

International acclaim given to Everhart

By Mark Georgeff
Staff Reporter

For those interested in traditional folk music, Bob Everhart's performance at 1:15 p.m. Saturday is a must.

Everhart specializes in acoustic guitar and will be joined by Danny McElroy on banjo and Dick Zion on bass.

Although Everhart has had a certain amount success in America, especially in the coastal states, many Europeans see Everhart as simply . . . a god.

International demand for Everhart's music has sent him on six foreign tours, from renowned concert halls to small, nightclubs.

Back in the United States, Everhart received a Grammy nomination for his song "Waiting for a

Train."

The interview with Everhart didn't focus on his Grammy nomination or international reputation, instead it was a journey into Everhart's style of music.

'Big bucks don't make the art form. My music's not commercial. It's just traditional country and very real.'

"With only a bass and banjo player accompanying me, I can reach people with my music in it's purest form."

Everhart continues discussing his musical career, which spans more than four decades, in a smooth, relaxing voice that breaks into laughter every few moments, mainly because he's so at ease while interviewing.

Everhart's voice sets one at ease. During the Lincoln to Council Bluffs phone call it seemed as though two old friends who hadn't heard from each other in years, were now trying to bring back memories.

Born in 1936, Everhart grew up in a region of the western sandhills which was homesteaded by his early ancestors.

Everhart never learned how to read music. By the age of five, he was playing the harmonica on his grandfather's knees or pounding on a local neighbor's piano.

It appears that Everhart's soul has always been in country music, but his '60s youth was a far step away from Nashville's doors.

After fronting tenor sax for the Rolling Stones and backing up legends like Chubby Checker, the Animals and the Byrds, Everhart then left rock 'n' roll to rid himself of the drug scene settling over the creativity of his musical comrades.

He jumped out of the rock 'n' roll scene during the Jimi Hendrix era, but regardless of Everhart's reasons for bidding rock 'n' roll good-bye, he felt even more disenchanted by certain country music powers.

"I just wanted to get back to my roots and preserve country music instead of following Nashville's routes," he said.

See EVERHA on 6



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