

There Goes the Neighborhood

BY ALANNA HORNER

Three years ago, songwriter Brett Jones was at a Nashville recording studio about to begin a session, when he overheard the drummer venting about a problem he was having with a particular neighbor. Almost immediately, Brett realized something that the drummer didn't—the neighbor was *him*.

"He said, 'Can you believe this guy is building the ugliest red barn out by my home?'" Brett remembers with a laugh. "He had no idea that I was his neighbor and it was my barn he was talking about."

Although he didn't mention the embarrassing fact in the studio, Brett did speak up at a songwriting session with fellow writer Anthony Smith. "We were trying to think of ideas of what to write," says Anthony. "Brett started telling me about that, and we thought it was a great way to kick off a song—I heard it through the grapevine / My new neighbor don't like my big red barn."

"When I moved into that neighborhood [near Nashville]," Brett says, "everyone was like, 'Who is this guy?' I didn't exactly fit in. But sometimes, you just have to let it go."

"I think we really drew upon our country raising for this song!" Anthony adds with a chuckle. "We went from there and had a good time with it."

As they wrapped up the lyrics to "What Do Ya Think About That," Brett and Anthony had no idea where the song would end up. But Brett now notes, "When Montgomery Gentry picked it up, I thought it was just perfect for them."

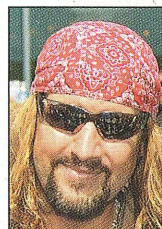
The song was recorded for their *Some People Change* album and released as the follow-up single to their No. 1 hit "Lucky Man." "What Do Ya Think About That" quickly became another smash for the Grammy-nominated duo.

"People have really responded to this song," Brett says. But more important, how did that session drummer respond? Does he know that the song was written around his problem?

"He knows it now!" Brett says with a grin. "My son and his son eventually got to be friends. And the barn looks a lot better now that it's finished."



Brett Jones



Anthony Smith

"What Do Ya Think About That"

WRITTEN BY
Brett Jones and
Anthony Smith

PERFORMED BY
Montgomery Gentry

I heard it through the grapevine
My new neighbor don't like my
big red barn
A '47 Ford, bullet holes in
the door
Broke-down motor in the
front yard
I got a half a mind to paint a
plywood sign
And nail it up on a knotty
pine tree
Saying I was here first
This is my piece of dirt
And your rambling don't
rattle me

CHORUS

Some people care about what
other people think
Worry about what they say
Let a little gossip coming from
a loose lip
Ruin a perfect day
Saying, blah, blah, blah
Just jacking their jaws
Gotta let it roll off my back
I don't give a dern what other
people think
What do ya think about that

I wear what I want to
Overalls, work boots
Crank my music up loud
Like to sling a little mud in my
four-wheel drive
Trek it all into town
Shoot a little eight ball down at
the pool hall
Drink a beer with my friends
Now don't judge me and I
won't judge you
'Cause we all get judged in
the end

REPEAT CHORUS TWICE

Say, I don't give a damn what
other people think
What do ya think about that
Tell me what do ya think
about that
What do ya think about that
What do ya think about that



Eddie Montgomery
(left) and Troy Gentry
are thinking "hit."

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