

# Songwriting mandolinist finishes first album

Randall Hylton, whose compositions have been recorded by the Lewis Family, the Bluegrass Cardinals, Vern Gosdin and many more artists, has finished work on his first album.

Banjo man Shawn Shook, bassist Phil Winnott and Station Inn proprietor J.T. Gray on guitar back the songwriting mandolin picker.

Hylton, by the way, has been rendering yeoman service well beyond his duties as treasurer to the new International Bluegrass Music Association, which held its first public meeting in Nashville last month.

Also in the studios: Doc Watson cutting his first bluegrass album with help from super-pickers Alan O'Bryant of the Nashville Bluegrass Band, Bela Fleck and Sam Bush of New Grass Revival; the Bluegrass Cardinals waxing their first all-gospel effort since joining the Sugar Hill Label; and Doyle Lawson & Quicksilver recording their third sacred album at Bias Studios in Springfield, Va.

Seasoned by a busy summer on the festival circuit, Lawson took his new backup band to Holland, Italy, and West Germany last month. I'm sure they'll all be ready for Quicksilver's traditional November vacation.

The Seldom Scene headed east on their first junket to Japan with appearances scheduled for Tokyo, Kyoto, Sapporo and Osaka. Berline, Crary and Hickman, meanwhile, go north to Alaska to participate in the "Arts Alaska" program.

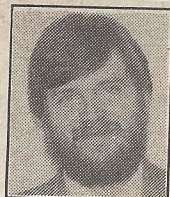
The rumors have circulated for a long time, but now it's official: New Grass Revival has signed a major label deal with Capitol Records.

CBS Records, meanwhile, scooped up Marty Stuart, who hit the bluegrass circuit a decade ago as the teenage phenom mandolin picker for Lester Flatt. In recent years, his hot licks and good looks have spiced Johnny Cash's show. He'll stay with his father-in-law's band until January.

When Stuart heads out on his own he'll have a superb band, featuring fiddler Mark O'Connor, guitarist Jody Maphis, Tony Newman on drums, Earl Ball's piano and Anthony Crawford playing steel.

Stuart finished recording his first CBS long player at Jack Clement's Cowboy Arms and Recording Spa during October with release scheduled for the first of the year. Meanwhile, he and Cash collaborated on an acoustic

## Another Country



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soundtrack for the upcoming Cash-Kristofferson flick, *The Last Days Of Frank And Jesse James*.

Warm vocals and delightful musicianship, especially from banjo man Gene Parker and fiddler Steve Thomas, currently of The Whites, distinguish the sixth album release by Virginia's Lost And Found. Entitled *Sun's Gonna Shine*, the record appeared in late August on the Rebel label. Highlights include the perfect version of "The Man Who Wrote Home Sweet Home."

Ace guitar flatpicker Orrin Star, who gained many fans in the Northeast during eight years as a duo with Gary Mehalick, has charted a solo course for himself. Star's *Hot Licks For Bluegrass Guitar* book just appeared from Oak Publications, while he recently penned per-



The Randall Hylton Band

haps the first acoustic country computer jargon tune, "The Killer Byte Blues."

Cathy Fink's latest Rounder album, *The Leading Role*, appeared last month. Taking its name from an Ola Belle Reed song, the platter is dedicated to women in country music. Patsy Montana, whose 1936 recording "I Want To Be A Cowboy's Sweetheart" was the first dis-taff hit in country music, joined Fink at the Smithsonian Institute last month to kick off their "Two Generations Of Women In Country Music" tour.

Byron Bowers, the Seattle autoharpist surpassed only by Mother Maybelle Carter in making his instrument popular, will finally see the release of his long-delayed Christmas album this year on Flying Fish.

The folks at Sugar Hill Records dubbed their new 1100 album series "the Pamlico Sound". Original acoustic music with folk, traditional, Celtic and new age influences, the Pamlico Sound includes Trapezoid, Gray Larsen and Metamora (formerly Daglish, Larsen & Sutherland).

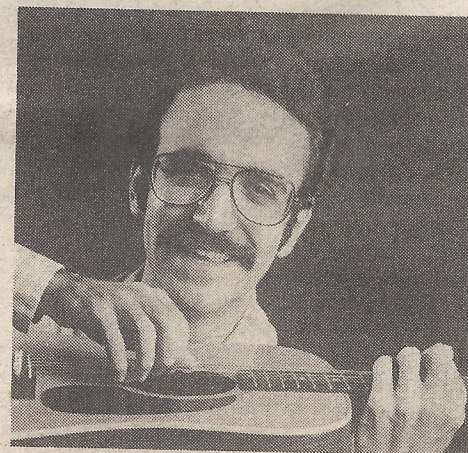
Radio Flyer from Springfield, Mo., took home \$2,500 and a Nashville recording date as the Best New Bluegrass Band of 1985 at Louisville's Kentucky Fried Chicken Bluegrass Music Festival in September. Carolina Crossfire from Shelby, N.C., placed second, while the modern sounds of Martinsville, Ind.'s Classified Grass finished third.

Bill Monroe received birthday greetings from Steve Collins, son of Kentucky Gov. Martha Collins, before the large, enthusiastic crowds. Collins had proclaimed September 7, 1985 as "Bill Monroe Day" in Kentucky.

The Grand Ole Opry's Jim & Jesse and the Virginia Boys now have a 30-minute concert video available. The band's Allen Shelton received a special tribute at the Original Bluegrass Music Festival at Camp Springs, ten miles from Shelton's hometown of Riedsville, N.C.

One of the crop of post-Scruggs banjo pickers who emerged during the 1950s, Shelton was joined on stage by Jim & Jesse, Jim Eanes, Carlton Haney, "Club" McGee, Bobby Atkins and several others.

*Memories Of Marty*, a tribute to Robbins by Joe Knight and dobro devotee Bev King, is the latest release on New York's Revonah label.



Orrin Star

Prince Rainier chose to dine during the Lonesome River Band's August performance at Monaco's Loew's Hotel and Casino. "Talk about pull," said LRB's Tim Austin. "He and his family walked in, sat down at a table right in front of the stage, and in two minutes the ballroom was packed."

Cowboy Jazz, the western swing group from Maryland that recorded two well-received LPs for Rounder, have reunited after an 18-month hiatus. Maryann Price, late of Asleep At the Wheel and Dan Hicks, and Liam Hanrahan have joined the band.

On a recent *CBS Morning News* interview, Naomi Judd reported that Ralph and Carter Stanley were the chart-topping duo's earliest musical influence.

November 21st marks the 25th anniversary of Flatt & Scruggs' first recording date for Columbia Records, with which they would remain until their 1969 breakup. They had previously been Mercury artists after leaving Bill Monroe in 1948. The duo was inducted into the Country Music Hall of Fame at the recent Country Music Association Awards Show in October.

Send your correspondence for this column to me at Rt. 1, Box 710, Pittsboro, NC 27312.

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