

Bluegrass Clippings

December 2006

Lincoln Closed For Holidays

The Lincoln center will not be open the last two Fridays in December due to the Christmas and New Years holidays. YBA members can still meet at the Grand Ave. Pizza Hut at the regular time on those nights. Jams at the Lincoln Center can be expected to resume on Friday, January 5, 2007 at 7:00 pm. The Annual Meeting will also be held at the Lincoln center on January 5, 2007.

Nominations for the Board

It is time once again to vote for members to sit on the board of YBA. Board members are elected or re-elected for a one year term. Members in good standing can vote for nominees using the ballot found in this issue of "Bluegrass Clippings". Good luck to all the nominees!

Appearing at the Prairie Winds in Molt

December 16...Rambling Laurels

23...Longtime Lonesome Dogs

30...Sure Enough String Band

January 6...Cash & Friends

13..Southbound

20..Highway 302

27..Cold, Frosty,
Morning

YBA's Fall Showcase

The Fall/ Winter Showcase 2006, held in late September, was a great success. YBA presented a check for \$4,500, monies generated by last summer's festival, to ZooMontana. More funds were raised by "passing the hat" at the performance to help out our picking buddy and long-time YBA member "Cherokee Bob" Smith. Bob had been suffering from health problems but is, I hear, recovering nicely.

Doug Haberman came up with an original piece in honor of Cherokee. Mr. Haberman wowed the large audience by cross pickin' the tar out of his little Czech mandolin.

Terry Jessie, always a great Master of Ceremonies, turned on the folk, fingerstyle fireworks with an absolutely solo rendition of "The Cats in the Cradle".

Bonnie Ziskie, without a doubt, stole the show. She seemed to appear in every group on stage singing, fiddling and playing bass. She must have had a busy practice schedule indeed.

Archie Bott: An Interview by Dave Webinger

(dw) Archie, how did you start playing music?

(ab) I grew up in Fallon, MT. When I was about 14 years old a guitar picker came to town. I could hear him at night playing down at the bar. I couldn't get enough of it. That Christmas I got a Silver Tone guitar; Sears and Roebuck Brand. Cowboys that lived around Fallon showed me how to play chords. When I went in the Navy, I bought a Harmony guitar. All the seams came apart from the sea moisture. In 1956, we docked in San Diego. I saw this Martin D-18 and bought it for \$300.00 which included the case. It is part of me and a real keeper.

(dw) Do you play any other instruments?

(ab) I've tried the banjo, mandolin, and autoharp, but I really just stick to my D-18.

(dw) What's your favorite music?

(ab) Bluegrass, Country and a lot of Gospel. I have written many Gospel songs and farm and ranch type songs.

(dw) Did you take lessons?

(ab) (chuckle) Just from cowboys.

(dw) Do you read music?

(ab) No, my mother taught piano. She tried to teach me, but it wasn't for me. I hope I didn't let her down too much.

(dw) Do you practice?

(ab) Yes, I love to practice. Right now I'm working on St. Anne's Reel.

(dw) Are you in a band?

(ab) Yes, The Sure Enough String Band. Brad and Dawn Sherseth and their daughters are in the band. All my old cronies have died or are too old to play; (chuckle) so this time I've picked young players. We practice at Brad's parents' home in Billings. Dawn is a music teacher, so she can keep us in line. I also play with Archie and Friends from Columbus. We play at Beartooth Manor in Columbus and St. John's Home in Billings. I also belong to District 4 Fiddlers. Sometimes we play dances etc. at the Whitebird School House.

Watch for more interviews in future issues of "Bluegrass Clippings" by Dave Webinger. The editorial staff certainly appreciates Dave's help in producing this newsletter.

Membership Application Yellowstone Bluegrass Association PO Box 23143 - Billings, MT 59104

Last Name _____ First Name _____

Address _____ City _____

State _____ Zip Code _____

E-Mail Address _____ Check One: Individual (\$15.00) _____

Family(\$25.00) _____