

Nashville Bluegrass Band performs in People's Republic

Lou Reid has left the Ricky Skaggs band to assume the guitar/lead singer seat with The Seldom Scene. During the interim between Phil Rosenthal's departure and Reid's early June arrival, Tony Rice and John Starling filled in.

Wayne Lewis completed his 30-day notice to Bill Monroe on May 18, ending the longest continuous service by any Blue Grass Boy. Lewis replaced Ralph Lewis in 1976. The current Blue Grass Boys are Blake Lewis, banjo; Tater Tate, fiddle; Johnny Montgomery, bass; and Tom Ewing, guitar.

Donna Odum of Bluegrass World in Orlando, Fla., reported that the long delayed venue will open June 19-21. A 1942 church has been converted into a fine listening room dedicated to the memory of the late Big Timber and Stanley Brothers fiddler Chubby Anthony.

Whiskey Jack, the Toronto-based blue/new grass band that has been a favorite with Canadian and Nashville Network viewers via the *Tommy Hunter Show*, has signed with In Tune Management. The transformation means the addition of a drum kit and the use of more guitars and less mandolin and banjo.

Marshall Wilborn, formerly of Whetstone Run, is the new bass player for Jimmy Martin.

Jean and Bob Cornett, who have produced the Festival of the Bluegrass in Lexington, Ky., for a number of years, have opened the Spirit of the Swannee Campground in Live Oak, Fla. They staged their first festival at that site in April; the next is slated for October 10-11.

The Lonesome River Band recorded their second album at Springfield, Virginia's Bias Studios on June 6-7 for release on Cross Current, the new label spun off by Rebel/County Records.

Also waxing at Bias recently have been Appalachian Express and The Virginia Squires. The Squires recorded four Wes Golding compositions and one by Randall Hylton for their fourth album, slated to appear on Cross Current. Squires Rickie Simkins and Sammy Shelor joined Tony Rice and Frank Pindexter on sessions for a long overdue album from Larry Rice. Like the New Quicksilver's recorded debut with Allen Bibey, it is slated for Cross Cur-

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celebrating its tenth anniversary by producing a two-part album.

Tulsa's Bluegrass & Chili Festival dates are September 5-6. For the fourth year a bluegrass band competition will follow on September 7. Demo tapes from prospective contestant bands must include five tunes and be submitted by August 15 to: Downtown Tulsa Unlimited, 6 East Fifth, Suite 200, Tulsa, OK 74103.

Banjoman Alan Munde, who performed with the Country Gazette since 1972 in addition to recording numerous solo albums, will join the faculty of South Plains College in Levelland, Texas, this fall. Munde will teach bluegrass ensemble and banjo to students in

The International Bluegrass Music Association completed its first election for its board of directors. Selected to serve are Terry Woodward (chairman), president of Wax Works, Inc.; talent agent Keith Case of Nashville's Case Co.; Allen Mills, leader of the Lost & Found band; Larry Jones, director of the Minnesota Old Time and Bluegrass Music Association; Peter V. Kuykendall, editor and publisher of *Bluegrass Unlimited*; Sugar Hill Records president Barry Poss; and Milton Harkey, promoter of the Doyle Lawson & Quicksilver Family Style Bluegrass Festival.

The installation reception is slated for August 21 at the Owensboro, Ky., Executive Inn, followed by the bluegrass industry's first trade show — the IBMA World of Bluegrass 1986 on Aug. 22-24.

the country and bluegrass music curriculum. Munde will continue to tour with Country Gazette on a limited basis, according to an SPC press release.

The Nashville Bluegrass Band became the first American bluegrass act to perform in the People's Republic of China. The five-man group arrived in the world's most populous nation on June 25, and departed on July 4 after playing at a picnic at the United States Embassy in Beijing (formerly known as Peking). Most of the ten-day sojourn was spent performing at the American Festival at the Sheraton Great Wall Hotel.

The Oriental junket follows the Nashville

Bluegrass Band's first European tour. The group departed May 17 for two weeks of dates in Holland, France and West Germany. Those gigs included the Angers Bluegrass Festival in France and the German festival in Gullingen. Following the success of their 1985 debut platter, *My Native Home*, Rounder Records has scheduled the release of a second album for late June.

That's all for now, but plenty of wonderful bluegrass events are yet to come during this month and September. I'll see you at the festivals or you can send your bluegrass news to Another Country, Rt. 1, Box 710, Pittsboro, NC 27312.

DON'T JUMP!



Big Sandy Bluegrass recently journeyed to Nashville's Upstairs Studio to wax their first long player, *Delta Queen*. The contemporary bluegrass act also turned in an appearance at the Station Inn.

Chicago's SCS Sound is offering a digitally recorded cassette of Leftwich, Higginbotham & Jackson live at last year's Augusta Festival. The 'B' side captures Cajun fiddler Dewey Balfa's performance at the same event.

Harry Grant has been involved with a successful series of dinner theater dates for bluegrass at Neil's New Yorker in Mountain Lakes, N.J. The Boys From Indiana played in March and the New Quicksilver in April, with Kentucky Roots opening both shows.

During May, June and July cable TV viewers in Oregon enjoyed performances by Hot Rize and the Sawtooth Mountain Boys taped at the Stumptown Opry.

Ryan Thompson of Captain Fiddle Publications, noted that the first printing of *The Fiddler's Almanac* has sold out. Not to worry, however, since the second printing is now available.

Niles Hokkanen has begun publication of *Galactic Crossroads*, a mandolin magazine slated for five issues per year. Niles is offering free classified ads to musicians, even those who are not subscribers. The address: P.O. Box 2352, Clarksburg, WV 26301.

Hokkanen is also concerned about the implications for bluegrass artists of two bills pending in the United States Congress — Senate 670 "Performing Arts Labor Relations Amendments" and HR 2911, the so-called Tape Tax Bill. He invites anyone desiring more information to contact him.

The Southern Wisconsin Bluegrass Music Association celebrated its third birthday in May. Its Cave of the Mounds Bluegrass '86 Family Music Festival is scheduled for August 15-17. SWBMAI sponsors Bluegrass Scoop, a taped information line which can be reached at (608)233-4522.

Skyline Drive is the working title of the third Tony Trischka & Skyline album, due out in July on Flying Fish. The group took more time recording this LP than either of their previous efforts and they seem happy with the results. Oak Publications also expects a mid-summer release for *Master Of The Five String*, the new banjo book from Trischka and Pete Wernick, banjoman for Hot Rize.

The Great Plains Bluegrass & Old Time Music Association of Council Bluffs, Iowa, is



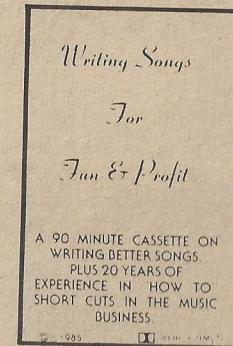
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