

Bluegrass, acoustic highlighted

The Liberty Flyer, a one-hour weekly radio series featuring bluegrass, folk, and acoustic country music produced in Asheville, N.C., by the Linear Group for Whistling Star Entertainment, debuted on 77 commercial country stations in 33 states during the first weekend of January 1985.

Regulars Gamble Rogers, Phil and Gaye Johnson, Marc Pruett, and John Wesley, who will be joined later

this season by John Hartford and Riders in the Sky, will welcome special guest performers each week.

Taped before a live audience in Asheville, the featured artists are the top names in American acoustic music.

The Chris Hillman Band, including the former Byrd with ex-Eagle Bernie Leadon and one-time Flying Burrito Brother Al Perkins, head-

lined the initial *Liberty Flyer* outing scheduled for January airing.

The Linear Group has also recorded The Whites, Doc Watson, Bill Monroe and the Blue Grass Boys, Bryan Bowers, Doug Dillard, Country Gazette, Norman and Nancy Blake, and several more leading acts.

Sponsorship details are not yet ready for public release.

Warren and Ron Reuhl produce *The Liberty Flyer*. They also produce *Fire On The Mountain*, the half-hour cable television bluegrass series which became The Nashville Network's top-rated offering during June 1984.

The Linear Group/Whistling Star Entertainment entered into syndication agreements with the individual stations during the late summer and fall of 1984. Already available to an aggregate market of nearly 38 million, they expect *The Liberty Flyer* to add 30 to 50 more stations during the first quarter of 1985.

The Liberty Flyer is aimed at the 25 to 54-year-old listening audience.

Crystal Gayle takes a ride

"I was really looking forward to it, but then I got a little nervous as I put on the helmet, face-mask and G-suit," said Crystal Gayle of her recent flight in an F-16 fighter plane.

After Air Force Major Terry Adams, an F-16 flight instructor, had obtained Pentagon clearance to take Crystal up for an hour from McDill Air Force Base in Tampa, Fla., they flew in excess of 750 mph, breaking the sound barrier. It is believed that

she is the first entertainer to take such a flight.

The reason for all this is that Crystal had fulfilled a lifelong dream for the major's daughter by having her as her special guest at one of Crystal's recent concerts in Minneapolis.

The major wanted to reciprocate with something special. Crystal's post-flight reactions: "I felt like I was on top of the world. It was great . . . fantastic . . . overwhelming."



The Liberty Flyer regular performers are, left to right, Gamble Rogers, Phil Johnson, Gaye Johnson, and house band leader, Marc Pruett.