

music

Bo Diddley earns standing ovation—

The recent Little Richard, Bo Diddley and Albert Collins concert was one of the best concerts I've seen in a long time. The show was a physical thing. None of the groups put across heavy topical songs, but instead leaned toward R & B (with an accent on the "B").

Albert Collins started the show. Collins is actually in the new wave of blues guitarists. He has been around long enough to "pay the dues" but only within the last two years has he gained recognition. Collins received a standing ovation for his B. B. King styled guitar playing. During his last song, Collins wandered around the Gardens among the fans doing incredible solos on his guitar. Collins' fourth LP will be available very shortly.

Like Collins Bo Diddley also "paid the dues" and has a very country and refreshing approach to life and music. Having witnessed so much violence in his forty years he only wants to see peace in the world. He says that he feels young people can accomplish this. Playing most of the gigantic pop festivals this summer he has seen audiences of up to 200,000 people gathered with absolutely no indication of trouble.

His music, which has been recorded by groups like the Rolling Stones, Steve Miller, The Animals, The Pretty Things, Ronnie Hawkins and many others, was well received and earned him a standing ovation.

When Little Richard started to play, the crowd went absolutely wild. Towards the end of his act, a crowd of people was gathered around the stage clapping and dancing while others stood on their chairs swaying in time to the music with equal enthusiasm. Never before have I seen an Edmonton audience react this way to any form of entertainment.

Richard was leaving for England the following day to appear on a couple of television shows and visit his old friends the Beatles. The Beatles have cited Little Richard as their greatest influence and it was in fact Richard who gave them their first English tour. There is a possibility that they will do an album together. Incidentally,

Richard says that, contrary to rumors, the original Paul McCartney is very much alive.

Dick Lodmell's Canned Heat concert tonight should be a very very worthwhile concert to attend. I saw Canned Heat in San Francisco earlier this year, and was very impressed with them. The group's latest album (Liberty LST-7618) is their best by far. Canned Heat's blues on this album is very contemporary; no easy feat for a blues band. John Mayall is perhaps the only other artist who can do this.

Also on the bill is a local group called Troyka. The group has been together a long time (formerly as The Royal Family), but has spent all its time recording. From what I've heard the group will probably fill the spot Stoney Plain vacated when it moved to Vancouver—that of being this city's best original group.

—Holger Petersen

—and Thornberry blossoms

Well, I came in a little late and Russ Thornberry was already on stage doing a solo act. I always had a hell of an amount of respect for anyone making a living on the stage and I appreciated it more if they could sing a little while they were doing it. It turned out Thornberry was doing well on both counts so I sat back to listen.

It's a hard life, and having a few aspirations of my own, I like to see somebody making it work. At 25, Thornberry is just on the edge. He's got some good guitar work and a record coming out in about a week called "Something To Believe" on the London label.

Thornberry used to be with the Pozo Seco, had a professional status and was eating regularly.

Any performer wants to work with his own material and stand on his own ground. Probably due to the strong Canadian influence on folk music and for reasons of his own, Russ Thornberry decided to come up to Canada. He's been here over a year now and has been working out of Edmonton for the last six months. Part of this is due to an Edmonton girl he'll be marrying in about a week.

As he told the little girl in the audience, "You just can't make a living singing Lightfoot songs." So he's been doing his own songs at places like Guiseppi's. When Lightfoot was at the same stage, he was singing in a bar called

Steele's Tavern on Younge Street in Toronto.

You tend to see a lot of Lightfoot influence in Thornberry's style of playing and he openly admits to having a lot of respect for Canadian talent.

This was his first concert as such in Edmonton. He's appeared in Room at the Top and has had guest appearance at the Jubilee Auditorium, but this is his first concert tour of the west starting in Edmonton and going on to Lethbridge, Vancouver and Victoria universities.

I was prepared to have him come in late, as the pros sometimes have to do a little last minute tuning to get everything just right. As it happened he was on stage right at 8:30 before I even got there.

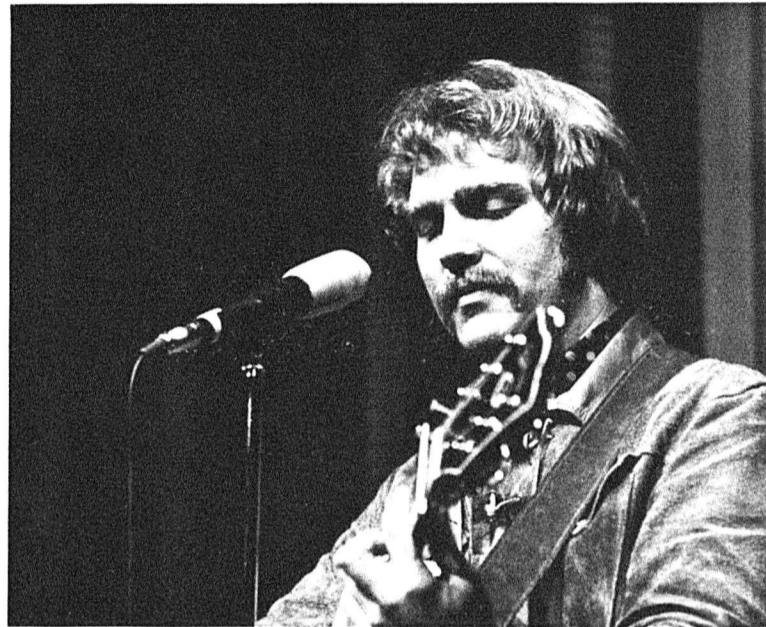
Now Tommy Banks and the Circle Widens were doing a UCF benefit across the road, so it was understandable that there were only about a hundred people there to start with.

This didn't seem to deter Thornberry as he gradually warmed up, switching guitars for various songs and talking to the audience. He told them how he'd come from Corpus Christi, Texas, a town of newly-weds and nearly-deads where things are so slow they sometimes even have re-runs of the news.

Being accident-prone, the only exposure he got was being interviewed by the channel-six-mobile-news-unit at the scene of the accident. So he wrote a protest song, about the channel-six-mobile-news-unit, intending to sing it at them the next time he had an accident. He took to carrying his guitar around with him and waited.

Channel six somehow heard it while he was waiting, and instead of being indignant, were so pleased that anyone was interested enough in them even to write a protest song that now they play his song before every broadcast of the late news.

Some of the songs he sang were tender, some were about travelling with shoe leather getting thin and



—Terry Malanchuk photo

RUSS THORNBERRY
... pickin' and singin' at SUB concert Wednesday

looking for something no one could find. "A lot of people write songs about leaving," he said, "so I wrote one about staying, just before I left."

I'd like to lean into the wind and tell myself I'm free, but I'll be here in the morning.

He talked about being a writer and being pre-empted. "Sometimes people come along and say what you wanted to say and it turns out to be better," he explained as he broke into "Bitter Green" by Lightfoot.

He even had a song written for Canadians called "Here With You." He says he plans on staying in Canada for a while and is talking about doing the eastern circuit when the record comes out.

He's got a good sound now but with more concert experience under his belt it'll get more

polished. Chances are he probably has a guitar backup man around somewhere to take on the road with him.

You might have trouble getting a ticket next time he's in town.

—W. W. P. Burns

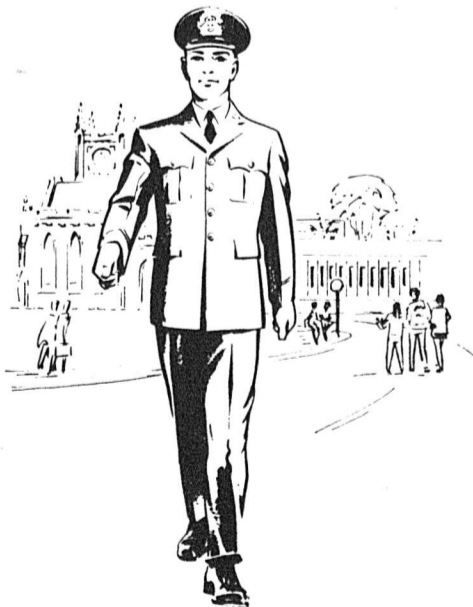
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Dr. Murray Schafer, of the music department of Simon Fraser University, has taught some rather radical and entertaining music courses. If you'd like to get in on one, without going to SFU, you could read his book, based on lectures from one of his courses. The book's called *Ear Cleaning*. It's probably the cheapest course you'll ever take at about \$1.25. If you inhabit music stores often, you might glance through it there.

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