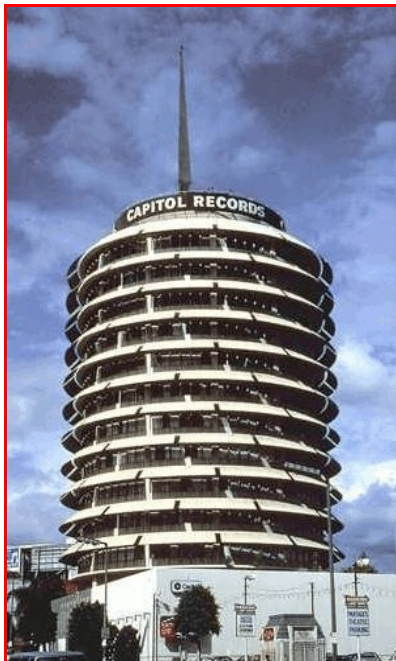


Lee Gillette *1912-1981* K6HSZ - Born in Indianapolis and raised in Peoria and Chicago. A musician, singer and drummer in local orchestras. (He was one of the Campus Kids with future country great Ken Nelson (Buck Owens, Ferlin Husky, Wanda Jackson) Then joined the radio orchestra for Fibber McGee and Molly, which moved to Hollywood. Eventually record executive, producer in the big cog of the LA based Capitol Records hey day.

It was Lee Gillette that produced Jimmy Wakley (Considered the Bing Crosby of country)



Gillette got to know Glenn Wallichs who recorded the show on transcription discs. Gillette went back to Chicago for a time to work in radio, but in '44 Wallichs called him back to be an A&R man for Capitol, Gillette worked primarily in county at first, recording Tex Ritter, Tex Williams (whose "Smoke Smoke Smoke that Cigarette) was the labels first million seller in '47, Merle Travis, Jack Guthrie and Tennessee Ernie Ford before taking over pop and jazz production in '50. Lee had also worked in the beginning with a jazzy threesome, The King Cole trio!"

Lee's affiliation with music director Nelson Riddle and work with Sinatra, Peggy Lee & Margaret Whiting are synonymous in the music world. The Nat Cole family thought so much of Lee that he was one of the pallbearers in Nat Cole's funeral.

I think we have a pretty nifty VIP here who needs to be recognized! Credits, "On the Day in Jazz Age Music" October 30th one of which was featured Lee Gillette! A very nice writeup. With help of History of record Production Until 1950/AllMusic.

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