

Return of the Beckaroo

After almost three decades, Becky Hobbs is still "keepin' on."

BY DANNY PEARY

Becky Hobbs recently ran across a diary she had kept as a child. "On one page, I had written, 'My name is Rebecca Ann Hobbs. I am in the fifth

grade. I am a songwriter,'" she says. "So I knew what I was, even then."

Indeed she was—Becky has seen her songs recorded by Alabama ("Angels

Among Us"), Conway Twitty ("I Want to Know You Before We Make Love"), George Jones, Loretta Lynn, Emmylou Harris, John Anderson and others. But the piano-pounding gal nicknamed "The Beckaroo" also enjoyed hits of her own during the late 1970s and '80s, including "Jones on the Jukebox," "Hottest 'Ex' in Texas" and the Top 10

Moe Bandy duet "Let's Get Over Them Together." Some of her finest are collected on a new greatest-hits



CD, *Best of the Beckaroo: Part 1*, available at beckyhobbs.com.

An Oklahoma native, Becky first came to Nashville in 1978, and made it her home in 1981 after nine years in Los Angeles. "Once I started hanging out in Nashville, I knew I would wind up there," she recalls.

"Being a songwriter is a respected occupation in Music City, U.S.A. You can actually buy a house! All I really wanted to do once I moved to Nashville was write songs—great songs, *big* songs."

She quickly found success as a writer, but her road as an artist was bumpier. She bounced from one label to another throughout the 1980s, but found regular exposure through appearances on the Grand Ole Opry and various Nashville Network TV shows. "I was actually turning down some [TV shows] because I didn't want to be overexposed," she remembers. "I



Becky, seen here in 1984, toured the nation relentlessly during that decade and still performs often.

was also on the road pretty much full-time for a decade, so a lot of country fans got to see me."

Now 57, Becky is keeping her country career on course while being, as a song from her *Songs From the Road of Life* album puts it, a "Woman Gettin' Older." "I deal with ageism just by keepin' on," declares Becky, who still lives in Nashville with her husband of 11 years, guitarist Duane Sciacqua. "I keep my eye on the big picture: spiritual things,

life, what really matters. I sometimes get discouraged by the Nashville environment, but that won't stop me from writing and singing my songs."

And she plans to keep doing just that for some time to come. "I am writing the best songs I can, pitching them and hoping for the best," she says. "This show ain't over yet!"

Becky's new greatest-hits CD is *Best of the Beckaroo: Part 1* (above).



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