



Leonald F. Gauthier

September 7, 2015 - September 7, 2015

GAUTHIER, Leonald F. Age 82 of Nashville, passed away on Sept 4, 2015.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Alfred & Evelina Gauthier & his wife of more than 50 years, Ginger Gauthier.

He is survived by his caregiver & friend, Irma Young; his dear friends, Janet Spears, Tommy Young & Betty Gayle Powers.

He was born in Rouyn, Quebec in 1933. In the 1960's he took the name Hal Willis & moved to Nashville, TN to pursue his love of music. He achieved success early, performing with numerous acts including Dolly Parton, Willie Nelson, Marty Robbins, Waylon Jennings, Ray Price, Bill Sterling, Jimmy Caps, Pete Wade & many others. He produced & performed a number of hit songs including "Lumberjack" & "Pink Cadillac". In addition to performing on the Grand Ole Opry & recording his own albums he wrote numerous songs for other performers. Patsy Cline and Earl Scruggs are just two of the many Country Singers who have played his songs. At the end of his life Hal was honored to have been inducted into the Canadian Music Hall of Fame.

A private service with his family has been planned.

PHILLIPS-ROBINSON FUNERAL HOME, (615)262-3312.

Tribute Wall



“ *Leonald F. Gauthier*

October 14, 2022 at 08:02 PM



“ *Je tiens à offrir mes sincères condoléances à la famille.
Quand nous perdons un être cher sur la terre, nous gagnons un ange dans le ciel qui veille sur nous*

Yvon Belair (Gatineau.Qc) - September 22, 2015 at 02:54 AM



“ *Mon oncle Hal ,
c'est avec une très grande tristesse que j'ai appris le décès de mon parrain qui agit pendant plusieurs années comme un père pour moi .Je voulais le remercier et lui dire que je ne l'oublierai jamais .
Jacques Gauthier (Murielle)*

Jacques Gauthier (nephew) - September 13, 2015 at 09:52 AM

“ Hal Willis

Donald Gauthier, de son vrai nom, est né le 17 juillet 1933 à Normantale. Dès 15 ans, il entreprend le circuit des 35 heures de Rouyn-Noranda, puis largit ses tournées vers le nord-est de l'Ontario, où il rencontre sa femme Ginger Patrick. Le duo Hal and Ginger est embauché et montré dans divers cabarets, puis commence à tourner sur le circuit du Nord-est américain. Lors d'un concert à Buffalo, Hal Willis est découvert par Webb Pierce qui leur organise une prestation à l'initiative de la mission de radio western par excellence, le Grand Ole Opry. Le chanteur country canadien Hank Snow prend alors l'initiative de présenter Hal et Ginger au Colonel Tom Parker, le gérant d'Elvis Presley. Le Colonel embauche le duo sur le champ. Le couple prend part à une tournée de huit concerts de Presley sur la côte est des États-Unis du 14 au 23 mars 1956. Hal Willis est le seul Québécois à avoir partagé la scène avec Elvis Presley. En fait, lui, son épouse Ginger et Hank Snow sont les trois seuls Canadiens à avoir joué avec Presley en tournée. Au début des années 60, Hal Willis revient à son premier amour : le country. En 1964, il frappe fort avec sa composition « The Lumberjack ». Cette pièce obtient un succès colossal : 1 500 000 exemplaires du disque sont vendus. La chanson culmine au numéro un du palmarès country canadien de Billboard, ainsi qu'au numéro cinq du palmarès country américain de Billboard. Hal Willis est dès lors affublé du surnom Mr. Lumberjack. Bien qu'il n'est pas tant reconnu comme un artiste country, Hal Willis a laissé

sa trace sur le rock n°26;€™ roll au QuÃ#169;bec avec quelques-unes des premiÃ#168;res chansons rockabilly quÃ#169;bÃ#169;coises comme : Â#171;My Pink Cadillac Â#187; et Â#171; Bop-a-dee-bop-a-doo Â#187;. Â

Hal Willis Â Â Leonald Gauthier, his real name, was born July 17, 1933 in NormÃ#169;tal. From 15, he began the circuit of 35 hotels in Rouyn-Noranda, and then broadens his tours to the northeast ofÂ Ontario, where he met his wife Ginger Patrick. The duo Hal and Ginger was hired in Montreal in various cabarets and begins to turn on the circuit of the northern USÂ At a concert in Buffalo, Hal Willis is discovered by Webb Pierce qui organizes a benefit to their western radio show par excellence, the Grand Ole Opry. The Canadian country singer HankÂ Snow takes the initiative to introduce Hal and Ginger to Colonel Tom Parker, the manager of Elvis Presley. Colonel hiring the duo on the spot. The couple takes part in a tour of eight Presley concerts on the East Coast of the United States from 14 to 23 March 1956. Hal Willis is the only Quebecer to have shared the stage with Elvis Presley. In fact, he, his wife Ginger and Hank Snow are the only three Canadians to have played with Presley on tourÂ In the early 60s, Hal Willis returned to his first love: the country. In 1964, he hits hard with his "The Lumberjack" composition. This piece gets a huge success: 1.5 millionÂ copies of the disc are sold. The song culminates in a number of Canadian country charts of Billboard, and at number five in the US Billboard country charts. Hal Willis is therefore saddled with the nickname Mr. Lumberjack. Although being recognized as a country artist, Hal Willis has left its mark on the rock n 'rollÂ Quebec with some of the first Quebec rockabilly songs like "My Pink Cadillac" and "Bop-a-dee-doo-bop-a".

Jacques Gauthier (nephew) - September 13, 2015 at 09:00 AM

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“ *I would like to offer my sincere condolences to the family and friends*

When we lose a loved one here on earth, we gain an angel in heaven watching over us. I hope this will somewhat comforting to know that you have an angel to watch over you now. We extend our deepest condolences.

Armand Cyr - September 08, 2015 at 06:10 PM