

# Hovel review: Winterwood warms winter's chill

by Kevin Gillese

There's a smooth, worn spot on the Hovel floor in front of a second-row table by the bandstand.

I left it there.

And while I apologize to the Hovel management for marring their floor, they should know the real cause of it is a fine folk/bluegrass band which played last weekend at their establishment and kept my foot continuously tapping for an entire Friday night.

Winterwood, a five-member band taking its name from the song by Don McLean (of *American Pie* fame), swung into



Left to right: Pat Mathieson, Vivian Rudd and Roger Toogood.

the city after "paying their dues," as they termed it, in the rowdy bars of northern Alberta (the

Hovel billed them as being "direct from Moccasin Square Gardens the Sawridge Hotel in Slave Lake).

After playing in front of drunken crowds in barn-like drinking factories, Winterwood could enjoy the music they played this weekend in the comparative quiet of the Hovel.

So they played, and played and played. Traditional bluegrass, folk and country music, songs from Stephen Stills, Valdy, Paul Hann, Ian Tyson, Don McLean, Bim, Elton John, Eagles, Jesse Winchester, Loudon Wainwright III Jr., Humphrey and the Dumptrucks, Hank Williams Winterwood kept their audience hooting and hollering, tapping and clapping to some fine warm sounds, warding off the chill of winter which seeped through the hovel's walls when two of the heaters broke down.

Lead guitarist Mike Giles told the audience he wasn't a very

good picker and asked not to be judged too harshly for the licks he was supposed to play and then proceeded to offer fine, clean pickin' for the rest of the evening.

Vocals from the group were consistently well done, (everyone in the group sings), and blended well; Roger Toogood's banjo and lap steel offered excellent music during the evening.

The group showed off its versatility when they began hauling out their instruments and playing them well and in an impressive array of different musical genres. To give you an idea of their musical versatility Giles plays lead guitar and harmonica, and has a strong, impressive voice; Toogood plays banjo, guitar, fiddle, lap steel, and has a voice which harmonizes well; Pat Mathieson plays guitar, banjo tamborine and some mighty fine spoons; Vivian Rudd plays mandolin and

guitar, and her brother W. plays bass guitar.

Winterwood has together less than a year. Brother and sister Rudd cousins of Mathieson who, with Giles, are all from Cam (only Toogood is from Edmonton). They have appeared three times in Edmonton April at the Hovel, at the Edmonton Folk Arts Festival in June this past weekend at the H again.

And then they're off to northern bars again.

A local group, Thorn and Roses, made a short appearance with Winterwood. Donaleen Lany Christianson and Mike Spak, dressed up as a "savage yet wholesome" singer, gave a savage yet wholesome rendition of such numbers as *I want a little sugar in my bowl*. Earl Shaw is the group's pianist.

## Concert

The Edmonton Symphony Society's first Main series concert of 1977 is a special event in its 25 year history. On Friday, Jan. 14, at 8:30 p.m. and Saturday, Jan. 15, at 8:30 p.m. the Edmonton Symphony will present a Special Anniversary concert, featuring principal members of the Edmonton Symphony. Starring in these performances will be David Hoyt, horn; Charles Hudelson, clarinet; Marlin W. violin; Nicholas Pulos, viola; David Astor, tenor.

The program will consist of: Sinfonia Concertante - Modesto; Concerto for Clarinet and Orchestra in B - Stephen Varian; Variations on a theme by Purcell; Serenade for Tenor, Horn - Britten.

This concert is sponsored through the courtesy of Imperial Oil Ltd. and will be conducted by Maestro Pierre Hetu, at the Jubilee Auditorium.

Following the performance on both evenings, there will be a Special Reception-Dance for those attending the performances, on the lower foyer of the auditorium. Admission will be \$2.50 per person.

Tickets will be available for this concert at the Symphony Office at 11712 - 87 Avenue, phone 433-2020.

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