

Chiavola joins Gazette on 'Prairie Home Companion'

Bluegrass songstress Kathy Chiavola will appear on Garrison Keillor's *A Prairie Home Companion* Jan. 17 as part of the Country Gazette.

Chiavola is currently playing bass with the Gazette since the departure of Billy Joe Foster, who's now playing with Bill Monroe.

"We're not looking at a permanent thing," she said of her new affiliation. "We're just looking forward to the chance of working together."

Chiavola appeared with the Gazette on *A Prairie Home Companion* in November on a show which also featured fiddler Johnny Gimble. The January show will also feature the talents of Mac Wiseman and the New Grass Revival.

"It's real exciting," she said. "It's live radio and it's very spontaneous." Although the show is planned all week, during the actual show there's a big chalkboard where things are constantly being erased, added and changed. "So you have to be flexible," she noted.

Chiavola grew up in Kansas City and performed as an opera singer prior to pursuing a career in bluegrass. Since the switch, she's played with the Doug Dillard Band for three-and-a-half years and has also worked with Vassar Clements, John Hartford and Peter Rowan.

In addition to filling in with the Country Gazette, Chiavola has recently appeared solo at an American Music Week showcase sponsored by the National Entertainment Journalists Association and has also appeared at Nashville's bluegrass venue, The Station Inn.

The International Bluegrass Music Association has set Sept. 22-26 as the dates for the 1987 Fan and Trade Event to be held at Owensboro, Ky. This is a week earlier than previously announced in *Bluegrass Unlimited* and in letters to the exhibitors.

Folkways recording artist Bob Everhart recently returned from three weeks in the West Indies, where he performed his own

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style of bluegrass and traditional country for audiences in the Dutch Antilles and the British Virgin Islands. He also performed on the Windjammer cruise ships Polynesia and Flying Cloud.

Later this month, Everhart will appear at the Acoustic Guitar Festival in Veracruz, Mexico. In April and May he and his bass player, Dick Zion, will travel to Europe for Everhart's 11th European tour.

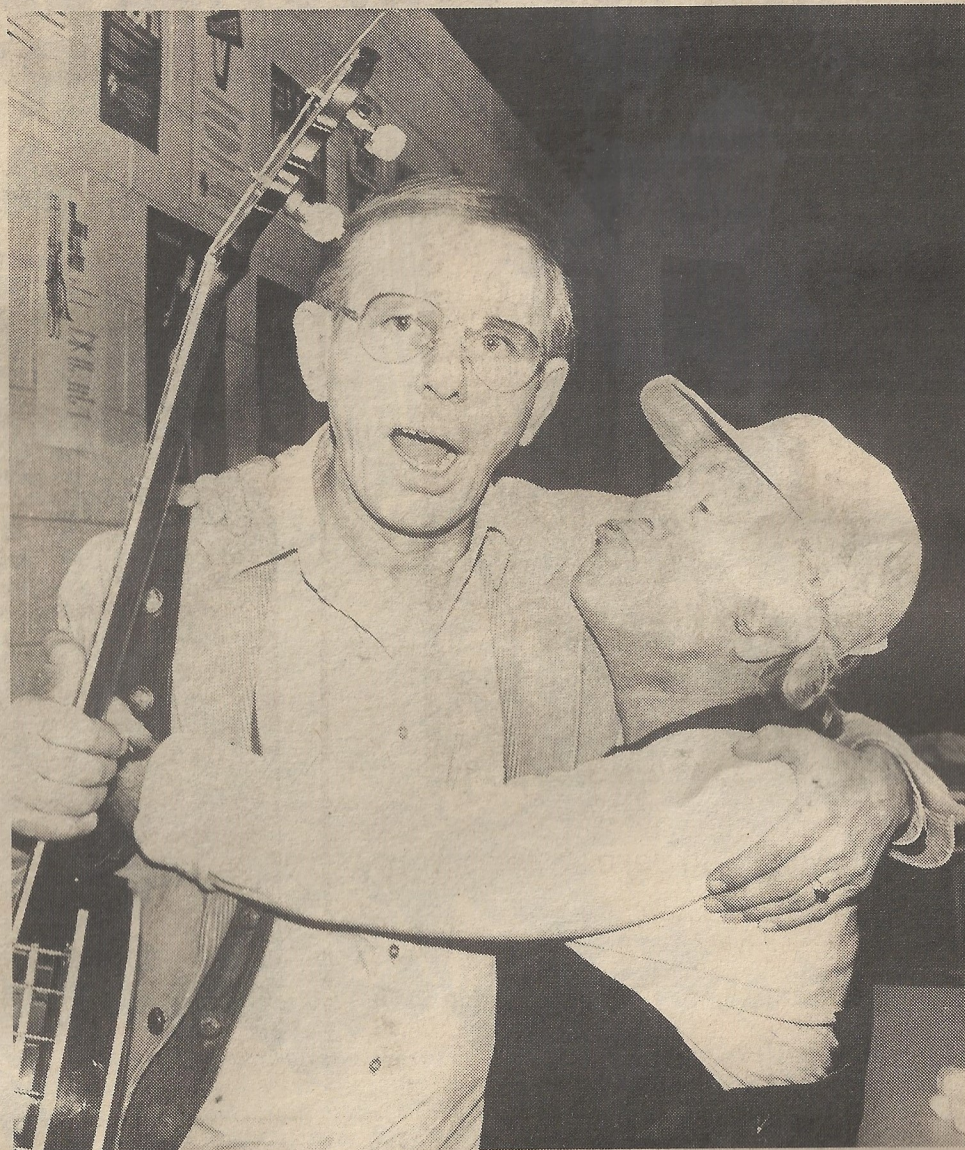
While on the subject of Folkways it should be noted that Everhart recently sold the record label to the Smithsonian Institute. Folkways had been under the direction of Moses Asche, who died recently. Prior to his death, Asche sold the archives and recordings to the Smithsonian with the stipulation that they still be made available to the public.

Townes Van Zandt will have a new album out on the Sugarhill label this spring titled *At My Window*. Van Zandt is known for his songwriting prowess, having composed Willie Nelson's "Pancho & Lefty," New Grass Revival's "White Freightliner" and the Don Williams and Emmylou Harris duet, "If I Needed You."

MSR Records has released Jim & Jesse's new album, *Some Old, Some New, Some Borrowed, Some True*. A radio promotion campaign was recently conducted in support of the new LP.

The Nashville Bluegrass Band, which features the talents of Alan O'Bryant and Pat Enright, has been in the studio recording, with Bela Fleck producing.

New Grass Revival's John Cowan will embark on a special solo tour this month under his alias as the R&B wailer "Johnny C." The tour will include stops in Lexington and Louisville, Ky., Dayton, Ohio and Alexandria, Va., where Cowan will spotlight material from his solo album, *Soul'd Out*.



Doug Dillard looks a bit surprised at the affection he's getting from fellow *Andy Griffith Show* alumnae Ernest T. Bass. Actor Howard Morris, who portrayed Ernest T. on the TV series, was in Nashville to participate in an "Ernest T. Bass Day." Alan L. Mayor.