



**Spirit of the West
Old Material 1984-1986
Stony Plain**

by Tom Coxworth

The Ghost of Spirits' Past has returned! *Old Material 1984-1986*, has brought **Geoff Kelly, John Mann** and **J. Knutson** back together with the reissue of the best tracks from their 1984 debut album which also includes rare live recording from 1986.

Stony Plain's release of this **Barney Bental**-produced disc is in request for **Spirit of the West's** first L.P. from the growing Legions of fans, songs like "To A Highlander Unknown", "John Goodman", and "Rock in thieves Bay" still sound as fresh as when they were first heard in 1984. Their neo-celtic rock and roll still causes this listener to reel (as opposed to jig) with appreciation for the authentic originality of their music.

the real gems of this release lie in the live recordings at The Vancouver Cultural Center. The opening live track treats us to an uptempo version of "Aberdeen", and then onto some of their stage classics like **Richard Thompson's**, "Time to Ring Some Changes". Although this live recording is not sparkling it does have "Spirit" as demonstrated by their showstopper "General Guinness". These live recordings show what has endeared these guys as Western Canada's favorite sons.

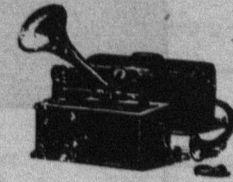
J. Knutson has left the band since this release and joined **Harte Rouge** in Winnipeg, Geoff and John continued to create *Labour Day* with **Hugh McMillan**, and they are now in pre-production on their new L.P. This new album is for the new and the old fans...A treat for all.

glenn's tape
worms



compiled by Glenn Drexhage

CJSR Music Director Glenn Drexhage checks out indie cassettes locally and around yon planet.



Love Empire — No Records

An eight song cassette which features predictable, lightweight pop from this Saskatoon trio. Their press release claims the group "...intends to use the tape as a promotional tool in an effort to interest radio programmers and major record companies...." That about sums it up. No surprises, but if mediocrity is yer thing, check it out.

(Rockin' Rod Records, Box 9735, Saskatoon, Sask. S7K 7G5)

Shawn Pinchbeck — Tonepleromas

Music for the dream state, courtesy of local electronic musician **Mr. Pinchbeck**. Dense, lush soundscapes provide for a very ambient atmosphere, and even the lengthier cuts (13 minutes plus) prove to be a hypnotic listening experience. Turn off the lights, sit back, and let it all melt into yer subconscious. Just don't call it new age.

The Boy Allies — The Boy Allies

Their self proclaimed mandate aims to "...jam some vitality and humour into a leaden alternative music scene..." Well... it's not that they aren't trying. The offering from the Hamilton duo does have its moments — pleasant gitter pickins are spiced up due to old friend reverb, and the drum machine fits in well. However, the vocals, often squawked in a manner much akin to **Ethel Merman** on a bad day, fail to prove humorous. Rather, they're irritating, mundane, and worst of all, boring. Then again, no one said being an alternative to the alternative was easy, right?

(972 King St. W., Apt. 9, Hamilton, Ontario L8S 1L1)

EJ Brule' — Freedom of Speech

Montreal's scat singer supreme tickles yer proverbial fancy with this new release. Using his mouth as his sole instrument, **Brule'** produces a mesmerizing assortment of tunes. Mutant raps combine with politically conscious lyrics and a warped sense of humor for hilarious end results. A cappella never sounded so good.

(P.O. Box 952, Outremont Stn., Montreal, Quebec H2V 4K8)

The Imagineers — The Imagineers

The debut demo from this Edmonton trio features some of the most innovative tuneage to come out of our fair burg in many a moon. Heavy, mershing guitar interplay, rooted in some long lost mutated blues vein mixes with rollicking tempo changes plus a dash of soul searching mutterings. Conclusion? Eleven songs that wander down those oft-forgotten backwoods roads of yer mind. You've been there, now hear it.

(13827-88 St. Edmonton AB, T5E 3J1 476-8289)



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