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With a personal visit to pay respect to the family of Jerry Lewis, country music duo Joey and Rory are building even closer bonds with their friends, the Folsom family of Glennville.

The friendship started with the shared love of classic cars. While Rory was on the search for another classic car, he was lucky enough to find an incredible beauty, a 1952 Oldsmobile 98, owned by Jerry Lewis of Baxley.

"Sometimes you connect with your fans on a deeper level and that's how it was with Jerry; his grandson, Candler; and his family. Jerry's mother had given the Oldsmobile to him when he was a teenager. It was the car that he and his future wife, Beverly Lewis, had driven when they were dating," Rory explained.

Years later, Jerry's wife managed to find the exact Oldsmobile, which had been sold years earlier, and surprised Jerry with it for Christmas.

"Jerry planned to take his wife touring around in that special car, but sadly she passed away before that time came. As the years went on, Jerry finally decided to sell the car, and that's how I came into the story. I went to Baxley to see the car, and Jerry and I hit it off right away. His grandson, Candler Folsom, was there and we quickly became friends. We've kept in touch with him through text messages, email, and phone calls. I bought that car, and we drove up to the red carpet at the Country Music Awards in it," Rory explained.

Candler is the son of Paige Folsom of Baxley and Bobby Folsom of Glennville.

While Joey and Rory were playing in Knoxville, Tennessee, Candler called to tell Joey and Rory the news of his grandfather's (Jerry's) passing on Saturday, January 9. Candler asked if they would come and sing at the funeral. The country singers could not refuse his sweet request.

"Since meeting at the Huddle House this morning, Candler has given us the grand tour of the fine city of Glennville. We were given tours of the Rotary Corporation, Mascot, Ebenezer Baptist Church and Candler's house and his daddy's shop. One of our stops was at Glennville DQ Grill & Chill, where the owner treated us for lunch. I told Zuber that when I was a teenager, my first job was at Dairy Queen," Rory said.

Like a man and his truck, bonds and friendships are very hard to come by. Although this musical couple have only known Candler and his family for three months, it's simply amazing how much the act of extending one's heart and voice can mean to a family.

"It means a lot to our family to have them sing at Jerry's funeral," said Bobby Folsom.

"Candler is a singer, too. His Grandpa Jerry built him a stage in his bedroom for him to practice on," Rory said.

Joey and Rory expressed their positive impression of Glennville,



sharing that those they met greeted them with a welcoming smile.

Although both had been working on individual music careers, it was the CMT's hit series, *Can You Duet*, that brought Joey Martin and Rory Feek international acclaim as they won third place in the 2008 competition.

"It was a show sponsored by American Idol and CMT. I was working on my career as a singer, and Rory has always been a songwriter. We went from 5,000 acts to the final three," Joey explained.

From their small town beginnings, Joey and Rory's hit song, "Cheater Cheater," has made the duo favorites with country music fans all over the world.

Joey is originally from Alexandria, Indiana, which is also the home of the famous gospel duo, Bill and Gloria Gaither.

"James Dean was from Fairmount, Indiana, which is very close to Alexandria," Joey said proudly.

Joey grew up on country music. Her father played guitar and her mother sang. In 1998, Joey moved to Nashville, Tennessee, to pursue her music career.

Rory is originally from Atchison, Kansas, the home of Amelia Earhart.

"I'm living my father's dream; he wanted to be a country singer," Rory said.

Rory moved to Nashville in 1995. His first song writing job was for legendary songsmith Harlan Howard's publishing company. Since then, the former Marine has penned chart-topping hits performed by Collin Raye, Blake Shelton, and Clay Walker, to name a few. The duo's debut release, *The Life of a Song*, contains 12 songs, seven of which were co-written by Rory and Joey.

Touring around the world is now normal for Joey and Rory, as more and more concert dates are booked.

"We've played in Ireland and Scotland. This past November, we played with Zac Brown at the Fox Theater in Atlanta as a fundraiser for the Georgia Theater that had burned down.