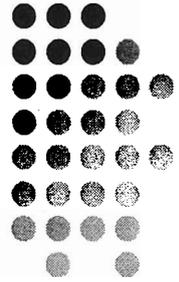


Bluegrass Clippings



LET'S WELCOME THEM ENTHUSIASTICALLY!

July / August 2007

Summer is officially here. Although a badly needed cool and moist spring cloaked the season's change, current temperatures, sunshine and the murky haze of illegal fireworks leave little doubt in anyone's mind that it's July again already.

On July 11, 2007 plan to attend the Cedar Hill concert at Ceicel Recital Hall on the campus of MSU Billings. The concert will begin at 8:00pm sharp.

If their website is any indication of the kind of acoustic music Cedar Hill prefers and plays, traditionalists among us should be pleased.

When one reads further on their official website, it is clear that this is not an un-

seasoned bunch of up-starts. The band started way back in 1967 and was awarded a recording contract with *Rich-R-Tone Records*. That is the label which first recorded the **Stanley Brothers**. Frank Ray and his uncle Richard Orchard were the seeds from which a mighty bluegrass oak grew, and Frank is still the ramrod of the group.

Frank picks the mandolin and sings both harmony and lead (not at the same time, of course). Kenny Cantrell, an Alabama native, rings the five string banjo like a brass bell. Rob Collins knows all about bluegrass rhythm and keeps it steady on the bass and adds sweet vocals (sometimes at the same time even). Lisa Ray helps to

round out the group with her vocal abilities and stunningly hot fiddle playing. She has also won a number of awards for her original gospel compositions. Finally, there is the man who played for Rhonda Vincent's band, the **Rage**. He is Joe Wieman. What can't he do musically? That's hard to say. He plays them all and can sing.

Although there seems to be a lot of high dollar music in Billings this summer, there ain't much bluegrass. Here is your chance to show Cedar Hill that you love Bluegrass. Come out and welcome them enthusiastically!

Cedar Hill plays "genuinely soulful, emotion-packed music that could only be classified as the 'real thing'".

3RD ANNUAL BIG HORN MOUNTAIN FESTIVAL

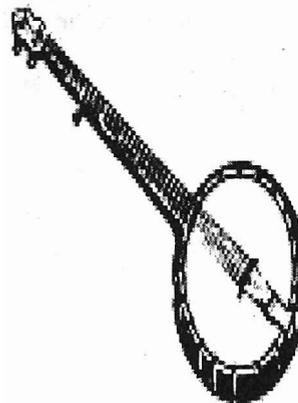
Get out and support the biggest festival in our area July 6-8 at the Johnson County Fairgrounds in beautiful Buffalo, Wyoming.

The festival features the *Dry Branch Fire Squad*, *Steep Canyon Rangers*, *Sons of the San Joaquin*, *Gibson Brothers*, *Heidi Clare* and *Attagallup*, *Bearfoot Bluegrass*, the *Arkamo Rangers*, *Long Road Home*, *Pete and Ann Sibley*, *Jalan Cross-*

ing, *Jeff Troxel* and more.

In addition, the festival includes contests, raffles and workshops.

Get additional information or order tickets on-line at www.bighornmountainfestival.com.



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Shepherd Elementary Gets a Lesson in Bluegrass

A number of us (YBA members) were thinking. No, really! We were thinking of the times and places, where and when, we first tried to make a pleasant sound come from a musical instrument. More often than not these remembrances led us even further back to chance opportunities when we first saw the beautiful wood, plucked the string (it was so much more taught than we expected) and to heard someone play. He probably wasn't a pro, but he was there, right in front of us, doing it. All this thinking and remembering encouraged us to come up with a plan to create just such an experience for others.

Enter Dawn Sherseth. She teaches music to elementary school aged children in Shepherd, Montana. She said she would set the whole thing up. Wow, what a wild chance.

We practiced at the Lincoln on Fridays in the hall. Due to a heavy load at work, Dawn's husband,

Brad, wasn't directly available, but their children, Melanie and Melissa, pulled their weight as well as his. Doug Haberman, Archie Bott, and Rosie Weiss (one of the areas best pre-teen fiddlers) all jumped in to lend a hand. Rosie's parents, Steve and LoRaine, gave us all good advice and made recordings of practices. It wasn't long before the group sounded like a GROUP.

Finally on May 14, 2007, we all took our places in front of a lot of youngsters at the Shepherd School Multi-purpose room. The audience was ready to hear some music.

We played a few numbers like *You Are My Sunshine*, *Redwing*, and *the Fox*. Then, just as we planned, each player gave a description of his or her instrument and how it related to the bluegrass style. The audience was right with us the whole time, singing, clapping, and listening. At one point, Mrs. Sherseth led

the students in a rousing rendition of *Happy Birthday* for Archie. It is surprising what power nearly 300 young voices can have. The show ended with the usual *Will the Circle Be Unbroken*.

I found it interesting that many of the group had heard that Mrs. Sherseth planned to sing the very old hobo song, *On the Big Rock Candy Mountain*. I wondered if they had been told she would sing it? Had they heard it before? Had any of them seen real "rock candy"? In any case, Mrs. Sherseth made sure much of the, shall we say, more adult content was edited from the version she sang.

Everyone, I believe, was pleased with the outcome of the project. I think, to editorialize a bit, if we were to do this again just before one of the showcases or a concert at Ciel Hall many of the youngsters there would attend. They might also beg or borrow an instrument, learn to pick, and maybe join YBA.

Hobo's Paradise

***On the Big Rock Candy Mountain
The cops have wooden legs,
The bulldogs all have rubber teeth
And the hens lay soft-bolled eggs
The farmers' trees are full of fruit
the barns are full of hay
I want to go, where there ain't no
snow
Where the wind don't blow and the
rain don't fall
On the Big Rock Candy Mountain***

According to internet sources, *On the Big Rock Candy Mountain* was written by Harry "Haywire" McClintock, or he tried at least to copyright it. His attempt, however, failed and the song now lies in public domain.

McClintock recorded a version in 1928. It was recorded again in 1949 by Burl Ives and at least one other time in 1960 by Dorsey Burnette. The Burnette version is considered the most popular. It reached Billboard's top ten.

According to the song, anything a homeless man would fear is rendered harmless. The dogs have rubber teeth, police have wooden legs, and the jail bars are made of tin.

Originally the song described a child being recruited into hobo life by tales of the "big rock candy mountain". Such recruitment actually occurred, with hobos enchanting children with tales of adventure called "ghost stories" by other hobos. In proof of his authorship of the song, McClintock published the original words to the last verse. If you would like to see the "shocking" text, google [wikipedia.org/Big Rock Candy Mountain](http://wikipedia.org/Big_Rock_Candy_Mountain).

The Steinmetz Meet Their Hero

Is it great planning or is it luck? Whatever it is, some folks just have it.

Wade and Laura Steinmetz took a little trip at the end of March. Where would YBA members in good standing go?

The trip started in Nashville, Tennessee with the usual "tourist stuff". They visited the Country Music Hall of Fame. They went to the Grand Ol' Opry and took in a show. They saw Terri Clark, Martina McBride, and the bluegrass group Cherry Holmes. According to Laura Steinmetz, the twin fiddlers of that group played the hottest versions of

the Orange Blossom Special she had ever heard. Some-time during their stay in Nashville, they wound up at the Station Inn. That's as close to bluegrass heaven as most living fans get. Laura couldn't remember the name of the group. She only recalled that at least one of the members had been in the **Bluegrass Cardinals**. What happened next?

Would you believe they were able (over the phone) to get front row seats at a Del McCoury Band concert in the Paramount Theater in Bristol, Tennessee? It happened, believe it or not.

They were planning the trip, months in advance, Laura said. They saw somewhere (on the web, maybe) that Del would be in the area. (They were going to visit Wade's relations in the area anyway). They called to get tickets, and the front row was empty. Was it luck?

Needless to say, they enjoyed a great concert. After the show, they met and were photographed with Del.

Are Wade and Laura Steinmetz good planners or just lucky dogs? Ask them about their trip and decide for yourself!

Congratulations to ...

Terry and Jane Indreland on the arrival March 13, 2007 of twin grandsons. The pair were born in Providence, Rhode Island. Dexter James French and Henry John French were so anxious to hear grandpa pick, they arrived on the scene earlier than expected.

Mike Blohm on finishing another beautiful mandolin. This unique three pointer (No, it's not a buck) went all the way to Australia. See photos on Mandolin Café on the web.

KANE'S RIVER
ST JOHN'S LUTHERAN MINISTERIES
JULY 19, 2007
BBQ @ 6:00
SHOW @ 7:00 FREE

"Though a pass
 through a tune full
 of Bm7, I fear no
 progression for I
 have a trusty capo
 with me, Amen."



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Bluegrass Gospel Get-Together
August 19, 2007 @ 2:00pm
St Olaf's Lutheran Church
Between Absorakee & Red Lodge
Just off Red Lodge Creek Road
All are welcome. Please join in.

Pickin' and Pizza
Grand Ave., Pizza Hut
FRIDAYS

At the Prairie Winds Café, Molt

July

7...Southbound

14...Ramblin' Laurels

21...Highway 302

28...Spur of the Moment

August

4...the Ferches

11... Spur of the Moment

18... NA

25... Highway 302

Elsewhere

July

13-15...Bitterroot Valley Bluegrass
Festival—Hamilton, MT

18-22...Buckin' Bale Music Festi-
val-Fairgrounds, Bozeman, MT
August

10-12...Grand Targhee Bluegrass
Festival-Alta, WY

10-12...Musician's Rendezvous
Itch Kep Pe Park, Columbus, MT

Last Tuesday of every month
Open Jam-Laurel Pizza Hut 7pm

Tuesdays

Open Jam, River of Life Church-
Laurel 7pm

WE'RE ON THE WEB:
[WWW.YBABLUEGRASS@](http://WWW.YBABLUEGRASS@MSN.COM)
MSN.COM

PACKWAY HANDLE BAND
AUGUST 12 // 8:00 PM
CISEL HALL// MSU BILLINGS

**MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE NOW BEING COLLECTED. YOU
MUST BE A PAID MEMBER FOR 2007 TO RECEIVE DIS-
COUNTS AT UPCOMING EVENTS. \$15.00 SINGLE
\$25.00 FAMILY**

John Reischman and the Jaybirds
August 18, 2007 @ 8:00pm