

WVMH Sponsors Open House Radio Station's Popularity Increases



A recent shot from open house held at the radio station WVMH-FM February 18.
Photo by Archie Jones

By Sara LeFever

W. V. M. H., "The Voice of Mars Hill College," a ten watt (on clear days we even reach Weaverville) educational radio station operated by the students, is trying in several ways to become more familiar and popular with its listeners.

One way in doing this was holding the first open house for students and faculty to come and see a real live functioning station. Advertisement for the open house was enticing. "Be sure to come to the W.V.M.H. Open House on Wednesday, February 15 and see what a great radio station we have. You'll be able to see a live D.J. at work and other things such as two dead flies that have been around since 1972. For all you that have never seen an actual on the air production, it should be a real rush!" This form of ballyhoo worked- people came.

Carol Sanders, a freshmen political science major, was one of the small crowd that went to open house. Says Carol, "I'm glad I went. There are a

bunch of crazy nice people that work up there, it's nice to personally know the disc jockeys I've been listening to. And besides that- it was interesting to watch the way the broadcasting works. It's complicated!"

Officially licensed in December, 1976, by the Federal Communications Commission, the still infantile station broadcasts (at 90.5 megahertz) approximately (that is, when everyone shows up) 122 hours per week.

Another recent addition that has increased the station's popularity has been a form of advertising for the students. "Have you lost your dog, Fritz? Do you need a ride to Nova Scotia for the weekend? Are you involved in an activity that no one knows about?" Call the station and it will get broadcasted every evening at seven p.m. and at various times throughout the day. This addition helps keep the student body informed about campus goings on. The number for the station is 689-1232.

Open house was February 15 but the station has open doors for everyone at all times- so come up and see "a live D.J. at work!"

Barry Drake to Perform in Timberline

Tuesday, March 14 at 8:00 p.m. is the date set aside for Barry Drake, who will be performing in the Timberline Coffeehouse. Barry Drake is a vibrant folksinger, expending himself to convey a mood to his audience. Much of what Barry sings is his own material, and his guitar music has been said to be gentle, intense, and enjoyable.

Barry Drake was born in Jersey City, New Jersey. After 18 years, he had become adept at the art of being what everyone else wanted him to be and could shoot a deadly game of pool. Attending Manhattan College, disguised as a pre-med student, he fell in with numerous undesirables and before long was caught up in the folk music revival going on in Greenwich Village. In 1965 after a good week at the local pool hall, he purchased a Martin guitar which he plays to this day. Some careful observers consider this to be a turning point.

Barry began playing at coffeehouses and colleges in the area and quickly lost interest in academic pursuits. One day in 1967, Barry found himself on a Greyhound bus enroute to San Francisco's Haight-Ashbury. While there he played his music in the coffeehouses of North Beach. After a hectic and historic stretch, Barry returned to New York to recover and pick up a B.A.S. degree in Biology. A six month stint working in medical research is rumored to have occurred at this time, but the details are either too grotesque or boring to be included here.

An opportunity to attend graduate

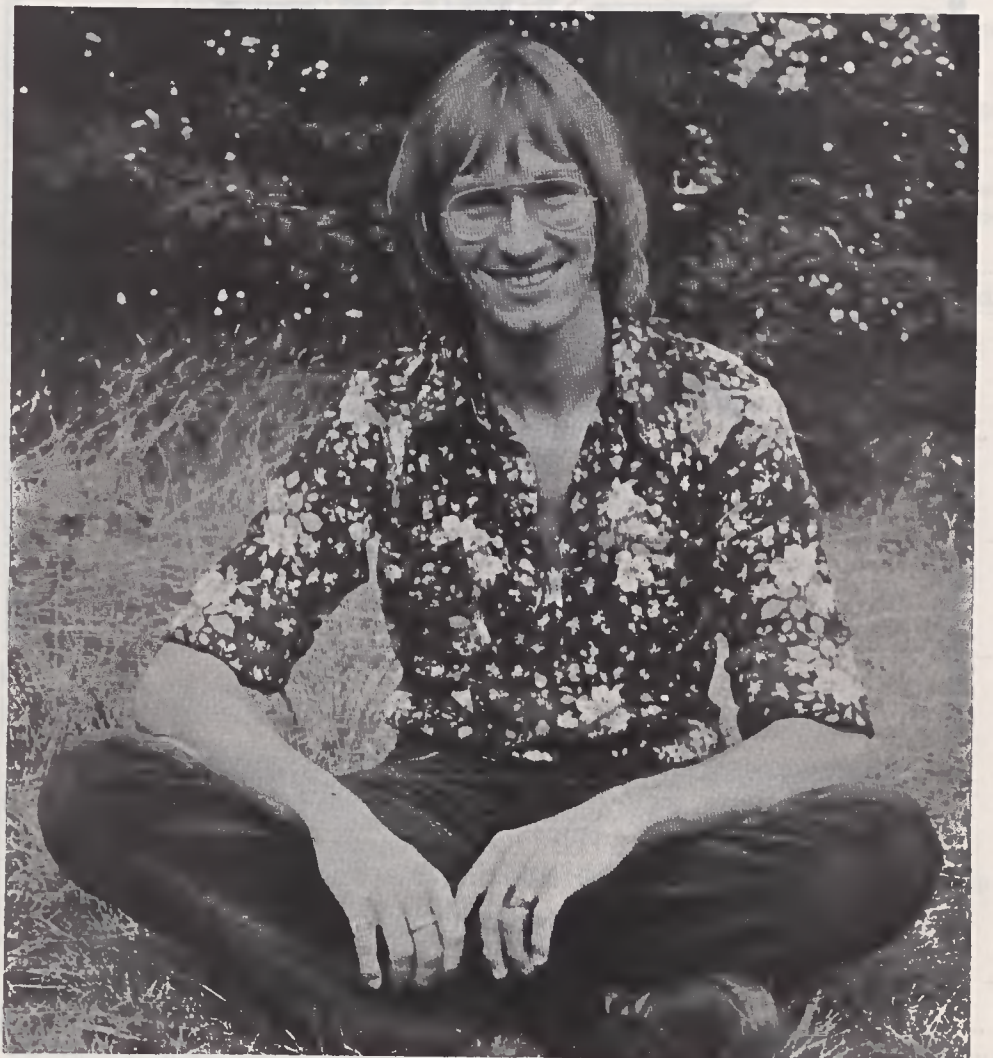
school in Oceanography was too much to resist and he was on his way to California again. As fate would have it, Barry, once again, spent most of his time playing his music in San Francisco, and never made it back to grad school.

He returned to New York to work the clubs in Greenwich Village and quickly became a member of the guitar-toting songwriter community there. Eventually, the creeping self doubt and depression, common to the artist trapped in an insensitive city, sent Barry scurrying on a journey to Europe and North Africa. The trip ended with a very successful appearance at the Cambridge Folk Festival and some recording offers.

Coming back to the states in 1970, he moved to Woodstock, N. Y., and accepted a recording contract with Capitol records. An album, "Happylanding" (Capitol ST-776), was released, produced by the heavy hand of Terry Knight. Barry, displeased with the over-produced album, left Capitol and turned his efforts to playing live music, and in front of live audiences, his own way. He toured the country with The National Coffee House Circuit for four years. Feeling the need to grow and be in control of his own fate, Barry left the National Circuit to go on

his own. In the past six years he has played at more than 100 colleges and clubs.

Barry is currently living high in New York's Catskill Mountains, working on new songs and getting out on the road as often as possible.



Barry Drake, a vibrant folksinger, to appear in the Timebeline Coffeehouse March 14.