

# Features

## Getting to know...

### Betsy Murray

by Marilyn Ball  
Staff Reporter

"I've always liked to make and build things," said Betsy Murray, UNCA's library circulation supervisor. She especially enjoys putting together displays. Look around the library and you are sure to see her work.

As head of the library display committee, she is responsible for putting the displays together. A lot of the materials and ideas are her own.

"I have a big house full of little things," Murray said. She is currently working on some projects at home to eventually put here on display. Putting together the raw materials creatively is both challenging and meaningful.

"Sometimes my displays are confined to a box," she said. "Sometimes they grow and change. Something as small as a child's hair barrette can have so much meaning as part of a display."

Even as a ten-year-old, Murray was putting things together. One of her favorite projects was making doll houses. "I really got into making doll houses when I was old enough to have the proper tools and

resources."

Over the years, she has built many to sell and display. The very first one she made professionally is displayed in the children's room at Pack Library, where Murray used to work. The doll houses are detailed down to the furniture and bowls of fruit on the little tables.

"The children's room was a good testing ground for

"It is an introduction to the library using graphics, pictures and text," she said.

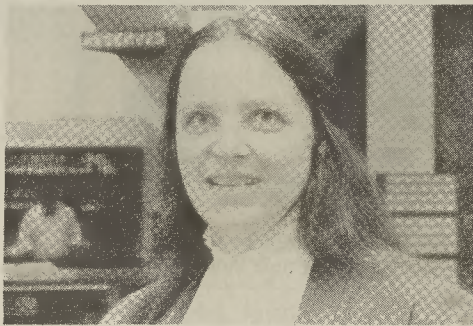
A lot of Murray's artistic expertise comes from the years she worked in various media centers, both during college and after. "I worked for a time at UNC-Greensboro and Chapel Hill. In the late 70's I worked for MAHEC (Mountain Area Health and

Education Center). That time was spent producing media for teaching. She certainly knew what would work in the classroom. Murray's master's degree is in elementary education. "I

went through school without a break and then tried to figure out what I wanted to do," she said. It turned out to not to be teaching. For the last couple of years, Murray has enjoyed performing in a local group called Womansong. The group sings for fun and a purpose. "The money we make singing goes to the New Start Fund, which gives money to women making a change in their lives."

She also serves as a board member for the League of Women Voters. Her position involves spending time observing local government and attending public meetings. She then reports her information back to the appropriate committees.

She still finds time, however, to gather materials for use in the library displays. With Christmas coming, she is preparing a holiday motif. "It will have old Christmas decorations and cards and all kinds of mirrors and reflections." It certainly will make studying for exams a little more pleasant.



Betsy Murray

the doll house," Murray said. Children enjoyed playing with it and parents have commissioned her to make more.

Currently, she is working on a public relations project for the library that will be printed in *The Blue Banner*.

## The Vinyl Opinion ... "Built to Last"

by Andrew Turman  
Guest Writer

The Grateful Dead's follow-up to 1987's smash album *In The Dark* has finally been released. Entitled *Built to Last*, it is very much the musical companion to the previous album.

Jerry Garcia said in an interview earlier this year that the band was spending more time in the studio with this album than on earlier albums, which were usually done pretty much "live in the studio." The result is a more polished sound for this album.

This, however, is not a Grateful Dead sellout, trying to pander to the success of *In The Dark*. The songs on this album are fully capable of holding their own, and one or two are candidates for Dead classics.

Ironically, but not surprisingly for a Dead album, the best songs are not necessarily the ones designed for commercial radio success. Among the songs in this category are the lead-off track, "Foolish Heart," and the title track.

"Foolish Heart" is a love song warning of the dangers of surrendering love unto (what else?) a foolish heart.

"Built to Last" is better, a somewhat nostalgic piece about a search for something stable in an ever-changing world. Being nostalgic really doesn't detract from the quality of this song. Hey, if one can't forgive a little nostalgia in the Grateful Dead, a summer of love band that stayed together throughout the Reagan eighties, who can one forgive it in?

The best song lyrically, and arguably musically, is "The Victim of the Crime." The song begins with a hypnotic keyboard line and adds a subtle guitar, then garnishes the whole with odd sound effects.

What makes this song special is the hard look it takes at addiction. It speaks sarcastically of the addict, "whatever happened to his precious self control?" It also asks the question that all Americans need to seriously consider. Is the addict the victim or the crime? It is a question the

song does not directly answer. Though it does lean towards the victim, the final decision is left for the listener to make. Whatever our choice, it is we who ultimately bear responsibility for what becomes of the "junkie."

All in all this is an excellent album, at least on a par with, if not better than, *In The Dark*. Though not as good as the classic Dead albums *American Beauty* and *Workingman's Dead*, albums so far separated in time are hard to compare, and such a comparison should not detract from the merits of

the new album.

As an aside for collectors, this album is, in addition to the standard formats, available in a "Dead in a Deck" boxed set with a picture CD in a foldout case and a deck of Grateful Dead playing cards.

In the end, Deadheads should be well satisfied with this effort, for once again the Grateful Dead have proven that they are (how many of you can see this coming?) *Built to Last*.

### Review

#### El Chapala brings authentic Mexican food to Asheville

by Angela Minor  
Guest Writer

The French have champagne and perfume. The Japanese have sushi and video cassette recorders. The Americans have blue jeans and -- Mexican food?

Just like champagne and VCRs, the Americans have changed a foreign product to fit with their tastes, once again creating a product rating lower in quality.

People say they want Mexican food then go to a restaurant like Taco Bell or Del Taco.

Sure, these restaurants serve what they call Mexican food. However, would Mexicans really serve their enchiladas in small paper trays?

The people of Asheville no longer must face the torture of Mexican-style fast food. Deliverance has come.

El Chapala, unlike Del Taco and Taco Bell, serves real Mexican food. Real Mexicans who know how Mexican food should taste own El Chapala.

El Chapala offers everything a Mexican food-lover could want: tacos, fajitas, nachos, burritos, enchiladas and other novelties not found in American-Mexican restaurants.

The burritos come to the customer as little rolls of beef in flour tortillas, smothered in a red onion sauce. Fried beans topped with cheese and Mexican rice accompany the dish.

The customer may also choose an enchilada which comes smothered in everything from sour cream to guacamole.

If neither of these two dishes please the customer, he or she may select any of a large number of dishes offered on the menu.

Customers must take caution, however. If they have not accustomed themselves to authentic Mexican food, they will be

in for a shock.

Upon entering, the waitress brings the customer a basket of nachos with a bowl of salsa. The salsa, unlike what customers find in many American-Mexican restaurants, freezes in temperature but burns in flavor.

The Mexican rice tastes nothing like what most restaurant-goers eat. Because of its dryness, the customer must force it down. Also, the fried beans have more grease than the fried beans found at restaurants like Del Taco.

Tea in authentic Mexican restaurants has no sweetener. Customers discover this fact very quickly. However, the owners do offer plenty of sugar and artificial sweetener to meet the customer's needs.

Besides these small problems, authentic Mexican food tastes much better than the American version. The distinct differences would make most Americans hesitant about eating at an authentic restaurant. The food, however, based on authentic Mexican recipes, tastes the way it should taste.

The world knows the United States for its diversity of peoples and cultures. America has developed a culture of its own based on the interweaving of these other traditions.

When Americans change these traditions to meet their own standards, often the resulting product often appears worse than the original.

By making Mexican food fast, the Americans have made a wonderful work of art a substandard product. El Chapala changes the Mexican fast food image.

If the people of Asheville want fast food, they can easily find a McDonald's or Burger King nearby.

### A Quiz For Caring Students

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4. Want a work schedule that matches your school and financial needs?
5. Want to help elderly people stay at home?

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