

Part-time country band 'swings' as local entertainment

By Casey McCabe

Followers of local musicians should be well acquainted with Sour Mash, the seven piece 'cookin' country and swing' band, from Lincoln.

While the group mainly plays the local circuit to moderate-size crowds, the audiences are enthusiastic.

"We a part-time band, and our only aspirations at this point are to take the band on the road for a week at a time and keep a week end off now and then," explains drummer Dell Darling.

"Playing weekends in the band keeps everybody from getting tired of each other."

Other band members include: Steve Turbot, piano; Chuck Lettes, steel guitar; Dick Carlson, bass; Pam Harms, vocals; Randy Barger, guitar and vocals and Reynold Peterson, vocals.

Barger is the only remaining member of the original Sour Mash that began 5 years ago as an acoustic trio. It then became a standard country band with the advent of Lettes and Darling. The group has played in its present form for a year.

Times changing

The band traveled to such places as North Dakota, Colorado, Wyoming, Montana, and Canada, playing in "the tiny old time bars," Peterson said.

"That was before young people were into country. The kids used to hate country, but it's coming around again. Times are changing."

There is a wide range of musical variety in the group, with backgrounds in classical music, rock, blues, and country.

"We're also getting into the old big band, swing sound," Darling said. "It's fun to do and we get a good response from the people. I'd like to see a return to the dance craze, it's more enjoyable to play to a dancing crowd."

The group does their own arranging from artists such as Bonnie Raitt and the Mills Brothers. Each member is influenced by specific musicians, from the late Fats Waller to the Eagles. But rather than putting the group's style in limbo, it allows them to be flexible and diverse.

One album

The band has made one album: "Sour Mash Drinks and Goes Home." But the group agrees that the two-year-old LP was a different segment of Sour Mash.

Foreign films to begin

Tickets are on sale for the Foreign Film Series, in its 25th year at UNL. Fifteen films from various countries make up the series.

The first film of the series, Alain Resnais' *Providence*, will be shown free, Sept. 11 at 4 p.m., in the Sheldon Film Theater. Tickets for the rest of the series will be sold at the door. They also are available at the Nebraska Union south desk.

Tickets must be bought for a specific night and time—Sunday, Monday or Tuesday at 7 or 9 p.m. Price is \$9 for students and \$10 for non-students. Only season ticket holders will be allowed at the remaining films.

The Foreign Film Committee, sponsor of the series, also plans a Foreign Classics Series of older foreign films. Twelve films will be shown Sunday or Monday evenings when the regular series films are not scheduled.

A season ticket is not needed for the classics series. Admission is \$2, or \$1.50 to holders of foreign film season tickets. The first film in the classics series is Ken Russell's *Women in Love*.

Tired of those old bare walls?

New prints maybe the cure

If you're tired of those bare residence hall walls, or want to add some class to your apartment, then the university art auction and library might have just the painting for you.

Sponsored by the Union Program Council (UPC), starting at 7 p.m. in the Union main lounge, an auctioneer will sell about 20 prints from the library that haven't been popular rentals in the past.

Print lending will start after the auction and continue Thursday and Friday.

A student or faculty I.D. card is needed to rent a painting. Fees start at 25 cents and range to \$2.00. Profits will be spent for upkeep of prints and frames and will go toward purchasing new prints for the library.

Students and faculty members who have their eyes on particular prints should arrive early Wednesday evening, because the lending will be on a first come, first served basis. Individuals will receive numbers when they arrive. In the past, 90 per cent of the paintings have been loaned out.

UPC looks for leaders

If you're a leader, not a follower and enjoy scheduling events, you may want to apply for a Union Program Council (UPC) committee chairmanship. The UPC currently is interviewing for chairpersons of the Concerts Committee and the Human Potentials Committee. Interested persons can sign up for interviews by visiting or calling the UPC office, 115 Nebraska Union building, phone 472-2454.

"We first got into country music in hopes of getting jobs," Darling said. "The rest of the music scene was crowded so we would do any gig, from little red-neck bars, to street dances for farmers, as long as we got paid."

Now the band constantly is booked for appearances and will give several performances in Lincoln and Omaha in the coming months.

"The live music scene in Lincoln and Omaha is good and seems to be getting better," Darling said. "Every artist in the group would like to thank the people for the tremendous support and following we've received."

Sour Mash is playing at The Zoo Bar, 136 N. 14th St., Thursday through Saturday.

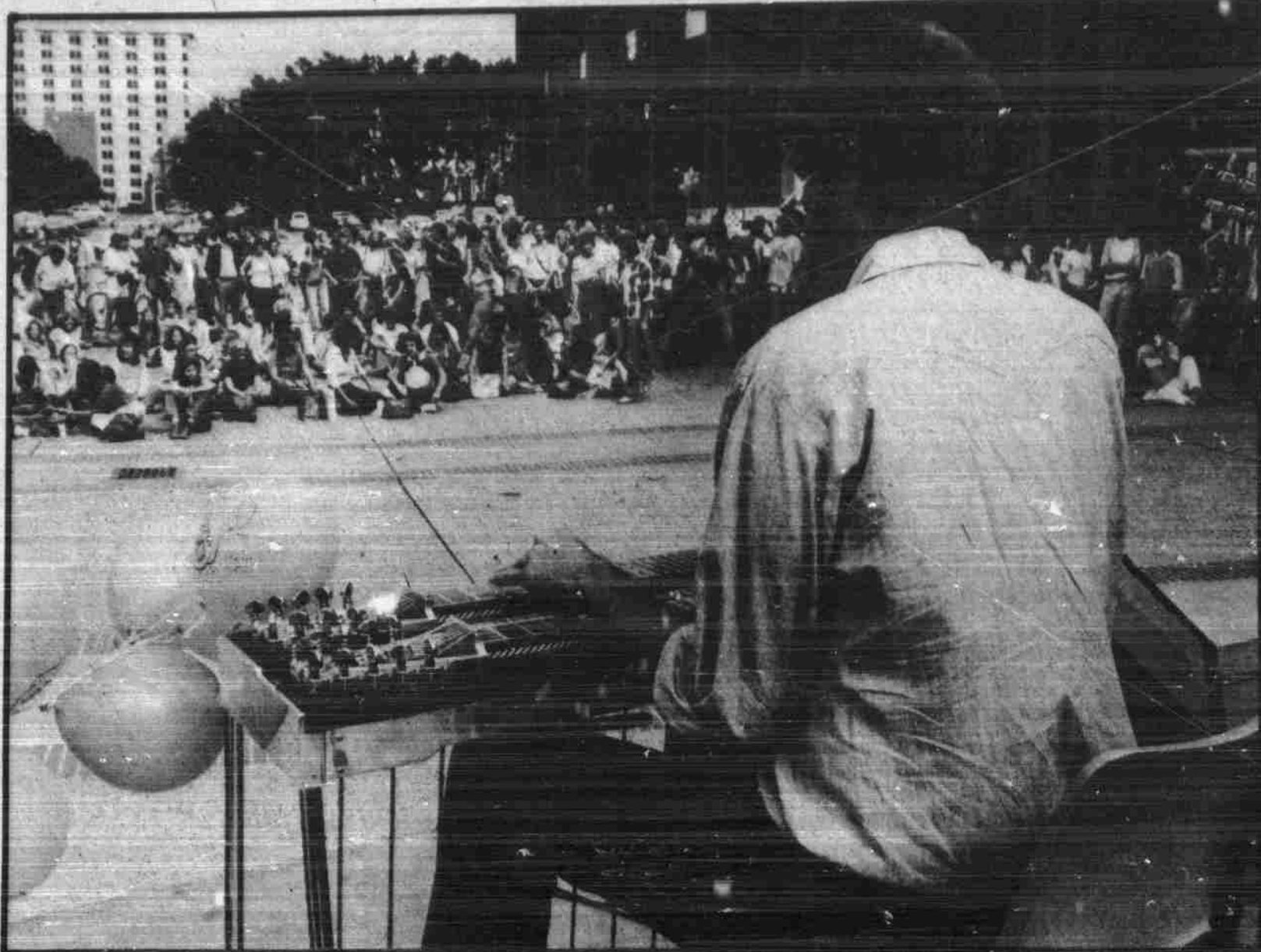


Photo by Bob Pearson

Chuck Lettes of Sour Mash performs on steel guitar Thursday afternoon in front of the Nebraska Union. The performance was followed by Hotfoot, a group from Kansas.

arts & entertainment

Geils' latest album unusual-and good

By Douglas R. Weil

What Geils, formerly known as the J. Geils Band, has done with rock 'n' roll on its new album, *Monkey Island*, is strange...and wonderful.

The sound of Geils' latest music is strange in the sense that it's an unlikely direction to pursue in 1977. *Monkey Island* is wonderful in the sense that I would not trade a copy of this album for 10,000 copies of Peter Frampton's latest schlock, *I'm In You*.

Geils, on *Monkey Island*, has reached into the dusty files of rock music and merged the antique with the modern. More simply, it has taken the most basic roots of rock 'n' roll and sprinkled in all the magnificent slickness that a 1977 recording studio will allow.

Conceptually *Monkey Island* is like designing a \$6,000 sound system for a 1957 Chevy.

"I Do" is a perfect example of the Geils approach on

album review

Monkey Island. Really "I Do" is not much more than your basic ShaNaNa and Flash Cadillac bee-bop.

In fact the entire song is held together by some well-done do-wah background vocals that give "I Do" just the proper amount of period authenticity. Ambitious Peter Wolf, the band's lead vocalist and frontman sings here just like the Fonz would if he didn't always have six inches of rubber hose up his nose.

'Take One' brings back classics

If you like good movies, but aren't too crazy about subtitles, the Union Program Council (UPC) has the answer. A new series, "Take One," from the Union Films Committee presents ten American Film Classics starting with Charlie Chaplin's *The Gold Rush* on Thursday.

The Union Films Committee is a new committee which grew out of the Centennial Room films of last year, according to Union Program Manager Sara Boatman.

While Lincoln's commercial theatres provide a variety of contemporary American movies, and foreign films are regularly scheduled on campus "there didn't seem to be much in the way of classic American movies," Boatman said.

The films were selected by a panel of several faculty members and students.

Funds for "Take One" were approved by the Fees

Allocation Board (FAB). "We requested a start-up budget from FAB for the committee, but by next year we expect to be self-supporting," Boatman said.

Chairperson Jim Anderson said, "Because we didn't get the audience we wanted (with the Centennial Room films) we put it under a little better management with more promo, and gave it a series format."

"People like oldies, so I tried to think of a series that would be popular, but artful," Anderson said.

The Gold Rush is seen by many critics as Chaplin's finest film, according to Anderson.

"It's a film that hasn't been in circulation for around 20 years except for museum or special showings," Anderson said.

Admission is \$1.50 for students and \$2.00 for non-students. Series tickets are available for \$7.00 and \$10.00 at the Union south desk.

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