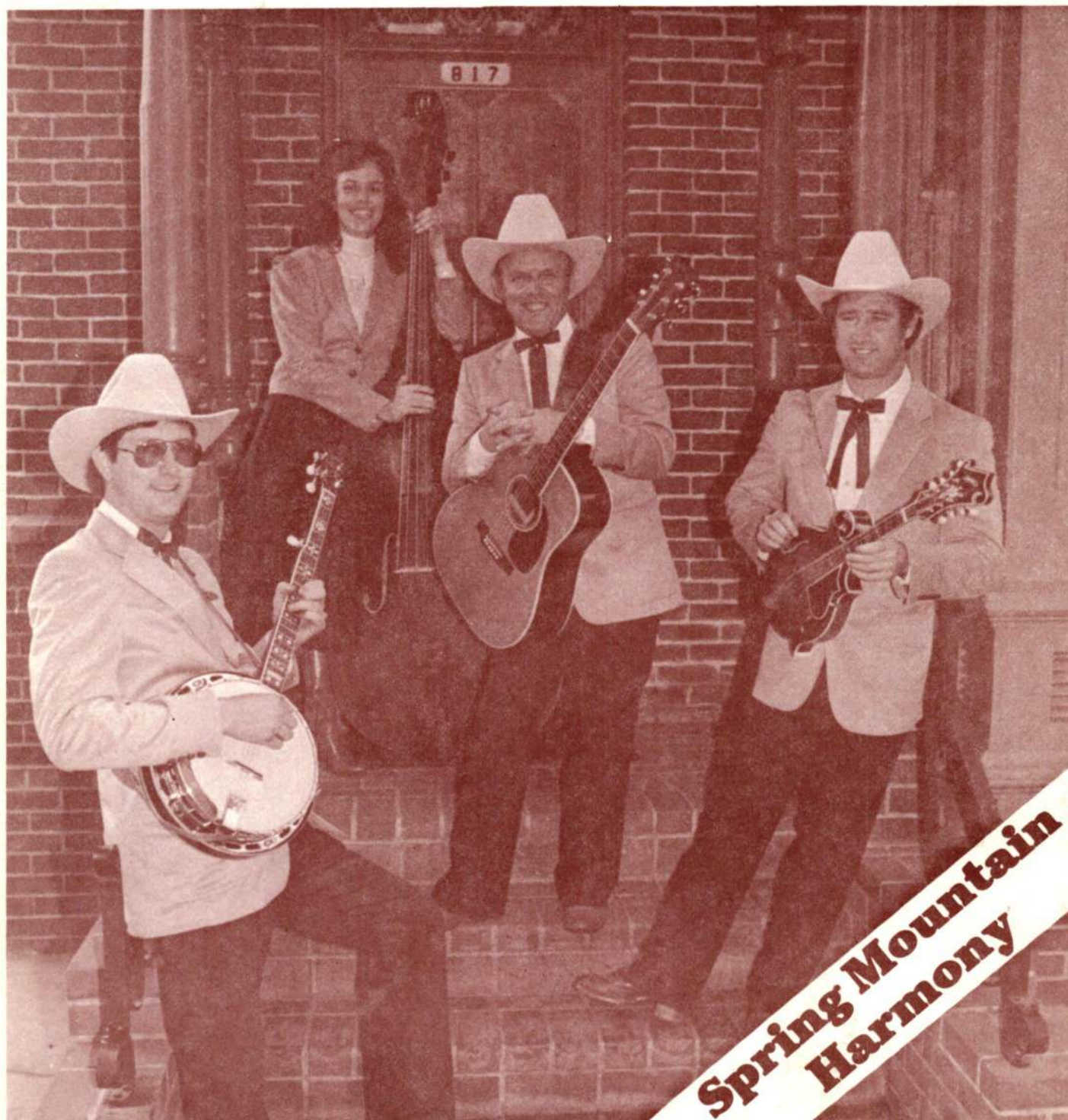


BLUEGRASS BREAKDOWN



Volume 12, Number 2

March / April 1986



Next Board Meeting

The next meeting of the Board of the California Bluegrass Association will be held at Carl Pagter's home in Walnut Creek on Sunday, March 9, 1986 at 1:30 p.m.

Deadline

Next issue will have a publisher's deadline of April 21, 1986. Please send in any changes to the Field Guide, Special Events, advertising for May, June and summer festivals, letters, etc., to Don Powell, 735 College Street, Woodland, CA 95695.

Thanks

Special thanks to Glenn Christenson, J.D. Rhynes, Jim Armentrout, Barry Brower, Ken Reynolds, Esther Anderson, Burney Garelick, and Fred Volz for their contributions to this issue. Many thanks to Stephanie and Anne Powell for getting the mailing ready for the Post Office, and to my students for their help in getting it ready for the printer.

Help Needed

From reading the membership applications, it is evident that there are a number of members who are writers, English teachers, in public relations, etc. What I am hinting at is to enlist your aid in getting articles about your favorite band, new or established; favorite place to hear bluegrass music; special article about some style of playing; story about a person famous (or otherwise) in bluegrass - in California or ? I would like to see more original material coming to the Breakdown, making my job easier in one way, but harder (selecting what to run) in another.

If you have a special story idea, call Don Powell, (916) 662-2906 during the day or (916) 662-5691 at night. Discuss your idea - you just might find a receptive ear - believe me.

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

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

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P.O. Box 11287
San Francisco, CA 94101-7287

***Jim Armentrout**

1844-48th Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94122
(415) 661-0157

Diana Deininger

Secretary
735 Hacienda Avenue
Campbell, CA 95008
(408) 370-1959

Mark Hogan

Festival Coordinator
1296 Cunningham Road
Sebastopol, CA 95472
(707) 829-5561

***Charley Hobbs**

2342 Cambridge
Sacramento, CA 95815
(916) 927-7259

***Midge Hobbs**

2342 Cambridge
Sacramento, CA 95815
(916) 927-7259

***Steve Hogle**

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

***David Magram**

441 Atlanta Ave.
San Jose, CA 95125

***Carl Pagter**

Chairman of the Board
17 Julianne Ct.
Walnut Creek, CA 94595
(415) 938-4221

***Don Powell**

Breakdown Editor
735 College Street
Woodland, CA 95695
(916) 662-5691

***Fred Volz**

President
Publicity Chairman
8215 Colonial Drive
Stockton, CA 95209
(209) 473-3212

William (Huey) Youhill

Membership Vice-President
1506 Bluestone Court
Roseville, CA 95678

Special Events

JAMS - Every Thursday Evening - 7:30 p.m., Hank Gibson's, 2300 Louisa St., Napa, CA 94558, (707) 253-1709.

March 1 - High Country in concert at the Palms Playhouse in Davis. 8:30 p.m., \$5.50 per person. Tickets from BASS, Barney's Records in Davis, Tower Records in Sacramento, for more information 758-0761.

March 14-15 - Northern Regional Fiddle Championships - Municipal Auditorium, Oroville. 10 fiddle divisions. Starts 5 p.m. Friday and continues all day and evening Saturday. Very reasonable admission. Free RV parking adjacent to auditorium. Fantastic music, wonderful people, and a great excuse for an early trip. Contact Leon Raney (916) 533-7699 or Ross Huffman (805) 486-8744.

March 15 - Sidesaddle in concert at The Moraga Concert Hall, 1307 Seabright Avenue at Broadway, Santa Cruz, Sponsored by Santa Cruz Bluegrass Society, \$6.00 General Admission, doors open at 7:30 p.m., show starts at 8 p.m.

MARCH 19 - Trapezoid in concert at the Palms Playhouse in Davis. 8 p.m., \$6.50 per person. Tickets from BASS, Barney's in Davis, Tower Records in Sacramento. For more information call 758-0761.

March 21, 22, 23 - Calico Pitchin', Cookin', and spittin' Hullabaloo, Calico Ghost Town, Yermo. Camping \$6 per unit per night; adults (12 and over) \$3 a day; Juniors (6-11 yrs.) - \$2 a day; children (5 and under) free. Info: (619) 254-2122.

APRIL 18 - 19 - California State Old-Time Fiddle Championship Contest at the Madera County Fairgrounds, Madera. Complete information: Ross Huffman, Oxnard (805) 486-8744.

APRIL 26 - "Pickin' Fer Gold" bluegrass band contest at Paradise, California. Contest 5 p.m. - 10 p.m. \$250.00 for first place; \$150.00 for second place; and \$75.00 for third. Complete information: Ms. Nita Lemke, 1022 Pleasant Lane, Paradise, CA 95969 (916) 877-7181.

APRIL 27 - La Grange Fiddle & Banjo Contest, at the Rodeo Grounds in LaGrange, 30 miles east of Modesto on Hwy

132, 30 miles north of Merced on Hwy J59. Contest begins at 10 a.m. Information: Chris Stevenson, P.O. Box 117, LaGrange, CA 95329 (209) 853-2128.

May 9-10-11 - Calico Spring Festival - Calico Ghost Town, Yermo. Bluegrass hootenanny including two day fiddle, banjo, guitar and band contest, clogging, square-dance, and ragtime. Daily admission: adults \$3; juniors (6 thru 11) \$2. Children (under 5) - free. Camping \$6 per unit per day. (Call 619 254-2122.

MAY 16 - 17 - 18 - Bethel Island Bluegrass Festival on beautiful Bethel Island in the Delta. Featuring some of the finest bands in California and Washington, plus Bill White. See advertisement on page 7 for complete information or call (415) 684-2182. Complete weekend ticket is \$22.00, Friday/Saturday ticket is \$11.00; and Sunday ticket is \$10. Camping available.

JUNE 20-21-22 - Summer Grass Valley Bluegrass Festival at the Nevada County Fairgrounds in Grass Valley. Full details in advertisement on pages 4-5. Tickets are now on sale for this super line-up at the Most Beautiful Festival Site in California.

JUNE 13-14-15 - Huck Finn Jubilee, Mojave Narrows Regional Park, Victorville, CA - featuring Patsy Montana.

July 4 - Generic Bluegrass and Folk Festival, Leland Meadows, Strawberry, CA Info (109) 795-1666 or 795-5250.

AUGUST 1-2-3 - 2nd Annual Midsummer Bluegrass Festival at the Nevada Country Fairgrounds. (916) 452-8282 for info. Discount coupon available for \$5 off weekend ticket - write Sacramento Bluegrass Society, 741 East Street #198, Woodland, CA 95695-4144. See line-up in story in this issue of Breakdown.

On the Cover

Occupying the cover for the March/April 1986 issue are the members of Spring Mountain Harmony, popular Porterville area band that will be playing at the June Grass Valley Festival of the California Bluegrass Association. Members pictured are Steve Hall, banjo; Suzanne Reynolds, bass; Ken Reynolds, guitar; and Paul Middleton, mandolin. Not pictured: Dave Sullivan, fiddle. This band was one of the hits with the audience last year, especially the singing and stage presence of Suzanne.

California Bluegrass Association

GRASS VALLEY BLUEGRASS Festival

**AT THE NEVADA COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS
JUNE 20, 21, 22, 1986**

Schedule

The music begins Friday from 5 p.m. to 11 p.m.
Saturday from 10 a.m. to 11 p.m.
and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Gospel music - Sunday morning.



Featuring

**JIM AND JESSE AND THE VIRGINIA BOYS
VIRGINIA SQUIRES
VERN WILLIAMS BAND
ROSE MADDOX**

**Bluegrass Patriots
Country Ham
Eighth Avenue String Band
Good Ol' Persons
Phil Salazer Band
South Fork**

**Spring Mountain Harmony
Bill White
Wild Oats
FOGGY MOUNTAIN CLOGGERS**

along with workshops and clinics with the musicians and
plenty of parking lot pickin'.

**TICKETS: 735 College St. • Woodland, CA 95695
916/662-5691**

ATTN: Don Powell

| D A Y | FRI ONLY | SAT ONLY | SUN ONLY | FRI & SAT | SAT & SUN | 3 DAY AT GATE | 3 DAY- ADVANCE |
|----------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|--------------|------------------|-------------------|
| CBA Member | | | | | | | |
| Adult | \$11 | \$16 | \$14 | \$27 | \$30 | \$35 | \$24 |
| General Public | | | | | | | |
| Adult/over 12 | \$11 | \$16 | \$14 | \$27 | \$30 | \$35 | \$30 |

Children 11 and under FREE



Charge by phone:
415/762-2277, 408/998-2277
916/395-2277, 707/762-2277

Membership prices through June 4 only.

CBA Members: Adults, Seniors (over 65), Juniors (11 & under): Purchase any type of ticket from Woodland address above. Make check or money order to: California Bluegrass Association. (CBA Seniors & all Juniors free upon request)

Include: Self-addressed, stamped envelope. No tickets will be held at the gate. Deadline for mail order tickets is one week prior to festival. Members may buy same number of adult tickets as there are adults (12 yrs. & over) on membership card on file. *Discounts available only on 3-day advance tickets (limited quantities available).

31st GOLDEN WEST BLUEGRASS FESTIVAL

Californias First and Worlds Most Repeated Professional Outdoor Bluegrass Music Festival



APRIL 25, 26, 27, 1986



PRADO BASIN PARK — 14600 RIVER ROAD, NORCO, CALIFORNIA

3 FUN-FILLED DAYS FOR ALL THE FAMILY AND FRIENDS!

featuring...

- ★ BULL CREEK BOYS
Fri. - Sat.
- ★ CHEYENNE
Sat. - Sun.
- ★ SHADOW MOUNTAIN
Fri. - Sat.
- ★ PARAMOUNT BLUEGRASS BOYS
Fri. - Sat.
- ★ THE SHERBROOK FAMILY
Sun.
- ★ BLUEGRASS FLYERS
Fri. - Sat.
- ★ FOOTLOOSE CLOGGERS
Fri. - Sat. - Sun.
- ★ SAGEGRASS
Sat. - Sun.
- ★ THE PHIL SALIZAR BAND
Fri.
- ★ HOT OFF THE PRESS
Sat.
- ★ HARVEY WALKER
& THE SWINGGRASS BAND
Sat.
- ★ BAKER BOUND
Fri. - Sat.
- ★ TOM SAUBER & ED LOWE
Sat.
- ★ YANKEE BLUEGRASS
Sat.
- ★ COUNTRY CONNECTION
Sun.
- ★ DOWN HOME
Sat. - Sun.
- ★ DAMASCUS ROAD
Sun.
- ★ BLUE SKIES
Fri. - Sat.
- ★ THE BERGREN FAMILY
Sat.
- ★ THE GREEN FAMILY
Sun.
- ★ CRIPPLE CREEK CLOGGERS
Sat.

3 Hours of Gospel Music on Sunday

MASTERS OF CEREMONY: Jim Cox, Hans Kraker & Ken Tennesen SOUND BY: Gerry Higbie

DAILY SCHEDULE: Friday 4:30-9:00; Saturday 10:00-9:00; Sunday 10:00-5:00.

ADMISSION: Friday: \$7; Saturday: \$10; Sunday: \$9; TEN YEARS AND UNDER, SIXTY-FIVE AND- OVER, 100% PERMANENTLY HANDICAPPED will be admitted **FREE OF CHARGE**. (Minors must be accompanied by an adult.) Daytime Parking is FREE.

DAILY CAMPING: \$5 per unit; No camping tickets sold in advance, must be purchased at time of entry at main gate. NO HOOKUPS!

ADVANCE TICKETS: 3-DAY ADVANCE TICKET \$20. No other daily combination tickets sold in advance, must be purchased at main gate. SPACES RESERVED until 8 A.M. SATURDAY (Strictly enforced). **TICKET PRICE REFUNDABLE UNTIL APRIL 1. DAILY TICKETS EXPIRE AT MIDNIGHT.**

For **ADVANCE 3-DAY TICKETS**...Send self addressed stamped envelope and a check or money order, to: GOLDEN WEST BLUEGRASS, P.O. BOX 341, BONSALL, CA 92003.

ADVANCE TICKET SALES CLOSING DATE: 4/18/86.

FOOD CONCESSION...RESTROOMS...WATER... Absolutely **NO PETS** allowed...**CAMPER GREY-WATER TANKS** must remain capped...Bring **LAWN CHAIRS**...limited built-in **BARBECUE STANDS** AVAILABLE...**DRINKING LAW** strictly enforced...**DUE TO BROKEN GLASS, wading in stream and brook PROHIBITED...** **PAY PHONE AVAILABLE.**

GATE OPENS APPROXIMATELY 2 PM THURSDAY

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:

DICK TYNER
P.O. BOX 341
BONSALL, CA 92003
619-758-7205



A bluegrass Puzzle celebrating Grass Valley and California Bluegrass Association

E M I T N U F S R E G G O L C N I A T N U O M Y G G O F H
P Z S C R O W D S Q N O S R E D N A R E H T S E P I C K A
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M G Y R R N W O D K A E R B S S A R G E U L B M T K D B Z

Thanks to Ken Reynolds

- | | |
|-----------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. GRASS VALLEY | 26. CHARLIE HOBBS |
| 2. JUNE | 27. BOB LAWRENCE |
| 3. CBA | 28. MIKE JOHNSON |
| 4. FESTIVAL | 29. BANJO |
| 5. SWELL | 30. GUITAR |
| 6. FANS | 31. BASS |
| 7. GREAT | 32. MANDOLIN |
| 8. CROWDS | 33. FIDDLE |
| 9. PINES | 34. DOBRO |
| 10. FUNTIME | 35. HAMMER DULICMER |
| 11. SONGS | 36. KAREN QUICK |
| 12. MUSIC | 37. RAY EDLUND |
| 13. JAMS | 38. BROTHER GLENN |
| 14. PICK | 39. BILL WHITE |
| 15. FOGGY MOUNTAIN CLOGGERS | 40. STAR |
| 16. BLUEGRASS BREAKDOWN | 41. ROSE MADDOX |
| 17. DON POWELL | 42. VERN WILLIAMS |
| 18. CARL PAGTER | 43. HOT RIZE |
| 19. FRED VOLZ | 44. GRANT STREET |
| 20. JIM ARMENTROUT | 45. HIGH COUNTRY |
| 21. ESTHER ANDERSON | 46. GOOD OL PERSONS |
| 22. MIDGE HOBBS | 47. SPRING MTN HARMONY |
| 23. STEVE HOGLE | 48. HEARTLAND |
| 24. DIANA DEININGER | 49. SIDESADDLE |
| 25. BUTCH WALLER | 50. COUNTRY HAM |
| | 51. DONE GONE |

Reward

There will be three prizes for those people who figure out the puzzle. First correct answer to arrive at my mail box in Woodland will have their choice of one of the following albums:

Bill Monroe, *Classic Bluegrass Instrumentals*
 Bill Harrell, *Do You Remember*
 Mac Wiseman, *Early Dot Recordings, Vol. 1*
 Larry Sparks, *Lonesome Guitar*
 Dave Evans & River Bend, *Close To Home*

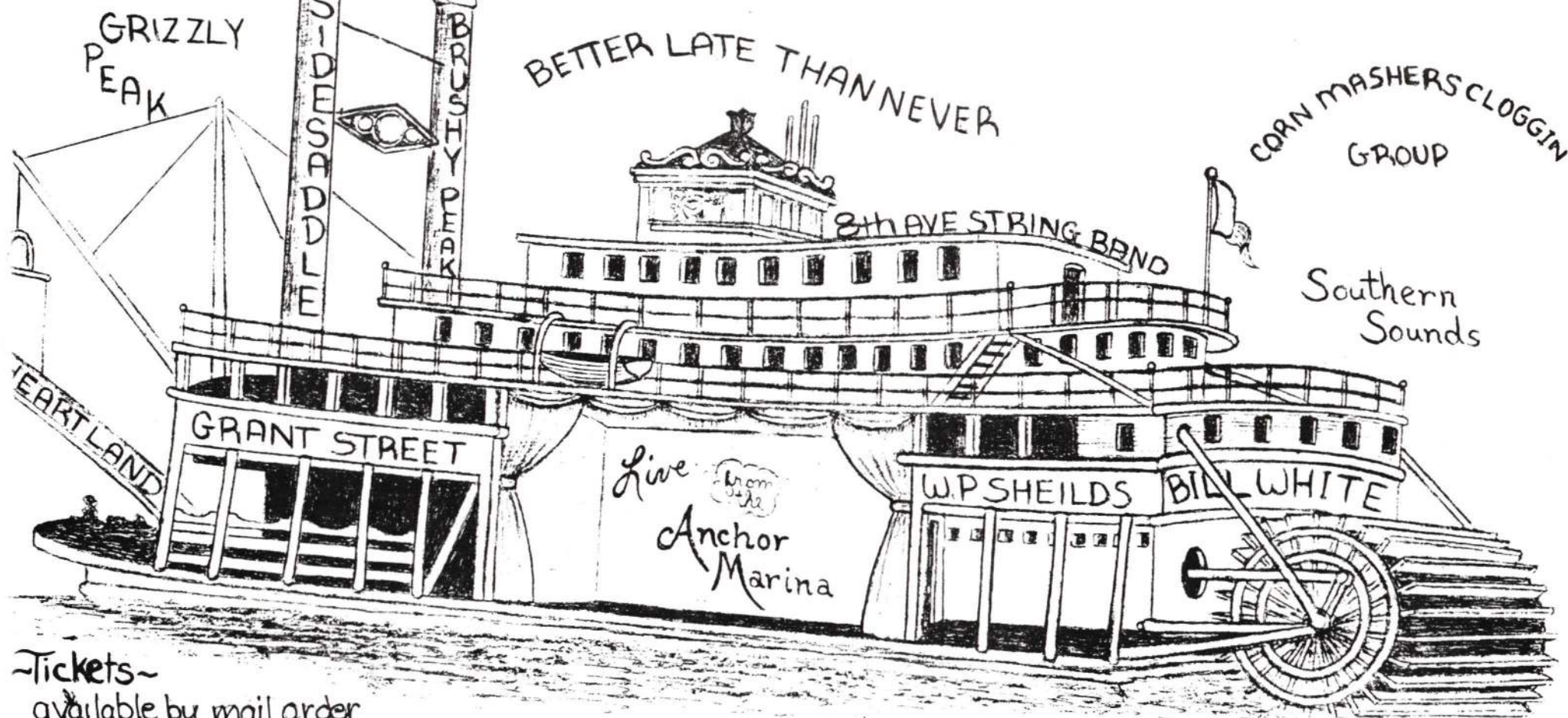
Second winner to arrive will get second choice; third winner to arrive at my home will get third choice. The other two are in case of ties in arrival. Be sure to list the order of the five records in case you are one, two or three.

Send to:

Don Powell
 Puzzle Contest
 735 College Street
 Woodland, CA 95695

2nd. annual Bethel Island Bluegrass Festival

May 16th-18th



Tickets~

available by mail order
make check or money order payable to:

Prices~

\$22.00 / Fri. night recording session
\$11.00 / Sat & Sun performances
\$11.00 / Fri. night recording session
\$10.00 / Sat. performance
\$10.00 / Sun. performance
camping available

Steamboat Productions
P.O. Box 1086
Bethel Island, CA 94511

for more information re:
festival-Anchor Marina: 415-684-2182
recording session-John Blasquez: 415-935-9295

fri night recording session
all Blue Grass bands welcome
sat. night spaghetti feed presented
by: "High Hill Ranch Gang"
from Placerville
beer, drinks, food available
down home prices!!!

Oregon Bluegrass Gospel Show a success

by J.D. RHYNES

On the night of Jan 25, 1986 approximately 650 to 700 hardy fans of bluegrass gospel music drove from as far away as Idaho, Washington and California to hear some of the best gospel music played and sung, that I have ever had the pleasure to hear in the 38 years that I've been hooked on this music. The weather alone was enough to make seasoned Northerners throw another log on the fire and batten down the shutters, what with rain and icy winds blowing in off the Columbia River. But, I honestly think that if Mount St. Helens had blown up in downtown Portland that night, they still would have been there.

The place was the Northwest Service Center in downtown Portland. The building itself is a grand old building, which originally was a church. It had a fine stage, under an immense arched dome of stained glass, that only added to the setting of the show itself. The sound was very good and the audience sat in a semi-circle around the stage. Of all the church services conducted, and of all the countless hymns and gospel songs that have been sung in this room, I'm sure that none was done with more dedication, and with just pure raw soul, than were the ones done this night.

That evening before the doors were opened to the public I had a few minutes to look around, and to talk with one of the custodians. He didn't know any real history of the building, only that he thought that at one time it was a Christian Science Church. Walking down the empty, quiet hallway behind the stage I thought to myself, "Boy if the founding fathers or deacons have any ghosts sleeping peacefully in the cloistered halls, they're gonna be in for a surprise tonight."

The lobby was manned by Oregon Bluegrass Association members and their wives. They had a table chock full of yummy baked goods and hot coffee. The OBA also had their information and membership table ably staffed and ready to accept new memberships.

The show was opened by Steve Waller, president of the OBA. After welcoming everyone and acquainting the newcomers to the purpose and goals of the OBA, he graciously introduced me, as the Master of Ceremonies for the evening. I would like to take time and say that to be chosen as the MC for the third annual Gospel Show was truly an honor. I will never forget the kindness extended by all the officers and board members of the OBA. I thank you all from the bottom of my heart.

The first thing on the program was to dedicate the evenings show to a very special couple, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Nelson of Portland. Frank and Irene came forth with financial assistance when the OBA was being formed and were it not for their generous assistance, the OBA might not exist today.

Being as this was a Gospel Show, what better way to introduce the music itself than to read from "The Book of Books", *The Bible*. From the 33rd chapter of the Book of Psalms, verses one through three:

Rejoice in the Lord O you righteous!

Praise befits the upright. Praise the Lord with the lyre, make melody to Him with the harp of ten strings! Sing to Him a new song. Play skillfully on the strings with loud shouts!

I figured that just about described a bluegrass gospel show, and after receiving a resounding AMEN from the audience, we began.

The first band up was "The Willamette Grass Pickers", from Lebanon, Oregon. They are a traditional group and they did several familiar songs. They were very well received and did a great job. The only two members of the band that I knew were Jack Ruble, on mandolin; and Don Brown on guitar. Rounding out the rest of the instruments were banjo, bass and lead guitar. I'm sorry that I can't give the names of the rest of the band members, but the groups left before I could get all the information. They did one heck of a job!

Next on the program was a band named "Stone Ground". This is a fairly new band from the Portland area, and their material was new to me. One I especially liked, a long with the audience, was a Mark Christian song, done A capella, titled "He 'is Near".

Phil Schutz is the band leader. He also serves the OBA as one of the board members. The band did a fine job.

Next band up was a four piece group called "Old Friends". And that is exactly what they are - four long time friends that put this group together especially for this show. They are Rollie Champe, on mandolin; John "Brakeline" Van Brocklin, on banjo; Ray Smith on guitar; and Paul Smith on bass. (No, the Smith Bros. are not in the cough drop business). Some of their set included "Have Mercy On Me", "Wait a Little Longer", "Life's Railway to Heaven", "House of Gold", and "Hallelueah I'm Ready to Go"! I especially liked their rendition of "Wait a Little Longer, Please Jesus". As most everyone knows, Hazel Hauser wrote this song. She wrote it around 1954. I know she would have liked the way "Old Friends" performed it. The other song they did that the audience really liked was one of Hank William's great songs, "House of Gold". All the members of this band are seasoned performers and really put on a good show for the audience. Rollie Champe, as you may recall, was the bass player for the Sawtooth Mtn. Boys for many years before moving to the East Coast for about four years. It's good to have you back and to "Brakeline," Ray, and Paul Smith, I say thank you for a great job well done. Your tasteful quartet singing was well executed as well.

Since we had five bands to perform that evening as well as a 20-minute recess after the third set, we had to keep the sets down to around 20-25 minutes for each band. However, the audience wouldn't hear of it, and called all the bands back for at least one encore. Talk about your great audiences! I'll bet we could've picked until midnight the next night and they would've still been there, even though the Super Bowl was on that day. (As far as I'm concerned, the Super Bowl was that Saturday Night in Portland.)

After a short 20-minute intermission to allow the folks to get up and shake the kinks out and have a cup of coffee, we were ready to get down to some more good pickin' and singin'.

During the first three sets of the show, while the bands were performing, I would go out and sit near the back of the room. On nearly every song at least half of the audience was mouthing the words of each song as the bands played. I thought this audience wants to sing! So as an impromptu thing I took my guitar out to start the second half of the show and the audience and myself had a great time singing the old standby, "Paul and Silas Bound in Jail". Some of them were kind of shy at first, but when I reminded them that it was dark enough in there where people could really see them sing, you should've heard the rafters ring! It was geat fun, wasn't it folks!!!

The next band introduced was Good N'Country, and if you've ever heard this band you know that's exactly how they played it! For those of you not acquainted with this group, the personnel in the band are: David Birch, guitar and vocals; John Averill, mandolin and vocals; Jim Dotson, banjo and vocals, Sue Averill (the prettiest bass player ever) bass and vocals; and Mr. Bill Gunnup, dobro. They started out with "Up Above My Head", "Heaven Here ON Earth", but the third number really cut it! David's high tenor lead in "Get Down On Your Knees" had goose bumps running up and down my spine that you could hang your hat on - No joking folks!

With David's powerful voice and John's masterful mandolin interludes, the group received a standing ovation for this number alone. A good minute and 1/2 of justly deserved applause. Talk about your highs! Wow! Following this was one of Vern and Ray's songs, "Touch of God's Hand". (Ray Park told me some years ago that Hazel Hauser wrote the words for this song and he and Vern Williams wrote the music.)

Well, just when you think that it can't get any better, it did. Featured on the next number, which was "What A Friend We Have In Jesus", was Mr. Bill Gunnup on Dobro. Years ago, the veteran performer W.C. Fields coined the phrase, "Never work with a kid or a dong, for they'll steal the show everytime"! If W.C. Fields had ever seen Bill play the dobro, I'm sure he would've changed the phrase to kids, dogs AND Bill Gunnup! For steal the show he surely did! Not only for his great ability to play the dobro with such soul, but his smile alone is bound to melt your heart. When this gentlemen smiles, the whole stage lights up and that's when he's gotcha!

Another standing ovation, of course.

They then did another Vern and Ray song, "Happy I'll Be". (As you may have guessed by now Vern Williams and John are good friends)

Following that was "Wayfaring Stranger", and "Jordan", another Hazel Hauser Song. (For those of you not familiar with the Hazel Hauser, if you'll just look for the authors name on a lot of the Louvin Brothers records that you own, if its a gospel song, chances are that Hazel wrote it. She was the source for many of their gospel numbers).

For the group's encore number they did "Get In Line Brother." Another standing ovation of course. I have never heard Good N' Country play and sing any better than that night, and I know that it was due to such a great audience. The fans in the Great Northwest

are among the greatest there is!

We've all heard the phrase, "That being around the best will bring out the best in you." Well there were 700 of us to witness that fact on that night. When I introduced the last band - on the program, which was "Sunny South", I thought to myself, there boys are good these boys are gonna have to book it up and go if they're gonna follwow that last set. Iam here to tell you that Sonny Hammond on guitar; Mike Stahlman on banjo/ Dave Elliot on Mandolin and Ty Fraxal on bass were he up to it! Not only were they up to it, but they picked up right where Good N' Country left off. They started out with a rousing rendition of the old favorite Swing Low, Sweet Chariot, followed by Hold Fast tothe Right.

Both of these offerings were well received by the audience, but the next three absolutely brought down the house, "Angels Rock Me To Sleep, Daniel Prayed and "My Rock." These all received standing ovations, especially "My Rock" which was done a capella. Standing at the back of the stage, you could hear the groups voices bouncing off the back wall and jarring your very soul as it raced to the back of the stage and back again. Add to that the sheer electricity of the crowd, singing and clapping their hands as the four part harmony filled the room until I thought it would burst! When Sunny South hit that last long not and held it to the finish, I thought that it had burst by the applause and cries for MORE! MORE!

For their encore the group did one of my favorites entitled "Beautiful Life", and received another standing ovation for thier efforts. To Sunny South I say thank you, for an evening I will never forget, nor will the rest of those who were there that night.

Well, that may have completed all the bands separate sets, but we weren't quite through pickin' as yet!

For the Grand Finale I called ALL the bands back on stage and in the grand old tradition of Bluegrass Gospel Music invited the audience to sing along with the bands as they picked three old favorites, "I Saw The Light", "Swing Low, Sweet Chariot", and "Will the Circle Be Unbroken". And sing along they did! Talk about your singin', hand clappin' and footstompin'! When "Brakeline" Van Brocklin walked up to the mike and kicked it off on his banjo, you could tell that these folks were a'rarin to go! (That finale brought back memories of the Gospel Show that we used to do every Sunday morning at the Clark College Gestival. Those were great Festivals!) At the last not of "Will The Circle Be Unbroken", all of the bands joined in applauding such a great audience and thanking everyone and wishing them all the best, we adjourned.

How do you wind down from such an evening as that one?

You don't really, at least not in my case. You just kind of slowly re-enter the atmosphere a few hundred feet a day, until after a few weeks you're back on the ground. That's what makes our music the greatest in the world!!

The entire show was videotaped by the Stumptown Opry Program for cablecast over Portland Cable Access Television. It was aired in the Portland area Feb. 8, 9, and 22. How's that for exposure. We can use more of it all the time and my hats off to the

Continued on Page 10

Who is playing where -

FIELD GUIDE TO WESTERN BANDS

A Reminder - 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

High Country, Paul's Saloon, San Francisco

Thursday

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

Friday

Good Ol' Persons, 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, Trad'r Sam's, Town & Country Village, San Jose

The Twin Sisters Brothers', Harry O'Shortal's, Napa 7-10 p.m.

Saturday

Heartland, Red Vest Pizza, Walnut Creek

Bluegrass Monarchs, 1-6 p.m., River Inn, Big Sur

Band Listings

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

Gospel - Continued from Page 9

OBA and Rogers Cablesystems, for arranging this (CBA directors take note).

When Don Powell heard that I was headed north for this show, he asked me to do this article in hopes that we could generate enough interest to start having **our own annual Gospel Show**. You know, the OBA was modeled after the CBA, I know, because I was at the first meeting they ever had to form the OBA, along with Keith Little. It seems that its our turn to learn something from them. Whadd'ya say folks! Let our directors know!

Looking back on that evening, after the hall was emptied, and all the guitars, mandolins, banjos and fiddles had been cased up and left the place with their owners, I was walking through the empty concert hall, headed out to my car, when from one of the darkest corners, I swear I heard these ghostly voices talking:

"You know John, that was pretty good music after all. It kind of gets yer feet a 'tappin' doesn't it!"

"You're right Paul. Do you suppose next time, if we would bless it for the Glory of the Lord, that we could get 'em to play 'Wheel Hoss?'"

And that's when I left!

BRUSHY PEAK (415) 443-5217 [Livermore/Bay Area]
May 17-18 - Bethel Island Bluegrass Festival

FIDDLEDUSTERS (707) 425-8146 [Fairfield]

GOOD OL' PERSONS (415) 530-0839 [Bay Area] New
address: P.O. Box 20247, Oakland, CA 94620

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

March 7 - Canal Street, Chico

March 8 - LaSalles, Chico

March 21 - Canal Street, Chico

March 22 - Paul's Saloon, San Francisco

April 11 - Canal Street, Chico

April 25 - Canal Street, Chico

April 26 - Gold Nugget Days Bluegrass Festival, Paradise

HIGH COUNTRY (415) 482-0855 [Bay Area]

March 1 - Palms Playhouse, Davis

SIDESADDLE (408) 353-4408 [San Jose]

March 8-9 - Badger Pass Ski Resort, Yosemite

March 15 - Moraga Concert Hall, Santa Cruz. Info: (408) 244-2247

March 21 - Forestry Center, Portland, Oregon

March 29 - Paul's Saloon, San Francisco

April 19 - West Valley College, Saratoga, Noon-2

April 26 - Mountain View Parade, 1:15-3:15

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

June 20-21-22 - Grass Valley June Festival

THE TWIN SISTERS BROTHERS (707) 422-3727 [Fairfield]

Every Friday 7-10 p.m. - Harry O'Shortal's, Napa

WILDROSE (916) 444-8318 [Sacramento]

March 16 - Eagle Mountain Ski Resort, 2 p.m.

March 28 - Fox & Goose, 10th & R, Sacramento, 10 p.m.

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.....
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if purchased by April 1, 1986, \$30.00 per ticket

No. of tickets _____ x \$30.00 - \$ _____

Weekend ticket after April 1, 1986 - \$34.00

Weekend ticket at the gate - \$38.00

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Saturday Only - \$16.00

Sunday Only - \$16.00

Daily tickets DO NOT INCLUDE CAMPING

Music starts at 11 a.m. on Friday to 11 p.m.

Saturday music 10 a.m. - 11 p.m.

Sunday music 10 a.m. - 8 p.m.

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Sacramento Bluegrass Society

741 East Street, No. 198

Woodland, CA 95695-4144

'Cook' is an 'expert Buckshot Maker'

Of all the activities that take place at a bluegrass festival, cooking and eating have become a major part of the whole event. Second only, to the pickin' and singin' and usually as creative. This most basic of all daily events assumes special status at a festival. Some of the more memorable times for many of us occur at mealtime.

When J.D. "Bigfoot" Rhynes told me he was going to write a camp cooking column, I thought it seemed really appropriate. J.D. has served up some of the most unforgettable camp meals he and his camp guests, including myself, have ever eaten. And those meals stick to your ribs!

I'll never forget the first time J.D. laid it on for my family and I in his authentic Souix teepee. It was at my 1980 Pickin' Party. The atmosphere and the anticipation - helped produce some of the best pinto beans and Dutch oven baked corn bread ever slopped up!

Then there was the light brunch J.D. cooked for Country Gentlemen, Charlie Waller, Bill Yates, Dick Smith and Norman Wright and myself at the 1985 June Grass Valley Festival: Ham steaks, fried eggs, fried taters, and the main course, Buckjohn Gravy and Cathead Biscuits, right from the Dutch Oven. I don't know how

Charlie could still sing.

There was the rare flop now and then, kind of like a botched up tune in a good jam session. Like the time some red beans didn't soften in ten hours of soaking and cooking, and my Granddad told J.D., you could probably bring down a pretty high flying goose with these "J.D.'s Buckshot Beans".

For the most part though, J.D.'s got some great camp recipes and the proper stories that go with them. Between those and his time tested campgear (most of it handmade by J.D.) he can really put on a spread. Hope you folks enjoy these valuable bits of information and they make your festivals more fun.

Do you realize this is the equivalent of Bill Monroe showing some young mandolin picker one of the many original tunes he's never recorded.

Steve Waller

President, Oregon Bluegrass Association

February 3, 1986

Pedee Creek, Oregon

COOKING AND FESTIVALS Festival Cooking/Camping Gear

by J. D. Rhynes

Howdy, Howdy, Howdy! Well folks, when Don Powell asked for things to print in the **Bluegrass Breakdown** I kind of casually mentioned that I had entertained thoughts of sharing my 38 years of camp cooking experience with those of you who do it only once or twice a year, in the hopes that it would make your time at a festival more enjoyable. Not only did he think it was a good idea, but he demanded it!

So here goes - being as we have a little time left before the festival season is upon us, I'd like to devote this first article to the equipment needed to whip up the proper vittles for fans and pickers alike.

If there is one thing that I have learned over the years, it is this.

Never, never, buy cheap camp gear. Always buy the very best that you can afford. Always! It is better to spend \$65.00 for a quality piece of equipment than to buy a cheaper one for \$40.00 that you have to replace three times because it keeps wearing out or breaking!

Besides, there's not that much basic equipment that you have to buy, so in two or three festival seasons you should be pretty well outfitted. Now I know that some of you will look at this equipment list and say, I don't need all that! Maybe **you** don't but I sure do, besides that's how I make myself **comfortable** when I'm at a festival, and as far as I'm concerned, comfortable is where it's at!

Here is a list of the basic equipment needed. As time goes by, I'll feature different pieces of equipment. Some I consider "luxury" pieces that are for a special purpose, but for the most part they will be functional equipment. You can add whatever pieces that suit your

particular needs.

1. Camp stove, propane for gasoline.
2. Portable Bar-B-Que
3. Insulated water container
4. Ice Chest
5. Tables - one for preparing and cooking, one for eating.
6. Chairs or stools
7. Lantern, propane or gasoline.
8. Cooking utensil kit.
9. Tarp and rope.

Now let's discuss the pieces of equipment. Buy the largest stove you can get. You can never have too much stove top area for cooking.

The Bar-B-Que is a piece of equipment that I use almost as much as my stove, especially for the evening meals. I use my Bar-B-Que with my Dutch Oven to bake biscuits, cornbread, chicken, and a host of other recipes that I'll cover in the future. The main thing to look for here is to get one that is portable enough without taking up a lot of room, yet large enough to handle the meals you have planned.

The water can should be one of the insulated models with a tight fitting lid. A five-gallon size is just right. I also bring a five gallon jug with a screw-on lide, for fetching water should I need it. (I got two of these from a bakery for 50¢ a piece.) Between the two containers; the ten gallons usually last me a full four days at a festival. Who wants to lug water cans when there's pickin' to listen to!

Any of the large ice chests on the market today are one of your

best buys. You can use these around the house as well as for festivals and camping.

Most people just use one, but I have found that two large ones and one or two medium sized ones suit my needs better. One large one for the meat, milk, eggs, etc. This one you open *as little* as possible. The other large one for beer and soft drinks that you and your company are constantly opening. Remember, that you lose one third to one half the capacity of your cooler to the ice. So you see, you don't have all that much room left for the food when you add enough ice. (One trick I use is to freeze my ice in one gallon plastic milk containers. As the ice melts to water, it doesn't get your bacon and hamburger all soggy and you can use the water from the jug.) As for the medium size coolers, I use one to keep some wine on ice along with fresh fruit. (I even have a small one to carry 6 or 7 cans of "refreshment" with me.) How many you use is up to your needs.

The table is one of your most important pieces of equipment. This is one piece that should be of the highest quality you can buy. (Without a table, you're cooking and eating on the ground.) There are several camp tables on the market. Again, portability is the key word. There is even one on the market that folds to a neat package 3" x 16" x 34". When unfolded it has four seats that are integral with the unit. (A friend of mine has been using one of these for 25 years and it should last another 25.) I have two tables that I use. One for the stove and cookbox and one for eating. Sure makes it easier that way.

Chairs or stools are up to your personal preference. (Even a nice lounge chair in the shade is a good spot for a mid-day nap while the sounds of banjo's and fiddle's caress your ears.)

A good lantern is a must. Not only for those midnight snacks but also for those late night jam sessions. Whether you prefer gas or a propane model, there are several fine models available at a modest price. I have found that for late evening meals that you just about have to have two lanterns. One for the cooking area and one for the table (unless you and your guests don't mind eating in the dark.)

The cooking utensil kit - I have found through years of camping and hunting that you can't beat one of the kits that nest together into one unit. There are several available. Again, you want to buy the largest one you can find. The smaller ones are just that! Too small! Remember, that you're not planning a backpacking outfit. Along with this kit you need the necessary cooking tools, spatula's, large spoons, ladle's, etc., and silverware.

Buy a complete set of both tools and silverware and keep with your cooking kit. That way you always have them ready to go and you don't have to rob the kitchen at home. (You will invariably forget the pancake turner.)

The only thing that I have found wrong with the nesting type kits is that the coffee pot is too small. When you have to make coffee for more than two people a larger pot is in order. For years I had to make three or four pots each morning just to satisfy my friends. But I guess they finally got to where they couldn't sleep at night, just from feeling guilty, so now I'm the proud owner of a 20 cup pot. (Thank you Lance "Flash" Gordon and John Lytle.) Now, if I could get them to buy the coffee!

One piece of equipment that I didn't list is a kitchen cook box. The one I have, I made. I don't know of any that are available on the market and that's why I didn't list it. However, I plan to have a set of prints available in the near future on how to construct your own. More on this at a later date.

In my cookbox along with my cooking kit, cooking tools and silverware I always keep the following items. Heavy plastic coffee cups, two kitchen knives and whetstone, large square griddle, paper plates, two rolls of extra heavy foil, pot holders, two heavy aprons, heavy gloves, cottongloves (for handling briquettes), garbage bags, salt and pepper containers, matches in waterproof container, baking powder, baking soda, and containers with tight fitting lids for flour, meal, etc. I also keep a permanent list of the necessary contents in the box drawer. When getting ready for a trip, a quick check of the list and you can replenish the necessary items.

The last item on our equipment list is a good tarp and some rope. A good size is 12 x 16. (I use mine to keep the sun off of my ice chests.) They're sure handy to cover the tables at night or during an unexpected shower. Some festival go'ers rig one up to cook and eat under. There are a lot of commercially made covers available, but not everyone uses one and as a rule not needed in our part of the country during festival season.

Well, that's our basic outfit. In future issues I'll discuss additions of different pieces of equipment that you may or may not elect to add to your outfit.

Now to the good part - **VITTLES!**

Since this is a cooking column, I'm not about to close without at least one recipe.

I must thank my good friend Mr. Sonny Hammond of Portland, Oregon, for this recipe. He gave me a subscription to the magazine, *Northwest Edition* for my birthday and the recipe for these magnificent hot cakes came from the February issue. (The story and recipe was written by Keith and Jennifer Jackson of Spokane, Washington.) The story was how to cook with yogurt. Their recipe was entitled Mock Sour Cream Pancakes, but I call'em Sonny's Hotcakes since he's responsible for me having the recipe. You'll be glad to know that whole milk yogurt has half the calories of sour cream and only nine grams of fat per cup versus the 45 grams for sour cream. It also has more protein, calcium and riboflavin for about half the cost.

Sonny's Hotcakes

1 cup flour
1/2 teaspoon baking powder
1/2 teaspoon baking soda
1/2 teaspoon salt
1/2 cup plain yogurt
3/4 cup milk
2 eggs

Combine dry ingredients. Mix together yogurt and milk. Beat in eggs. Stir into four mixture. Cook on medium hot griddle. Makes 8 - 12 hotcakes, according as to how big you like them.

Well, folks, I hope that you all enjoy reading this as much as I en-

Continued on Page 14

Paul's Saloon Schedule

Sunday - Lone Star will be playing on all Sunday's
Monday - Bluegrass Jam Night
Tuesday - Lost Weekend will be playing on all Tuesday's
Wednesday - 3/5 and 3/12 High Country
 3/19 & 3/26 Fog City Ramblers
Thursday - 3/6 & 3/20 Lost Weekend
 3/13 & 3/27 - Lone Star
Friday - 3/7 & 3/14 - High Country
 3/21 - New Grass Menagerie
 3/28 - Fog City Ramblers
Saturday - 3/1 - Good Ol' Persons
 3/8 - To be announced
 3/15 - New Grass Menagerie
 3/22 - 8th Avenue String Band
 3/28 - Sidesaddle

REVIEW - Continued from Page 15

Showed Who", one of my favorites on the album. Rounding out the album is a fine example of why gospel music is such a big part of bluegrass: "I've Been Crying" features only the guitar and mandolin for back-up, and the most beautiful quartet singing you could ever want to hear. This may not be a classic album, but it is certainly excellent in every way, and should be in any traditional bluegrass collector's library.

Cookin' - Continued from Page 13

joy writing about some of my favorite recipes and methods.

In our next column we'll discuss planning menu's.

Until then my friends, keep on pickin' that good bluegrass!

Yer Friend

J.D. Rhynes

Advertising Rates

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

Full Page -- \$80.00

Half Page -- \$50.00

Quarter Page -- \$30.00

Business Card -- \$15.00

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

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

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

We Need Help

Volunteers are needed to man the CBA booth at the "Festival at the Lake", at Oakland's Lake Merrit, June 6, 7, and 8; 10 a.m. to Sunset (about 6 p.m.).

We need pickers to lend their musical talent and booth personnel to hand out literature. All contributions to this effort are greatly appreciated. Last year we handed out over 2,000 fliers for the "June Grass Valley" and took about 50 new membership applications. A great return on the CBA's \$75.00 booth fee, plus about one hundred volunteer man hours.

All interested in lending their talents and support, should contact Board members Steve Hogle or Jim Armentrout.

Steve Hogle

715 N. San Antonio Road

Los Altos, CA 94022

(415) 949-2181

or

Jim Armentrout

1844-48th Avenue

San Francisco, CA 94122

(415) 661-0157

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RECORD REVIEW

Del McCoury
SAWMILL
 (Rebel REB-1636)

Side One: Loneliness and Desperation, With You In My Dreams, My Dixie Home, Are You Coming Back To Me, Rock Hearts, Who Showed Who.

Side Two: Eli Renfro, Don't Let My Love Get In The Way, Blackjack, Pick Me Up On Your Way Down, Sawmill, I've Been Crying.

PLAYERS: *Del McCoury, guitar, vocals; Ronnie McCourty, mandolin; Paul Silvius, banjo, vocals; Jon Glik, fiddle; Mike Garris, bass, vocals.*

by **GLENN CHRISTENSEN**

Those of us who were fortunate enough to be at Grass Valley a couple or three years ago will never forget the anticipation, excitement and finally the real pleasure of actually seeing and hearing Del McCoury performing in person for us. We will not soon forget his awe at the beauty of our mountains (Boy, we sure don't have trees like this back home!) But mainly, we will not forget the comments such as this:

"Is that bluegrass, or is that bluegrass?"

"That's bluegrass!"

"Yeah!"

Indeed. As far as this writer is concerned, there really are only three bluegrass singers who truly reach the "high lonesome" range, and the other two are Bill Monroe and the late Joe Val (who also graced Grass Valley with his magnificence).

Though I appreciate and enjoy refined and modern bluegrass as performed by some of the second generation groups (and truly LOVE the new traditional groups), it always gives me a special feeling of joy to hear from the masters.

Although I don't think "Sawmill" reaches the genius and excitement of many of McCoury's earlier albums, I still find it enjoyable and very good listening indeed. This album features two songs penned by McCoury: "With You In My Dreams" and "Don't Let My Love Get In The Way". Both are delightful traditional sounding bluegrass songs that point out that more attention should be given to Mr. McCoury's talents as a songwriter as well as a top performer.

I was very much pleased with the inclusion of that good ol' country song, "Pick Me Up On Your Way Down"; this version of which should be played on all the country stations around the land -- it would surely set them new-type country deejays straight as to what the music REALLY should sound like.

A couple of other real highlights on this album include one of those tear-jerking ballads done so beautifully and "happy" sounding musically, as is common in this music. I'm referring to "Who

Continued on Page 14

California Bluegrass Association Membership Application

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Expiration Date

No. of Tickets

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

Send check or money order for membership to:

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California Bluegrass Association

P.O. Box 11287

San Francisco, CA 94101-7287

If a senior(s), OVER 65, list
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Instruments Played

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