

“Bluegrass Clippings”

March—April 2005

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

President—Mike Rolison
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PRAIRIE WINDS CAFE
"Southbound" 3-5
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"Ramblin' Laurels" 3-19
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"Larry Larson & Highway 302" 4-23
"Cold Frosty Morning" 4-30

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.

A brief moment in music history:

Tom Dooley (also recorded as Tom Dula) lied about his age to enlist in the Civil War and performed quite well. He was described as an accomplished fiddle player and a handsome man in his early twenties which was when the murder happened near the end of the War. Evidently Laura Foster and Ann Melton had dated Tom and had also dated Sheriff Grayson. Laura Foster was killed on January 1866 by being stabbed and hit on the head, probably out of jealousy. The Sheriff drove the horse from under Tom hanging him for the murder of Laura. Later Sheriff Grayson married Ann. At Ann's deathbed she admitted to her husband and a neighbor lady that she had killed Laura, letting Tom go to the gallows for the murder. It is thought Tom did act as an accomplice burying the body, although he refused to implicate Ann as the murderer.

Material obtained from the music score book "Songs of Doc Watson" New York, NY, 1971 p. 20 and liner notes from Doc Watson CD "Doc Watson".

Concerts (Round Barn)

Elk River Ramblers: Sat., March 19 - 8:00 pm

Growling Old Men: Sat., April 16 - 8:00 pm

Artist Spotlight

Terry Indreland

How did music come to play a part in my life? The only musician in my family was my father, who played a few tunes on the harmonica. My Grandmother had a phonograph, which I'm told I enjoyed as a very young child (Cigarettes, Whiskey and Wild, Wild Women was my favorite, I guess) and I vaguely recall listening to western music on the radio. I also remember first hearing Elvis Presley, Pat Boone, Ricky Nelson and a few others.

I attended a country school with no music program but had an older cousin who played drums in high school and taught me a few licks. I played the snare drum at Red Lodge High School, purchased a trap set, and joined a small combo, which played for dances--mostly at high schools in Carbon County--until we were replaced by rock bands.

Through high school I listened to rock and roll of course, and I have a vivid memory of driving home to the ranch late one night, listening to KOMA in Oklahoma City as it faded in and out and suddenly hearing the Beatles for the first time singing "I Want to Hold Your Hand". I also enjoyed Dave Brubeck, Al Hirt, Woody Herman and Henry Mancini but above all, I enjoyed the folk music of the Kingston Trio, the Limelighters, Joan Baez and Judy Collins.

While attending Montana State University, I worked a summer in California and visited Mexico, where I purchased a classical guitar with the intention of learning to play folk music. I did not get much past the G chord and left the guitar at home where my younger brother Trent learned to play it (but that is another story).

Following university, my career with Conoco took us away from Montana for most of 30 years. While living in Denver in the early 1970's, I studied a folk guitar lesson on PBS for a few months, but I put the guitar down at the end of the lessons and did not pick it up again for over 30 years.

As a chemical engineer, one of the few ways to get back to Montana is to retire, which I was able to do in 1999. Again, it was my intention to learn to play guitar, but years went by until 2002 when Trent told me about attending a bluegrass jam at the Lincoln Center. This inspired me to dig out the old Yamaha classical guitar. I purchased new strings and started practicing the old songs out of the old folk guitar book. In the meantime, Trent purchased a new Martin guitar, which he let me play one day, and I was hooked.

I thought it ridiculous when Trent suggested I should start attending the jam sessions at Lincoln Center, but finally in early 2003, I did attend with my new Martin guitar, two songs and six chords. It was fun and everyone was welcoming, but I was mortified to hear that I was also expected to sing a song. I had not sung in public since sixth grade, but finally after a couple of weeks I did sing a song. Now, two years and hundreds of hours of practice later, I am enjoying playing with the Ramblin' Laurels.

The Yellowstone Bluegrass Association is a unique organization. It allows musicians of all abilities to play together on a weekly basis, and anyone with an interest can learn to play bluegrass music. I salute the founders of the YBA and everyone who has been involved through the years and thank them for providing me with the forum and the incentive to play this wonderful music

Terry Indreland

Elk River Ramblers

Saturday, March 19 - 8:00 pm

The Elk River Ramblers play old-time, bluegrass, cowboy, and swing tunes, both old and new but all crafted with a traditional but unique acoustic sound. The ERR have been playing heart-felt Americana music together for 4 years and have entertained at the Bozeman Sweet Pea Festival, St Johns concert series and many bluegrass festivals across Montana. Spend an evening enjoying dinner and listening to this Billings group, which features tight harmony singing led by guitarist Annie Moser and hard driving instrumentals with Ed Pierson on fiddle, Stan Moser on banjo and Doug Habermann on bass and mandolin. This show will be the release event for the ERR newest self-produced cd. They first played at the Round Barn in 2001, which resulted in their first cd "Live at the Round Barn "

Dinner & Show \$20; Show only \$10

Growling Old Men

Saturday, April 16 -8:00 pm

Dinner & Show \$22.50; Show only \$12.50

For reservations or information, please call the Round Barn at 446-1197 or visit

<http://www.roundbarnrestaurantandtheater.com>

Hansen Music

1819 Grand Avenue

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

1 Fostex eight track reel to reel Tape recorder. Works very well. Includes empty reel and 20 used 6"x1/4 in reels of tape. Start your own Recording Studio...\$200.00

Contact: Rick Wingerter for listing your items.
@ 406-259-1291 or, rwingarter@montana.net

**2005 Dues
are now
Overdue**

Jam Etiquette

1. TUNE UP

Make sure your instrument is in tune.

2. LISTEN IN

Listen for the rhythm and know the chord progression of the tune before joining in.

3. BLEND IN

In jamming, your instrument sounds best when it blends in rather than dominates the other instruments being played.

4. BACK OFF

When a break is passed to someone in the jam, back off on the volume of your instrument so that everyone can hear.

5. HEADS UP

When it's your turn to pick a tune, let everyone know the name of the tune, the key, and if there are any unusual chord progressions, timing, or rhythm issues.

6. DON'T HOG

Give everyone an opportunity to take their turn in leading a tune. Be supportive.

7. HAVE FUN

Our most important rule, "Have fun making Bluegrass Music with others."

The Isaacs have been a performing gospel family band for some 30 years, mostly on the southern gospel circuit and only in recent years on the bluegrass circuit. They're often seen on the Gaither Homecoming TV specials and videos. Today's core group is headed by Lily Isaacs, who was born in Germany to Jewish parents who survived several years in the concentration camps of WWII. She sang in New York's Greenwich Village and recorded in 1968. How she came to meet a bluegrass banjo player from Kentucky (Joe Isaacs, the youngest of 17 children and former banjo player for Larry Sparks and the Greenbriar Boys as well) and convert to Christianity, produce a family of musically talented children and end up singing bluegrass gospel music is a wonderful story. You can read more about her story under "Lily's Notes" on their website <http://www.theisaacs.com/>

Lily's three children - Ben, Sonya, and Rebecca - fill out the rest of the band, along with Becky's husband, John Bowman. Ben plays the bass and sings, and produces most of their recordings. Sonya sings, writes songs, and plays mandolin. She's toured with Vince Gill and sings on many other recordings in addition to being part of the Isaacs. Rebecca, or Becky, plays guitar, piano, banjo and Dobro, and sings and writes many of the group's songs. John plays banjo, guitar, and fiddle and sings lead on several songs. He previously performed with Alison Krauss and Doyle Lawson & Quicksilver.

The Isaacs have produced over 20 albums and thousands of live appearances, including the Grand Ole Opry. Their a cappella song "I Have A Father Who Can" became the group's first top 5 hit, peaking at #2 on the Singing News magazine chart.

"Heros" is their 2004 CD release with the title song being a tribute to parents and other care givers who take care of special needs individuals and receive little or no recognition for this constant support. The CD also contains a moving version of "Sweet Holy Spirit", a song of desperation written by Joe Isaacs some years ago.

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

Mail check or money order to:

Rick Wingerter 416 Hillview Lane Billings, MT 59101

www.wingnut.net/loralea/htm

Mark your calendars.

Every Friday Jam with the YBA

7 pm at Lincoln Center
Music Room
9 pm at 27th St.
Hardees or Grand Ave
Pizza Hut (1st Mon. of
the month)
Watch for new venues

Tue, Mar. 22 Hit and Run Concert

8 pm at Cisel Recital
Hall, MSU-B Tickets
are \$10 at the door.

Fri, Apr. 15 YBA Spring Showcase

7 pm at Lincoln
Auditorium case.
Free of charge

Aug. 26-27 Red Lodge Bluegrass Festival

Fri, Oct. 28 YBA Fall Showcase

7 pm at Lincoln
Auditorium
Free of charge

The Band "Southbound"

Betty Mort and I had been playing music together, with her dad Harold Sprague for many years. Betty plays the upright bass. George Kruger, one of the finest electric bass players around, plays when we do parties and some other concerts and venues.

Francis Russell, our harmonica player, joined the band in 1988 and Bruce Lee, our fine "flat top picker" joined us in 1991.

As everyone knows I've been around since Methuselah and play rhythm tenor guitar and rhythm tenor banjo, and have been known to warble in a rickety tone out of time and out of place Ha.

We play old time bluegrass, old time country and some old time pop, and once in a while we play some stuff we don't even know where it came from. We like to promote out local bands when we are playing at any and all functions. As Bruce likes to say, he has misspent his youth with this bunch of old turkeys.

Aside from all that I have belonged to the Yellowstone Bluegrass Association since it's inception and believe the officers and Board members are doing a fine job as usual. A thought, on my part would be to move the Red Lodge Bluegrass Festival to the Red Lodge Civic Center. I believe that campers could be allowed to park there. That way the weather is not a factor. I believe the potential for the Festival is GREAT no matter where it is held.

I would just like to say "Good Job" to all of you folks who work and run this organization. ..

I would also like to thank Jim McGowan for the fine job he did on refretting my guitar, He does some fine work on instruments and at a down-to-earth price...

James O. Southworth