

MENU from p 13

One of Steele's favorite more recent big interviews came from Don McLean, whose "American Pie" remains an American pop classic. Steele was granted one of just five radio interviews with McLean, which were his first since 1988. Another favorite was Neil Diamond.

"He has an incredible link to this area," says Steele. "He got his start when he was in a talent contest back in 1963 at Sans Souci Park in Hanover Township. He was actually beaten by Brian Hyland, who gave us 'Itsy Bitsy Teenie Weenie Yellow Polka Dot Bikini.' He remembers that Sunday afternoon really well, and he really got his start in the Wilkes-Barre/Scranton area back in the '60s, when he was a fledgling songwriter."

In addition to music-related interview specials, Steele has produced shows for international syndication on the space shuttle Challenger disaster, the Amityville slayings and the Charles Manson murders. In 2003, he took a First Place Associated Press Award for "Best News Documentary" for his special titled "Apollo 11/Summer of '69."

Up next for Steele on the music beat is an interview with the elusive Carly Simon, who granted Steele her first radio interview since 1988. Simon will do the CBS's "Late Night with David Letterman," NBC's "Today" show, ABC's "Good Morning America" and - of course - KRZ's "Saturday Night Live at the Oldies." Steele says he's proud to have snagged the pop icon for a conversation and feels listeners will be enlightened by what they hear.

"We're not only going to talk about her limited tour, which is sold out, but she's also going to talk about her new CD, and her bout with breast cancer," he says. "It's basically a 30-minute no-holds-barred interview, which is truly incredible. Once again, it proves that if you e-mail her management twice a year for 19 years, they'll eventually wear down and say "You know what, let's get this guy off our back and do an interview.'"

Though Steele doesn't know the exact number of listeners that tune into his show, he does know that when he puts on his headset and leans towards the microphone, he's taking his conversations with the stars and the former stars to people around the globe, and that he could be reaching millions.

Not bad from a studio in Pittston, Pennsylvania. "Rather than just play 'American Pie' and 'Brown Eyed Girl' every week, we try to do something different with these interviews, and we have been incredibly successful in syndicating them not only around the country, but around the world," he says. "And that's been pretty unbelievable."

If you listen ...

WHAT: "Saturday Night Live at the Oldies," with Shadroe Steele

WHERE: WKRZ-FM, 98.5 and 107.9

WHEN: Saturdays, 7 p.m. to midnight. Interview segments run from 7-9 p.m.