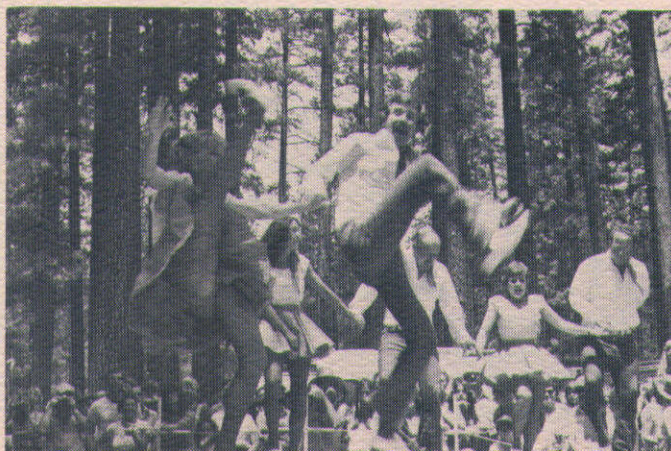


BLUEGRASS BREAKDOWN

JULY/AUGUST 1982

Volume 8, Number 4

GRASS VALLEY JUNE 1982



California Bluegrass Association

Bluegrass Breakdown is published bimonthly at 4212 - 25th Street, San Francisco, California, 94114 by the California Bluegrass Association. The CBA is a non-profit organization founded in 1975 by Carl Pagter and is dedicated to the furtherance of Bluegrass, Old Time, and Gospel music. Membership in the CBA costs \$8.50 per year and includes a subscription to the *Bluegrass Breakdown*. A spouse's membership may be added for an additional \$2.50 and children between 16 and 18 years for an additional \$2.50. All children under the age of 16 may be included for an additional \$1.00. Band memberships are available to bands with three or more people for \$5.00 per band member. Subscription to the *Bluegrass Breakdown* is \$8.50 per year. Make checks payable to the **California Bluegrass Association** and mail along with the membership application located on the inside of the back cover to the address below. Second Class postage is paid in San Francisco, California and at additional mailing offices, *Bluegrass Breakdown* (USPS 314-350). Postmaster, please send address changes to:

Bluegrass Breakdown
735 College Street
Woodland, CA 95695

Board meetings are usually held the second Sunday of each month and all members are invited and encouraged to attend.

Board Meeting Summary

Board of Directors: Ray Edlund (RE), Mark Hogan (MH), Mike Johnson (MJ), Franchion Mason (FM), Carl Pagter (CP), Don Powell (DP) Kathy Tyler (KT), Butch Waller (BW), and Karen Walter (KW).

Meeting of May 16, 1982

Present: FM, DP, MJ, RE, and CP

Absent: KT, MH, BW, KW.

Others present: Kathy Schoggins, secretary.

Old Business: Committee to workout new Grass Valley contract has not met.

Carl Pagter is going over the contract for the office.

Board voted to hold election in Davis area the 3rd or 4th Sunday in October, if a site can be found.

Ray Edlund has sent out releases and cassette tapes for band approvals. He has additional material to still listen to.

New Business: M/S/C to pay Ray Parks and Herb Pederson additional amount to play at Sept. GV.

M/S/C to have Ticketron sell 3 day advance non-member and individual day tickets for Sept. GV at no cost to CBA.

M/S/C to raise the prices for advertising in the *Bluegrass Breakdown* to \$80 for a full page camera ready, \$100 for full page not camera ready and to double the rate for all Two

other sizes of ads. Business card size would be \$15. also raised the subscription price to \$8.50. and foreign subscriptions to reflect costs of boat or air mail.

Meeting of June 13, 1982

Present: CP, RE, FM, MJ, DP, KW, MH.

Absent: KT, BW.

Others present: Kathy Schoggins, Jim Armentrout

Fran Mason named activities vice president

New computer list is progressing. Kathy Tyler is finishing corrections.

Request from Oregon Bluegrass Association for CBA to loan them funds to get started was turned down. Board felt they should not set precedent.

Office contract is revised and being sent to agent for their comments.

The Grass Valley negotiations committee has not met with Doug Hastings yet.

M/S/C to offer The Lewis Family up to \$6000 for June 18-19 Grass Valley 1983

Karen Walter will contact Central California Bluegrass Association about closeness of their name to ours and our desire to avoid future legal problems because of similarity.

M/S/C to have the Foggy Mt. Cloggers at Sept. GV. They were left out of original contract approval. Fran Mason and Mike Johnson abstained.

GV insurance premiums have been lowered and the specific coverage rearranged.

M/S/C to approve June concessions list for GV.

Next board meeting is July 11, 1982 at Franchion Mason's, 312 Ethan Ct., San Ramon, CA.

Board of Directors/Officers

*Ray Edlund 33501 S. Hwy. 1 Gualala, CA 95445 (707) 884-3195	Kathleen Schoggins, Secretary 39936 Michelle Street Fremont, CA 94538 (415) 656-6156
*Mark Hogan 7300 Boris Court #7 Rohnert Park, CA 94928 (707) 795-9471	*Kathy Tyler Membership Vice President 35493 Newark Blvd., Apt. C Newark, CA 94560 (415) 792-3183
*Mike Johnson, Treasurer 9025 Alcosta Blvd., #233 San Ramon, CA 94583 (415) 828-1389	*Butch Waller, President 1285 Filbert San Francisco, CA 94109 (415) 776-6713
*Franchion Mason 312 Ethan Court San Ramon, CA 94583 (415) 828-9016	*Karen Walter, Chairman 4212 - 25th Street San Francisco, CA 94114 (415) 826-3159
*Carl Pagter, Legal Advisor 1809 Meadow Lane Walnut Creek, CA 94595 (415) 938-4221	
*Don Powell Breakdown Editor 735 College Street Woodland, CA 95695 (916) 662-5691	
	*Member of the Board of Directors

Special Events

July 9-10 - 7th Annual Salt Flats Hoedown - Salinas Community Center, Salinas. (408) 422-1926 after 5:30 p.m. for complete information. Friday Adults \$6, Children 12 and under \$2; Sat. 9-5 Adults \$2, Children 12 & under \$2; Sat. Evening 7-10:30 Adults \$7.50, Children 12 & under \$3.

July 17 - Sierra-Nevada Oldtime Fiddling Championship in Quincy, CA. Plumas County Fairgrounds. \$1,100 in prize money. Championship, Open, Senior, Junior & Junior-Junior Divisions. Registration at 8 a.m., contest starts at 10 a.m. For information: (916) 283-1340 or Johnny McDonald, P.O. Box 1744, Quincy, CA 95971.

July 23-24-25 - 2nd Annual Bluegrass Festival at Santa Barbara County Fair. Sponsored by Central Coast Bluegrass Association. Santa Barbara County Fair Ground, Santa Maria (Livestock Stage) featuring The Floyd County Boys, Foxfire, Lillies of the West, Bear Creek Ramblers, Bits n' Pieces, Nash Ramblers. Free with admission to the fair. (805) 937-5895 for information.

July 24 - 2nd Annual Long Beach Bluegrass Festival, Veterans Stadium, Long Beach. Featuring Yankee Bluegrass, Lone Star Swing Band, High Window Boys, Hot Off the Press, The Bluegrass Band, The Constables, Blue Skies, Southland, Footloose Cloggers. (213) 599-3913. \$6 advance; \$7 at gate. Seniors over 65 and children under 12 with adults - free.

July 30 - The Bluegrass Band from Nashville at the Plowshares, Fort Mason, Building C, San Francisco. (415) 441-8910, 8 p.m. \$5.

July 31 - Aug. 1 - Park City, Utah Bluegrass Festival, (801) 649-8899 for information or Bonnie Bedford, P.O. Box 758, Park City, Utah 84060.

Aug. 14 - 2nd Annual Nevada Old Time Fiddler's Contest, 6 p.m. Main Stage at Fugi Park, Carson City, Nevada. (702) 883-1608 for complete information.

Aug. 15 - An afternoon of great acoustic music featuring A Touch of Grass, Gryphon Family Band, Sidesaddle at The New Varsity Theater in Palo Alto, 2 p.m. Adults \$5, Children under 12 \$3. (415) 321-1246 or (415) 493-2131.

Sept. 4-5 - Strawberry Bluegrass Festival, Leland Meadows on Highway 108 east of Strawberry. (See ad for full particulars) Camping available. Bryon Berline, Dan Crary, David Grisman will be conducting instructional workshops. Music from 10 a.m.-8 p.m. (209) 571-2160. P.O. Box 4144, Sonora, CA 95370.

Sept. 11-12 - Jack Ramsey's Bluegrass Festival, Porterville,

CA., Chuck's Hidden Lake, Contact Jack Ramsey, 2089 N. Spruce, Exeter, CA 93221

Sept. 16-19 - 11th Annual Walnut Valley Festival, Winfield, Kansas Fairgrounds (316) 221-3250.

Sept. 17-18-19 - 4th Annual Fall Grass Valley Bluegrass Festival, Nevada County Fairgrounds, Grass Valley. Complete information on pages 4-5 of this issue.

Oct. 30-31 - 23rd Golden West Bluegrass Festival, Silver Lakes Park, Norco, CA. Featuring Vern Williams Band, Good Ol' Persons, Foggy Mt. Cloggers, and Bill White. Bill Monroe & The Bluegrass Boys are headliners on Sunday. 2 day advance \$15., \$8 each day at gate. 10 and under, 65 and over - free.

Nov. 5-6 - Western Open Fiddle Contest, Redding Civic Auditorium. For full information Mary Lane (916) 357-2850 or (916) 246-6304; or Maria Lynch (916) 357-3396 or (916) 241-1203.

Special Events listings wanted

Send your notices of events and happenings to Editor, *Bluegrass Breakdown*, 735 College Street, Woodland, CA 95695.

Next Issue Deadlines

Deadline for copy for the September/October issue will be August 16, with mailing deadline of August 27. That issue will cover the fall festival and upcoming board elections.

Thanks

Thanks for helping on this issue go to Robbie Macdonald, Judith Powell, Karen Quick, Suzanne Reynolds, David Ruiz del Viso, Jr., Barbara (Stein) Whitaker and Pete Wise. Pete's outstanding pictures graphically tell the story of Grass Valley. Many thanks to my wife and daughters for helping with the layout and mailing.

On The Cover

(Clockwise from left) A member of the lighting crew aims the spots. Cousin Al of KFAT radio talks to a member of CBA. Bill Harrell graciously signs another autograph - a true gentlemen of music. The MC introduces the next band to the crowd. Showing why they rate number one with the Grass Valley audience - the Foggy Mt. Cloggers.

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The California Bluegrass Association presents:
4th Annual GRASS VALLEY FALL
BLUEGRASS FESTIVAL
Featuring: THE BLUEGRASS CARDINALS



► Friday, Saturday & Sunday, September 17, 18, 19 ◀
NEVADA COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS, Grass Valley, California

Also featuring:

Ray Park & Herb Pedersen ☆ High Country ☆ Grant Street String Band
Good Ol' Persons ☆ Sandy Bradley & The Small Wonder String Band
Old Mother Logo ☆ Stony Point ☆ Western Pacific ☆ Sidesaddle
8th Avenue String Band ☆ Touch of Grass ☆ Foggy Mt. Cloggers



General Public Adult tickets and ALL single day tickets are sold at TICKETRON®

	Friday only	Saturday only	Sunday only	Friday & Sat.	Saturday & Sun	3-Day at gate	3-Day advance
CBA member adult	\$6.50	\$9.50	\$7.50	\$16.	\$17.	\$23.50	\$14.
General Public Adult	\$6.50	\$9.50	\$7.50	\$16.	\$17.	\$23.50	\$19.
Under 12 or over 65	★ ★ ★ ★ ★	★ ★ ★ ★ ★	★ ★ ★ ★ ★	★ ★ ★ ★ ★	★ ★ ★ ★ ★	★ ★ ★ ★ ★	★ ★ ★ ★ ★
				FREE			

CBA members buying 3-day tickets and seniors(over 65) and juniors (under 12) should order tickets from the address below. Make check or money order to California Bluegrass Association

Mike Johnson - 9025 Alcosta Blvd., #233, San Ramon, CA 94583 (415) 828-1389

Kathy Tyler, 35493 Newark Blvd., Apt. C, Newark, CA 94560

PLEASE INCLUDE A STAMPED, SELF-ADDRESSED ENVELOPE - Deadline for mail-order tickets is Sept. 1
NO TICKETS WILL BE HELD AT THE GATE.

No Dogs Will Be Permitted at the Festival
Advance Tickets: Limited Tickets available

CAMPING: Camping in the rough; there is no additional charge for camping DURING the festival. Camping area opens at 9 a.m. Friday.

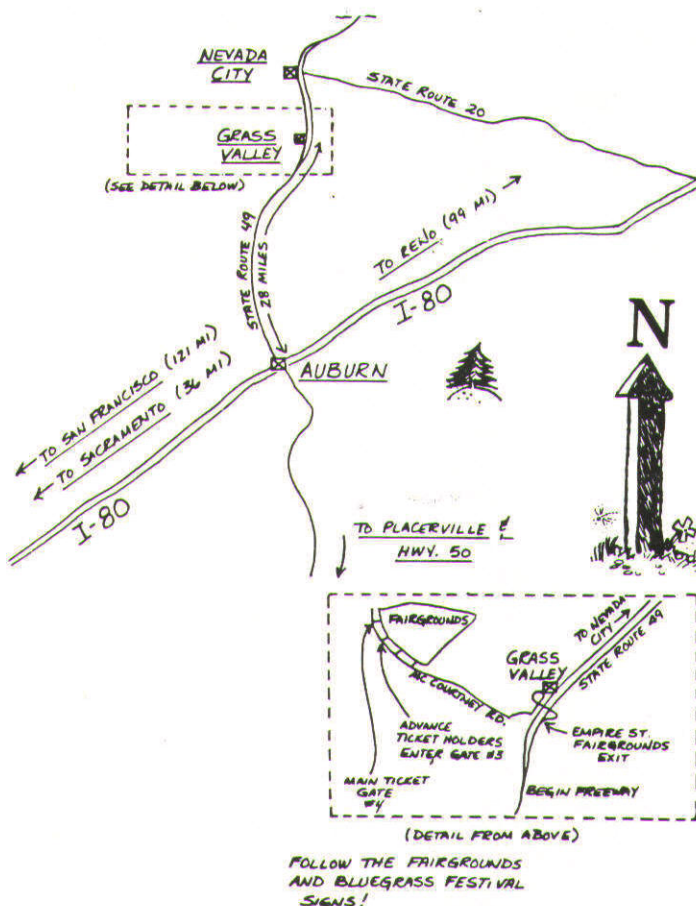
SEATING: On the ground. Bring blankets, lawn chairs, etc., if you wish.

FACILITIES: Rest rooms with sinks, plus portable facilities through the fairgrounds. Hotels and motels throughout the area - **MAKE RESERVATIONS EARLY!!**

FOOD: There will be food concessions at the festival, or you may prepare your own meals (**NO OPEN CAMPFIREs! Off-the-ground campstoves or hibachi-type cooking only!**) There are also a number of good eating places close by in Nevada City and Grass Valley.

For additional information;
Don Powell (H) 916-662-5691 or (W) 916-662-2906
Mark Hogan 707-795-9471
Franchion Mason 415-828-9016

Music begins at 5 p.m. on Friday and 10 a.m. on Saturday and Sunday. Music ends at 10 p.m. on Friday, 11 p.m. on Saturday and 6 p.m. on Sunday.





Bill Harrell and the Virginians provide another outstanding example of why they are among the best in Bluegrass.

Putting it into perspective...

June 1982 Grass Valley provides varied experiences

by ROBBIE MACDONALD

The Bluegrass Festival is a curious phenomenon. I'm not sure there's anything else quite like it. While essentially a way for fans and musicians to present and promote the music, it ends up bringing in scores of others with no outstanding interest in music. What they're attracted to is the scene that the festival provides. The festival format probably sprung from the practice of Southern promoters presenting a day of country music in outdoor settings. The site was often a park or campground where picnicking and other family activities were possible. Afficianados of live bluegrass tapes are certainly familiar with Sunset Park, Mockingbird Hill, Beanblossom, Valley View Park and New River Ranch.

In the mid-60's this idea was expan-

ded to a multi-day event, featuring many of the best bluegrass bands and offering camping as the main accommodation. To me, this format provided several factors which led to the great success of the festival. An event that encourages camping also encourages family participation since often there are activities for the non-music loving members. The family unit, being more or less stable, lends an interpersonal bond to the festival. This, combined with the rather disparate lot who are interested in bluegrass, makes for a pleasantly heterogenous group gathered together by their musical tastes. The result is a comraderie that wouldn't exist in other large groups and also a mellow atmosphere that might belie the high degree of musical excitement. I went to Beanblossom in

1973 with exceedingly long hair but was aware of no animosity (to my face) and, in fact, possibly because of my love of traditional styles, made many friends and had a great time. This common bond tends to pull in the many people who don't necessarily love the music but who attend bluegrass festivals because of these enjoyable elements.

While many Eastern festivals have grown quite rowdy, the Grass Valley festival still fits the above criteria very well. From leisurely beginnings it is now a competitive affair with people lining up at the gate Thursday night to gobble up choice sites.

By Friday noon the campground is more or less filled - some change from three years ago when Friday night was an intimate affair enjoyed only by the most serious fans. By coming up with

some festival producers, I was able to get in late Thursday afternoon to enjoy a bit of tranquility before the stampede the next morning. You better appreciate the campground's beauty when you can stroll about without massive vehicular blockades. It is a diverse area with trees, meadows, and pond and creek within easy reach. I woke up at 5:30 Friday morning and went out sight-seeing; in June, after a late Spring and cool Summer, the grounds are especially nice (if wet) and you can still pick out many remaining spring wildflowers (buttercups, checkers, and honeysuckle to name a few) and can see quite a bit of small wildlife (alligator lizards, tree frogs, and newts are common.) Together with the balmy weather that persisted throughout the festival, this springlike face was most refreshing. Refreshing, but shortlived.



Bill Harrell

At 7:30 the gates were opened and the flood began. Huge motorhomes, small motorhomes, pick-up campers, and tent-campers circled the grounds for that perfect spot and pretty much took care of the wildflowers and any critter that cared for its wellbeing. Within hours the campground became a sea of vehicles and tents with people searching for friends or old acquaintances with which to begin their three day party. Rough camping is little in evidence as many of the folks (myself included) haul up half their kitchen and bedroom to provide homelike comforts. Hamburgers and beer are plentiful but

seemed to be matched by kabobs and Cabernet.

This year the weather was perfect and the usually good-natured throng seemed even more eager to relax and enjoy the good feelings and the excellent lineup of bands.

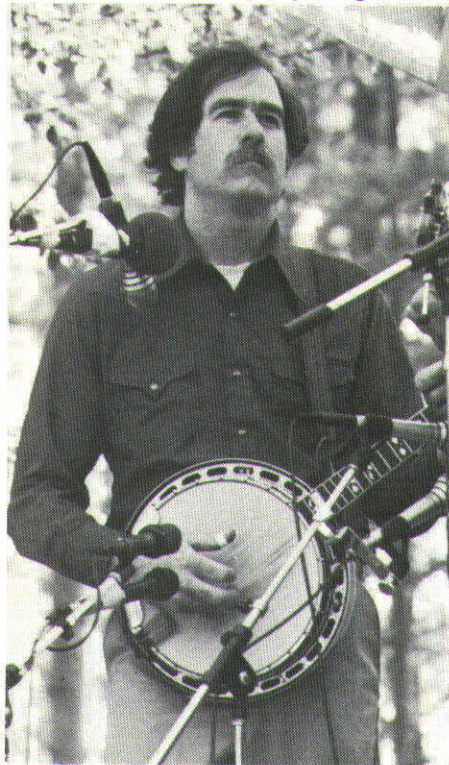


Ed Ferris

In the past I have reviewed each participant band, but because of my involvement in the festival, I was unable to take note of everyone's performance. Also, I have written at length about many of the groups in previous *Bluegrass Breakdowns* so I have compiled a list of casual observations of things that interested me. Inclusion or exclusion in this article is not meant as acceptance or rejection on my part.

One of the pleasing practices of the CBA is their habit of hiring Eastern bands who wouldn't ordinarily get to come West (Del McCoury, The Lilly Brothers and Don Stover.) This year veteran **Bill Harrell** and his band, **The Virginians**, presented an apt demonstration of the professional bluegrass act as seen in the East. Although without actual comedy or show-biz gimmicks, Bill's band really did put on a show. Their tight and energetic sets moved effortlessly and Bill's good natured patter kept the band and audience at ease. Unlike the more serious California band, they were glad to play the oft abused standards (Orange Blossom Special, Duelin' Banjos, SaltyDog) but

they mixed it up with a nice variety of original and traditional country songs. Bill has a nice airy tenor voice and uses it most skillfully. His mandolinist, Larry Stephenson, is the closest thing to Bobby Osborne you'll ever hear right down to the tone and phrasing. It's nice to have two outstanding voices in one band and the Virginians did some fine part singing. I was impressed with their version of Bill Monroe's "The Wicked Path of Sin"; bassist Ed Ferris' true rumbling bass voice is a rare commodity and gave an uncommon depth to the quartet. Ed is one of the long time stalwarts of Bluegrass - a true bass player who has mastered all of the styles common to bluegrass without abusing any one of them. He sticks with the music at hand and should inspire potential bassists to take the instrument seriously. I like the way Bill's group hung together - they try hard to entertain but don't really make concessions to their music (except, perhaps, Bill's



Robbie Macdonald

rather than sounding Ovation guitar). It seems like bands these days are either one or the other - entertainers or musicians; you can't beat it when you get both-

I have always been opposed to the CBA hiring bands whose styles were too distantly related to old time country music. For this reason, despite some fine music and popularity with the

audience, acoustic jazz and swing groups don't interest me. Two groups at the festival seemed to base their repertoire on very eclectic styles but still managed to fill the bill. They were the **Arkansas Sheiks** and **The Blue Flame String Band**. Both bands did a wide variety of material but, for the most part, it was based on country music. The cajun songs of Blue Flame is a lot closer to bluegrass than The Hot Club of France. I like the ability of the Sheiks to present some rather ancient tune without making it sound like typical Irish music. They have a nice touch with their material making it hard to pin down just what kind of music they could be categorized by. The same might be said for Blue Flame though, at the same time, both bands have a strong and separate identity.



Ray Edlund

Hats off to Bill White for seeing that **Rose Maddox** made an appearance at the Festival. Not originally booked, Bill enabled her performance by donating his own time on the Sunday show. Again, Rose showed the value of her great experience by stepping up on stage with an unfamiliar band and tearing it up. She showed no evidence of recent health problems and was in as

Eight



Lost Highway

fine a voice as I can remember. Even though the band knew the next song only a few seconds before it started, Rose carried everyone along easily and allowed audience and musician alike to relax and enjoy the proceedings.

Despite my obvious lack of objectivity, I have to mention the performance of Pat Enright and Chuck Wiley who did emergency duty with Joe Zumwalt and I in the **Tonto Basin Boys**. Pat, a local musician for many years, has matured into one of the finest bluegrass singers. He has combined power and sensitivity into a truly distinctive style. His rhythm guitar playing is also exceptional as is his 50's D-28 - that guitar roars and growls in tones that are heard only in the finest instruments. Chuck's bass playing, despite having severely cut the middle finger on his left hand, had to rate with the finest at the festival. He knows a full range of styles and is always able to apply them in context and with great rhythmic sense.

I enjoyed listening to the tenor singing of **Pacifically Bluegrass'** fiddler Doug Sherwood. I used to watch him in the Floyd County Boys when I was in school in Santa Barbara. He's singing

better than ever and adds an uncommon sparkle and clarity to the groups part singing. I wouldn't mind him trying a solo or two.

The Hurricane Ridgerunners were the truest old timey group present and featured one of the rarest of musicians, an excellent harmonica player in Mark Graham. Mark gets a clear musical tone and has a facility that coverts his oft abused instrument into a virtuoso device. Bluegrass and old time music seems to be besieged by insensitive "harp" players splattering garish notes through the air and endangering all of our vestibular auditory nerves. This band was the leading exponent of the Hawaiian shirt and should give the Grant Street String Band something to shoot for in September.

Overall, this was the most successful Grass Valley yet. The crowd response and attitude was unmatched. Every group went over well and the audience remained focused much longer than previous festivals. I think the mild, comfortable weather reduced alcohol (et. al.) consumption and produced fewer fuzz-outs than normal. The only glaring problem was the sound. Despite



Pacific-ly Bluegrass

the expert advice of Rick Shubb, the sound crew couldn't seem to master their equipment at least before making many groups sound pretty bad. There is an urgent need to locate and solicit sound technicians who understand the nature of the music and who can adapt their equipment to our specialized situation. I would like to see the same people year after year - after all, sound is the essence of a music festival!

One last point. I wish the average CBA member or festival attendant really understood how much work a very few people do to put on Grass Valley. Living at a house with one of the 'hot' CBA phone numbers, I can attest to the fact that the thing never stops ringing a few months before each festival. Strictly a volunteer, Don Powell must spend most of his little free time dickering with festival details and nobody could envy Mike Johnson processing all of the advance ticket requests by hand from his own home. It's time that the rest of the CBA members start pitching in before these hard

workers suffer terminal burnout. There are many folks who have not been able to sit back and enjoy the festival they produce for years! Anyone who gets a complimentary ticket might consider putting in an hour or two at a myriad of tasks that we now pay for or assign to already overworked volunteers. The

CBA has always been a cooperative organization, but things have grown to the point where we need much more support. At any rate, thanks to those who produce this festival for providing the necessary complement to the musicians who do their own hard work in keeping a wonderful music alive.

Grass Valley needs your aid for Fall Festival

The cost of putting on the Grass Valley Festivals is climbing. We don't want to raise prices or begin to charge for seniors and juniors. To help us lower our costs and make the festival better for everyone, the CBA Board and the co-coordinators need your help.

We need people to help set-up the stages, tear down the stages, haul tables and benches, help direct traffic, help take tickets and put on the wristbands, help with clean-up and many more jobs. We aren't asking for the total weekend, just an hour or two.

The rewards - keeping the prices down and having a better festival. For those willing to help set-up and/or tear down - free camping on Wednesday and Thursday and after the festival closes on Sunday. It isn't much of a reward, but the help you provide means we don't have to hire people at \$3.50 an hour, thus increasing the costs of the festival.

If you're interested, call Don Powell at (916) 662-5691 or 662-2906 (leave a message if I am not at home and I will call you back) or call Mark Hogan (707) 795-9471, or Franchion Mason (415) 828-9016. Seniors - here is a way to help us keep that free gate for you.



From a different viewpoint

Pickin', listening, eating, relaxing filled the weekend

by DAVID RUIZ DEL VIZO, JR.

The M.C. at Friday night's show said, "Let's all go out and jam" after the Vern Williams Band finished their set.

The soggy concert grounds were immediately vacated as anxious pickers, professional and amateur alike, packed their lawn chairs (though many were left on the grounds) and headed for their campsites to fetch their instruments and join one of the many jams that had been going on for hours.

Grass Valley to many means driving a hundred miles or more to a small town not too far from Sacramento every Spring and Fall to get acquainted with others who share the same interest in one of the biggest highlights of most bluegrass festivals - parking lot picking.

"I come to festivals mostly to pick," states Tom Enguidanos, a native of Indiana, who came to Grass Valley for the first time. "Not much draws me to the concerts unless there is a really good

group playing."

Throughout the weekend, others like Tom, who are pickers that also benefit from watching the shows. "I liked this festival better than last Spring's," said Lloyd Foote, as he stood by a food concession chatting with some friends. "Last Spring things were more frantic because it was hotter and more crowded."

Another participant, Rob Horgan concurred. "It really was a great festival. Bill Harrell was just great and I would've paid just to come see him. Vern Williams was good too. I really liked the banjo player. The festival was really well run, unlike rock festivals I used to go to. I really have no complaints about it."

Even though many at the festival felt it was well organized, there were still a few problems that are characteristic of large events.

The sound system on stage, for

example, failed in the middle of Vern Williams' set on Friday night. Though the crew rectified the problem somewhat, and Vern Williams went on to finish the show, many were still unable to hear the band. The next morning, the sound was back to normal.

Then, there were other things that concerned some attending. "There wasn't enough enforcement on the alcohol rules," stated Amy Yorke. "It flowed too freely and caused other problems."

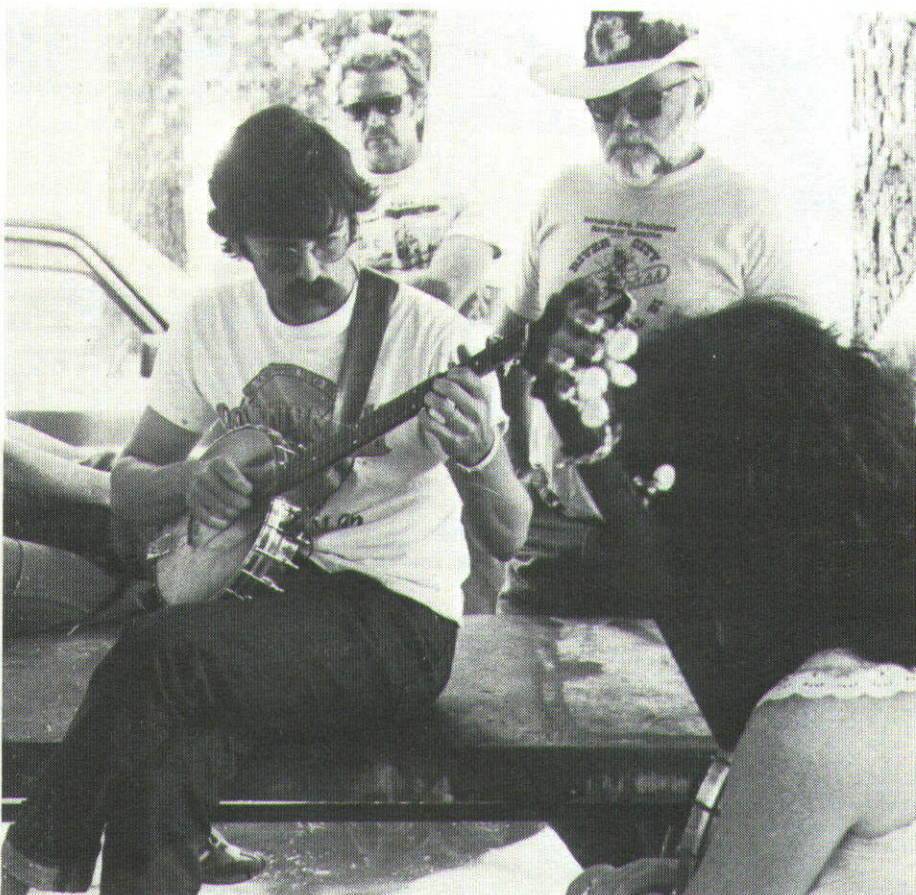
Grant Willis, who attended the festival for the third time also shared similar views. "There seemed to be more drinking going on this year. I saw people arguing over places to sit and it brought the whole thing down. The drinking and rowdiness wasn't controlled because of bad security."

Others such as Cathy Chapman, who has attended most of the Grass Valley festivals, felt that too many people just

came to "hang out." She said, "The atmosphere is different this year because there are a lot more non-musicians here than before. When more musicians came, they were here to listen to the bands or to pick."

Most of those attending spoke about the very positive feelings they had about the festival - particularly on the jamming and having Bill Harrell and the Virginians as guests. "There weren't as many jam sessions as in previous years," said Virginia Sykes, "but I jammed for six hours Friday night and it was great."

Perhaps most importantly was the sense of cohesiveness pickers found



among each other. Glenn Mushinski, who plays banjo, said, "I like the whole festival in general. There were lots of things to do, being with friends, picking with others, and seeing people on stage. It's like my lesson to come here and see all these people play. It has a big influence on me."

Sonia Shell, banjo player for **Pick of the Litter** (a Bay Area band) said, "There was a big sense of family I felt here. There was a sense of community in seeing old friends." The greatest enjoyment for those who pick was jamming with musicians from all over. Shell added, "Jamming always improves my musicianship. I get a hundred more ideas and learn new tunes."

Stuart Duncan of **Lost Highway** commented that "I had one of the best jam sessions I ever had in my life. I stayed up till 2:30 a.m. picking with Vern Williams."

The jamming was perhaps strongest and most prominent on Friday night (which carried on until the wee hours of Saturday morning). The jams varied in

size from 3 or 4 and up to 15 or more which obviously attracted more attention of those strolling through the fairgrounds. It was also the liveliest night as some who strolled by started dancing and others tried to accentuate the rhythm by rattling empty beer cans filled with stones (like maracas). Some pickers scorned at them for being obnoxious but that really was no problem; the pickers just moved on to another jam. The next evening, there seemed to be fewer jams going on. It was as if the energy to pick was drained the night before.

On Sunday afternoon, there were considerably fewer people on the grounds as many were packing to leave. As friends embraced in parting, there was sort of a sad feeling in the air because the festival was coming to an end. A few were still picking and eating near the concessions.

As a whole, the festival was good in that it offered something for everyone who came. For some, it was a time to retreat - to just sit out in the sun with

friends and family and enjoy listening to some good bluegrass music. For others (if not most), it was a time to renew old acquaintances and jam by someone's trailer illuminated by a kerosene lamp. It was an atmosphere that leaves many with a desire to return. And a lot do. There are also many more who come to Grass Valley in the Spring and Fall for the first time which at times could create problems because of overcrowding. Thanks to a good volunteer staff, things have managed to hold together well through the years.

"I'm impressed that the place is well run," says Jim Allison, a fiddle player on his way to Weiser, Idaho via Grass Valley. "There's a potential for rowdiness but it's under control."

As Jim was packing his van getting ready to leave for Weiser, he commented, "Get this down in your notes...people should know that if they want a good campsite, next time they should get here before 2 p.m. on Friday."



Review...

'Phantoms' reunion - almost!

by DAVID RUIZ DEL VIZO, JR.

You might call it a gathering of old friends having a good time playing music. The occasion was a "reunion" of some former members of the **Phantoms of the Opry** on June 12 at the Freight & Salvage in Berkeley.

"I really don't like to call it a reunion," said Robbie Macdonald, banjoist and vocalist for the group. "Not everyone who was a part of the group was able to make it."

The Phantoms of the Opry, one of the Bay Area's early bluegrass groups, formed in 1971 and after going through many personnel changes, they disbanded in 1975. According to Macdonald, they should have been billed as the **Tonto Basin Boys** and not as a reunion of the Phantoms, yet it turned out to be one anyway.

The "reunion" was highlighted by Pat Entright who returned to the Bay Area after a long absence. He currently lives and works in Nashville, but returned to California to play with the Tonto Basin Boys at the Grass Valley Festival. Also on hand for the performance was Paul Shelasky on fiddle (though Jack Leiderman played fiddle on the first two sets before Paul arrived), Robbie Macdonald on banjo, Joe Zumwalt on mandolin, and Chuck Wiley on bass.

Their repertoire consisted mostly of traditional bluegrass songs with a few Hank Williams and Jimmie Rodgers songs included, in which Entright did outstanding renditions with his solid rhythm on guitar and blues inflected vocals. While the Freight was filled almost to capacity though much of the show, the slower tunes such as *Dark As The Night*, *Blue As the Day* and *Foggy River* seemed to capture the audience the most.

Two nights after the Freight performance, the regrouped Phantoms performed a set at Paul's Saloon and were warmly received by old fans of the Phantoms who came for this special appearance. After the set, Pat stayed to jam with some of his Bay Area friends, a couple of them having performed with the Phantoms at one time. The atmosphere that night was certainly that of a reunion.

CLASSIFIEDS

PA SYSTEM FOR SALE: Yamaha EM-100, 6 channel with 100 watts per channel & 2 Yamaha 12" speaker boxes. Used less than 20 shows. Good indoor/outdoor sound system for Bluegrass Band. Includes 1 Shure mike. \$700/offer. Includes deliver in SF Bay Area. Phone Pete (415) 443-0250.

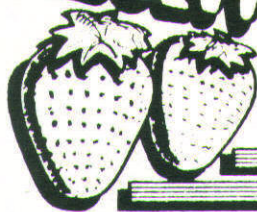
INTERNATIONAL BANJO Magazine... Send \$1 for postage & handling for your free sample copy to: INTERNATIONAL BANJO, P.O. Box 328-H, Kissimmee, FL 32741.

Last Minute Special Event Notice

Aug. 21-22 - Redwood Mountain Folk Festival and Arts & Crafts Faire, Highlands Park, Ben Lomond. Banjo, Fiddle, Dulcimer and Mandolin competition. For entry form or info call (408) 353-4408.



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David Grisman Quartet

—AND—
Byron Berline, Dan Crary & John Hickman

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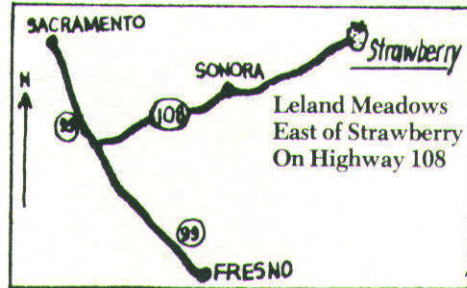
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come and LISTEN.....

Sept. 4 & 5 LABOR DAY WEEKEND ★ MUSIC 10 am - 8 pm

\$10 PER DAY SAT. ★ \$10 PER DAY SUNDAY ★ \$9 IN ADVANCE ★ \$10 GATE
2 DAY TICKET - \$19 GATE ★ \$18 ADVANCE ★ 2 DAY ADVANCE TICKET *Insures Camping*
The CAMPING AREA OPENS 8 A.M. FRIDAY ★ LAKESIDE SWIMMING & CAMPING "In the Rough"
Children under 12 FREE.....
PORTABLE FACILITIES AND CONCESSIONS AVAILABLE ★ SEATING IN THE MEADOW--
BRING LAWN CHAIRS, BLANKETS, ETC. ★ NO FIRES ★ CAMPSTOVES, HIBACHIS O.K.
NO DOGS PLEASE ★ ★ ★ ADVANCE TICKETS STRONGLY RECOMMENDED - DEADLINE AUG. 20.



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—DAVID BORING '82

Rose Maddox - Woman Pioneer of Country Music

by SUZANNE REYNOLDS

Born in Boaz, Alabama, Rose Maddox was raised in a sharecropper's family and grew up to become the first woman in country music to become internationally known. Even still, she is as down-to-earth and open as any lady can be and her unique style speaks of warmth and friendliness.

"We were all from Alabama and we came to California in 1933, during the Depression. I was seven years old at the time," stated Rose. We finally settled in Modesto and that's where I was raised. We were known as 'fruit tramps'. Followin' the crops, you know, the fruit...and that's where we started in the music business."

Music and performing was a natural for all of the Maddox family. Most of them picking it up on their own and playing whenever they could.

"My daddy, Charlie Maddox, played five-string banjo and my mother, Lulla, played mandolin in Alabama. They played at - well, you know, you'd have gatherings in your barn back there for dances and things on Saturday night, and they would play for that," she continued.

One of Rose's uncles taught her brother, Cliff, to play guitar and Cliff, in turn, taught brother Cal. Brother Henry learned to play mandolin and fiddle by himself and the others picked things up on their own, "It just seemed to come natural," Rose commented.

The Maddox Brothers and Rose began their long career in 1937 when they first went over the air on Radio Station KTRB in Modesto. Fred Maddox had talked a local business into sponsoring a country music show and their down-home music appealed to the other "fruit tramps" of that area. They also followed the rodeos on the weekends and played at various clubs for tips and what they could collect in the kitty.

In World War II, all of Rose's brothers were drafted into the service, and she was left on her own. She tried to get an audition with Bob Wills, following him from performance to performance, but was refused. Furious, Rose went right up to him and said, "Mr. Wills, when my brothers get back from the service, I'm gonna put you out of business!"

Years later, after the Maddox Brothers and Rose had packed a concert in a San Diego Ballroom, Bob Wills related this story, adding, "You know, she damn near did!"

When the war ended and the Maddox Brothers returned home, the group started performing again and their popularity continued to rise. Regular night club jobs, radio broadcasts and a recording contract with the Four-Star Record Company made the Maddox Brothers and Rose "The Most Colorful Hillbilly Band in America!"

By the early fifties the group had a recording contract with Columbia Records, but though more widely distributed, the popularity of the records decreased and, in 1956, the band broke up.

Rose continued with her career, solo, recording for small labels and landing a contract with Capitol Records in 1959. She became known as one of the great women pioneers of



Rose Maddox with Suzanne Reynolds (left) of the Spring Mountain Harmony Bluegrass Band at the Maddox benefit May 15 in Tulare.

country music and her solo cut of "Sing a Little Song of Heartache" stayed on the country/western top ten charts for four months.

In the early 60's, Rose recorded with Buck Owens, Bill Monroe and Don Reno, and on her latest Album, "This is Rose Maddox" (Arhoolie Records 5024), she was backed by the fine west coast bluegrass group, The Vern Williams Band.

"I'm a country singer, always have been, but when I'm back by a bluegrass band, it sounds bluegrass. I think bluegrass is absolutely fantastic! I love good fiddle, good guitar pickin', and good mandolin, banjos. I just love it, I certainly do. I've always liked it, but since I started working

Continued on Page Seventeen

AN AFTERNOON OF GREAT ACOUSTIC MUSIC

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GRYPHON FAMILY BAND
SIDESADDLE**

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IN PALO ALTO**

SUNDAY • AUGUST 15 • 2:00 PM

Tickets \$5.00

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456 University Avenue, Palo Alto, CA 94301
(415) 321-1246

or: Gryphon Stringed Instruments

211 Lambert Avenue, Palo Alto, CA 94306
(415) 493-2131



Swing Dance Workshop

Continued from Page Fifteen

with some of the bluegrass groups, it makes a big difference."

(Rose Maddox was interviewed by Suzanne Reynolds at the May 15 Rose Maddox Benefit in Tulare at the Old Happy-Go-Lucky. Roses' brother, Fred, from Delano, made a special appearance at the benefit, as did Roses' grandchildren, Donnie 11, Rosie, 9, and Kelli 7, billed as the Maddox Generation III. The "impromptu" benefit netted over \$400 for Rose's medical expenses.)

Annual election set for Oct. 17

Tentatively the annual election meeting of the California Bluegrass Association will be held in Davis on Oct. 17 at the Veterans Memorial Building.

Nominations for members of the Board of Directors will be called for shortly by the nominating committee. Names of those running for the Board will be carried in the September/October issue of the *Bluegrass Breakdown*.



FIELD GUIDE TO WESTERN BANDS

ALMOST FORGOTTEN STRING BAND (408) 738-4747
[San Jose]

Tuesdays & Thursdays - Winchester Wagon House, San Jose.

ARKANSAS SHEIKS (707) 763-5447 [Petaluma]

July 25 - Ashkenaz, Berkeley
Aug. 29 - Ashkenaz, Berkeley

BACKWOOD BAND (702) 849-0276 [Reno]

BEAR CREEK RAMBLERS (805) 937-5895 [Santa Maria]

July 23-24-24 - Santa Barbara County Fair, Santa Maria

BLUE FLAME STRING BAND (415) 387-9648 [San Francisco]

July 10 - Twain Harte Crafts Fair
July 24 - Paul's Saloon, San Francisco
Aug. 5 - Vintage Inn, Ashland, Oregon
Aug. 6 - Old World Centre, Corvallis, Oregon
Aug. 28 - Paul's Saloon, San Francisco

BLUESTEIN FAMILY (209) 229-9807 [Fresno]

BOOT HILL (707) 938-1326 [Sonoma]

BUFFALO BUTTER BAND (707) 485-0258 [Redwood Valley]

CAFFREY FAMILY (415) 564-1464 [San Francisco]

CAMELLIA CITY CLOGGERS (916) 991-4371
[Sacramento]

CHARLIE'S BAND (Sawplayer Charlie Blacklock) (415) 523-4649 [Alameda]

COUNTRY GRASS (408) 358-1524 [San Jose]

COUNTRY HAM (415) 938-4221 [Walnut Creek]

DAMASCUS ROAD (714) 359-8872 [Riverside]

July 10 - Banjo Cafe, Santa Monica
July 31-Aug. 1 - Prescott, Arizona Bluegrass Festival
Aug. 20-21 - Milan, Mich.
Aug. 28 - Central City, Iowa

DAY LATE & A DOLLAR SHORT (707) 526-3907 [Santa Rosa]

8TH AVENUE STRING BAND (916) 872-8536 [Chico]
Fridays - Deja Vu Mining Co., Chico

FICKLE HILL (707) 822-6264 [Arcata]

FOGGY MOUNTAIN CLOGGERS (415) 828-9016 [San Ramon]

GOOD OL' PERSONS (415) 474-5368 [San Francisco]

Wednesdays - Paul's Saloon, San Francisco
Thursdays - Red Vest Pizza, El Cerrito
July 9-10 - Salt Flats Hoedown, Salinas
July 22 - Jambalaya, Arcata
July 23 - Peter Britt Festival, Medford, Oregon
July 24 - Vintage Inn, Ashland, Oregon
July 25 - Nellie's, Chico
Aug. 4 - Vintage Inn, Ashland, Oregon
Aug. 5 - Harry's Mustache, Portland, Oregon
Aug. 6 - Portland Zoo, Portland, Oregon, 6-8 p.m.
Aug. 14 - Gualala Hotel, Gualala, California
Aug. 21 - Freight & Salvage, Berkeley
Sept. 4-5 - Strawberry Bluegrass Festival
Sept. 18-19 - 4th Annual Fall Grass Valley Festival

GRANT STREET STRING BAND (415) 548-3021 [East Bay]

HIGH COUNTRY (415) 776-6713 [San Francisco]

Tuesdays and Fridays - Paul's Saloon, San Francisco
Wednesdays - Red Vest Pizza, El Cerrito
July 23 - Freight & Salvage, Berkeley
Sept. 4-5 - Strawberry Bluegrass Festival

HIGH FOREHEAD BOYS (707) 795-9471 [Rohnert Park]

HIGH WINDOW BOYS (714) 626-3782 [Claremont]

HURRICANE RIDGE RUNNERS (206) 322-5112 [Seattle]

LEATHERMAN FAMILY (408) 268-6984 [San Jose]

LIVING IN THE PAST (408) 358-1524 [San Jose]

LONE STAR (415) 752-8035 [San Francisco]

LOST HIGHWAY (714) 996-9177 [San Bernardino]

July 6 - Greenbrook Park, Smithville, TN
July 9-10 - Goins Bros. Festival, Prestonsburg, KY
July 15-16 - DuQuoin State Fairgrounds, DuQuoin, IL
July 22-24 - The Other Place, Gate City, VA
July 30 - Southwest Depot, Johnson City, TN
Aug. 2-3 - Old Town Grain & Feed, Ft. Smith, AR
Aug. 27 - McCabe's Long Beach
Aug. 28 - Banjo Cafe, Santa Monica

NEW DONE GONE BAND (707) 592-1038 [San Carlos]
Fridays - Red Vest Pizza, El Cerrito

OVERLOOK MOUNTAIN BOYS (408) 354-9359 [San Jose]

PACIFIC-LY BLUEGRASS (714) 443-1932 [Lakeside]

RAY PARK (916) 622-2494 [Placerville]

PICK OF THE LITTER (415) 849-4023 [San Francisco]
Thursdays - Paul's Saloon, San Francisco
Saturdays - Red Vest Pizza, El Cerrito

RAIN TREE COUNTY BOYS (213) 633-2132 [Norwalk]

SAGEBRUSH AND OAK (408) 842-1619 [Gilroy]

SAWTOOTH MOUNTAIN BOYS (503) 838-4095 [Corvallis]

SHUBB-WILSON TRIO (415) 654-0924 [Berkeley]

SIDESADDLE (415) 969-2189 [San Jose]

Fridays and Saturdays - Winchester Wagon House, San Jose

July 3 - Tapestry in Talent, San Jose

July 31 - Garlic Festival, Gilroy

Aug. 15 - New Varsity Theater, Palo Alto

SOUTH LOOMIS QUICKSTEP (916) 487-9761 [Sacramento]

July 10 - Concert, 10:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Gold Country Fair Grounds, Auburn, CA

July 10 - Dance 8-12 midnight, Folsom, CA

July 16 - Deer Creek Inn, Nevada City

July 17 - Deer Creek Inn, Nevada City

July 23 - Concert, Crest Theater, Sacramento

July 24 - Dance 8 p.m.-midnight, Copperwood Square, Sacramento (916) 487-9761

July 30 - Dance 8-midnight, Folsom

July 31 - Concert and Dance, Sacramento

Aug. 1 - El Dorado Fair, Placerville

Aug. 5-6-7 - Ice House Saloon, Reno

Aug. 15 - Lime Light, Sacramento

Aug. 21 - Strawberry Lodge, Highway 50 near Myers, CA

Aug. 28 - Nevada County Fair, Grass Valley

SPRING MOUNTAIN HARMONY (209) 784-8268 [Porterville]

SQUIDS (415) 621-0865 [San Francisco]

STEVE & GWEN & THEIR BLUEGRASS BAND (916) 253-2640 [Janesville]

STONEY CREEK (209) 722-9232 [Merced]

SWINGADEROS (415) 582-1829 [East Bay]

TALL TIMBER (206) 682-6351 [Seattle]

THREE SPEED (415) 934-4688 [Bay Area]

TOUCH OF GRASS (415) 962-8341 or 829-4639 [Sunnyvale]

Aug. 15 - New Varsity Theater, Palo Alto

TRAIN 45 - (714) 726-3498 [Vista]

UNION CREEK (707) 429-2616 [Fairfield]

UPTOWN RAMBLERS (415) 282-9225 [San Francisco]

FRANK WAKEFIELD BAND (415) 655-8639 [Oakland]

BILL WHITE (415) 530-7192 [Oakland]

VERN WILLIAMS BAND (209) 722-1357 [Valley Springs]

WESTERN PACIFIC (408) 427-3531 [Santa Cruz]

WILD RYE (415) 443-0250 [Livermore]

WINDY GAP (707) 923-2603 [Humboldt]

Notice To All Bands

If you would like to have your band considered for upcoming CBA events (including June 1983 Grass Valley), it would help to send some information on your band, and a cassette tape of about five (5) songs/tunes that would be representative of your material and personnel. 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). Try to keep an up-to-date cassette and band roster with CBA - bands have been eliminated from consideration because not everyone on the committee had heard them.

Send information and tape to:

California Bluegrass Association

P.O. Box 11287

San Francisco, CA 94101-7287

Attn: Band Selection Committee

Send Field Guide information to: Karen Quick, 23149 Old Santa Cruz Highway, Los Gatos, CA 95030. If you have not confirmed the information listed before the next Breakdown, your band will be removed from the Field Guide.

Advertising Rates

Current rates for placing an advertisement in the **Bluegrass Breakdown** are as follows:

Full Page -- \$80.00

Half Page -- \$50.00

Quarter Page -- \$30.00

Business Card -- \$15.00

The size of the image area for a full page ad is 7¼ by 9¾; half page - 5 by 7½; quarter page 3½ by 5. Art work should be very clear black and white layout and all photos should be screened.

The current rates for classified ads are based on 3½ inches of typed copy and are as follows: \$3.00 for the first three lines and 50¢ for each additional line. Make checks payable to the California Bluegrass Association and send check and ad to:

Don Powell

Bluegrass Breakdown Editor

735 College Street

Woodland, CA 95695

SATURDAY

(10:00 am — 9:00 pm)

VERN WILLIAMS BAND
GOOD OL' PERSONS
BILL GRANT & DELIA BELL
DAMASCUS ROAD
PACIFIC . . LY BLUEGRASS
THE TYNERS & TRAIN 45
BULL CREEK BOYS
SAUBER & SOLOMON
BILL WHITE
FOOTLOOSE CLOGGERS
FOGGY MT. CLOGGERS

FREE Friday Night "Sound Check Concert" (with Saturday or 2-day Ticket)

ADMISSION: 2-day advance ticket \$15.00
Tickets at gate — \$8.00 Saturday, \$8.00 Sunday. 10 years and under, 65 and over FREE.

FAMILY DISCOUNTS! ages 11-17 — 2-day ticket \$10.00 each (ADVANCE PURCHASE ONLY!) Ages 11-17 must be accompanied by parent.

DAILY CAMPING: \$4.00 per unit. Daytime parking free.

ADVANCE TICKETS: Send check or money order to Dick Tyner, P.O. Box 341, Bonsall, CA 92003. No advance single-day or camping tickets available (pay at gate). Advance ticket orders must reach festival office by Oct. 23, 1982.

RV HOOKUPS: Absolutely none! Terms of festival license preclude any and all hookups except for certain employees.

Dick Tyner & Rick Kirby, P.O. Box 341,
Bonsall, CA 92003 • (714) 726-3498 / 443-1932

23RD

GOLDEN WEST BLUEGRASS FESTIVAL

SILVER LAKES PARK

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SUNDAY

(10:00 am — 6:00 pm)

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& THE BLUE GRASS BOYS**
BILL GRANT & DELIA BELL
VERN WILLIAMS BAND
DAMASCUS ROAD
PACIFIC . . LY BLUEGRASS
GOOD OL' PERSONS
BILL WHITE
THE TYNERS & TRAIN 45
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Need not be present to win.

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IF YOU DON'T SEE IT, ASK FOR IT!
We'll try and get it for you.

Gilbert's Music

Letters

Thanks for help in moving

The 49'er Regional Occupational Program class in Office Occupations/Information Processing would like to thank the California Bluegrass Association for your friendly assistance during our move on Friday, June 18. Your gate crew was very helpful in allowing us through with the least delay possible. They were nice to us, too!

We are now located at our new classroom. We will miss the June and September music at the Nevada County Fairgrounds and we wish you all a greater success than you have presently achieved. Good Luck!

Diane Sole, Instructor

49'er Regional Occupational Program

(Editor's Note: Several members of CBA, Charlie Hobbs and Bobby Maples for two, helped load and tie down the equipment for the teachers of this program. It is help such as provided by Charlie and Bobby that makes it easier to put on festivals at Grass Valley, plus spreading the word that we are the best of people to know.)

Festival complaints aired

Editor:

I've attended several Grass Valley Festivals, both spring and fall.

Last spring we put up with "way to many people" and "the heat". This year we traded the heat for a *poor sound system*. But still *too many people*.

Do we (CBA) need to "further Bluegrass" (reason I was given for allowing large attendance) by overselling by 1000 or more people at the expense of the other 4000?

The sound system problem is easy. The "Sound Corridor" straight out from the stage contains acceptable sound (sight of sound board), but only 20% of the people sit in this area. The other 80% are at various angles to the stage and thus get various angles and quality of sound. It made a lot of great groups sound mediocre. Are we hiring professionals?

All in all, the Grass Valley Festivals are still the best entertainment events in Northern California (Sorry, Bill Graham).

Regards,
M.A. Stith

(Editors Note: In answer to part of your letter - the festival, according to the fairgrounds is rated to allow from 6,000 to 8,000 people and we had around 6,000 at last year's June Festival.

It was felt that was too crowded so the Board held the tickets to 5000. Frankly, we would love to have a festival with just a few people, but it would be our last. We wouldn't have the funds to have another. It costs money - around \$53,000 - to put on a festival, and without the 5000 people there wouldn't be another festival. Each one must pay for itself and put some aside to provide the front money to promote the next.

Your comments on the sound will be discussed at the next CBA Board meeting, as well as your comments on the number of festival goers. We appreciate your comments and will take them into consideration.)

Twenty-Two

Oregon Bluegrass forming

Dear CBA,

We had a great first meeting of the Oregon Bluegrass Association. We selected an interim board until our next meeting, where the official charter board and the completed paperwork will be worked on. Also, we got a few interim committees started - i.e., one to look into a membership drive, a newsletter research committee, a festival committee (2 or 3 festivals are already in the works and we want OBA to assist and receive needed publicity). At any rate, we all felt good about it and will keep you guys posted. Some of our officers or committee chairpersons will possible contact their CBA counterparts with a barrage of questions, if that's ok. We're hot on it and want to keep continued close touch with the CBA.

For information on the newly formed Oregon Bluegrass Association, write: Meg Larson, 831 S.W. Vista Ave., #209, Portland, Oregon 97205 or call (503) 228-4214.

By the way, one of the things that's going on up here is a weekly bluegrass series at the Portland Zoo lead by Steve Reischman (John's big brother). Steve plays guitar (bluegrass) with Good 'n Country and guitar (jazz) with the funniest MC/fiddler in the country, Greg Roberts, up in Portland. Anyhow, Steve has just about got this thing all set up to start July 2 with the Sawtooth Boys kicking it off. Then he plans to get several Bay Area groups up including Good Ol' Persons and Grant Street String Band.

This may go on for two months or so, every Friday night, and may be a great first effort of the OBA and Steve. What a chance to get some of your California people up here for a change! The, we'll just keep the ball rolling. Ok?

Yours,
Steve Waller

'Traditional' article hit/praised

Editor,

Bravo to Sandy Rothman! I wholeheartedly agree with the basic premise of his article, "Traditional Music and Traditional Food", which appeared in the May/June BGBD. For years I've shunned processed non-foods, food additives, red meat, and refined sugar; my daily bread is home-baked and whole grain. However, as bluegrass enthusiasts, we must face the fact that processed, refined foods aren't completely bad. After all, Sandy, Martha White flour was just that - white.

Here's to healthy pickin',
Evelyn Peyton

(Editors note: A number of letters arrived accusing me of a lack of judgement in running the article and Sandy having to narrow a viewpoint. It is a matter of record now, and the article did contain some points to ponder.)

Letters

Address all Letters to the Editor to: Don Powell, Editor *Bluegrass Breakdown*, 735 College Street, Woodland, CA 95695. Anyone interested in writing for the *Breakdown*, contact me. We need record reviewers, band reviewers, band profiles, articles of interest about instruments, playing techniques, and (perhaps from the letters above) how to secure a good sound system and operate the same. Help improve your magazine.

THE BLUEGRASS BAND

An all-star group from Nashville, Tennessee

BUTCH ROBINS, Banjo - ALAN O'BRYANT, Guitar and Lead Vocals
BLAINE SPROUSE, Fiddle - DAVID SEBRING, Bass
ED DYE, Dobro and Bones

The members of The Bluegrass Band have all paid their dues and make their mark with the great original bluegrass bands including Bill Monroe, Jim & Jessie, The Stanley Brothers, & Jimmy Martin

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San Francisco - (415) 441-8910



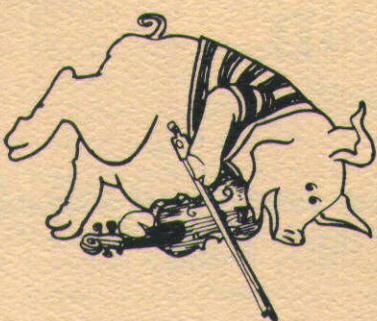
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

RATES

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	SPOUSE'S NAME	SINGLE - \$8.50
ADDRESS		CHILDREN (name & birthday)	SPOUSE - \$2.50
CITY	STATE	ZIP	age 16-18 (voting privileges)
PHONE (include area code)		under 16 (nonvoting)	CHILDREN — age 16-18 (each) - \$2.50 Under 16 (all) - \$1.00
INSTRUMENTS PLAYED			SUBSCRIPTIONS ONLY - \$8.50 in US and Canada \$12.00 - Foreign-boat \$18.00 - Foreign-air
ANY HELP YOU CAN OFFER THE CBA (artwork, typing, writing, promotion, etc.)		CHECK IF: New <input type="checkbox"/> Renewal <input type="checkbox"/> Subscription to "Bluegrass Breakdown" only (no membership <input type="checkbox"/> privileges	ENTER AMOUNT ENCLOSED HERE:
For CBA use: CS <input type="checkbox"/> LM <input type="checkbox"/> BB <input type="checkbox"/> FM <input type="checkbox"/> DA <input type="checkbox"/> AMT <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>		Bands of 3 to 7 members may join at the CBA Band rate. Write for more information. Send check or money order to: Treasurer California Bluegrass Association P.O. Box 11287 San Francisco, Ca. 94101-7287	

Twenty-Three

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