

# “Bluegrass Clippings”

November—December 2004

“BI-Monthly publication of the “YELLOWSTONE BLUEGRASS ASSOCIATION”

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Trent Indreland  
Steve Smith  
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Stan Moser  
**Newsletter Editor—**Rick Wingerter

## PRAIRIE WINDS CAFE

"Ramblin' Laurels" 11/6  
"Elk River Ramblers" 11/13  
"Southbound" 11/20  
"Highway 302" 11/27  
"Long Lost Lonesome Dogs" 12/4

"Cold Frosty Morning" will be playing at the High gate retirement home Nov. 9th @ 6pm  
And at Mission Ridge next to ST John's Nov. 23rd @ 6pm

Come and Listen

**If your group is going to be playing anywhere, please let Rick Wingerter know and he'll get it in the newsletter. He's looking for any kind of news related to Bluegrass and Bluegrass Artists.**

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## The Appalachians To Preview at Film Festival

An hour-long segment of the forthcoming PBS series The Appalachians: America's First and Last Frontier will be shown Nov. 6 at the American Conservation Film Festival in Shepherdstown, W. Va. The series, which features folk, country and bluegrass music, examines the cultural, economic and political significance of the people living in the Appalachian Mountains. One of Johnny Cash's final interviews is a prominent part of the project, according to its executive producer, Mari-Lynn C. Evans. The entire series of three one-hour segments will debut on Nashville's PBS station, WNPT, next spring. Naomi Judd, a native of the Appalachian river town of Ashland, Ky., introduces the film. She and Marty Stuart have both taped spots to promote it. In addition, the two country music stars have created children segments related to the series to air on PBS. Nashville's Dualtone Records will release the sound track album early in 2005. A companion book, also titled The Appalachians: America's First and Last Frontier, was published this year. A DVD of the series, possibly with additional footage, will be available, Evans says.

## "YBA ELECTIONS"

Begin in December for the 2005 Board.  
If you would like to run for the board, please contact  
Mike Rolison at 628-8639  
Or Terry Indreland at 652-4677

**Letter from the President  
November 2004**

Well, another summer has come and gone. Where does the time go? It seems like just yesterday we were having our first YBA board meeting for the year, making plans for the anticipated activities of 2004, and now we are already wrapping up the year.

It's been a fun and successful year for the YBA, kicking things off with our annual Meatball Dinner at Molt. What a great time we had there.

Next, was our annual Spring Showcase at the Lincoln Center Auditorium in April, with nine bands performing 15 minute sets to some 300 plus folks in the audience. The folks enjoyed that evening so much that they donated more than \$300.00 to the YBA that evening.

Then in July, we hosted the Steep Canyon Rangers from Ashville, NC. At Cicil Hall. What a super group they are. For any of you that did not make that show, you really missed out on this one. These guys were so impressed with the YBA and this general area, that they said they would love to be one of the headline bands at our 2005 Red Lodge Festival.

Speaking of the Red Lodge Festival, in August we had our 2nd annual Bluegrass festival in Red Lodge. In our first year of co-sponsoring this event, we came within roughly \$280.00 of breaking even with our expenses. This year, with over 500 folks in attendance, our income from the festival went well beyond our expenses, and we were able to establish a festival fund for next years festival "up front" expenses and still have a substantial portion go to the benefit of the Red Lodge Fire Dept., EMT's, and Boys and Girls Club. I've not given any specific figures on the festival at this point in time, since we've not closed out the books on festival 2004, but we should have those figures for you in the next newsletter.

The Fall Showcase was just wonderful!! We had 8 bands and they all did a super job. It just seems to get better and better each time we have a Showcase.

As winter is fast approaching, I'm looking forward to the cooler weather, although I can't stand being cold, but that seems to draw a better attendance at the Lincoln Center Jams, and for the last couple of months, our attendance has been on the lower side.

This is the one area of the YBA that I believe could be improved upon. We have secured two other areas of the Lincoln Center in addition to the music room that we have access to for those of you that enjoy jamming with smaller groups. The Lincoln Center is an important asset to the overall success of the YBA. May I enlist your support in this important area?

Finally, if you own a computer or have access to one, look up YBA on the web at <http://www.yellowstonebluegrass.org>, In July 2004, Trent Indreland built an excellent, informative, and substantial website for YBA, and he told me last night at the Jam that he's recently given it a new format that's even better than the original one, and the original one was great! To date, we have received well over a thousand hits, with more coming in every day. AIN'T IT GREAT!!!!

Your Pickin' Partner, Mike Rolison

## A Little Humor!

"While I was preaching in a church in Mississippi, the pastor announced that their prison quartet would be singing the following evening. I wasn't aware there was a prison in the vicinity and I looked forward to hearing them. The next evening, I was puzzled when four members of the church approached the stage. Then the pastor introduced them. "This is our prison quartet," he said, "behind a few bars and always looking for the key."

"Thanks for the harmonica you gave me for Christmas," little Joshua said to his uncle their first time he saw him after the holidays. "It's the best Christmas present I ever got."

"That's great," said his uncle. "Do you know how to play it?"

"Oh, I don't play it," the little fellow said. "My mom gives me a dollar a day not to play it during the day and my dad gives me five dollars a week not to play it at night."

Two dogs are looking at a banjo. First dog: "That's the thing I call 'The Enforcer.'"

Second dog: "He hits you with it?" First dog: "No, He plays it."

Two women were at a cafe and one said, "Hey, I had my IQ checked and it was 175." The other responded "That's a coincidence. So is mine, what do you do for a living?" "I'm a physicist." was the reply. Again came "that's a coincidence. So am I." This was overheard at a nearby table and these two compared IQs at 160 and were surprised that they were both brain surgeons. At another nearby table one man despondently said to the other "Did you hear that? I had my IQ checked and it was only 52." The other said, rather enthusiastically, "That's a coincidence. So is mine. What instrument do you play?"

### *Hansen Music* 1819 Grand Avenue

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Stop in and see the field of guitars waiting to be harvested by bluegrass musicians. Also in stock, things to chase away winter blues—(and most sane people)—banjos, Mandolins, harmonicas, and even cool picks!

Check out the new web site for the store:

<http://www.hansenmusic.net/>

### Prairie Winds Café

A little bluegrass with your eggs  
Bacon and hot coffee

Every Saturday morning  
From 9am 'til Noon

### For Sale or Trade

(Post your items for free)

Contact Rick Wingerter

@ (406) 259-1291 or, [rwingerter@montana.net](mailto:rwingerter@montana.net)

### Yellowstone Bluegrass Association's Fall Showcase

Lincoln Center Auditorium

Friday, October 15, 2004 7:00 PM

**WAS TOTALLY GREAT!!!!**

# Ralph Stanley Opens Museum Built in His Honor

Virginia's Governor, Other Artists on Hand for Celebration

By: Edward Morris

CLINTWOOD, Va. --Fifty-eight years to the day after he played his first show as a professional musician, Ralph Stanley stood on the windswept porch of a restored Victorian mansion and cut the ribbon to open the museum named in his honor.

The ceremony took place Saturday (Oct. 16) in Clintwood, Va., near the site of Stanley's birth. Oddly enough, the mansion once housed the funeral home at which Stanley's older brother and duet partner, Carter, lay in state following his death in 1966.

Officially called the Ralph Stanley Museum and Traditional Mountain Music Center, the facility is part of the Crooked Road project that links such southwestern Virginia tourist attractions as Bristol's "birthplace of country music" site (where the Carter Family and Jimmie Rodgers made their first recordings in 1927), Galax (home of the annual Old Time Fiddlers' Convention) and the Carter Family Fold complex in Hiltons. Paid for by grants from national and local organizations, including the Appalachian Regional Commission, and the Virginia Coalfield Economic Development Fund, the museum cost approximately \$2 million. It recently hired a director and curator, Ginger Morelock, who holds a graduate degree in folk studies from Western Kentucky University.

The interactive exhibits, display cases and gift shop are arranged on the first two floors of the building, while the third floor houses a large and elegantly furnished suite for use by museum guests. In addition to its primary focus on Stanley's life and works, the museum outlines the contributions made by other bluegrass-oriented artists, including Bill Monroe, Flatt & Scruggs, Jim & Jesse and early influential local musicians.

Within the display cases are stage costumes, historically important musical instruments, album covers, contracts and royalty statements from record sales. In one video exhibit, Ricky Skaggs, Roy Clark, Gillian Welch, Patty Loveless, Alison Krauss, Bela Fleck, Jim Lauderdale and others offer their opinions on Stanley's appeal and importance. In another audio display dedicated to life on the road, present and former members of Stanley's band explain what it was like to tour with him. An entire wall is given over to Stanley's many awards, among them Grammy trophies, his honorary doctoral certificate from Lincoln Memorial University and a plaque proclaiming him to be the 2004 Virginian of the year.

Nothin' Fancy is celebrating their 10th anniversary as a band in 2004 and has two releases on the Pinecastle label. The band is also riding a current (2004) nomination for Best Emerging Artist in the 15th Annual International Bluegrass Music Association Awards to be announced on October 7th.

Nothin' Fancy was formed in September of 1994 for the original purpose of competing in the East Coast Bluegrass Championship in Crimora, Virginia. Some of the members had their band roots in the East Coast Bluegrass Band and Nothin' Fancy now has 5 full length CD albums in print. Their popularity has grown to the point of having made appearances at the Ryman Theatre in Nashville, the Lincoln Center in New York City, and they are the host of their own bluegrass festival in Buena Vista, Virginia every fall.

The members reside mostly in the Shenandoah Valley areas of Virginia. Mike Andes, lead singer and mandolin player, writes most of the band's original material. He began playing at age ten. Mitchell Davis holds down the banjo position and sings bass in the quartets. Gary Ferris is the tenor voice and started playing guitar at age 35. Tony Shorter plays the upright S8 Kay bass and sings harmony. He was a charter member of the Virginia Tech Bluegrass Association. Chris Sexton, son of East Coast Bluegrass Band banjo player Buster Sexton, plays fiddle and sings "only in emergencies." Chris suffers from having perfect pitch and keeps the band on key!

**FUN!!! FUN!!! FUN!!!**

**Open Jam at the Laurel Pizza Hut  
Last Tuesday of every Month 7PM - ?**

### ***ROCKY MOUNTAIN GOSPEL***

12 Bluegrass Gospel songs written and produced by Rick Wingerter

Featuring artists from all over the U.S. and Canada  
Including; The Marksmen, The Staffords, Chris Wetch  
Russ and Becky Jeffers, DJ Manason and Nick Alberty

**CD's \$10.00 each plus \$2.00 S&H**

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**Rick Wingerter 416 Hillview Lane Billings, MT 59101**

**[www.wingnut.net/loralea/htm](http://www.wingnut.net/loralea/htm)**

# Artist Spotlight!

When Mike asked me to write an article for the Yellowstone Bluegrass Association's newsletter, I thought-why me? I don't even play an instrument; I just listen. Then I remembered something Larry Larson had said at the Prairie Winds Diner the other morning, " You don't realize all the enjoyment we've gotten out of watching you two court and then marry." So this is going to be about 'us'. Not just me.

I started coming to the jams after my first wife had left me. Some months later I mentioned what I did on Friday nights to a very nice looking banker lady. Next thing I know she is showing up at Hardee's and Pizza Hut on Friday night. She said she liked bluegrass music, but I think she had ulterior motives.

We started showing up at the jams together making them honest-to-goodness dates. In going to the concerts and jams we have met some fantastic people, made some really good friends, and had a wonderful time. You know the rest of the story, we had a bluegrass wedding.

We help out wherever and whenever we can-we consider it a privilege to be able to help out and further the reach of bluegrass music. I have heard from others that what we have is not everywhere-so I encourage all the members, pickers and listeners to get involved. It doesn't take a lot of effort and the paybacks are ten-fold.

See you at the next bluegrass get-together,  
Rolland and Lori Berry

Send your story to Rick Wingerter and we'll try to get it into the newsletter..  
416 Hillview Lane, Billings, Montana 59101  
or email him at, [rwingerter@montana.net](mailto:rwingerter@montana.net)

## **SPECIAL CONSENSUS**

### **CODY STAGE**

Nov. 12. -7:30pm  
1110 Beck Ave. Cody, Wyoming  
\$10.00 at door

### **ROUND BARN**

Nov. 13. -7:00pm  
Red Lodge, Montana  
Show Only \$14.00 Dinner & Show \$23.50

## (Why you shouldn't become a Musician)

Dear Band Leader: We look forward to your performance at our daughter's wedding. If you don't mind, we would like to request a few of our favorite songs. Please play these during the reception:

A Keith Jarrett composition from his solo series. Please arrange it for full ensemble in the key of B but nothing in 4/4 please.

Mahavishnu Orchestra, "Dance of the Maya" and please have the guitarist play John McLaughlin's solo from the live performance Nov. 16, 1972 at Chrysler Arena. My wife and I were at that show and we liked his use of polyrhythms.

One of John Coltrane's duets with Pharaoh Sanders. Our guests love high register tenor saxes. We thought a little Stravinsky right after the toast would be nice. So please play "The Rite of Spring." We like a tempo of about 1/4 note = 93 and transpose it down 3 half-steps -it will be so much more appropriate for this occasion in the slightly lower register.

Then for the candle lighting ceremony, please play Frank Zappa's "The Grand Wazoo." The original key of B flat, would be fine but my cousin Jeannie would like to sing the baritone sax solo in the key of D -she has kind of a high voice.

When my new son-in-law takes off the garter, please just a little of Varese's "Ionization." It's such a funny piece, we think it would go over real well. Much better than "The Stripper."

And for the bride & groom's first dance, please slow things down a bit by doing Barber's "Adagio For Strings." It's so much better than "We've Only Just Begun" or the "Anniversary Waltz."

When my wife and I join in the first dance, could you segue to Thelonius Monk's "Ruby, My Dear" -it's in honor of my wife's grandmother whose name was Ruby. It would mean so much to the family.

Thanks for all your help. Depending on the outcome we'll certainly be happy to recommend your band to our friends.

We'll have your check for the fee of \$250 (minus our expenses in contacting you of \$12.50) by the end of next month: we're a little short as the young lady doing the balloon arch wanted her \$1,850 in advance and the DJ had to be paid up front his \$2,500 as normal. Our daughter assured us that your love of music was greater than your need for money, and that you would welcome the exposure you would get from playing this wedding.

Before you leave, please feel free to ask the caterer for a snack sandwich and a soda (the bottles are returnable or you can pay the deposit to the butler). Please use the back entrance to avoid disturbing the guests."