# **Big Tree Moving Operation** Completed At Opryland U.S.A.

One of the South's biggest treemoving operations has been completed at the new 369-acre Opryland U.S.A. entertainment complex. It opened May 27, 1972 and will be the home of radio station WSM's new Grand Ole Opry House in 1974.

The complex will house other musical and general entertainment attractions, such as puppet shows, five musical areas depicting various periods and styles of music, wild and domestic animals, and amusement rides. It is near the Cumberland River, four miles north of I-40 at the intersection of U.S. 265 and 65 on Briley Parkway, near Nashville, Tennessee.

One-fourth of the Opryland complex is woods and the trees were transplanted fast enough to keep up with contractors who are building roads, constructing lakes and laying underground utilities. With the help of the two "tree spades"-one truckmounted and one pulled by farm tractors—nearly all of the trees that were originally on the site have been saved.

An Allis-Chalmers Corp. One-Sixty tractor pulled the Model TS44 tree spade, made by the Vermeer Co. The Model TS66 can automatically dig and transplant a 40 ft. tree in minutes.

"This was the first time in the middle Tennessee area, and possibly in the Southeast, that such a large tree mover has been used," said Mike Downs, general manager of Opryland U.S.A. "We moved nearly 5000 trees."

Because construction began before many of the trees could be transplanted, Ben Moore, Opryland's landscape manager, developed a temporary tree nursery. At one time, the nursery contained more than 400 trees waiting to be transplanted, complete with existing birds' nests.

"We took every precaution to preserve our beautiful trees," Mr. Moore said.

When it is done, unlike other major theme parks, Opryland U.S.A. will present the authenticity and uniqueness of America, rather than fantasy. The central themed areas of the 110 acre entertainment park are composed of five "towns" which highlight America's bread and butter music - jazz and blues, country, folk, western and contemporary music - all set in the natural surroundings of 369 acres of Tennessee woods and hills.

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