



BLUEGRASS BREAKDOWN

Vol. 25 No. 11

Website: <http://www.californiabluegrass.org> - E-mail: cbawpn@volcano.net

March 2000

James King, Sand Mountain, Bluegrass Patriots and Lost Highway to perform for CBA's Silver Anniversary Festival in June 2000

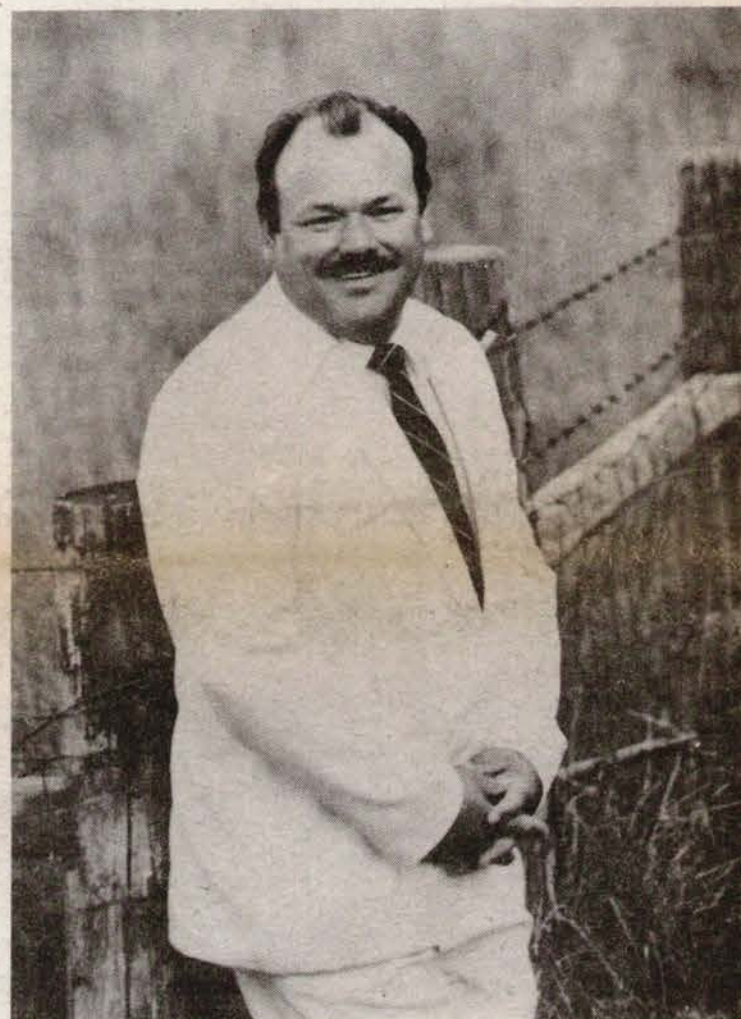
by Suzanne Denison

Making their first CBA Festival appearance this June will be the James King Band. King has been called one of the most soulful singers in Bluegrass music, and while he has attended our festival, this will be the first time many fans will get to see him perform on our Grass Valley stage.

In addition to fronting his own band, King has been a featured vocalist on a number of recordings with other artists and bands, including the award-winning "Longview". His recordings on Rounder Records have garnered recognition on the Bluegrass charts and get extensive radio airplay.

Sand Mountain, a mostly Florida-based traditional Bluegrass band are perennial favorites of CBA audiences. The Crain family is the nucleus of this band, with father Wayne Crain performing on mandolin, lead and harmony vocals; elder son, James on guitar, lead and harmony vocals; and the youngest Crain, Jerry on bass and bass vocals. Albertville, Alabama native, Kenny Townsel handles the banjo and baritone vocals for the band. The youngest member of the band, Jason Barie, a Florida native, is on the fiddle. Jason was a four-time Florida State Fiddle Champion before he was eighteen-years-old.

From the beautiful state of Colorado, the Bluegrass Patriots will be returning to the CBA stage this June. They are a band with a traditional Bluegrass sound, even though much of their material is written by band members. The Patriots are headed up by founding member, Ken Seaman on banjo, lead and harmony vocals. Other band members are Glenn Zankey - guitar, lead and harmony vocals; Danny Rogers - bass and harmony vocals; "Ranger" Rick Bradstreet - Dobro, lead and harmony vocals; and Willie MacDonald - mandolin, fiddle, lead and harmony vocals. Willie writes most of the band's original material.



Rounder Recording Artist James King.



Hay Holler Recording artists Sand Mountain. Pictured (l-r) Wayne Crain, Kenny Townsel, James Crain, Jason Barie, and Jerry Crain.

Lost Highway, a Southern California-based Bluegrass band will bring their sold, driving, hard-core traditional bluegrass back to the CBA stage. The band

was first formed in the 1980's. The original band stopped performing for several years and was revitalized by founding member

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California Bluegrass Association Bluegrass Breakdown

is published monthly as a magazine at P.O. Box 690369, Stockton, CA 95269, by the California Bluegrass Association. The CBA is a non-profit organization founded in 1974 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 next meeting has been scheduled for Sunday, March 12th at 1:30 p.m. at the home John Duncan in Sacramento.

Please send all contributions and advertisements to:
Suzanne Denison, Editor - *Bluegrass Breakdown*
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or FAX to 209-293-1220 or e-mail cbawpn@volcano.net
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Writers, artists, musicians and photographers are encouraged to submit their original material for publication in the *Bluegrass Breakdown*. please send to the Editor at the address above. E-mail submissions are appreciated. Files can be read in either Mac or DOS formats.

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California Bluegrass Association Membership Application

Name _____ Spouse _____
Address _____ Child(ren) _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone _____
E-mail: _____

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

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.

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

Do you remember the old saying, "Be careful what you wish for, you might get it"? Well, last month I was wishing for rain — well we sure got it! The week the February *Breakdown* went to press we had over 10 inches! We haven't had any snow so far this year, but it is raining again today and we still need the water, but gosh it makes for gray and dismal days. Oh well, stop whining and keep writing.

Up here on Blue Mountain everything is green and beautiful — except the part of our side pasture that is red and muddy. Even though I'm writing this in mid-February, the bulbs have been fooled into thinking it is Spring, and the trees are starting to bud already. Knowing what a sense of humor Mother Nature has, I wouldn't be too surprised if it turns cold and everything's gets a deep blanket of snow before June. We sometimes have snow when the apple trees are blossoming — (whine, whine).

Now for the good news. There are a whole plethora of opportunities in the next few months to hear some great Bluegrass music in California. New concert venues are cropping up from the "far Northern California" town of Oak Run to beautiful San Diego and all points in between.

In February, the Santa Cruz Bluegrass Society (NCBA) produced a multi-venue San Francisco Bluegrass Festival which

drew large crowds. Our favorite reporter, George Martin has an article in this issue on the festival accompanied by photos by Howard Gold. Congratulations to Michael Hall and all of his volunteers for a great job with this innovative idea. The bands who performed were from California, and many folks were introduced to Bluegrass music for the first time.

Upcoming CBA events include two concerts in April which feature Dale Ann Bradley and Coon Creek with local bands Modern Hicks and River City Boys opening the shows. Look for further details in this issue and an ad and ticket order form on page 21. We hope you'll attend one or both of the concerts and support our efforts.

At the end of April, the weekend of the 28th to 30th, you are invited to bring your instruments, family and friends and join us for our annual Spring Campout and Pickin' Weekend at the Nevada County Fairgrounds in Grass Valley, CA. This is a wonderful weekend of jamming, camping, and catching up with members of our Bluegrass family. It is also an opportunity to introduce non-Bluegrass folks to our music and association. We hope to see you all there.

Don't forget about the CBA's Silver Anniversary, 25th Annual Father's Day Weekend Bluegrass Festival, June 15-18, 2000 at the Nevada County Fairgrounds in



Grass Valley, CA. If you haven't ordered your tickets, they will be on sale by mail from the CBA through June 5, 2000. Even if you missed the Early Bird CBA discount, you still save a considerable amount of money by buying advance tickets. Did I mention that 4-day tickets are \$80 each at the gate? And, there are no member discounts available. Ticket order form on page 13 for to order tickets by mail, or you can purchase tickets on the Internet through TicketWeb, at BASS ticket outlets, the 5th String Music Store in Berkeley, the 5th String Music Store in Sacramento, and the Grass Valley Chamber of Commerce. See page 13 for details.

We have an outstanding line-up this year, and you won't want to miss a single set on the main stage. Performers will be conducting workshops throughout the festival at lunch and dinner breaks; there will be an enhanced Children's Program; a Luthier's Exhibit; lots of jamming; and the wonderful experience of camping under the pines in Grass Valley. Don't miss it.

Even if you're not Irish, Happy St. Patrick's Day. Until next month, enjoy the music!

CLASSIFIED ADS

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FENDER STRING MASTER dual, 6 string Lap Steel with 4 telescoping legs. Blond finish with hard shell case. All original, excellent condition, 1960's vintage. Asking \$1,000. Call 925-930-7093. 3x2/00

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

ADVANCE 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 13 of this issue.

ADVANCE TICKETS FOR WOLF MOUNTAIN BLUEGRASS FESTIVAL, July 28-30 in Grass Valley, Bob Paisley and others, Advance tickets \$49 for all 3 days including camping. More info: (831) 425-2270, PO Box 91 Santa Cruz, CA 95063, dbaker@briogon.com, www.briogon.com/wolf.

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 finger picks. All levels from rank beginner to the accomplished player who may need additional direction to take his

LESSONS

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

CBA 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.

CBA FESTIVAL VOLUNTEERS — available during the week of June 12-19, 2000. Job location: beautiful gold country fairgrounds, lots of pine trees, camping, jamming, and fun. Become a part of the CBA Festival team. Volunteers needed in all festival areas of operation. Please contact Paye Downs, CBA Volunteer Coordinator for details. Write to: 1552 Vervais Ave., Vallejo, CA 94591; phone: (707) 552-6934; or E-mail: bilnfay@ix.netcom.com.

VOLUNTEER CBA MERCANTILE BOOTH COORDINATORS — Year-round position for the right volunteers. Must have accounting or merchandising experience. Please call Irene Evans at 916-427-1214 for information.

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, call (209) 293-1559; FAX (209) 293-1220 or e-mail: cbawpn@volcano.net.

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 - E-mail: cbawpn@volcano.net

CBA FESTIVAL

Continued from page 1

Ken Orrick in the late 1990's.

Band members are: Ken Orrick - guitar, lead and harmony vocals; Jeff Harvey - mandolin, tenor and lead vocals; Dick Brown - banjo and baritone vocals; Paul Shelasky - fiddle; and Marshall Andrews, bass.

James King, Sand Mountain, Bluegrass Patriots and Lost Highway are part of the stellar line-up for the CBA's 25th Annual Father's Day Weekend Bluegrass Festival which includes: Illrd Tyme Out, California (reunion), Country Ham, Country Current (U.S. Navy Band), J.D. Crowe and the New South, the Fox Family, Doyle Lawson & Quicksilver, Lost and Found, Mountain Heart, Rarely Herd, the Reno Brothers, and Kids on Bluegrass.

Dates for the 2000 festival are June 15-18 on the beautiful Nevada County Fairgrounds in Grass Valley, California. Early camping will open on Monday, June 12 for a fee of \$10 per night for tent campers and \$15 per

night per unit for RVs. A limited number of electrical and water hook-ups are available on a first-come, first-served basis. There is a designated "tents" only camping area, as well as accommodations for handicapped campers with advance reservations.

To order tickets for the CBA's Silver Anniversary, 25th Annual Father's Day Weekend Bluegrass Festival by mail, please see the ticket order form and ad on page 13 of this issue. Credit card ticket orders can be made on the Internet at www.ticketweb.com. Tickets are also on sale at all BASS ticket outlets, the Grass Valley Chamber of Commerce and the 5th String Music Store in Berkeley.

For further information about mail order tickets, please call David Runge at 707-762-8735. For TicketWeb information, call 510-704-8735. Campers who need handicapped accommodations should call Yvonne Gray at 209-951-3129.



The Bluegrass Patriots - standing l-r: Ken Seaman, "Ranger" Rick Bradstreet and Willie MacDonald. Seated are Glenn Zankey and Danny Rogers.



Lost Highway -- clockwise from left are Jeff Harvey, Dick Brown, Marshall Andrews, Paul Shelasky and Ken Orrick.

Volunteers needed for CBA's 25th Annual Father's Day Weekend Bluegrass Festival

Would you like to be a part of the CBA's Festival Team? We offer friendship, fun, and an opportunity to utilize your skills and talents. The dates of this year's festival are June 15-18, 2000, and early camping opens on Monday, June 12.

We need volunteers starting on Monday, June 12 through the Monday after the Festival, June 19.

Here is an opportunity to work in the beautiful great outdoors under the pine trees in Grass Valley, California.

Pay? You ask. No, but once you've joined our friendly team of volunteers, you will receive smiles, hugs, and a real feeling of satisfaction as you help produce an event enjoyed by thousands.

We need people with all kinds of talents and abilities.

Some of the volunteer areas are gate greeters and ticket takers/sellers, fairgrounds and audience security, ice booth workers, tent camping patrollers, stage set-up crew workers, children's program helpers and instructors, and telephone answerers. These are just a few of the areas in which you can help.

Also needed are folks willing to help with Festival publicity. We need people in all areas of California to post flyers and posters for our festival and/or place copies of the *Bluegrass Breakdown* where folks can pick them up.

If you would like to be a CBA volunteer, please contact our Volunteer Coordinator, Faye Downs at 1552 Vervais Ave., Vallejo, CA 94591; phone: 707-552-6934; or e-mail: bilnfay@ix.netcom.com.

Bring your whole family... (friends and instruments too) and join us for the CBA's Annual Spring Campout and Picker's Paradise at the Nevada County Fairgrounds in Grass Valley, California!
Friday, April 28 to Sunday, April 30, 2000
Only cost is camping fees: \$15 for RVs and \$7 tents per night.
For information, call Bob Crowder at 530-671-6735



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters

Flowery School Benefit concert

Editor:

I wanted to write and let you and the CBA know about the Modern Hicks - Flowery Elementary School outdoor education fund-raiser. With the help of the generous donation made by the CBA we were able to raise a little over \$800 for the children. Everyone had a great time.

With the money earned by this and other fundraising activities the 5th grade class of Flowery is guaranteed 3 days and 2 nights at the Marin Headlands Institute.

Two of the fifth graders, Jillian Huyette and Rae Sours, ushered folks in with some fine piano playing. Rae sang two songs with the band and brought the house down. Chip Dunbar did an excellent job with the sound. The Modern Hicks put on a great two hour show and received a standing ovation.

Several people called me on Sunday to say thanks for bringing in bluegrass and acoustic

music. One fellow called to get all the details about the Father's Day festival and will be taking the whole family.

On behalf of the 5th grade class at Flowery Elementary School, thanks again to the CBA for the donation. It was a great help and we had a lot of fun.

Regards,
Ellen Sours
Sonoma, CA

The Bluegrass "Body"

To all my good friends of the CBA,

How proud you make me to be a part of such a family, indeed a body made of many specialized parts that form our great organization.

It is somewhat presumptuous of me, a hand, to address the body without consulting the brains, but others have contributed vast opinions with half-vast thinking. So be it with this letter.

I believe that for the most part our CBA body is in excellent health despite an occasional touch of indigestion as evidenced

by occasional rumbles, gurgles, belches and farts (crepitations).

We should be aware of our body and know that while we are all parts, we are not interchangeable. A heel cannot be a toe. It only works if it stays in line. We elect our leaders to lead — let them lead. Let's stay in line and help. If we get injured and quit, we're cutting off our nose to spite our face. We need all our parts.

For all of you whose feelings are hurt and need love, we love you. And for you nasty body parts, you're needed also, (though we may have to scrub you).

In the CBA the sum total is greater than the parts. Let's realize that we are a family, a body, whose interest is a love of Bluegrass music and love of each other. So let's shape up, pretty up, scrub up, and shine like what we are, "A jewel in the Bluegrass world".

Bob James
Clearlake Oaks, CA

Help us locate the CBA Festival Videotape

Editor:

Last summer (1999) my wife and I drove down from Washington state to attend the Grass Valley Bluegrass Festival. We enjoyed it immensely. One of the highlights was the children's show that Frank Solivan produced. Our ten-year-old daughter, Katie, sang "Blue Moon of Kentucky" solo to open the last show Frank did (Saturday I think), and a young gentleman was taping the performance. (He had a VCR camera on a tripod in the center aisle, not far from the stage). We left him our address on a sign-up sheet he had provided, and he said something about sending \$15 to him when the VCR tape arrived.

We were disappointed that he never sent the video and wonder if there could have been some mix-up that can be corrected. Do you by chance know his name and address or phone number?

Maybe you could put us in touch with someone who might

identify him, like Frank Solivan perhaps? I thought that the young man in question was the only person taping the session, but could it be possible someone else made a video of the children's performance?

Best regards,
Bob and Jeryl Struble
P.O. Box 1415
Bremerton, WA 98337
E-mail: Bob@tscnet.com

Editor's note: I received an e-mail from Mr. Struble which I answered and gave him Frank Solivan's phone number. If anyone who has children who participated in the 1999 Kids on Bluegrass performance knows who the videotaper is, please contact the Strubles and give them the information. I can imagine their disappointment since their daughter was a solo performer. Thanks for any help you can provide. Suzanne

See LETTERS on page 6

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MUSIC AT AN OLD AGE
AND AM HAVING MORE FUN
THAN ANYBODY I KNOW

by
JOHN SEGINSKI

BLUEGRASS NEWS NOTES...

In Memory of Keith McReynolds

Keith McReynolds, son of Jesse McReynolds, died Wednesday, January 26 after a long battle with Multiple Sclerosis. Before his disease forced him to discontinue performing, Keith was the bass player and baritone vocalist for Jim and Jesse and the Virginia Boys.

A previously planned Bluegrass Benefit concert for Keith was held on February 3 at the Civic Auditorium in Gallatin, Tennessee. Money raised will be donated to his family to help defray the extensive medical expenses Keith's long illness. The event will continue in the future as a Keith McReynolds Memorial Concert.

In addition to his father, Keith is survived by two brothers, a sister and several nieces and nephews, as well as a large number of Bluegrass friends and fans.

Our sincere sympathies to the McReynolds family on their loss.

Memorial donations may be sent to: the Keith McReynolds Fund, P.O. Box 1385, Gallatin, TN 37066

Association News Notes...

Congratulations to the new Board of Directors for the **San Diego Bluegrass Club**. They are: Kit Birkett, Elizabeth Burkett, Richard Burkett, Becky Kennedy, Dan Mazar, Mike Tatar Sr. and Kim Weeks. Gary Kennedy and Jackie Conrardy will continue to serve as Treasurer and Membership Services chair. Kit Birkett is the club's new Volunteer Coordinator, and Yvonne Tatar will handle publicity.

The **Colorado Bluegrass Music Society** also has a new Board of Directors which was established at their January meeting. Board members are: Bob Cherry, Karla Knapp, Jeff Graves, Bo Johnson, Neal McSwain, Mike Stretchberry, and B.J. Suter. Mike Dow will continue as the Editor of *Pow'r Pickin'*, the society's monthly newsletter.

began performing Bluegrass music in the 1960's with his brother Carter, was inducted as a cast member of the Grand Ole Opry on January 15 at the Ryman Auditorium.

"We're all sharing this evening with you, and we're just proud to be here," singer Patty Loveless said during the induction ceremony. Loveless recently recorded an award-winning CD with Dr. Stanley.

Stanley was inducted by singer Porter Wagoner after performing with his band the Clinch Mountain Boys with his son, Ralph Stanley II singing the lead vocals to Ralph's high tenor. Stanley and the Clinch Mountain Boys have performed at the Opry many times, but always as guest musicians instead of regulars. Cast members are expected to perform at the Opry at least 12 times a year.

Congratulations to Ralph Stanley for an honor which is long overdue.



see the "Upcoming Events" listing in this issue.



David Thom Band releases new CD

The **David Thom Band** held a CD Release Concert at the Freight & Salvage Coffee House in Berkeley on February 3.

Stomping out the rhythm and picking a deft lead on his Martin D-18, **David Thom's** warm vocals are the foundation for traditional bluegrass this band loves to perform. Material includes tunes from legends like Bill Monroe, Stanley Brothers and Jimmy Martin as well as a multitude of originals.

Other members of the band are: **Jonathan Schiele** on banjo, **Jon Mask** on mandolin, **Doug Holloway** on fiddle and **Paul Knight** on bass.

For more information on the David Thom Band, check out the band's website: www.theDTB.com.



New Bay Area Band formed

The **Bluegrass Intentions** is a new Bay Area Bluegrass band formed by Rounder Recording artist, banjoist **Bill Evans**, with **Suzy Thompson** on fiddle, **Eric Thompson** - mandolin, **Larry Cohea** - bass, and **Alan Senauke** on guitar. The band plays traditional bluegrass drawing heavily upon the influences of Flatt and Scruggs, Reno and Smiley, the Stanley Brothers, and the Osborne Brothers.

For booking or information, contact Bill Evans at 510-234-4508; or email: bevans@dna.com.



March Bluegrass Gold - Dr. Elmo and Wild Blue & Crooked Jades

On Tuesday, March 21, the next edition of the monthly bluegrass series **Bluegrass Gold** will take place at the Sweetwater in Mill Valley. The show is produced by Larry Carlin and Carltone Music.

This show will feature **Marin's own Dr. Elmo & Wild Blue** as well as the old-time bluegrass duo **Jeff Kazor & Lisa Berman**. When it is not Christmas time, Dr. Elmo — who is known for his holiday hit "Grandma Got Run Over By A Reindeer" — and his boys play hard-driving, traditional bluegrass. Elmo was also an original member of the Bay Area bluegrass band **The Homestead Act** back in the 70's.

Also in **Wild Blue** are **John Pierson** on guitar, and **Larry Carlin** on bass. Sittin' in this night with **Wild Blue** will be **Steve Pottier** on mandolin and **Doug Adams** on fiddle.

Jeff Kazor and Lisa Berman are founding members of the popular bluegrass/old-time band **The Crooked Jades**, and this night they will be opening the show playing a mix of original and old-time songs.

The Sweetwater is Marin County's premier nightclub as well as the home for bluegrass music in the North Bay. For more information call The Sweetwater at (415) 388-2820



TV News Notes "Bluegrass and Friends" now being aired on local cable TV

The "Bluegrass and Friends" TV show, produced in Louisville, Ky., is now being aired weekly on CityVisions, San Francisco's community access cable TV channel.

The show, produced and shot by **Bill Spear** and hosted by **Carolyn Flake**, airs in the wee hours of Thursday mornings at 12:30 a.m. on Channel 29. It is



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Continued from page 5 Letters of support sought for Rose Maddox Nomination

Dear CBA members:

I have sent a letter to the Hall of Honor committee of the International Bluegrass Music Association (IBMA), nominating the late Rose Maddox as a candidate for induction this year. I ask your support in this endeavor by taking a few minutes of your time and writing a letter of your own, urging the committee to do this for Rose's memory.

Rose deserves to be the first female performer inducted into the IBMA Hall of Honor. I have called and petitioned several prominent ladies in the Bluegrass industry to join with me in this effort and they have all agreed that they would do so.

Just as effective as those let-

ters may prove to be, letters from her fans are just as important, maybe even more so! The old saying about "the squeaking wheel gets the grease" is very true. Hopefully in this case it will. I am absolutely certain that five hundred to a thousand letters from Rose's fans would certainly overwhelm any committee anywhere.

So, what do you say folks? Take five minutes and let's overwhelm this committee for Rose!

Send your letters to: Mr. Dan Hays, Executive Director IBMA, 207 E. 2nd Street, Owensboro, KY 42303.

Include directions that you want your letter presented to the Hall of Honor committee and he will take care of it.

God bless you all. I know Rose would be proud of you.

J.D. Rhynes
CBA Board Member



Band and Musician News Notes...

Ralph Stanley joins cast of the Grand Ole Opry
Dr. Ralph Stanley, 72, who



New Northern CA Bluegrass Duo

From Northern California Gold country, flows the pure acoustic bluegrass sound of **Lost & Lonesome**. **George Ireton** and **Van Atwell** perform original and traditional songs about lost loves, lonesome roads, and hard times. They will take you back to the way things once were, then remind you that life is good today with their fun, uplifting style.

A true country gentleman, Van is highly regarded as one of the smoothest mandolin players around. George is a gifted singer and songwriter who has studied music and played guitar for more than 35 years. Together, they have combined their considerable talents to the delight of audiences small and large.

Who is lost, and who is lonesome? You will just have to catch one of their shows to find out! For booking information please write to **Lost & Lonesome 1958 Yahi Lane, Redding, CA 96002**, or Email: ireton@shasta.com.

Lost and Lonesome will be opening a **Lost Highway** concert on **Gray Pine Farm** in **Oak Run, California** on **March 30**. For information, call 530-472-3303 or

BLUEGRASS NEWS NOTES...

also broadcast on Channel 45 in Napa.

The first episode was broadcast February 10 and featured footage from last summer's Wolf Mountain Bluegrass Festival. Songs by the Bladerunners from Southern California and the Laurel Canyon Ramblers were featured, along with interviews of the Bladerunners' banjo player (missed his name) and with Bill Bryson, the Laurel Canyon Ramblers bassist.

John Kornhauser, singer and guitar player for the Dark Hollow Band, is the San Francisco resident sponsor of the show.

Bill Spear would like to include more California segments in the show. If there is anyone in CBA land with a video camera who wants to take a shot at it, contact CBA board member George Martin (510) 237-4365.



Record Company News Notes....

Acoustic Disc announces "Dawg Bites Grammys"

Acoustic Disc, the highly regarded record label founded by mandolinist David "Dawg" Grisman, is proud to announce their nomination for two Grammy Awards.

"Bluegrass Mandolin Extravaganza," (ACD-35), has garnered a nomination as Best Bluegrass Album for co-producers Ronnie McCoury and David Grisman. This critically acclaimed masterpiece features two discs of newly recorded material by a who's who of mandolin pickers: Sam Bush, Jesse McReynolds, Bobby Osborne, Ricky Skaggs, Frank Wakefield, Buck White, plus the two co-producers. Del McCoury accompanies on guitar.

Nominated for Best Traditional Folk Album is "Retrograss," (ACD-37), featured David Grisman, John Hartford and Mike Seeger. This inspired re-working of popular songs in traditional styles has already become a favorite with critics, radio programmers and fans worldwide.

For information on these Acoustic Disc recordings or other

releases, call Rob Bleetstein at 800-294-3471 or 415-482-8909 or by e-mail at: rb1229@earthlink.net.

Editor's note: The 42nd Annual Grammy Awards took place on February 23, 2000 (after press time). Results will be announced in the April issue of the Bluegrass Breakdown.



Copper Creek Records announces new releases

"Wanderlust" (CC-0171) is the imaginative solo debut recording for bluegrass singer, songwriter and multi-instrumentalist Chris Brashear. Produced by the seminal and Grammy-nominated recording artist Jody Stecher, this disc radiates with the energy of a new voice, beautifully articulated stories and outstanding musicianship by all.

Chris's songwriting is passionate and original in style, yet is seamlessly juxtaposed with a fine assortment of songs associated with the Carter Family, Bill Monroe, Reno & Smiley and the Blue Sky Boys. His expressive lead and tenor singing, guitar playing and excellent fiddling are showcased, and he is wonderfully supported by a talented and sympathetic band that includes Jody Stecher, Laurie Lewis, Peter McLaughlin, Bob Black, John Averill and Ed Neff.

Chris's talents have not gone unnoticed. He has performed twice as an International Bluegrass Music Association Showcase Artist. He currently lives in Tucson, AZ and maintains an active presence in the southwest as the president of the Desert Bluegrass Association. For the rest of the country, he may be the best soon-to-be-unleashed talent on the bluegrass horizon.

Another new release is "Aged To Perfection", (CC-0172) by veteran Bluegrass bassist George Shuffler on the Copper Creek Records label.

For more years than he would probably care to remember, George Shuffler has been a legendary figure in bluegrass. In addition to being an excellent musician of the highest order, George is acknowledged as an innovator who developed stylistic innovations for bluegrass

music. His contributions to bluegrass have been acknowledged over the years with "best bass player" awards from Muleskinner News Magazine, a certificate of honor from the International Bluegrass Music Association and the declaration of George Shuffler day in his hometown of Valdese, North Carolina.

George started making his mark as soon as he began his professional work in the early 1950s. Recordings made with the Stanley Brothers revealed a forceful, driving bass style that had yet to be heard in bluegrass to that point. He is probably as well-known, or better, for his distinctive style of cross-picking guitar playing. Even though George has been absent from the Stanley band for nearly 30 years, his style of guitar has stayed.

Several years ago, George answered a lot of requests when he released a tape of his cross-picking guitar work. "Aged To Perfection" is an answer to numerous requests for more. For this most recent musical outing, George has selected a batch of



tunes that have been with him for many years.

Whatever the source for material on this recording, one thing is for sure: George serves all selections with a healthy dose of his imaginative guitar picking. As an added bonus, we are also treated to some fine bass playing. George recorded many songs this way with the Stanley Brothers in the 1960s - he would play the guitar and then go back and add the bass. He's still at it!! And, as good as ever, too!!



Pinecastle names new Promotions Director

ORLANDO, FL - Pinecastle Records is pleased to announce the hiring of Craig Michaels as National Promotions Director for

the company.

Michaels has a long history in the music industry. His vast experience includes working A&R for industry giant A&M Records, working in radio as both an on-air personality and behind the scenes as the Music Director of a 100,000 watt station, owning and successfully running his own independent record store for nearly ten years and being a published music journalist for some 25 years.

As a journalist, his credentials are impressive; he has been published in a wide variety of local, regional and national magazines (including Rolling Stone). In fact, he has been credited with over 1,000 published music reviews and several hundred feature articles, most involving direct interview experience with

Please see NOTES page 8

Bluegrass Masters



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BLUEGRASS NEWS NOTES...

Continued from Page 7

the artist(s) being chronicled.

In addition, Michaels already has some history with Pinecastle. As a graphic designer, he has been responsible for the design of most of Pinecastle's print advertising for several years now, and has even designed CD and video covers for the label. Also, many of the press releases and biographical information sheets about Pinecastle recording artists from the past few years are Craig's work.

Says Michaels, "I'm excited about the opportunity to devote myself full time to Pinecastle Records. The label is growing quickly, and the position affords me an opportunity to use all the skills I've gathered in my nearly three decades of involvement with the music industry."

Michaels will be primarily responsible for coordinating both tour support and publicity for Pinecastle artists. Says Will Gailey, Vice President of Pinecastle Records, "We're excited about having Craig along as part of our team. We've worked well together in the past, and his unique combination of talents and skills make him a real asset to our company. We look for great things from our collaborations."

For more information, please contact Pinecastle Records at (407) 856-0245.



Radio News Notes... Ohio Bluegrass DJ offers free airplay

Armour Campbell, a DJ from Painsville, Ohio has offered free airplay to Bluegrass and Old-time music artists. Mr. Campbell has a weekly Saturday program from 7 to 9 a.m. on WATJ 15.60 AM.

He plays Bluegrass, Old-time and vintage Country music on the show and welcomes new artists or those with new recording projects on independent labels. The program is also available on the Internet at www.WATJ.com.

Please send your recordings to: Armour Campbell, 14035 Rte. 86, Painsville, OH 44077. For further information, call the station at 1-800-946-1560 or E-mail: 1560@watj.com.

March program schedule announced for "Bluegrass Signal"

Bluegrass Signal (Sat., 6-7 p.m. on KALW/91.7 FM) upcoming features - Peter Thompson, producer/host (bgsignal@worldnet.att.net)

- March 12 — Happy Birthday, Marshall Wilborn, bassist, songwriter, and all-round good guy. Hear his songs performed by the JMB, Quicksilver, and Allison Kraus & Union Station, plus his own music with the Lynn Morris Band, Longview, and his "solo" album, Route Five.
- March 19 — On the anniversary of her landmark recording with Bill Monroe and Don Reno, a survey of the bluegrass side of Rose Maddox.
- March 26 — A celebration of the best of European Bluegrass from a new recording on Strictly Country, plus other new S.C. releases by Liz Meyer, Lily of the West, and others.
- Coming In April — Another exciting KALW Pledge Drive with way cool music, thank-you gifts, and special events.



Miscellaneous News Notes....

Results of the SPBGMA Bluegrass Music Awards

The 26th Annual Society for the Preservation of Blue Grass Music in America (SPBGMA) Awards was held at the Sheraton Music City Hotel in Nashville, Tennessee on February 6, 2000.

Categories and Award winners are:

- Bluegrass Promoter of the Year — Norman Adams
- Bluegrass Radio Station of the Year — WSM-AM, Nashville, TN
- Bluegrass Disc Jockey of the Year — Eddie Stubbs, WSM-AM
- Bluegrass Club Newsletter of the Year — Bamagrass, Alabama BG Music Assn.
- Bluegrass Songwriter of the Year — Carl Jackson
- Bluegrass Album of the Year — "Live At The MAC" by Illrd Tyme Out on Rounder
- Bluegrass Bass Player of the Year — Ray Deaton
- Bluegrass Dobro Player of the

- Year — Gene Wooten
- Bluegrass Guitar Player of the Year — John Chapman
- Bluegrass Mandolin Player of the Year — Wayne Benson
- Bluegrass Banjo Player of the Year — J. D. Crowe
- Bluegrass Fiddle Player of the Year — Mike Hartgrove
- Female Vocalist of the Year (Contemporary) — Rhonda Vincent
- Female Vocalist of the Year (Traditional) — Lynn Morris
- Male Vocalist of the Year (Contemporary) — Russell Moore
- Male Vocalist of the Year (Traditional) — James King
- Gospel Group of the Year (Contemporary) — Doyle Lawson & Quicksilver
- Gospel Group of the Year (Traditional) — Lewis Family
- Gospel Group of the Year (Overall) — Doyle Lawson & Quicksilver
- Bluegrass Vocal Group of the Year — Illrd Tyme Out
- Bluegrass Instrumental Group of the Year — Del McCoury Band
- Bluegrass Band of the Year (Overall) — Lonesome River Band
- Entertaining Group of the Year — Rarely Herd
- Entertainer of the Year — Jeff Weaver
- Song of the Year — "Am I A Fool" by the Lonesome River Band, on Sugar Hill written by Keith & Danette Tew.

Congratulations to all of the award winners, and thanks to Pepper Culpepper and BGRASS-L for this information.



Indies Chart to debut in Billboard magazine

WHITESBURG, KY—Months of lobbying by the Association of Independent Music (AFIM) Board of Trustees have paid off with the recent announcement that *Billboard* plans to debut the first-ever Top Independent Album Chart in the magazine's February 5th issue. The chart will run weekly adjacent to *Billboard* senior writer Chris Morris' column "Declaration of Independents".

The new Indies Chart will list the 50 top-selling, independently distributed albums compiled from a national sample of retail stores, mass merchants, and internet sales reported col-



lected and provided by SoundScan.

AFIM (formerly NAIRD) has been serving the independent music community since 1972. For additional information, contact the AFIM office - phone: 606-633-0946; FAX: 606-633-1160; e-mail: info@afim.org.



CBA Spring Campout to be in Grass Valley, CA on April 28-30

In addition to the Annual Father's Day Weekend Bluegrass Festival, two of the events most of us look forward to are the CBA's spring and fall campouts. These weekend events give all of us a chance to camp, visit, and play music in a relaxing setting.

CBA's new Activities Vice President, Bob Crowder, has secured the sites and set the dates for both campouts for 2000.

The spring campout will be held on the weekend of April 28 - 30 at the Nevada County Fairgrounds in Grass Valley, CA. Only cost is camping fees which are \$15 per night per unit and \$7 for tents, truck bed or van sleepers (not self-contained) per unit per night.

We hope you'll make plans to come and enjoy camping, jamming and catching up with your Bluegrass family. We invite you to bring your family, friends, and instruments (or just come listen) for a wonderful, relaxing time.

No reservations are required for this events and camping is on a first-come, first-served basis. The Nevada County Fairgrounds has plenty of camping space with and without hookups. There are two RV dump stations on site.

The CBA Fall Campout, Annual Membership Meeting and Election will be held October 6-8, 2000 at the Colusa County Fairgrounds in Colusa, CA. Further details and camping fees will be announced soon.

For more information, call Bob Crowder at 530-671-6735.

Redwood Bluegrass Associates announces 2000 Concert Series

Redwood Bluegrass Associates, a not-for-profit music corporation, recently announced its Winter/Spring 2000 concert series in Palo Alto, California. All shows are at the Palo Alto Unitarian Church, 505 E. Charleston Rd. Show time 8:00 PM and the doors open at 7:30 PM.

Concerts in the series include:

- March 11 — Bob Paisley and The Southern Grass. Some of the best traditional bluegrass you'll ever hear.
- April 1 — Lost Highway. One of the southwest's top bands.
- May 13 — Kathy Kallick Band. A bay area favorite.

Tickets are \$16 in advance and \$20 at the door for each show. Special combination price is \$42 for all 3 (advance mail order only).

Tickets are available from Ticketweb (see the RBA web page or www.ticketweb.com or call 510-601-TWEB). Tickets will be available from Gryphon Stringed Instruments in Palo Alto after about February 15 [or thereafter].

Tickets are available by mail from Redwood Bluegrass Associates, P.O. Box 390846, Mountain View, CA 94039-0846. Please enclose a business-sized self-addressed stamped envelope and your check along with a note as to what you are ordering.

For more information, see Redwood Bluegrass Associates' web site at www.rba.org or call 650-691-9982.

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Please send the following tickets for Mariposa's 9th Annual BLUEGRASS FESTIVAL:				Qty	Price	Total
★3-Day Festival Pass (ordered/postmarked ON OR BEFORE May 1, 2000)					\$43	
★3-Day Festival Pass (ordered/postmarked AFTER May 1, 2000)					\$48	
Friday (May 19) only					\$17	
Saturday (May 20) only					\$19	
Sunday (May 21) only					\$17	
Saturday & Sunday (May 20 & 21) only					\$32	
Children under 16 FREE with paying adult					\$00	
★ 3-Day Festival Pass includes Country Breakfast on Saturday & Sunday					Total	
RV w/Hook-up - \$12 night	Thurs <input type="checkbox"/>	Fri <input type="checkbox"/>	Sat <input type="checkbox"/>	Total Nights	Total	
Total Enclosed						

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CBA BOARD MEETING MINUTES SYNOPSIS

Synopsos Of Board Meeting Minutes

January 9, 2000

The meeting was called to order by Carl Pagter, Chairman of the Board, at 1:30 p.m. at the home of Paul and Yvonne Gray in Stockton, CA.

I. Roll Call:

Board Members and Officers Present: Don Denison, J.D. Rhynes, Yvonne Gray, Kelly Senior, Rick Cornish, George Martin, Carl Pagter, Bob Thomas, Kathy Kirkpatrick, Grant Johnston, Roger Siminoff, John Duncan, Mark Hogan, Sue Van Enger. Absent: M.D. iPepperi Culpepper, Robert Crowder, Howard Gold, Suzanne Denison, Mary Runge, Harold Crawford.

Coordinators Present: Irene Evans, Gene Kirkpatrick, Terry Ingraham, Matt Dudman Absent: David Runge, Neale Evans, Faye Downs, Bob Gillim, Karyn Noel.

CBA Members Present: Montie Elston, John Senior, Paul Gray, Darla Novak.

Guest Present: Phil Cornish.

Rick Cornish introduced Roger Siminoff who is the new South Bay Area Activities Vice President. He also introduced his son, Phil Cornish. Each of the board members and coordinators introduced themselves.

II. Secretary's Report: Sue Van Enger distributed the final version of the December board meeting minutes. George Martin made a motion to accept the minutes as corrected. Rick Cornish seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the motion was passed unanimously.

III. Treasurer's Report: Kelly Senior distributed the treasurer's report and stated that she has closed the books for 1999. Kelly said she would like to move the CBA main account to the Chico area branch where she has a good working relationship. Kelly will pursue this. Kelly said she has completed the sales tax return for last year and also brought copies of prior Federal and State Income Tax returns for review. Kathy Kirkpatrick and Carl discussed the preparation of the tax returns. Carl and Kelly will review the returns after the board meeting. Kathy Kirkpatrick and Kelly Senior discussed preparation of the 1099's. Carl Pagter said he had received some forms for a new tax withholding and reporting requirement and he would speak about that

later in the meeting. Kelly mentioned that the accounts receivable balance is quite low. Carl Pagter mentioned that the CBA insurance renewal is coming up in March. He said he has had a discussion with our insurance company through their office in Florida. He said they have an excellent rating (A minus by A.M. Best Rating Service) and they appear to be a strong company.

IV. Membership Report: In the absence of Mary Runge, Kathy Kirkpatrick presented the membership report. There are 2,646 voting members. Kathy said she and Mary have been doing research on the first 150 members. She talked about the cost of doing a mailing to the first 150 members due to the fact that so many of the addresses are quite old. She had wanted to get in touch with them regarding the 25th Anniversary Festival. Kelly Senior suggested putting a notice in the Bluegrass Breakdown. Roger Siminoff asked about the procedure for sending out renewal notices. He wanted to know if a second or third renewal notice is sent out or just an initial notice. Kathy said just an initial notice. Roger said he would be happy to talk with Kathy regarding renewal procedures. He said he has some ideas regarding handling renewals and non-renewals. Roger asked what the advantages are in keeping your membership current with no lapses. Carl Pagter talked about the advantages of membership such as receipt of the Bluegrass Breakdown every month and early bird member prices to events. Carl requested help from the board in maintaining the Bluegrass Breakdown as a high class publication. Kathy said many people who usually renew their memberships at the Dale Lawrence festival are renewing now. Carl reminded the board of the membership drive and reviewed the conditions of the contest.

V. Mercantile Report: Irene Evans distributed the Mercantile Report. Neale Evans has distributed 125 excess 20th Anniversary CDs to board members for use in promoting the CBA. George Martin said he has distributed several already and requested more. Grant Johnston said he will give them away on his radio show. J.D. Rhynes asked for a supply of the CDs to supply to radio station

KUOP. Carl Pagter said he had given some out at an event he attended on New Year's Eve at the U.C. Berkeley campus.

VI. Old Business:

A. Festival Timeline: Grant Johnston reported that the timeline is on schedule except for a couple of items he needs to review with Gene Kirkpatrick. They discussed the items and Gene will take care of them.

B. Festival Coordinator Reports:

1. Concessions - Gene Kirkpatrick: Gene distributed his report. He said it has been ten years since the vendor fee has been raised. Gene made a proposal to increase vendor fees somewhat but to include 2 festival tickets in each vendor contract, the value of which more than offsets the fee increase. J. D. Rhynes gave a report on information he has gathered from various festivals regarding vendor costs. There was a wide variance with the CBA being in line as far as vendor fees are concerned. Rick Cornish said he felt our fees would still be in line if increased. He feels the costs might be prohibitive to younger families. There was discussion regarding the fees. Kelly Senior made a motion that the board accept Gene's recommendations. Yvonne Gray seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the motion was passed unanimously. It was mentioned that this matter can be re-evaluated after the festival if necessary.

2. Publicity - George Martin: George reported the posters have been ordered. The flyers (which include a listing for the Navy Band-Country Current and Mountain Heart) have been ordered. Don Denison will ask Suzanne Denison to send flyers to the coordinators.

3. Children's Program - Terry Ingraham: Terry let the board know that the theme for this year will be "Trains". She said she feels there will be a need for an increased budget this year due to the expected increase in attendees. Terry will prepare a report for the February board meeting which will include her recommendation for an increase. She said she has been contacted by people wanting to do

workshops in the children's area. There was discussion regarding this and it was decided that the workshops already being considered (to be conducted by members of hired bands at no extra charge to the CBA) will be sufficient. Carl Pagter let Terry know that she will have complete control over the children's program and the children's area. Terry talked about the need for better coordination between the children's stage and the main stage this year. She will review this with Harold Crawford.

4. Advance Ticket Sales - David Runge: Kathy Kirkpatrick gave a report in David's absence. There have been 55 advance tickets sold. At this point of the year in 1999, 16 more tickets had been sold.

5. Ticket Booth Coordinator: Kelly Senior reported that she has spoken with Mike McGar regarding the position of ticket booth coordinator. He said he would be willing to take on the responsibility but wanted to speak with Madelyn Ellis before making a commitment to the board. He will contact Kelly to let her know of his decision. Grant Johnston asked what the duties of the position are. Kelly explained that it includes cashier scheduling, handling the wrist bands, and setting up and breaking down the booths.

6. Gate Crew Coordinator: Montie Elston was suggested for this position. He asked about the duties. They were explained to include being responsible for all the gate runners, for collecting the monies, directing traffic, handing out flyers, giving general information about the festival, putting on the wristbands and checking in campers. Different groups were mentioned as possibilities for helping with traffic control and other duties. Montie accepted this position on the premise that it would not interfere with him teaching summer school this summer if applicable. He said he should know shortly about the summer school schedule.

7. Ticket Booth Coordinator and Gate Crew Coordinator: Rick Cornish made a

motion that the CBA appoint Mike McGar as Ticket Booth Coordinator and Montie Elston as Gate Crew Coordinator. These will both be provisional until the final decision to be announced by each of them by the time of the February board meeting. Don Denison seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the motion was passed unanimously.

8. Security - Yvonne Gray: Yvonne asked if anyone knew how many handicapped parking spaces there are inside the fairgrounds. Gene Kirkpatrick said he thought there were about 15 spaces. Carl Pagter said he would find out at his meeting with Ed Scofield. Kathy Kirkpatrick said that Pappy will again be responsible for the contract for security but he may not be able to be at the festival; however, the person who is next in charge for him will be at the festival.

9. Publicity - George Martin and Karyn Noel: Grant Johnston said that magazines needed to be looked at as a possible source for publicity. George will do this. Don Denison suggested that George call Suzanne Denison regarding this. The flyers and posters are being ordered by Suzanne.

10. Stages - J.D. Rhynes: J.D. had questions about the lighting. There was discussion regarding the lighting and how it has been supplied in the past. John Senior spoke about the computerized lighting used during the past two festivals and suggested the CBA might want to look into purchasing a computerized lighting system rather than renting it each year. John said he would look into the cost of such a system. He also said he would contact Dave Moon (who has done the lighting in the past) to see if he would do it again this year. J.D. will contact other vendors regarding their lighting systems.

11. Kathy Kirkpatrick gave a report on a laminating machine which would make backstage passes for the bands. She discussed the prices of two different machines. Rick Cornish made a motion to approve the



CBA BOARD MEETING MINUTES SYNOPSIS

purchase of a laminating machine and supplies. Kelly Senior seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the motion was passed unanimously.

C. Activities Vice Presidents' Reports:

1. CBA Activities — Robert Crowder: Robert was not present. In his absence, Kelly Senior reported that the Spring Campout has been planned at the Grass Valley Fairgrounds on April 28-30, 2000, and the Fall Campout/General Membership Meeting has been scheduled for the Colusa County Fairgrounds on October 6-8, 2000. The deposit checks have been sent for both of these activities. There was discussion regarding the amount of work involved in being an activities vice president.. Kathy Kirkpatrick said she feels the board members should be attending more of the concerts and activities.

2. Sacramento Area Activities - Bob Thomas: Bob gave a report on the Five for the Gospel concert. He has sold 205 tickets. He gave a report on the different types of publicity used. He told about a source of publicity on a Christian talk radio station and requested the board's opinion of advertising on it. George Martin said press releases have been sent to Christian music radio stations and Karyn Noel will be sending them to the bluegrass music stations. Bob reported that he has set the Dale Ann Bradley & Coon Creek concert for April 8, 2000, at the Central United Methodist Church on H Street in Sacramento.

3. South Bay Area Activities - Roger Siminoff: Rogersaid he is working on developing a monthly jam in the San Jose area to be similar to the open mic hoote-nanny style programs of the sixties/seventies that

were held in coffee houses and pizza parlors. He will be in contact with Mike Scott about these jams so Mike can put an article in the South Bay newsletter. He said he felt it would be a good idea to have a spot on the CBA applications for an e-mail address. Don Denison said he would talk to Suzanne Denison about including this. Rick Cornish gave a report on the ongoing discussion involving the name change by the Santa Cruz Bluegrass Society to Northern California Bluegrass Society. He has talked to Lisa Burns again. She said her board has experienced an openness on their part to come up with a solution that would be acceptable to the CBA. She requested a better description from the CBA as to what they mean by "their concerns about confusion arising from the similar names". Rick said he had supplied several scenarios to Lisa.. Kathy Kirkpatrick let the board know that she had been informed Dale Lawrence is changing the name of his festival to "California Bluegrass and Cowboy Music Festival". A discussion followed. Several board members said they had heard nothing of this. J.D. Rhynes said he will contact Dale Lawrence regarding this matter.

4. Sonoma, Marin, Napa Area Activities - Mark Hogan: Mark reported that the first monthly jam for this area will be on Monday, January 14, 2000, at Murphy's Irish Pub in Sonoma. Matt Dudman suggested getting Larry Carlin involved. There will be a Dale Ann Bradley & Coon Creek concert on April 7, 2000, at the events center of the school where Mark works. "Modern Hicks" will open for the concert and will provide the sound system. Mark will contact Karyn Noel and George Martin regarding the publicity for this event. There was a discussion regarding ticket prices and payment procedures.

D. Matt Dudman made a report on the Connell, Rigsby & Raines concert in Sacramento. He said he felt it was well attended and well received. The bands said they liked the response. He also told about the great cooperation the CBA had gotten from the Fifth String Music Store.

VII. Other Business:

A. There was a discussion regarding hiring local bands to perform at the Grass Valley Father's Day Weekend festival. The discussion was precipitated by an e-mail received by several board and CBA members.. John Senior said he felt we have a responsibility to produce the best festival we can. Carl Pagter stated that we have a fiduciary duty to the CBA membership to be financially responsible. To do this at the festival, we need to present premier bands. Montie Elston and several other board members gave opinions. Bob Thomas suggested this be a topic discussed

at the proposed CBA retreat in February. Carl Pagter gave his thoughts on band selection. Don Denison talked about what procedures have been put into place. Discussion followed. Bob Thomas spoke about a small festival he had produced in 1997 for local bands.

B. Carl Pagter suggested Saturday, February 26, 2000, as the day of a CBA board retreat at his home. He invited persons who are interested in the CBA's future to attend.

C. Carl Pagter discussed several letters received by Suzanne Denison as Editor of the Bluegrass Breakdown. Carl has suggested that Suzanne have Editorial License in regard to which letters are published. There was discussion about what types of letters should be published. Carl said he felt we have a right to refuse letters from non-members. George Martin said he felt we need to consider the Bluegrass Breakdown as a means of communication for members.

Mark Hogan spoke about a

letter he had written to the CBA board. Copies were distributed.

D. Carl Pagter let the board know that he had informed Missy Raines that we were not going to book her for a concert while she is here in the Spring.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Carl Pagter told the board of new tax withholding and reporting requirements. This will require the CBA to withhold tax at a rate of 7% from some bands performing at the festivals and concerts produced by the CBA if they are paid more than a threshold amount. He said we need to send a letter to the contracted bands to let them know of the new requirements. Carl will draft the letter.

B. The date of the February board meeting was set for Sunday, February 13, 2000, at 1:30 p.m. at the home of Gene and Kathy Kirkpatrick in Stockton, CA.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Sue Van Enger

New items in the CBA Mercantile just in time for the Festival Season!

Embroidered Denim Jackets

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 M, L, XL & XXXXL

\$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.

Bluegrass Folks -- Kathy and Gene Kirkpatrick

By Bill Wilhelm

One of my desires is to get all the long time members of the early days of the CBA into this column. Recently at the Colorado River Festival in Blythe I was finally able to catch Kathy and Gene Kirkpatrick together at a time when I was able to get an interview. Kathy is one of those long time members. She has membership number 73. Some of her early friends may remember her as Kathy Tyler. I met her back in those early days of the CBA.

She happens to be one of those rare native Californians, having been born near where they live now in Stockton, California. Her daddy died when she was six and her memories of him are few. Several years later her mother remarried and her stepfather is the daddy she remembers. What we call jam sessions, he called back porch music. He played five string banjo, mandolin, guitar and harmonica. She developed an appreciation for the kind of music we call bluegrass early on in her life and instead of losing it as she grew up, it just became stronger. There were times when she attempted to learn to play some instruments and do some singing, but decided against it. "God made musicians and fans," says Kathy, "and if it wasn't for us fans, who would they play to?"

I asked her if there was anything especially funny she recalls from childhood. This is the story I got. She was raised on a chicken farm and says there wasn't a lot of money for toys and such. For amusement, one of the things she and her sister would do was to run on top of the chicken houses and jump off into some sawdust that was piled up. Once they did this, but instead of the sawdust, there was a huge pile of manure piled up and they landed in that, an experience she vividly remembers.

As an adult, her career was that of an accountant. She is retired now and has more time for the music. Big Don Evans is her brother. He's the handsome guy with the cowboy hat and boots you see at all the festivals, sometimes as an emcee. He is also a police officer for the City of Stockton. Another brother is

Neale, retired from the Navy, who with his wife Irene runs the mercantile for the CBA. Kathy has also what she calls her extended family consisting of those she especially likes and she refers to them as brothers and sisters. One of these she calls her brother is Jim Scoggins whom lots of us remember. He plays a mandolin and I'm not sure he takes it off from around his neck when he goes to bed or if it has become part of his body. He has retired and moved to his native Texas, but still occasionally attends the CBA festivals. It was he who got her more interested in bluegrass and in attending the CBA festivals.

In the early days, she saw the need and began volunteering, helping out with various jobs. Soon she became a board member and now she has done it all. She has held every position, even that of president, which is her current position.

Her husband Gene, a widower came into her life a few years back. I've known him since about that time, but not well. In this interview, I found him to be quite an interesting guy. He hails from Walnut, Kansas, a town of about three hundred. He says that about half of the town's people are Kirkpatricks. Boy, talk about an extended family! His father has always been dedicated to country and bluegrass type music. He remembers watching the Porter Wagoner show and several others consistently as a kid. He liked bluegrass music from his first introduction to it.

He got a degree in engineering at Kansas State. He later went into the Air Force where he had an interesting career and saw the world at the same time. While he was a captain and stationed in Guam, there was an over population of deer. The problem was that they liked to get onto the runways and were a real hazard to planes taking off and landing. It was determined that they needed a game warden to regulate this. Gene was then appointed game warden. He would invite all the game hunters on the island to come to the rescue, at which time the runways were closed down. This

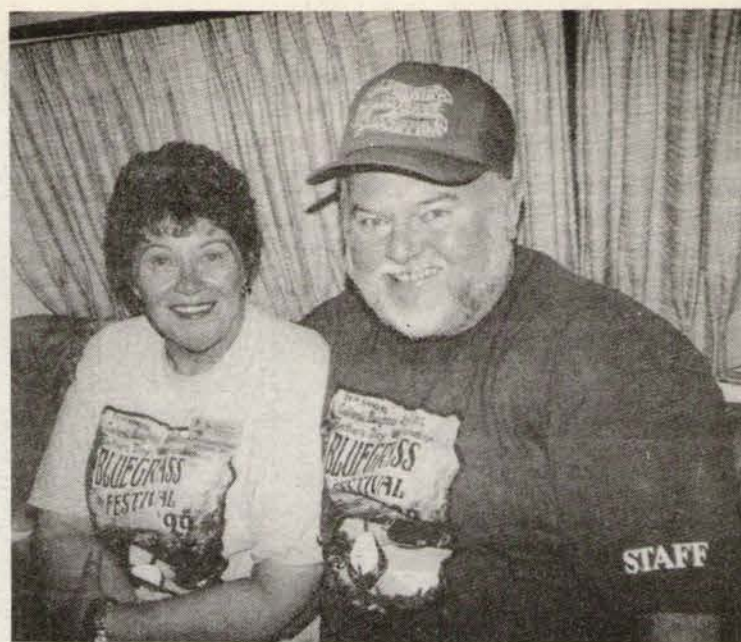
not only solved the problem, but enabled the Fish and Game Department to conduct extensive research in their laboratories on some of these and other animals.

We were speaking of Kansas weather and Gene told me a story he remembers from college. One winter he was driving the two hundred miles home for a few days' visit. His only passenger was a rabbit in a cage on the back seat. As his family had rabbits, it was to be used for breeding purposes. He had been driving in snow, but as he got within a few miles of home the snow was replaced by a glaze of ice covering everything. As he slowly turned off the highway onto a rural road, he slid into a ditch. He uttered an expletive, not common usage in our publication, got out and walked a mile to a farm house and the nearest phone. He called home and his brother came with a tractor. Even the tractor had a lot of trouble with slippage, but was able to pull his car out of the ditch. Seems nothing but a tractor could be driven on the road and even then it was difficult because of a ridge of loose gravel. His brother took no chances, by stopping to unhook, but towed him all of the rest of the way home. He said that after all that, he was able to enjoy the visit. I failed to ask him, but I assume the rabbit did, too.

Gene enjoys the CBA and has taken on the responsibility of becoming the concession coordinator, a job that requires a lot of time, effort and know how at each CBA festival.

His parents still live in Walnut. Every other year he and Kathy drive across the country and take them along, as they all go to the International Bluegrass Music Association trade show and festival week in Kentucky. It's become a regular ritual and his parents have gotten to know who all the musicians and bands are. They look forward to it each time now.

Gene and Kathy are a dedicated couple in the bluegrass world with a lot to share with their families and friends as they all enjoy the music together.



Kathy and Gene Kirkpatrick

Photo by Bill Wilhelm

Tentative performance schedule for CBA's 2000 25th Annual Bluegrass Festival

Harold Crawford, CBA's Festival Entertainment Coordinator recently announced the tentative band performance schedule for the California Bluegrass Association's Silver Anniversary, 25th Annual Father's Day Weekend Bluegrass Festival. The event is to be held at the Nevada County Fairgrounds in Grass Valley, CA on June 15-18, 2000.

Changes may have to be made in the upcoming months to accommodate travel and schedule conflicts with individual bands.

The Tentative band performance schedule days are:

Thursday, June 15

Country Ham
Lost Highway
Sand Mountain
Break & Workshops
Lost and Found
James King Band
Country Ham
Cloggers (tba)
Break & Workshops
the Fox Family
Lost and Found
Sand Mountain
J.D. Crowe & the New South
James King Band

Friday, June 16

Lost Highway
the Fox Family
Country Ham
Mountain Heart
Break & Workshops
J.D. Crowe & the New South
Sand Mountain
the Fox Family
Cloggers (tba)

Break & Workshops
Kids on Bluegrass
Lost Highway
Mountain Heart
James King Band
Lost and Found
J.D. Crowe & the New South

Saturday, June 17

Bluegrass Patriots
California (reunion)
Rarely Herd
Reno Brothers
Break & Workshops
Country Current
Doyle Lawson & Quicksilver
California (reunion)
Mountain Heart
Break & Workshops
Kids on Bluegrass
Reno Brothers
Rarely Herd
Illrd Tyme Out
Country Current
Doyle Lawson & Quicksilver

Sunday, June 18

9 - 11 a.m. Gospel Show
Illrd Tyme Out
Break & Workshops
Rarely Herd
Bluegrass Patriots
Doyle Lawson & Quicksilver
California (reunion)
Reno Brothers
Illrd Tyme Out
Country Current

Watch next month's issue for further details and workshop schedule.

All performance dates are subject to performer's travel schedules.



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 ★ Country Current (U.S. Navy Band) ★

★ 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 ★

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

~ Advance Ticket Order Form ~

CBA Member Advance 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 Advance Discount tickets is June 5, 2000. No Discounts available at the gate.

CBA Member Tickets (3/1/00 - 6/5/00)

4-Day Adult	\$60
4-Day Senior (65 & over)	\$55
4-Day Teen (13-18)	\$35
3-Day (Th-F-Sat)	\$50
3-Day (F-Sat-Sun)	\$45
3-Day Teen (13-18) (Th-F-Sat)	\$30
3-Day Teen (13-18) (F-Sat-Sun)	\$30

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	

CAMPING INCLUDED IN ALL 3 AND 4 DAY FESTIVAL TICKETS.

EARLY CAMPING
OPENS MONDAY,
JUNE 12. CAMPING
6/12 TO 6/14 \$15
PER NIGHT PER RV
& \$10 PER NIGHT
PER TENT.

DESIGNATED TENT
ONLY CAMPING
AREA RULE WILL BE
ENFORCED 6/12/00.

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

CBA Member Tickets

4-Day Adult @ \$60	_____
4-Day Senior @ \$55	_____
4-Day Teen @ \$35	_____
3-Day Adult (Th-F-Sat) @ \$50	_____
3-Day Adult (F-Sat-Sun) @ \$45	_____
3-Day Teen (Th-F-Sat) @ \$30	_____
3-Day Teen (F-Sat-Sun) @ \$30	_____

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

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.

For Credit Card orders contact TicketWeb on the Internet @ www.ticketweb.com lor call 510-704-4448

17 Hours with 5 for the Gospel

By Ron Teel

The morning began before dawn, as I stepped into the van to become the day's driver, taking the 5 For the Gospel bluegrass band round trip from Sacramento to Monterey for two performances. Little did I know that I was stepping into one exhilarating experience that would not end until after midnight, some 17 hours later. Joining us on this trip was Bob Thomas, overall promoter for the band's January 2000 California visit. Bob agreed to be a back-up driver.

As we headed for I-5, the band began its work. Bob Thomas began playing the cassette tape of the band's radio appearance the evening before on the

about the nature of crops grown. Seeing the orchards and vineyard also prompted several questions.

Our trip was not quiet, by any means. Members could be heard practicing song segments or humming melodies. These gentlemen know their Bible, and they are quick to draw from it whenever the opportunity arises. As we proceeded, I heard Rick May (mandolin) toss out a scripture. Immediately, the other band members, John Thornsberry (guitar and lead singer), Johnny Branham (banjo), Kenny Vanderpool (base fiddle), and Albon Lee Clevenger (fiddle), joined in for a lively,



Rick May is pictured telling the audience about John Thornsberry. You can tell that the introduction was humorous and got a big smile from John.

Photo by Howard Gold



5 for the Gospel in action -- l-r are: Albon Lee Clevenger, Johnny Branham, Rick May, Kenny Vanderpool, and John Thornsberry.

by Howard Gold

John Stuss program, on KFIA 710 AM. The band listened with a critical ear to identify areas for improvement. Their music came crisp and clean, but the voices of some members faded during the interview. Various techniques to strengthen this area were discussed. A breathtaking sunrise began to break over the Sierra's just as the cassette recording began to play the title song from their recent video Victory is Sweet.

With daylight now available, the band was able to see some of California's great diversity. Passing some of California's rich farming areas the band remarked about the straight rows, large fields, and were quite inquisitive

extended discussion as to the meaning of that scripture and its application to everyday life. Kenny has a knack for mimicking different television voices, and he was heard perfecting that skill. Other members responded playfully by taking on various character voices from the Andy Griffith Show. This is one fun group; there is not a prune face among them.

We stopped at Santa Nella to fill the gas tank. Rick jumped out to pump the gas, while Johnny went to pay for it, after asking the question: "You gotta pay for gas before you pump it?" In their part of Kentucky, it's pump first, then pay. (Remember those days?) I just couldn't resist the

urge to say: "In California, it's 'In God we trust, all others pay cash!'"

It was mid-morning as we pulled in front of the residence of Nina Kelly, the band's local contact for their Monterey appearances. Her quaint home is one block up from the waterfront, and provides a dramatic view of the Monterey Bay. Nina made us feel right at home. She anticipated the band to be hungry after their long trip, and began to prepare BLT sandwiches. John and Albon pitched in as kitchen helpers. Rick listened to the local radio on which they were scheduled to make a promotional appearance. Suddenly, he heard the announcer declare

that 5 For The Gospel would be appearing live in the studios, in just 10 minutes!

A blur of bodies began moving, skipping down the stairs, running across the alley and jamming into the van. With Nina leading the way, we sped down the street, raced around the corner, hurried up the hill, and made a quick turn before parking right in front of KAZU 90.3FM studio, with a leisurely 3 minutes left to spare! When the announcer made her cut to the band, the band was standing in front of the radio microphones with instruments ready, and the fullness of their music immediately began to flow just as though they had been waiting patiently for that moment. I stepped out to the van, to listen to their interviews; their voices came through clear and strong. They had applied what they learned from listening to the prior day's radio tape. The announcer was obviously impressed with the band, as she repeatedly plugged their evening performance. The interview session went without flaw, leaving Nina Kelly beaming with pride, for once again she had introduced great bluegrass performers to the Monterey area.

With a few hours then available before the first performance, Nina led us along the Monterey Coastline, onto the 17-mile Drive, past golf greens hosting grazing deer, and to the Pebble Beach Deli for lunch on the lawn. This was the band's first time to see the Pacific Ocean, and it could not have been a more picturesque day. The ocean was a deep

blue, the waves breaking clean and foamy. John Thornsberry let the little kid in him take over by removing his shoes and socks to wade in the surf. One member proclaimed: "There just can't be any place this side of Heaven more beautiful than this area!"

The first performance of the day was at Pine Ridge Skilled Nursing Home. With less than ten notes played, the band was in complete balance and proper volume for the room. Nursing home audiences are often difficult to capture and keep attention. But not today! 5 For the Gospel band members made eye-to-eye contact with each person, holding that contact long enough to make it meaningful, and then returning back to each attendee often enough to make the performance very personal. I could see smiles emerge in eyes that were otherwise vacant and distant. Hopefully, every bluegrass band will spend some time performing in rest homes. Someday, I might be a resident there, along with other bluegrass aficionados.

After this performance, Nina prepared a dinner consisting of cornmeal pancakes and broiled salmon, topped with mango salsa, and accompanied by a salad made of local exotic lettuces. John agreed to flip the pancakes. Johnny Branham called home to Kentucky and learned the temperature was at zero degrees. Other members called their families. Rick May used this time to check the band's E-mail. Bob Thomas also checked his E-mail and then called home, to follow

5 for the Gospel Sacramento Concert draws a record crowd

by Suzanne Denison

If you were among the more than four hundred people in the audience at the Sunrise Community Church on January 22, you know why 5 for the Gospel is one of the premier Bluegrass Gospel bands in existence. Their music soothes the soul, lifts the heart and fills listeners with pure joy.

I had the good fortune to meet the members of this eastern Kentucky band at the CBA Festival last June. From the minute they got off of their bus they displayed their warm, friendly personalities and strong faith. They not only entertained audiences from the CBA stage, they sang nightly in camp to all who came by to listen.

Particularly impressive to me was their commitment to Bluegrass Gospel as a Ministry. Many in the jam audiences asked for familiar Bluegrass tunes. The answer was unfailingly, "Sorry, we are a Gospel Ministry." They don't perform secular tunes, but they do pick and sing wonderful Bluegrass Gospel music.

When they weren't singing and playing, band members kept us enthralled with humorous stories on their travels across the country as a band and as former members of other Bluegrass Bands. They were marvelous people, and we also got to know Marcella Clevenger and her

daughter who were along to cook and make sure that the band members took care of themselves.

Opening the Sacramento concert was Grace Avenue, a four-piece Bluegrass Gospel Band from the Sacramento area. Grace Avenue brings the excitement of gospel bluegrass music to audiences in concert and at festivals throughout the west. They believe that Gospel bluegrass is an authentic American music form that combines the mountain harmonies of an earlier time with a deep conviction expressed through the gospel message.

Band members are Jim Beeler — mandolin, flat-pick guitar and bass vocals; Bob Thomas — guitar and lead vocals; Barbara West — bass and tenor vocals; and Eric West — banjo, baritone and lead vocals. All of the band's members have extensive experience in performing music of various genres from Jazz to Country and Bluegrass.

They then turned the rest of the evening over to 5 for the Gospel for two outstanding sets, with a break in between. The band performed songs from their Hay Holler recordings as well as original and traditional Southern Gospel songs, interspersed with humorous stories and some powerful preaching by mando-



Grace Avenue opened the Sacramento concert. Pictured l-r are: Jim Beeler, Eric West, Barbara West and Bob Thomas.
Photo by Howard Gold

linist Rick May. It was an inspired and inspiring performance and an evening to remember.

Members of 5 for the Gospel are Rick May — mandolin, guitar, lead and harmony vocals; Johnny Branham — banjo and harmony vocals; Rick Vanderpool — bass and harmony vocals; John Thornsberry — guitar, lead and harmony vocals; and Albon Lee Clevenger — fiddle. If you saw the band in Grass Valley, you might have noticed that Rick Vanderpool has replaced Pat Hollbrook on bass. Pat had to stop touring with the band due to health problems last October. I asked John about Pat, and he told me that he is doing well, enjoying being at home with his family and his health has improved — all good news.

The Sunrise Community

Church was a wonderful venue for this concert. From where we were sitting, near the back of the sanctuary, we could hear every word and note clearly. Nick Popplereitter was the sound engineer, and did an outstanding job. It helps, of course, that the room had wonderful acoustics, but with the band using a single mic and speakers throughout the hall, I felt surrounded by the beautiful music.

As always, CBA's Sacramento Area Vice President Bob Thomas produced a wonderful concert in an outstanding venue. Bob asked that we recognize all of the volunteers who made the event such a success. They are: Kelly Senior, Montie Elston, Ron Teel, Leone Teel, Sue VanEnger, Sandy Hendrix, Mike Brooks, Jake Hiebert, Jerry Hendrix, Kieth

Wiggins, Mary Lou Flaa, Dave Flaa, Bill Ward, Dana Ward, Rick Owen, John Senior, Larry Kuhn, Bobbie Kuhn, Howard Gold, George Martin, J.D. Rhynes and Nick Popplereitter.

The Sacramento Southern Gospel Music Association was very generous in helping to promote this concert and many of their members joined us to experience Bluegrass Gospel for the first time. We hope it won't be their last experience with Bluegrass music and welcome them to the family. In addition, the SSGMA newsletter editor was kind enough to share some of their upcoming concert dates for the *Breakdown* calendar. If you enjoy Gospel music, you might want to check out the listings and attend the events.

17 Hours with 5 for the Gospel

From previous page

up on any items needing last minute attention before Saturday night's main concert in Sacramento.

At 6:30 p.m., we arrived at the United Methodist Church for the evening performance. The sanctuary filled up quickly, with an overflow crowd in the foyer. Over half of the audience of 160 heard about the event from the band's appearance on KAZU, earlier in the day. This was my first time to hear 5 For The Gospel in full concert. I was as excited as the audience. I heard one person comment: "The Chosen Frozen have become hooters and howlers, what will the Bishop say?" After the performance, the audience demand for CDs and cassette tapes was so overwhelming that I was asked to help with the sales.

While the van was being repacked, the band took time to mingle with the audience, autograph albums, and answer questions. We started back, with the band once again reviewing the day and looking for areas to improve. Occasionally, I heard one member hum a song or sing a few words. Kenny tried out a new voice. Then, it got quiet, the hour was late. But, every now and then, I would hear one member talk to the other about the day, or begin examining another scripture that came to mind. After 17 hours with the band, I learned that they keep their focus on their purpose. The next day, they were heard to say that they "ain't met no bad folks here in California." Well, I had met five wonderful gentlemen — 5 For The Gospel!

Quilting Contest Held At Blythe Festival

By Anne Dye

In addition to wonderful weather, outstanding music, and contests for most Bluegrass instruments and bands, a "Bluegrass Quilt" contest and show was held during the 13th Annual Colorado River Country Music Festival. The event took place on the Colorado River Fairgrounds in Blythe, California January 14 to 16, 2000.

The Festival drew a large crowd who enjoyed camping, jamming and watching the music on the Festival stage throughout the weekend. CBA was well represented by Membership Vice President Mary Runge and her husband David, as well as mer-

cantile coordinators, Neale and Irene Evans. A number of CBA members, officers and board members also made the trek to Southern California for this great winter festival.

This was our first festival here at Blythe. We met a lot of old friends and made some new ones. There was a lot of jamming going on at night. The bands were great and the U.S. Navy Bluegrass Band put on a terrific show as usual. Lost Highway was outstanding and Paul's (Shelasky) jokes haven't changed. Bill Bryson, bass player and lead singer for Laurel Canyon Ramblers became ill with the flu and

had to be hospitalized.

The Bluegrass Quilt Show and Contest drew a variety of Quilts on display, ranging from crib size to pillows, vest, jackets and on up to large size bed quilts. There was an unexpectedly large turnout of people who came to view the beautiful quilts. The winners were:

- Bed Size: 1st. Jane Foster — Greeneville, TN; 2nd. Judy Kniemim — Fallbrook, CA; 3rd. Loraine Paris — Castle Rock, WA.
- Lap Quilts: 1st. Helen Swar — Brea, CA; 2nd. and 3rd. Donna

See BLYTHE on page 16

Bob Paisley & The Southern Grass is the best bluegrass band you might not have heard -- coming to California

by Peter Thompson

Although they've never before toured California, the band got a standing ovation for every song they played in their last set at the Wolf Mountain Bluegrass Festival ... Danny Paisley is said to be Alison Krauss' favorite singer ... The Lonesome River Band's Don Rigsby and ace fiddler Aubrey Haynie get their coolest songs from Bob Paisley's albums ... this band drives an audience wild, and you now have a number of opportunities to hear them.

Bob Paisley comes from the bluegrass heartland — he was born in 1930 in Ashe County, North Carolina, and was musically inspired in his formative years by his father, a clawhammer banjo picker, an uncle and cousin who were in the original North Carolina Ridge Runners, and his neighbors, an African-American gospel quartet who taught him to sing harmony and introduced him to Carter Family songs.

During the 1950s, Bob played bluegrass in Georgia and Alabama with various groups while in the service, but has been based in the Delaware-Maryland-Virginia area since connecting with Ted Lundy in the early 1970s. His music has been further influenced by the musicians and Fiddlers Conventions of the Galax area, the classic bands of Monroe/Stanleys/Flatt & Scruggs, and regional songwriters writing in traditional styles.

Bob Paisley is a recipient of the Pioneer Award from the



Bob Paisley and the Southern Grass -- l-r are T.J. Lundy, Bobby Lundy, Bob Paisley (seated), former bass player, and Dan Paisley. Either Marshall Andrews or Jerry Logan will be on bass for their California concerts.

Country Music Association, has toured internationally for nearly 30 years, and leads what Bluegrass Unlimited called "one of the best traditional bluegrass bands in America today."

The Southern Grass centers on members of the Paisley and Lundy clans. Bob shares the lead and tenor singing with his son,

Dan Paisley; their duets are among the most powerful and compelling in all of bluegrass, and the rhythm supplied by their solid guitar playing is undeniable.

The band maintains close ties with the Lundy family; Ted died in 1980, but his sons, T.J. and Bobby, are now members of the Southern Grass.

Fiddler T.J. Lundy played in the Southern Mountain Boys when he was 15, spent several years in The Hotmud Family, and has won multiple fiddle championships at Galax and elsewhere. Banjo player Bobby Lundy is also a Galax award-winner, and was a member of bands led by Jimmy Martin and Bill Harrell. Anchoring the band on the acoustic bass for the first six concerts is California's own Jerry Logan, who spent several years with Laurie Lewis & Grant Street, and is currently a member of The Ron Spears Band. For the Southern California dates, Marshall Andrews of Lost Highway takes over on the acoustic bass.

A blend of distinctive, soulful singing with hot, hard-driving instrumental playing and an incomparable repertoire, this is one of the most exciting and vital groups in contemporary bluegrass: Bob Paisley & The Southern Grass.

SELECTED DISCOGRAPHY:
Ted Lundy, Bob Paisley & The Southern Mt. Boys:
The Old Swinging Bridge (Rounder/1972)

Bob Paisley & Southern Grass 2000 California Tour Dates

- March 11 — (8:00 pm): Unitarian Universalist Church, 505 E. Charleston, Palo Alto (650-691-9982 or e-mail: www.rba.org (Redwood Bluegrass Associates)
- March 12 — (5:00 pm): Presbyterian Church, 112 Bulkley Ave., Sausalito (415-383-8716).
- March 13 — 5th String Music Store venue tba, Sacramento (916-442-8282 or e-mail: questions@thefifthstring.com).
- March 14 — (8:00 pm): Freight & Salvage, 1111 Addison St., Berkeley (510-548-1761 or www.thefreight.org).
- March 15 — (7:30 pm): Christian Church of Pacific Grove, Central and Carmel Aves., Pacific Grove (831-372-5641).
- March 16 — (7:30 pm): Pacific Cultural Center, 1307 Seabright Ave. (at Broadway), Santa Cruz (831-429-5605).
- March 17 — (7:30 pm): La Paloma Theater, 471 S. Coast Hwy. 101, Encinitas (760-436-5774 [theater] or 619-286-1836 or e-mail: <http://members.aol.com/intunenews/> [San Diego Bluegrass Club]). Also appearing: Lost Highway and Down The Road (featuring Kenny Wertz).
- March 18 — (8:00 pm): The Neighborhood Church, 301 N. Orange Grove Blvd., Pasadena (818-998-1284 or 949-496-6799 or e-mail: <http://members.aol.com/intunenews/> [Bluegrass Association of Southern California]). Also appearing: Dan Crary & Peter Feldman.

BLYTHER

Continued from page 15

Quartier — North Highlands, CA.

• Crib Size: 1st. Jane Foster — Greeneville, TN; 2nd. Flo DeBie — Ontario, CA; 3rd. Carol Vernon — Las Vegas, NV.

• Unfinished Quilts: 1st. Donna Broome — Anywhere, U.S.A.; 2nd. Lee Clayton — Spring Valley, AZ; 3rd. Jane Foster — Greeneville, TN.

• Misc. Projects: 1st. Lee Clayton (Jacket) — Spring Valley, AZ; 2nd. Cindy Coffey (Vest) — Dandridge, TN; 3rd. Loraine Paris (Table Runner) — Castle Rock, WA.

• Wall Hangings: 1st. Donna Broome — Anywhere, U.S.A.;

2nd. Donna Quartier — North Highlands, CA; 3rd. Helen Sandoval — Spring Valley, AZ.

There are plans for another Bluegrass Quilters Show. If you are interested contact Donna Quartier at 6805 Stoneman, North Highlands, CA 95660 or E-mail: donnaqz@juno.com or Melinda Stanley, P.O. Box 273, Copperopolis, CA, 95228 or E-mail: banjolady@caltel.com. Make "Bluegrass Quilters" the subject for a quicker answer.

For information on the 2001 Colorado River Country Music Festival, contact the Blythe Area Chamber of Commerce, 201 South Broadway, Blythe, CA 92225 or call 760-922-8166.

RECORDING REVIEWS

Seven Sisters: A Kentucky Portrait

The Crooked Jades

Crooked Music
687 Chenery St.
San Francisco, CA 94131

Songs: Put My Little Shoes Away, Miner's Child, I Wish I Was A Single Girl Again, Pearl Bryan/Intro, Cumberland Gap, Letter Edged In Black (Instr.), Little Bessie, Miner's Child (Instr.), Hard For To Love, She Lied To Me, Young Edward, Letter Edged In Black, Put My Little Shoes Away (Instr.), Moonshiner, Wayfaring Stranger (Instr.), Jenny Get Around, Wayfaring Stranger, Mystery Train, Pretty Polly (Instr.), Pearl Bryan

Personnel: The Crooked Jades are: Jeff Kazor — vocals and guitar; Lisa Berman — vocals, dobro, and slide guitar; Tom Lucas — vocals, banjo, organ, guitar, and bass; Dan Lynn — vocals and bass. Special guests: Bill Foss — fiddle, mandolin, banjo, banjo-ukulele, and bass; Martha Hawthorne — vocals, guitar, and bass; Eric Pearson — banjo and guitar; Chris Kee — Arco bass

by Larry Carlin

If you were going to make a documentary film about a family of sisters from Kentucky in the 30s and 40s and you wanted to use some old-time music for your soundtrack your first inclination would be to go down south to search out some band from that area. But if you were based in San Francisco there would be no need to travel afar to find some great old-time/bluegrass music since there are quite a few young bands playing mountain music

Discography

Slipping Away (Rounder/1975)
Lovesick and Sorrow (Rounder/1978)

Bob Paisley & The Southern Grass:
Bob Paisley & the Southern Grass (Rounder/1981)
Old Love Affair (Brandywine/1982)
Live In Holland (Strictly Country/1991)
No Vacancy (Brandywine/1992)
Back To the Blue Ridge (Brandywine/1995)
Steeped In Tradition (Brandywine/1998)

in the hills of The City. And filmmaker Patrick Donahew could not have chosen a better band when he asked The Crooked Jades to record the soundtrack for his new documentary called Seven Sisters: A

Kentucky Portrait, a film that will be coming to a PBS station near you sometime this summer.

The film follows the journeys of seven sisters who loved to sing. They span a generation, growing up during the Depres-

sion in Kentucky, and their inspiring story proves that you don't need Hollywood movie stars in a movie or presidential candidates to tell a story about real family values. One of the sisters is the mother of director

Donahew, so he knows his subject matter better than most documentary filmmakers do.

The Crooked Jades debuted two years ago with their impressive "Going To The Races" CD,

Continued on Page 18

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RECORDING REVIEWS

Continued from Page 17

and on this new recording they gathered a few friends to help recreate the music that predates bluegrass. And they used mostly instruments that were used way back then, from parlor guitars and Weissenborns to banjo-ukuleles and minstrel banjos. The band got inspiration for many of the songs from a little-known singer and banjo player from Eastern Kentucky by the name of Roscoe Holcomb. The director provided a list of eight songs that he wanted the band to record, and Jades founder Jeff Kazor found the rest of the material. All of the songs except for one are 70-125 years old, and the sound the Jades produced on this CD is about as authentic as you will find these days.

There are 20 songs and almost an hour's worth of music on *Seven Sisters*, as well as a wonderful mix of story songs and instrumentals. While all of the songs are well done, highlights include "Put My Little Shoes Away" (which is also the first song), "Cumberland Gap", "Hard For To Love", and "I Wish I Was A Single Girl Again". Five of the songs that are sung also have instrumental versions played elsewhere on the CD, and this makes for a nice contrast. Special guests Martha Hawthorne's haunting vocals and Bill Foss's fiddle/banjo/mandolin provide a nice addition to the old-time sound those fans of the Jades have become so familiar with.

How many times have you bought a soundtrack because of one song you heard in a film, and then found out the rest of the recording was terrible? A lot of work and thoughtful planning went into the making of "Seven Sisters: A Kentucky Portrait" by The Crooked Jades, and it is one of the best soundtracks to come along in a long time. Who'd have thought that the songs of 100 years ago could still sound this good in the year 2000? Every song on *Seven Sisters* tells a story, one that you will want to listen to time and again.



Out Among The Stars

Modern Hicks

Jackalope Records
CD-01245

3385 Dartmouth Ave.
Santa Rosa, CA 94505

Songs: *Stillhouse; You Plant Your Fields; Gone, Gone Gone; Waiting 'Til The Coast Is Clear; Floods of South Dakota; Annabelle; Friend of The Devil; Satan's Jewel Crown; Isn't That So; Love To Learn; Baby Took A Limo; Cadillac; That's How I Learned To Sing The Blues; Who Knows What Tomorrow May Bring; Out Among The Stars.*

Personnel: Craig Anderson - Resonator Guitar, Banjo and Vocals; Kevin Russell - Guitar and Vocals; Tom Sours - Bass; Gina Blaver - Vocals; Layne Bowen - Mandolin, Guitar and Vocals; Brooks Anderson - Snare on cuts 4, 12 and 13.

by Suzanne Denison

Out Among The Stars is the first recording for the Santa Rosa, California-based band, Modern Hicks. I'll have to admit that sometimes recordings for review come into my office faster than I can send them to reviewers or give them a listen. That's what happened to this CD, and now that I've listened to it, I'm sorry I didn't do it sooner.

If you're looking for good picking, pleasing vocal harmonies and a variety of musical styles, this recording has them all. Each band member contributes outstanding instrumental breaks, and the three who sing (Kevin Russell, Gina Blaver and Layne Bowen) offer a great blend of lead and harmony vocals.

"Stillhouse", a Gillian Welch song, has an old-time Appalachian feel with some great Resonator and Mandolin licks by Craig and Layne; and strong lead vocals by Kevin. "You Plant Your Fields" is a "philosophical number" about the plight of the farmer with a haunting melody. "Gone, Gone, Gone," begins with a great lead-in by Layne and Craig with their mandolin and banjo version of the old fiddle tune, "Leather Britches". "Waiting 'Til The Coast Is Clear" is a swinging tune with an old time country music swing and some great resophonic guitar and guitar picking. I particularly enjoyed listening to the lyrics on this Hal Ketchum, Fred Koller song about loving and leaving from the perspective of the one who left.

"Floods of South Dakota" is

another farm ballad which the band learned from a Tim and Mollie O'Brien duet recording. Kevin and Gina do an outstanding job with the harmony vocals on this song. "Satan's Jewel Crown," and "Isn't That So" are Gospel songs with a real message which the band puts across well. "Cadillac", a Billy Jack Wills song, swings like the Texas version of an old Beach Boys tune.

The three songs on this project penned by Henry Hipkins, "Love To Learn," "That's How I Learned To Sing The Blues," and "Who Knows What Tomorrow May Bring" are all gems which deserve to be performed more often. I hadn't heard them before, but enjoyed the Modern Hicks versions so much that I listened to them again and again. I especially enjoyed listening to Gina's lead vocals on "Learn" and "Who Knows", along with the bluesy guitar backup on the former.

I haven't said anything about Tom Sours' bass, but I was impressed with his talents. Throughout the recording, he adds a firm foundation and a swingy beat to all of the songs from beginning to end — even taking a bass break on "Cadillac". All of the band members are talented instrumentalists and you really need to listen to the entire CD to discover their special touches.

The title cut, "Out Among the Stars," is a cowboy-style song which features some great breaks on mandolin, resophonic guitar and lead guitar. Kevin sings the lead with a depth of feeling for the sad lyrics which tell of poverty and desperation and the wish to "fly like eagles out among the stars". A great way to end the recording and leave the listener wanting more.

After listening to this CD several times, I can recommend it to anyone who enjoys good music, performed well. Modern Hicks may not be a familiar name now, but I predict that you'll be hearing more about them and hope they will continue to perform and record their style of music. It isn't straight-ahead Monroe-style BLUEGRASS, but it is very enjoyable music and I would highly recommend you get a copy of *Out Among The Stars* for your collection.

You have an opportunity to

hear the Modern Hicks in person when they open the April 7, 2000 concert for Dale Ann Bradley and Coon Creek at the Sebastopol Community Center. Check out the ad on page 21 of this issue for details and to order tickets.



Pickin' On Garth Brooks

Various Artists

CMH Records
CD-8519
P.O. Box 39439
Los Angeles, CA 90039

Songs: *The Thunder Rolls, Callin' Baton Rouge, Mr. Blue, Against The Grain, Much Too Young (To Feel This Damn Old), The Dance, Two Of A Kind, Workin' On A Full House, One Night A Day, Longneck Bottle, The Beaches of Cheyenne, Not Counting You, Standing Outside The Fire, The River, She's Every Woman, Friends In Low Places, If Tomorrow Never Comes.*

Personnel: Guitar: Hoot Hester, Bryan Sutton, Pat McGrath, Mark Thornton, Paul Kramer; 5-String Banjo: Richard Bailey; Mandolin: Brent Truitt, Aubrey Haynie, Paul Kramer; Fiddle: Randy Howard, Aubrey Haynie; Steel Guitar: Robby Turner, Johnny Cox; Dobro: Richard Arnold, Rob Ickes; Piano: Dennis Wage; Harmonica: Pat Bergeson, Wailon Wood; Bass: Kevin Granett, Dennis Crouch, David Spicher, Roy Huskey, Jr.; Drums and Percussion: Kenny Malone, Bob Warren. (Note: names of musicians on individual songs not provided.)

by Suzanne Denison

"Pickin' On Garth Brooks" arrived in our mailbox not too long ago from CMH Records in Los Angeles, and since I was curious, I gave it a listen for review. I'll have to admit that I was rather skeptical about the musical content, but was pleasantly surprised.

The liner notes call it "a Recipe for Roots Country," and "a fiery instrumental collection of songs masterfully played by America's most skillful country musicians". Well, I wouldn't call it Bluegrass, but it is enjoyable listening music, and there are

some outstanding banjo, mandolin and dobro licks, in addition to the beautiful fiddling of Randy Howard and Aubrey Haynie.

I'll have to admit that Garth Brooks isn't one of my favorite Country artists, but since the album is all instrumental, I can sit back and listen to the music without the words and enjoy it. I was surprised to learn that half of the songs on the CD were written by Brooks, alone or with a co-writer. I guess I was so put off by his stage persona that I had never really listened to his songs well enough to appreciate the melodies.

There is a particularly beautiful fiddle lead-in on "The Dance," a Tony Arata song, as well as an outstanding mandolin break. "Two of a Kind, Workin' On a Full House," has a nice, bluesy feel with the harmonica lead-in and great dobro work. It also features some Texas-style fiddle licks and would be very danceable (if you were so inclined). If you enjoy the sound of the steel guitar, "One Night A Day" offers a good sampling of this Country music staple, along with fancy harmonica and electric guitar interplay.

I was a little put-off by the "drums and percussion," but they were tastefully done on all of the cuts. "Longneck Bottle" is a swing tune which got my toes tapping and reminded me of younger cowboy bar dancing days.

All of the songs on this recording are well done, but I particularly enjoyed those which featured acoustic instruments rather than electric and steel guitars... but then I like Bluegrass and Old-time country much better than the music that is coming out of Nashville today. If you like a little variety in your musical collection, then "Pickin' on Grath Brooks" might be just what you're looking for.



Pickin' on George Strait

Various artists

CMH Records
CD-8513
P.O. Box 39439
Los Angeles, CA 90039

Songs: *All My Ex's Live in Texas,*

RECORDING REVIEWS

Adalida, Check Yes or No, Am I Blue, Marina Del Rey, The Chair, Ace In the Hole, Love Without End Amen, I Just Want To Dance With You, One Night At A Time, Right or Wrong, The Fireman.

Personnel: Guitars: Bryan Sutton, Andy Reiss, Mark Thornton & Hoot Hester; Mandolin: Aubrey Haynie & Bryan Sutton; Steel Guitar: Robby Turner & Johnny Cox; 5-String Banjo: Kevin Haynie; Dobro: Rob Ickes; Fiddles: Aubrey Haynie & Hoot Hester; Piano: Dennis Wage; Accordion: Jeff Taylor; Electric Mandolin: Paul Kramer; Drums & Percussion: Kenny Malone; Bass: Dennis Crouch & Kevin Grantt. (Note: names of musicians on individual songs not provided.)

by Suzanne Denison

"Pickin' on George Strait," another tribute album from CMH Records, took me back to Texas. Yes, I'm an Army brat and lived for about ten years (three separate times) in El Paso, Texas, including my last year of high school. I went to college in Austin, and much of the music on this CD brings back fond memories of the music for which the state is famous.

From western swing and country to Cajun and Latin sounds, the songs on this recording are very listenable, but you'll have a hard time sitting still if you like to dance. As the liner notes say, "Heavy on the dobro, fiddle and steel guitar, "Pickin' on George Strait" conveys the classic country and honky-tonk heartache reminiscent of Hank Williams and Merle Haggard." "This journey through

the heart of country music is a two-steppin' good time."

Whether or not you are a George Strait fan, you are sure to enjoy the outstanding musicianship on this instrumental recording. It would have been helpful to this reviewer if the individual musicians had been named for each song, but it really doesn't matter. They are all very talented and produce professional, smooth, enjoyable music whether you are a listener or a dancer.

There is a little bit of everything on this CD, from the rollicking "All My Ex's Live in Texas," to the aching fiddles and waltz tempo of "The Chair," a song which Strait sings so beautifully. There's a Latin flavor to "Marina Del Rey," a swing tempo to "Ace In The Hole," which has some great fiddle and mandolin breaks. Rob Ickes has a lovely dobro lead-in to "Love Without End Amen," and there are some fine guitar and dobro breaks on the A.G. Barker tune.

The selection and mix of songs on this recording are inspired. Up-tempo swing numbers are followed by lilting Latin songs. Heartbreaking, slow sad ballads are followed by two-stepping, toe tapping swing tunes. All in all, this is an outstanding recording of modern country music with some great acoustic picking added into the mix.

I would highly recommend "Pickin' on George Strait" to anyone who enjoys good country music — whether or not you're from Texas. Who knows, it might just inspire a Two-Step party at your house.

Run To Love

Barry & Annie Ernst

Morning Glory Music
www.morningglorymusic.com
(415) 892-6550
E-mail: anniefidl@aol.com.

By Michael Hall

Barry and Annie Ernst have produced a non-bluegrass CD that hard-core bluegrass fans will enjoy. The mostly country and swing tunes, along with some bluegrass songs, are performed with Northern California bluegrass favorites Paul Shelasky on fiddle, Avram Siegal on banjo and Sue Walters on bass, among other fine musicians.

The newly-minted "Run To Love" is the couple's first adult CD. It follows their 1997 "Little Butterfly" children's music project, another worthy acquisition for both adult and children's entertainment. Both albums offer only original songs — usually a danger sign for CD buyers, but not with these albums. Like many area singer-songwriters, Barry and Annie are top quality vocal

and instrumental performers. Unlike most performers this side of New York and Nashville, they consistently write truly exceptional original songs.

Continued on page 20

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RECORDING REVIEWS

Continued from page 19

Barry Ernst, with plenty of help from his wife, slips past the intensely personal, self-indulgent songwriting mode and goes directly to the broader meanings that make songs useful on stage and in recorded form.

The title cut, "Run To Love," explores the risks and feelings of taking another chance on love. "North Carolina," "This Old (Home) Place" and "Tennessee" are straight-ahead bluegrass tracks with those, yes, thoughts of home. Spirited aging is the theme for "No Spring Chicken" and "I'm Losing Hair," both with a nice humorous twist. "Coyote Choir" is a classic western song-on-the-range. The other tunes hit the blues, the spiritual and the profane. Overall, this is an original album that should be extensively mined by other bands seeking good new material.

"Just because the songs are for children doesn't mean they have to be bad songs," Annie Ernst explained when she discussed "Little Butterfly." The couple have generously applied the same high standard to their offering for adults. "No bad songs"—let's get that on bumper sticker before it's too late! This CD features good arrangements, full instrumentation, and quality recording and production work. It goes down easy.



Numbers That Bless and Burn Dry Branch Fire Squad

Rounder Records
CD 0469
One Camp Street
Cambridge, MA 02140

Song: *Memories That Bless And Burn*

Personnel: Suzanne Thomas, vocal, guitar; Ron Thomason, mandolin; Charlie Leet, bass
Song: *Hide You In The Blood*
Personnel: Ron Thomason, lead vocal, lead guitar, mandolin; Hazel Dickens, tenor vocal; Bobby Maynard, banjo; Suzanne Thomas, guitar; Charlie Leet, bass

Song: *Looking For The Stone*
Personnel: Ron Thomason, lead vocal; Suzanne Thomas, tenor

vocal; Mary Jo Leet, high baritone vocal; John Carpenter, bass vocal.

Song: *Looking For The Stone*
Personnel: Ron Thomason, lead vocal, mandolin; John Baker, tenor vocal, guitar; Bobby Osborne, mandolin; Robert Leach, banjo; John Carpenter, bass.

Song: *Were You There*
Personnel: Ron Thomason, lead vocal; John Baker, tenor vocal, guitar; Mary Jo Leet, high baritone vocal; John Carpenter, bass.
Song: *Travel, Travel On*
Personnel: Ron Thomason, lead vocal, mandolin; John Baker, tenor vocal, guitar; Dick Erwin, bass.

Song: *I'll Be No Stranger*
Personnel: Ron Thomason, lead vocal; John Baker, tenor vocal; Mary Jo Leet, high baritone vocal; Dick Erwin, bass.

Song: *When Heaven Comes Down*

Personnel: Ron Thomason, lead vocal, mandolin; John Baker, tenor vocal, guitar; Dick Erwin, bass.

Song: *I Have Found A Way*
Personnel: Ron Thomason, lead vocal, mandolin; John Baker, tenor vocal, guitar; Dick Erwin, bass; John Hisey, banjo.

Song: *Where We'll Never Die*
Personnel: Ron Thomason, lead vocal, mandolin; Dave Edmundson, tenor vocal, guitar; John Hisey, bass vocal, banjo; Dick Erwin, bass; Mary Jo Leet, high baritone vocal.

Song: *Dip Your Fingers In Some Water*

Personnel: Ron Thomason, lead vocal; Suzanne Thomas, tenor vocal; Mary Jo Leet, high baritone vocal; Charlie Leet, bass vocal

Song: *The Gospel Way*
Personnel: Ron Thomason, lead vocal; Suzanne Thomas, tenor vocal; Bobby Maynard, banjo; Charlie Leet, bass.

Song: *The God That Never Fails*
Personnel: Ron Thomason, lead vocal; Suzanne Thomas, tenor vocal; Mary Jo Leet, high baritone vocal; Charlie Leet, bass vocal

Song: *That Home Far Away*
Personnel: Ron Thomason, lead vocal, mandolin; Suzanne Thomas, tenor vocal, guitar; Mary Jo Leet, high baritone vocal; Bobby Maynard, banjo; Charlie Leet, bass, bass vocal.

Song: *When I Went Down In The Valley To Pray*

Personnel: Ron Thomason, lead vocal; Suzanne Thomas, tenor vocal; Mary Jo Leet, high baritone vocal; Charlie Leet, bass vocal.

Song: *Touch The Hem Of His Garment*

Personnel: Ron Thomason, lead vocal; Suzanne Thomas, tenor vocal; Mary Jo Leet, high baritone vocal; Charlie Leet, bass vocal.

By Ken Reynolds

"Numbers That Bless and Burn" is an all gospel album and is the latest Rounder Records release by Ron Thomason and the talented group known as Dry Branch Fire Squad. This group has been entertaining crowds at festivals and concerts all over the United States, and abroad, for well in excess of 18 years.

This CD is composed of vintage selections from past Rounder recordings as well as new recordings and recently re-recorded band favorites.

As you listen to the CD, you're going to see that, in typical Dry Branch fashion, there are a good helping of songs done a Capella. In fact, they do the song "Looking For The Stone" twice. One version a Capella and one version with instruments.

Ron still is the driving force behind this talented group. He and Suzanne Thomas have voices that blend well together. Suzanne shows her talent as a lead singer on the title cut, "Memories That Bless And Burn", which she also wrote. The musicianship on this project is what one would expect from this great band.

The group gives you sixteen songs, for your listening pleasure on this CD.

If you are one of the many Dry Branch music fans out there today, I know you will want to add this one to your collection.



Songprints The Tylers

Independent Label
Contact: Kathy Tyler
27602 N. 151 Ave.
Sun City West, AZ 85375
Ph 623-584-1552
Fax. (623) 584,4396
E-mail: KTYLERAZ@aol.com

Songs: *It's Raining In The Valley, Gloryland March, Pitfall, My Sonoran Home, It's A Long Way To The Top Of The World, I'm Gonna Be A Cowboy, I've Been Lookin' For My Darlin, The Fourth Man, A Thousand Miles Of Ocean, Damascus Road, In The Hills Around The World, In Case You Ever Change Your Mind, Gonna Be Movin', There'll Be No Teardrops Tonight, His Healing Garden, My Bluebird Flew Away.*

Personnel: Joe Tyler, lead and harmony vocals; Kathy Tyler, harmony and lead vocals; Dee Ann Tyler, lead and tenor; Bobby Anderson, banjo; Mike Cirillo, fiddle; Evan Dain, bass; Peter McLaughlin, guitar; Billy Parker, mandolin; Peggy Peterson, Dobro.

By Ken Reynolds

"Songprints" is the latest release by an Arizona based group known as The Tylers. This group features the tight vocal harmonies of Joe, and his sister, Dee Tyler, and Joe's wife Kathy. I guess if you have a category to put this group in, it would probably be "Country Grass" as they do a lot of county/western style music all done with typical bluegrass instrumentation back up. I know this group performs at a lot of festivals in the Arizona area, as well as other states. Though I have never seen them perform, I've been told they put on a good stage show.

Dee and Kathy also do a lot of songwriting for the group. Songs on this project written by this duo include "It's Raining In The Valley", "I've Been Looking For My Darlin'", "Damascus Road", and "His Healing Garden". Dee also wrote "My Sonoran Home".

This group's strong point is vocal harmonies. If you can picture in your mind, Jim Ed Brown and his sisters singing all their material bluegrass style, then you will have a pretty good handle on how the Tylers sound.

I realize that some of the diehard bluegrass traditionalists may not care for the Tyler's style of music, but if your musical taste goes beyond traditional bluegrass music, you should really check these folks out.

You can contact the Tylers at the address list at the first of this article. I'm sure they would be

glad to see that you get a copy of this album.



Back Home Again Rhonda Vincent

Rounder Records
CD 11661-0460-2
One Camp Street
Cambridge, MA 02140

Songs: *Lonesome Wind Blues, Pretending I Don't Care, When I Close My Eyes, You're In My Heart, Little Angels, Passing Of The Train, Out Of Hand, Jolene, You Don't Know How Lucky You Are, Keep Your Feet On The Ground, You're Running Wild, Where No Cabins Fall.*

Personnel: Rhonda Vincent, lead and harmony vocals, mandolin; Darin Vincent, vocals, bass; Johnny Vincent, vocal; Byron Sutton, Guitar, mandolin; Marc Pruett, banjo; Ron Stewart, banjo, fiddle; Jerry Douglas, Dobro; Randy Barnes, bass; Ron Spears, guitar; Glen Duncan and Luke Bulla, fiddle.

By Ken Reynolds

"Back Home Again" is the latest release by Rhonda Vincent on Rounder Records. And as the album title implies, Rhonda has come back home to her roots in bluegrass music. I have been a fan of this young lady since the first time I saw her performing with her family band, The Sally Mountain Show. That was back in 1984 at Grass Valley, California.

Even back then, this young lady had a singing voice that was both powerful and a delight to listen to. Today that voice has matured and is stronger than ever. If you have never seen this talented lady perform on stage, you should make an effort to do so. She not only sings and picks great, she puts all that's in her, into her shows. She is a performer in every sense of the word and is probably one of the nicest folks you'll meet.

When you sit down to listen to this one, you're going to hear some first rate music by a lady who was voted the Contemporary Female Vocalist of the year

See REVIEWS on page 22

The California Bluegrass Association

Proudly Presents Dale Ann Bradley and Coon Creek in Two Regional Concerts

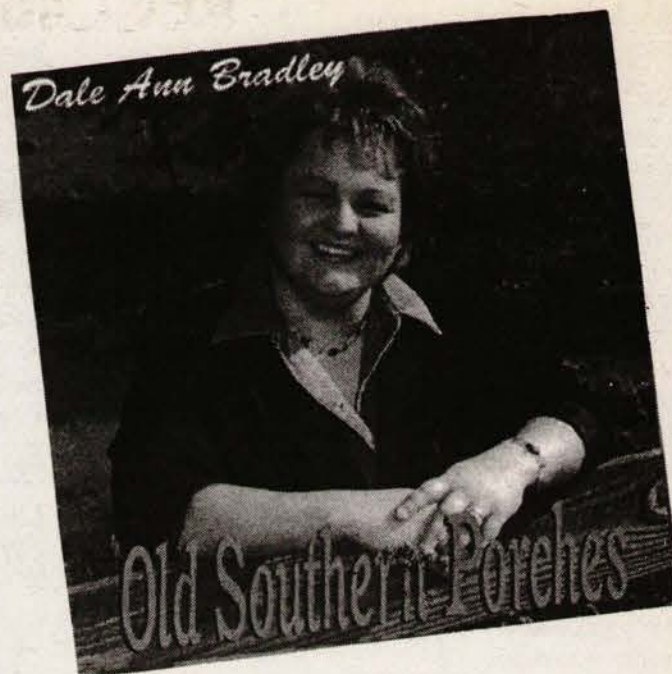
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at 8 p.m.**

**at the Sebastopol
Community Center
390 Morris Street
Sebastopol, CA**

Sponsored by the North Bay CBA

Tickets are \$12 for CBA members, \$15 for non-members. Children 12 and younger are FREE*.

*with paid adult admission



**With the River City Boys
Saturday, April 8, 2000
at 7:30 p.m.**

**United Central
Methodist Church
5265 H Street - Sacramento, CA
Co-Sponsored by
The Sacramento Area CBA
and the 5th String Music Store**

Tickets are \$12.50 for CBA members, \$15 for non-members. Children 12 and younger are FREE*.

*with paid adult admission

SEBASTOPOL CONCERT TICKET ORDER FORM

Please send me the following tickets for the Dale Ann Bradley & Coon Creek concert in Sebastopol:

- ☐ CBA member Adult Tickets @ \$12.00 each
☐ Non-member Adult tickets @ \$15.00 each

CBA Membership No. _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Mail Ticket form, check payable to CBA and SASE to:

Sebastopol Concert Tickets
North Bay CBA c/o Mark Hogan
3980 Monika Ct.
Sebastopol, CA 95472

For information, call Mark at 707-829-8012

Tickets also available at:

**People's Music
122 N. Main Street
Sebastopol, CA**

For information or directions,
call 707-823-7664

**Last Music Store
739 Fourth St.
Santa Rosa, CA**

For information or directions,
call 707-525-1963

SACRAMENTO CONCERT TICKET ORDER FORM

Please send me the following tickets for the Dale Ann Bradley & Coon Creek concert in Sacramento:

- ☐ CBA member Adult Tickets @ \$12.50 each
☐ Non-member Adult tickets @ \$15.00 each

CBA Membership No. _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Mail Ticket form, check payable to CBA and a SASE to:

Sacramento Concert Tickets
Sacramento Area CBA c/o Bob Thomas
8532 Cumulus Way
Orangevale, Ca 95662
For information, call Bob at 916-989-0993.

**Tickets are also available at
the 5th String Music Store**

930 Alhambra Blvd. at J Street, Sacramento, CA
For information or directions, call the store at 916-452-8282

Intellitouch electronic tuners work even in the middle of a loud jam

By George Martin

They started sprouting on pegheads all over the bluegrass world in 1996, like mushrooms after a rain. You'd see them in jam sessions, at concerts and on Grand Ole Opry broadcasts over the Nashville Network.

The Intellitouch electronic tuner is a little black plastic gizmo that reads the vibrations from your guitar or banjo and activates a liquid crystal display (backlit at night) to enable one to get in tune even in the middle of a loud jam.

Intellitouch didn't just happen. It was a coincidence that gave its originator, Mark Wilson, the idea, and it took nearly ten years to develop and bring to production.

"I had graduated from music school and was playing gigs at night and messing around with computers and some computer guys by day," Wilson said as he sat in his booth at the IBMA trade show in Louisville last October. "I figured it was a wide world out there and everybody else I knew was just playing music. All they wanted to do was talk about music."

Wilson was a bassist, living in Denton, Texas. Looking to buy an electric bass, he contacted a well-known electric guitar company in nearby Dallas and arranged to visit the factory. "I asked them about pickups," he

said. "I wanted an active pickup on my bass, and they said, 'We don't have one, and the competition is outselling us four-to-one.'"

Wilson thought he smelled an opportunity, so he went home and wrote a letter back to the company offering to make their pickups into active pickups. "I followed it up with a phone call and he said, 'Yeah, but can you do a tuner?' And I said, 'Let me call you tomorrow.'"

Wilson went back to the university where he had earned his music degree and talked to the physics professor who taught the musical acoustics class that all music majors were required to pass.

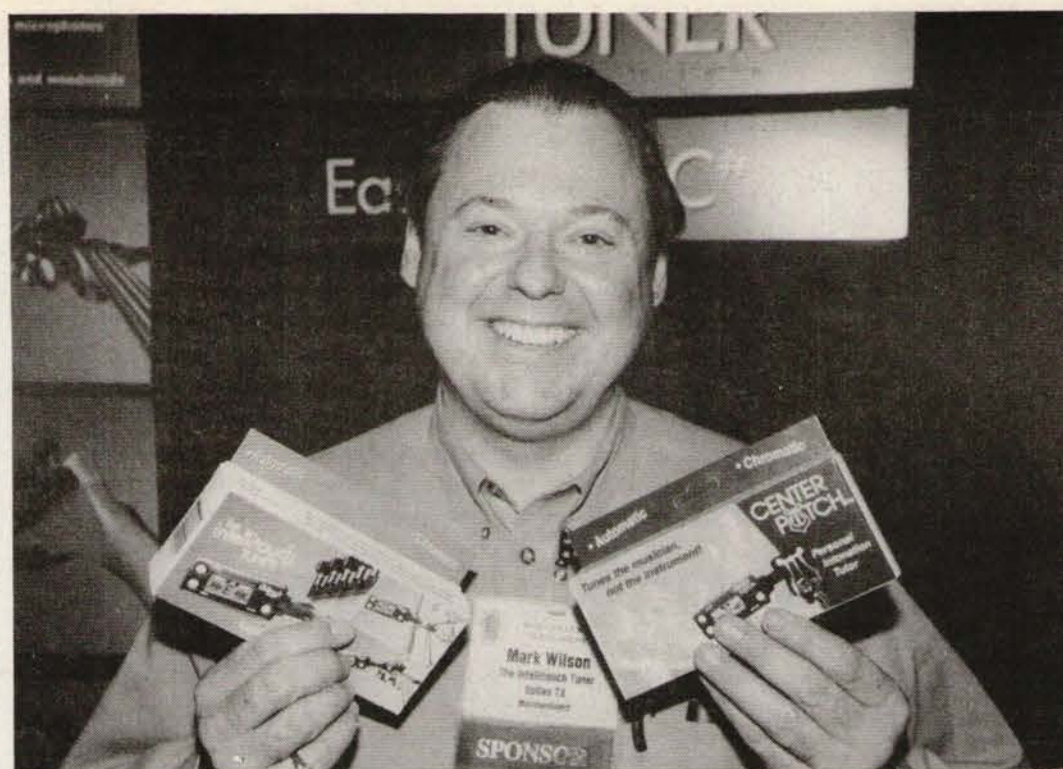
"He said, 'Sure, we could do it; we could even put a suction cup on it and take it right off the vibration of the instrument,'" Wilson said. "I thought that was the silliest idea I ever heard, but I went back to the guy at the guitar company and told him I could do a tuner."

"To make a long story short," Wilson said, "he lost interest and dropped out, but by that time I had been thinking it was a really good idea. So over ten years I spent 50 grand of my own money which I earned playing gigs and playing with computers."

Wilson had gotten the software written and the display screen done and some other things, but there were still a bunch of expensive items on the must-do list, like electrical circuitry, mechanical engineering and \$60,000 for a plastic injection mold for the case. He decided he needed to sell off part of his idea to get some cash in to work with.

"One of the musical jobs I had played around that time was the Entrepreneur of the Year awards," Wilson said. "I sat in the band pit with my bass during the awards, and watched all these guys get up and make their speeches. There was one guy I particularly liked. He had won the Entrepreneur of the Year award, and I just liked him. So here it is, a couple of years later and I'm thinking, 'Who am I going to find? I gotta find some guy with money!'"

Remembering the awards



Mark Wilson, creator of the Intellitouch electronic tuner. In his left hand is his new "Center Pitch" product for horn players. It mounts on the horn and gives instant read-out of the note being played, to teach proper intonation. A similar device for fiddle players is in development.

Photo by George Martin

show, Wilson called the man, put on his banker's suit, took the earring out of his ear and went off to pitch his idea. "I spread everything out on his conference room table and explained it all to him," Wilson said, "and over a 12-month time we went into business together."

Wilson's entrepreneur friend loaned him a business-savvy lieutenant who knew how to run a company, and who is still with Intellitouch. The remaining development was completed and the tuners were ready in 1996.

But before that there were a bunch of things to do. Wilson needed a software engineer, an electronics circuit engineer and a mechanical engineer.

"The hard part," he said, "is mechanical engineers are not used to working with constraints like we had. The effects of his decisions were going to affect the circuitry's ability to deliver the signal to the software, because the whole thing is one acoustic device."

"Everything is interrelated. The plastics have a sympathetic vibration, and we had to tune the plastics to optimize the circuitry's ability to propel the signal into the software."

Wilson said the first electronic engineer he worked with came up with the headstock as the best place to clamp the tuner. Wilson at first thought the placement was dumb, but changed his mind after being urged to rethink how the thing would work.

"My first reaction was it was going to look weird sticking off the back of the headstock," he said. "But the advantages... the strings terminate up there so the signal is strong. The mass of the headstock is small. It's not like the body of a guitar, which is made to absorb sound. It's very small, so it's not subject to ambient room noise. It's the least susceptible part of the instrument."

Wilson didn't mention it, but when you are watching TV you can't help but notice an Intellitouch when it is clamped to the scroll of Bobby Hicks' fiddle, for instance. So there's publicity value there as well.

"The bluegrassers have made Intellitouch their own," Wilson said, gratefully. "They helped us so much during the first two years. The first thing, I started to get phone calls and e-mails from bluegrass players. And I got so many of them it alerted me to the idea that bluegrassers liked it. So I decided, let's go to some festivals."

The company first visited the old time music festival at Galax, Va. "It was a great festival," Wilson recalled. "There were 30,000 people, and picking from morning till night. We didn't even sell. We stood there and conducted business on behalf of a music store in town. We were trying to jump-start the music store business."

The company attended several other festivals that summer, which put the product on the

map, and made it very visible in the bluegrass community. "If people have something and they like it," he said, "other people see why they like it, and they might like it, too."

Wilson is working on new products. One, already on the market, is Centerpitch, which looks rather like an Intellitouch, but provides instant read-out of notes for players of wind instruments.

Because the valve fingerings of a horn get the player in the ballpark, but not right on pitch, (that's done with the lips and breath), a student horn player can have problems with intonation. Centerpitch clamps onto the marching lyre of a horn and reads out instantly with the note being played. Like Intellitouch, it only "hears" the instrument it is clamped onto.

"You can be a trumpet player in a row of trumpet players, watching the conductor, and when you go for that high note, you can nail that note even if your ears aren't trained enough to tell you yet," Wilson said.

Coming soon from the company is a similar device that will help fiddle players the same way.

As any user can tell you, the Intellitouch can be a little cranky at times. Sometimes it refuses to pick up a note that first time. Usually hitting a harmonic will cure that. Once it locks on, though, it responds fairly promptly. The tuner has recently been upgraded a bit, with a sharper looking liquid crystal

Reviews

Continued from Page 19
by SPBGMA organization. And as you listen to Rhonda sing, you will quickly see why she got the title. The picking and singing on this album is first rate. There isn't a song on this CD that I didn't like. I especially enjoyed "You're In My Heart", "You're Running Wild" and "Where No Cabins Fall."

You should really take the time to listen to the lyrics on "Little Angels". This song has a strong message, and the way Rhonda delivers this song, is sure to tug at your heart strings.

I for one, am glad that Rhonda has come home to bluegrass and I hope she records many more projects of this caliber. I highly recommend that you give this one a listen.

STUDIO INSIDER



Clean Recording tips

by Joe Weed

Welcome to March!

I hope some of you fiddlers can reach back into your Celtic repertoire and pull out enough Irish fiddle tunes to qualify for a fun St. Patty's Day gig or two! I can remember a St. Patty's Day a few years ago when we definitely earned our pay, easily qualifying for the "give the fiddler a dram" award. First, we played a 10:30 AM coffee break for one of the large Silicon Valley companies, roaming from cubicle to cubicle and office to office, playing Irish music to surprised and happy faces. Then it was on to another company to provide Irish music for their cafeteria (where we were force-fed garlic potatoes and corned beef), then on to an afternoon outdoor bash at an Irish pub in Los Gatos, where every year they roast a pig and sell vast quantities of fresh-grilled meats. We topped off the evening by playing Irish music at a popular bar and grill in Palo Alto, this being the only gig of the day where we plugged into a PA. One of our guitar players has a tenor banjo, which he brings out at least once a year (more often if he plays at contra dance). We had several different musicians join us for the various gigs, depending on how busy their schedules were and what Celtic instruments they could bring to the table. I still remember my first drink of the day, a cool glass of Sauvignon Blanc at home, after we unloaded the PA that night!

TUNER

From previous page
display.

They are also known to be a tad fragile, and a fall off a banjo to a concrete floor frequently will send them that Big Jam Session in the Sky. Many users wrap thick rubber bands around their tuners, or buy o-rings or rubber washers in a hardware store to provide a bit of cushioning in case of a fall. Other owners simply take great care not to drop them.

But their virtues of convenience, lack of cords, and illuminated display make them exceptionally handy for the bluegrass picker, who usually plays outdoors and at night, and surrounded by other players.

Recent events at Highland...

This last month we've been busy at Highland Studio, with Sidesaddle & Company's banjo/dobro ace Dave Ristrim coming out from his new Nashville digs to add some Dobro to some of the Stephen Foster music. Then Norton Buffalo stopped by to add some harmonica parts to Foster tunes and to an album by Joseph Pulitzer, with George Kincheloe producing. Norton was preceded on that project by Bay Area accordion whiz Barbara Barnett, who plays with her own group, "Sagebrush Swing." Former bay area bass ace Derek Jones, along with drummer Aaron Johnston, were both out in California to record for the new Darol Anger/Mike Marshall album, and came in to put down rhythm tracks for Benita Kenn, who's working on an album project.

And this month...

In this month's column, I'll offer up some tips to help you get clean, uncolored and vibrant tracks when recording. Carefully optimizing your signal flow and properly maintaining your gear will help you get professional sounding results, even if you're a relatively inexperienced recording engineer.

Optimizing my what???

"Signal flow" describes the path taken by electrons as they jiggle and dance their way from your microphone through the cable to the mic preamp, through your patch bay, through more cables, and all the way to your tape or disk recorder. When you're mixing tracks you've already recorded, "signal flow" describes the paths taken by all those tracks of audio from your recorder, through the cables, to your patch bay, through more cables, and then through your console, through more cables, and then to your DAT or hard disk mastering deck. Yow! With all those intermediate stages, it's a miracle the audio is still recognizable when it gets to its destination.

One of the factors pushing the recent move towards digital audio has been just this—it's a jungle of wires and circuits out there, and getting the audio signal converted to ones and zeroes

and keeping it there as long as possible is one way to minimize the impact of that electronic jungle. Digital consoles keep the audio from your recorder in digital format within the console. As these new consoles advance and get cheaper and better, they are entering more and more home studios, helping recordists to do away with some of the mass of wires and circuits which can impact signal flow in negative ways.

But what if I don't have a digital console?

If you use a traditional, or analog console, then there are some simple steps you can take when recording and mixing to minimize the effects of that jungle of wires and circuits.

First, always use as little wire as possible. Cables can add noise to your signal, and can easily attenuate (turn down) high frequencies, removing brilliance and ambience from your tracks.

Sometimes they can become microphonic, which means that physical impacts can actually add audible noise to your signal!! Keep them short and keep them minimal.

If you find yourself constantly using adaptors to make cables interface between various pieces of gear, consider buying or making good quality cables which have the proper connectors soldered in place. The connections between plugs and adapters can easily lead to poor signal transmission, resulting in noise, dulling, or loss of signal

flow. Clean your cables and their plugs frequently.

If you use a large patch bay with lots of cables connected to many devices in your studio, consider using a professional patch bay, in which the connections at the patch bay are soldered, rather than plugged in. With any patch bay, keep it clean for the best audio transmission.

Signal flow within the console

When you use a mixer, or console, (or "desk," as the Brit-

See STUDIO on page 24



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**MEMBERSHIP DRIVE
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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

Membership Total \$ _____

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

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

Marin County Bluegrass

by Larry Carlin

Bluegrass in Marin County? The land of hot tubs, cell phones, SUVs, and median priced homes of \$500K? Where you still cannot get The Nashville Network in most of the county because it is deemed too lowbrow by the cable-powers-that-be? To paraphrase a crude saying, "it happens."

And when it does, the most

likely place you'll find it is at the Sweetwater. Located in downtown Mill Valley, Sweetwater is Marin County's premier music venue. The club has been in existence since 1972, and it has built a worldwide reputation as a cozy venue that hosts some of the best in roots-oriented talent. Known more as a rhythm and blues club, Sweetwater has fea-

STUDIO INSIDER

Continued from Page 23

ish call it), there are many ways you can optimize your signal flow. Remember, less "stuff" is better. Always strive to run your signal through as few circuits as possible. If you have bought outboard (meaning not part of the console) mic preamps, then you don't need to run your signal through your console at all, except to monitor the output of your recording deck.

If your console has "busses," or circuits that you can send your signal to on its way out of the console, consider ignoring them when recording. Instead, use the channel's "direct out" feature, which lets you have access to a signal and send it out to your recording deck with minimal processing. Less (stuff) means cleaner sound!

When you're mixing, make sure that only the channels you need to use for that particular tune are turned on. Mute all unused channels, busses, and effects returns. They aren't needed, and can only add noise to what you're doing.

Effects sends and return to sender...

Most of us use reverb and/or other effects when mixing audio. If you optimize your signal flow and levels for this part of your mixing procedures, then you can keep added noise to a minimum. Keep in mind that when you use an effect (like reverb, for example) you have to "send" your sound to the reverb unit, and then "return" the processed sound to the mix. These are two separate signal paths. Make sure that you understand how each is routed in your set-up.

To keep noise at a minimum, send as strong a signal as possible to your effects or reverb unit. Send just barely under the maximum allowable amount be-

fore you cause the unit to distort. Then, when you return the effected (reverberated) signal back to your console, only let in as much as you need to give you the sound you want. This procedure keeps the effects unit working at maximum efficiency, and keeps you from adding any audible noise to your mix.

Are you maintaining?

I recently mixed some tracks that had been recorded at a famous, very expensive recording studio. They had recorded the piano with some old Neumann tube mics, which the engineer had convinced the client would elevate the sound to heavenly levels. The only thing I noticed to be elevated was the hiss, crackle, and pop from the famous microphones' old and poorly maintained tubes. When the piano decayed at the end of a song, it decayed into a cacophony of noise, rather than into the silence that all that money and sound proofing should have bought. One of the reasons that audio moved away from tubes is that tubes are susceptible to noise and unreliability as they age. If you're using tube gear, you'll need to monitor the condition of your tubes much more often and closely than you're used to checking on solid state gear. Keep a supply of extra tubes on hand for quick change-overs if you're using tube gear.

See you next month!

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.



On the Sweetwater stage, Chris Thiele and Peter Rowan (center) sat in with Bill Evans, John Reischman and Friends. Pictured l-r are: Mark Spatz, John Reischman, Jerry Logan (bass), Chris Thiele, Peter Rowan, Jim Nunnally and Bill Evans.
Photo by Larry Carlin

tured internationally known acts such as Bonnie Raitt, John Lee Hooker, Elvis Costello and members of the Grateful Dead.

At the same time, bluegrass occasionally makes its way into the place. Ralph Stanley and The Clinch Mountain Boys usually play there every February (alas, not this past one), former Bluegrass Boy (and Marinite) Peter Rowan plays there every three months or so, and other established bluegrass acts such as Laurie Lewis, Kathy Kallick, and the Laurel Canyon Ramblers frequently gig there. Sweetwater is also a home base of sorts for Marin bluegrass acts such as Wild Blue, The David Thom Band, and the duo Keystone Crossing.

There is a monthly bluegrass show there called Bluegrass Gold that I produce that began last April. It normally takes place on the third Tuesday of every month. The show usually features a bluegrass band as well as a duo/trio-opening act. The show has been a success despite the lack of mainstream media coverage and the emphasis on using mostly Bay Area bands.

But this is not to say that some known acts never play there. In December of 1999 local lad Peter Rowan played to a packed house at the show, having assembled an all-star band with Bill Evans on banjo, Brantley Kearns on fiddle, Paul Knight on bass, and some harmony singing by Keystone's Claudia Hampe. The Czech band Druha Trava played there in September of last year, and in January of this year Bill Evans and John Reischman played the show with their all-star band featuring Jim Nunnally, Jerry Logan, and Mark Spatz.

And you never know who will show up at the club. In

January both Peter Rowan and mandolin wunderkind Chris Thiele sat in with Bill Evans and John Reischman on the Bluegrass Gold show. David Grisman (another Marinite) was there for the Laurel Canyon Ramblers sometime back, and fiddler Paul Shelasky was there for the Kathy Kallick show in November.

The next Bluegrass Gold show on March 21 will feature Marin's own Dr. Elmo & Wild Blue as well as the old-time bluegrass duo Jeff Kazor & Lisa Berman. When it is not Christmas time, Dr. Elmo — who is known for his holiday hit Grandma Got Run Over By A Reindeer — and his boys play hard-driving, traditional bluegrass. Elmo was also an original member of the Bay Area bluegrass band The Homestead Act back in the 70's. Sittin' in this night with Wild Blue will be Steve Pottier on mandolin and Doug Adams on the fiddle.

Jeff Kazor and Lisa Berman are founding members of the popular old-time/bluegrass band The Crooked Jades, and for this show they will be playing a mix of original and old-time songs. The Jades have played the show, and they also have a marvelous new CD titled "Seven Sisters: A Portrait of Kentucky" that is a soundtrack for a documentary film of the same name.

There is music seven nights a week at Sweetwater, and the cover charge varies depending on the act. New owners Thom and Becky Steere have done a fabulous job of renovating the place as well as carrying on the Sweetwater tradition at the venerable club. There are seats and tables but the place fills up early for popular acts. No food is sold there (yet), but you can bring

some in from outside. Sweetwater is a bar, so while alcohol is served, people under 21 are not allowed into the place. They have a nice selection of beer on tap, and they also serve mixed drinks.

Additionally, Mill Valley resident Don Koc occasionally puts on bluegrass shows at the Sausalito Presbyterian Church in Sausalito. In the past he has presented such acts as the Dry Branch Fire Squad and the Laurel Canyon Ramblers. On Sunday, March 12, Bob Paisley & The Southern Grass will be playing there at 5 PM, with Keystone Crossing opening. For tickets and more information on this show call Don at (415) 383-8716.

There is also a bluegrass jam that takes place every other Thursday from 8:30-10:00 PM at the Java Cafe in downtown Larkspur. The jam — hosted by the duo Keystone Crossing — presents a wonderful opportunity for fans of bluegrass to get together in an informal setting to pick the music they love. People are encouraged to come by to play or to listen. There is no cover charge, and all acoustic bluegrass instruments are welcome (no percussion or electric instruments will be permitted). Java is a wonderful cafe that features fine food and drink at reasonable prices, and it is located at 320 Magnolia Avenue in Larkspur.

Even though Marin County is the home of such bluegrass gods as Peter Rowan and David Grisman, it is by no means a hotbed of bluegrass. At least, it isn't yet. But with any luck it may soon become a much-desired tour stop for national acts.

Bluegrass in Marin? It's happening!



BLUEGRASS BREAKDOWN

Dale Ann Bradley and Coon Creek will be featured perform in two CBA area April concerts

The California Bluegrass Association is proud to present Dale Ann Bradley and Coon Creek in two April concerts. The band may not be a familiar name to many Californians, but once you see them perform, you'll know how good they are.

On Friday, April 17, the band will be performing at 8 p.m. at the Sebastopol Community Center, 390 Morris Street in Sebastopol, CA. This is the first of many concerts which CBA North Bay Area Activities Vice President, Mark Hogan plans to present. Opening the concert will be the Modern Hicks, a local band with a large following. (See a review of their CD in this issue).

Admission for the concert is \$12 for CBA members and \$15 for the general public. Children 12 and under are free with a paid adult admission. Tickets are available at People's Music, 122 N. Main Street in Sebastopol, and The Last Music Store, 739 Fourth Street in Santa Rosa, or by mail from Mark Hogan at 3980 Monika Ct., Sebastopol, CA 95472. For information, call Mark at 707-829-8012.

On Saturday, April 8 at 7:30 p.m., the River City Boys will be opening for Dale Ann Bradley and Coon Creek at the United Central Methodist Church, 5265 H Street in Sacramento, CA. This concert is co-sponsored by the Sacramento Area CBA and the 5th String Music Store. Admission is \$12.50 for CBA members; \$15 for the general public; and free for children 12 and under with a paid adult admission.

Tickets for the Sacramento concert are available by mail by writing to Bob Thomas, 8532 Cumulus Way, Orangevale, CA 95662, and are on sale at the 5th String Music Store, 930 Alhambra Blvd. at J Street, Sacramento, CA.

For information, see the ad on page 21 or call Bob at 916-989-0993 or the 5th String at 916-452-8282.

The success story of Dale Ann Bradley has been well documented, with much of her fame coming on the heels of her 1997 solo debut, "East Kentucky Morning". The album received overwhelming media raves, reached the top 10 on both bluegrass and Americana charts, and was embraced by mainstream country as well.

Everybody from *Billboard* magazine on down raved about the album, and comparisons to Alison Krauss and Dolly Parton were frequent. In fact, *Billboard* went so far as to say, "She has an angelic voice and definitely deserves a listen from anyone looking for fresh, passionate new music." *Music Row* called Bradley "a gentle mountain songbird with a shimmering delivery, marvelous purity of tone, soprano trills, and lonesome bent notes." Gavin added, "Bradley has a voice that evokes real emotion and credibility."

With all the attention and praise she garnered with her debut, one could easily think a follow-up album could only fall short. Such is not the case, however, with "Old Southern Porches", the new release from Bradley. With production chores handled by Sonny Osborne, a great deal of time and care was invested in the album, from the selection of the material to the actual recording of this important release. Songs range from tunes Bradley wrote with bandmate Vicki Simmons to tracks carefully chosen from a huge quantity of tapes submitted for the project. You'll hear love songs, a swing tune and in keeping with her abilities as a fine stylist of pop material, she



Pinecastle Records artist Dale Ann Bradley.

offers a superb rendition of the 1970's Stealers Wheel classic, "Stuck in the Middle You".

Bradley learned her powerful singing style in the Primitive Baptist church where her father was a minister, and began performing in bands by the time she was fourteen. In 1989 she became a member of the Renfro Valley Barn Dance, and was a regular on the famed "Sunday Morning Gatherin'" radio show for eight years. Bradley recorded two solo albums for the Renfro Valley label. She soon became a highly sought-after vocalist and made numerous guest appearances on recordings by other artists.

In 1992 Bradley joined The New Coon Creek Girls as guitarist and lead singer. Formed in 1979, The New Coon Creek Girls was one of only a handful of all-female groups in the history of bluegrass/acoustic music, and as long time members of the Renfro Valley Barn Dance, they helped pave the way for many of the women stars of today. Founding member Vicki Simmons led the group for eighteen years playing

bass, singing harmony vocals, and penning many of the group's superb original songs. After Bradley's success with "East Kentucky Morning", the focus of the group shifted. Dale Ann Bradley and Coon Creek debuted in 1997.

Banjo player John Golden joined Coon Creek in 1998 following stints with James Monroe, Charlie Sizemore and Larry Sparks. John's rich baritone harmonies, his spontaneous on stage wit, as well as his passion for the music have earned him the status of "side man extraordinaire".

The most recent addition to the group is Eddie Miller on mandolin and fiddle. Miller adds fullness to the instrumental mix and fresh new vocal possibilities with his smooth lead and harmony singing.

With Dale Ann's incredible voice as the centerpiece, flanked by a multi-talented support team, Dale Ann Bradley & Coon Creek has it all. This group can perform anything from hard edged bluegrass and soul stirring gospel numbers to tear jerking country love songs and wistful folk ballads. The powerful song writing skills of Vicki and Dale Ann,

who wrote or co-wrote six of the twelve songs on "Old Southern Porches," as well as their knack for bringing in great material from unusual sources (Stealers Wheel) makes for a fresh, exciting and distinctive sound. Add to this a two-decade tradition of emphasizing entertainment as well as musical virtuosity and you have one of the most dynamic bands in acoustic music today.

Discography:

- **Dale Ann Bradley**
East Kentucky Morning (Pinecastle PRC-1064)
Heaven & Other Hymns From The Valley (Renfro Valley C-4431) (C)
- **New Coon Creek Girls**
Everything You Do (Pinecastle PRC-1055) (CD & C)
The L & N Don't Stop Here Anymore, (Pinecastle PRC-1027) (CD & C)
- **New Coon Creek Girls Featuring Dale Ann Bradley**
Our Point Of View (PRC-1077) (CD & C)

Inaugural San Francisco Bluegrass Festival 2000 a rousing success

By George Martin

Who would have thought that San Francisco, where a little cabin home on the hill will set you back a million bucks or more, would turn into a hotbed of bluegrass music?

Perhaps "hotbed" is a strong word, but as the recently concluded San Francisco Bluegrass Festival 2000 showed, there is now a viable "scene" in a city that was a bluegrass wasteland for a long time after the music's former headquarters, Paul's Saloon, was sold and turned into a fern bar.

The first indication that something big was going on was the festival's opening night, Saturday, Feb. 5, when Barbara and I walked up Sanchez Street to the Noe Valley Ministry and found a line of patrons stretching out the door, up the block and around the corner. We didn't know it at the time, but the reason it took so long for the doors to be opened was that the staff inside was madly scrounging around the church for more folding chairs to accommodate a crowd much larger than they had expected.

I had arrived with my usual supply of CBA promotional fliers and application blanks and worked the line for about 20 minutes, noticing that the crowd was noticeably younger than a typical CBA bluegrass crowd, and (although there were a bunch of CBA members in the line) a lot of people hadn't ever heard of us.

There was also a good deal of confusion about who was putting on the show. I repeatedly had to explain that the festival organizers are the *Northern California Bluegrass Society*, while I was representing the *California Bluegrass Association*. I have great fondness and affection for the former Santa Cruz Bluegrass Society, but I think their recent name change isn't working out too well because most casual observers don't know which of us is which.

Eventually the doors got opened, we all got seated and Peter Thompson, host of KALW-FM's "Bluegrass Signal" show, introduced the Crooked Jades. With their new CD a sound track album from a forthcoming documentary about rural Kentucky ("Seven Sisters: An Appalachian Journey, due on PBS this summer), the Jades have gotten more old-timey in their stage presentations.

I just love how the Jades and even younger bands like stringbean and All Wrecked Up are making primitive, heartfelt mountain music hip to an urban audience. All Wrecked Up uses two banjo players, Chris Ereneta (clawhammer) and Matt Knoth (Scruggs style) who trade instruments depending on what the song calls for. And the Jades' Tom Lucas has even come up with a Civil War era-style banjo that he used to beautiful effect backing up Lisa Berman's poignant vocal on "Dream of a Miner's Child."

As Berman's pure soprano sang, "Oh, Daddy don't go to the mine today, for my dreams have so often come true..." and Lucas plunked along on the low-tuned minstrel banjo, it didn't take much imagination to transport oneself from San Francisco's Noe Valley to a clapboard church-house on the side of a Kentucky mountain.

The Jades brought an arsenal of instruments; there were six banjos of various sorts on stage during their set. Berman had three slide guitars: her modern resophonic, an old 1930s Slingerland (yes, the drum company!) Maybell model, and what appeared to be a Weissenborn (or a modern copy), which is sort of an acoustic lap steel in which the body of the guitar extends up below the neck.

The band played songs by Roscoe Holcomb and Ola Belle Reed, and on up-tempo numbers guest Martha Hawthorne put down her dancing board and accompanied the group with a spirited buck dance.

Many in the crowd were looking forward to the Blue Flame String Band reunion of Eric and Suzy Thompson, Kate Brislin and Alan Senake, with Steven Strauss on bass. They kicked off their set with a bouncy fiddle medley of "Briar Picker Brown" and "Sally in the Turnip Patch," learned from the fiddling of Buddy Thomas and Benton Flippen, respectively.

"Going to Germon," a song from Gus Cannon and his Jug Stompers, is one of those musical mysteries. Eric Thompson replied, when I asked about the spelling of the title, that no one is quite sure if the singer is going to Germany, Germantown, Penn., or some other similar sounding place. One presumes it's not



The Crooked Jades -- Dan Lynn, Tom Lucas, Lisa Berman and Jeff Kazor.

Breakdown file photo

London's elegant Jermyn Street.

The band went relatively modern for "What Was I Supposed To Do?" then veered off into Cajun music with "Hippe Tiaut," which sounds like "Hippie Tie-Yo" to us in the French-challenged community, and another tune from the bayous, "Crowley Waltz."

The old Gospel song, "Are You Afraid to Die?" was followed by Tommy Jarrel's "Boll Weevil" and the Staples Singers' "Get Right Church." Then Eric Thompson picked up a small instrument about the size of a baritone uke called a Quatro, with 10 strings, strung two to a course, like a mandolin, and played a delightful Caribbean melody, "Llevene al Cielo." Thompson joked the title meant "Carry me to heaven, or elevate me to the ceiling."

"Stormy Waters" gave Brislin and Suzy Thomson a nice opportunity to display their vocal harmonies, and the group closed with a wonderful thumpy song from the Memphis Jug Band, "Aunt Caroline Dyer."

Somehow I missed the Blue Flames when they were playing around in the early '80s (the band was active from 1981-84). "We actually toured a lot," Eric Thompson said after the show, "so a lot of our gigs were far away." They appeared a few times on Garrison Keillor's "Prairie Home Companion" radio show, and, says Thompson, "they rebroadcast those shows a lot, and it seemed like we were on there

more than we were."

They are an enormously talented group instrumentally, and Brislin in particular can bring tears to one's eyes with the beauty of her singing.

You kinda wouldn't want to follow a show like that, unless maybe you had Kathy Kallick in your band. Kallick's group, fiddler and mandolinist Tom Bekeney, banjo picker Avram Siegel, and bassist Amy Stenberg, brought the concert into the relatively modern era with a mix of bluegrass standards and Kallick's own songs. After touching base with Bill Monroe and Jimmy Martin ("Rocky Road Blues," "Close By" and "Rock Hearts Will Break,") the band picked one of Siegel's banjo tunes, "Tomorrow's Breakdown," and then Stenberg sang an old Delia Bell song, "Moods of a Fool."

Because of a communications failure (the concert had to end by 11 p.m., because of a zoning rule or something) Kallick's set was rushed and shorter than she (and the audience) would have liked. But she sang her own "Don't Mind Me," and others, including "Walking in My Shoes," the song that was on the bluegrass charts for most of last year, and "Wings," a gospel-style piece.

A highlight was the old Bonnie Guitar song, "Dark Moon," with lovely part singing. As Kallick closed her set there was just time for a "band jumble," as everybody piled on stage for "Big Mon," Bill Monroe's epony-

mous mandolin tune, with everybody swapping leads, double fiddles, and even a clawhammer banjo break.

I missed Sunday's High Country show at Radio Valencia, but heard the place was packed. More jet-lag, the curse of the shift-worker, kept me from Tuesday night's brother duet program at Sweetwater in Mill Valley, where Keystone Crossing, the MacRae Brothers, Dix Bruce and Jim Nunally and Hoof Hearted drew a good crowd in spite of going up against a sold-out Ralph Stanley concert at San Francisco State University.

I made it to the Last Day Saloon for a while on Wednesday night on my way to work and enjoyed the David Thom Band's set, although I missed the Waybacks. Again I found a young crowd, most of whom had not heard of the CBA. Free copies of the Breakdown were handed out and more membership applications distributed.

Thursday night the Atlas Cafe was full as I dropped by, again on the way to work. All Wrecked Up was in bluegrass mode, with Matt Knoth on banjo and Chris Ereneta on guitar. (Other members are Christa Dahlstrom, guitar; Mike Brown, bass; Barbara Hansen, fiddle; and guests Wayne Jacks of the Waybacks on fiddle and John Fuller of Earthquake Country on mandolin.)

They were doing classic standards, including a nice version of "Clinch Mountain Backstep" in a moderate tempo that re-

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> Every Thursday "Alternagrass" is the host band for the New Talent Showcase at Twiggs Coffeehouse, Park Blvd. at Madison Ave., San Diego. For information, call: 619/296-0616. March 2, 8:00 PM: Java Cafe & Roastery, 805 E. Olive, Fresno, CA. For information, call: 559/486-8825; March 17-19: Las Vegas, NV with The Jackstraws; March 24-26: Reno, NV with The Jackstraws; May 6-7: Claremont Folk Festival, Claremont, CA — banjo and mandolin workshops. For information, call: 909/987-5701; May 13-14: Camp Rude Bluegrass Festival, Parkfield, CA;

- 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>
- Charlie Blacklock with "Charlie's Band", 1821 St. Charles St., Alameda, CA 94501. Phone (510) 523-4649.
- The Bluegrass Intentions — traditional Bluegrass music. For

information or bookings, contact Bill Evans at 510-234-4508; or email: <bevans@dnai.com>.

- The Bluegrass Redliners, for information or bookings, contact Dolly Mae Bradshaw, 425 Park Ave., Yorba Linda CA 92866.
- 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: bdsjmillar@aol.com.
- 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>>. August 17-20 2nd Annual Oregon Bluegrass and Cowboy Music Festival at the Hood River County Fairgrounds in Odell, OR;
- 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.

- 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>>
- The Circuit Riders — for information or bookings, contact A.R. Danes, P.O. Box 1801, Susanville, CA 96130, phone 530-260-1670. April 22 — Western Bluegrass Gospel Fire-

side Round-up at the Fireside Village in Hat Creek, CA.

- 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, 10271 St., Arcata, CA 95521 (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

Continued on Page B-4

SF Bluegrass Festival

From previous page
flects the piece's genesis as a dance tune, "I Wonder Where You Are Tonight," and one song that stopped me in my tracks: You don't hear "Fox on the Run" that often these days, and the band's harmonysinging was right on. Vocally these young folks are anything but all wrecked up.

Saturday night the Knott Brothers (Paul Bernstein, banjo; Bob Waller, guitar; Steve Pottier, mandolin, and Josh Hadley, bass) played the Kensington Circle Pub in the East Bay. It was a tough gig, as Ralph Stanley had sold out the Freight and Salvage that night just about one mile away. But the modest crowd enjoyed the evening, particularly when Mary Gibbons, one of Laurie Lewis' bluegrass pals, came up from her table and sang a few.

The festival closed Sunday with Dark Hollow at Radio Valencia. I was in far-off Stock-

ton attending a CBA board meeting, and so can't report on that show.

The San Francisco Bluegrass Festival organizers did a terrific job in marketing their project. Mike Hall of SCBS/NCBS said they hatched the idea last summer at Grass Valley, when a group was talking about how hard it was to tell a non-bluegrasser about the joys of festivals, driving 200 miles and camping for three days, etc.

"We thought, if only we could put on a festival in San Francisco," Hall said. "But there was nowhere to do it the 'normal' way." By stringing gigs together, Hall and his co-conspirators created an "Event" worthy of news coverage. The Sunday Chronicle Datebook ran a picture of the Blue Flame String Band (a picture in the "Sunday Pink" is the hole-in-one of the public relations world), and the

Examiner ran a photo of the Kathy Kallick band and a story containing the entire festival schedule.

The bluegrass radio shows plugged the festival and played cuts from CDs of participating bands, and the thing developed a synergy.

"We've been getting calls wanting us to do a festival in the East Bay and in San Jose," Hall said. "I don't know if we can manage all that ..."

Besides Hall, key organizers of the festival included, Larry Carlin, Christa Dahlstrom, Chris Ereneta (he designed the evocative logo and graphics), Matt Knoth, Lisa Berman, Jeff Kazor, Clark Tate, Peter Thompson and Barbara Hansen.

Editor's note: CBA photographer Howard Gold shot photos of the SF Festival, however, they did not arrive by press time. We'll print them in the next issue.



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Dealers Welcome

BANDS AND UPCOMING GIGS

Continued from B-3

- 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 web site 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, 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. March 21 — opening for Dr. Elmo & Wild Blue at the Sweetwater in Mill Valley. For information, call (415) 388-2820.
 - 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.
 - 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>. March 24 — San Francisco, CA, Clarion Music Center, 8 pm; March 25 — San Jose, CA, Espresso Garden, 8 pm; April 6 — Bethlehem, PA, Godfrey Daniels w/Tony Trischka; April 7-9 — Buckeystown, MD, Maryland Banjo Academy
 - Peter Feldmann & The Very Lonesome Boys, 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>>.
 - Peter Feldmann-Richard Greene-Tom Sauber, 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>>.
 - Foothillbillys - old time string band music and other rural favorites. For information and bookings, call (209) 245-4534 or (209) 296-2601. May 19-21 — Mariposa Bluegrass Festival, at the County Fairgrounds, Mariposa, CA.
 - (The) Freilachmakers Klezmer String Band, klezmer music with old-timey, Celtic and Balkan overtones. Featuring fiddle, clawhammer banjo, mandolin, guitar, accordion, balalaika and bass. Based in the Sacramento/Davis area. For information or bookings call Andy Rubin at (916) 484-1176.
 - 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> April 2 — Madison Avenue Baptist Church, for the evening service at 6:00 p.m. There is no charge but a love offering will be accepted. Everyone is invited.
 - 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 Avenuem 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.
 - 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; or e-mail: <bgsignal@worldnet.att.net>. May 19-21 — Mariposa Bluegrass Festival, at the County Fairgrounds, Mariposa, CA.
 - Laurel Canyon Ramblers, 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>>.
 - 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. March 30 — Gray Pine Farm concert in Oak Run, CA; June 15-18 — 25th annual Silver Anniversary CBA Father's Day Weekend Bluegrass Festival at the Nevada County Fairgrounds in Grass Valley, CA; August 17-20 — Oregon Bluegrass and Cowboy Music Festival at the Hood River Fairgrounds in Odell, OR; September 21-24 — California Bluegrass and Cowboy Music Festival at the Amador County Fairgrounds in Plymouth, CA;
 - Lost & Lonesome — George Ireton and Van Atwell perform original and traditional songs about lost loves, lonesome roads, and hard times. For booking information please write to Lost & Lonesome 1958 Yahi Lane, Redding, CA 96002, or Email: ireton@shasta.com.
 - 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. March 25 — Billy Bob's Park-n-Pork in Pollock Pines, CA.; April 22 — "Evolution of Bluegrass" concert with JaQue's Evolution of Bluegrass Band, 7 p.m. at Machado Schoolhouse, 15130 Sycamore Drive, Morgan Hill, CA
 - 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 209-754-5747.
 - Modern Hicks, contemporary Bluegrass. For booking or information, call 707-544-6909. March 11 — The Rose 8:30 to

BANDS AND UPCOMING GIGS



- 10:30 2074 Armory Drive Santa Rosa 546-7643; April 7 — Sebastopol Community Center with Dale Ann Bradley and Coon Creek. 390 Morris Street Sebastopol. CBA members \$12 others \$15 Children under 12 Free. Call Mark at 707-829-8012 for information; April 16 — 12:30 Apple Blossom Fair. Call Sebastopol Chamber of Commerce for more information; June 23-25 — Kate Wolf Memorial Festival at Caswell Vineyards near Graton. Modern Hicks, Cyrus Clarke & Nina Gerber, Patty Larkin, Greg Brown & Garret Rogers, Tim o'Brien & Darrol Scott, Laurie Lewis & Tom Rozum, New Grange (Mike Marshal, Alison brown, Darol Anger & Tim again), Chris Smither, Cheryl Wheeler, Tom Paxton. Call Cloud at 829-7067 for festival information.
- 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>. May 19-21 — Mariposa Bluegrass Festival, at the County Fairgrounds, Mariposa, CA.
 - Pacific Crest, for information and bookings, call Steve Dennison at (805) 588-2436.
 - Past Due and Playable. For information call (916) 265-4328 or (916) 265-8672; or E-mail: gsobonya@jps.net.
 - Pleasant Valley, (the Giacomuzzi Family Bluegrass Band), Contemporary style Bluegrass Music. For information or bookings, call (805) 987-2386.
 - 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>. March 5 — 9 a.m. - 1 p.m., Campbell Farmers Market, downtown, Campbell, CA; March 23 - 7-10 p.m. at San Benito House, 356 Main Street in Half Moon Bay, CA; March 25 - Poet Coffee Works, 3490 Palmer Drive in Cameron Park, CA;
 - 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. April 8 — Opening Sacramento Area CBA & 5th String Music concert (Dale Ann Bradley & Coon Creek) at the Central United Methodist Church in Sacramento, CA. For information and tickets, contact Bob Thomas at 916-989-0993 or 5th String Music at 916-452-8282. (Ticket order form in this issue.)
 - 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 Hogcallers, 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.
 - Schankman Twins, for bookings and information, contact Dana or Lauren at (818) 713-0677; write to: P.O. Box 9226, Calabasas, CA 91372; or e-mail: <shankmantwins@juno.com>
 - Sidesaddle & Co. - contact Kim or Lee Anne, P.O. Box 462, Saratoga, CA 95071, phone (408) 637-8742 or (408) 867-4324 or on the internet at <www.cruzio.com/~gpa/sidesaddle/index.htm> or e-mail: <lisaonbass@aol.com>. Sam's BBQ, 1461 Campbell Avenue, Campbell, CA (408) 374-9676 every Thursday evening 6-9 p.m. reservations recommended.
 - Sierra Blue, Bluegrass and acoustic country duets. Call Hugh or Sheri Hoeger at (916) 933-2270.
 - Sierra Mountain Bluegrass, contact Jesse Askins, 6023 Wright Ave., Bakersfield, CA 93308, phone (805) 393-1293.
 - Sierra Sidekicks — Cowboy songs, cowboy comedy, cowboy poetry, and classic country songs with rich Western harmonies, velvet yodels, mellow acoustic guitar, and boot stompin' bass rhythms. For information (or demo tape), contact Wayne Shrope at 818 Wightman Dr., Lodi, CA 95242; phone (209) 368-6551.
 - Slate Mountain Bluegrass Band; for information and bookings write 6864 Diablo View Tr., Placerville, CA 95667 or call (916) 644-2149 or (916) 333-4083.
 - 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: <SOURDOSLIM@aol.com>; Website: <www.sourdoughslim.com>. March 11 — Cowboy Jubilee, Community Center Theater, Carson City, NV; March 15 — Sylvan Oaks Library, Citrus Heights, CA 4pm; March 18 — Community Theater, Twisp, WA 7:30pm; March 25 — Art Center Auditorium, Palo Alto, CA 1pm 650-329-2527 kids show; March 26 — The Freight & Salvage, Berkeley, CA 8pm 510-548-1761; April 8 — The Palms Playhouse, Davis, CA 8:30pm W/ Blackwood Tom; April 14-16 Main Street Arts Festival, Fort Worth, TX; April 28 — Coffee Gallery Backstage, Altadena, CA 8pm; April 29 & 30 — End of Trail Jubilee, Norco, CA; May 18 — Isleton Library, Isleton, CA 3pm; May 19 & 20 — Fandango, Clovis, CA; June 10 & 11 — Carson Rendezvous, Mills Park, Carson City, NV; June 24 — Cowboy Music & Poetry Show, Woodside, CA 8pm W/ Blackwood Tom;
 - 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>
 - Stone Creek, for bookings or information, call Keith Wiggins at 530-823-2436.
 - Alice Stuart and Prune Rooney, for bookings or information, e-mail: <sturoo@netshel.net> March 4 — Hood River Hotel, Hood River, OR.
 - 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. May 12-14 — Second Annual Camp Rude Mother's Day (May 12-14) Weekend Bluegrass Festival in Parkfield, CA. www.camprude.com.
 - The David Thom Band, California bluegrass. For bookings or information, contact David Thom (415) 381-8466, david@theDTB.com. Visit our website at www.thedtb.com for gig schedule and band information. May 19-21 — Mariposa Bluegrass Festival, at the County Fairgrounds, Mariposa, CA.
 - 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. 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.
 - Western Lights — traditional music ranging from bluegrass to gospel, western swing to old timey and fiddle tunes to country blues. For information or bookings, Contact Bill Ward, (916) 361-8248; e-mail: <wardclan@ix.netcom.com> April 1 — Billy Bob's Pork 'n Park, 6022 Pony Express Trail, Pollock Pines, 7-10pm.
 - 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. March 21 — Bluegrass Gold concert at the Sweetwater in Mill Valley. For information, call (415) 388-2820.
 - 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 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>>.
 - 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 AND UPCOMING GIGS

Continued from page B-5

Bands Based in Other States

- 5 For the Gospel, for bookings and information, call (606) 474-2558, P.O. Box 778, Grayson, KY 41143.
- 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.
- 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. April 14-16 — 6th Annual Durango Bluegrass Meltdown, Durango, CO; May 26-28 — Western Colorado Festival Grand Junction, CO; June 15-18 — 25th annual Silver Anniversary CBA Father's Day Weekend Bluegrass Festival at the Nevada County Fairgrounds in Grass Valley, CA; June 23-25 — Black Hills Bluegrass Festival, Rapid City, SD; July 7-9 — Basin Bluegrass Festival, Brandon, VT; July 12 — McCullough Family Bluegrass Festival, Chillicothe, MO; July 14-15 — Little Eagle Creek Bluegrass Festival, Westfield, IN; July 22-23 — Beartrap Summer Festival, Casper, WY
- 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>. August 17-20 — Oregon Bluegrass and Cowboy Music Festival at the Hood River Fairgrounds in Odell, OR;
- Breakaway — for information or bookings, contact Andy Sacher, PO Box 8343, Burlington, VT 05402; e-mail: sachman@juno.com
- Vince Combs and the Shadetree Bluegrass Boys, traditional Bluegrass music. For bookings and information, contact Vince Combs, 665 West Krepps



Rd., Xenia, OH 45385 or phone (513) 372-7962 or Grayce Ausburn Agency (410) 768-0224.

- 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>. April 7 — CBA North Bay Concert at the Sebastopol Community Center in Sebastopol, CA. For information or tickets, contact Mark Hogan at 707-829-8012; April 8 — CBA Sacramento Area & 5th String Music Store Concert at the Central United Methodist Church in Sacramento, CA. Ticket order form for both concerts on page 21.; April 9 — United Methodist Church on Soladad Street in Monterey, CA. Information, call 831-372-5641; April 10 — Hastings Tavern, 9450 Hwy. 9 in Ben Lomand, CA; April 11 — Christian Church, corner of Central and Care Ave., in Pacific Grove, CA; April 12 — Freight and Salvage Coffee House in Berkeley, CA; May 25-27 — Coon Creek Music Festival at the Ohio-Kentucky Campground on Kentucky state road 21 near Berea, Kentucky;
- Continental Divide, for booking or information, contact David Parmley at (615) 824-4399. May 19-21 — Mariposa Bluegrass Festival, at the County Fairgrounds, Mariposa, CA.
- 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>. September 21-24 — 10th Annual Bluegrass and Cowboy Music Festival (Late Summer) at the Amador County Fairgrounds in Plymouth, CA;
- 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>. May 19-21 — Mariposa Bluegrass Festival, at the County Fairgrounds, Mariposa, CA.; 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. August 17-20 — 2nd Annual Oregon Bluegrass and Cowboy Music Festival at the Hood River County Fairgrounds in Odell, OR; September 21-24 — 10th Annual Bluegrass and Cowboy Music Festival (Late Summer) at the Amador County Fairgrounds in Plymouth, CA;
- 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.
- IIRD 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. 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; website: www.lostandfoundbluegrass.com. 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. September 21-24 — 10th Annual Bluegrass and Cowboy Music Festival (Late Summer) at the Amador County Fairgrounds in Plymouth, CA;
- Mountain Heart, for information and bookings contact Barry Abernathy, 11771 Big Creek Road, Ellijay, GA 30540; phone: 706-276-6888; e-mail: email@mountainheart.com; website: www.mountainheart.co. May 19-21 — Mariposa Bluegrass Festival, at the County Fairgrounds, Mariposa, CA; June 15-18 — 25th Annual CBA Father's Day Weekend Bluegrass Festival at the Nevada County Fairgrounds in Grass Valley, CA;
- 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. May 27-28 — Strawberry Spring Music Festival, Camp Mather near Yosemite, CA; June 17 - Huck Finn Jubilee, Mojave Narrows National Park in

BANDS AND UPCOMING GIGS



- Victorville, CA; June 18 — Live Oak Music Festival, Santa Barbara, CA; July 24-27 — Bluegrass Academy, Mountain Valley Ranch in Lyons, CO;
- 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 Arterat (503) 632-4616. Check out their Web Site at < <http://www.Swift Site.com/nostring sattached> > August 17-20 — Oregon Bluegrass and Cowboy Music Festival at the Hood River Fairgrounds in Odell, OR;
- 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.
- 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. August 17-20 — Oregon Bluegrass and Cowboy Music Festival at the Hood River Fairgrounds in Odell, OR;
- 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@air.net.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.
- 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@worldstl.com > March 4 — W. Hartford, CT, Sounding Board (8 pm), 1st Church of Christ Congregational, 12 South Main St., 860-632-7547; March 5 — Marshfield, MA, First Congregational Church, (6 pm), 1981 Ocean St. (781-834-7664) Chicken BBQ and Gospel/Bluegrass concert.; March 24 — Marblehead, MA, Me and Thee Coffeehouse, 28 Mugford St.; March 25-26 — Londonderry, NH, Muse at Grey Goose, 2 Young Rd.; June 17-18 — Schenectady, NY, Union Presbyterian Church. Vocal Harmony workshop, Children's workshop, Gospel service and Town Concert. Call for locations and times. 518-382-5152.;
- 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.

- 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 to 27602 N. 151 Ave., Sun City West, AZ 85375; phone 623-584-1552; FAX: (623) 584-4396; E-mail: KTYLERAZ@aol.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



IBMA's 1999 Emerging Artist of the Year, Mountain Heart -- left to right, Alan Perdue, Jim Van Cleve, Barry Abernathy, Steve Gulley and Johnny Dowdle.

Mariposa Bluegrass Festival offers outstanding line-up May 19-21, 2000

The Mariposa County Arts Council has announced the lineup for their Annual Bluegrass Festival, May 19-21, 2000, and none of the groups are strangers to the California bluegrass scene.

Mountain Heart, winners of the 1999 IBMA Emerging Artist award, will be returning to California after their stunning debut at Grass Valley last June. Joining them will be Continental Divide, The Fox Family, Kathy Kallick Band, Ron Spears and his newly-constituted "Within Tradition", the Foothillbillies, The David Thom Band, and Mountain Laurel.

Mariposa is one of the friend-

liest festivals in the west, and with over 150 RV and tent sites with hookups, it is one of the best equipped for camping and jamming.

Tickets can be ordered from the ad appearing in this issue of the Breakdown, or by calling (800) 903-9936. Kids 16 and under are FREE with a paying adult, and a 3-day pass includes an all-you-can-eat country breakfast Saturday and Sunday mornings.

As always, the festival will be held at the Mariposa County Fairgrounds, an ideal venue for great jamming and relaxing under the beautiful oak trees. Saturday,

May 19 is Family Day at the festival, with plenty of fun and games for children of all ages.

In addition, the festival will have plenty of food and craft booths making for a wholesome, fun-filled weekend. This year's raffle will be a Johnson JB-110 banjo, donated once again by Mariposa's own Cousin Jack, the Music Merchant.

If you've never visited this part of the Sierra foothills, you're in for a real treat. Come early and visit beautiful Yosemite National Park, only 45 minutes away, and then stroll the streets and visit the shops in lovely historic downtown Mariposa.

NORTH BAY CBA ACTIVITIES UPDATE

by Mark Hogan
CBA North Bay Activities V.P.

25th Annual Cloverdale Old Time Fiddle Contest and Festival drew over 1500 fans

Despite the rain an enthusiastic crowd of over 1500 helped the Cloverdale Historical Society celebrate its 25th Annual Fiddle Contest and fund-raiser at the Citrus Fairgrounds in Cloverdale, California on January 22.

The fiddle contest is one of the major events sponsored by the historical society throughout the year, and according to fiddle contest volunteer Bob Jehns draws fiddlers, "...from all over the world". In fact, nearly a hundred fiddlers and their accompanists arrived to compete for several thousand dollars in cash and trophies.

This year's contest was dedicated to the memory of long time Emcee, Edith Thompson who passed away on March 26, 1999. In Edith's honor, an open Old Time Waltz Contest was established. The idea was proposed by Habe and Janie Allen of the Allen Ranch. They purchased a perpetual trophy into which the contest winner's name will be engraved, in addition to receiving a \$350 cash prize.

Hughie Smith of Bakersfield had the honor of being the first winner of the Memorial Waltz division, edging out 9-year-old Nigel Armstrong of Sonoma, among a field of thirty entries. Sonoma County resident Gus Garelick finished fifth.

The winners by division are:

- Old Time Division: 1st - Sam Sloan, Anderson; 2nd - Dennis English, Soquel; 3rd - Anita Marley, Merced; 4th - Hughie Smith, Bakersfield; 5th - Mikki Feeney, Willows.
- Waltz Division: 1st - Hughie Smith, Bakersfield; 2nd - Nigel Armstrong, Sonoma; 3rd - Dennis English, Soquel; 4th - Megan Lynch, Hayward; 5th - Gus Garelick, Santa Rosa.
- Progressive Division: 1st - Tristan Clarridge, Burnt Ranch; 2nd - Megan Lynch, Hayward; 3rd - Eric Anderson, Orangevale; 4th - Anna VanVleet, Cottonwood; 5th - Nick Righos, Loomis.
- Senior Division: 1st - Art Deems, San Jose; 2nd - Anne Huber,

Redding; 3rd - Gene Pinkston, Willows; 4th - Irene Ruddock, Klamath Falls, OR; 5th - Will Taylor, Byron.

- Junior Division: 1st - Kala Scoules, Bella Vista; 2nd - Laura Smith, Potter Valley.
- Jr. Jr. Division: 1st - Nigel Armstrong, Sonoma; 2nd - Karlee Griffiths, Redding; 3rd - Nicholas Haring, Petaluma; 4th - David Rekow, Sacramento.
- Pee Wee Division: 1st - Daniel Stewart, Redding; 2nd - Tori May Gillam, Janesville; 3rd - Stephanie Myers, Redding.

After the contest, a few miles east of Cloverdale proper, Ernie and Dottie Hunt and family graciously received a hundred or so people into their home for a post contest pickin' party which has become something of a tradition. This writer had to leave at 10 p.m., but I'm sure the picking, singing and eating (I sure love Abalone!) went on until the early morning hours.

Oregon and California Bluegrass and Cowboy Music Festivals to offer a myriad of talented performers

Just in time to start marking your 2000 calendar and making plans to attend festivals, Dale Lawrence Productions has announced the line-ups for his August and September Bluegrass and Cowboy Music Festivals.

"The new Millennium marks some changes and celebrations for the 'Late Summer Festivals,' according to Dale Lawrence. "We have decided to lose the Late Summer handle, mostly because it is too self-limiting; and secondly because we have a lot more entertainment planned for you at both festivals."

Dale Lawrence Productions is proud to announce the line-up to date for the California Bluegrass and Cowboy Music Festival includes Bluegrass music from some of the industry's best, including: IIIrd Tyme Out, the Dry Branch Fire Squad, the U.S. Navy

Band Country Current, the Reno Brothers, the Lynn Morris Band, Front Range, the Grasshoppers, the Sawtooth Mountain Boys, Great Northern Planes, Within Tradition, Blade Runners, Lone Prairie, Lost Highway, and more.

Dale Ann Bradley & Coon Creek concert April 7 in Sebastopol

We hope you will mark your calendars for Friday, April 7, 2000 and plan to attend the first every North Bay CBA concert. Local favorites, the Modern Hicks will be opening the concert, followed by Doobie Shea Recording artists Dale Ann Bradley and Coon Creek.



The ever-popular Dry Branch Fire Squad will be appearing at the Oregon Bluegrass and Cowboy Music Festival, August 17-20, 2000.

In addition, Cowboy stars for the California festival include the Sons of the San Joaquin, Waddie Mitchell, Steve Blanchard and more, plus Country Music legend, Merle Haggard and the Strangers will be performing on Thursday night only. The California Bluegrass and Cowboy Music Festival will be held at the Amador County Fairgrounds in Plymouth, California on September 21 - 24, 2000.

To date, the Oregon Bluegrass and Cowboy Music Festival includes such Bluegrass headliners as Larry Cordle and Lonesome Standard Time, Blue High-

way, Bluegrass Etc., Lost Highway, the Grasshoppers, Within Tradition, Sam Hill, Great Northern Planes, Rainey Pass, Misty River, No Strings Attached, Lonesome Ridge and the Severin Sisters. Cowboy stars include: Riders in the Sky, Don Edwards and Steve Blanchard, with more to be announced. The Oregon Festival will be held at the Hood River Fairgrounds in Odell, Oregon, August 17 - 20, 2000.

and musicians are free to mingle and all levels of musical expertise are welcome.

Bluegrass jam session are held the 3rd Tuesday of every month from 7 to 10:30 p.m. The

Tickets are available by mail

music host is Tom Sours. Murphy's Irish Pub is located at 464 First Street East in Sonoma, California. For further information, call 707-935-0660 or e-mail: murphy@vom.com.

by writing to: North Bay CBA c/o Mark Hogan, 3980 Monika Ct., Sebastopol, CA 95472 and at People's Music, 122 N. Main Street in Sebastopol. For information, call me at 707-829-8012. There is also a ticket order form on page 21 of this issue for your convenience.

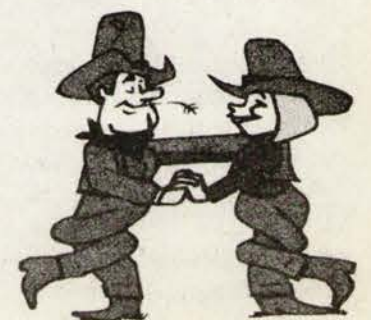
way, Bluegrass Etc., Lost Highway, the Grasshoppers, Within Tradition, Sam Hill, Great Northern Planes, Rainey Pass, Misty River, No Strings Attached, Lonesome Ridge and the Severin Sisters. Cowboy stars include: Riders in the Sky, Don Edwards and Steve Blanchard, with more to be announced. The Oregon Festival will be held at the Hood River Fairgrounds in Odell, Oregon, August 17 - 20, 2000.

In addition to the entertainment on stage, both events will include a Youth Music Camp, Youth on Stage, a Bluegrass Band Competition, Wine Tasting, a craft fair, contests for the best decorated RV or campsite, a band scramble, kid's activities, workshops with the performers, an authentic Cowboy Trail Camp with campfire performances by the Sons of the San Joaquin,

Waddie Mitchell and others, great food and barbecues, as well as raffles and more.

Camping is available on the festival sites and is included in all 2, 3 and 4 day passes only. Single day tickets will also be sold.

Advance discount tickets are now available. For information, write to Dale Lawrence Productions, 1923 NE 134th, Portland, OR 97230; call 503-408-7692 or 503-261-9887; or check out their website at: www.GreatMusicFestivals.com.





To Find Live Acoustic Music

- 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.
- Billy Bob's Pork 'n Park, 6022 Pony Express Trail, Pollock Pines, CA. Bluegrass music on Saturday nights—call 530-647-1507 for details. All shows start at 7:00 and end at 10:00 PM. Saturday, March 4—The River City Boys will deliver their rock solid, fast-paced, great bluegrass sounds, with a few sweet ballads thrown in for good measure, too; March 11—the Grass Roots Bluegrass Band; March 25—MacRae Brothers, Old-Time Country Brother Duets;
- 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.
- Espresso Garden, 814 S.

Bascom Avenue, San Jose, CA. Bluegrass and other acoustic music performances. For information on performers, call Dick at 408-292-7940. For food information, call the restaurant at 408-298-0808.

- 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 916-806-2545 for further information.
- Freight and Salvage Coffee House, 1111 Addison Street, Berkeley. Call (510) 548-1761 for information, or visit their web site at: <www.thefreight.org> Marach 1 - Rosalie Sorrels with Nina Gerber; March 9 - Steve Gillette & Cindy Mangsen; March 10 - Ray Wylie Hubbard; March 14 - Bob Paisley & Southern Grass; March 19 - Savoy-Doucet Cajun Band; March 21 - Don't Look Back; March 26 - Sourdough Slim;
- Great American Music Hall, 859 O'Farrell, San Francisco, CA, (415) 885-0750.
- Henflings Tavern, 9450 Highway 9, Ben Lomond, CA; phone 831-335-1642 or e-mail: TMM@cruzio.com for upcoming performances.
- The Kensington Circus Pub 389 Colusa Ave., Kensington, CA; (925) 524-8814.
- La Di Da Cafe & Gallery, Kelly and Purissima, Half Moon Bay, CA (415) 726-1779.
- Maytan Music Center & Coffee House, 777 South Center St., Reno, NV 89501, (702) 323-5443.
- 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. March 1—Dark hollow; March 8—TBA; March 15—The Alvarados; March 22—April Cope & Ciderhouse Richfields; March 29—Runaway Truck Ramp & Jimbo trout & the Fishpeople
- 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.
- Miner's Foundry Cultural Center, 325 Spring Street, Nevada City, CA. For information, call (916) 265-5040.
- 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. Bluegrass jam 3rd Tuesday of the month from 7-10:30 p.m. Live acoustic music Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday nights. "Sonoma Mountain Band plays Bluegrass on the first Friday of every month, 8-10 pm. For further information call 707-935-0660 or e-mail: murphy@vom.com.

- 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 or e-mail: palms@yolo.com. March 9 - Ray Wylie Hubbard; April 1 - Mumbo Gumbo; April 8 - Sourdough Slim;
- 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. For information on Phil's, phone Phil's at (831) 633-2152 for information, or check out the web site at philfishmarket.com.
- 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. Instruments, accessories, lessons, CDs, tapes, books, videos, concerts. For information and schedule of entertainers call (714) 364-5270.
- Sicilito's Restaurant, 445 Conger Street, Garberville, CA. Bluegrass jam sessions first Tuesday of every month at 7 p.m. For further information, call Ron Stanley at (707) 923-2603.
- Smokin' Johnnie's BBQ, 11720 Ventura Blvd., Studio City, CA. Phone 818-760-1623. 1st Saturday of every month Bluegrass and Swing Acoustic Music Showcase, 4:30-7:30 p.m. sponsored by Traditional Music.
- Sweetwater, 153 Throckmorton Avenue, Mill Valley, CA. For information, call (415) 388-2820. March 21—Bluegrass Gold Concert featuring Dr. Elmo and Wild Blue and The Crooked Jades, produced by Larry Carlin and Carlone Music.
- The Willowbrook Ale House 3600 Petaluma Blvd. North, Petaluma, CA, (707) 775-4232. Featuring the Crane Canyon Bluegrass Band every Thursday night, 6:30-10 p.m.

MUSIC MATTERS

by Elena Corey

Desire plus belief equals success, a famous saying goes. That is, if you want to do a thing very, very much and you believe wholeheartedly that you can and will, then you will do it. If you think that you probably could do it, but don't really care whether you do or not, then you probably won't. And, conversely, if you would like to do something, but doubt very much that you can, then you won't.

The snake of doubt lays eggs in a brain, hatching out paralyzed will. The easily habituating liquor of inertia saps our drive, resulting in the same paralyzed will. It takes both desire and belief, in hefty portions, to accomplish really big or important things.

So you want to be a great musician—a fantastic instrumentalist? How's your motivation? It's easy at first. We begin with a bold flourish, especially if outside praise or encouragement accompanies our start. We pick up an instrument and want to play it; we want to sound good playing it, so we allow ourselves to try it out. Soon we find we can produce a few tones which please us, and that provides further fuel to help us continue for a while. We start out strong, like a person on New Year's Day making resolutions. We're gonna practice; we'll observe, really carefully, the great players we want to emulate. We have good intentions and our motivation is high.

But circumstances change and our desire and belief in our goal plummet. Many life changes and events affect our drive and zeal for playing our music. For some folks, even winter weather can be a negative influence, and can become a metaphor for our lack of progress, e.g. "Fair-weather dreams fly away when the sky is dreary." Our spirits may seem as dour as the Scottish moor.

It's no coincidence that "You Are My Sunshine" has been one of the longest-running favorite songs for people in the U.S. in the past 75 years. We open our hearts and hopes like flowers lifting their heads toward the sunshine, basking in hope and feeling the energy. And we do

seem to have more energy and optimism regarding our circumstances when the sun shines than when we hibernate. Recognizing this, some mood elevating is needed from even artificial sunshine for folks affected immensely by the sky's dreary outlook. Mid-winter festivals are planned for large city hotels and fliers for later festivals are sent. We anticipate favorable weather but pore over every sentence of festival descriptions like a gardener savoring future delights from seed catalogues.

So if your excuse for not spending great quality time with your instrument is the weather, take heart, you can buy artificial sunlight and heat or run to the Tropics or hotels for mid-winter festivals. Or you can hold your desire to be a great instrumentalist even closer in your heart and let it warm you throughout the blustery winter. Remember that improvement may show up all at once, but that it tends to occur following great clumps of time spent working on the goal.

There is a certain type of olive tree which grows in the mid-East which appears to not change for nearly three years. But people who raise these trees continue to water and care for the trees throughout this long dormant period. Then one day, some three years down the line, the tree blossoms and grows very rapidly. But it wouldn't have the resources to grow so fast and sturdily if it hadn't been cared for all during the time when it wasn't showing any progress. When the tree doesn't appear to grow, the vintner continues to believe that the tree is alive and making its changes, invisibly on the inside. (You know, also like the caterpillar to butterfly saga.)

So if you think you aren't showing any progress in your path to instrumental playing success, just keep putting in the time and believe that it will all pay off some day. Spring is coming and with it, great festivals and opportunities to play the way you really want to with your friends. The riffs you practice repeatedly now will be smooth and slick by then.

This month isn't called

"skip", "leap for joy" or "stride with confidence", but neither is it called "drag" "stumble" or "limp along playing only occasionally." It is called "March", with its four beats per measure daily stamping out "You can do it," throughout the day. Except on St. Patrick's Day. By that time the habit of continuing on is stronger, and so for at least one day the heart feels lighter. You can feel the lilt and the danceable six/eight time, moving ahead with a little more life; an unanticipated boost. And just as continuing to put one foot steadily in front of the other will eventually lead you to the end of the longest path, so continuing to put in hour after hour, day after day in practicing your instrument will surely lead your fingers to prowess. You don't have to dash around and do cartwheels musically—just keep moving ahead, steadily and continually. Visualize your musical goals as clearly and specifically as you can and believe that you can reach them—as you advance toward them.

Happy picking to you.

Elena



Elena Corey

Photo by Stan Dye

Harmonica Korner...

especially for beginners, grandparents, kids, anyone

by Howard Polley

Hello again harmonica readers.

About a year ago my column was about some of today's most prominent harmonica players. Names such as Charlie McCoy, Terry McMillan, Buddy Green, Mike Stevens, and Lee Oskar were mentioned. These rank as some of the world's finest. All these fine musicians have been making their mark in the recording and performance area of great harmonica players.

What about other players who have contributed to the musical spectrum in virtually all styles of music; those who pioneered harmonica playing in this country in the early 1900's? Just who are these players that paved the way for the rest of us.

Harmonica Legends of the Past

Many of today's stars pay tribute to the prominent players of the past. Certain names are constantly being mentioned. Here

are just a few of those early, pioneering harp players.

One harmonica player whose name comes up often is Deford Bailey, (1899-1982). He started playing the mouth organ at the age of 3 to help him overcome the disease of polio. In the fulness of time, Bailey played on the Grand Ole Opry broadcast from 1926 to 1941. He also had his own daily 15-minute slot on the radio as a harmonica personality. Deford Bailey recorded eighteen sides for the Columbia, Brunswick and Victor labels. Some of his recordings are still being sold today and his name is held in high esteem by most of today's top harp players.

The man who introduced Deford Bailey to the Grand Ole Opry was Dr. Humphrey Bate, (1875-1936). Dr. Bate practiced in both the fields of medicine and harmonica playing—quite a combination! By the year 1917, he was managing and perform-

ing in three bands. Interesting enough, Dr. Bate learned to play the harmonica from some former slaves who had worked on his father's farm in Castalian Springs, Tennessee. Dr. Bate's main band was called "The Possum Hunters" and was featured on the WSM Radio Barn Dance program, a popular radio show of that time.

Another country harmonica player in the first half of the 1900's was Wayne Raney, (1921-1993). Raney learned to play the harmonica by listening to another top player of that day—Lonnie Glosson, who also played over the radio. Wayne Raney made recordings on the Bluebird label. Raney later teamed up with Lonnie Glosson and the two worked together for 25 years. Raney was also very successful in harmonica sales over his radio show.

The list of prominent and not so prominent harmonica

New Concert Series launched in "Far Northern California" with Lost Highway

By Bruce Wendt

Far Northern California Friends of Bluegrass and Acoustic Music are starting a new not-for-profit concert series. Our first concert will be March 30, 2000 and we will be presenting Lost Highway from the Los Angeles area.

Along with Lost Highway we are very happy to have Lost and Lonesome (George Ireton and Van Atwell), two very special friends of bluegrass music who will open the show.

The concert will begin at 6:30 p.m. on Gray Pine Farm, the home of Bruce and Linda Wendt, in the mega metropolis of Oak Run (about 20 miles east of Redding in the Cascade foothills). If the weather is wet or too cold we will have the concert at the Oak Run School auditorium which is just across the meadow from the Wendt's farm.

Tickets are \$7 for adults, \$3 for kids 11-16, and kids 10 and under are free as long as they are accompanied by a paying adult. Tickets will be on sale at the concert for cash only, we can't take checks or credit cards - we're just not set up for that at this time.

We will have coffee, tea, soft drinks, water, cookies and possibly some other goodies for sale. This is how we plan to save money for a good sound system.

Bring a chair(s) or something to sit on. Please note that some festivals and concerts want you to bring a low chair, but we don't

HARMONICA

From previous page players goes on and on. Many whose names we'll never know contributed to the acceptance of the harmonica as a viable instrument of many divergent musical styles.

Well readers, that's about it for this time. I appreciate your interest and time. If your musical taste is Country, Bluegrass, Blues, Jazz, Rock/Pop, Classics, Folk, Gospel or a combination thereof, there may have been many players who paved the way to inspire and encourage us on our musical pathway. I hope to meet you here next time. Remember to keep on harping!

Note: Information for this article came from *The Encyclopedia of the Harmonica* by Peter Krampert and *Harmonica, Harps and Heavy Breathers* by Kim Field.

care just remember that the seating is first come - first served. We will not ask folks to move around just because you brought a low chair. Spring evenings in the mountains can get chilly - bring appropriate clothing.

Maps and any other information will be available by E-mail at oaksongs@shasta.com. If you don't have E-mail you can write to us at Oaksongs, P.O. Box 904, Oak Run, CA 96069. You can call for information about

this concert only by contacting Bruce Wendt at 530-472-3303.

If you're an artist or band and want to know more about our efforts, please contact us at the E-mail address or call Barry Hazle at 530-472-3065.

For about two years the Wendt family and others in far northern California have been talking about starting a small concert series. After the loss of the Shasta Serenade we had to

See CONCERT on page B12

Key of G
Guitar Version

Clinch Mountain Back-Step

Arr. by Steve Kaufman

[Copyright] Steve Kaufman Enterprises, Inc. 2000

J.D.'s Bluegrass Kitchen

Howdy, Howdy, Howdy!

Last month I remarked about how mild the weather has been here so far this winter. Me and my big mouth! As I sit here writing March's column, its the 14th of February and the three inches of rain we've had this morning has melted the last vestiges of the snow we got last week—and the end isn't in sight yet!

Oh well. I don't have to shovel rain and since I live on a mountain top, I'm not worried about floods, so let'er rain! We need it and in about another six weeks or so it'll have the pretty little wild flowers poppin' up all over the place. Even though its raining pitch forks and hammer handles this morning, I know that spring is gonna' be here soon because the little tree frogs have started their annual "song of spring" out in the woods. Pretty soon it will be a full chorus every night until early summer.

I just realized that frogs and bluegrass pickers have one thing in common! The warmer the weather gets, the later they pick and sing at night! And to be truthful, there's been one or two late night jam sessions that I've heard in years past that would have been improved immeasurably with the addition of a pond full of croaking bullfrogs! If you've attended festivals for any length of time, I'm sure you've had similar experiences.

This reminds me of one of my favorite "banjo" jokes. Seems as to how these two famous female professional golf pros were

practicing one day. One of them hit a drive that ended up in the rough next to a pond of water. During the course of searching for the lost ball, a frog called out to the two ladies to rescue him from an evil curse that had transformed him into a frog.

From his lily pad he pleaded, "Ladies, Please! I'm a world-famous banjo picker that was turned into a frog by an evil witch! All it will take to turn me back into a man is for one of you to kiss me!"

Where upon, one of the ladies picked him up and put him in her pocket. Surprised, the other lady said, "Aren't you going to kiss him and break the curse?" To which the first lady replied, "Heck no. Are you nuts? He's worth a *lot more* as a talking frog!" (Thanks to my buddy Steve Kaufman for that one.)

All you banjo pickers out there know I love you one and all. (You can bet I'll never tell that one to Earl Scruggs.)

Well, since we've all had a good laugh, come on in and pull up a chair next to the ol' cook stove and pour yourself a cup of good ol' Cowboy Coffee, and we'll get down to some honest to goodness Chuckwagon vittles.

For the last six years I have subscribed to the magazine *American Cowboy*. It is a wonderful magazine, full of the stories that make you want to go out and saddle up "ol Paint" and ride off in search of Gus and Woodrow! (Of "Lonesome Dove"

fame.)

It is a magazine that not only features stories on well known rodeo and entertainment personalities, but more so on the everyday working cowboys and ranchers who made the western United States what it is today. It focuses on the high family morals of hard work and honesty, along with a healthy dose of unstated religious morality, and is suitable for any member of the family to read. Something that can't be said for a lot of today's publications.

Well, wonder of wonders, upon opening the February issue, my eye immediately fell upon a new heading, "Cowboy in the Kitchen". When I turned to page

For A Song

by Elena Corey

"He could have bought that property for a song." Sound cheap? I guess the fact that anyone can make up a song (and that it doesn't take venture capital or rare resources to write songs) can numb us to the fact that songs are extremely valuable, possessing a magic of energy and motivation to lead us. We tend to take the songs for granted.

"Had it not been for a song, one of the great non-musical Western motion pictures of all times might have been a box office failure," says Jim Bob Tinsley, author of *For a Cowboy Has to Sing*. He goes on to relate that *High Noon* had originally been produced with only background music. But after viewing the first rough-cut in the executive offices of the movie studios, both the producer and director felt the film lacked the mystery ingredient which could make it a success.

A composer they knew proposed the idea of a theme song that would run through the film—that would tell the plot at the beginning of the picture—and be used thereafter to add tension. Fragments of the tune, including the quickly familiar line, "Do not forsake me, oh my darling," were played at relevant moments, with poignancy and drama dripping from each note.

Two Oscars came from *High Noon*, one for the best musical score and another for the best theme song. Today the song has survived in more detail in many people's memories than has the



62, you talk about being in Hog Heaven! There before my eyes were the recipes for some of the finest Cowboy Cuisine I've ever seen (or eaten).

Among the recipes were

ones for Chicken-Fried Steak, Cracked Pepper Gravy and Garlic Mashed Potatoes. Now, most of you regular readers know that Chicken-Fried Steak with gravy is one of my favorite fruits!

FAR NORTHERN CA. CONCERT

Continued from Page B-11
travel too far to see bluegrass, folk and other related styles of music. We also knew that we are situated four hours from the Bay Area, four hours from Reno, three hours from the Ashland/Medford area and three hours from Sacramento.

Musicians had to be passing close enough between our volcanoes (Lassen and Shasta) who were seeking a weekday pass-through gig to help meet expenses. We talked to a few bands and finally decided to take the plunge when Ken Orrick, from Lost Highway, who remembered us talking to him at the Strawberry Music Festival, called and agreed to come on up in conjunction with a gig in Sacramento

on March 31 at the 5th String Music Store. They also have another gig in Alta Loma on April 1. For us, this was the perfect band to have at our first concert. They have two fine CDs out and we consider them to be one of the best touring bluegrass bands in the nation.

Although bluegrass is one of our favorite styles of music, we are not limiting ourselves to just that genre - we will consider all styles - and will evaluate our ability to provide an audience and hosts for each act.

We hope you'll mark your calendar for our first concert in Oak Run on Thursday evening March 30, 2000.

J.D.'s Bluegrass Kitchen

Needless to say, come the very next day I whipped up some of the best vittles that this ol' country boy has got on the outside of in a long time. I'm ashamed to admit it, but I wolfed down four big pieces of chicken-fried steak for lunch that day! To say that this recipe has "got it" would be a gross understatement, and you folks know when I say a recipe has "got it" it's larrupin' good!

After one bait of this, I knew I just HAD to share the recipe with all of you folks. So I called Mr. Jesse Mullins, the Editor of *American Cowboy*, where upon he gave the phone number of Mr. Grady Spears, the author of these fine Texas Cowboy recipes and the proprietor of the famous Reata Restaurant in Fort Worth, Texas. Grady graciously gave me permission to print the recipes here for you folks.

Come to find out, Grady likes Bluegrass music too, so I sent him a few copies of the California Bluegrass Association's 20th Anniversary CD to play for the folks in his restaurant while they're enjoying the finest Chuckwagon fare this side of the Pecos!

Here's how Grady fixes the best Chicken-Fried Steak you'll ever wrap a lip around:

Chicken Fried Steak with Cracked Pepper Gravy

4 1/2 lbs. Round Steaks, tenderized

Flour spice:

1 1/2 cups flour

2 tsp. Kosher salt

2 tsp. freshly ground Pepper

3 TBS. paprika

Batter:

2 eggs

1/2 cup buttermilk OR

1/4 cup milk mixed with 1/4 cup sourdough starter

1/2 cup of Shiner Bock or any good Bock Beer

For frying:

2 cups peanut oil

Blend the flour, salt, pepper and paprika; pour onto a plate or waxed paper. Prepare the batter: beat the eggs; add the buttermilk or milk and sourdough starter and beer; whisk to blend and set aside. Heat the oil in a deep, heavy skillet to 350°. Dredge the steaks in the flour/spice mixture and shake off excess. Dip the meat in the batter and then again in the flour mix-

ture. Coat evenly so it is dry on the outside. Gently slide one steak into the hot oil, and cook for about 5 minutes or until nicely browned. Turn gently, taking care not to break the coating, and cook 5 minutes more. Drain steak on paper towels and hold the cooked steaks in a 225° oven until all are done. Pour Cracked Pepper Gravy over steaks and serve.

Cracked Pepper Gravy

1/4 cup unsalted butter

5 TBS. flour

2 1/2 cups milk

1 1/2 tsp. Kosher salt

4 tsp. Cracked Pepper (crush pepper corn in no more than 8 to 10 pieces)

Melt the butter in a heavy skillet or saucepan. When the foam goes down, whisk in the flour. Continue to whisk until the flour cooks, becoming a fragrant, light brown. Slowly add the milk, continuing to whisk to avoid lumps. Season with salt and pepper. Simmer for 10 minutes to cook and reduce. Serve hot. Makes about 3 cups.

Now, you talk about some of the finest eating in the land! This is it without a doubt.

When you cook up a mess of Chicken Fried Steak and gravy you've just naturally got to have some 'taters with it! Mashed taters preferably, and Grady has come up with one of the best recipes that I've tasted in years. Now right off, you might say that fifteen gloves of garlic in a pot of smashed 'taters is a bit too much, but I'm here to tell you folks that it ain't! I'll guarantee you folks that you won't be bothered by witches, haints, werewolves, or mosquitoes after a big helping of this. (Fact is, you won't be bothered by anything — that's how good you'll feel.)

I fixed these for supper one night and the next morning I fried up some 'tater patties with the left-overs. Wow! You should have been here — that's all I can say.

Garlic Mashed Potatoes

2 lbs. Russet Potatoes

15 cloves Garlic, peeled

5 TBS. unsalted Butter

3/4 cup heavy cream

Kosher salt and fresh-ground pepper to taste

Peel and chunk the pota-

atoes. Place potatoes and garlic in a large, heavy saucepan and cover with 1 inch of water. Bring to a boil, then turn heat to medium, cover and cook potatoes until they are just soft when tested with a knife (about 20 minutes). While the potatoes are cooking, heat the butter and cream in another pan until the volume is reduced by one fourth. When potatoes and garlic are cooked, drain well and mash them while pouring in the hot cream mixture. Stir salt and pepper into the finished potatoes. Serve at once. Makes 4 servings.

There my friends is one heck of a recipe for some of the finest 'taters you'll ever pour gravy over!

Thank you Grady, for allowing me to share these wonderful recipes with all of the folks. I know I thank you from the bottom of my tummy!

Grady Spears is also the author of the cookbook, "Cowboy in the Kitchen" which is published by Ten Speed Press in Berkeley, California. If you would

like to get a copy of this fine cookbook, I'm sure he'd love for you to contact him at 1-800-746-5718 or E-mail: cowboykit@aol.com.

He is also in the process of opening another Reata Restaurant in Beverly Hills, CA as well as having his own cooking show on TV very soon. Hooray! We're getting this millennium started "the Cowboy Way" as my friends Riders in the Sky would say.

Thanks again, Grady, and we all wish you the best of luck with your TV cooking show. (Do you need someone to peel 'taters and tote firewood?)

You folks have absolutely got to try these recipes. They're some of the best I've fixed in years. Maybe later this year I'll feature Grady's recipe for Chipotle Meatloaf. (Your mama's meatloaf just won't cut it after you've tried some of this!) Do yourself a favor and get a copy of Grady's book. You won't regret it.

Well folks, this has been an exciting month for me. I was

excited to get to share these recipes with you all and then to top it off, my friend Ron Thomason of Dry Branch Fire Squad called me last week and asked me to write the liner notes for their latest album.

I don't think I've left six footprints since he called. Talk about walkin' on air! The only thing I can think to say is, "Boy, if mammy could only see me now!" What an honor. Thank you Ron for asking me to do this. I only hope I can do you proud.

Well folks, looks like this new century is up and running OK so far. I know I'm sure having fun and from the look of things its gonna' get a lot funner!

I'll see you all right here around the ol' cook stove next month, where we can share some vittle recipes and maybe a story or two. Until next month, may God grant you all peace and health.

Yer friend,

J.D. Rhymes

Upcoming Bluegrass, Old-time & Gospel Events

MARCH

- March 3, 4 & 5 — 6th Annual Buckeye Bluegrass & Old Time Country Revue, Eagle Mountain Ranch, 12100 South Dean Rd., Buckeye, AZ. Featuring: the Blade Runners, the Tylers, Flinthill Special, the Hat Band and the McNasty Brothers. For information, call 602-386-2316 or the Buckeye Valley Chamber of Commerce at 623-386-2727.
- March 4 — Herb Henry Family & The Victor Singers concert, 7:30 p.m. at the Evangelical Methodist Church, 2295 E Fremont, Stockton, CA. Sponsored by the Sacramento Southern Gospel Music Association. Talent Contest at 6:30 p.m. \$5.00 donation at the door. For information, call (209) 931-8428.
- March 11 — First Annual SSGMA Talent Search, 1 p.m. at the First Baptist Church, Fair Oaks, 4401 San Juan Ave., Fair Oaks, CA. Sponsored by the Sacramento Southern Gospel Music Association. For information, call Dan Sanchez at (916) 334-1456 or SSGMA office (916) 681-2356. Participants' entry fee \$25. Everyone is invited to attend at no charge. Limited to first 20 groups who enter, a group must have a

minimum of three people, singing southern gospel style music. First prize is prepaid entry to the Great Western Quartet Convention talent search on April 15, 2000 and the opportunity to showcase at a SSGMA concert later in the year.

- March 11 & 12 — Will McLean Festival at Sertoma Youth Ranch, Dade City, FL. Camping available on site. For information or tickets, call 352-465-7208; E-mail: mlonghill@aol.com; or visit their webpage at: <http://www.willmclean.com/>
- March 22 — Gaither Homecoming, Arco Arena Sacramento. Gaither Vocal Band, Anthony Burger, The Happy Goodmans, Mark Lowry and The Martins. Tickets \$15.50 - \$28. On sale through Arco Ticket office and TicketMaster outlets. For more information (916) 928-6900 or visit the Gaither website at: <http://premierproductions.com/artists/gaither/2000/March22.html>.
- March 24-25 — California State Fiddle contest, Municipal Auditorium, Oroville. California residents only. For information, contact Bob Hedrick, 530-589-4844 or E-mail: BCH462@webtv.net
- March 25 — 5th Annual Maltby

Bluegrass Concert, Auction and Jam at the Maltby Community Club, 87th SE and 206th SE in Maltby, WA. Featuring: Crossfire, 78 RPM and the Knott Brothers. For information or tickets, call Jan at 360-568-3685 or Trish at 425-481-7293 or e-mail: trishubbs@aol.com.

- March 29 - April 2 — Cowboy Poetry and Music Festival at the Melody Ranch in Santa Clarita, CA. Featuring: Bob Wills' Texas Playboys, Sons of the San Joaquin, Don Edwards, Rich O'Brien, Waddie Mitchell and others. For information, call 661-286-4021 or visit their web site at www.santa-clarita.com.
- March 30 — Lost Highway and Lost and Lonesome in concert sponsored by the Far Northern Friends of Bluegrass and Acoustic Music on Gray Pine Farm, the home of Bruce and Linda Wendt, in the mega metropolis of Oak Run, CA (about 20 miles east of Redding in the Cascade foothills). Tickets are \$7 for adults, \$3 for kids 11-16, and kids 10 and under are free as long as they are accompanied by a paying adult. For information, E-mail oaksongs@shasta.com; write

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Upcoming Bluegrass Old-time

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to Oaksongs, P.O. Box 904, Oak Run, CA, or call Bruce Wendt at 530-472-3303.

- 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 or e-mail: bbhikku@azstarnet.com.

APRIL

- March 31 - April 2 — **Family Spring Bluegrass Festival** at the Iowan Moter Lodge in Ft. Madison, Iowa. Featuring: the Faris Family, the Lewis Four, Bob and Barb, the Sally Mountain Show and Bruce Punches and Daybreaker. For information, call 319-752-9541 or 573-858-4344.
- April 7-9 — **Mesquite Star Spring-time Bluegrass Music Festival** at the Mesquite Star Casino, Mesquite, NV (70 miles northeast of Las Vegas on I-15). Lineup to include local, regional and national bands. Sponsored in part by the Southern Nevada Bluegrass Music Society. For information, call 1-888-411-3729.
- 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 16678, Hattiesburg, MS 39404-6778 or call 601-544-7676.
- April 7 — **Dale Ann Bradley and Coon Creek** in concert, 8 p.m. at the Sebastopol Community Center, 390 Morris St. in Sebastopol, CA. Opening band will be Modern Hicks. Sponsored by the North Bay Area CBA. Tickets are \$12 for CBA members and \$15 general public; children 12 and under are free with a paid adult admission. Ticket order form on page 21 and are also available at People's Music, 122 N. Main St. in Sebastopol. For information, contact CBA's North Bay Activities V.P. Mark Hogan at 707-829-8012.
- April 7-9 — **Old Settlers Music Festival** at Dripping Springs, Texas. From Austin, take Hwy. 290 West to Dripping Springs. Continue 3 miles past the Highway 12 intersection to the entrance of the Stone Mountain

event. Featuring: Bela Fleck and the Flecktones, Willis Alan Ramsey, Leftover Salmon, Peter Rowan, Claire Lynch & the Front Porch String Band, Jim Lauderdale, Fred Eaglesmith, Forlini and Cross, Lonestar Bluegrass Band, Jim Hurst & Missy Raines, Karl Shiflett & the Big Country Show, Smokin' Grass, Hillbilly Boogiemen, Two High String Band, Kim Miller, One Riot One Ranger, Karen Abrahams & Reckless Abandon, South Austin Soul Sisters (S.A.S.S.), Shelley King Band, Quick Draw!, HTML Moonlighters, South Austin Choir, Flounders Without Eyes and Sarah Elizabeth Campbell. For information or tickets, write to: Old Settlers Bluegrass Festival Inc., P.O. Box 28187, Austin, TX 78755-8187, call: 512-346-0999; fax: 512-346-2705; or website: www.bluegrassfestival.com.

- April 7-9 — **Mesquite Star Spring-time Bluegrass Music Festival** 2000 at the Mesquite Star Casino in Mesquite, NV. Featuring: the James King Band, the Bluegrass Patriots, Ron Spears & Within Tradition, Hwy. 52, the Marty Warburton Band, the Lampkin Family Band and Just For Fun. Southern Nevada Bluegrass Music Society will be hosting a band scramble and contest for prizes. RV parking area and hotel rooms available. For information and reservations, call the casino at 1-888-411-DRAW.

- April 8 — **Dale Ann Bradley and Coon Creek** in concert with the River City Boys, 7:30 p.m. at the United Central Methodist Church, 5265 H Street in Sacramento, CA. Co-sponsored by the Sacramento Area CBA and the 5th String Music Store. Tickets are \$15 for public, \$12.50 for CBA members, Children 12 and younger are FREE with a paid adult admission. Tickets are available at the 5th String or my mail from CBA's Sacramento Area Activities Vice President Bob Thomas, 8532 Cumulus Way, Orangevale, Ca 95662. For information, call Bob at 916-989-0993. There is a ticket order form on page 21 for your convenience.

- April 8 — **Royallaires in concert**, 7 p.m. at the Country Oaks Baptist Church, Bond & Bradshaw Rds., Elk Grove, CA. Love offering. Sponsored by the Sacramento Southern Gospel Music Association. For information, call 916-685-4019 or 682-9994. Mixed trio from Ohio singing southern gospel style.

- April 13-15 — **Great Western Quartet Convention**. Approximately 15 nationally known southern gospel groups per night

in concert at the Sacramento Convention Center. First time in Sacramento. Phone 1-800-846-8499 for reserved seat tickets. \$25 per night or three days for \$60.

- April 15 — **Four Rivers Bluegrass Gospel Show**, 7 p.m. at the Four Rivers Culture Center in Ontario, Oregon. Sponsored by KSRV Radio with all proceeds above expenses to go to the "Leader Dogs for the Blind" which is a project of the Lions Club. In concert will be Bluegrass bands Tater and the Tots and Strings Attached, and the Jeffries Family Gospel Band. For information or tickets, call 1-208-549-1049 or 1-208-355-2345.

- April 15 — **19th Annual Bluegrass Music Jamboree** at the Middle School Auditorium in Kahoka, MO. Featuring: The Sally Mountain Show, Bob & Barb, the Bluegrass Addiction, Bluegrass Traditions, and moare. For information, call 573-853-4344.

- April 15 — **Bluegrass Gospel Jamboree and Pie Social** at the First Baptist Church of Denver, CO. Sponsored by the Colorado Bluegrass Music Society. Music by Close Ties, Ron Spears and Within Tradition, and the Harvesters. For information or tickets, call 710-534-0996 or E-mail: CBMS@banjo.com.

- April 22 — **Western Bluegrass Gospel Fireside Round-up** at Fireside Village on Hwy. 89 in Lassen National Forest, Hat Creek, CA. Featuring The Circuit Riders and friends. For information, call Jack at Fireside Village at 530-335-4505 or the Sound Room at 530-260-1670.

- April 27-30 — **Merlefest 2000** on the campus of Wilkes Community College in Wilkesboro, North Carolina. Tentative line-up 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.

- April 28 - 30 — **California Bluegrass Association Spring Campout** at the Nevada County Fairgrounds in Grass Valley, CA. Camping, jamming and catching up with your Bluegrass family. Bring your family, friends and instruments for a great relaxing weekend. Watch for further details in the next issue. For information, call Bob Crowder at 530-671-6735.

MAY

- May 12-14 — **Ortig Bluegrass Festival** at the Soldier's Home in Ortig, WA. For information, call Jim Creamer at 425-227-7739.

- May 12-14 — **Camp Rude Mother's Day Bluegrass Festival**, Parkfield, CA. Featuring: Lost Highway, Hwy. 52, the Bladerunners, Compost Mtn. Boys, Lonesome Road, Tall Timber Boys, Bear Ridge, Bear Creek Ramblers and more bands to be announced. For information, call 559-592-6389.

- May 13 — **San Diego Folk Heritage Festival**, San Dieguito United Methodist Church, Encinitas, CA. Sponsored by San Diego Folk Heritage. For information, call 858-566-4040.

- May 19-21 — **Mariposa Bluegrass Festival**, at the Mariposa County Fairgrounds, Mariposa, CA. Featuring: Mountain Heart, winners of the 1999 IBMA Emerging Artist award; Continental Divide, The Fox Family, Kathy Kallick Band, Ron Spears and his newly-constituted "Within Tradition", the Foothillbillys, The David Thom Band, and Mountain Laurel. Tickets can be ordered from the ad appearing in this issue of the Breakdown, or by calling (800) 903-9936. Kids 16 and under are FREE with a paying adult, and a 3-day pass includes an all-you-can-eat country breakfast Saturday and Sunday mornings. The festival has on-site camping, jamming, workshops and children's activities, along with a variety of food and craft vendors.

- May 21 — **40th Annual Topanga Banjo Fiddle Contest** at Paramount Ranch in Agoura Hills, California. 120 contestants and 5000 visitors are expected to attend this to this event. Many past winners will be coming back to visit and three professional bands will appear. There are 4 stages of various song and dance, food, dancing and lots of jamming in the Old Western Town streets. For further information, call the Topanga Banjo Fiddle Contest Information Hotline at (818) 382-4819; e-mail: info@topangabanjo fiddle.org, or visit their website at: http://www.topanga banjofiddle.org

- May 25-27 — **Coon Creek Music Festival** at the Ohio-Kentucky Campground in Berea, KY. Featuring: Dale Ann Bradley and Coon Creek, Illrd Tyme Out, James King Band, the Osborne Brothers, Continental Divide, the McClains, the Bluegrass Strangers, Brush Creek Grass, John Cosby and the Bluegrass Drifters and Deane Osborne and East-

bound. For information or tickets, write to Coon Creek Music Festival, 312 Angel Road, Berea, KY 40403; call 606-986-1194 or 606-986-2523; or e-mail: cooncreekmusic@zeus.chapell.com. For camping reservations, call 606-986-1150.

- May 25-29 — **Strawberry Spring Music Festival** at Camp Mather near Yosemite, CA. Featuring: Ray Wylie Hubbard, Norman Blake, John Cowan Band, Mike Henderson and the Blueblooms, the Nashville Bluegrass Band, Moxy Fruvos, Buddy and Julie Miller and more. For tickets or information, contact Strawberry Music Festivals, P.O. Box 565, Sonoma, CA 95370; phone 209-533-0191; or visit their web site at: www.strawberrymusic.com.

- 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 14-18 — **Steve Kaufman's Banjo Kamp** at Maryville College in Maryville, TN. Instructors include: Terry Baucum, Dennis Caplinger and Murphy Henry. For information or reservations, contact Steve Kaufman, P.O. Box 1020, Alcoa, TN 37701; call 800-FLATPIK; FAX: 423-982-3808; or e-mail: Steve@Flatpik.com.

- June 14-18 — **Steve Kaufman's Mandolin Kamp** at Maryville College in Maryville, TN. Instructors include: Carlo Aonzo, Butch Baldassari, Alan Bibey and John Moore. For information or reservations, contact Steve Kaufman, P.O. Box 1020, Alcoa, TN 37701; call 800-FLATPIK; FAX: 423-982-3808; or e-mail: Steve@Flatpik.com.

- June 15, 16, 17 & 18 — **Silver Anniversary 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

& Gospel Music Events

Band, Doyle Lawson & Quicksilver, Lost and Found, the Reno Brothers, the Sand Mountain Boys, the Bluegrass Patriots, Country Ham, Kids on Bluegrass, Lost Highway, Rarely Herd, Mountain Heart and MORE! On-site camping included in all 3 and 4 day tickets. Advance camping opens Monday, June 12 — \$10 for tent camping and \$15 for RVs per unit per night. Advance Tickets now on sale through June 5, 2000. For information and a ticket mail order blank, please see the full-page ad in this issue. Credit card ticket sales (no member discounts) can be purchased on the internet at: www.ticketweb.com. Tickets also available at the 5th String Music Store in Berkeley, 5th String Music Store in Sacramento, the Grass Valley Chamber of Commerce and all BASS Ticket outlets.

• June 16-18 — **Telluride Bluegrass Festival**, Telluride, CO. Artists include: Sam Bush Band, Bela Fleck and the Flecktones, Bruce Hornsby, David Grisman Quintet, John Cowan Band, Lonesome River Band, Longview, Peter Rowan, Seldom Scene, and more. For tickets or information, contact Planet Bluegrass, 500 West Main, Lyons, CO 80540; phone 800-624-2422; FAX 303-823-0849; e-mail: Planet@Bluegrass.com; or visit their web site at: www.bluegrass.com.

• June 16-18 — **Huck Finn Country and Bluegrass Jubilee** at Mojave Narrows Regional Park in Victorville, CA. Featuring: Doyle Lawson & Quicksilver, the Reno Brothers, J.D. Crowe and the New South, the Hat Band, Julie Wingfield and more to be announced. For information, contact Don Tucker at 909-780-8810 or visit their web site at: <http://huckfinn.com>.

• June 19-24 — **National Oldtime Fiddle contest**, Weiser, Idaho. For information, call 800-437-1280 or E-mail: notfc@ruralnetwork.net.

• June 18-25 — **Steve Kaufman's Flatpicking Kamp** at Maryville College in Maryville, TN. Instructors include: Stephen Bennett, Rolly Brown, John Carlini, Brad Davis, Beppe Gambetta, Steve Kaufman, John Moore and Bryan Sutton. For information or reservations, contact Steve Kaufman, P.O. Box 1020, Alcoa, TN 37701; call 800-• June 20 — Prescott Chamber of Commerce Bluegrass Festival, in the Courthouse Plaza of downtown Prescott, AZ. For information, call 520-445-2000, FAX: 423-982-3808; or e-mail: Steve@Flatpik.com.

• June 20 — **Prescott Chamber of Commerce Bluegrass Festival**, in the Courthouse Plaza of downtown Prescott, AZ. For information, call 520-445-2000.

• June 23-25 — **Kate Wolf Memorial Festival** at Caswell Vineyards near Graton. Featuring: Modern Hicks, Cyrus Clarke & Nina Gerber, Patty Larkin, Greg Brown & Garret Rogers, Tim O'Brien & Darrol Scott, Laurie Lewis & Tom Rozum, New Grange (Mike Marshall, Alison Brown, Darol Anger & Tim again), Chris Smither, Cheryl Wheeler, Tom Paxton. Call Cloud at 829-7067 for festival information.

JULY

• July 7-9 — **7th Annual Good Old Fashioned Bluegrass Festival** at Bolado Park in Hollister, CA. Sponsored by the SCBS/NCBS. Bands performing include: Batteries Not Included, Birch Lake Ramblers, Dirt Clods, Foggy Mountain Jam, Highway One, Kids on Stage, Mr. Banjo and the Lonesome Wailers, Sidesaddle & Co., and more. For information or tickets, write to NCBS/SCBS, P.O. Box 390846, Mountain View, CA 94039-0846; call 831-479-4634; e-mail: ncbs-gof@juno.com or visit their website at: www.scbs.org.

• July 7-8 — **Norbest Birch Creek Bluegrass Festival** at Birch Creek Ranch, 2 miles South of Fountain Green, UT. For information, call 435-445-3378 or visit their website at www.birchcreek.com.

• July 7-9 — **11th Annual Bitterroot Valley Bluegrass Festival** at the Ravalli County Fairgrounds in Hamilton, MT. Featuring: Front Range, the Grasshoppers, Out of the Blue, Mike and Tari Conroy and others. For information or tickets, contact Mark at 406-363-4444 or e-mail: maik@montananet.com.

• July 13-16 — **Little Eagle Creek Bluegrass Festival** on the Rynearson Farm, 16840 Little Eagle Creek Ave. in Westfield, IN. Featuring: The Lewis Family (GA), Vernon McIntyre's Appalachian Grass (OH), J. D. Crowe & The New South (KY), The Bluegrass Patriots (CO), The Carolina Rebels (NC), Andy Hamilton (OH), Thousand Pounds Of Bluegrass (IN), Grassland (IN), and Killin' Tyme (IN). For information or tickets, call (317) 896-2985 or 896-5337 or 257-5391.

• July 14-16 — **Darrington Bluegrass Festival**, Bluegrass Amphitheater and Campgrounds in Darrington, WA. Featuring Lonesome River Band and many more bands to be announced.

Festival offers a beautiful wooded setting bordering a river and facing White Horse Mountain, food concessions, open mike, gospel show, jamming, rough camping and more. For information, contact the Bluegrass and Country Music Makers Association, P.O. Box 519, Darrington, WA 98241; call 360-436-1179, or e-mail: dianna@darrington.net.

• July 14 - 16 — **Putnam County Bluegrass Festival** at the Putnam County Fairgrounds in Cookeville, TN. Featuring: the Osborne Brothers, Blue Highway, Dr. Ralph Stanley & the Clinch Mountain Boys, Jim & Jesse & the Virginia Boys, Illrd Tyme Out, Southern Express, Hard Drive, Stoney River, Valerie Smith & Liberty Pike, Rarely Herd, Charlie Waller & the Country Gentlemen, Larry Sparks & the Lonesome Ramblers, David Davis & the Warrior River Boys, Lonesome River Band, New Tradition, Mountain Heart, Ernie Thacker & Route 23, the Primitive Quartet, the Chapmans, and Derek Dillman & Friends. For information or tickets, write to: James Arnett, 5021 Tompkinsville Hwy., Moss, TN 38575; call (931) 258-4185 or e-mail: monroemusic@hotmail.com.

• July 28-30 — **Rockygrass — Rocky Mountain Bluegrass Festival** in Lyons, CO. Artists include: Ricky Skaggs & Kentucky Thunder, Doc Watson, David Grisman, Nashville Bluegrass Band, Blue Highway, Sam Bush, Ralph Stanley, Peter Rowan and more. For tickets or information, contact Planet Bluegrass, 500 West Main, Lyons, CO 80540; phone 800-624-2422; FAX 303-823-0849; e-mail: Planet@Bluegrass.com; or visit their web site at: www.bluegrass.com.

• July 29 - 31 — **Wolf Mountain Bluegrass Festival** at the Nevada County Fairgrounds in Grass Valley, CA. Featuring Bob Paisley and Southern Grass and others. Advance tickets \$49 for all 3 days including camping. For more information, contact Dave Baker at (831) 425-2270, PO Box 91 Santa Cruz, CA 95063; E-mail: dbaker@briogon.com; or website: www.briogon.com/wolf.

AUGUST

• August 2-5 — **Grant's 32nd Annual Bluegrass and Old Time Music Festival** in Salt Creek Park, Hugo, OK. Featuring in concert: Ralph Stanley & the Clinch Mountain Boys, Doyle Lawson & Quicksilver, the Wildwood Valley Boys, the Lewis Family, Billy Joe Foster's Special Edition, the Gary Waldrep

Show, Delia Bell & Bill Grant, Tim Graves & Cherokee, 5 for the Gospel, and many more. For information or tickets, write to: Bill Grant, Rt. 2, Box 74, Hugo, OK 74743 or phone 580-326-5598.

• August 11-13 — **Mount St. Helens Bluegrass Festival** at Toledo High School in Toledo, WA. Sponsored by the Washington Bluegrass Association. Workshops, concerts, gospel show, children's activities, food concessions, jams, and rough camping on site. For information, contact WBA, P.O. Box 490, Toledo, WA 98591 or e-mail: kentuckygirl@olywa.net.

• August 17-20 — **Oregon Bluegrass and Cowboy Music Festival** at the Hood River Fairgrounds in Odell, Oregon. Featuring: Larry Cordle and Lonesome Standard Time, Blue Highway, Bluegrass Etc., Lost Highway, the Grasshoppers, Within Tradition, Sam Hill, Great Northern Planes, Rainey Pass, Misty River, No Strings Attached, Lonesome Ridge and the Severin Sisters. Cowboy stars include: Riders in the Sky, Don Edwards and Steve Blanchard, with more to be announced. Camping is available on the festival sites and is included in all 2, 3 and 4 day passes only. Single day tickets will also be sold. Advance discount tickets are now available. For information, write to Dale Lawrence Productions, 1923 NE 134th, Portland, OR 97230; call 503-408-7692 or 503-261-9887; or e-mail: dlspeakertrainer@msn.com. A website will be available soon at: www.GreatMusicFestivals.com.

• August 18-20 — **Rockhome Bluegrass Festival** at Rockhome Gardens Theme Park in Arcola, IL. Featuring: the Stevens Sisters, the Rarely Herd, the Chapman Family, Jeanette Williams & Clearwater, Lost & Found, McGee Creek Connection, David Parmley & Continental Divide, Claire Lynch, and Goldwing Express. For information or tickets, call 1-800-549-ROCK, or visit their website at www.rockhome.com.

• August 18 - 21 — **28th Annual Festival of Bluegrass Music** at the Clark County Fairgrounds in Kahoka, MO. Featuring: Karl Shiflett & Big Country, Goldwing Express, Don Wiley & the Louisiana Grass, Blue & Gray Pickers, and more. For information, call 573-853-4344.

• August 21-25 — **Bluegrass at the Beach** — 9th annual music camp with nationally known musician/instructors. For information, contact Stephen Ruffo at 360-385-6826 or e-mail: ruffo@olympus.net.

• 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.

LABOR DAY WEEKEND

• 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.

• August 31 - September 4 — **Strawberry Fall Music Festival** at Camp Mather near Yosemite, CA. Featuring: Guy Clark, La Bottine Souriante, Laurie Lewis and her Bluegrass Pals, Penny Lang, Jesse Winchester, Tim O'Brien and the Crossing (featuring: Darrell Scott, Kevin Burke, John Whelan and Danny Thompson) plus many more to be added. For tickets or information, contact Strawberry Music Festivals, P.O. Box 565, Sonoma, CA 95370; phone 209-533-0191; or visit their web site at: www.strawberrymusic.com.

SEPTEMBER

• September 1 - 3 — **Laramie Peak Bluegrass Festival** at the State Fairgrounds in Douglas, WY. Featuring: the Karl Shiflett & Big Country Show, the Grasshoppers, Turtle Creek, Wings & A Prayer, Homestyle Bluegrass, and more. RV camping with hook-ups available on site for \$15 per day per vehicle. Rough Camping is \$7 per day. For information or tickets, write to: Laramie Peak Productions, 222 Hwy. 99, Douglas, WY 82633, call 1-307-358-3909 or E-mail: sweih@coffey.com.

• September 8-10 — **Strait 2000 Bluegrass Festival** at Cilam County Fairgrounds in Port Angeles, WA. Band contest, band scramble, workshops, contests and more. For information, call Robyn at 360-417-8878 or e-mail: robyn@olypen.com.

• September 14 - 17 — **29th Annual Walnut Valley Festival** and National Flat-picking Championships in Winfield, KS. For information, contact Walnut Valley Association, Inc., 918 Main, P.O. Box 245, Winfield, KS 67156 or phone 316-221-3250.

Continued on page B-16

Upcoming Events

Continued from B-15

- September 16&17 — **Julian Banjo/Fiddle Contest and Bluegrass Festival** in Frank Lane Park, Julian, CA. Sponsored by North County Bluegrass & Folk Club and Julian Lions Club. More information to follow.
- September 17-20 — **California Bluegrass and Cowboy Music Festival** at the Amador County Fairgrounds in Plymouth, CA. Featuring Bluegrass by Illrd Tyme Out, the Dry Branch Fire Squad, the U.S. Navy Band Country Current, the Reno Brothers, the Lynn Morris Band, Front Range, the Grasshoppers, the Sawtooth Mountain Boys, Great Northern Planes, Within Tradition and more. In addition, Cowboy stars for the California festival include the Sons of the San Joaquin, Waddie Mitchell, Steve Blanchard and more, plus Country Music legend, Merle Haggard and the Strangers will be performing on Thursday night only. Advance discount tickets are now available. For information, write to Dale Lawrence Productions, 1923 NE 134th, Portland, OR 97230; call 503-408-7692 or 503-261-9887; or e-mail: dlspeakertrainer@msn.com. A website will be available soon at: www.GreatMusicFestivals.com.

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.)
- 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.
- 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 (916) 989-0993.
- Livermore - Bluegrass Jam Session 2nd Saturday of the month at Magoos Pizza, 7:00-10:00 pm, 364 South Livermore Ave. between 3rd & 4th street. Take the Livermore Ave Exit from I-580. (buy a pizza and help pay the rent). For information, contact Jack E. Johnston 925-447-2406.
- Livermore - Bluegrass Jam Ses-

- sion 4th Saturday of the month 7:00 - 9 PM. Unitarian Church 1893 Vasco Rd. Take Vasco Exit from I-580 head North on Vasco. For information, contact Bill O'neal 925-373-6280.
- 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 Daniel's Restaurant, 8999 Greenback Lane in Orangevale, CA. 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 Sac-

- ramento Area Activities Vice President Bob Thomas at (916) 989-0993.
- Sacramento - The New 5th 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.
- Sonoma — Bluegrass jam session the 3rd Tuesday of every month from 7 to 10:30 p.m. The music host will be Tom Sours. Murphy's Irish Pub is located at 464 First Street East in Sonoma, California. For further information, call 707-935-0660 or e-mail: murphy@vom.com.
- 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.

CALIFORNIA BLUEGRASS ASSOCIATION LOGO MERCANDISE

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T-Shirts - White S - XXXL	\$10.00
T-Shirts - Black, Green, Lt. Gray, M-XXXL	\$14.00
Visor - Yellow/Gold Terry cloth	\$5.00
Denim Jacket, Embroidered, L, XL, XXL	\$95.00
Name on front of above jacket	\$5.00
Windbreaker - M, L & XL	\$35.00
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(916) 427-1214