On this date in 1982, on his 39th birthday (today, he turns 71), Ronnie Milsap scored his 19th #1 country hit with "I Wouldn't Have Missed It For the World." Producer Tom Collins suggested the title to songwriter Charles Quillen. He took the idea to songwriters Kye Fleming and Dennis Morgan and the song finally got written. It also got a lawsuit. A radio DJ in Austin, Texas claimed he had sent a song with the same title to Collins. Kye was very upset and later said the lawsuit never amounted to much because it was an often-used phrase. Even though it's a good song and Milsap was known for his singing and piano playing, the recording was very much guitar-based and he was still critical of it. He said, "I sang a little too sharp on that....I just sang live with the band, and there's your record, hoss." I first met and interviewed him in 1984 on his tour bus at the Erie County Fair in Hamburg, N.Y. and ran into him about 25 years later in Nashville with his wife Joyce. I had heard that she taught him to sign his name by writing it in the sand at a beach so he could feel how to do it. They confirmed that story for me. His new album, "Summer Number Seventeen," comes out at the end of the month. Happy birthday, Ronnie!

Other songs that reached #1 on this date include: Alan Jackson's "Right on the Money" in 1999 (his 16th #1 song); Garth Brooks' "Somewhere Other Than the Night" in 1993 (his 10th #1 hit); and Dan Seals' "One Friend" in 1988 (his 7th #1 song).

Songs that reached #1 on the Canadian country music charts on this date include: Tim McGraw's "Not a Moment Too Soon" in 1995 (his 2nd #1 hit); Alan Jackson's "She's Got the Rhythm (And I Got the Blues)" in 1993 (his 6th #1 song); Highway 101's "Somewhere Tonight" in 1988 (their 2nd chart-topper); Alabama's "Love in the First Degree" in 1982 (their 3rd #1 hit); and Lynn Anderson's "(I Never Promised You a) Rose Garden" in 1971 (her 2nd #1 song).