

'Changing horses': amalgamation

REVIEW
by TERRY SCHMITT

Changing Horses (Elektra 74057), by the Incredible String Band, is the sixth album by one of the most creative "pop" groups on the music scene today.

The band uses no one style but is an amalgamation of rock, blues, calypso, children's songs, Far Eastern and much more. It is not even unlikely to find many of these musical styles within one song.

Still, their uniqueness is found in their unpretentiousness. Their songs have a depth of complexity and technical brilliance, yet remain seemingly simple. Their lyrics contain natural sophistication and innocence, without any of the forced quality and syrupy textures found in many of Donovan's recent songs.

The group of course does all original material. Robin Williamson and Mike Heron are the songwriters, lead singers and main musicians. Both these men hail from Glasgow, Scotland.

ALSO IN the group are their lady companions, Licorice and Rose, who sing and play as well. Between the four of them, they play a multitude of instruments including piano, washboard, guitar, vibes, kazoo, organ, flute, sarang, grambi, sitar, mandolin and percussion. Unbelievably enough, their mastery of this many instruments is amazing, surely they are wizards.

This recent album consists of

six songs. The first song is "Big Ted," a tune about reincarnation. Ted is a farmer's pig who gets butchered, but "may be a moo cow next time around." The song begins in simple 4/4 country rhythm but modulates with boogie woogie complete with nonsensical scat singing. It is done with bluegrass harmony, funky harmonica and even shades of Tiny Tim.

THE NEXT CUT is a fifteen minute song by Heron entitled "White Bird." This song reveals the very religious nature which overshadows much of the ISB's music. Lines as,

"Walking, onward every day,

Sunshine in our faces,
Sun knows
No disgraces
No distastes
Nothing wasted at all,"
seems to reflect neo-Romantic notions.

This tract also features some very lovely "free form," finger style guitar. The side ends with "Dust Be Diamonds," the chorus of which sounds like a children's play song,
"Dust, be diamonds, water be wine,

Happy, happy, happy, all the time, time, time."

SIDE TWO begins with "Sleepers Awake," which is sung in four part harmony without accompaniment. The

style is in that of traditional English ballad singing and is very beautiful.

Next, "Mr. and Mrs." is an eerie sounding, rockish song which comments on society's tradition followers and so called respectable members.

The last song is a sixteen minute song called "Creation." The lyrics are mildly reminiscent of William Blake's *Urizen*. The song too contains many musical styles and various themes, even beautiful love lines as,

"Wild sea my love is salty for me
Every ripple in her body is a wave in me."

THE INCREDIBLE String

ENTERTAINMENT

Band may take some getting used to upon first hearing. Everyone will not like them, for they require serious listening for full appreciative enjoyment.

They convey an immense feeling of happiness, optimism, and of the magical element called life. Their incredibility is pure joy.

Livestock judges place fourth

The University of Nebraska Livestock Judging Team placed fourth in the Fort Worth Livestock Show, Saturday, Feb. 7.

The team placed second in the hog division and fifth in the quarter horse division. Ronald Haggan was tenth overall. Other team members are Steve Reuzac, Gary Hines, William Sitz and Kenny Davis.

Classifieds

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