

Bio Maxine Brown

Maxine Brown was born April 27, 1931 in Campti, Louisiana, and raised in various towns and villages in Arkansas. She began singing with her younger brother, Jim Ed, on the *Barnyard Frolic*, a live weekly radio show from Little Rock in 1952. The two recorded their first hit, "Looking Back To See," Maxine's own composition, in 1954. It went to No. 8 on the charts. Soon after, their younger sister, Bonnie, joined the act. Their next song, "Here Today And Gone Tomorrow," which Maxine also wrote, went to No. 7. Initially, the three siblings billed themselves as "Jim Edward, Maxine & Bonnie Brown," but by 1958, they were performing and recording simply as "The Browns." They joined *The Louisiana Hayride* in 1954. It was here that they met and befriended Elvis Presley, who was then seeking a job on that show. The Browns toured with Presley from 1954 to 1956, when they became members of the nationally broadcast TV series, *The Ozark Jubilee*.

During the mid-to-late 1950s, the trio charted such hits as "I Take The Chance," "I Heard The Bluebirds Sing" and "Beyond The Shadow." Then, in 1959, they released the record that would make them literally world-famous. It was "The Three Bells," an English version of the French song "Les Trois Cloches." Their producer was the renowned guitarist Chet Atkins. The song went to **No. 1 on the country music charts and stayed there for 10 weeks**. It **topped the pop charts for four weeks**, and it even went to No. 10 on the rhythm & blues chart. After that, The Browns "**crossed over**" **from the country to the pop charts with "Scarlet Ribbons," "The Old Lamplighter" and "Send Me The Pillow You Dream On," among others**. They toured Europe (where they were greeted by members of another singing group that would soon be calling itself "The Beatles") and appeared on such popular musical variety programs as *American Bandstand*, *The Ed Sullivan Show* and *The Arthur Murray Show*.

After numerous guest appearances, The Browns in 1963 joined the Grand Ole Opry, where they continued as one of its most popular acts. Faced with family responsibilities, Maxine and Bonnie left the group in 1967, while Jim Ed continued as a soloist. Maxine also recorded briefly as a solo act with Chart Records in 1968-69, scoring the country hit "Sugar Cane Country." In recent years, The Browns have reunited for special events and still perform occasionally on *The Grand Ole Opry*, where Jim Ed remains a member.

In 2005, the [University of Arkansas Press](#) published Maxine's autobiography, *Looking Back to See*. The book is now available at many bookstores, on [Amazon.com](#) and also on [Maxine's website](#). Now available as EBook on [Google books](#).

Contact:

Norma Morris, Morris Public Relations

norma@morrispr.biz

615 952-9250

www.morrispr.biz

What They're Saying about Maxine Brown and *Looking Back to See*

"To all the young folks out there that think today's country is special, go buy Maxine's book and then find a Best of the Browns CD and see what you're missing. They were just that good!" *Cashbox Magazine*

"The good times as well as the bad are portrayed in this colorful book by a woman who was a participant in one of the groups that defined trio vocal harmony during country music's golden era."

—Eddie Stubbs, WSM DJ and country music scholar

"Fascinating. . . . She's warm, honest, gossipy, and outrageously funny. . . . Maxine wasn't just present at the birth of rock 'n' roll, she was one of its midwives."

—Edward Morris, former country music editor of *Billboard*

"An irreplaceable narrative by a participant in the golden age of country and 'hillbilly' music who witnessed and made its history."

—Charles McGovern, former curator of 20th century popular culture, Smithsonian's National Museum of American History

"Here, for the first time, is an inside look at the 'Golden Age' of country music from a woman's perspective. . . . It's a strong book and a vital book."

—Charles Wolfe, Cultural Historian at Middle Tennessee State University

"Maxine Brown's account of The Browns' career is told in a spunky, no-holds-barred, immensely readable style with plenty of juicy anecdotes. . . . You don't have to be an admirer of The Browns to enjoy this passionately written biography."

—Craig Baguley, *Country Music People* (UK)

"I never considered The Browns to be anything except perfect ambassadors of our music. To me, they were never 'pop,' although their 'works' were so super that they were accepted in the pop field. Simple as that. The Browns never abandoned country music. Honestly, I have always considered them the perfect 'country' unit."

—Bill Mack, *the Midnight Cowboy*
XM Satellite Radio

"Ms. Brown's book proves valuable as a document of a fast-fading era in country music. Money was made, and much was lost. The business was raw, built on the talents of innocents, and it was a beast that sometimes ate its own."

—Tom Netherland, *Richmond Times-Dispatch*

"Kudos to the University of Arkansas Press for publishing this gutsy diary by a member of The Browns singing group, which is still a going concern. She serves up accounts of her group's run-ins with everyone from Chet Atkins to Elvis Presley to Tom T. Hall. This lady can write, and she's not afraid to recall looking bad or silly herself. . . ."

—John Mark Eberhart, *The Kansas City Star*

"*Looking Back to See* is a good book. It touches my heart to hear her story and to think back to my boyhood. Her story is real."

—Eddy Arnold, member of the Country Music Hall of Fame

"I am happy to have known and worked with this trio and sincerely hope you enjoy the tale. It is told with honesty and humility and in a wonderful American voice."

—Tom T. Hall, singer and member of the Nashville Songwriters Hall of Fame

"The Browns became leading exponents of what was then developing as the 'Nashville Sound.' That sound was making musical history and increasing the popularity of country music worldwide. Maxine was right in the middle of it."

—Ralph Emery

Looking Back to See by Maxine Brown
Points of Interest

Maxine Brown wasn't just present at the birth of rock 'n' roll—she was one of its midwives. As part of The Browns trio—who would become world-famous with their recording of “The Three Bells”—Maxine was a buddy and touring partner of Elvis Presley. Her sister, Bonnie, almost married him. When The Browns toured England in 1959, the guys who would soon name themselves The Beatles met them at their hotel and carried their luggage to their rooms—just to talk with them about music.

Maxine's funny, heart-tugging and deliciously gossipy autobiography has recently been published by the University of Arkansas Press. Other points to consider:

- Just as he was beginning to make a name for himself, Elvis became good friends with the Brown family, often stopping at their restaurant in Pine Bluff, Arkansas and staying over at their house.
- Maxine tells great stories about the rigors of touring as a young woman, back in the days when performers traveled packed together in cars rather than in luxurious tour buses.
- In 1959, working with the great producer and guitarist Chet Atkins, The Browns recorded “The Three Bells,” an adaptation of a French song. The song stayed at No. 1 on the pop charts for four weeks and on the country charts for 10 weeks.
- The Browns were so hot in the late 1950s, that they were featured on *The Ed Sullivan Show*, *American Bandstand*, *The Arthur Murray Show* and other major network variety programs.
- The Browns were no one-hit wonders. They were on the country charts regularly from 1954 through 1967, during which time they became members of the Grand Ole Opry. They also made six appearances on the pop charts with such sweetly harmonic pieces as “Scarlet Ribbons,” “The Old Lamplighter” and “Send Me The Pillow That You Dream On.”

Contact:

Norma Morris
Morris Public Relations
615 952-9250
norma@morrispr.biz
www.morrispr.biz