

Mrs. Who? Oh, Crystal Gayle!

By PEGGY RUSSELL

Have you heard Mrs. Vassilios Gapzimos' latest recording?

Whose?

Does Brenda Gayle Webb sound more familiar?

No.

Then, how about Crystal Gayle?

Yes, how ABOUT Crystal Gayle — one of the prettiest, brightest new stars in the country field by far, with child-woman quality that prompted one musician to remark that she was "...the kind of girl you wanted to take home to meet mamma...if you knewed you could keep daddy away from her."

Crystal Gayle is, of course, Mrs. Vassilios Gapzimos. She is also Brenda Gayle Webb (her real name) and the sister of country star, Loretta Lynn.

"My sister Peggy Sue also records," she said, and my brother, Jay Lee Webb." If you asked her if there were any more at home like her she will tell you that she has one more sister and three more brothers, all of whom sing and play some kind of instrument.

Crystal is the first to admit that being the sister of the much-loved Loretta, has been of tremendous importance to her career.

"I think I've had it easy in the business because of Loretta," she said in that satin-soft-hardly-above-a-whisper-speaking voice. "I mean, I got my recording contract with Decca, and I got a contract with a booking agency, I

think, mostly because of Loretta, and everybody has been so nice to me."

Crystal has a way of bringing out the 'niceness' in people with her easy manner and seemingly unaffected way of looking at what and where she is. Her first recording "I Cried The Blue Right Out of My Eyes" was followed by "Everybody Oughta Cry," neither of which were exactly type-casting for the

young lady who looks like she spends very little time crying.

When asked about disappointments, she had to take a great deal of time to think of any.

"Oh, I guess I was impatient between records," she said, "cause it was over a year, and I really don't know what the holdup was. We were looking for material, and we just couldn't find what we wanted...but real



disappointments...no, I just can't think of any."

She also gives Loretta the credit for her ever starting to sing in the first place. "She was the reason I sang," Crystal said. "I made my first public appearance in grade school, and I sang 'Shake Me I Rattle.' I suppose my ultimate goal is just to do a little of what Loretta has done."

Even though Crystal does not look a great deal like Loretta, there is a family resemblance when she smiles, which is often. She is not at all the same type of country singer that either of her sisters are, and she hints often that her interests move toward the folk area.

"I love country music, of course," she said, "but I like other kinds of music too. I am such an admirer of Melanie, and I..." She stopped then, and thought a while before she continued, then choosing her words carefully, she said. "I don't know if the country needs two Melanies...or if I could ever be...like she is, but I wish...well, what I'm saying is that I really love the way she sings...the way she writes, and I'll have to say that I would love to be able to sing like that."

One would get the impression from listening to Crystal that she is about to choose her own paths, make her own way, achieve her own success, maybe add to that small list of disappointments. "I try to keep remembering that you should always listen to what other people advise you, instead of thinking you always know

what's wrong or right," she said, "cause I've found out that it's not all easy, and I do listen to my sister."

Behind that beautiful face is a talented young lady who is still a bit uncertain as to the direction she will choose, but all the potential is there, and if heredity means anything at all, she could blaze a superhighway through a jungle.

But, whoever she is, Loretta Lynn's little sister; Brenda Gayle Webb from Bloomington, Indiana; or the bride of a handsome young Greek named Vassilios Gapzimos, (whom she calls Bill) Crystal is on her way.

And, who knows, maybe the country can use two Melanies, but looking and listening to Crystal, it becomes strikingly clear that one would have to start early and stay late before they could find anything wrong with being Crystal Gayle.