



BLUEGRASS BREAKDOWN

Vol. 25 No. 8

Website: www.californiabluegrass.org -- E-mail: cbawpn@volcano.net

December 1999

IBMA's "Bluegrass Homecoming" it's a whole new world

By George Martin

LOUISVILLE, KY. - I felt a little like Dorothy in "The Wizard of Oz," clutching my little dog Toto (well, actually my mandolin case) and watching Ralph Stanley and his band walk into the Galt House hotel lobby, while Jimmy Martin was holding court just a few feet away and the music from a couple of jam sessions was floating over the crowd noise.

"Toto," I thought to myself, "we're not in San Francisco anymore."

Whenever I mentioned to people back in California that Barbara and I were going to IBMA, those who had attended before all said, "Oh, my, you aren't going to believe it back

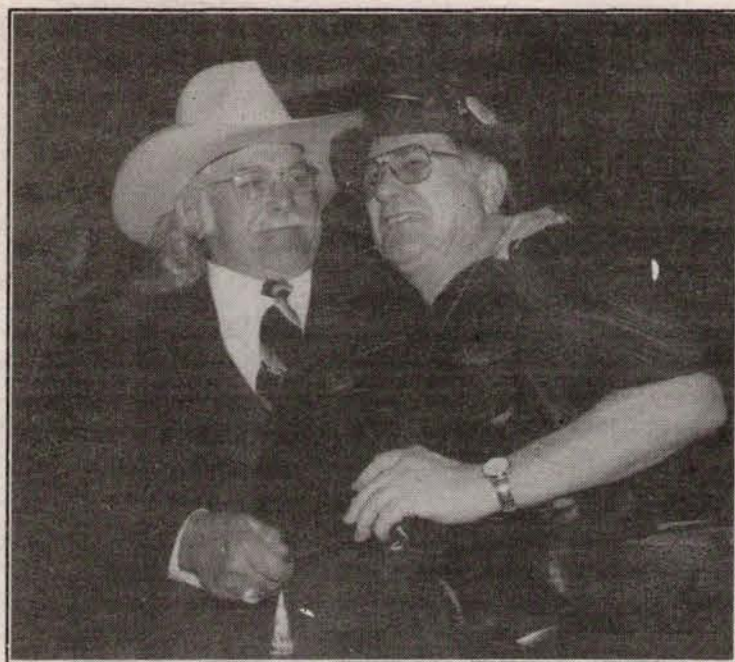
there!"

And indeed, it was a little hard to believe sometimes. Walking across the bridge between the two hotel towers I passed flatpicking guru Steve Kaufman. Lynn Morris and Marshall Wilborn were just across the hall. I met George Shuffler. George Shuffler, who recorded all those classic lead guitar solos with Ralph Stanley!

I slammed back a few brewskis with Jimmy Martin, and listened to the story of how Bill Monroe had twisted the arms of the Opry stars of the time and got up a petition to keep Lester Flatt & Earl Scruggs off of the Ryman



California's own -- Laurie Lewis & Her Bluegrass Pals showcased at IBMA's Bluegrass World. Left to right are Craig Smith, Tom Rozum, Laurie Lewis, and Mary Gibbons. Not visible is Todd Phillips on bass.
Photo by George Martin



J.D. Rhynes presents CBA founder Carl Pagter with an IBMA Distinguished Achievement Award in Louisville, Kentucky.

Photo by Dan Loftin courtesy of IBMA

stage. Only the economic clout of Martha White Mills was able to overcome the opposition of Monroe.

Martin himself didn't have a powerful sponsor, and so, he says, never got invited to join the Opry cast.

I had a nice, long chat with Everett Lilly, of the Lilly Brothers and Don Stover, who created the vibrant bluegrass scene in Boston from which sprung the Charles River Valley Boys, Joe Val and the New England Bluegrass Boys, and others. Lilly and his brother were sort of the Vern and Ray of New England, a regional band that didn't tour or record much but produced music of the highest quality that pointed the way for others to follow. (The Breakdown will

have an extensive story about Lilly in a month or three.)

Kenny Baker, as Bill Monroe so often said, "the best fiddler in bluegrass music," picked a few chords on my mandolin. "Oh," he said as the first notes wafted up, "you've got a good 'un."

I wandered the trade show, catching up with my old friend Geoff Stelling and his wife Sherry, meeting Janet Deering of Deering Banjos, mandolin maker Steve Gilchrist (a story about him is in the works, too) and plunking on mandolins from Scandinavia, Czechoslovakia and the United States, as well as banjos from

Nechville, Ome, Gibson, Stelling and Deering.

There were three high points in the week that I found particularly memorable.

At Thursday's awards luncheon that preceded the fancy-dress awards show Thursday night, IBMA President Pete Wernick was describing the Distinguished Achievement Award that was about to be presented. As he went on about contributions to bluegrass music over a lifetime, I thought to myself, "They ought to give one of those

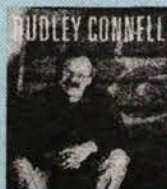
(Continued on page 4)

Bluegrass Breakdown
California Bluegrass Association
P.O. Box 690369
Stockton, CA 95269-0369

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Stockton, CA 952
Permit No. 569

Inside this month

Bands & Gigs page 23
Bluegrass Folks page 10
Bluegrass News Notes page 6
Classified Ads page 3
Further Travels of
a Bluegrass Junkie... page 16
Harmonica Korner .. page 20



An Interview with
Dudley Connell page 8

Jam Sessions page 31
J.D.'s Kitchen page 19
Kids Music page 28
Letters to the Editor ... page 5
Music Matters page 15
Recording Reviews ... page 11
Studio Insider page 22

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

1999/2000 California Bluegrass Association

Board of Directors

Rick Cornish

11081 Chula Vista, San Jose, CA 95127
Phone: (408) 929-4174
E-mail: Rick_Cornish@sccoe.org

Harold Crawford, Entertainment Coordinator

P.O. Box 105, Sheridan, CA 95681-0105
Phone: (530) 633-9331

Don Denison, Tent Camping Coordinator

P.O. Box 9, Wilseyville, CA 95257
Phone: (209) 293-1559 FAX: 209-293-1220
E-mail: cbawpn@volcano.net

Yvonne Gray, Security Coordinator

5822 Larcom Lane, Stockton, CA 95210
Phone: (209) 951-3129

George Martin, Assistant Publicity Director

300 Nevada Ave., Richmond, CA 94801
Phone: (510) 237-4365
E-mail: 76766.1166@compuserve.com

Carl Pagter -- Chairman of the Board

17 Julianne Court, Walnut Creek, CA 94595
Phone: (925) 938-4221

J.D. Rhynes, Stage Crew Coordinator

P.O. Box 1303, West Point, CA 95255
Phone: (209) 293-1296

Mary Runge -- Membership Vice President

215 Grant Avenue, Petaluma, CA 94952
Phone: (707) 762-8735

Kelly Senior -- Treasurer

5082 Warnke Rd., Paradise, CA 95969
Phone: (530) 877-1764
E-mail: senior family@hotmail.com

Officers

Robert Crowder -- Activities Vice President

2308 N. Township Road, Yuba City, CA 95993
Phone: (530) 671-6735

M.D. "Pepper" Culpepper -- CBA Ambassador

P.O. Box 55, Sheridan, CA 95681-0055
Phone: (530) 633-4261
E-mail: pepper1@jps.net

Matthew Dudman -- Web Site Liaison,

Co-Legal Advisor
1330 West H St. Apt. D, Dixon, CA 95620
Phone: (530) 400-3872
E-mail: southbaycba@yahoo.com

Officers (continued)

John Duncan -- CBA Goodwill Ambassador

2915 57th Street, Sacramento, CA 95817
Phone: (916) 736-0415
E-mail: oandt@jps.net

Howard Gold -- Official Photographer

5018 Gopher Glen Ct., Elk Grove, CA 95758-5607
Phone: (916) 683-3548

Grant Johnston, Festival Coordinator

456 E. Sacramento Ave., Chico, CA 95926
Phone: 530-895-8560

Kathy Kirkpatrick -- President

1609 Amanda Court, Stockton, CA 95209
Phone: (209) 473-1616 - FAX (209) 472-1323
E-mail: genekatt@earthlink.com

Karyn Noel, Publicity Director

1425 Scott St., El Cerrito, CA 94530
Phone: (510) 233-8406

Bob Thomas -- Sacramento Area Activities V.P.

8532 Cumulus Way, Orangevale, CA 95662
Phone: (916) 989-0993
E-mail: sacbluegrass@yahoo.com

Sue Van Enger -- Secretary

1024 Captains Table Rd. Apt. 11,
Sacramento, CA 95822
Phone: (916) 446-3255
E-mail: SuziVan@aol.com

Coordinators

Faye Downs -- Volunteer Coordinator

1552 Vervais Ave., Vallejo, CA 94591
Phone: (707) 552-6934
E-mail: bilnfay@ix.netcom.com

Neale and Irene Evans -- Mercantile Coordinators

18 Waterfront Court, Sacramento, CA 95831
Phone: (916) 427-1214

Bob Gillim -- Electrical Consultant

260 Elliott Dr., Menlo Park, CA 94025
Phone: (650) 322-6410

Terry Ingraham -- Children's Program Coordinator

917 Grand St., Alameda, CA 94501
Phone: (510) 521-0475

Gene Kirkpatrick -- Concessions Coordinator

1609 Amanda Court, Stockton, CA 95209
Phone: (209) 473-1616 - FAX (209) 472-1323
E-mail: genekatt@earthlink.com

David Runge -- Advance Ticket Sales Coordinator

215 Grant Avenue, Petaluma, CA 94952
Phone: (707) 762-8735



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 December meeting has been scheduled for Sunday, December 12th at 1:30 p.m. at the home of John Duncan in Sacramento. (See left for address and phone number.)

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.californiabluegrass.org/cbaweb

Editor Suzanne Denison
Columnist Bill Bubb
Columnist and Feature Writer Elena Corey
Columnist M.D. "Pepper" Culpepper
Columnist Howard Polley
Columnist J.D. Rhynes
Columnist Joe Weed
Columnist Bill Wilhelm
Feature Writer Matt Dudman
Feature Writer George Martin
Graphic Art and Layout Denison Desktop Publishing
Photographer Howard Gold
Recording Reviews Ken Reynolds and Larry Carlin
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 Holidays to you and your family. Whether you celebrate Christmas or Hanukkah, may your holiday and New Year be filled with love, joy, peace and an abundance of music.

Since I am writing this column before Thanksgiving, I'd like to express my sincere appreciation to all of the writers, columnists and photographers who have made my job as editor so much easier this past year. Elena Corey, Pepper Culpepper, Howard Polley, J.D. Rhynes, Joe Weed and Bill Wilhelm have faithfully sent me their columns each month. George Martin and Matt Dudman have written interesting feature stories on a regular basis. Ken Reynolds and Larry Carlin have been regular recording reviewers, augmented by reviews by Dan Bernstein, Eddie Greenwood, Michael Hall and Bob Thomas.

Howard Gold has been our principal photographer and Gary Bowman, Stan Dye, George Martin and Bill Wilhelm have also contributed photographs to enhance our pages. Our secretary, Sue Van Enger has faithfully condensed the minutes of the CBA Board to a reasonable size to help keep all of you informed. I'd also like to thank Carl Pagter who has been the proof-reader for all of these contributions. We try to catch all of the mistakes, but sometimes my fingers go faster than my brain and they sneak in anyway. In case you don't know, all of these folks are volunteers and are not paid for their efforts. When you see them, please give them your thanks as well.

Many of you know how much work goes into the *Bluegrass Breakdown* each month, and some of you have expressed your thanks to me

for my part. I enjoy the work I do, and since I love Bluegrass music, it is easy for me to devote my efforts to this publication. The CBA Board of Directors devotes a great deal of the Association's revenues to produce this publication for you, the CBA members. Besides providing articles and columns on Bluegrass music and musicians, we also serve as a forum for member's opinions. I have taken some flak this month for publishing a member's letter in the October issue. You should know that the opinions expressed are those of the writer, and you are always welcome to respond. Your letters will also be published as long as they are related to music or the CBA.

Now, let's get back to music. This month you will have two opportunities to see and hear some of the hottest Bluegrass singers and musicians in the business — Don Rigsby and Dudley Connell, along with Missy Raines. The CBA is co-sponsoring these concerts on Thursday, December 9th with the Butte Folk Music Society in Chico, and on Friday, December 10th with the 5th String Music Store in Sacramento. Please see the ad page 9 of this issue for more details and ticket order forms. We hope to see you there.

We also hope you will take the opportunity to see and hear 5 for the Gospel in concert on Saturday, January 22nd in Sacramento. This dynamic Gospel group wowed the audience at CBA's festival last June, and they should be even better up close and inside the Sunrise Community Church. Ticket order form and information are on page 11 of this issue. See also a review of their latest CD by Bob Thomas in the Recording Reviews column.

Well folks, I guess that is it for

this month. If you are curious about the newly elected Board and the officers and coordinators for 1999/2000, please see page 2. These decisions were made at the November 14th meeting of the Board of Directors. If you would like to become more involved with the operation of your association, you are invited to attend monthly Board meetings. The December meeting is scheduled for Sunday, December

12, 1999 at the home of John Duncan in Sacramento. If you need directions or further informa-

tion, call 916-736-0415 or the CBA office at 209-293-1559.

Until next month — enjoy the music!



Dudley Connell, Don Rigsby & Missy Raines to tour northern California this month

Northern California fans will have several opportunities to hear two of the most dynamic vocalists on the current Bluegrass music scene in a concert tour next month. The dynamic duo of Don Rigsby and Dudley Connell will perform a number of classic "brother duets" from their latest Sugar Hill recording, "Meet Me By The Moonlight", with IBMA's 1998 Bassist of the Year, Missy Raines to provide the heartbeat.

As members of the popular and progressive Seldom Scene (Dudley Connell) and Lonesome River Band (Don Rigsby), Dudley and Don are two of the most renowned bluegrass singers recording and touring today. In addition to spearheading new directions for bluegrass music in their respective high-profile bands, Dudley and Don also love the "old stuff." Their love of bluegrass music from the '40s and '50s is no secret, as they often infuse traditional material into their bands' repertoires. Dudley and Don's collaborations with other like-minded traditionalists for the heralded Longview, whose self-titled debut

won the 1998 International Bluegrass Music Association Recorded Event Of The Year, have only intensified their passion for singing the older songs.

Dates and locations for the upcoming tour (as of press time) are:

- Monday, December 6, 7 p.m., Free Gospel show, United Methodist

Church, Solidad at Pacific St., Monterey, California. For information, contact: Nina Kelly, Grass in the Grove Productions, (831)372-5641

- Tuesday, December 7, 8:30 p.m., Cypress Grove Cafe and Tap Room, Pacific Grove, CA. For information, contact: Nina Kelly, (Continued on page 4)

CLASSIFIED ADS

FOR SALE

CBALOGO 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.

CBA MEMBER EARLY BIRD DISCOUNT TICKETS for the 25th Annual — Silver Anniversary — CBA Father's Day Weekend Bluegrass Festival (June 15-18, 2000) are now on sale. Order your tickets NOW and save \$\$\$\$\$. Ticket order form on page 17 of this issue.

LESSONS

BANJO LESSONS IN BAY AREA from Bill Evans. Rounder recording artist, *Banjo Newsletter* columnist and *AcuTab* author. Beginners to advanced; Scruggs, melodic and single-string styles, back-up, theory, repertoire. Lessons tailored to suit each student's individual needs, including longer evening or weekend sessions for out-of-town students. Over 20 years teaching experience. El Cerrito, (510) 234-4508; e-mail: <bevans@nativeandfine.com>. 6/99/6x

BANJO LESSONS WITH ALLEN HENDRICKS of Hendricks Banjos, the California Quickstep, and formerly of the South Loomis Quickstep. I teach all styles of five string banjo playing that can be done with

LESSONS

finger picks. All levels from rank beginner to the accomplished player who may need additional direction to take his or her playing to a higher level. Private individual lessons as well as teaching your group to compliment each other's styles and abilities. I teach at my own private studio in the Sacramento Area. I also teach in my home just north of Placerville. I play banjo, I make banjos, and I sometimes buy and sell banjos and other stringed instruments. For further information or to schedule lesson times, please call (916) 614-9145 or (530) 622-1953.

NOTICE

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE 2000 — Introduce your family and friends to the California Bluegrass Association — recruit them as new members and be eligible for fabulous prizes! Every CBA member who recruits a new member is eligible for the prize drawing to be held at the CBA Festival next June in Grass Valley, CA. One of the prizes is a hand-crafted Lewis Mandolin! See the special membership form on Page 11 of this issue. Prize Drawing will be held at the 25th Annual CBA Father's Day Weekend Bluegrass Festival in June of 2000.

WANTED

WANTED — A COPY OF DON WILLIAMS' song "Carolyn at the Broken Wheel Inn". Bill Mathis, 816 N. Monroe St., Little Rock, AR 72205. 501-666-9151.

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

IBMA -- it's a whole new world

(From Page 1)

to Carl Pagter."

And moments later they did, with a projected slide presentation and a reading, by J.D. Rhynes, describing Pagter's role in the creation and nourishing of the CBA. Pagter, taken by surprise, was virtually speechless. His brief expression of thanks was followed by warm applause from the large crowd. A wonderful moment he surely will never forget.

Later it was revealed that Rhynes did more than just read the citation and make the presentation. He nominated his old friend for the honor and then made sure each awards committee member was aware of Pagter's long history of working for bluegrass music and the CBA. Then he got Pagter's son, Corbin, who is a photographer, to raid the family photo album and make the slides the IBMA projected at the luncheon, including one great one made when Pagter's trademark weathered and floppy leather hat was a tall, Abe-Lincolnesque topper.

As Rhynes said later, "If it wasn't for Carl and Jake Quesenberry and Jack Sadler, the CBA might have got started, but it would have been much later and we wouldn't be the organi-

zation we are today."

Wednesday night was notable for the appearance of Laurie Lewis and her Bluegrass Pals on the showcase bill. (Each night at IBMA, and Tuesday and Wednesday at lunch, there are concerts where bands do 30-minute sets to show their stuff to the scores of concert promoters, record industry and media people who attend.)

These showcase concerts are a great preview of things to come, as regional bands who are about to break out into the national scene put their best songs and hottest tunes on the set list to impress their peers. The bands are selected in advance by a committee that reviews their tapes or CDs. Record companies also can sponsor bands, and Rounder did so for Lewis, Tom Rozum, Mary Gibbons and Craig Smith.

Lewis' muse has taken her in many directions over the years, and you could tell the bluegrass-oriented crowd was delighted that her latest aggregation and material is "keeping it down to earth," as George D. Hay, the Solemn Old Judge used to exhort the Grand Ole Opry cast in the old days.

The Bluegrass Pals hit the high spots off the new CD and reprised a few of Lewis' earlier favorites. Listening to the very knowledgeable crowd give the California group a loud and enthusiastic ovation was a great turn-on.

The third particularly enjoyable experience of the week was running into Brittany Bailey and her new band. We first spotted Brittany about four years ago at the Shasta Serenade when she sang a few songs with Blue River, her grandfather John Moreau's bluegrass band from Oregon. At the age of 12 she had a pure, sweet voice and was quite polished for her age.

A few years later I met her again at Grass Valley, where she was playing a Martin guitar she had been given by CBA member Si Shaughnessy, who had been so impressed by her singing that he presented her with his instrument.

Now it's the Severin Sisters and Brittany Bailey - mandolin player Heidi Severin, her fraternal twin banjo player Amy



The Severin sisters and Brittany Bailey, left to right Heidi Severin, mandolin; Luanne Clevinger, bass; Amy Severin, banjo; and Brittany Bailey, guitar.

Photo by George Martin

Severin, Brittany on guitar and on bass (and chaperone) Luanne Clevinger, who normally plays with Blue River.

The Severin sisters (they and Brittany are all just recently 16 years old) are both hot pickers, and with Bailey have a vocal trio that sounds positively angelic. The girls all sing rather softly, which was particularly noticeable at the CBA suite where their showcase set was followed by 5 for the Gospel, who are all big guys who move a lot of air. But

that's what microphones are for; I could easily picture the Severins and Brittany bringing the house down at the Grand Ole Opry. They have the chops, they have the voices, and they have a fresh, innocent, youthful look that belies their polished back-up and choreographed vocals.

Friday and Saturday the trade show switched into a consumer-oriented show as Fan Fest '99 began. The Galt House got even more crowded as thousands of bluegrass fans arrived. The tables

were removed from the grand ballroom and chairs were arranged in rows. Then began marathon concerts, featuring all the top names in bluegrass, from 1 p.m. until midnight Friday, 11 a.m. until 11:30 p.m. Saturday, and 10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday.

We had an early flight back Sunday morning, but by then had pretty much overdosed on bluegrass. It took about a week before I had the slightest interest in hearing or playing any music.

Connell-Rigsby

(From page 3)

Grass in the Grove Productions, (831)372-5641

- Wednesday, December 8, 8 p.m., Freight and Salvage, 1111 Addison, Berkeley, CA. For information or tickets, call (510)548-1761.
- Thursday, December 9, 8 p.m., Chico Women's Club, Chico, CA. Co-sponsored by the California Bluegrass Association and the Butte Folk Society. For information or tickets, contact John Senior at (530)877-1764 or use the ticker order form in this issue.
- Friday, December 10, 8 p.m. at the United Methodist Church, 53rd and H Streets in Sacramento, CA. Co-sponsored by the CBA and the 5th String Music Store. For tickets or information, contact Matt Dudman at (530)400-3872, or use the ticket order form in this issue.
- Saturday, December 11, Unitarian Church, 15980 Blossom Hill Road, Los Gatos, CA. Sponsored by Redwood Bluegrass Associates. For information or tickets, contact Bruce Edmonson at (650)964-6115.



Rounder Records sponsored a Women's Supergroup Showcase. Pictured left to right are Laurie Lewis, Rhonda Vincent, Hazel Dickens and Lynn Morris.

Photo by George Martin

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Thanks for cards and calls

Editor:

I would like to take this opportunity to say a "Big Thank You" to all members of my bluegrass family who have sent cards and made phone calls during my recent illness. It has meant more to me than any of you will ever know.

The Doc says that I should do OK, but that I need to slow down a bit. I was feeling pretty depressed there for a while but all the well wishes and support I received helped me get through these trying times.

I am getting stronger every day now and it shouldn't be long before I'm back to normal (whatever that may be). As most of you know I was unable to make the campout at Plymouth this year due to my health problem. But I received the most beautiful card signed by a lot of you. This sure made me feel good. Not sure who mailed it to me but I want to thank you one and all for such a nice card.

I'm looking forward to getting back on my feet and joining my bluegrass family again as soon as possible.

Again, thank you all very much. Love ya all.

Ken Reynolds
Porterville, CA

Complaint about festival camping situation/Letter

Editor:

I am writing to you as a brand new member and first time visitor to the CBA festival and also to the Grass Valley Fairgrounds. We arrived seven days early for the festival to obtain a good parking space and enjoy this beautiful place. A good number of festival people and volunteers came in Friday and Saturday also to find a good space.

When we arrived parking space with hook ups was limited due to an Old Gas Engine show which was going on and the groundskeeper parked us where we were and told us we would be fine there. On Saturday, Lolan Ellis and family arrived and parked across from us. He introduced himself and told us he was with the festival and introduced us to several people who were very hospitable to us.

At this time I asked Mr. Ellis

if we were parked OK and he told me that a Don Denison was supposed to be there Saturday morning to set up the new tent camping area and he would advise us where to park. However, no one came to our RV until Monday morning about 8:30 and Mr. Denison and Mr. Putnam were closing the electric box and told me I had to move.

On Sunday evening, Mr. Ellis told us that the person that was in charge of the tent area was not doing his job and at this late time all the better spaces were gone and that we could stay where we were. There were 3 big rigs, one trailer and a class C hooked up to the electricity and water. We were very happy to be able to stay where we were hooked up and settled as all the hook up sites were gone.

There are several points to make. 1. As I understand the tent coordinator should have been there early to notify us we had to move as we had paid \$60 to park there. 2. That the whole matter should have been handled privately by the board with a majority rule and the decision made as to whether we were to move or stay and the decision would be final and we would have obeyed it. That is what the board does — make decisions and a lot of them will be unpopular. 3. It is very evident that Mr. Putnam was acting as a yes man for Mr. Denison, and as a volunteer had no business in the board meeting and the utter gall of this man to suggest that those RVs were placed there to show hostility or contempt against the tent campers. I can't believe the paper would print such a stupid statement from a volunteer. In his letter to the editor his whole intention was to spread a lie and discredit Mr. Ellis who was on the job and doing his job as the success of the festival proved but doing this came up against another board member, namely Mr. Denison in an unpopular decision and of course Mr. Denison's wife happens to be the editor and published the letter from Mr. Putnam to sway votes away from Mr. Ellis.

It is also strange that this incident happened in June and they wait until October just before the election to print it. I don't think any letter or article that discredits or demeans anyone on or off of the board with-

out approval of the board should be printed. We loved the festival at Grass Valley in June and feel really bad that we were involved in this controversy as we just came to enjoy the music and meet a lot of nice people.

I would like to add that all board members work very hard and give a lot of themselves doing their jobs and have to be very dedicated but there is always someone that doesn't agree with someone else and that is why we have odd numbers on the board so they can be a majority vote.

Sincerely,

Frank and Frances McMichael
Calimesa, CA

Editor's Response

Dear Mr. and Mrs. McMichael and all CBA members:

Since this letter was in response to David Putnam's letter to the Editor in last month's *Bluegrass Breakdown*, I will simply correct a few misconceptions from a new member.

1. The decision to re-instate the designated tent camping area was approved by the entire Board of Directors at their November, 1998 meeting. The vote was 8 yes and 1 no (Lolan Ellis). For the first 23 years of the CBA Festival there was a designated tent camping area which the Board voted to abolish at the October, 1998 meeting due to the "lack of a coordinator". After a tremendous response from members via phone calls, e-mail, letters and personal appearances at the November board meeting, the board re-considered the policy and Don Denison volunteered to act as the coordinator.
2. The minutes of the November, 1998 board meeting specify that Don and his volunteers were to be on the fairgrounds by Sunday night (June 13, 1999) and ready to rope off, bang signs, and enforce the tents only policy. They could not do so earlier because the CBA did not take possession of the fairgrounds until 8 a.m. on Monday, June 14th.
3. Mr. McMichael paid the fairgrounds caretaker \$60 for camping from the time he arrived until Monday, June 13. This has nothing to do with the CBA or its festival. If Mr. McMichael purchased his festival tickets in advance from

the CBA, he received a brochure along with them which included a map of the designated tent camping area and should have been aware that he could not remain in the area with his RV during the week the CBA was in charge of the Nevada County Fairgrounds. If he had any questions, he should have referred to his map.

4. The statements made by Lolan Ellis as outlined in Mr. McMichael's letter validate the point which David Putnam was making in his letter of last month. No one board member has the authority or right to overturn a decision made by the entire board. The membership elects all 9 members to run their association.

Perhaps I am not the best person to respond to Mr. McMichael's letter, since I am married to one of the people involved in this unfortunate incident. I did reply to Mr. McMichael and tried to correct the misconceptions he has stated; however, he asked that his letter be printed regardless.

He has accused me of printing David Putnam's letter to discredit Lolan Ellis so that he would not be re-elected to the board of directors. I assure you that this was not the case. In fact, I had serious questions about printing the letter because of the election, and asked our legal counsel and chairman of the board for advice. He told me that as a CBA member, Mr. Putnam's opinions are entitled to be printed, so they were — and now here are Mr. McMichael's as well.

Most of you know that this publication must be produced a month in advance of the time you receive it. Mr. Putnam's letter arrived at the CBA office in early September which was in time for the October issue. If I had received it earlier, it would have been printed in an earlier issue.

Although I would be happy to lay this issue to rest, responses from other CBA members on this matter will be given space in this publication. Perhaps those of you who are tent campers and know the entire history of this continual struggle will give us your perspective.

—Suzanne Denison

Concerned about criticism

Dear Editor:

In recent times I have noticed too many letters in this column that are very critical of other members who are hard working people and are no doubt doing the best they can to make everything work. It must be discouraging to be in the position as the object of these barbs.

We don't all think alike, nor are things always as they might seem to be. Are we being constructive when we are openly criticizing others? A lot of others read this great, hard-earned publication. Are we to lead them to believe none of us get along with each other?

My father had some wise teachings. One was, "If you have nothing good to say of someone, just don't say anything." Can't we try a little harder to be less critical? If you are bent on agitating others, don't run off at the mouth, it'll drive some people crazy, just wondering what you're thinking.

Bill Wilhelm
Nevada City, CA

Thank you CBA

Editor:

To all the wonderful folks in the CBA. Thanks for doing such a great job.

Your wonderful hospitality at IBMA was very much appreciated.

Thank you so much.

Pati Crooker
Thomas Point Beach Festival
Maine

Letters to the Editor

Letters to the Editor of the *Bluegrass Breakdown* are the opinions of the writers and do not necessarily reflect the views of the California Bluegrass Association, the Board of Directors or the Editor.

Letters from CBA members are welcome and will be printed on a space available basis. We reserve the right to edit letters for length if necessary.

All letters should include the writer's name, address and phone number in case clarification is needed.

Send all letters to:
Editor, *Bluegrass Breakdown*
P.O. Box 9
Wilseyville, CA 95257
FAX 2109-293-1220
or e-mail to:
cbawpn@volcano.net.

BLUEGRASS NEWS NOTES...

In Memory...

Edward Samuel Pagter
11/30/28 - 10/22/99

Edward Samuel Pagter, 70, died from complications of kidney disease on Friday, October 22, 1999 in the hospital in Hanford, California.

Ed was born in Savanna, Illinois. He spent the majority of his life living in Santa Clara and moved to Lemoore three years ago to be near his daughter and family. He was a graduate of San Jose State University, a veteran of the Air Force, a computer programmer, an independent businessman, and an avid tournament bridge player.

Mr. Pagter was charter member #11 and an avid supporter of the California Bluegrass Association. He served as the Association's Treasurer from 1975 to 1977; Secretary from 1977 to 1980; and was a member of the Board of Directors from 1976 to 1980. He was also very active in the California State Old-Time Fiddler's Association prior to moving to Lemoore.

He is survived by his wife of 48 years, Joanne Pagter of Lemoore; daughter and son-in-law John and Stacey Snodgrass; son and daughter-in-law Scott and Susan Pagter; three grandsons, Sean, Scott and Joshua Snodgrass; a granddaughter, Samantha Pagter all of Brentwood, CA; two brothers, Carl of Walnut Creek, CA and Ralph of Albany; two sisters, Ruth Sims of San Jose, CA and Margie McCants of Pittsburg, Texas; numerous nieces and nephews, sisters and brothers-in law.

A private memorial service will be held in Grass Valley.

Remembrances may be sent to the National Kidney Foundation, 5777 W. Century Blvd. Suite 1450, Los Angeles, CA 90045, and/or the California Bluegrass Association, 17 Julianne Ct., Walnut Creek, CA 94595, and/or the California State Old-Time Fiddlers Association, 3618 N. Chateau-Fresno Ave., Fresno, CA 93722.

Another Pioneer of Traditional Music Dies

Andy Boarman, a native of Falling Waters, W.VA, left us just

a few weeks short of his 88th birthday. Mr. Boarman was a vintage banjo and autoharp player whom such renowned players as Blaine Sprouse admit to having been influenced by. He recorded on the June Appal label and was featured in a regional video a decade ago. He will be missed by both banjo and autoharp players. —*Elena Corey*

Band and Musician News Notes...

Ray Wheatley recently joined Missouri-based Bluegrass band, **Neal Backues and Silver Cloud Tradition**. Ray is from Chapmanville, West Virginia and is the new lead singer/guitar player for the band. His unique cross-picking lead guitar and solid rhythm along with his high lonesome delivery of the old traditional Bluegrass songs fit in perfectly with the band. Wheatley now lives in Jefferson City, the band's headquarters. The band is preparing for a heavy schedule of touring in the 2000 season and is working on a new CD which will be released in the spring.

Congratulations to **Bill Grant** and **Delia Bell** who were honored as "bluegrass legends" this past June in Canton, Texas. The received plaques from the Texas State Bluegrass Festival.

The line-up for the newly formed **Ron Spears Band** has a California/Nevada look with **Bob Smith** on banjo, **Bruce Johnson** on fiddle, **Jerry Logan** on bass, and **Charlie Edsall** on guitar. Mandolinist Ron Spears made an appearance at the CBA's 1999 Festival in Grass Valley.

A number of veteran pickers make up **Crary & Hoppers** and

their American Band. Members are **Dan Crary** on guitar, **Lonnie Hoppers** on banjo, **John Moore** on mandolin, **Dale Hopkins** on fiddle, and **Marlon Collins** on bass.

Mountain Heart Caps Debut Year With IBMA Award

October 27, 1999 - Boones Mill, VA - **Doobie Shea Records** recording artists **Mountain Heart** won the International Bluegrass Music Association's Emerging Artist Of The Year award at the organization's annual awards show on October 21st, putting the crowning touch on the band's remarkable first year.

Mountain Heart made its first public appearance at an informal showcase held in the CBA's Hospitality Suite during the IBMA's trade show in 1998, one year (almost to the day) earlier.

"We're really excited and honored to have won," said band member **Steve Gulley**. "It's especially satisfying because the voting was closed before our first album came out in August, so we feel that it's a compliment to our live performances. We put everything we've got into those, and it's great to see that so many of the folks we work with and for appreciated that."

Their first year has been a busy one for Mountain Heart and its members—guitar player **Steve Gulley**, banjoist **Barry Abernathy**, fiddler **Jim VanCleve**, bass player **Johnny Dowdle** and mandolinist **Alan Perdue**. Since making their stage debut in early January, they've made an extended tour of western states, including Oklahoma, Colorado, Montana, highlighted by an appearance at the California Bluegrass Association's prestigious Grass Valley Festival.

The band has visited most of the South and Midwest and even made a foray into New England to perform for the Boston Bluegrass Union. More recently, they've upgraded their travel capabilities by acquiring a new Eagle bus that previously belonged to gospel music legend **J. D. Sumner**.

The band also made its debut at the legendary Grand Ole Opry's flagship Saturday night

show in August, garnering an impressive three encores after performing the opening song from their new album, "You Still Call Me Baby." The self-titled release, on the respected independent Doobie Shea Records label, has made a remarkably rapid appearance on Bluegrass Unlimited's airplay chart, debuting in the magazine's November edition, while "Patching It Up," a moving original from the pen of **Steve Gulley**, made its first appearance at the same time on the "Gospel Truths" chart compiled by Bluegrass Now.

With its unprecedented (no other band has won at IBMA before gaining its first airplay) award in hand, Mountain Heart is looking forward to a bright future. "We're so thankful to everyone for this," says **Barry Abernathy**, "and we look forward to saying so in person. It's going to be a great year."

Editor's note: Mountain Heart was chosen by the CBA committee at the IBMA World of Bluegrass to fill the "Emerging Artist" Band slot at its 25th Annual Silver Anniversary Father's Day Weekend Festival in Grass Valley. Dates for the 2000 Festival are June 15-18. Please see the full page ad in this issue for more information and a discount ticket order form.

IBMA Award winners for 1999 announced

LOUISVILLE, KY — "...and the award goes to!" If you couldn't attend the International Bluegrass Music Association's events this year in Louisville, Kentucky, here are the 1999 IBMA Award Winners:

- Hall of Honor Inductee **Kenny Baker**
- Entertainer of the Year **the Del McCoury Band**
- Vocal Group of the Year **IIIrd Tyme Out**
- Instrumental Group of the Year **Ricky Skaggs & Kentucky Thunder**

- Female Vocalist of the Year **Lynn Morris**
- Male Vocalist of the Year **Ronnie Bowman**
- Song of the Year — "Three Rusty Nails" by **Ronnie Bowman**. Written by **Ronnie Bowman**, **Terry Campbell** and **Jerry Nettuno**.
- Gospel Recorded Performance of the Year — "Three Rusty Nails" by **Ronnie Bowman**.
- Album of the Year — **Clinch Mountain Country** by **Ralph Stanley & Friends**. Produced by **Bil VornDICK** for **Rebel Records**
- Instrumental Album of the Year — **Bound to Ride** by **Jim Mills**. Produced by **Jim Mills** for **Sugar Hill Records**.

Instrumental Performers of the Year:

- Banjo: **Jim Mills**
- Bass: **Missy Raines**
- Dobro: **Rob Ickes**
- Fiddle: **Randy Howard**
- Guitar: **Kenny Smith**
- Mandolin: **Ronnie McCoury**
- Recorded Event of the Year — **Clinch Mountain Country** by **Ralph Stanley & Friends**. Produced by **Bil VornDICK** for **Rebel Records**.
- Emerging Artist of the Year — **Mountain Heart**
- Best Liner Notes for Recorded Project — **Gary B. Reid** for **Country Gentlemen - The Early Recordings 1962-1971** by **The Country Gentlemen** for **Rebel Records**.
- Best Graphic Design for Recorded Project — **Sue Meyer** for **Restless On The Farm** by **Jerry Douglas** for **Sugar Hill Records**.
- Broadcast Personality of the Year — **Gary Henderson**, **WAMU**, Washington D.C.
- Print Media Personality of the Year — **Walt Saunders**, contributing writer to **Bluegrass Unlimited**.
- Bluegrass Event of the Year — **the Walnut Valley Festival**, **Winfield, Kansas**, **Bob Redford**, Producer.

Congratulations to all of the winners and the nominees.

BLUEGRASS NEWS NOTES...

Record Company News Notes

Rounder Records news

Illrd Tyme Out, winners for the 6th consecutive year of IBMA's Vocal Group of the Year Award have recently released "John & Mary". The CD combines carefully picked covers such as Hugh Moffat's "Rose of My Heart" and Loretta Lynn's "I Pray My Way Out of Trouble", with their own originals. According to Rounder's Kerry Murphy, "the title track is destined to be a bluegrass classic!"

Phil Leadbetter, Dobroist for **JD Crowe and the New South**, has a new solo CD entitled: "Philbuster!" on **Rounder Records**. Leadbetter is a top-notch bluegrass instrumentalist. His new recording shows off his chops while still giving a soulful performance on every track. You'll have a chance to hear Phil at the CBA's Festival this June in Grass Valley.

"Bless and Burn" by **Dry Branch Fire Squad** will be released this month. Outstanding

material, great singing, and exciting instrumental passages make this CD a signal event.

Rice, Rice, Hillman and Pedersen—This "supergroup's" second CD explores their shared passion for bluegrass and a broad range of acoustic country-related music.

John Hartford & the Hartford Stringband's newest Rounder project, "Good Old Boys", contains only originals by this 30 year veteran who was once a performer on the Smothers Brother's variety show. While not strictly bluegrass, this is a highly enjoyable recording from a vital musician/performer.

Also, **Rhonda Vincent** will release her new bluegrass CD on Rounder in January. Rhonda makes her triumphant return to bluegrass after spending the last decade doing country music. Check it out!

For more information on these or other Rounder Records products, call Kerry Murphy at 617-218-4480, or email kerrym@rounder.com

News From Rebel Records

Bluegrass and Country music legend **Ralph Stanley** took home both Album of the Year and Rec-orded Event of the Year honors at this year's International Bluegrass Music Awards, besting stiff competition from the likes of **Ricky Skaggs**, **The Lonesome River Band**, and perennial favorites **The Del McCoury Band**.

Both awards were in recognition of Stanley's Clinch Mountain Country, a 2-CD set released last year by Rebel Records. The album marked Stanley's thirtieth album in thirty years for Charlottesville, VA based **Rebel Records**, and featured the veteran performer with such stars as Bob Dylan, Vince Gill, Ricky Skaggs and Patty Loveless, among others. In all, the critically acclaimed CD featured Stanley with over 30 artists, spanning several genres of music. Stanley first gained prominence performing with his brother Carter in the late '40's, and their records were



common jukebox fare in the Appalachian region of Virginia, Tennessee and North Carolina through the early '50's. Ralph has been touring as a solo act since the death of his brother in 1966, and still plays over 100 dates a year.



Miscellaneous Notes December Bluegrass Gold at the Sweetwater by Larry Carlin

Come join me at the Sweetwater on Wednesday, December 15 — this Bluegrass Gold promises to a great one. Normally the show is on a Tuesday. The show will feature a familiar face on the bluegrass scene, longtime

Marinite Peter Rowan.

In the 1960s he was a member of Bill Monroe's Blue Grass Boys for a couple of years, learning bluegrass at the master's knee. Since then he has played in various bands and has had a very successful solo career. His groundbreaking band **Old and In The Way** with David Grisman, Vassar Clements, John Kahn, and Jerry Garcia in the early 70s helped bring bluegrass music to urban audiences. Their self-titled album is one of the biggest selling bluegrass albums of all-time.

In recent years he has released a duo album called "Yonder" with dobro great Jerry Douglas, a marvelous solo album called **Blue Grass Boy**, and this summer a corroboration called "New Freedom Bell" with the Czech band **Druha Trava**. For this show Peter will be pickin' some hot bluegrass. Opening

(Continued on page 8)

Bluegrass Masters



Joe Weed & Highland Studio

(408) 353-3353

...We know acoustic music!

Concerned about how your duplicator may "master" your precious recordings?

Let us make you the master you need, with GUARANTEED sound.

You'll get a free proof to play on your CD player at home !!

**Accepted at all US duplicators
Send your project to
Highland Studio
for mastering by Joe Weed**

For all your audio and stage lighting needs
you have a friend in the business!

CAL CENTRAL LIGHTING & SOUND

new & used equipment sales
with special prices for the bluegrass community

JBL ♦ Mackie ♦ **Audio Technica** ♦ Carver
Crest ♦ **Ashly** ♦ Soundcraft ♦ **Alesis** ♦ AKG
Sony ♦ Shure ♦ **Anvil** ♦ Yamaha ♦ **Lexicon**
Behringer ♦ **Samson** ♦ TDM ♦ **Gauss**
most all major brands of quipment available

Call JOE QUEALY

(805) 925-5280 or FAX (805) 928-6952

Email calcent@aol.com

Member of: IBMA BASC SCBS CBA SWBA

"I'll match or beat any prices, plus give you good service!"

641 South College Drive, Santa Maria, CA 93454

Dudley Connell: an Interview about his new Brother Duet Recording with Don Rigsby

by Matt Dudman

With the dazzle of the banjo and flash of the fiddle, us bluegrassers sometimes forget to focus on what many consider the prettiest part of our music — harmony singing. Before bluegrass, in the 1930's and 1940's one of the most popular country music genres was the "brother duet". These duet acts consisted of a team of two voices (usually those of siblings, who can achieve the closest phrasing and harmony sound) accompanied by simple guitar and mandolin, or two guitars. Brother acts were especially popular on early morning radio shows in the South and Midwest during that period. Their old-time country duets focused attention on the beauty of two voices singing together in close harmony.

After the breakup of the Monroe Brothers in 1938, Bill Monroe ventured into new territory with a full band, which was eventually to create the definitive sound now called "bluegrass" music. Coming directly from a brother duo setting, Bill's new music still focused heavily on duet singing. To this date, the lead singer/guitarist and tenor singer/mandolinist lineup remains the most common core of a bluegrass band.

Luckily, there are still those who enjoy making old-time country brother duet music, and those who appreciate and support it. The

Whitstein Brothers have carried the brother duet torch since the end of the Louvin Brothers subsequent to Ira's untimely death in 1965, and others such as the Williamson Brothers and the Crowe Brothers have also made significant contributions. But none had the widespread commercial success of Ricky Skaggs' and Tony Rice's duet recording of 1980. Their tribute to the brother duos of the past was highly regarded and still rests as a favorite of bluegrass and old-time country lovers worldwide.

Skaggs & Rice's recording was probably the most popular brother duet CD of the last three decades. That is, until now. Two of the hottest pickers and singers on the bluegrass scene today, Dudley Connell and Don Rigsby, both from Longview, and Dudley with the Seldom Scene and Don with the Lonesome River Band, have recently released a brother duet recording on Sugar Hill Records entitled "Meet Me By The Moonlight" (SH-3897). Connell was nominated as the International Bluegrass Music Association's singer of the year for 1999 and Rigsby won *Bluegrass Now's* 1999 Fan's Choice Award for Vocal Tenor of the Year. With their unparalleled popularity, this new recording promises to bring old-time country duets back into the bluegrass public eye on a major scale.

About the new album, Don Rigsby told *Bluegrass Now* magazine "This album with Dudley is just something fun that we wanted to do, but it's a dream come true for me, too, because Dudley is one of my favorite singers. We've had so much fun singing together with Longview that we wanted to focus on our duet. I'd call it old-time style brother duets."

Using the ironic means of modern technology, Dudley Connell sent me his cell phone number in an e-mail message (don't you love the duality of technology and roots music?) so I could do a telephone interview with him about his new brother duet recording with Don Rigsby and their upcoming tour of



Northern California this December.

of that sound is what really attracted me. The lyrics are simple and easy to understand. And, even though Don is just a great mandolin player, in the "brother duets", the [lead] instruments are really just an interlude between the story lines. That way, you focus on the story and the singing more. I mean, Bob Dylan, for example, who is of course a classic songwriter, used more abstract lyrics. Sometimes those lyrics are hard to understand, or at least subject to multiple interpretations. Older country writers like Hank Williams wrote great stories that were easy to understand.

DUDMAN: Why do you think this genre, which was so popular in the 1930's and 40's, has all but disappeared, except for a few of acts such as the Whitstein Brothers and Williamson Brothers?

DUDLEY: I don't know for sure, Matt. The fans used to be primarily rural, southland folks with a simple lifestyle. They could relate to the simple music of the brother duets. Life is more complex nowadays. So the fans, who are now often from cities, might go for more complex music, like bluegrass, with full band arrangements. Bluegrass gives a bit more variety, with trios and quartets and the various instruments. You've got to remember, this brother duet music is not for the masses. The appeal is more narrow; but those folks that like it really love it. But I really like both kinds of music. Having the variety of both bluegrass and brother duets is cool!

DUDMAN: I suppose we cannot avoid a comparison to the Skaggs & Rice recording of 1980 (SH-3711). Did that record influence you musically, or your decision to put this "brother duet" CD out?

DUDLEY: That record really didn't influence my decision to do this record. Their song selection was quite different than ours. But I do love the Skaggs & Rice stuff. It really surprised me at the time it came out. I did not think Ricky and Tony were into that kind of music at that time. But I guess they really were. After it came out, I realized that there is some material on the Manzanita record (ROUN0092) that

hints at the duet record.

DUDMAN: There was some talk on BGRASS-L (an Internet chat group) about the brevity of the liner notes on your new recording. The song authors are mentioned, but otherwise where did these songs come from?

DUDLEY: Don brought "Dark And Thorny" to us straight from a hymnbook he had. I had never heard it, and he taught it to me and we sang it. It was fun! I ended up really getting into that one. It is a really spooky type of song. I heard "Oh Lovin' Babe" on a great record of Uncle Dave Macon songs called "Laugh Your Blues Away" (Rounder 1028). The lyrics were a bit outdated (in terms of women's roles, etc.), so I worked with it and took the parts and rewrote some of it. At first, I envisioned it real old-time sounding with just clawhammer banjo or fiddle — no guitar at all. But then as I worked it up on guitar, it started sounding a way that I really liked. If you listen closely, you might even hear some George Harrison guitar influence in there!

DUDMAN: Did you purposely avoid the Louvins' and Delmores' material in favor of the more bluegrass-friendly Stanleys and Monroes?

DUDLEY: No, not at all. We love the Louvins' and Delmores' stuff. Of course, James [King] and I sang the Louvins' "Seven Year Blues" on the first Longview record (ROUN0386). For this record, Don and I originally got together and took stacks of old records and made a list of songs we would like to record for this project. We ended up with a really long list that became unwieldy. But they were all great songs. We had some Delmore stuff on the list. We just ended up picking the songs that fit our voices and styles best. Also, we wanted to go for that mountain sound on this record, instead of the Delmores' more bluesy sound or the Louvins' country sound. But who knows, we may well include some Louvin or Delmore material on the next one!

DUDMAN: So that answers my next question. Will there be a follow-

(Continued on page 10)

MORE NEWS NOTES

(From page 7)

the show will be Marin County's favorite old-time country/bluegrass duo **Keystone Crossing**.

Then on Friday, December 24, reindeer run amok in Marin! Christmas just wouldn't be the same without the classic song "Grandma Got Run Over By A Reindeer." **Dr. Elmo and The Reindeer Band** will be playing their annual Christmas Eve show at the Sweetwater, starting early at 8 PM. During the rest of the year Elmo picks the banjo in the bluegrass band Wild Blue, but at Christmas time he tours the country with his holiday hit. This show will feature a mix of Elmo's twisted Christmas tunes plus some bluegrass songs, and it is always a great time. And it is the only show in town, so wrap those presents early, put the tykes to bed, and come on out and treat yourself to one of the Bay Area's hidden treasures, Dr. Elmo.

The Sweetwater is located at 153 Throckmorton in Mill Valley, CA. For more information on either show, call (415) 388-2820

Iowa Festival seeks performers 2000

Bob Everhart, President of the National Traditional Country Music Association, Inc., is seeking performer submissions for his 25th annual National Old Time Country Music Festival, Contest & Pioneer Exposition of Arts and Crafts.

The festival will be held August 28 - September 3, 2000 at the Pottawattamie Fairgrounds in Avoca, Iowa, and features a variety of musical styles performed on multiple stages.

Bands and individual performers of old-time, bluegrass, folk, mountain, cajun, cowboy, western swing, traditional, prairie music, blues, ragtime, honkytonk, southern, gospel, polka, or old-time fiddle music are invited to apply to perform.

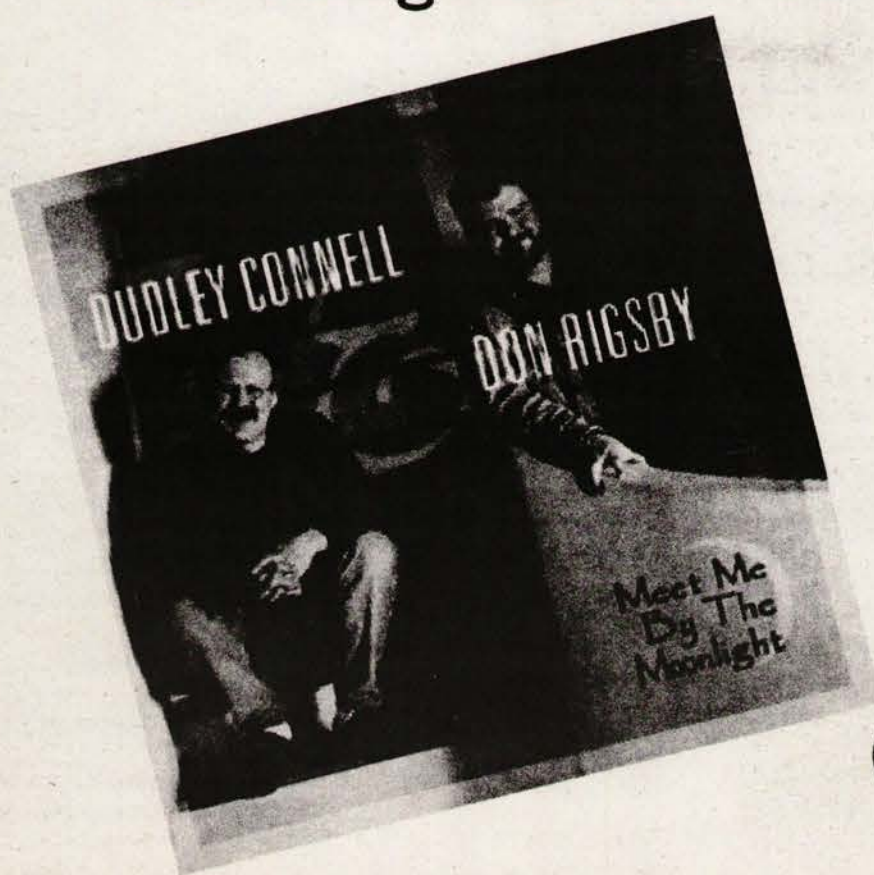
For information, contact Bob Everhart, NTCMA, P.O. Box 492, Anita, Iowa 50020; phone or FAX 712-762-4363.



DUDMAN: Dudley, you and Don are both very busy and successful with Longview and your respective bands, Seldom Scene and Lonesome River Band. Your commitment to traditional bluegrass music, beginning twenty years ago with the Johnson Mountain Boys, is clear. How did you have time to do another recording now, and why brother duets?

DUDLEY: Well Don and I have very similar musical backgrounds, in terms of taste. We especially love the real old-time flavor of the Stanley Brothers. The Stanleys always had a sound which was more old-time sounding than the other original bluegrass icons such as Bill Monroe and Flatt and Scruggs. You could say that Don and I are even obsessed with that old-time mountain sound. When I started becoming interested in that sound many years ago, I really studied about it and where it came from. That's what led me to the Blue Sky Boys, Monroe Brothers and Lilly Brothers. The simplicity

The California Bluegrass Association
5th String Music Store and Butte Folk Music Society



Proudly Present
**DUDLEY CONNELL
& DON RIGSBY**
with **MISSY RAINES**
in two Northern
California Concerts!

Two of today's hottest pickers and singers - Dudley Connell (Seldom Scene) and Don Rigsby (Lonesome River Band) - both also of Longview, and Missy Raines (1998 IBMA Bass Player of the Year). Performing pre-Bluegrass 'Brother Duets' from Don & Dudley's new album "Meet Me By the Moonlight".

Thursday, December 9, 1999

Chico Women's Club

592 E 3rd Street -- CHICO, CA

Tickets \$17 general public,

\$15 for Butte Folk Music Society & CBA members

Co-sponsored by the Butte Folk Music Society

CHICO CONCERT TICKET ORDER FORM

Please send me the following tickets for the Dudley Connell/Don Rigsby/
Missy Raines Concert:

_____ CBA/BFS Member tickets @ \$15 each

_____ CBA member no. _____ BFMS member no. _____

_____ General Admission Tickets @ \$17 each

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Please ticket order form, check or money order payable to CBA, and a SELF-
ADDRESSED, STAMPED ENVELOPE to:

Chico Concert Tickets

John Senior

5082 Warnke Road

Paradise, CA 95969

For further information, call John Senior at 530-877-1764 or e-mail:
seniorfamily@hotmail.com Or Call Grant Johnston at 530-895-8560.
Tickets also available from Butte Folk Music Society members.

Friday, December 10, 1999 - 7:30 p.m.

Central United Methodist Church

5265 H St, Sacramento, CA

Tickets: \$12.50 for CBA members,

\$15.00 general public.

Co-sponsored by the 5th String Music Store

SACRAMENTO CONCERT TICKET ORDER FORM

Please send me the following tickets for the Dudley Connell/Don Rigsby/
Missy Raines Concert:

_____ CBA Member tickets @ \$12.50 each

_____ CBA member no. _____

_____ General Admission Tickets @ \$15 each

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Please ticket order form, check or money order payable to CBA, and a SELF-
ADDRESSED, STAMPED ENVELOPE to:

Sacramento Concert Tickets

Matt Dudman

1330 West H Street # D

Dixon, CA 95620

For further information, call Matt Dudman at (530) 400-3872.

Tickets also available at The Fifth String Music Store, 930 Alhambra Blvd.

Sacramento, CA 95816, (916) 442-8282.

Bluegrass Folks -- Lolan and Madelyn Ellis

by Bill Wilhelm

Here is a dedicated couple who have not been afraid of the long hours and hard work involved to help make the California Bluegrass Association what it is today. What is it today? It is the largest bluegrass music association in the world, with more membership than even the International Bluegrass Music Association.

They attended the first ever Grass Valley festival to look it over to see if they thought it

would fly. Madelyn had never even heard such music and had no idea of what to expect. Just short of kickin' and screamin' Lolan brought her and their six months old son, Brett along in their old El Camino with what she describes as a big old ugly bubble camper top. The weather was really hot and she says it was unbearable in there. There wasn't even a porta potty. Madelyn has her own description of this trip and well, you

wouldn't want to hear it, but it obviously just wasn't her idea of a good time.

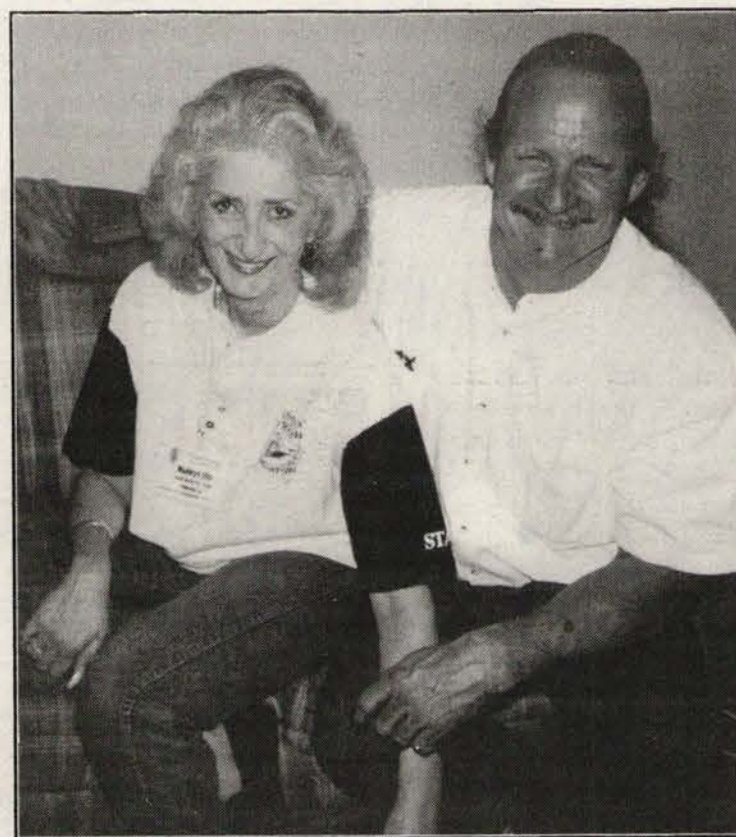
Lolan and Madelyn both made compromises and came back a couple years later, this time much better prepared and really enjoyed the festival. "The music got me real quick," says Madelyn. "We began meeting a lot of real nice people and had a great time."

Lolan is one of "those Ellis Boys" from down there in Pampa, Texas. He and his brother, Nolan are identical twins and all their lives have caught hell for each other's shenanigans. For the most part, though they have had a lot of fun with it. Their teachers couldn't figure out which was which and even phoned their mother for help. She just said, "I can't tell them apart either and you just figure it out."

Early on, the boys began having a lot of fun with their similarity. The church ladies just couldn't put up with them and they got kicked out of church before they even started to school. In high school football as defensive ends, they were big and tough and hit hard. Opposing teams knew that one of them had the habit of hitting high and the other, hitting low. The opposing quarterback always knew he was going to get hit hard, but he didn't know where.

Their unsuspecting girl friends sometimes were dating the other one and didn't know it. A favorite trick was for one to get on an extension when the other was on the phone and each would say every word in a conversation. They got good at it and drove everyone crazy. Once at a get together they went into the bathroom and changed clothes. Lolan sat down beside Nolan's (now ex) wife. He said he even gave her a couple of pecks on the cheek and she didn't know the difference. So the boys have had a lot of fun with being identical. Lolan says that most of their friends have never been sure which one they're talking to. This includes those in the CBA. Lolan says it doesn't make any difference, because they are used to it.

"Dad used to play on the radio down in Wink, Texas," says Lolan. "He had an old guitar at home and we boys got started on that when we were 4 or 5 years old on old cowboy songs. Then Nolan got his banjo when he was



Madelyn and Lolan Ellis

Photo by Bill Wilhelm

6 or 7. He paid \$20 for it. By the time we were 8 or 9 we had our own little band we called 'The Troubadors', then we were split up for a while."

Both boys independently went to Vietnam during the war. Then upon returning, they were both divers for missile site down range testing. Back in Alameda, they formed a band they called "Rain Tree County," playing in local bars. They were scheduled to play at one of Dale Lawrence's festivals years ago but Lolan cut a finger, severely injuring it, making it impossible to play for some time.

Both boys ran for the CBA Board of Directors in 1988. Lolan got elected and Nolan didn't. Lolan thinks that most people were confused as to which was which of them and didn't even know which one to vote for. Madelyn was then appointed by the board and was in charge of the Festival gate operation for years. She was elected president of the board, an office she held for quite some time.

Madelyn was born and grew up in the San Francisco Bay Area. Upon graduating, she began a career as a supervisor for Alameda County Welfare Department. When she was quite young, she saw a man climbing up a drain pipe to the second floor at an adjoining apartment. This really frightened her and she figured

he was a burglar and he'd be probably be ripping off her place next.

After a complex series of events, she met Lolan and found he was the man she had seen, but he was one of the good guys and had just lost the keys to his apartment. After a few more complex events they were married and are in the process of living happily ever after.

Lolan works in the telecommunications department for the City of Oakland where he installs telephone systems and data information.

In addition to their son Brett, Madelyn and Lolan also have a daughter, Erin. Both kids have grown up with the CBA's Grass Valley festivals as a big highlight in their lives. In recent years, they have both assisted with a lot of the work at hand at these festivals. But what else would you expect of the rest of a good CBA Folks Bluegrass family?

I'm looking forward to doing an interview on Nolan sometime soon, so I can write "The Rest of the Story."



Dudley Connell

(From page 8)

up recording? I guess the answer is yes!

DUDLEY: Oh yes, we are hoping to do another one at some point.

DUDMAN: I know Don is currently using a Red Diamond mandolin. What guitar did you use?

DUDLEY: Since 1983 I've used this 1941 [Martin D-28] Herringbone. I love it!

DUDMAN: Although on this record Don sings all the tenor, and you are usually the lead singer, in other, separate contexts, you are a tenor singer (and even high baritone) and Don sings lead. How did you decide who sings what part?

DUDLEY: Matt, you are being flattering when you call me a tenor singer!

DUDMAN: Well you are! You sang tenor on James King's "These Old Pictures" record (Rounder 0306). And what about all those years with the Johnson Mountain Boys?

DUDLEY: Well, that's true. With the Johnson Mountain Boys I used to sing tenor every night. But I was in my 20's and 30's then. Now with the Seldom Scene I'm singing lead and my voice is used to singing in a lower register. I guess I could do some tenor if I got back into it and did it more regularly. But Don is such a great tenor singer. He's really one of the best out there.

DUDMAN: Will you perform these songs with your bands?

DUDLEY: I think so. We've worked on a couple of them for the Longview shows. This material is not really where

the Seldom Scene's strengths are. Plus Don and I are already part of Longview, so that makes it easy!

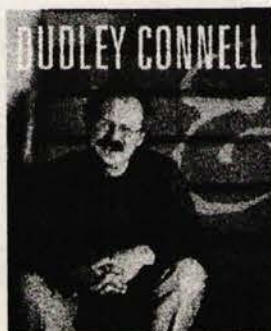
DUDMAN: OK Dudley, we both wear Doc Martin shoes, used to play rock-n-roll, play in a traditional bluegrass band and a brother duo, use the Internet and cell phones; is there any chance of joining up as the "Dud Brothers", Dudley?

DUDLEY: [Laughs] Ha! Oh yeah, we should do that! But they might start calling us "Dumb and Dumber" or something!

DUDMAN: Seriously though, Dudley, thanks for giving us a glimpse at the origins of bluegrass music and reminding us of the beauty of the old brother duets, and for taking the time to do this interview with me. We look forward to having you out to play this wonderful music in December.

DUDLEY: It was no problem and thank you, Matt. I look forward to coming and out playing for you all. See you soon!

Matt Dudman is a mandolin picker from Dixon, CA and a self-described brother duet fanatic, intensely studying everything he can get his hands on about the genre, including living first generation "tradition bearers" such as Jake Quesenberry and Bob Lambert.



RECORDING REVIEWS

Victory is Sweet, Live at Ashland, Kentucky 5 for the Gospel

Hay Holler Records, Inc.
HH - CD-1347
P.O. Box 868
Blacksburg, VA 24063
web site: www.hayholler.com

Personnel: Rick May, Mandolin and vocals; John Thornsberry, Guitar and vocals; Pat Holbrook, bass fiddle, and vocals; Johnny Branham, banjo; Albon Lee Clevenger, fiddle and vocals

Songs: Recorded live at WTSF-TV Studios, Ashland, KY on March 12, 1999: *Little Black Train, No Not Alone, He's Coming Back Again, Praising Up A Storm, I Pressed Through the Crowd, Red, Red River, He Satisfies, Pickin' the Jubilee, I Can't Even Walk, It Won't Be Long 'Till Jesus Comes, When I'm In The Lowest Valley, Hallelujah, I'm Ready, Sealed To The Day of Redemption, The Great I Am, Victory Is Sweet.*

by Bob Thomas

As you may know, producing a "live" album is both exciting and difficult. In the television studios of WTSF-TV, of Ashland, Kentucky, where the band hosts a weekly television show, 5 for the Gospel filmed a video of their live performance. This recording is the music sound-track from that video. It is evident from the first song that these men know how to pick and sing and that they enjoy what they do. They are not shy about it.

The CD begins with "Little Black Train". It shows their leaning toward a Southern Gospel vocal style, while using a solid bluegrass foundation. The second song is an acapella version of "No Not Alone". You can feel the audience respond to the message of the song. Albon Lee Clevenger has a wonderful touch on the fiddle. His kick off of "He's Coming Back Again" and his fills add so much throughout this album. You'll not find better three part harmonies that just raise the hair on your neck. I played that track several times.

"I Pressed Through The Crowd", a song by Joe Isaacs, that I've not heard for a few years, just got to me. It tells a familiar Bible story, but they make it real and fresh. John Thornsberry has

a very strong clear voice and it shows well on the song "Red Red River" demonstrating how powerful a song can be with sparse instrumentation. This band writes a lot of their own material. More than half the songs on this recording were written by members of the band. "Pickin the Jubilee" is the only instrumen-

tal. It shows that Rick can pick a mandolin, Albon is inventive on the fiddle, and Johnny is quite accomplished on the banjo. They don't have to take a back seat to anyone. The two things that every listener will notice are the great harmonies, and the conviction with which they sing.

Each song that follows seems

to build on the prior one, each has a message for someone overtaken by life's circumstances. Each demonstrates their vocal prowess, fine song writing, and excellent harmonies that are slightly different than most bluegrass fans are accustomed to hearing. This is a full CD, with 15 songs. There are hundreds of

gospel songs that seem to get re-recorded. This band presents new, well-written material that will perhaps be standards in years to come.

All that said, there is a noticeable transition that takes place following song #13. Knowing this is a sound track of an event

(Continued on page 12)



The California Bluegrass Association presents Hay Holler Recording artists **5 FOR THE GOSPEL** In Concert

Saturday, January 22, 2000 - 7:30 p.m.

Sunrise Community Church

8321 Greenback Lane - Fair Oaks, CA

Tickets are \$12.50 for CBA & SSGMA* Members

\$15 General Admission - \$7 for children 12 & under

5 For The Gospel is a bluegrass gospel ministry. They are a full time traveling road group which is desirous, and capable, of traveling anywhere in the world to present their message in song. This dynamic group, started in 1989, has developed their version of the Eastern Kentucky flavor by combining bluegrass, southern gospel and country, applied to their own original compositions and arrangements, and enhanced by their spiritual convictions. Their performances are marked by their soaring vocal renditions in three and four part harmony.

Band members are: Rick May - mandolin, guitar; lead & harmony vocals; Johnny Branham - banjo; harmony vocal; Pat Holbrook - acoustic bass guitar; baritone & bass vocals; John Thornsberry - guitar; lead & harmony vocals; and Albon Lee Clevenger - fiddle.

MAIL ORDER TICKET FORM

Please send me the following tickets for the 5 for the Gospel Concert in Fair Oaks, CA.

_____ CBA/SSGMA Member Adult @ \$12.50 each*
_____ Child Ticket (12 & under) @ \$7.00 each
_____ General Admission Adult @ \$15.00 each

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____ **

Name: _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

**Please make checks payable to California Bluegrass Association (C.B.A.)

*Tickets also available from members of the Sacramento Southern Gospel Music Association.

Mail form, payment, and a SELF-ADDRESSED, STAMPED ENVELOPE to:

Sacramento (916) area

Gospel Concert c/o Bob Thomas
8532 Cumulus Way
Orangevale, CA 95662

For further information, call 916-989-0993 or

E-mail: sacbluegrass@yahoo.com

Foothills (530) area:

Jim Sowell
16445 Glenbrae Rd.
Meadow Vista, CA 95722

For information, call: 530-878-6945

San Joaquin Valley (209) area:

Suzanne Denison
California Bluegrass Association Office
P.O. Box 9

Wilseyville, CA 95257

For information, phone: 209-293-1559 or E-mail: cbawpn@volcano.net

RECORDING REVIEWS

(From Page 11)

helps to understand that the concert has now become a church service. And "preacher" Rick May has gotten excited. The last two songs of this project are half concert and half church alter-call. Rick starts to preach and invites those in the audience who need a touch of God to come forward. For the listener who is unfamiliar with an excited minister and an old time alter-call, this is it. This recording is for those who want fresh well-done and inspired gospel music, and are not bothered by the intensity of a revival meeting.



The Grass Is Blue Dolly Parton

Sugar Hill Records
CD-3900
PO Box 55300
Durham NC 27717

Songs: *Travelin' Prayer, Cash On The Barrelhead, A Few Old Memories, I'm Gonna Sleep With One Eye Open, Steady As The Rain, I Still Miss Someone, Endless Stream Of Tears, Silver Dagger, Train Train, I Wonder Where You Are Tonight, Will He Be Waiting For Me, The Grass Is Blue, I Am Ready*

Personnel: Dolly Parton — vocals; Jerry Douglas — dobro; Sam Bush — mandolin and vocals; Stuart Duncan — fiddle; Bryan Sutton — guitar; Jim Mills — banjo; Barry Bales — bass and vocals; Steve Buckingham — guitar; Alison Krauss, Dan Tyminski, Claire Lynch, Keith Little, Patty Loveless, Rhonda Vincent, Darrin Vincent, Alan O'Bryant, Louis Nunley — harmony vocals

by Larry Carlin

The bluegrass world is abuzz over the release of the new recording *The Grass Is Blue* by longtime country singer Dolly Parton. This is not the first time that a country or rock artist ventured into bluegrass. Emmylou Harris has been here, there are the Will The Circle Be Unbroken recordings, Steve Earle did a re-

cording with the Del McCoury Band this year, and "Bluegrass Boy" Peter Rowan has been bending the boundaries of bluegrass for over three decades now. So Dolly's bluegrass gamble should not have stalwarts manning the barricades.

There is no need to go into depth about Dolly Parton. Everyone knows who she is. She wears coats of many colors. The diminutive flaxen-wigged dynamo has been a successful country singer for over 30 years, she has crossed over onto the pop charts from time to time, and she has also starred in some movies. She is a producer and a songwriter, and she even has her own theme park in Tennessee called Dollywood. Over the years she has done some bluegrass in her shows and on certain albums, so her doing an entire bluegrass recording is not as radical as some may think.

If some other country singer decided to do a bluegrass album but did not know where to start they could not have done much better in assembling a stellar cast of the bluegrass elite. Sam Bush mans the mandolin, Jerry Douglas does the dobro, 1999 IBMA Banjo Player of the Year Jim Mills (from Ricky Skaggs' band) picks the banjo, hot guitarist Bryan Sutton (late of Skaggs' band) strums the guitar, fiddlin' Stuart Duncan (of the Nashville Bluegrass Band) saws the fiddle, and Barry Bales of Alison Krauss' band beats the bass. And the cast of harmony singers—Alison Krauss, Rhonda Vincent, and Claire Lynch, to name a few—are some of the bright shining stars in the bluegrass realm.

On *The Grass Is Blue* the musicianship is first rate, and there is a good mix of old and new material. Parton wrote four of the songs herself. The first song is a very non-bluegrass tune by pop singer Billy Joel called *Travelin' Prayer*, yet it is obvious on this cut that Dolly can still belt it out when she wants to. She then scores major points right away by covering the Louvin Brothers' classic *Cash On The Barrelhead*, followed by Hazel Dickens' heartrending *A Few Old Memories*. She pays homage to bluegrass god Lester Flatt by singing his whimsical *I'm Gonna Sleep With One Eye Open*. Sandwiched between two tearful origi-

nal songs (lots of tears falling like rain) is a beautiful rendition of the Cash brothers' standard *I Still Miss Someone*.

Silver Dagger is a traditional song that Joan Baez recorded in her early years, and it is an uptempo version of the age-old tribulation where a family tries to prevent the romance of one of their children. The bluegrass train song quota is met with the song *Train, Train*, and that is followed by the timeless *I Wonder Where You Are Tonight*, which has been recorded by many bluegrass greats such as Bill Monroe, The Bluegrass Cardinals and Mac Wiseman. The next two songs were written by Dolly, including the title cut. And she finishes the CD with an a capella version of the gospel song *I Am Ready*, written by her sister Rachel Parton Dennison.

Now, some questions and answers: Is it bluegrass? Sure sounds like it. Will it sell? Yep. Does it help the genre of bluegrass overall? Anytime Sam Bush and Jerry Douglas are on *The Tonight Show* is a boon to bluegrass. Is it great that Hazel Dickens has a song covered on such a high-profile recording? You betcha. Will there be a Dolly bluegrass band coming to your local bluegrass fest anytime soon? Doubtful. Are there other real bluegrass singers out there more deserving of the recognition that this CD will garner? Of course. Will such happen as a result of *The Grass Is Blue*? Could very well be. Is there a fear now that other old-time country artists squeezed out by the so-called "young country/hat guy" format will now record bluegrass CDs? Hope not, but may happen. Is this the beginning of the end of bluegrass as we know/knew it? Hardly.

Dolly Parton is bringing mainstream media coverage to bluegrass. She may become the female equivalent to Ricky Skaggs—who left country music to play bluegrass for good—or she may move on to rap or metal music next. In the meantime, give her a listen and decide for yourself. The traditionalists are seeing red, while others hope to see green in the form of sales of other bluegrass CDs at the cash register. Love Dolly or envy her, as long as *The Grass Is Blue* is all that really matters.

Notes From Home The Chapmans

Pinecastle Records
PRC 1093
P.O. Box 456
Orlando, FL 32802

Songs: *You Can Run But You Can't Hide, Mom And Dad's Waltz, Raining In My Heart, Notes From Home, Panhandle Rag, You're Running Wild, Lonesome Hearted Blues, Jenny Dreamed Of Trains, Blue Dixie Dreamer, Out Among The Stars, Out In The Cold World, Fool's Castle*

Personnel: John Chapman, guitar, lead and tenor vocals; Jeremy Chapman, mandolin, lead, baritone and tenor vocals; Jason Chapman, bass, baritone vocals; Bill Chapman, banjo, low tenor vocals

By Ken Reynolds

Notes From Home is the latest release by the talented Chapman family on the Pinecastle label. This group based out of Springfield, Missouri, consists of a dad and his three sons. Daddy Bill plays the banjo and sings. John is the lead singer and guitar player while Jeremy plays mandolin and does vocals, and Jason (who is only 14 years old) adds vocals, and has recently become the bass player for the group. I had heard of this group prior to receiving this CD, but had never heard any of their music.

As I put this CD on and began to listen, I knew this was going to be a good one. These folks have a harmony blend that has to be listened to, to really be appreciated. It is smooth and clean. At the risk of sounding like a broken record, you just can't beat family harmony, and this is especially true when it comes to the Chapmans.

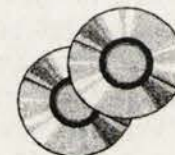
The Chapmans are not only good vocalists, they are outstanding musicians as well. To hear how good they are on their instruments, just listen to their arrangement of "Panhandle Rag" (the only instrumental on the CD). These folks play crisp and clean and have a lot of drive to their music.

The songs presented here range from bluegrass to country. But even the country songs have a strong bluegrass feel to them,

especially the way the Chapmans have arranged them.

I would be hard put to try to pick a favorite on this project. There is not a weak cut on this CD. I enjoyed every song.

If you want to hear some outstanding picking and singing, you really need to add this one to your collection.



Country Duets

Featuring Top Bluegrass Artists

Pinecastle Records
PRC 1029
P.O. Box 456
Orlando, FL 32802

Song: *Pure Homemade Love*

Kathy Chiavola & Jim Stack

Song: *We Could*

Andrea Zonn & Terry Eldredge

Song: *The Storms Are On The Ocean*

Alison Krauss & Bobby Osborne

Song: *No Good Time*

Mary Mahonen & Don Shean

Song: *Don't Do It And It Won't Be On Your Mind*

Eddie & Martha Adcock

Song: *I Don't Worry About You Anymore*

Gena Britt & Russell Johnson

Song: *Wait Till The Clouds Roll By*

Andrea Zonn & Terry Eldredge

Song: *The Day I Lose My Mind*

Dale Ann Bradley & Bobby Osborne

Song: *Going Back To The Blue Ridge Mountains*

Dana Ward & Bob Kogut

Song: *My Conscience Is Clear Tonight*

Dale Ann Bradley & Russell Moore

Song: *No Longer A Sweetheart Of Mine*

Suzanne Cox & Ronnie Reno

Song: *Two More Years*

Gena Britt & Russell Johnson

Song: *We're Holding On To What We Used To Be*

Andrea Zonn & Terry Eldredge

By Ken Reynolds

'Country Duets' is just what the title implies. It is a collection of country song duets performed by some of the top names in the bluegrass genre. The songs presented here would fit in the blue-

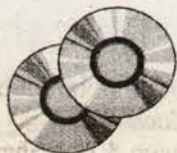
RECORDING REVIEWS

grass or acoustic country category equally well.

On this CD, the folks at Pinecastle have gathered 14 duets, done by artists on other Pinecastle projects, and put them all in one neat package for your listening enjoyment.

This CD features some of the best duet harmony singing you're going to hear. Even though they don't list the backups, it doesn't take a genius to figure out they have some top notch musicians performing on this project. Most of the music presented here is very laid back and of a slower tempo. This is what I would call a easy listening type of CD which I found most enjoyable.

If you want to hear what some of our bluegrass folks can do to a country duet song, get your hands on this one and treat yourself to some rather pleasant music.



Regenesis
Crowe Brothers

Copper Creek Records
CCCD 0129
P.O. Box 3161
ROANOKE, VA 24015

Songs: *The Engineers Don't Wave From The Trains Any more, My Little Honeysuckle Rose, Grandma's Little Cabin, Something In My Heart, I'll Be There, Sweethearts In Heaven, Down The Road, Two Arms To Hold Me, Cruel Love, Always True, Will The Roses Bloom (Where She Lies Sleeping), Must You Throw Dirt In My Face, Waiting For A Message.*

Personnel: 1981,- Josh Crowe, guitar, lead and harmony vocals; Wayne Crowe, bass, harmony vocals; Raymond Fairchild, banjo; Arvil Freeman, fiddle; Richard McBrayer, piano; Kim Galyean, drums/percussion. Tracks 2, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, 12 & 13.

1998,- Josh Crowe, guitar, lead & harmony vocals; Wayne Crowe, Bass Harmony vocals; Zane Fairchild, lead guitar; David Johnson, fiddle, mando-

lin, banjo, rhythm guitar and mouth harp. On tracks 1, 3, 4, 9 & 11.

By Ken Reynolds

"Regenesi" features some of the earlier recordings by Josh and

Wayne, The Crowe Brothers, as well as some of their later releases. The songs presented here range from country to bluegrass. Some of the songs are pure county duets, featuring drums, piano and harmonica.

The bulk of the songs presented on this CD were recorded back in 1981 and the others were recorded in 1998 by the Crowe Brothers.

Josh and Wayne have that harmony that reminds one of

some to the great brother acts, like the Louvin Brothers performed in earlier years. These guys really blend well together, but I guess that is to be expected

(Continued on page 14)

Colorado's 15th Annual MID-WINTER BLUEGRASS FESTIVAL

at the
Northglenn Holiday Inn & Holidome
I-25 & 120th Ave.

Denver, Colorado

February 18, 19 & 20, 2000

Featuring in Concert

Mac Wiseman

Front Range

The McLains

Rarely Herd

Eddie & Martha Adcock

Midnight Flight

The Dowden Sisters

Chugwater String Quartet

Exit 81

Open Road

Liz Masterson & Sean Blackburn

Gary Cook and Friends

Cheyenne Lonesome

Bluegrass Patriots

Carbon Copy

SPECIAL GUEST APPEARANCES BY:

Ernie Martinez, Patty Clayton, Bill McKay, Don Bryant, Dan Mitchell & Pat Carbone

Great Rocky Mountain Band Scramble

Admission:

Friday	\$17 (\$15 adv.)
Saturday	\$25 (\$22 adv.)
Sunday	\$20 (\$18 adv.)
Advance 3-day pass	\$45
Advance Sat/Sun pass	\$38

(Advance orders must be received by Feb. 12, 2000)

For tickets or brochure,
call or write:

Seaman Productions
1807 Essex Drive
Ft. Collins, CO 80526
(970) 482-0863

bluegras@verinet.com

For room reservations, call:
Northglenn Holiday Inn

(303) 452-4100
All rooms \$71 Bluegrass Rate
Days Inn
(800) 874-4513 or
(303) 457-0688
All rooms \$52 Bluegrass Rate

Be sure to ask for BLUEGRASS RATES at both motels!

Concert Times: Friday 6:30pm - 11:00pm / Saturday 10:00am - 11:00pm / Sunday 10:00am - 4:00pm

• WORKSHOPS • HOLIDOME JAMMING • INDOOR POOL • LOTS OF FREE PARKING •

RECORDING REVIEWS

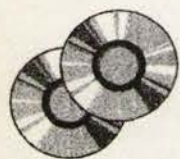
(From page 13)

when you have family singing together. It's hard to beat.

I especially enjoyed their version of "The Engineers Don't Wave From The Trains Anymore", "My Little Honeysuckle Rose" and "Will the Roses Bloom Where She Lies Sleeping".

The picking on this project is first rate, and is pure mountain music at it's finest.

If you are one of those folks who enjoy the sound of old time brother duets, you'll surely enjoy this CD by the Crowe Brothers on the Copper Creek Label.



Root 5
Marshall Wilborn

Pinecastle Records
PRC 1094
P.O. Box 456
Orlando, FL 32802

Songs: *You Can't Stop Me From Dreaming, Careless Love, Owensboro Hop, Lady Of Spain, Holland Holiday, Muleshoe, Little Rock Getaway, The Old Folks At Home, High Steppin', Benney's Revenge, Banjo Hop, I've Been All Around This World, Oh, Susanna*

Personnel: Marshall Wilborn, banjo, acoustic bass; Banjo: Ron Stewart, Pete Wernick, Tom Adams, Alan Munde, Tony Furtado, Craig Smith, Scott Vestal; Lynn Morris, clawhammer banjo; Tony Furtado, Dobro; David McLaughlin, snare drum, tenor bass and tenor banjo

By Ken Reynolds

Root 5, the latest release by Marshall Wilborn on the Pinecastle label, has to be one of the most unique CD's I've listened to in quite a while. I don't know if you would call this a bluegrass CD or not, but one thing I'll tell you is that this one is a must for anyone who plays the acoustic bass. For the most part, every song on this project consists of just the banjo and the bass for instrumentation.

This is the third solo project that Marshall has recorded, but

is his first project for Pinecastle Records.

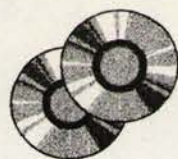
There is a great selection of tunes presented here. You get some classic songs like "Careless Love", "The Old Folks At Home", "I've Been All Around this World" and "Oh Susanna". These songs are all arranged in a manner that most of you have probably never heard before. Aside from just being banjo and bass, all the songs on the album feature Marshall picking lead on the bass. It is awesome to listen to. In my opinion, Marshall is one of the very best acoustic bass players in the business today.

The tune "Banjo Hop" has a swing feel to it, and wait until you hear Marshall tearing it up on "Lady Of Spain".

Marshall does one vocal on this project, namely "I've Been All Around This World".

This CD is not your typical bluegrass faire, but it is one enjoyable album to listen to, especially if you like to hear outstanding acoustic bass playing.

I highly recommend this CD to those of you who want to hear some good music done a little differently than you are used to.



Bristol
Ginny Hawker & Kay Justice

Copper Creek Records
CCCD 0176
P.O. Box 3161
Roanoke, VA 24015

Songs: *I Loved You Better Than You Knew, Gently Lead Me, I Never Loved But One, Amber Tresses, Walking The King's Highway, Midnight On The Stormy Deep, Look Away From The Cross, The Birds Were Singing Of You, Broken-Hearted Lover, On The Rock Where Moses Stood, Happy Or Lonesome, Waves On The Sea, Grave On A Green Hillside, Evening Bells Are Ringing, Sunshine In The Shadows.*

Personnel: Ginny Hawker, lead vocals; Kay Justice, guitar, harmony vocals; Tracy Schwarz, lead guitar; Mike Seeger, autoharp; Mac Trayhnam, bass vocals; Amy Michels, banjo.

By Ken Reynolds

This CD is definitely for those of you who are fans of the Carter Family. This is a collection of songs that were performed by the original Carter Family, tastefully done by Ginny Hawker and Kay Justice as a tribute to this great musical family.

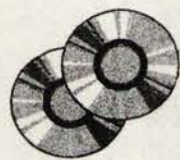
These two ladies, out of the West Virginia area, both have very powerful voices and they blend well together. They have completely captured the sound of the Carter Family, from the singing style to the guitar picking style of Maybelle Carter. This is old time mountain music as pure as it can get.

Even though my personal musical taste leans more toward traditional bluegrass music, I found listening to this CD to be a very enjoyable experience.

I have a couple of CDs by the Carter Family, and I can tell you folks, that Ginny and Kay really do their music justice.

I especially enjoyed "Midnight On The Stormy Deep" and "Waves On The Sea". Even though I single these two songs out as my particular favorites, all the songs on this project are very well done.

So I suggest that you Carter Family fans add this one to your collection. I'm sure you won't regret it.



Guitar Tracks
James Alan Shelton

Copper Creek Records
CCCD 0178
P.O. Box 3161
Roanoke, VA 24015

Songs: *Sugarfoot Rag, Old Spinning Wheel, Barbara Allen, Cannonball Blues, The Ghost Train, I'll Fly Away, Road Weary Blues, Tragic Romance, Snow Deer, Lost Indian, Rosewood Casket, Sweet By And By, Shenandoah.*

Personnel: James Alan Shelton, lead guitar; Ralph Stanley II, rhythm guitar; James Price, fiddle; Adam Steffey, mandolin; Barry Bales, bass.

By Ken Reynolds

Guitar Tracks is the latest release by James Alan Shelton on the Copper Creek label. For those of you who may not be aware of who James is, he is the lead guitar picker for Ralph Stanley and the Clinch Mountain Boys. James has released several solo projects to show off his skill on the guitar. On this project, he blends some outstanding flat-picking with a bit of finger picking and a touch of cross-picking. No matter what style James is playing, it's crisp and clean.

As the album title would imply, this is an all instrumental project, and is one I'm sure all you guitar pickers out there would enjoy. James calls upon members of the Clinch Mountain Boys and a couple of guests to back him up. He has Ralph Stanley II on rhythm guitar, Steve

Sparkman on banjo and James Price doing the fiddle work. From outside his band, James has the talented Adam Steffey on mandolin and Barry Bales on bass. With a lineup like this, you know the picking is going to be of high quality.

There is a great selection of songs on this CD. James does nice arrangements of classics such as "Sugarfoot Rag", "Old Spinning Wheel", "Barbara Allen" and "Shenandoah", to name a few. The gospel tunes include "I'll Fly Away" and "Sweet By And By". I especially enjoyed his arrangement of "Old Spinning Wheel", "Cannonball Blues" and "Rosewood Casket".

If you like very good guitar picking, I suggest you get your hands on "Guitar Tracks" and enjoy some the skill displayed by James Alan Shelton.

Northern California bluegrass acts receive national attention

By George Martin

Northern California bluegrass acts are continuing to score on the national charts this month.

November's *Bluegrass Unlimited* national survey has Kathy Kallick's single, "Walkin' in my Shoes" at the No. 3 spot, and her CD of the same name on the Live Oak label at No. 9.

Meanwhile, Laurie Lewis and her Bluegrass Pals zipped up the album chart from sixth last month to the No. 2 spot. And three singles from the album are on the chart: "Tall Pines," the Damon Black song originally recorded by James Monroe back in the 1970s, is No. 6; "Stepping Stones," Laurie's revival of the Paul Williams-Jimmy Martin classic, is No. 28, and "Hard Luck and Trouble," written by Jeff Smith and Laurie, is No. 29.

The November issue of BU also carries a very positive review of Butch Waller's solo project, "Golden Gate Promenade."

"Whether it is on spirited

originals like the title tune, 'Golden Gate Waltz' and a moving posthumous tribute to (Bill) Monroe called 'Rosine'; on familiar standards like 'Danny Boy' and 'Faded Love'; or trademark Monroe oldies like 'Blue Moon of Kentucky,' Waller's playing is soulful, vivid, and technically dazzling," writes reviewer Bob Allen. "He consistently brings fresh, spirited re-interpretations to the melodies and emotions of even the most familiar songs. No dedicated student of the contemporary bluegrass mandolin will want to be without this masterful collection."

An employee of Rebel Records told me at the IBMA trade show that Waller's album has gone into a second printing. "We were down to our last 200-300 copies," he said. "When I left we were scrambling to order more. They're selling best out in California where he is well known."



MUSIC MATTERS

by Elena Corey

Sometimes I talk with people who have written beautiful lyrics for a song and ask for guidance in creating a tune. They doubt their competence in that area, and when I try to reassure them that they probably can learn to compose melodies, they may nod their heads, but they seem pretty doubtful. At other times I talk with people who are fascinated with the idea that they can improvise single-note chains of notes on their instruments, but are fairly clueless about how to use chords to aid them in improvising.

For both groups of folks, this column is intended. Chord based improvisation is actually very easy — you don't even have to have a clever or catchy riff resounding in your head to start with. You just start letting your fingers wander a bit outside a given chord's perimeters and pretty soon you'll have played some short melodic bit which can be expanded, duplicated, transposed, inverted or worked with, inside a short chord progression, until you've turned it inside out to capture the melody lurking there for you.

We'll start with a familiar chord progression — since no matter where you want to go, you always have to start from where you are. Because many instructors teach the chord sequence: four, three minor, two minor, one as a tag—or the running forward and backward of that progression (I, ii m, iii m, IV, iii m, ii m, I) as a fill, let's start with that. Right away we see that the interval between the four and the three is only half a step, whereas the other intervals are all whole steps. That in itself offers some room to devise interesting ideas. The idea I choose to focus on from this simple progression, for this exercise, is the fact that the one and four chords are major and the two and three chords are minor. Since it is the 3rd interval of the scale (mi) which shows whether a chord is major or minor, we can highlight that interval by inverting the chord and placing the 3rd as the highest note of each chord.

So, I've included basic chord notation, a take-off variation of that progression, and TAB for guitar, banjo and mandolin of this basic progression in the key of E. The voicings were all chosen to highlight the interval of

the third. If you play, on your chosen instrument, this little snippet of a chord progression and count out the beats to take four full measures, you'll probably find yourself getting impatient and wanting to have more going on. That's when you start improvising. Moving one finger at a time a fret or so away from

the designated one, on it's string, you'll quickly find some things which sound pretty good and still fit into the time allotted for each measure.

Because of space limitations, I didn't TAB the variation I offered, but I did include notation for it so that you can see how close it looks to the basic pro-

gression, and yet how it heads off in another direction — even in a different key. The basic progression in E. (four, three minor, two minor, one) suddenly is transformed to an equally simple but different sounding progression in A minor of one minor, flatted seven, flatted six, and five chords. These chords are equally easy to

improvise from and seem to invite little runs. At the end of each TAB, I threw in a squiggly end-run, just to get you started in your exploration of which surrounding frets produce interesting sounds.

Happy picking to you

Elena.

(Tablature on page 16)

Virtual Band

*** A Bluegrass Method For *** BANJO, GUITAR, FIDDLE, DOBRO, MANDOLIN, OR BASS

"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.

The heart of the program is **the recording; a high quality stereo mix** of guitar, mandolin, bass, dobro, fiddle and banjo. The CD makes it easy to repeat a particular song over and over to make your practicing more productive. By providing a variety of tempos, (100, 150, and 200 beats per minute), you can pick the one you feel the most comfortable with. More than one solo is provided as you progress in technique. The first solo, or break, is the easiest, **(beginner)**, and is generally the basic melody. After playing it, another instrument will take a solo on the recording and you will then need to play the **back-up**, followed by another solo, that's a little more difficult, **(advanced)**. Thereby, you'll be taking turns with the other musicians; just like a real playing situation. Included are the endings. The music is written **LARGER** than is found in most music books, with the words included, so it's easier to see.

OTHER IMPORTANT CHAPTERS INCLUDE:

- Scales and fingering studies
- How to count and keep good timing
- The use of vibrato (fiddle), to make your playing sound warmer
- Learning to sight read better
- Understanding music theory
- Picking direction and Bass runs

Separate recordings and books are available for the **banjo, guitar, fiddle, bass, mandolin and Dobro**, working together with *matching arrangements*, so that friends and family can play the *same tunes* together.

By practicing diligently and regularly, you will find a lot of enjoyment playing with "Virtual Band" and will soon be able to join others in a hot bluegrass jam session.

The BOOK and play-along CD is \$23.00 postpaid. Specify instrument and volume.

Please send check or money order to:

Jay Buckey, 4017 N. Torrey Pines Dr, Las Vegas, NV 89108 (702) 396-7824

Visit Web: <www.bluegrassworld.com/books/virtual>

E-mail: virtualband@juno.com

*****ATTENTION FESTIVAL GOERS*****

I WILL BE CONDUCTING A **FREE WORKSHOP** AT THE COLORADO RIVER
COUNTRY MUSIC FESTIVAL IN BLYTHE, CA. JANUARY 15, 2000 (SAT.)

Hope To See You There !!!

Further Travels of a Bluegrass Junkie

by M.D. "Pepper" Culpepper

I attended another famous festival for the first time this year which started the 21st of September. So, maybe an explanation is in order along about now. I picked up a flyer about the Bluegrass Hall Of Fame & Uncle Pen Days Festival in the Bill Monroe Memorial Park at Bean Blossom, Indiana on September 23rd - 26th when I was at Hoover Y Park near Columbus, Ohio the last weekend in June.

It was an attractive, multi-colored flyer that advertised 26 major acts, or bands that were to perform there. Half that many bands was good enough to get my interest. Andrea Roberts and LuAnn Adams were with me when I picked up the flyer, and I said: "the June festival at Bean Blossom happens the same days as our Grass Valley Father's Day Festival, and that's why I have never been to Bean Blossom."

Both Andrea and LuAnn were raised near there, and had

gone to it many times, so they decided to go to the September festival too. Later I received information from them by e-mail about places to stay. After checking out the best ones, I found that every motel or inn at Bean Blossom or Nashville, Ind. (which is 5 miles South of the festival), was full or too expensive. I called Day's Inn in Columbus (19 miles from the festival) and got a room with two Queen size beds. The girls offered to would bring chairs with them and to take me to and from the motel. I knew when I had a good deal! My plans were finalized for going to a major festival, and at a place I had often wanted to visit.

I read some interesting things in the 1999 Bill Monroe Memorial Music Park Program guide that I received from Dwight Dillman: The park was originally purchased in 1953 by Bill Monroe, Father of Bluegrass music. He started playing and putting

on one night shows at a barn there, and called it the Brown County Jamboree Barn. The first multi-day festival held by Bill Monroe in 1967 at this park, formally known as "The Brown County Jamboree" was called a "Blue Grass Celebration" and was done to bring his friends together to play the "high lonesome" sound. The following year (1968) it was called the Second Annual Bluegrass Festival at Bean Blossom.

It is now believed to be site of the oldest continuous bluegrass festival in the world. When Bill Monroe died in 1996, his son James inherited the park. He then sold it to Dwight Dillman in 1997 — a former Bluegrass Boy himself, who loves the music and isn't afraid to change things around a bit. Because of him the dirt roads throughout the park have been replaced with gravel and are named after many of the past performing musicians, and

the number of modern campsites have been increased to over 300. Since 1998 was the first year that Dwight starting making these improvements, and so much has been done by his crews, I am not sad about my waiting so long to go to this festival.

I plan on attending this September festival from now on, and told Dwight that I wanted to rent a cabin that I liked because of it's location. So he had one of his crew get a key and show me cabin # 5. When I was told at the office that it would be used next year for youth work shops — so I couldn't rent it, Dwight said: "I'm building more for next year, and one of them will be reserved for you." I can't beat a deal like that now, can I?

Dwight keeps Bill's name alive even more by now having five festivals during the year of the best bluegrass, gospel, and country music you could ever hear. The walls of the office, museum, and gift shop are lined with historic photographs. A trail is marked where Bill Monroe took early morning walks. He really enjoyed them, and would enjoy them more today now that flower beds and other improvements are so noticeable. The lake is soon to have fountains to combat the algae and make the scenery even more beautiful. Also, the stage is new and much larger. There's enough room for sound to be set up right and somewhat controlled onstage. The stage is even big enough for the photographer, Ms. Mary Yeomans, to get her important job done without bothering any band members or audience. In fact during a one hour set, Jimmy Martin and his Sunny Mt. Boys and Ralph Stanley & The Clinch Mt. Boys were onstage together pickin' & singin', and I didn't see them bump into each other.

Meanwhile, back at the ranch, I wrote a post to the bgrass-L, a bluegrass discussion group on my computer. My message was that I had decided to go to Bean Blossom September 23rd to 26th. A man named Jim Peva sent me a message that as he had read some of my former posts on the bgrass-L, and as this was my first trip to Bean Blossom, he would like to invite me to his camp and show me around the park.

Lucky me. I found out later that when the Bluegrass Festivals started back in 1965, Bill Monroe picked out the best spot to camp near everything for Jim and Ailene Peva and their three small daughters Mary, Becky, and Cathy. They have been there every year since! It is the meeting place for the who's who of Bean Blossom, including Dwight Dillman, his two Brothers Mark and John, and their Dad, Myron. I don't remember meeting Tim Dillman. Another brother that has a bus company, Music City Coach in Gallatin, Tennessee. But 16 year old Derek Dillman was there every day. He cut his first CD at the age of 14, and now has 2 of them released. Featuring bluegrass music the way I like to hear it played. This young man bears watching in the future!

Dwight even had a trailer pulled in and set up back of Jim and Ailene's rig for Mary Yeomans to sleep in after her long four days of taking pictures of the happenings there. I feel it is my good fortune that I found more true friends in this camp of the Peva's — there was never any want for food, refreshments, or companionship. Before I left, I saw pictures of Bill and Birch Monroe in the Peva household with the girls posing with Bill when they were very young — and then pictures of them posing with Bill the same way, not long before he died. Truly a treasure in Jim and Ailene's photo album, more than I could absorb at one time. Next time there, I'll sit more and look longer at the "pictures of the past" in their lives.

So on Tuesday, September 21st I boarded a plane in Sacramento, and eventually I arrived in Nashville near 4:30 p.m. I rented a car and drove to 1111 Tuckahoe, and my bedroom where I was going to sleep for the next two nights. Terry Eldredge came in later, and we went to the Station Inn where the Sidemen play every Tuesday night. Since the Del McCoury McCoury Band was playing elsewhere this night, Terry had to make some calls. He hired Earnie Sikes to play bass in place of

(Continued on page 18)

Improvisation Exercise

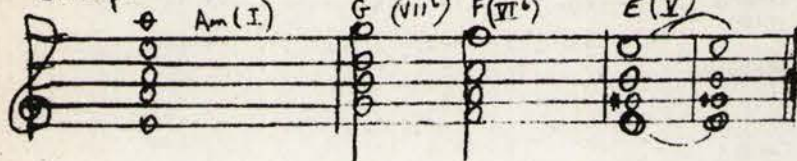
(From page 15)

by Elena Corey

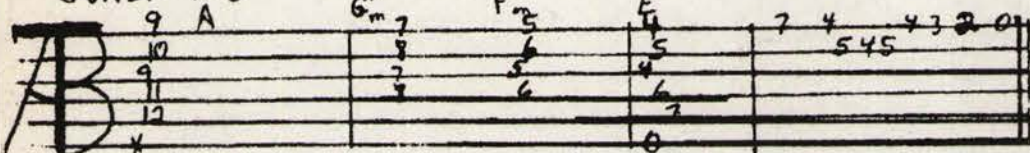
Notation of chords



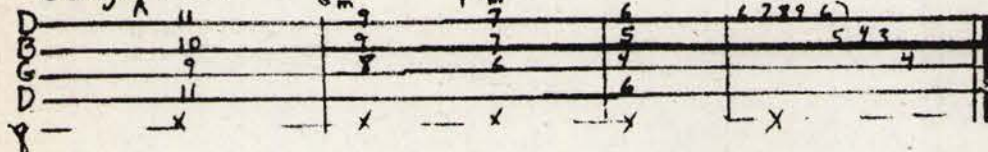
sample variation:



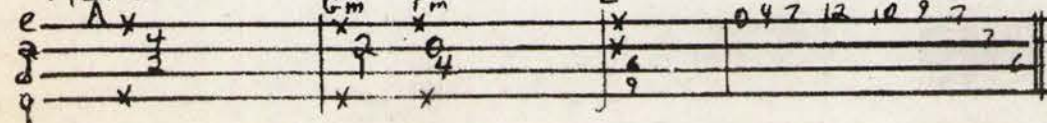
Guitar TAB

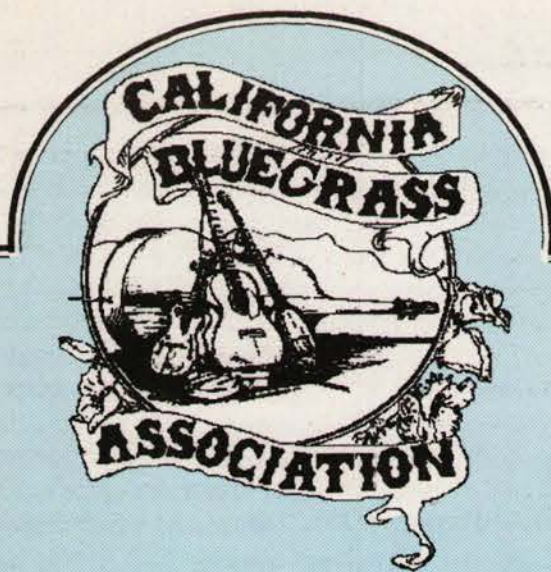


Banjo TAB



Mando TAB





Presents its 25th Annual

SILVER ANNIVERSARY

Father's Day Weekend

BLUEGRASS FESTIVAL

June 15, 16, 17 & 18, 2000

at the Nevada County Fairgrounds in Grass Valley, California

★ An All-Star Line-up Featuring ★

- ★ Illrd Tyme Out ★ Bluegrass Patriots ★ California (Reunion) ★
- ★ Country Ham ★ J.D. Crowe & the New South ★
- ★ the Fox Family ★ James King Band ★
- ★ Doyle Lawson & Quicksilver ★ Lost and Found ★
- ★ Lost Highway ★ Mountain Heart ★ Rarely Herd ★
- ★ Reno Brothers ★ Sand Mountain ★ Kids On Bluegrass ★

More Bands and Cloggers to be Announced

*PLUS -- Workshops, 4- day Children's Program, on site Camping,
and Jamming all under the beautiful pine trees -- 4 Full Days of Family Fun!*

~ 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, 2000. No Discounts available at the gate.

Early Bird Tickets (11/1/99 - 2/28/00)

CBA Members Only

4-Day Adult	\$55
4-Day Senior (65 & over)	\$45
4-Day Teen (13-18)	\$30
3-Day (Th-F-Sat)	\$45
3-Day (F-Sat-Sun)	\$40
3-Day Teen (13-18) (Th-F-Sat)	\$25
3-Day Teen (13-18) (F-Sat-Sun)	\$25

Non-Member Ticket Prices

4-Day Adult	\$65
4-Day Teen (13-18)	\$40
3-Day (Th-F-Sat)	\$55
3-Day (F-Sat-Sun)	\$50
3-Day Teen (Th-F-Sat) (13-18)	\$35
3-Day Teen (F-Sat-Sun) (13-18)	\$35

Single Day Tickets No discounts available

Thursday	\$20
Friday	\$20
Saturday	\$25
Sunday	\$15
Children 12 & Under FREE	

Persons who need special camping arrangements due to a handicapping condition are asked to call Yvonne Gray at 209-951-3129 to make advance reservations.

Please send me the following tickets to the CBA's 25th Annual Father's Day Weekend Bluegrass Festival:

CBA Member Early Bird Tickets

- ☐ 4-Day Adult @ \$55
- ☐ 4-Day Senior @ \$45
- ☐ 4-Day Teen @ \$30
- ☐ 3-Day Adult (Th-F-Sat) @ \$45
- ☐ 3-Day Adult (F-Sat-Sun) @ \$40
- ☐ 3-Day Teen (Th-F-Sat) @ \$25
- ☐ 3-Day Teen (F-Sat-Sun) @ \$25

Non-Member Tickets

- ☐ 4-Day Adult @ \$65
- ☐ 4-Day Teen @ \$40
- ☐ 3-Day Adult (Th-F-Sat) @ \$55
- ☐ 3-Day Adult (F-Sat-Sun) @ \$50
- ☐ 3-Day Teen (Th-F-Sat) @ \$35
- ☐ 3 Day Teen (F-Sat-Sun) @ \$35

Single Day Tickets

- ☐ Thursday Only @ \$20
- ☐ Friday Only @ \$20
- ☐ Saturday Only @ \$25
- ☐ Sunday Only @ \$15

CBA Member No. _____

Date of Order _____

Total Enclosed _____

Mail ticket order form, a SELF ADDRESSED, STAMPED ENVELOPE, and check or money order payable to the California Bluegrass Association (CBA) to:
CBA Festival Advance Tickets
David Runge
215 Grant Avenue
Petaluma, CA 94952

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

For further information
about tickets, call:
(707) 762-8735

Further Travels of a Bluegrass Junkie

(From page 16)

Mike Bub, and Charlie Cushman to fill in on Banjo for Rob McCoury. Jimmy Campbell (fiddle), Mike Compton (mandolin), Gene Wooten (dobro), and Terry Eldredge (Guitar) rounded out the band. My favorite way to start a week of music in Tennessee, and Indiana. After it was over at the Station Inn the next stop was The Waffle House, near Tuckahoe — can't go to bed on an empty stomach, you know.

The next day, after sleep was over and Terry was hungry enough, we decided to go pick up our buddy Larry Perkins and get something to eat. Now when I come into town, Terry knows that one place we always go to is Arnolds on 8th St. South. Open only for lunches, it has some of the best Southern style cooking anywhere. You pick a "main dish" plus any number of "side dishes", with ice tea, sweet or unsweetened. You had better be hungry when Arnold asks you what you want, and I never do clean my plate. My eyes try to overload my stomach — and always do. Too much greens and

cornbread, pork and mashed potatoes, green beans and peas, topped off with pie or any other sweets of your choice. If I lived there year-round, I'd weigh at least a hundred pounds more than I do.

Later that evening Terry had to be at the Station Inn at 7 p.m. for a practice session with Larry Cordle and his band, the new Lonesome Standard Time. They were to play at 9 o'clock or so that night, and Larry doesn't leave anything to chance — a true professional. So Larry Perkins and I went to Parvo's for the happy hour and a light meal before going to the Station Inn. By the way, Lonesome Standard Time has cut the best Bluegrass CD to come out in years. It has 4 (four) songs that could very well be nominated as "song of the year" at the IBMA's week in Louisville, Ky. in the year 2000. The title song of this CD, Murder On Music Row, is being played on stations around the world and a lot of talk about it is going on around Nashville or anywhere else I go. In fact Alan Jackson and George

Strait plan on a recording of "Murder On Music Row" together. It should be a chart buster.

I was on my way to Indiana and Bean Blossom early Thursday morning, stopping in Columbus to check into the Motel I was going to stay in for the next 3 nights. Then I drove the 21 miles to the Bill Monroe Memorial Music Park, and found my way to Jim and Ailene Peva's campsite. Jim got a golf cart and gave me a tour of the grounds, then put chairs out where I could sit in the shade and watch the stage shows for the next 4 days. Another example of the "Southern Welcome" one gets when traveling East of the Mississippi River. No wonder I always feel spoiled when I am on the road!

The next evening, Debbie Adams and LuAnn Adams (no relation to each other) came in. They had also stopped by the motel and were checked in before coming to the festival grounds. They brought chairs with them, and put them out for us closer to the stage. Now we were set for early and late view-

ing of the shows, without having to sit in the hot sun. And by then, my good friend LeRoy Troy was a part of our bunch, and I got to visit with him when he wasn't pickin' and singin'. His stage shows were both funny and entertaining — everyone joined in on watching him perform.

Rather than list the many good sets, I will only tell of two: Ralph Stanley and his band played a set (even had Jolene Foster join him to sing Pretty Polly) — then Jimmy Martin and the Sunny Mountain Boys joined them for an hour of picking and singing, with both bands performing together. Probably be a long time before seeing that again!

Also, Gary Brewer and his band playing Tom T. Hall's: Jimmy Martin Songs For Dinner. They featured a Bean Blossom Special — a free helping of 'Widow Maker Beans' to buyers of a CD or cassette of Gary Brewer's new release — 'Jimmy Martin Songs for Dinner', a musical salute to the King of Bluegrass. It features J. D. Crowe, Doyle Lawson, Bobby Hicks,

Larry Stephenson, Art Stamper, and many more. I bought the CD and it is one of my favorites.

Gary and I renewed our friendship, and I also have the T-Shirt that has the words to the song printed on the back. After Ralph and Jimmy's show, Doyle Lawson was inducted into The Hall Of Fame — quite a Saturday Night Show!! LeRoy Troy was the last act, and I was on the front row for that.

Sunday after a light breakfast with the Adams' girls, they left for Milan, Indiana to take in the bands playing at the Boys From Indiana Homecoming, before heading home. I went back to the festival and that afternoon drove to Nashville for a relaxing evening with Terry Eldredge. At noon the next day, he had me at the airport for my flight to Atlanta where I connected to a direct flight to Sacramento. There, Summer Rae picked me up in my car, and after I dropped her off I drove home. The end of another good trip. I am glad I finally saw Bean Blossom, and if I can, I'll be there again next September!!!

CBA Members Let Their Little Light Shine!

by George Ireton

On October 24th a multitude of fine folks, including a whole herd of CBA members, gathered under the roof of the Millville Grange at Palo Cedro. The event was a special benefit concert to aid victims of the recent Happy Valley fire. It was a miracle that the hall was still standing after another wind driven wild fire swept through the tiny town just that previous weekend! There have been so many fires in Shasta County this season it is hard to keep track.

More than 180 homes have been lost, stranding numerous families. What began as a modest effort to benefit one adopted family, quickly turned into a mini-festival. Once the word spread

among our CBA family, it was very much like the bible story about the loaves and fishes!

All day long, people came and went, enjoying their fill of great Bluegrass and tasty barbecue. When evening came, there remained the multiplied gifts left by some extremely generous people. God saw what they did, and He liked it!

Pickers and clappers showed up from far away places like Colfax, Sacramento, Willows, Orland, Los Molinos, Paradise, Cohasset, Corning, and Red Bluff. Local bands and special guests poured out their great talent while Pat Wallner barbecued Tri-Tip to perfection. The Red Dirt Bullies, Lost & Lonesome, Blue

Northern, Grass Roots, Mill Creek Risin', Mountain Rain, Bow Draggled, and the Back Forty String Band all proved to be talented troopers who laid down some real sweet Bluegrass and Old Time acoustic sounds. To give the gift of music, they didn't just go the extra mile. In many cases they literally went the extra hundred miles!

Some folks may say that it was just the barbecue smoke bringing tears to their eyes, but the truth is: the kind of generos-

ity and true community spirit demonstrated by these fine people was enough to make anyone weep tears of joy. Folks donated furniture, blankets, appliances, clothing, and many other really useful items. The outpouring was wonderful to witness, as it was very clear that their offerings were sacrificial. In addition to all the quality merchandise, I am thrilled to report to you that cash donations exceeded \$1600.00!

On behalf of the Brown fam-

ily and others who will also benefit, I want to express my sincere gratitude to each and every one who attended this important fundraiser. It is absolutely heart warming to know that good friends are willing to really "let their little light shine" during times of great need. May your family never endure such hardship. But, I want you to know that I stand ready to return the favor anytime, anywhere.

Till next time we meet. Sing it like ya' mean it!

Bluegrass Signal Dec. & Jan. schedule

Peter Thompson, host of Bluegrass Signal from 6 to 7 p.m. on Saturdays on KALW (91.7 FM), sent us the following schedule for the next few weeks:

- December 4, 11, and 18 — 'TIS THE SEASON FOR... NEW RELEASES, and we'll catch up with all of them, the better to solve your holiday gift-giving (and-receiving) dilemmas.

Music by Scottie Sparks, Dry

Branch Fire Squad, Melvin Goins & Windy Mountain, Jim Lauderdale & Ralph Stanley, Druha Trava & Peter Rowan, Illrd Tyme Out, Lost Highway, Modern Hicks, David Grisman, Wild & Blue, NewGrange, Mountain Heart, and, you guessed it, many others.

- December 25 — A BLUE (GRASS) CHRISTMAS: there are no shortage of great songs in

honor of this occasion, so let's spin 'em once again. Tapers alert: an uninterrupted 45-minute set!

- January 1 — BLUEGRASS 2000: it's finally here, and this seems like an appropriate time to survey the state of BAY AREA BLUEGRASS. New and old releases, demo tapes, interviews, and millennium commentary.

If you are planning to attend the CBA's 25th Annual Father's Day Weekend Bluegrass Festival -- June 15-18, 2000 and need special handicapped camping arrangements, please call Yvonne Gray at 209-951-3129 to make advance reservations.

J.D.'s Bluegrass Kitchen

Howdy, Howdy, Howdy!

To use a line from one of mom's best known songs, "Christmas Time's a'comin'" seems to be appropriate at this time. Here we are folks, just weeks away from a whole new century and a new millennium to boot! I don't know about you folks, but I'm ready for whatever Y2K can bring. We're living in exciting times, and for me, every day is another adventure down the road of life. Some days you just have to buckle your spurs on a little tighter!

With Christmas, we also get winter, and short days that are generally crisp and cold and those long winter evenings that are perfect for snuggling up to a plate full of good, hot vittles. You know the kind that I'm talking about — your favorites like your mama used to fix this time of year. Things like a big roasted chicken with taters and carrots, pan gravy and hot cornbread!

Or, one of my all-time favorites is Dutch Oven Pot Roast and mashed potatoes with cream gravy and hot sourdough biscuits! Wow! I love those long winter evenings! So come on in folks and pull up a chair next to the ol' wood cookstove and we'll visit awhile this morning.

Usually this time of year I have plenty of ripe apples to share with family and friends, but this year my whole crop consisted of five boxes. Not much of a crop from 40 trees. However, that is enough for my daughter Elizabeth to make several quarts of "Apple Butter." Spread this on toast or hot cakes, and you're about two feet from heaven when you get through eating it! It goes well with roasted meats of any kind too.

There's nothing that makes me feel better than to come in the house after working outside on a cold winter day and experience the warm and wonderful smell of supper gently cooking in the oven. The only thing that's better is eating that supper! Well folks, here's one that falls into that category. I'm going to start off with a good soup recipe. Good, hot, homemade soup starts any meal off right, and you can have the leftover for lunch the next day. This soup is fast and easy to fix and its good for the ol' body too.

Hearty Bean Soup

4 cups, low sodium, non-fat broth
1 large can whole tomatoes, mashed
1 large can, White Northern Beans, drained and rinsed
1 leek sliced (white only) or 1 bunch green onions, sliced
1 small, sweet potato, chopped
1 stalk celery, chopped
1/2 bunch Swiss Chard, green part only, chopped
1 onion, chopped
2 cloves garlic, chopped
1/2 tsp. black pepper

In a large pot, add all ingredients except Swiss chard. Simmer 25 minutes, or until sweet potato is soft. Add chard and cook 5 minutes. Serves 6.

I try to keep a pot of home-made soup in the refrigerator during winter time. There's nothing like a bowl of hearty soup for lunch on a cold winter day!

Here's one of my all-time favorite Cowboy recipes. I've cooked this for several years for various occasions such as pickin' parties, hunting camps, festivals, etc. and it always gets rave reviews. One of my best friends, the late Sonny Hammond of Oregon, ate a half of a roast that I fixed like this at one of Steve Waller's pickin' parties years ago. He always said that was the best roast beef he'd ever had!

He always wanted the recipe, but I told him it was one of my mom's secret recipes and I couldn't give it to him. He realized that I'd been pulling his leg some years later, when he met my mom at Grass Valley and he asked if he could have her "secret" roast beef recipe like the one I fixed for him. Mom al-

lowed as to how she didn't have any secret recipes and that I was guilty of fibbing to Sonny. Even though I was caught, I still didn't give it to him, but I'm gonna share it with you folks here this month. This one has fed a lot of hungry cowboys, pickers, family and friends over the years. The whole secret is to buy the very best grade of meat available.

Dutch Oven Pot Roast

3 onions, sliced thick
2 TBS. vegetable oil
1 1/2-5 lb. beef roast, (rump, round, etc.)
1 tsp. salt
1/4 tsp. coarse ground black pepper
1 to 2 cups barbecue sauce (recipe below)
1 to 2 cups beer or red wine
boiled carrots, turnips and potatoes

Fry onions in oil until golden. Remove and set aside. Season meat with salt and pepper. Brown meat on all sides, adding oil if needed. Pour in one cup each BBQ sauce and beer (or wine). Cover tightly and simmer over low heat for 2 hours, adding BBQ sauce and beer as needed. Add onions, cover and cook 1/2 to 1 hour or until meat is tender. Serve with carrots, turnips and potatoes. 8-10 servings.

There folks, is a one pot meal that'll take the wrinkles out of yer belly and let you sleep like an ol' hound dog under the porch on a hot day!

Here's the Barbecue Sauce recipe that goes with roast beef slicker than a Del McCoury "G-Run".

Cowboy Barbecue Sauce

1 cup strong black coffee
1 cup Worcestershire sauce
1 cup catsup
1/2 cup cider vinegar
3 TBS. chili powder
2 tsp. salt
2 cups chopped onion
1/4 cup minced hot Chile peppers (Serrano, Jalapeño, etc.)
6 cloves garlic, minced

Combine all ingredients and simmer for 25-30 minutes. Puree in a blender. For a thicker sauce, return to pot and simmer an additional 15-20 minutes. Refrigerate between uses. Makes about 1 quart.

There is one fine sauce and meal recipe folks. When you sit down to a supper of this, along with a big cast iron skillet full of hot biscuits or cornbread, why there ain't no finer dining this side of the Pearly Gates! Take the time to fix this for your family and friends during the holidays



and you'll be glad you did.

Well folks, I'm glad to report that I made it back from IBMA again in one piece. (I think!) It only took a week to get rested up and back to normal.

There was a sizable number of folks there from California this year and they all had a wonderful time. The music was great and as usual the food in Kentucky was great too. It was go good to be

(Continued on page 20)



Ron Stanley

DOBRO

Lead and Harmony Vocals
Guitar

707-923-2603

Box 724

Garberville, CA 95542

email: stanley@humboldt.net

Play the 6-String Banjo!

For guitar players



Visit
our Web Site: www.DeeringBanjos.com

Harvey Reid unleashed a new sound for guitar players with his CD:

The Artistry of the 6-string Banjo


Reid masterfully captures the magic of Deering's 6-string and 12-string banjos on the first CD of its kind.

To order this great CD send \$17 to Deering Banjo company.

The 6 & 12-string banjos by Deering are fingered just like a guitar, so you don't have to learn banjo to play banjo.

For a free color catalog write:
Deering Banjos, Dept.
BGB, 7936 Lester Ave.,
Lemon Grove, CA USA
91945 Call 800-845-7791





AllenTM

GUITARS

MANDOLINS

RESOPHONICS

LUTHIER SUPPLIES

"BUILDING TOMORROW'S
COLLECTABLE'S TODAY"

(530)-346-6590

PO Box 1883 Colfax, CA 95713 USA

http://www.allenguitar.com

allen@allenguitar.com

Harmonica Korner — Especially for Beginners, Grandparents, Anyone

by Howard Polley

Greetings dear readers.
I know. I know! It's hard to believe. At this writing December is almost here. That means that Christmas is nearly here too and the Y2K computer show-down is also almost here. Attention Computers the World Over: "Please be user friendly on January 1, 2000," is the silent — or maybe — audible prayer of many.

A Carol for the Harmonica

The joyous Christmas season offers many carols and other holiday music which sound good on the harmonica. One of the most beloved of all the carols is "Silent Night". Here is the harp tablature: 6 = Blow (6) = Draw

Silent night. Holy night.
6 (6) 6 5 6 (6) 6 5
All is calm. All is bright.
(8) (8) 7 7 7 6
Round yon virgin
(6) (6) 7 (7)
Mother and child.
(6) 6 5
Holy Infant so tender and mild.
(6)(6) 7 (7) (6) 6 (6) 6 5
Sleep in heavenly peace —
(8) 8 (9)(8)(7) 7 8
Sleep in heavenly peace.
7 6 5 6 (5) (4) 4

For added interest in this carol, you can use both single melody notes and double harmony notes. This is especially true on holes (6) and (5) together and 6 and 5 together. Just open your lips slightly wider in the appropriate places to achieve the harmony thirds. Play the top hole as the melody and the hole directly beneath as harmony.

I thought you might be in-

J.D.'s Kitchen

(From page 19)

able to visit with a lot of my "Bluegrass family" again. It was wonderful to see you all again. Especially my good friends Kitsy and Pete Kuykendall, they are a living treasure as far as I'm concerned. Very few have done as much for our music as they have.

With that said, I'll close for this month, century, and millennium. Gee, I can only write that once in my lifetime!

May God grant you all peace and health.

Yer friend,

J.D. Rhymes

terested in some of the circumstances involved in the composing of "Silent Night". Let's enter the time machine for a moment and check things out.

The year is 1818. The place is a beautiful, alpine setting in Salzburg, Austria. Two principle

characters emerge. Both are musicians. One is a Priest, Father Joseph Mohr; the other a church organist, Franz Gruber. Father Mohr is disappointed. He strongly feels that the perfect Christmas carol has not yet been written. Also, Mohr would like

to have something special for Christmas Eve Mass at the church of Saint Nicholas located high in the beautiful Alps of Austria.

Well lo and behold Father Mohr sets out and composes the lyrics to what we know as Silent Night. Mohr shows this poem to

Gruber who is immediately impressed by its simplicity and beauty. Franz then composes the melody for Silent Night. The decision is made to introduce the carol at the midnight Christ-

(Continued on next page)

Reuben

A sample of Virtual Band
by Jay Buckley

The musical score for "Reuben" is presented in five staves, each representing a different instrument: Fiddle, Mandolin, Guitar, Banjo, and Dobro. The music is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The Fiddle staff uses a treble clef and contains a mix of eighth and sixteenth notes. The Mandolin, Guitar, and Banjo staves use a 4/4 time signature and contain a mix of eighth and sixteenth notes. The Dobro staff uses a 4/4 time signature and contains a mix of eighth and sixteenth notes. The score is arranged in a way that allows for a virtual band performance, with each instrument playing a distinct part of the melody and harmony.

WIDE WORLD OF WEB

By Bill Bubba

Banjoguy@usa.com

Every month you will read in this column about several web sites on the internet that are bubbling over with information dealing with bluegrass, old-time or folk music as covered in the *Bluegrass Breakdown*. A while back, I wrote an E-mail column in this paper. E-mail was about as far as I could travel on the computer, but since then I've gotten a better computer, allowing me to travel that big, big internet bubble and wow, what an eye-opening experience.

You will find that these web sites are full of educational material, tablature and sheet music for example, that you can see, download and print out and then

stash away in your 3-ring binders up on the top shelf in your closet. In addition, you can read the absolute latest product reviews, well-written histories of the various music and instruments and meet people on some very interesting, quite active chat groups.

Right off the top of my head, there are 20 or more favorite commercial and club web sites that get me returning as often as I can.

There are many good bluegrass club web sites out there to be looked at and written about, so that you, too, can someday click onto the sites. For now, I will introduce you to some wonderful club sites for your enjoyment.

Harmonica Korner

(From page 20)

mas Eve mass. One drawback: the organ is broken and won't be repaired in time for the service. Wait a minute. Franz also plays the guitar! Franz and Joseph sing the new carol as a duet with guitar accompaniment. From this moment, Silent Night has been well received the world over at Christmas time.

Silent Night was translated into English by John Young and began to appear in American hymn books in the early 1860's.

Another interesting note — just try to count the number of times Silent Night is used in beginning instrumental books as one of the first songs to learn.

Well harp players, practice this carol and you'll be able to add some harmonica music to the Christmas season for the enjoyment of others as well as yourself.

A very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all. Keep on harping!

Let's start inside the web page for the Nishna Valley Bluegrass Association out of Iowa. Never really gave thought about Iowa being an active, buzzing bluegrass state, but after checking this site out: <http://www.nvbga.com>, I was taken aback.

You get the feeling right from the very beginning, when it opens up into the introductory cover page, that you're in for a good ride. Quite the nice layout with acoustic instruments in the backdrop. I love that one line trailer

that moves from right to left, presently posting a notice about someone offering mandolin lessons in that area, including the telephone number.

At the bottom of the cover page is a nice assortment of boxes waiting for you to click on them. They include information about the club, Bands & Performers, Buy & Listen Online, Classifieds, Festival & Event Calendars, IBMA meetings and announcements, message board, National Traditional Country Music Association, Bluegrass Radio, Dr. Pick-N-Grin,

related links, Rural Route and Weather.

All of this on the cover page, plug bold instructions on how to get into the Bluegrass/Acoustic Music Message Board. Coolboard.Com is the host for the message board and wow, what a message board for the club! That site all by itself ought to keep you entertained for a long time, especially if you like to visit one chocked full of a variety of message boards. Ooooooeeee!

(Continued on page 22)

Holiday Gift Ideas for the Musician!

the intellitouch TUNER

Chromatic - Automatic - 7 octave
"Feels" the pitch through any surface or finish. No wires or pickups.
Guitars, basses, fiddles, brass, woodwinds!
With Custom belt loop case.
List \$75.

Martin Strings
Guitar, Banjo
Mandolin
\$5.95 Set
3 / \$15

Holiday Special \$49.95

Xmas Cards for Fiddlers

Notepads, Notecards,
Musical stationery
(Can be personalized)

Fiddle Outfits

Full & Student Sizes
Starting at
\$129.

Check out our
Shoulder rests
in colors!

Special! Shubb Capos
List \$22.95
\$14.95

Kazoos .99
Harmonicas All Keys \$4.95
String Winders \$1.00

Folding Music Stands
in carry case
\$13.50 & up
While supply lasts

Multi-use
Cordless Music Stand Light
List \$24.

Special Price \$19.95

Fiddles & Accessories:

Strings - Shoulder Rests
Chinrest pads - Rosin - Mutes
Cleaning kits - Parts

We carry
"Rainbows"
in all sizes
Fiddle Kids love them!
(horsehair comes in different colors)
\$49.00

CodaBows
Fine graphite-fiber performance bow
Fiddlers love the flashy new "Colours" Series!
Classic & Conservatory models available

Martin Backpacker Guitar
with Bag
\$199
Suspension Cases starting at \$79.00

Music-Music-Music! Many Special Discounts!
Fiddle/Violin, Guitar, Mandolin, Banjo, Uke, Recorder, etc.
Bluegrass, Old-Time, Cajun, Irish, Contest Fiddling, Gospel, Xmas, Classical
Instrument Stands - Metronomes - Tuners - Pickups
Gifts - Cups - Earrings - Pins - Xmas Angels
Guitars, Mandolins, Ukles, Bodhrans, etc. & Accessories



Stelton's Music
Specializing in Violins! Fiddles

Sales - Rentals - Supplies - Repairs - Instruction
Kelseyville, California

Call 707-279-4336 early to ensure Xmas delivery.

ome® BANJOS
BLUEGRASS FOLK - JAZZ
Large Selection in Stock and Custom Made
Visit our Shop, Showroom and Website
Since 1960
Free Color Catalog
OME Banjos
5680 Valmont Rd., Boulder, CO 80301
(303) 449-0041 Fax (303) 449-1809
www.omebanjos.com
Email: info@omebanjos.com
Dealers Welcome

"Fix it in the Mix"

by Joe Weed

Welcome to December! I hope you have a wonderful holiday season, good times with family and friends, and lots of fun playing music. Before I get into the meat of the column, I'd like to do a little shameless bragging about the Ken Burns PBS series "Not for Ourselves Only," which was just broadcast nationally (in prime time, no less!!) and which used several pieces I produced and recorded with guitar wizard Martin Simpson. Prime time on PBS isn't exactly ABC's "Monday Night Football," but at least it's not the shopping channel.

Happenings around here

At Highland Studio we've been busy with several groups bringing in their acoustic projects. Tony Trishka recorded banjo tracks for the Stephen Foster documentary; Bay Area producer George Kincheloe came to work on Joseph Pulitzer's album; and bassist Derek Jones added tracks to Benita Kenn's album before he took off for Nashville (much to the dismay of many Bay Area studios and musicians).

A project that starts well...

This month's column will focus on a recent session where I was asked to travel to a North Bay studio to listen to a band's album as it entered the mixdown phase, and then consult with the artists and the engineer. The players, well-known to some CBA members from their work at Grass Valley, are Annie and Barry

Ernst. They had employed another CBA favorite, former California State Fiddle Champion and top-notch raconteur Paul Shelasky, to lay down fiddle tracks for their project. The CD in question is an eclectic collection of acoustic string-band music, including vocals.

When Annie and Barry first contacted me about consulting on their project, they said that they were quite happy with the local studio they had found, and liked working with the recording engineer. I was glad to hear that, because experience has shown me that establishing a great working relationship with artists is one of the most important contributions an engineer makes to a recording session. Their positive report about their engineer gave me confidence that this project would be off to a good start.

Their concerns about their project focused on two things. First, the engineer admittedly didn't have any experience working with bluegrass or acoustic string band music. Second, the studio they were working in was small, and sometimes things didn't sound the same in the real world as they did in the studio. So I asked Annie to send me a CD (remember, cassettes aren't a hi-fi medium) of rough mixes of three of their tunes so I could listen to them critically in my control room, which was designed by Chips Davis, a nationally-known studio design guru.

The CD's showed me that the instruments had been well recorded. Two of the common mistakes that I hear in the work of engineers without experience with acoustic music are a drastic thinning out of the acoustic guitars and an overabundance of compression. Fortunately, neither of these problems appeared, and that showed me that the engineer was using his tools (read, "ears") well. (Often, when recording electric bands which add acoustic instruments to their mixes, the only way an engineer can get the acoustic guitar to be heard over the din is by removing most of its low frequency information ("thinning it out") and then compressing it heavily so that it maintains a constant volume level. This guarantees that the instrument will be heard, but the thing which is heard no longer resembles the guitar that the player played his parts on!)

So what was missing?

Although their instruments had been well recorded, Annie and Barry knew that something was missing. I figured that the mixing environment where they were working probably left something to be desired. I suspected that when they were putting together work mixes of their material they were unable to achieve a focused, defined image that matched their expectations for their type of music.

When I arrived at the studio they were using, I decided that

the first important job would be to establish a warm, friendly relationship with their engineer. Since I had been invited (with his kind acquiescence) into his room to help on their project, I felt that the potential for weird vibes should be dispelled immediately. Fortunately, we were both on the same wave length—that the music's success and Annie and Barry's happiness were the primary objectives. Plus, this guy was a good engineer who wanted to broaden his skill base. We got along great.

Does size really matter?

The first thing I noticed about the studio's control room was its size. Although there was a large and airy waiting room/lounge area just outside the control room door, the control room itself was the size of a small tract house bedroom—about ten feet square, with a low ceiling. Much use had been made of sound absorbing materials, and the speakers were a small set of near field monitors. This combination resulted in a very difficult environment for monitoring acoustic instruments, which need to interact with their surrounding environment in order to function properly. I kept wishing I could back up and get further away from the speakers and hear them in a real acoustic space. I commented on this to the engineer, who agreed that the control room was really too small to properly check out elements of the mix such as spaciousness, tones of the instruments, and their placement in the stereo sound field.

How does this translate to a home studio?

If you find yourself trying to record or mix a project in a similar environment, you have several choices for ways to improve your situation. If you are working in a home environment, get out of the bedroom and set up your mixing station in a den or other larger room with varied wall, floor and ceiling treatments. Hard surfaces that reflect sound are good if they are countered with some absorptive surfaces (carpet, cloth-covered furniture, and drapes) so that you don't get runaway flutter echoes between parallel hard surfaces. The pres-

ence of oddly shaped objects and non-parallel walls will help to diffuse the sound as it reverberates in the room, so that you don't get a preponderance of one or two massive acoustical reflections making it hard to hear the original sound. Trying to absorb low frequency energy with small foam sheets just doesn't work—the low frequency energy has very long wave lengths, and it needs deep areas to be absorbed. Heavily padded couches and easy chairs will help dampen overly energized lows.

Working in a larger room also means you will be surrounded by acoustical reflections from farther away than just five or six feet. In previous columns I've talked about how early reflections can combine with the direct sound you're hearing in a nasty way, reinforcing certain frequencies and cancelling out others. In the control room I was trying to help Annie and Barry in, it was difficult to make judgments about much of what I was hearing, due to the presence of so many strong early reflections of low frequency material. The engineer agreed, and later in the day I heard him discussing with another engineer the feasibility of turning their waiting room/lounge area into a bigger, better control room. I'll bet that the next time I'm at that studio, the control room will be occupying the acoustic space once left for clients to chat and sip espresso in.

What next?

Next month I'll talk about some ways we were able to improve the mixes for this project. Meanwhile, spend a little time looking and listening critically to your listening environment's acoustics. And remember that when it comes to monitoring acoustic music, size really does matter.

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.

WORLD WIDE OF WEB

(From page 21)

Before I leave you with information about this website, I just have to clue you in on the wonderful links from this page. If you haven't discovered links on any web pages, you will find they are a great source of information in the wide world of bluegrass, folk, old-time music and others.

OK, some of the links on this page include (just point, click onto these links and you will be there) Janet Davis Music, Bluegrass Unlimited Magazine, Pinecastle Records and BluegrassWorldNetRadio, which provides you with real audio 24 hours a day. There are links to

the E-bay Auction Web., BMI (excellent source for copyright info.), California Bluegrass Association, Cybergrass - The Online Bluegrass Magazine. It's a huge world to keep you busy.

Also there are lots of sites for lyrics, including Cowpie, Elderly Musical Instruments, Flatpick Guitar Tablature from Mike Wright, Gibson USA, IBMA, Acoustic Musicians Magazine, the American Society For Composer's, Author's & Producers, and so on.

One of my favorite links: Phillip Mann's Banjo Page is a good source of banjo tablature music and bluegrass information. There are *Bluegrass Now* Maga-

zine and The Bluegrass Telegraph, which is a fun fun site. And by the way, this link page was updated October 24, 1999, like a freshness date that you'll find on a carton of milk.

You'd be surprised at the number of web sites out there with outdated sites, outdated links and such. To have a web address and not update the information is a waste. Unfortunately so many groups and people just let many of the web sites unravel around their feet.

Next month, I'll be visiting some more interesting club web sites around the world. Till then, happy web surfing.

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

- All Wrecked Up — bluegrass, old-time, honkytonk. Contact Chris Ereneta or Christa Dahlstrom at (415) 759-5171 or online at <http://members.aol.com/wreckedup>.
- Alhambra Valley Band, for information contact Lynn Quinones (510) 229-0365.
- 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, newgrass, and acoustic jazz. Members play guitar, mandolin, bass, banjo and Dobro. Contact Doug Clark (408) 726-2322.
- BanjerDan, for information or bookings, call 619-702-6041; e-mail: banjerdan@mazart.com; or visit our website at: www.mazart.com/banjerdan.html
- Tina Louise Barr, master performer of the Autoharp. For information or bookings, call (209) 522-6548 after 6:00 p.m. (PST).
- Batteries Not Included — a Bluegrass band based in the bay area, playing contemporary and traditional bluegrass. For bookings, contact Toni Murphy (408) 738-1123. Or visit their web site at www.bnibluegrass.com
- Big Valley Band contemporary and traditional Bluegrass. For information or bookings, call Randy at (916) 687-8556.
- Charlie Blacklock with "Charlie's Band", 1821 St. Charles St., Alameda, CA 94501. Phone (510) 523-4649.
- Bluegrass Etc., for information or bookings, contact Dana Thorin, Hourglass Entertainment, 803 1/2 Montrose Avenue South Pasadena, CA 91030; phone (626) 799-2901; e-mail: dthorin@flash.net;

website: <http://WMPUB.com/hourglass.html>

- The Bluegrass Redliners, for information or bookings, contact Dolly Mae Bradshaw, 425 Park Ave., Yorba Linda CA 92866.
- Blue Northern Bluegrass Band - Redding, CA (530) 223-3352 or online... <http://www.shasta.com.bluenorthern>
- Blue to the Bone — for information or bookings, contact JoAnne Martin, 3612 Tomahawk Ln., San Diego, CA 92117; 858-273-3048.
- 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: bdsjmler@aol.com.
- Bluegrass, Etc. For information or bookings, contact John Moore, P.O. Box 141, Palomar Mountain, CA 92060 or call (619) 742-1483.
- 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.
- Dix Bruce and Jim Nunally — Award-winning acoustic guitar and vocal duo that plays original & traditional Americana, old time, folk & bluegrass. The duo's performances are a trademark mixture of wit, emotion, energy, sincerity, and, of course, dazzling digital dexterity. For performances, guitar and mandolin workshops, private lessons, contact: Dix Bruce (925) 827-9311 (e-mail: musix1@aol.com); or Jim Nunally (510) 787-0050 (e-mail: jimnunally@compuserve.com).
- Brushy Peak Bluegrass Band, contact (510) 443-5217; 532 Alden Lane, Livermore, CA 94550, or web site: <http://www.ejthomas.com/brushypeak>
- Cache Valley Drifters, c/o Wally Barnick, 4495 Sycamore Rd., Atascadero, CA 93422, (805) 466-2850; website: <http://www.mightyfine.net>

- 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.
- Compost Mountain Boys, traditional Bluegrass music. For information, contact Wildwood Music, 1027 I St., Arcata, CA 95221 (707) 822-6264. Home page: www.humboldt.edu/~manetasm/compost.
- Sharon Cort & New River Ranch, for information or bookings, contact Dana Thorin, Hourglass Entertainment, 803 1/2 Montrose Avenue South Pasadena, CA 91030; phone (626) 799-2901; e-mail: dthorin@flash.net; website: <http://WMPUB.com/hourglass.html>
- Country Ham, and Carl and Judie Pagter. For booking or information, call (925) 938-

4221 or (804) 985-3551. June 15-18 — 25th annual Silver Anniversary CBA Father's Day Weekend Bluegrass Festival at the Nevada County Fairgrounds in Grass Valley, CA;

- The County Line Bluegrass Band, consists of Paul Bernstein, Doug Holloway, Tony Phillips, Sue Smith, and Bob Waller. County Line plays monthly at the San Gregorio Store, and has recently opened a great new venue in the East Bay at the Kensington Circus Pub. For information or bookings, e-mail: banjar@jps.net or web site: <http://www.jps.net/tophill>

- The Courthouse Ramblers, a five piece bluegrass band based in Monterey and Santa Cruz counties. For information or bookings, phone Keith Hayes at (831) 375-2975, or, visit our website at <http://www2.cruzio.com/~woolfolk/>
- 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 (Continued on Page 24)



builders of Hendricks banjos

Hendricks Banjos

P.O. Box 1197
Pollock Pines, CA 95726
(530) 644-6891

repair, restoration, custom work



BE A WINNER!

YOU can help the CBA grow AND

Be a Winner during our
MEMBERSHIP DRIVE
FOR THE MILLENNIUM

Use this membership application to sign up your friends and family members for membership in the California Bluegrass Association from June 1, 1999 to June 1, 2000 and you can win valuable prizes including a hand-crafted Michael Lewis mandolin and CBA logo merchandise. All CBA members who recruit new members will be eligible for a prize drawing to be held at the 2000 CBA Festival in Grass Valley.

CBA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Yes, sign me up as a new member of the California Bluegrass Association.

NAME: _____ SPOUSE: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

PHONE: _____ E-MAIL: _____

_____ Member & Spouse \$17.50
_____ Member only \$15.00
_____ Add Voting Children @ \$10 each
_____ Add nonvoting Children @ \$1 each

Recruited by: _____
CBA # _____
Senior Citizens (list birthdates): _____

Membership Total \$ _____

Mail to: Mary Runge
CBA Membership Vice President
215 Grant Avenue
Petaluma, CA 94952

BANDS AND UPCOMING GIGS

(Continued from Page 23)

- tion, 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 Kazor 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.
 - 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 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 Worldwide Web at www.colorado.net/picklehead/doodoowah.
 - 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>. December 8 — Freight and Salvage Coffeehouse, Berkeley, CA, 8 pm, w/ Dudley Connell, Don Rigsby and Missy Raines, 510-548-1761; December 16 — The Atlas Cafe, 3049 20th St., San Francisco, CA 8-10 pm with the Bluegrass Intentions (Eric and Suzy Thompson, Alan Senauke and Larry Cohea). Free admission, 415-821-3346; January 20 — Freight and Salvage Coffeehouse, 8 pm, Berkeley, CA w/Jim Nunally, Darol Anger, Kathy Kallick and more, 510-548-1761; January 21 — Clarion Music Center, 816 Sacramento St., San Francisco, CA, 8 pm 415-391-1317 for reservations; January 24 — Mills College, Oakland, CA. Songlines Series, Music Building Ensemble room, 7:30 pm, free admission, 510-430-2171.
 - Peter Feldmann & The Very Lonesome Boys, for information or bookings, contact Dana Thorin, Hourglass Entertainment, 803 1/2 Montrose Avenue South Pasadena, CA 91030; phone (626) 799-2901; e-mail: dthorin@flash.net; website: <http://WMPUB.com/hourglass.html>.
 - Peter Feldmann - Richard Greene - Tom Sauber, for information or bookings, contact Dana Thorin, Hourglass Entertainment, 803 1/2 Montrose Avenue South Pasadena, CA 91030; phone (626) 799-2901; e-mail: dthorin@flash.net; website: <http://WMPUB.com/hourglass.html>.
 - Foothillbillys - old time string band music and other rural favorites. For information and bookings, call (209) 245-4534 or (209) 296-2601.
 - (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.
 - 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 at 102010.3276@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>.
 - Good Company, Country, Bluegrass, Folk, Gospel, Old Time to Popular Hits. Contact Jan (408) 223-2628 or Bette (510) 376-6241.
 - Grace Avenue Band, Gospel and Bluegrass Music. For booking information, contact Bob Thomas at (916) 989-0993 or e-mail: <Graceavenue@yahoo.com>
 - 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 <www.research.digital.com/wrl/projects/misc/Grass_Menager>
 - Richard Greene and the Grass is Greener, for information or bookings, contact Dana Thorin, Hourglass Entertainment, 803 1/2 Montrose Avenue South Pasadena, CA 91030; phone (626) 799-2901; e-mail: dthorin@flash.net; website: <http://WMPUB.com/hourglass.html>.
 - 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) 832-4656; e-mail: <hwaller@pacbell.net> First Sunday of every month - Cafe Radio Valencia, Valencia at 23rd, San Francisco, CA 7:20 - 11 p.m. December 31 — Freight & Salvage Coffee House, Berkeley, CA;
 - 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 or visit their website at <http://home.pacbell.net/highhill/>
 - 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.
 - 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 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, write to P.O. Box 21344, Oakland, CA, 94620; call 510-530-0839; ore-mail: <bgsignal@worldnet.att.net>. December 2 — Atlas Cafe, 3049 20th St. (at Alabama), S.F. (415-648-1047); December 5 — Fresno Folklore Society Concert, Fresno Arts Museum, Fresno, CA, (559-441-4220); January 20 — Bill Evans & Friends, including Kathy at the Freight & Salvage Coffeehouse, 1111 Addison, Berkeley (510-548-1761, www.thefreight.org); January 22 — Kathy & Nina Gerber at the Espresso Garden Cafe, 810 Bascom, San Jose (408-298-0808); February 4 — Kick-off concert for the 1st Annual Northern California, Bluegrass Festival at Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez (at 23rd), S.F.; February 5 — Concert of music for children and the family - time and location tba.; February 11 & '12 — Folk Alliance showcase at the Sheraton City Center Hotel, Cleveland, OH (202-835-3655, www.folk.org); February 19 — Fallon House, Main St., Columbia, CA (209-532-1470); February 26 — Freight & Salvage Coffeehouse, 1111 Addison (near University & San Pablo), Berkeley (510-548-1761, www.the.freight.org)
 - Laurel Canyon Ramblers, for information or bookings, contact Dana Thorin, Hourglass Entertainment, 803 1/2 Montrose Avenue South Pasadena, CA 91030; phone (626) 799-2901; e-mail: dthorin@flash.net; website: <http://WMPUB.com/hourglass.html>.
 - Laurie Lewis, for booking information, contact Cash Edwards, Under the Hat Productions, (512) 447-0544, FAX (512) 447-0544; e-mail: uthp@earthlink.net.
 - Loose Gravel, Bluegrass and beyond. For information and bookings, call Chuck Ervin (510) 536-05996 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. June 15-18 — 25th annual Silver Anniversary CBA Father's Day Weekend Bluegrass Festival at the Nevada County Fairgrounds in Grass Valley, CA;
 - MacRae Brothers, Old-Time Country Brother Duets. For information or bookings, call (530) 400-3872, write 1330 West H Street #D, Dixon, CA 95620, or e-mail MarfDuMonde@yahoo.com. Website: www.geocities.com/nashville/5443/MacRaeBrothers.html
 - The Mandolin Serenaders, American Roots Music duo/group. Presenting "The Great American Mandolin Experience," historical show from Naples, Italy to Kentucky Bluegrass. For bookings or information, contact Dave Rainwater, P.O. Box 142, Mountain Ranch, CA 95246; or phone



BANDS AND UPCOMING GIGS

- 209-754-5747.
- 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.
- Mountain Laurel, for booking and information, contact Doug Bianchi at 530-265-6743 or Paul Siese at 530-265-4328; or e-mail: <dbianchi@nccn.net>.
- 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: gsbonya@jps.net.
- Pleasant Valley, (the Giacomuzzi Family Bluegrass Band), Contemporary style Bluegrass Music. For information or bookings, call (805) 987-2386.
- 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>.
- Ron & Jerry, for bookings contact Ron Stanley, P.O. Box 724, Garberville, CA 95542; phone (707) 923-2603; E-mail <stanley@humboldt.net>.
- 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 Hoggallers, Folk,

- blues, bluegrass, gospel, Irish, children's shows and acoustic country music. For information or bookings, contact Gary Bowman, 4639 Myrtle Ave., Eureka, CA 95503, phone (707) 476-8843.
- Rural Delivery, contact Larry or Carol Bazinet, 26185 Maitlin Rd., Romona, CA 92065, phone (619) 486-3437 or 789-7629.
- Run Mountain, for bookings or information, contact Carolyn at (650) 969-7389.
- Saddle Rash Bluegrass Band, for bookings and information, call (916) 581-1193.
- 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: lisaonbass@aol.com.
- Sierra Blue, Bluegrass and acoustic country duets. Call Hugh or Sheri Hoeger at (916) 933-2270. Perform at the Steakout Restaurant, located behind McDonald's in Placerville, CA on the third Friday of each month now through December. Music starts at 6:30 PM. To round out their performances, the delightful duo may invite special guests to join them on various nights.
- 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.
- Songs of the Appalachians, Historical school shows for grades K-8 (American folk songs and instruments). For information contact Dave Rainwater at 209-754-5747.
- 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; 530-872-1187; e-mail: SOURDO SLIM@aol.com; Website: <www.sourdoughslim.com>.
- December 11 & 12 - Monterey Cowboy Poetry & Music, Convention Center, Monterey, CA; December 16 - Sacramento Library, Sacramento, CA 4pm; December 17 & 18 - Yeow!, Sutter Creek Theater, Sutter Creek, CA W/Blackwood Tom; December 28 - Autry Museum of Western Heritage, Los Angeles, CA 12-3pm; December 28 - Coffee Gallery Backstage, Altadena, CA 8 pm; December 31 - First Night, Martinez, CA



- 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>
- Alice Stuart and Prune Rooney, for bookings or information, e-mail: <sturoo@netshel.net>
- 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.
- Tall Timber Boys, traditional bluegrass. For information or bookings, call (530) 400-3872; write 1330 West H St. Apt D, Dixon, CA 95620 or e-mail at TallTimberBoys@Yahoo.com. www.talltimberboys.com.
- The David Thom Band, California bluegrass. For bookings or information, contact David Thom (415) 381-8466, e-mail: david@thedtb.com. Visit our website at www.thedtb.com for gig schedule and band information. December 31 - The Sweetwater w/ Vinyl, Mill Valley, CA 415-388-2820
- Virtual Strangers - (bluegrass) for information or bookings, call Jon Cherry at (619) 659-3699 or Mike Tatar at (619) 679-1225.
- The Waybacks - Bluegrass? Newgrass? Crabgrass? YOU make the call. These SF Bay Area folks call their music "acoustic mayhem," and play everything from old-time to chicken-pickin' to Piedmont blues to cowboy music to Grapelli-esque jazz to Celtoid, gospel, beat poetry and eccentric originals. Flatpicked guitar, fiddle, mandolin, humanatone, fingerpicked guitar, doghouse bass, harmony vocals and percussion. (415) 642-2872 for information and bookings. Surf on by the website at <<http://www.whatwasit.com>> for gig schedules and self-aggrandizing information.
- 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.
- The Witcher Brothers, for information or bookings, contact Dennis Witcher, P.O. Box 33903, Granada Hills, CA 91394, phone (818) 366-7713. Every Friday Night at Vincenzo's, 2955 Cochran, Simi Valley, CA. For information, call: 805-579-9962.
- Dede Wyland Band, for infor-

mation or bookings, contact Dana Thorin, Hourglass Entertainment, 803 1/2 Montrose Avenue South Pasadena, CA 91030; phone (626) 799-2901; e-mail: dthorin@flash.net; website: <<http://WMPUB.com/hourglass.html>>.

- 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. January 22 - Gospel Concert at the Sunrise Community Church, 8321 Greenback Lane, Fair Oaks, CA, 7:30 p.m. Sponsored by the Sacramento Area CBA. For information or tickets, call Bob Thomas at 916-989-0993 or see concert ad in this issue.
- Eddie and Martha Adcock - for bookings and information, contact Eddie or Martha Adcock, P.O. Box 180, Antioch, TN 37011, phone or fax 615-781-8728. February 19 - Colorado's Mid-Winter Bluegrass Festival, Denver, CO;
- Neal Backues and Silver Cloud Tradition, for bookings and information, contact Neal J. Backues, P.O. Box 7170, Jefferson City, MO 65102; phone 573-636-0536; e-mail: neal@bluegrassworld.com. April 14 & 15 - Texas State Kick Off Festival, Canton, TX; April 21-23 - Tres Rios Spring Bluegrass Festival, Glen Rose, TX;
- Bluegrass Patriots, for bookings and information, 1807 Essex Drive, Fort Collins, CO 80526, or call (970) 482-0863. June 15-18 - 25th annual Silver Anniversary CBA Father's Day Weekend Bluegrass Festival at the Nevada County Fairgrounds in Grass Valley, CA;
- Blue Highway, for information and bookings contact RS Entertainment, 329 Rockland Road, Hendersonville, TN 37075, (615) 264-8877, FAX: (615) 264-8899; e-mail: andrea.compton@juno.com.
- Breakaway - for information or bookings, contact Andy Sacher, PO Box 8343,

BANDS AND UPCOMING GIGS

- 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.
 - Dale Ann Bradley & Coon Creek, for information and booking, contact Vicki Simmons, 312 Angel Road, Berea, KY 40403, Phone 606-986-1194; FAX 606-986-1044; e-mail: cooncreekmusic@zeus.chapel1.com; web site: <www.daleann.com>.
 - Continental Divide, for booking or information, contact David Parmley at (615) 824-4399.
 - Sharon Cort & New River Ranch, for information or bookings, contact Dana Thorin, Hourglass Entertainment, 803 1/2 Montrose Avenuem South Pasadena, CA 91030; phone (626) 799-2901; e-mail: dthorin@flash.net; website: <http://WMPUB.com/hourglass.html>.
 - John Cowan Band, for booking or information, 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.mind spring.com/-bumn/classact>.
 - 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.mind spring.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>. June 15-18 — 25th annual Silver Anniversary CBA Father's Day Weekend Bluegrass Festival at the Nevada County Fairgrounds in Grass Valley, CA;
 - 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>. January 7 — Columbus, OH, Columbus Music Hall, Rebecca Krohn (614-464-0044) 8-9: Dayton, OH: Canal St. Tavern, Mick Montgomery (937-461-9343); February 4 — Knoxville, TN, Laurel Theatre, 8pm (423-522-5881); February 5 — Nashville, TN, SPBGMA Convention, Sheraton Music City, Chuck Stearman (660-665-7172); February 6 — Nashville, TN, Ron Thomason hosts SPBGMA Awards Show, Sheraton Music City, Chuck Stearman (660-665-7172); February 26-27 — Tacoma, WA, Wintergrass, Tacoma Sheaton Hotel and Convention Center;
 - The Fox Family for information or bookings, contact Dana Thorin, Hourglass Entertainment, 803 1/2 Montrose Avenuem South Pasadena, CA 91030; phone (626) 799-2901; e-mail: dthorin@flash.net; website: <http://WMPUB.com/hourglass.html>. June 15-18 — 25th annual Silver Anniversary CBA Father's Day Weekend Bluegrass Festival at the Nevada County Fairgrounds in Grass Valley, CA;
 - Freight Hoppers, for information and bookings contact Keith Case and Associates, (615) 327-4646; (615) 327-4949 FAX.
 - Front Range, for bookings and information contact Chris Pritchard at 800-547-4784 or e-mail: <cwp54@aol.com>.
 - 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.
 - Illrd Tyme Out, for information and bookings, contact the Deaton Agency at 770-271-9056. June 15-18 — 25th annual Silver Anniversary CBA Father's Day Weekend Bluegrass Festival at the Nevada County Fairgrounds in Grass Valley, CA;
 - 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, 1025 17th Ave. S. 2Nd Fl., Nashville, TN 37212, 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. June 15-18 — 25th annual Silver Anniversary CBA Father's Day Weekend Bluegrass Festival at the Nevada County Fairgrounds in Grass Valley, CA;
 - 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. February 25 & 26 — Wintergrass at the Tacoma Sheraton Hotel, Tacoma, WA; July 15 & 16 — Darrington Bluegrass Festival, Darrington, WA;
 - Lost and Found, for information and bookings, contact Allen Mills, P.O. Box 90, Woolwine, VA 24185, (540) 930-2622. June 15-18 — 25th annual Silver Anniversary CBA Father's Day Weekend Bluegrass Festival at the Nevada County Fairgrounds in Grass Valley, CA;
 - 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 contact Red House Records (800) 695-4687.
 - Del McCoury Band, for information and bookings contact RS Entertainment Offices, 329 Rockland Road, Hendersonville, TN 37075, phone 615-264-8877.
 - 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.mind spring.com/budm/classact
 - Nashville Bluegrass Band, for information and bookings contact Keith Case and Associates, 1025 17th Ave. S. 2Nd Fl., Nashville, TN 37212, 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.Swift Site.com/nostringsattached>
 - Northern Lights, for information and booking contact Linda Bolton, 437 Live Oak Loop NE, Albuquerque, MN 87122-1406, phone/FAX 505-856-7100, email <nlightsmgt@aol.com>.
 - Northern Pacific, for information and booking contact Trisha Tubbs, P.O. Box 601, Woodinville, WA 98072-0601; phone 425-481-7293; or e-mail: trishtubbs@aol.com.
 - Tim O'Brien & Darrell Scott, for information and 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>.
 - Peter Rowan, for information and bookings contact Keith Case and Associates, (615) 327-4646; (615) 327-4949 FAX. December 11 — Neighborhood Church, Pasadena, CA; December 15 — The Sweetwater, Mill Valley, CA; December 31 — the Fillmore Auditorium, Denver, CO;
 - 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 DeeannBG@aol.com.
 - 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: <sandmntnboy@aol.com>; or Kenny Townsel at 256-561-3373; e-mail: <kennyboy@airnet.net>. June 15-18 — 25th annual Silver Anniversary CBA 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. February 26 & 27 — Wintergrass, Tacoma Sheraton, Tacoma, WA;
 - The Sitze Family, for booking or information, write to 1663 Madison 250, Fredericktown, MO 63645; call 573-783-7054; e-mail: sitze@fredericktown.K12.mo.us.
 - 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.
 - Southern Rail — for information or bookings, contact: Sharon Horovitch PO Box 323, Watertown, MA 02471; phone 781-891-0258; or e-mail: <SouthernRail@worldstd.com> December 2-5 — Bluegrass on a Riverbarge in New Orleans, LA, for information, call 1-800-563-9252;
 - Larry Sparks and the Lonesome Ramblers, for information and bookings, contact Larry Sparks, P.O. Box 505, Greenburg, IN 47240, (812) 663-8055.
 - 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 (323) 258-0969.

Upcoming Bluegrass, Old-time and Gospel Music Events

DECEMBER

- December 4 — **Kathy Kallick Band in Concert** at the Fresno Art Museum, 2233 N. First (at Clinton), Fresno, CA. Doors open at 7 p.m. music at 7:30 p.m. For information, call 209-456-0453.
- December 6 & 7 — **Meet the Banjo**, a hands-on workshop for old-time and Bluegrass style banjo players (or wanna-be's) at the House of Strings, 3411 Ray Street, San Diego, CA. Sponsored by Deering Banjo Co. Learn about the banjo with banjo master Dan Levenson. Monday's workshop 6:30-9:30 p.m.; Tuesday (Intermediate Clawhammer workshop) 7-9 p.m. For information or reservations, call 619-280-9035.
- December 9 — **Two of today's hottest pickers and singers in Concert** at the Chico Women's Club, Chico, CA. Featuring Dudley Connell (Seldom Scene) and Don Rigsby (Lonesome River Band) - both also of Longview, and Missy Raines (1998 IBMA Bass Player of the Year). They will be performing pre-Bluegrass 'Brother Duets' from Don & Dudley's new album "Meet Me By the Moonlight". Co-spon-

Bands & Upcoming Gigs (From previous page)

- 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 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

sored by the Butte Folk Society (BFS) and the California Bluegrass Association. Tickets are \$15 for BFS and CBA members; \$17 for general admission. For tickets and information, contact

- December 9-11 — **Christmas in the Smokies** with the Larking Family Bluegrass Festival at the Grand Hotel and Convention Center in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee. Featuring: the Osborne Brothers, Ralph Stanley & the Clinch Mountain Boys, the Lewis Family, Mike Snider, Jim Jesse & the Virginia Boys, the Larry Stephenson Band, Randall Hylton, Raymond Fairchild and more. For information or tickets, call 423-357-6741 or visit their website at: <http://www.svs.net/flash/larkin.htm>.
- December 10 — **the California Bluegrass Association the 5th String Music Store present** two of today's hottest pickers and singers in Concert at the Central United Methodist Church 5265 H St, Sacramento, CA 95819. Featuring Dudley Connell (Seldom Scene) and Don Rigsby (Lonesome River Band) - both also of Longview, and Missy Raines (1998 IBMA Bass Player of the Year). They will be performing pre-Bluegrass 'Brother Duets' from Don & Dudley's new album "Meet Me By the Moonlight". Tickets are \$12.50 for CBA members and \$15 general admission. For information and tickets contact: Matt Dudman 1330 West H Street # D, Dixon, CA 95620 (530) 400-3872. Tickets also available at The Fifth String Music Store, 930 Alhambra Blvd. Sacramento, CA 95816, (916) 442-8282.
- December 30, 31 & January 1 — **24th Annual New Year's Bluegrass Festival** in the Convention Center on Jekyll Island, Georgia. Featuring: Mac Wiseman, the Lewis Family, Charlie Waller and the Country Gentlemen, Jim & Jesse & the Virginia Boys, Doyle Lawson & Quicksilver, Ralph Stanley & the Clinch Mountain Boys, the Osborne Brothers, Illrd Tyme Out, the Village Singers, Big Country Bluegrass, Larry Stephenson Band, Raymond Fairchild & the Maggie Valley Boys, the Tennessee Gentlemen, Blueridge,

White Sands Panhandle Band and the McLain Brothers. For tickets or information, call 706-864-7203.

JANUARY

- January 11-15 — **Pete Wernick's Winter Banjo Camp** for Basic Skills at the Sandy Point Inn in Boulder, Colorado. For information or registration, contact Dr. Banjo, 7930-F Oxford Rd., Niwot, CO 80503.
- January 14-16 — **12th Annual Colorado River Country Music Festival**, Blythe, CA. Featuring: Country Current (U.S. Navy Band), the Larry Stephenson Band, Laurel Canyon Ramblers, the Blade Runners, the Grasshoppers, Lost Highway and the Marty Warburton Band. Other activities include contests for fiddle, banjo, mandolin, and guitar players, a band scramble and workshops. For information or tickets, call 760-922-8166 or FAX 760-922-4010 or write to Blythe Area Chamber of Commerce, 201 South Broadway, Blythe, CA 92225. Tickets will also be available at the gate.
- January 18 - 22 — **Pete Wernick's Winter Banjo Camp** for Intermediate or Advanced players at the Sandy Point Inn in Boulder, Colorado. For information or registration, contact Dr. Banjo, 7930-F Oxford Rd., Niwot, CO 80503.
- January 22 — **5 for the Gospel Concert** at the Sunrise Community Church, 8321 Greenback Lane, Fair Oaks, CA, 7:30 p.m. Sponsored by the Sacramento Area CBA. For information or tickets, call Bob Thomas at 916-989-0993 or see the concert ad in this issue.
- January 22 — **String Fling 2000**, Imperial Valley Expo Grounds, Imperial, CA. Fiddle, banjo, mandolin, guitar contests, band scramble and entertainment. Sponsored by the California State Old Time Fiddlers Association District 7 (San Diego).
- January 28 - 30 — **Best Of The West Bluegrass Shootout And Superbowl Party** at Eagle Mountain Ranch Buckeye, AZ. A festival at which first place winning Bluegrass, Old Time Country and Family Bands are

invited to compete against other winning bands of the same type. Also features band performances and a fiddle contest between the Arizona Champion Fiddler and the Four Corners State fiddle Champion and a Superbowl Party on Sunday Afternoon. For further information, call (623) 386-2316.

FEBRUARY

- February 3-6 — **26th Annual SPBGMA Bluegrass Music Awards** and 17th National Convention at the Sheraton Music City Hotel in Nashville, Tennessee. A partial list of the bands performing includes: Illrd Tyme Out, James King Band, Osborne Brothers, J.D. Crowe & the New South, Doyle Lawson & Quicksilver, the Lewis Family, Lonesome River Band, Lynn Morris Band, the Reno Brothers, Nashville Bluegrass Band, 5 for the Gospel and many more. The 17th International Band Championship will also be held during the event. For information or tickets, contact SPBGMA c/o Chuck Stearman, P.O. Box 271, Kirksville, MO; call 660-665-7172; FAX 660-665-7450 or E-mail: spbgma@kvmo.net.
- February 8-13 — **First Annual Great San Francisco Bluegrass Festival**, San Francisco and Marin County locations. For further information, call Michael Hall (650) 631-8452.
- February 12 & 13 — **Bean Blossom Winter Fest** at the Honeywell Center, 275 W. Market Street, Wabash, Indiana. Featuring: Jeff White, Melvin Goins & Windy Mountain, J. D. Crowe & The New South, the Lynn Morris Band, Talmadge Law & the Bluegrass Sounds, the James King Band, Illrd Tyme Out, the Lewis Family, Doyle Lawson & Quicksilver, and New Harmony. For Tickets & Information call (800) 626-6345 or (219) 563-1102.
- February 18-20 — **Colorado's 15th Annual Mid-Winter Bluegrass Festival** at the Northglen Holiday Inn & Holidome, I-25 and 120th Avenue, Denver, Colorado. Featuring in concert: Mac Wiseman, Front Range, the McLains, Rarely Herd, Eddie &

Martha Adcock, Midnight Flight, the Dowden Sisters, Chugwater String Quartet, Exit 81, Open Road, Liz Masterson & Sean Blackburn, Gary Cook and Friends, Cheyenne Lonesome, Bluegrass Patriots and Carbon Copy. The Great Rocky Mountain Band Scramble will also be a part of the weekend. Advance tickets now on sale (see add in this issue for more information). For tickets or brochure, call or write: Seaman Productions, 1807 Essex Dr., Ft. Collins, CO 80526; 970-482-0863; or visit their website at: bluegras@verinet.com.

- February 18 - 20 — **22nd Annual TSBA Winter Bluegrass Music Festival** at the Hannibal Inn in Hannibal, Missouri. Featuring: Carl Shifflett and Big Country, Goldwing Express, the Coffee Brothers, Second Exit and Brightwater Junction. For information or tickets, call 573-853-4344.
- February 25 - 26 — **Old Time Fiddling 10th Anniversary Celebration** at the County Fair Mall in Woodland, CA. Music in the mall from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. For information, call Gloria Bremer at 530-662-7908.
- February 24-27 — **Wintergrass Festival** at the Tacoma Sheraton in Tacoma, Washington. For information, write to Wintergrass, P.O. Box 2356, Tacoma, WA 98401-2356; call 253-922-7713; E-mail: patriceo@nwlinc.com; or visit their website at: www.halcyon.com/healey/wintergrass/

MARCH

- March 6-8 — **Buckeye Bluegrass Revue**, Eagle Mountain Ranch, 12100 South Dean Rd., Buckeye, AZ. For information, call 602-386-2316.
- April 4 - 8 — **Two Rivers Bluegrass Festival** at the Greene County Rural Events Center in Leakesville, Mississippi. Featuring: the Mason Cahpel Choir, Stuart Family, Old 15 South, Fair River Station, Magnolia Travelers, Country Current, Harvard Family Bluegrass Gospel, Jones and Blue Rail Express, the Rarely Herd, White Sands Panhandle Band, Gary Waldrep Band and many more. For information or tickets, contact Bertie Sullivan, P.O. Box (Continued on page 28)

Upcoming music events

(Continued from page 27)

16678, Hattiesburg, MS 39404-6778 or call 601-544-7676.

- March 31 - April 1 & 2 — Rawhide Bluegrass Festival at Rawhide Western Town in Scottsdale, AZ. The lineup includes Robin & Linda Williams, The Shankman Twins, The Bladerunners and several other bands. For information, call (480) 502-5600.

APRIL

- April 27-30 — **Merlefest 2000** on the campus of Wilkes Community College in Wilkesboro, North Carolina. Tentative lineup includes: Doc Watson, the Freight Hoppers, Chesapeake with Tony Rice, Laurie Lewis and Her Bluegrass Pals, John Cowan Band, Rhonda Vincent & the Rage, Nickel Creek, Jerry Douglas Band, Peter Rowan & the Free Mexican Air Force and many more. For tickets and information, write to Merlefest, P.O. Box 1299, Wilkesboro, NC 28697-1299; phone 800-343-7857; FAX 336-838-6277; or visit their web site at: www.merlefest.org.
- May 26-28 — **Route 66 Worlds of Music Festival** at Snyder's Park in Halltown, Missouri. For information or tickets, contact Neal or Mary Backues, Bluegrass World Music, Inc. P.O. Box 7170, Jefferson City, MO 65102; phone 573-636-0536 or e-mail: neal@bluegrassworld.com.

JUNE

- June 8 - 10 — **Pony Express Worlds of Music Festival** at the Antique Car and Tractor Park, Lathrop, Missouri. For information or tickets, contact Neal or Mary Backues, Bluegrass World Music, Inc. P.O. Box 7170, Jefferson City, MO 65102; phone 573-636-0536 or e-mail: neal@bluegrassworld.com.
- June 15, 16, 17 & 18 — **25th Annual CBA Father's Day Weekend Bluegrass Festival** at the Nevada County Fairgrounds in Grass Valley, California. An outstanding All-Star lineup including: Illrd Tyme Out, California (reunion), J.D. Crowe and the New South, the Fox Family, the James King Band, Doyle Lawson & Quicksilver, Lost and Found, the Reno Brothers, the Sand Mountain Boys, the Bluegrass Patri-

ots, Country Ham, Kids on Bluegrass, Lost Highway, Rarely Herd, Mountain Heart and MORE! CBA member Early Bird Discount Tickets now on sale through February 28, 2000. For information and a ticket order blank, please see the full-page ad in this issue.

AUGUST

- August 24-26 — **Pony Express Worlds of Music Festival** at the Antique Car and Tractor Park, Lathrop, Missouri. For information or tickets, contact Neal or Mary Backues, Bluegrass World Music, Inc. P.O. Box 7170, Jefferson City, MO 65102; phone 573-636-0536 or e-mail: neal@bluegrassworld.com.
- August 28 - September 3 — **25th National Old Time Country Music Festival**, Contest & Pioneer Exposition of Arts and Crafts at the Pottawattamie Fairgrounds in Avoca, Iowa. Performers now being sought. For information, contact Bob Everhart, NTCMA, P.O. Box 492, Anita, Iowa 50020; phone or FAX 712-762-4363.

SEPTEMBER

- September 1 - 3 — **Route '66 Worlds of Music Festival**, Snyder's Park, Halltown, Missouri. For information or tickets, contact Neal or Mary Backues, Bluegrass World Music, Inc. P.O. Box 7170, Jefferson City, MO 65102; phone 573-636-0536 or e-mail: neal@bluegrassworld.com.
- September 12-13-14-15-16 — **8th Annual Poppy Mountain Illrd Tyme Out Bluegrass Festival** on a 1000 acre farm in Morehead, Kentucky. Featuring: Blue Highway, Chapman Family, Country Gentlemen, Dave Evans & Riverbend, Illrd Tyme Out, James King Band, Larry Stephenson Band, Lonesome River Band, Mountain Heart, Ralph Stanley & the Clinch Mountain Boys, Sand Mountain, Silver Cloud Tradition, and many more. Morehead, Kentucky is 75 miles east of Lexington. For information or tickets, write to Poppy Mountain Bluegrass, 8030 U. S. 60, Morehead, KY 40351; call (606) 784-2277; e-mail: poppymtn@mis.net; or visit their website <www.poppymountainbluegrass.com>.

Examples of other folks' ways to get music to kids

by Elena Corey

The fourth generation of bluegrass pickers is alive and well! At the IBMA fan fest last week I was privileged to watch several nine and ten year olds surround Chris Thile and Sarah Watkins (veteran pickers in their early 20s). After expressing their admiration, they were wanting to show these performers their own licks. All through the hotel, kids were participating in impromptu jams as well as family showcases.

Saturday afternoon a workshop on youth in bluegrass presented the Wheeling Park High School bluegrass club, whose sponsor spoke earnestly about the need for adults to include kids in jams. He noted that if well-intentioned but busy adults have no time to spare for kids with questions, there are plenty of people, such as Marilyn Manson and White Zombie, whose intentions are less honorable who will gladly use attention to seduce the kids.

Another participant pointed out that if parents wait until the kids are ready to go to high school to provide positive options for their energies, that is way too late.

The audience received these sobering truths seriously and earnestly; and then the kids played and joy was restored to the world. They were exuberant, they were inventive, they were confident, and they showed promise musically.

Saturday night the Alaskan kids showcased in the CBA suite to a packed house. Belle Mickelson, along with Frank Solivan and Frank Solivan the second, worked all summer with groups of 4-H kids, creating music camps (one in Cordova and the other just outside Anchorage) especially for bluegrass.

The Alaska 4-H camp was able to get the nation-wide 4-H structure involved, using camping and organizational expertise of the organization, so that they were able to concentrate on the music. By offering free tuition and room and board to high-school age students/ campers who would act as counselors to younger kids, (with one day of staff training ahead of time), the planners were able to run the

camp quite efficiently, so the fun of music could be the highlight of the time spent in camp.

Kids who might never have had a chance to even touch a guitar, mandolin, banjo, bass or fiddle, living in the boondocks (or even the cities) of Alaska are able to use good-quality borrowed instruments to learn to play bluegrass music in a fun atmosphere. They emerge from camp ready to showcase, and with self-confidence developing.

So of course I got to thinking about what kinds of music programs are available around here for kids. The Crowden School (from 4th-9th grades) features a full academic curriculum (you know: math, English, history, phys ed, etc.) and additionally offers a rigorous program of chamber music. In fact, music instruction is part of every student's schedule — from September until June.

Anne Crowden, founder of the school has said, "Music is the best tool for learning — absolutely, because it takes everything. It takes coordination, it takes brains, it takes heart and it takes a collective effort."

The Crowden School is located in Berkeley, CA, and is also affiliated with an outreach program which offers additional music classes at affordable tuition via after-school, weekend and summer classes for kids from age 3 through 18. Crowden students have been honored internationally for their skill — gotten to tour in such places as Italy, and have been fortunate to absorb the warm textures of chamber music from masters in the field.

What else? The Sacramento branch of California Jazz Music Society offers cheap raffle tickets, year-long, at every concert, jam, picnic or whatever. Members and guests may buy a \$2 ticket or three for \$5 for the privilege, (if they win the year-end raffle), of having their name inscribed as the primary donor of the scholarship fund awarded to some lucky teenager. That teenager gets to attend the summer jazz camp free.

Other folks, primarily teenagers and daughters of mem-

bers, can, of course, attend the jazz camp by paying their own tuition, but it's not cheap. At the summer jazz camp, classes are quickly formed around instruments to be studied and excellent instructors devote themselves to their students for some 15 hours a day. Students come away from the camp pumped up and motivated to use their new insights toward future progress instrumentally.

On the folk scene, the California Coast Music Camp offers a summer week of intensive instruction to adults, with a few scholarships which may be available to teenagers. Some of the "folk" music is actually bluegrass, and some of the instructors have a rich background in bluegrass and can introduce it to whom-ever is interested. The camp fills up quickly, so waiting lists are not uncommon and tuition is higher than average.

In bluegrass music, what is available? Some festivals feature some children's instruction programs in short 40-minute sessions during the weekend and some don't. We could borrow some of the other groups' ideas — like offer a week-long music camp (maybe just a week before the festival?) with parents providing meals and non-musical maintenance help.

We could also formally contribute to the California Coast Music Camp's bluegrass instruction by offering one or two scholarships to teenage wanna-bee musicians.

We could come up with any number of new, great schemes, plans and aids to help us give our kids the heritage of music we'd like them to have.

While we're just considering the advisability of the idea, our kids are developing strong habits and lifestyles. Shall we take a positive step to give them music?



Memories of Grass Valley 1999 -- Kids on Bluegrass

by Suzanne Denison

During a CBA Festival in 1992, Frank Solivan, Jr. (then still a high school student), asked my husband Don (the Festival Coordinator at the time), if a group of "kids" he and his father had been practicing with could have a chance to perform on the Festival stage.

Don told him that if he could get permission from the Entertainment Coordinator and George Relles, our sound contractor to do a short set, they had his OK.

Well, Frank, Jr. did get the permission he needed, and from then on, the CBA has provided a half-hour set on Friday and Saturday evenings of our annual Festival for the "Kids on Bluegrass" to perform. They have always been an audience favorite, and it is very encouraging to see youngsters perform Bluegrass and Old-time music.

Frank Solivan, Jr. has now moved on to other things, and is working in Alaska. See Elena Corey's article on the previous page for more information on him.

It has also been traditional for our CBA photographers to snap as many photos of possible during the kids' performances. However, because of the fast-

paced schedule, we very seldom get the names of the children and teenagers who are performing.

1999 was no exception, and while I published a couple of photos of Kids on Bluegrass in an earlier issue, I didn't have the names of those pictured.

Luckily for us, CBA member Marietta Davis of Modesto called and asked me if she could help to identify the youngsters who performed this year. She had some difficulty in getting in touch with Frank Solivan, Sr. since his work schedule frequently takes him out of town.

Well, she succeeded, sent the photos back to me, and here they are. I hope that you enjoy seeing them as much as I did, and that it pleases the Kids on Bluegrass members as well.

Thanks to Marietta and a huge thank you to Frank Solivan, Sr. and his helpers. They never know how many participants they will have or their level of abilities on instruments or vocals. Yet, every year they work with the kids for several days and then put on two polished performances for the CBA Festival audience. Kudos to all of the folks involved, and especially to the "Kids" -- they're our future!

All Photos by Howard Gold



Annie Staninec takes a fiddle break.



Tommy Shewmake on guitar and Kalley Davis (bass) on the CBA's 1999 Festival Stage.



Tommy Shewmake (left) takes a break on his guitar as brother Timmy Shewmake on Dobro and Daymond Gear (mandolin) provide background.



Angelica (Andy) Grimm is pictured singing "Mountain Dew". Carly Smith and Daymond Gear are in the background.

Places to find live acoustic music performances

- Atlas Cafe, 3049 20th Street (at Alabama), San Francisco, CA; phone 415-648-1047. Bluegrass jam session and open mic last Thursday of every month, 8-10 p.m. December 2 — Kathy Kallick Band, 8-10 p.m.; December 16 — the Bluegrass Intentions, 8-10 p.m.;
- Billy Bob's Pork 'n Park, 6022 Pony Express Trail, Pollock Pines, CA. Bluegrass music on Saturday nights — call for details.
- Blue Rock Shoot, 14523 Big Basin Way, Saratoga, CA; phone 408-867-3437.
- Cafe Romano, Main and Castro in Martinez, CA, phone 510-370-0700.
- 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.
- The 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.
- The Fox And Goose Public House, 1001 R street, Sacramento, California. The Fox and Goose, long noted as a spot for good brew and live acoustic entertainment, has started to host a bluegrass jam session each month between 8:30 PM and 11:30 PM. Call Carlos at 916-806-2545 for further information, or as Carlos himself summed it up, "just come to play or come to listen!" We're still waiting to see how this jam shapes up.
- The Fox Theatre, 326 N. Irwin on the corner of Lacey and Irwin, Hanford, CA. December 4 — Sons of the San Joaquin, 8 pm.; December 10 — Ty Herndon; December 11 — Sandi Patty.
- Freight and Salvage Coffee House, 1111 Addison Street, Berkeley. Call (510) 548-1761 for information, or visit their web site at: <www.thefreight.org> December 2 — Greb Brown & Stacey Earle at St. John's Presbyterian Church, Berkeley, CA; December 8 — Dudley Connell & Don Rigsby w/Bill Evans opening; December 9 — Bryan Bowers; December 11 — Utah Phillips; December 14 — Christmas Jug Band (Tom Hicks, Tim Eschilman, Austin DeLone, Lance Dickerson, Paul Rogers, Black Richardson, Nik Phelps & Adam Gabriel); December 18 — Holly Near; December 19 — New Grange (Alison Brown, Darol Anger, Mike Marshall, Phil Anberg, Tim O'Brien & Todd Phillips); December 22 — Holiday Revue with host Laurie Lewis; December 31 — New Year's show featuring High Country plus Dix Bruce and Jim Nunally; January 2 — Bill Evans & Friends, including Kathy Kallick; January 8 — Jody Stecher & Kate Brislin;
- Henflings Tavern, 9450 Highway 9, Ben Lomond, CA; phone 831-335-1642 or e-mail: TMM@cruzio.com for upcoming performances.
- Maytan Music Center & Coffee House, 777 South Center St., Reno, NV 89501, (702) 323-5443.
- The Last Day Saloon, 406 Clement Street, San Francisco, CA. For information, call David at 415-387-6344 or e-mail: fivearms@yahoo.com. "American Roots Music" on Wednesday nights, featuring bluegrass, country/western and folk music. Call for information and times. December 1 — Dark Hollow; December 8 — Bellyachers; December 15 — Alice Stewart; December 212 — Sugar Sims & Friends (Blues Gospel)
- Last Stage West, 15050 Morro Road, Highway 41, West of Atascadero. Acoustic music and jams. Open Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Hosted by Buffalo Bob and Carmon Brittain. For information or to book a gig, call 805-461-1393. (Self-contained camping available on site.)
- 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.
- Mr. Toot's Coffee House, upstairs over Margueritaville in Capitola Village, CA. For information, call 831-475-3679. Tangled Strings — bluegrass every Sunday night from 5 to 8 p.m.
- 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.
- Northridge Inn, 773 Nevada Street in Nevada City. They frequently feature bluegrass bands on Saturday evenings. Shows start about 7:00 and band usually play two or three sets. If your band would like to play at the Northridge Inn, call Lynn at 530-478-0470.
- 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.
- Phil's Fish Market and Eatery, on Sandholt Road, Moss Landing, CA. "For fine food, find Phil's". Live bluegrass beginning at 7:00 PM every 2nd and 4th Monday of the month with the Courthouse Ramblers. Other musicians are welcome to join in for a bluegrass picking party for the second set, starting about 8:00 PM. For information on the music phone Keith Hayes at (831) 375-2975.
- Radio Valencia Cafe, 1199 Valencia at 23rd Streets, San Francisco, CA, phone 415-826-1199. Bluegrass and Old-time music every Sunday 7:30-11 p.m. Dark Hollow, traditional Bluegrass band performs the 2nd and 4th Sunday every month; Crooked Jades perform the 3rd Sunday every month, 7-11 p.m. High Country performs the First Sunday of every month.
- Sam's Barbeque, 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 40's by Moonglow (Beth McNamara and Jerry Ashford). Every Wednesday night will feature one of three bands: Sam's Barbecue Boys, Sidesaddle & Co., or Grass Menagerie — call ahead for details.
- San Gregorio General Store, Stage Road, just off Highway 1, 12 miles south of Half Moon Bay, CA, 650-726-0565. Third Sunday (2-5 pm): County Line Bluegrass Band performs.
- Shade Tree Presents, Shade Tree Stringed Instruments, 28062 Forbes Rd., Laguna Niguel, CA. 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.



Robbie Burke is the guitar player with the cowboy hat and his sister Pamela Ruth Burke is playing the fiddle behind him.
Photo by Howard Gold

Where can I go to hear/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.
- **Atascadero** - Last Stage West, 15050 Morro Road, Highway 41, West of Atascadero. Acoustic music and jams. Open Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Hosted by Buffalo Bob and Carmon Brittain. For information or to book a gig, call 805-461-1393. (Self-contained camping available on site.)
- **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.
- **Murphys** - Bluegrass and Acoustic jam, 2nd Wednesday every month, 6:30 - 9 p.m. at the Highway 4 Cafe, adjacent to the Texaco Station in Murphys, CA. For information, call 209-795-9425.
- **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.
- **Redding** - Monthly Bluegrass jam being started in Redding. For information, call Jim Jackson at (530) 242-0914.
- **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.
- **Sacramento** - The Fox And Goose Public House, 1001 R street, Sacramento, California. The Fox and Goose, long noted as a spot for good brew and live acoustic entertainment, has started to host a bluegrass jam session each month between 8:30 PM and 11:30 PM. Call Carlos at 916-806-2545 for further information, or as Carlos himself summed it up, "just come to play or come to listen!" We're still waiting to see how this jam shapes up. It could use *YOUR* help! Check it out, and bring your instrument.
- **Williams** - VFW Hall, Corner of 9th & C Streets, 3rd Sunday 1-5 p.m. Call Ed Baker, 530-824-5991 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 (530) 662-7908.

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.
- **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. Jam session every other Saturday. Pick until you drop! Slow jam 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.; open jam after that. For more information, call 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 from 6 to 10 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.

• **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.

• **Fresno** - Bluegrass Jam sessions the 1st and 3rd Saturdays of the month, 7 p.m. at the Hope Lutheran Church located at 364 E. Barstow Ave. Fresno, Ca., corner of Barstow Ave and Fresno Street. Acoustic instruments only, please. Sponsored by the Kings River Bluegrass Association. For further information, call Bob Ratliff, President at 559-264-6725, Kent Kinney, Vice President, 559-787-3317, or Edee Matthews, membership chairman at 559-582-9155.

• **Fresno** - Fresno Folklore Society, P.O. Box 4617, Fresno, CA 93744-4617. Monthly potluck and jam. For further information, call Nancy Waidtlow at (209) 224-1738 at (209) 431-3653 or Newsletter Editor Carl Johnson, phone

(209) 229-8808.

• **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.

• **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 Burtram (209) 823-7190 for details.

• **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/

• **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. 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.

New items in the CBA Mercantile just in time for your holiday shopping!

CBA Embroidered Denim Jackets

American made, heavy denim, waist length jackets with two large, deep pockets inside; two top buttoned pockets and two side pockets on the outside. Beautiful CBA color logo embroidered on back with silver lettering for our 25th Anniversary. You can also have your name embroidered on the front for an additional \$5.

Available in sizes L, XL & XXL

\$95 each

Plus \$6 shipping & handling



Also new in stock are: SWEAT SHIRTS in Black and Forest Green

Good looking cotton/poly sweatshirts to keep you warm for outdoor picking parties. CBA logo is silkscreened on the back in beautiful, living color. You'll want several of them for your friends and family.

Available in sizes L, XL & XXL

\$25 each

Plus \$6 shipping & handling

To order these items or other CBA logo merchandise, see the order blank on page 32.

For further information, call Neale or Irene Evans at 916-427-1214.

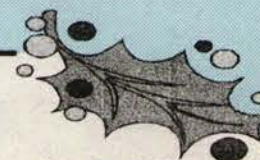


If you're making your list and
checking it twice...
We have a large variety of CBA Logo
items which will solve your gift
shopping problems and please
everyone on your shopping list.
You can choose from a variety of

CALIFORNIA BLUEGRASS ASSOCIATION LOGO MERCANDISE

Send in your order today for: •Baseball Caps •Bumper Stickers •Buttons •Coffee mugs
•Drink Koozies •CBA 20th Anniversary Recordings •Golf Shirts, Henleys, T-shirts
•Sweatshirts •Jackets and Windbreakers •Sports Bottles •Visors •Leather Ties
•License Plate Holders ...And Much, Much More...

HOLIDAY SPECIALS -- December Orders Only



CBA Baseball Jackets \$10 OFF

Regular price as shown on order form below.

CBA Windbreakers \$10 OFF

Regular price as shown on order form below. With silk-screened logo.

CBA Large Tote Bags \$8

Regular price \$10.

CBA 1999 Festival T-shirts \$10

Regular price \$12. Assorted colors and sizes

1999 CBA Festival Henleys \$15

Regular price \$17. Available in white; sizes L & XL

CBA Black Embroidered Ball Caps \$12

Regular price \$15.

Order of \$35 or More (not including shipping) and
Receive a FREE CBA 20th Anniversary CD!

Specials good through
12/30/99.



Ball Cap - Black or Blue, Embroidered	\$15.00
Ball Cap - White	\$8.00
Bumper Sticker (CBA)	\$1.00
Button - Instrument related sayings	\$1.00
Bill White Tape	\$5.00
20th Anniversary Recording of Father's Day Festivals 1-19	\$9.00
Compact Disc	\$7.00
Cassette Tape	\$5.00
Coffee Mug: I Love Bluegrass	50¢
CBA Logo Decal	50¢
CBA Member Decal	\$20.00
Golf Shirt - M-XXL	\$20.00
Henley Shirt - Natural or White, L-XXL	\$22.00
Henley Shirt - Blk, Grn, Dk Gray, L-XXL	\$40.00
Baseball Jacket - M, L & XL	\$45.00
Baseball Jacket - XXL	\$2.00
Drink Koozie	\$15.00
Leather Tie - Black, Clip-on Asst. Beads	\$2.00
License Plate Frame	\$5.00
Sports Bottle - Large/32-oz.	

Sweatshirt - S, M, L, XL, XXL	\$20.00
Sweatshirt - Black, Green, L, XL, XXL	\$25.00
Tote Bag - Small	\$6.00
Tote Bag - Large	\$10.00
Thermal Mug - 22-oz.	\$7.00
Thermal Mug - 34-oz.	\$9.00
T-Shirts - White S - XXXL	\$10.00
T-Shirts - Black, Green, Lt. Gray, M-XXXL	\$14.00
Visor - Yellow/Gold Terrycloth	\$5.00
Denim Jacket, Embroidered, L, XL, XXL	\$95.00
Name on front of above jacket	\$5.00
Windbreaker - M, L & XL	\$35.00
Windbreaker - XXL	\$40.00

Sub Total _____
Shipping: _____ \$1.00 through \$10.99 - add 43.00
\$11.00 and up - add \$6.00
TOTAL _____
ENCLOSED \$ _____

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE _____

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

California Bluegrass Association Mercantile
c/o Neale and Irene Evans
18 Waterfront Court
Sacramento, CA 95831
For further information, please call:
(916) 427-1214