



**The Channel One-Nine Special
Channel One-Nine #3
Air Date: March 26, 2020**

Todd Dills: [00:00:00] Hey folks, Todd Dills here from Overdrive Magazine. We'll be back next week with Episode 4 of Over the Road. But in the meantime, I'm here with another Channel One-Nine Special – today, we're talking about music. [Upbeat guitar music comes in] "What *do* truckers listen to out on the road?"

CB: [Staccato tone] 10-4 go ahead

Todd: A lot depends on taste of course. So we went ahead and put a call out on the CB. [Upbeat guitar music continues with percussion added]

[Various voices over CB answer: "I like to listen to a lot of Garth Brooks, Keith Whitley...", "Aaron Neville, hands down, him and Harry Connick Jr.", "Travis Tritt, George Strait, George Jones", "Thunderstruck by ACDC"]

Todd: Some familiar names in there, for sure. [Different genres of music playing at once followed by quick fade out]

But here's one you may not know: [Country song by Tony Justice begins]

CB: Tony Justice is our favorite.

Todd: That'd be *the* Tony Justice. [Tony Justice's song continues] He's like the Merle Haggard of trucker-songwriters, both the quintessential example and an inspiration to legions of others. That's Tony Justice you're hearing now.

Tony Justice: [00:01:12] [Over CB] Yeah, my name is Tony Justice. I've been driving trucks since 2000, it'll be 20 years in January, out of East Tennessee.

Todd: Tony is an old friend of Overdrive, so we thought – well, who better to run us through something of a trucking playlist? [Tony's song continues]

Tony: Trucking and music. I don't remember then not ever being in my life. My mother was an amazing singer. I mean, she was Dolly Parton and Loretta Lynn, Tammy Wynette, all rolled up in one. And my dad was a trucker, you know, I just don't ever remember the two not being a part of my life. [Tony's song fades out]

Todd: Over the past ten years, Tony Justice has paid tribute to many of the trucking-music classics, like "[Six Days on the Road](#)," from his first trucking-themed record in 2011. ["Six Days on the Road" plays]

And of course, ["Six Days on the Road" by Dave Dudley begins] here's the most famous version, cut by Dave Dudley in 1963 ["Six Days on the Road" continues]

After it came out, "Six Days on the Road" was *the template* for truck-driving-themed music. We actually did a poll a few years back, on the best trucking songs of all time. "Six Days on the Road" came in number one among our audience of owner-operators. ["Six Days on the Road" continues and fades into Merle Haggards, "[Movin' On](#)"]

Tony: You got Merle Haggard, and all the old trucking country hits.

Todd: That's another of Tony's favorites: Merle Haggard's ["Movin' On" continues]

Tony: What I like about that music, is it just makes you take pride. You could be down and out, just havin' one of those bad days. You turn your radio on and there'll just be some song that comes along and get you, a little escape route that you can take. ["Movin' On" continues]

There are just certain songs that will hit you, like "Teddy Bear." ["Teddy Bear" by Red Sovine begins]

Todd: That's Teddy Bear by Red Sovine – this one clocked in third on our poll by the way. ["Teddy Bear" by Red Sovine continues] It tells the story of a young boy who talks to truckers at home over a CB he inherited after his trucker father died in a wreck. In the song, the boy laments that he'll never get to ride in a truck again since his father's gone. When he says this over the air, every trucker within earshot shows up for a convoy, with Teddy Bear – that's the boy's handle – riding in the lead truck.

Tony: That kind of passion for kids is always been something that truckers have always had. I think it's because we lose so much time with our own kids as truck drivers with our family, we're just automatically that resonates with us more. ["Teddy Bear" continues and then fades out]

And when it comes to trucking, the journeys that we make as drivers, there are so many things that are comparable to the journey that everybody makes in life. [*Montage of different country songs*] I think that's why the trucking industry has had more songs written about it than any other industry combined. [*Montage continues*]

Todd: Tony's own songs have done a lot to rebuild the old bonds between music and trucking culture, which had faded somewhat since the 1970s. ["Last of Cowboys" by Todd Justice begins] I thought I'd let him play us out with one of his latest singles, which also happens to be quite appropriate to our recent episode, about the history of trucking. The song is called "Last of the Cowboys." ["Last of Cowboys" continues]

Tony: Until you've run across Arizona, 6:30 or 7 o' clock in the morning, and you're cutting across that desert and you got the windows rolled down and the radio turned up. That's why we do what we do; it can't really be explained. But it makes you feel like one of the guys sitting up on the Pony Express delivering the mail across the desert and it had to be there at a certain time. And you just get that sense of being the last of the American cowboys — freedom, freedom of the road. And to see that slowly disappearing is one of the elements that really bolstered that song.

Todd: Yeah, bolstered indeed – last I checked the video had turned nearly 6 million views. And yet, all the success, tens of thousands of CDs sold in truck stops, Wal-marts and so much more ... it's just not quite enough to peel the man away from his truck. Today, Justice pulls a dry box for Everhart Transportation, running out of Dandridge, Tennessee, in a Peterbilt he calls "Purgatory."

That's it for Channel One-Nine, back with more in a couple weeks.

["Last of Cowboys" continues]

The Channel One-Nine Special is a feature of Over The Road, from Radiotopia and Overdrive Magazine. It's produced by Ian Coss and myself – Todd Dills – with support from Lacy Roberts, Paul Marhoefer and Julie Shapiro. Paul will be back next week, taking you along to his favorite mom & pop truck stops in eastern Kentucky. 'Til then you can listen to Tony Justice's latest album at tonyjusticemusic.com, and learn more about his trucking advocacy work at TruckerNation.org. Thanks to the truckers whose voices you heard over the radio up top. Among them were Doc and Tinkerbelle, the owner-operators otherwise known as Daniel and Phyllis Snow, Justice's fellow singing hauler Brad "Shadow" James, Doug "Sparky" Hasner, and Little Mama and the Texican.

And remember, if you've got questions about trucks, truckers or trucking, leave us a message at 765-245-4844. And we'll get an answer straight from the pros.

[00:08:36] **END OF EPISODE.**