

**Maverick – Country Music Magazine**  
**By Alan Cackett**

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**New To You 2**  
**David Glenn Dyer**

David Glenn Dyer from the Carolinas has been making his own unique style of country and roots music for the past thirty-odd years, but it was only late last year that he got around to releasing his first solo album. CROSSROADS GROCERY is a compelling collection of rural life vignettes set to inventive musical arrangements and sung in a seasoned vocal styling.

"I've been doing [this] for a long time now." David explains "I was very young when I first started with the acoustic guitar and in the early days played in a bluegrass band. It just evolved over the years. I've actually been doing this now for over thirty years, playing and writing in a lot of different musical styles. In the last seven years I've put a band together here, and fortunately, after a few years been able to really attract some great players, much of which you can hear on that record."

David Dyer and the Crooked Smile Band (CSB) represent a diverse group of established musicians assembled from several of north Carolina's finest bands. CSB brandishes its own style of high-energy 'roots rock,' described by one music writer as 'Hank Sr. meets the Beatles.'

"Allyn Love, on pedal steel, is the most accomplished amongst us," David says. "He's played with Steve Wariner and Jo Dee Messina out of Nashville. I had heard about him in Raleigh, and we met and talked about what I was trying to do and he just loved it. He's been with us for two years. Actually, by day, he's the director of operations for the Carolina Symphony. Jim Crew, the piano player, is a more local musician, a really bright guy and just a great composer. He's a full time musician, composes for video games and does movie trailer pieces like for the Lion King. He does a lot of production work and plays in all kinds of bands. He and I are really good friends. He brings his kind of jazz background to the table, and then our rhythm section is a guy named Ken Weigand on bass, he's been in the business for about 30 years. Our youngest guy is our drummer Fran, he's in his mid-thirties. The rest of us are forty and fifty and we've been at it for awhile. I think it's nice when you're mature and can talk about what you can do together in a band."

It is the experience and the maturity that makes Crossroads Grocery such an impressive debut. Dyer was able to call on talented people to help him make the album, like Grammy & Oscar-nominated producer Scott Matthews. His track record is second to none, having worked with the likes of Van Morrison, Bonnie Raitt, The Beach Boys and the late Johnny Cash.

"I'm telling you it was wonderful when we met and we gelled," David enthuses. "I take things serious when I'm in the studio and I can be kind of a pain to work with, because I'm a perfectionist. Scott and I really had similar visions with what to do. The way I found him, he had written a piece in a musical publication about holding on to your publishing. It was actually something my wife had read, and that led to some e-mails back and forth, he got to hear some of my music and really liked what he heard, we just decided to do this record together. I've learned a lot from Scott, it's been a great experience."

David's wife, Cheryl, has played a major role in his career. She is the one who looks after all his publicity, CD sales, booking gigs and arranging press and radio interviews. "Any musician, you know, especially in our situation now, you know we got two kids and I'm 43 and I have this burning passion and you can't do that in that situation without the support of your wife," he readily acknowledges. "Cheryl and I actually met at orientation at East Carolina University, and it was like love at first sight. That was in 1980, and we dated for a while and kinda got reacquainted after school. She's my soul mate, it's wonderful."

"It's funny, because career wise, I have a day job. I'm in sales for an architectural engineering company, but I have a serious passion for music and the creative process is something you don't turn off. I would love to make my career in music. You know, it really wasn't the course we set out on, but she's learned to accept it, and the fact that I'm talking to you today is the result of her efforts. She's been great with helping to promote the music and it's wonderful to have her on my side."

"I have one daughter, Cammie, whose ten years old. She's an artist herself, creative and a little angel. And I have one who's four years old. She's more like me. Her name is Ella and she's a little demon. Both my daughters love the CD and play it every night. I'm so lucky because I have the support of my family."

David is a storyteller. His honest, straightforward perspective on everyday life is perfectly seasoned by the rich musical arrangements on the album. he got his love of music from his grandfather, who was a popular hillbilly performer back in the 1930's.

"I guess you get everything from the family genes one way or the other," he says. "My grandfather, who I wrote about on the song *Big Jes*, he was a musician and a writer. I think we have a lot of similar traits. I would probably say I would get it from him because there's not really any other musical people in my family."

My dad was one of the first Carolinians actually killed in Vietnam, so he died when I was very young and prior to that we traveled quite a bit. My mum ended up re-marrying and so we spent most of my youth in South Carolina, Charleston area. When people ask where I'm from, that's where I say I grew up, down in the Carolinas. And my family is still down in that area and my roots are in South Carolina, the Salisbury area."

Though his debut album has only been out for a few months, David is already planning and working on a follow-up. "Well there's always material coming in, there are so many days in the world to write about it, and we've got new stuff coming up all the time. We'd like to keep the momentum going, particularly in Europe, where this record has been so well accepted. We just want to keep new stuff coming out for people to hear. In fact, I welcome any opportunity to hear from people over there, so we can help share what we are doing and we just want to keep making it. You know, I really enjoy it. I love the music for what it is, and it's never gotten old for me."

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