

"Bluegrass Clippings"

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Bi-Monthly publication of the "Yellowstone Bluegrass Association"



Killer Festival Hits Red Lodge

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For the third time in as many years, the Red Lodge Rodeo Grounds were the sight of a "killer" bluegrass festival. Although some participants suffered from stage fright, sore fingers, and lack of sleep, no one was seriously hurt during the annual event which took place this year on August 26th and 27th.

Eyewitnesses reported seeing money changing hands not only at the ticket booth but also at the CD/ T-shirt table. The exact number of Yankee dollars to hit the coffers of YBA and it's members is, however, at this time unavailable. The Red Lodge Fire Department and Emergency Medical Technicians did reap some nice rewards due to the event. A large sum of money appeared to go in the direction of the instrument raffle (prizes included: a Weber mandolin donated by Mr. Weber, himself and a Deering banjo donated by Pat Hansen of Hansen Music in Billings). The ticket to win the Weber mandolin was purchased by Cheri Harmon, a YBA member. It is certainly important that the festival make money. It is, however, also important that all the members of YBA enjoy and support the event. In this regard, the YBA account can be considered full.

Prairie Winds Cafe **Lincoln Revived!**

Borderline 9-17
Cold Frosty Morning 9-24
Spur of the Moment 10-1
Long Time Lonesome Dogs
10-8
The Ferches 10-15
Southbound 10-22
Cash and Friends 10-29

Friday night jams in the music room of the Lincoln Center, 415 North 30th, in Billings (7:00 to 9:00 pm) have resumed. Pizza Hut, 1604 Grand Ave., is still the late night picker's destination every Friday (9:00 to 12:00 am). Please be advised that the Lincoln Center is closed when a holiday falls on a Friday.

Slipstream Bluegrass Concert
Oct 1, 2005 Cisel Recital Hall MSU B, 7:00pm

Fall Showcase: Oct 28, 2005
Lincoln Auditorium, 7:00pm

From the President

Well, it's that time of the year again. Time to just lean back, relax, and breath a big sigh of relief. Another great Red Lodge Bluegrass Festival has come and gone. Once again, we have paid all of our festival expenses, and generated extra \$\$ for the Red Lodge Fire Dept. and EMT's.

Though we did not see as many attendees as we had anticipated, those who did attend were enough to make it a financial success. And, what a wonderful time they did have. The music was as good as it gets.

All of our local bands gave outstanding performances. It is evident that much time and effort had been invested in rehearsal by each of the bands in order to give such great performances. Time and time again people would stop me and comment on how great their music was. Not one discouraging word did I hear. Many thanks to the following bands; Bluegrass Junction, Cold Frosty Morning, Elk River Ramblers, Ramblin' Laurels, Southbound, Spur of the Moment, and Whitebird Express.

I would also like to thank all of the volunteers who gave so freely of their time to man the gate, work the product tables, sell raffle tickets, police the stadium and stadium grounds, and much, much more. Many came to me at the festival to ask if there was anything they could do to help. What a great bunch of people we have in our organization. Thank you all.

The Red Lodge Fire Dept. volunteers did a dynamite job, going to Red Lodge businesses and selling advertising for our festival programs.

Doug Ezell took time to work as MC on Friday night and Fred Buckley rearranged his schedule so that he could take on the duties of being Master of Ceremonies on Saturday. What an outstanding job they did. Thank you Doug and Fred!

Mark Harmala and Tom Finnicum set up a huge covered tent area for band rehearsals and jamming that was greatly appreciated by all.

The Over the Hill Gang provided security for the festival and not one person got out of line, nor was there even a hint of any kind of a problem with anyone.

Ron Kipp, who works at the Conoco Refinery with Trent, provided materials and crew to build and tear down an extended stage for the music

-trailer. A collection was also given by Conoco contractors to Ron to help cover his gas expenses, which totaled \$143 more than his actual expenses. Guess what? Ron donated that money to the festival. So, where are you going to get your next fill-up?

Now take a moment and please note that all of the above took place at no cost to Y.B.A. or the festival. All was donated time and resources. What a great organization it is that we belong to and associate with. I am proud to be a part of it.

Please note also that I know that there are others I have not mentioned. Others that have not come to mind as I write this. If you happen to be one of those "others", it was not my intention to leave your contribution out. There is just so much that all of you have done, it is impossible not to miss something or someone. Please know that our gratitude extends to you equally.

Finally, what a great main course of professional bands we had to satisfy the pallets of the festival attendees; Broken Valley Road Show, Jim and Jennie and the Pinetops, The Packway Handle Band, and the Two High String Band. Something for everybody. We all have our favorites, but I think we'd all agree that no matter who your favorite band was, your favorite would be hard to beat anywhere in the country. What an amazing and entertaining group of professionals they all were. We were wow'ed, inspired, and "shake your head" awed by their performances.

A big and grateful THANK YOU to all who helped make this year's festival happen.

See ya all at the jams.

Mike Rolison

For Your Information

The Elk River Ramblers are missing a "Peavey" microphone. If you know where it is, or have information regarding its whereabouts, please contact "Banjo Stan" Moser. BANJOSTAN@aol.com

Ed Pierson has a FlatIron mandolin for sale. Times are tough, and you could have it for one verse of one song almost. Pierson95@in-tch.com

Please consider submitting items of interest or importance to "Grass Clippings" by contacting Ed Pierson.