

Eddie Adcock assembles attractive acoustic group

To many long-time bluegrass fans, Eddie Adcock will always be the banjo picker for The Country Gentlemen, with whom he played from 1959 until 1970. Adcock set out on his own with bride Martha Adcock during the Seventies as II generation. Those experiments with electric banjo and guitar led to a stint with the David Allen Coe show.

Late last year the Adcocks returned to bluegrass as Eddie Adcock and Talk of the Town. Eddie is again playing acoustic instruments. Martha handles rhythm guitar. Former Cloud Valley member Missy Raines adds her considerable skills on bass, and Asheville's Susie Gott provides mountain fiddle for (with the exception of Eddie) one of the most attractive groups in the business.

Speaking of good-looking bluegrass, the New Coon Creek Girls have released a new album on the Jed label entitled *The New Coon Creek Girls*. They also appeared December 22 on The Nashville Network's *Wrap Around Nashville*.

Original Seldom Scene lead vocalist John Starling, who has two solo albums on Sugar Hill to his credit, has been selected music director for the long-discussed Dolly Parton/Emmylou Harris/Linda Ronstadt trio album.

Tony Trischka's latest solo album on Rounder, *Hill Country*, is out. It should win him many new fans who've wanted to hear the banjo genius play bluegrass rather than new acoustic music. Not only does the record feature vocals from Del McCoury, it provides a banjo lover's fantasy with Sonny Osborne, Bela Fleck and Trischka playing triple banjos on "Sunny Days," plus twin fiddles from Mark O'Connor and Baline Sprouse, The Johnson Mountain Boys, Sam Bush, Jerry Douglas and Tony Rice.

McCoury and brother Jerry, who also appears on *Hill Country*, were at work this winter on an album of bluegrass duet singing for the Rounder folks.

Also in the studios recently have been the Johnson Mountain Boys, Dry Branch Fire Squad, Bela Fleck, and The Nashville Bluegrass Band, who hope to get both secular and gospel records in the can.

Douglas, meanwhile, has produced the second album by the remarkable Whitstein Brothers, the 1986 answer to the 1970s

Another Country



Art
Menius

with Mark O'Connor, and a Prairie Home Companion package show.

Since March 1984, WFPL-FM has broadcast the monthly Louisville Homefront Performances from the Old Louisville Presbyterian Center in the Ohio River city. The series features old-time, blues, British Isles, ragtime, and folk musicians. Among the artists performing this fall were Saul Broudy, Dillon Bustin, Steve Lyon, Micky Clark and John Gage.

Flying Fish artists the Reel World String Band portrayed the plight of hard-working rural Americans long before FarmAid. They'll be touring the Midwest this month and the Northeast during April.

Mike Aldridge, for years the mandolinist with A.L. Wood and The Smokey Ridge Boys, has replaced Greg Trafidlo in the mandolin/tenor slot with The Bass Mountain Boys.

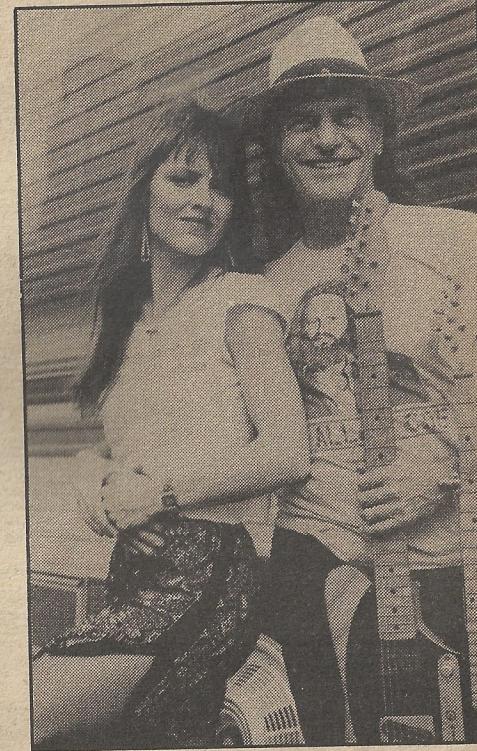
Rob Wasserman, one of an amazingly large group of exceptional new acoustic bassists, has left The David Grisman Quartet.

Four-decade Grand Ole Opry star Skeeter Davis makes her debut recording with Rounder in a high-spirited set backed by musical iconoclasts NRBQ. The title tells it all: "She Sings, They Play."

Loudon Wainwright III, one of the leading country-edged singer-songwriters of the early '70s, also makes a smashing return to recording for Rounder. British folk rocker Richard Thompson helps out on "I'm Alright," one of the comeback efforts of 1985.

Please send news for "Another Country" to Art Menius, Rt. 1, Box 710, Pittsboro, NC 27312. We'll see you where they're pickin'.

Art Menius is a consultant to The Linear Group and a former staff historian for the North Carolina Dept. of Cultural Resources. He is a contributing editor and columnist for Carolina Bluegrass Review.



Eddie and Martha Adcock



gospel records in the can.

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O'Connor and bass man Roy Junior Huskey helped back folk/country singer Nanci Griffith on her recent *Austin City Limits* telecast on PBS.

Roanoke, Virginia's innovative Lonesome River Band has returned to Shar Lin Studios to wax a followup to their highly praised debut platter, *I Guess Heartaches Are In Style This Year*.

Banjo man J.D. Crowe's new album, *Straight Ahead*, which is a fine description of his picking style, should be out any day now on Rounder.

Cajun superstars Michael Doucet and Beausoleil's first album for Rounder Records should be out this month.

During a November junket to Europe, Doyle Lawson and Quicksilver taped a gospel performance at a Dutch church for an April airing. According to Rienk Janssen of Strictly Country Records, it will be only the third bluegrass TV broadcast in the Netherlands since 1973.

"I knew it was a very rare thing to be on TV there," Lawson commented. "They were careful and took a long time with the taping. It looks like it will be real good from the tape I saw."

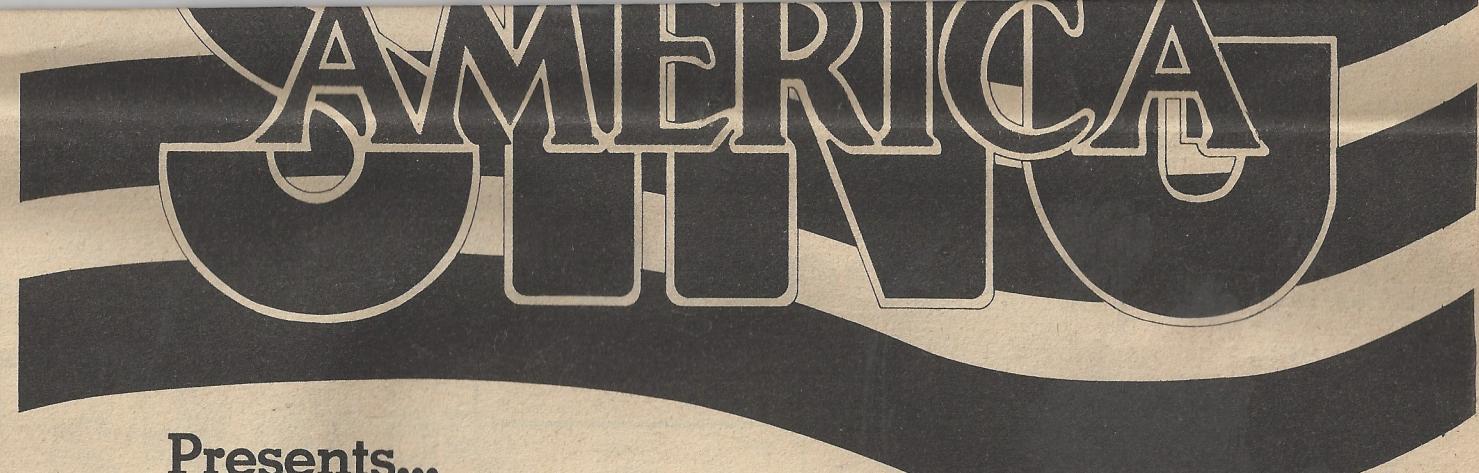
Old-time revivalists Wayne and Margaret Martin performed traditional Christmas music of the Carolinas on the North Carolina Center For Public Television's *North Carolina People* series in late December.

Despite the tragic loss of his son and accompanist Merle, Doc Watson is keeping his musical commitments, including a March 8 appearance on NBC-TV's long-running *Saturday Night Live*.

Also on the national tube recently were The Osborne Brothers and Jim & Jesse as part of the CBS broadcast of the Grand Ole Opry anniversary show.

New Year's Eve provided an appropriately festive opening night for Orlando, Florida's Bluegrass World. Glen Odom, who promotes the Big Timber Bluegrass Band, bought a defunct church on Curry Ford Road and converted it into Bluegrass World. Big Timber should be picking there most Wednesday through Saturday evenings.

The citizens of Winfield, Kansas, probably get exposed to more top-flight acoustic country entertainment than any other place its size. The Winfield Country Concerts for this winter



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- *Where Fadeless Flowers Bloom*
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- *Bringing In The Sheeves*
- *The Old Rugged Cross*
- *He's Got The Whole World*
- *Go Tell It On The Mountain*
- *There Is A Balm In Gilead*
- *Precious Memories*
- *Shall We Gather At The River*
- *Jacobs Ladder*
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- *Uncloudy Day*
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