

BLUEGRASS BREAKDOWN

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER

Volume 6 Number 6



California Bluegrass Association

BLUEGRASS BREAKDOWN is published bimonthly at 4212 25th St., San Francisco, CA 94114 by Steve Pottier, Managing Editor, and Lars Bourne, Production Manager. It is published by the California Bluegrass Association, a non-profit organization founded in 1975 by Carl Pagter and dedicated to the furtherance of Bluegrass, Old Time, and Gospel music. Membership in the association costs \$8.50 per person per year; a spouse may be included for an additional \$2.50, and all children under 16 for \$1.00. Band memberships are available at \$5.00 per member per year; such member bands must consist of not less than 3 persons. Non-members may subscribe to the BLUEGRASS BREAKDOWN for \$6.00 per year. Each member, family, or band is entitled to receive a copy of each BLUEGRASS BREAKDOWN as part of their dues, and to reduced admission charges to CBA activities. Direct all membership applications and inquiries to the California Bluegrass Association, PO Box 11287, San Francisco, CA 94101. Second Class postage paid at San Francisco, California:

BLUEGRASS BREAKDOWN (USPS 315-350)
Officers and directors are listed adjacently. Board meetings are usually held the third Sunday of each month, and all members are invited (encouraged!) to attend. For details, contact any board member. This issue of the BREAKDOWN has been printed by Pronto Press, San Rafael.

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ON THE FRONT COVER:

Everybody's a critic...Pictured is Bruce Strand, fiddler for Wild Rye, and his young audience is Rose Clark. Peter Wise was the photographer.

Pasteup crew this time... Peter Kreps. Thanks! Also thanks to those who sent in pictures and letters, and to Eric West for his cartoon.

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. Next deadline is December 18.

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

Special Events

NOVEMBER

- 9 CONCERT- Bill Monroe and the Bluegrass Boys, Great American Music Hall, San Francisco. Phone 415/885-0750.
- 11 CONCERT- Bill Monroe and the Bluegrass Boys, Raspberry's, Angel's Camp. For more info, phone 209/736-4797.
- 15 CONCERT- Bill Monroe and the Bluegrass Boys, Sacramento Community Theater, 8 PM. Tickets \$8.50-\$6.50-\$4.50. For more info, call 916/487-9761.
- 15 CONCERT- John & Julee Moore, Train 45, Brengle Terrace Park, Vista Calif. For more info, contact Dick Tyner, 714/726-3498.
- 15-16 FIRST ANNUAL WICKENBURG BLUEGRASS FESTIVAL, Wickenburg, AZ. Featuring a flat pick guitar contest, banjo contest, Traditional Bluegrass, Sun City Cloggers, arts and crafts. Contact Buck Wayne, Chamber of Commerce, PO Drawer CC, Wickenburg, AZ 85358, or phone 602/684-5479 or 684-7379.
- 21-23 SOUTHWEST REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP OLD TIME FIDDLERS CONTEST, musicians swap meet and bluegrass to be held on Sun., Nov 23. To be held at the Antelope Valley Fairgrounds, Lancaster. There will be a guitar-mandolin-and- banjo contest also (acoustic and electric ok). Info available from Lancaster Chamber of Commerce, 44943 Tenth St. West, Lancaster, CA 93534, phone 805/948-4518.
- 22 CONCERT- at UCLA, featuring Doc Watson and Chet Atkins. Tickets \$9 from UCLA Central Ticket Office, 213/825-9261, or through Ticketron.
- 28-30 SONORA CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL, Sonora Fairgrounds, Bldg. 1, Hwy 120/49 downtown Sonora. Featuring arts & crafts, jugglers & storytellers, Plus Summerdog, Tiny Moore, Stones Throw, Cheap Suit Serenaders, Westwind Folk Dance Ensemble, and Hawks and Eagles. For more info, contact Fire On The Mountain Folk Fairs, PO Box 1135, Twain Harte, CA 95383, phone 209/586-5961.

DECEMBER

- 5 CONCERT- "AN EVENING WITH FRIENDS," featuring U. Utah Phillips, Kate Wolf with Nina Gerber, and Caswell/Carnahan. Nourse Auditorium, 135 Van Ness Ave., San Francisco; tickets \$6 adv., \$7 at the door. Doors open at 7 PM, show at 8 PM. This is the SF Folk Music Center's 3rd Anniversary Concert.

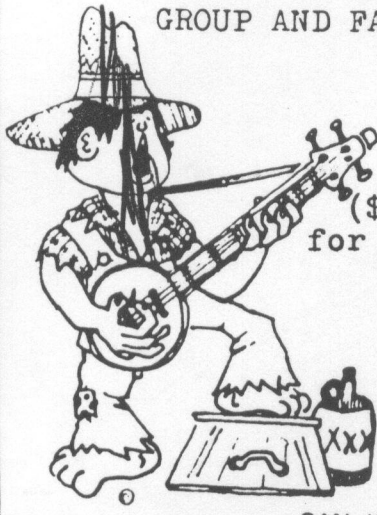
JANUARY

- 2,3 BILL WHITE'S BIRTHDAY PARTY, Freight & Salvage, Berkeley
- 4 BILL WHITE'S BIRTHDAY PARTY (cont'd)- Castro Valley. Address is 3354 E. Castro Valley Blvd. Phone 415/582-5575.

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Central Coast BLUEGRASS

by Glenn Christensen

When I first started going to bluegrass festivals here in California, they were small affairs indeed. The very first one I went to had less than a thousand people in attendance. Now this may not seem very impressive on the surface, but consider this: the featured performers included Bill Monroe, Ralph Stanley and the immortal Lester Flatt! You can imagine the crowds we would have today with such a gathering of stars all in one weekend.

Well, things have changed, as we know. The festivals have grown larger and sometimes more commercial, though even in that, they are unique as music festivals go. This past summer I had the good fortune to turn back the time to what it must have been like before there was even such a thing as a bluegrass festival. This event was the first annual Cambria Pines Bluegrass Convention, held at Camp Pine Crest, on the California coast about seven miles south of Hearst Castle. Up in the hills, surrounded by pine trees, yet not so far from the sea that you couldn't detect salt air as you took in breaths of fresh air; a more beautiful sight couldn't have been selected. The camp, a former Boy Scout camp built in the 1940's, has accommodations for only 120 people. For this first annual event, about 75 people were present, from as far away as Redding and Newport Beach. One of the nice things about having such relatively limited accommodations was that it became an intimate affair, so to speak, almost like summer camp.

Most of Friday afternoon and evening was spent arranging ourselves in the 17 primitive yet cozy cabins. This done, the pickin' began around the campfire and lasted well into the night. Saturday morning we all gathered in the dining hall for a delicious breakfast; again, summer camp style. Indeed, all weekend long we were treated to very fine meals in this manner. Everyone who bought tickets was informed that chicken was to be the Saturday evening meal, and to

bring enough to feed themselves. It was all barbecued together by our marvelous chefs and we all fested quite well.

But I am getting ahead of myself. Saturday morning arrived so clear and sunny that even the caretaker commented on it. According to him, this was the first weekend of the year that wasn't fogged in, which may be an exaggeration, but it made us feel good anyway to see that our bluegrass weekend was to be blessed with beautiful weather. By Saturday afternoon the stage was set up and City Limits Bluegrass Band played for a couple of hours, followed by frisbee tossing, volleyball, some parking lot picking and the chicken dinner I mentioned earlier. I'd like now to thank the cooks: Ed Sine, Tom Duncan, Dale and Fran Velzey, and Gary Hutton. They did a fantastic job and promised to come back next year and do it all again.

After dinner, City Limits got back up on stage to perform a couple more hours and were joined this time by guest musicians Tony Rohrkemper on mandolin, Dave Gaudreau on guitar and Jack Carr, who has since joined the band as the new fiddler, and is a welcome addition indeed. Around eleven o'clock, the stage was shut down and the inevitable campfire picking continued into the early hours of Sunday.

Upon consuming a hearty Sunday morning breakfast, those who had journeyed several hundred miles began to pack their things, and as if to join in the knowledge that the weekend would soon be over, the skies fogged up and we were not to see the sun again until way past noon. But the picking went on along with the packing and by two o'clock, when they closed the camp, we had all decided the only sensible thing to do was to pool all our money and buy the place and never leave. Strangers we had met on Friday were now close friends and as we departed there was much embracing and promising to come back next year. I, for one, wouldn't miss it for all the rutabagas in China.



Friends:

I'd like to introduce you to my brother Allen and myself. We live up here in Northern Calif., and our business is building and repairing banjos.

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The fall Grass Valley festival will be covered quite well in this issue, I am certain, so I won't report on it. Besides, that isn't central coast news anyway, is it? -- you sharp readers. But I mention it because there is someone else I would like to thank, and he is the ranger at Folsom Lake who allowed us special camping privileges as we stopped there on the way home from Grass Valley. You are a kind soul, sir, and made our perfect weekend completely perfect.

(Editor's note: Sorry, Glenn. There's many a chance for a mix-up between rough copy and the printer, and this one happened in the paste-up. No, we don't have a proof-reader.)

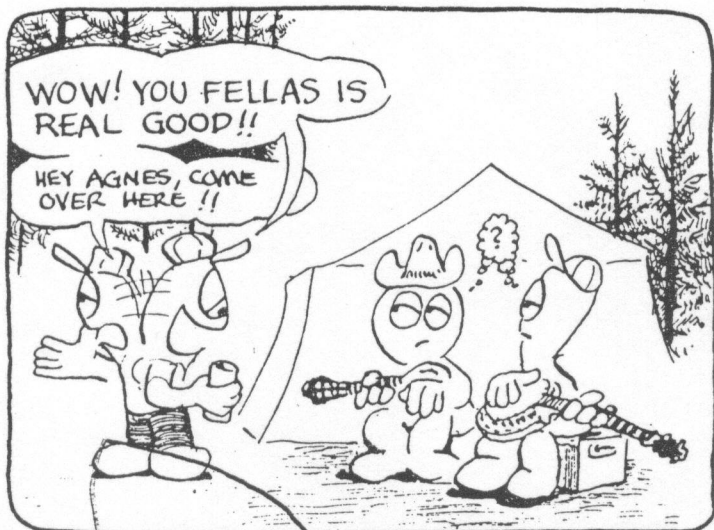
UNCLASSIFIED ADS

Hello;

I just thought you may want to print a letter that may help to unconfuse some of your readers who are wondering what I was talking about in my article, "Central Coast Bluegrass" in your September/October issue. O.k., people get out your magazines and turn to page 16. Now take paragraph 3 and put it where it belongs: just before the closing tag line. Now, isn't that much better?

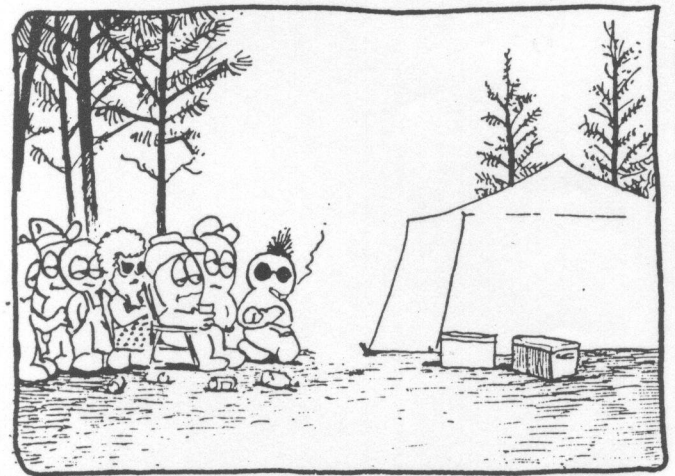
Thanks,
Glenn Christensen

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FIELD GUIDE TO WESTERN BANDS

ANY OLD TIME

Nov 7- Starry Plough, Berkeley
Nov 8- Paul's Saloon, San Francisco
For bookings, call 415/653-9061 (East Bay)
or 415/387-9648 (San Francisco).

ARKANSAS SHIEKS

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

BACKWOOD BAND

Mondays- Vassar-Wells Music Hall, Reno, NV
For bookings, contact Chris Bayer, 702/
849-0276 (Reno).

BILL WHITE

Jan 2,3- Birthday party, Freight & Salvage
Jan 4- Party, C/W bar: 3354 E. Castro Val-
ley Blvd., Castro Valley. 415/582-5575.

BLUESTEIN FAMILY

Dec 4- La Pena, Berkeley
Dec 5- CSU Humboldt, Arcata
Dec 6- Children's Concert, Humboldt Folk
Club
Dec 7- Inn of the Beginning, Cotati
For bookings, contact Evo Bluestein, 209/
229-9807.

BOOT HILL

For bookings, contact Pete at 707/938-
1326 or Pat, 707/833-2133.

BUFFALO BUTTER BAND

For bookings, contact Carmon Brittain,
707/485-0528.

THE CAFFREY FAMILY

Nov 15- Freight & Salvage, Berkeley
For bookings, contact Tom Caffrey, 415/
564-1464.

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, 415/848-4814.

COUNTRY HAM

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

COUSIN JACK

Nov 14-16- Harvest Festival, SF
Nov 28-Dec 4- Leask's, Santa Cruz
For bookings, contact Cousin Jack, Box
205, El Granada, CA 94018.

DAY LATE AND A DOLLAR SHORT

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

DONE GONE

Fridays- Red Vest Pizza Parlor, El Cerrito
For bookings, contact Mark, 707/795-9471,
or Elliott, 415/731-8990.

EAGLE RIDGE

For bookings, call 707/523-3380.

8th AVE. STRING BAND

Every Friday- Deja Vu Mining Co., Chico
For bookings, contact Flauren Ricketts,
916/895-0751.

FICKLE HILL

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

FOGGY MTN. CLOGGERS

For bookings, lessons, contact Franchion
Mason, 415/828-9016.

FRANK WAKEFIELD

For bookings, lessons, call 415/655-0526.

GOOD OL' PERSONS

Sundays- Paul's Saloon, San Francisco
Every Thursday- Red Vest Pizza, El Cerrito
For bookings, contact Kathy Kallick,
415/474-5368.

GRANT STREET STRING BAND

Nov 8- Country Club Center, Watt Av, Sac'to
Nov 22- Freight & Salvage, Berkeley
Nov 29- Paul's Saloon, San Francisco
Dec 13- Paul's Saloon, SF
For bookings &/or information, call Bill
Evans, 415/488-9724.

HIGH COUNTRY

Tuesdays and Fridays- Pauls Saloon, SF
Wednesdays- Red Vest Pizza, El Cerrito
For bookings, contact Butch Waller,
415/776-6713.

THE HIGH WINDOW BOYS

For bookings, contact Walden Dahl,
714/626-3782.

THE LEATHERMAN BOYS

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

LOST HIGHWAY

For bookings, contact Ken Orrick,
714/996-9177 (Claremont).

LONE STAR

Wednesdays- Paul's Saloon, San Francisco
For bookings, contact Mylos Sonka,
415/752-8035.

OVERLOOK MTN. BOYS

For bookings, contact Jack Sadler,
408/354-9359 (San Jose).

PACIFIC..LY BLUEGRASS

For bookings, contact Rick Kirby,
714/443-1932

RAIN TREE COUNTY BOYS

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

RAY PARK

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

SAW PLAYER CHARLIE, with ART PETERSON

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

PICK OF THE LITTER

For bookings, contact Jerry Barush,
415/849-4023.

RICK SHUBB BAND

For bookings, contact Rick, 415/339-0251

SIDESADDLE

Every Fri- Winchester Wagon House, 8-12 PM
Every Sat- Winchester Wagon House, 6-11 PM
For bookings, contact Ginny Snider,
415/969-2189.

SOUTH LOOMIS QUICKSTEP

For bookings, contact Vi Lankford, 916/
487-9761.

THE SQUIDS

For bookings, contact Dave Allen, 415/
431-1944.

TALL TIMBER

For bookings, contact Barney Munger,
206/682-6351 (Seattle).

THREE SPEED

For bookings, contact Jerry, 415/676-2321
or Eric, 415/682-9013.

TONTO BASIN BAND

For bookings, contact Joe Zumwalt,
415/967-4306.

A TOUCH OF GRASS

1st Sat- Paul's Saloon, San Francisco
For bookings, contact Bob Lawrence,
415/328-2130.

SAWTOOTH MOUNTAIN BOYS

Nov 14- Old World Center, Corvallis, ORE.
Dec 12- Old World Center, Corvallis
Jan 16- Old World Center, Corvallis
For bookings, contact Steve Waller,
503/838-4095.

STEVE & GWEN and their BLUEGRASS BAND

For bookings, contact Steve & Gwen, Star
Route, Janesville, CA 96114. Phone 916/
253-2640. All mail is forwarded.

TRAIN 45

For bookings, contact Dick Tyner,
714/726-3498.

THE VERN WILLIAMS BAND

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

WESTERN PACIFIC

For bookings, contact Joe Kimbro,
408/427-3531.

WILD RYE

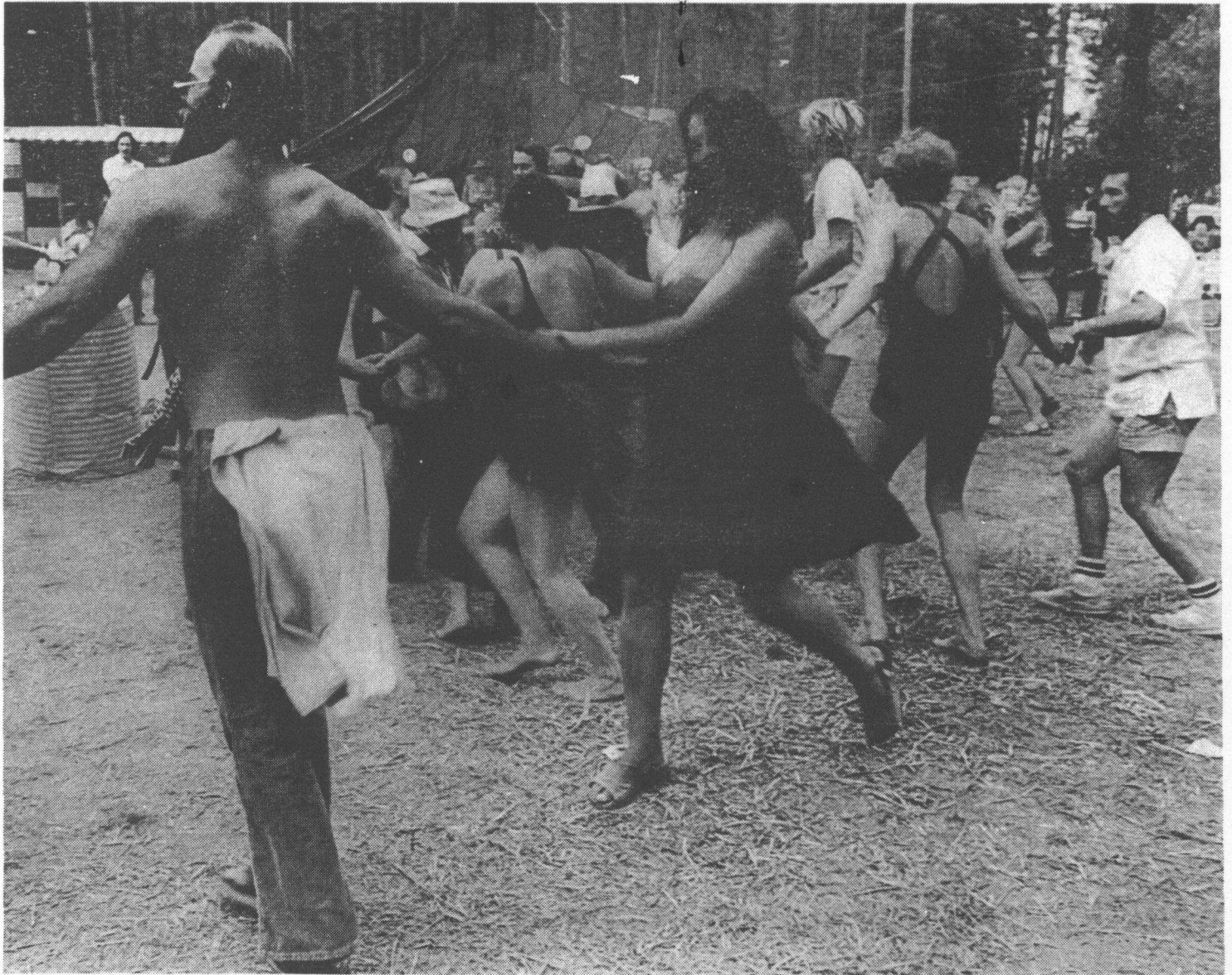
For bookings, contact Peter Wise at 415/
443-0250 or Greg Clark, 443-5217.

CBA Photo Contest



The results of the 1st CBA Bluegrass photo contest are finally in. Due to the small number of participants, the judges picked only 1st and 2nd place winners. Hopefully next year there will be more entrants.

2nd. Ted Schafer- Dancers: Grass Valley Festival, June 1980.
Prize: 2 tickets to the September GV festival or 3 record albums of his choice



1st.

Douglas Clark- David Grisman at the Great American Music Hall.

Prize: 3 record albums of his choice and 2 tickets to the September GV festival





(photo courtesy of Betty Udesen)

The 2nd Fall Grass Valley Festival

by Steve Pottier

Dear CBA Staff:

It has been more than a week since the Fall Bluegrass Festival at Grass Valley, but the pleasure of that weekend of music is still with me.

All of the musicians and groups were talented and entertaining, but one group in particular made the spirit of bluegrass music come alive again for me. Even if no other performers had been scheduled that weekend, the chance to hear "Possum Trot" would have made the trip to Grass Valley well worth it. When I closed my eyes while they were performing (hard to do, because they are fun to watch, as well) I could have sworn I was transported 200 years backward in time. They have obviously taken seriously their goal to reproduce as authentically as possible the rural mountain music of early America and, just as obviously, succeeded. I loved it.

Some of the other bluegrass groups at the Festival (Arkansas Shieks and Old Friends, especially) also included some fine pieces in their sets that reflect their affection for the early forms of bluegrass music. They were excellent, too.

Thank you for bringing such fine music to us!

Sincerely,
Judy Parle

There is definitely something enchanting about Grass Valley- the music, the people, the weather... For three days prior to the festival it looked like rain, and maybe even the tail end of a hurricane (?!), but on Friday it cleared up and was warm and sunny for the whole weekend (we all breathed a sigh of relief). The picture tells it all- camping, lazy days, music. Notice the dog. There won't be any next year.

Dear Editor:

I would like to make a few comments on the September festival at Grass Valley. It was run so smoothly it a-caught fire like the June festival thanks to all the good help. The volunteer help was good which is very important to a successful festival. The security was good which is very important to all of us. The first aid station was good as usual. The CBA directors and officers did a great job in going to the festival ahead of time and putting in a lot of hours so the festival could start on time. Laurie Lewis did a great job getting the festival started on time and keeping it moving until the other MC's came to help out. They were very good also. The band selections were good and all the musicians worked hard on the concert stage to please a great audience. The workshops were good, which gives the audience a variety at the festival. I would like to thank Laurie Lewis & the CBA directors for letting me put on a volunteer harmonica workshop, which I consider was a success as a lot of people came to listen. The after hours pickers were great until about 5:30 AM in the morning. As you know my old pickup truck got tired several miles from Grass Valley so my friend and I were standing besides the road trying to figure out what was best to do. Here came a good CBA member & friend James Allison. He towed my truck to the festival site. Went and checked on a tow bar for me. I rented one, and my sister and brother-in-law were waiting for me from Kansas City, whom I hadn't seen for a long time, so they towed the sick truck to Oakland for me. They sure did enjoy the festival. As I told my sister I wasn't concerned about the sick truck, as I came to the festival to meet friends and enjoy myself. I must thank Marion who helped out at first aid for passing out a first aid can for my sick truck. I want to thank the bluegrass fans for being so thoughtful and helping each other when needed. I also want to thank High Country and Carolina Special for asking me up to do some harmonica tunes on stage. I proved to my sister that I could still play some. She gave me a bad time the first year I started playing which was about fifty years ago. It will soon be my birthday, so at the Freight & Salvage in Berkeley it will be Fri. Jan 2 and Sat. Jan.3. Then will go to Castro Valley on Sun. Jan. 4 at the friendly country bar operated by Wayne & Hazel Williams, good

CBA fans. Address is 3354 E. Castro Valley Blvd., Castro Valley, (415) 582-5575. Steve keep up your good work with the Bluegrass Breakdown. Will see you soon.

Bill White

Actually, I heard many comments about how smoothly the festival ran. One person even told me he thought it went too perfectly. I guess you can't please everyone. One reason that it goes so smooth now is that we (the directors and festival coordinators) make a point to go over our previous mistakes and correct them for the next time. Whenever possible, we try to incorporate suggestions from members on things to add or delete. One thing I noticed is that the crowd seems to be getting more complacent as it runs smoother. For example (and this is a pet gripe), people tend to be more careless of their trash (particularly cigaret butts).

Dear CBA,

Thanks so much for such a grand ole time at your 2nd Annual Fall Grass Valley Bluegrass Festival. It was well handled as far as music, food, facilities and security. What a production!!

It was terrific to see so many kinds of people enjoying themselves once again.

A standing ovation to the CBA cast, the musicians, the festival participants, the security patrol and the audience.

In regards to your workshops, they were interesting, but needed to be more explanatory and in depth.

Once again, thanks and we're pleased to say my wife and I are members of this fine organization!!!

Sincerely,
Fred Pigott & Casey Marchese

The workshop question is a tough one- how can you give a lesson to 50 to 100 people, all at different levels, in one hour, and be very explanatory and in depth? I attended the banjo and guitar workshops, and both were well run. There seemed to be good information for any level of player. Perhaps the best solution would be to break up into smaller groups. If anyone has any specific suggestions about what they would like to get out of a workshop, let us know.

Dear Sirs;

We were at the Bluegrass Festival in Grass Valley on Saturday and would like to compliment you on how nice and well organized the whole event was. The music was very enjoyable and the crowd, we observed, seemed to be so friendly and well mannered. We had a great time!

There is one objection we had, however, and that is folding chairs that block your view of the stage. We arrived early to get a good spot, only to have some folks set their folding chairs up immediately in front of us. Since we were on blankets, that very effectively cut off all views of the stage. We thought that perhaps next year you could possibly alleviate that situation by dividing the audience in half (or thirds, or whatever)- one side for folding chairs and one side for blanket ground squatters. Just one suggestion.

Thanks again for putting this whole event together so nicely.

S. Veverka

I guess I'll never quite understand why people don't have the good sense to govern themselves. I detest the prospect of making more and more rules for the festival- the more you have, the harder it is to enforce, and it puts unnecessary restrictions on people with common sense. Dogs are a case in point. We now have to have a rule to protect us from the dolts who don't control their animals. And its strange to me how this little festival reflects real world problems- a lesson in sociology for me.

Dear CBA,

The first aid folks from the Grass Valley Festival want to thank all of those who were involved in winning the war of the wasps (yellow jackets). We had only 10-12 people stung with one known severe allergic reaction. We would appreciate if people who have known allergies to wasp toxin would ask their doctor for a prescription for a "bee kit" with adrenalin and benadryl before their next camping trip- we might not be nearby.

As usual, we treated about fifty people for a full range of minor medical problems from broken fingers to poison oak. If anyone has any follow-up on how effective our first aid measures were, feel free to write me.

I would also like to share with you some of the requests that we weren't able to fulfill and probably won't be responsible for treating at future festivals:

- 1) deoderizer for garbage cans
- 2) hangover medicine or Bloody Mary's
- 3) can opener
- 4) needle and thread
- 5) large bandage for bean bag chair

These above needs are your individual responsibilities.

Thanks,
Karen Moise
802 Denman Rd. #1A
Penngrove, CA 94951

The first aid people have been first-rate, and we've been very fortunate to have such able volunteers. Thanks to Karen for the information on the "bee kit."

DIRECTORS MEETINGS

Directors: Lars Bourne(LB), Laurie Lewis(LL), Carl Pagter(CP), Ed Pagter(EP), Don Powell(DP), Steve Pottier(SP), Sue Shelasky(SS), Butch Waller(BW), Karen Walter(KW).

(These are not the minutes of the meetings, but rather a summary of the board decisions brought to a vote. In any given meeting, there is usually a good deal of dicussion and exchange of information not covered by an actual vote.)

Sept. 14

Board meeting: (CP, EP, SS, BW absent)
Board approves budget for Grass Valley cleanup. (5Y, ON).

Board approves budget for watering roads to hold down dust. (5Y, ON).

Board approves budget for sound system for the mini-festival in October. (4Y, ON, SP abstained).

Board agrees to hire Lost & Found (from Virginia) for the October mini-festival. (5Y, ON).

Board agrees to hire a second band: Hooker Oak if the location is Davis or Fairfield, Grant Street String Band or Eagle Ridge if closer to SF. (4Y, ON, LL abstained).

Sept. 28

Board meeting: (LB, EP, DP, BW absent)
No motions were brought before the Board, but a general review of Grass Valley was the main topic, and plans were finalized for the mini-festival to be held at Fairfield.

Dear Steve,

It would be a crime if you don't have "A Touch of Grass" headline some future festival at Grass Valley. I've been to every GVBGF and heard a lot of really good bands, but none compare to "A Touch of Grass." Granted, they are not your typical 'hardcore traditional bluegrass band,' but can they ever entertain an audience! Their set on Saturday nite had me and everyone else screaming for more and their encore of "Orange Blossom Special" left me exhausted. I felt sorry for "Lost Highway" to have to follow that.

Great weekend. See you in June '81!

Jerry Fink

Encores... now there's a subject for conversation. They're a no-win proposition, since either the audience feels cheated if they don't get a band back out there, or the band feels cheated because the MC didn't raise enough enthusiasm from the crowd to get an encore. Personally, I think the band with the most class is the one that tells the audience they don't do encores- and then stick by it. The OBS encore Jerry Fink referred to was, to my thinking, a terrible abuse of an encore, totally selfish. It lasted as long as any three songs (9 minutes) and thereby jeopardized the time remaining for the other bands (the fairgrounds contract calls for a definite curfew). The courteous thing for a band to do, would be to end their set early if they expect to do an encore. and then do a quick "thank you" number. Finally, no band should expect an MC to go out and get them to come back. The audience should determine that without prompting. It's funny how encores get equated with how good a band is, but it just is not so. I've heard some lousy bands get rousing encores, and some very good bands get no encore. It just comes down to how well a band can entertain an audience, and sometimes that even coincides with good music.

Dear Steve,

I thought the Grass Valley Festival this past September was absolutely superb. You and many others worked very hard to make it so and believe me you did succeed. The efforts put into it were appreciated.

I assume that September's festival was supposed to be one which did not include a "big name band." I guess it is nice to have

a "big name band" but in my opinion some of the talent that was at September's festival was just as excellent as any big name group. Whoever did the band selection had a good ear for music and an ability to recognize talent.

During my continuous involvement in the California bluegrass scene for the past year and a half, I have become acquainted with many nice people including musicians and other devoted fans of this great music. Most of these people know who they are and to all of them I want to say thanks for your friendship and as a result, making me feel so much a part of the bluegrass world.

Sincerely,
Margene Hirschi

One thing that has always struck me about bluegrass is that you can participate on many different levels, and find a built-in set of friends whenever you go to a festival like Grass Valley. I'm sure that's why many people return year after year. See you next June!

Note to All Bands

If you would like to have your band considered for upcoming CBA 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 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!). The idea is to have something to play for a band selection committee. Also, a picture of your band, biographies, etc., would all help. A letter would do nicely. Try to keep an up-to-date cassette on hand. I've seen bands eliminated from consideration because not everyone on the committee had heard them, and they had no tape.

Send the information and tape to:
California Bluegrass Association
P.O. Box 11287
San Francisco, CA 94101
Attn/ VP Activities

Send Field Guide info to the same address, c/o the Editor.

The band selection committee will choose bands for June Grass Valley after Dec 1, and for the Sept festival after March 1.



A familiar sight at Grass Valley: Walt and Connie Beck dancing up a storm. Photo by Betty Udesen.

Dancing at Grass Valley

by Laurie Lewis

The repositioning of the stage this year at Grass Valley has created a new problem- dancing. Not that there hasn't always been a good number of dancers, but in the old stage position the prevailing winds and a paved road kept the seated audience from being asphyxiated by the dust. Consequently, security personnel were kept busy running the dancers out of the side-stage areas. This led to a lot of grumbling and some out-and-out growling by the frustrated dancers. Being a frustrated dancer myself, I could readily sympathize. The solution at the last festival was to only allow dancing at the back of the seating area, but it seems that not many people took advantage of that. Part of the fun is being so close to the performers' energy.

Dancing is enjoying a resurgence of popularity in general, and with swing couple dancing coming back in style, people are finding that Bluegrass is very danceable. A good indication is the response that Agi Ban's last-minute workshop recieved- it was so popular that we scheduled another one for Sunday. So here's the problem: how can the CBA make everyone happy (aside from paying them to come to the festivals)? The solution that comes to mind is to build a very low dance pad, probably situated next to the clogging stage where the speaker scaffolding cuts the view of the stage for the seated audience. This would alleviate the dust problem, the distance problem, and the problem of losing one's sense of balance on unlevel ground.

As most of you are aware, the stages are all built by volunteer labor. If any dancers out there want to volunteer to work on building a dance pad, I'm sure it could get done. All that dancing probably keeps you in great shape for that sort of thing. Please drop a line to the CBA, or call me and I'll put you on the list (as soon as there is one). My number is listed in the front of the Breakdown. Thanks, and keep dancing!



8th AVE. STRING BAND

News Flash!

NEW CBA DIRECTORS

Nine directors were elected to the CBA board in this October's election. The directors for this year (until October 1981) will be:

Lars Bourne	Sue Shelasky
Mike Johnson	Kathy Tyler
Laurie Lewis	Butch Waller
Carl Pagter	Karen Walter
Steve Pottier	

A little over 22% of the 1131 eligible voters participated in the election. A few ballots received by mail were invalid because they had no name or CBA number, and thus no way to check for duplicate balloting at the meeting.

The CBA thanks all the members who participated in this election. In order to have a valid election, there must be 20% of the membership voting. If you didn't vote, please vote next year, as we will need your vote to make a quorum.

Dear Editor:

Just a note about the 8th Avenue String Band from Chico, CA. Until we played your festival in June, 1980, we had been a local band. As a result of that job which we thoroughly enjoyed, we have been invited to play:
 October 3- The Banjo Cafe, Santa Monica
 Oct 4-5- Great American Bluegrass Festival, Chino

We are a five piece band that has been together three years. We play a mixture of bluegrass and vintage western swing with the following instrumentation: Lloyd Foote- banjo, lap steel, guitar; Jim Mathews- guitar, banjo, fiddle, mandolin; Flauren Ricketts- fiddle, acoustic bass; Rick Crowder- mandolin, guitar, tenor banjo; Rick Dugan- acoustic bass, guitar.

Thanks for any mention of the band.

Sincerely,
 Lloyd Foote

"What's my major? Bluegrass!"

by Mike Westfall

Beginning with the winter session, Napa Jr. College is likely to offer a non-credit course called "Bluegrass Band Workshop." Mike Westfall will be the instructor. The course will run approximately 10 weeks and will be oriented toward high beginner & intermediate level players of any instrument common to the bluegrass band. The class will not be designed to teach a person to play a given instrument as such, but rather to play it harmoniously with other people. In short there will be an abundance of good old jamming.

If the students are interested, there will be instruction on light music theory, general back-up techniques, harmony singing, and maybe a guest speaker or two. For the last meeting, students will be encouraged to form individual bands for production of a stage show- free to the general public- at the college.

Interested persons should contact: Napa College, 2277 Napa-Vallejo Hwy, Napa, CA 94558, or Mike Westfall, 707/429-2616 (after 6 PM).



Yet another fine photo by Betty Udesen. This is Old Friends, taken at the last Grass Valley festival. Ms. Udesen did a photo spread on the event in the Antioch Daily Ledger on October 9th.



Lost Highway trademark. He wrote six of the album's numbers including a lilting, melancholy instrumental called "Natchez." His singing reminds me somehow of Carter Stanley in its heartfelt, slightly laid back presentation (my vision of his low-slung guitar maybe heightens this impression). I enjoy the way he sings in such an oldtime way without actually mimicking the southern-accented voices of his mentors. His mandolin playing is the best I've heard from him—strong and decisive.

Ken Orrick (guitar, vocals) has made quite a switch from his previous band, Last Chance. From a slick contemporary sound he now sounds committed to the older styles. His songs are much closer to the Stanley Brothers and have a touch of the personal experience ala Bill Monroe through the 50's. Ken's voice is a bit sharper than David's but has the same country feeling.

Lauren Seapy has played banjo with Lost Highway for most (or all?) of its existence. Her playing is straight ahead, driving bluegrass banjo. Using no cute or catch licks, her style stays linked right to the music at hand. She really blends into the band, present when required, laid back when appropriate. She plays superb backup— a rare commodity in the world of that flashy machine, the banjo. Her tenor singing also blends well with her male band members— a difficult feat with her higher register voice; she manages to blend and provide the necessary "cutting" quality to the harmonies.

Jerry Service is a fiddler in the Paul Warren tradition: strong rhythmic lines and ever present backup. I always crave that constant hum in the background— it provides a musical bond with the other instruments and unifies the band sound as no other instrument can.

Nick Haney plays unselfish rhythm bass. His notes are basic and create a true unit sound with Ken and David. He also sings fine tenor which is especially effective in duet with David on "Hard Road to Travel" (my personal favorite).

With all the above praise I shouldn't imply that the record is flawless; some numbers come off a bit tentative. However, this seems to be a studio-related problem if their recent performances at Grass Valley are any indication. Even though playing without David Dickey at present, they played more

LOST HIGHWAY - "Hard Road To Travel"
Lite Records

Bluegrass music has recently attempted to entrench itself in some peculiar niches: its musicians have begged, borrowed, and stolen ideas from a myriad of sources in an attempt to "create" within its boundaries. Lost Highway, I'm happy to say, is attempting to reverse this trend. The band rhythm is strong, cohesive, and supportive to what is going on; the lead passages are not wasteful (sorry note wizards— not a Vassar lick or minor scale included); the singing is unencumbered by the tasteless and illogical twists and turns that serve as today's bluegrass 'soul' (people trying to out-Skaggs Ricky Skaggs on every note and phrase). The harmonies are tight knit and fluid with a remarkably old time feel. By economizing and simplifying, Lost Highway has constructed that most sophisticated of instruments— the band. It's nice to hear West Coast musicians put their own ideas into the basic, non-gimmicky style of bluegrass.

Some notes on the musicians:

David Dickey (mandolin, bit of lead guitar, vocals) is a long time bluegrass musician from the San Bernadino area. I remember seeing him with the "Hickory Stump Marsh Mar-mots" in 1968 at one of the legendary Ed Dye's free shows in Encino, Calif. The band dressed in the 40's style that has become a

assuredly and forcefully than ever. With Nick emerging as a Larry Sparksian lead singer the band sounds great! Lost Highway might be California's best old-style bluegrass band (along with Vern Williams).

SONGS:

Don't Ever Leave Me	Hard Road To Travel
Darlin'	East Bound Freight
I Miss You All The	Turn Back The Time
Time	Natchez
Tanis Ann	Tell Me
He Died For Me	
I Want To Be Alone	

(record review by Robbie Macdonald)



JUST PICKIN' Dixie Flyers

Boot BBG 6004

They say you can tell much about a bluegrass band by the banjo player. Denis LePage, "World Five String Banjo Champion" is the highlight for Canada's premier bluegrass band, the Dixie Flyers.

When I put this album on my turntable, I couldn't believe my eyes and ears. The pickin' is absolute acoustic fireworks. At times I thought I saw some sparks flying from under my phono cartridge. I was right. Toward the end of Side One, my tone arm was on fire. (The Flyers should print a warning notice and provide a small fire extinguisher for such records).

LePage really cuts loose in "Theme Time" and "Pickaway." If many of you think that Earl Scruggs' "Foggy Mountain Banjo" album is the ultimate, wait until you hear this gem.

One thing that makes the flyers approach to bluegrass unique and different, is Willie P. Bennett's use of the harmonica. By the way, the harmonica replaces the fiddle. His playing is smooth, precise and creative. In "Faded Love" he adds a bluesy feeling which I think really adds to the tune.

Furthermore, the Flyers instrumental skills are shown to best advantage on longer tunes like the "D" medley and "Orange Blossom Special." Again, on OBS the harp tastefully replaces the fiddle. Also, the album is entirely instrumental. On "Train 45," LePage and David Jack get together to do a banjo duo.. "Five'll getcha Ten."

Just Pickin' establishes the Dixie Flyers as truly fine musicians. Their pickin' is tight, crystal clear and very tasty. Also, for those of you who enjoy a well-recorded album, this is the one. The quality and pickin' are consistent all the way to the end. Highly recommended!!

TUNES

Theme Time	Earl's Breakdown
Bluegrass March	Maggie's Tune
Faded Love	OBS
Bye Bye Blues	Nashville Skyline Rag
Pickaway	Train 45
"D" Medley	

(record review by Rick Gallo)



DEADLINE

Please send in your copy for ads, articles, gig listings, reviews, special events, etc., to the CBA PO box or to the editor by the 18th of the month prior to publication in order to allow the production staff time to prepare it for printing. Thanks!

To place an ad in the Bluegrass Breakdown, the following rates apply:

Camera-ready copy: \$30/full page 8½ x 11
\$20/½ page
\$10/¼ page

Design, layout, \$40/full page
and/or nonscreened \$25/½ page
photos: \$15/¼ page

Classified ads: \$2.00/first 3 lines,
\$.50/line thereafter

Make checks payable to California Bluegrass Association, and send ad to the CBA PO box, or to the editor.

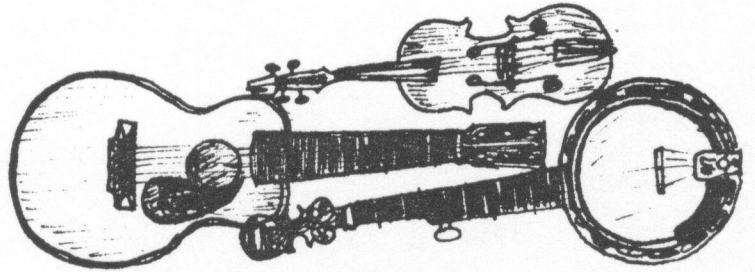
Bluegrass Festival in Eureka

by Mike Manetas

The 1st Annual KEET-TV Bluegrass Festival was held in Eureka, California on September 6, all day Saturday. The bands featured were Vern Williams Band, Sawtooth Mountain Boys, Tall Timber, and Fickle Hill. Several local folk and old-time bands also played.

The festival was produced as a benefit for KEET, Eureka's PBS station, in conjunction with Wildwood Music from Arcata. It was video taped in the hopes of putting together a PBS show of the festival.

The show was a tremendous success- great music, the weather was fine, a good PA system, and a nice location- it was held at Redwood Acres. KEET made about \$300, and indicated they want to do a 2-day festival next year, inviting a few more bands and in general put more effort into it. Keep your calendar open for the first weekend in September, and come on up to Eureka for a great festival!



Fickle Hill at the Eureka festival

(photo courtesy of Mike Manetas)



CLUBS

BLUE RIDGE PICKIN' PARLOR, 5221 Reseda Blvd. Tarzana, CA 91356. Everything for the picker, and jams two Sundays per month! For exact times and more info, call 213/345-1977.

THE BANJO CAFE, 2906 Lincoln Blvd., Santa Monica. Bluegrass 7 nights per week. Monday is hoot night, bluegrass jam on Sunday afternoons. Phone 213/392-5716.

CULPEPPER'S, 7305 Clairmont 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.

THE BRATSKELLAR, 1154 Westwood Blvd., LA. Live entertainment (bluegrass!) upstairs Wed. through Sat. nights, 9:30-1:30. Phone 213/477-9535.

THE FIFTH STRING, 3501 Adeline, Berkeley. Thursday night jams. Phone 415/548-8282.

FREIGHT & SALVAGE, 1827 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley, CA 94702. Bluegrass, old-timey, jazz, folk, etc. Write for the current monthly schedule, or call 415/548-1761.

NICOLAI'S EL CARISO RESTAURANT, 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 OLD TIME CAFE, 1464 N. Hwy 101, Leucadia CA 92024. Coffee house, gathering place. Live music nightly: folk, blues, jazz, bluegrass. Lunch, supper, Sunday brunch. Call 714/436-4030.

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. C, #300), Laguna & Marina, San Francisco. Concerts on Sunday and Thursday eves. Folk, bluegrass, ethnic, original, jazz, etc. Co-ordinated by the San Francisco Folk music club. Phone 415/661-2217.

RASPBERRY'S, 1274 S. Main St., Angel's Camp. Featuring a variety of entertainment. This little town is the home of Mark Twain's celebrated jumping frog, and perhaps it could be the home of bluegrass in that area. Nice sound system, friendly owners, quality music. Call them up and ask for bluegrass! Phone 209/736-4797.

RED VEST PIZZA PARLOR, 10616 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito. High Country Wednesday, Good Ol' Persons Thursday, Done Gone on Fri. Good pizza and bluegrass music for over four years. Phone 415/527-4023.

SAN DIEGO BLUEGRASS CLUB meets at Straw Hat Pizza, 163 Fletcher Parkway, El Cajon. Meetings are held the second Tuesday of the month, 7:30-10:00 PM.

THE TOWN HOUSE, 5862 Doyle, Emeryville. Featuring mostly country music, but occasionally bluegrass music. Phone 415/658-5556. For booking info, call 415/654-5635.

THE WATERFRONT FOLK CLUB, Harrington's, 245 Front St., San Francisco. Bluegrass-type group once a month. Phone 415/731-8990.

WILD BLUE YONDER, 1145 N. Fulton, Fresno. 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, 745 S. Winchester Blvd., San Jose. Restaurant features bluegrass music on Friday and Saturday night. Phone 408/246-4451.

THE GREAT AMERICAN MUSIC HALL, 859 O'Farrell, San Francisco. Features a wide variety of top name acts. Look here for Bill Monroe, Ralph Stanley, etc. Fairly expensive, but they do make an effort to bring in the shows the other clubs can't afford. Phone 415/885-0750.

RADIOADDENDA

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

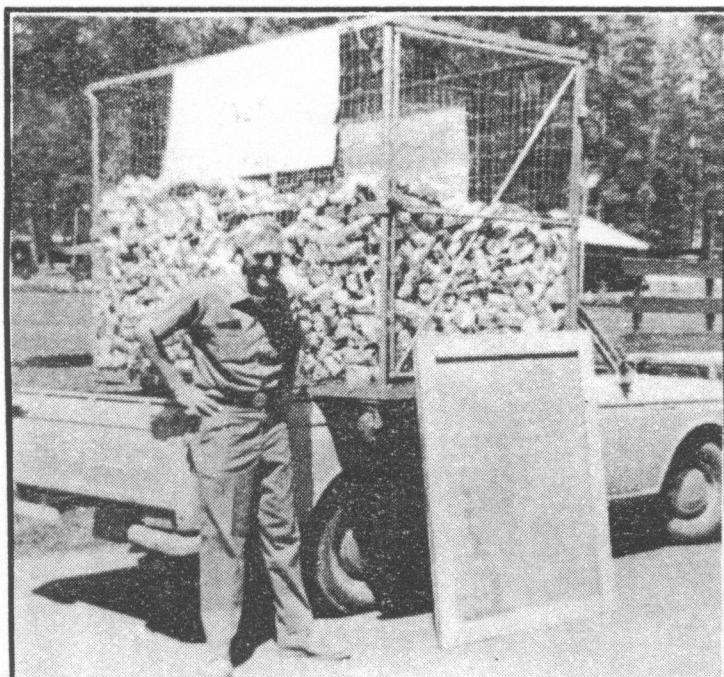
KPFK (90.7 FM) Los Angeles, Saturday
10 am-12:30, folk/bluegrass with John
Davis. Sunday night "Folkscene" with
Howard and Roz Larman, incl. some
live performances.

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.

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

KCHO (? FM) Chico
Saturday 3-5 PM with Jack Lemley



Don Schmidt and aluminum cans from June

Don Schmidt works for the fairgrounds and does a good job keeping everything in top shape. He is the one who puts out the cages for aluminum can recycling, and then makes sure all that money goes to the Grass Valley Cancer Aid Thrift Shop. Thanks, Don!

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

RATES

LAST NAME, FIRST		SPOUSES NAME	SINGLE- \$8.50
ADDRESS		CHILDREN (give name & birthday) <u>age 16-18</u> (voting privileges)	SPOUSE- \$2.50
CITY	STATE	ZIP	CHILDREN-
PHONE (incl area code)		<u>under 16</u> (non-voting)	age 16-18 (each) \$2.50
INSTRUMENTS PLAYED			<u>under 16</u> (all) \$1.00
ANY HELP YOU CAN OFFER TO THE CBA (artwork, typing, writing, promotion, etc.)		CHECK IF: new <input type="radio"/> renewal <input type="radio"/> subscription to "Bluegrass Breakdown" only (no member- ship privileges) <input type="radio"/>	SUBSCRIPTION ONLY- \$6.00
			ENTER AMOUNT ENCLOSED HERE:

For CBA use:

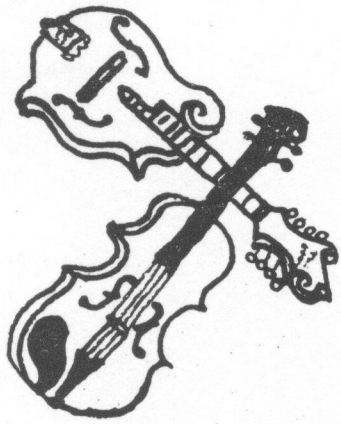
CS	LM	BB	FM
DA	AMT		
NO			

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 Assoc.

P.O. Box 11287

San Francisco, CA 94101

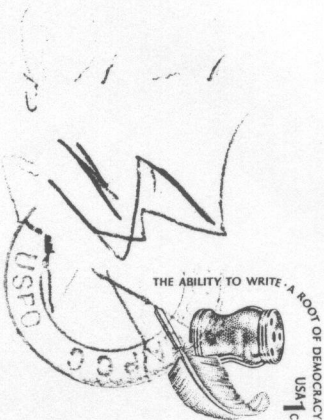


BLUEGRASS BREAKDOWN
PO BOX 11287
San Francisco, Ca 94101

Jay Quesenberry
Box 247B, Rt #1
Elkhorn, KY 41522

*

TIME VALUE



SECOND CLASS POSTAGE
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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
Panhandle Country with Tom Diamant
Alternate Sundays, 11 am - 1 pm,
Folk, Blues and Jazz with
Chris Strachwitz

KUSF (90.3 FM) San Francisco
Bluegrass Radio from 7:30-10:30 AM

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.