



# IBMA

INTERNATIONAL BLUEGRASS MUSIC ASSOCIATION

## INTERNATIONAL BLUEGRASS

VOLUME 1, NUMBER 2

FEBRUARY 1986

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS KEEPS IBMA MOVING FORWARD

#### ELECTION SET FOR APRIL

The IBMA temporary Board of Directors slated our first regular elections for April during a teleconference on 30 January. The nominating committee (Art Menius, Barry Poss, Randall Hylton, Doyle Lawson, and Pete Kuykendall) will report to the board on 4 March, and two nominees will be selected for each of the seven positions on the board. These names will be sent to the members, and anyone desiring to stand as a write in candidate should notify the executive director by 31 March so that his or her name may appear in the next issue of International Bluegrass.

Ballots will be mailed to the members in mid-April. All ballots returned by voting members in good standing by 1 May will be counted. Results will be mailed to the membership on 9 May. So if you're not yet a voting member, it's time to submit your application if you want your voice to be heard.

The board also decided that in principle an association with the Owensboro/Daviess County Tourist Commission of Kentucky would considerably expedite the achievement of **IBMA's** goals. The commission's board of directors had

previously announced a commitment to **IBMA**. Our board will reach a final decision on Owensboro when Barry Poss' committee makes its final report after conferring with bluegrass music's friends in Owensboro.

"We're not giving up anything to Owensboro, and Owensboro isn't giving up anything to **IBMA**. Owensboro is providing the means for **IBMA** to achieve our goals of promoting bluegrass music, and we would be helping the Owensboro Tourist Commission's goal of bringing people to Owensboro," Poss told the board.

Owensboro has offered **IBMA** a wide range of support services in return for making Owensboro the official home base for **IBMA**.

### THE MORE YOU HELP IBMA, THE MORE IBMA CAN HELP YOU

**IBMA** represents and supports the entire bluegrass music industry—the big name bands and the local groups, independent luthiers and major manufacturers, local associations, disc jockeys, song writers and writers about bluegrass, record companies, music publishers, festival consessionaires and emcees, agents both large and small, and, of course, the fans who make it all possible. As bluegrass events attract more of the right kind of people through **IBMA's** collective efforts in publicity and research all of us will benefit together. The sooner we work

together, the faster we can reach our goals.

How can I help? First, join **IBMA**. Second, let us know of potential members and spread the word. The executive director can send you brochures on request, or you can send him names and addresses, and he will mail the information to them. Third, write the executive director or a board of directors member and let us know what you think **IBMA** should be doing and how it can do it better.

Fourth, join an **IBMA** committee. You can have an active role in building bluegrass music's future through these groups, so contact the chairmen and let them put you to work. Our committees so far are:

- FUND RAISING . . . . . John Hartin  
806-894-9611
- RADIO . . . . . Ray Hicks  
314-364-3071
- GROUP INSURANCE Norman Adams  
404-864-7203
- OWENSBORO, KY . . . . . Barry Poss  
919-489-4349
- BUDGET . . . . . Randall Hylton  
615-847-5730
- CERTIFICATES OF MERIT Mary Doub  
301-363-1260
- INTERNATIONAL . . . . . Rienk Janssen  
31-05993-12663
- EVENTS . . . . . Milton Harkey  
704-274-5547

Remember, if you are a part of the bluegrass music industry you need to be part of **IBMA**. We're not working to change bluegrass; we're working to insure your future in the music you love. Individual voting memberships are \$35 per year; non-voting \$15; and organizational \$100 per annum. Applications are available from the executive director.

## INTERNATIONAL BLUEGRASS

The Bi-Monthly Publication of the International Bluegrass Music Association, P.O. Box 2277B; Nashville, TN 37202.

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Rt. 1, Box 710  
Pittsboro, NC 27312  
919-542-3997

### IBMA BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Peter V. Kuykendall (Chair)  
Barry Poss  
Doyle Lawson  
Allen Mills  
Sonny Osborne  
Larry Jones

PUBLICATION DIRECTOR: Larry Jones      TREASURER: Randall Hylton  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: Art Menius      PRINTED BY: Reynolds Printing, Inc.

DEADLINE for submissions to **International Bluegrass** is the 12th of the month preceding cover date.

## MANY IBMA SERVICES AVAILABLE NOW

Although **IBMA** is still quite young, many services are already functioning.

The **Bluegrass Newservice** not only publishes International Bluegrass, it sends press releases to all known bluegrass clubs and to well more than 100 print and broadcast media outlets. The releases, mailed monthly, provide up to date information on what's happening in bluegrass music to those both within and outside our industry. More exposure means more work for musicians.

**IBMA** members can now request the **IBMA** bluegrass association directory and the **IBMA** press list by contacting the executive director. A preliminary **IBMA** bluegrass radio guide should be ready in March.

A number of folks have already taken advantage of **IBMA** information services. One phone call to 919-542-3997 will either get you what you need to know right then or we'll find out as soon as possible.

## IBMA OFFICIALS ADDRESS SPBGMA CONVENTION

**IBMA** Chairman of the Board Peter V. Kuykendall, Executive Director Art Menius, and member Len Holsclaw spoke at the Promoters' Brunch portion of SPBGMA's January convention in Nashville. Some 75 organizers from Canada to Kansas attended the Sunday morning get-together.

Menius stressed the **IBMA** is neither a social club nor an effort to change bluegrass music. "**IBMA** is an umbrella to pool our resources and talents so that the best family entertainment can reach the people who are right for bluegrass, a task none of us can do on our own," Menius said.

Kuykendall pointed out the free publicity and information available in his Bluegrass Unlimited magazine and gave advice on festival promotion.

Holsclaw, whose Lendel Agency represents the Country Gentlemen, Eddie Adcock, and **IBMA** treasurer Randall Hylton, stated that, "Now is the time to give to **IBMA** so that **IBMA** can later give to all of us."

## OPRY SPECIAL REUNITES MONROE AND SCRUGGS

The January broadcast on CBS of the Grand Ole Opry's 60th anniversary celebration reunited the two best known living bluegrass musicians, Earl Scruggs and Bill Monroe. The two had not shared a stage since Scruggs and Lester Flatt left Monroe's Blue Grass Boys in 1948. The late Flatt and the Father of Bluegrass Music patched their differences in 1972.

The bluegrass music segment of the network special featured performances by the Osborne Brothers, Jim & Jesse, and the Whites. The time awarded to America's best family musical entertainment signified the increasing interest of Nashville in traditional country music.

## IBMA BLUEGRASS INVENTORY TO COMMENCE SOON

John Hartin and Joe Carr of South Plains College, the **IBMA** Center for Bluegrass Studies and Research, have nearly finished working with survey experts there to prepare the first phase of our ongoing **IBMA** Bluegrass Inventory. Bluegrass associations and clubs will soon receive forms asking for information about their organizations and the bluegrass scenes in their area. This is information vital to the survival and growth of our music, so please complete the questionnaire and return it to **IBMA** as soon as you can.

The SPC folks are also completing the paperwork for creating an **IBMA** Foundation. More on that as soon as they're ready to receive funds.

## THAI PICKER NEEDS HELP

Founding member Yutaka Ohashi, a mandolin picker, moved from Japan to Bangkok a couple of years ago. Since then he's had only records to pick with. He wrote **IBMA** asking if anyone knew any bluegrass musicians in Thailand. If you do, please let Yutaka Ohashi know at Rm. 9 White Court; 38/3 Soi Ruam Rudee; Ploenchit Rd, Bangkok; 10500, THAILAND.

## ABOUT THOSE FOUNDING FEES

**IBMA** owes many, many thanks to all of those who contributed founding fees. We have received more than 50 such donations, and let me tell you, the money is vital to the growth of **IBMA** during these crucial early months.

All of you generous souls should have received your certificates (for which you can thank Pete Kuykendall) by the time you read this. This is the last issue of International Bluegrass which will be mailed to those who have not become individual, organizational, or patron members, since the founding fee is a donation with no membership benefits.

Which brings us to the point—many people have been confused about the nature of the founding fee. A number of kind people have sent in their \$100 thinking that they would be founding members with dues paid through 1986. Others thought any membership received before New Year's last would be a founding membership.

We at **IBMA** are very sorry that some of our friends and associates misunderstood. The founding fee was simply a donation. We truly appreciate your generosity, but an active **IBMA** membership requires joining in a regular type.

Because of these problems, however, all premium membership offered hereafter by **IBMA** will include one year's dues.

Those who wish to expedite the mission of **IBMA** to promote bluegrass music can give something extra through the following, each including the appropriate one year's dues:

Supporting Patron: \$115  
Individual Sponsor: \$135  
Organizational Sponsor: \$200  
Benefactor: \$325  
Donor: \$500  
Presidential Club: \$1000

At the SPBGMA fete we recieved our first Organizational Sponsor, John Hutchinson's Central Virginia Family Bluegrass Music Festival. Thanks, John.

### OUR FOUNDING MEMBERS

ABOTMA AK  
Norman Adams GA  
Lendel Agency VA  
Eugene Akers GA  
Kansas Acoustic Arts Assoc.  
Withlacoochee Backwater BG FL  
Billy Baker VA  
Orange Blossom Bluegrass FL  
Fletcher Bright TN  
Carmen Burnett WI  
Joe Carr TX  
R.B. Colvin LA  
Carin Joy Condon AR  
Donald Dean VA  
Mary T. Doub MD  
The Walcott Family IN  
Harry Grant NJ  
Milton Harkey NC

Bill Harrell MD  
John Hartford TN  
John Hartin TX  
Ray Hicks MO  
Paul Hopkins VA  
John Howard Agency OH  
Doug Hutchens KY  
Randall Hylton TN  
Don Kissil NJ  
Pete Kuykendall VA  
Lancer Agency TN  
Doyle Lawson TN  
Wayne Lewis TN  
Lost & Found VA  
Dr. Robert Mavian NY  
Art Menius NC  
Wynwood Music, Inc. VA  
Bluegrass Newsletter TX  
Yutaka Ohashi Thailand  
Osborne Brothers TN  
MN Bluegrass & Old Time Music Assoc.  
Bob Pinson TN  
Barry Poss NC  
Rachel Powell OH  
Brenda Richardson TX  
Allan Richardson TX  
M.E. Roberts MO  
Verlin Sanders VA  
SPBGMA MO  
Karen Spence VA  
Claudene Spence VA  
Linda Stanley VA  
Donald Starness NC  
J.T. Gray's Station Inn TN  
Newell & Bertie Sullivan MS  
Tony & Margaret Ullrich TX  
Bluegrass Unlimited VA  
Dr. Paul Woodward OH  
Maxine Woodward OH

## BUSINESS BRIEFS

Big winners at SPBGMA's Bluegrass Music Awards at Nashville's Opryland Hotel on 18 January were the Country Gentlemen with five figurines including Band of the Year (Overall), Doyle Lawson and Quicksilver which won four awards, one of them Album of the Year for *Once and For Always*, and the Lewis Family taking top honors in five categories including Little Roy's now traditional title as Entertainer of the Year. Well over 2000 people attended the event.

In addition to the Country Gentlemen, **IBMA** member Len Holsclaw of the Lendel Agency now represents Eddie Adcock and Talk of the Town and SPBGMA's top songwriter, Randall Hylton.

**IBMA** members Doyle Lawson and Quicksilver will be featured on Dutch

television in April performing gospel tunes taped during their November tour of Europe. The band also finished a new album during January.

**IBMA** members The Lost & Found are westward bound in February, performing in Minneapolis, Austin, San Diego, and Denver. The C. W. Brock Family of Cut & Shoot, Texas are making their first wintertime tour of New England this month.

Carl Queen of Atteiram Records broke ground on a \$500,000, 24 track studio/pressing plant complex in Blue Ridge, Georgia in early December. Queen says the Blue Ridge Recording and Record Processing Company will employ 47 people in the economically hard pressed community by 1988.

Charlie Derrington of Gibson's mandolin production department reported on 18 January that repair work on Bill Monroe's F-5 was about 75% complete. He's certain the

shattered instrument will again be playable, but warns that the tone probably will be altered.

**IBMA** member Turquoise Records, recently established by former June Appal chief Pat Martin, has announcing the singing of the Kentucky Ramblers. The first album by the young traditional group, which mixes the classics with strong original material, is due in April. Blue Grass Boy Glen Duncan helped out on fiddle with the recording.

**IBMA** member Tim Austin is justly proud that Orrin Friesen of the syndicated "Bluegrass Country" radio show picked the debut platter from Tim's Lonesome River Band, *I Guess Heartaches Are In Style This Year*, as the top bluegrass album of 1985.

Get your news into Business Briefs. Just send the information to Art Menius; Rt. 1, Box 710; Pittsboro, NC 27312 or call 919-542-3997.

## LETTER FROM EUROPE

Rienk Janssen, Chair of IBMA's International Committee, sent the executive director a rather lengthy letter about bluegrass conditions in Europe. The following is edited from that missive:

"The main problem is that the bluegrass following is in fact very small. And these people usually live rather far apart...I am sure that bluegrass people should be counted in hundreds, maybe a few thousand all over Europe."

"Especially for touring bands this means that they usually have to play a lot of gigs for small audiences (at low pay, of course). As bluegrass is unknown to the general public, it is not easy to get other types of gigs for bluegrass bands."

"There have been some American bands over who earned some money playing bluegrass (it was a little easier when our money was relatively at a high rate compared to the US \$, around 1981/82), but most of them had to be satisfied getting their expenses paid. From my own experience I can say that these things were only possible, because the organizers involved put in a lot of their own money..."

"No need to tell you that people

organizing bluegrass tours and shows and festivals over here never are professional organizers, but just people who love the music. The drawback is that we do usually not know the ways to do things in a professional way..."

"There is a very small number of people really active with organizing bluegrass over here. As this is a difficult job, such people have to be rather strong individualists, in order to keep going. Some of them do an amazingly good job, just the drawback about their (our) individualism is that sometimes they are not willing or able to cooperate very well with each other..."

"The media situation is totally different from that in the USA. Usually per country there is only national radio and TV..."

"On national radio there usually is a few hours of country music per week and bluegrass is considered part of that, if they play it at all. In Holland we have about 4 to 5 hours of country music per week and the percentage of bluegrass music is in fact not bad at all..., but we are very dependent of the actual people who plan the programs, what they like personally (& whom they like)."

"Because of the limited time on radio, usually when we send a promotional record to a radio guy, he only plays one song once or twice and that's it. This is of course not

enough to catch a lot of people's attention."

"Bluegrass on television has hardly ever been seen. 15 minutes of Bill Monroe in 1975, half an hour Waterloo Village Bluegrass Festival in 1983 and for April 1986 they have planned a gospel show with Doyle Lawson & Quicksilver. I believe that is all in the last ten years."

"By the general public country music is associated with 'cowboys' and considered rather childish thing..."

"This is one of the reasons why some people (like me) are trying to organize a separate scene for bluegrass and old time country music, apart from 'regular' country music."

"One reason for trying to not rely too much any more on the regular country music scene, is that bluegrass is usually considered a lesser important part of country music: 'For a change it is nice to have a bluegrass band in a country show, but the (usually heavy electric) country bands are the main thing.' That is how many people see it."

"In those cases where a bluegrass band is performing between country bands, almost never get the right exposure. Doing the sound for an acoustic band is usually something that the soundmen hardly ever have done before and most of them are not interested in doing it right."

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