



# BLUEGRASS BREAKDOWN

Vol. 24 No. 9

January, 1999

## Dave Evans & Riverbend/Larry Sparks & the Lonesome Ramblers Added to 1999 CBA Festival Line-up

*Band Selection Committee announces slate of 1999 feature bands*

Two of the most soulful singers in Bluegrass music today, Dave Evans and Larry Sparks, have been added to the Specially Featured Band line-up for the CBA's 24th Annual Father's Day Weekend Bluegrass Festival. Make plans now to attend on June 17-20, 1999 at the Nevada County Fairgrounds in Grass Valley, California.

This will be the first Grass Valley appearance for Dave Evans and Riverbend. Evans, a banjo player, is known both for his instrumental ability and his outstanding vocals. Evans records on the Neon Records label.

Larry Sparks and the Lonesome Ramblers are making their second appearance on the CBA's Festival stage. They performed at the 1994 CBA Festival. Sparks is a prolific songwriter, talented guitarist, and one of the most powerful singers in Bluegrass music today. Sparks records on the Rebel Records label.

Other Specially Featured Bands include: The Osborne Brothers, Mac Wiseman, IIIrd Tyme Out, and the Sand Mountain Boys. Mountain Heart was selected as the CBA's Emerging Artist Band for 1999.

The feature bands for the Festival were chosen by a band selection committee which met at John Duncan's home in Sacramento on November 14, 1998. Due to the necessity to contact the selected bands and have the committee's report confirmed by the Board of Directors, this information wasn't published in the December issue.

Committee chairman, Bob Gillim has now received verbal confirmation from the following bands to perform at the CBA's Father's Day Festival to be held on June 17-20, 1999: Country Ham, The Crooked Jades, 5 for the Gospel, Tim Graves and Cherokee, The Kathy Kallick Band, Northern Pacific, Special Consensus, Within Tradition, and the Witcher Brothers.

Committee members were: Tracy Pierce, Mary Runge, John Murphy, David Rainwater, Ken Reynolds, Jim Allison, Dorothy Gillim, Whitney Washburn, Harold Crawford, Kerry Blue, M. D. Culpepper, Tom Sours, Bill Downs, David Runge, and Mark Hogan. The committee had a difficult task again this year with 57 Bluegrass bands and 10 Old-timey bands vying for the 9 feature band performance slots.

Early Bird Discount Tickets for the 24th Annual CBA Father's Day Weekend Bluegrass Festival are on sale through February 28, 1999. There is a ticket order form on page 17 of this issue for your convenience. CBA members who purchase Early Bird tickets save \$25 and Seniors save \$35 on the gate price (\$80) for their 4-day tickets. If you have questions about tickets, please call David Runge at 707-762-8735.



Neon Recording Artist Dave Evans

## KVMR/CBA sponsor Ralph Stanley concert in Grass Valley on Valentine's Day

Come to Grass Valley to celebrate Valentine's Day this year and enjoy some great Bluegrass music. Public radio station KVMR of Nevada City and the CBA are cosponsoring a concert featuring Ralph Stanley and the Clinch Mountain Boys and Mountain Laurel at 8:00 p.m. on Sunday, February 14, 1999.

The event will be held at the Grass Valley Vets Hall, 255 S. Au-

burn Street in Grass Valley, California. Doors will open at 7:30 p.m.

Opening the concert will be Grass Valley's own, Mountain Laurel. Band members are Ken Nilsson, guitar; Rick Grant, fiddle and tenor vocals; Pete Sigfried, lead vocals mandolin; Paul Siese, banjo; and Doug Bianchi, bass.

Ralph Stanley is one of the legends of bluegrass. He's been

performing for 51 years and is as good as ever. His band, the Clinch Mountain Boys are some of the finest sidemen in bluegrass. Their authentic mountain harmonies are copied but never duplicated by bluegrass performers across the U.S.A.

Tickets are \$12 for KVMR and CBA members; \$14 general. For further information or tickets, contact KVMR at (530) 265-9073.

Bluegrass Breakdown  
California Bluegrass Association  
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## California Bluegrass Association Bluegrass Breakdown

is published monthly as a magazine at P.O. Box 690369, Stockton, CA 95269, 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 \$15.00 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 and 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 for \$25.00 for the band. Subscription to the *Bluegrass Breakdown* without membership is available only to foreign locations. Third class postage is paid at Stockton, California. *Bluegrass Breakdown* (USPS 315-350). Postmaster please send address changes to: *Bluegrass Breakdown*, P.O. Box 690369, Stockton, CA 95269.

Copy and advertising deadline for the 1st of the month one month prior to publication (i.e. February deadline is January 1, etc). Members are encouraged to attend all board meetings. The January meeting has been scheduled for Sunday, January 10th, at 1:30 p.m. at the home of John Duncan, 2915 57th Street. in Sacramento. For directions, call (916) 736-0415.

**Please send all contributions and advertisements to:**  
**Suzanne Denison, Editor - Bluegrass Breakdown**

**P.O. Box 9  
Wilseyville, CA 95257  
or FAX to 209-293-1220 or e-mail  
cbawpn@volcano.net**

**Visit our Web Site at: [www.mandolyn.com/cba3.html](http://www.mandolyn.com/cba3.html)**

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Writers, artists, musicians and photographers are encouraged to submit their original material for publication in the *Bluegrass Breakdown*. please send to the Editor at the address above. E-mail submissions are appreciated. Files can be read in either Mac or DOS formats.

## California Bluegrass Association Membership Application

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_ Child(ren) \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Single Membership .....	\$15.00
With Spouse Added .....	\$17.50
Children 12-18 (non-voting) .....	\$1.00 each
Children 12-18 (voting) .....	\$10.00 each
Band Memberships (3-5 members) .....	\$25.00

Membership includes 12 issues of the *Bluegrass Breakdown*, and discount prices for the Annual Father's Day Weekend Bluegrass Festival and all CBA sponsored concerts. Each band member is entitled to receive a copy of the publication. Please list names and addresses on a separate sheet.

Mail to: Mrs. Mary Runge  
CBA Membership Vice President  
215 Grant Avenue  
Petaluma, CA 94952  
(707) 762-8735

Type of membership:  
☐ Single - 1 vote  
☐ Couple - 2 votes  
☐ Single or Couple With non-voting children  
☐ Single or Couple with voting children  
 Children's names and Birthdates: \_\_\_\_\_

If Senior Citizens, please list birthdates: \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

New ☐ Renewal ☐ Member # \_\_\_\_\_

Volunteer Area \_\_\_\_\_



# Editor's Corner

by Suzanne Denison

Happy New Year to you and yours. I hope that you are looking forward to another year of great Bluegrass music. There are a number of events coming up in the near future on the West Coast and I hope that you will support the festivals, concerts and jam sessions in your area.

Last month I made a mistake in the front page story concerning the "Emerging Artist Band" performances at the CBA's annual Father's Day Weekend Festival. The CBA first selected an Emerging Artist Band in 1996 (not 1997) and that band was Continental Divide. I apologize for the error.

We have some exciting events coming up this Spring, including a February 14th concert featuring Ralph Stanley and the Clinch Mountain Boys and Mountain Laurel. The concert is co-sponsored by KVMR and will be held in Grass Valley. See the Upcoming Events column for more information and how to get tickets.

Later this spring we are making plans to host two concerts in April. Venues haven't been secured yet, but keep watch on the next issue for more information. In addition, there are a number of upcoming Festivals in our part of the West, and plans are underway for the CBA Spring Campout and jammer's festival.

The BIG one for us is the 24th Annual CBA Father's Day Weekend Bluegrass Festival to be held June 17-20, 1999 at the Nevada County Fairgrounds in Grass Valley. We have a fantastic line-up again this year, and you have an opportunity through February 28, 1999 to save lots of \$\$\$ by purchasing Early Bird Tickets. Please see the ticket order

form and ad on Page 17 of this issue for more information.

We have had a request from a member to publish the minutes of the CBA Board of Directors in the Bluegrass Breakdown each month. At their December 13th meeting, the Board decided that a synopsis of the minutes will be printed in the Breakdown each month beginning in February 1999. There are a couple of valid reasons for this decision: (1) the space consideration (minutes usually run 7-9 pages); (2) sensitive items on the Board agenda such as band booking fees, negotiations of contracts; bands selected for future festivals, etc.; (3) approval of the Board before minutes are printed.

Another consideration of Board members was the extra work it would entail to write a synopsis of the minutes each month. As you may (or may not) know, I am serving as the Temporary Secretary until a volunteer can be found. The Board felt that a new person, unfamiliar with Board members and items of concern, might not be able to accomplish this task without a great deal of extra work. I have volunteered to provide a synopsis for Board approval each month as long as I am Secretary. Hopefully, we'll have someone else come forward soon to serve in this capacity — and or another volunteer who would be willing to take on the minute synopsis task.

The Board asked me to remind CBA members that they are always welcome to attend monthly Board meetings. The date and location of the meetings is usually set a month in advance and published in the Breakdown. If you are planning to attend a meeting, you might call

any Board member or the CBA office (209-293-1559) to make sure of the location and date. The January Board meeting is scheduled for 1:30 p.m. on Sunday, January 10, 1999 at the home of John Duncan in Sacramento. Call for directions if needed.

One thing I would urge all CBA members to do is GET INVOLVED! No, you don't have to run for the Board and/or become a Festival Coordinator or officer. But if you want any say in how our organization is operated, you need to become a part of the process and not just a bystander. Whether or not you are a musician, there is a place for you in the California Bluegrass Association. The current Board, officers, coordinators and Festival volunteers are all doing the best job they can. We can always use more involved members.

Until next month... enjoy the music!

## 12th Annual Colorado River Country Music Festival set for Jan. 15-17th

The Blythe Area Chamber of Commerce will present their 12th Annual "Colorado River Country" Music Festival at the Fairgrounds in Blythe, California on January 15-17, 1999. The event will be hosted by The Colorado River Boys.

Featured bands include: The Bluegrass Patriots, Country Current (US Navy Band Bluegrass Unit), High Plains Tradition, Pleasant Valley, Silverado, String 'Em Up, Traditional Bluegrass and more.

In addition, contests in a number of categories will be held, including Senior, Adult and Junior Fiddle; Bluegrass Bands; Specialty

Instrument; Flat Pick Guitar; Five String Banjo; and Mandolin. There will also be a Band Scramble contest.

The Colorado River Country Fairgrounds is located on California State Highway 95 and Riverside Drive in Blythe, California.

For further information, contest entry or tickets, contact the Blythe Area Chamber of Commerce, 201 South Broadway, Blythe, CA 92225; call 760-922-8166; or FAX 760-922-4010.

## Best of the West Bluegrass Shoot-Out Jan. 30 & 31

Ben Sandoval will present the Best of the West Bluegrass Shoot-Out at Eagle Mountain Ranch in Rainbow Valley, Arizona on January 30 and 31, 1999. The event features contests for the Best in the West Bluegrass Band, Family Band, Old Time Country Band and Champion Fiddlers.

The weekend also features performances by The Witcher Brothers, The Tylers, Flinthill Special, The Hat Band, McNasty Brothers, and Spring Valley Breakdown, in addition to a Spaghetti Dinner and an open mic on Friday, January 29th. Kids activities, jam sessions, nature walks, horse back rides, food crafts and more will also be offered.

Camping is available on site from Saturday, January 23rd.

For information or tickets, contact Ben Sandoval, c/o Eagle Mountain Ranch, 12100 S. Dean Road, Rainbow Valley, AZ 85326 or call 9602) 386-2316.

## CLASSIFIED ADS

**BAND MEMBERS SOUGHT**  
**GUITAR/MANDOLIN PLAYER** forming bluegrass old time music band in Modesto area looking for Fiddle/Standup Bass/Banjo players and others. Call Jason (209) 874-1261.

**FOR SALE**  
**ONE BEAUTIFUL HONEY-BURST RESONATOR GUITAR**, excellent condition. Early model with original tweed case, striking flamed maple top, back and sides. \$2500. Call 530-938-4665.

**EARLY BIRD TICKETS** for the 24th Annual CBA Father's Day Weekend Bluegrass Festival on sale now through February 28, 1999. Order early and save \$\$\$\$. See ad on page 17 for information and ticket order blank.

**CBA LOGO MERCHANDISE** makes great holiday gifts for your family and friends. Bumper Stickers, Buttons, Calendars, Cookbooks, Coffee Mugs, Caps, Sports Bottles, Sweatshirts, T-Shirts, Jackets, Visors and much more available now at reasonable prices. See the order blank on the back page of this issue for easy shopping by mail.

### LESSONS

**BANJO LESSONS IN BAY AREA** from Bill Evans. Rounder recording artist, *Banjo Newsletter* columnist and former member of Dry Branch Fire Squad. Beginners to advanced; Scruggs, melodic and single-string styles, back-up. Lessons individually tailored to suite each student's needs. Over 20 years teaching experience. El Cerrito, (510) 234-4508.

## Bluegrass Breakdown Advertising Rates

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

### Display Advertising

Full Page - 10" wide X 13" high .....	\$150.00
Half Page - 10" wide X 6.5" tall or 4.5" wide X 13" tall .....	\$75.00
Quarter Page 4.5" wide X 6.5" tall .....	\$37.50
Business Card - 2 columns wide (3 7/8") X 2" tall .....	\$25.00

Flyer insertion is available at a cost of \$150 per issue.

Other sizes of advertising are available at \$1.16 per column inch based on a 5 column tabloid size. Please call (209) 293-1559 or FAX (209) 293-1220 for further information.

A 10% discount is offered for advertising which runs 6 issues or more and is paid for in advance.

Art work should be very clear black and white layout. Photographs which have been screened (75 dpi line screen) are preferred, however our printer can screen them for an additional \$7 per shot.

Advertising proofs can be FAXed upon request if typesetting and/or layout is required. Please allow at least 5 extra days for production.

Other advertising sizes and color advertising available. Call or FAX for price quotation or further information, (209) 293-1559 phone or FAX (209) 293-1220.

### Classified Advertising

The current rates for classified ads are based on 3 1/2 inches of typed copy and are as follows: \$3.00 for the first three lines and 50¢ for each additional line. ....

**All advertising must be paid for in advance unless prior arrangements have been made for billing.**

Make checks payable to the California Bluegrass Association and send check and ad to:  
Suzanne Denison, Editor *Bluegrass Breakdown*  
P.O. Box 9 - Wilseyville, CA 95257  
Phone (209) 293-1559 - FAX (209) 293-1220



# Bluegrass News Notes...

## In Memory...

### E. Ray Gay

by Bob Thomas

Mr. Ray Gay, past away in the arms of his beloved wife, Vickie, after doctors found cancer three weeks earlier. Ray was a real bluegrass fan. He and Vickie were faithful attendees at the CBA festivals and campouts the last three years.

He enjoyed playing dobro, but mostly listened and enjoyed the music and the family environment. He was the number one fan of the Yuba City based band, Homemade Jam, and attended every performance no matter where. When they played for the California Prune Festival, he was there, at the Pumpkin Farm, Beckworth Frontier Days, and many others, he came to support his favorite band.

His memorial service was held at Ullrey Chapel on Wednesday, December 9. His son, Dennis delivered the eulogy.

Ray enjoyed collecting antique bottles, mining gold, finding lost treasure, building an electric car, writing music, and fixing anything that needed fixing. I consider it a privilege to have known Ray and to have been invited to play music at his memorial. I will truly miss Ray Gay.

### Len Walding

by Suzanne Denison

Len Walding died Wednesday, December 16, 1998 from complications of pneumonia. Mr. Walding was bedridden for the past seven years as the result of a fall.

His loving wife, Arneal cared for him at home until he needed full-time care givers. Both Len and Arneal were longtime CBA members and supporters of Bluegrass music.

In the 1980's Len produced a number of concerts in the Sacramento area which featured nationally touring musicians such as Ralph Stanley. He also supported local bands and musicians.

Len was a talented musician and vocalist who loved to jam. I first met Len and Arneal when we camped near his good friends Cletus Smith and Herman DeWitt at a CBA Festival in the early 1990's. This trio, along with numerous other jammers, played music into the wee hours of the morning, slept quick, and started again in the morning. They seemed to know innumerable songs, and the music they shared with us was priceless.

Len was a wonderful, kind and loving person and we will all miss him.

### Get well wishes

Jerry Pujol, former CBA Board member and longtime member and supporter of the California State

Old Time Fiddlers Association, suffered a massive heart attack on December 8th at his home in Napa. He managed to call 911, but collapsed before help arrived. Paramedics had to break down his door to come to his aid.

At last report, Faye Downs called to tell us that Jerry was in intensive care at the Kaiser Hospital in Vallejo and no visitors were allowed. Faye didn't have an update on the extent of the heart damage Jerry suffered, but he will need all of our prayers and get well wishes.

Please send cards and letters to Jerry at 3026 Stadium Ave., Napa, CA 94558.

### New venue for Bluegrass in Campbell

Jake Quesenberry and friends are the host band of a popular Wednesday night affair at Sam's BBQ! There is terrific food, fun and lots of good picking! The host band also accompanies many interesting musicians who come over for a jam session, all orchestrated by none other than local legend Jake Quesenberry!

Come on over for some great fun!!! That's every Wednesday night from 6:00 to

9:00 p.m., at SAM'S BBQ, 1461 W. Campbell Ave., Campbell CA. For further information or directions, call (408) 374-9676.

### Band and Artists News Notes

Hay Holler Records recently welcomed **Lost Highway** as the latest addition to its artist roster. Lost Highway, a hard-core, traditional bluegrass band based in Orange County, California, has recently regrouped after disbanding in the early 1980's.

The band is still built around the smooth lead singing and rhythm guitar of original member, **Ken Orrick**. **Jeff Harvey**, also an alumnus of the original band, adds key vocals and plays the mandolin. Joining them are **Dick Brown** on banjo, **Marshall Andrews** on acoustic upright bass and **Paul Shelasky** on fiddle. The tight harmonies and vocal diversity of the band, as well as their powerful original music are just a few of their trademarks.

Their first Hay Holler album will be released in early 1999. Lost Highway plans to tour extensively in the US and abroad. For further information, contact: Kerry Hay at 540-552-7959 or fax 540-953-1581.

**Joe Weed**, accomplished musician, owner of Highland Records, and a regular columnist for the Bluegrass Breakdown has been busy during the past few months with professional projects. The National Steinbeck Center which opened its

doors in June 1998 in Salinas, California, in its orientation film features a sound track composed and produced by Joe. The music contains many of his original compositions which may be featured on an upcoming album release.

This Fall, Joe completed production of a video series which introduces American culture to newcomers as they learn English. Titled "Inside America," the series is part of a program developed by Marty Kendall (Joe's wife) for colleges and universities across the country. The video soundtrack featured both traditional and original Weed compositions.

Joe has been invited to the Lincoln Museum during the summer of 1999, to serve summer residency during which he will do research in the museum's archives. Joe will study popular music from Lincoln's lifetime, and concentrate on Lincoln's own favorites and the music of the Civil War era.

For more information about any of Joe Weed's projects and recordings, contact him at Highland Records, P.O. Box 554, Los Gatos, CA 95031-0554.

### BRN RealAudio Bluegrass Update

NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE — **Bluegrass Radio Network** is pleased to announce the addition of 56kpbs on-demand streaming audio to the Bluegrass Radio Network RealAudio website <<http://www.bluegrassradio.com>>. Those with 56kpbs or faster access can now enjoy higher quality audio when listening to our weekly broadcast of "Into The Blue". Those with slower access (28.8kpbs) can still listen to the program as before by choosing the lower speed connection.

After much testing we have decided to continue encoding the broadcast in mono in order to obtain the highest quality fidelity. We would be interested in hearing your comments about the new improved higher bandwidth broadcast, so please let us know how it's working for you.

"Into The Blue" continues to be a FREE service to all fans of bluegrass. We ask only that you please support our sponsors who make these broadcasts and cybercasts possible!

For those who are interested, the 9th Annual IBMA Awards are

now online. The event was recorded live at the Kentucky Center for the Performing Arts in Louisville, KY on October 22, 1998.

Due to the length of this broadcast, we are only making a 28.8K feed available. Click Here to go to our site: <http://www.bluegrassradio.com>

### Record Company News Notes

#### Doobie Shea Records

announces upcoming releases

**Dwight McCall** first recorded at Doobie Shea Studios in 1994 with Cincinnati's Union Springs, then returned more recently to sing tenor to Dan Tyminski on two cuts for The Stanley Gospel Tradition, including "Take Your Shoes Off Moses," released directly to radio on Prime Cuts Of Bluegrass. In between, Dwight spent a year as a member of the Country Gentlemen, and then joined J.D. Crowe & The New South. Busy assembling material and guests, McCall expects to have his Dan Tyminski-produced solo album out by next spring.

A lot of bluegrass fans first became aware of **Scottie Sparks'** outstanding lead and tenor vocal abilities as a featured vocalist on The Stanley Tradition; more recently, he's won favorable attention as a member of Unlimited Tradition, and for his two strong leads on The Stanley Gospel Tradition, "Zion's Hill" and "I Am The Man, Thomas." With an album of his own on the schedule, expect to hear a lot more from — and about — this young man.

**Dan Tyminski**, the pride of Vermont, has been a busy man lately, working as a producer and/or picker on Unlimited Tradition's *She's Gone*, The Stanley Gospel Tradition and *Living On The Hallelujah Side* (all for Doobie Shea) and, of course, maintaining a fast-paced touring schedule as a member of Alison Krauss and Union Station. Even so, Dan's got his own turn in the spotlight as a solo artist on schedule, with an all-star cast of guests. Stay tuned for more...

**Jeanette Williams**, veteran recording artist, both as a solo act and with her songwriting husband, Johnny Williams, and their band Clearwater, Jeanette's been gaining attention over the last several years thanks to a great voice, strong arrangements and an ear for great material. Look for her forthcoming solo release on Doobie Shea to raise

her visibility among bluegrass fans around the country.

**Tony and Gary Williamson** have begun their new all-gospel Doobie Shea Records project. This award-winning brother duet of smooth vocal harmonies, with mandolin and guitar accompaniment (a style handed down by their ancestors in North Carolina) will be backed by an all star cast of musicians. Release is slated for early 1999.

### News From Rebel Records

The "Nashville Scene," Nashville, TN's weekly newspaper which features issues, arts and events around town, recently named its Top 10 Country Albums for the first half of 1998, and two Rebel releases were included. **Ralph Stanley's** 2-CD set "Climb Mountain Country," which features duets with artists ranging from Bob Dylan and Patty Loveless. This album has already sold more than any album in the history of Rebel Records.

**Blue Highway's** "Midnight Storm," the group's third album for Rebel. The album was released in January of this year, and sales continue to be strong for this critically praised piece. Rankings such as these reflect the growing appreciation for traditional forms of music in the country music industry and among fans.

For further information about Rebel Records releases, call 540-343-5476, or E-mail [rebel@rev.net](mailto:rebel@rev.net)

### Rounder Records News Notes

**Alison Krauss & Union Station** are featured on the Prince of Egypt Soundtrack. Some of the most popular and well-respected performers in the history of modern country music have come together for a unique album of completely new songs inspired by the animated film *The Prince of Egypt*.

The all-star lineup for *The Prince of Egypt*: Nashville (DreamWorks Records), released November 17, 1998, includes 13 platinum-selling artists, from long-established stars like Vince Gill, Reba, Randy Travis, Clint Black, Alabama, Pam Tillis, Wynonna and Charlie Daniels to newer favorites like Alison Krauss, Faith Hill, Toby Keith, Steven Curtis Chapman and Mindy McCready.

Contributions from three of Nashville's top songwriters — Beth Nielsen Chapman, Mac McAnally and Gary Chapman — and a singing





# Bluegrass News Notes .....

luminary of the future, 15-year-old Jessica Andrews, round out the set. The Prince of Egypt opened nationwide Dec. 18, 1998.

The first single from The Prince of Egypt: Nashville is a song written for Alison Krauss by Union Station band member Ron Block. Ron was inspired to write "I Give You to His Heart" from (the scene where) Moses' mother places her infant son in a basket and sets him adrift on the Nile River. "My son, I have nothing I can give, but this chance that you may live," she proclaims.

Alison and the band filmed a video for "I Give You to His Heart" which features footage from the film along with a sign-language interpretation from long-time Union Station fan Courtney Eaton.

Rounder Records is proud to announce that Rhonda Vincent was recently added to their artist roster. Rhonda released a number of bluegrass albums with Rebel Records before recording two country albums with Giant Records. Her first album with Rounder is scheduled for release in the fall of 1999 (sure glad time flies!).

## Sacramento Area Bluegrass News

by Bob Thomas,  
CBA Area Activities Vice President

## Bob's 1998 Bluegrass Awards

Here are the winners of my 1998 Sacramento Area Bluegrass Awards. I make the categories and name the winners based on my personal preferences. Your opinion may differ.

- Most Improved Dobro Player of 1998 - Ron Gaynor of Loomis
- Most Improved Banjo Player of 1998 - Jim Genaw of Los Molinos. Getting better all the time.
- Most Improved Fiddle Player of 1998 - This is a tie. The dual award goes to Dave Bergren of Plymouth and Mikki Larrick of Willows. Both have made great strides and continue to grow.
- Most Improved Guitar Player of 1998 - Jim Ward of Sacramento, who won the Colfax Flatpick contest.
- Most Improved Mandolin Player of 1998 - Mike Brooks has come a long way and continues to improve. Keep up the good work.
- Most Improved Bass Player - Barbara West, who got an upright bass this year and converted from playing guitar bass to upright in just a few months.
- Most Improved Band of 1998 - This year the honor goes to Mountain Laurel. These folks have worked hard and it shows. They do first class bluegrass and have fun doing it.
- Most Dedicated Bluegrass Fan of 1998 - Allen Light for attending

nearly every local bluegrass event held this year and hosting a jam. Thanks Allen.

- Best Local Bluegrass Recording of 1998 - Has to be Slate Mountain Bluegrass Band's cd Old Love Affair. Order it by calling 530-644-2149.

- Best Bluegrass Spirit of 1998 - Kathy Dubois for jumping in and organizing the Bluegrass portion of the City of Colfax July 4th Independence Day Celebration. She learned a lot and did a fine job.
- Best Band Wife of 1998 - Gail

Bottic, wife of Mark Bottic, bass player, of Past Due and Playable. Always a smile helping to sell the band's CDs.

- Best Local Volunteer of 1998 - Helen Rowan of Orangevale, who has taken over the folding, and stuffing and mailing of my

newsletter and has done a super job. Thanks Helen.

- Male Vocalist of 1998 - George Ireton of Blue Northern Bluegrass Band from Redding.
- Female Vocalist of 1998 - Eileen

(Continued on Page 6)

## Colorado's 14th Annual MID-WINTER BLUEGRASS FESTIVAL

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(970) 482-0863

bluegras@verinet.com

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# Bluegrass News Notes .....

(Continued from Page 5)

Personini of Slate Mountain Bluegrass Band of Placerville.

- 1998 Vocal Group of the Year - Bob James and Ernie Hunt, as Hoof Hearted. Two of the most sincere and entertaining folks around. Buy their CD and get a free chicken dinner.
- 1998 Entertainer of the year - Red Dirt Bullies of Chico, Ca. Having too much fun to be work.

## Back Home Music

A great source of tapes and CDs is Back Home Music, from J.B. and Tracy Pierce. The address is P.O. Box 10555, Napa, CA 94581. Call 800-746-TUNE. They have a super stock (over 3000 titles) of bluegrass CDs and fast mail service. Anyone mentioning this newsletter in their order, will get a dollar off.

## Paul Siese - Banjo Lessons

I've seen Paul Siese play banjo for some years now, and most all the other bluegrass banjo players too. There are very few players around that are as accomplished at the variety of playing techniques he's mastered. Paul plays with both Mountain Laurel and with Past Due and Playable, and has been a performer for over 20 years. He use to teach and is now taking students again. From beginners to advanced.

If you're interested in learning bluegrass banjo, talk with Paul and set up an appointment. Call him at (530) 265-4328.

## Ralph Stanley and the Clinch Mountain Boys And Mountain Laurel

On Sunday, February 14, in Nevada City, KVMR and the CBA are cosponsoring a concert by these two Bands. Ralph Stanley is one of the legends of bluegrass. He's been performing for 51 years and is as good as ever. His band, the Clinch Mountain Boys are some of the finest sidemen in bluegrass. Their authentic mountain harmonies are copied but never duplicated by bluegrass performers across the U.S.A.

This show is particularly special because Grass Valley's own Mountain Laurel will be opening the show. This is a very fine band. On guitar is Ken Nilsson, one of the best pickers in the area. On fiddle is Rick Grant. Rick is also a very fine mandolin player and guitar player. His high tenor gives this band a real traditional sound. Pete Sigfried, is the lead singer and mandolin player and is one of the best in northern California. On banjo is Paul Siese who can pick the fire out of a banjo in any style you want. On base is Doug Bianchi. Doug is as solid as they get and shows he is having a lot of fun. Together they have a sound all their own that is a true delight to bluegrass lovers. Contact KVMR for ticket information at (530) 265-9073.

## Area Bluegrass Jam Sessions

- Wednesdays, 7-10:30 p.m. — Orangevale at the Country Table

Restaurant, 8999 Greenback Lane, Orangevale.

- Thursdays, 7-11 p.m. — Sacramento at The Fifth String Music Store, 930 Alhambra Blvd., Sacramento. They are now authorized dealers for Martin, Taylor and Collings guitars. Call 916-442-8282 for more information.

- January 23 — Sacramento Area Jam in January will held at the Woodland Senior Center, 630 Lincoln Ave., Woodland. We had a great time there earlier this year and they want us back. The jam begins at 3:00 p.m. with a pot-

luck at 6:00 p.m. A good number of the local seniors came and enjoyed the music. As they have a nice stage, a small PA will be available for open-mic performers. So, work up something with a few friends and get it ready.

## Bluegrass Northwest from print to the web

LaVonne Bickle, the long-time editor of *Bluegrass Northwest*, published her last print issue in December of 1998. The very informative bluegrass newsletter will continue to be published on the internet.

Bickle's newsletter has been a great resource for pickers and mu-

sic fans in Washington, as well as visitors from other parts of the country. She has continually published items such as jam listings, a calendar of upcoming concerts, live club performances, and festivals throughout the West Coast, as well as feature articles on bands, sources for recordings and musical supplies, band listings, and much more.

We wish LaVonne well in her new cyberspace venture. From now on, you can read *Bluegrass Northwest* on the internet at <[www.geocities.com/Nashville/5933/index.html](http://www.geocities.com/Nashville/5933/index.html)> To contact LaVonne Bickle, e-mail: <[sjbickle@everett.com](mailto:sjbickle@everett.com)>

# Bluegrass Folks — Bernie Sullivan

by Bill Wilhelm

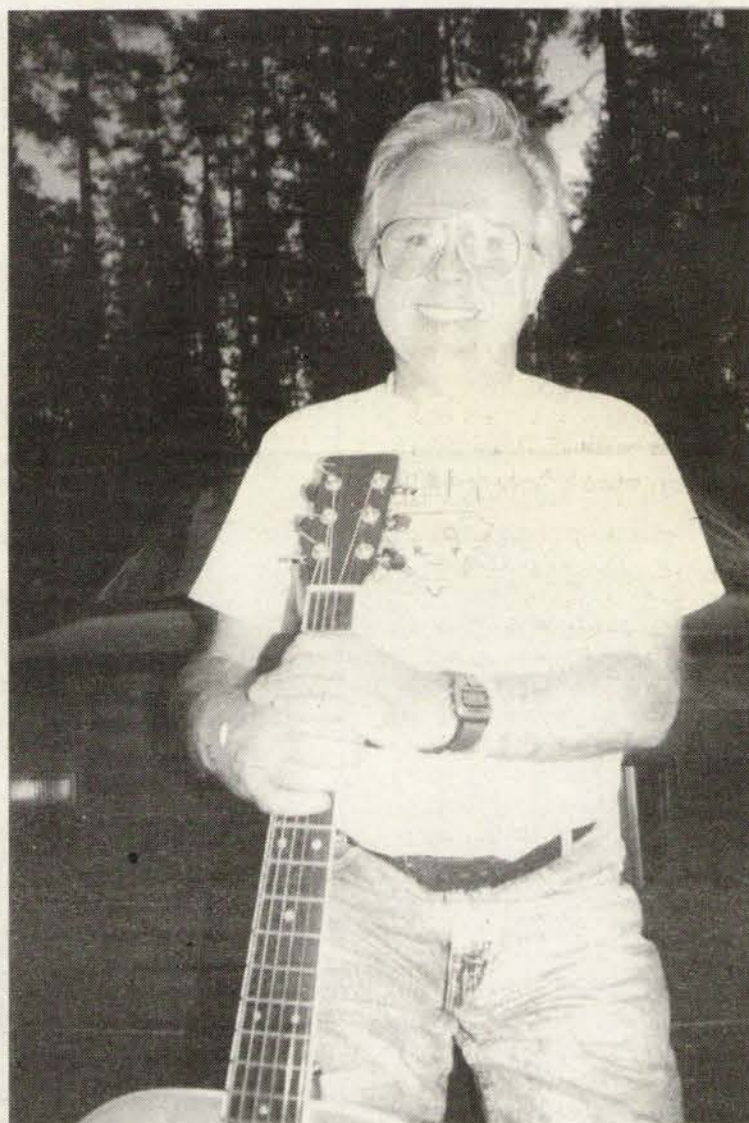
It was almost a quarter of a century ago at the second CBA Bluegrass Festival ever held at Grass Valley where I first met Bernie Sullivan. I had seen his band, the Dusty Road Boys, at the first festival ever held at Grass Valley the year before that, but Bernie wasn't with them then. He was off to Beanblossom, Indiana to see Bill Monroe and his Blue Grass Boys at that time. However, he did play with them at the second festival. In the course of our conversation back then, I discovered he was from my home state of Illinois. The more we talked, the more we found we had in common and we have socialized many times since.

Bernie is a good bluegrass musician. Just hand him any acoustic instrument even including the dobro and he'll play it for you. I could get him into trouble here, as I don't remember seeing him play the fiddle.

He grew up in Springfield, Illinois, where the Illinois State Fair is held, an event where he would be playing in years to come. He went to school there, including college. He also went to college at Southern Illinois University at Carbondale and holds a degree in forestry.

"My father always listened to the Grand Old Opry on the radio on Saturday nights, so the rest of us were forced to listen to it whether we liked it or not. I didn't raise any fuss about that, because I liked it as much as he did. I had taken Steel guitar lessons when I was younger, but it seems all I was learning was Hawaiian music and I didn't care much for that, nor did I even understand it. Just listening to the Opry made me want to play like that, so my folks bought me a new guitar. It was a cheapie and was really terrible in every way. I struggled along with that, though for a long time not learning very much."

He had seen Hank Williams playing a Martin (guitar) and two of his friends also had Martins. He



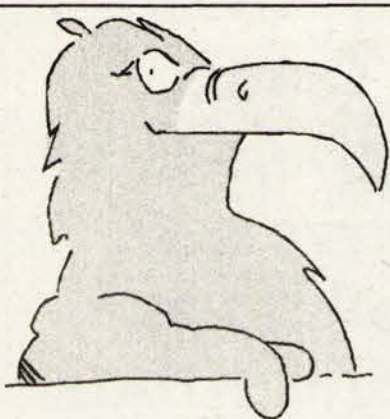
Bernie Sullivan

knew he would never be satisfied until he had one of those. He went to work in a factory doing hard work, just to earn the money to buy one. Every bit of the money he earned then, all \$285, went for a brand new Martin. His dad thought it was very foolish to spend so much for a guitar and his mom said he would never be able to play like Johnny Cash!

Bernie began spending all his spare time doing serious practicing and playing along with records. In three months he was playing with a

band and getting paid for it. His bands played at Paducah, Kentucky, several radio and TV stations in Southern Illinois, county fairs, the aforementioned Illinois State Fair and in more recent years, many places on the West Coast.

In 1965 he joined the Sea Bees, a section of The US Navy. While stationed in Adak, Alaska, he played in a band in some clubs around there for a year. He sent all the money home he earned playing there and was able to buy a good car (Continued on next page)



## Birds and Bluegrass?

Yes -- we're talking about Early Birds...

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## Letter to the Editor.....

### Breakdown comments

Dear Editor,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide some feedback regarding the Bluegrass Breakdown. I sincerely believe you are doing a very fine job. I've also edited a music newsletter, so I know how much work is involved. Even keeping the various month's issues approximately the same number of pages can be a trick. Knowing what to cut, e.g. editing letters to the editor for space considerations, can be tricky, since no one wants to see their pearls of wisdom deleted—even if the same point has already been made by someone else.

During this past year and a half, you have been beset by a number of problems and challenges, and, with a few minor typo excep-

tions, the quality of the newsletter has not reflected the turmoil through which you lived. Your conscientious commitment is very much appreciated—I hope you remain our editor for another eleven years!

Sincerely,  
Elena Corey

### Bernie Sullivan

(From previous page)

with it when he finished his tour of duty. He spent some time in Morocco and then went on to Viet Nam. It didn't take him very long to figure out that there were some people around there who didn't like him, as they were using him for target practice. Well, that just didn't seem very friendly, or like a nice way to be treated. So, with that kind of a welcoming, he found the Vietnamese rude and left there as soon as he could. He even left the military when his tour of duty was up.

He settled at Nevada City, California where he found a temporary job with US Forestry Department. They liked his work and the interest he took in it, not to mention his college degree in forestry. Here was a guy they didn't want to lose, so they changed a few rules so they could hire him as a regular. He worked many years with that department, being transferred to Camptonville, California and then on to the Oroville area where he spent most of his time and from where he recently retired.

With time on his hands, he is now more involved with his church. He works there with a group of Down's syndrome young ones and plays music for them. He also plays and teaches music in the Oroville area.

His two sons, Eric and Casey both live in Nashville and both work at the Gibson Guitar factory. Eric has become an unusually good guitar flatpicker and spends a lot of his spare time jamming and playing in Nashville where there is an abundance of fine musicians to play with..

Bernie will probably go there to live eventually, but in the meantime he has a lot more bluegrass festivals coming up to attend, a lot more people to jam with and a lot more music to play in the Golden State..

## SOUND REINFORCEMENT TIPS

### Natural Stereo Overdubbing

by Ed Light

It's common to record new parts to a tape while listening to existing parts in headphones. Each instrument is recorded through one microphone and occupies one track. The result is a constricted feel to the instruments, since they have no air around them, no feel of

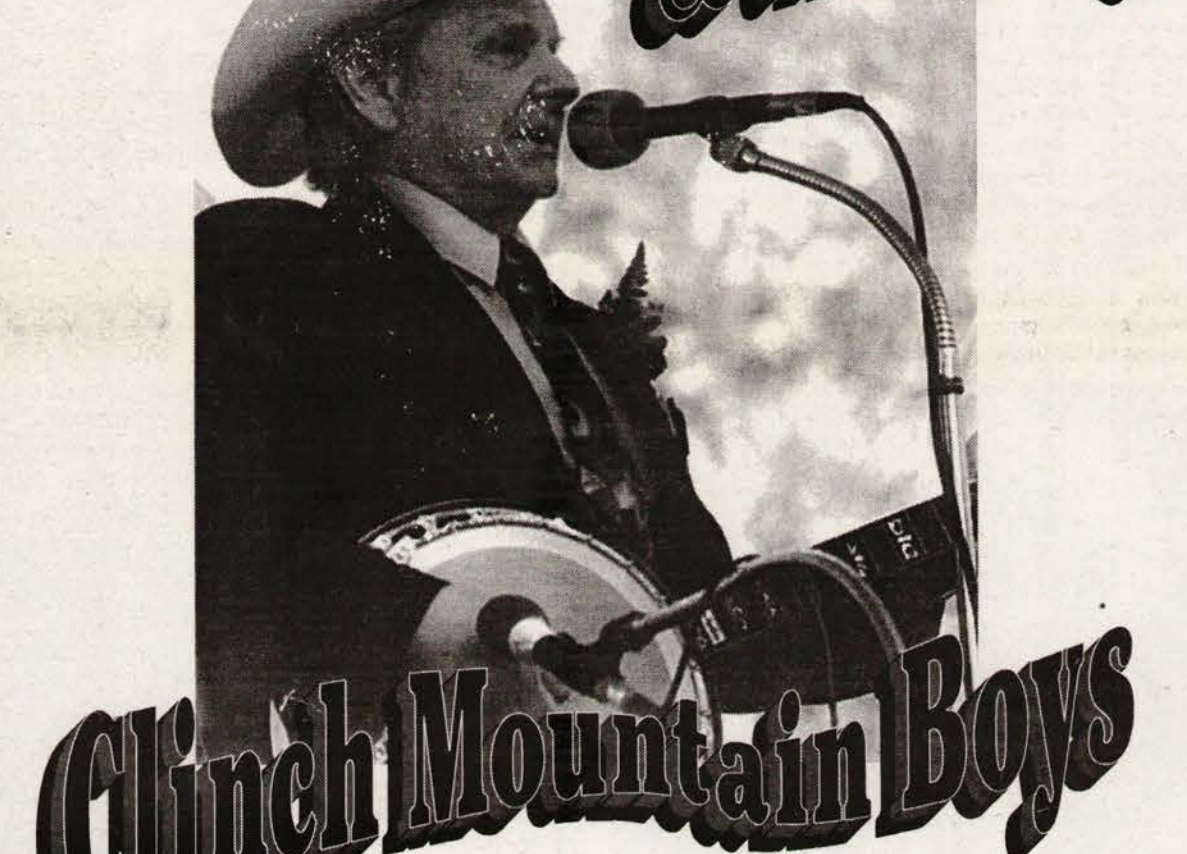
the acoustic space as captured by a pair of stereo microphones.

The solution is to record with a stereo pair. The first take goes to tracks 1 and 2, the next to 3 and 4, etc. Each time, you have the musician(s) in different physical positions in front of the mikes.

When you mix it down, the left mic. Is always panned full-left, and the right mic. Full right. What you get is a natural recording that sounds like they were all playing together in the room/studio in front of a pair of stereo mics.

KVMR 89.5FM NEVADA CITY & THE CALIFORNIA BLUEGRASS ASSOCIATION PRESENT

# Ralph Stanley



## Clinch Mountain Boys

and Mountain Laurel  
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# Suzanne Thomas, Don Rigsby and Friends concert a night to remember

by Suzanne Denison

What were you doing on Saturday, November 21st? If you weren't in the audience at Mesa Verde High School's Performing Arts Center in Citrus Heights, California, you missed a great concert.

The California Bluegrass Association presented local favorites Slate Mountain Bluegrass Band and Suzanne Thomas, Don Rigsby and friends in a dynamic concert which was truly a night to remember. Al Shusterman and his crew of volunteers did a good job as usual, and Ed Light was the soundman for the event. While the acoustics of the venue weren't the best, we all heard some outstanding music.

Slate Mountain Bluegrass kicked off the evening with an excellent performance, as usual. Eileen and John Personeni are the lead vocalists for many of the band's songs, and they do a terrific job. Fiddler Tom Gunterman, Thom Bently on guitar and mandolin, and Angela Personeni all took at least one lead vocal as well. Citing Vern Williams as their main influence, State Mountain's performance would have made the traditional Bluegrass picker proud.

Each of the members of Slate Mountain Bluegrass Band is musically talented, and together, they represent on the finest bands in Northern California. The band recently released their first recording on CD and appears regularly in the

Placerville and Sacramento area, as well as at numerous California festivals. If you get a chance, be sure to give them a listen, you won't be disappointed.

After an intermission, Suzanne Thomas, Don Rigsby & Friends took over the stage and entertained the audience for the next two hours with never a dull moment. As we listened to the powerful voices of Suzanne Thomas and Don Rigsby, their heartfelt lyrics made us alternately smile and want to cry. Toes were tapping, and on some songs, it was awfully tempting to sing along.

I had seen both Thomas and Rigsby perform in their respective bands, (Dry Branch Fire Squad and Lonesome River Band), but was much more impressed with their vocal abilities as individual performers — and this concert really highlighted each individual.

Suzanne Thomas performed several songs from her latest Rounder Records release, *Dear Friends and Gentle Hearts*, as well as songs from Dry Branch recordings, including "Faded Coat of Blue". In addition, she performed solo songs accompanied only by her guitar or clawhammer banjo. Suzanne's powerful voice filled the hall with heartfelt and moving lyrics, clearly enunciated and obvious depth of emotion.

Don Rigsby performed many of the songs from his latest Sugar



**SUZANNE THOMAS, DON RIGSBY & FRIENDS -- (l-r) Jim Hurst, Don Rigsby, Suzanne Thomas, Missy Raines and Bill Evans.**  
*Photo by Howard Gold*

Hill recording, *A Vision*, as well as some Lonesome River classics. One of the most moving and powerful performances was an a capella version of one of the songs from his all Gospel CD. He gave a brief testimony of his Christian beliefs, and then proceeded to witness his faith with his beautiful voice. I have always thought of Ronnie Bowman as the best vocalist for Lonesome River Band, but after hearing Don Rigsby, I've changed my opinion — he's awesome!

Rounding out this all-star band are IBMA's Bass Player of the Year for 1999, Missy Raines; Jim Hurst from Claire Lynch and the Front Porch String Band; and banjo virtuoso and ethnomusicologist, Bill Evans.

Jim Hurst and Missy Raines are veterans of bluegrass and country music in their own right with credentials ranging from Trisha Yearwood and Holly Dunn to Eddie and Martha Adcock, the Brother Boys and the Masters. For the last several years, they have been an integral part of Claire Lynch and the Front Porch String Band, appearing on her Silver and Gold release (*Rounder*). In addition to continuing to perform with Claire, they also are attracting much attention on their own as a duo.

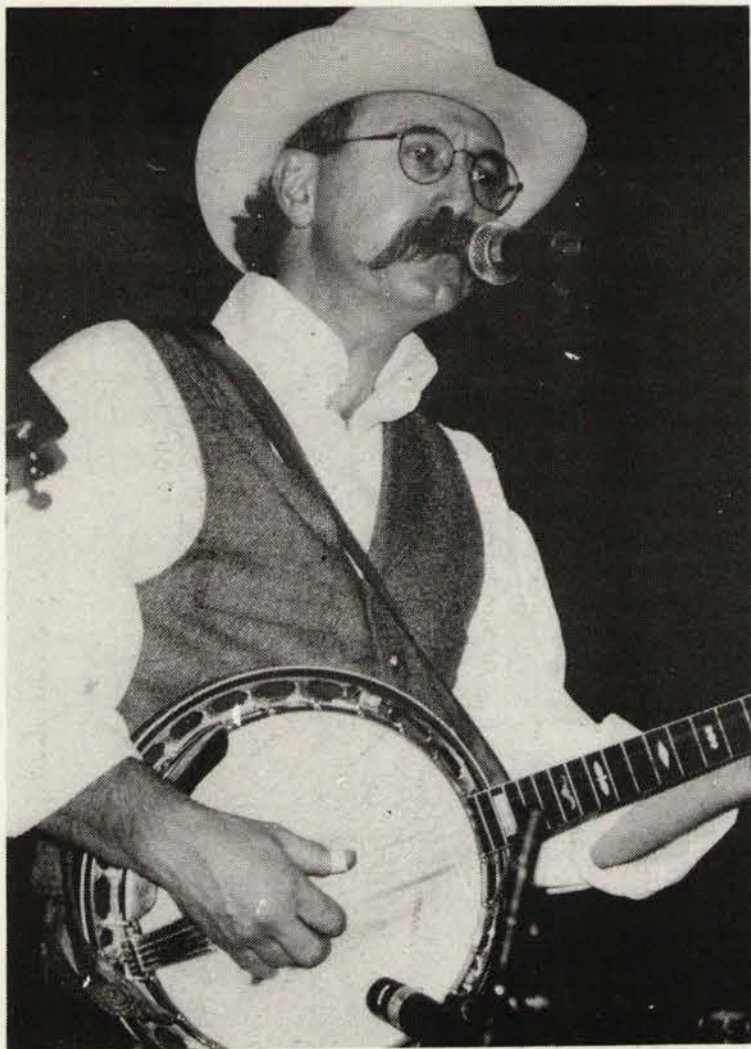
Twice during the concert, Jim and Missy performed together and the rest of the band left the stage. One of the numbers they did was "Jersey Bounce" — not necessarily a Bluegrass standard. However, even the most die-hard traditionalist would have enjoyed the music they performed. I had not seen either of them perform before, although I was familiar with their work through recordings. I must say that I was more than impressed — they work together almost as one person — the timing was impeccable, their breaks were fantastic, and while instrumentals are not my favorite

thing, this was one of the best duets I've ever seen. After seeing Missy in this configuration, I can understand why she is IBMA's Bass Player of the Year! That tiny woman can play the standup bass like most people play a guitar. She took several bass breaks and played the melody with jazzy embellishments in an incredible performance which had bass players in the audience green with envy and on the edge of their seats. Jim Hurst is one of the best flat-pickers I have ever heard. I don't know why most of us haven't heard more about him — but I predict that after this West Coast tour, he'll be remembered in the future.

Banjoist Bill Evans was a member of Dry Branch Fire Squad from

1993 to 1997. Bill is finishing work on his doctoral degree in ethnomusicology from the University of California, Berkeley. In addition, in the last year he has presented his solo concert "The Banjo In America," featuring over 200 years of banjo music, in a number of venues from festivals to museums and concerts. Bill did a great job on harmony vocals, and performed a couple of songs from his "Native and Fine" CD.

If you didn't see Suzanne Thomas/Don Rigsby and Friends in concert this trip — you missed a night to remember, and if you have a chance to see them in the future — it's an experience you don't want to miss!



**John Personeni of Slate Mountain Bluegrass Band**

*Photo by Howard Gold*



**IBMA Bass Player of the Year Missy Raines**

*Photo by Howard Gold*



## Tent camping area maintained

Last month the issue of maintaining a "tent camping only" area at the CBA's annual Father's Day Weekend Festival was approved by the Board. Coordinator of the area is Don Denison.

The map on this page is printed in order to make clear to all festival campers the area in question. The portion of the map below which has diagonal stripes is the "tent camping only area" in question.

Camping is allowed in this area for tenters, those with unconverted vans, and pickup trucks with camper shells only. No self-contained vehicles are allowed.

The "tent camping only" area will be enforced from the time the CBA takes possession of the Fairgrounds on Monday, June 14, 1999 until Monday, June 21, 1999. RV campers who are parked in the area at the time the rules go into force will be required to move to the RV camping area.

A large number of CBA members voiced strong opinions on the need for a tent camping only area. Among the concerns expressed were: generator fumes and noise, safety of children and adults, and offering shade for those who choose to camp in tents.

RV owners are more able to contend with camping areas which do not provide shade since they usually have electrical outlets and/or awnings. Since the audience area was moved to the inner fairgrounds, a large area is now open to RV campers with access to electrical and water outlets.

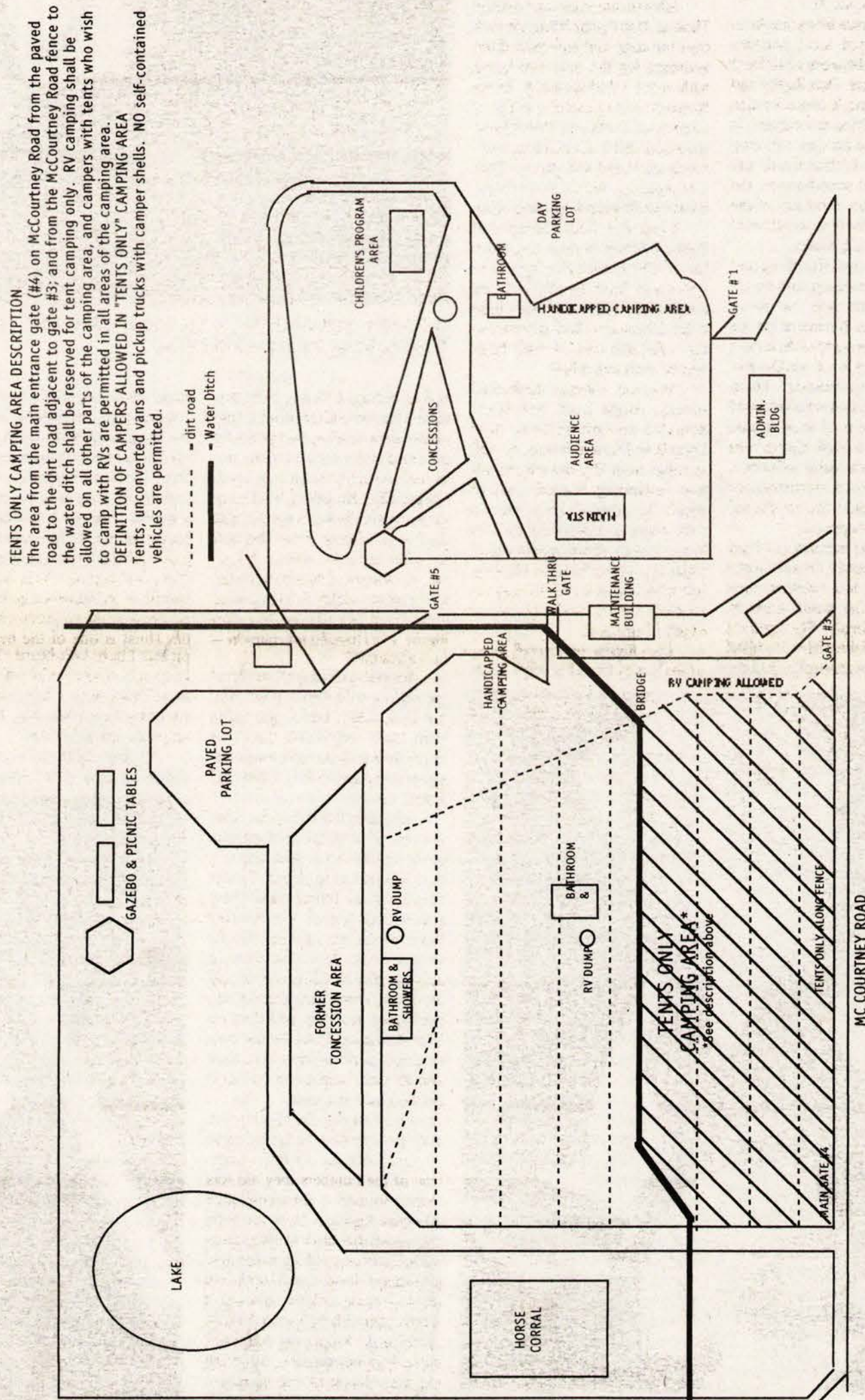
Don is asking for volunteers and cooperation from RV owners to make this policy work. If you have any questions about the area or the policy, please call him at 209-293-1559.



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Offer ends February 28, 1999

# Map of the Nevada County Fairgrounds to Define "Tent Camping Only" Area





# More Jam Etiquette

by Elena Corey

Every so often our bluegrass family expresses a desire to refresh their memories of the "rules of jam etiquette." We would like to be reassured that we're all sensitive to each other's social needs. And having a tidy set of rules which we can consult to verify that we're doing the "right thing" would go a long way toward giving us that reassurance. So, "Jam etiquette" is brought to our attention, and the folks who embody sensitivity itself read the articles, examine their consciousness and resolve to be even more courteous.

The folks who do not show such sensitivity, and who might use such articles as blueprints for elevating social behavior, however, frequently do not have the insight to put themselves into the place of folks for whom the advice is given. And so, the usefulness of such articles may be limited to merely helping people who are very new to jamming to gain some sense of foothold and confidence with which to continue their investigation of the joys of jamming.

So, when I consider doing another article about jamming—which usually precedes the festival season a bit, I'm glad to oblige but wary lest the "rules" be taken too simplistically and serve merely to provide a once-over brush with sensitivity, thereafter to be forgotten until the next season.

The truth is that we can't legislate sensitivity any more than we can compel attitudes or any other privately experienced phenomenon. And jamming is about sensitivity: The essence of jamming is sensitivity. It's somewhat like the physician's Hippocratic Oath—the first mandate is "Do no harm."

In jamming there are two primary prongs to that directive fork's thrust. Jamming may serve many purposes, but the two main ends are 1) contributions and maintenance to the social fabric of the musical community, with attendant development of reciprocal relationships en route, and 2) the preservation and promotion of the music itself—both vertically, through generations, and horizontally, across widening social circles.

So, to "Do no harm" while jamming means both that a person needs to be sensitive to the effects of his or her behavior in regard to how one's social interactions affect other people, and in terms of one's participation in the music making process serves the music. The implications of this two-pronged challenge are immense and not easily summarized. As Einstein once said, "Not everything that counts can be counted, and not everything that can be counted, counts." So our attitudes may be the main consideration in jamming.

After we underscore the importance of attitude, there are some basic tips which can be useful for beginning jammers to grasp—e.g. "Don't borrow someone's treasured instrument and damage it by your negligence." Or "Make sure what you are joining is really a jam and not a showcase." Or "Try to play in tune with others." We could list an entire page of such tips, and many people are eager to provide these. We need to be reluctant to allow such a list to be the thrust of our attention regarding jam etiquette, since we don't want our consideration to be limited to such lists.

Any of us could probably name pickers who carefully follow outlined rules yet who are not very fun to pick with. The spirit of sharing somehow seems to get slighted—as though they are merely being patient while you finish your turn so that they can get back to what they're really interested in—themselves and their own playing.

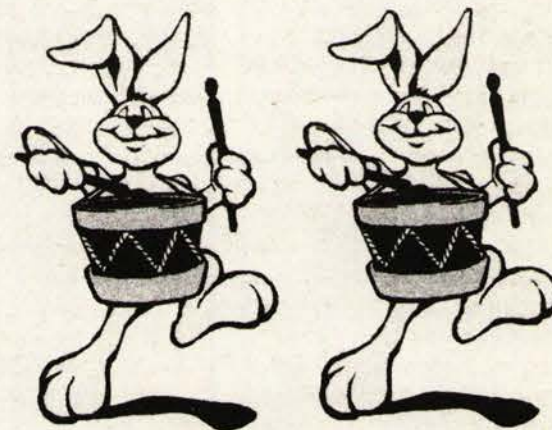
Just as true selflessness doesn't mean thinking poorly of oneself but merely thinking of oneself less often than thinking of others, courteous jam behavior doesn't mean

you have to diminish your own contribution to the jam. It doesn't mean you only allow yourself to play three-chord songs when anyone in the jam doesn't comprehend how to use additional chords, for instance. It does mean that you help the person who doesn't grasp the chord progression, and that you do so without making him or her feel embarrassed or stupid. To develop a sincere interest in the contributions of those with whom you play involves true listening and heart-felt encouragement, not a slavish, unenlightened obedience to any set of rules—no matter how great those rules might be.

So, yes, it's usually a great idea to take turns leading songs, taking breaks, etc. Yes, it's a good idea to play less loudly if a person with a softer sound is taking a break. Yes, it's a wonderful idea, when someone offers to play an original song/tune of theirs, to wait until you're sure you really do understand the chord progression before you join in, so as not to muddy the presentation. All such things, however, can be subsumed under the general desire to be courteous to others

and sensitive to their feelings—and to the music, itself.

Being respectful of the feeling of the music might involve, for instance, not throwing in every single hot lick you know on a simple ballad, so that the feeling of the song shines through. It also may involve giving your very best licks or vocal harmony to people who depend on you to take a break or sing back up.



Common sense, a feeling of simpatico, and an appreciation of the sense of community which can develop when we are able to lay aside our natural desires to push ourselves first are the primary ingredients of jam etiquette and the promotion of traditional music, plus they increase the probability that we'll all have fun while we play.

'Happy picking to you.

## Music Matters -- "May I Quote You?"

by Elena Corey

This month's Music Matters column takes a look at musical quotations. Just as we may quote someone else in conversation, musicians frequently increase their pleasure in playing by inserting brief bits of other pieces, within a song. Quoting is different from merely playing counter melodies over the same chords for an entire song, such as bluegrass and fans recognize as accomplished in the workhorse examples of "Bill Bailey" and "Just Because", and between "Have I Told You Lately that I Love You" and "Remember Me."

Quoting is also distinct from playing a medley of related tunes/songs sequentially. Quoting shows an awareness of a larger possible context—a meta-level of music. Quotes act as musical puns, referencing something tangentially relevant or casting allusions, even if ever so slyly, to another view of familiar material.

Musical quotes are found throughout recordings and performed music, and frequently show up in traditional music. Most listeners agree that quotes are best if not overdone. If every single song in a performer's set list includes a quote, that may be boring.

Quotes can be either instrumental or vocal, and are usually very short—two to eight measures in length. One of the most familiar quotes used in traditional acoustic

music is the instrumental run comprising these intervals, "1-2-3b-2-1. 1-2-3b-5-2-3b-1," which contest fiddlers have been inserting in "Orange Blossom Special" for over two generations now. An unobtrusive way to get into a quote is to let the riff start, if possible, on the same interval of the held note in the main song, but this is not mandatory.

Recently bluegrass and other traditional acoustic musicians have been including more vocal quotes—partly to increase the number of listeners who "get" the allusion. Such gospel songs as "Singin' All Day and Dinner on the Ground", offers snippets of such standards as "Bye And Bye, When the Morning Comes", "Amazing Grace", "I'll Fly Away" and "In the Sweet Bye & Bye." These are inserted, one per verse and serve to build tension as the listener comes to expect a quote in the same line each verse.

At a summer festival this year I heard a bluegrass group play, "If I Should Wander Back Tonight (Would You Still Love Me)", and I had to pinch myself to make sure I wasn't imagining it, but I heard the guitar player and bass player (an octave apart) together gratuitously throw in the signature lick from Bo Diddley's "Who Do You Love". This occurred, if my sleep-deprived consciousness didn't imagine it, at the vocal hold at the end of the second line of the chorus (after the line

"would your eyes be filled with love's own tender light"). They didn't call attention to the allusion and most people in the audience didn't react, but that wasn't important, I imagine. They offered this musical punning for the entertainment of themselves and other musicians.

Another festival, another group, another example of a musical quote—this time a vocal one: At the end of one of the group's original songs about wanting to be someplace other than where they were (a phenomenon amazingly common in bluegrass), the entire group sang a beautiful a cappella tag, "Why did I leave the plow in the field and look for a job in the town." The crowd roared and rose to its feet in acclamation! Everyone loved the appropriateness of this group's quote.

Sometimes quotes aren't received all that well—especially when genres are mixed cavalierly without consideration for the feel of the song. For instance, the bluegrass standard, "Think of What You've Done" has had several renditions in which the person in the group with a bassy voice drawls, after the last line, "Think about it, Darlin'" in his Conway Twitty twang. So far, although I've heard this done three times within the last couple of years, I've never seen the crowd get its

socks knocked off by that particular quote. Perhaps it's the delivery.

Just like in jokes, delivery of quotes is important. When a performer gets a gleam in his or her eye and practically stumbles off the stage anticipating a cute quote, part of the effect may be destroyed. E.g., if a bluegrass or old-timey group is performing the sweetheart murder ballad, "Pretty Polly", and immediately after the bit about her acquiescence in the relationship, i.e. "She got up behind him and away they did go (repeated twice) & over the hills and the valleys did rove." Then suppose the bass player were to throw in, as a fill the tones for "Don't de donn't don"—(that distinctive Dragnet clue that something dire is afoot). That kind of quote might be considered heavy-handed, to be only appreciated in late night revelry.

It is usually enough for the person in the group who executes the quote to lift the eyelashes coyly afterward as if to inquire, "What's the ado about?" if the crowd has caught the allusion. Scuffing the feet and saying "Aw shucks" really aren't required, but they can sometimes also be endearing.

Now that "Snowflake Reel" is becoming popular again, we see that a few folks want to telegraph their appreciation for the "1 to the flatted 6<sup>th</sup>" chord change, so some

(Continued on next page)



# Further Travels of a Bluegrass Junkie

by M.D. "Pepper" Culpepper

I flew into Nashville on September 29th. No special reason, I just felt like going to my "second home" for awhile. Terry Eldredge picked me up at 4:30 at the airport, and then we went to Larry Perkins' house. The three of us went to Parvo's and had a nice dinner.

It was Tuesday, so we went to 1111 Tuckahoe, and everyone got ready to go to the Station Inn as the Sidemen perform there once a week. As usual, they did a "bang up" show there — twice! We got home late that night.

Since Mike Bub moved to a house that he just bought, a new face now lives with Terry. Not new to me, as I have known Jamie Johnson since the days when I used to go to The Boys From Indiana's welcome home party, which is held every Fall at the American Legion Park in Milan, Indiana.

## Music Matters

(From Previous Page)

are leaning into the melody of "Bye Bye Blues" or "Out of Nowhere", for instance, in the relevant measures of the B segment of the lilting reel. That's fun and people will enjoy it for awhile. On the less than fresh side, some fiddlers and banjo players are still throwing into their breaks four bars of "Dixie" on held counts of any tune which mentions the South.

Like jokes, quotes are most appreciated the first time you hear them and tend to have a short shelf life of audience appreciation. We mentioned in this column a month or so ago that the Nashville Bluegrass Band quotes Thelonious Monk on their newest CD, and since then I've heard at least one group cover the piece as close to note-for note as possible, with a bit of a self-conscious emphasis on the quote. Somehow that doesn't seem as thrilling as it would if the cover group had shown a bit of creativity and inserted their own quote at that point in the song.

If you are tempted to try adding quotes, give it a whirl—there are many songs which provide links to other songs either in lyric content or tone intervals. As we fade off into the distance—where listeners can't hit us with rotten veggies, perhaps we'll insert into the popular bluegrass song "99 Years," these immortal lines:

"Papa loved mama; Mama loved men.

Mama's in the graveyard, Papa's in the pen."

Maybe we'll throw in the most recognizable riffs from our favorite instrumental tunes into a vocal—something beyond a G run, I'm sure.

Happy pickin' to You.  
Elena Corey

He is a good left handed guitar picker, has a beautiful, clean voice, is also a song writer. He came to Nashville last year, with the intention of "making it" in Country Music. But from what I see and hear there, people with good clear singing voices don't stand a chance. It takes a quivering, crappy sounding voice and swinging across stage on a rope, breaking up instruments, gyrating hips or what ever — black hats, and tight clothes help too.

Jamie got a job drawing up plans for buildings, etc., with a construction company — a good day job. As Harley Holt says: "He's a Dandy". As his friend, I hope he makes it big. He is young and level headed, not a drinker or a dooper. Maybe the Nashville scene will be different a few years from now.

Wednesday the Sidemen played at the "Fall Party" that Vanderbilt University held for the incoming Freshmen Class — a very laid-back group of young ones that bought food with "tickets" they purchased. As the vendors were

students, I think that every table needed to have enough money at the end of the evening to pay expenses, and am sure they did that.

The pie and ice cream booth had a long line, but us "out-siders" all were full before everything closed down. Kim Fox joined me, and we visited, ate ice cream and listened to the Sidemen's show. After it was over, Mike Bub gave me a ride home, so I visited with Jamie until Terry came home. I went to sleep with the sound of music coming out of the front room that night!

The next evening we all went back to the college, a couple of blocks away from where we were Wednesday, and a very different place to play. A Frat House party, where the Sidemen play every year at this time. Annual Father and Son (Mothers too) get-together for a Pig Roast and music event, that probably went on all night. The Sidemen played two complete sets. In between sets we all had pork sandwiches, with all the trimmings.

Everything started in the late

afternoon with an outside stage overlooking the partying crowd, and a covered barbecue pit dug in the yard. Ample wood for the fire ensured that everything was well cooked. It don't get no better than this! I'll have to mark it down on my 1999 calendar, and visit Terry and the boys next year.

Along about dark they finished playing and we all left. The students et. al. were moving in large speakers and preparing the inside stage for music to dance to — lots of drums, etc. so I know things got a lot louder in the Frat House that night.

Terry was on the road over the weekend, and Jamie and friends went to Milan, Indiana to sing at a wedding, so I was left to explore the Nashville scene alone. My car had been "worked-on" by Joe Qualey before he went back to Santa Maria, Ca. Last year it looked like a Tornado had gone through it, and when I drove it Saturday, it started to heat up. So I opted to use Garnet Imes' new car that she had left in the

driveway when she went to Milan with the other "singers". At least I wasn't grounded. She had left the keys with me, and told me to use it if I needed it.

So, after grocery shopping, I went to Sam and Pat Jackson's picking party at their home in Old Hickory, Tennessee. It was one of the biggest I have attended. I was greeted by Alice Chadwell, who was in charge of parking. We have been friends for years. She knows I can't walk too far so she parked me close to the stage where the different groups played until the wee hours of the morning. Sunday was a lazy, catch up on my rest day, and by bedtime everyone was home at 1111 Tuckahoe.

The next afternoon, Mike Bub came over from his newly bought home, and with Terry and me in tow, took us to a new home style cooking eatery about 3 miles from the house. I really loved it, and have been there at least a half dozen times since.

Then, one more night at The  
(Continued on Page 12)

## Virtual Band

### A Bluegrass Method For Banjo, Guitar, Fiddle or Mandolin

"Virtual Band" is a product of many years of teaching and input from my students. For a long time, I've seen a need for a method that would teach beginning players how to play along with others in a band.

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# Further Travels of a Bluegrass Junkie

(Continued from Page 11)

Station Inn on Tuesday night listening to the Sidemen play their music that I love. Sandra and Lester Armistead were there and a young lady that signs her e-mail messages to me #597, (which means she is my 597th Grand Daughter), who wanted to go to The Armistead's Annual Sunday night pre IBMA picking party.

So I introduced Kristy to Sandra, and Sandra invited her to come to it. Wednesday, Terry took me to Mike's place, and we went to a restaurant near the airport where we had a leisurely lunch. Then Terry dropped me off at the airport, and I flew home for a week.

The first thing I did was to get my Flusht Thursday, then made sure my reservations were confirmed, and paid the bills, etc. I packed for my trip back to Nashville, on my way to Louisville, Kentucky for IBMA's week of showcasing wares and bands. It is a yearly bluegrass gathering of most everyone around the world that is interested in the music I love. I have never written about this event, as I know others will write about it. So, I'll tell what goes on before and after that week.

I got into the airport at 4:30 p.m. Thursday, and as Terry was in a recording session, he had called Gene Wooten and told him I was landing that afternoon. So it was a pleasant surprise to be picked up by SPBGMA's Dobro player of the year. He normally plays in The Osborne Brother's Band, and is also with the Sidemen.

When I came out of the airport, I wondered who was in the red pickup honking his horn, and was pleasantly surprised to see Gene. When we got to Jamie and Terry's house, Billy B. from Las Vegas, Nevada was waiting in his motor home which he had driven to Tennessee. As he was the only one there, we had a nice visit catching up on what happened in his area since I last saw him at the Blythe festival in S.E. California last January.

Birdie Sullivan, from Hattiesburg, Mississippi called, and said she would pick me up the next day and we could catch up on the news from the past 15 months since we had last seen each other. Last year I wrote about going to the Elks Dixie Bluegrass Festival that she put on with her husband, Newell. Since then, she took a freak fall at the hospital in Hattiesburg, and had a bad year recovering from, among other things, having one leg paralyzed.

Last year I took care of the things she needed done at IBMA, and got reservations to fly into Jacksonville, Florida. She and her party were to pick me up, and we were

going to spend New Year's Eve at Jeckyll Island, Georgia. But her Doctor's orders were too hard for her to follow on a trip like that, so everyone cancelled. I remember last year at that time I couldn't see well enough to drive at night, and that's why I cancelled.

Meanwhile, back on the ranch: After Terry came in, we had a night of visiting, etc. into the wee hours of the morning. Birdie was staying at Larry Stephenson's new address, and came over and got me to go back with her. She could walk well, but had just had a shoulder operated on. Because of a contraption that she had to wear so she couldn't move her arm.

Two of her friends from Mississippi and one from Louisiana were visiting and they had been getting ready to go with us to eat a late lunch (or early dinner). So, guess what? I took them all to the new "home cooking" place that Terry, Mike, and I went to the last time I was near there. One price—all you can eat—it doesn't get any better than that! And everyone says I eat more there than they have ever seen me eat!!!

After visiting back at 1111 Tuckahoe, we went to the Station Inn to see and hear the Cluster Pluckers. I hadn't heard their show for a long time, and enjoyed it. In their second set, one of the ladies from Louisiana who was with Birdie's group sang on stage. Her name is Alisa MacBride, and she has a beautiful voice which doesn't surprise

me, as Birdie has a knack for discovering people and bands.

Afterwards, when they took me home and we joined Jamie and his friends who were having a jam in the front room. It was then that I heard the young lady from Mississippi (near Birdie's home) sing. Like Alisa, she played in a family band around her home area. The two really sounded good singing harmony together. All of Birdie's party went to the Grand Ole Opry on Saturday night. Jamie, Terry, Garnet, and I went out and had a great time together!

On Sunday morning I rode North in Billy B's motor home and we pulled off Hwy. 65, near Larry's home; at the same time Birdie pulled up—talk about timing!! I transferred into Birdie's Station Wagon, and rode with them to The Galt House Hotel in Louisville—A close to 3 hours' drive.

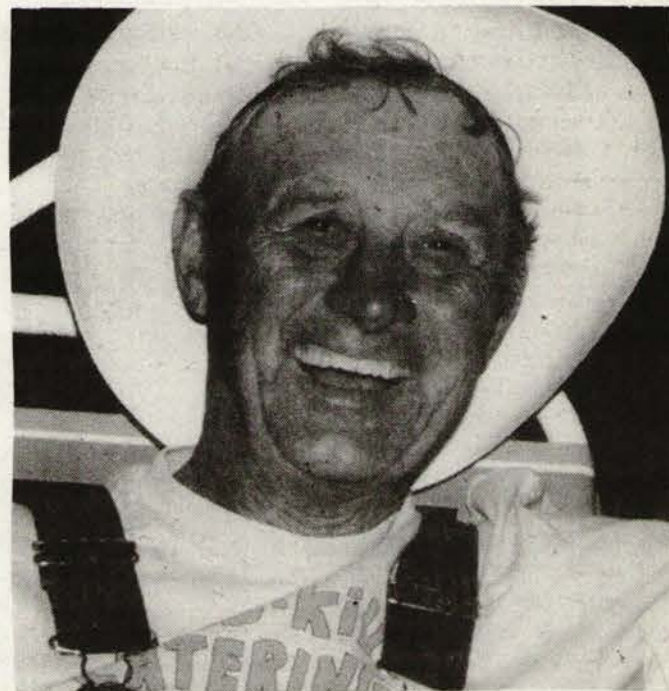
We checked into our Suites and visited with everyone for an hour or so. Then Dobro player Lisa Berman from San Francisco (with Crooked Jades), Alisa, Birdie, and I headed back to the Armistead party in Goodlettsville, Tennessee, which was in full-swing when we got there. Music and food for all. Dick Bowden's bunch were the first ones we listened too. You already know I love his pickin' and singin'. Lisa finally took her dobro out and ended up with Dick and friends in the old filling station there on the Armistead's home-place. We had to pull her out of there early in the AM,

so we could drive back to The Galt House before daybreak—we just barely made it! At least 8 hours driving time that day. We were glad to be back for a week of bluegrass in Kentucky.

One week later, I rode with Donna Walter in her car to 1111 Tuckahoe. Her husband Bob drove their motorhome, and parked at a KOA campgrounds in Goodlettsville. After I unloaded my things out of her car, we went to KOA and picked up Bob. We had a

lot of food for the Big After IBMA Party at 1111 Tuckahoe. Kim Fox also brought the food left over from the Sunday Wedding reception at David Parmley's at The Bell Cove in Henderson, Tennessee.

They always put a fan in the window (where I sit) that way, if anyone smokes there, it doesn't bother me. There is a lot of picking outside, of course, and picking on the back porch where John Hartford and others were putting out some good music. But I "camped-



M.D. "Pepper" Culpepper

Photo by Miles Ward

## How are we doing? Give us your opinion...

As most regular readers know, I work for the California Bluegrass Association as the Director of Operations and Editor of the *Bluegrass Breakdown* from my home office up here in the mountains of Northern California. Although I communicate regularly with the regular columnists, recording reviews and feature writers of our monthly publication, I don't hear a great deal from you, our members and hopefully regular readers.

The *Bluegrass Breakdown* is your newspaper, and we'd like to make sure it meets your needs as completely as possible. Won't you take this opportunity to let us know what you like, dislike or would like to see in the *Breakdown*? If you have additional comments or questions, please feel free to write a separate letter.

Mail the completed survey to: Editor, *Bluegrass Breakdown*, P.O. Box 9, Wilseyville, CA 95257 or e-mail your survey and/or comments to: cbawpn@volcano.net. Results of the survey will be published in a latter issue.

### READER SURVEY

Tell us a little about yourself...

1. How did you get this publication?

- ☐ CBA member
- ☐ Jam session
- ☐ Given to me
- ☐ Other

2. How many of the last 12 issues have you read? \_\_\_\_\_

3. How many people read this copy of the *Bluegrass Breakdown*? (Circle one)

1 2 3 4 \_\_\_\_\_

4. Which of the following statements best describes your feelings about this publication?

- ☐ I get more than my membership dues worth
- ☐ It's about right for the cost
- ☐ There isn't enough content for the money

5. Are you: ☐ Male ☐ Female

6. Are you: ☐ A musician

☐ A part-time picker  
☐ A listener

7. In what year were you born? \_\_\_\_\_

8. Please suggest some features you would like to see in the *Bluegrass Breakdown*. (e.g. a column on old-time music, instrument repair, performance hints, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_

9. How interesting are the regular columns to you? Please give each a number:

- 1 = Extremely interesting
- 2 = Very interesting
- 3 = Somewhat interesting
- 4 = Not at all

☐ Editor's Corner  
☐ Bands and Upcoming Gigs  
☐ Bluegrass News Notes  
☐ Bluegrass Folks  
☐ Bluegrass on the Internet

Further Travels of a Bluegrass Junkie

☐ Harmonica Korner  
☐ J.D.'s Bluegrass Kitchen  
☐ Letters to the Editor  
☐ Music Matters  
☐ Places to Find Live Music  
☐ Plugged In (new this month)  
☐ Recording Reviews  
☐ Sacramento Area Activities  
☐ Turn Your Radio On  
☐ Where Can I Go to Hear/Play Some Music?  
☐ Upcoming Events

10. How interesting are the feature articles to you? \_\_\_\_\_

A Visit to The Ryman  
Bluegrass is Changing  
James King Band in Anderson  
Oklahoma Festival Review  
Mandolin Appreciation Time  
Possess A Song

11. I'd like to see more stories about... \_\_\_\_\_



# Further Travels of a Bluegrass Junkie

out" at this party with Kim Fox, guitar and harmony singing; Larry Cordle; Terry Eldredge; Larry Perkins, Banjo; different Mandolin and Fiddle players throughout the night; Mike Bub, bass and Ed Dye on his "animated" dobro.

I always get where I can hear the latest songs Larry Cordle has written, and am never disappointed. Kristy found her way to the party. That's two parties in eight days for her, and she sat in the smokeless part of the front room til it was over. Lonesome Standard Time (Larry and Glen Duncan's old band) is now playing at the Station Inn every other Wednesday evening. Billy Rose is part of it, and Terry plays the bass (and sings, of course). Check them out if you're ever close enough to do so. Kristy goes some times, and requests songs she heard at the party. Beautiful! I'm glad she's #597!!

After that night I "slept in" the next morning and got ready for my last night at the Station Inn and the Sidemen. After the music was over that night Kristy dropped me off on her way home. After a Waffle House sidetrip I got to my home early (for me)—and, guess what? Terry had decided to do the same thing as me. So we had our usual one-time visit, with just me and him, relaxed while

I did my usual breathing into inhalers, before going to bed.

Now I was happy and could go home the next day — which I did, after having lunch with Bob and Donna Walter from Liverpool, N.Y., Kim Fox and friend, and also another couple from N.Y.

Terry later took me to the airport and I flew home, Via Atlanta, where I stayed until the day before Thanksgiving. I had to see the Suzanne Thomas, Bill Evans, Don Rigsby, Missy Raines, Jim Hurst show in Citrus Heights. If you didn't see it, you really missed a good one. Too late now for you to look for them because they have scattered like a covey of quail!

A little after 12 noon, Wednesday, November 25th, I left Sacramento and after changing planes in Atlanta, Georgia, I landed in Tampa, Florida near 10 p.m. that night. After renting a car, I headed North, some 30 miles later, I took the Dade City off-ramp, another 10 miles and I ended up in Sertoma Youth Ranch. I saw Evan Carl, and after our "hellos", he took me to where Dave and Doris' bus was parked — and I was "home" by 11:20 p.m.

Dave and I visited a couple of hours before going to bed. I was tired after a day's travel, so had no trouble getting to sleep. I have

stayed with them a lot of places, and have no problem adjusting to their routine. Doris goes to bed earlier than Dave who normally sleeps til 10 every morning. Doris gets up by 7 normally. I stay up with him, and get up with her. I just have to sleep fast to be in good shape for daylight hours. Doris always has a good breakfast, starting out with a bowl of fruit covered with whipped cream, ending with eggs, hot biscuits and gravy, for instance. I love it!

Most festivals are rather laid back in the South, and you have more time to leisurely get ready for the day. The way Doris and I did the mornings was: get in the car and drive to the showers (we could walk, but we don't need that much exercise).

I'll take a moment to explain the newest addition to the Ranch — a row of showers on one side, each one in a private room. Back to back with the showers is a row of private toilets. Each room is private and has its own wash basin with soap and paper towels. I have never seen such good facilities in all my travels.

Some of you may not have read an article I wrote earlier, when Carl Pagter and I first went to Sertoma,

which came from the first letters of: Service To Mankind. The organization was formed in 1912 at Kansas City, and is nation-wide now. Formed to benefit hearing impaired children, it now is for any youth group. For instance, Boy Scout Troops can camp in any Sertoma facility — neat, huh?

At this specific camp, they put on 3 bluegrass festivals among other things, to raise money for up-keep and new facilities like the showers and toilets I described before.

The evening before Thanksgiving, members cook 40 or so Turkeys, and everyone brings a covered dish. The Thanksgiving meal that is held just before the 4 p.m. opening band starts the music on stage. I can think of no better way

to start a festival; and now you have an idea why I fly from near one ocean to the other one that touches this U S of A.!

Steve Dittman picks the bands, and the Sertoma board of directors gives him a free hand to do so. I won't list all the bands each hour at this show, but it started out with Gary and Susan Waldrep. We all remember when Gary played with the Sand Mountain Boys, which we all loved. I heard this new band at SPBGMA in Nashville 2 years ago. Susan has a beautiful voice, and they sound good together. Their upright bass player, I knew too: she is the wife of Kenny Townsel, who still plays with the Sand Mountain

(Continued on Page 14)

## Did you know.....?

When you vote in the CBA election, you are only voting for a seat on the Board of Directors. All officers and coordinators are appointed by the Board of Directors after the election.

Just thought you'd like to know.

Kathy Kirkpatrick

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## Bluegrass Junkie

(Continued from Page 13)

Boys. I knew they were going to be good, and they were.

The next band was Big Country Bluegrass, and finally I got to meet them! I have had their two CDs for some time. The first one was made in 1997, and the other this year. After they came off stage, I went to their table and introduced myself to them. I had met their fiddle player Jeff Michael a year ago last October. I was introduced to him by Kerry Hay at IBMA's week of their show case of bands. Kerry, who is head of Hay Holler Records, Inc. and Executive Producer of their CD's, had given me their 1997 CD. I played it in my suite for anyone that would listen, and when no one else but me was there, I still played it.

Jeff Michael and Teresa Sells sound really good together (if you like bluegrass). Not many women can sing as well as she can — none can sing better on the type of songs she sings. The rest of the band members are Larry Pennington on banjo, Alan Mastin bass, and Tommy Sells (Teresa's husband) a very good mandolin player. This was their first trip to Florida, but not their last, as they will be back to Sertoma next year. They played four sets in two days and then made a fast trip to Myrtle Beach, South Carolina for two days. Suddenly they are busy — as they should have been long ago.

Bluegrass Parlor Band is a Florida group that played and sang very good bluegrass for years. This weekend was their last time to be together, two sets Thursday and two Sunday, closing the Thanksgiving festival for another year. Seems like every band played 2 days, twice each day, except for a "white man" (that's the way he tells it), "and his three Indian sons". They are very entertaining, and are booked at many Florida and Eastern U.S. Festivals. Based out of Okmulgee, Oklahoma, the name of their band is Goldwing Express. They were on-stage the first three days. They put on an entertaining show, and after each performance they had a crowd at their table buying their wares.

The next three days, the bands that played were: Bill Grant and Delia Bell, Vince Combs & Shade Tree, The Gibson Brothers, The Larkin Family, and local bands: South Ocean String band and Palms Bluegrass Band. Good solid music for all four days, and as Dave had seats for us on center Isle, 6 rows back, and as we like the same kind of music, we hardly had time to keep "refreshments" on hand. Festivals shouldn't do that. It's a good thing they had toilet facilities right in back of the audience!

Anyway, at noon Sunday Doris drove the bus to the Comer's new address in Florida, North of Lake-

land. Dave and I stayed to see the rest of the show. After festival good-byes were said, we drove the two cars 30 miles or so, and joined her; had a nice dinner of left-overs from the past 4 days, after cocktail hour. As Doris had the keys to Comer's new house, she and I went in (she did laundry, as her and Dave live on their Bus year round). Dave was watching a ball game on the bus, so Doris spent the evening taping music from CDs to play on the road. At bedtime, I stayed in a bedroom in the house and Doris went to the bus.

We said our good-byes that night, as early Monday morning she was going to Orlando to get her hair done and we didn't know if we would see each other before she left. Tuesday they moved to Kissamee at a campground they stay at occasionally. Then they were off to stay at The Keys for the winter. I have been invited to come down and stay for awhile and listen to music that plays there. So now I must figure when I can fly there (in between the shows I go to). Did you know that where they are going is the most Southern part of the USA? Yep, you can almost see Cuba from there!

I left before Dave got up, drove to the Dittman's in Zepherhills in less than an hour. Steve has an office there, as well as one in Tampa, so he was working. His wife Janis was there, as was her "helper" Eleanor Saphner from Jacksonville. In between cooking, they were unloading the Motor Home. Janis sells ceramic things from the motorhome that she makes in her "off-season time". Steve and Janis are good friends of mine, and they even offered to pick me up at the airport Wednesday and take me back the next Tuesday morning.

As it turned out, late that evening I followed Steve to Alamo car rental, turned the car in, and we went to his Tampa office, where he signed checks, and conducted other business. We also went by his mother's house and he fixed her computer. Then home again where, by the time I got to bed, I had to sleep fast again. At 6:45 we left for the airport, and one hour later, Steve dropped me off at Delta Airlines' entrance door. By the time I checked in and all, they were letting us board the plane to Atlanta Georgia. Good connection from there to Salt Lake City, Utah — and from there to Sacramento, California.

My granddaughter Summer Rae was there to meet me, as usual. We went to her parent's house, where her car was. After visiting a while, I drove home with 6 days to rest up before I fly to Nashville and the Sidemen's Christmas Party at The Station Inn. Who knows, there might be a story there.

## J.D.'s Bluegrass Kitchen

Howdy, Howdy, Howdy!

Well here we go with a new year again! Believe it or not, this is going on my thirteenth year of writing the ol' "Bluegrass Kitchen" column for you folks. We've shared a lot of good recipes for some mighty fine vittles over the years, and I've even gotten to sample quite a few of my readers' favorite recipes too. (That's the fun part!) Hopefully we can all look forward to a lot more years of sharing meals, music and good times!

One of my best music friends called me about a year ago and gave me a candy recipe that he and his wife Marlene came up with. That friend is none other than CBA life member, Ray Park. Not only is Ray one of the best fiddle players, singers and songwriters in the business, he's also a very good cook.

Like he tells me every time I start to rib him about something, "Hey, I'm not just a pretty face. I've got hidden talents!" That you do, Ray, and I'm sure glad you called me with this recipe. I've been wanting to feature it here in the column, but I put it in the wrong section of my recipe box and ran across it last month while searching for a different recipe.

Soooo, I whipped up a batch of this candy the other night, and by golly you're right again Ray. This does make the best peanut brittle I've ever eaten. This recipe is as easy to make up as it is to fall off a peeled foot log over ol' Piney Creek on a cold, frosty morning!

### Ray and Marlene's Peanut Brittle

1 cup raw peanuts, shelled  
1 cup sugar  
1/4 tsp. Salt  
1/2 cup white Karo syrup  
1 TBS. butter  
1 tsp. Vanilla  
1 1/2 tsp. Baking soda

In a microwave-proof bowl, combine sugar, Karo, and salt; stir in nuts. Microwave on high for 9 minutes. Remove and stir in butter, vanilla and soda. Work fast before it starts to cool and set up. Turn out on a buttered or non-stick cookie sheet. Spread thin and let cool.

Even our good friend Jack Sadler admits that this is the best peanut brittle he's ever had. You done good Ray and I'm sure the folks will enjoy this one for years to come.

I've known Ray since I was a teenager and we've shared a lot of good times over the years. One summer years ago Ray, along with Vern Williams, Jack Sadler, Del Williams, my son Garrett and I went on a three-day fishing trip on the North Fork of the Mokelumne River. Since I have no patience to sit and wait for a fish to bite a hook, I went along to do the cooking and to just enjoy laying around camp being lazy while everyone else was gone fishing.

I'd have supper ready about sunset and you could hear 'em com-

ing back down the canyon for about a mile. When I figured they were about a half a mile from camp I'd put a batch of these biscuits in my big Dutch Oven sitting there over a bed of hot coals. About the time they got to camp, I'd slide a big bowl of these hot biscuits onto the table, and stand back! (You just don't get in the middle of a bunch of Okies and Arkies when they're grabbing for the biscuits!)

Ray's wife Marlene told me later that this was the first trip that Ray came back from that he looked like he'd had a decent meal!

Here's the recipe that fed that bunch and kept 'em happy. It's one that my mom used all of her life and taught to me when I was a young 'un.

### Sour Milk Biscuits

2 cups flour  
1 tsp. Salt  
1 tsp. Baking powder  
1 cup sour milk\* (or buttermilk)  
1 tsp. Sugar  
1/2 tsp. Soda  
4 TBS. butter or shortening

Sift dry ingredients together. Cut in butter, add sour milk and mix well. Turn out on a floured surface and knead lightly. Roll 1/2" thick, cut and bake at 450° or until golden brown. Makes about 18 2" biscuits.

How to make \*sour milk: to 1 cup of warm sweet milk, add 1 1/2 TBS. of lemon juice or 1 1/3 TBS. vinegar.

Now there's some of the best eating you'll ever wrap a lip around! I prefer to use sour milk in this recipe versus buttermilk. I guess its because I grew up with the particular flavor of these biscuits.

When I was a small child back in Arkansas we had plenty of fresh milk every day from mom's Jersey cow. But there was no refrigerator or even an ice box in our house, so what ever wasn't made into butter or buttermilk was allowed to sour and mama made biscuits with it. After we moved to California we lived in town and didn't have a milk cow anymore, but we did have a refrigerator and every once in a while mama would make up a batch of sour milk biscuits for breakfast or supper. Good memories.

My good friend Billy B. Boren of Las Vegas, Nevada tried the last biscuit recipe featured here, and he said he really loved 'em but he had biscuits for days! Billy, just cut the recipe in half boy!

For those of you who have never met Billy B., you've missed a real fun experience in life. Billy B. loves Bluegrass music, and is a ton of fun to be around. His stories could enthral the Pope! I'm proud to call him my friend, and we really cracked it back in Louisville, Kentucky last year, didn't we Billy?

Last night I came in from working outside all day, cutting firewood and pounding nails in the shop building I'm remodeling. I had a

hankering for some corn bread and beans, so I got a pack of chili beans out of the freezer, nuked 'em, and mixed me up a big cast iron skillet of corn bread. When that corn bread was a golden brown I sliced it up, buttered it, got up on the counter top, and dove right in the middle of those corn bread and beans! Well, not quite that dramatic, but darn close to it, I'll tell you!

Sitting there enjoying that sumptuous repast, I got to thinking that it's been a while since I made up a batch of Sourdough Corn Bread. Now I purely love good sourdough bread, especially the kind you buy on Fisherman's Wharf in San Francisco. But being an ol' Southern boy raised on corn bread, I crave to have it on a daily basis, when I can. But, when you combine the two, you've got the best of both breads!

So, I dug around until I found my Sourdough Corn Bread recipe and I thought I'd share it here with you folks this month, while I've got it out.

### Sourdough Corn Bread

1 cup sourdough starter  
1 1/2 cups cornmeal  
1 1/2 cups evaporated milk  
2 eggs, beaten  
2 TBS. sugar  
1/4 cup melted butter  
1/2 tsp. Salt  
3/4 tsp. Soda

Mix the starter, cornmeal, milk, eggs and sugar together. Stir in melted butter, salt and soda. Turn into a greased 10 inch skillet or pan and bake at 450° for 30 minutes. Serve hot!

Now Billy, this will not make too much corn bread! I don't think there is such a thing as *too much* corn bread! (I think I was around 20 years old when I found out you could eat corn bread without beans.)

Thanks to my friend John Murphy for this last recipe. He gave me a wonderful book of recipes some years ago and this is one of my favorites from it. I hope it becomes one of yours too.

Well folks, its time to put out the fire and head for home again. Here's hoping that this year is a happy and healthy one for all of you folks.

This past one has not been one of my better ones. As you may know I lost both of my parents in 1998 and my good friend Rose Maddox too, but I know they're going to see me again so what have I got to be sad about. Like Rose told me during one of our last conversations, "Honey, I'm not gonna be here much longer, so I'm gonna go make sure the band's all tuned up for when you get there. We're gonna pick and sing forever". What a gal!

May God grant you all peace and health.

Yer friend,

*J.D. Rhynes*



# STUDIO INSIDER

## Recording vocals in Bluegrass

by Joe Weed

Welcome to January, and Happy 1999! I hope you had a wonderful holiday season, good times with family and friends, and lots of fun playing.

Here at Highland Studio we've been busy with several groups bringing in their acoustic projects. Along with the bands I mentioned last month, several other musicians who may be familiar to CBA members have been in for recording. Byron Berline was here recently, laying down fiddle tracks for a soon-to-be-released project by CBA guitar favorite John Lytle. Mark McCornack was in to track banjo for Mike Jones' upcoming release, and flatpicking ace Steve Palazzo was in, tracking guitar parts.

This month's column will focus on recording vocals in Bluegrass. I'll cover the basics to guide you when recording this all-important part of a project, and include a few tricks and more info next month.

### Who's the fairest of them all?

Usually, if an album contains vocals, the lead vocal is by far the most important part of the whole. It provides the strongest communication between the band and the listener. It is, after all, the only voice which is "speaking" through the music to the listener, telling a story in human terms. All the nuance and subtleties of expression that the lead vocalist imparts to her/his performance must be heard and not obscured by banjo din (sorry!), fiddle noise (ouch!), guitar thumping (oof!) or anything else. Although in some types of music the vocal intelligibility is of secondary importance, in traditionally produced bluegrass recordings the lead vocal is mixed loud and up-front. It's extremely important that the recording engineer capture a clear, uncolored, dynamically energized recording of the voice. Fortunately, there are some great tools to help us with this job. Unfortunately, there are several pitfalls that we must be wary of when recording vocals, and I'll point out several in this month's column so that the vocal tracks you record won't drive you and your mastering engineer crazy when it's time for mastering and duplication.

### Front and center stage techniques

When recording a vocalist in the studio, an initial difficulty often results from the vocalist trying to use stage miking techniques in a studio environment. On stage, the singer is usually faced with a dy-

namic mic, varying amounts of wind, lots of background noise, and poor monitoring. As a result, the singer will frequently "eat the mic," maintaining close contact between lips and microphone wind screen. This ensures that most of what the singer does gets amplified. In the studio, however, these environmental limitations are not present. If the singer, through habit, uses the "eat the mic" technique, then the vocal part going to tape will be damaged by excessive low frequency (bass) response, poor timbre from chest resonances being too close to the mic, and distortion of certain consonants, especially fricatives (fs), plosives (p's, b's, t's) and , and sibilants (s's).

### Oh, give me room, give me room...

So what can we do to keep our singer from making us learn a whole new linguistic vocabulary? What's the best room, the best mic, and good mic placement in the studio? As I've mentioned in my columns before, the acoustic qualities of the room you're recording in contribute much more to the recorded vocal sound than does one or another mic pre amp. For clear, precise, and strong vocals, choose a bright sounding room to record in. That means a room with a hardwood or tile floor if possible, and not some little

carpeted padded cell. The singer's voice will reflect off the hard surfaces and mix with the voice as it's produced by the singer, causing a rich build-up of harmonics. As long as the room doesn't have an obnoxiously long reverberation or modal character, this will make it more fun for the singer. Remember how much fun it is to sing in the shower? That's because the bright, reflective tiles in the shower cause many acoustic reflections to come back at the singer and reinforce the voice in a pleasant way. Although the shower is usually too bright (and wet!) for an accurate recording, it demonstrates the positive effects of an acoustically bright performing environment.

### What mic?

Choice of mic makes a significant impact on the character of the recorded vocal, with the selection of a condenser mic rather than a dynamic mic being the first important move. The use of a condenser mic will ensure that subtleties are recorded as faithfully as possible. There has been an explosion in the availability of good large-diaphragm condenser mics in recent years, covering a wide range of prices. I generally use Neumann mics, which are expensive German-built precision instruments. Their sound is incredibly detailed, and they are extremely reliable. There are also many other good quality, lower priced mics available now, including some with tube-

based electronics. I use both tube and solid-state (non-tube) gear in my studio.

I usually use a cardioid (heart-shaped) pick-up pattern with my vocal mics. Sometimes, depending on how much the singer moves during performance, or how much of the room sound I want to capture along with the direct voice, I'll vary the pick-up pattern of the mic to a wide cardioid, or even an omnidirectional setting (meaning the mic picks up sound equally from all sides.) Some of the less expensive mics are set permanently to a cardioid pick-up pattern, since that is the most commonly used setting in a project studio. The cardioid pattern is best to start with for bluegrass vocals.

### Where do I put it?

Cardioid mics (both dynamic and condenser) exhibit a character-

istic called "proximity effect." Simply put, this means that when they're placed close to a sound source (less than a foot or so), they increase the low frequencies (bass) sound. This effect can make it extremely important to keep the mic away from the singer's mouth. When a bass boost due to proximity effect is combined with a blast of air from a "p" or a "b," the result can be an earthquake going off in your speakers while the singer wails on about love and peace. So try, if your room and ambient noise floor permit it, to place the mic from 12" to 18" away from the singer. Place a "popper stopper" type air shock diffusor between the singer's mouth and the mic. This device, now readily available in music stores that supply project studios, resembles a hoop with black nylon stocking

(Continued on Page 16)



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# RECORDING REVIEWS

## Bed By The Window James King

Rounder Records  
CD 0425  
One Camp Street  
Cambridge, MA 02140

Songs: *Wear A Red Rose, Big House On The Corner, Bed By The Window, Tall Pines, Sweeter Than The Flowers, I Don't Do Floors, They'll Never Take Her Love From Me, Pack Up Your Sorrows, Love Me One More Time, Yesterday's Winner Is A Loser Today, Called From Potter's Field, The Lonely Years Belong To Me.*

Personnel: James King - guitar and vocals; Kevin Prater - mandolin and vocals, lead guitar on # 3 and 5; Jason Moore - bass; Adam Poindexter - banjo, guitar on # 3; Bobby Hicks - fiddle; Owen Saunders - fiddle on # 1 and 5.

By Ken Reynolds

## Studio Insider

(Continued from Page 15)

material stretched over it. (In the old days, we would make them in the studio from coat hanger wire and old nylons.) This will help diffuse the blast of air that comes out with certain plosive sounds. Generally, the foam wind sock which comes with a microphone absorbs too much of the high frequency content in a singer's voice, and the "popper stopper" is a much better alternative. (Note: "popper stopper" is a brand name; there are various brands of this device available.)

## Next Month

In February's column, I'll write more about recording vocals, discussing the use of mic preamps, compressors, and equalization, and how to fool a singer who insists on moving in to the mic and blowing the diaphragm over sideways with his/her powerful pipes.

## Happy New Year!

Joe Weed records acoustic music at his Highland Studio in Los Gatos, California. He has released five albums of his own, produced many projects for independent labels, and done sound tracks for film, TV and museums. You can reach Joe by calling (408)353-3353, or by email, at joe@highlandpublishing.com.

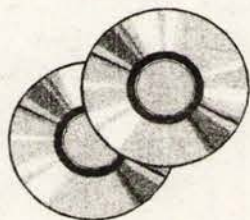
"Bed By The Window" is the latest release by James King on the Rounder Records label. This is the debut of James' regular road band. On past recordings, James relied on guest artists to back him. On this project, James only used one guest artist. He used Bobby Hicks on the fiddle on a few of the cuts. I think it is great that James used mostly his road band on this recording. It means that what you hear on this CD, is what you are going to hear when you go to see this dynamic group at a live performance. I don't know about you, but I prefer groups to do their recordings this way.

James has to be one of the most powerful voices on the bluegrass scene today. This project, like all the others James has released, is filled with some great material. James has virtually made a career of doing the "sad songs". In the liner notes, James is quoted as saying, "Seems like the sad songs do me justice". I couldn't agree more. James seems to put his heart and soul into those sad songs.

James seems to have a knack for taking old country songs and making them sound as if they were written just for the bluegrass genre. Songs like "They'll Never Take Her Love From Me", by Hank Williams, "Yesterday's Winner Is A Loser Today", by Ernest Tubb, "Big House On The Corner", by Stonewall Jackson and "Called From Potter's Field", by Johnnie and Jack.

I'll tell you right now that the vocal and instrumental quality is what one has come to expect from the James King band. The harmonies are clean and smooth. The blend is precise. The picking is of top quality. I have enjoyed James' brand of bluegrass music ever since I listened to his album of "These Old Pictures". The James King band is one of the best bands performing traditional bluegrass music on the circuit, in my opinion.

If you like good traditional bluegrass, you need to add this one to your collection.



## 20 Bluegrass Favorites, Vol. II Red Smiley & The Bluegrass Cut-Ups

Rural Rhythm Classics  
RHY-182  
Box 660040, Dept.D  
Arcadia, CA 91066-0040

Songs: *Ain't Nobody Gonna Miss Me When I'm Gone, It's Raining Here This Morning, The Pale Horse And His Rider, Plant Some Flowers By My Grave, Prisoner's Dream, Take Me In The Lifeboat, Budded On Earth To Bloom In Heaven, I'll Be No Stranger There, The Man Of Galilee, A Beautiful Life, Little Darling Pal Of Mine, Banks Of The Ohio, Drifting Too Far From The Shore, I'm Just Here To Get My Baby Out Of Jail, Baby Girl, Katy Hill, Little Glass Of Wine, Prosperity Special, Living The Right Life Now, Thirty Pieces Of Silver.*

Personnel: Red Smiley - guitar, vocals; Tater Tate - fiddle; Billy Edwards - banjo; John Palmer - bass; Gene Burris (a.k.a. Gene Burows) - mandolin, guitar.

By Ken Reynolds

I just got this CD featuring the legendary Red Smiley on the Rural Rhythm Records label. This project is a re-release of recordings done in 1967. It features Red's band the Bluegrass Cut-Ups which he formed after splitting with Don Reno.

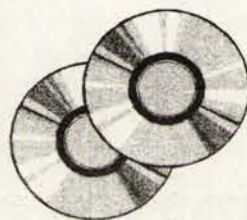
Red and Don were the dynamic duo of bluegrass from 1951 to 1964. Red's career was coming to a close in 1969 when he left his band to retire from music. But retirement didn't suit him very well so he contacted his old friend Don Reno, who at the time had partnered with Bill Harrell, and asked if he could join them when his health permitted. They of course said yes, and Don stated in his autobiography, "The last two years and five months that Red worked with me and Harrell were the happiest years we spent together".

The last song that Red and Don recorded together was "Letter Edged In Black". This was in May of 1971. Red Smiley died January 2, 1972.

This CD features some of the great songs of bluegrass music, performed by one of the true masters of the genre. Some of my favorite songs on this project are "The Pale Horse And His Rider", "Plant Some Flowers By My Grave", "Prisoners' Dream" and "I'll Be No Stranger There". But to

be honest, there wasn't a bad cut on this CD, in my opinion.

If you are a fan of the old time traditional bluegrass music, you'll want to get this one. It is truly a collector's item.



## Clinch Mountain Country Ralph Stanley & Friends

Rebel Records  
CD 1716  
P.O. Box 3057  
Roanoke, VA 32802

Songs: DISC ONE - *How Mountain Gals Can Love (with Hal Ketchum), Shouting On The Hills Of Glory (with Ricky Skaggs), Pretty Polly (with Patty Loveless), The Window Up Above (with George Jones), I Just Got Wise (with Dwight Yokam), If That's The Way You Feel (with Vince Gill & Patty Loveless), Nobody's Love Is Like Mine (with Ricky Skaggs), Memories Of Mother (with Claire Lynch), The Lonesome River (with Bob Dylan), Old Love Letters (with Laurie Lewis), She's More To Be Pitied (with Marty Stuart), When I Wake Up To Sleep No More (with Judy & David Marshall), Another Night (with Joe Diffe), Gold Watch And Chain (with Gillian Welch), Thy Burdens Are Greater Than Mine (with Ralph Stanley II), I'll Take The Blame (with Rhonda Vincent), How Can We Thank Him For What He Has Done (with Diamond Rio), I've Just Seen The Rock Of Ages (with Jeff & Marty Raybon)*

DISC TWO - *Pig In A Pen (with Doug Phelps), I Only Exist (with John Anderson), A Lonesome Night (with Vince Gill & Patty Loveless), Pretty Little Miss In The Garden (with Alison Krauss), The Darkest Hour Is Just Before Dawn (with Dwight Yokam), Stone Walls And Steel Bars (with Junior Brown), Beautiful Star Of Bethlehem (with Connie Smith), Let Me Love You One More Time (with Tim O'Brien), The White Dove (with Porter Wagoner), Will You Ever Miss Me At All (with Joe & Sonya Isaacs), Lonesome Banjo Man (with Ralph Stanley II), Are You Afraid To Die (with Sonya & Becky Isaacs), Way Down Deep (with*

*Vern Gosdin), If I Lose (with Jim Lauderdale), I'm Going That Way (with The Whites), Gathering Flowers For The Master's Bouquet (with BR5-49), My Deceitful Heart (with Ralph Stanley II), Bright Morning Star (with Kathy Mattea)*

Personnel: The liner notes only mentioned the vocalists who appeared on this project. I assume it's the Clinch Mountain Boys who are providing the instrumental work on this project.

By Ken Reynolds

Clinch Mountain Country is the latest release by the legendary Ralph Stanley on the Rebel label. On this CD Ralph is joined by a host of country artists to sing with him on a variety of bluegrass and country songs.

At first, I didn't think that I was going to like this CD. But as I started listening to it, my attitude changed.

Ralph, along with Vince Gill and Patty Loveless, did a great job on "If That's The Way You Feel" and "A Lonesome Night". The harmonies of this trio was a joy to listen to. Other highlights on this project for me were "Shouting On The Hills Of Glory" and "Nobody's Love Is Like Mine". Ralph was joined by Ricky Skaggs on these numbers.

"Are You Afraid To Die" with Sonya and Becky Isaacs was also a pretty song. I also enjoyed Ralph singing country with George Jones. They teamed up on a Jones classic, "The Window Up Above".

There is a lot of good music on this CD. The only one that I didn't care for was "The Lonesome River". On this song Bob Dylan sang the lead vocal with Ralph doing harmony. In my humble opinion, Dylan's singing totally ruined a very beautiful song.

I found it very interesting to hear known country artists singing bluegrass music. Of course there were some "ringers" on this CD. As everyone knows Ricky Skaggs, Rhonda Vincent, Joe Diffe, Alison Krauss, Vince Gill, Laurie Lewis, Tim O'Brien, Vern Gosdin and Marty Stuart are not exactly strangers to the bluegrass genre.

Overall, I really enjoyed this album. I think it is one of the most unique projects on the market today. I think it's one that any bluegrass fan would enjoy.





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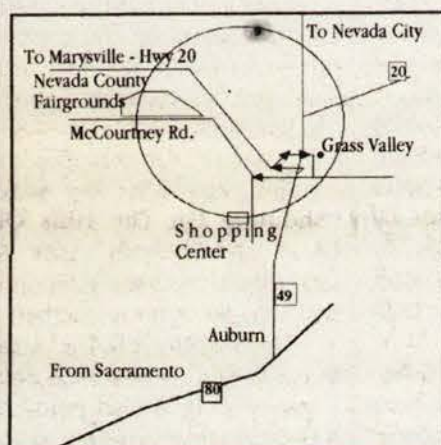
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### Things You Should Know

- Absolutely NO PETS allowed on the festival grounds.
- Camping is in the rough on the festival site beginning Monday, June 14 through Wednesday, June 16 for a fee of \$15 per unit per night (lots of grass and big pine trees), limited hookups available, on a first-come, first-served basis.
- Camping during the festival is included in 3 and 4 day tickets.
- No alcohol is sold on the festival grounds. • Food and soft drink concessions on site.
- Bring lawn chairs or blankets for seating.
- Festival is held rain or shine -- ABSOLUTELY NO REFUNDS

### ~ Early Bird Ticket Order Form ~

Early Bird Ticket Prices and Senior Citizen (Age 65 and over) Discounts are offered to CBA Members only. Members are entitled to purchase 1 discount ticket for a single membership or 2 discount tickets for a Couple Membership. Deadline for Early Bird Discount tickets is February 28, 1999. No Discounts available at the gate.

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# Bands and Upcoming Gigs...

If you would like to be listed in this column, please send your entertainment schedule to the editor by the 1st of the preceding month. Bands will be listed unless they ask to be dropped from the roster.

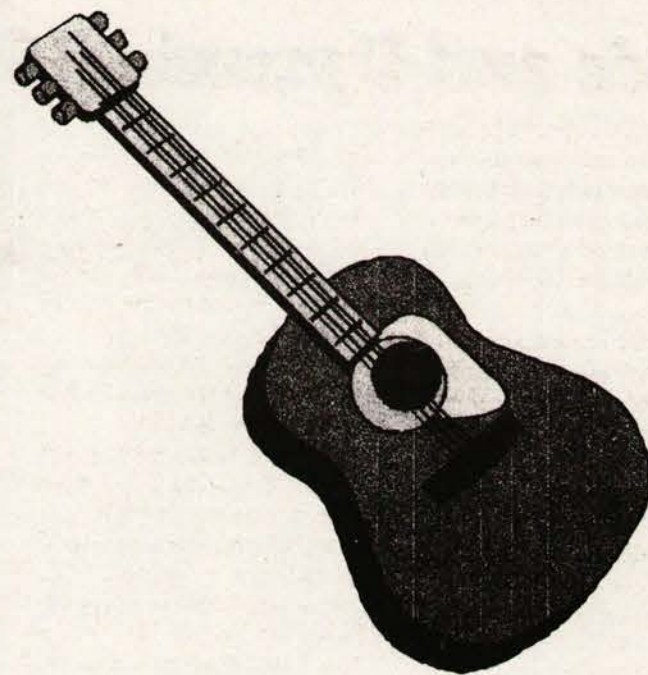
## California Based Bands

- Acme String Ensemble - "vintage string band music". Contact Michael Harmon (415) 664-2858 or Chris Carney (707) 876-1858.
- Alhambra Valley Band, for information contact Lynn Quinones (510) 229-0365.
- All Girl Boys, for information and bookings call (510) 541-3145, or (916) 739-6101.
- Andy Padlo Band, for information and bookings, call (415) 431-8307.
- Arkansas Travelers, Traditional Bluegrass Music and Comedy show by award-winning duo. For information and booking, call (831) 477-2172 or write 3507 Clayton Rd., 100, Concord, CA 94519.
- Backcountry, "a variety of acoustic music", including bluegrass, gospel, folk, new-grass, and acoustic jazz. Members play guitar, mandolin, bass, banjo and Dobro. Contact Doug Clark (408) 726-2322.
- Tina Louise Barr, master performer of the Autoharp. For information or bookings, call (209) 522-6548 after 6:00 p.m. (PST).
- Charlie Blacklock with "Charlie's Band", 1821 St. Charles St., Alameda, CA 94501. Phone (510) 523-4649.
- Bear Ridge Bluegrass, Clan of Bluegrass, hard driving Bluegrass music. For information and bookings contact "Crazy" Pat Conway (209) 592-6389; voice mail: 209-735-5877, P.O. Box 44135, Lemon Cove, CA 93244.
- Big Valley Band contemporary and traditional Bluegrass. For information or bookings, call Randy at (916) 687-8556.
- Blue Northern Bluegrass Band - Redding, CA (530) 223-3352 or online... <http://www.shasta.com.bluenorthern>
- The Birch Lake Ramblers, Bluegrass and eclectic acoustic music. Members play guitar, mandolin, bass, banjo, fiddle and Dobro. Contact Penny Godlis 408-353-1762 or Eric Burman 408-479-9511 for information or bookings or to be put on their mailing list. Email: [bdsmiller@aol.com](mailto:bdsmiller@aol.com).
- Bluegrass, Etc. For information or bookings, contact John Moore, P.O. Box 141, Palomar Mountain, CA 92060 or call (619) 742-1483. February 25-28 — 6th Annual Wintergrass Festival at the Sheraton Tacoma Hotel and Convention Center in Tacoma, WA.
- Bluer Pastures, bluegrass music.
- For bookings contact Glenn Sharp (818) 776-9343 or Jeff Kartak (818) 504-1933. Regular venue — Foley's Family Restaurant, 9685 Sunland Blvd., Shadow Hills, CA, 3 Sundays a month 5-8 p.m. (818) 353-7433.
- Braxton Hicks, for information, write to Kathy Dubois, P.O. Box 1068, Colfax, CA 95713.
- Brushy Peak Bluegrass Band, contact (510) 443-5217; 532 Alden Lane, Livermore, CA 94550.
- Cache Valley Drifters, c/o Wally Barnick, 4495 Sycamore Rd., Atascadero, CA 93422, (805) 466-2850. February 25-28 — 6th Annual Wintergrass-Festival at the Sheraton Tacoma Hotel and Convention Center in Tacoma, WA.
- California Quickstep, (916) 622-1953 or 622-8525.
- Cedar Grove Bluegrass Band, for information and bookings, call Al Shusterman at (916) 961-9511.
- Carolyn Cirimele, for booking or information, P.O. Box 390982, Mountain View, CA 94039-0982; phone (415) 969-7389; e-mail: [Cirimele@aol.com](mailto:Cirimele@aol.com).
- Clay County, contact Susan Nikas, P.O. Box 604, San Dimas, CA 91773 or phone (909) 599-5891.
- Compost Mountain Boys, traditional Bluegrass music. For information, contact Wildwood Music, 10271 St., Arcata, CA 95221 (707) 822-6264. Home page: [www.humboldt.edu/~manetasm/compost](http://www.humboldt.edu/~manetasm/compost).
- Country Ham, and Carl and Judie Pagter. For booking or information, call (925) 938-4221 or (804) 985-3551. June 17-21 — 24th Annual CBA Father's Day Weekend Bluegrass Festival at the Nevada County Fairgrounds in Grass Valley, CA;
- Coyote Ridge, has been performing traditional and original bluegrass music since 1992. For information and bookings, call Alan M. Bond at (510) 845-2909 or write him at 2820 Benvenue #D, Berkeley, CA 94705.
- The Crane Canyon Bluegrass Band, for booking or information, contact Brijet Neff, 9003 Grouse Lane, Petaluma, CA 94954 or call 707-778-8175. Every Thursday night, 6:30-10 p.m., at the Willowbrook Ale House, 3600 Petaluma Blvd. North, Petaluma, CA; (707) 775-4232.
- Crooked Jades, bluegrass, old time, and original music. For information or bookings, call Jeff Kazar at (415) 587-5687. Appearing every 3rd Sunday from 7-11 p.m. at the Radio Valencia Cafe at Valencia and 23rd Street in San Francisco. June 17-21 — 24th Annual CBA Father's Day Weekend Bluegrass Festival at the Nevada County Fairgrounds in Grass Valley, CA;
- Dark Hollow, traditional Bluegrass band. Contact John Kornhauser (415) 752-0606 2102 Hayes #1, San Francisco, CA 94117 or Alan Bond (510) 845-2909, 2820 Benvenue #D, Berkeley, CA 94705 or <http://www.webbnet.com/~Mandolin/dkhollow>. or [Bonda@ceb.ucop.edu](mailto:Bonda@ceb.ucop.edu) Dark Hollow performs on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of every month from 7-11 p.m. at Radio Valencia Cafe at Valencia and 23rd Street in San Francisco.
- Doodoo Wah, contact Ron DeLacy, P.O. Box 1500, Columbia, CA 95310 or phone (209) 533-4464. On the World-wide Web at [www.colorado.net/picklehead/doodoowah](http://www.colorado.net/picklehead/doodoowah). January 2, 8 & 9, 15 & 16 — "A Winter Night's Yeow" Concerts in various locations. For information or tickets, call (209) 533-4464.
- Dry Creek, "Bluegrass... and then some." For bookings, contact Lorraine Gunther (510) 233-3200 (day) or (510) 849-4023 (night).
- Dusty Road Boys, contact Rhonda Williams (916) 589-2519.
- Earthquake Country, Bluegrass all the way! For information or bookings, call Paul at (408) 366-1653 or Mark (408) 244-8068.
- Bill Evans, original Bluegrass banjo music and banjo history concert presentations, Rounder recording artist, *Banjo Newsletter* columnist and IBMA board member; performances, workshops, and private lessons. For information: 510-234-4508; email: [bevans@dnai.com](mailto:bevans@dnai.com).
- Foothillbillys - old time string band music and other rural favorites. For information and bookings, call (209) 245-4534 or (209) 296-2601. January 2, 8 & 9, 15 & 16 — "A Winter Night's Yeow" Concerts in various locations. For information or tickets, call (209) 533-4464.
- Frettin' Around, Bluegrass, lively acoustic, including innovative styles performed on the autoharp. For bookings contact Tina Louise Barr (209) 522-6548 after 6:00 p.m. (PST)
- Gold Coast, a California Bluegrass Band. For bookings or information, call Shelah Spiegel at 714-962-5083 or Greg Lewis at 310-426-2149 or e-mail [Shelah@1020103276@CompuServe.com](mailto:Shelah@1020103276@CompuServe.com)
- The Gold Rush Balladeers — Music of the Gold Rush Days! For bookings: call Julie Johnson 209-533-2842 or e-mail us at: [juliejohnsongold@hotmail.com](mailto:juliejohnsongold@hotmail.com). January 9th — Concert with the Black Irish Band and Los Compadres, Sonoma, CA
- Good Company, Country, Bluegrass, Folk, Gospel, Old Time to Popular Hits. Contact Jan (408) 223-2628 or Bette (510) 376-6241.
- Gospel Creek Bluegrass Band. For information and bookings, contact Rich Ferguson, 309 Beverly Ave., San Leandro, CA 94577, Phone (510) 568-0887; or e-mail: [gospelcreek@juno.com](mailto:gospelcreek@juno.com).
- Grace Avenue Band, Gospel and Bluegrass Music. For booking information, contact Bob Thomas at (916) 989-0993.
- The Grass Menagerie, for information and bookings contact Rick Cornish (408) 929-4174 or for an up to date schedule you can visit their web site at [http://www.research.digital.com/wrl/projects/misc/Grass\\_Menager\(whew!\)](http://www.research.digital.com/wrl/projects/misc/Grass_Menager(whew!))
- Richard Greene & The Grass Is Greener. For information and bookings, contact Jim D'Ville, P.O. Box 108, Yachats, OR 97498 or call (541) 547-3237 (phone/fax).
- Harmony Grits, for information call Mike at (408) 685-0969 or Jim (408) 464-1104, or write P.O. Box 1598, Santa Cruz, CA 95061.
- Haywired, upbeat, acoustic folk-a-billy. For information or bookings, contact Mark Guiseponi in Stockton at (209) 465-0932.
- The Heartland String Band, Bluegrass, Traditional, Old Timey, touch of Irish. For information and bookings, call (209) 667-7279 or (209) 634-1190.
- High Country, contact Butch Waller, P.O. Box 10414, Oakland, CA 94610, phone (510) 533-9370.
- High Hills, Contemporary, traditional and original Bluegrass music for all occasions; sound system if needed; for information and bookings, please call Leslie Spitz (818) 781-0836; email: [highhill.pacbell.net](mailto:highhill.pacbell.net) or visit their website at <http://home.pacbell.net/highhill/> January 10 — 6:00 - 9:00 pm, Papa's Western BBQ & Saloon, Long Beach, CA; January 29 — 7:00-9:00 pm, Winterfest Bluegrass Night, Taylor Hall, Scripps & Indian Hill Blvd., Claremont, CA; February 14 — 6:00 - 9:00 pm, Papa's Western BBQ & Saloon, Long Beach, CA
- Hijinks, P.O. Box 2513, Sebastopol, CA 95473. Call Chip or Sara (707) 823-3615.
- High Mountain String Band, P.O. Box 1195, Mt. Shasta, CA 96067. For information and booking, call (916) 938-2167.
- Homemade Jam, contact Sam Ferry at 530-668-1211 for information or bookings.
- HomeSpun Duet, a blend of musical styles, including: traditional, swing and Bluegrass. Contact Barbara or Gene at (530) 841-0630. [Homespun@jps.net](mailto:Homespun@jps.net).
- Horse Opry (209) 532-5109 or (209) 853-2128, P.O. Box 1475, Columbia, CA 95310.
- Hwy 52, San Diego-based traditional and original bluegrass band. Contact Wayne Dickerson, 1657 E. H St., Chula Vista, CA 91913, 619-421-8211, email [Hwy52@aol.com](mailto:Hwy52@aol.com) or on the web at <http://members.aol.com/hwy52/>
- In Cahoots, specializing in bluegrass and old-time fiddle music. For bookings or information contact Jerry Pujol at (707) 226-3084 or Cass Pujol at (707) 553-8137.
- Iron Mountain String Band — For information and bookings, contact Al Shusterman, at (916) 961-9511 or write to 5717 Reinhold St., Fair Oaks, CA 95628.
- Just Kidding, interactive traditional and contemporary music for young folks. For information contact Lynn Quinones (510) 229-0365.
- The Kathy Kallick Band, for booking or information, contact Cash Edwards, Under the Hat Productions, (512) 447-0544, FAX (512) 447-0544. June 17-21 — 24th Annual CBA Father's Day Weekend Bluegrass Festival at the Nevada County Fairgrounds in Grass Valley, CA;
- (The) Freilachmakers Klezmer String Band, klezmer music with old-timey, Celtic and Balkan overtones. Featuring fiddle, clawhammer banjo, mandolin, guitar, accordion, balalaika and bass. Based in the Sacramento/Davis area. For information or bookings call Andy Rubin at (916)-484-1176.
- Laurel Canyon Ramblers, for booking or information, contact Herb Pederson at 818-980-7478 or Dana Thorin 626-799-2901 or e-mail: [dthorin@jps.net](mailto:dthorin@jps.net). February 25-28 — 6th Annual Wintergrass Festival at the Sheraton Tacoma Hotel and Convention Center in Tacoma, WA.
- Laurie Lewis & Grant Street, for booking information, contact Cash Edwards, Under the Hat Productions, (512) 447-0544, FAX (512) 447-0544. February 25-28 — 6th Annual Wintergrass Festival at the Sheraton Tacoma Hotel and Convention Center in





# Bands and Upcoming Gigs...



- Tacoma, WA.
- Liberty, for booking and information, contact Rudy Ekstein at (310) 204-6102 or (818) 787-4843 or write to: 2721 Cardiff, Los Angeles, CA 90034.
  - Loose Gravel, Bluegrass and beyond. For information and bookings, call Chuck Ervin (510) 536-0596 or write 2555 Wakefield Ave., Oakland, CA 94606.
  - Lost Highway, "Bluegrass the way you like it." For information and bookings, contact Dick Brown at (714) 744-5847 or Ken Orrick at (909) 280-9114.
  - Modern Hicks, contemporary Bluegrass. For booking or information, call 707-544-6909.
  - Mojave County Band, bluegrass and Cajun music. For booking information contact: Tony Griffin, 4410 Cover St., Riverside, CA 92506. Phone (909) 784-5003 or Gary at (909) 737-1766.
  - Mountain Creatures, for bookings and information contact Lee Ann Welch-Caswell at (408) 867-4324 or Sonja Shell at (408) 354-3872.
  - Pacific Crest, for information and bookings, call Steve Dennison at (805) 588-2436.
  - Past Due and Playable. For information call (916) 265-4328 or (916) 265-8672; or E-mail: gsobonya@jps.net
  - Pleasant Valley, (the Giacomuzzi Family Bluegrass Band), Contemporary style Bluegrass Music. For information or bookings, call (805) 987-2386.
  - Poison Oak Band, contact David or Linda, 10252 Agnes Circle, Rancho Cordova, Ca 95670, phone (916) 363-2832.
  - Radio Rail, for information and bookings, contact Jackie or David, 2312 Jane, Mt. View, CA 94043, (415) 967-0290 or website: <www.omix.com/radiorail>.
  - Red Dirt Bullies, for booking or information, call (916) 342-8270 or check out their web site at www.aracnet.com/-obagrass/reddirtb.html.
  - The River City Boys, for booking or information call (916) 454-5015 or (916) 457-0713.
  - Roanoke, traditional, driving bluegrass. For information and bookings, contact John Kael, FAX/Phone (408) 427-2248, 420 Market Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95060 or visit their website at http://gate.cruzio.com/~roanoke.
  - Rose Canyon Bluegrass Band, traditional, contemporary and original bluegrass. For bookings and information contact Elizabeth Burkett, 6354 Lorca Dr., San Diego, CA 92115 or call (619) 286-1836.
  - Round Valley Hogcallers, Folk, blues, bluegrass, gospel, Irish, children's shows and acoustic country music. For information or bookings, contact Gary Bow-

- man, P.O. Box 608, Covelo, CA 95428, phone (707) 983-1004.
- Rural Delivery, contact Larry or Carol Bazinet, 26185 Maitlin Rd., Romona, CA 92065, phone (619) 486-3437 or 789-7629.
- Demitra Christine & The Ryestraw Band, traditional bluegrass and old-time music. For bookings for information, write P.O. Box 334, La Canada, CA 91012, phone (818) 957-2160.
- Saddle Rash Bluegrass Band, for bookings and information, call (916) 581-1193.
- Shankman Twins, for bookings and information, contact Dana or Lauren at (818) 713-0677; write to: P.O. Box 9226, Calabasas, CA 91372; or e-mail: shankmantwins@juno.com.
- Sidesaddle & Co. - contact Kim or Lee Anne, P.O. Box 462, Saratoga, CA 95071, phone (408) 637-8742 or (408) 867-4324 or on the internet at <www.cruzio.com/~gpa/sidesaddle/index.htm> or e-mail: <sidesaddle99@yahoo.com>.
- Sam's BBQ, 1461 Campbell Avenue, Campbell, CA (408) 374-9676 every Thursday evening 6-9 p.m. reservations recommended. February 25-28 - Wintergrass Bluegrass Festival, Tacoma, WA; April 10 - Woodhaven West Concert Series at Los Gatos Methodist Church, 19 High School Ct., Los Gatos, CA, 7:30 p.m. For information, call 408-354-4730; May 1999 - Mariposa Bluegrass Festival, Mariposa, CA;
- Sierra Blue, Bluegrass and acoustic country duets. Call Hugh or

- Sheri Hoeger at (916) 933-2270.
- Sierra Mountain Bluegrass, contact Jesse Askins, 6023 Wright Ave., Bakersfield, CA 93308, phone (805) 393-1293.
- Sierra Sidekicks - Cowboy songs, cowboy comedy, cowboy poetry, and classic country songs with rich Western harmonies, velvet yodels, mellow acoustic guitar, and boot stompin' bass rhythms. For information (or demo tape), contact Wayne Shrope at 818 Wightman Dr., Lodi, Ca 95242; phone (209) 368-6551.
- Slate Mountain Bluegrass Band; for information and bookings write 6864 Diablo View Tr., Placerville, CA 95667 or call (916) 644-2149 or (916) 333-4083.
- Slim Pickins, Traditional and contemporary Bluegrass. Contact Bob and Joanne Martin, (619) 273-3048.
- Sonoma Mountain Band, for information and bookings, contact John Karsemeyer, (707) 996-4029, P.O. Box 44, Eldridge, Ca 95431 Pizzeria Capri in Sonoma, appearing every month. Call (707) 935-6805 for dates and times. Murphy's Irish Pub on the Sonoma Plaza, 8 to 10 p.m., first Friday of every month.
- Sourdough Slim - P.O. Box 2021, Paradise, CA 95967, phone (530) 872-1187 or visit the Sourdough web page at <http://www.twc.online.com/custom/sourdoughslim March 13, 1999 - 13 Cowboy Jubilee, Convention Center, Carson City, NV Cowboy Poetry & Music Festival, Melody Ranch, Santa Clarita, CA

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- Spikedrivers "100% all-natural gnugrass". For information or bookings, write to Mike Ting, 6053 Chabot Rd, Oakland CA 94618; e-mail to: mktman@dante.lbl.gov or call (510) 652-3272.
  - Springfield Crossing, original folk, jazz, bluegrass, swing. Contact Richard Sholer, P.O. Box 1073, Twain Harte, CA 95383 or phone (209) 586-2374.
  - Ron Stanley, for information and bookings write P.O. Box 724, Garberville, Ca. 95542, Phone (707) 923-2603, or e-mail: <stanley@humboldt.net>.
  - String Nation, 25 Lakewood Way, Chico, CA 95926, phone (530) 342-7390 or 893-1003.
  - Stringin' Along - Good time acoustic music of various styles including bluegrass, blues, swing, and

- fun oldies. For information or bookings, please call Mark Giuseponi in Stockton (209) 465-0932 or Ron Linn in Brentwood (510) 634-1155.
  - Valley Bluegrass Boys, contact Bob Sandstrum, (619) 560-5526 or write to 7757 Nightingale Way, San Diego, CA 92123.
  - Virtual Strangers - (bluegrass) for information or bookings, call Jon Cherry at (619) 659-3699 or Mike Tatar at (619) 679-1225.
  - Wild Blue, Bluegrass Trio featuring Elmo Shropshire on Banjo. For bookings call (415) 924-7814, or write to P.O. Box 724, Larkspur, CA 94977.
  - The Wilton Prison Band, traditional Bluegrass and New Grass. For booking or information, contact the Warden's Office - Drew Evans at (916) 344-8589.
- (Continued on Page 20)

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Deering Web Page: <http://www.torranceweb.com/category/music/deering> You can see Deering banjos in more than 200 music stores world wide.



# Bands and Upcoming Gigs...

(Continued from Page 19)

- The Witcher Brothers, for information or bookings, contact Dennis Witcher, P.O. Box 33903, Granada Hills, CA 91394, phone (818) 366-7713. June 17-21 — 24th Annual CBA Father's Day Weekend Bluegrass Festival at the Nevada County Fairgrounds in Grass Valley, CA;
- Yesterday's Country Roads, "Country, Bluegrass Gospel", for information, contact Dan Bonds, P.O. Box 727, Hilmar, CA 95324 or call (209) 632-9079.

## Bands Based in Other States

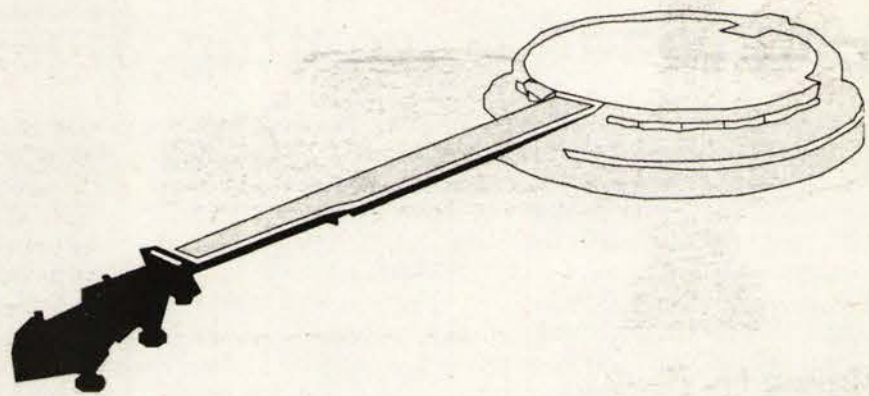
- 5 For the Gospel, for bookings and information, call (606) 474-2558, P.O. Box 778, Grayson, KY 41143.
- Bluegrass Patriots, for booking and information, 1807 Essex Drive, Fort Collins, CO 80526, or call (970) 482-0863. February 25-28 — 6th Annual Wintergrass Festival at the Sheraton Tacoma Hotel and Convention Center in Tacoma, WA.
- Blue Highway, for booking for information, contact Class Act Entertainment, P.O. Box 771, Gallatin, TN 37066, (615) 451-1229.
- Breakaway — for information or bookings, contact Andy Sacher, PO Box 8343, Burlington, VT 05402; e-mail: sachman@juno.com
- Vince Combs and the Shadetree Bluegrass Boys, traditional Bluegrass music. For bookings and information, contact Vince Combs, 665 West Krepps Rd., Xenia, OH 45385 or phone (513) 372-7962 or Grayce Ausburn Agency (410) 768-0224.
- The Cox Family, for information and bookings contact Keith Case and Associates, (615) 327-4646; (615) 327-4949 FAX.
- Dan Crary, for information or bookings, contact Class Act Entertainment, P.O. Box 160236, Nashville, TN 37216, phone 615-262-6886, FAX 615-262-6881; e-mail: <Class Act@compuserve.com>; website: <www.mindspring.com/-bumn/classact>.
- J.D. Crowe and the New South, for information and bookings, contact: Philibuster Entertainment, Phil Leadbetter, 8207 Thompson School Road, Corryton, TN 37721, (423) 688-8855; e-mail: <lead@esper.com>. February 25-28 — 6th Annual Wintergrass Festival at the Sheraton Tacoma Hotel and Convention Center in Tacoma, WA.
- Jerry Douglas, for information and bookings contact Keith Case and Associates, (615) 327-4646; (615) 327-4949 FAX.
- Dry Branch Fire Squad, for information and bookings contact Bill Evans, 5801 Poinsett Ave., El

Cerrito, CA 94530; phone 510-234-4508; e-mail: <bevans@dnai.com>. February 25-28 — 6th Annual Wintergrass Festival at the Sheraton Tacoma Hotel and Convention Center in Tacoma, WA.

- The Fox Family for information and bookings, contact Kim Fox, 2614 Ogletown Rd., Annapolis, MD 21403, (410) 267-0432.
- Foxfire, for bookings and information, contact Larry Bulaich, P.O. Box 1091 #42, Grants Pass, OR 97526, (541) 476-3291 or Jeff Jones, 349 E. Main St. #9, Ashland, OR 97520 (541) 482-1418.
- Freight Hoppers, for information and bookings contact Keith Case and Associates, (615) 327-4646; (615) 327-4949 FAX. February 13 & 14 — Mid-Winter Bluegrass Festival, Denver, CO;
- Front Range, for bookings and information contact Cash Edwards, Under the Hat Productions, (512) 447-0544, FAX (512) 447-0544.
- The Grasshoppers — For information and bookings, contact Glen Garrett, 844 Bonnie Brae, Nampa, Idaho 83651 or call (208) 465-0399.
- High Plains Tradition, For booking and information, contact Chuck Tinsley, PO Box 522, Denver, CO 80201; call (303) 601-4113; e-mail: HighPlainsTradition@yahoo.com; or visit their web site: <http://www.banjo.com/Profiles/HPT.html>. January 15-17, 1999 — Blythe, CA - Bluegrass Festival. Tickets/Info: Barbara Martin (800) 443-5513; February 12-14 — Northglenn, CO - Mid-Winter Bluegrass Festival. Tickets/Info: Ken Seaman (970) 482-0863; May 1-2 — Park City, KS - Park City Bluegrass Festival. Tickets/Info: Jim Bullard (316) 691-8178
- Chris Jones and the Nite Drivers. For information and bookings, contact Al Shusterman, at (916) 961-9511 or write to 5717 Reinhold St., Fair Oaks, CA 95628.
- Steve Kaufman, for information about concerts, workshops and bookings, call 1-800-FLATPIK or outside US call (615) 982-3808, P.O. Box 1020, Alcoa, TN 37701.
- Alison Krauss and Union Station, for information and bookings contact Keith Case and Associates, 59 Music Square West, Nashville, TN 37203, phone (615) 327-4646; (615) 327-4949 FAX.
- Doyle Lawson and Quicksilver, for information and bookings write: P.O. Box 3141, Bristol, TN 37625-3141.
- Lewis Family, Route 1, Box 75, Lincolnton, GA 30817. Phone (404) 359-3767.
- Lonesome River Band, for information and bookings contact

Keith Case and Associates, (615) 327-4646; (615) 327-4949 FAX.

- Lost and Found, for information and bookings, contact Allen Mills, P.O. Box 90, Woolwine, VA 24185, (540) 930-2622.
- Claire Lynch and the Front Porch String Band, for information and bookings contact Class Act Entertainment, P.O. Box 771, Gallatin, TN 37066, phone (615) 451-1229.
- Kate MacKenzie, for information and bookings write to P.O. Box 14404, St. Paul, MN 55114, or call (800) 695-4687.
- Del McCoury Band, for information and bookings contact Keith Case and Associates, (615) 327-4646; (615) 327-4949 FAX.
- John McEuen, for information and bookings write 5384 S. Alpine, Murray, Utah 84107 or call (801) 265-8486.
- Lynn Morris Band, for information and bookings contact Class Act Entertainment: phone 615-262-6886; FAX 615-262-6881; e-mail: Class Act@compuserve.com; website: [www.mindspring.com/budm/classact](http://www.mindspring.com/budm/classact) May 14 — Freight & Salvage Coffee House, Berkeley, CA; May 15 & 16 — Mariposa Goldrush Bluegrass Festival, Mariposa, CA;
- Nashville Bluegrass Band, for information and bookings contact Keith Case and Associates, 59 Music Square West, Nashville, TN 37203, phone (615) 327-4646; (615) 327-4949 FAX.
- The New Asheville Grass, for information and bookings, contact Desi Murphy, 834 Cragmont Rd. #15, Black Mountain, NC 28711 (704) 669-8752 or Nicholas Chandler, 13 Christ School Road, Arden, NC 28701 (704) 684-4968.
- No Strings Attached, "Bluegrass with a Twist". For bookings or information, contact Kathy Boyd at (503) 656-4462 or Judy Arter at (503) 632-4616. Check out their Web Site at < <http://www.swiftsite.com/nostringsattached> >
- Northern Lights, for additional information and booking contact Linda Bolton, 437 Live Oak Loop NE, Albuquerque, MN 87122-1406, phone/FAX 505-856-7100, email <nlightsmgt@aol.com>.
- David Parmley-Scott Vestal & Continental Divide, for booking or information, contact David Parmley or Scott Vestal, P.O. Box 1346, Hendersonville, TN 37077, (615) 822-5637 or (615) 824-4399.
- Lisa Ray and Old Town, for information and bookings, contact Al Shusterman at (916) 961-9511.
- Peter Rowan, for information and



bookings contact Keith Case and Associates, (615) 327-4646; (615) 327-4949 FAX. February 20 — Redwood Bluegrass Associates Concert in Spangenberg Theater, Palo Alto, CA; February 25-28 — 6th Annual Wintergrass Festival at the Sheraton Tacoma Hotel and Convention Center in Tacoma, WA.

- Sam Hill, for information and bookings, contact Doug Sammons, 22290 N.W. Green Mtn. Rd., Banks, OR 97106; 503-647-2350; or E-mail at DeecannBG@aol.com. January 9 — 9pm to 1:00am at Sam Bond's Garage in Eugene, OR, (503) 280-9858 or (503) 288-4191; February 6 — 9pm to 12:30am at McMenamin's Boon's Treasury, 888 Liberty Street NE, Salem, OR, (503) 399-9062
- Sand Mountain Boys, Traditional Bluegrass Music. For information and bookings contact call Wayne Crain, 7744 Rube Pace Rd., Milton, FL 32583, phone 850-983-2824; e-mail: <sandmtmboy@aol.com>; or Kenny Townsel at 256-561-3373; e-mail: <kennyboy@airnet.net>. June 17-21 — CBA's 24th Annual Father's Day Weekend Bluegrass Festival at the Nevada County Fairgrounds in Grass Valley, CA.
- Dean Sapp & Hartford Express, traditional and original bluegrass. For bookings and information, contact Power Music/Old Train Music, 2711 Augustine Herman Hwy., Chesapeake City, MD 21915 (410) 885-3319.
- Seldom Scene, for information and bookings contact Keith Case and Associates, (615) 327-4646; (615) 327-4949 FAX.
- The Slide Mountain Boys — good, pure, down to earth, traditional Bluegrass. For booking or information, contact Charles Edsall, 3545 Vista Blvd., Sparks, NV 89436 or call 702-626-3412. January 9 — Clare Tappan Lodge, Soda Springs, CA; January 16 — Coffee House at Stone Creek (Maytan Music), Reno, NV; January 23 — Great Basin Microbrewery, Reno, NV; January 30 — Cal Lodge at Soda Springs, CA; February 6 — Bartley Ranch Park (Main Ranch House), Reno, NV; February 13 — Clare Tappan Lodge, Soda Springs, CA; February 27 — Twisted Chimney Coffeehouse,

Reno, NV; March 27 — Clare Tappan Lodge, Soda Springs, CA; May 21 — Brewery Arts Center in Carson City, NV; July 31 — Bowers Mansion Bluegrass Festival, Carson City, NV;

- Southern Rail — for information or bookings, contact: Sharon Horovitch PO Box 323, Watertown, MA 02471; phone 781-891-0258; or e-mail: <SouthernRail@world.std.com>
- Larry Sparks and the Lonesome Ramblers, for information and bookings, contact Larry Sparks, P.O. Box 505, Greenburg, IN 47240, (812) 663-8055. June 17-20 — 24th Annual CBA Father's Day Weekend Bluegrass Festival at the Nevada County Fairgrounds in Grass Valley, CA;
- Ralph Stanley and the Clinch Mountain Boys, for information and bookings contact Randy Campbell of Superior Communications Company, 340 S. Columbus Blvd., Tucson, AZ 85711-4138, phone (520) 327-5439, FAX (520) 327-5378, L.A. Office (213) 258-0969.
- Larry Stephenson Band, for information and bookings, write to P.O. Box 731, Antioch, TN 37011-0731 or phone (615) 731-3123.
- String 'Em Up, Pizza Hut Champions. For bookings or information, contact Al Shusterman at (916) 961-9511.
- Sunnyside Drive, featuring Karl Maerz, Doug Moore, Bob Martin, and JoAnne Martin. For bookings and information, contact Karl Maerz (602) 983-1757 or (602) 964-2670.
- The Tylers, Bluegrass, Old-time Country and Gospel featuring the close family vocal harmonies of Joe, Kathy and Dee. For bookings for information, write 27602 N. 151 Ave., Sun City, AZ 85373-9568 or phone (602) 584-1552, FAX (602) 584-4396, e-mail [tylers@doitnow.com](mailto:tylers@doitnow.com) or visit their web site at <http://www.doitnow.com/-tylers>
- David Davis and the Warrior River Boys, for booking and information, contact David Davis, 6539 County Rd. 1545, Cullman, AL 35055, (205) 796-2261 or call Al Shusterman at (916) 961-9511





## Places to find Live Music

- Baja Taqueria at 41st and Piedmont in Oakland, CA. Bluegrass Jam session at the every Monday from 8 to 10 PM. Phone (510) 547-BAJA. For further information call Joe Howton (510) 843-8552.
- Blackwater Cafe, 912 N. Yosemite, Stockton, CA. Call (209) 943-9330 for information.
- Castle Folk Club, 100 Connecticut St., San Francisco, CA., (510) 531-0339.
- Cold Spring Tavern, Stagecoach Road (just off State Highway 154) 15 minutes from either Santa Barbara or Santa Ynez, CA. For information or directions, call (805) 967-0066. The Cache Valley Drifters perform every Wednesday from 7 - 10 p.m.
- Country Table Restaurant, 8999 Greenback Lane in Orangevale, CA. Weekly Bluegrass jam session every Wednesday 7-10:30 p.m. at the Country Table Restaurant, 8999 Greenback Lane in Orangevale, CA. Periodically features Bluegrass band performances. For further information, call Sacramento Area CBA Vice President Bob Thomas at (916) 989-0993.
- Cuppa Joe's, 194 Castro St., Mountain View, CA. For more information, call 650-967-2294. Bluegrass jam session every Wednesday evening beginning at 7:30 p.m.
- Freight and Salvage Coffee House, 1111 Addison Street, Berkeley. Call (510) 548-1761 for information. January 7 - Marley's Ghost; January 8 - Tony Trischka; January 10 - Rob Ickes; January 22 - Austin Lounge Lizards; February 10-12 - Ralph Stanley and the Clinch Mountain Boys;
- Great American Music Hall, 859 O'Farrell, San Francisco, CA, (415) 885-0750.
- Harbor Cafe, 7th Avenue in Santa Cruz, CA. Bluegrass performances every Saturday from 6-8 p.m. For information, call 831-475-4948.
- La Di Da Cafe & Gallery, Kelly and Purissima, Half Moon Bay, CA (415) 726-1779.
- Maytan Music Center & Coffee House, 777 South Center St., Reno, NV 89501, (702) 323-5443.
- McCabe's Guitar Shop, 3101 Pico Blvd., Santa Monica, CA. For information call (213) 828-4403 or

tickets (213) 828-4497.  
 • Merry Prankster Cafe, Hwy. 84, La Honda, CA, phone: 650-747-0660, website: <www.scruznet.com/~prankstr/>. Bluegrass every Sunday afternoon followed by bluegrass jam session.

• Michelangelo's Pizza Parlor, downtown Arcata, California. Live acoustic music every Wednesday, Friday and Saturday night from 7-9 p.m., no cover charge. Bluegrass music on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday with Aunt

Dinah's Quilting Party. Other music includes Irish, Country, Dixieland, and Folk. For information, call (707) 822-7602.  
 • Miner's Foundry Cultural Center, 325 Spring Street, Nevada City, (Continued on Page 22)

## Steve Kaufman's Flatpicking Camp

One Full Week ~  
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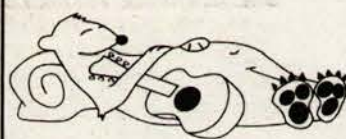
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- Morning Group Lecture Series
- Highly Focused Afternoon Panel Sessions
- Special Afternoon Slow Jam Classes
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(Continued from Page 21)

- CA. For information, call (916) 265-5040.
- Mr. Toot's Coffee House, upstairs over Margueritaville in Capitola Village, CA. Bluegrass music every Sunday from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. For information, call 831-475-3679.
- Murphy's Irish Pub, on the east side of the square in downtown Sonoma, California. Acoustic jam session (Celtic primarily) 1st Sunday of the month from 6 PM until it's over. Live acoustic music Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday nights. For further information call 707-935-0660. "Sonoma Mountain Band plays Bluegrass on the first Friday of every month, 8-10pm.
- Musician's Coffeehouse, Mt. Diablo Unitarian-Universal Church, 55 Eckley Lane, Walnut Creek, CA. For information call (510) 229-2710.
- The Neighborhood Church, in Pasadena, California. For information, call (818) 303-7014.
- The New 5th String Music Store, 930 Alhambra at J Street, Sacramento, CA. For information, call (916) 442-8282. Bluegrass Jam Session every Thursday night at 7:30 p.m. House Concert Series Performances times and prices vary - call for information.
- Old San Francisco Pizza Company - 2325 Road 20 in the El Portal Shopping Center, San Pablo, CA. Phone (510) 232-9644.
- The Palms, 726 Drummond Ave., Davis, CA 95616. For information and tickets, call (916) 756-9901. February 12 - Rob Ickes; March 6 - Golden Bough;
- Plowshares, Fort Mason Center, Marina at Laguna, San Francisco, CA 94123. For information call (415) 441-8910.
- Positively Front Street, 44 Front Street, Santa Cruz, CA. Bluegrass music every Friday at 8 p.m. For information or directions, call 408-426-1944.
- Radio Valencia Cafe, 1199 Valencia at 23rd Streets, San Francisco, CA. Bluegrass and Old-time music every Sunday 7-11 p.m. Dark Hollow, traditional Bluegrass band performs the 3rd Sunday every month, 7-11 p.m.
- Sam's BBQ, 1110 S. Bascom Avenue, San Jose, CA; phone: 408-297-9151. Every Tuesday 6-9 p.m. music from the 20's, 30's and

Forbes Rd., Laguna Niguel, CA. Instruments, accessories, lessons, CDs, tapes, books, videos, concerts. For information and schedule of entertainers call (714) 364-5270.

• Sicilito's Restaurant, 445 Conger Street, Garberville, CA. Bluegrass jam sessions first Tuesday of every month at 7 p.m. For further

information, call Ron Stanley at (707) 923-2603.

• Smokin' Johnnie's BBQ, 11720 Ventura Blvd., Studio City, CA. Phone 818-760-1623. 1st Saturday of every month Bluegrass and Swing Acoustic Music Showcase, 4:30 - 7:30 p.m. sponsored by Traditional Music.

• Sweetwater, 153 Throckmorton Avenue, Mill Valley, CA. For information, call (415) 388-2820.

• The Willowbrook Ale House 3600 Petaluma Blvd. North, Petaluma, CA, (707) 775-4232. Featuring the Crane Canyon Bluegrass Band every Thursday night, 6:30-10 p.m.

## Napoleon Crossing The Alps

Arr. by Steve Kaufman

Key of Am



# Upcoming Bluegrass, Old-time and Gospel Events



Happy New Year!

## JANUARY

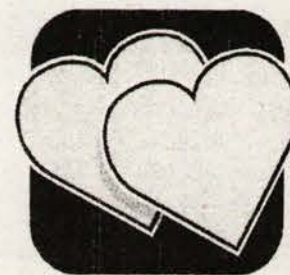
- January 1 & 2 — **23rd Annual New Year's Bluegrass Festival** at Jekyll Island, Georgia. Featuring: Ralph Stanley and the Clinch Mountain Boys, Josh Graves & Kenny Baker, the Osborne Brothers, the Lewis Family, Charlie Waller and the Country Gentlemen, Jim & Jesse and the Virginia Boys, Doyle Lawson and Quicksilver, the Village Singers, the Dry Branch Fire Squad, Illrd Tyme Out, the Larry Stephenson Band, the James King Band, the Stevens Sisters, Bill Grant & Delia Bell, the Gary Waldrep Band, the Sitze Family, Raymond Fairchild and the Maggie Valley Boys, Daleann Bradley & Coon Creek, and the Goins Brothers. For tickets or information, call (706) 864-7203; or write to Norman Adams or Tony Anderson, P.O. Box 98, Dahlonega, GA 30533.
- January 2 — **A Winter Night's Yeow Concert** by Doodoo Wah, Sourdough Slim & the Saddle Pals and The Foothillbillys, 8 p.m. at The State Theatre in Modesto, CA. Tickets \$12 advance and \$15 at the door. For information or tickets, call (209) 533-4464.
- January 5-9 — **Pete Wernick's Winter Banjo Camp** for Intermediate/Advanced Players in Boulder, Colorado. For information, write to: Dr. Banjo, 7930-F Oxford Road, Niwot, CO 80503.
- January 8 & 9 — **A Winter Night's Yeow Concert** by Doodoo Wah, Sourdough Slim & the Saddle Pals and The Foothillbillys, 8 p.m. at Holman Foundry Playhouse in Sonora, CA. Tickets \$12 advance and \$15 at the door. For information or tickets, call (209) 533-4464.
- January 9 — **Carol Elizabeth Jones and James Leva in concert**, 8 p.m., at the Palo Alto Unitarian Church, 505 E. Charleston, Palo Alto, CA. Opening are Kathy Kallick and Laurie Lewis. Sponsored by Redwood Bluegrass Associates. For information or tickets, call 650-691-9982.
- January 9 - 11 — **23rd Annual Worthen Memorial Fiddle Contest** in Yuma, AZ. For information, call 520-317-3023.
- January 12 — **Borderline and Slim Pickins perform**, 7:30 to 10 pm in the Crest Room of the Carlton Oaks Country Club, 9200 Inwood Dr., Santee, CA. The evening's performances will be recorded for a live CD project! Call Elizabeth at 619-286-1836.
- January 15 & 16 — **A Winter Night's Yeow Concert** by Doodoo Wah, Sourdough Slim & the Saddle Pals and The Foothillbillys, 8 p.m. at the Merced College Theatre in Merced, CA. Tickets \$12 advance and \$15 at the door. For information or tickets, call (209) 533-4464.
- January 15-17 — **Colorado River Country Music Festival**, Blythe, CA. Sponsored by Blythe Chamber of Commerce. Featuring: the Bluegrass Patriots, Country Current, Silverado, Pleasant Valley, String 'Em Up, Traditional Bluegrass, Colorado River Boys, High Plains Tradition and others, band and instrument contests and band scramble. For information, call the Blythe Area Chamber of Commerce at 760-922-8166 or 1-800-443-5513 or FAX 760-922-4010.
- January 23 — **Laurie Lewis and Tom Rozum in concert** with Texas singer-songwriter Ray Wylie Hubbard, at the Fallon House Theatre in Columbia State Park, CA. For tickets or information, write to P.O. Box 1073, Twain Harte, CA 95389; phone 209-586-2374; or e-mail: rsholer@sonnet.com.
- January 29 — **Winter Fest Bluegrass Night** in Taylor Hall, 1775 N. Indian Hill Blvd, Claremont, CA. Featuring: Clay County, High Hills and Clearly Bluegrass. The concert is a benefit for the Claremont Spring Folk Festival. For tickets or information, call 909-624-2928 (days) or 909-987-5701 (evenings).
- January 30 & 31 — **Best of the West Bluegrass Shoot-Out** at Eagle Mountain Ranch, 12100 S. Dean Road, Rainbow Valley, AZ 85326. Contests for the Best in the West Bluegrass Band, Family Band, Old Time Country Band and Champion Fiddlers. Also featuring performances by The Witcher Brothers, The Tylers, Flinthill Special, The Hat Band, McNasty Brothers, and Spring Valley Breakdown. For information or tickets, contact Ben Sandoval, c/o Eagle Mountain Ranch, 12100 S. Dean Road, Rainbow Valley, AZ 85326 or call 9602) 386-2316.
- February 4 — **the Dry Branch Fire Squad performs**, 8 pm at the La Paloma Theatre, 471 S. Coast Hwy (Hwy 101 at D. St.) in Encinitas. Tickets are \$13 in advance and will be available in December. Tickets at the door are \$15. Kids 12 & under half-price. Call La Paloma at 760-436-SHOW for theater information,

## FEBRUARY

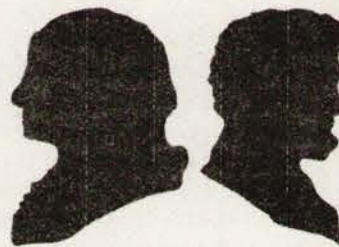
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- call Elizabeth at 619-286-1836 for concert information.
- February 4, 5, 6 & 7 — **25th Anniversary SPBGMA Bluegrass Music Awards and 16th National Convention** at the Sheraton Music City Hotel in Nashville, TN. Featuring performances by: James King Band, Special Consensus, Continental Divide, Goins Brothers, Weary Hearts, The Marksman, Country Gentlemen, Wild & Blue, Illrd Tyme Out, New Tradition, New Vintage, The Adairs, Lonesome River Band, Second exit, The Champmans, Bluegrass Brigade, Rarely Herd, Reno Brothers, Cordle/Jackson/Salley, Clark Family Twins, Kathy Chiavola Band, the Lewis Family, 5 for the Gospel, Vern Young Band, Appalachian Trail, the Isaacs, Unlimited Tradition, Lynn Morris Band, J.D. Crowe & the New South, and the Larry Stephenson Band. SPBGMA 16th International Band Championship, showcase of bands, workshops and more. For advance tickets, room reservations, contest registration or more information, contact SPBGMA c/o Chuck Stearman, P.O. Box 271, Kirksville, MO 63510; call 660-665-7172; FAX 660-665-7450; or e-mail: <spbgma@kvmo.net>
- February 5 — **Front Range in concert**, 8 p.m., at the Palo Alto Unitarian Church, 505 E. Charleston, Palo Alto, CA. Sponsored by Redwood Bluegrass Associates. Tickets are \$15 in advance and \$19 at the door. For information or tickets, call 650-691-9982.
- February 5 — **Dry Branch Fire Squad and the Witcher Brothers** will host an Amazing Grace Concert at the Bethel Lutheran Church in Encino, Ca. Tickets can be purchased from the Blue Ridge Pickin' Parlor or by phone at 818-700-8288.
- February 13 — **Rob Ickes concert and record release party** with Joe Craven and friends, at the Fallon House Theatre in Columbia State Park, CA. For tickets or information, write to P.O. Box 1073, Twain Harte, CA 95389; phone 209-586-2374; or e-mail: rsholer@sonnet.com.
- February 12, 13 & 14 — **Colorado's 14th Annual Mid-Winter Bluegrass Festival** at the Northglenn Holiday Inn & Holidome, I-25 & 120th Ave., Denver. CO. Featuring: Doyle Lawson & Quicksilver, Dry Branch Fire Squad, New Tradition, The Freight Hoppers, Second Exit, Bluegrass Patriots, Sitze Family, High Plains Tradition, Elliot's Ramblers, Bluegrass Pals, Steve Smith & Charles Provenza, Liz Masterson & Sean Blackburn, Bill Evans & Friends, Lucille Hinds, and the Great Rocky Mountain Band Scramble. Festival offers workshops, Holidome jamming,

- indoor pool and lots of free parking. For room reservations, call Northglenn Holiday Inn at 303-452-4100. Or Days Inn 1-800-874-4513 or 303-457-0688. For festival information or tickets, write to Seaman Productions, 1807 Essex Dr., Ft. Collins, CO 80526; call 970-482-0863; e-mail: <bluegrass@verinet.com>.
- February 13 — **Ralph Stanley and the Clinch Mountain Boys** in concert at the Pacific Cultural Center, 1307 Seabright Ave. in Santa Cruz, CA. Shows at 4 and 8 p.m. Tickets are \$16.50 per person (plus 5% city admissions tax). For information or tickets, call 831-338-2090. Tickets also available at BASS outlets.



- February 14 — **Ralph Stanley & the Clinch Mountain Boys** and Mountain Laurel in concert, sponsored by KVMR and the California Bluegrass Association. The concert will be held at 8 p.m. at the Grass Valley Vets Hall, 255 S. Auburn Street in Grass Valley, CA. Tickets are \$12 for KVMR and CBA members and \$14 general. Doors open at 7:30 p.m. Contact KVMR for ticket information at (530) 265-9073.



- February 19-21 — **2nd Annual Bowie Bluegrass and Old Time Country Music Festival**, Alaskan RV Park, Bowie, AZ. For Information, call 520-847-2218.
- February 19-21 — **4th Annual Pioneer Bluegrass Days** at the Pioneer Living History Museum in Cowtown, AZ. Featuring: Ralph Stanley and the Clinch Mtn. Boys, Shady Creek Band, paradox Bluegrass, Out of the Blue Gold Rush, The Hillwallys, Grasswhackers, the '98, and more. Dry camping, kids' activities, jamming, workshops and Sunday workshop service. For information, call Candice at 602-842-1102; or write to: Festival

- Coordinator, 8008 W. Tuckey Ln., Glendale, AZ 85303; e-mail: <Theabma@aol.com>
- February 19-21 — **Tri State Bluegrass Association 21st Annual Bluegrass Music Festival** at the Hannibal Inn in Hannibal, MO. Featuring: Lewis Family, Second Exit, Gold Wing Express, The Ezells and The Sand Mountain Boys. For information or tickets, contact Delbert Spray at 573-853-4344 or Oliver Smith at 309-876-2381.
- February 20 — **Tony Rice and Peter Rowan in concert**, 8 p.m., at Spangenberg Theater, Gunn High School in Palo Alto, CA. Sponsored by the Redwood Bluegrass Associates. Reserved tickets are \$20 in advance and \$24 at the door; general tickets are \$18 advance and \$22 at the door. For information or tickets, call 650-691-9982.
- February 21 — **59th Annual Tucson Old Time Fiddle Contest**, Demeester Outdoor Performance Center in Reid Park, Tucson, AZ. Free overnight camping Thursday through Monday. For information, call 520-747-2157.
- February 25, 26 & 27 — **"Toe Tappin' Festival"** at the County Fair Mall on Gibson Road in Woodland, CA. Three days of music from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m., sponsored by County Fair Mall and coordinated by CSOTFA #5. Free RV parking behind Gottschalks (no hookups). Free sanitary dump station at Bill Lowe & Sons, 801 East Street in Woodland. For information, contact Gloria Bremer at 530-662-7908.
- February 25-28 — **6th Annual Wintergrass Bluegrass Festival**, at the Sheraton Tacoma Hotel and Convention Center in Tacoma, WA. Featuring: Tony Rice & Peter Rowan, Illrd Tyme Out, Chesapeake, Laurie Lewis with Tom Rozum & Todd Phillips, Dry Branch Fire Squad, J.D. Crowe & the New South, Bluegrass Etc., Laurel Canyon Ramblers, Cache Valley Drifters, Cornerstone, Sidesaddle & Co., Gibson Brothers, Danny Barnes, Buell Grass, The Paperboys, Dan Crary, and many more. For information, write to Wintergrass Bluegrass Music Festival, P.O. Box 2356, Tacoma, WA 98401-2356; call 253-926-4164 or e-mail: earla615@aol.com.

## MARCH

- March 5-7 — **'99 Buckeye Bluegrass & Ole Time Country Review**, Eagle Mountain Ranch, Buckeye, AZ. For information, call 602-386-2316.
- March 13 — **Mollie O'Brien, Nina Gerber and friends** with Kristina Olsen in concert at the Fallon House Theatre in Columbia State

(Continued on Page 24)



# Upcoming Bluegrass, Old-time & Gospel Music Events

(Continued from Page 23)

Park, CA. For tickets or information, write to P.O. Box 1073, Twain Harte, CA 95389; phone 209-586-2374; or e-mail: rsholer@sonnet.com.



- March 25-28 — **Cowboy Poetry and Music Festival** at Melody Ranch in Santa Clara, CA. Featuring: Ian Tyson, Baxter Black, Riders in the Sky, Tish Hinojosa, Sons of the San Joaquin, Waddie Mitchell, Sourdough Slim & the Saddle Pals, and many more. For information, call 805-255-4910 or 805-286-4021, or visit their website at <www.scvpages.com/cowboy\_festival/cowboy.htm>
- March 26 & 27 — **Early Bird Bluegrass Music Show** at the OSU Extension Auditorium, 800 North 5th Street in Hugo, OK. Featuring: The Wildwood Valley Boys, The Vern Young Show, The Larkin Family, The Marksmen, Karl Shiflett & Big Country, Delia Bell & Bill Grant, The Wildwood Valley Boys, The Larkin Family, Goldwing Express, Billy Joe Foster's Special Edition and Twice as Nice. For information or tickets, contact Bill Grant, Rt. 2 Box 74 Bill Grant Road, Hugo, OK 74743 or call 580-326-5598.

## Happy Easter



### APRIL

- April 17 — **Eddie and Martha Adcock in Concert**, 8 p.m., at the Palo Alto Unitarian Church, 505 E. Charleston, Palo Alto, CA. Opening is the David Thom Band. Sponsored by Redwood Bluegrass Associates. Tickets are \$14 in advance; \$18 at the door/

phone. For information or tickets, call 650-691-9982.

- April 27-30 — **Pete Wernick's Bluegrass Jam Camp** at MerleFest, Wilkesboro, North Carolina (Monday-Thursday prior to the festival). For information, write to: Dr. Banjo, 7930-F Oxford Road, Niwot, CO 80503.
- April 29 - May 2 — **Merlefest '99, 12th Annual Homecoming** in Memory of Merle Watson, at Wilkes Community College in Wilkesboro, North Carolina. Partial lineup includes: Doc Watson, Blue Highway, The Sam Bush Band, Chesapeake, Guy Clark, Jerry Douglas, Bela Fleck and the Flecktones, James King Band, Hootie and the Blowfish, Lonesome River Band, Nashville Bluegrass Band, Nickel Creek, The Del McCoury Band, Lynn Morris Band, Longview, Tony Rice and many, many more. Advance tickets now on sale. For information or tickets, visit their website at: <www.merlefest.org>; call M-F 10 am - 4 pm 800-343-7857; FAX 336-838-6277; or write to Merlefest, P.O. Box 1299, Wilkesboro, NC 28697-1299.



### MAY

- May 7 — **Laurie Lewis in Concert**, 8 p.m., at the Palo Alto Unitarian Church, 505 E. Charleston, Palo Alto, CA. Sponsored by Redwood Bluegrass Associates. Tickets are \$20 in advance; \$24 at the door/phone. For information or tickets, call 650-691-9982.
- May 7, 8 & 9 — **Sonoma County 1999 Folk Festival** at the Sebastopol Community Center complex in Sebastopol, CA. Partial line-up includes Nobody You Know, Bryan Bowers, and Word of Mouth with more bands to be announced. For information, or to be a part of the planning of the festival, call 707-838-4857.
- May 28-30 — **Western Colorado Memorial Day Weekend Bluegrass Music Festival** at the Adam's Mark Hotel in Grand Junction, CO. Featuring in concert The Stanley Tradition Album Band, Lonesome River Band, The Ernie Thacker Band, Mountain Heart, Lost Highway, Bluegrass Patriots, Pam Gadd, Junior Sisk, Steve Spurgin, The Grasshoppers

and Wing & a Prayer. Festival offers indoor and outdoor stages, and a large grassy park area for jamming on the festival site, as well as instrument contests, workshops, and kids on stage. For room reservations, call GJ Adam's Mark 1-800-360-4066 or Country Inn at 1-800-990-1143. For tickets or information, contact Dick Pierle at 970-245-0836 or 1-888-OLD-BLUE; write to: Old Blue Inn, 715 S. 7th St., Grand Junction, CO 81501; e-mail <oldblue@gj.net>; or visit their website at: <www.old



blue.com>

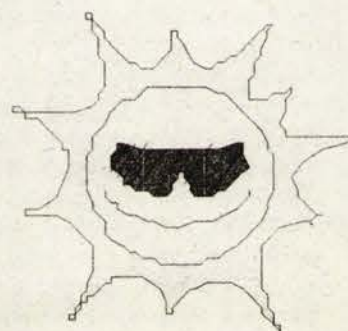
### JUNE

- June 17 - 20 — **CBA's 24th Annual Father's Day Weekend Bluegrass Festival** at the Nevada County Fairgrounds in Grass Valley, CA. Partial line-up includes: Mac Wiseman, The Osborne Brothers, Illrd Tyme Out, Larry Sparks & the Lonesome Ramblers, The Sand Mountain Boys, Dave Evans and Riverbend, Mountain Heart, Country Ham, The Crooked Jades, Special Consensus, Northern Pacific, Witcher Brothers, Within Tradition, Tim Graves and Cherokee, 5 For the Gospel, The Kathy Kallick Band, and cloggers to be announced. Early Bird tickets now on sale through February 28, 1999. For information, call 209-293-1559; FAX 209-293-1220; e-mail: cbawpn@volcano.net; or write to CBA Festival, P.O. Box 9, Wilseyville, CA 95257. For further ticket information, call David Runge at 707-762-8735, or see ad in this issue.
- June 17 - 20 — **Telluride Bluegrass** in Telluride, CO. Featuring: Earl Scruggs, Willie Nelson, Junior Brown, The Sam Bush Band, Ricky Skaggs and Kentucky Thunder, Altan, The Del McCoury Band, John Cowan, Bela Fleck & the Flecktones, Peter Rowan and the Free Mexican Airforce, Tim O'Brien and Jerry Douglas. For information or tickets, contact Planet Bluegrass, 500 Main St., Lyons, CO 80540; phone: 303-449-6007; FAX 303-823-0849; e-mail: planet@bluegrass.com.



### JULY

- July 8-11 — **Ol' Sawmill Bluegrass Jamboree** in Prince George, B.C. No details on lineup provided. Look for further information in the next issue.
- July 16-18 — **Darrington Bluegrass Festival**, Bluegrass Grounds, Darrington, WA.
- July 22 - 25 — **Columbia Gorge Bluegrass Festival** at Skamania County Fairgrounds in Stevenson, WA.



### AUGUST

- August 4 - 7 — **Grant's 31st Annual Bluegrass and Old Time Music Festival** in Salt Creek Park, Hugo, Oklahoma. Featuring: The Wildwood Valley Boys, The Lewis Family, The Tennessee Gentlemen, Tina & The Adairs, Bill Jones and the Bluegrass Travelers, Goldwing Express, The Rarely Herd, The Marksmen, 5 for the Gospel, Tommy Brown & County Line Grass, Billy Joe Foster's Special Edition, Delia Bell & Bill Grant, Twice as Nice, Karl Shiflett's Big Country Show and more to be added. For information or tickets, contact Bill Grant, Rt. 2 Box 74 Bill Grant Road, Hugo, OK 74743 or call 580-326-5598.
- August 13-15 — **Mount St. Helens Bluegrass Festival** at Toledo High School in Toledo, WA.

### SEPTEMBER

- September 3 - 5 — **Chilliwack Bluegrass Festival** in Chilliwack, B.C. For information, call 604-737-0270.
- September 23, 24 & 25 — **"Toe Tappin' Festival"** at the County Fair Mall on Gibson Road in Woodland, CA. Three days of music from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m., sponsored by County Fair Mall and coordinated by CSOTFA #5.

Free RV parking behind Gottschalks (no hookups). Free sanitary dump station at Bill Lowe & Sons, 801 East Street in Woodland. For information, contact Gloria Bremer at 530-662-7908.

### OCTOBER

- October 1-3 — **CBA Fall Campout, Annual Meeting & Election** in conjunction with the Feather River Fiddle and Bluegrass Jamboree in the Beckwourth River Front Park in Marysville, CA. Free dry camping on site. Jammers are encouraged to come early and participate in the town's annual Beckwourth Frontier Days Celebration. Open Mic and contests all weekend. For information, call Bob Hedrick at 530-589-4844 or Al Shusterman at 916-961-9611.

Send information on your upcoming events to: Editor, Bluegrass Breakdown, P.O. Box 9, Wilseyville, CA 95257 or e-mail to: cbawpn@volcano.net.

## "Winter Gold" concert series announced in Columbia State Park

Sho-sounds and Lioneyes entertainment announced recently they will be producing a "Winter Gold" concert series at the historic Fallon House Theater in Columbia State Park, California featuring some of the finest acoustic musicians in the business today.

On Saturday, January 23, award winning fiddler, singer, songwriter, Laurie Lewis will appear with Tom Rozum. On the same bill will be the legendary Texas singer-songwriter, Ray Wylie Hubbard.

Saturday, February 13, IBMA's 3-time Dobro Player of the Year, Rob Ickes, will be celebrating his latest record release on Rounder Records with a concert featuring musician extraordinaire Joe Craven and friends.

Sugar Hill recording artist, singer Mollie O'Brien will appear in concert with Nina Gerber and friends on Saturday, March 13. A special guest that evening will be Kristina Olsen.

Tickets for all concerts are \$12 in advance and \$15 at the door. There is a special price of \$33 for a concert series ticket. Tickets are available from Sho-Sounds in Twain Harte, CA and Sonora Music, 71 South Washington Street in Sonora, CA. Mail order tickets and information can be obtained from Sho-Sounds, P.O. Box 1073, Twain Harte, CA 95383; phone 209-586-2374; or e-mail: <rsholer@sonnet.com>.



# Bluegrass on the Internet...

## Associations

Bluegrass Connection — [www.gotech.com/](http://www.gotech.com/)  
 Bluegrass Northwest (non-profit bimonthly newsletter); Home Page: <http://www.geocities.com/Nashville/Opry/5933/index.html> (This home page has several more pages connected to it). E-mail address is: [sjbickle@everett.com](mailto:sjbickle@everett.com)  
 California Bluegrass Association — [www.mandolyn.com/cba3.html](http://www.mandolyn.com/cba3.html); e-mail: [cbawpn@volcano.net](mailto:cbawpn@volcano.net)  
 Colorado Bluegrass Music Society — [www.banjo.com/CBMA/index.htm](http://www.banjo.com/CBMA/index.htm)  
 The Country Western Music Association from Washington state — <http://members.aol.com/AGW1886/bluegrassnw.htm>  
 Desert Bluegrass Association — [www.azstarnet.com/public/non-profit/bluegrass/dbahome.htm](http://www.azstarnet.com/public/non-profit/bluegrass/dbahome.htm)  
 Fresno Folklore Society—folk music and dance with occasional Bluegrass concerts. E-mail: [brickard@csufresno.edu](mailto:brickard@csufresno.edu); website [www.cvip.fresno.com/~ckj](http://www.cvip.fresno.com/~ckj)  
 International Bluegrass Music Association—[www.ibma.org/IBMA](http://www.ibma.org/IBMA)  
 International Bluegrass Music Museum — [www.ibmm.org/IBMM](http://www.ibmm.org/IBMM)  
 inTUNE: Southern California Bluegrass News (Bluegrass Association of Southern California and San Diego Bluegrass Club) — <http://members.aol.com/intunenews/> and [intunenews@aol.com](http://intunenews@aol.com)  
 The Kentucky Friends of Bluegrass Music Club — <http://chapell.com/kfobg>  
 Mid-State Bluegrass Association — [www.mandolyn.com](http://www.mandolyn.com)  
 Oregon Bluegrass Association — [www.aracnet.com/%7eobagrass](http://www.aracnet.com/%7eobagrass). OBA's Bluegrass at the Beach can be found at the same website and click on Bluegrass at the Beach  
 Redwood Bluegrass Associates — [www.rba.org/](http://www.rba.org/)  
 Rosine Association — [www.gotech.com/rosine/homepg.htm](http://www.gotech.com/rosine/homepg.htm)  
 San Diego Bluegrass Club — <http://members.aol.com/intunenews/>; E-mail: [SDBCnews@aol.com](mailto:SDBCnews@aol.com) A non-profit organization promoting bluegrass music in San Diego county since 1972.  
 Santa Cruz Bluegrass Society — [www.infopoint.com/orga/scbs/index.html](http://www.infopoint.com/orga/scbs/index.html)  
 Southeast Bluegrass Association — [jbroyal@bellsouth.net](mailto:jbroyal@bellsouth.net)  
 Southwest Bluegrass Association — <http://www.S-W-B-A.com>  
 Washington Bluegrass Association — [www.scn.org/arts/wba/](http://www.scn.org/arts/wba/)

## Bands and Musicians

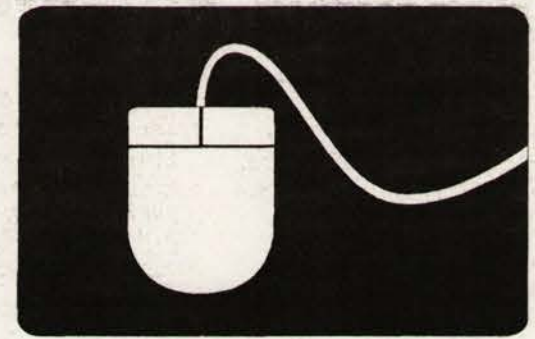
BanjerDan — For all your banjerpickin' needs, workshops, solo performances, hot pick-up bands, an acoustic utility sideman, etc., website: <http://www.mazart.com>, e-mail:

[mazart@mazart.com](mailto:mazart@mazart.com)  
 Blue Northern Bluegrass Band & Music Bookstore — [www.shasta.com/blue\\_northern](http://www.shasta.com/blue_northern). We have teamed up with one of the most trusted book sellers in the world to offer a nice selection of bluegrass and acoustic music books online. Visitors to our website can browse and enjoy deep discounts on hundreds of titles. We have included a link to the CBA site and a few others like Allen Guitars etc.  
 Dix Bruce and Jim Nunally: Grammy award winning acoustic flatpick guitarists who perform and teach traditional American, bluegrass, folk, and country music. Website: [www.ejthomas.com/bruce-nunally](http://www.ejthomas.com/bruce-nunally)  
 Compost Mountain Boys — [www.humboldt.edu/~manetasm/compost](http://www.humboldt.edu/~manetasm/compost)  
 J.D. Crowe And The New South: [http://www.rhrun.com/jd\\_crowe](http://www.rhrun.com/jd_crowe)  
 Dark Hollow Bluegrass Band — <http://www.webbnet.com/~Mandolin/dkhollow>. Covers Dark Hollow Bluegrass as well as other local San Francisco bands and events.  
 Doodoo Wah — [www.colorado.net/picklehead/doodoowah](http://www.colorado.net/picklehead/doodoowah)  
 Due West — California based bluegrass band of award winning musicians who add a touch of Bakersfield to traditional bluegrass and acoustic country music. Check out their premiere album with Grammy Award winner and Dobro Player of The Year: Rob Ickes. Website: [www.ejthomas.com/duewest](http://www.ejthomas.com/duewest)  
 Grass Menagerie — [www.research.digital.com/wrl/projects/misc/Grass\\_Menager](http://www.research.digital.com/wrl/projects/misc/Grass_Menager)  
 High Hills — <http://home.pacbell.net/highhill>  
 Hwy 52 — <http://members.aol.com/hwy52/>  
 Laurie Lewis — [www.laurielewis.com](http://www.laurielewis.com)  
 Mountain Heart — <http://www.doobieshea.com/mtnheart.htm>  
 Northern Lights — <http://www.super-charged.com/nlights>  
 No Strings Attached — <http://www.swiftsite.com/nostringsattached>  
 Red Dirt Bullies — [www.aracnet.com/~obagrass/reddirtb.html](http://www.aracnet.com/~obagrass/reddirtb.html)  
 Pagosa Hot Strings — website [www.webpan.com/pagosa\\_hotstrings](http://www.webpan.com/pagosa_hotstrings); e-mail: [skigrass@compuserve.com](mailto:skigrass@compuserve.com)  
 Tom Rozum — [www.laurielewis.com/tomrozum](http://www.laurielewis.com/tomrozum)  
 Phil Salazar — [www.west.net/~psalazar](http://www.west.net/~psalazar)  
 Sand Mountain Boys — e-mail: [JerryCrain@sandmtnboy@aol.com](mailto:JerryCrain@sandmtnboy@aol.com) or [KennyTownsel@kennyboy@airnet.net](mailto:KennyTownsel@kennyboy@airnet.net)  
 Sidesaddle & Co. — [www.cruzio.com/~gpa/sidesaddle/index.htm](http://www.cruzio.com/~gpa/sidesaddle/index.htm) or e-mail: [sidesaddle@yaho.com](mailto:sidesaddle@yaho.com)

[saddle99@yahoo.com](mailto:saddle99@yahoo.com).  
 Ricky Skaggs — [www.skaggsfamilyrecords.com/](http://www.skaggsfamilyrecords.com/)  
 Sourdough Slim — [www.twc.online.com/custom/sourdoughslim](http://www.twc.online.com/custom/sourdoughslim)  
 Ralph Stanley — [www.members.aol.com/rstanleyfc/ralphstanley.html](http://www.members.aol.com/rstanleyfc/ralphstanley.html)  
 The Tylers — [www.doitnow.com/~tylers](http://www.doitnow.com/~tylers)  
 Scott Vestal — Scott Vestal's Stealth Banjo <http://www.stealthbanjo.com>  
 Frank Wakefield — performance at the 1998 Mariposa Goldrush Bluegrass Festival, as well as information and upcoming gigs <http://home.earthlink.net/~phototom/Mariposafank.htm>  
 New Frank Wakefield page — <http://www.mossware.com/wakefield/>

## Bluegrass Pages and Links

The Bluegrass Telegraph — on-line Bluegrass magazine [www.bluegrass Telegraph.com](http://www.bluegrass Telegraph.com)  
 Alan Bond — <http://www.webbnet.com/~Mandolin>  
 Pat Cloud Home Page — [www.cloudbanjo.com](http://www.cloudbanjo.com)  
 Cybergrass — <http://www.banjo.com/>  
 Festival Finder — [www.festivalfinder.com/fest.home.html](http://www.festivalfinder.com/fest.home.html)  
 Gospel Song Website — <http://subnet.virtual-pc.com/da567664/>  
 KMUD, Garberville 91.1 FM — Listeners can now hear "The Bluegrass Show with Ron Stanley" 10 to noon Tuesdays on the world wide web at [www.kmud.org](http://www.kmud.org), then follow link.  
 KPIG, Watsonville 107.5 FM — Real audio and video 24-hours a day since 1996 at [www.kpig.com](http://www.kpig.com); e-mail: [sty@kpig.com](mailto:sty@kpig.com). Cuzin Al's Bluegrass show Sunday nights from 6-9 p.m.  
 Doc Hamilton Bluegrass Page — [www.ccwf.cc.utexas.edu/~docham](http://www.ccwf.cc.utexas.edu/~docham)  
 Phil Leadbetter: <http://www.rhrun.com/uncle>  
 Mariposa Goldrush Bluegrass Festival — <http://home.earthlink.net/~phototom/Festival.htm>; another site has photos of Frank Wakefield's performance at the 1998 Mariposa Festival — <http://home.earthlink.net/~phototom/Mariposafank.htm>  
 Planet Bluegrass — <http://www.Planet@bluegrass.com>, the home page for producers of the Telluride Bluegrass Festival, The Rocky Mountain Bluegrass Festival, and the Folks Festival, plus various other traditional and contemporary acoustic events throughout the year. Page provides links to all these events and



include The Bluegrass Academy and Workshops, band and instrumental contest information, merchandise, and other relevant links.

Ron Rose — [PWI.Netcom.com/~gittar/bluegrass.html](http://PWI.Netcom.com/~gittar/bluegrass.html)  
 The Bluegrass Music Page — [www.best.com/~kquick/bg.html](http://www.best.com/~kquick/bg.html)

## Luthiers

Allen Guitars — <http://www.allenguitar.com>, "Building Tomorrow's Collectable Instruments Today", E-mail: [allen@allenguitar.com](mailto:allen@allenguitar.com)  
 Gary H. Price, Luthier — <http://www.telepath.com/ghprice>, Mandolins, Banjos and Tailpieces. Lots of links to other Bluegrass and acoustic music sites.  
 Recording King Banjos — [www.recordingking.com](http://www.recordingking.com)  
 Stringed Instrument Division — <http://www.montana.com/instruments>. Offering the finest in new and handmade instruments. For a catalog, E-mail [sid@montana.com](mailto:sid@montana.com)  
 Taylor Guitars: [www.taylorguitars.com](http://www.taylorguitars.com)

## Magazines

Banjo News Letter — [www.tiac.net/users/bnl/](http://www.tiac.net/users/bnl/)  
 Bluegrass Now — [www.bluegrassnow.com](http://www.bluegrassnow.com)  
 Bluegrass Unlimited — [www.bluegrassmusic.com](http://www.bluegrassmusic.com)

## Music-related Products

AcuTab — Lessons By Mail <http://www.acutab.com/Lessons.html>  
 Pine Valley Music — publishers of "America's Music: BLUEGRASS"; website: <http://www.pinevalleymusic.com>  
 Bluegrass Radio Network — [www.bluegrassradio.com/](http://www.bluegrassradio.com/)  
 Homespun Tapes — <http://www.homespuntapes.com>  
 Mel Bay — <http://www.melbay.com> or e-mail: [@melbay.com](mailto:@melbay.com)  
 Mountain Arts Music School — [www.netshop.net/~100mile/mtn\\_arts](http://www.netshop.net/~100mile/mtn_arts) or email: [mtnarts@netshop.net](mailto:mtnarts@netshop.net)

## Music-related Services

ASCAP — [www.ascap.com/](http://www.ascap.com/)

BMI — [www.bmi.com/](http://www.bmi.com/)

## Record Companies and Sales

Copper Creek Records — <http://www.coppercreekrec.com>; E-mail: [CopCrk@aol.com](mailto:CopCrk@aol.com)  
 County Record Sales — [www.countysales.com](http://www.countysales.com)  
 Doobie Shea Records — [www.doobieshea.com](http://www.doobieshea.com)  
 Elderly Instruments — <http://www.elderly.com>  
 Freeland Recording Co. — website: [www.crfrc.com](http://www.crfrc.com) and e-mail: [crfrc@aol.com](mailto:crfrc@aol.com) (Charles R. Freeland)  
 Hay Holler Records — [hayholler@nrv.net](mailto:hayholler@nrv.net)  
 Pinecastle/Webco Records — <http://www.pinecastle.com>  
 Rebel Records — [www.rebelrecords.com](http://www.rebelrecords.com)  
 Rounder Records — [www.rounder.com](http://www.rounder.com)  
 Sierra Records — [www.sierrarecords.com](http://www.sierrarecords.com)

## 1999 Maple City Bluegrass Festival June 25 & 26 in Ohio

The 5th annual Mape City Bluegrass Festival will be held on June 25 and 26, 1999, at the Huron County Fairgrounds, Norwalk, Ohio.

The lineup includes, 5 time IBMA Vocal Group, Illrd. Tyme Out, Dave Evans, James King, Jimmy Martin, Dr. Ralph Stanley, Larry Sparks, The Bluegrass Strangers, The Hart Brothers, The Bluegrass Mountaineers, License to Drive, and sound by The Bluegrass Strangers.

An added treat on Saturday nite will feature Dr. Ralph Stanley and Jimmy Martin doing duets from an album they did together. When these two get on stage together, that represents over 100 yrs. of Bluegrass Music. They are long-time friends, but scheduling, and travel rarely let these two make an appearance on stage at the same time. Other cameo duets will be done by Dave Evans/Larry Sparks, Dr. Ralph Stanley/Larry Sparks.

Advanced ticket price is ONLY \$30.00. Send ticket requests to: Whistle Creek Productions, 11016 Humm Rd., Berlin Hts., Ohio 44814, or phone (419) 588-3503 for information.



# "Plugged In"

by Banjobill@abilnet.com

We're into a new year already with many more introductions ahead to some really educational and fun e-mail discussion groups. The two lists we're going to discuss on this visit are BANJO-L and BGFEST.

Though Banjo-L may be a bit more limited for everyone to jump into, it is one of the finest e-mail discussion groups for the banjo.

This list was started by list owner Sean Barry, sjbarry@ucdavis.edu, back on June 6, 1996. It is for devotees of many different sorts and styles of the banjo, banjo music, artists, accessories, history, and any other subject related to the instrument. The list is unmoderated and not limited to any one style of banjo picking. Banjo-L is open to Dixieland clawhammer players as well as melodic banjo-uke enthusiasts.

As of Dec. 13, 1998, the list had 992 subscribers. There are some rules of the list that I'll inform you of, so you won't be flying in blind. You'll get this information shortly after you subscribe to the list. It's suggested that the posts be about the banjo, banjo part, maker, player and/or banjo accessory, etc. There are a lot of basic common sense rules, like no flaming others, do not post "virus warnings" and other truly off topic subjects.

Do not use this list for any commercial purpose, like "for sale" ads. Banjo-L has a website for such ads, which is limited to the Banjo-L subscribers. If you aren't sure about anything you post to the list, I strongly urge that you drop the list owner a note first.

Being a banjo picker /music lover, I can tell you first hand that I truly enjoy all the time I spend with

this list. Like all the other e-mail discussion lists, keep in the back of your mind that not everything written there is gospel. Examine information in the light of your own personal experiences and draw from them.

Subjects talked about on Banjo-L have been quite far reaching. Many interesting threads (discussions) recently include which is the most favorite picks for most pickers, as well as the do's and don'ts of carrying the banjo with you on the airplane. There are everyday ongoing discussions about the mechanical workings of the banjo, like head change, tone ring additions, the best strings to use, and sources for tablature for the banjo. If you are looking for banjo-related websites, just ask and you will get replies and lots of sincere good assistance. You are going to find a lot of polished musicians down here as well as lots of pickers and grinners who have learned from just the 'school of hard knocks'. Your time and energy is well spent on Banjo-L.

How do you get to Banjo-L? Send your request to: listproc@ucdavis.edu. Do not send your subscription request to the list. Leave the subject line of your message blank and in the body of the message, type: SUBSCRIBE BANJO-L banjobill@abilnet.com Bill Bubbs. I am already on board, so just be sure to put your information in place of mine. You will get a quick reply most times and be on your way.

There is also another list for the banjo picker, which I'll get to in another column.

Next, it's BGFEST, which is the internet place for Bluegrass Festival Discussion. It's supposed to be

the first such mailing list on the internet and is totally free. It started on February 1, 1998.

The concept is great. And the need truly is there, too. It's open to everyone who enjoys all aspects of the bluegrass festival. From the music, people, and camping, to the parking lot, picking and everything in between. It is not a moderated forum, so when you reply to the list, all list members receive the message. It is also an excellent forum for promoters to advertise their festivals.

The list is not for general bluegrass discussion. The topic of tape is not permitted on this list or any other iBluegrass mailing lists. The number of subscribers to the list does exceed 500 members, which is going to be a huge networking help when finding out what's going on and where that might not be widely advertised.

BGFEST is operated by iBluegrass Magazine. BGFEST is a sister list of Traditional-L, Old Time-L, Newgrass-L, LadyGrass-L and BluegrassDJ.

How do I get started? Send your request to Listserver@dte.net. In the body of your message and not in the subject line, put in SUBSCRIBE BGFEST. It's that simple. In comparison to some of the other lists that I have been on, it's not a high volume list like BGRASS-L or even BANJO-L, but it is interesting and it gives a look at other sides of festivals and some of the behind the scene things that the average John Q. Public never gets to see first hand. What They're Talking About On the Lists

On BGRASS-L, a lot of people are still talking about their personal visit to the big doings up in Ken-

tucky at the IBMA Fan Fest '98, one of those big yearly doin's that a lot of the bluegrass community lays down their tools of the trade to attend. Some of us still had to keep the candles lit in the lighthouse, but are interested in the trials and tribulations people had getting tickets and motel rooms and having to spend as much money as they did. And at the end of the year, everyone has their own best of the best list of artists for 1998. A lot of talk on the list has been about banjos showing up on TV in shows and commercials, with more and more bluegrass sliding into the mainstream of music choices.

On BANJO-L, torque requirements for the banjo head and the hardware to keep it in place have been at the top of the discussion wheel. I learned a great deal of information about the Dillards, history and web site and their music. Not all banjos are created equal, especially if yours doesn't have a tone ring in it, so I've found out. But people will still accept you, even if you can't jam one into your banjo. Picked up on many leads for music other than bluegrass than can be played on the banjo. Sometimes we pickers get the notion that only one or two styles of music can come from our strings, but there is a whole world of music out there awaiting to come from your banjo and questions to the list really opened my eyes as to what other forms of music have been tabbed and can be played on the banjo without any adjustment whatsoever, ha, ha, ha.

On BGFEST, I've picked up on some interesting subjects of recent, regarding what to do with the kids when you attend bluegrass festi-

vals, plus tips on buying cassettes and CDs from artists and vendors. It's a good feeling to see that a lot of the parking lot pickers and jam sessions do allow beginner pickers and don't shun them, like a lot of jam sessions that only allow seasoned more experienced players in them. I've always wondered about that Winterhawk festival and there have been postings lately from people involved with that huge festival. And in general, it's good to read about other bluegrass festivals close to Arizona, in the planning stages and finding out far in advance the acts that are beginning to get booked.

OK, thanks much for stopping by. Looking forward to our next visit. Thank you for all the e-mail and suggestions and questions. Keep them coming of course. Happy e-mailing!

*Banjobill is Bill Bubbs, a recovering intermediate 5-string banjo picker living in Phoenix, Arizona with 2 dogs and 2 cats and a real good wife. By all means, if you have any questions regarding how to get into the lists, how to be a part of them and anything else related to the fun world of "e-mailing" don't hesitate to send me an e-mail. Promise to get back to you as quick as possible. Till next month happy e-mailing.*

## Harmonica Korner

### Especially for ... Beginners, Kids, Grandparents, Anyone

by Howard Polley

Pick up a harmonica. Any harmonica. Any brand. Blow on it and what happens? Magic happens. Well, not exactly; but wait a minute. A lot of things do occur that you had little to do with. Years and years of skillful manufacturing make possible pleasing sounds you can produce with a minimum of effort. In fact, it's hard to make the harp sound bad... assuming you're blowing through the side with the square holes in it. Most learn to play a tune on the harmonica in a short time. OK you say, then what are some benefits of playing harmonica?

How about — It's just plain fun! You can grab your harp from your pocket or purse, whenever you want, and just start blowing on it. Play some songs you know or are learning. Try saying words through

your harp. Experiment. Discover. Imitate a train. It's just plain fun.

What else? It's relaxing. Today stress and tension encroach upon us before we even know what hit us. Enter the harmonica. Playing your harp can get your mind off a disagreeable situation and on to something more agreeable. You even begin to feel and look better. Maybe you sense a renewed vigor. "Harp Therapy" has done it again!

Suppose you are a parent, grandparent, friend or guardian of a child. If you're learning to play a few songs, you could teach a child how to enjoy music via the harmonica. This arrangement could help both of you become better acquainted and perhaps you could help this young person to enjoy the harp also. Maybe you might even

help them to avoid some of today's dangers as well as discover some of today's lasting enjoyments — all because you're learning music together.

As your playing improves, you can continue to share your music with others. Churches, Service Clubs, Senior Citizen homes and other settings are happy to have you give of your abilities to their organization. Making music for the enjoyment of others is another benefit of playing harmonica.

You can also learn to read music by playing harmonica. Get yourself one of the harmonica instruction books by noted players such as Charlie McCoy or Tommy Morgan. These particular books will teach you about reading music as well as playing the harp. Also,



keep reading Harmonica Korner. You'll add bits and pieces about reading music to your knowledge repertoire.

Finally, in whatever setting, for many or for few, or just for yourself; the harmonica offers the medium for expressing and communicating your deepest feelings.

Want to get something off your chest? Then just blow your blues or thoughts away on the harp. These are just a few of the benefits of playing the harmonica. If you haven't already got one, get yourself a good harp and start blowing!

Thanks for your time. Keep on harping.



# Where can I go to hear or play some music?

## California Bluegrass Association or CBA

### Member Sponsored Jams

- Alameda - Thin Man Strings, 1506 Webster Street, Alameda, CA. Acoustic jam session every Friday from 6 to 9 p.m. For information, call (510) 521-2613.
- Bakersfield - Eric Janson home, 1530 Camino Sierra, Bakersfield, CA. Jam 2nd and 4th Thursdays from 7 to 10 p.m. For further information, call (805) 872-5137.
- Campbell - Bluegrass jam session every Wednesday from 6 to 9 p.m. at Sam's BBQ, 1461 W. Campbell Avenue in Campbell, CA. Host band is Jake Quesenberry and friends. For information or directions, call 408-374-9676.
- Copperopolis - Bluegrass jam the 2nd and 4th Fridays of each month 7 p.m. until ? at the Old Corner Saloon, 1/2 Mile off Hwy 4 on Main Street in Copperopolis, California. Sponsored by Fred and Melinda Stanley. For more information, call (209) 785-2544.
- Garberville - Bluegrass jam 1st Tuesday of each month, 7 p.m. at Sicilito's Restaurant, 445 Conger Street in Garberville. For further information, call Ron Stanley at (707) 923-2603.
- Folsom - Monthly gospel jams, the 2nd Saturday of the month from 6-10 p.m. at the Landmark Baptist Church, 609 Figueroa St., in Folsom CA. For information or directions, call Bob Thomas at call Sacramento Area CBA Vice President Bob Thomas at (916) 989-0993.
- Livermore - Bluegrass Jam Session every 2nd Saturday, 7 - 10 p.m. at Magoo's Pizza, 364 South Livermore Ave., in Livermore, California. Directions: take Livermore exit off I-580, cross 1st street on left between 3rd and 4th Streets. For information please call (510) 447-2406.
- Livermore - Bluegrass Jam Session every 3rd Sunday, 1-4 p.m. at The Virtues of Coffee, 1819 Holmes (Hwy 84), Livermore, CA. Call (510) 447-2406 for information and directions.
- Mountain Ranch - Bluegrass and Acoustic Country music Jam every 4th Sunday, 2 p.m. at the Country Lantern Cafe, 7858 Mountain Ranch Road in Mountain Ranch, CA. For information, call 209-754-5435.
- Napa - "Bluegrass and Fiddle Jam Session every Thursday night from 7:30pm to 10:30pm in Napa. Call Jerry at (707) 226-3084."
- Orangevale - Weekly Bluegrass jams, every Wednesday from 7-10:30 p.m. at the Country Table Restaurant, 8999 Greenback Lane in Orangevale, CA. Periodically features Bluegrass band performances. For further information,

call Sacramento Area CBA Vice President Bob Thomas at (916) 989-0993.

- Porterville - Bluegrass Jams 1st and 3rd Thursdays at 7 p.m. at the Golden Hills Mobile Home Park Recreation Center, 720 E. Worth Ave. in Porterville. For information or directions, call Don Millwee at (209) 784-6206.
- Sacramento Area - Monthly Bluegrass jam sessions hosted by the Sacramento Area CBA. Locations and times vary. For further information, call Sacramento Area Activities Vice President Bob Thomas at (916) 989-0993.
- Williams - VFW Hall, Corner of 9th & C Streets, 3rd Sunday 1-5 p.m. Call William (Bill) Herron (707) 995-1412 for details.
- Woodland - Old Time Fiddling Jam at the County Fair Mall, 1264 East Gibson Road, Woodland, CA, first Sunday of each month from 1-4 p.m. For more information, call Gloria Bremer at (916) 662-7908 or Ferrel McGrath at (916) 421-7417.

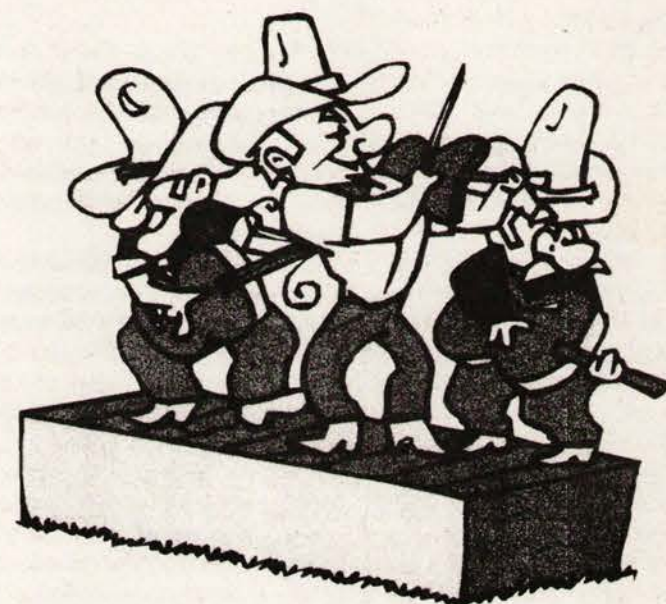
## California Old-time Fiddlers Association

- Bella Vista - District #6 California State Old Time Fiddlers Jam to Bella Vista School Multipurpose room the 1st Sunday of each month 1-4PM. Bella Vista is a small town near Redding, California. Call 530-223-6618 for further information.
- Castro Valley - United Methodist Church at 19806 Wisteria Avenue in Castro Valley, California, 4th Sunday of every month from 1:30 to 5 p.m. For further information or directions, please call Suzanne Klein at (510) 527-2538.
- El Cajon - Wells Park Center, 1153 Madison, El Cajon, CA. 3rd Sunday 1-5 p.m. Call Omer Green at (619) 748-3493 for details.
- Fresno - Senior Citizen's Village Community Room, 1917 S. Chestnut Ave., every Saturday Dance, 7:30-11:00 p.m. Call Margarette Smith at (209) 924-2034 for details.
- Fullerton - 1414 Brookhurst Rd., Fullerton, CA 1st Sunday 1-4 p.m. Call Mike Beckett at (619) 373-4096 for details.
- Merced - Colony Grange Hall, 2277 Child's Avenue, Merced, CA. 2nd Saturday 7-11 p.m. For information, call Royce Lancaster at (209) 291-4875.
- Oak View - Oak View Community Center, 18 Valley Rd., Oak View, CA. 2nd & 4th Sunday 12-4 p.m. For information, call Margaret Kirchner at (805) 646-3100.
- Oildale - Rasmussen Senior Citizen's Center, 115 E. Roberts Lane in Oildale, CA. 2nd and 4th Sunday, 1:30 - 4:30 p.m. Call Doyn Simpson (805) 833-2594 for details.

- Orangevale - Orangevale Grange Hall, 5807 Walnut Avenue, 2nd Sunday, 1-5 p.m. For information, call Vivian Steele (916) 676-0825.
- Oroville - Monday Club, 2385 Montgomery Blvd, 4th Sunday each month 1-4:30 p.m. For information, call Bob Hedrick at (916) 589-4844.
- Shasta - New School, Red Bluff Drive, 1st Sunday 1-5 p.m. Call Bob Burger at (916) 549-4524 for further information.
- Williams - Veteran's Memorial Hall, 9th & C St., Williams, CA. 3rd Sunday 1-5 p.m. For information, call Bill Herron at (530) 528-9321.

## Music Store With Regular Jams/Concerts

- Berkeley - The Fifth String Music Store, 3051 Adeline, Berkeley, CA. Jam session every Thursday beginning at 8 p.m. For information or directions, call (510) 548-8282.
- Bakersfield - Buskers Music, 630 18th Street, Bakersfield, CA. Bluegrass jam 1st and 3rd Thursdays from 7 to 10 p.m. and every Saturday from 2 p.m. until ?. Sponsored by the Mid-State Bluegrass Association. For information, call (805) 633-1913 or (805) 872-5137.
- Canoga Park - Blue Ridge Pickin' Parlor, 20246 Saticoy, Canoga Park. Instruments, repair and setup, Cds, tapes and records, books and videos, accessories. Lessons on fiddle, guitar, mandolin, banjo and more. Regularly scheduled jam sessions - call in advance for dates and times (818) 700-8288.
- Laguna Niguel - Acoustic Jam session 4th Friday of every month from 7-11 p.m. at Shade Tree Stringed Instruments, 28062-D Forbes Rd., Laguna Niguel, CA. For information, call 714-364-5270.
- Leucadia - Jam Till You Drop, first Saturday of each month from 11 a.m. at Traditional Music, 1410 N. Hwy 101, Leucadia. For information, call (619) 942-1622.
- Mariposa - Cousin Jack Pickin' Popcorn Music Jam at Cousin Jack's Store, 5026 Hwy 140, Mariposa, California. 1st Saturday of each month from 6 to 10 p.m. For further information, please call (209) 966-6271.
- Mountain View - Bluegrass Jam Session every Wednesday evening beginning at 7:30 p.m. at Cuppa Joe's, 194 Castro Street in Mountain View, CA. For information, call 650-967-2294.
- Pasadena - Traditional Music Store - Bluegrass and Old Time Jam the 1st Saturday of every month from 2-5 p.m. Regularly scheduled workshops offered. Location is 228 El Molino Ave., Pasadena,



CA. For further information, call (818) 577-4888. (408) 377-2613.

- Sacramento - The New Fifth String Music Store, 930 Alhambra Blvd. At J Street in Sacramento. Bluegrass Jam every Thursday at 7:30 p.m. New and used instruments, CDs, tapes, books, videos, lessons, workshops, repairs and more. For information, call (916) 452-8282.

## Independent Clubs

- Arroyo Grande - The Central Coast Fiddlers hold jam sessions twice a month, from 1:00 to 4:00 PM, 2nd Sunday of the month in Arroyo Grande, CA (between Santa Maria and San Luis Obispo) at the Portuguese Hall; 4th Sunday of the month at the Nipomo Senior Citizens' Center (between Arroyo Grande and Santa Maria). Call for details or directions: (805) 349-2274, days or (805) 929-6071, eves.
- Berkeley - Freight & Salvage, 1111 Addison St., Berkeley. Occasional Bluegrass jams. Call (510) 548-1761 for details or to get on their mailing list.
- Carlsbad - North County Bluegrass Band monthly meetings, 7 p.m. on the fourth Tuesday of each month. That Pizza Place, 2622 El Camino Real, Carlsbad. Phone 434-3171 for more information.
- Centerville - Bluegrass Jam Sessions the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of each month, 7 - 11 p.m. at the Odd Fellows Hall in Centerville, CA (in the Fresno area). Sponsored by the Kings River Bluegrass Association. For information and directions, please call Mike McDonald at (209) 434-6163 or Terry Tilley at (209) 875-6543.
- Ceres - Central California Old-Time Fiddlers Assn., Walter White School, 1st and 3rd Fridays 6-10 p.m. Call Bill Whitfield at (209) 892-8685 for details.
- Coloma - at the Vinyard House, 530 Cold Springs Road, Coloma, CA. Bluegrass and Old time Music Jam every Thursday night at 8:00 p.m. For information call Todd Saunders at (916) 626-5615.
- Covina - Open Mike Night - 1st Saturday of each month at the Fret House. Call (818) 915-2023 for information.
- Exeter - Bluegrass Jam Session at the VIP Pizza, 449 E. Pine St., (2 blocks south of Hwy 198 on Hwy 65, then 2 blocks west to Pine Street), Exeter, California. Meeting at 7 p.m. on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday each month. For more information, call Pat Conway at (209) 561-4309 or George Beckett (2109) 784-5286.
- Fiddletown - Old Tyme Live Music Jam every Sunday afternoon from 2 to 6 p.m. at the Fiddletown General Store on Main Street in Fiddletown, California. (Off Hwy 49 between Jackson and Placerville). Musicians and listeners welcome. For further information or directions, call Oluf Olufson at (209) 245-3671.
- Fresno - Fresno Folklore Society, P.O. Box 4617, Fresno, CA 93744-4617. Monthly potluck and jam. For further information, call Nancy Waidlow at (209) 224-1738 at (209) 431-3653 or Newsletter Editor Carl Johnson, phone (209) 229-8808.
- Granada Hills - Monthly bluegrass concerts produced by the Union Station Music Productions at the Granada Hills Masonic Hall, (818) 894-1643 for information.
- Granada Hills, Bluegrass Association of Southern California (BASC) night at Baker Square, 17921 Chatsworth Street (818) 366-7258; featured band plus open mike jamming on the third Tuesday of each month 7:30 - 10 p.m.
- Hollywood - Bluegrass Jam the 3rd Tuesday of every month 8 p.m. - 12 a.m. at the Highland Grounds Coffee House, 742 N. (Continued on Page 28)



# Where can I go to hear or play some music?

(Continued from Page 27)

- Highland Avenue, Hollywood, California. \$2 cover charge/one drink minimum. For more information call Blue Ridge Pickin' Parlor (818) 700-8288.
- Lake Isabella - Bluegrass jam the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of every month from 7-10 p.m. at 5405 Lake Isabella Blvd. Sponsored by the Mid-State Bluegrass Association. For information, call Paul Ash at (619) 379-3189.
  - Lompoc - Acoustic jam session, 7-10 p.m. on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month at the Southside Coffee Company, 105 South H St., Lompoc, CA (Telephone (805) 737-3730.) For further information, contact Bill Carlsen (805) 736-8241, or email Charlie Bockius via e-mail at: <cbockius@sbceo.k12.ca.us>
  - Long Beach, Papas Western BBQ & Saloon, 5305 E. Pacific Coast Hwy. (corner of PCH & Anaheim St.) (562) 597-4212. Featured bluegrass band performs on Sunday evenings from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.
  - Manteca - Delta Old Time Fiddlers and Bluegrass Association, 1st and 3rd Saturdays 6:30-10:30, at the Manteca Senior Center, 295 Cherry, Manteca, CA. Call Larry Burttram (209) 823-7190 for details.
  - Nevada City Weekly Jam - On Thursday evenings in Nevada City there will be a bluegrass jam at the Rainbow Market at 230 Woodpecker Lane. Call Wayne Rutherford at 478-9502 for more information.
  - Oakland - Bluegrass jam every Monday from 8-10 p.m. at the Baja Taqueria, 4070 Piedmont Ave. (near 41st Street), Oakland, CA. Phone (510) 547-BAJA. For further information call Joe Howton (510) 843-8552.
  - Palo Alto - Santa Cruz Bluegrass Society Jam session the 3rd Sunday of every month from 1 to 5 p.m. at St. Michael's Art Cafe, 804 Emerson Street in Palo Alto.
  - Poway - San Diego North County Bluegrass and Folk Club Jam Session the last Wednesday night of each month at Mikey's Coffee House, 12222 Poway Road in Poway, CA. For updated information or a time slot, call (619) 486-5540 or 596-2962/
  - Rialto - Jam 4th Sunday of every month at the C&A Barn, 916 S. Riverside Ave, Rialto, CA. 10 a.m. until late afternoon. For information call (714) 874-0550 or (714) 874-4771.
  - Riverside - Sunday folk and blue-

- grass concerts at The Barn at the UC, Riverside. For information call (714) 682-3621.
- San Diego - San Diego Bluegrass Club events - Featured band plus open mike and jamming on the 2nd Tuesday of each month, 7:30 - 10 p.m. at the Carlton Oaks Country Club Crest Room, 9200 Inwood Dr. in Santee. Open Mike and Jam on the 3rd Tuesday of each month, 7-10 p.m. at Fuddrucker's Restaurant, 340 Third St., in Chula Vista. Bluegrass Workshops on the 2nd Saturday of every month, call for time, topic and location. All events are free! Call (619) 286-1836.
  - San Diego - Walt's Slow Jam, first Friday of each month at 6:30 p.m.; San Carlos Recreation Center, 6445-Lake Badin Ave., San Diego. Call Walt Richards (619) 280-9035 for information.
  - San Jose - Santa Clara Valley Fiddler's Association jam session, 1st Sunday of every month, 2 - 5:30 p.m., at the John Muir Middle School, 1260 Branham Lane (near the Almaden Expressway) in San Jose. All acoustic musicians welcome. For further information, contact Ken Jones, 191 Lichi Grove Ct., San Jose, Ca

95123-1751.

- San Jose - Gospel Bluegrass Jam, Monday nights 7-9:30 p.m. at the St. Francis Episcopal Church, 1205 Pine Ave., San Jose, CA. Call Ken Jones, (408) 281-2229 or (408) 354-8097 for more information.
- Sonoma - Murphy's Irish Pub on the east side of the square in downtown Sonoma, California. Acoustic Jam Session 1st Sunday of the month 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. Acoustic Song-writers' Night the 3rd Sunday of each month from 4:00 p.m. Live acoustic music Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights. Sonoma Mountain Band plays Bluegrass on the first Friday of every month, 8-10pm. For further information, call (707) 935-0660.
- Whittier - 2 jams a month on Sundays. Parnell Park, corner of Lambert & Scott, Whittier, \$2 donation. Call (818) 917-0973 for information.
- Woodland Hills - Songmakers, a non-profit organization devoted to "the enjoyment and support of traditional and contemporary folk and other forms of home-made and acoustic music. For information about "hoots" in various Southern California locations



and membership information write to Kay Conroy, Songmakers, 22707 Burbank Blvd., Woodland Hills, CA 91387.

*Editor's note: If you have a new jam site, corrections for any of the listings, or know of a jam which has been discontinued, please send the information to: Editor, Bluegrass Breakdown, P.O. Box 9, Wilseyville, CA 95257; FAX to 209-293-1220; or e-mail to: cbaupn@volcano.net*

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Make checks payable to The California Bluegrass Association, and mail payment and order blank to:

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For further information, please call:  
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