

CLINCH MOUNTAIN TRIBUTE

JAN - FEB

Mini Newsletter

1994

Dr. Ralph Stanley Fan Club

3368 Guernsey Ave

Memphis Tn 38122



DR. RALPH STANLEY



WHERE YA LIVIN' AT NOW

RALPH STANLEY SHOWDAYS

JANUARY

- 7th Belfrey, Ky
- 8th Opry House - Milton, W Va.
- 9th Ruckersville, Va.
- 15th Clearmont, New Hampshire
- 21st Holiday Inn - Toledo, Ohio
- 22nd Fairview, Va.

FEBRUARY

- 4th Berkley, Cal.
- 6th Pasadena, Cal.
- 19th Valdese, NC
- 25th Sesser, Illinois
- 26th North Lindbury, Missouri - Near St. Louis

MARCH

- 4th Northfield, Minnesota
- 12th Pines Motel, NY
- 18th Flat Gap, Ky
- 19th Middletown, Ohio
- 24th Station Inn - Nashville, Tn
- 25th Brownsville, Ky
- 26th Wadsworth, Ohio

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Hello everyone! Hope everyone had a great Christmas and got almost everything you wanted. I also hope that you survived the New Year. This starts the dawn of a very great year for Ralph and a busy one at that. His West Coast Masters of The Banjo Tour starts the last of this month and continues into Feb. The list of where they will be playing will be in the last few pages of this newsletter. So check your calendar and travel out to see one of two of these. You will definitely be pleased. What else can be expected as the best is performing in top billing.

Some exciting things have been happening as we last read. Ralph had a great time on his last banjo tour, with a great turn out everywhere they performed. Many thanks to Joe Wilson who helps promote this great tour. Backing Ralph and the others who are on this tour, are Laurie Lewis, on fiddle, Dudley Connell, Jimmy Trivette, on bass and John Doyle, on guitar. From what I hear they are doing a great job of backing Ralph on harmony and picking. All of them are very excited about playing with a legend as Ralph Stanley is. There are other banjo pickers on this tour along with Ralph. Each one is known for the style that they play.

The Jefferson Post newspaper had a nice write-up on the Masters Of The Banjo Tour, October 21, 1993. Ralph was featured guest there with other banjo players on October 31st.

STANLEY ON THE AIR

Bluegrass Now top 20 for November and December had Ralph Stanley's Saturday Night - Sunday Morning at number 1. Way to go Ralph! Bluegrass Unlimited better look out cause this magazine is hot on their trail, and they know who's the hottest in Bluegrass.

The National Bluegrass Survey for the month of November had Ralph Stanley with Dwight Yoakam, "Down Where The River Bends" at number 10, and "Miner's Prayer", also with Ralph and Dwight at number 16. Saturday Night - Sunday Morning is also at number 5 on the Top 10 Bluegrass Albums.

The National Bluegrass Survey for the month of December had Ralph Stanley's with Dwight Yoakam, "Down Where The River Bend" at number 9. Also "Miner's Prayer" with Ralph and Dwight at number 13 for the month of December too.

KFDI 101.3FM 1070AM - Wichita, KS, gets a great big thanks from the fan club. For the month of November Ralph Stanley - Saturday Night/ Sunday Morning was a #1!!!!!! Their number to call is 316-838-0141

Dell Davis sent me the play sheet for the month of November. KVOO is the radio station she works at in Tulsa, OK. Saturday Night - Sunday Morning is at #5 up from #7 in October. There number to call

to request these fine cuts off this album is 918-743-7814.

ARTICLE NEWS

The November issue of Bluegrass Breakdown had an excellent review on Ralph's new Christmas album, Christmas Time With Ralph Stanley. Susanne Denison was the writer for this article. Her favorite on the collection is "Jesus Christ Is Born" which is my favorite also.

Also in the month of November Bluegrass Canada did a great job on their review of the Saturday Night - Sunday Morning CD/Tape. I quote them saying get this recording! Ralph Stanley is the greatest living example of the "old mountain sound" of what is now called bluegrass music. They go on to tell who all performed with Ralph on the recording. They gave it a very big thumbs up!

I got a very big surprise when I received a copy of Country Guitar article on Dwight Yoakam. On first glance it is just your standard interview but further on into the article Dwight makes a great statement. This is a direct quote from this article. "As a musician, I know however, that for me, the root core influence has been and always will be, inescapably, mountain music, the rural form of musical expression that I heard in Appalachian and southeastern Kentucky, innate to my parochial past. With that in mind, I have to add that when Ralph Stanley asked me to join him in recording a song of mine, "Miner's Prayer", for his latest album Saturday Night - Sunday

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Morning, That was the greatest honor I've achieved in my music career". What a statement coming from one of the top performing Country artist. Thanks to Dick Freeland for sending me copies of these great reviews.

Country and Bluegrass Music News for the month of December had 2 nice articles that mentioned Ralph. First they told about Ralph receiving the Recorded Event Of The Year for Saturday Night - Sunday Morning album. Also they had a nice write up on the reissued of the album "OLD COUNTRY CHURCH" which is some of the finest gospel material that Ralph and Carter put out. Those of you that don't have one of the original King labels can now get one of these on tape. On this album with Ralph and Carter are Curley Lambert on mandolin, Vernon Derrick on fiddle and Chick Stripling on bass.

OTHER NEWS

The Ralph Stanley International Fan Club wants to extend a welcome to our newest DJ, Leonard Stacy of WLQH 97.3 FM in Cheifland, Fl. He is a Stanley fan from way back, and if the truth be known I believe that most of his show consists of Ralph Stanley music with a few other bluegrass performers mixed in. Wow! my kind of station. His number to call to request your Ralph Stanley favorites (and I know he will be glad to play them) is 904-493-4940. By the way his hours are from 9am to 10am, Sat. thru Mon.

In the last newsletter I said that I included the address and price for Ralph Stanley's new book, *Traveling the Highway Home - Ralph Stanley and The World of Traditional Music*, written by John Wright. Somehow it got lost in the printing and never got into the final material. I am sorry that it happened so to make it up here is the address where you can get a copy of it. University of Illinois Press, P.O. Box 4856, Hampden Post Office, Baltimore, MD 21211. Their toll free number to call is 1-800-545-4703. The cost of the book is \$27.50 plus \$3.00 shipping. MD and Canada customers are to add a 5% sales tax to that. This is a wonderful book with a lot of different people who know Ralph telling about their experiences with this great man. Plus a great section of photographs. Also it lists an appendix on his recording activity, which is a must for all Stanley record collectors.

CONCERT NEWS

Ralph Stanley and The Clinch Mountain Boys were spotted at the Shepherdsville Country Music Barn, in Shepherdsville, Ky Dec. 10th and from my source it was a hot time in that town that night. It was a full house and everyone was excited about the outstanding performance that Ralph and the boys gave. He gave two great performances and did some outstanding music.

Faye and Homer Elam were at the Miami University in Middletown, Oh and they report that Ralph received an standing

ovation at the concert. They also report that Paul Mullins thanked everyone for standing up for Ralph and showing their appreciation for what he stands for and for the music he plays. There's nothing like that Mountain music.

STANLEY BANJOS

Ralph still has a few of the 40th Anniversary Banjos for sale. Five have been sold already so that leaves 20 left to go. After number 25 there will not be any more folks. These are a high quality banjo designed and crafted by Frank Neat. They have that great Stanley Sound that you can't find in any other banjo. They are gold plated with engraving on the arm rest and on the flange of the banjo. They have Ralph's name on the headstock and 40th Anniversary on the fingerboard. They are really a collectors item. If you are interested in one of these fine banjos contact Ralph at the address: Rt HC05 - Box 576, Coeburn, Va 24230.

MOUNTAIN NEWS

Ralph will be celebrating his birthday on February 25th. We want to wish him a very happy birthday and many, many more.

Amber (Ralph's granddaughter) will celebrated her 5th birthday February 21st. Also Jimmi Stanley will celebrate her's on Jan 2nd.

Ralph II is still traveling with his dad when he can get out of school. You don't get to see him too much during the school months and between Redskins

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games on TV, but when he's singing and playing with his dad it's kind of like seeing the Stanley Brothers in action again.

Nathan (Ralph's grandson) is growing up pretty fast and keeping the Stanley household pretty busy. Lisa tells me that he's almost as big as Amber. I bet he had a great time at Christmas!

The rest of the Clinch Mountain Boys had time to do some hunting and catch-up around the house while Ralph was busy working the Masters of The Banjo Tour. I know they are glad to be back at work playing for the people.

Ernie and Dorothy Thacker's 2nd child is due sometime this month. I believe this one is a boy. We wish them the best.

BANJO VIDEO

Smithsonian/Folkways has produced a video called THE BANJO OF RALPH STANLEY taught by Ralph himself. this tape starts with the first tunes that Ralph learned from his mother in the old time clawhammer style. There are about three different clawhammer styles that he shows us. Ralph also shows us the two finger style that he learned and also the three finger style that he now plays. This is not just an instructional tape, it is full of great music too. Some of the tunes on the tape, along with the Clinch Mt. Boys - even Ralph II is helping on a few of these - are Little Maggie, Hard Times, Dickenson County Breakdown, Little Birdie, Shout

Little Lullie, Clinch Mountain Backstep, Train 45 and many many more. This is a 90 minute tape of classic Stanley Music. If you are a banjo picker like me you definitely want to get one of these. If not you still will want one of these in your video library. The music alone is worth the cost of the tape. It's not often that you get to see Ralph on tape playing that great Mountain music that he made famous. Ralph will be selling these on the road and you can also purchase through Ralph at this address: Ralph Stanley, RT HCO5 Box 576, Coeburn, Va 24230. The cost of the tape is \$40.00 plus \$3.00 shipping.

MAY FESTIVAL

Be sure to make your plans to attend Ralph Stanley's 24th Annual Memorial Blue Grass Festival at the old home place between Coeburn and McClure, Va. It's gonna be a great festival as all of Ralph's festivals on the mountain are. Some of you new members that have never been there this is the best festival you will ever attend. It is tucked away on top of a mountain outside of McClure, Va. and the view is breathtaking. Beautiful sunrises and sunsets and the best in talent. And for all you pickers there is always jammin' going on at any time of the day or night. Doc Watson will be Ralph's special guest this year. He will be performing Friday and Saturday. Along with Ralph this year will be Charlie Sizemore, Traditional Grass, Jimmy Martin, Larry Sparks, Wild Wood Girls, and many others. The dates this year will be May 26-27-28. There are

plenty of area motels in case you don't want to camp at the festival site. But for all you people who do like to camp there are hookups on a first come first serve basis, and be sure to bring your lawn chairs. There is a shed in front of the stage that will keep you out of the rain and the sun. It's not hard to find and there is always someone to tell you how to get there, and plenty of great people to help you out when you get there.. There will be signs out also directing you to the festival site. You'll return year after year because in my book it is the best festival of all festivals. YA'LL COME.

HIGHLIGHTS OF 1993

1. Saturday Night - Sunday Morning album came out and hit #1 at numerous places across the country.
2. Ralph received the Recorded Event Of The Year for Saturday Night - Sunday Morning at the IBMA Awards Show in September.
3. Ralph celebrated 47 years of music in October.
4. Ralph received numerous write-ups in large newspaper such as, THE WALL STREET JOURNAL, THE NEW YORK POST, NEWSWEEK, and many more for Saturday Night - Sunday Morning.
5. Ralph's first full Christmas album came out in November, Christmas Time With Ralph Stanley.
5. Traveling The High Way Home - Ralph Stanley and the World of Traditional Bluegrass Music - by John Wright was published in October.
6. Ralph appeared at the Fan

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Fair Bluegrass Show and the Early Bird Show in Nashville.

7. Ralph and The Clinch Mt. Boys performed with The Reno Bro. at the Riverfront Center for cable TV Nostalgia Channel.

8. Curly Ray Cline retired from his many years on the road with Ralph in May at the May Festival on the mountain.

9. Art Stamper joined ranks with the Clinch Mt. Boys to play fiddle with Ralph.

10. Ralph Stanley was in Nashville to Play the Station Inn and Crook and Chase show of TNN was there to do a great interview.

11. PBS interview Ralph and talked about his new album Saturday Night - Sunday Morning.

Thanks to all who send in their reports on seeing Ralph's shows and all the pictures too! Thanks for all the cards and letters and your devotion to Ralph Stanley. Remember to keep Ralph and the boys in your prayers as they travel the long roads to sing and play for us and bring us the great Mountain Music that is known as the Stanley Sound. Be sure to travel out and see Ralph and the boys when you can and show them your support. They'll sure work harder for you at playing and singing.

Be sure to check the listings of where Ralph will be on the banjo tour and also where he and the Clinch Mountain boys will be appearing in the next few months. And don't forget to make plans for the May festival. It's never too early to mark those calendars. Keep those cards and letters coming. See ya friends and neighbors,

Cheryl

FROM THE DESK OF HOPE RANDOLPH

Dear friends,

I hope all is well with you, and you are keeping in touch with Ralph and getting to hear them somewhere somehow someplace this winter.

I saw them in October on the bluegrass show at the Grand Ole Opry during country music month in Nashville. I've enclosed two nice photos taken at that show by Mary Yeomans who was nice enough to let us have a copy for the newsletter. If you need any photography done for any of your music needs she's the gal to take care of it! Her phone# is 615-226-8651 in Nashville.

Ralph was due in Nashville, in December for a taping at the American Music Shop with Ricky Skaggs but was canceled and re-scheduled in February. We'll let you know the date so you can be watching.

Ralph is touring with the banjo tour. He will also be making a special guest spot in Charlie Sizemore's new video, along with Tom T. Hall, Porter Wagoner and more, so we're really looking forward to that!

The Grand Ole Opry has a new General Manager. His name is Bob Whittaker. He is a fan of bluegrass music. We are looking forward to Ralph being made one of the members of the Grand Ole Opry! Do your best to contact Mr. Whittaker that you are promoting this so we can see it happen soon! Won't that be a great day? Yes, it will. Ralph is always so well welcomed at the Opry, Roy

Acuff always loved Ralph. Bill Anderson came from a taping at TNN just to meet him a year or two ago. Grandpa Jones says Ralph is his favorite banjo player!

The bumper stickers "Give Me Ralph Stanley or Give Me Death" went over great at the Opry show. I had them in my hand, and folks just came towards me because of them wanting to talk about Ralph. They love him! Ricky Skaggs took some of the bumper stickers to put on all his vehicles. Hal Durham received one as well. Everyone wants to shake hands with him.

Thanks for your support in 1993 for the great Ralph Stanley. We wish Ralph and his family the sweetest of all Christmases and a happy, happy new year and may he rejoice in the love of his fans and in the bosom of his family. He is truly beloved. I wish all of you a happy holiday season and we'll see you in 1994! Sincerely and with love, Hope Randolph

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LAST MINUTE NEWS

I received a letter from some fan club members who attended the Cincinatti show at Willards and Jean's. They write that the performance was outstanding. Ralph and The Clinch Mt. boys brought the house down with their singing and playing. It was a A-1 show! It was the best they ever heard Ralph do, and they loved Christmas Time's A-Coming. And he really made the crowd stand up and take notice with his clawhammer picking.

Another member tells us that he attended the New York show with the Masters of The Banjo Tour. He said the crowd was really big and it went over really well. He was surprised on how well the group that was backing Ralph sounded.

MOUNTAIN MEMORIES

This month's Mountain Memories comes from Charles Thacker, Ernie Thacker's dad.

Lots of us dream and very few of us ever get to travel and play the life of a musician, but sometimes our dreams come true as did for Charles Thacker. He had just returned home from a three day trip with Ralph Stanley and The Clinch Mountain Boys and dropped us a line to tell about it.

He writes that he got to see 3 fine performances of Ralph and The Clinch Mt. Boys. His favorite part of the trip besides watching Ralph and his son, Ernie, sing was sitting on the bus and talking with Ralph. Ralph has always been his idol, long before his son became his lead singer. He hopes someday to be able to make another trip with them.



BACKSTAGE AT THE GRAND OLE OPRY

Ralph Stanley

Presents the 24th Annual

Memorial Blue Grass Festival

At the Hills of Home Park (Old Home Place) on
Smith Ridge between Coeburn and McClure, VA



DIRECTIONS: From Coeburn, take 72 North about one mile, turn right on Rt. 652, go about 6 miles, turn left on Rt. 643, leads to Festival. From McClure, take Rt. 63 to Nora, turn right on Rt. 652, go about 3 miles, turn right on Rt. 643, leads to Festival.

Thursday ~ Friday ~ Saturday May 26-27-28, 1994

Starts Thursday at 6 p.m., Friday at 2 p.m., Saturday at 12 Noon

~ *Featuring* ~

THURSDAY: Ralph Stanley & The Clinch Mountain Boys, Blue Grass Echoes, Gary & Anita with Verlin Sanders, The Larkin Family.

FRIDAY: Ralph Stanley, Bill Monroe, Charlie Sizemore, Blue Grass Strangers, Traditional Grass, Wild Wood Girls, Sam Wilson & Band.

DOC WATSON ~ Special Guest Friday and Saturday

SATURDAY: Ralph Stanley, Jimmy Martin, Issacs Family, Larry Sparks, Blue Grass Strangers, Vince Combs, Brickey Brothers with Dale Kennedy, Goins Brothers, East Ohio Grass, Jeannie Stanley (daughter of Carter Stanley)

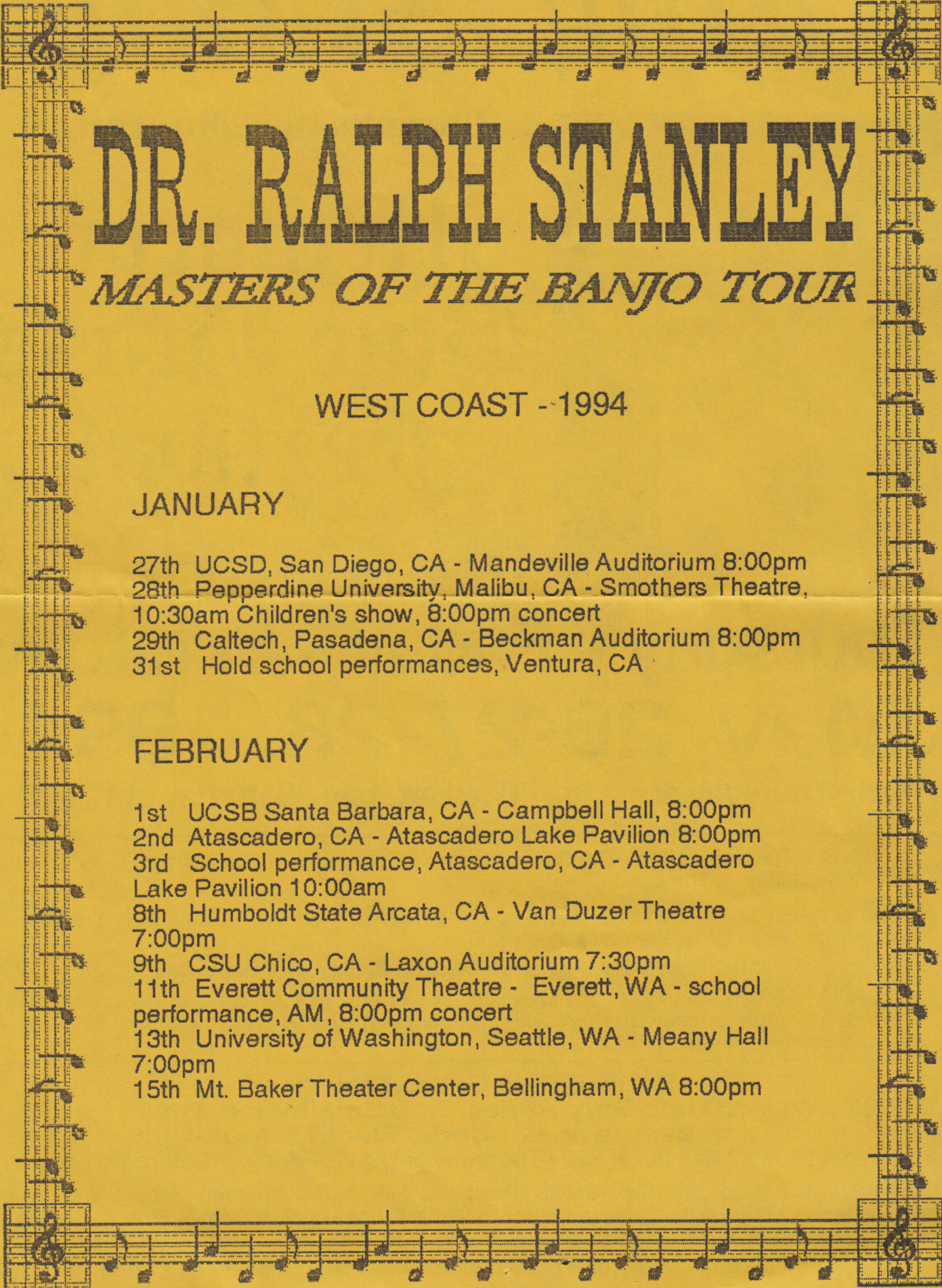
Sound: Blue Grass Strangers

MC's: Willard Hall, Gary Rakes, Bob Smallwood, Clyde Varney
Concessions on Grounds, Electric Hook-Ups

3 day ticket \$35 • 2 day ticket \$25 • Thursday only \$12, Friday or Saturday, 1 day \$15

AREA MOTELS: Holiday Inn - Super 8 Motel - Park Motel - Jefferson Motel, Norton ~ The Inn, Wise ~ Buck's Motel, Clintwood ~ 3-Way Motel, Coeburn ~ Village Motel, Castlewood ~ Gate Way Motel, Breaks ~ Country Inn, Big Stone Gap ~ Ramada Inn, Duffield.

25th Annual Memorial Blue Grass Festival, Same Place, May 25-26-27, 1995



DR. RALPH STANLEY

MASTERS OF THE BANJO TOUR

WEST COAST - 1994

JANUARY

27th UCSD, San Diego, CA - Mandeville Auditorium 8:00pm
28th Pepperdine University, Malibu, CA - Smothers Theatre,
10:30am Children's show, 8:00pm concert
29th Caltech, Pasadena, CA - Beckman Auditorium 8:00pm
31st Hold school performances, Ventura, CA

FEBRUARY

1st UCSB Santa Barbara, CA - Campbell Hall, 8:00pm
2nd Atascadero, CA - Atascadero Lake Pavilion 8:00pm
3rd School performance, Atascadero, CA - Atascadero
Lake Pavilion 10:00am
8th Humboldt State Arcata, CA - Van Duzer Theatre
7:00pm
9th CSU Chico, CA - Laxon Auditorium 7:30pm
11th Everett Community Theatre - Everett, WA - school
performance, AM, 8:00pm concert
13th University of Washington, Seattle, WA - Meany Hall
7:00pm
15th Mt. Baker Theater Center, Bellingham, WA 8:00pm