

In Pisgah Forest

British Blue Grass Musicians Visit U.S. Group Member's Home

"It's Nice To Hear The Real Thing," They Say

By - Cal Carpenter

The Hermon Rahn residence at Pisgah Forest resounded with country music for a whole week the first part of this month. For son Howard S. "Stan" Rahn, an enthusiastic country music lover was home on leave from his Air Force station in England, and he had brought with him two young English country music lovers — American country music, that is.

The visitors were Nicholas S. "Nick" Barraclough and Peter M. G. "Pete" Shepherd, both of Cambridge, England.

The young Englishmen, with Stan Rahn, are members of "Temporary Ferret," a British country music group that has become quite well known for their English-American renditions of "Blue Grass."

STATIONED IN ENGLAND

Stan Rahn was sent to England with the Air Force and stationed at RAF Station Mildenhall, in 1973. Long a devotee of Blue Grass music, he was delighted to discover there is a large following, and quite a few American-style country and western music groups active in the homeland of Sir Thomas Beecham, William Byrd, Thomas Morley, Henry Purcell, and other world famous classicists too numerous to mention.

In the free camaraderie of country music performers, Stan soon met Nick Barraclough and Pete Shepherd.

Well, quicker than you can tell it, Stan was a member of the "Temporary Ferret." He was moonlighting from his Air Force duties, playing his mandolin in Blue Grass harmony with Nick Barraclough's singing and playing and Pete Shepherd's country fiddling.

The group has done quite well, evidently. It has been in heavy demand at Folk Festivals all over England and has appeared on the "Grand Ole Opry, England," a takeoff on the Nashville, Tennessee, "Grand Ole Opry," and the Mecca of all British performers of American country music.

HELPS WITH ACCENT

As noted, Stan plays the "Bluegrass" mandoline in the group, but that's not all of his contribution.

"He also helps us with the accent," says Pete Shepherd.

Any North Carolinian can see that figures. It doesn't require much imagination to see what might be done to "I Traced Her Little Footsteps In The Snow," or maybe, the "Mule Skinner Blues" with an Oxford accent!

HOME ON LEAVE

When Stan Rahn decided to come home on leave this May, it was natural he'd invite his fellow Blue Grass lovers to come with him.



"TEMPORARY FERRET" — Members of an English "Blue Grass" music group known as the "Temporary Ferret" are shown here on a recent visit to Pisgah Forest. On the left is Nicholas S. "Nick" Barraclough, lead singer and guitar player; center is Howard S. "Stan" Rahn of Pisgah Forest, local host and mem-

ber of the group while stationed at Mildenhall, England, with the U. S. Air Force, and mandolin player; and, right, Peter M. G. "Pete" Shepherd, fiddle player. The English visitors enjoyed being closer to the home of Blue Grass music, they said. (Times Staff Photo)

After all, Western North Carolina is only a hop and a jump from the Blue Grass section of Kentucky; and, music-wise, it is probably about as steeped in that particular kind of country music called Blue Grass as the section of Kentucky from which it got its name.

The young Englishmen were welcomed at the Rahn home and a week of Blue Grass followed. While here the group also played at the Mountain Folkways Center in Hendersonville and at Western Carolina University in Cullowhee.

COMBINED WITH MATRIMONY

While in the U. S., Nick Barraclough is combining the visit with matrimony. For after leaving Pisgah Forest on May 11th, the friends are returning to England by way of Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania. There Nick will marry Miss Anne Livingston Baker of that city—and presumably another Blue Grass music lover — whom he met on a bus in Cambridge, England, while she was there studying art.

After the wedding, Stan and Pete will return to England on the 24th and Nick and his bride will follow at the end of the month.

FUTURE PLANS

The "Temporary Ferret" will continue to entertain in England until Stan Rahn completes his enlistment in the Air Force and returns to Brevard this July. He then plans to associate with a Blue Grass band here and continue with a country music career.

Nick Barraclough says he's seriously considering returning to the U. S. and associating with a Blue Grass band.

Pete Shepherd says he has a permanent job in England, working for a development firm, where he'll probably stay. But he sounds like he'd much rather be playing "The Orange Blossom Special" on his fiddle than working in an office. Country music seems to affect people that way.

Whatever these young English country music performers do in the future, they'll probably remember Pisgah Forest and Western North Carolina.

As they said, "We enjoyed our visit in the home section of Blue Grass. It's nice to hear the real thing."

Spicer Receives Degree In Physics At Davidson

Stephen Alvin Spicer of Brevard received the B S degree in physics from Davidson College during graduation exercises Sunday, May 19th.

He is a son of Mr. and Mrs. G. T. Spicer, of 103 Morning-side Dr.

At Davidson he has been a member of the Society of Physics Students.

1,150 men and women students. Among its distinguished alumni have been President Woodrow Wilson, Secretary of State Dean Rusk, presidents of several major corporations, prominent physicians, ministers, lawyers and educators.

Farm Wage

Davidson College in Davidson is one of the nation's leading liberal arts colleges. It was founded in 1837 by Presbyterians and currently enrolls

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Mitch Dockens Graduates At Marion, Ala.

Thomas Mitchell Dockens, of Brevard, graduated May 18th from Marion Institute, Marion, Alabama. He was a member of the graduating sophomore class.

Commencement activities began May 17th with the Awards Parade on the front campus. Company commanders also featured their mothers and company Sweetheart at that time.

The graduation ceremony was held at 9:00 a. m. Saturday in David J. Robinson Memorial Stadium. Dr. Reginald I. Vachon, '54, Professor of Mechanical Engineering Department at Auburn University gave the commencement address.

Mitch is the son of Mr. and Mrs. W. M. Dockens, 205 White Oak Drive, Brevard.

Ultraviolet

At a particular point in development, exposure of chrysanthemums to ultra-violet light inhibits growth of the terminal bud and causes the mums to branch. This could be a useful tool for florists who now rely on chemical or mechanical methods to encourage the desired branching. The practice is being researched.

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