

# ARTS and CULTURE

## Grass News

By Bob Buckingham

Country music in the 1950's hit an all time low, especially the music of the more traditional performers. Rock and Roll was hot stuff and nothing was selling like it. Everyone was doing Rock and Roll except the more traditional performers who would parody it in an attempt to infuse it into their act.

All the songs on this limited edition lp were recorded between September 1955 and July 1957. There are none of the sloppy cuts and "over material" of the 60's. There is a verve to the songs not often found in music much less a particular music. Not only are these songs top notch, "Don't Let Your Deal Go Down", "Some Old Day", "Six White Horses" and the title song, but it also includes this reviewer's favorite Scruggs banjo piece, "Shuckin the Corn".

Dobro enthusiasts beware, Uncle Josh is hot on this one. Paul Warrer turns in a fine job on fiddle while mandolin and tenor are handled by Curly Sechler.

On the other hand we have

Johnnie Lee Wills (Bob's little brother) represented on Tulsa Swing: 1950-51, Radio Transcriptions, Rounder 1027. Actual transcripts from a couple of Will's shows fortify my hypothesis that in order to be a country star one must have had a void where the talent should have been. Cowboy songs abound in lush harmonious, sloppy tones. Much like the Sons of the Pioneers. Johnnie Wills does some fiddling that would awaken Jack Benny from the grave.

Johnnie Lee's band is a number 1. When they swing they mean business. The fiddle work is exquisite with a exemplary "Leather Breeches". If you like your swing western and your chatter corny, this may well be to your liking.

There are a couple of fine outdoor events coming-up in the area.

May 14, SPRING FLING 3, Kleinfelters Farm, Schaeffers-town, featuring: Norman Blake, Bryan Bowers, the Possum Boys, Mike Morton and more.

May 21, Lupfer's Grove Bluegrass and Rockconcert, Shermansdale, featuring: Grass Express, Chicken Clark and Appalachia.

May 28 & 29, Conowingo Bluegrass Festival, Conowingo MD, featuring: Hot Mud Family, Bill Harrell, Carroll County Ramblers and Ted Lundy and the Southern Mtn Boys.

### CAUGHT IN THE ACT

The Hot Mud Family, from Ohio passed through the area last weekend playing Dickenson College and the Blue Marsh Inn. The greatest plays old time, bluegrass and assorted ecelectic pieces from the 20's and 30's. They have a smooth sophisticated sound utiling subtle variations in time and harmony to heighten the palatability of their music. If there ever was a cocktail lounge bluegrass band, they are it. They use the best songs for their style but the lack of bite in their attack dulls the end product robbing it of any raw vitality.

by Bill Roseberry

The latest and anxiously awaited film from Sylvester Stallone, entitled F.I.S.T., is finally out and the wait was worth it. The film is about the development of a local, #302, of the Federation of Interstate Truckers and the rise of that local's leadership into positions of prominence in the International organization.

Stallone has taken a story about a man, an idealist, who tries to help his fellow workers and developed a film about humanity, reminiscent of Rocky with Stallone's spirited performance and the role he played, and Grapes of Wrath with its portrayal of people. The casting of this film was very good. Peter Boyle and Rod Stieger both add to the film in their portryals.

The taste of success has not afflicted Stallone, judging by the quality of the story, for he, by co-authoring the script, has reached for artistic integrity over just plain walking through scenes to the breathless oohs and ahs of an adoring audience,

like other actors have in the past, particularly Burt Reynolds and Clint Eastwood in their last outings.

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This film is a modern example of an old tradition: the classic tragedy. Stallone portrays a man who, in an effort to help make his local effective, makes deals with organized crime, thus tainting a noble effort and sacrificing his friend and eventually leading to his fall.

Stallone plays a sensitive role and shows great promise as the next great American star. Rocky brought him to the attention of the movie-going public but F.I.S.T. should cement his reputation as an actor to be reckoned with.

## Music Dance Poetry

MIDDLETOWN--An evening of music, dance and poetry is planned for Friday, May 12 in the Gallery Lounge at Penn State-Capitol Campus beginning at 8:00 p.m.

Oliver LaGrone, former Capitol Campus professor and sculptor, will begin the evening by reading selections of his poetry. Paul Diaz, a young area pianist who studied at the University of Minnesota, will perform his own compositions. Noelle Diaz of the Harrisburg Performing Arts Company and Auden Thomas of the Performing Arts Training Company will dance to three of the composer's pieces.

The public is cordially invited.

## The Conformist

MIDDLETOWN--On Wednesday, May 17, Penn State-Capitol Campus will show the film "The Conformist" as part of the foreign film festival sponsored by the International Affairs Association. The movie can be viewed at 2 p.m. at the student center and again at 8 p.m. in the auditorium.

"The Conformist" is directed by Bernardo Bertolucci and stars Jean-Louis Trintignant, Stefania Sandrelli, Dominique Sandra, and Pierre Clementi. Gary Arnold of the Washington Post calls it an "extraordinarily beautiful and spell-binding picture."

No admission will be charged for the film. The public is invited.

## Photography Club

Last week the club was the beneficiary of Prof. Trunk's experience in filmmaking. The advisor's presentation covered the basic differences between movie and still photography. Some tricks and special effects were illustrated along with some samples of his work. Prof. Trunk is currently working on a 16mm color sound film in mechanical engineering for the school. He has involved his students in the film.

This week the club will get into the area of color photography. Next Thursday, May 18th, at 8:30 pm in Room 211, the club will hear Mr. Ken Dunlap, Met. Edison Co., talk on producing a slide show. Mr. Dunlap will show some new material he has produced on the Three Mile Island Nuclear Station. Due to the general interest nature of this meeting, any interested student is welcome to attend.

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Watch for details...

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