

Young singer writes his own country songs

By **MARJORIE STROMBERG**
Sentinel reporter

He may be only 20, but he's already recorded three songs. Meet Mike Brubaker. Inspired by his own life experiences, this young man from McAlisterville has been writing his own country music for the past two years.

Mike started writing country music at the age of 18.

His album, produced with the help of a friend in Nashville, Tenn., contains three songs, though he's written about 10 or 11 in all.

The songs, called "When She's Around," "Just Say My Name," and "All I'm Asking," Mike wrote entirely on his own.

"Most songs, when it came to my head, I just write it down," he says.

Mike says each song requires a different amount of time to compose. Some take an hour, he says, while others can take a few weeks.

His inspiration comes solely from his own personal adventures, knowledge and journeys, he says.

The first couple songs?

Those are about a girl he was with, he says.

"(The songs are) basically stuff that comes into my head from life experiences," he says. Perhaps the most challenging part of writing music, Mike explains, is figuring out an idea for the song to be about. Once a theme is established, the lyrics can be built around it, he says.

"The words are the hardest part to come up with," he says.

And the easiest part, he says, seems to be creating the chord progression, or the actual chords used in the music.

The most satisfying part of writing a song is the completion, Mike says. That's because he can move on and start working on the next song.

Brubaker says his love for music started early on. He's been playing guitar since he was 8 years old, and singing since he was 16.

He had tried to write songs in the past, he says, but was unsuccessful.

"One day I just sat down and finished a song and just kept writing since then," he says.

Continued on Page 65



Photos courtesy of ANGIE REINFORD

Mike Brubaker, 20, has been writing his own country music for the past two years.

"One day I just sat down and finished a song and just kept writing since then."

— Mike Brubaker

KING FINANCIAL SERVICES, INC.



Robert King and Ryan Hollis

For Your
Investment and Insurance Needs

Phone 717-436-9222

24812 Rt. 35 North
P.O. Box 170
Mifflintown, PA 17059

INVESTMENTS*

Mutual Funds & IRAs
Variable Products
Stocks & Bonds

INSURANCE

Life Insurance
Long Term Care Insurance
Disability Income Insurance
Fixed and Immediate Annuities

*Securities and investments advisory services offered through ING FINANCIAL PARTNERS INC. — Member SIPC

King Financial Services is not a subsidiary of, nor controlled by ING Financial Partners, Inc.

Visit us at: www.kingfinancialservices.com

Peachey's Wood Products L.L.C.

Manufacturer of Custom Made Flooring

- Plank Flooring
- Hardwood Mouldings
- Stair Parts
- Interior Doors

Call for More Info!

667-9373

209 Sawmill Rd. • Reedsville