

OCTOBER 19, 1973



SPINNING DISCS

By RICK BASTON

Lead Free - B.W. Stevenson

Personnel: Jim Gordon, Dennis St. John [drums]; Larry Carlton, Dean Parks, B.W. Stevenson [guitars]; Mickey Raphael, [harmonica]; Emory Gordy, [bass]; Red Rhodes, [steel guitar]; Larry Muhoberac [piano]; Gib Gibeau, [fiddle]

Rating: Good, worth a couple of listenings.

Comments: The thing that strikes me most about this album is the picture of B.W. on the front, decked out in farmer gear doing his 'back to the country' trip. The impression I got was that B.W. was another cliché folk-country singer. However, when I played the album, I was surprised at the richness and feeling of B.W.'s voice. He doesn't have a fantastic range, but the feeling in that voice is something that has to be listened to, to be appreciated.

The songs on the album are for the most part quiet folk country compositions except for the last two on side two; these two really drive and rock. These two songs alone are worth the price of the album.

My Maria - B.W. Stevenson

Personnel - Same as above.

Rating - excellent

Comment: This album is a vast improvement over his other decent album. The singing is great with a feeling that many other pseudo-folkies lack. B.W. is still singing about the people he's met and the loneliness of life.

The best songs on this album are the title song, "My Maria" and "Shambala". "My Maria" has a good uptempo beat with good lyrics and fine vocals by B.W. "Shambala" is a vast improvement on the cover version by Three Dog Night. This version has much of the freshness that the Three Dog Night version lacks.

Hopefully we'll be hearing more from B.W. Stevenson, despite the lack of airplay that he has managed to achieve.

The Six Wives of Henry VIII - Rick Wakeman

Personnel: Rick Wakeman [keyboards]; assorted members of Yes and others.

Rating: Great

Comments: Today there are many "art-rock" groups who have managed to bore us to death with a lack of creativity in their 'classic' pieces. Yes has been an exception to this problem; their work has always been refreshing and interesting. Now Rick Wakeman, the keyboard man has decided to release a solo album based on the theme of the six wives of Henry the Eighth.

The album is divided into six parts, one for each of the wives of Henry. This is fantastic.

Each piece sounds great, with an excellent job done in mixing in classic themes with the basic roots of rock. The cut I liked the most was "Anne of Cleves" primarily because of the driving beat and the fantastic keyboard work that complements the drums but never loses sight of the classic themes which the work is based on.

Well, that's all for this week, I'd like to thank CHSR for the loan of the albums and thank Mike Carr for the use of his stereo.



Berton's latest book reviewed

By EDISON STEWART

Pierre Berton's latest book, *Drifting Home*, blends a fascinatingly true story of his return to the land of his youth with an adventurous trip down the river Yukon (in the territory of the same name, naturally.)

It's Berton's umpteenth book: not having read any others, I can't compare any of them. But it has a fresh and easy style that is entertaining and easy to read.

It's all about a 12 day trip he and his family take down this river and their adventures along the way. Berton begins by letting us know his father and he spent many happy times on the river, meeting the people and sharing the life that was so very different from "The Outside."

Berton's father, you see, was from New Brunswick (a graduate in engineering at UNB too) and liked a challenge. So in 1898 he set out for the Yukon. His letters to his mother in Saint John provide a good deal of the background for the book.

He describes in meticulous detail the happiness and problems he has

getting to the Yukon (this was during the gold rush).

At this time, the Yukon was the most rapidly expanding area in the west (with the huge influx of gold-hungry miners). This coupled with the fact that the Yukon was isolated during the winter months (it was a joyous occasion each spring, when, says Berton, the first steamboat braved its way up the river after the winter freeze) made for a completely different life style in the Yukon.

Berton gets terribly sentimental at parts and engages in the odd ego trip, but the story of the trip (along the route his father and he took many years before - hence *Drifting Home*) is fascinating as well.

Berton tells of meeting another couple along the way - the first sign of human life they've seen along the river. In the course of introducing themselves, Berton's wife Janet finds out that the newcomers are from New Jersey, USA.

They are here, they say, because they read a book about the area and made up their minds to visit the Yukon.

Smiling, Janet points to Berton

and says he wrote the book. (Avid Berton fans will recognize it as "Klondike," another in Berton's seemingly endless series of good books.)

Drifting Home is somewhat the same. It makes me want to visit the place and travel the river Berton has travelled; not because he travelled it, but because the portrait Berton paints is an intriguing one.

Drifting Home is perhaps a bit expensive at \$6.95. Now available at the Bookstore, only the hard cover edition has been released. If a \$1.50 paperback ever comes out, it'll certainly be worth spending your money on. If you have \$6.95 in spare change sitting around and you'd like the entertainment, buy the book.

It's entertaining and compelling. Perhaps one day a bunch of us will all meet in the Yukon, having been inspired by one or another of Berton's books.

McClelland and Stewart \$6.95 - 174 pages, 24 pages of photographs. "Drifting Home" - courtesy of UNB Bookstore.

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ZYLAN

By LEE PALMER

On Thursday Oct. 10 Zylan appeared at the pub in the ballroom to a capacity crowd. Unfortunately it was line up time again and it was around 9:30 before the allotted 350 people were in. The delay in getting the people in is a problem but a seemingly unsolvable problem as long as the pubs are held in the ballroom. First of



all due to the fact that the Social Club is also on the floor one stairway has to be left clear for them. It just takes time to file 350 people through one gate. For the 100 people that had to be turned away at the door again there is not much consolation but there is good reason. The Liquor Commission will not allow more than 350 people to enter and besides that there is just no room for that many people. Even with 350 the room is full to overflowing. I guess if you want to go you'll have to keep suffering a little inconvenience and for those that were turned away last time - live and learn.

The band Zylan is a familiar name to most students here on campus as they have appeared here several times and have played in the Maritimes for several years. They would have to get first prize for the most changed around band going. There are no members of the band on stage now that were in the original Zylan. The most recent change occurred the first of June when the horn section was dropped and they employed a new drummer, guitarist and organist.

Although some students were disappointed to see the horns gone everyone seemed to enjoy the band greatly as they applauded frequently through the night.

The band wasn't as loud as most who have graced our fair campus. The band said they were known for being loud so maybe their decline in decibels was a mistake but whatever the reason to most it was a pleasant one.

They played a variety of music from most of the big name bands and also did a lot of their own material. They have an album that was released a few weeks ago in both French and English entitled "Rainbows, Dreams, and Fantasies". Also they recorded "Darlin'" and "Back In Yesterday" on a single back in August. The discs are under the Columbia label and were recorded entirely in the Maritimes and according to one of the members "it really blew their minds out west" as it is not often done.

Let's hope they can keep up the good work. It would be nice if for once a group entirely from the Maritimes could make it to the top.