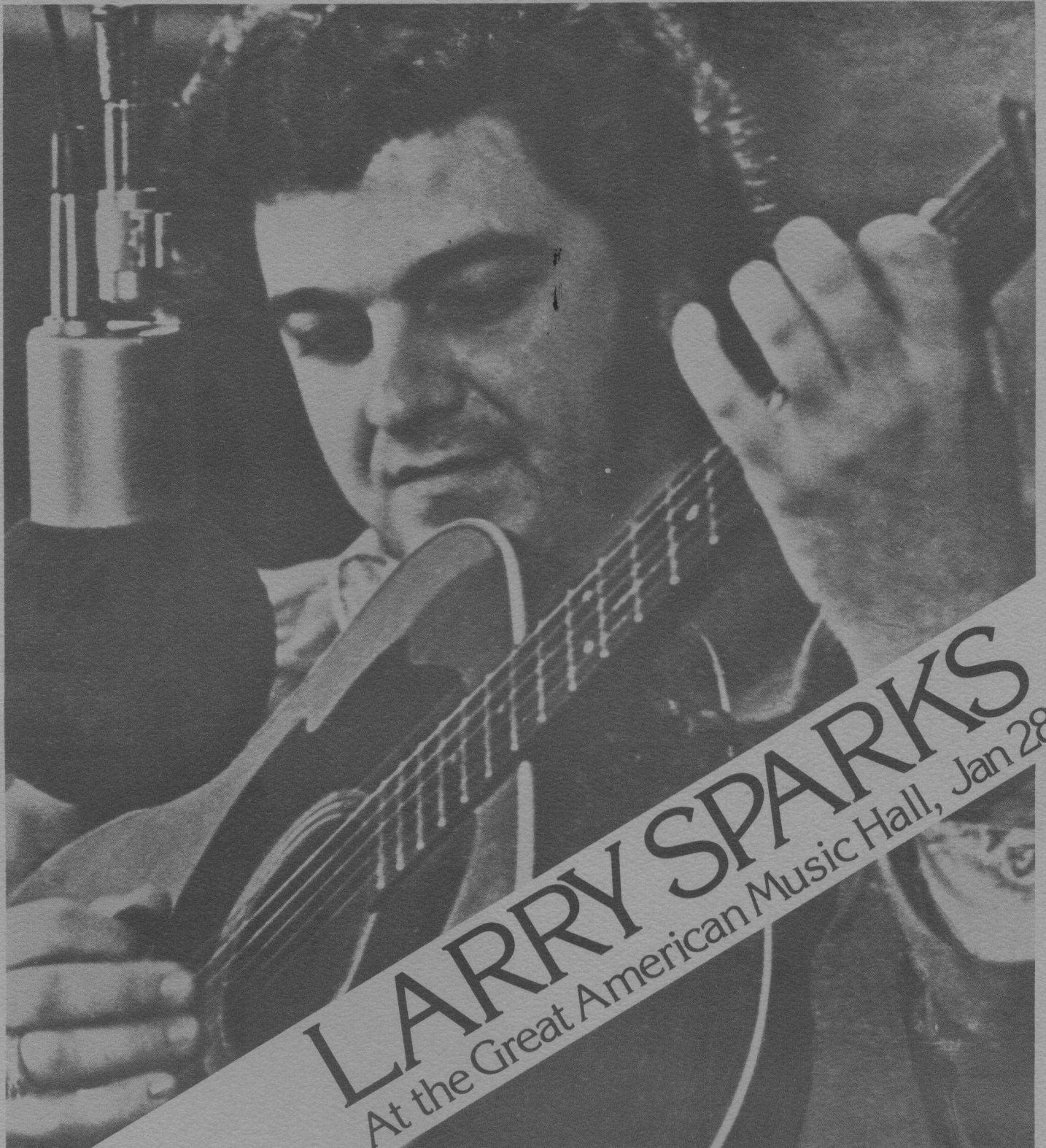


BLUEGRASS BREAKDOWN

January/February 1980

Vol. 6 Number 1



LARRY SPARKS
At the Great American Music Hall, Jan 28

California Bluegrass Association

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DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS OF THE CBA

Publicity Lars Bourne 469 Savstrom Way San Jose 95111 408/227-4640 (H) 408/289-5501 (W)	Chairman/Editor Steve Pottier PO Box 43 San Rafael 94902 707/553-1166
Secretary Mike Johnson 9025 Alcosta Blvd. #233 San Ramon 415/828-1389	Sue Shelasky 370 Lake Ave Rodeo 94572 415/799-6588
VP Activities Laurie Lewis 2535 Grant St Berkeley 94703 415/548-3021	Treasurer Kathy Tyler 36381 Barnard St. Newark 94560 415/792-3183
President Carol Masters 1245 Crompton Rd Redwood City 94061	Vice-Chairman Butch Waller 1285 Filbert St. San Francisco 94109 415/776-6713
Legal Advisor Carl Pagter 1809 Meadow Lane Walnut Creek 94595 415/938-4221	VP Membership Karen Walter 4212 25th St. San Francisco 94114 415/826-3159
Ed Pagter 967 Perriera Dr. Santa Clara 95051 408/296-3123	

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Special thanks to all who contributed and helped produce this issue of the BGBD. Production staff was Sue Shelasky, Laurie Lewis, Beth Weil, and Harry Yaglijian. Any Old Time photo by Bob Westgate. Fumi Matsumoto did the fine drawing of the barnyard bluegrass band

We are always pleased to receive photos, manuscript, artwork, letters, tab, and volunteer labor. Please send mailable items to CBA. PO Box 11287, San Francisco, CA 94101.

FOR THE LATEST INFO CALL THE
CBA HOTLINE: (415)366-3754

Great MUSICAL PSYCHICS PREDICT for the 1980's

Our staff in its quest has left no stone unturned (and even looked under a few rocks) to glean the following stable of musical prognosticators' predictions for the 1980's. They predict:

Daryl Anger- Within the next five years, David Grisman will be the Henry Mancini of acoustic music. Del McCoury will play the Great American Music Hall and break every mirror in it.

Dix Bruce- Bill Monroe will form a fusion group with McCoy Tyner, Ornette Coleman, Charlie Hayden, and Birch Monroe. Critics will go wild and the music will be dubbed "Hawg Music." Bluegrass music as we know it will cease to exist except in the fertile imaginations of a handful of fanatics. Digital technology will replace Courtney Johnson in The New Grass Revival and John Duffy will initiate the very popular "Nude-grass" movement spawned by flat-top haircut and fat liberation groups. Ralph Stanley will finally break the Billboard top 100 (23 with a bullet) with his all letter lp "Great God to Mighty, I Got Them Blues." Frank Wakefield will sound more like himself than he used to.

Tom Diamant- February 25, 1985: Fast talking Vice President Curly Ray Cline has ended the Arab-Israelie conflict by offering both sides billions in aid. Details of the complicated aid program were not disclosed, but one Israelie statesman was overheard to say, "What in hell are we going to do with all those key-rings?" June 11, 1989: Archaeologists in Egypt have discovered a hidden room in the tomb of King Tut. Found in the room were five solid gold musical instruments; a fiddle, bass, mandolin, guitar and banjo. Archaeologists said they were having trouble reading the inscription in the room, but the phrase "when Nellie lost her way"

has been deciphered. January 16, 1981: The Government has warned the public that Lloyd Loar mandolins may be carcinogenic. Apparently the ink from Mr. Loar's signature emits a gas that has been shown to give cancer to laboratory rats. It is thought that the mandolin can be made safe by breaking off the peg head scroll, gouging out the name "Gibson" and scraping off the finish with a pen knife. In experiments, the rats were forced to play the mandolins for 3 days without stopping.

David Grisman- Mandolin sales will increase three million percent.

Laurie Lewis- Within the next decade, Bill Monroe and his Bluegrass Boys will be replaced by Bill Monroe and his Bluegrass Control Panel.

Paul McBride- Lionel Hampton will be elected to the Bluegrass Hall of Fame and given the title "Brother-In-Law of Bluegrass" for his promise not to make the vibes a bluegrass instrument. Bill Monroe will stun the world with the announcement that he had managed to raise amazing live sea monkeys at home on his own time. The bottom will drop out of the international money market when Bill Monroe's blue moon turns to gold again twice this year. The bottom will drop out of the bluegrass market in 1989 when Bill, father of bluegrass music, leader of the Bluegrass Boys, from the bluegrass state of Kentucky, reveals that his favorite color is red.

Steve Pottier- Walter Cronkite will give us the news backed by Foggy Mountain Breakdown. There will be a colony on the moon which will host the first bluegrass festival in outer space.

Paul Shelasky- Bill Monroe will play a solid body electric mandolin and will invent a new style of electric German polka music. He will become a natural foods freak, get

(continued on page 12)

Bluegrass Down South

by David Dickey

The last couple of months have been very eventful with lots of excitement for the bluegrass fan!

The 14th GOLDEN WEST BLUEGRASS FESTIVAL at Norco was held the last weekend in October and featured the inimitable RALPH STANLEY & THE CLINCH MOUNTAIN BOYS. They were even better than I expected- JACK COOKE and CURLY RAY CLINE were their usual outstanding selves but the pleasant surprises were JR. BLANKENSHIP & CHARLIE SIZEMORE. I had heard a tape of this band made a year or so ago and wasn't too impressed- but, I guess the intervening time has sharpened their skills because they both sounded great. JR. plays really tasteful lead guitar and sings an occasional solo, but the real treat (for me) was the singing of CHARLIE SIZEMORE. His voice has aged and now he sounds like he's 45 years old: just amazing. He has a relaxed natural style that to me puts him right up with ROY LEE CENTERS as far as capturing that sound and emotional quality that CARTER STANLEY brought to his music. Then there was the old man himself- everything's been said 3 times over about how good he is and about all I can add is anybody who could write a song like "Trust Each Other" -well - that is a statement that speaks for itself. If you can't see the genius in that then I guess you don't like bluegrass!

Speaking of soul - the 15th NORCO will occur Jan 26 & 27 at Silver Lakes Park and will feature LARRY SPARKS and the LONESOME RAMBLERS. LARRY is in the vanguard of second generation musicians who are creating their own sound within the traditional framework of the music and we are all looking forward to having him out in California. It will be his first appearance here since he came out as a member of the Clinch Mtn. Boys in 1969.

Nov 17 & 18 saw the ORANGE COUNTY FALL FAIR host a 2 day show that was lead by BILL MONROE and the BLUEGRASS BOYS. The consensus among those I talked to was that we had never heard BILL play and sing so well. He was just putting all he's got into every

number and a very appreciative audience made him reach for that something extra that so few performers ever exhibit. The Saturday night show was just tremendous- Bill played and sang and even did some clog dancing to the twin fiddles of KENNY BAKER and a visiting BYRON BERLINE. Another high point was the unveiling of "OLD DANGERFIELD," a new instrumental of rare beauty. To see someone who has worked so hard for so long be able to come out and be so on top of his music is both a treat and an inspiration. BOB BIGELOW had a chance to interview BILL and the results will be in the next issue of Golden West Bluegrass Magazine. It should be a great article.

Another high point of the weekend was the music of the other groups. DAMASCUS ROAD played the smooth soft sound they've become so well known for. They are now putting the finishing touches on their second album to be entitled "GOING UP." It is going to be a really fine album and all the guys are justifiably excited about the results.

CANYON GRASS has regrouped under the leadership of BERT PATTERSON and they played some exciting music featuring some original material that BERT has written. JODY CIFRA plays fiddle, RON GREENWOOD on bass, JIM DEARMIN plays banjo, and KENNY BLACKWELL on mandolin rounds out the group.

TRAIN 45 made another first appearance with new member BOB BIGELOW on mandolin. They played a couple of sets of the good solid traditional music they have become so well known for. Their sound is rounded out now with 5 musicians and we all look forward to some exciting music from them in the months to come. The fall fair was a big success and it should become an annual affair which will be a nice showcase for the music.

Southern California favorite son CRAIG SMITH writes to say that he finally landed a job that pleases him- playing banjo for CHARLIE MOORE. Since joining the band in October they have played in Canada, Ohio,

(continued on page 12)

TABLATURE

FISHER'S HORNPIPE

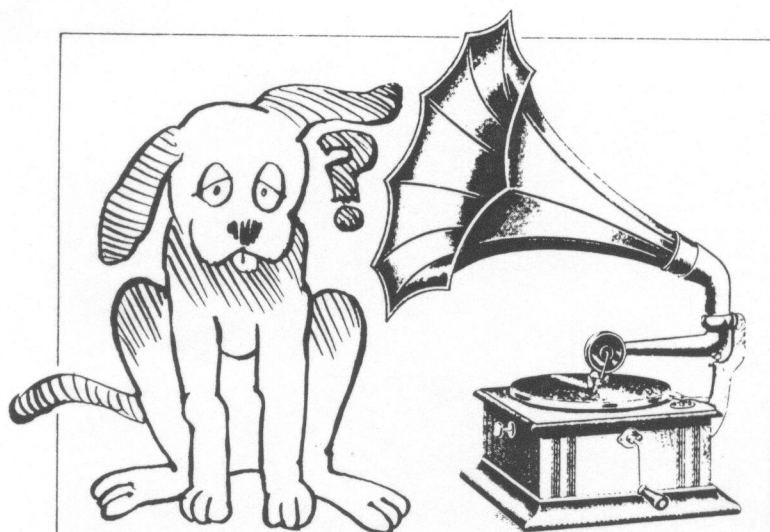
This issue's tablature isn't tab at all, but real music. The version of Fisher's Hornpipe written here was worked out for twin fiddles by Laurie Lewis and Paul Shelasky.

melody



harmony





Record Reviews

Hosted By:
SUE SHELASKY

UPCOMING RELEASES FOR EARLY 1980

In February, "Silver Meteor" on Sierra Briar; previously unreleased material by CLARENCE WHITE, both acoustic and electric. Also in Feb, the Pat Brayer album; and in March, a record by Barry Solomon.

HOT OFF THE PRESS

American Heritage 401-529

Hot Off The Press is a southern California band, whose new album, HOT OFF THE PRESS isn't all that bad a bet for satisfying post holiday bluegrass lust among the good folk checking out the western product. For one thing, a pleasant surprise, they have a good full trio vocal sound, authentic enough to lull the unwary into believing they have a fix on some radio station near enough to Galax to spit off a mountain. "New Freedom Bell," "Ho Honey Ho" and "Louise," a fine song by Paul Siebel, nicely done by Carol Yearwood, are the best examples of this strong side of theirs, although it is a tad disconcerting to hear the Osborne Brother's material done that close to the original, but an octave or so down.

Which brings around the band's prime weakness, the lack of a strong lead singer. It's not just that there isn't a true high

tenor- there isn't- it's that there isn't a truly competent lead singer in the band. The three songs mentioned, respectively done by Tom Ferguson, Bill Knopf, and Carol Yearwood, are the best vocals on the album, partially because the leads are short and the singers jump back into the security of harmony as quickly as feasible. When the solo vocals are longer, particularly on "Moonlight Motor Inn," a dog of a song, done poorly, the lack of a lead is painful.

Instrumentally, it's a mixed bag. Bill Knopf on banjo, Frank Javorsek on mandolin, Howard Yearwood on guitar, Tom Ferguson on fiddle, and Dave Diaz on dobro, all know their instruments and all play some tasty lines here and there, but the absence of a solid rhythm section means that often enough the soloist and the section are fighting each other. Howard Yearwood's rhythm guitar is under recorded or under played, but always missing, and Carol Yearwood's time is uncertain on bass. When Knopf plays his oddly shaped runs, he tends to push the beat, while she struggles to find it. On "Moonlight Motor Inn," the song speeds up and slows down on almost every verse. The tempi are generally medium ranged (there's not a high-stepper in the bunch) and perhaps too much of a sameness. Still, laid back beats pointlessly busy.

And still again, Knopf, Javorsek, Yearwood, Diaz, and Ferguson all play some pretty runs, although Yearwood has trouble ending his longer guitar breaks. Knopf is a consistently interesting banjoist, best I think on "Fireball Mail," and Ferguson's full rich tone is a relief to hear what with thin toned fiddler's being a plague lately. Not a perfect album surely, but the band has a good feel for the music and does it well enough to deserve a listen.

SONGS:

New Freedom Bell	Billy in the Lowground
Ho Honey Ho	Been All Around This
Louise	World
Lime House Blues	He Made Me Lose My
Way Down Town	Blues
Moonlight Motor Inn	Wheels on Fire
	Fireball Mail
	Red Velvet
	Going Up

(record review by Cater Chamblee)

AMERICA'S GREATEST BREAKDOWN FIDDLE PLAYER
Paul Warren with Lester Flatt & the Nash-
ville Grass CMH 6237

The late Paul Warren played fiddle with Flatt & Scruggs from '54 to '69 and then continued with Lester Flatt & the Nashville Grass until his retirement in '77. Though modestly titled, this album displays a facet of Warren's fiddling that seemed to be underexposed in his stage work. He is probably best known for playing breakdowns faster than the human ear can hear, but this record shows he had an extensive knowledge of old-time fiddling.

The liner notes state that he was "given permission" to record his first fiddle album a short time before he retired, but had to turn it down because of ill health. It may have been a good thing that his first record was not recorded in a studio, because the tunes on this album have a pleasant "jam session" quality. All are recorded live at various places between 69 and 76 with varied backup personnel, such as Haskel McCormick, Vic Jordan, Kenny Ingram (banjo); Lester Flatt, Roland White Curly Sechler (rhythm guitar); plus other members of the Nashville Grass. Some cuts are from live radio shows and some sound like they were recorded back stage somewhere, with just the banjo and fiddle. Black Eyed Susan is the only vocal, the only cut recorded at the Grand Ol' Opry, and one that typifies the frantic style of playing Paul Warren was best known for. The rest of the tunes are good versions of old fiddle tunes, the kind that used to be heard at fiddling contests except here the backup is more varied and expert. His fiddling may not be as polished and fluid as some of those who play with major bluegrass bands, but it has a certain roughness that seems to fit well with the traditional material he plays. These tunes are played with spirit; not mechanically as his fast breakdowns sometimes seem.

This record has a lot of the qualities that are found on the old "underground" tapes of live bluegrass shows from the fifties and early sixties- mediocre recording fidelity and a level of excitement that is rare on studio recordings. If you're really into high quality stereo listening you may be disappointed with the technical

quality of this album, aside from the fact that it's monaural. But this, Paul Warren's only fiddle record, shows another facet of a musician who may have been underrated by many during his lifetime.

Note: for another dimension to Paul Warren's fiddling, try listening to some of the new reissues of classic Flatt & Scruggs from the early fifties- more on this next time.

TUNES

Durham's Reel	Sally Johnson
Indian Creek	Dusty Miller
Katy Hill	Hop Light Ladies
8th of January	Grey Eagle
Twinkle, Little Star	New Five Cents
Pretty Polly Ann	Sally Goodin
Denver Belle	Tennessee Wagoner
Listen to the Mock-	Hoedown in Hickman
ing Bird	County
Stony Fork	Black Eyed Suzy
Liberty	
Leather Britches	

(review by Sue Shelasky)

NOTE TO ALL BANDS

If you would like to have your band considered for upcoming CBA sponsored events (including Grass Valley festivals), it would help to send some information on your band, and a cassette tape of about 5 songs/tunes that would be representative of your material and personell. The tape does not have to be a high quality studio demo - it could be taped in your living room on a portable cassette recorder (of course, if you have a better quality tape, send that one!). The idea is for the CBA to have an idea of what you sound like. Also, a picture of your band, biographies, etc., would all help. Again, a professional promo-package is not needed - just a letter will do if you don't have something else. Please do this even if you have played at CBA events before - the people who choose bands may not be the ones who have seen your band. Send this information to:

California Bluegrass Association
PO Box 11287
San Francisco, Ca 94101
attn/ Ron Masters

Send information on where your band is playing to the same address, attn/Steve Pottier and please be aware of the deadline.

CBA presents:

LARRY SPARKS & The Lonesome Ramblers

Larry Sparks and the Lonesome Ramblers will be featured in a concert at the Great American Music Hall in San Francisco on Monday, January 28 at 8:30 pm. Tickets will be available at the door and through BASS for \$6. Card-carrying CBA members will be able to get a refund of \$1 from the CBA once inside the hall (please don't ask BASS for a discount).

Larry will be playing in Southern California over the previous weekend, and will be driving up for his first Bay Area appearance since 1969 when he appeared with Ralph Stanley's band.

The Lonesome Ramblers are a four-piece band, with a banjo/dobro player, bass,

fiddle, and guitar. Larry says it is the best band he has had and is real excited about it. Although he has recorded over a dozen albums, none of the musicians in this band are on them. It should be a real treat, and Larry was especially excited about his dobro player. Larry plays some especially driving rhythm guitar, and some surprising lead guitar. He has a fine voice in the Stanley tradition.

For those of you who have never been to the Music Hall, you are in for a real rococo architectural treat (say no more). It is a superb place to listen with good sound, good lighting, and a good view from almost every seat. Hope to see you there!



Any Old Time at the Fire On The Mountain Folk Fair (photo courtesy of Bob Westgate)

AD RATES

To place your ad in the BLUEGRASS BREAKDOWN please note the following rates:

Camera-ready copy: \$30/full page 8½ x 11
\$20/half page
\$10/quarter page

Design, Layout and/or
nonscreened photos: \$40/full page
\$25/half page
\$15/quarter page

Classified ads: \$2.00 up to and including
3 column lines; 50¢/line thereafter



Frumi '78 ©

Special Events

JANUARY

- 18-19 BENEFIT- Freight & Salvage, Berkeley
Featuring Bill White and many others.
Proceeds to benefit Freight & Salvage.
- 26-27 15th GOLDEN WEST BLUEGRASS FESTIVAL,
Norco, featuring Larry Sparks and the
Lonesome Ramblers.
- 27 CONCERT- Plowshares, Fort Mason, SF
Only Bay Area appearance of Susie
Rothfield and Eric Thompson.
- 28 CONCERT- Great American Music Hall,
San Francisco, with the only Bay
Area appearance of Larry Sparks and
the Lonesome Ramblers. More details
in this issue.

FEBRUARY

- 10 CBA MINI-FESTIVAL, featuring Good Ol'
Persons and the Tonto Basin Band, and
a clogging workshop by the Foggy Mtn.
Cloggers. Fort Mason, SF- more details
elsewhere in this issue.
- 20-21 BANJO & FIDDLE CONTEST, Indio.
Contact Indio Chamber of Commerce.
- 24 BANJO & FIDDLE CONTEST, San Diego
For more info, contact Lou Curtiss,
3611 Adams Av., San Diego 92116,
phone 714/282-7833.

JUNE

- 20-22 GRASS VALLEY BLUEGRASS FESTIVAL,
Grass Valley. Sponsored by the CBA.

PHOTO CONTEST

We are planning to run a photo contest later this year, the entrants to be judged by the art staff of the San Jose Mercury News. Dust off the old Instamatic and save up some photos to enter. Exact details will be available in the next issue.

Del McCoury Concert

The High Lonesome sound got a boost from one of its leading proponents December 9th when Del McCoury and the Dixie Pals played at the Napa Town and Country Fairgrounds to a small but enthusiastic audience.

The first amazing notes of Del's soaring tenor generated a level of intensity that was maintained throughout an exciting performance.

Following an afternoon of bluegrass by local talent the crowd was warmed up for the main event. The band had just returned from a tour of Japan and gave an all-out performance for their U.S. audience.

Del was joined by his brother Jerry in tight harmony, with Dick Smith on banjo providing a strong baritone. The trio singing was the highlight of the concert, not to play down the great lead singing of Del McCoury. Jerry is a fine singer in his own right and together with Del creates a vocal blend that rivals that of the more well-known brother acts in bluegrass. The instrumentals were generally high speed, with Herschel Sizemore's mandolin picking and Sonny Miller's fiddling ornamenting a straight ahead rhythm section. Dick Smith picked a powerhouse banjo.

The smile on Del's face reflected his and the band's enjoyment of the performance they were giving- not once did Del sneak a peek at his wristwatch- they kept things moving at a healthy pace.

By the way, congratulations to the sound engineers for reproducing that old Star-day sound for nostalgia buffs.

All in all, Bay Area bluegrass fans were treated to some exciting, hard driving music, and if you missed this one, you missed a rare gem.

(review by Rick Mann and Debbie Cotter)

The California Bluegrass Association presents in concert

Tonto Basin Band & Good Ol' Persons

Building C third floor
Fort Mason Center

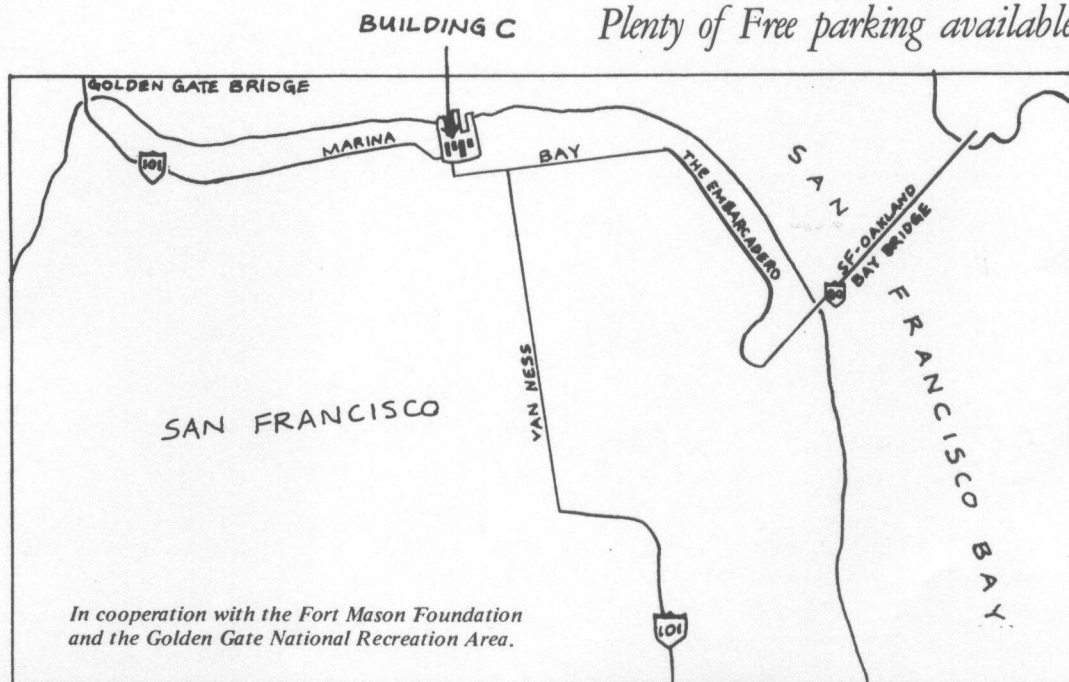
Sunday, February 10 12:30pm—5:30pm

\$4 admission (\$2 for CBA members)

Special Feature:

Clogging Workshop given by the Foggy Mountain Cloggers

*wheelchair access
Plenty of Free parking available*



(BW)

a crew cut, and start wearing a kilt to all his performances. David Grisman will start playing the ukulele and will have a band of 4 ukes and a snare drum. All Grisman fans in California will follow suit. Grisman will make solo singing a major part of his act and will become a born again Christian.

Greg Townsend- Someone will invent a new "G" run.

Harry Yaglijian- There will be an instrument invented which you strap to your head and think music and it plays it. Ralph Stanley will have a hit version of "Stayin' Alive." Jimmy Martin will be the new host of the "Tonight Show."

Ellen Campbell- When the musicians in this area realize that electricity is a natural physical force and feel the vital force of electric music, they will see the electric light and throw their acoustic instruments and return to the true American folk music, namely Motown.

Bluegrass Movie Up-And-Coming in the 1980's
The next movie with a hit banjo song will be a space movie where aliens come to destroy earth and land in the middle of a bluegrass festival. They hear a new all-star band with Jimmy Martin, Frank Wakefield, Doug Dillard, Bessie Lee, and Richard Greene, become confused and leave, which saves the earth.

DEADLINE

Please submit copy for ads, articles, gig listings, reviews, events, etc. on or (preferably) before the 15th of the month preceeding publication. This lead time is necessary to allow for preparation and printing of the BLUEGRASS BREAKDOWN. Mail all contributions that are not directed at particular staff members (eg, if they have their own column they may prefer to get mail directly) to CBA, PO Box 11287, San Francisco, ca 94101. If you are confused, mail it to that address anyway, and it will be routed to the right people. Please make checks for ads or renewals to the California Bluegrass Association.

New York, Delaware, Pennsylvania, Maryland, and Kentucky. CRAIG will be recording a secular album with the group, followed by a gospel album in the coming months. Sure beats selling cars for a living - congratulations CRAIG!

Speaking of albums, PAT BRAYER informs me that his is scheduled to be released in Feb., so watch for it.

THE BANJO CAFE is now plugging along in full swing with bluegrass. Monday is hoot night, Tuesday is SOUTHLAND, Wednesday is MOUNTAIN MAGIC, Thursday has the CAFE ALL STARS, Friday is the FRED SOKOLOW BAND, Saturday is BOTTOM DOLLAR BLUEGRASS, and Sunday is open to visiting bands, a different one featured each week. Of interest to Northern California fans is the talents of BRANTLEY KEARNS in BOTTOM \$ and THE CAFE ALLSTARS; BOB BIGELOW, FRED SOKOLOW and JIM SILVERS in the FRED SOKOLOW BAND; BILL BRYSON and DENNIS FETCHET in SOUTHLAND; and JOHN HICKMAN in THE CAFE ALLSTARS. Great music any night of the week.

Until we see you next issue- keep picking!

RADIOADDENDA

KUNR (88.7 FM) Reno, Nevada
Saturday 4-6 PM
Bluegrass, Western Swing, etc.
with Mike Reed

KPFK (90.7 FM) Los Angeles, Saturday
10 am-12:30, folk/bluegrass with John Davis. Sunday night "Folkscene" with Howard and Roz Larman, incl. some live performances.

KVMR (89.5 FM) Nevada City
Down Home Country- Monday night,
8 to 9 with Bill Wilhelm.

KUSP (88.7 FM) Santa Cruz
Bluegrass Sunday nights with Lee Hill.

KPFA (94.1 FM) Berkeley
Alternate Fridays, 3-5 PM,
Panhandle Country with Tom Diamant

THIS N' THAT

Steve Pottier

As 1980 rears its faceless head I start to think back on the past year, and the things that have happened with California bluegrass. The first thing that comes to mind is the expansion of the Grass Valley Bluegrass Festival to two festivals, making bluegrass more available for fans, and creating more jobs for musicians. The CBA was fortunate in getting some fine eastern bluegrass in the form of Jim & Jesse and Del McCoury. The Great American Music Hall featured Bill Monroe and Ralph Stanley, not to mention Buck White, Tony Rice and Ricky Skaggs. Several mini-festivals provided an opportunity for new bands to perform as well as established ones. Burney Garelick left the editorship of the BGBD to start a new slick publication, Golden West Bluegrass, serving the western U.S. Dick Tyner promoted several successful bluegrass festivals at Norco, bringing more eastern talent to western ears. 1979 seemed to be overflowing with new records by our local bands. New bluegrass clubs and pizza parlors featuring bluegrass sprang up in LA, San Diego, and the Bay Area. After years of scratching in the dirt, bluegrass seems to finally be getting a firm foothold in California- may it continue to grow.

* * * *

Band selection time for Grass Valley is just around the corner- any bands interested in playing at either the June or September festival should get a demo tape or record in to the CBA to guarantee consideration by the band selection committee.

* * * *

Gabe's Pickin Parlor of Fremont has moved back to Southern California. Hopefully, another bluegrass store will move to fill in the gap left by Gabe's.

* * * *

The Barbelles- Laurie Lewis, Kathy Kallick, Sally Van Meter, Kathy (Brad) Barwick, and Barbara Montoro- will be playing at Paul's Saloon in San Francisco on Feb 18. This is a rare chance to see a fine all-female bluegrass band.

* * * *

The Board of Directors has voted to set aside money for bands to play for charitable organizations such as hospitals and rest homes. Those bands interested should contact the CBA for details.

* * * *

The CBA received a pleasant surprise in the form of a donation from the SPBGMA-Society for the Preservation of Bluegrass Music in America. We are grateful for any such donations. Thank you SPBGMA!

* * * *

The promoters of last fall's Tri-State Bluegrass Festival in Bullhead City, Az plan to produce an album of the event. If you would be interested in obtaining a copy you should contact Jay Belt, 17614 Pond-Derosa Lane, Salinas, CA 93907

* * * *

There's a great picture of Carl Pagter, CBA director and banjo player for Country Ham, in the latest issue of the Walnut Valley Occasional. Country Ham had played at the national flat picking championships in Winfield last fall, and the Occasional is the official newspaper for that event.

* * * *

Done Gone fiddler Ed Neff has done gone from the Bay Area band. We wish him the best in his continuing adventures.

* * * *

I got a real kick out of Fumi Matsumoto's drawing of Kenny Barker, Bull Monroe, Ralph Swinely, and Froggy Martin. I hope you enjoy it also. Thanks, Fumi.

* * * *

Bluegrass bands wishing to appear on live radio should check with Jill Henry of KUSP in Santa Cruz, who would love to have some live bluegrass on her show.

* * * *

Lots of new bands have cropped up- check the Field Guide for Round Oak, Raintree County Boys, Kickin' Grass, Sidesaddle, Day Late and a Dollar Short, and Laurie Lewis' new band, The Grant St. String Band.

* * * *

FIELD GUIDE TO WESTERN BANDS

ANY OLD TIME

For bookings, call 415/653-9061 (East Bay) or 415/387-9648 (San Francisco).

ARKANSAS SHEIKS

Alternate Fridays at Ashkenaz, Berk.
For bookings, contact Karana Hattersly-Drayton, 415/791-8476.

BEAR CREEK BOYS/WESTERN PACIFIC

JJ's Pizza once monthly in Capitola
Wine Cellar, Los Gatos, once monthly
For exact dates and bookings, contact Joe Kimbro, 408/427-3531.

BILL WHITE

For bookings, contact Bill, 415/530-7192.

BUFFALO BUTTER BAND

For bookings, contact Carmon Brittain, 707/485-0258.

THE CAFFREY FAMILY

For bookings, contact Patty Caffrey, 415/564-1464 or 707/527-0698.

CLEVE ANDREWS AND ROBIN KIM

Old time country music: for bookings, contact Kim Elking, 408/637-7810.

CAROLINA SPECIAL

For bookings, contact John Murphy, 707/429-9459 or Jack Leiderman, 415/654-1791.

COUSIN JACK

For bookings, contact Cousin Jack, Box 205, El Granada, CA 94018.

COUNTRY HAM

For bookings, contact Carl Pagter, 415/938-4221.

DAY LATE & A DOLLAR SHORT

For bookings, contact Steve Wharton, 707/829-2476.

DONE GONE

Every Thursday- Paul's Saloon, SF
Every Friday- Red Vest Pizza, El Cerrito
Jan 26- Rosebud's, Benecia
Feb 7- Raspberry's, Angel's Camp
Feb 8-9- Depression Deli, Reno, Nev.
Jan 23- Paul's Saloon, SF
For bookings, contact Max Berueffy, 415/383-1736.

8th AVE. STRING BAND

Every Friday- Deja Vu Mining Co. (bar and restaurant), Chico
For bookings, contact Flauren Ricketts, 916/895-0751.

FICKLE HILL

For bookings, contact Wildwood Music, 707/822-6264.

FOGGY MOUNTAIN CLOGGERS

Feb 10- Clogging workshop at CBA mini-festival, Fort Mason Center, SF
For bookings, information, and clogging lessons, contact Franchion Mason, 415/828-9016.

FRANK WAKEFIELD

For bookings, contact Frank, 415/655-8639.

FRESH PICKED

For bookings, contact John Kasley, 415/758-0872.

GOOD OL' PERSONS

Every Thursday- Red Vest, El Cerrito
Every Sunday- Paul's Saloon, SF
Jan 12- Freight & Salvage, Berkeley
Jan 22- The Other Cafe, SF (Carl & Cole St)
Feb 10- CBA mini-festival, Fort Mason
For bookings, contact Kathy Kallick, 415/474-5368, or Paul Shelasky, 892-1265.

GRANT STREET STRING BAND

Jan 19- Paul's Saloon, SF
Jan 20- Julia Morgan Center, Berk. 2-4pm.
Feb 8- Red Vest Pizza, El Cerrito
Feb 15- Freight & Salvage, Berkeley
For bookings, contact Laurie Lewis, 415/548-3021.

HIGH COUNTRY

Every Tues & Fri- Paul's Saloon, SF
Every Wed- Red Vest Pizza, El Cerrito
Jan 13- Paul's Saloon, SF
Jan 10- Red Vest, El Cerrito
Jan 16- Lassen College, Susanville
Jan 17-19- Depression Deli, Reno
Jan 26- Freight & Salvage, Berkeley
For bookings, contact Butch Waller, 415/776-6713.

JAY QUESENBERRY & THE PRIDE OF KENTUCKY

For bookings, contact Jay, 408/227-2819. 14

KICKIN' GRASS

1st & 3rd Fri-Rosie's, Cotati
2nd & 4th Fri-Rosie's, Santa Rosa
Joe Froggers, Santa Rosa
For bookings, contact Lisa Iskin,
707/762-0810.

THE LEATHERMAN BOYS

For bookings, contact Mike or John,
408/268-6984.

THE HIGH WINDOW BOYS

For bookings, contact Walden Dahl,
714/989-8294.

LOST HIGHWAY

For bookings, contact David Dickey,
714/888-9066.

TONTO BASIN BAND

Jan 25- Freight & Salvage, Berkeley
Feb 10- CBA mini-festival, Fort Mason
For bookings, contact Joe Zumwalt,
415/967-4306.

OAKUM

Saturdays- Red Vest Pizza, El Cerrito
For bookings, contact Al, 415/548-3111.

OVERLOOK MOUNTAIN BOYS

Jan 10- Paul's Saloon, SF
For bookings, contact Jack Sadler,
408/354-9359.

PACIFIC..LY BLUEGRASS

For bookings, contact Don Ridgway, 6351
East Lake Dr, San Diego, CA 92119.

RAIN TREE COUNTY BOYS

For bookings, contact Dennis Padgett,
213/633-2132.

RAY PARK

For bookings, contact Ray, 2815 Morrene
Drive, Placerville, CA 95667.

REDWOOD HILL

For bookings, contact Stuart Rawlings,
415/467-2970.

RIVER CITY RAMBLERS

For bookings, contact Cathy Del Chiaro,
916/457-0640 or 457-5755.

ROUND OAK

Thursdays- Sour Dough Rebos, Santa Rosa
Saturdays- Rosie's, Santa Rosa
For bookings, contact Rick Finehague,
707/664-1110 or 752-4266.

SAW PLAYER CHARLIE, with ART PETERSON

For bookings, contact Charlie Blacklock,
415/523-4649 or Art, 731-8990.

SAWTOOTH MOUNTAIN BOYS

For bookings, contact Steve Waller,
503/838-4095.

SHUBB-WILSON TRIO

For bookings, contact Rick Shubb,
415/526-2995.

SIDESADDLE

Fri & Sat- Winchester Wagon Wheel, S.J.
For bookings, contact Ginny Snider,
415/969-2189

SOUTH LOOMIS QUICKSTEP

For bookings, contact Ted Smith, 916/
622-8525.

STEVE & GWEN AND THEIR BLUEGRASS BAND

Jan 19- Sunnymeade Calvary Church
Jan 20- San Bernadino Comm. Church
Jan 25- North County Christian Center
Jan 26- His Place, Escondido
Jan 30- Baptist Church, Claremont
For bookings, contact Steve, 916/253-
2640, Star Route, Janesville, CA 96114.

A TOUCH OF GRASS

Fridays- Danville Hotel, Danville
1st Saturday- Paul's Saloon, SF
For bookings, contact Bob Lawrence,
415/328-2130.

THE VERN WILLIAMS BAND

For bookings, contact Vern, 209/772-1357.





Western Pacific,
formerly the Bear Creek Boys



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I certify that statements made by me are
correct and complete.
(signed) Steve Pottier, Editor

CLUBS

BLUE RIDGE PICKIN' PARLOR, 5521 Reseda Blvd., Tarzana Ca 91356. Everything for the picker and Monday night jams too! For information call 213/345-1977

THE BANJO CAFE, 2906 Lincoln Blvd, Santa Monica. Bluegrass 7 nites per week. Monday is hoot night. Bluegrass jam Sunday afternoons. Phone (213)392-5716

CULPEPPER'S, 7305 Clairemont Mesa Blvd., San Diego. Live Bluegrass every Wed.-Sat. with a variety of groups and individuals performing.

DEPRESSION GROCERY & DELI CO., 1036 E. 4th St., Reno, Nevada. Music on the weekends. Phone (702) 323-1755.

FREIGHT & SALVAGE, 1827 San Pablo Av, Berkeley, Ca 94702. Bluegrass, Old Timey, Jazz, etc. For the current monthly schedule, write or call 415/548-1761

NICOLAI'S EL CARISO, on Ortega Highway #74. Take Ortega Hwy to the summit (between San Juan Capistrano and Lake Elsinore). Featuring bluegrass on Saturday nights. Phone 714/678-1314.

THE OTHER CAFE, 100 Carl (at Cole St), San Francisco. A variety of entertainment from bluegrass to comedy. Shows at 9:00 PM. For schedule, call 415/681/0748

PAUL'S SALOON, 3251 Scott St, San Francisco. Bluegrass 7 nights a week. Monday night is jam night. For schedule, call 415/922-2456

THAT PIZZA PLACE, 2622-B El Camino Real, Carlsbad. Family bluegrass music Sat. nights, 8:30-11:30. Phone 434-3171.

THE PLOWSHARES, Fort Mason (Bldg 312, Rm. 3-g.), Laguna & Marina, San Francisco. Sunday evening concerts and other special events. Coordinated by the San Francisco Folk music club. 415/661-2217

RASBERRY'S, 1274 S. Main St., Angel's Camp. Featuring a variety of entertainment. The owner would like to feature bluegrass on Thursday nights. This is the home of Mark Twain's celebrated jumping frog, and perhaps it can be the home of bluegrass in that area. Very nice sound system, nice owners. Call up and ask them for bluegrass! Phone 209/736-4797

RED VEST PIZZA PARLOR, 10616 San Pablo Av, El Cerrito. HIGH COUNTRY on Wed, GOOD OL' PERSONS on Thurs, DONE GONE on Fri, OAKUM on Saturday. Good pizza and music!

ROSEBUD'S ICE CREAM PARLOR & TAVERN, 433 First St, Benicia. Folk and jazz on Thursday and Fridays. Home of the famous (or infamous) Beer Float-guaranteed to make you sit up and take notice! 707/745-9988

SAN DIEGO BLUEGRASS CLUB meets at ORGAN POWER PIZZA, 5375 Kearny Villa Road, near Clairemont mesa Blvd. and Hwy 163. Meetings are held on the second tuesday of the month, 7:30-10:30

THE TOWN HOUSE, 5862 Doyle St., Emeryville. Featuring mostly country music, but the owner would like to make Tuesday nights bluegrass night, so show your support and show up! Phone 415/658-5556. Monday night is audition night. For booking info, call 415/654-5635

WILD BLUE YONDER, 1145 N. Fulton, Fresno, CA. A wide variety of music from rock to bluegrass. Fresno Folklore Society sponsors concerts on Wed. nights. For information call (209) 268-1379.

WINCHESTER WAGON HOUSE, 554 S. Winchester Blvd., San Jose. Restaurant featuring bluegrass on Friday and Saturday. Phone 408/246-4451.



LETTERS!

(We welcome letters- please send them to the CBA, PO Box 11287, San Francisco 94101)

Dear Editor,

Regarding the review of South Loomis Quickstep's new album, the review is obviously done by a biased individual. Biased by old time music.

I can only hope that Cater Chamblee was in attendance of 1978's Grass Valley Festival during which "High in the Saddle" received a standing ovation. Not only does the ovation stand out, but on Sunday morning shortly after gospel hour, when it hurt to stand. High in the Saddle isn't traditional music with tunes as "Greensleeves" "Six Pack To Go" and various Beatle and Dylan tunes.

I would like to remind ole Cater that in the future, realizing the bias, (he) should remain with reviews of "traditional bluegrass."

Member,
Russell Crawford

Dear Folks,

Someone certainly chose the wrong person to review "South Loomis Quickstep's" album in your Nov-Dec issue. The album was certainly no disappointment to me and my friends; we love it. "South Loomis Quickstep" has a great voice blend, the solos are exciting, & there is a special energy to their music that more than makes up for any minor flaws. It's one of our favorite albums, & Ron Rule's comment (p.29) is right.

Sincerely,
Ramona Crowell

Dear Editor,

"Offensive" is the word for Chamblee's review/roasting of the South Loomis Quickstep album, band, and fans. I find it disappointing at best, that he/she chose to write such a surly, obnoxious article (and that it was printed) after having cast all obligations of critical objectivity out the window.

I would agree with Chamblee's point (as I'm sure any casual observer would) that South Loomis is not what one would call a hard core bluegrass group. However, I have yet to hear anybody purporting them to be just that. They do have an excellent stage presence, are excellent musicians, and they are into entertaining the crowds.

Hopefully, we members and those people contributing articles for publication can keep in mind the fact that not all BGBD subscribers or festival supporters are purists but are mere aficionados and do not warrant being purposely offended or insulted.

Although I wouldn't want to read a lot of white-washed, chocolate covered B.S. in the BGBD I do not care to read a volume of what seems to be personal vindications either--that option is best exercised in the "letters" portion of this magazine.

A Bluegrass and
South Loomis Fan,
Ron Rule

(Editor's note: In addition to these letters, Cater Chamblee's review of the South Loomis Quickstep album received a whole spectrum of verbal responses. I consider Cater to be a very well qualified reviewer, having listened extensively and thoughtfully to all styles of bluegrass from traditional to contemporary and progressive. I asked him to review the SLQ album because he had never heard or seen the band, and therefore would be as unbiased a reviewer as I could find. I wouldn't ask a reviewer for a review and then only accept it if I liked it, and similarly would not tell him what to write. If I had asked Cater to take the harshness out of his review, then it wouldn't reflect his opinion. I found the review to be harsh and negative, but not offensive, unless it is offensive to be negative. Finally, I agree that South Loomis has great stage presence and really entertains the crowd, but that consideration should not enter into a record review.)

LETTERS-continued on page 19

RENEWALS

Don't forget to check your membership card or look in the lower right hand corner of your BLUEGRASS BREAKDOWN address label to determine when your current membership expires. A "9/79" means that your membership is good through August 79 and expires as of the first of September 79. There is a 30 day grace period before you are placed in the inactive file. Of course, you may re-join at any time, but it is easier for our record keeping if you renew before you have expired (your membership that is!) If you have any questions don't hesitate to call or write to your membership VP listed on page 1. And thanks for your support!



LETTERS-continued

Dear CBA,

I enjoyed the Napa mini-festival.

Some comments:

good points- Del McCoury was fantastic- thanks for giving me a taste of some real east coast professional bluegrass -fast paced, no dead spots, well organized.

other points- no place for the other pickers to get together (I lasted 15 minutes outside) -hard to find out about this event. Try informing more music stores in advance to pass the word a little earlier.

Eric West

(Editor's note: Thanks for the comments. We are working on trying to improve the publicity for our events, and of course any volunteer labor would be welcome.)

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

			AMOUNT
LAST NAME, FIRST			SELF \$7.50
ADDRESS			SPOUSE \$2.50
CITY	STATE	ZIP	CHILDREN (all under 16) \$1.00
PHONE (incl area code)			
INSTRUMENTS PLAYED			CHECK IF:
ANY HELP YOU CAN OFFER TO THE CBA (artwork, typing, writing, advertising, etc.)			NEW <input type="checkbox"/> RENEWAL <input type="checkbox"/> SUBSCRIPTION TO "BLUEGRASS BREAKDOWN" ONLY <input type="checkbox"/>
			TOTAL
			SUB. ONLY \$5.00

Bands of at least 3 members (not more than 7) may join the CBA as a group at a reduced rate. See page 2 for more information and write to the membership VP directly.

Send check or money order to: Treasurer, California Bluegrass Assoc.
P.O. BOX 11287, San Francisco, CA 94101

Notice!!!

Effective March 1, 1980, the single membership rate will be raised to \$8.50/year

BLUEGRASS ON YOUR WIRELESS

KALW (91.7 FM) San Francisco
Saturday - 5:00 pm, Sunday
9:00 am - NPR Folk Festival

KDVS (91 FM) Davis-Saturday,
9- Noon - Bluegrass, Folk,
Irish with Steven White

KYLO (105.5 FM) - Davis,
Bluegrass, Newgrass, Oldgrass
and progressive Country 7 days
a week.

KCSM (91.1 FM) San Mateo
Thursday - 9:00 pm - Folk
Festival USA

KFWD (100 FM) Santa Barbara
Sunday 8:00 am - Bluegrass
Breakdown with Peter Feldman

KKUP (91.5) Cupertino - Saturday,
noon - 3 pm, Far Flung Folk
Festival - Saturday, 3-6 pm,
Bluegrass with Marty Kemmerlies -
Tuesday
Sunday, 2 -5 pm, Traditional
folk with Mark Ortiz - Sunday,
9 to Midnight, Cupertino
Barndance with Steve Hathaway

KFAT (94.5) Gilroy - Sunday,
6 - 9 pm, Bluegrass and assorted
craziness with Cousin Al Knoth

KPFA (94.1 FM) Berkeley -
Alternate Fridays, 3 - 5 pm,
Pig in a Pen with Ray Edlund
Alternate Sundays, 11 am - 1 pm,
Folk, Blues and Jazz with
Chris Strachwitz

KRED (1440 AM) Arcata
Saturday, 8 -12 pm, Bluegrass
with the Wildwood Music Co.

KSON (1240 AM) San Diego, Sunday
9 - Midnight, Wayne Rice Bluegrass
Special Featuring Pacific..ly
Bluegrass.

KVCR (91.9 FM) San Bernardino
Saturday 6-Midnight, Bluegrass
Alive with Uncle Bill Eason and
and Nick Haney

KWNE (94.5 FM) Ukiah, Saturday
9:05-10:00 am, The Dusty Record
Show with Buffalo Bob Brittain.

BLUEGRASS BREAKDOWN
PO BOX 11287
San Francisco, Ca 94101

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