

# “Bluegrass Clippings”

May—June 2005

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

**President**—Mike Rolison  
**Vice President**—Mark Harmila  
**Sec.-Treas.**—Terry Indreland  
**Board Members**—Trent Indreland  
Steve Smith  
W. James Smith  
Stan Moser  
**Newsletter Editor**—Rick Wingerter

## PRAIRIE WINDS CAFE

"Southbound" 5-14  
"Elk River Ramblers" 5-21  
"Ramblin' Laurels" 5-28  
Closed 6-04  
"Spur of the Moment" 6-11  
"Whitebird Express" 6-18  
"Spur of the Moment" 6-25

**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 YBA Board asks its members to pass along any requests for bands or opportunities for our bands to play. Information should be sent to Terry Indreland who will in turn send it to all YBA bands for their consideration.

I hope all the bands around Billings have considered playing at the nursing homes and the retirement homes..

We (Cold Frosty Morning) enjoy playing there as much as anywhere we have been.

The people are so warm and they appreciate the music more than anyone I've ever played for. We don't do it for the money, we even asked them to stop paying us for playing there. We like seeing the joy the music can bring the residents there.

Lord Bless, Rick

## NOTICE:

**The YBA Board made the decision to hold all Friday night 9-12 jam sessions at the Pizza Hut on Grand Avenue. This change will be in effect starting 6/3/05.**

## **Bluegrass Music: The Roots**

The street balladry of the people who began migrating to America in the early 1600s is considered to be the roots of traditional American music. As the early Jamestown settlers began to spread out into the Carolinas, Tennessee, Kentucky and the Virginias, they composed new songs about day-to-day life experiences in the new land. Since most of these people lived in rural areas, the songs reflected life on the farm or in the hills and this type of music was called "mountain music" or "country music."

The invention of the phonograph and the onset of the radio in the early 1900s brought this old-time music out of the rural Southern mountains to people all over the United States. Good singing became a more important part of country music. Singing stars like Jimmie Rodgers, family bands like the Carter family from Virginia and duet teams like the Monroe Brothers from Kentucky contributed greatly to the advancement of traditional country music.

The Monroe Brothers were one of the most popular duet teams of the 1920s and into the 1930s. Charlie played the guitar, Bill played the mandolin and they sang duets in harmony. When the brothers split up as a team in 1938, both went on to form their own bands. Since Bill was a native of Kentucky, the Bluegrass State, he decided to call his band "Bill Monroe and the Blue Grass Boys," and this band sound birthed a new form of country music.

"Bill Monroe and the Blue Grass Boys" first appeared on the Grand Ole Opry in 1939 and soon became one of the most popular touring bands out of Nashville's WSM studios. Bill's new band was different from other traditional country music bands of the time because of its hard driving and powerful sound, utilizing traditional acoustic instruments and featuring highly distinctive vocal harmonies. This music incorporated songs and rhythms from string band, gospel (black and white), work songs and "shouts" of black laborers, country and blues music repertoires. Vocal selections included duet, trio and quartet harmony singing in addition to Bill's powerful "high lonesome" solo lead singing. After experimenting with various instrumental combinations, Bill settled on mandolin, banjo, fiddle, guitar and bass as the format for his band.

While many fans of bluegrass music date the genre back to 1939, when Monroe formed his first Blue Grass Boys band, most believe that the classic bluegrass sound jelled in 1946, shortly after Earl Scruggs, a 21 year old banjo player from North Carolina, joined the band. Scruggs played an innovative three-finger picking style on the banjo that energized enthusiastic audiences, and has since come to be called simply, "Scruggs style" banjo. Equally influential in the classic 1946 line-up of the Blue Grass Boys were Lester Flatt, from Sparta, Tenn. on guitar and lead vocals against Monroe's tenor; Chubby Wise, from Florida, on fiddle; and Howard Watts, also known by his comedian name, "Cedric Rainwater," on acoustic bass.

When first Earl Scruggs, and then Lester Flatt left Monroe's band and eventually formed their own group, The Foggy Mountain Boys, they decided to include the resophonic guitar, or Dobro into their band format. The Dobro is often included in bluegrass band formats today as a result.

Continued on page 4

## Funny, very funny

A man, his wife, and his mother-in-law went on vacation to the Holy Land. While they were there, the mother-in-law passed away. The undertaker told them, "You can have her shipped home for \$5,000, or you can bury her here in the Holy Land for \$150.00." The man thought about it and told him he would just have her shipped home. The undertaker asked, "Why would you spend \$5,000 to ship your mother-in-law home, I when it would be wonderful to be buried here and spend only \$150.00?" The man replied, "A man died here 2000 years ago, was buried here, and three days later he rose from the dead. I just can't take that chance."

**GUITAR TIPS:** Careful!! (A good tip for campfire season).

Guitar tip you might be able to use: Lacquer finishes, (which most guitars have), one thing that melts them on contact like a flame melts wax -INSECT REPELLENT.

Another tip about something that could ruin the finish of a guitar. Photocopied sheet music could present a hazard to the finish of a guitar if left in contact with it, such as in the bottom of a case with the guitar on top of it. The dry ink used in xerox-type machines contains a solvent that can bond with the finish and leave a sticky black mess on the back of your instrument, which will not only etch the clear finish, but also rub off on your clothes when you play it.

### *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

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](mailto:rwingarter@montana.net)

## 2005 Dues

## are still Due!!!

**From page 2.** Burkett H. "Uncle Josh " Graves, from Tellico Plains, Tenn., heard Scruggs' three- finger style of picking in 1949 and adapted it to the then, almost obscure slide bar instrument. With Flatt & Scruggs from 1955-1969, Graves introduced his widely emulated, driving, bluesy style on the Dobro. From 1948-1969, Flatt & Scruggs were a major force in introducing bluegrass music to America through national television, at major universities and coliseums, and at schoolhouse appearances in numerous towns. Scruggs wrote and recorded one of bluegrass music's most famous instrumentals, "Foggy Mountain Breakdown," which was used in the sound-track for the film, Bonnie & Clyde. In 1969 he established an innovative solo career with his three sons as "The Earl Scruggs Revue." Scruggs still records and performs selected dates in groups that usually include his son, Randy on guitar, and his son, Gary on bass.

After parting with Scruggs in 1969, Lester Flatt continued successfully with his own group, "The Nashville Grass," performing steadily until shortly before his death in 1979. By the 1950s, people began referring to this style of music as "bluegrass music". Bluegrass bands began forming all over the country and Bill Monroe became the acknowledged "Father of Bluegrass Music."

In the 1960s, the concept of the "bluegrass festival" was first introduced, featuring bands that had seemed to be in competition with each other for a relatively limited audience on the same bill at weekend festivals across the country. Carlton Haney, from Reidsville, N.C., is credited with envisioning and producing the first weekend-long bluegrass music festival, held at Fincastle, Va. in 1965.

The increased availability of traditional music recordings, nationwide indoor and outdoor bluegrass festivals and movie, television and commercial sound tracks featuring bluegrass music have aided in bringing this music out of modern day obscurity. "Lester Flatt and Earl Scruggs & the Foggy Mountain Boys " achieved national prominence with tour sponsorship by Martha White Flour and for playing the sound track for previously mentioned film, Bonnie and Clyde, as well as on a television show called The Beverly Hillbillies. The Deliverance movie sound track also featured bluegrass music-in particular, "Dueling Banjos," performed by Eric Weissberg on banjo and Steve Mandel on guitar. In 2001, the multi-million selling sound track for the Coen Brothers movie, O Brother, Where Art Thou? attracted wider audiences for bluegrass and traditional country music.

Bill Monroe passed away on September 9, 1996, four days before his 85th birthday. In May 1997, Bill Monroe was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame because of the profound influence of his music on the popular music of this country.

Bluegrass music is now performed and enjoyed around the world--the IBMA alone claims members in all 50 states and 30 countries. In addition to the to the classic style born in 1946 that is still performed widely, bluegrass bands today reflect influences from a variety of sources including traditional and fusion jazz, contemporary country music, Celtic music, rock & roll ("new grass" or progressive bluegrass), old-time music and Southern gospel music--in addition to lyrics translated to various languages.

For more information on the history of bluegrass music, visit:  
International Bluegrass Music Museum  
207 East Second Street Owensboro, KY 42303 (270) 926- 7891 [www.bluegrass-museum.org](http://www.bluegrass-museum.org)

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Elk River Ramblers 406.256.0083 [Banjostan@aol.com](mailto:Banjostan@aol.com)

The CD "Almost Bluegrass" is the latest release by "The Elk River Ramblers, and is heavily bluegrass, with songs from Flatt and Scruggs and other well known bluegrass artists, from Tony Rice to Rhonda Vincent. It includes Stan's version of Foggy Mountain Breakdown, which was published in Banjo Newsletter last year. The album features 20 cuts with Ed, Doug, Annie and Stan all taking lead vocals on some cuts, and a variety of instrument combinations as well. The album includes Doug Habermann singing "I'll Go Steppin Too", Ed Pierson taking the lead on "Pig in a Pen", Stan Moser singing lead on "Georgia Rose", and Anne Moser singing lead on numerous cuts including Clair Lynch's "Second Wind". The CD also features several instrumentals. The band sells the CD for \$12 at performances.

Elk River Ramblers play bluegrass influenced, hard driving old-time, western, and folk music. Their sound is easily identifiable to the general public as bluegrass but the discernable bluegrass listener will realize its intense drive is powered by high flying fiddle and clawhammer banjo. With vocals led by the only female member of the group, the band features music from Laurie Lewis to Earl Scruggs, with a large dose of classic bluegrass and old-time songs and tunes, as well as contemporary songs from diverse folk and bluegrass artists, from Cozy Sheridan to the Dixie Chicks. Whether playing a Stephen Foster classic, or a new song from Claire Lynch, you'll be tappin' your toes or singing along with the Elk River Ramblers. The foursome features bass, guitar, banjo, and fiddle, with members occasionally swapping in a mandolin or fingerstyle guitar. Engagements have included the Round Barn at Red Lodge, and the historic church at Bannack, Montana's first territorial capitol, as well as festivals at Helena, Lewistown, Red Lodge, and Miles City.

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

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

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

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**Mark your calendars.**

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**BIGHORN MOUNTAIN FESTIVAL**

WYOMING TERRITORY  
June 24th, 25th, and 26th, 2005  
Johnson County Fairgrounds  
Buffalo, Wyoming

Performers: Tony Furtado Band, Stephanie Davis with Shelley & Kelly, Shawn Camp, Open Road, Steep Canyon Rangers, Two High String Band, Steve Smith & Hard Road, Bayo Seco with Scott Mathis & Linda Askew, Slipstream, Stone Mountain Bluegrass, Laura Kemp, High Plains Tradition, Blue Horizon, Bob Bovee & Gail Heil, The Blue Canyon Boys, Hot Lunch Bluegrass, Ann & Pete Sibley, Jalan Crossland, Ann Tolstedt & Prickly Pair

**For Tickets call:**  
Hansen Music, 406-245-4544

The WYO Theatre, Sheridan WY  
1-866-672-9083 (toll free)

I didn't know if you guys are interested but my wife and I have started what we call a Bluegrass Academy in Thermopolis. We wrote a grant to the Lights on Program and they bought four guitars, two banjos, two mandolins and an upright bass. The aim of the program is to teach kids in high school and middle school about bluegrass. We also have a good number of adults but the kids get the instruments and first priority. Some have their own instruments. We are using the DVD from the IBMA and the goal is to take kids from never playing an instrument to being able to perform a song including instrumentals, vocals and backup. It starts tonight and is a 12 week course. We plan to get a once a month bluegrass jam for the town and surrounding areas. That will be open to the public. We have chosen the song A Feast Here Tonight and have multi-tracked the song so that when we give the student the CD, there will be their part in the left track and the rest of the parts in the right track. We also made a CD that is to tune the instrument and another of jamming tunes and the appropriate lead sheets that go with the CD. We will start with about 18 students and will do a follow up this summer. If successful we will offer the course again next year. The main goal is not to make the students proficient in their instrument but to turn them on to bluegrass. I hope with a little luck and a lot of prayers this will be successful.

If this is information that you want to include in the news letter feel free.

Zieb Stetler Prairie Grass Recordings

# YBA SUMMER 2005 EVENTS

**Every Friday    Jam with the YBA**

7 pm at Lincoln Center Music Room

9 pm at Grand Ave Pizza Hut

**Mon, Jun. 22    The Wilders Concert**

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

**Sun, Jul. 17    Leah Larson Concert**

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

**Thur, Aug. 28    Open Road CD Release Concert along with Two High String Band**

7:30 pm at Cisel Recital Hall, MSU-B Tickets are \$15 at the door

Aug. 26-27

**Red Lodge Bluegrass Festival**

- **Two High String Band**
- **Jim & Jennie & the Pinetops**
- **Packway Handle**
- **Broken Valley Roadshow**
- **8 Local Bands**

**Red Lodge Rodeo Grounds**

Friday Aug. 26    6 pm-10:30 pm  
 Saturday Aug. 27    10 am-10 pm

Tickets

	<u>Advanced Sales</u>	<u>Gate Sales</u>
Friday	\$15	\$20
Saturday	\$20	\$25
Both	\$25	\$30

Raffle for Weber Mandolin and Deering Banjo

Free Camping (No Services)

Event to benefit Red Lodge Fire Dept & EMT

**Fri, Oct. 28    YBA Fall Showcase**

7 pm at Lincoln Auditorium

Free of charge