

# BLUEGRASS BREAKDOWN



May/June 1985

Volume 11, Number 3



Tenth  
Anniversary





## Special Notice

If your membership expires prior to Grass Valley June - you must have your new membership renewal to the membership secretary by May 15. After that date you will not be able to renew in time to get the cheaper membership discount tickets.

## Thanks

Thanks to Glenn Christensen, Esther Anderson, Ken Donnell, Matt Thompson and Roger Franke for getting this issue out. Many thanks to Melissa and Anne Powell for getting it ready for the Post Office.

## Deadlines

Because of the festival and summer work schedules, the final deadline for ALL material for the July/August issue of the *Bluegrass Breakdown* will be on Monday, June 17, 1985. This is the final issue prior to the last half of the summer and its festivals, so promoters should call in advance if they have ads for the issue.

## Grandpa Jones Writes A Book

Louis "Grankpa" Jones has a book out called "Everybody's Grandpa" (University of Tennessee; \$15.95) written with Charles Wolfe.

It's a low-key, pleasant travelogue cum diary of how Louis got to be Grandpa, started playing country music in the 1920's and is active today on television's "Hee Haw" and the show circuit.

He talks about his best friend David "Stringbean" Akeman, who was murdered by robbers in 1973. Jones found the body, but doesn't dwell on that. Instead, he talks about how much he and String loved to fish. It's that kind of book.

(From *Bluegrass Gazette*, WBA)

## California Bluegrass Association

*Bluegrass Breakdown* is published bimonthly at 735 College Street, Woodland, California, 95695, by the California Bluegrass Association. The CBA is a non-profit organization founded in 1975 and is dedicated to the furtherance of Bluegrass, Old Time, and Gospel music. Membership in the CBA costs \$10.00 a year and includes a subscription to the *Bluegrass Breakdown*. A spouse's membership may be added for an additional \$2.50 and children between 12-18 for \$1.00 per child. Children 12-18 who wish to vote will have to join for \$10.00. Names and ages are required. Band memberships are available to bands with three or more people for \$25.00 for the band. Subscription to the *Bluegrass Breakdown* is available only to foreign locations. Make checks payable to **California Bluegrass Association** and mail along with the membership application located on the inside of the back cover to the address below. Second Class postage is paid in San Francisco, California and at additional mailing offices. *Bluegrass Breakdown* (USPS 315-350). Postmaster, please send address changes to:

**Bluegrass Breakdown**

**P.O. Box 11287**

**San Francisco, CA 94101-7287**

CBA Board meetings are usually held the second Sunday of each month and all members are invited and encouraged to attend. The meetings are held at the CBA office, above the 5th String Music Store, corner of Adeline and Ashby, Berkeley, CA. Directly across the street from the Ashby BART station.

## Board of Directors and Officers of the CBA

**Esther Anderson**  
Membership Vice-President  
1499 California St., #112  
San Francisco, CA 94109

**\*Jim Armentrout**  
Activities Vice-President  
1844-48th Avenue  
San Francisco, CA 94122  
(415) 661-0157

**Diana Deininger**  
Secretary  
735 Hacienda Avenue  
Campbell, CA 95008  
(408) 379-5056

**\*Ray Edlund**  
33501 S. Hwy 1  
Gualala, CA 95445  
(707) 884-3195

**\*Midge Hobbs**  
2342 Cambridge  
Sacramento, CA 95815  
(916) 927-7259

**\*Steve Hogle**  
715 N. San Antonio Rd.  
Los Altos, CA 94022  
(415) 949-2181

**\*Bob Lawrence**  
President  
1624 Candace Way  
Los Altos, CA 94022  
(415) 962-8341

**\*Carl Pagter**  
Chairman of the Board,  
1809 Meadow Lane  
Walnut Creek, CA 94595  
(415) 938-4221

**\*Don Powell**  
Breakdown Editor  
Festival Coordinator  
735 College Street  
Woodland, CA 95695  
(916) 662-2906; 662-5691

**\*Fred Volz**  
Vice-Chairman of the Board  
Publicity Chairman  
8215 Colonial Drive  
Stockton, CA 95209  
(209) 473-3212

**\*Butch Waller**  
1586 Vista Street  
Oakland, CA 94602  
(415) 482-0855

**\*Indicates a member of the Board of Directors**



# Special Events

**May 11** - Santa Rosa Old-Time Fiddle Contest, Veterans' Memorial Building, Adults \$4.50, Over 60 \$2.50, 9-17 \$2.50, under 9 free. Five divisions and a twin fiddle contest. \$1125 in cash prizes. Info: (707) 539-5574, 1784 Allan Way, Santa Rosa, CA 95404.

**May 10-12** - Calico Spring Festival - Calico Ghost Town, Yermo, CA. Bluegrass hootenanny including two day fiddle, banjo, guitar and band contest, clogging, square-dance & ragtime entertainment. Camping available. Daily admission - adults - \$3; 6 thru 11 yrs. - \$2; 5 & younger - free. Camping - \$5 per unit, per night. Info: (619) 254-2122 or (714) 783-3661.

**May 18** - Bethel Island Bluegrass Festival, a benefit to help Bill White, featuring Bill, High Country, Old Brushy Peak, Heartland and A Touch of Grass. Plenty of camping in the rough, Adults - \$7.00, Under 12 - free. Tickets: Bethel Island Chamber of Commerce (415) 684-3220.

**May 26** - Generic Bluegrass & Folk Festival, Bret Harte Center, Murphys, CA. 9 a.m.-7 p.m., \$9.00, 12 and under free, Open air, outside. Possum Hollow, 8th Avenue String Band, Westwind International Folk Ensemble, Grant Street, Fiddlestix, and Sidesaddle. Info: (209) 795-1666, P.O. Box 2321, Arnold, CA 95223.

**June 8-9** - 6th Annual Amador Jamoree, Ione. (Silver Lining Ranch - Independence Road between Glencoe and Railroad Flat). Acoustic music only promised! Info: Jim Smith, P.O. Box 664, Pioneer, CA 95666.

**June 9** - 25th Topanga Banjo and Fiddle Contest, at the UCLA athletic field near Pauley Pavillion, \$4 per ticket for adults, \$3 for UCLA students, \$2 for ages 12-17 and above 65, and free below 12. Featuring different contests plus Sam Hinton, Old Mother Logo, Hot Off The Press, Southland, Iron Mountain String Band, McCabe's Band, and others. Info: (818) 345-3795.

**June 14 - 15 - 16** - June Grass Valley Bluegrass Festival, the 10th Annual of the Grandfather of Western Festivals featuring The Country Gentlemen, Slide Mountain, A Touch of Grass, Country Ham, Skyline Drifters, High Country, Bay Ramblers, Good Ol' Persons, Spring Mountain Harmony, and Ridin' High, plus the Foggy Mountain Cloggers and special guests, Berline, Crary & Hickman. Full details on tickets, prices, etc., on pages 4 & 5 of this issue.

**June 17-22** - National Old-Time Fiddlers Contest, Weiser High School, Weiser, Idaho. Tickets range from \$2 to \$9 depending on show and day. Last day for mail order is June 12. Info: Chamber of Commerce, Weiser Idaho 83672, (208) 549-0452.

**June 22** - Sacramento Firefighters Country & Bluegrass Picnic, Beach Lake Preserve, Sacramento, Info: P.O. Box 41377, Sacramento, CA 95841. (More information in next issue.

**June 30** - Club Almaden Bluegrass Festival hosted by Sidesaddle, more information from (408) 268-2492. Club Almaden is 8 miles south of Blossom Hil on Almaden Road.

**June 27-28-29** - High Desert Fiddlers' Contest, Burns, Oregon. On your way home from Weiser - \$3,155. in awards. Info: Teague Motor Co. (503) 573-2863.

**July 6** - 4th Annual Sierra Nevada Old-Time Fiddling Championship, Plumas County Fairgrounds, Quincy, California. \$2,000 in prize money. Info: Johny McDonald, P.O. Box 3459, Quincy, CA 95971.

**July 5-6-7** - Columbia River Gorge Bluegrass Festival, Skamania County Fairground, Stevenson, Washington Info: Mr. John Hlavka, P.O. Box 285, Carson, WA 98610, (509) 427-8651.

**July 19** - Peter Britt Festival, Jacksonville, Oregon. Riders in the Sky, Berline, Crary & Hickman, Rogue Valley Bluegrass Boys.

**July 20** - Peter Britt Festival, Jacksonville, Oregon. Featuring the Whites, Country Gazette, Rose Maddox.

**July 21 - 26 - & July 28 - Aug. 2** - Puget Sound Guitar Workshop, featuring beginning, intermediate and advanced guitar instruction in bluegrass, traditional folk, swing, old-time, etc., plus instruction in banjo, bass, mandolin, dobro and vocals. Instrutors: Sandy Bradley, Eric Schoenberg, Sally Van Meter and many more. \$250 per week, (includes room and board). Info: 1503 E. Street, Bellingham, WA 98225, (206) 647-0242. See advertisement in this issue for other details.

**August 2 - 3 - 4** - Mid-Summer Bluegrass Festival, Grass Valley, Nevada County Fairgrounds. Featuring Doyle Lawson and Quicksilver, J.D. Crowe and the New South, The Seldom Scene, Hot Rize, Red Knuckles & The Trailblazers, Coun-

Continued on Page 15



*The California Bluegrass Association presents*

*a weekend with*

# THE COUNTRY GENTLEMEN



"...one bluegrass group that has consistently set standards."

—Washington Post

## **BERLINE, CRARY & HICKMAN**

*Skyline Drifters, The Slide Mountain Boys, A Touch of Grass, Country Ham, High Country, Good Ol' Persons, Ridin' High, Spring Mountain Harmony; and Sandy Rothman, Alan Senauke, & The Bay Ramblers, plus the Cloggers.*

## **THE SUMMER GRASS VALLEY BLUEGRASS FESTIVAL**

**June 14, 15, 16, 1985**

*at the Nevada County Fairgrounds in Grass Valley*



## TICKET INFORMATION

*All tickets can be secured from:*

**Don Powell, 735 College Street, Woodland, CA 95695 (916) 662-5691**

CBA members buying any type of ticket, and CBA member seniors (over 65) and all juniors (11 and under) should order tickets from the addresses above. Make check or money order to California Bluegrass Association.

Please include a stamped, self-addressed envelope. No tickets will be held at the gate. Deadline for mail order tickets is one week prior to the festival. (Members may buy same number of adult tickets as there are adults (age 12 or over) on their membership card at the office.

**FINAL DAY TO SECURE MEMBERSHIP IN ORDER TO PURCHASE MEMBER TICKETS WILL BE MAY 15, 1985. After that date you will have to pay regular ticket prices. Final day to purchase mail order tickets is June 7, 1985.**



Charge by Phone

(415) 762-2277

(408) 998-2277

(916) 395-2277

(707) 762-2277

TICKETRON\* TELE-TRON\*

(415) 974-6391



	Friday only	Saturday only	Sunday only	Friday & Sat.	Saturday & Sun	3-Day at gate	3-Day advance
CBA member adult	\$10.00	\$15.00	\$13.00	\$25.00	\$28.00	\$33.00	\$22.00
General Public							
Adult	\$10.00	\$15.00	\$13.00	\$25.00	\$28.00	\$33.00	\$28.00
Under 12	*****FREE*****						

✓ NOTE THAT DISCOUNTS ARE AVAILABLE ONLY ON 3-DAY ADVANCE TICKETS ✓

**No Dogs Will Be Permitted at the Festival**

**Advance Tickets: Limited Tickets available**

**CAMPING:** Camping in the rough; there is no additional charge for camping DURING the festival. Camping area opens at 5 p.m. Thursday. Camping Thursday night is \$7, payable at the gate on entry. **CAMPERS MAY STAY UNTIL 9 a.m. MONDAY.**

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

**FACILITIES:** Rest rooms with sinks, showers, plus portable restrooms throughout the festival site. Hotels and motels throughout the area - **MAKE RESERVATIONS EARLY!!**

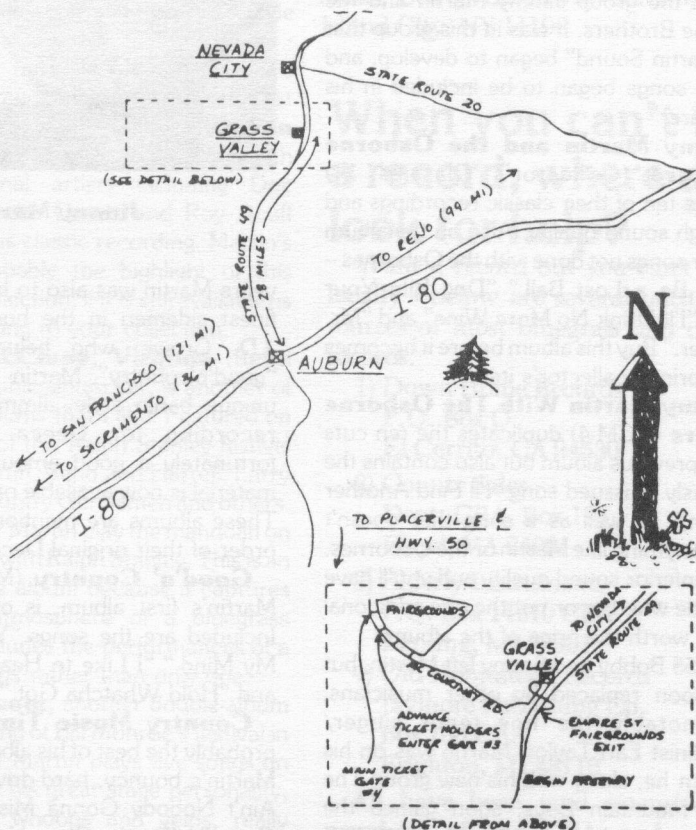
**FOOD:** There will be food concessions at the festival, or you may prepare your own meals. **(NO OPEN CAMPFIRE!** Off-the-ground campstoves or hibachi-type cooking only!) There are also a number of good eating places close by in Nevada City and Grass Valley.

For additional information:

Don Powell (H) 916-662-5691 or (W) 916-662-2906

Fred Volz 209-473-3212

Music begins at 5 p.m. on Friday and 10 a.m. on Saturday and Sunday. Music ends at 11:30 p.m. on Friday and Saturday and 6 p.m. on Sunday.



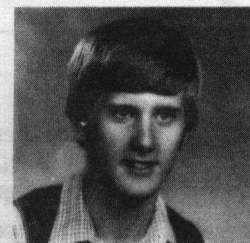
FOLLOW THE FAIRGROUNDS AND BLUEGRASS FESTIVAL SIGNS!



## Discography

## Jimmie Martin

by Matt Thompson



Jimmy Martin's career in bluegrass began in 1949 when he auditioned for Bill Monroe backstage at the Grand Ole Opry with the song "The Old Cross-Roads." He got the job and went on to record many of Monroe's most famous and classic songs (See Monroe's MCA 17, 104, 110, 131). Martin worked with Monroe at various times up to 1954. In 1951 Martin temporarily left Monroe to join the Lonesome Pine Fiddlers where he met Bobby (and later Sonny) Osborne. He and Bobby soon left the group to form their own band. Their fine duet work was featured on the songs "Blue-Eyed Darlin'" and "She's Just a Cute Thing." In 1952 Bobby was drafted into the Marine Corps, and Jimmy returned to Monroe, accompanied by Bobby's younger brother, banjoist Sonny Osborne. Martin stayed with Monroe until he left for good in 1954. Martin proceeded to join Bobby Osborne, who had returned from the war, and Sonny Osborne to form the group Jimmy Martin and the Osborne Brothers. It was in this group that the "Martin Sound" began to develop, and novelty songs began to be included in his repertoire.

**Jimmy Martin and the Osborne Brothers** (Collector's Classics 14) contains ten of their classic recordings and is of high sound quality. Also on the album are four songs not done with the Osbornes -- "You'll Be a Lost Ball," "Dog Bite Your Hide," "I'll Drink No More Wine" and "Mr. Engineer." Buy this album before it becomes a high-priced collector's item!

**Jimmy Martin With The Osborne Brothers** (ACM-4) duplicates the ten cuts on the previous album but also contains the previously unissued song "I'll Find Another Woman," as well as a song that doesn't sound anything like Martin or the Osbornes. It is of inferior sound quality and you'll have to decide whether or not the one additional song is worth the price of the album.

In 1955 Bobby and Sonny left Martin, but were soon replaced by other musicians, most notably the fine tenor singer/mandolinist Earl Taylor. Martin was on his own, but he, along with his new group The Sunny Mountain Boys, soon gained the reputation of having one of the finest, tightest groups in the business. Through the



Jimmy Martin

years Martin was also to have some of the finest sidemen in the business, including J.D. Crowe, who helped develop the "good'n'country" Martin sound with his unique banjo style. Jimmy Martin began recording for Decca Records, and fortunately a good amount of his Decca material is now available on the MCA label. These albums are mentioned below in the order of their original Decca releases.

**Good'n' Country** (MCA 81), Jimmy Martin's first album, is one of his finest. Included are the songs "You Don't Know My Mind," "I Like to Hear 'Em Preach It" and "Hold Whatcha Got."

**Country Music Time** (MCA 91) is probably the best of his albums and features Martin's bouncy, hard-drivin' style. "There Ain't Nobody Gonna Miss Me When I'm Gone," "Don't Give Your Heart to a Rambler" and "Steppin' Stones," featuring

mandolinist Paul Williams, are among this album's highlights.

**This World is Not My Home** (MCA 96) was Martin's first gospel album. This excellent album includes "Prayer Bells of Heaven," "Shut-In's Prayer" and "Give Me Your Hand." It is well worth adding to your collection.

**Widow Maker** (MCA 101) features the hit title song as well as some Jimmy Martin classics -- "My Walking Shoes," "Oceans of Diamonds," etc. The quality of Martin's recordings at this point in his career was of a very high, consistent quality.

**Sunny Side of the Mountain** (MCA 79) includes along with the title song, more fine numbers such as "It Takes One to Know One," "I'm Comin' Back But I Don't Know When" and the instrumental "John Henry." It also carries another novelty tune, "Guitar Picking President." Good job.

**Mr. Good 'N' Country Music** (Decca 4769), although one of Martin's best albums, is now out of print. Other than "Mr. Engineer," (found on CC-14), the album's twelve songs are currently unavailable on any other source. Songs include "The Last Song," "Lost Highway," "Fraulein," the banjo instrumental "Sweet Dixie," and two novelty songs, "Hi-De Diddle" and "I Can't Quit Cigarettes." This album is well worth hunting for.

**Big and Country Instrumentals** (MCA 115) is Martin's entry into the field of bluegrass instrumental albums. Featured is the banjo playing of J.D. Crowe, Bill Emerson and Vic Jordan, as well as the snappy mandolin playing of Vernon Derrick. This is a very successful album and contains some classic numbers such as "Big Country" and "Theme Time."

**Tennessee** (Decca 4996) has not been re-released by MCA Records. Fortunately, five of the album's eleven songs were reissued on Coral CB-20010, and three others on CC-14. (Three of the four songs not recorded with the Osborne Brothers). The remaining three songs, "Tennessee" (a classic), "I'm the Boss of This Here House" and "Don't Cry To Me," are currently not available on any of Martin's albums.

**Free Born Man** (Decca 5116) is out of print as well. Three of the album's eleven



songs are available, however, on Coral CB-20010. The title song was later re-recorded for Gusto Records, but the remaining seven songs ("Losing You," "Slowly," "Lonesome Prison Blues," "Doin' My Time," "Milwaukee Here I Come," "Shackles and Chains" and "Wooden Shoes") are currently unavailable.

**Singing All Day and Dinner on the Ground** (MCA 137) is Martin's second gospel album. It is a worthy sequel to the first one and contains many fine songs -- "God is Always the Same," "Stormy Waters," etc. Sidemen include Alan Munde on banjo and Doyle Lawson on mandolin.

**I'd Like to be Sixteen Again (And Know What I Know Now)** (Decca 5343), Jimmy's last Decca release, is now out of print. Included on it are four songs from Decca 5116 and two songs from Decca 4996. Since it is not available, however, this is of no use to people searching for these songs. The album also includes five new songs.

**Fly Me to Frisco** (MCA 435) is also out of print. The album's eleven songs are all new **except** for two that were re-released from Decca 4769. This album was Martin's first and last release for MCA Records.

**Moonshine Hollow** (MCA Coral CB-20010), previously referred to, is the source of eight songs from two out of print albums, including "Home Run Man" and the mandolin instrumental, "Arab Bounce." Included too are the previously unreleased songs "Sophronie" and "Rock Hearts." This album is worth adding to your collection for the fact that it contains ten songs not available elsewhere.

Upon leaving MCA Records, Jimmy Martin signed with Gusto Records and continues to record with them to this day. His first Gusto release, entitled, **Greatest Bluegrass Hits**, contains famous songs by other bluegrass greats including "White Dove" (Stanley Brothers), "Uncle Pen" (Bill Monroe), and "Foggy Mountain Breakdown" (Flatt and Scruggs), as well as re-recordings of five of his own songs, including "Big Country" which I like better than the original version. It's a fine album, despite the lack of original songs, and has strong support from some talented musicians.

**Will the Circle Be Unbroken** (GT-0059) is Martin's third and most recent gospel album. The majority of songs are re-recordings of previously recorded material, with similar arrangements. I recommend buying the other two gospel albums first, although this album is also worth buying at a later date.

**Me 'N' Ole Pete** (GT-0067) presents

twelve more tunes, performed in the unique Martin style. As usual, Martin is backed on this album by some of the finest musicians in the business, including J.D. Crowe, Roy Husky, Red Taylor and Gene Wooten.

**To Mother at Christmas** (GT-0076) includes four Martin originals as well as holiday standards "Jingle Bells" and "Silent Night."

**First Time Together** (GT-0077) brings together Jimmy Martin and Ralph Stanley for the first time at a formal recording session. Although not an outstanding album, it is a very pleasant one. It brings two legends together, and the result is quite satisfying--eight songs performed in a traditional bluegrass style (with the exception of the drums). The songs include "In The Pines," "Stone Walls and Steel Bars" and "God Gave You To Me." Two of the album's ten songs are not with both Martin and Stanley. "Darling Brown Eyes" is from the days when Larry Sparks was singing for Ralph, and "Don't Let Your Sweet Love Die" is with Martin and his band. Both of these songs appear elsewhere. Regardless of this drawback, this album's eight songs with Martin and Stanley are still worth buying.

**One Woman Man** (GT-0095) is Martin's latest album. The drum is a little heavy on some of the cuts, but this isn't too great a drawback. It is of his usual consistent quality. The title song suits Martin's style quite well.

Of special note is Jimmy Martin's historic appearance on the Nitty Gritty Dirt Band's **Will the Circle Be Unbroken** (3LP) United Artists album. He, along with other traditional artists including Doc Watson, Maybelle Carter and Roy Acuff took part in this classic recording. Martin's portion is probably the highlight of this album. This collection, if it is still available, is well worth adding to your collection.

**Live at McClune, Virginia** (Rebel 1554/55), a double-album set, is another of the few live albums that I like. Featured on the recording of this Ralph Stanley festival are Jimmy Martin, Reno and Harrell, Larry Sparks, the Country Gentlemen and others. You get to hear Martin play the mandolin on a duet he sings with Ralph Stanley. This is an exceptional live album because it captures the exciting atmosphere of a bluegrass festival and includes the performances of a variety of groups rather than only one.

**Bean Blossom**, another double-album set, is a recording of Bill Monroe's festival in Indiana. Jimmy Martin plays five songs on the album, and his great stage personality, complete with whoops and yelps, really comes through. This is another excellent collection.

Discography is reprinted by permission of the author and of the Minnesota Bluegrass & Old-Time Music Association Magazine.

## Songsmith Journal Ceases publication

The Songsmith Journal ceased publication early last year as they found they could not continue meeting the financial obligation to put out the magazine.

The Songsmith Society is still operational and is publishing a newsletter. Interested persons can contact the Society at 1437 W. Howard St., Chicago, IL 60626.

## Banjo Soundsheet Dies

Another publication that raised its head in late 1984 also died.

The Banjo Soundsheet lasted three issues and has now gone belly up. This was an interesting project, in that it included an actual record along with the tablature as a part of the magazine.

Back issues and a book form of the last issue are available from Robert Sacks, Box 5, Broadway Station, Long Island City, NY 11106.

## When you can't find a record, where do look for help?

Want a record but you can't find it locally - below are several outstanding sources of most bluegrass and country records.

- 1) Down Home Records  
P.O. Box O  
El Cerrito, CA 94530
- 2) County Sales  
Dept. CBA, Box 191  
Floyd, VA 24091
- 3) Elderly Instruments  
P.O. Box 14210 CBA  
Lansing, MI 48901
- 4) Old Homestead Records  
Jaymore Publishing Co.  
Box 100 CBA  
Brighton, MI 48116

All have been used extensively by members of the CBA and can be recommended highly.



## Traveling Luthier

# Repair Workshop: Fitting a Soundpost

by KEN DONNELL

A fallen or poorly fit soundpost is a common problem, and since much of strings' vibrations pass through the soundpost to resonate on the back plate, a poor sounding fiddle is often the result. The work involved is somewhat similar to building a ship in a bottle, so be patient and don't expect immediate results.

The tools needed are a soundpost star and a pair of soundpost pliers. These and spruce dowels should be available through most music stores (on special order) and cost \$5-7.50 each. I've seen anything from kitchen forks to string used for setting soundposts, but the two above tools are well worth the trouble and expense of acquiring.

The post itself is a vertical grain spruce dowel approximately  $\frac{1}{4}$ " in diameter. The theoretically correct position for it is approximately  $\frac{3}{8}$ " behind the bridge (toward the tailpiece), and between the E and A strings. The reality, however, is that it should be placed in whatever location achieves the best sound.

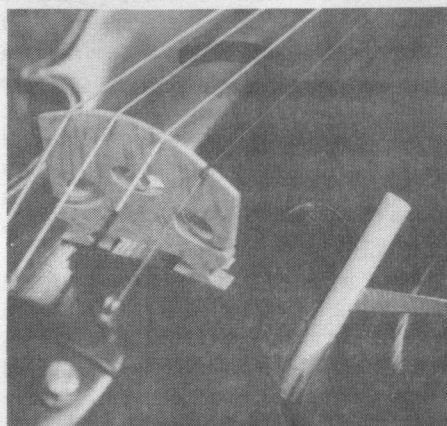
It is important that the post makes firm contact with both the top and back plates, and it must be shaped to fit the contours of each. It should also sit in an upright position and not lean in any direction. Soundposts are usually fitted with minimum pressure, so that when the string tension is loosened, the post will fall over with slightest movement or jarring of the instrument. The grains of the soundpost are normally aligned perpendicular to the grain of the top plate. But, when fitting a soundpost, always remember..."sounds right, is right".

To make the post, cut it to length with a fine saw, using the old post as a guide. Cut the contour onto the ends by working the piece against 150 grit sandpaper that has been placed on a flat surface. Mark the section of the post that will fit against the back and face towards the treble "F" hole with a pencil. This helps to later achieve proper alignment of the post.

To install the post, first completely

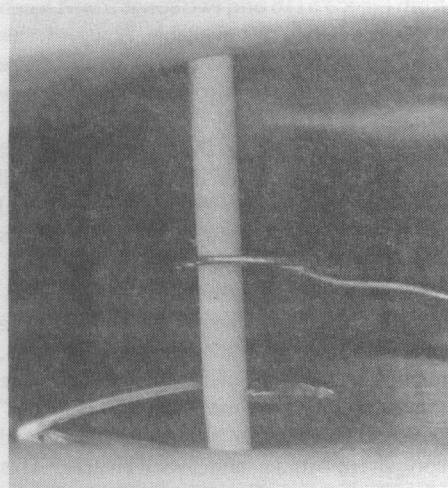


The tools ... soundpost pliers and star tool.



Inserting the soundpost through the treble "F" hole with the pointed end of the star tool. Note the pencil mark on the lower part of the post. This identifies the part that will rest against the back towards the treble "F" hole. This mark identifies the direction of the soundpost's contours, and is very helpful in achieving the proper alignment.

loosen the strings. Then stick the post on the sharp end of the star tool and insert both through the treble "F" hole. Keep the post on its side until it's in the center of the instrument where the body is deepest. Then straighten it and bring it towards the treble "F" hole until it engages against the top and back plates. Keep pulling on the post until the pointed end of the star pulls free, which should be the proper tension for a good fit.



The "properly" fit soundpost ... firm contact with, and generally perpendicular to both the top and back plates.

If the fit is proper in every respect, tighten the strings to pitch and begin playing. Most often, however, some further adjustment is necessary. Often the post only needs to be properly aligned. Insert the pliers through the bass "F" hole and grab the post near the back plate while steadying the other end of the post with the star. Use these tools to twist, turn, push, and/or pull the post into the proper position before tightening the strings.

If the post is either too long or short, or the contours are improperly cut (an inspection mirror is handy to check this), remove the post and begin again. If you're not happy with the sound when played, try moving the post to a

Continued on Page 14



# **BETHEL ISLAND BLUEGRASS FESTIVAL**

Co-sponsored by the California Bluegrass Association as a

**Bill White Benefit**

**May 18 - Scout Hall, Bethel Island, CA**  
10:00 a.m. until 1:00 a.m. ?

featuring the great sounds of  
**BILL WHITE - HIGH COUNTRY**  
**HEARTLAND - A TOUCH OF GRASS**  
**OLD BRUSHY PEAK**

Tickets - Adults (12 and older) \$7.00; Under 12 - free.

Full Bar - BBQ - Lunches and Dinner available

For Ticket Information Call:

**THE BETHEL ISLAND CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

**(415) 684-3220**

**Drop-in Bands Welcome**

**Contact: John Blasquez (415) 935-9245**

**Camping Available at:**

**Scout Hall and Frank's Cove**

**No Hook-ups**





## *Skyline Drifters are outstanding*

by DON POWELL

I got a chance to attend a super course for journalism advisers in Seattle, Washington in early April and, on a chance I decided to call the Skyline Drifters, one of the groups hired for Grass Valley in June, to see if they might be playing somewhere near Seattle while I was there.

I got lucky - really LUCKY!

Not only were they playing in Seattle, but at one of the nicest little spots I have been at - the New Melody Tavern in Ballard. But the real deal was that it was a special benefit farewell concert prior to the group leaving for Nashville to tape a performance on "Fire on the Mountain, The Nashville Network's bluegrass show.

First of all you have to realize that I know Seattle, well at least I thought I did. Ballard is across the canal from Seattle and over the hill from the University, so I thought - no sweat!

An hour later I finally figured out where I went wrong and finally arrived at the Tavern - hidden in the old warehouse district and close to the bay. It is an old building, but fitted out nicely for its new role. It has a great backbar, nice seating, good sound (now that they installed a quilt at the rear of the stage) and an atmosphere that won't stop. Just a few weeks before my visit the Good Ol' Persons had played to rave reviews at the New Melody.

One of the nice things was the Dave LeMargee, owner of the Tavern and also The Banjo Emporium has put the place together and really makes everyone feel they are a part of the place. I felt at home from the moment I walked in the door. Fortunately I was early enough to talk to Mark Sanders, leader of the band before the first set. I found out that the whole experience of Nashville came about because of a chance videotaping done at the Portland, Oregon Zoogross



series last summer. The tape was made for local Portland cable TV, but was edited and sent to Nashville. The rest is history.

You have to realize that some of the weirdest humor traveled across that stage that night - ranging from a "Nancy Reagan routine to wish them well" to...well I don't want to give away all their material. The group of two women and three men has some of the tightest harmony I have heard in a long time. They are smooth flowing and seem to be able to get notes out of their instruments that I am not quite sure were ever there. The blend of the two female voices is superb. I guess that polished is the word that best describes it.

The total feel of the group is beautiful - the sound is smooth flowing, with the notes flowing, yet each is crisp and individual.

The audience that night was something else - they had a rapport with them that wouldn't stop, even with the outlandish stories they were telling. My only disappointment was that I had to be back at the University by 9:30

## Record Review

### Skyline Drifters *Let The Teardrops Fall*

**SIDE A:** Let the Teardrops Fall, Spinnin' Mills of Home, Saturn's Return, Need Ya Like A Hole In The Head, and Satisfied Mind.

**SIDE B:** Blue Diamond Mine, Banjo Nova, I'm Blue Again, Darryl's Song, I'm Lonely Tonight, Blue Skies Medley.

**PERSONNEL:** Pete Martin, Mandolin, giddle, baritone vocals; Julie Miller, rhythm guitar, lead vocals, tenor, low harmony; Greg Glassman, electric bass; Jane Barwell, lead guitar, tenor vocals, high baritone, and mandolin; and Mark Sanders, banjo and lead vocals.

I am prejudiced about this group! When you hear them in person you can't help fall under a spell that they seem to have. Their record is an extension of that same live performance - tightly knit, hot instrumentalists, vocal harmonies that just don't seem to stop.

The record shows the wide range of their talent - bluegrass, swing and country.

Perhaps the highlights of the album for me was the final song - "Blue Skies Medley". Yes - that old favorite Irving Berlin tune, helped in ways you never thought possible. Julie Miller and Jane Barwell put together their voices in an arrangement that has you jumping.

As you know from other reviews, I am a traditionalist, so my getting turned on by this record and group had to be somewhat of a miracle. But the miracle is the tight harmonies and fantastic instrumental work on the record. Pete Martin does a manolin number "Saturn's Return" that makes you wonder if he wasn't getting help from another pair of hands or another instrument - he wasn't; and "Banjo Nova" gave Mark Sanders and Pete Martin a chance to do a great duet.

If you can get hold of it before Grass Valley, buy it - it will get you all primed for a fantastic show.

p.m. to attend a meeting of a committee I was on, so I only got to hear the first set. Frankly, it was the only disappointment of the trip. The Skyline Drifters became for me the other major highlight of my trip - seeing my parents was the **FIRST**.



**Mark Sanders**

### Special note on Liberty Flyer Network

The Liberty Flyer program features quality bluegrass and country programing over a number of stations in the Northern California area. Stations currently on the list and times the program plays are:

KAVA-AM 1450 Burney, CA - Sunday 7 p.m.

KALF-FM 96 Red Bluff, CA - Sunday 5 p.m.

KHWY-AM 1030 Folsom, CA - Sunday 8 p.m.

Programs set for May and June are as follows: May 4 - The Osborne Brothers; May 11 - John Hartford; May 18 - Bluegrass Cardinals; May 25 - Bryan Bowers; June 1 - Doyle Lawson & Quicksilver; June 8 - Guy Clark; June 15 - Red & Murphy & Co.; June 22 - Special Concensus Bluegrass; and June 29 - Sally Mountain Show.



# New officers look in new directions

by RICK CORNISH

Steve Hogle and Bob Lawrence are recently elected CBA board members; each lives in the Santa Clara Valley. During a recent interview, Steve and Bob shared their views on the current state of the California Bluegrass Association, where it should be going and how it should get there.

Although Steve Hogle has been involved with the CBA in one way or another almost since its inception, it was only last September that he was elected to his first term on the board. Steve, who lives in Los Altos, was sound man for one of the earliest June Festivals in Grass Valley. "I fell in love with bluegrass music," he explained, "and since I don't pick or sing, sound seemed like the natural way to get involved." Several years and many concerts later, Steve is today owner of his own sound, photo and video production company--his current project, a documentary on Howard Hughes' famed by ill-fated Spruce Goose sea plane.

Steve's reason for running for the CBA board was simple--"I just felt I had some talents to contribute, in production, promotion and planning. I figured it was time to pitch in and work." And Hogle feels he and his fellow board members have their work cut out for them, at least in the area of concerts and mini-festivals. As coordinator for the CBA-sponsored Country Gentlemen concert held a few months back in San Jose, he saw first hand the unpredictability of bluegrass fans. "Only three hundred people came out to see one of the country's truly premiere bands. Now how do you figure that? I hear all the time about all the fans out there, but how do we lure them to our events?"

In fact, Steve sees strengthening support for bluegrass music, and specifically increasing attendance at CBA events, as the single greatest challenge facing the Association. "We've got to find a way to present bluegrass to more people; we've got to learn how to package it better. That's my goal, and I'm going to work hard to

make it happen."

Bob Lawrence, who is serving his second term on the CBA board, shares Hogle's goal and has some specific ideas for achieving it. Also of Los Altos, Bob is a pilot for United Airlines and the guitarist and lead singer for A Touch of Grass, one of the Bay Area's oldest and best established bluegrass bands. Despite an already hectic juggling act between flights and band dates and family responsibilities, Lawrence ran for his first board term in 1983. "I felt it was my turn. After six or seven years of belonging to the organization and never really lifting a finger, and after doing my fair share of complaining about how things were being done, I decided it was my turn in the barrel."

Now serving as board president, Bob's major focus is on increased participation throughout the Association. "When I first came onto the Board," he explained, "I was surprised that just a couple of people did all the work. It occurred to me that there needed to be broader participation. Now, that's not an easy task, but there are things that can be done. One is better communication. There are a lot of people out there who would work for the CBA if they just knew what we needed, if they knew there was a particular job to do. We've just got to communicate with folks about what those jobs are."

Another of Lawrence's goals for the Association is to increase the number of CBA-sponsored mini-festivals and concerts. He admits that these events aren't money makers but feels they are important just the same. "What these events do is remind people that there's a CBA during the non-festival season. Basically, the CBA has become known for, and has put most of its energy into, the June and September festivals--which is good. But there can be more. The Santa Cruz Bluegrass Society, for example, has shown that you can have a lot of fun and do a lot of exciting things if you're not worried about the big bucks. The CBA should, and I believe will, follow this example."

Improved promotion of non-festival events is Lawrence's third goal for the

coming year. "I'd like to put together a small organization of people who know something about promotion. Whenever the CBA does any kind of event, what makes or breaks it is promotion. But promotion takes a lot of effort, and right now we just don't have the people power. Now, we're in excellent shape when it comes to promotion of our two festivals, but it's in the other, smaller events that we fall short. We need the expertise to know what to do, and we need the time and energy of people to make it happen. I'd like to see an officer of the CBA have the specific job of promotion and I'd like to see a standing committee created to see that the work is done."

Better attendance at concerts and mini-festivals; more effective promotion; and greater participation throughout the Association--three goals that Steve Hogle and Bob Lawrence believe can, with little hard work, make the CBA's future just a little brighter.

## Help needed for CBA Booth at Festival at the Lake in Oakland

The CBA Board has taken a booth at the Festival at the Lake in Oakland for May 31. The Annual Festival at Lake Merritt should give CBA a chance to showcase Bluegrass as a music form and give more Bay Area people a chance to hear about the music and actually watch and hear bands or pickers.

Ray Edlund is heading up the committee to staff the booth and he needs to hear from bands and CBA members who would like to play at the booth in the hopes of furthering bluegrass.

Ray can be reached by calling (707) 884-3195 or writing 33501 S. Hwy 1, Gualala, CA 95445.





## The Major Bluegrass Event of the Summer

August 2, 3, 4  
Nevada County  
Fairgrounds  
Grass Valley,  
California

**J.D. Crowe & The New South**  
**Doyle Lawson & Quicksilver**  
**The Seldom Scene**  
**Hot Rize**  
**Red Knuckles & The Trailblazers**  
**Country Gazette**  
**Brian Bowers**

Sidesaddle, 8th Avenue String Band, The Slide Mountain Boys, Gryphon Quintet, Good Ol' Persons, River City Ramblers, and Hendricks, Smith & Bentley, along with workshops & clinics with the musicians and others.

Plenty of parking lot pickin', good food, family style dinners, record dealers, hat and t-shirt vendors, and musical supply dealers.

### FESTIVAL TICKET COUPON

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_

Midsummer Bluegrass Festival  
741 East Street, No. 198  
Woodland, CA 95695-4144  
(916) 662-5691/662-2906

#### ADULTS

Festival Tickets ..... x \$36.00 = \_\_\_\_\_  
Saturday Only ..... x \$18.00 = \_\_\_\_\_  
Sunday Only ..... x \$18.00 = \_\_\_\_\_  
VISA or MASTERCARD accepted by phone

#### Children

Festival Tickets ..... x \$5.00 = \_\_\_\_\_  
Saturday Only ..... x \$3.00 = \_\_\_\_\_  
Sunday Only ..... x \$3.00 = \_\_\_\_\_  
(Children Under 5 FREE)

The FESTIVAL TICKET includes camping from Friday at 8 a.m. until Monday at 10 a.m. Music will begin on Friday afternoon and continue all day Saturday and Sunday. CAMPING is included only with the FESTIVAL TICKET. Single day tickets are available for the Saturday and Sunday performances. Camping is NOT available with the single day ticket.

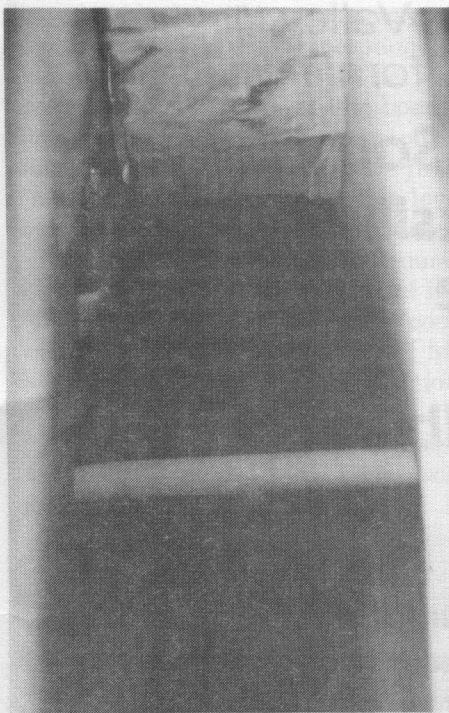


## Berline, Crary & Hickman have capacity audiences

Capacity audiences have been greeting Berline, Crary & Hickman as they have been filling engagements this spring. One of the largest crowds was in

## Repair...

Continued from Page 8



**Making the final adjustments in the soundpost's alignment with both tools.**

different position. Don't be disappointed if it takes many attempts to achieve the proper fit. Keep trying again, and again, and again.

Until then...HAPPY PLAYING!

*All upright bass players should take notice as my workshops at this year's June festivals will deal primarily with this instrument. I'll be happy to answer any questions and offer advice. Check the festival schedule for more information.*

*Ken Donnell has a new address - c/o Marriott's Music, 392 Elm Avenue, Auburn, CA 95603, (916) 823-8404. Questions, etc., can be directed to Ken at this new address.*



Nashville's Station Inn. They did three sets at the Station Inn, all to full houses.

Similar occurrences have been happening at other dates the group has been playing.

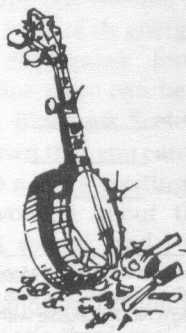
## Foggy Mountain Cloggers drop off June, September Grass Valley Programs

Due to increasing business by his new company, Les and Fran Mason have not been able to get the Foggy Mountain Cloggers together since early last fall.

Rather than do a performance that they would be unhappy with, Fran asked CBA to cancel the contract with the group for the June and September shows for 1985. The contract had not been signed by Fran yet, so the group was actually not under any obligations.

The CBA Board is attempting to find a replacement group for the June show and also a group that would like to perform at the Labor Day show.

Contact either Ray Edlund, Carl Pagter or Bob Lawrence if you have groups that you would like to recommend.



builders of Hendricks banjos

**Hendricks  
Banjos**

Placerville, Calif.  
916 622-1953

repair, restoration, custom work



## 'Hot' values abound as Sacramento Fifth String reopens after January fire

The Fifth String Music Store in Sacramento has just reopened at a new location, 5522 H Street.

The store had been closed since January 1 as a result of a fire, believed to be arson. The new store includes expanded

facilities for teaching and instrument repair.

On Saturday, June 1, Skip Green will have his first and (hopefully) last, genuine fire sale. In addition to smoke damaged instruments, strings and accessories, many new items will be offered at discount. These include a shipment of over 300 new music titles.

Come in Saturday, June 1 to look over the new Sacramento Fifth String. They will be open from 10 a.m. until the last sale is made on this Saturday. The new phone number for the Fifth String (Sacramento) is (916) 452-8282.

### 11th Annual SPBGMA Awards Given

The SPBGMA Preservation Hall induction Platt & Scruggs, Reno & Smiley and Ralph Stanley

2. Promoter of the Year . . . . . Bill Jones
3. Bluegrass Band of the Year (Overall . Country Gentlemen
4. Bluegrass Band of the Year (vocally) . . . . . Quicksilver
5. Bluegrass Band of the Year (instrumentally) . . . . .  
Country Gentlemen
6. Bluegrass Band of the Year (traditional) . . . . . Johnson  
Mountain Boys
7. Bluegrass Band of the Year (contemporary) . . . . . Tennessee  
Gentlemen
8. Entertaining Bluegrass Band of the Year . . . . .  
Downstate Ramblers
9. Gospel Bluegrass Band of the Year (Traditional) . . . . .  
Easter Brothers
10. Gospel Bluegrass Band of the Year (contemporary) . . . . .  
Gospel Tones
11. Gospel Bluegrass Band of the Year (overall) . . . . .  
Lewis Family
12. Old-Time Stringband of the Year . Outpost Family Band
13. Song Writer of the Year . . . . . Randall Hylton
14. Album of the Year . Festival Favorites Bluegrass Brigade
15. Male Vocalist of the Year (traditional) . . . . . Larry Sparks
16. Male Vocalist of the Year (contemporary) . . . . .  
Charlie Waller
17. Female Vocalist of the Year (traditional) . . . . .  
Rhonda Vincent
18. Female Vocalist of the Year (contemporary) . . . . .  
Shirley Vaughn
19. Bluegrass Fiddle of the Year . . . . . Kenny Baker
20. Old-Time Fiddle of the Year . . . . . Lymon Enloe
21. Bluegrass Banjo of the Year . . . . . J.D. Crowe
22. Old-Time Banjo of the Year . . . . . Elmer Bird
23. Bluegrass Mandolin of the Year . . . . . Tray Castleberry
24. Bluegrass Guitar of the Year (lead) . . . . . Tony Rice
25. Bluegrass Guitar of the Year (rhythm) . . . . . Charlie Waller
26. Bluegrass Dobro of the Year . . . . . Gerry Douglas
27. Bluegrass Bass Fiddle of the Year . . . . . Bill Yates
- Entertainer of the Year . . . . . Little Roy Lewis

### Publicity Volunteers Needed

Fred Volz, CBA publicity chairman, is in need of CBA members, and others, who would like to get posters and the word out about Grass Valley.

Contact Fred at the numbers shown in the CBA Officers box on page two.

## Special Events

Continued from Page 3

try Gazette and Bryan Bowers, plus seven local bands. Limited three-day festival tickets includes free camping. Single day tickets will not include camping. Full information: (916) 452-8285 or (916) 662-5691. (See advertisement this issue on Page 13).

**August 23 - 24 - 25 - 3rd Annual Mount St. Helens Bluegrass Festival, Toledo, WA.** Info: P.O. Box 815, Toledo, WA 98591.

**August 30 - 31, Sept. 1 - Labor Day Family Bluegrass Festival at Grass Valley.** Featuring the Flying Emus from Australia, Foggy Mountain Cloggers, Raintree County Boys, Bear Creek Boys Reunion, Bluegrass One, Jody Stecher, Heartland, Sidesaddle Southern Sounds of Bluegrass from Seattle, Possom Trot, and the Sawtooth Mountain Boys from Corvallis, Oregon.

3-Day member - \$19.00; 3-day advance (non-member) \$24.00; 3-day at gate - \$31.00; Friday - \$8.00; Saturday - \$12.00; Sunday - \$10.00; Fri-Sat - \$20; Sat.-Sun - \$22.00. Info: (916) 662-5691 or 735 College Street, Woodland, CA 95695

**Aug. 30, 31, Sept. 1 - Strawberry Bluegrass Festival, Camp Mather, featuring Bill Monroe, Tony Trishka New Grass Revival, Good Ol' Persons, Fiddlestix.** Info: P.O. Box 210, Modesto, CA 95353. (209) 467-0254.





## More about the 1985 Summer Festivals

The Peter Britt Festivals in Jacksonville, Oregon will be held July 18-21. They have scheduled bluegrass and country for the above dates, but really only have bluegrass (?) on two nights - Friday, July 19 they feature *Riders in the Sky*, *Berline*, *Crary & Hickman* and *Rogue Valley Bluegrass*

## Out-of-state Festivals

The Oregon Bluegrass Association has decided not to produce a festival this year. This was to be their first, but they felt with a lack of trained and available volunteers they would not try it.

The Board of Directors of the Tumwater (Washington) Bluegrass Festival have suspended the festival for 1985. They cite the fact that "in volunteer operations, the energy and responsibility for producing a successful event seems, year after year, to rest on the shoulders of a small group of dedicated souls. This group has been shrinking to where those left simply can't pick it up again."

## 'CLASS'IFIEDS

**BLUEGRASS TABLATURE:** Monthly tab and theory columns on all bluegrass instruments, including guitar by Adam Granger, great articles on bluegrass and old-time music and the people who play it - all in the Minnesota Bluegrass and Old Time Music Association magazine. Membership and subscription only \$12.00 per year or send name and address for free sample copy. MBOTMA, P.O. Box 9782 CBA, Minneapolis, MN. 55440.

### Advertising Rates

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

Full Page -- \$80.00

Half Page -- \$50.00

Quarter Page -- \$30.00

Business Card -- \$15.00

The size of the image area for a full page ad is 7¼ by 9¼; half page - 5 by 7½; quarter page 3½ by 5. Art work should be very clear black and white layout and all photos should be screened.

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

Don Powell  
Bluegrass Breakdown Editor  
735 College Street  
Woodland, CA 95695

*Boys*. On Saturday they feature *The Whites*, *Country Gazette* and *Rose Maddox*. The other two nights have really no bluegrass at all, mostly folk.

The Mid-Summer Bluegrass Festival has finalized their line-up by adding *Country Gazette* to play on all three days and *The River City Ramblers*. Vern Williams dropped from the line-up. So the final line-up will feature J.D. Crowe and *The New South*, Doyle Lawson and Quicksilver, *The Seldom Scene*, *Hot Rize*, *Red Knuckles & The Trailblazers*, *Brian Bowers*, *Sidesaddle*, *8th Avenue String Band*, *The Slide Mountain Boys*, *Gryphon Quintet*, *Good Ol' Persons*, and *Hendricks, Smith and Bentley* in addition to the two already mentioned.

## Grass Valley Volunteers Needed

Don Powell needs volunteer help for the gate, selling t-shirts, setting up the concessions area and in tearing down the equipment after the festivals are over. If you are interested, purchase a ticket and then call Don at (916) 662-2906 or 662-5691 and leave your name and when you can arrive and if you can stay over. CBA will refund the purchase price of your ticket for six hours of help at the festival, or before it or after it.

It is a great way to get to see the festival and get your money back as well.

We especially need help on Wednesday before the festival to put up tarps and string the ropes for the audience areas.



Since 1969

The home of (free) live  
"BLUEGRASS MUSIC" in S.F.  
seven nights a week!

featuring

delicious homemade sandwiches and  
the world's greatest homemade chili

3251 Scott St.
922-2456



## FIELD GUIDE TO WESTERN BANDS

### A Reminder

All bands listed are here because they sent in a note to the editor to insure that the musical group is actually still operational. Last issue contained over 12 listings for groups that no longer are together. If you wish to be listed in the next Bluegrass Breakdown, you must send in your bands name, address, and phone number, along with any engagements you have upcoming, plus any continuing performances, to be listed. Send to: Editor, Bluegrass Breakdown, 735 College Street, Woodland, CA 95695.

### Continuing Gigs

#### Wednesday

Grizzly Peak String Band, 7-9 p.m. at Pizza Magic, 208 Parker Avenue, Rodeo, CA.

High Country, Paul's Saloon, San Francisco

#### Friday

Heartland, 8 p.m.-11 p.m., Red Vest Pizza, El Cerrito

High Country, Paul's Saloon, San Francisco

Bluegrass Monarchs, Kalisa's, Cannery Row, Monterey

Sidesaddle, The Loft, San Jose (except for May 24 & June 14)

#### Saturday

Heartland, 7 p.m. - 10 p.m., Red Vest Pizza, Walnut Creek

### Band Listings

**BLUEGRASS CROSSROADS**, (503) 647-2878 [Hillsboro, OR]

**BLUEGRASS MONARCHS** (408) 373-0515 [Pacific Grove]

Fridays - Kalisa's, Cannery Row, Monterey

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

**8th AVENUE STRING BAND**, (916) 343-8173 [Chico]

May 4 - Cirino's, Nevada City

May 17 - Paul's Saloon, San Francisco

June 22 - Bluegrass and Country Music Picnic, Freeport, (Sacramento), CA

July 5 - Music at Sandharbor, Sandharbor State Park, Lake Tahoe (Nevada Side) - [Opening for David Grisman]

July 20-21 - Twain Harte Craft Festival, Twain Harte

August 2-3-4 - Midsummer Bluegrass Festival, Grass Valley Fairgrounds.

**FIDDLEDUSTERS** (707) 429-3193 [Fairfield]

**GRIZZLY PEAK STRING BAND** (415) 724-0232 [East Bay]

**HEARTLAND** (415) 935-9295 [Walnut Creek]

**THE PHIL SALAZAR BAND** (805) 653-2380 [Ventura]

**SAWDUST**, (408) 446-1105 or (916) 626-1937 [South Bay] & [Coloma]

**SAWTOOTH MOUNTAIN BOYS** (503) 838-4095 [Monmouth, OR]

Aug. 30-Sept. 1 - Labor Day Festival, Grass Valley

**SANDY ROTHMAN, ALAN SENANKE & THE BAY RAMBLERS**, Box 20451, Oakland 94620 [Bay Area]

May 9 - Paul's Saloon, SF

May 11 - Paul's Saloon, San Francisco

May 23 - Paul's Saloon, SF

May 30 - Paul's Saloon, SF

**SIDESADDLE** (408-353-4408 [San Jose]

May 11 - Down Under Saloon, San Jose

May 17-18 - King City Fair

May 24 - Freight & Salvage, Berkeley, 9 p.m.

May 26 - Murphy's

June 1 - Paul's Saloon, San Francisco

June 2 - Swanton Corn Roast, Davenport, noon to 5

June 8 - Down Under Saloon, San Jose, 8 p.m.

June 9 - Redwood Mountain Faire, Ben Lomond

June 30 - Club Almaden Bluegrass Festival, Club Almaden, San Jose.

**SMOKEWOOD**, (213) 254-3848 [San Gabriel, CA]

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

May 4 - Springville Rodeo, Springville, CA.

May 22 - Tharp's Equipment Show, Cotton Center, CA.

June 15-17 - Grass Valley June Festival

**BILL WHITE** (415) 782-3203, [Oakland] 2877 MacArthur Blvd., Oakland 94602

May 18 Bethel Island Bluegrass Festival

**WILD OATS BAND** (714) 538-3724 [Orange, CA]

**WILD OATS** (707) 822-6264 [Arcata, CA]

May 10 - Youngberg's, Arcata

May 16-17 - Silverlining, McKinleyville

May 24 - Youngberg's, Arcata

May 26 - Pacific Art Center, Arcata

May 30 Jambalya Club, Arcata

May 31 - Youngberg's, Arcata

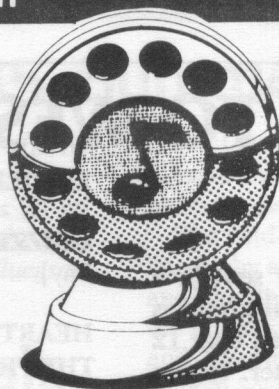
June 8 - 7th Annual Humboldt Folklife Festival

June 6-7 - Silver Lining, McKinleyville

June 27 - Youngberg's, Arcata



# Turn Your Radio On



## RADIO LISTING

### SUNDAY

- 9:45 a.m. - All Gospel Show with host Ed Bird, KCVR, Lodi, (1570 AM) [209] 368-0626
- 12 noon - 5 p.m. - Bay Area Bluegrass, KCSM, San Mateo, (91 FM), Featuring all types of Bluegrass Music, alternating hosts Pete Lude, Karyn Cap, Barbara Whitaker and Cuzin Al Knoth on last Sunday of the month. [415-574-6427]
- 2 - 4 p.m. - The Bluegrass Show with Ron Stanley, KERG, Garberville [104.7 FM] (707) 923-2052
- 2 - 5 p.m. - Bluegrass Express hosted by Marty Warburton, Don Mitchell, Bill Ray and Don Lanning, KNPR, Las Vegas [89.5 FM] (702) 456-6695.
- 3 - 5 p.m. - Home Brothers Radio Show, KUNR, Reno, [88.7 FM] (702) 784-6591
- 3 - 5 p.m. - Down on the Pataphysical Farm with Leigh Hill, KUSP, Santa Cruz, [89 FM] (408) 476-2800
- 5 - 7 p.m. - The Lost Highway [bluebilly music] with Johnny Simmons and Amy Airhart, KUSP, Santa Cruz, [89 FM] (408) 476-2800
- 9 - 12 p.m. - Cupertino Barn Dance with Stompin' Steve Hathaway [cowboy & country music] KKUP, Cupertino [91.5 FM] (408) 253-0303

### MONDAY

- 2 - 4 p.m. - Trail Mix with Carri Gicker and Jody Fenimore [country & folk] KVMR, Nevada City, [89.5 FM] (916) 265-9073
- 6 - 9 p.m. - Alternating Mondays - The Quickstep with Karen Quick and Brother Glenn's Mostly Bluegrass Show with Glenn Christensen, KKUP, Cupertino [91.5 FM] (408) 253-0303

### TUESDAY

- 8 - 9 p.m. - Bluegrass with Lee Jenks, KYDS, Sacramento, [91.5 FM] (916) 447-2346

### WEDNESDAY

- 9:30 p.m. - 1 a.m. - Music from the True Vine, alternating hosts Dave Elliott, Gareth Jenkins, Meryle Korn and Jim Seafeldt. [traditional & contemporary bluegrass] KBOO, Portland, [90.7 FM] (503) 231-8032.

### THURSDAY

- 10 a.m. - Noon - Hard Country with Richard Snelson, KVMR, Nevada City [89.5 FM] (916) 265-9073
- 7 - 10 p.m. - Just Jean Radio Show with Jean Philben [folk & country] KKUP, Cupertino [91.5 FM] (408) 253-0303
- 8 - 10 p.m. - Basically Bluegrass with Duane English, KCBX, San Luis Obispo [90.1 FM], Santa Barbara [89.9 FM] (805) 544-KCBX

### FRIDAY

- 2:30 - 4:30 p.m. - Alternating: Pig In A Pen with Ray Edlund [bluegrass & old-time]; Panhandle Country with Tom Diamant [country, bluegrass, western swing, cajun, old-timey] KPFA, Berkeley [94.1 FM] (415) 848-6767

### SATURDAY

- 3 - 6 a.m. - Saddle Seat - country with Johnny Western, KKUP, Cupertino [91.5 FM] (408) 253-0303
- 6 - 8 a.m. [2nd & 4th Saturdays] Capt. Nashville and the Sterling Sliver Express bring country & bluegrass to the *Worlds Folk Music Show*, KKUP, Cupertino [91.5 FM] (408) 253-0303
- 6 a.m. - 5 p.m. - Prairie Fires and Paper Moons with Mitch and Jerri Third, includes Prairie Home Companion from 3-5, KUOP, Stockton [91.3 FM] (209) 946-2582
- 10 a.m. - Noon - The Bluegrass Show with Ken Crow, KVMR, Nevada City, [89.5 FM], (916) 265-9073
- Noon - 2 p.m. - Hillbilly Jukebox with T.J. Meekins, KVMR, Nevada City, [89.5 FM] (916) 265-9073
- 3 - 6 p.m. - Life's Other Side with Mike Reed, KUNR, Reno, [88.7 FM] (702) 784-6591
- 3 - 6 p.m. - High & Lonesome, bluegrass with Rick Nagle; alternating with Dave Barnett's Swing Boogie, western swing & bluegrass, KKUP, Cupertino, [91.5 FM] (408) 253-0303
- 6 - 8 p.m. - A Prairie Home Companion, KUNR, Reno, [88.7 FM], (702) 784-6591

Please send to the Editor, Bluegrass Breakdown, 735 College Street, Woodland, CA 95695.



## Record Reviews

### GOOD AS GOLD!

(Sugar Hill SH-3734)

**SIDE A:** *Good As Gold, I Just Got Tired of Being Poor, Guysboro Train, Hard Times, When They Ring Those Golden Bells, Someone Is Looking For Someone Like You.*

**SIDE B:** *I've Gone Back To Being Me, Have I Told You Lately That I Love You, Four Walls, Lork I Hope This Day Is Good, Night Ridin', Detour.*

**PERSONNEL:** Charlie Waller, guitar, vocal; Bill Yates, bass, vocal; Jimmy Gaudreau, mandolin, guitar, bass, vocal; Dick Smith, banjo, mandolin, guitar, vocal; Steve Wilson, dobro; Robbie Magruder, drums; Jimmy Arnold, harmonica, guitar; Carl Nelson, fiddle, piano.

by GLENN CHRISTENSEN

It's difficult to write an objective record review when you have stayed up all night at a friend's house along with the band who's record you are attempt-

ing to review. This is the case concerning the aptly named "Gentlemen" and myself. Now, when I hear their voices, I am whisked back to that memorable night, and as I listen to their magnificent instrumental work, I can see the expressions -- the smiles, the concentration, the delight. That these gentlemen enjoy playing goes without saying, and there is small wonder that they are one of the most popular bands performing today.

As for the night I stayed up until daybreak with the band at Walt and Bernie's house, I'll not soon forget sitting mere inches away from the legendary Charlie Waller, listening to his stories -- some funny, some ribald -- and delighting when he would say, "Oh, here's one I really like..." and he'd make his guitar come alive. Dick Smith and Jimmy Gaudreau seem to have an endless supply of jokes, and they kept us all laughing, while seeing who could

out-do the other in playing the fastest lick (while not shortchanging on notes, either). Bill Yates seemed to be in two places at once. While always there with his smooth and perfect bass playing, you'd turn your head, and there he was shaking hands with a new found friend or making a recent arrival feel welcome and comfortable.

How can I possibly write an unbiased review of this album after such a night? One factor makes it a little easier: if you are reading this magazine, you already know and love the Country Gentlemen. So, here is my review: This is one of their best! Don't wait another minute to get it!

### Vern Williams 'fantastic' in Washington show

According to the Washington Bluegrass Association publication, *The Bluegrass Gazette*, Vern Williams had a fantastic show in November at the Homestead near Washougal. "Vern plays mandolin and has a marvelous voice range, reaching high notes which equal anyone in bluegrass music."

## California Bluegrass Association Membership Application

### FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

Membership Number

No. of votes

Expiration Date

No. of Tickets

Last Name First Name

Address

City State ZIP

Telephone (include area code)

Spouse's Name

SINGLE - \$10.00

Children (Name & Birthday)

SPOUSE - \$2.50

AGES 12-18 (Non-voting)

CHILDREN-  
Non-Voting 12-18  
(each) - \$1.00

AGES 12-18 (Voting)

Voting  
12-18 - \$10.00  
(each)

CHECK IF:

New ☐ Renewal ☐  
Foreign ☐

Subscription ONLY ☐

SUBSCRIPTIONS  
ONLY -

\$12.00 - Foreign boat  
\$18.00 - Foreign-Air

**Bands of 3 to 7 members may join for \$25.00/year**  
Write for more information to the address below.

Send check or money order for membership to:

Treasurer

California Bluegrass Association

P.O. Box 11287

San Francisco, CA 94101-7287

If a senior(s), OVER 65, list  
birth date(s):

Instruments Played

Any Help you can offer the CBA  
(artwork, typing, writing, promotion, etc.)

ENTER AMOUNT  
ENCLOSED HERE:



**BLUEGRASS BREAKDOWN**  
**P.O. BOX 11287**  
**SAN FRANCISCO, CA. 94101-7287**

Second Class Postage  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
San Francisco, California  
and at additional  
mailing offices  
315350



**TIME VALUE**