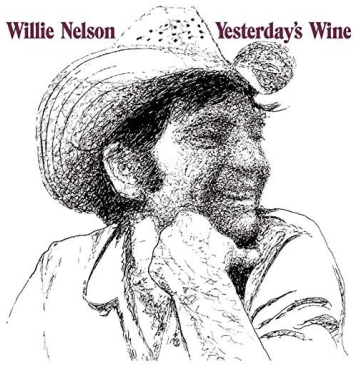


YOU HEARD IT HERE!

By Terry Gross, Board Director
SES Audio/Video & Entertainment Chair / Internal Auditor / Social Media Chair



Willie Nelson Yesterday's Wine

For some reason, determining what song to share with you for January 2022 was proving difficult. I couldn't quite pin down what I wanted to do. It came down to choosing a song written by Willie Nelson, but using a recording by George Jones and Merle Haggard, called "Yesterdays Wine". The reference to wine in this song is totally metaphoric, but I think it's a great one.

The song was originally released by Willie on an album of the same name. It was considered one of the first country concept albums. A story of an imperfect man from his birth to his death. I had heard this song previously but have not experienced the album in its entirety. Something I plan to do now that I'm "retired."

The album came at a time Willie was struggling with his career. This is an excerpt from Songfacts:

- *Some wines get better with age, but others simply lose their flavor.*
- *In this song, Nelson is visited by either an old friend, or his older self (a ghost, perhaps), who asks to hear about his travels. The spectral interpretation is trippy stuff, but that's the theme of the album, which is about a man who watches his own funeral and looks back on his life. In this song, he's already far along on his journey, aging like yesterday's wine.*
- *Yesterday's Wine was the first of four concept albums Willie Nelson made. He wrote the songs at the Happy Valley Dude Ranch in Bandera, Texas, where he lived after his house in Nashville burned down. Along with his family, band members and associates would often drop by. It became a very communal atmosphere, with plenty of mind-altering creative enhancements. In this environment, he thought in philosophical terms, which were expressed on the album.*
- *Moving to Texas also got him away from the musical conventions of Nashville, and his sound reflected this newfound freedom. The songs were stripped-down, with understated vocals and just basic instrumentation. It's a sound that endured, but at the time, didn't sell: the single stalled at #62 on the Country chart, and the album didn't place. Nelson's record company, RCA, claimed they couldn't promote a bare-bones, existentialist country album, and soon parted with Nelson, who signed with Atlantic and became one of the best-selling artists on the label.*



Merle Haggard and George Jones recorded this song as a duet in 1982. Their version went to #1 on the Country chart and helped make the song a standard of the genre.

While at the Happy Valley Ranch, Willie read the Bible, Kahlil Gibran's The Prophet, the works of Edgar Cayce, and Episcopal Priest A. A. Taliaferro's works. He was apparently in a contemplative, exploring mode which led him to this self-reflective endeavor.

Here's the link to George Jones/ Merle Haggard version:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9YG1qrT4gxI>

Lyrics

Miracles appear In the strangest of places Fancy meeting you here The last time I saw you Was just out of Houston Sit down let me buy you a beer Your presence is welcome With me and my friend here This is a hangout of mine Miracles appear In the strangest of places Fancy meeting you here	The last time I saw you Was just out of Houston Sit down let me buy you a beer Your presence is welcome With me and my friend here This is a hangout of mine We come here quite often And listen to music Partaking of yesterday's wine	Yesterday's wine I'm yesterday's wine Aging with time Like yesterday's wine Yesterday's wine We're yesterday's wine Aging with time Like yesterday's wine	You give the appearance Of one widely travelled I'll bet you've seen Things in your time So sit down beside me And tell me your story If you think You'll like yesterday's wine Yesterday's wine We're yesterday's wine Aging with time Like yesterday's wine	Yesterday's wine We're yesterday's wine Aging with time Like yesterday's wine Yesterday's wine We're yesterday's wine Aging with time Like yesterday's wine
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