

# Wayne Lowering His Key

By JAMES BACON

HOLLYWOOD — Any guy who can make a baritone out of Wayne Newton has got to be okay in anybody's book.

What's more, hitmaker Wes Farrell has given Wayne his first big blockbuster record in seven years — "Daddy, Don't You Walk So Fast."

"You won't recognize the new Wayne Newton," says Farrell. "We not only got him singing in the lower keys but he's also shed 50 pounds. It's a whole new sexy image."

## **He Was Warned**

For years, Wayne was one of the top performers with that high voice. All his other advisers warned him against lowering his key— even though he has a three-octave range.

Now, he's hotter than ever at a lower key.

Farrell, a songwriter, publisher and record producer, is among the new landed gentry in Hollywood. If you don't think popular music is really big business, Farrell has sold 40 million records in 18 months for his clients.

He is producer of both the David Cassidy and Partridge Family records. It was Farrell who wrote the family's big hit, "I Think I Love You."

"Actually, when we started the TV show, David Cassidy wasn't slated to sing. Only Shirley Jones was due to sing for the family — the rest we dubbed.

"I asked David if he could sing. He said 'Yes.' So I had him sing."

## **Has New Star**

David, of course, is the hottest attraction among the bubble-gum set.

Farrell's next baby for superstardom in the music business is Richard Harris, who already has had some success with albums.

"Richard's potential as dramatic singer has only been scratched on the surface. What this man can do is unbelievable."

Incidentally, in case you're wondering how Newton lost those 50 pounds, Wes said he did it by eating caesar salad.

"Nothing else," said Wes. "Just caesar salad — breakfast, lunch and a dinner with anchovies."