

BLUEGRASS **BREAKDOWN**

Vol. IV, No.5

Sept.-Oct. 1978

GRASS VALLEY REMEMBERED



the great typewriter-banjo duel!

about the cover

The cover of this eagerly awaited GRASS VALLEY REMEMBERED issue throws caution and modesty to the wind as your editor indulges herself in the memory of her moment of glory that Saturday evening at the CBA's 3rd Annual Bluegrass Festival. Perhaps a brief explanation of the origin of the event is in order. Your editor is often asked what instrument she plays; she does not of course play any, but in a moment of delirium and hysteria she once replied that she played the typewriter. The response was so well-received she decided it was a clever retort and used it often. Until the gentleman from Vista took her up on the idea and insisted she debut at Grass Valley. She succumbed, even though shortly before the "performance" she suffered severe anxiety attacks. However, she enjoyed the event thoroughly (although she has no desire to repeat it) and has ever so much respect and admiration for all of you "real" performers. She was assisted in this duel between typewriter and banjo, this altercation between Northern and Southern California, by the fine (though since disbanded) group GOLD RUSH: from left to right, Stuart Duncan, Alison Brown, Larry Bulaich and Ron Greenberg and the gentleman from Vista, Dick Tyner. . . .This is the largest issue yet of the BREAKDOWN, and all the contributors must be thanked: Judy Sing for the photo essay, Vic Cearley for his festival review, Franchion Mason for information on the cloggers, Viola Blacklock for a report on Blackpoint, Jack Sadler for a letter, Carol Masters for some photos, and for three full-page ads the Cloggers, the Glory Land String Band and Len Walding, promoter of the Placer County Jubilee. Thanks, all of you. I hope you enjoy this issue as much as I enjoyed putting it together for you.

BLUEGRASS BREAKDOWN is published bi-monthly at 357½ Valley Street, San Francisco, CA 94131 by Burney Garelick, Editor. It is the official publication of the California Bluegrass Association, which was founded in 1975 by Carl Pagter and is dedicated to the furtherance of bluegrass, gospel and old-time music. Membership in the Association costs \$7.50 per person per year; a spouse may be included for an additional \$2.50, and all children under 16 for \$1.00. \$3.75 of the initial \$7.50 is for a subscription to BLUEGRASS BREAKDOWN for one year. Band memberships are available at \$5.00 per member per year; each band must consist of not less than 3 persons and not more than 7 persons. Nonmembers of the Association may subscribe to BLUEGRASS BREAKDOWN for \$5.00 per year. Each member family or band is entitled to receive a copy of each BLUEGRASS BREAKDOWN newsletter, as part of their dues, and to reduced admission charges to all CBA activities. Direct all membership applications and inquiries to the California Bluegrass Association, P.O. Box 11287, San Francisco, CA 94101. Second-class postage paid at San Francisco, California. Publication number 315350. Total number of pages: 40; percentage of paid advertising: 3 pages. Officers and Directors are listed below; (*) designates member of the Board of Directors. Board meetings occur the 3rd Sunday of each month, and members are invited; for details call any of the following. Printed by Sir Speedy, Main St., S.F., CA.

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THE CALIFORNIA BLUEGRASS ASSOCIATION PROUDLY PRESENTS
AN HONORARY LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP TO

BILL WHITE

in appreciation of his long-time participation in and support of bluegrass, gospel and old-time music in northern California. His unique harmonica style and his loving personality have inspired and delighted musicians and audiences wherever he has appeared. At pizza parlors, coffeehouses, parks and festivals, his loyalty and generosity have enriched the lives of everyone who has heard him. It is with great pleasure and affection that we honor Bill White now and for all time.

3RD ANNUAL GRASS VALLEY BLUEGRASS FESTIVAL, JUNE 1978



Hi There

*gospel
music*

Introducing the

*country
western
music*

Placer County Jubilee

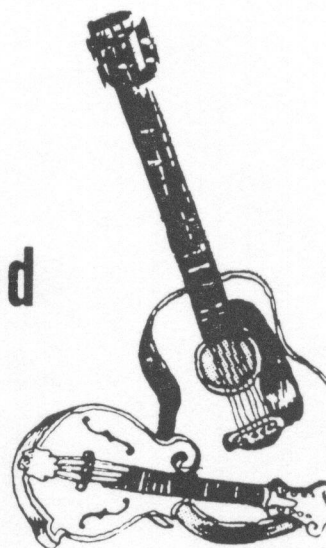
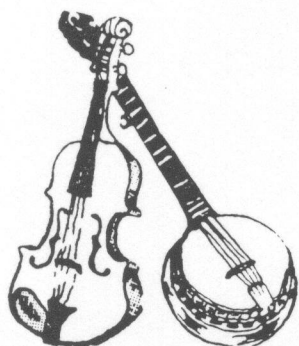
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8-11 pm.

in person

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*country
music*

*bluegrass
music*

SPECIAL EVENTS

September 1-4 (Friday-Monday) - 3RD ANNUAL OLD-TIME COUNTRY MUSIC CONTEST AND PIONEER EXPOSITION, Council Bluffs, Iowa. Competition in bluegrass band, gandy dancing, fiddle, country singing, combos, folk singing, banjo, mandolin, flat-top, electric guitar, hot-air balloon, muzzle loading, bow and arrow, poetry, storytelling, arts and crafts and yo-yo. \$7000 prize money. For information write Bob Everhart, 106 Navajo, Council Bluffs, Iowa 51501.

September 1-4 (Friday-Monday) - SFFMC's UMPTIETH ANNUAL CAMP-OUT AT PORTOLA. For information call San Francisco Folk Music Club at 415/661-2217.

September 3 (Sunday) - BLUEGRASS JAMBOREE, Chuck's Hidden Lake, Rd.274, Porterville. Free BBQ dinner. Featuring LAST CHANCE, ZUILL BROTHERS, RAMSEY FAMILY, THURSTON'S BLUEGRASS BAND, CREAM OF KENTUCKY, GLORY LAND STRING BAND. For information call Jack Ramsey, 209/798-1256.

September 3 (Sunday) - NEVADA BLUEGRASS CONTEST. Sponsored by the Easter Seal Society, Reno-Sparks Treatment Center, 148 Richards Way, Sparks, Nevada 89431; Dan Sparkman, 359-2880.

September 4 (Monday) - 6TH ANNUAL FIDDLE CONTEST, Marin County Fair, Civic Center, Fairgrounds, San Rafael. \$450 prize money. Special clogging/flatfooting competition. 415/472-2406.

September 8 (Friday) - PLACER COUNTY JUBILEE, Tower Theater, 417 Vernon St., Roseville. 8-11 PM. Featuring DONE GONE, RIVER CITY RAMBLERS and others. See ad this issue.

September 15-17 (Friday-Sunday) - 7th ANNUAL FLAT-PICKING CHAMPIONSHIP, Winfield, KN. For information write Walnut Valley Association, Box 245, 117 E. 9th, Winfield, KN; 316/221-3250.

September 17 (Sunday) - 8th ANNUAL BANJO & FIDDLE CONTENT, Julian. Cash prizes and drawings. Featuring PACIFIC..LY BLUEGRASS and THE NEW EXPRESSION. 714/299-0734.

September 23 (Saturday) - BLUEGRASS CONCERT featuring SOUTH LOOMIS QUICKSTEP with Fiddle Champion MARK O'CONNOR, Nevada Theater, Nevada City. Two shows: 7 PM and 9:30 PM. For information call 916/487-9761.

September 23-24 (Saturday-Sunday) - GOLD COUNTRY FRONTIER DAYS, Auburn. The Gold Country National Music Roundup including a fiddle contest. Cash prizes and trophies. Other events include: horse-shoe pitching, bicycle hill climb, log sawing, arm wrestling, beard growing and pie eating. Square dance exhibition Friday night. For information write the Auburn Area Chamber of Commerce, 1101 High Street, Auburn, CA 95603, or call 916/885-5616.

September 23 (Saturday) - BLUEGRASS SPECIAL with The Acidophilus Rangers, Freight & Salvage, 1827 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley. Featuring Darol Anger, Annie Steinhart, George Stavis, Dore Collier, Steve Walton-Hadlock.

October 6-7 (Friday-Saturday) - OLD-TIME FIDDLING CONTEST, Norris Rd., Veterans Hall, Bakersfield. Guitar picking contest Friday night, fiddling Saturday. Cash prizes and trophies. No entry fee. Sponsored by the California Old-Time Fiddlers Association, District 3. For information, write James Casey, 102 Hopkins Ave., Bakersfield, CA 93308, or call 209/399-2424.

October 22 (Sunday) - AMERICAN LUNG ASSN. FALL BLUEGRASS FESTIVAL, Hill Country Park (off Tennant Ave.), Morgan Hill. Featuring OVERLOOK MOUNTAIN BOYS, DONE GONE, A TOUCH OF GRASS. For information, call 408/268-KFAT.

October 22 (Sunday) - 7TH ANNUAL OLD-TIME FIDDLERS' CONVENTION, Lawn, UCSB Campus Diamond, Santa Barbara. 10-5PM. For information, call 805/961-3988.

October 27-29 (Friday-Sunday) - 11TH GOLDEN WEST BLUEGRASS FESTIVAL, Silver Lakes Park, Norco. Featuring BILL MONROE. See double-page spread this issue for details.

THE E GOLDEN WEST BL

—FEA



BILL MONROE AND THE BLUEGRASS BOYS

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and GRAND OLE OPRY)

—SAT. & SUN.—

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BOTTOM DOLLAR STRING BAND
LITTLE MOUNTAIN BLUEGRASS
THE RAMSEY FAMILY
HIGH WINDOW BOYS
FINGER PICKIN' GOOD
MASON-DIXON RAMBLE

GENERAL INFORMATION

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES: In moderation only
GLASS CONTAINERS: None in concert area
DANCING: All you desire in designated areas. (Not in front of stage)
ATTIRE: Conventional street clothing
FIRES: Limited to containers 18" off ground and non-grassed areas
TWO-WHEELED VEHICLES and SKATEBOARDS: Not allowed in park

DOGS: Please don't bring them (see below)
SEATING: Bring lawn chairs, blankets, etc.
GATE OPENS: 3 p.m. Thursday
JAMMING: 24-hour sessions OK
TAPE PLAYERS and RADIOS: Must not disturb neighbor
VENDORS: Pre-Festival arrangements required

FACILITIES

Music concessions Food concession
Showers Camping (see below)
Parking (see below)
Motel: Corona Inn, (714) 725-0230

3 BIG DAYS ... FRI. — SAT. — S

(30 Hours Stage Time —

SILVER LAKES PARK ... near

—27 S

PRODUCED BY: DICK TYNER,

EVENTH

EGRASS FESTIVAL

IRING—



LAST CHANCE



LOST HIGHWAY



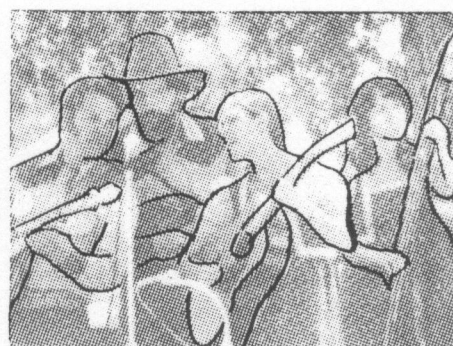
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DAMASCUS ROAD



FOGGY MTN. CLOGGERS



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BORDERLINE BLUEGRASS
RAIN TREE COUNTY BOYS
STUART & ALISON
SAGEGRASS
HIGH IN THE SADDLE
FAMILY BLUEGRASS

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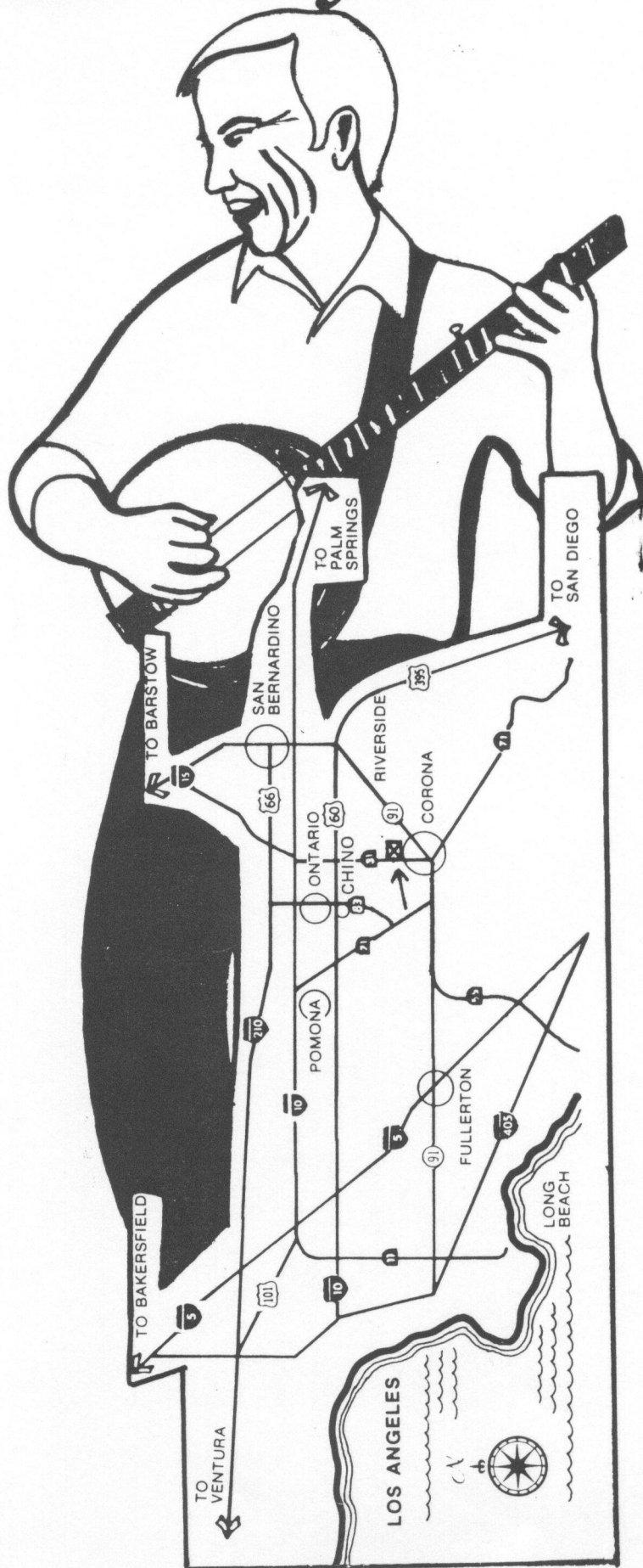
... ADVANCE TICKET SALES: Send check or

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Dick Tyner, P.O. Box 341, Bonsall, CA 92003

ALL SALES FINAL.

Dick Tyner & the GWBF



Sonny Osborne said it right and often: "I could really get hung up on this. This is the way festivals used to be Back East. The people really listen to you; I can see 'em thinking: 'Now how did he do that lick'!"

Sonny was talking about the Golden West Bluegrass Festival in Norco August 3-6 where he and Bobby headlined an extraordinary aggregation of mainly southern California bands. Sonny was right; there is something very special about all of Dick Tyner's festivals--a combination of excellent bluegrass music and an atmosphere that is congenial, safe and familial--in short, a home away from home.

Of course one can say the same of the Grass Valley Festival. Each reflects the concerns of its promoter. But what is remarkable about the Golden West Bluegrass Festival is that it has, over the five years of its existence, consistently projected the concerns and values of one man who has taken every risk to provide an ideal breeding ground for bluegrass in California. Himself an admirable banjo and guitar picker, Dick cherishes not only the music, but the musicians and supporters, and he endeavors to protect and please as many as possible. He succeeds though it is no easy task, and the rewards are too often intangible.

Dick is a strong-willed entrepreneur--with a heart, rather than pockets, of gold. If you spend a weekend at his festivals, you will feel this instinctively; when you know him, you will understand and know for certain that Dick Tyner, as one single individual, ranks with Bill Monroe as a persevering and dedicated promoter of bluegrass music. If you haven't yet experienced his festivals, I urge you to go to Norco on October 27-29 and see for yourself. You will be rewarded--I guarantee it--and so will he.

For a complete article on Dick and his festivals, you are recommended to the September issue of BLUEGRASS UNLIMITED. Meanwhile, to give you some idea of what to expect in October, here are a few words about the August Golden West Bluegrass Festival.....

Norco in August

Despite the intense heat, high humidity and breath-taking smog, the 10th Golden West Bluegrass Festival at Silver Lakes Park in Norco proved to be a wonderful weekend for everyone who participated. This was the first August festival in Dick Tyner's experiment to provide four major bluegrass festivals a year. Whether this becomes a regular series remains to be seen. Dick has inspired so many festival promoters to put on so many festivals throughout California and the southwest that bluegrass supporters may be experiencing a surfeit. It's ironic really! But the Golden West Festival remains the biggest and the best of the lot. And this one was no exception.

The music was indisputably great: Bobby and Sonny Osborne, with Bobby's son Robby on guitar and Jim Brock on electric bass, provided four super shows of their biggest and best hits. The infamous "Ruby" provided a humorous interlude that caught each of them off guard; twice Bobby broke into giggles trying to sing the song, and during the final show there came a Tyner-inspired crooked taunting from the audience, "Hey, Sonny, play 'Ruby' for Dolly!", reminding them of a festival incident in Oklahoma some time ago. Coincidentally, the Osbornes had to leave Saturday night for a festival in Hugo, Oklahoma, the following day. For all the excitement of their picking and singing and for the infrequency of their visits to California, many of us wished they had performed at least one encore, but that, alas, was not to be.

The bulk of this delightful festival included these superlative bands: Pacific..ly Bluegrass, Floyd County Boys, Damascus Road, High In The Saddle, Lost Highway, Last Chance, Cache Valley Drifters, Foxfire and the inimitable Zuill Brothers. Saturday morning the Zuills--Fred, Woody and Pat Brayer--dressed in pajamas and nightshirts to play 40 minutes of Breakfast Special--including a ditty called "Footprints In The Pancakes"--until someone (mercifully?!) brought them plates of breakfast. Their show included a reluctant appearance by Dick Tyner who joined them in a song called

"Idaho"; Dick's fine baritone part consisted of: "Where the potatoes grow." We in northern California don't have a group like the Zuill Brothers--very competent musicians with an irreverent approach to performing. But then I'm not quite sure we're ready for such a group, so you'll just have to go to Norco to experience this one! Incidentally, in a more serious vein, Fred plays bass with Last Chance; Pat plays fiddle with the High Window Boys; and Woody used to edit the San Diego Bluegrass Club newsletter.

Each Golden West Festival features a picking contest, but the contest is short and informal, mainly an opportunity for anyone who wants to perform on stage. First prize is \$20, so there is none of the tension and trauma accompanying many fiddle contests; this one is for fun. Still, some fine musicians come up winners, as follows: Banjo--1st Greg Crockett, 2nd Kathy Barwick; Fiddle--1st Bruce Johnson, 2nd Laurie Lewis; Mandolin--1st Bruce Johnson, 2nd Ronald Bergman, an order Gentleman Bruce reversed for his very young, extremely gifted runner up.

One really good thing about the intense heat was that it cooled down deliciously at night to allow for some outstanding until-dawn jam sessions. April and October Norcos are a bit chilly at night, so this one was pure joy. Members of Pacific..ly, Damascus and the Floyd County Boys (the oldest continuous bluegrass band in California) were joined by Dick; Ken Orrick (Last Chance) picked banjo instead of guitar at the center of a group; Jeff and Tim, the blond surfers of that group, traded hot mandolin-banjo licks in another circle; and on and on. The last I remember included Todd Grant and Chuck Flannery (Floyd County), Sue Shelasky (Lost Highway) and Kathy Barwick (from Sacramento)--double banjos and high harmonies--try as I did I couldn't keep my eyes open any longer. . . .

Now it's your turn to come to the 11th Golden West Bluegrass Festival on October 27-29 and see it all for yourself!

introducing the

FOGGY MT. CLoggers



left to right:

MIKE JOHNSON

ARLIS BUTTLER

LAURA VAUGHN

BARBARA BUTTLER

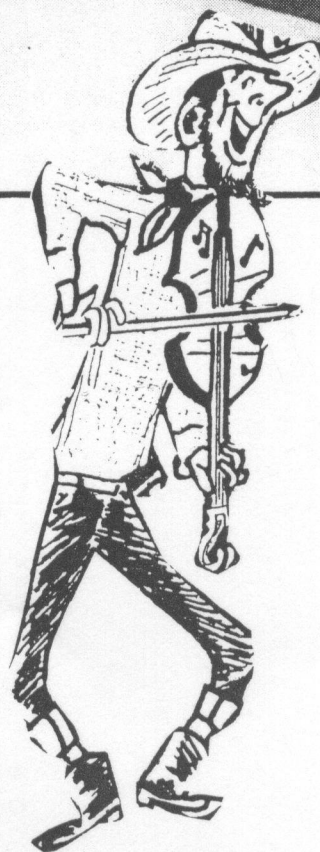
FRANCHION MASON

LORIANNE SCOTT

LAURA LEA BUTTLER

OSCAR ERICSON

LES MASON



When you see them perform, it's a pulsating, colorful 16-armed, 16-legged, eight-headed, yelling, gyrating, whirling dervish. But offstage it breaks down into a diverse bunch of individuals with all kinds of abilities and backgrounds.

ARLIS BUTTLER, raised in Uvalde, Texas, moved to California in his teens. Arlis works as Chief Flight Instructor for a flight school in Oakland and is also an FAA Designated Flight Examiner. Other than his wife Barbara and daughter Laura Lea, his interests are photography, H.O. scale railroad trains and radio-controlled model aircraft.

BARBARA BUTTLER was born in Guatamala City, Guatamala, moved to Brownsville, Texas, and then to California. She is a Pacific Telephone business office supervisor. Some of her other interests include crewel stitchery, gardening and photography.

LAURA LEA BUTTLER, a native Californian, attends Foothill School. Her interests in order are: BOYS, BOYS, BOYS, clogging, BOYS, disco dancing and BOYS. She plans a future in beauty consulting or fashion buying.

OSCAR ERICSON, known at "O.J.", is a native of Richmond, California, and is president of a local contracting firm in Richmond. O.J. enjoys traveling, many kinds of dancing and all types of food. O.J.'s wife and daughter are also cloggers.

MIKE JOHNSON, the only available male of the group and also a native Californian, is a graduate of Cal-Poly with a degree in landscape architecture. He works for a landscape construction firm in Pleasanton. Mike's other interests are square dancing, photography, silk screening and travel.

LES and FRANCHION MASON are native North Carolinians. Although raised in clogging country, they never participated until after being in California for several years. Les has been a communications technician for several years and is now Service Manager for an interconnect telephone company. His hobbies include antique cars, waterskiing

and traveling. Franchion works part time as a bookkeeper and clogging instructor. She enjoys waterskiing, sewing and traveling. In fact, Franchion is responsible for those delightful costumes, including the Budweiser outfits, that add so much to the cloggers' performance.

LORIANNE SCOTT has studied various dance forms most of her young life. She is attending college now with an ultimate goal of working for the United Nations. She is working part time as a travel consultant for AAA. She has just returned from a trip to Russia and Poland with 61 other young adults. They spent the month of August spreading square dancing and clogging behind the Iron Curtain.

LAURA VAUGHN, also a student, starts U.C. Davis in the fall and plans to major in music, with hopes of continuing a singing career. She enjoys writing songs and poetry.

The newest couple with the group is JOY and JEFF KREPS. Joy, a native of Nebraska, works in an accounting firm in San Francisco. Joy's hobbies are square dancing, camping and sewing. Jeff, another California boy, is a computer application analyst in San Francisco. Jeff also enjoys square dancing and camping. Thanks to Joy and Jeff, in "nine" months there will be a new Foggy Mountain Clogger. "Congratulations!"

The common thread that binds this group is a love for clogging and performing. It is blended together through hours of practice and effort to perfect their skills. We think it shows.

The Foggy Group asked that we end this article by including a great big thanks to all the CBA Board, the general membership and to all the friends they have made through this association.

Editor's Note: Special thanks to Franchion Mason for this "introduction" to some wonderful people who have enriched the CBA. Be sure to see them at Norco!

YA-HOOOOOOO...

CLOGGING

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OF THE FOGGY MTN. CLOGGERS

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YA'LL COME

WE GET LETTERS

Dear CBA,

On behalf of the RIVER CITY RAMBLERS, we thank you folks for your consideration and kindness upon inviting our group to participate again at Grass Valley.

I enjoyed the diversity this year--what with the groups from southern California. We can all learn and share from each other. The food and refreshments were a nice touch added also. We felt well-taken care of.

Again, our thanks for a job well done and hope we may be of service to the Association in the future.

Love that grass,
Cathy & Rich Del Chiaro
4608 "Q" Street
Sacramento, CA 95819

Hello,

I would like to thank the CBA for a most enjoyable weekend. I have just returned from the festival in Grass Valley. I heard of the festival on KFAT. It sounded like fun and was it ever! I had never really listened to bluegrass before, but listening to Country Butter & Buffalo, Kate Wolf, Bill White, the group from Markleeville and the group that played last on Saturday night any many more has widened my listening pleasure. I enjoyed many of the individuals featured in the groups. A special thanks to Buffalo Bob.

Thank you,
Rick "Frosty" Hesson
103 Van Ness Ave.
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

(A check for membership accompanied the letter.)

Dear CBA,

First of all, congratulations on your third and best festival of the music we all love. This year was my first as a performer, and from a musician's standpoint, I thought it was run very smoothly.

What I would like to know is whether or not my dog's collar was found. It is a leather collar with one tag on it reading "Butte

County #8646". If it was found I would be thankful for its return.

Once again, many thanks for a great weekend!

John Lemley
(of Colby Mountain)
1431 Roy Lane
Paradise, CA 95969

Sirs:

Please find my check enclosed for \$10 to cover the cost of membership for my wife and myself in the CBA. Having recently attended the Grass Valley Festival for the first time--we moved here from Atlanta, GA, last August--my wife and I are eager to participate in any and every way. I play 5-string banjo, mandolin, fiddle, penny-whistle and dulcimer and am interested in old-time, Irish/Scots and bluegrass music.

Thank you,
Tom Murphey
400 East 40th Ave.
San Mateo, CA 94403

P.S. I'd like very much to meet some good pickers in the San Mateo area--any names?

Hello Board--

Have just gotten wind of a big bluegrass doins down at "Hill Country," a big park and complex in Morgan Hill. This will be August 6th.

Obviously, this bunch of people are not CBA members or they would surely have known to get on our Special Events calendar.

I am going to go down there, check them out and, if OK, I will hustle them into the CBA. This is a fun thing I like to do--round up new (or unaware) pickers and give 'em application forms.

See you at Fairfield.

Your Santa Clara Valley Hustler,
Uncle Tony DeCaristo
28 Circle Dr.
Campbell, CA 95008

P.S. Found a fine young bunch of pickers up in Menlo Park. They will be members very shortly.

Gentlemen,

Having attended the past 3 festivals at Grass Valley, we feel that your committee has done a superb job and received very little thanks. We thank you now.

As members in good standing of the CBA, we feel that we must call to your attention the following items for your consideration.

1. There was a great deal of congestion and a waiting line at the admittance gate which could easily have been avoided with a little more organization.

2. All bands featured were good but "old hat." We would like to see at least one big name, such as Jim and Jesse. Kate Wolf doesn't cut it.

3. Most importantly, charging admission for children under 13 seems to work an undue hardship on families. Doubling the admission for dogs would not seem to be out of line.

4. The chemical toilets became awfully full in two days. We either need more toilets, or they should be emptied sooner.

We have voted for you again, having full confidence that you will continue doing a good job.

Sincerely yours,
Bill Wahler
Del Smith
2213 Pruneridge Ave.
Santa Clara, CA 95050

better continuity and would give the crowd a chance to warm up to that personality, and 2) I feel that it would be a good idea to have one person talk to the bands before they come out and adjust and situate microphones while the MC is talking. That way, the microphones will be basically set up and the band members can make minor adjustments when they get on stage. This will minimize "dead time" on stage and allow for more music per set. I went to the Blitz bluegrass festival in Eugene, OR, this year and they used this system with great success. I noticed that in the May 1978 issue of PICKIN' magazine (the article on sound systems) that they suggested the same thing.

I'm not complaining about the festival at all; it was great! I'm just making a couple of minor suggestions that might make next year's Grass Valley (and other festivals) a little better.

I am enclosing (a copy of) a letter I sent to the organizers of the Salt Flats Hoedown in Salinas. As you can tell by the letter, I felt that they lacked much in the way of organizing a festival. Maybe next year the CBA can get involved with the Salt Flats Hoedown so that things are run the way they should be.

Sincerely,
Doug Clark
Box 1121 San Juan Bautista, CA
San Juan Bautista, CA 95045

To Whom It May Concern,

Although I am a bit slow in getting this letter written, I want to congratulate you for the excellent bluegrass festival put on at Grass Valley. This is the first year I've had an opportunity to attend, and I totally enjoyed all aspects of it.

There are two minor changes that I believe would be a benefit to next year's festival:

1) I feel (personally) that it would be better to have one MC for each show that to try and keep switching in the middle of a show. It seems to me it would make for

EDITOR'S NOTE: On behalf of the Board of Directors, I'd like to thank all of you for taking the time to write. We appreciate all your expressions of gratitude and all your suggestions. We encourage communications from the members because that keeps the CBA alive and growing. Now, a couple of comments on the last two letters. Getting "big names" to California any time is an expensive proposition; however, if all goes well, the CBA will have two concerts with Jim and Jesse early next February. Regarding Salt Flats, the CBA was involved the first time, two years ago--but we are not really contest-oriented.

Open Letter To A Thief

Congratulations, you've just stolen yourself a fine dobro. My friend's dobro. But it's too bad you'll never get from that dobro what my friend received from it. You'll never know the deep satisfaction of being presented a fine instrument by one of its original inventors--like my friend did. Nor will you experience the truly exhilarating sound of applause from an appreciative audience at bluegrass festivals--like my friend did.

You really should have hung around a little longer at Fairfield, Thief, after you crawled out of the lobby with my friend's instrument. You might have received some pleasure from my friend's (and his friends') frantic searching and from his refusal to believe that anyone could be so unfeeling as to carry away something so personally precious to a musician--his instrument.

If you did not enjoy that so much, then there was that ready-to-cry look in my friend's eyes, sitting there on the back bumper of his car, reluctant to leave for home without all that he had come with, even though deep down he knows you are long gone with his instrument. Then there was the long silent ride home.

My friend does not believe that you are a member of the California Bluegrass Association and neither do I. But you learned of the festival somehow, and hopefully you'll see this letter the same way.

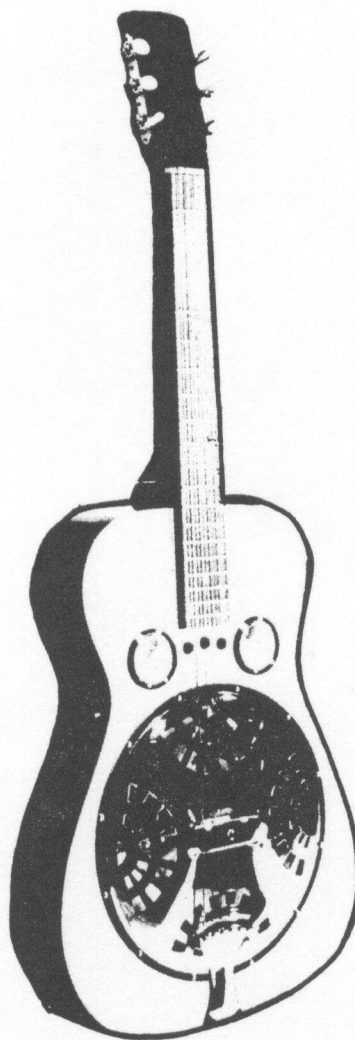
Now please know this, Thief. My friend won't be sad too much longer. It won't be long before he has another dobro. His special little bank account will build up slowly, but it will build up. His new dobro won't be as sentimentally special as the one now in your possession, but it will be a fine one nonetheless. You'll see him again performing on stage, jamming and having as much fun as he ever did.

But you, Thief, are the one to be pitied. You'll always be sitting in the shadows unable to join happy music-making people

because you have to keep ever alert for someone to leave their instruments unguarded for a few seconds. You'll never experience the fun of sharing tunes and licks with others--like my friend, Ron White, will.

P.S. Have you shown "your new dobro" to your friends or relatives yet and told them how hard you worked for it and how you so richly deserve it?

With my utmost contempt,
Jack Sadler
19150 Overlook Road
Los Gatos, CA 95030



GV '78 reviewed

by Vic Cearley

Self-termed appreciator of bluegrass and old-time country music, Coors beer, corn soup and downtown Mettler, California, not to mention North Carolina and southern Virginia.

I think I should begin by mending fences. A year ago I "damned with faint praise" an awfully good band and some fantastic dancers and failed to comment on some very good bands. I hope to correct this.

The LOST HIGHWAY is a professional country music band. Led by the very knowledgeable and erudite David Dickey, this group plays excellent country music of the older (and therefore better) vintage plus bluegrass plus gospel (is there a difference?). Their songs are studied they are felt, and they are performed damned well. David Dickey has "paid his dues" in this business, and he does know of what he writes and sings. (David writes many of the songs they do.) Maybe last year they did one of those few songs that I didn't like, and I went away to drink and jam without listening long enough, or maybe the addition of our own Sue Shelasky made them so much better that I couldn't overlook them, or maybe David shocked me by referring to me down at Norco, or maybe David's guitar strap is just too damn long, or maybe I couldn't quite resolve a tenor singer in a bluegrass band who was an L.A. Armenian looking like a Chicago hood singing, "I wanna go back to my old Kentucky home." Whatever, I didn't appreciate them enough last year. Now, I love 'em, and I'll pay to go to see them any chance I get. Now, David, will you talk to me?!

The FOGGY MOUNTAIN CLOGGERS, whom I also put away without grain last year, is a fantastic group of people that I have, in the past year, come to know individually and care for and who do a wonderful job on every show they do. They know and love the music, they are all very nice people, and they work like fiends getting ready for their appearances, both in dance practice and in preparing choreography and costumes (which are all hand-made by members of the group). They have exerted themselves (and probably will again) to the utmost (e.g. passing out on their feet) in pursuit of the old motto "the show must go on." I'm still not a dance fan,



but I love these people, and I'm in a definite majority at Grass Valley '78. Everybody loved them! Let's do it again. Besides, how can you put down a group that has two North Carolinians on its roster!

DONE GONE (They ain't!). This group, which I pretty well passed over last year, has come alive. Now don't ask me to explain the difference; it seems to go all the way through the band, but all the instruments are great, and Don Humphries' song choices, MCing and singing are just fantastic. I don't know of a voice anywhere in the West that is as good and pure country as Don's. Of course, he couldn't be but good: after all, he's from North Carolina, too! But they are all good and deserve a lot of credit for perpetuating this kind of music in northern California. Keep it up, Don! You got one solid fan!

THE OVERLOOK MOUNTAIN BOYS. You know, I'm going to say it, I know I'll hear about it, but--I think they were "overlooked" (at least by me). During Grass Valley '78 they gave us at least three (maybe four) outstanding performances. Jack Sadler directs this band, plays banjo and sings the songs just like he was born and raised in Whitetop, Virginia/North Carolina/Tennessee--even though he wasn't. (Jack hails from Oklahoma and was raised around Modesto California.) I don't mean to ignore the other members of the band, but I do under-

stand that Jack is the organizer and driving force of this group, and they do a fantastic job. I loved all their songs, and they gave a great selection of music.

About now I oughta say I loved Grass Valley '78. I don't have any putdowns. The worst thing I saw was the barbeque place that charged two prices for terrible food--so if you didn't like somebody and are looking to me for support, forget it, Charlie--I loved everything!

COUNTRY HAM. According to the dictionary nepotism must occur between members of a family, either filial or marital, so I cannot be accused of nepotism when I write about Country Ham, although I really feel inside me that I am very much prejudiced for anything these people to because of some rather close personal relations I have had with two members of this band. I am talking of course about Carl and Judie, who might be called the "West Coast Country Ham." By the way, congratulations to the new Pagter family; I knew you would succumb to the IRS. Anyway, as to their performance at Grass Valley '78, they were ever so ably assisted by Paul Reed (Berkstresser), who is a regular member of Country Ham, who traveled out here from Washington, D.C (without travel pay), who says he's going to retire in northern California and who sings the most beautiful bass parts to their songs and plays a damn good rhythm guitar. Country Ham was also assisted by some so-called guitar player and singer from Pikeville, Kentucky, or somewhere... and they all did such a job! They were goooooooooood! Their music is somewhere in the realm of old-time/mountain/folk/bluegrass, and in that realm they are untouchable. I am now a proud possessor of both their albums, and I play them often. No where does anyone put the style and feeling into the old songs that Country Ham does. Now, Judie, can I have some more chicken corn soup?!

JAY QUESENBERRY AND THE PRIDE OF KENTUCKY. Maybe all you folks know that JQ is one of the founding fathers of this organization, and maybe you know that he has been president for the past two years. Big deal. Maybe you also know he pretends to play a guitar. Now it shall be known: Jay Quesenberry and The

Pride of Kentucky is one hell of a good group. All kidding aside, my good buddy Jay plays as good a flat-picked guitar as there exists. On the old songs Jay can't be touched anywhere. Jay Belt plays fiddle like he invented bluegrass fiddle, and Sandy Rothman is an old-timer and shows it in his precision mandolin picking. Offstage Sandy was the only banjo picker there who could make Keith Little nervous! Jay, can I play with you one day--maybe when the swelling in my thumb goes down? I've taken all the instructional courses from The Kentucky Ramblers as well as Curly King and the Kentucky Hilltoppers from WCYB Bristol. Huh, Jay?

BUFFALO BUTTER BAND (AKA Buffalo Bob and the Country Butter Band). Let's face it--Buffalo Bob could play a turnip accompanied by three deaf mute Laotians on waterwheel and have an entertaining show. He doesn't have to though because he is well-accompanied by his beautiful teenage (in appearance) wife, Carmon, who does a fine job on bass fiddle (and sometimes fiddle) and some kid named "Hot Licks Louie", really their very talented son, Eric. As a family band, they do a fantastic job of entertaining all over northern California, and I am a proud possessor of their new album. As always, they did a great job plus a lot of "dog work" MCing, arranging, interviewing, etc. Grass Valley '78 would not have been half the show it was without them. And a big xxxx to Carmon.

BILL WHITE AND FRIENDS. I wonder what we would hear if we put Bill White by himself up in front of a mike. I'm sure it would be good, but you're not likely to hear it. Bill's friends are legion, and a lot of them are very good musicians, and there is fierce competition as to who is going to be Bill White's "Friends of the Moment." Regardless, Bill White sounds good. However and maybe strangely to some, his sound was not imminent on the stage at Grass Valley '78 when Bill was awarded a plaque and a life-time membership in the CBA. What was imminent was Bill's unceasing care for people involved in the music business. Be they performers or fans, be they bad, good or indifferent as performers, Bill treated them all, not as equals, but as

Recipe

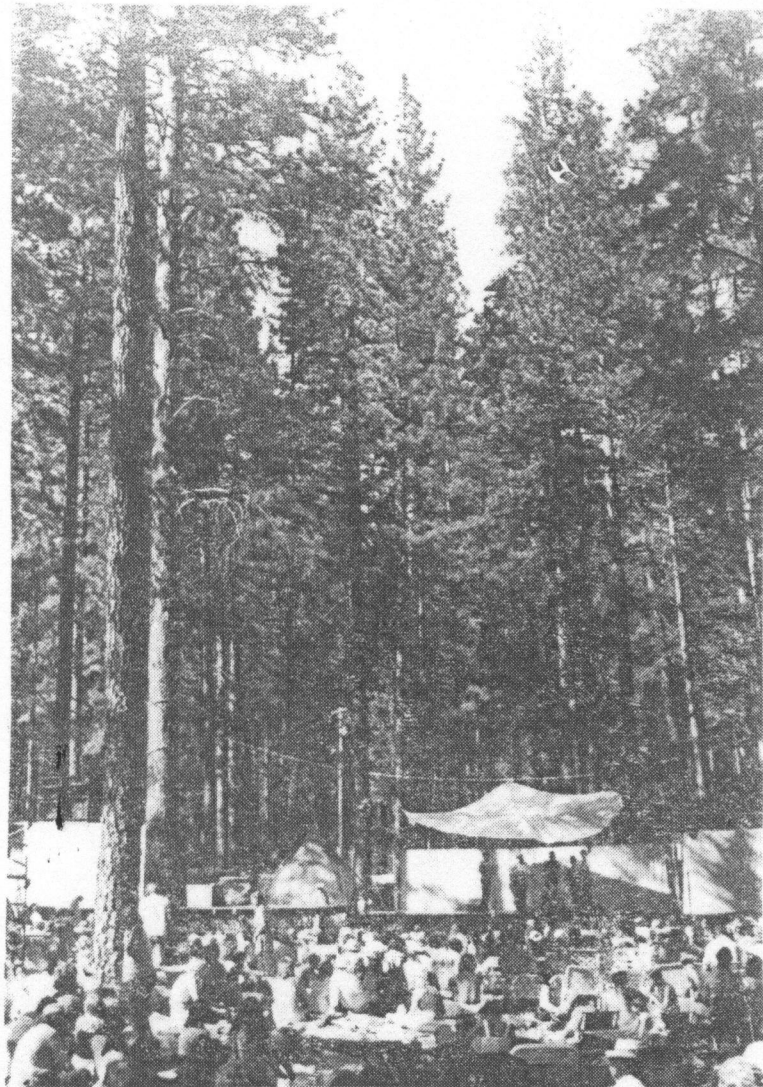
for a great bluegrass festival

First, round up a whole mess of mighty fine musicians. Be sure to get plenty of fiddlers; gobs of guitar pickers; quite a few banjo pluckers; a bunch of bass players; and mucho mandolinists. Then add a dash of dobroists, a heck of a harmonica man, and an awfully apt autoharpist (not to mention some classy cloggers).

Then, find several hundred or so good folks of all ages, shapes, and sizes who are anxious to satisfy their souls with a big dose of good old Bluegrass Music.

Next, locate a clearing amongst the tall pines in that clear mountain air at Grass Valley.

Now, set those musicians out, batches at a time, in front of that crowd, and step back! When you hear that sweet Bluegrass sound ringing out, you know it's



Grass Valley '78!



One of the many on-going jam sessions of the weekend.

photos and text by

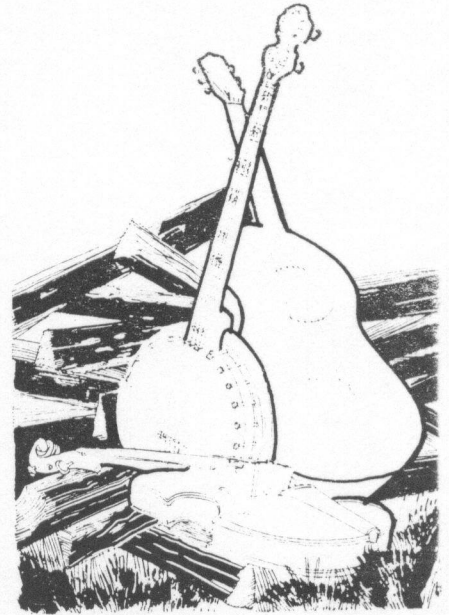
Judy Sing



The Caffrey Family harmonizing.



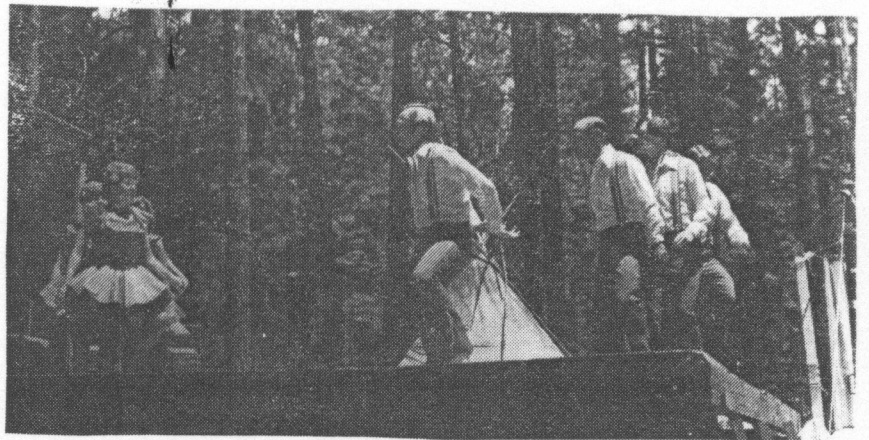
A few raindrops didn't bother the diehards on Saturday night.



Surprise of the evening: Bill White's award.



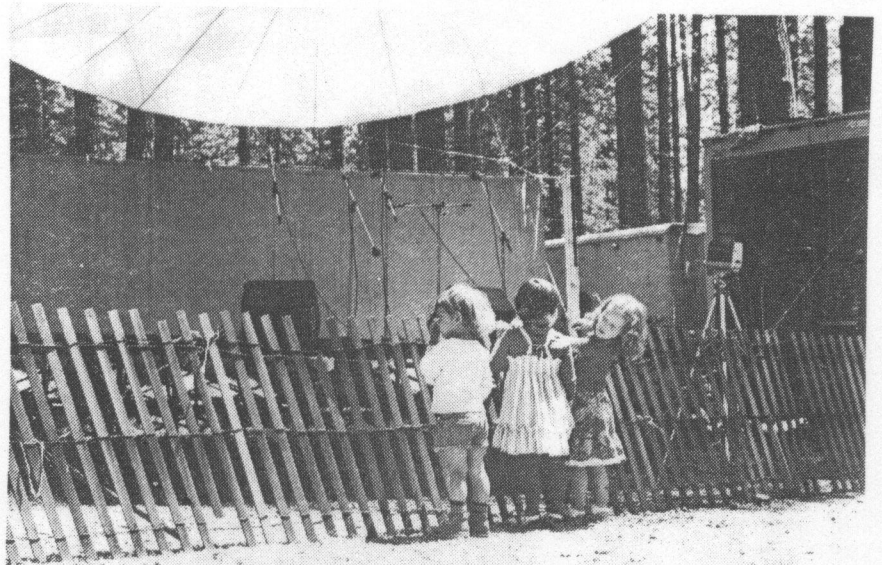
South Loomis Quickstep.



Foggy Mountain Cloggers fixing to set the stage on fire.



A wistful J.D. fan and High in the Saddle.



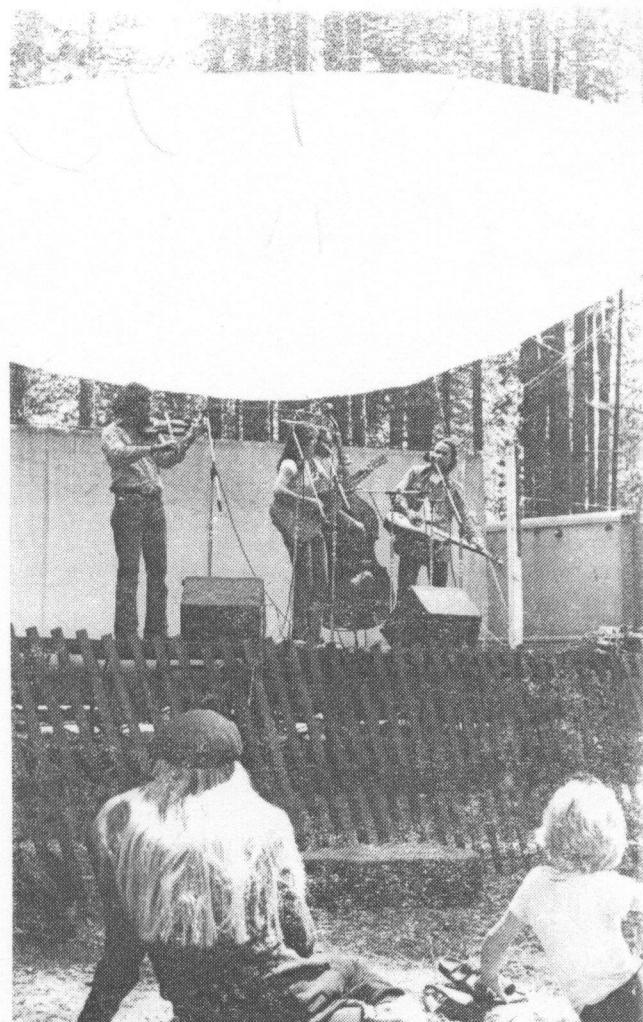
Young cloggers eagerly wait for the next band.



Balloon woman meets Train man.



Gloryland String Band.



Mindigo String Band.

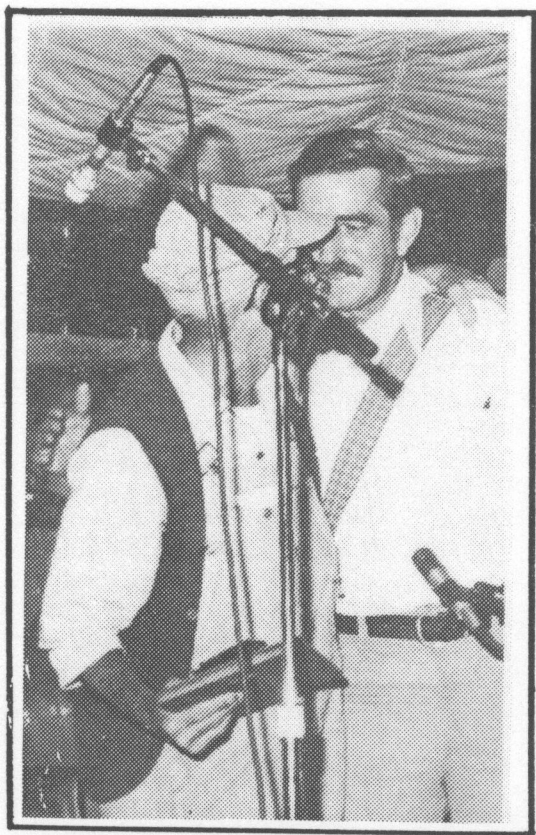


It was easy to follow your nose to the food concessions.

a message from JQ

Dear Board of Directors
and Members,

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank the people responsible for the two successful Grass Valley Festivals--and the many, many successful mini-festivals--that have taken place during my term of office as president of the CBA. I wish the members and the people attending our festivals could somehow be aware of the many hours of hard work by a few dedicated Directors and members and the support of many others. I also want to thank the bands participating at Grass Valley and all our events for their outstanding performances. Now, as your president for a third term, I look forward to even greater success, to a fulfilling relationship with our new directors and to helping to bring musical pleasure to all our members and friends as the CBA continues to grow and the popularity of bluegrass increases. Thank you all once again. Truly, you are my flowers.



JQ gets a thank you hug from Bill White--from all of us.

....cracker barrel

...The fabulous success of the Fairfield festival July 30 brought excellent music from Bill White and Friends, The Good Ol' Persons and South Loomis Quickstep as well as three new Directors for the CBA: Laurie Lewis, Steve Pottier and Butch Waller. Congratulations to them--and to the incumbents who were re-elected. Also, a very special round of applause for Carmon Brittain, Judie Cox Pagter and Jay Shrum for the good service and dedication they gave the CBA as Directors... Fairfield really seems the ideal spot for bluegrass. Look for another mini-festival there in late September or early October...The 1st Annual Budweiser Bluegrass Festival at the Solano County Fairgrounds in Vallejo August 12-13 gave everyone a lot of pleasure. The bands were terrific--Any Old Time picked up several encores Saturday; on their first visit to northern California Last Chance so delighted everyone that they proved this was far from their last chance; and The Vern Williams Band proved they are the very, very best--to name only a few. Budweiser and KNEW were pleased enough to want to do it again...The Freight & Salvage has been sold, but we understand the new management wishes to keep things pretty much as they are...Be sure to check out Rosebud's Ice Cream Parlor and Tavern in Benicia; Frank Wakefield may be there in September and Vern's band will be there in October. Call Phyllis 707/745-9988...Country Ham has already recorded their third album, and judging from the tape it promises to be pure dynamite!.... If you're in southern California around October 22, be sure to take in the Annual Chili Cook Off at Rosamond (near Lancaster). This year fiddle, banjo and guitar contests will be featured along with some super bands: Pacific..ly Bluegrass, Lost Highway and Last Chance. Music coordinated by (who else?!) Dick Tyner...Which reminds me--don't forget the GWBF in Norco. I'll be looking for you there...

FIDDLE FACTS

WEISER, IDAHO

National Old-Time Fiddlers Contest
June 19-24, 1978

GRAND NATIONALS (18 & over)

- 1st--Herman Johnson, OK (\$1000)
- 2nd--Mark O'Connor, WA
- 3rd--Jeff Pritchard, KN
- 4th--John Francis, WA
- 5th--Dick Barrett, TX
- 6th--Paul Anastasio, WA
- 7th--Junior Daugherty, NM
- 8th--Dwayne Youngblood, Visalia, CA
- 9th--Lloyd Wanzer, ID
- 10th--Vivian Williams, WA
- 11th--Shelley Clarke, WY
- 12th--Joe Sites, ID
- 13th--Bob Saddler, FL
- 14th--Rudy Darling, Nevada City, CA
- 15th--Paul Shelasky, Novato, CA
- 16th--Sheldon Rosen, UT
- 17th--Steve Gillian, KY
- 18th--Bill Yohey, WA
- 19th--James Mason, WA
- 20th--Hal Amundson, MT

SENIORS (65 & over)

- 1st--Marvin Johnson, Ventura, CA
- 2nd--Benny Thomasson, TX
- 3rd--Alex Leber, Long Beach, CA
- 4th--Cecil Johnson, OK
- 5th--Vic Halverson, CA

LADIES (18 & over)

- 1st--Christine Campbell, UT
- 2nd--Carol Ann Wheeler, OR
- 3rd--Sheila Wright, WA
- 4th--Donna Johnson, WA
- 5th--Molly Schultz, OK

JUNIORS (12-18)

- 1st--J'ana Jacoby, Redding, CA
- 2nd--Tim Crouch, AR
- 3rd--Loretta Brank, WA
- 4th--Brian Goode, WA
- 5th--Doug Thomas, WA

JUNIOR-JUNIORS (under 12)

- 1st--Randy Sloan
- 2nd--Tyler Okada, Sacramento, CA
- 3rd--Shelley Zelazny, Redding, CA
- 4th--Sherry Hill
- 5th--Randy Pollard

CERTIFIED WINNERS

Best Old-Time Fiddler: Mabel Vogt, ID
Fanciest Fiddler: Mark Bowen, ID
Fanciest Dressed:
Men: Joe Sites, ID
Women: Carol Ann Wheeler, OR

OLDEST FIDDLER: Gladys Frazier, ID, 90
YOUNGEST FIDDLER: Randy Sloan, 12
(placing highest)

BEST-LIKED ACCOMPANISTS

- 1st--Dick Bain
- 2nd--Lee Brushett, Redding, CA
- 3rd--Ted Smith, Placerville, CA

BEST-LIKED FIDDLER

Benny Thomasson

REGIONAL WINNERS

(placing highest from their area)
Southeast--Bob Saddler, FL
Southwest--Herman Johnson, OK
Northwest--Mark O'Connor, WA
Northeast--Paul Hood, PA
Midwest--Jeff Pritchard, KN

JUDGES

Mickey Davis, MS
Jana Jae, OK
Chuck Griffin, WA
Coy Daily, Salida, CA
Harold Allen

FACTS

289 contestants total
120 contestants in Grand Nationals
18½ miles of tape recording contest

OGDEN, UTAH

Golden Spike National Old-Time Fiddlers
Contest, June 30-July 1-2, 1978

CHAMPION DIVISION

- 1st--Dick Barrett
- 2nd--Mark O'Connor
- 3rd--John Francis
- 4th--J'ana Jacoby
- 5th--Jeff Pritchard
- 6th--Mickey Davis

OPEN DIVISION

- 1st--Paul Anastasio

SALINAS

3rd Annual Salt Flats Hoedown
July 7-9, 1978

FLATPICK CONTEST

MASTERS

1st--Mark O'Connor (\$200)
2nd--Ted Smith
3rd--Dix Spruce, Berkeley, CA
4th--John Green
(7th--Dick Tyner, Vista, CA)

OPEN

1st--Bill Willard, Santa Cruz, CA
2nd--Tom Phillips
3rd--Bill Liners
4th--Brian Cutler

FIDDLE CONTEST

MASTERS

1st--Mark O'Connor (\$300)
2nd--John Francis
3rd--J'ana Jacoby
4th--Paul Shelasky
5th--Hughey Smith, Fresno, CA
6th--Christine Campbell
7th--Hubert Roy, Bakersfield, CA

OPEN

1st--Paul Anastasio (\$250)
2nd--Rudy Darling
3rd--James Mason
4th--Tiny Moore, Sacramento, CA
5th--Don Gish, Madera, CA
6th--Glenn Tarver, Rocklin, CA
7th--?
8th--Bill Cummings, Roseville, CA

SENIORS

1st--Virg Evans, Santa Cruz, CA (\$250)
2nd--Vic Halverson
3rd--Ed Graham
4th--Oak Gibson, Citrus Heights, CA
5th--Elmer Glover, Monterey, CA
6th--Leon Schweinfurter, San Bruno, CA

JUNIORS

1st--Marcie Errecart, Cit.Hghts, CA (\$75)
2nd--Heather Bennett
3rd--Lisa Hall

JUNIOR-JUNIORS

1st--Randy Pollard (\$40)
2nd--Tyler Okada
3rd--Stacey Pagter, Santa Clara, CA
4th--Christine Crabill

ACCOMPANISTS

1st--Don Heiland, Ceres, CA (\$75)
2nd--Vern Baughman, Sacramento, CA
3rd--Lee Brushett

WESTERN REGIONAL CHAMPION

(Playoff of Division Winners)

1st--Mark O'Connor (\$200)
2nd--John Francis (\$100)
3rd--Paul Anastasio
4th--Virg Evans
5th--Marcie Errecart

Western Regional Champion has been
invited to compete in the First Annual
Dick Barrett Invitational Fiddle Contest,
November 18-19, 1978, in Durant, OK.

JUDGES

(for both flatpick and fiddle contests)
Jay Belt, Salinas, CA
Dwayne Youngblood
Bill Tillery, Modesto, CA
Bob Snyder, Redding, CA
Mac McLoud, Phoenix, AZ

Sponsored by the California Rodeo
Association; directed by Grace Stewart.

MARINE WORLD

July 23, 1978, Redwood City (by KNEW 91am)

OLD-TIME BANJO

1st--Tony Marcus---(\$300)---
2nd--Laurie Lewis
3rd--Paul Shelasky

BLUEGRASS BANJO

1st--Phil Allen
2nd--Jeff Olpin
3rd--Mike
Leatherman

FIDDLE

1st--Paul Shelasky (\$300)
2nd--Laurie Lewis, Corte Madera, CA
3rd--Jared Lee, San Jose, CA

JUDGES

Fiddle

Tony Marcus
George Kindler
Sandy Rothman

Banjo

Carol Masters
Ray Edlund
Sandy Rothman

NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

(from the RECORD SEARCHLIGHT, Redding, CA
Monday, June 12, 1978, Vol.127, No.79)

REDDING TEEN BEST FIDDLER IN U.S.

J'ana Saws Her Way to Top of Fiddle Field

J'ana Jacoby, the young Redding fiddler who has taken most of the top prizes in national fiddling contests, took the biggest and the best Sunday night when she won the Grand Masters Fiddle Contest in Nashville, Tenn.



J'ana, 14, was competing against the best fiddle players in the country, according to Lee Brushett of Redding, who was notified of the win by her parents, Dr. and Mrs. William Jacoby.

"Some of them (fiddle players) have been invited to participate and others just come," said Brushett, a guitarist who has accompanied J'ana in many competitions. "She beat the best of them."

She broke three records doing it, too. She was the first woman to ever finish in the finals, the first Californian and the first woman ever to win the competition.

She was not the youngest. That spot is still reserved for Mark O'Connor, 16, of Washington. He won at age 13 (1975) and came in second to J'ana this year.

To win the contest, J'ana played six tunes in two rounds of judging. In the preliminaries held Saturday (in the Old Ryman), she was one of three fiddlers from Redding to compete. The others were Jeannette Beyer and Evelyn Zelazny.

Finals were held Sunday at Opryland in Nashville.

"It is so male-oriented," reported J'ana's mother, Adrienne, via phone from Nashville, "that they give the winner a pewter belt buckle as a trophy and a blazer, size 42 long."

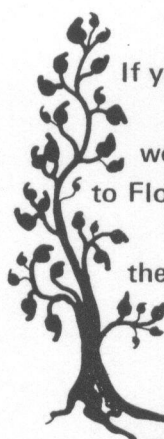
If the belt buckle and the blazer didn't fit, the \$1000 cash prize did. And so did the guarantee of TV appearances on "Hee Haw" and the "Porter Waggoner Show" in the fall. J'ana also will have an opportunity to perform at the Grand Ole Opry.

The young fiddler isn't through competing, though. She goes on to the Grand National Competition in Weiser, Idaho, next week.

(Editor's Note: As you can see from the listing of Contest Results, J'ana won the Juniors at Weiser, took 4th at Ogden and placed 3rd at Salinas. Multiple congratulations to this extraordinary young lady!)

The top 10 fiddlers in the Grand Masters Contest for 1978 are:

- 1st - J'ana Jacoby
 - 2nd - Mark O'Connor, WA
 - 3rd - Steve Gillian, KY
 - 4th - John Mattingly, OK
 - 5th - Roy Crawford, AL
 - 6th - Terry Morris, TX
 - 7th - J. T. Perkins, AL
 - 8th - John Francis, WA
 - 9th - Wade Stockton, TX
 - 10th - Vernon Solomon, TX
-



If you really care about the Environment,
and are a Bluegrass Musician;
would you donate 1 day of your life
to Float down a river playing music to people
who love music and are donating
their money to "Friends of the River"?
Lachlan 415-325-1685
857 Partridge Avenue No.3
Menlo Park, CA 94025

Blackpoint

by Viola Blacklock

(Viola and Charlie Blacklock are long-time CBA members and regulars at bluegrass and fiddle events. Charlie is the charming gentleman who plays the saw.)

Blackpoint Old-Time Music Festival, July 15-16, concluded the week-long Blackpoint Camp of Folklife and Traditional Music. Located near Novato, Blackpoint shared the site of the Renaissance Pleasure Faire, an annual affair which began this year on August 19

I was only there on Saturday, but I thoroughly enjoyed the atmosphere and entertainment.

The setting is an old ranch of many acres with a big red barn for inside performances. Many tons of baled hay were used for seating at the large open-air stage, very appropriate for the very large audience. People could also sit on the hillside under large old oak trees and listen to the good music. The sound system was so good that it could be heard a long distance from the stage.

There were workshops on Women in Country Music, Songs for Children, French Country Music, Fiddle Styles, Dulcimer Styles, Irish Music in California and Square Dancing.

In concert were the New Lost City Ramblers, the Blackpoint Sacred Harp Choir, the Arkansas Sheiks with Paul Shelasky playing fiddle (along with Mike Drayton) and guitar and many others.

The highlight of the afternoon was to see and hear Elizabeth Cotton of "Freight Train" fame perform. She is 83 years old and can still play the guitar "up side down," as she says. She also told stories of her life and proved very entertaining and enjoyable to listen to.

We saw a lot of our bluegrass friends there in the audience and some performing on stage with other groups.

As at all affairs of this kind, there was an assortment of food that smelled and looked delicious--barbecued chicken, watermelon, ice cream, lemonade, etc.

People that we talked with who had been at the camp all week reported it had been very educational.

The following review comes from the Walnut Valley Occasional, August 1978, publication of the folks who bring you the National Flat-Picking Championship.

COUNTRY HAM

Vetco 512

Side 1

Pony Ride; Pick Pretty Flowers; Tom & Terry; Let Me Go Too; Hogs Et Em; Come and Dine; Blue Ridge Cabin Home

Side 2

Reuben's Train; Soon the Snowflakes will Be Falling; Morpeth Rent; Liberty; Miss Me When I'm Gone; Little Country Preacher; Blue Eyes Darlin'; Log Cabin in the Lane

Personnel

Judie Cox - guitar, autoharp

Paul Reed - Guitar

Carl Pagter - clawhammer banjo

Jim Sayles - bass

Jerry ? - 5 string banjo, guitar, mandolin

This is the first Country Ham album I've heard, although it is, according to the liner notes their second album. They've got a captivating sound, enthusiastic, well balanced and highly enjoyable. Not really old-time and not really bluegrass, Country Ham strikes a completely unique middle ground some where between. They call themselves an old-time music group, but their musical variety, at least on this album defies too close a categorization.

Their music is a mixture of really old-time music to traditional bluegrass, but neither is stereo typed — each style bears a definite Country Ham style. On three cuts, Jerry (what's his last name?) and Carl Pagter do a double banjo arrangement with both clawhammer and Scruggs style.

Instrumentally and vocally, Country Ham demonstrates authoritative style and almost flawless execution.

Whoever they are, Country Ham is good. Get this album for your collection if you like a combination of old-time, bluegrass music. (L. Coats)

Available: Vetco Records, 5825 Vine St., Cincinnati, Ohio.

THE SAGA OF THE *Royal Concord*

Once upon a time on the afternoon of April 30, 1978, the Stalwart Band prepared to leave Silver Lake Park in the Land of Norco, where they had attended the Golden West Bluegrass Festival, presided over by the Grand Promoter, Sir Dick of Tyner. Although the festivities still continued, it was a long way back to the Kingdom of the North where the five were from, and The King of the Droptumbs was anxious to get his Royal Concord Coach on the Fastway, the freeway that linked the Kingdom of the North with the Kingdom of the South. Fortified with fond memories of music and friends and armed with the Golden Elixir, four of the five posed for a portrait snapped by the fifth, The Editor.

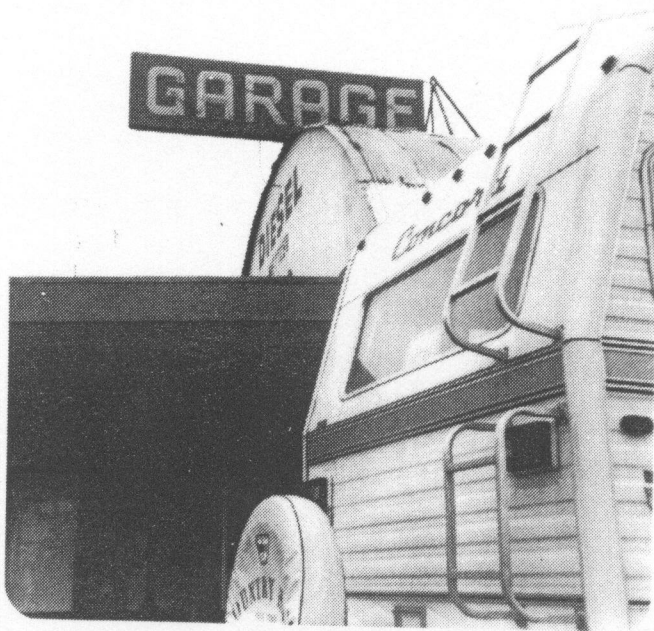
No one had a premonition of the woe that would befall them on that journey, unless it was Edward's surly expression, but that is meaningful only in retrospect. The Stalwart Band included: Edward (with disdain), The King of the Droptumbs, His Pennsylvania Princess, Cannon and The Editor.

The trip began well enough. The Royal Concord purred and the Stalwart Band amused themselves by listening to tapes of Jim and Jesse, Don Stover, Lester Flatt and even Country Ham. Of course on the way to Ontario, the Royal Concord



stumbled unto an airport runway; but rather than takeoff, the mighty motorhome rumbled on its merry way.

Then, just over the Grapevine on the Fastway outside the Kingdom of the South, it happened. The Royal Concord quit, just stopped dead. The King thought the main tank was out of gas and switched to the alternate, but the Royal Concord wouldn't budge. While it sat on the side of the Fastway, with trucks rushing by like giant waves, everyone contributed a theory. First was vapor lock; Cannon told about a friend who'd crossed the country with vapor lock. The Princess claimed they'd come down not up and that they were out of gas. The King insisted the gas gauge read 1/3 full. "Back in Pennsylvania," the Princess launched another They-don't-do-it-out-here-like-they-do-in-Pennsylvania testimonial. Edward thought it was the fuel pump. Finally, The King and Edward set off down the Fastway in search of a sign of civilization and help. In reality The King and Edward were brothers; although they didn't normally see a great deal of each other, these woeful circumstances allowed them much time to become reacquainted. The others watched them disappear down the Fastway and then hung a white towel on the aerial to signal help.



Soon a truck stopped, a huge rig. The driver came back to inspect the problem. He was a young man wearing a cowboy hat decorated with a Confederate flag and a Texas drawl. He looked at the engine and declared the wiring was household stuff, but he thought the problem was mechanical rather than electrical. Edward and The Princess returned, having called a tow truck. The Princess took the white towel down; they had surrendered. "You know why Robert E. Lee surrendered?" Tex asked. "Because he had diarrhea. No kiddin'. He was a diarrhetic diabetic alcoholic. I ain't shittin' and I'm his great grandson." The Princess who was suffering from constipation found this interesting. The King found a Confederate flag on board to indicate his sympathy. Tex had to return to his truck. "Tammy's waitin'." "Oh you have a woman companion." "A lady," Tex corrected. "In our business it's either a woman or a lady, and Tammy's a lady, all 300 pounds of her." Also, his girlfriend was in the truck, a little waitress he'd picked up yesterday in Fresno where he'd ridden in a rodeo. His handle was, appropriately, Muff Divin' Bull Rider, and Tammy's was Sugarbush, but she was a lady.

The Princess expressed concern for the tow truck. "Hey, young lady," Tex drawled, "don't worry so. I'm 27 years old, a Vietnam veteran, and I been drivin' that rig there. I got two years to live, and you don't see me worryin'. Shit!" The Princess and everyone else was quiet for a moment. Then the tow truck came. The Princess offered Tex a bowl of her home-made chicken corn soup, but he had just eaten and besides Tammy was waitin'. They watched Tex, Tammy and the waitress from Fresno speed off down the Fastway.

The Royal Concord was hooked to the tow truck and towed five miles to a garage in the Land of Mettler, a blink town between the Fastway and the Old Fastway in the Great Valley. Although the garage was about to close, the mechanics were helpful. The problem, they said, was the fuel pump. Unfortunately, they did not have one that would fit. There was a junkyard in town that was full of Ford and Chevy parts,



WELCOME TO METTLER!

Edward and the Princess make a simultaneous reach for the friendship of the large, fierce watchdog's girl friend.



but "Dodge's never break down." The King and his Princess groaned over that; the Royal Concord had been nothing but trouble since its inaugural voyage in the Blue Ridge Mountains of Virginia. Because it was Sunday night fuel pumps were not available anywhere, not even 20 miles up the Fastway in the Land of Bakersfield. "Back in Pennsylvania--" the Princess began. But it was no use. The Stalwart Band was stuck for the night in the Land of Mettler.

Stocked with candy bars, potato chips, soda pop, Wild Turkey and North Carolina moonshine, the five settled into the Royal Concord under the blazing light of the garage and the protective watch of a large and fierce canine. When a group of people are thrown together in an emergency situation, tensions are bound to arise, and there were stressful moments when each wanted to flush the others down the Concord's holding tank: the Princess and The King, The King and Edward, the Princess and Edward, Edward and The Editor--only Cannon remained calm throughout the ordeal, but then it was his moonshine. But in the end they were all better for it, and they loved each other very much.

Morning in Mettler was no finer than in Carolina, but the sun was shining and the fuel pump would soon arrive. Breakfast at the Mettler Cafe was surprisingly good, especially the hash browns. Should anyone have occasion to stop there, the cafe gets a five-star recommendation. Jokes buzzed like bees in honey and puns swarmed like mosquitos as Edward and Cannon outdid each other; occasionally The Editor and The King slipped a dry one in, i.e. Hickory Dickory Daquiri Doc. The King did a splendid imitation of Jackie Gleason as the redneck sheriff in Smokey and The Bears. The Princess bought cigarettes, and the fuel pump was fitted, only to discover the problem was not there after all. Yet the Royal Concord started. Without questioning its beneficence, the King ordered the tanks filled, and the Stalwart Band bade farewell to the Land of Mettler and sped down the Fastway.



The King and Cannon discuss the problem.

The Royal Concord sped along merrily like Reuben's Train, and the Stalwart Band was delighted. At least they'd see the Kingdom of the North before nightfall. The King drove for some time when he decided he needed a break and pulled into a rest stop. Everyone stretched and dewatered and climbed back in for the last lap of the trip. The King decided to snooze while Edward drove. Twenty minutes down the Fastway, the Royal Concord did it again: it sputtered, rolled over and died. Edward thought it was the main tank emptying and cranked to the alternate, but it was to no avail. He eased the mighty motorhome to the side of the Fastway where the Princess and The King, disturbed at being aroused, tried to get the gas pumping. Again there were theories, the newest one being crud clogging the gas line. Once again Edward and The King hiked down the Fastway in search of help which came quickly in the form of a Highway Patrolman--who nevertheless found time to save a frightened baby lamb astray from its flock. While Edward and The King were off with him in search of a mechanic, the Princess picked up a dead rabbit from the Fastway, cut off its foot for good luck and its cute tail for a souvenir and buried it in the grass beside the Fastway. The Princess loved animals.



The Royal Concord at the rest stop gave no sign of distress. Except that its Country Ham tire cover had vanished.



The Princess took time out to secure a hanging pipe with a coat hanger, like they do in Pennsylvania.

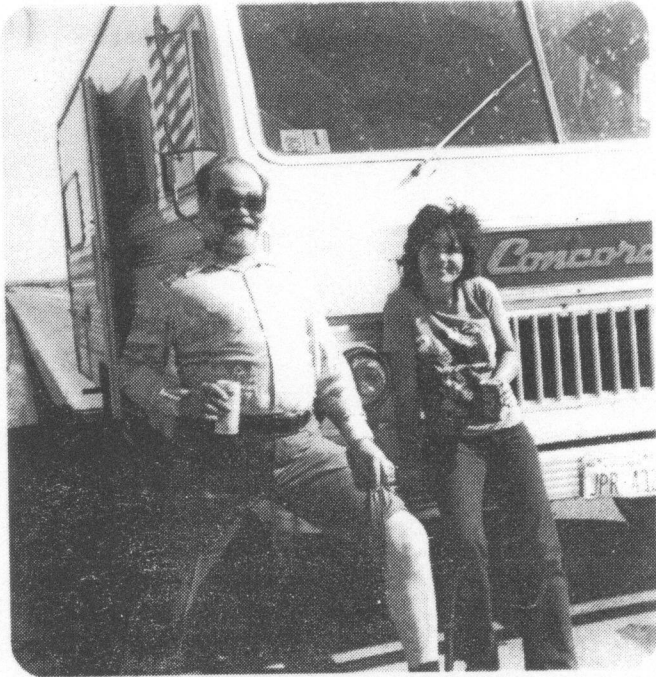
Now it was Edward's turn at the wheel.



While The King took a nap.



Breakdown No. 2. While Edward and The King hiked for help, Cannon cut up for the Princess and The Editor. Note the intricate Bug Design on the Royal Concord's windshield.



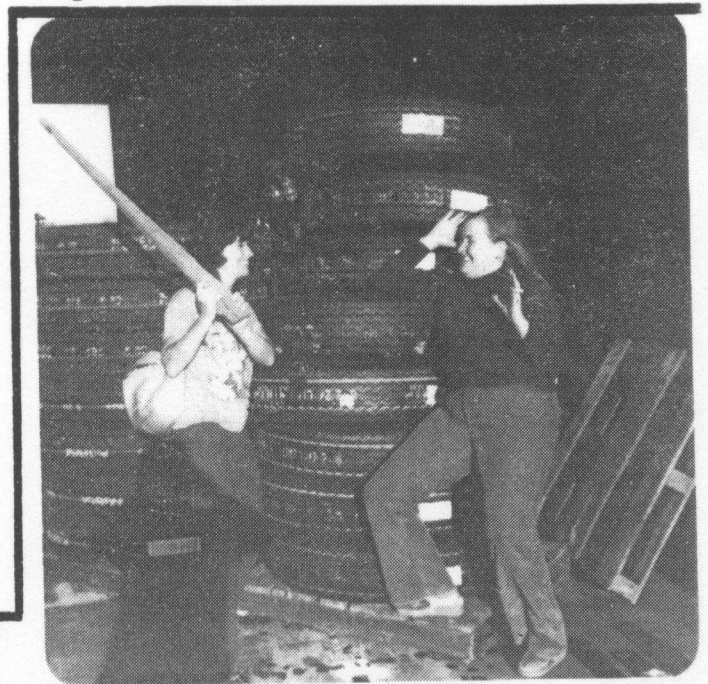
That's The Editor--outstanding in her field. . . .it seemed to take forever for The King and Edward to return with another tow truck.



The Royal Concord was finally healed at the Los Banos-Gustine Truck Stop. It had a vacuum lock in its gas line, and the mechanic drilled a hole in its gas cap. The Stalwart Band was happy to be on its way at last.



They arrived at the Land of Walnut Creek, with no further mishaps, about 9:30 that night. When The King began talking about taking the Royal Concord to Grass Valley, Edward, Cannon and The Editor drove off to their respective homes, and the Princess began talking about Pennsylvania. . . .



Footnote: On the right is the Princess warning The Editor about telling this story, but The Editor persevered anyway. . .even after The Royal Concord broke down on the way to Grass Valley. But that, as they say, is another story.

BLUEGRASS BILLBOARD

BANDS

THE BEAR CREEK BOYS*

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

BILL WHITE*

October 27-29 - 11th GWBF, Norco.
For further information, contact Bill
White, 415/530-7192.

BUFFALO BUTTER BAND*

September 1-2 - Lake County Fair--host
to 2nd Annual Fiddle Contest.
For further information, contact Carmon
Brittain, 707/485-0258.

THE CAFFREY FAMILY

For bookings, contact Patty Caffrey,
415/564-1464.

COLBY MOUNTAIN*

every Tuesday - Nellie's Restaurant,
126 W. 2nd St., Chico.
every Thursday - Canal Street, Chico.
most every Saturday - Old Navy Inn, Chico.
For further information, contact Larry
Mitchell, 916/343-6290.

COUNTRY HAM*

October 27-29 - 11th GWBF, Norco.
For further information, contact Carl
Pagter, 415/938-4221.

DONE GONE*

September 1-2 - Rainbow Bridge Restaurant,
Napa.
September 8 - Tower Theatre, Roseville.
every Thursday - Paul's Saloon, 3251 Scott
St., San Francisco.
every Friday - Red Vest Pizza Parlour,
San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito.
For further information, contact Max
Berueffy, 415/383-1736.

EASY MONEY*

No set gigs; for bookings, contact Lachlan,
415/325-1685 or 415/326-6200 x3815.

FIRE ON THE MOUNTAIN*

No set gigs; for bookings, contact Susan
Charnett, 916/265-6324 or 916/265-4258.

FRESH PICKED*

No set gigs; for bookings, contact Joyce
Hennessey, 415/526-5027.

THE GLORY LAND STRING BAND*

September 17 - First Assembly of God,
Anderson. 6:00 PM.
September 24 - Carmichael Assembly of
God, Carmichael. 7:00 PM.
September 30-October 1 - Old Time Camp
Meeting, Visalia. Jack Ramsay and
Sons Production.
October 7-8 - Calico Ghost Town.
October 19-21 - His Place Pizza Parlor,
Escondido. 8:00-10:00 PM.
October 28 - Cornerstone Coffee House,
Ventura. 8:00 PM.
October 27-29 - 11th GWBF, Norco.
November 19 - Gospel Lighthouse, 510
Georgia Ave., Vallejo. 7:00 PM.
For bookings, contact Mike Schubarth,
180 Buckeye St., Woodland, CA, or call
916/662-5433.

GOOD OL' PERSONS*

every Thursday - Red Vest Pizza Parlour,
San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito.
every Friday - Piacce Pizza, Appian-80
Shopping Center, Pinole. 7:00-10:00.
every Sunday - Paul's Saloon, 3251 Scott
St., San Francisco.
For further information, contact Paul
Shelasky, 415/892-1265.

HIGH COUNTRY*

every Wednesday & Friday - Paul's Saloon,
3251 Scott St., San Francisco.
every Saturday - Red Vest Pizza Parlour,
San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito.
For further information, contact Butch
Waller, 415/776-6713.

HIGH IN THE SADDLE

October 27-29 - 11th GWBF, Norco. The
band reunites for this event only.

HOT POTATO (A Boogie Band)*

For bookings, contact Kathy Kallick,
415/397-0619.

LATE NITE RADIO*

For bookings, contact David Garelick,
707/275-2038.

*The listed performer, the band or at least one member of the band is a CBA member.

MINDIGO STRING BAND*

every 2nd Friday - Alice's Restaurant,
Skyline & Hiway 94, Skylonda.

For further information, contact Jerry
Hagelstein, 415/747-0697.

NEW TONTO BASIN BOYS*

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

OAKUM*

No set gigs; for bookings, call the band
at 415/548-3111.

OLD FRIENDS*

every Tuesday - Paul's Saloon, 3251 Scott
St., San Francisco.

For further information, contact Gene
Tortora, 415/981-4396.

OVERLOOK MOUNTAIN BOYS*

October 22 - Bluegrass Concert, Hill
Country Park, Morgan Hill.

For further information, contact Jack
Sadler, 408/354-9359.

RAY PARK*

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

JAY QUESENBERRY & THE PRIDE OF KENTUCKY*

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

RIVER CITY RAMBLERS*

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

SOUTH LOOMIS QUICKSTEP*

September 23 - Bluegrass Concert, Nevada
Theater, Nevada City. 7:00 & 9:30 PM.

October 13-15 - Harvest Festival, Conven-
tion Center, Sacramento.

October 21-23 - Harvest Festival, San Jose.

November 3-5 - Harvest Festival, San Diego.

November 17-19 - Harvest Festival, Portland.

November 24-26 - Harvest Festival, Seattle.

December 1 - Ted's Birthday.

December 8-10, 15-17 - Harvest Festival, SF.

every Tuesday & Wednesday - Bitter Creek
Tavern, Arden & Howe, Sacramento.

every Tuesday - Junction City, Old Town,
Roseville.

For further information, contact Ted Smith,
916/622-8525.

SPUR OF THE MOMENT*

For bookings, contact Phil Allen
415/935-4458.

THURSTON'S BLUEGRASS BAND*

Me 'n' Ed's Pizza, Hanford.

For further information, contact Gordon
Thurston, 209/935-0382 or 209/386-5364

A TOUCH OF GRASS

For bookings, contact Bob Lawrence,
415/592-1863.

TWO DOLLAR BILL*

For bookings, contact Al McQueary,
408/263-0843.

THE VERN WILLIAMS BAND*

September 30-October 1 - Rainer Bluegras
Festival, Vancouver, WA.

October 7 - Rainbow Bridge Restaurant, N

For further information, contact Vern
Williams, 209/772-1357.

JAMBOREES

DELTA OLD-TIME FIDDLERS & BLUEGRASS ASSN.

every 2nd & 4th Saturday - Garden Acres
Community Center, 607 Bird Ave.,
Stockton. 8:00 PM - ?

SANTA CLARA VALLEY FIDDLERS ASSOCIATION

every 1st Sunday - John Muir Junior High
School, Branham Lane at Almaden Xpwy.
1:00-5:00 PM. Bluegrass encouraged.

CALIFORNIA STATE OLD-TIME FIDDLERS ASSN.

every 1st Sunday - Old Shasta Elementary
School, near Redding. For information
contact Adrienne Jacoby, 1463 Ridge Dr
Redding 96001. District 6.

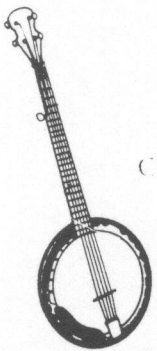
every 2nd Sunday - Oakmont High School,
Roseville. 1:00-5:00 PM. District 5.

every 3rd Sunday - Crockett Park and
Recreation Auditorium, 850 Pomona St.,
Crockett. 1:00-5:00 PM. District 9.

HERE'S THE GLORY LAND STRING BAND...



Group members are: Bob Somerville on banjo, his wife Susie, on the stand-up bass fiddle, Steven Kirtley on the mandolin and his wife Gwen, playing the flat-top guitar.



Close your eyes and open your heart to the fresh, clean rippling sounds of the five string banjo, the high lonesome sounds of the mandolin along with the flat-top guitar and stand-up bass fiddle, best of all, trio vocals with that close country harmony.



That's Gospel Bluegrass music by THE GLORY LAND STRING BAND.

CONCERNING YOUR UPCOMING BLUEGRASS FESTIVALS OR SIMILAR EVENTS. PLEASE LOOK THIS OVER! WE HOPE YOU ENJOY SEEING AND HEARING THE GLORY LAND STRING BAND. WE WANT YOU TO KNOW THAT THEY ARE KEENLY INTERESTED IN PLAYING AT YOUR EVENTS.

FOR BOOKING PLEASE CONTACT: NEW LIFE MINISTRIES, 180 BUCKEYE ST., WOODLAND, CA 95695. (916) 662-LIFE AT YOUR EARLIEST CONVENIENCE.

IF YOUR EVENTS HAVE ALREADY BEEN BOOKED FOR THIS SEASON PLEASE CONTACT US CONCERNING THE 1979 SEASON AS WE ARE NOW MAKING OUR PLANS.

SINCERELY,

Michael R. Schubert

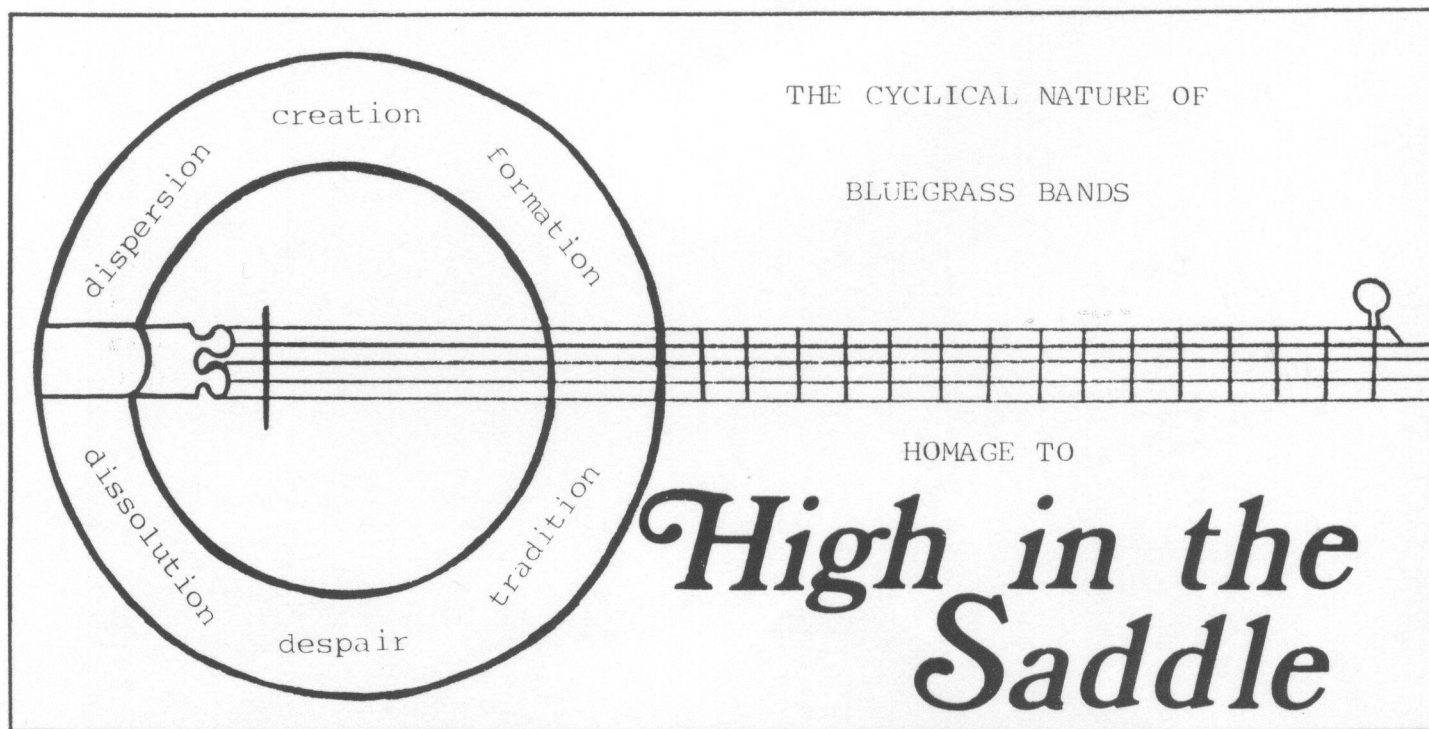


In addition to her backstage duties, Vi Lankford proved an able and charming MC.

GV '78 EPILOGUE

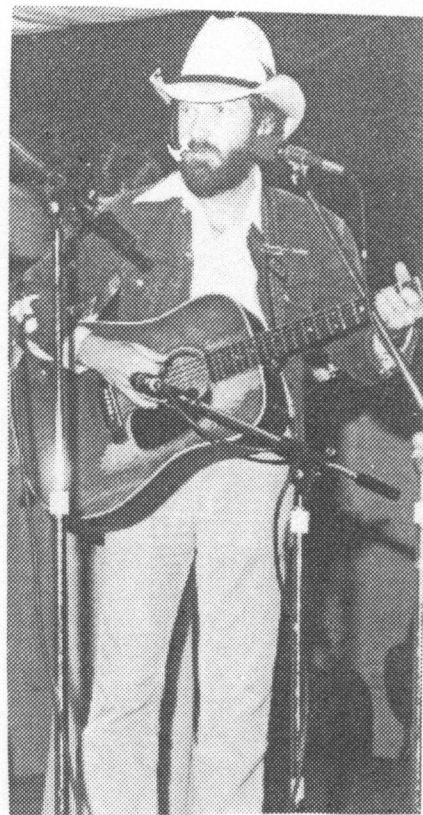


A couple of hams--country-style, that is: Paul Reed and Carl Pagter.





Hard-working backstage chefs kept pickers like Ed Neff (below) and Don Humphries (right) in fine spirits. Chefs included Gil Lankford, Hazel DeLozier, Jean Johnson and Vi Lankford.



Ticket-taking duties were varied, but Jim Barrett--like the whole ground crew--was ready for anything.

Photos by Carol Masters.



CBA BAND REGISTRY/MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name of Band _____
 Number of Members _____
 \$5.00 per person per year
 (minimum 3 persons per band, maximum 7)

Mail to:
 Treasurer
 California Bluegrass Association
 P.O. Box 11287
 San Francisco, CA 94101
 TOTAL ENCLOSED _____

Name of Contact Individual _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
 Phone number(s): Area Code _____ Number _____
 Area Code _____ Number _____

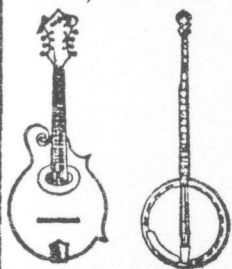
Each band is entitled to receive one BLUEGRASS BREAKDOWN; each band member is entitled to a membership card in the band's name, to be retained by the band upon departure of that member. Each member of the band is entitled to one vote and to all membership privileges.

Please indicate the type of music you play:
 _____ Bluegrass
 _____ Old-Time (eg fiddle)
 _____ Gospel
 _____ Other or combination

Specify the instruments played

Please indicate regular playing jobs for listing in the Bluegrass Billboard section of the BREAKDOWN. If you do not have regular jobs, you will be listed as "No set gigs; for bookings contact (Contact Individual you list) _____."

California
 Bluegrass Assn.



Founded in 1975 and dedicated to the furtherance of Bluegrass, Gospel, and Old-Time music. Each member family is entitled to receive a copy of each BLUEGRASS BREAKDOWN newsletter, as part of their dues, and to reduced admission charges to all CBA activities. A subscription to BLUEGRASS BREAKDOWN, exclusive of membership privileges, is \$5.00 per year.

SINGLE OR FAMILY MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

This membership application is for single or family application. A family is defined as the two adult spouses and all children under the age of 16 years. There must be a main applicant at \$7.50 per year, and the spouse may be included for an additional sum of \$2.50. All eligible children may be included for the sum of \$1 (no voting right for children).

NEW

RENEWAL

Mailing Address (Street,
 City, State, ZIP)

Tel. _____

MAIN APPLICANT NAME Last: _____ First: _____ \$ 7.50

INCLUDED SPOUSE (First Name Only) _____ \$ 2.50

ELIGIBLE INCLUDED CHILDREN _____ First Name Birth Date \$ 1.00

INSTRUMENTS PLAYED: _____ 1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____ 4. _____

List any services you can offer CBA (such as printing facilities, writing, artwork, advertising, sound systems, instrument sales and maintenance, etc.):

TOTAL ENCLOSED (not
 to exceed \$11)

SEND CHECK OR MONEY ORDER (do not send cash) TO: Treasurer, California Bluegrass Assn., P.O. Box 11287, San Francisco, CA 94101

clubs

BLACKSTONE HOUSE, 251 N. Blackstone, Fresno. A variety of activities--folk, blues, bluegrass, jazz, astrology and tarot. Affiliated with the Fresno Folklore Society. For information and/or bookings, contact Sue Lyon, 251 N. Blackstone Ave., Fresno, CA 93701, or call 209/264-1628.

FREIGHT & SALVAGE, 1827 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley. Bluegrass, old-timey, jazz, etc. Tuesday through Saturday. For the current monthly schedule write or call 415/548-1761.

BLUE RIDGE PICKIN' PARLOR, 5521 Reseda Blvd., Tarzana, CA 91356. Everything for the picker and Monday night jams too! A good place to hear fine live bluegrass music. For information phone 213/345-1977.

PAUL'S SALOON, 3251 Scott St., San Francisco. Bluegrass and old-timey any night of the week. ANY OLD TIME STRING BAND plays every Saturday night. HIGH COUNTRY, GOOD OL' PERSONS, DONE GONE and OLD FRIENDS round out the week. Sometimes there are guest appearances by such favorites as FRANK WAKEFIELD and LOST HIGHWAY.

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

RED VEST PIZZA PARLOUR, San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito. A continuous supporter of bluegrass in the Bay Area. Home of the GOOD OL' PERSONS, DONE GONE and HIGH COUNTRY.

ROSEBUD'S ICE CREAM PARLOR & TAVERN, 433 First St., Benicia. Re-opened under new management. For schedule call 707/745-9988.

RAINBOW BRIDGE RESTAURANT, 1335 Pueblo Ave., Napa. This is the newest establishment to feature bluegrass. For bookings or schedule call 707/255-2311.

renewing

Don't forget to check your membership card or your address label, lower right-hand corner, to determine your date of renewal. Remember, you're always due a year from when you joined or last renewed. You should renew at that time, but you do have a 90-day grace period in which to accomplish the matter. For example, those of you who were due for renewal on August 1st will remain on the mailing list until October 1st when, if you have not renewed, you will be dropped and placed in the Inactive File. Of course you may always rejoin. So, if it's time for you to renew, do it today. After all, you're the one who sustains the CBA!

ads

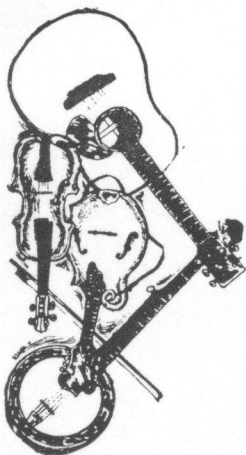
To place your ad in BLUEGRASS BREAKDOWN, please note the following requirements:

Camera-ready copy:	Design, layout and/or
\$30/full page 8½x11	nonscreened photo(s):
\$20/half page	\$40/full page 8½x11
\$10/quarter page	\$25/half page
	\$15/quarter page

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

deadline

Please submit copy for ads, articles, reviews, events, gig listings, etc. on or before the 15th of the month preceding publication. This lead is necessary in order to allow sufficient time for preparation and printing of the BLUEGRASS BREAKDOWN. Address all contributions to the Editor. Make all ad checks payable to California Bluegrass Association.



BLUEGRASS BREAKDOWN
357½ Valley Street
San Francisco, CA 94131

Turn Your Radio On

KALW (91.7 FM) San Francisco
Sunday - 9:00 AM, Saturday - 5:00 PM
NPR Folk Festival U.S.A.

KDVS (91 FM) Davis
Saturday - 9:00-12:00 AM
Bluegrass, folk, Irish w/Steven White

KKUP (91.5 FM) Cupertino
Saturday - Noon-3:00
Far Flung Folk Festival

KKUP (91.5 FM) Cupertino
Saturday - 3:00-6:00 PM
Bluegrass w/Marty Kemmeries

KKUP (91.5 FM) Cupertino
Sunday - 2:00-5:00 PM
Traditional Folk w/Mark Ortiz

KKUP (91.5 FM) Cupertino
Sunday - 9:00-Midnight
"Cupertino Barndance" w/Steve Hathaway

KLIL (94.6 FM) Ukiah
Saturday - 9:00-10:00 AM
"The Country You Remember"
w/Buffalo Bob Brittain

KPFA (94.1 FM) Berkeley
alternate Sundays - 11:00-1:00 PM
"Folk, Blues & Jazz"
w/Chris Strachwitz

KPFA (94.1 FM) Berkeley
alternate Fridays - 3:00-5:00 PM
"Pig In A Pen" w/Ray Edlund

KFAT (94.5 FM) Gilroy
Sunday - 6:00-9:00 PM
Bluegrass w/Cousin Al Knoth

KSTN (107.3 FM) Stockton
Monday-Friday - 1:30-5:45 PM
Bill Robertson's Show - bluegrass,
fiddling, country, etc.

KRED (1440 AM) Arcata
Saturday - 8:00-12:00 PM
Bluegrass w/The Wildwood Music Co.

KSON (1240 AM) San Diego
Sunday - 9:30 PM - Midnight
Wayne Rice Bluegrass Special
Featuring Pacific..ly Bluegrass

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San Jose, CA 95136

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