

Harlan Perry Howard  
September 8, 1927 – March 3, 2002

Section 20 ID # 200150

Harlan Perry Howard, born in Detroit, Michigan, was named after Harlan, Kentucky where several of his relatives lived. In 1955 he moved to Los Angeles. His first hit in 1958 “Pick Me Up on Your Way Down” was followed the next year by “Heartaches by the Number.” These two topped both the country and pop hit parades.

*BMI News* noted in his obituary “at one point in 1961, Harlan Howard had 15 songs on the country popularity charts at the same time.” In 1961, BMI gave him 10 songwriting awards of the 39 songs on the “most performed” list in that year. He was named *Billboard Magazine*’s Songwriter of the Year in 1962 and 1963.

His tombstone inscription noted that “Most people know Harlan Howard by the songs he’s penned – More than 4,000 of them.” His songwriting career stretched over six decades.

#### Sources

City Cemetery Tombstone Inscription

*Tennessee Encyclopedia*

Obituary *BMI News* “BMI Legend Harlan Howard Dies” On-line

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