

Supergroup makes last appearance?

The midsummer heat means that we're midway through the bluegrass festival season. Hundreds of thousands of fans have already enjoyed America's music this year, with a number of major events, including Winfield and Louisville, on tap for the next two months.

Supergroup The Bluegrass Album Band, which recorded four long players for Rounder Records, made what may well have been their last public performance at the Doyle Lawson & Quicksilver Family Style Bluegrass Festival in July.

The all-star band included Lawson, J.D. Crowe, Jerry Douglas, Bobby Hicks, Tony Rice and Todd Phillips. They toured the East Coast during late 1983 in their only extended stay-together.

Southern Connection also appeared under Denton's familiar tin roof. Although his three former bandmates departed in May to work with Lawson, guitarist March Keller has assembled a strong new edition of Southern Connection in Asheville, N.C.

Adam Fudge takes over banjo chores, Chris Austin the mandolin, and Doug Campbell, whose Southbound mates formed the nucleus of the original Quicksilver, anchors the band on bass. Marc says the group will maintain its youthful approach to traditional music.

The long awaited Berkshire Mountains Bluegrass Festival double album appeared in June. It contains highlights of eight years of the annual event, including performances by The Whites, Ricky Skaggs, and many more. The National Public Radio affiliate in Schenectady, N.Y., recorded this year's festival for a two-hour special for possible nationwide NPR distribution.

Promoter Harry Grant oversaw recording of his Wind Gap Bluegrass Festival in Pennsylvania during June for a commemorative disk. The Johnson Mountain Boys and Frank Wake-

Another Country



Art Menius

field will be among those featured. Grant hopes to include a three-way mandolin shootout involving Wakefield, Red Henry and Dave McLaughlin on the disc.

Speaking of Red, Florida's Red and Murphy & Co., one of the few traditional bluegrass acts to use material written from a woman's perspective, released a new album, *Real Time Reel*, in June on their own Arrandem label.

He engineered the record, which mixes originals with time tested material. Banjo picking wife Murphy Henry is also marketing *Advanced Earl*, the latest installment in her Murphy Method instructional tapes.

Advanced Earl calls to mind Raymond Fairchild. Skyline Records of Asheville has released the latest from The King of the Smoky Mountain Banjo Pickers, titled *Raymond Fairchild Plays Requests*. He's in top form, displaying his fancy banjo style on tunes made popular by Earl Scruggs, Ralph Stanley, Jimmy Rodgers and himself.

Curly Seckler and the Nashville Grass, handpicked by the late Lester Flatt to carry on his tradition, have completed several tracks for a Rick-R-Tone album tentatively titled *Bluegrass, Don't You Know*. Flatt alumnus Marty Stuart, now of Johnny Cash's band, guests on one tune, "Sin City."

The new team of Jonathan Edwards and The

Seldom Scene appeared on The Nashville Network's *Nashville Now* and *New Country* programs during June to promote their Sugar Hill album, *Blue Ridge*.

"Jonathan moved down here two years ago and started coming to the Birchmere," said the Scene's John Duffey, whose band plays each Thursday at the Arlington, Va., nightclub. "Then he brought his guitar and sang a few with us. Then we got to record an album together."

Sugar Hill labelmates Hot Rize, the popular Colorado bluegrass band, also recently appeared on *New Country* and *Nashville Now*. It was their fourth visit to the Ralph Emery-hosted show. The group just finished a week as instructors in residence at Portland State University's Haystack Summer Program in Oregon.

In addition to the group's recent *Traditional Ties*, Hot Rize mandolinist Tim O'Brien has a superior new solo album (his second) on the Flying Fish label, titled *Hard Year Blues*. Hot Rize, The Whites, and Red Knuckles assisted on the acoustic country record.

Art Menius is a consultant to The Linear Group, which produces *Fire On The Mountain* for The Nashville Network and the syndicated Liberty Flyer radio series. A former staff historian for the North Carolina Dept. of Cultural Resources, he also is a contributing editor and featured columnist for Carolina Bluegrass Review.

Obituaries

Timothy Rabbitt

Timothy Rabbitt, 23, singer/songwriter, died July 19 from complications of a liver transplant operation at University Hospital in Minneapolis. He was two years old on Aug. 11.

Rabbitt and his wife, Demelza, 4, requested that donations be made in the form of donations to Children's Hospital.

Lily May Ledford

Lily May Ledford, 81, of Coon Creek, Lexington, Ky., died July 11.

She was a soloist and barn dancer with a long career, which she was discovered at the National Barn Dance.

The Coon Creek, Renfro Valley Fiddlers, radio shows three times a week, formed at the White House by President Roosevelt, Elizabeth of England's request.

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Southern Connection — Chris Austin, Doug Campbell, Adam Fudge, Marc Keller