seen her since my days doing country music here in Atlanta when she would come to the Play Room.. with Mama Wynette.... wow.. Then in the past few years after moving form Hendersonville Tenn.. back home to Georgia I had the opportunity to get reaquainted with her.. she was in love with my tarheelfiddler Jerry.. How do I know ... Well she told me so.. I smiled and said that is ok we will share... I had forgot that she was from N. Carolina The fiddler is from Goldston and Siler City area..Guess that is why she took to him...so much... oh well. I did get to spend some time with her when we went back to Nashville earlier this year to say good bye to another dear friend Ms. Penny DeHaven. she was there for the funeral also. Was sad over loosing another friend. So very glad that I told you that day how very much we loved you and we would see you soon not knowing that GOD was going to call you home..... Love you now and forever Beautiful and sweet Hope..*

Helen Burke - July 10, 2014 at 06:28 AM



“ *I miss Hope already. Her last days she was spiraling into dementia. What a loss for a wonderful, talented lady.*

Katherine McChesney - July 08, 2014 at 11:15 PM

LH

“ So sorry for your loss, my condolences to the family, may GOD comfort you at this time, the Bible help us to understand one day all sickness and death will be done away with forever.[Rev.21:3,4]

Lydia Helms - July 08, 2014 at 02:54 AM