

# ERIC GRATE



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The True Story of Country Music's  
Original Band of Brothers  
As Seen On Mike Judge's  
*Tales from the Tour Bus*

# announcing

“ A RAW, ROLLICKING RIDE THROUGH COUNTRY MUSIC’S UNTOLD BACKROADS ”

Coal Shed  
Publishing is  
proud to  
announce the  
release of  
Eric Grate’s first  
nonfiction book:  
*The Notorious  
Adams Boys*  
Coming  
April 20, 2026

#### Key Details:

- Title: *The Notorious Adams Boys*
- Author: Eric Grate
- Publisher: Coal Shed Publishing
- Genre: Nonfiction / Music  
Biography / Americana History
- Publication Date: April 20, 2026
- ISBN: (HC)979-8-9883716-4-9  
(PB)979-8-9883716-5-6
- Formats: Hardcover, Paperback,  
eBook

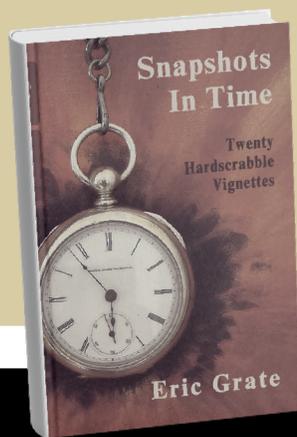
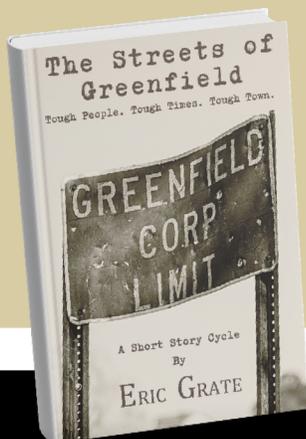
#### Availability:

The book will be available for purchase through:

- Amazon
- IngramSpark
- Select Bookstores Nationwide
- Author’s Website

# meet Eric Grate

Eric Grate is a writer, Marine Corps veteran, photographer, and coffeehouse owner from Danville, Kentucky. His storytelling is rooted in small-town life, humor, and Americana realism. He began writing in his mid-fifties and has since published *The Streets of Greenfield* and *Snapshots in Time*. *The Notorious Adams Boys* is his first nonfiction work.



2

PUBLISHED  
BOOKS

4.8

STARS ON  
AMAZON

4.5

GOODREADS  
RATING

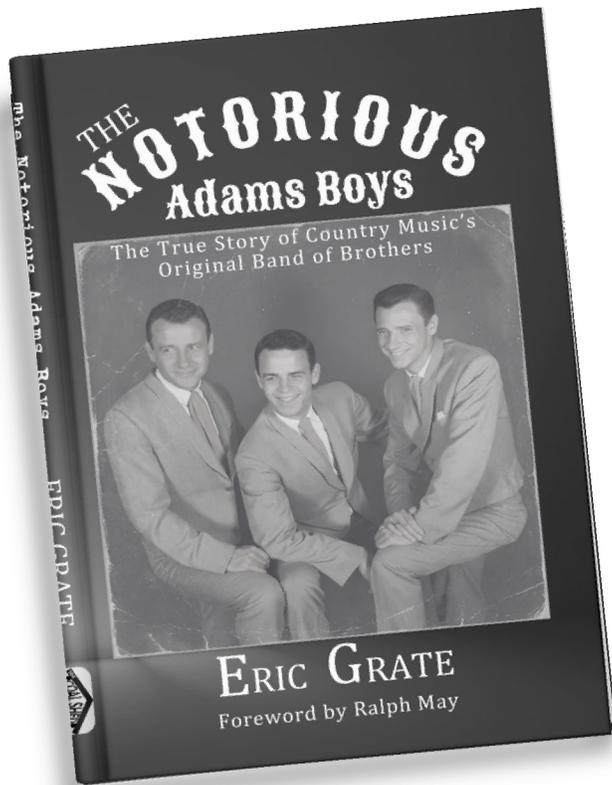
# about the book

## The Notorious Adams Boys

by hardscrabble author

ERIC GRATE

Foreword by Ralph May



*The Notorious Adams Boys* is the true story of three brothers from Greenfield, Ohio, Don, Gary, and Arnie Adams, who became one of Country Music's most celebrated touring bands. The Adams Boys toured North America and Europe with George Jones, Ray Price, Little Jimmy Dickens, Merle Haggard, Ferlin Husky, Johnny Paycheck, Barbara Fairchild, and Marty Robbins. Their legend rests on the solid foundation of their music and their chronic inability to avoid trouble.

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# chapter four



“The next day, June 6, about an hour before George Jones and The Jones Boys were scheduled to take the stage for their matinee performance, The Rolling Stones arrived at the venue. They proceeded to the large first-floor dressing room that George and his band had occupied the day before. Surprised to find the dressing room in use, someone from The Stones' small entourage, likely U.S. Tour Manager Bob Bonis, asked Don, "Why are you in this dressing room? This is our dressing room."

Don, unsure of who the group of men was, stood up and walked toward the door. "Who are you?" he asked.

Bonis, looking a bit surprised, replied, "These are The Rolling Stones. They are the featured act today and tomorrow."

"George Jones is the star of this show," Don said.

"Your dressing room is upstairs."

Big Arnie, who was sitting on a sofa pulling on his boots, made eye contact with the intruders and pointed to the ceiling, indicating that they should indeed go upstairs. There was a brief, uneasy silence before The Rolling Stones turned around and started up the steps to the second floor.”

# Five Things to Know About

# THE NOTORIOUS ADAMS BOYS

## Racing Against the Clock

Eric completed the book in 14 months, 10 months ahead of schedule, in an effort to beat the ticking clock of Don Adams' terminal cancer diagnosis..

# 1

## Lloyd Bowers Interview

Lloyd Bowers was an eyewitness to Johnny Paycheck shooting a man in an Ohio barroom in 1985. He's been interviewed once in the 41 years since it happened. By Eric Grate.

# 2



## Tales From The Tour Bus

Don, Gary, and Arnie Adams starred in the first two episodes of Mike Judge's hit series, *Tales From The Tour Bus*.

# 3

## Hit Records

Don Adams placed five songs on the Billboard Country Charts including "I've Already Stayed Too Long", which went to #34 in 1973.

# 4

# 5

## Riding With The James Gang

Little Jimmy Dickens once compared touring with the Adams Boys to riding with the James Gang.

# interview questions

## **What inspired you to tell this story?**

Don Adams said, “Eric, we need to write a book about the Notorious Adams Boys, and I want to tell it all.”

I asked him why he wanted me to write it.

He said, “Because you’re from Greenfield. You’ll understand. “

That hit me like a truck because I immediately knew what he meant. I told him I would think about it and discuss it with my wife. In reality, I had already told myself I would do it.

Don was 84 years old and battling cancer. He deserved to have his story told. I was honored and humbled that he trusted me to do it.

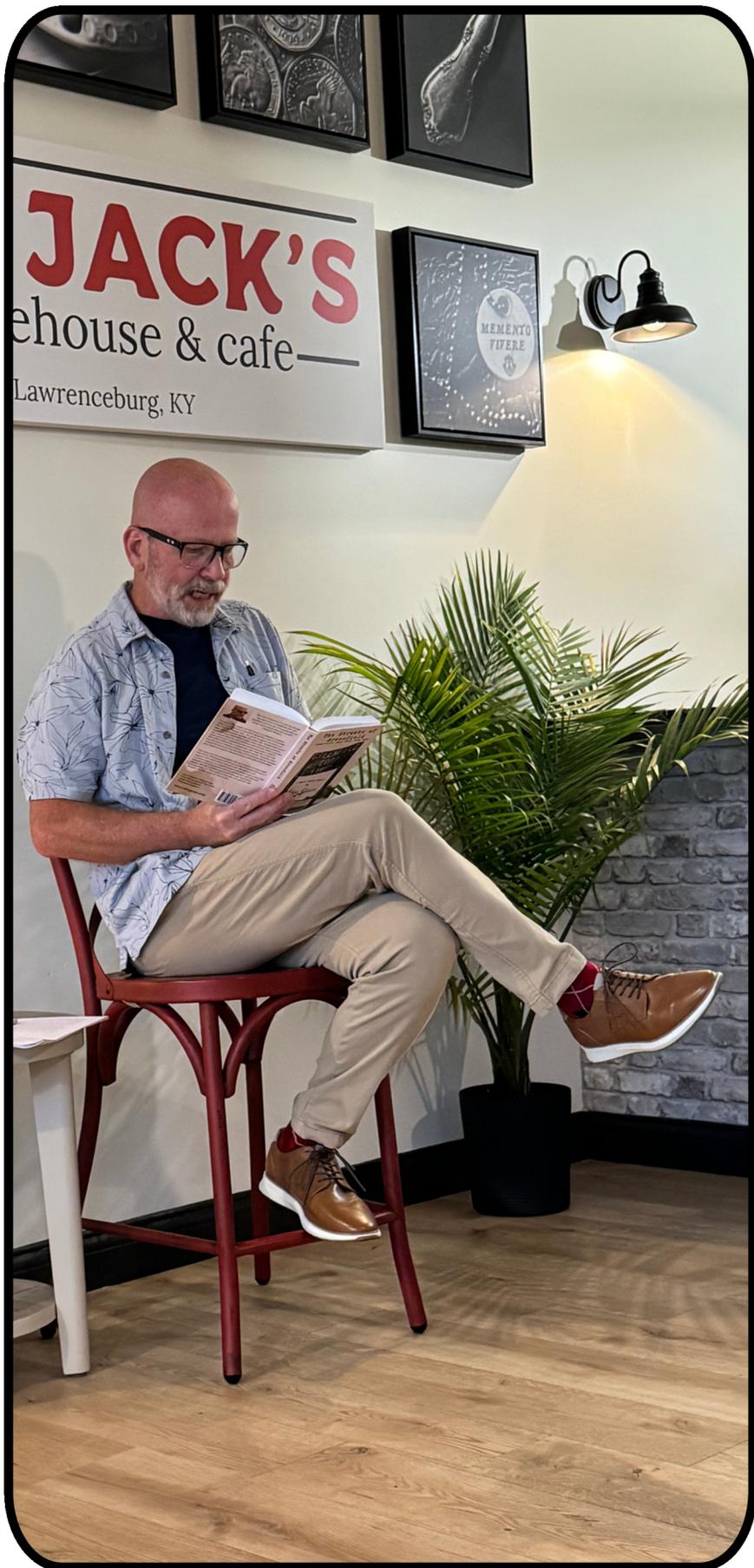
## **What surprised you most during your research?**

The scarcity of photos taken by the three Adams brothers. Those guys simply didn't take many photos. Perhaps they didn't want to compromise themselves.

I was also surprised by just how well-known and respected the Adams Boys were within the world of Country Music. Literally everyone in Nashville knew them, or knew of them, from the mid-1960s to the early 1990s. Today, they have reached legend status.

## **What do you hope readers take away?**

Fear of trying often keeps us from striving to accomplish what we really want in life. It causes us to accept what comes easily, even if it is counter to every instinct we have. These guys had no fear, and they were not about to compromise.



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