

Former Johnny Cash agent to auction gold record

By Mike Mulhern
of The Free Press

Johnny Cash At San Quentin is going on the auction block Thursday but it doesn't mean that the vendor is angry with Cash or short of cash either.

Saul Holiff, the Londoner who managed Cash for 18 years through his times of trouble and triumph, has put the gold album and a number of items into auction because he needed space.

"I have 23 gold records," Holiff said, "and they are all beautiful and I cherish them, but that one is an ex-

ception . . . different frame, different country (Belgium), different significance."

Holiff said he has one wall covered in gold records and after moving his office to his house he had to do some revamping.

The gold album he's selling was issued for the sale of 35,000 albums in Belgium in 1972. It is one of 28 gold records which Holiff received during his association with Cash. For most of the past four years, Holiff has been an arts student at the University of Western Ontario.

Holiff is 53 and enrolled in an honors history program. He managed the Statler Brothers for 3½ years after leaving Cash,

but no longer manages them either. He gave Cash six months notice of his leaving.

"It wasn't really a falling out," he said, "it was just a decision I made."

Holiff quit school when he was 14 and had not been back to school for more than 30 years.

"I always had a dream to go to univeristy," he said.

With at least one more year to go, Holiff says returning to school was a real change after years of being with Cash, riding in limousines, being whisked through customs and staying at five-star hotels.

He says if his education "was to lead to the odd bit of lecturing in a different approach to history, I wouldn't object to it, but I'm not looking for it as a livelihood."

Holiff speaks every year at the business school to students in the MBA program. He said the irreverent, ballsey approach he takes to lecturing seems to go down well with the students.

The gold album going Thursday is the second one out of Holiff's collection to be auctioned in London. He said a gold album, The World Of Johnny Cash, was donated for the Theatre London auction. It sold for \$900.

Whatever the price received for the album to be auctioned Thursday, it will not be bought for the value of gold it contains.

George Chow of Lifetime Plaques in Toronto said they charge about \$250 to plate and frame records for recording companies. The value of the gold used to thinly plate the aluminium discs supplied by the record companies amounts to about \$25 or \$30. Workmanship and framing brings the cost to \$250, he said.

Mother of seven after PhD

MILWAUKEE (AP) — About 10 years ago when she was on welfare here, Mrs. Johnnie Deans recalls, her caseworker told her she was too old for college and not college material.

She should learn, instead, to become a power machine operator, the caseworker said.

Today, Mrs. Deans, 39, who has a master's degree in educational psychology from the University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, is working toward her doctoral degree.

A mother of seven and a grandmother, Mrs. Deans teaches at Milwaukee Area Technical College's Adult Basic Training Center. Her annual income is more than \$25,000.

Mrs. Deans remembers telling the caseworker, "if you can make it through college, I can't see any reason why I can't."



SAUL HOLIFF
- - - space a problem