

It's Happening at Chinook Winds ... by Teresa Miller



Performer Karen McCormick, General Manager Gordon Dickie and Symphony Chairman Lou Stein.

The two-hour *tour de farce* will start with a tribute to one of McCormick's heroes, Charlie Chaplin. "I was able to get a good copy of his silent film, 'A Night at the Show,' and the orchestra will be playing Chaplin's original music live," McCormick said.

Dorothy McCormick, conductor and founder of the Mid-Columbia Sinfonietta as well as Karen's mother, will be the guest conductor. The rest of the show will offer healthy servings of pure vaudeville: tap dancing, pantomime skits, and juggling from a cast of characters made famous by McCormick. "We'll even throw in a bit of pyrotechnics," she promises. A variety of seasoned players will join the cast, including an internationally known Russian juggling star, **Sergei Ignatov**.

A special guest appearance will be made by coastal celebrity **Gracie Strom**, owner of Gracie's Sea Hag in Depoe Bay. Gracie is known far and wide for her expertise playing the bottles and numerous other items which become musical instruments at Gracie's hands.

"Pops Goes Vaudeville" takes place on Sunday, July 18. A family matinee will start at 2 p.m. and the adults-only evening show is at 7:30 p.m.

General admission tickets are \$20. For the afternoon matinee only, the age has been lowered to 12. Price for students 12 to 17 is \$10. VIP tickets are \$100, which includes preferred seating, a social gathering with the cast and a catered buffet. Tickets are available from Fastixx (1-800-922-8499) or Chinook Winds (1-888-MAIN-ACT). This fund raiser to benefit the non-profit North Coast Symphony Orchestra is tax-deductible.

Merle Haggard to Perform July 16 and 17

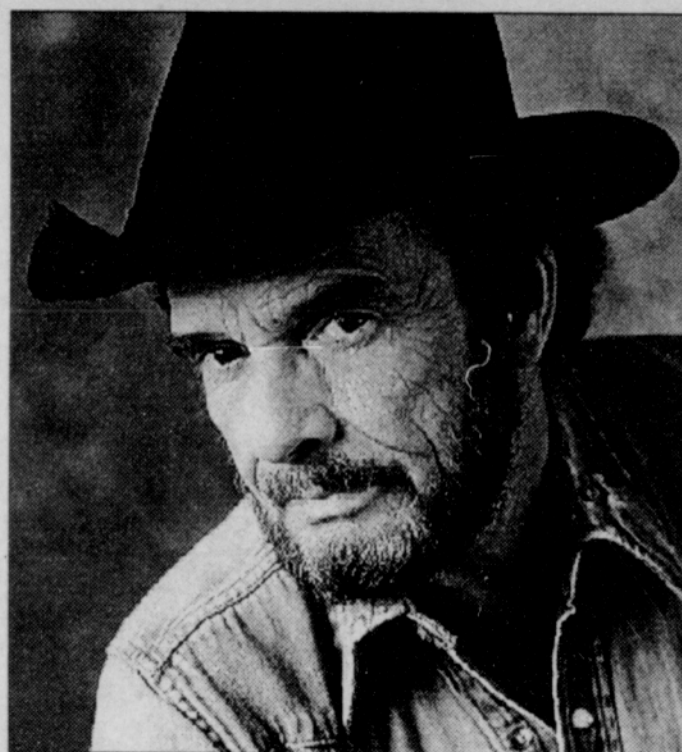
Merle Haggard brings the best country music to Chinook Winds Casino on July 16 and 17.

His music has been aptly described as "a permanent condition of country music's soul, uncommon poems of the common working man and anthems born with dirt under their fingernails."

Haggard's life path has never been easy, nor has much of it been pretty, as aired in his 1981 book, "Sing Me Back Home." His childhood years were spent in Bakersfield, Calif., and the death of his father when Merle was just 9 years old became the catalyst that led to a squandered youth. At the same time, his love for the wandering songs of such as Jimmie Rodgers lead to an errant passion for the gleaming, endless railroad tracks and the siren song of slow freights and hobo jungles. And, along the way, to numerous brushes with the law.

Unfocused, unruly and unsettled, Merle learned early to walk the mean streets. As a teen-ager, he took on every unskilled job that would have him, from oil field roustabout to hay-pitcher to short-order cook. And that was the bright side. He also saw the insides of various penal institutions for crimes ranging from burglary to auto theft and even to escape. Before he reached age 21, he was serving time in San Quentin. Paroled in 1960, he later received a full pardon from the governor, Ronald Reagan.

His days outside the law were woven into some of his richest material, including hits "Lonesome Fugitive," "Sing Me Back Home," and "Branded Man." His understanding of his mother's torment led



Merle Haggard

to "Mama Tried" and "Hungry Eyes," while his affinity for the hourly laborer produced such songs as "Workin' Man Blues" and "5:01 Blues."

To date, he has written hundreds of songs, including "Bring Me Back Home," "Okie From Muskogee" and "Silver Wings." He has been nominated 42 times for CMA awards, more than any other male country entertainer, and his awards and nominations are too numerous to list. It's enough to say that the songs Merle Haggard has contributed to America are more than just familiar country hits. They're documents of a time, visions of a shared experience and the proud gifts of a true American original.

Concert time is 8 p.m. Tickets range in price from \$25 to \$40, depending on seat location. For more information or to obtain tickets, call 1-888-MAIN-ACT (624-6228) or Fred Meyer Fastixx, 1-800-992-TIXX (8499).

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- * Regular Sessions - Monday through Saturday, 1-3:30 p.m., 6-9:30 p.m.
- * Bingo Fever - Sundays, 1-3:30 p.m.

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