

Bluegrass festival season now in full swing

The bluegrass festival season is in full swing this month with stupendous events on tap, including the Doyle Lawson & Quicksilver Festival in Denton, N.C., and the Winterhawk and Peaceful Valley festivals in upstate New York.

As usual, Sugar Hill Records did well at the annual NAIRD awards. *Blue Ridge* by The Seldom Scene and Jonathan Edwards won Bluegrass Album of the Year. Hot Rize's *Traditional Ties*, runner-up in that category, took first place in Album Design.

The Drama Desk Association of New York Critics, Editors, and Reporters nominated The Red Clay Ramblers for a Drama Desk Award in the Sound Design/Music in a Play category as a result of their contribution to Sam Sheppard's *A Lie Of The Mind*. The awards were presented May 29 at New York City's Plaza Hotel.

While in New York appearing in the play the Ramblers spent three days providing Irish music for the ABC soap opera *Ryan's Hope*.

Chicago's Special Consensus finished their national tour with the late Harry Chapin's *Cottonpatch Gospel* on April 26, but they will resume their performance in the play during a July 16-August 24 run in Woodstock, Ill. Despite three months on the road, the group has finished their third long playing album, slated for release this month.

Red & Murphy have relocated to Winchester, Va., where they will rebuild their band. Former Ricky Skaggs partner Wes Golding expects the release of "River Of Teardrops" this month on Heritage, while The Johnson Mountain Boys and Bill Harrell are also finishing recording projects.

Recently touring overseas have been Bill Clifton, Foggy Bottom, High Country, and Cathy Barton & Dave Para.

Buddy Lee Attractions has booked two dates each in May, August and September for the Legends of Bluegrass. Bill Monroe, Ralph Stanley, Jim & Jesse and Mac Wiseman will appear at the venues in Nashville, Washington, D.C., Pittsburgh, and several other cities.

Randy Driskill has taken the banjo chair with Roanoke, Virginia's Lonesome River Band. Driskill, 25, has been playing semi-professionally since age 15 with Senator Robert Byrd, Harvest and The Spirits of Blue-

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lore seminars and concerts (July 13-August 15).

Musical instructors for other programs during the workshop include Leftwich, Higginbotham & Jackson, Joe Herrman of The Critton Hollow String Band, Tracy Schwarz, Uncle Charlie Osborne, Cathy Fink, Rich Kirby, Evo Bluestein, Pete Sutherland, Robin Kessinger, Ola Belle Reed, Roy Bookbinder and Trapezoid.

The Friends of Fiddle and Dance, the upstate New York organization which includes Jay Ungar, Molly Mason and Lyn Hardy, has announced the schedule for their popular summer workshops at Ashokan in the Catskills. Northern Week will be July 14-20;

Two bluegrass trade shows scheduled

During 1986, bluegrass will have two trade shows. IBMA will initiate the events with the IBMA World of Bluegrass 1986 trade show in Owensboro, Ky., August 22-24. A special IBMA reception and kick-off meeting will take place on Thursday evening, August 21. The trade show will run concurrently with and adjacent to the Bluegrass With Class Festival, a free event which drew 12,000 fans last year. Only 36 booths will be available this first year, and they will be offered to IBMA members only.

The Bluegrass & Traditional Music Expo '86 is set for September 5-7 at the Orange County (Calif.) Fairgrounds in Costa Mesa (that's between LA and San Diego). Promoter Steve Baker has 201 booths available. EXPO '86 will feature live performances by bluegrass and old-time acts throughout the event, with Fire On The Mountain's David Holt serving as host. Camping will be available for those who want to treat it as a festival although this event will be much more.

Southern Week, with Leftwich, Higginbotham & Ritchie, July 26-August 1; Western and Swing Week, featuring Matt Glaser and Texas Playboy Tiny Moore, August 3-9; and Open Week, August 11-17.

Guitarist and singer Dave Wollum, 74, died March 7 in Florida. Wollum began playing country music in the 1930s and became in-

involved in bluegrass during the late 1940s. He recorded during the 1950s for Sage, Starday and Excellent as the leader of bands which featured Noah Crase and Nelson Young.

I'm out of space for this month, but I'll be seeing you at the festivals. Until then send your news to Art Menius, Rt. 1, Box 710, Pittsboro, NC 27312.

DON'T JUMP!



clues. Randy Driskill has taken the banjo chair with Roanoke, Virginia's **Lonesome River Band**. Driskill, 25, has been playing semi-professionally since age 15 with **Senator Robert Byrd**, **Harvest** and **The Spirits of Bluegrass**. The band has begun recording their second album for release on Cross Current, the new label spun off by Rebel/County Records.

"Thinking Of Home" by **The Kentucky Ramblers** is the first bluegrass release from **Pat Martin's** new Turquoise label. Following close on its heels will be "The Tall Brown Grass" from **Summit**, the New York group best known for backing **Frank Wakefield**. Their 'grass ranges all the way from true blue to new.

Also slated for release this month on Turquoise is former Blue Grass Boy **Glen Duncan**, who's now fiddling with **Jim & Jesse**. Duncan's recording unit included **Jesse McReynolds**, **Allen Shelton**, **Charlie Collins** and **Roy Junior Huskey**. **No Strings Attached**, the new age group which waxed the first Turquoise platter, is recording their second album for the label.

"There's A Glow In The Smokies," sung by **John Lily** in the style of **Jimmie Rodgers** with the backing of **Phil & Gaye Johnson**, has been released as a 45 on Upstream Records. Proceeds will benefit the effort to prevent a nuclear waste dump in the North Carolina mountains.

"Slew Foot"/"Nine Pound Hammer" is the latest single from **Harold Crosby** and his **Travelers** on the Traveler label, while *That Bear Stole My Banjo* is a cassette of old-time music and stories for children released by Crystal Productions. **Robbins and David Holt** will perform at the Maggie Valley (N.C.) Opry House throughout this month and August. Holt will unveil his new one-man show, "From Here to Kingdom Come."

Jim Eanes, who recorded for Capitol and Decca during the Fifties, has a new album out on Rebel compiled from unreleased tracks he waxed for the Leather and RPM labels more than five years ago.

Jerry McCoury has rejoined **Del McCoury & The Dixie Pals** on bass, while **Larry Robbins** has departed **The Johnson Mountain Boys** after seven years as their bassman. **Mike Aldridge** has taken the mandolin duties with **The Bass Mountain Boys**.

Bluegrass legends **Kenny Baker**, **Josh Graves**, **Jake Tullock** and **Frank Wakefield** will form part of the instructional staff for Bluegrass Week (July 13-18) at the annual Augusta Heritage Arts Workshop. West Virginia's Davis & Elkins College will host the month of traditional music.

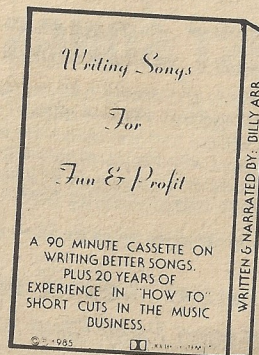


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