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PRODUCED: Johnny Cash Furlon Husky Billy Jo Spears Dottie West Kenny Rogers and many others

Music has always been an important part of Larry Butler's life. Born in Pensacola, Fla., Larry started playing piano at the age of four. He stayed with the instrument, a student for a total of sixteen years; an accomplished and versatile performer. At the age of six Larry could be heard on radio, and at eleven, he could be seen singing country and pop tunes on a television show called "The Lenn Toney Show." At thirteen Larry won a five state competition as top classical pianist as he continued his studies.

Larry joined the Air Force where he again garnered top honors as a pianist. After leaving the service, he spent about a year touring and playing clubs throughout the southern circuit. It was then he made his decision to move to Nashville where he immediately established himself as a studio musician. His reputation was such that he was hired as a producer for Capitol Records. He left Capitol to work, again as a producer, for Columbia Records. He was lured away from producing for Columbia to become arranger, producer, studio manager, and concert pianist for Johnny Cash.

Larry's next move was to establish his own production company. During this time, he worked for nine different labels and produced over twenty-three artists. He eventually sold the production company to Tree International, where he worked for about a year. He then became Vice-President of United Artists Records Country Division, and has recently signed an independent production deal with U.A.

The real story of Larry Butler's phenominal rise in Country music is in the music itself: Larry Butler produced songs that have been in the national charts every week consecutively for four years as of July 10, 1977. Hit songs he has written include "Another Somebody Done Somebody Wrong Song," Furlon Husky's number one tune "Just For You," Sandy Posey's "Bring Him Safely Home To Me," and the Poppies "Lullaby of Love." He has produced, among many, Johnny Cash, Furlon Husky, Jean Shepard, Hank Tompson, Wanda Jackson, Billie Jo Spears, Dottie West, and Kenny Rogers. He has been a member of both the Gentries and Ronnie and the Daytonas.

In 1976, Larry was picked as "Country Music Producer of the Year" by <u>Record World</u>. In 1977, he received that title again in <u>Record World</u> and <u>Billboard</u> and was further recognized by the Country Music Association for his work on the smash hit "Lucille." The latest Kenny Rogers album has shipped gold and Larry has also just finished albums for Kenny Rogers and Dottie West together and Bill Medley.

This year ASCAP has already picked him as "Country Music Producer of the Year" again, and the year isn't over yet! In January, Larry will go back in the studio with some of the most popular artists in Country-Pop music (see our A&R Newsletter) as an important segment of the Nashville music scene gradually begins to look like the "Larry Butler Show".....who knows, there might just be such a show someday.

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