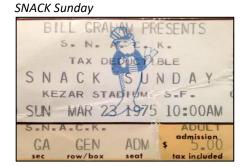
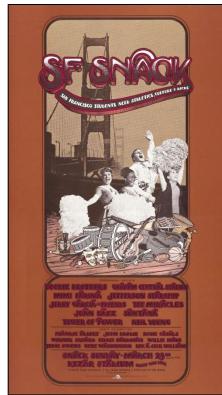


in 1975





Are You Ready For The Country Ain't That A Lot Of Love Looking For A Love Loving You Is Sweeter Than Ever I Want You The Weight Helpless Knockin' On Heaven's Door Will The Circle Be Unbroken

Rick Danko - bass Bob Dylan -guitar, piano, harmonica Tim Drummond – guitar Levon Helm - drums Garth Hudson - keyboards Ben Keith - pedal steel guitar Neil Young - piano, guitar

Notes:

Broadcast live on K-101 radio.

Page 10 8. F. Examiner & Sat., Mar. 1, 1975 Neil Young in SNACK

Folk-rock superstar Neil Young, the Doobie Brothers Young, the Doobie Brothers and the Miracles have been added to the Sunday SNACK benefit concert for the S.F. schools' sports and cultural programs, in Ke-zar Stadium March 23 be-ginning at 10 a.m.

Joining Young will be drummer Levon Helm and bassist Rick Danko of The Band and guitarist Ben

Promoter Bill Graham, in announcing Young's booking, noted that the seven-hour show's roster is now complete.

Joan Baez, Jerry Gar-cia, Tower of Power, San-tana, Graham Central Station, Jefferson7Starship and others have already been announced.

16 Oakland Cribune Mon., March 24, 1975

Brando and Dylan Stars of SNACK

By PETER COWAN Tribune Staff Writer Surprise celebrities Marlon Brando and Bob Dylan were the icing on Bill Graham's SNACK benefit concert yester-day at Kezar Stadium, a nine-hour marathon that drew an estimated 80,000 people to

day at Kezar Stadium, a nim-bour marathon that drew an estimated 60,000 people to hear the Bay Area's top rock bands. The rain held off until the show ended at 6 pm. when bound of the band carbon the bands are to the band carbon bands, are to the band carbon bands, are to the band carbon black clockwork and the audi-nated band turned out en masse for a worthwhile cause, to save the San Francisco high school athletic programs which had been cut from the budget, but the talk backstage centered on another 'sur-prise."

budget, but the fails backstage centered on another "surprise."

"The benefit turns out not to the state of t

The widely publicized concert had been in the works for one month. The content had been in the works for one month. The content had been in the works for one month. The content had been in the work of the content had been had be

erect it, plagued by the bad weather.

The backstage area, the east end zone of the stadium, was abuzz with activity and occasional tenson which such a large-scale show was bound to produce.

When the Jefferson Starship was due to go on, bass player Pete Sears had still not ar-rived. Graham was-firm and brief. He insists on punctual-ity.

"Either you go on in five minutes, or you don't play," he said.

Sears showed in time and the Starship put on a rousing

Marion Brando's appearance was another big mo-ment. The elusive actor is not in the custom of appearing anywhere, let alone Kezar,

THEATERS TODAY

but Graham got him.
"Nobody in history has witnessed an occasion like this,"
the silver-haired screen star
said after a thunderous ova-

the silver-haired screen star said after a thunderous ova-tion.
"Some people came because people needed sports equip-ment. Others came to hear the sound But there's another sound we have to listen to," Brando said.
"They'we suddenly found a "They'we suddenly found a million dollars. So we're going to split the money among the poor, the whites, the blacks, the Chucanos, ev-eryone that gor ripped off."
Brando announced he was contributing \$5,000 to the cause and continued.
"We got to give and give and give. If nothing else, give them our feelings. That's worth more than all the tex-bretieve deletedy money in the west of the sound of the sound sound of the sound sound of the sound of the sound of the sound sound of the sound of the sound of the sound sound of the sound of the sound of the sound sound of the sound of the

Others mingled freely among spectators, like Carlos Santana, who carried a couple of steks of incense with hum, and various members of the Doobie Brothers and the Starshup, who stayed on for the numero uno celebrity, Bob Dylan.

numero uno celebrity, 1500 Dylan.
Dylan was the biggest surprise of all. Brando had been hinted, but the fact that Dylan would appear was totally unexpected.
Dressed in a brown corduroy suit, he played harmonica, guitar and sang along with Neil Young and part of The

Band in the day's closing set.
They performed "Are You
They performed "Are You
The Weight," "I Want You"
and "Helpless."
With such an array of stars,
Il names total, it's hard to
recall the total spectrum of
entertainment, but a few
stood out in particular.
Tower of Power was with its
new lead vocalist Hubert
Tubbs, Power, was outstand-

ing on some of its oldies, "Sparkling in the Sand" and "You're Sill A Young Man." Santana brought back memories too, with "Oye Come Va." of the bristling Latin rock sound it pioneered. The Dooble Brothers, representing the new wave of Bay Area 1slent that's praced across the country, tantalized the throng with driving versions of "Without Love" and

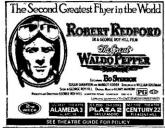
comonation was a fitting close, doing tunes that each had recorded during their heydey.

SNACK Sunday was the biggest single-day rock festival held in the area since Altamont, in 1969. proved that San Francisco rock is still around and Joan Baez, the trooper, enthrall 80,000 with her lovely voice and acoustic guitar.

coustic guitar.
The Young-Dylan-Band "MEL BROOKS' COMIC MASTERPIECE"









produced by San Francisco Opera Kurt Herbert Adler, General Director

at the PARAMOUNT THEATRE TUESDAY, APRIL 8 at 8:00 P.M.

START'S EASTER WEEL DAILY PERFORMANCES MARK (AFTER MARCH 30 OPEN EVERY DAY EXCEPT MON

OF ASTRIBITED THE IOO WUF IMATIEM



ROBERT HILBURN

\$200,000-

Who Needs It?

Bob Dylan made a surprise visit Sunday at Kezar Stadium in San Francisco during a benefit concert to help that eity's financially troubled school system, but the weekend's biggest surprise came when the San Francisco Board of Education discovered an "extra" \$2.1 million in one of



Bill Graham

of Education discovered an extra S21 million in one of its accounts, thus leaving organizer Bill Graham wondering if his concert receipts—an estimated \$200,000—are really needed.

Los Angeles Times

Graham, the rock producer who put together the concert which attracted some 60,000 persons, said he will hold the money in trust until he can discuss its fate with the artists and others who contributed to the Kezar Stadium event. "The only thing I know at this point is that it won't end up in my own bank account," he said.

Dylan's unscheduled appearance came as he joined Neil-Young in a 35-minute set that closed the all-day show also featuring such major, largely Bay Area-based rock acts as the Grateful Dead, Doobie Brothers, Joan Baez, Santana and Tower of Power plus guest appearances by such nonmusical celebrities as Marion Brando, Willie Mays, John Brodie and Gene Washington.

Besides playing harmonica, guitar and piano on some of Neil Young's songs, Dylan sang his own "I Want You" and "Knockin' on Heaven's Door" and then joined Young and the backing musicians (including Rick Danko, Levon Helm and Garth Hudson from the Band) on "Will the Circle Be Unbroken."

The benefit concert—nicknamed SNACK, standing for Students Need Athletics, Culture & Kicks—was scheduled by Graham, best known as the man behind the Fillmores East and West, to help pay for the athletics, band and other activities trimmed from the spring semester budget to help reduce a \$9 million deficit in the San Francisco school system.

Decision for the Fund-Raisers

Though Graham has not spoken to school district officials since the announcement late Friday that \$2.1 million in "extra" funds had been discovered, Graham expects to look into the legality of whether the money must still go to the school system or can be used for another purpose. Thope, in the end, to turn the decision of where the money goes over to the people responsible for raising it—the artists who drew the 60,000 people to Kezar," Graham said Monday.

When the news was announced that the school system had found the extra \$2.1 million tucked away in an account labeled 'delinquent taxes,' there was an initial surge of disappointment among the artists who had rearranged their schedules and donated their time for what seemed to be an empty exercise.

"But I told them, "What if someone in your block has a serious accident and you decide to throw a party to help cover the tremendous medical costs, then on the night before the party the doctor rushes into the planning center and says the patient has suddenly recovered. You don't feel bad. You feel good for him. You have the party and use the money for something else.' In the same way, we knew there were still lots of causes needing money."

Collection to Aid Indians

After the school district funds were found, Graham did, however, decide to announce that all the money collected at Kezar Sunday would go to aid U.S. Indian causes. When Brando was informed of that plan, he decided to attend and lend his support. All 60,000 tickets had been sold in advance, so the money raised Sunday was strictly in the form of spot donations.

Though Graham had voiced discouragement last week that the city itself had not responded better to the cause (the tickets didn't begin selling until some major acts—e.g., Neil Young—were added and Graham said not one parent, student or teacher called to say "thank you" or to offer assistance), he called the event itself the proudest moment in his professional life. The often critical, outspoken producer had nothing but praise for both the artists and crew that handled the day's massive logistics.

Miraculously, the show went through all nine acts and the series of celebrity guests right on time. It started at 9.01 am. and ended at 5:59 pm. "The perfect show," Graham said Monday, "the perfect show." The only thing left to decide is who gets the money.

RADIO

SNACK Time--A Line-Up of Talent in Live Stereo

RECENTLY the San School Board, in an effort to reduce the school budget, announced there would no longer be after-school sports, extra-curricular activities, etc.

A few individuals stepped forward and offered to help: among them was Bill Graham, the rock impresario who molded the San Francisco rock music scene through the 60's and 70's.

He has packaged a show called "SNACK Sunday," which takes place today at Kezar Stadium featuring a line-up of music greats who will donate their time and talent to raise more than \$250,000 for the students of San Francisco. (SNACK stands for Students Need Athletics, Culture and Kicks.)

Santana, Jefferson Starship, Jerry Garcia, Eddie Palmiere, Neil Young, the Doobie Brothers, the Miracles, Joan Baez, Graham Central Station and Tower of Power will entertain a sellout crowd of 60,000.

The nine-hour concert will be broadcast from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. live on radio without commercial interruptions.

The show will be carried simultaneously on K-101

FM (in stereo) and K-101 AM (1010) plans for KQED-TV to carry the picture in color were cancelled shortly before press time.

The 24 microphones on stage will be blended down into two stereo channels.

K-101 will be featuring interviews with many of the performers between the numbers. Some of these will be recorded live by K-101 disc jockey Stefan Ponek; others were recorded during the past week.

There will also be commentary on the audience and artists during the lengthy pauses between the various acts.













November 24, 1975 Hartford, CT

Civic Center Arena Rolling Thunder Revue





Rick Danko performs What A Town It Makes No Difference

Audience audio recording

THE HARTFORD COURANT: Wednesday, November 26, 1975 Rock/'Thunder' Is Roaring Success troduction for Ramblin Jack, "the man who taught us all how to play." Elliott did three numbers including one of the best songs of the Lion Rules the Barranca." Dylan himself came on stage unannounced but the crowd's roar was instantaneous. After a duet version of "When I Paint My Masterpiece" with Neuwirth Dylan and the band rolled into a nearly Latin rhythm version of "It Ain't Me Babe." They

J. GREG RÖBERTSON
The Rolling Thunder
Theve, which has been rumbling melodiously around
New England in recent
weeks, blew into Hartford
Monday as a full-fledged talent storm.
A Hartford Civic Center
capacity crowd of 11,87 was
treated to nearly four hours
of solo and group performances by Bob Dylan, Joan
Baez, Ramblin Jack Elliott,
Roger McGulm, Bob Neiwirth, Romee Blakley and
guests Join Mitchel, Sandy
Guests Join Mitchel, Sandy
Guinsburg.

guests Joni Mitchell, Sandy Bull, Rick Danko and Allen Ginsburg.

An excellent group of 10 backup musicians, smooth staging, and very good sound equipment and engineering made the treat complete. The Dylan, Miss Baez an Irriends above retained the releast show retained the releast show retained the opened in Plymouth, Mass, but the bugs were worked out and new songs worked in. Neuwirth and the band opened the show in a jovial mood with a series of country-style numbers and songs written by band members. The highlight was a beautinul, building ballad betted out by Ronee Blakley. After Neurith Sang "Lord, Won techa by Me a Mercedes Benz" for "sonne-body Janis." the first guests came on: Rick Danko of The Band and poet Allen Ginsburg, With Ginsburg in the background playing finger cymbals. Danko and the groups ang two songs, one acceptable, one a dreary

group sang two songs, acceptable, one a dre

They exited as Joni Mitchell made her entrance, heralded by a roar from the audience. She sang two songs from her new album—a fine version of "Don't Interrupt the Sorrow" with the band and a solo, "Edith and the Kingpin."

She lett to mounting creams of "more" before leuwirth sang a musical in-

kept the tempo up with pumping rock renditions of three of his old songs. The hest of these "A Hard Rain's A-Gonna Fall." Dylan sang with the anger and indignation of the original. Dylan's glamorous violinist, Scartel Rivera, Jonde the group for the rock and rollicking tongue-in-cheek "Durango" and "Isis." After a short intermission. the curtain came up on Dylan and Miss Baez sharing a microphone for "Blowing a microphone for "Blowing

in the Wind. They on a tree folk songs together before Miss Baze samp her gorgeous. "Diamonds and Rust" and performed an a capella vocal our de force with "Swing Low Sweet Chariot," prosing her claim to one of the most beautiful voces extant. After a token political song. "Joe Fili," she showed the band back off the stage and did a heart-grippingly lovely solo of "Passionate Strangers."

tion after his fascinating in-strumental solo, with per-cussion counterpointing, on the oud. As he shifted from Arabic-Indian to "disco" style. Miss Baze began a slinky dance, to be joined by Miss Mitchell. Roger McGuinn ripped off a few rock and country num-bers' before joining Miss-Baez in "The Night They Drove Old-Distie Down." At that point, more than three bours into the concert, Miss Baez leif and Dylan re-turned — to sing eight more of his old and new songs. A woman in the audience sum-med up the evening succinct-

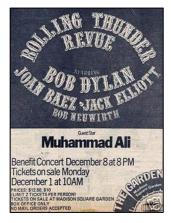


December 8, 1975 New York, NY

Madison Square Garden

Rolling Thunder Revue – Night of the Hurricane





Robbie Robertson plays guitar on It Takes A Lot To Laugh, It Takes A Train To Cry

Audience audio recording Soundboard recording



NEW YORK (AP) — Bob Dylan brought his Rolling Thunder Revue to Madison Square Garden for a benefit concert Monday night for imprisoned boxer Rubin "Hurricane" Carter.

Dylan started the tour with singers Joan Baez, Ramblin' Jack Elliott, Roger McGuinn and Ronee Blakley, guitarists Bob Neuwirth and Mick Ronson and poet Allen Ginsberg. They were all at the finale, and so was singer Join Mitchell, who joined the tour in the middle and stayed, gypsy violinist Scartet Rivera, Robbie Robertson, leader of the Band, which toured with Dylan on his first cross-country tour in eight years and last time in New York, in early 1974. Roberta Flack joined only for the Carter benefit. Mohammed All was a surprise guest, and got an ovation as large as any performers' from the predominantly white audience of 20,000 persons.

"The whole place is jam-

I'm getting ready to fight some-body. It's hard to believe Bob Dylan is this big." Coretta Scott King, widow of the slain civil rights leader Mar-tin Luther King Jr., was in-troduced on stage but did not sneak.

troduced on stage but did not speak.

The concert was expected to gross \$200,000 and, after expenses were paid, bringing more than \$100,000 to Precedom for All Prever, the committee working for a new trial or clemency pardon for Carter, a middleweight boxing contender at the time of his 1967 conviction for the murder of three persons in a Paterson, N.J., tavern.

While Ali was on stage, he talked by telephone with Carter, who is in New Jersey's Clinton Correctional Institution for Women, where one-third of the inmates are men. Carter's wife, Thedma, and daughter, Theodora, 11, also were on stage and Theodora spoke to her father by phone.

Dylan, wearing white face make-up and a hat with paper flowers around the brim, sang "When I Paint My Masterpiece," It Ain't Me Babe." "The Lonesome Death of Hattie Carroll," a song of protest about individual injustice. Toward the end of the concert he sang "Hurricane," a song written about Carter.





Standin'On A Mountain Top 4:16 Ernic Cate Lead Vocal, Electric Piano, Elka Earl Cate Vocal Harmony, Lead Guitar Terry Cagle Vocal Harmony Steve Cropper Guitar David Foster Clavinet, Piano Levon Helm Drums (Courtesy of Capitol Records) Klaus Voorman Bass Gary Coleman Vibes, Percussion



JOEL BERNSTEIN, guitar JACKSON BROWNE, background vocals CRAIG DOERGE, keyboards TIM DRUMMOND, bass LEVON HELM, drums BEN KEITH, guitar CAROLE KING, keyboards RUSS KUNKEL, drums DANNY KORTCHMAR, bass/guitar DAVID LINDLEY, guitar/violin LEE SKLAR, bass STAN SZELEST, keyboards JAMES TAYLOR, vocal

This album from David Crosby and Graham Nash is generally acknowledged as one of the finest spin-off projects from "Crosby, Stills, Nash & Young". It was originally released in 1975 on the ABC Records label in America. The lead track, "Carry Me" was a minor hit single in America reaching No 52 during November of 1975.

As can be seen from the credits above the album had a As can be seen from the credits above the album had a stellar line up of talent especially the background vocals supplied by Carole King, Jackson Browne and James Taylor. Band drummer Levon Helm can be heard on the track "Fieldworker" whilst legendary session man Russ Kunkel is probably drumming on all other tracks. Keyboard player Stan Szelest was also a long time asso-ciate of The Band.





RECORD WORLD APRIL 26, 1975 Garth Hudson of The

Band has been in the studio with Poco, overdubbing keyboards on selected tracks for the group's first ABC lp. Other studio guests have included Al Kooper and Roger McGuinn . . .

Cate Bros. Asylum 7E-1050

by Bud Scoppa

Ten years ago, Earl and Ernie Cate were playing the same Arkansas bars as Ronnie Hawkins and the Hawks. While the Hawks have moved on with Dylan and on their own as the Band, the Cate boys have kept toiling away in those bars. But recently, at Levon Helm's urging (Helm is the uncle of Cate Bros. drummer Terry Cagle), the Cates were signed by Elliot Roberts and Ron Stones's Lookout Management and by Asylum. They've recorded a terrific album of lean, taut and infectious Southern R&B in an overdue and well-deserved payoff for unrewarded labors.

You can hear the bar-band experience on every track: the Cates waste no time in getting to the point, and there are plenty of rhythmic gut-grabbers, melodic twists and witty punctuations to hold you once they've got you. Earl is a won-derfully understated and fluid guitarist of the Steve Cropper school (Cropper produced the album, and quite effectively); his fills and solos snake out effortlessly. Brother Ernie at-tacks his battery of keyboards as if they were so many hand drums, and he's a truly gifted singer with a distinctive sound that recalls Al Green, Little Willie John and a relaxed Wilson Pickett. Ernie's coarsely silky voice works equally well in scorching footstompers like "Union Man" and midnight wails like "Easy Way Out."

None of the ten songs (all Cate collaborations) are utterly pretty or utterly throbbing; rather they're combinations of the two, with the best ones"Livin' on Dreams," "Time for Us," "When Love Comes" and "Can't Change My Heart"urging you simultaneously to get up and dance and sit down and sigh. There's not a dud on the album and the performances match the material (although the band-now a foursome with the addition of drummer/singer Cagle and bassist/ singer Albert Singletonsounds even better onstage, churning with an urgency that belies the players' poker faces).

Though their roots are closer to Fayetteville than Memphis, the Cate Bros. embody much of the energy and sound of late-Sixties Stax/Volt music, with an emphasis on Sam and Dave (especially on "Can't Change My Heart") and Booker T. and the M.G.s (for their overall precision and economy). The Cates have remained close to a significant source, added elements of recent soul styles (Green, Sly, Wonder) to their own pop and soul ideas, and molded it all into a rich, ebullient mix that must make Uncle Levon long for the old days in the Arkansas saloons.
"Union Man" is apparently

the choice of the R&B stations, but "Can't Change My Heart," with its reggaelike lilt (I'd wager these guys never heard of reggae), the delectable "Livin' on Dreams" and "Standin' on a Mountain Top," which falls somewhere between the dock of the bay and Big Pink, would sound at least as seductive on the radio. Cate Bros. is an uncomplicated, captivating al-bum from the best Southern band to come out of the woods in 1975.



SATURDAY, Binghamton, N.Y. August 23, 1975 Poco has a winner

HEAD OVER HEELS - Poco - ABCD-

Poco's first album on a new recording label is a winner.

They have come back from an average album, "Cantomos," which followed "Poco 7," the first album after the departure of Richie Furay.

It took awhile after "Poco 7" was released to stop hop-

It took awhile after "Poco 7" was released to stop noping that Furay's vocals might appear somewhere. Whenever
Poco was mentioned. Furay came immediately to mind.

After living with the album and listening to it in the
right perspective, "Poco 7" now represents a good initial ef-

fort by the now four-membered Poco.

However, when "Cantomos" was released it put a damper on my enthusiasm for the group, which was always

sent up to that point. In "Head Over Heels" Poco is back on the right track.

From the opening sweet harmonies of "Keep On Love," spiced with Garth Hudson's little piano part, and their version of "Dallas," which still retains most of its Steely Dan feeling, the group is always a group.

Poco has fortunately not become a Paul Cotton show-case, which I feared since his entrance, but instead, a more together bunch of musicians. Rusty Young, pedal steel guitar extraordinary, is ever-present on the album, but his driving and stinging solos are missed.

"Head Over Heels" is not as stimulating as Poco's earlier cookers, but it is an example of good ol' laid-back couns.
try-rock, by one of the tighther-knit groups around today.











Altogether Alone / Do Wrong Shoes 7" single issued by Tower Records in Japan in 2017

Rock 'n' Roll

Years of Tapes Made at Home Hone a Style

BY ROBERT HILBURN

eWhen I started going to the downtown library as a teen-ager to gather material for school projects, I noticed that I'd see some of the same people in the library almost every trip. They were usually older men with rumpled clothing who lived, perhaps, in a faded hotel nearby. They simply sat at one of the tables, writing in notebooks or on loose sheets of paper. When it was time to leave, they would collect what they had written (a shopping bag was a more likely container than a briefcase) and return whatever reference books they had gathered that day. They would return to the same spot the next day and resume writing.

My first instinct was that they had just found their own way to kill time. Unlike the older or unemployed men who liked to sit in the sunshine in Pershing Square or play chess in the park, these men—perhaps living out some long-time fantasy to be a great novelist. — "played" at writing. But, the more one watched them, the more you could sense a dedication. They didn't just dabble in the notebooks; they wrote steadily and intently.

them, the more you could sense a dedication. They didn't just dabble in the notebooks; they wrote steadily and intently.

After a few visits, I asked one of the librarians about the man who stationed himself at a table in her department. She said he had been showing up daily for as long as she had been assigned to the department—over a year. Others throughout the building had reportedly been showing up for an even longer period. Most were writing fiction, but none, to her knowledge, had ever tried to get the material to a publisher. They seemed content just to write.

Intrigued, I finally asked one of the men, as he returned from lunch one day, about his writing. He wasn't particularly interested in talking, but he did acknowledge that he didn't plan to submit it to a publisher. He said he wanted to write without any external consideration. By refusing to consider publication, he would eliminate the possibility that he might even subconsciously after the book for commercial reasons. The isee it and my friends see it," he said curtly, as if no further explanation was necessary.

He then reached mito his satchel, pulled out a fresh supply of yellow, legal-sized paper and began writing. The theme, the librarian had told me, was—and this was in the pre-Watts, 1950s—racial unrest and eventual conflict in America. She termed it, innocently enough, a sort of science fiction. I accepted the man's sincerity, but I really couldn't understand his commitment to a project that probably would never be published. Maybe it was just a diversion after all.

I thought about those library regulars again for the first time in years recently when Hirth Martines, a fascinating new. Los Angeles-based singer-songwriter, made his club debut at the Roxy in West Hollywood.

I thought about those library regulars again for the first time in years recently when Hirth Martinez, a fascinating new, Los Angeles-based singer-songwriter, made his club debut at the Roxy in West Hollywood. Martinez, it seems, has been—in the style of those library novelists—writing songs for years and singing them into a cheap tape recorder in the cluttered front room of his house in Hollywood. He has, by now, hundreds of songs on tape.

In the spirit of the library cadre, his joy was simply in the creation. He believed the songs would eventually find an audience, but he never formally made the rounds of record companies or managers the way most aspiring songwriters do. Some of his friends say he was simply too busy writing the songs. He did sing and play guitar on a few afternoons at a Laundromat owned by a friend, and he has sung some of his songs at an asylum where another friend is committed. Otherwise, his chief audience has been his tape recorder. Song writing—and UFOs—was his passion.

It's easy, then, to see how the people who might have stopped by the house—e.g. the postman—or the people at the Laundromat, who paused between sorting the cottons and the polyesters long enough to even

notice the bearded figure with the guitar, probably thought Martinez was just some guy chasing an impossible, time-wasting dream.

But one of the people who did happen to hear some of Martinez's tapes was a guitar collector Bob Dylan happened to visit a few months ago. The collector played a tape for Dylan who found the songs so interesting he later mentioned them to Robbie Robertson, the leader of the Band.

On his next visit to the collector, Robertson asked On his next visit to the collector, Robertson asked about the tapes. Robertson, too, was fascinated by the sophistication of Martinez's melodies and guitar playing, and the maturity of his lyrics. He arranged to meet Martinez who arrived with a cardboard box full of tapes. Robertson picked out one tape, then another and another. He was genuinely excited by what he had heard: music that was so much more interesting and varied than virtually anything he had been hearing on the radio or in albums in a long time.

the radio or in albums in a long time.

Since a new Band album was long overdue, Robertson felt he couldn't devote the time to produce an album with Martinez, but he began talking to several of his producer-friends to see if any of them might be interested. The more Robertson talked, the more he became enthused about the project himself. So, he eventually produced the album. The result is "Hirth From Earth," a work of sometimes uneven, but often spectacular results. It is notly the second time Robertson—as respected a figure as we have in pop and rock music—has lent his name as producer to a non-Band album. alhum

album.

Since the first Robertson-produced album was the much heralded debut by Jesse Winchester, a writer in somewhat the Southern roots, country-tinged style of Robertson and the Band, it was only natural that some would expect a similar sound from Martinez. And, true enough, there's a track on side one of "Hirth From Earth" (Warner Bros. BS 2867) that is in the tradition of Winchester and the Band.

or wincnester and the Band.

The song, titled "Winter Again," is one of the year's most evocative tunes since Emmylou Harris' haunting "Boulder to Birmingham." The song is a lovely tale of aging and resolve that would have fit nicely into a Band album if Robertson had run into problems writing enough songs for the group's upcoming album. The lyrics to "Winter Again" reflect both a melancholy over the passing of time and a sense of celebration over good times to come:

As a little boy I cried
Trying desperately to hold on to summer
It couldn't be done.
And now I'm a man, but also a child.
I take the good and bad and weave it into smiles.

Though it isn't in the true style of the Band, "Silent Movies," another standout track on the album, has a gentle, country touch. It's an engaging song with an arrangement that is as disarming as the lyrics: "Slip away, close your eyes/Now imagine silent movies in

the skies."

But the rest of the album is a departure from the Band that shows Martinez to be so eclectic as a writer and performer that pop audiences may have trouble adjusting to him. Pop audiences, traditionally, have wanted a certain consistency—not only in terms of quality, but, crucially, in terms of style—from artists. Through that consistency, audiences can detect a certain point of view that makes identification with the artist possible.

Despite the talk about the universality of music, pop

Despite the talk about the universality of music, pop

Despite the talk about the universality of music, pop audiences, for the most part, have narrow taste ranges. You don't, for instance, find many buttons set to country, soul, rock and easy listening stations on the same car radio. Thus, someone who may like one side of the multifaceted Martinez may be disturbed or even suspicious of his motivation when he changes styles so drastically. The influences on the album range from Brazil to New Orleans, folk to rock to mainstream pop.

Where it may have been wiser from a strictly commercial standpoint, then, for Robertson and Martinez to have concentrated on a single style in this album, it would have given a false look at the artist's work. The strength of the album is in its refusal to be limited. It's the craftsmanship, rather than the unity of style, that holds the album together. It is, in some ways, a solitary, independent work. There are commercial strains that run through it, but there is a strong sense of isolation. He, somehow, makes you enter his room and his world. The reference points are sometimes UFOs and other cosmic forces. But the actual themes fo the songs are love, loneliness, search, celebration, even some social comment.

Though the popular success of the album may well depend on how well audiences are able to accept its eelecticism, it almost certainly will end up as a favorite among musicians. Some cover versions of the songs seem likely. "Saturday Night," a song that captures the mindless, Saturday night honky-lonk spirit so well it would have been ideal for Randy Newman's "Good Old Boys" album, is one of the album's most accessible tracks.

The song, which has such a festive, authentic arrangement that it could have been taken straight from a lively Bourbon St. jam, has both humor and a bit of

Here it is Saturday night Time for the boys to get tight Time for the girls to get loose Time for the folks to get juiced.

"Cold Dark Mornin'" is a slice of sexual appetite that could be equally at home with Dr. John or Maria Muldaur, while "Be Everything" is a compelling ballad with much easy listening potential. "Pity on the Fool" is a post-Watergate comment with much of the vigor of Stevie Wonder's "You Ain't Done Nothin."

Wonder's "You Ain't Done Notain."
While the writing becomes a bit distant
when he wanders too far into the cosmic.
Martiner's phrasing is convincing (even if
his actual voice seems a bit rough at
times) and the instrumentation is exceptional. As a guitarist, Martinez attacks
space rather than, as so many do, simply
tries to fill the space. tries to fill the space.

tries to fill the space.

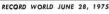
After the Roxy showcase performance, Martinez was understandably excited. But there was something troubling him. Because of the rehearsal time required for the show, he hadn't been able to write for about three weeks. It was as if the library had suddenly shut down temporarily and our group of writers had to put their pens away for a while.

With the Roxy show over, however, Martinez, 30 this month, looked forward to getting back to the tape recorder. He said he had a lot of new ideas for songs. said he had a lot of new ideas for songs. Martinez had never worried about eventually making it to the right producer, one of his friends explained the next day. "He just figured things would work out for themselves. He was just excited by writing the songs," the friend continued, almost echoing the librarian's remarks of years before.

In fact, it's not hard to imagine Martinez setting up his tape recorder on one of the library tables if the music didn't make too much noise. He would, at any rate, understand better than most what those downtown writers meant when

rate, understand better than most what those downtown writers meant when they spoke of the joy of creation. Now, he's testing the next step in the process. He's putting his music on display. "Hirth From Earth" is a sometimes elusive, but generally challenging and significant work. The fact that these songs were buried for so long and have now only surfaced by what borders on an accident makes you wonder about all those manuscripts that have been turned out on those tables downtown. Maybe they too weren't just so many pipe freams. ren't just so many pipe dre



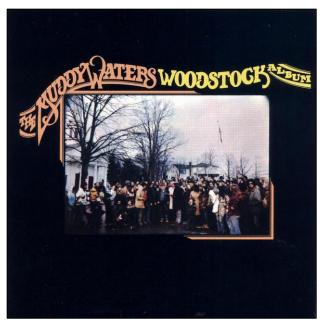


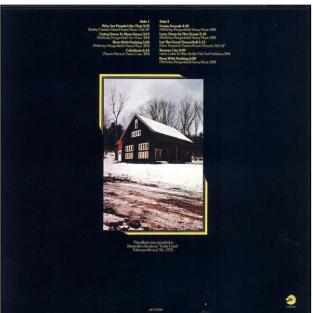
HIRTH FROM EARTH

HIRTH MARTINEZ—Warner Bros. BS 2867 (6.98)
Easy FM airwaves are in for a treat with this gentle, yet stimulating teaming of Martinez with the production capabilities of The Band's Robbie Robertson. A sophis-ticated country feel keeps the sounds compelling and dynamic while maintain-

ing a folk rock ambience. All cuts are appropriate for FM favor.



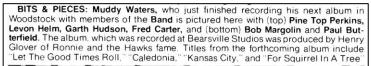






RECORD WORLD MARCH 1, 1975

■ Levon Helm and Garth Hudson of The Band joined Muddy Waters at Bearsville Studios in Woodstock for a few days at the beginning of February to help Waters with his next Chess album. Paul Butterfield and Fred Castor also lent their talents, with Henry Glover (from the Ronnie & the Hawks days) producing. They reportedly laid down tracks for some classic blues and r&b numbers, among them "Kansas City," "Let the Good Times Roll" and "Caldonia."

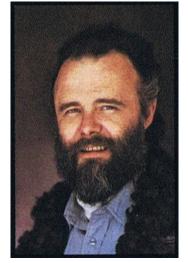




Pine Top Perkins, Levon Helm, Garth Hudson, Fred Carter, Bob Margolin, Muddy Waters, Paul Butterfield: Quite an impressive band.







THE MUDDY WATERS WOODSTOCK ALBUM — Muddy Waters — Chess CH 60035 — Producer: Henry Glover

When a blues legend like Muddy Waters goes back to Woodstock where rock music really grew up and records an album it is truly a special event. Muddy whose down-home voice and guitar work have been an inspiration to nearly everyone in the business has never sounded better than on his latest on Chess. Backed by a very fine band which includes the likes of Paul Butterfield on harmonica and Garth Hudson on organ adds up to make this Muddy Waters finest effort to date. Travel along the road to Woodstock with Muddy as he sings from the gu on "Why Are People Like That." "Born With Nothing," and "Caldonia."

BOB DYLAN
P.O. Box 264
Cooper Station
New York, New York 10003

dated as of: June 9, 1975

Messrs. Jaime Robbie Robertson, Garth Hudson, Levon Helm, Richard Manuel and Richard Danko p/k/a/ The Band c/o Hardee Barovick Konecky & Braun 9665 %Ilshire Boulevard Beverly Hills, California 90212

Gentlemen;

The following, when signed by you and by me, shall constitute the agreement between you and me.

1. I refer to the agreement duted June 9, 1975 between you, me and CBS Records, a division of CBS Inc. ("CBS") whereby you and I sell, transfer and assign to CBS all right, title and interest in and to certain master recordings ("Masters") embodied on the double LP phonograph album entitled "THE BASEMENT TAPES" (hereinafter referred to as the "Agreement").

2. You, jointly and individually, hereby agree that if and when the Masters revert to you and me pursuant to subparagraph B2(C) (page 7) of the Agreement, I shall have the exclusive right, at all times thereafter, to lease, license, transfer, sell, assign or otherwise dispose of the Masters, or any rights of any nature therein or thereto, or to refrain therefrom, as I may elect in my sole discretion, and subject to the provisions of the Agreement.

 In the event I lease, license, transfer, sell, assign or otherwise dispose of the Masters, I agree to pay or cause to be from the sales and uses of the Masters. In the event I enter into an agreement with a third party with respect to manufacture, sale and distribution of phonograph records made from the Masters, or any other disposition thereof, I shall have the right to cause such third party to pay your share of net income derived from such sales and uses of the Masters to you (jointly) directly and such payment by a third party shall relieve me of any obligation or liability to pay you bereunder.

4. This agreement shall be construed and interpreted in accordance with the laws of the State of California as an agreement to be wholly performed therein. This agreement shall be binding on you jointly and individually. This agreement constitutes your and my entire understanding and shall not be modified, altered or amended unless in writing signed by you and by me. This agreement shall be binding on and inure to the benefit of your and my respective hoirs, executors, administrators and assigns.

Please confirm your agreement to the foregoing by signing below.

Very truly yours,

Bob Dylan

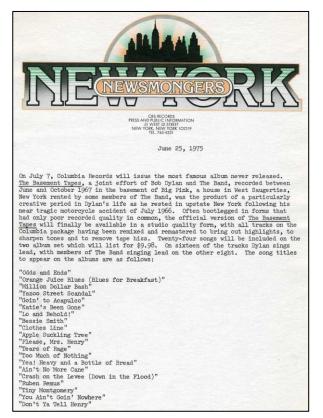
AGREED TO AND ACCEPTED:

Garth Hudson

Levon Helm

Richard Manuel

Richard Danko















Columbia To Release 'Basement Tapes' LP

■ NEW YORK — Columbia Records is preparing to release a two-record set of Bob Dylan and the Band's legendary "Basement Tapes." The material was recorded in sessions between June and October in 1967 in the up-state home of The Band known

as Big Pink.

Including 24 songs in all, the double lp set includes several songs and performances which have never before been available, on bootleg albums or otherwise. "The Basement Tapes" set is due for release by Columbia at the beginning of July.

ginning of July.

The personnel on "The Basement Tapes" album consists of Bob Dylan (guitar, vocals), Rick Danko (bass, vocals), Garth Hudson (organ, vocals), Richard Manuel (piano, drums, vocals), Robbie Robertson (lead guitar, vocals). The material on the album was cut live without overfulb. was cut live, without overdub-bing, and has been remastered for release on record by Colum-bia. The recording sessions which resulted in "The Basement Tapes" took place following a national tour in 1966.

Columbia has planned a major merchandising campaign in sup-port of the release of "The Basement Tapes.





Oylan Songs Out of the Basement

I don't recall now the name of the caller's favorite bands (I think they were along the lines of Ten Years After and Deep Purple), but I do recall the nature of his argument. The call came during last year's Bob Dylan/Band tour and the caller felt, quite simply, that I was devoting too much

attention to the tour. He thought it would be fairer to write one article on Dylan/Band, then one on, say, Ten Years After and then one on Deep Purple.

The point I tried to make

to him was that it is more important in the long run to write about subjects of sig-nificance in a given field (e.g. Dylan and the Band in pop music) than simply divide space among the va-rious popular bands of the day. I tried to emphasize this by saying we'd all be better off listening to the



Bob Dylan

kind of ragged stuff Dylan

Bob Dylan

and the Band did in their basement rehearsals back in Woodstock in the 1960s than the latest, polished studio al-bums by Ten Years After and Deep Purple. Outraged, he hung up. I guess he had never heard of the Basement

Big Pink's Basement

"The Basement Tapes" was the name given to the series of songs Dylan recorded in mid-1967 on a home recorder with the Band in the basement of Big Pink, the house in upstate New York that later became famous itself because of its mention in the title of the Band's first album ("Music From Big Pink"). The songs, mostly recorded in just one or two takes with little or no formal rehearsal, were put on "demonstration" records and sent to artists and produ-cers who had expressed interest in recording some of Dyl-

Because of the enormous interest surrounding Dylan's work, it was only natural that some of the "demo" records found their way into the hands of bootleg record-makers. Though there was a lot of surface noise on the bootleg copies. "The Basement Tapes" comprised the basis for the most famous of the hundreds of bootleg albums released in the 1960s.

Though one is always on shaky ground trying to speculate on Dylan's reasoning, there has been one line of thought that Dylan waited until now to "officially" release the tapes because he wanted to clearly reestablish his critical credentials (something he has done with "Planet Waves" and "Blood on the Tracks") before issuing something from his previously acclaimed period (the basement tapes were recorded between "Blonde on Blonde" and "Itaha Water Wester")

"John Wesley Harding").

Another source, however, said the decision to release the album was triggered when Dylan and the Band's Robbie Robertson heard one of the basement tracks—("Apple Suckling Tree") on the radio one night and thought the ragged, festive nature of the tune sounded so interesting in contrast to the smooth, homogenized sounds that dominate the airways these days —that they began to explore the old tapes. It finally seemed time to release them. Reportedly, there was even some brief talk about recording a new "basement" tape album—not the same material, but new songs in the same quick informal style.

In putting the two-record set together, Robertson lis-tened to hours of old tapes. Besides the official "basement" tened to nours of old tapes. Besides the official "basement" tapes, Robertson listened to other tapes recorded by Dylan and the Band during the same period, including cover versions of such hits as Johnny Cash's "Folsom Prison Blues." The resultant album (Columbia C2-33682) contains 18 Dylan songs (two co-written by members of the Band) plus six songs written or arranged by the Band. At one time the latter were all apparently considered as possible selections for "Music From Big Pink."

Sound of the Jam

Since most of the Dylan material is familiar to even those who don't have the original bootleg albums (all but two of Dylan's songs are included in his "Writings and Drawings" lyric book and most of the better ones have been recorded by other artists), the chief interest in the

new album—aside from being able to hear the songs free of the old surface noise—is in the musical performances.

"Apple Suckling Tree," true enough, is the kind of simply joyous, spirited musical exercise that one might have expected to stumble across—if lucky—after hours one night at the old Ash Grove or wherever else musicians gather for their own pleasure. A freedom from deadlines and other recording studio pressures enabled Dylan and the Band—a group that was just rounding into its own musical maturity—to come up with some truly inspired performances in the Big Pink basement those nights in

The album, in fact, reflects such an inviting lack of inhi-The album, in fact, reflects such an inviting lack of minibiting self-consciousness that it tempts one to say musicians just don't sing and play that well for money, but hey can for themselves. Dylan's vocals move freely and convincingly from the western narrative of a song like "Lo and Behold" to the spunk of "Tiny Montgomery" to the Johnny Ace-like, 1950s R&B style of "Nothing Was the Johnny Ace-like, 1950s R&B style of "Nothing Was Delivered." There is humor, bite and comment in his songs. The Band's support—both in the instrumentation and the occasional harmony—is textured in a way that made its own emergence inevitable.

The Band's material is highlighted by "Ain't No More Cane," a song with a sense of Southern musical-social history that would have fit easily into the tone of the Band's tory that would have it easily into the tone of the Bands second album, "Orange Juice Blues," a Richard Manuel tune whose arrangement reflects the primitive country and blues mixture of the classic, early Sun Records sessions, and "Bessie Smith," a Robertson-Rick Danko song that is far too infectious to have stayed hidden away all

The timeliness of the "The Basement Tapes" again points up the art in the music of Dylan and the Band. If this album's history weren't so well known, it could easily have carried a 1975 copyright tag without anyone being the wiser. There is a vitality to the album that defies its age. When you realize an eight-year-old album can still sound so tasteful, it makes you wonder what the rest of rock has been doing all this time. I'd hate to think what the new Ten Years After album will sound like in 1982.











The basement of the Hollywood YMCA, 1975 Photos by Reid Miles









BOB DYLAN & THE BAND "THE BASEMENT TAPES" PHOTO SESSION FOLIO

8 unreleased fine art prints taken behind the scenes of the cover shoot

First Edition Signed by Photographer John Scheele

EARL













BOB DYLAN & THE BAND - "THE BASEMENT TAPES" PHOTO SESSION **BONUS "ONE SHEET" IMAGE**

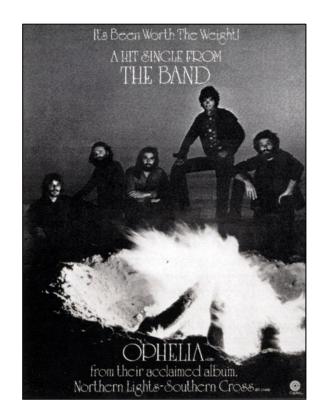
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November 15, 1975

5 Capitol Nov. LPs

HOLLYWOOD — Capitol Records is set for a five album release in November it was announced by Don Zimmermann, senior vice president, marketing, Capitol

senior vice president, marketing, Capitol Records, Inc.
"Together" by Anne Murray and "Northern Lights/Southern Cross" by The Band headline the November release, along with Radio Activity by West Germany's Kraftwerk
Easy listening product from Capitol features "The Time Is Right" by the Lettermen and "The Homecoming" by Hagood Hardy.



Pop Music

For the Band Fans, the Long Wait Is Finally Over

BY ROBERT HILBURN

• If even some of its most ardent supporters have tended to worry about the future of the Band in recent years, the group itself has certainly done little to alle-viate the concern. Except for the "Moondog Matinee" oldies collection, the Band-once widely heralded as America's premier rock unit-hasn't released a new

America's premier rock unit—massive released a new studio album in more than four years.

True, the Band backed Bob Dylan on "Planet Waves" and drew rave reviews of its own when it toured with Dylan last year. It also upstaged Crosby, Stills, Nash & Young so badly—in an artistic sense—last year at the Oakland Stadium that it was a wonder CSNV dieth with the citiz.

CSNY didn't call it quits on the spot. But mostly the Band—which has moved its personal and professional base from Woodstock to Malibu—has been in what appeared to be semi-retirement, leaving others—chiefly the Allman Brothers, Steely Dan and the Eagles—to contend for the American leadership in

To make matters worse, the Band's last album of original material ("Cahoots" in 1971) was its weakest artistically and, probably, its poorest seller. "Rock of Ages," a two-record set in 1972, was a spectacular live album, but it relied almost exclusively on the group's old songs. The Band still needed to give its audience new reasons to believe.

"Moondog Matinee," in 1973, was a greatly satisfying look at rock's roots (e.g., "Mystery Train," "The Great Pretender"), but it, too, failed to fully flex the group's creative abilities. Things seemed to grow even more tenuous this year as the release date of the Band's long-awaited new studio album got pushed back farther and farther.

The wait, however, is finally over, and the Band's fans can rejoice. "Northern Lights/Southern Cross" is not merely the first true Band album in four years, but, crucially, the most consistent and penetrating Band album since the group's classic "The Band" in 1969. There is a sureness and strength in both the songwriting and musical execution that reclaims the Band's position of leadership in rock.

While there is no need to view the album as more

While there is no need to view the album as more than simply a collection of interesting, entertaining songs, Robbie Robertson is such an accomplished and purposeful lyricist that his songs invite the listener to look for some deeper meanings and unifying factors. In the heart of "Northern Lights/Southern Cross," Robertson and the Band look at some of the complexities, ironies and, indeed, disappointments of this "restless age" in America. It's an examination that was touched on in both the "Stage Fright" album in 1970 and in "Cahoots," but the study is more concentrated and well-defined here. and well-defined here.

By updating the exploration of the American spirit and heritage that was launched in the original "The Band" album, the rock quintet has completed the artistic circle in its new album (Capitol ST 11440) that it began in 1969 with such songs as "Across the Great Di-vide," "King Harvest" and "The Night They Drove Old Dixie Down.

In the album's opening "Forbidden Fruit," for instance, Robertson speaks of how many people these days seem torn between a deep-rooted emptiness (e.g., economic, spiritual) and increasing desires/temptations in a way that makes it difficult for one to gain balance or perspective. The song's tone, however, is light and wry rather than morose:

High and lonesome out on Times Square Haven't got a dime, ain't got a prayer



"In Northern Lights/Southern Cross," the Band is providing its audiences with new reasons to believe.

Deliver us, Lord, from this golden calf People only want what they can not have How can I walk with this ball and chain? How can I land in this hurricane? Or is this part of man's evolution To be torn between truth and illusion?

By contrast, "Hobo Jungle," the next track, deals with those who have stepped from the mainstream in a way that causes them to be labeled outcasts, but who actually may have a keener sense of direction than most. The song's universal tone turns it into a gentle ode to anyone who seeks his own—sometimes lonely, unpopular—path. Richard Manuel's vocal is so lovely and evocative that the Grammy Award voters should remember it if they are really serious about honoring the best performances this year:

There was a chill that night in the hobo jungle Over the trainyard lay a smooth coat of frost. Although nobody here really knows where they're goin' At the very same time, nobody's lost . . . Drifters and rounders and distant friends Ridin' the rods, sleepin' under the stars Playin' the odds from a rollin' box car.

In the equally poignant "It Makes No Difference," Robertson touches on a theme (a love affair blocked by prior obligations) that is so contemporary that it just finished winning a song-of-the-year Grammy for the writers of "I Honestly Love You." But the Band song is such a more eloquent treatment that the judges may want to consider a revote.

The 1970s certainly have no monopoly on romantic complications, but the changing moral and philosophi-cal values of this era have certainly added to ro-mance's sometimes tormenting intensity. The lead vo-cal—this time by Rick Danko—is so convincing that it may well be Richard Manuel's only legitimate competition for a vocalist of the year Grammy. The song deals with the ache of a romance that can't be finalized:

It makes no diffrence how far I go Like a scar the hurt will always show It makes no diffrence who I meet They're just a face in the crowd on a dead-end street.

"Acadian Driftwood," a song with much of the tone and historical sensitivity of "The Night They Drove Old Dixie Down," deals with the forced migration of a people (the Acadians who originally settled in Nova Scotia) in a way that is once a reflection of their plight, but also relates to the continued oppression around the world.

Where "Acadian Driftwood" offers Robertson in his familiar role of story-teller, there is an intimacy and personal vision in much of "Northern Lights/Southern Cross" that gives it the overtones of a solo work by a singer-songwriter. But no singer-songwriter ever had as rich and flexible a means through which to present. his music.

In Danko, Manuel and Levon Helm, the Band has three of the finest vocal interpreters in contemporary pop music. While Danko and Manuel are at their best on the more plaintive tunes, Helm is ideally suited for the earthier, kick-up-your-heels numbers. "Olphelia" and "Ring Your Bell," for instance, are songs on the new album that are in the "Rag Mama Rag"/"Up on Cripple Creek" tradition that is tailor-made for Helm's rough and rowdy vocal ways. Helm has just the right touch of grin-and-bear-it conviction in his voice.

Instrumentally, the important thing about the Band is the way its arrangements seem at once spare and complete. The group knows just when to stop adding layers to its sound. Garth Hudson's use of synthesizer is an example. Though the synthesizer is noticeable on several tracks in "Northern Lights/Southern Cross," it never becomes unruly or dominant as it does in so many less disciplined hands.

But the playing generally on the album-particularly Helm's steady, propulsive drumming—is comfort-able and controlled. Unlike so many groups returning from a layoff, there are no signs of rust or stiffness

Just as the arrangements are nicely balanced, there, too, is an equal weighing of harsh and soft, sophisticated and earthy elements in the album. Indeed, Robertson has even divided his canvas between the city (e.g., "Rags & Bones," an ode to the sounds of the streets) and the country (e.g., "Jupiter Hollow," an acknowledgement of the freedom and opportunity associated with an untarnished land or frontier).

While there are elements of pessimism in the album that quite accurately reflect some feelings in society, there is also optimism. It's the same kind of ultimate faith in man's ability to endure that one found in the sometimes pessimistic pages of William Faulkner's novels.

The only disappointing note in "Northern Lights/ Southern Cross" is that the Band—which can be a vigorous/celebrative unit on stage—continues in a gener-ally softer key on record. Only in moments of "Rock of Ages" did the group step out dynamically in a way that would capture the affections of a hard-core rock fan. Thus, the rock side of the group remains largely unheard by those who have listened to its records.

. But the Band, in truth, is not strictly a rock group. It combines too many important elements in its music -from country and blues to folk and rock-to be a prisoner of any one of them. It's a stance that has cost the group some commercial impact, but it was a decision that has enabled the Band to produce one of the most-valuable and influential bodies of work in contempora-

ry pop music.

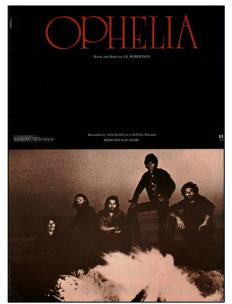
In a time when pop music fans seem almost obsessed with pointing out how few veteran rock stars have done anything in the 1970s to match the power and passion of their work in the 1960s, the Band enthusiasts can point proudly to "Northern Lights/Southern Cross." The Band, unquestionably, is back. The irrony is that the group may well have never even thought of itself as being away.

cash box singles reviews February 14, 1976

THE BAND (Capitol P4230)

Ophelia (2:52) (Medicine Hat — ASCAP) (R. Robertson)

This first single from the chart-busting "Northern Lights-Southern Cross" LP is a funky shuffle in The Band's best found-and-lost woman tradition. Levon Helm's floppy drums kick the piece along, and his vocal is impeccably mournful. Robbie Robertson plays an absolutely steaming guitar solo, popping the strings until they cry, and this song will hit the charts strong. Flip: Hobo Jungle.















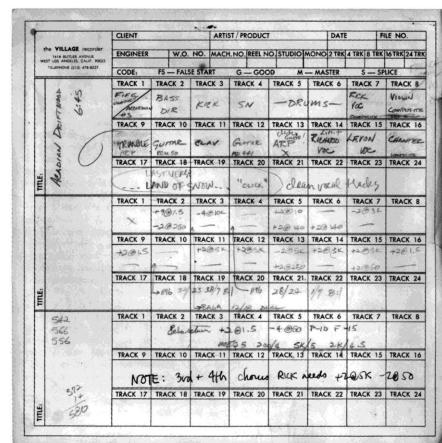
















· RECORDS ·



The Band's Wintry Tales: Nothing Is Revealed



Northern Lights— Southern Cross The Band Capitol ST-11440

by Robert Palmer

Cahoots and the oldies LP, Moondog Matinee, weren't exactly auspicious developments in a recording career with beginnings as brilliant as the Band's. Their playing behind Bob Dylan on Planet Waves and Before the Flood as well as on the earlier Basement Tapes has been more accomplished and stirring than any of their own music since The Band, and it is against these efforts as sidemen that their first album

of new songs in four years must inevitably be judged. The first few seconds of Northern Lights Southern Cross promise a departure. Robbie Robertson's usually clean, cutting guitar quavers through a wah-wah and phase-shifter, and Garth Hudson is using multiple synthesizers to create an orchestralike overlay. The entrance of Levon Helm's voice, its Arkansas inflection intact, provides a familiar reference, but only momentarily. The vocals on earlier Band albums tended to blur into murkily homogenous instrumental backdrops, but here Levon and the answer-ing voices of Richard Manuel and Rick Danko are mixed forward, ringing through loud and clear. The listener realizes during the first few bars of music the extent to which the antique sepia-tinged flavor of the first Band albums was a result of their determinedly primitive mixes. Before long it's equally evident that the Band's new sound is the result of a revolution in instrumental and recording technology and not of a revolution in ideas.

Robertson's new songs are set in his native north country, from the "smoky bars and souped up cars" that comprised the Canadian landscape of his youth to the porn theaters of Times Square, New York, and for the most part they attempt to render emotion directly rather than through the medium of characters. Unfortunately, the self-dramatization and occa sional baldness which marred the more personal songs on Cahoots are still present. "It Cahoots are still present. Makes No Difference" wallows in emotional excess ("Since you've gone it's a losin' battle/ Stampedin' cattle they rattle the walls") and the down-and-out narrator of "Forbidden Fruit" wonders, as he wanders past the sleaze palaces of 42nd Street, ". . . is this part of man's evolution/To be torn between truth and illusion?" Several other songs are so introverted they're almost antiex-pressive. "Hobo Jungle" may be more than an account of the death and funeral of a drifter, but the significance of the words to their author isn't made clear. "Rags and Bones," which ends the album, consists of an obsessive catalog of urban sights and sounds with only a passing evocation of déjà vu to indicate what they mean to Robertson or are supposed to mean to the listener. In "Jupiter Hollow," an apparent dream journey into states of mental dissociation, Robertson notes matter-offactly, without seeming to complain, that "nobody cares when a man goes mad/And tries to free the ghost within." Even "Ophelia" and "Ring Your Bell," both relatively lightweight sagas of mounties, outlaws and renegade women, come replete with forebodings of separation and retributive justice. Robertson is true to his roots in the far north, where window shades stay drawn throughout the year and comments on the weather are usually answered with that most noncommittal of affirmatives, He expresses pain, frustration and desperation, but cannot really reveal himself; even devoted analysts of the Band's oeuvre can have only a vague notion of how it feels to be Robbie Robertson.

Robertson's re-creations of the American past have been the most unique and the most easily accessible of his songs, and predictably enough Northern Lights' most unambiguous success is its one historical nar-rative, "Acadian Driftwood." Richard Manuel and Levon Helm are at their mood-sustaining best as they take turns tracing the odyssey of the French-speaking Acadians from Canada to the sugar fields of Louisiana. The lyrics are direct and earthy, the melody is the most memorable on the LP and the instrumental arrangement is positively breathtaking. Garth Hudson sur-rounds the keening fiddle of guest Byron Berline with the sounds of a whining bagpipe chanter, an accordion and a piping piccolo, while Robertson adds restrained chordal punctuations on acoustic guitar and Manuel maintains a burry rhythm line on clavinet. The

chorus sings "Canadian cold front/Movin'in," but the words are almost unnecessary; the arrangement makes you feel the cold in your bones.

In fact, all the arrangements are superb. They camouflage the deficiencies of the material so successfully that on a purely sensual, noncognitive level, Northern Lights is invigorating. Levon sings lead on over half the songs. His nuanced twang is the perfect foil for the more histrionic deliveries of Manuel and Danko, and his drumming is as crisp and incisive as ever. Garth Hudson's contributions reveal the most spectacular individual growth. "Ophelia" is of interest principally because he has overdubbed an orchestra of brass woodwinds and synthesizers, and dovetailed all his instruments precisely into the deliberate pulsation of the tune's rhythm track. The veiled phenomenology of "Jupiter Hollow" is lent an air of arcane mystery by his succinct string synthesizer and vibrantly dissonant Lowrey organ. On "Hobo Jungle" his organ and accordion blend with Robertson's acoustic guitar and melodica into a delight of shifting luminosities. The influence of New Orleans producer Allen Toussaint, who wrote horn charts for the Band's live Rock of Ages LP, is evident in the offbeat rhythm patterns played by drums and bass in "Ring Your Bell," "Forbidden Fruit" and "Ophelia," and in the snaking shapes of Hudson's brass and reed lines as well, but the

overall sound remains rustic, due largely to the roughness of

Hudson's horns and the country-style close harmony of the vocalists. This characteristic

stylistic mix is taken to almost

uncanny extreme in "Ophelia," which manages to sound like a 19th-century period piece with

brass-band accompaniment de-

spite the prominently featured electric organs, synthesizers and Seventies funk rhythms.

The least satisfying instrumental work comes from Robertson, usually the Band's most arresting soloist. He has made a career of turning technical limitations into stylistic triumphs, beginning with his simple but riveting solo on Ron-nie Hawkins's "Who Do You Love?" and continuing through his supercharged breaks and pumping rhythm riffs on the Dylan/Band tour. His lead guitar on "Forbidden Fruit" and "It Makes No Difference" conveys his familiar fire, but again and again, in "Fruit," "Ophelia," "Difference" and "Rags and Bones," he employs the device of repeatedly hammering on a single note, oddly paralleling the insistent listing of undeveloped images in the words to "Bones." Until he begins to at least formulate the problems with which he is grappling through his music, the Band's records will doubtless continue to be, like this one, exquisitely put together, emotionally affecting, melodious, sincere, and like a picture puzzle with one piece missing, slightly but significantly awry.

THE NEW YORK TIMES, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5, 1975

The Pop Life

The Band Has a New Album

By JOHN ROCKWELL

The Band has a new album out called "Northern Lights—Southern Cross," and in the press biography that Capitol Records has released for the occasion, the quintet is casually referred to as "one of America's most prolific

groups."

Aside from the fact that four of the five come from Canada, the statement betrays a wicked sense of irony. On the one hand, they have put out five disks in the last two years, not even counting this one. But on all five they were overshadowed by Bob Dylan—"Planet Waves" was a collection of Dylan songs; "Before the Flood" was a two-record document of the Dylan-Band 1974 tour, with only Band oldies representing the Band on its own, and "The Basement Tapes," while containing some previously unreleased Band songs, dated from 1967.

Furthermore, the group's record for 1973 was a collection of rock and rhythm-and-blues oldies, again with no original material, and their record for 1972 was a two-record live album that consisted largely of material from their previous studio albums. All of which means that "Northern Lights—Southern Cross" is the first record of new Band songs since "Cahoots" in 1971.

since "Cahoots" in 1971.

For those who loved the group's early records, there was real cause for worry. The great Band albums were "Music from Big Pink" in 1968, "The Band" in 1969 and, maybe, "Stage Fright" in 1970. During the Dylan-Band tour there was talk of new Band material, but it never appeared. And for some time Robbie Robertson, the group's leader and chief song writer (all the songs on the new disk are his) talked vaguely about shaping the Band's sound in emulation of the Polish avant-garde composer Krzysztof Penderecki. It was a notion that struck those who know Mr. Penderecki's work as eccentric at best: what was Mr. Robertson thinking of — downhome, Civil War synthesized avant-gardism?

Well, the new record doesn't sound much like Mr. Penderecki, one can gratefully report. But it does make use of the synthesizer in a pervasive yet amazingly sub-

tle way, one that doesn't subvert the Band's basic sound at all. The prevailing idiom reverts to the sturdy simplicity of the best Band disks, free of the sometimes slightly awkward experimentation of "Cahoots."

The songs cover a wide range of concerns, although Mr. Robertson's verse has always struck this observer as too convoluted and opaque for its own good, despite its evocativeness. No doubt the analysts among us will soon be coming forth with sober elucidations of the disk as a total concept. One can say that motions of rootless despair tempered by gentle consolation pervade the record, especially in its two most initially striking songs, "Arcadia Rising" and "Jupiter Hollow." All in all, this is certainly the finest Band record for half a decade, and a reaffirmation of the fecundity of the group in general and of Mr. Robertson in particular.

It looks fairly likely as of this moment that Mr. Robertson will be among the guests who show up for the Dylan benefit concert Monday night at Madison Square Garden. As usual, secretiveness covers everything. As of now—aside from Muhammad Ali and Roberta Flack, whose participation has been known about for several days—John Lennon is a probable, and Ray Charles is a maybe, with many more guests hinted at; a recent Canadian show lasted five hours, so this one may go on all night. Joni Mitchell, who has appeared for some Rolling Thunder Revue dates in New England, is scheduled to do a benefit in Los Angeles that night.

First, There's The Band; Then, There's The Rest Of Them

By CLIFF RADEL Enquirer Reporter

The Band. The group's name instantly suggests pre-eminence. It was the band Bob Dylan chose to accompany him on his 1966 world

accompany him on his 1999 worsa tour.

The name also implies a sacrific-ing of individual identities in favor of the group. Levon Helm, Garth Hudson, Richard Manuel, Rick Danko, and Robbie Robertson are The Band. No one receives star bill-

ON RECORD the five have con-ON RECORD the five have continuously stressed the group over the individual performance. Pictures of The Band on its albums never bear any identifying captions. Only one of the group's recordings, its second, "The Band," and three albums with Dylan, "Before the Flood," "Basement Tapes," and "Planet Waves," include any mention of instrumentations.

WILL The Band's latest release.

With The Band's latest release,
"Northern Lights — Southern
Cross," (Capitol, ST-11440), the mystery continues. The quintet stares
anonymously across the cover. As
on all their photographs, the group's

plain clothes, stark features, and coalblack hair make them appear as if they are posing for a daguerre-

If they are posing for a daguerre-otype compared to the group's six previous Capitol albums, Northern Lights—Southern Cross" contains a wealth of information. For the first time in The Band's recording ca-reer, the vo

NORTHERN LIGHTS-SOUTH-

"NORTHERN LIGHTS—SOUTH-ERN Cross" represents a year's work for The Band. The time and thought the group put into the album was well spent.

The album was composed by guitarist Robertson. Three of the selections, "Ring Your Bell," "Hobo Jungle," and "Acadian Driftwood," contain references to the native land of 4/5ths of The Band, Canada. Drummer Helm, from Arkansas, is the "Southern Cross" in the album's title.

'Acadian Driftwood" shows Robertson once again relating to a los-ing cause as he did on "The Night They Drove Old Dixie Down." Aca-dia was the original name for Nova Scotia. The driftwood in the song represents the thousands of French Acadians deported from the area beginning in 1755. The song tells of the hardships these people encoun-tered as they settled in the French colony of Louisiana and became known as Cajuns.

THE ALBUM'S lyrics, ranging om the fin de siecle "Rags & ones," about a ragman, to the nagery of "Hobo Jungle," "over the imagery of "Hobo Jungle," "over the trainy ard lay a smooth coat of frost," arrangements featuring Hudson's accordian and Lowey organ, and smoothly blended vocal harmonies prove that The Band's creative powers are still intact.

Judging from Little Feat's "The Last Record Album" (Warner Bros., BS 2884) Warner Records' A&R people have decided to make the group the company's answer to The Band. Richard Hayward keeps his drum heads loose and makes an abundant use of brushes like his counterpart in The Band.

The group vocals on "Romance Dance" sound uncannily like The Band. Unfortunately, Little Feat's lyrics lack continuity and thematic development. The best words on the album are on the liner notes regarding the group's lead vocalist Paul Barree's description of Hollywood! "a giant fruit salad with a twist of a cool whip like a mirage in your garage."

The Art Ensemble of Chicago does not sound like The Band. In fact. It does not sound like any group that has ever played on God's Earth. The quartet's Arista-Freedom double-record set, "The Paris Session," (Al 1903), is a mixture of melodic and percussive experiments and humor.

EACH OF THE ART Ensemble's members, Lester Bowle (trumpet, and percussion), Roscoe Mitchell (reeds and percussion), Joseph Jarman (reeds and keyboards), and Malachi Favors (electric and acoustic bass), are master improvisors.

Their music is in a constant tur-moil. Every minute of the album challenges the fundamentals of Western music.

Throughout the album Bowie takes the trumpet from its melodic roots and transforms it into a percussive instrument. Mitchell's filis on whistles, sirens, cowbells, tin cans, steel drums, besides his outstanding duet on alto with Bowie on the Latin-rhythmed "Toro" add elements of ironic contrast.

These normally unmusical sounds, when juxtaposed with a harpsichord as on "Lori Song," display the Art Ensemble's dedication to revolutionary sounds. As proof of how advanced the Art Ensemble's musical concepts are this album so full of fresh music was recorded in 1969.



The Band Unmasked

. . Rick Danko, Garth Hudson, Richard Manuel, Robbie Robertson and Levon Helm.

ARKANSAS GAZETTE, Sunday, Dec. 14, 1975. • 9E

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Recordings

The Band Shines for Change in 'Northern Lights'

By PAUL JOHNSON Of the Gazette Staff

I HAVE NEVER BEEN partner to the deification of The Band. In fact, their last three albums have left me singularly unimpressed, and I haven't liked ANY of their alburns since "The Band" VERY

Nevertheless, "Northern Lights Southern Cross (Captiol) impresses me more than any album in recent months, and is quite possibly among the better recordings of

Always one of the most humane of bands, The Band returns on "Northern Lights Southern Cross" to some of the themes that marked the best of its earlier work. For instance, "Acadian Driftwood" is the best Band song since "The Night They Drove Old Dixie Down" Like that earlier recording, "Acadian Driftwood" deals with a historical theme, couched in human terms that make the experience real for

"Acadian Driftwood" tells Acadian Drittwood' tells the story of the exodus of the Acadians who were to become Louisiana's Cajuns. With Byron Berline's scratchy fiddle pour-ing out a very subdued Cajun swamp fiddle theme, the song perspectiveless is not a Cajun time nevertheless is not a Cajun tune in the classic sense. It contains lyrics that deal with the exodus in purely personal terms that make the story even more understandable. "Try to raise up a family." the tune relates, "end up the enemy over what went down on the Plain of Abraham." It continues, "We worked in the sugar fields up north of New Orleans; it was evergreen up until the flood."
This song will rank among The
Band's best ever and deserves to become as big a hit as "Rag Mama Rag" or some of the

"Acadian Driftwood" is not the only good song on this album by any means. In fact, every tune strikes home with just the right feeling. Robbie **Country Music**

- 1. LOVE PUT A SONG IN MY HEART, Johnny Rodriguez. SECRET LOVE,

- Freddy Fender
 EASY AS PIE, Billy
 (Crash) Craddock.
 COUNTRY BOY (You Got Your Feet In L.A.), Glen Campbell.
- WHERE LOVE BE-
- GINS, Gene Watson.
 6. IT'S ALL IN THE MOVIES, Merle Hag-
- gard WARM SIDE OF YOU. Freddie Hart and The
- Heartheats
- LYIN' EYES, Eagles.
 JUST IN CASE, Ronnie
- Milsap. SINCE I MET YOU BABY, Freddy Fender.

Robertson's deft compositions are executed with marvelous feeling and precision by Rick Danko. Arkie Levon Helm. Garth Hudson and Richard

"Forbidden Fruit," a Creed-ence-sounding kicker, opens the album on a primitive note, Levon's vocal being filtered to provide just the right aura of rough-hewn rock that is needed to carry off the tune. That gives way to a softer style on "Hobo Hungle," another of Robertson's humane observations about "The old man lay frozen on the cold cold ground; he was a stray bird, playing the odds from a rolling boxcar. Hudson's accordion and harp add an appropriately lonesome feeling to a lonesome railroad

As a musician, Hudson dominates this album like a Colos sus, playing a virtual roomful of instruments ranging from organ, harp and synthesizers to horns and accordions. His brassy contribution and Levon's drumming power across "Ring Your Bell." making it a purely The only qyarrel with an album that rates 4½ stars on a Danko's vocal is a bit too polished on "it Makes No Difference." but that's quibbling, when the fact remains that this album must rank as among the year's best two or three record-

I dearly love Jimmy Buffett albums, and I'd recommend this one as highly as any of old Jim's; for me that's about as high a compliment as I can pay

A&M and Jazz

A&M RECORDS has issued a series of jazz recordings on the Horizon label, and if their fu-ture output is the equal of the initial issue, jazz fans are in for ue, jazz fans are in for a major treat.

Leading off the first offering is "Suite for Pops" by the Thad Jones/Mel Lewis big jazz band. I think the Jones/Lewis group is probably the best big band around, and it lives up to that reputaton here. The album is not an attempt to reproduce Louis Armstrong's music, but is a tribute to him and his life. The music ranges from sheer brassy power to soft waltzes, and every cut is a sheer joy. The band members are too numerous to mention but they include Jon Faddis, Marvin Stamm, Jimmy Knepper, George Mraz, Jerry Dodgion, Pepper Adams, Eddie Xiques Roland Hanna and others. The album is a pure delight for jazz lovers who insist that their nusic sound like music and not like a threshing machine.

Other albums in the initial Horizon offering include "Brubeck and Desmond 1975: The Duets," a very nice, quiet ex-cursion by Paul Desmond and Dave Brubeck. This may be too tame for some jazz fans, but it's still a nice recording for those whose tastes run more to relaxation than tension. Desmond is the real star on most of the cuts, with Brubeck's piano touch just a bit too light for my taste.

The other three discs in the series are "Sweet Hands" by David Liebman, "Jim Hall Live" and "Awakening" by Sonny Fortune.

Jazz listeners will welcome the addition of the label to a growing groundswell of jazz

Chet's Concept

CONCEPT ALBUMS often prove disappointing, but Chet Atkins has managed to bring one off with great style on 'The Night Atlanta Burned' (RCA) by the Atkins String Company
The idea started with John

D Loudermilk, who had heard stories about the Atlanta Conservatory of Music, which, in servatory of Music, which, in pre-Civil War days was a sort of school of "classical" country-style music. The school was burned, along with the rest of the city, by Sherman, but Loudermilk beard an old man who ermilk heard an old man who said he had seen some sheet music that was illustrative of the style of music they played

Atkins plays acoustic guitar the album, joined by Lisa Silver on violin and viola, Johnny Gimble (and excellent fiddler) on mandolin and Paul Yandell on acoustic rhythm

The result is a curious combination of a classical music sound with country music



roots. At all times genteel and quiet, the music proves quite engaging, especially Louder-milk's "The Night Atlanta Burned." The composition, exe-cuted with dazzling perform-ances from all the players, especially Atkins, combines faint but definite traces of Spanish classical sounds with tasty undertones of Scottish music. The result is at once eniovable and curious.

Chet's fans will enjoy his Atkins String Company, and I for one look forward to future outings.

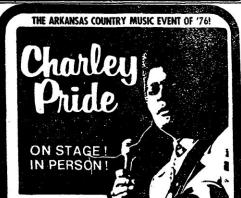
Concert Set By Jazz Group

The Jazz Ensemble at the University of Arkansas at Litthe Rock will give a concert at 8 p.m. Tuesday in the UALR Recital Hall. The public is in-vited and admission is free.

The eight-member Jazz Ensembe, which is directed by Ronald Boswell of the UALR music faculty, will perform jazz and jazz-rock arrange-ments by several of the coun-try's leading jazz composers, including Quincy Jones. Dick Grove, Kim Richmond and Dan Haerle.

Featured soloists will be Wes Hall, trumpet; Boswell, saxo-phone; Tilden Barger, guitar, and Jack Pritchett, drums.







Band album shows

By Bill Provick

You can take the band out of the country but you can't take the country

out of the band.

It's trite but it's true.

It's also a quick way to sum up a particular magic native to one of the finest musical groups in exis-tence — The Band.

As a rock band with Canadian roots long since transplanted in the fertile and lucrative - field of entertainment in the United States, The Band is probably the Lorne Greene of contemporary

Back home, we celebrate the group's Canadian origins while in the U.S. they probably regard the band members as extremely successful Americans - rich and famous, winners in the Great American Dream.

I don't know how The Band's material currently qualifies under the Cana-dian Radio-Television Commission's rules on Canadian content, but in a thoroughly non-legislated manner, The Band's music bears enough Canadian content to please ardent Canadian nationalists and confuse many American listeners.

At least I assume most Americans, if pressed for an answer or guess, would say the Plains of Abraham probably have something to do with the Civil War.

Classic song

Some Americans may even recall having already heard some Civil War history from The Band all about The Night They Drove Old Dixie Down.

This classic Band tune which has since been recorded by a number of other artists - was personalized Civil War history captured in an unusual contemporary-rustic style that proved mellow yet thoroughly arresting.

The Band performed on

Entertainment

pages 77-81

stage by the light of Tiffany lamps and posed for album covers in log cabins. The image fit the music, which had an earthy naturalness to it, restful and compelling like rural scenes softly sketched in pastels.

The music also had a strong foundation, a basic, lonesome catchiness like a backwoods - Timmins. Ont.? - bar sound raised to new levels by excellent musicianship.

This relaxing naturalness was executed with awesome precision by some of the tightest, most graceful musicians anywhere.

Dylan's choice

It's been no accident that for the past 10 years, when America's genius singer-songwriter Bob Dylan wanted to rock, always chose The Bandto accompany him in his live performances.

But like its friend Dylan, The Band only comes out once in a while. While glitter boys like Elton John are releasing albums as fast as they can record them, a new release of original material from The Band is a rare but cherished event.

The Band sits back so long between albums, one begins to wonder if the group has lost something. Then suddenly, there they are, better than ever.

The Plains of Abraham crop up in Acadian Drift-wood — another beautiful ballad of distant, war-torn. days of sadness - from The Band's latest album, Northern Lights — Southern Cross (Capitol ST-11440).

Acadian Driftwood is Canadian history, one section that overlaps with American history, involv-ing special links between the two nations. The Band, with its dual citizenship, uses this history to draw some modern parrallels.

"Set my compass north/ I've got winter in my blood ... Acadian driftwood/gypsy tailwind/they



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call my home/the land of snow/Canadian cold front/moving in/what a way to ride/oh what a way to go."

On both levels, it's a

beautful song.

Another is Forbidden Fruit, which opens the album with an old-fashioned twang that leads nicely into some classic rustic funk by The Band.

IT'S WORTH MORE.

MUCH MORE.

Lightness

and smoothness

you'd expect

to find only in

costing more.

Much more.

WISER'S

Canadian whiskies

SPECIAL BLEND.

vides an excellent, warm, enveloping mesh of sound created by individual excellence. In addition to one of the most fluid guitarists and most tasteful keyboardists anywhere, The Band also boasts three fine vocalists equally adept on their instruments - drums, bass and keyboards.

The Band swings into marvelous, slow, late-night blues called Hobo Jungle with Richard Manuel's vocals rivaling those of any other male vocalist.

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cash box : album reviews

NORTHERN LIGHTS-SOUTHERN CROSS - "he Band - Capitol ST-11440 - Producer: The Pand - List: 6.98

The downhome strain in rock and music in general has always done right by The Band. Their chops just seem to lean that way and, as a result, the music is always superior. On 'Northern Lights-Southern Cross" this vein is supplemented by a crisscross of other elements such as soul, folk and a minute strain of mountain music that makes the wait on this album one well worth it. Top cuts from the hills include "It Makes No Difference," "Hobo Jungle" and "Jupiter Hollow." The latest by The Band is music of the earth with a whole lot of majesty.

November 29, 1975





Top rock group, The Band, offers 'Northern Lights-Southern Cross'

By GERRY BARKER

Star-Telegram Writer America has been the birthplace for a lot of great music.

When you're talking about the blues, or rock and roll. bluegrass or country, there's a wealth of bands which could be considered oustanding at one or more.

But the group most rock critics name as the one which best represents everything American music has come to

is The Band. And I agree.

That fact is slightly ironic when you consider that four of the group's five members -Robbie Robertson. Richard Mahuel. Garth Hudson and Rick Danko — hail from Ontario, Canada. The fifth, Levon Helm, was

born in Marvell. Ark.

The Band has been around in one form or another since 1959. But it wasn't until 1965. when Bob Dylan picked the group to be his backup band. that things started happening for the group in a big way.

What happen was a milestone album in American mu-

sic called "Music From Big

Songs like "The Weight." "Up On Cripple Creek" and "The Night They Drove Old Dixie Down" have become modern classics.

THEIR ALBUMS since that time have continued to be best-sellers, although not all have measured up to their first efforts as to quality.

But The Band has a new alburn on the Capitol label. "Northern Lights-Southern Cross." that is their best work in a long, long time.

It features eight cuts that

capture the essence of the "rockabilly" the group made famous in its salad days.

Robertson has in the past been the catalyst that makes it all come together, and on this album he does a marvelous job of doing just that. All eight cuts were written by Robertson, and his guitar work is excellent throughout.

"Forbidden Fruit" kicks off side one, and right from the start you know this album is going to be something special. Each succeeding song sub-stains this feeling.

Cuts like "Hobo Jungle" reaffirm how this group has bottled what constitutes grass roots America. while Helm's vocals contribute to the easy. goodtime feeling of songs like "Ophelia."

BUT MAKE special note of "Acadian Driftwood." Thisone is a dandy, a sweet ballad that bears playing again and

The mood continues on side two, which includes the rock steady "Ring Your Bell." a bit of the blues with "It Makes No Difference," which fea-tures Hudson doing marvelous things with the soprano saxophone, and the even-tempered "Jupiter Hollow." Critics have been waiting

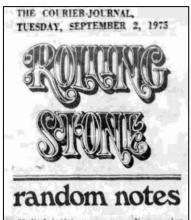
for a long time for The Band to show it's still one of the most viable forces in American music

"Northern Lights—South-ern Cross" more than proves

Neil Diamond will record his next album with Robbie Robertson of the Band producing. The presence of the genius guitarist composer — a new acquaintance of Dia-mond's — hints at a shift in direction for Neil. And, according to one associate, "Neil's anxious to get back in his old groove after all this crap (specifically the "Jonathan Livingston Seagull" soundtrack)." Diamond, who will record in LA, paid a visit to his childhood stomping grounds in Brooklyn recently for some songwriting inspiration.

9 Port IV-Tues., Oct. 21, 1975 Los Angeles Times *

NEIL DIAMOND'S RETURN: Neil Diamond is about to begin recording his new Columbia album and hopes to return to concerts early next year. The album, which will be produced and arranged by the Band's Robbie Robertson, will be recorded in Malibu and is expected to take about eight weeks. The tour, which will mark the end of Diamond's self-imposed, three-year sabbatical from concerts, will probably begin in Australia with Diamond working his way back to the United States in late spring or early summer.



United Artists gave a recording session John, Los Angeles. Those attending included Ringo Starr (who played host), Eric Clapton, Alice Cooper, Jackson Browne, Phoebe Snow, Joe Cocker, Minie Riperton, Edgar Winter, Eddie Kendricks, Maria Muldaur, Tommy Smothers and the Band's Rick Danko. John entertained for a couple of hours with his Ricky and Blues Revue, while the tapes Rizzum and Blues Revue, while the tapes ran and a film crew whirred away. Then at midnight, he was joined for an afterat miningnt, ne was joined for an arcer-recording-session jam with Ringo, Elap-ton (on congas), Cocker, back-up singer Tami Lynn and Alice Cooper guitarist Steve Hunter. The resulting album, en-titled "I Got Rizzum," is due in early fall.





