



December 7, 1988

Interview with David Green

Bluegrass Singer and Picker
November 5, 1988 (Part Two)

David Green is a 21 year-old bluegrass singer, guitarist, and mandolin player from Magnolia, Texas (near Houston) who is currently in the Air Force and is stationed at the Minot Air Force Base. Prior to leaving Texas, David was a member of Redwood, a four-member bluegrass band which had just released their first recording, *The Lighthouse*. Dave is involved with music in Minot in his church, North Hill Baptist; with the Heritage Singers; and with the Light at the River Bluegrass Gospel Band.

Last month Dave told us about how the band Redwood evolved. This month he shares information about recording, about the bluegrass club in Texas, about his instruments, and his plans as a musician.

What made your group decide to record? How did you know you were ready?

At festivals people were liking our sound.

Did they ask you if you had a tape for sale?

Sometimes, yes, they would ask us

for a tape, but people were starting to like our sound. We were a new group in town and we were perking up a few ears; we weren't really outstanding, but people were interested.

We were starting to get invited to more festivals and a lot of times they ask you to send in a tape; they'd say, "We want a demo tape to hear what you sound like."

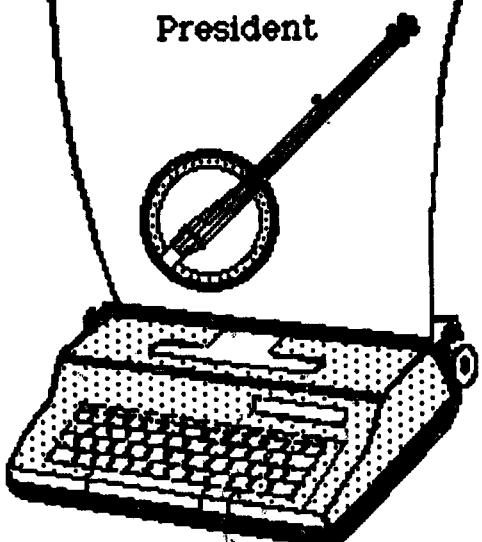
So that was part of it, and I was about ready to graduate from high school and I had been throwing around the idea of going into the service; you know my dad had been saying it's a good idea for everyone to spend some time in the service just to make a man out of you. So I was going into the service and we decided, "Well, we better get something on tape to document what we had been doing." And we had been wanting to record anyway.

We found a good price at Mr. Dale's Studio in Houston and it cost \$25 an hour. We spent hours, and hours, and hours practicing and we finally ended



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From the
President



The November 26 jam session was well attended. The following week I received a call from Gary Mitzel (Town & Country Director) telling me that the Town & Country Business People really appreciate our playing and jamming in the mall. They would like us to jam there again in on Saturday, December 17th.

As you know we had cancelled our 4th Saturday jam this month as it falls on Christmas Eve. The 17th is a special out of sequence jamming date, but if you can make it bring your instruments and your friends and we

will have fun I am sure.

When we play in the mall we are trying to promote our type of music so try your best out there in front of the public.

Our workshops continue to be well attend. Thanks to John Andrus and Selmer Moen for helping with the banjo workshop at the November 26th meeting.

I really enjoyed the playing and singing of Scotty and Thelma Thompson from Bottineau last month and welcome them as new members of WNDBOTMA. Come and join our jam sessions often.

Our pickers are a hearty and supportive bunch of folks. On November 28th some of us played music and maintained the donation kettle for the Salvation Army at the Town & Country Mall for 4 hours. Thanks to Lloyd Lee, Tom Hemmesch, John Andrus, Arlene Andrus, and Selmer Moen for donating their time and efforts.

I would like your comments and suggestions on how we can make our association better. Just drop a letter or postcard to WNDBOTMA, P.O. Box 21, Minot, ND 58701. Don't sign your name unless you want to. This organization exists for its members so let our board members know what your desires are.

This is the last newsletter for 1988. I wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and lots of Happy Pickin' in 1989.

Bob VanWormer

Green Interview (continued from page 1)

up spending about \$400 on studio time. When we were practicing to record we would start with an entrance to a song and we might do an entrance 20 times and never get past the entrance and then go to the ending and do the ending 20 times.

Did you record separate tracks individually?

No, Mr. Dale came out and we all sat down in chairs and had our instruments in our laps and he poked a microphone at my mandolin and poked a microphone in my face, and poked microphones at each one of us, and then he'd say, "OK, you guys tell me when you're ready." And a lot of times we'd play through the song one time and he'd say, "OK, you ready?" and we'd say, "Everybody ready?" and we'd do it. Sometimes, like when Bobby wanted to take a break on the guitar he'd play background guitar the first time through and then Mr. Dale would rewind and we'd sit quiet while he would record Bobby's guitar break on another channel. We'd finish one song and then go on to something else.

We were ready when we went into the studio; we had it all down, and even then we fumbled around a lot, especially on the a capella numbers; we did several a capella numbers. And some of those were cut; we'd sing a verse and stop, take a breath, and then go again. Mr. Dale cut it and put them together so it sounded like it was all together in one song.

Was it a fun experience to record your stuff?

Yes it was; it was a lot of work too

because there were times in the studio when we were just mad at each other. We were like a bunch of brothers; we'd get mad but then we'd forget about it; it was like family.

What songs on the tape are your favorites?

"True Blue" is a favorite, and probably "Julianne." Both have good tight harmonies. I like the way our voices blended on those songs.

Tell me about Spring Creek Bluegrass Club. Do you know how many members there were?

I don't know how many members; I know they broke 400 at the yearly festivals, maybe 200 at the monthly festivals. We met the 4th Saturday of the month. We had a community building and we'd set up sound equipment on the stage and we'd come in and play. It was a good old time; jammin' in the afternoon and the show would start about 7:00 pm; usually it would go 'til about 11:00 pm. We always had a lot of fun.

They said the pickin' starts at three; Bobby and I were always out there about 12:00; when we got there they'd put us to work. They'd had a campfire out there and some would gather around the fire and play. They had chairs set up in the community building for those who just came to listen and they'd watch the shows. Each band had 30 minutes, or 45 if they had something special going on like the last time I played with Redwood.

They had a concession stand called the Chuck Wagon. Bobby's relative's ran that and his grandma made these deep fried apple pies; man those were good! The club sold tapes; and they had raffles and gave away some group's tapes or a

pot holder or some little thing.

We didn't have any big name groups come through but they talked about it and I imagine they will work toward getting big name entertainment for one of their yearly festivals.

They had a big picture board of the members. That was one neat thing.

Tell us about your instruments. You just bought a new mandolin.

Yes, it's a Kentucky model F5. I really like it. The tone is pretty bright; it needs to mellow out a little bit as it ages. It doesn't bark like I'd like it to; if you've listened to Selmer's mandolin compared to mine his barks pretty good.

You play a real percussive "chop" or "rap" when you're playing rythym on the mandolin which really adds to the backup; is that the way everyone plays it back home?

Pretty much, I have a little bit different style. I think everybody has a little bit different style; it's kind of the way you feel it; you know, that's just the way I feel it. I always thought of the mandolin as kind of the drum of the group; the banjo and mandolin are what drives the group; the mandolin kind of gives you that "percussiveness."

And your guitar?

My guitar is a Martin D-18, Shenandoah; I bought it in Texas before

I left for the service so it's about two years old. I've really liked it. Recently I've had to have some work done to it; it may be the weather and it may be the travel; I've put it through probably 10,000 miles of travel in the two years I've had it and the case shows it. I play it a lot. They say Martin's get better with age and I believe that.

Tell me about where you learned to sing.

My father. Ever since I can remember I was singing. You know how you hear kids running around singing Jingle Bells in the middle of July; I was one of those.

I started to play the guitar when I was twelve and I always tried to imitate and at that time I could sing with my sister. My dad sang a lot. I remember singing harmony before I could sing melody and it took me a long time to get my voice strong enough to sing a melody line.

You plan to pursue a music career?

I'd like to be able to play my guitar for a living for the rest of my life but I don't want to do it in bars. I have made a commitment to the Lord; I've given my talents to him and I'd like, if any way possible to give them back to him. I would like to lead music in a church professionally or I'd like to be a Christian singer; well, I am a Christian singer; I'd just like to make money at it.

WNDBOTMA Treasurer's Report Balance as of December 7, 1988 \$311.85

-Selmer Moen, Treasurer

Bluegrass & Old Time Music

List of Publications

Compiled by Bob VanWormer

Bluegrass Unlimited, Inc. Rt. 5 Box 85 Warrenton, Virginia 22186	\$16.00 per year One of the old standby publications, monthly, about people and events, record reviews, ads, etc.
FRETS 20085 Stevens Creek Cupertino, CA 95014	\$23.95 per year Monthly, for acoustic string musicians, slanted toward the technical side of string music, music & tabulature, interviews and ads.
Banjo Newsletter P.O. Box 364 Greensboro, MD	\$18.50 per year Monthly, definitely for the 5-string banjo player, technical, tabulature, interviews, ads, usually 25-30 pages.
Country Herald RR1, Box 320 Madill, OK 73446	\$8.85 per year Every other month, for the Dobro player, technical, interviews, some ads.
The Autoharpoholic I.A.D. Publications Box 504-T Brisbane, CA 94005	\$12.00 per year Quarterly, for autoharp players, technical, interviews, reviews, ads, etc.
The Old-Time Herald Published by The Old Time Music Group P.O. Box 1362 Galax, VA 24333	\$12.00 per year Quarterly, about people and old time bands, record reviews, ads, slanted toward old time acoustic music.
Precious Memories Rt. 1, Box 1876 Young Harris, GA 30582	\$12.00 per year Every other month, Gospel music oriented, in the style of old time, early country and bluegrass. About people, bands, limited ads, very few technical articles.
National Old Time Fiddler P.O. Box 1427 Truth or Consequences, NM 87901	\$12.00 per year Monthly, mostly about old time fiddle events, people, interviews, some technical articles, limited ads.

Tune of the Month - *Joshua*

It was really fun to have so many singers at the November Jam Session. For those of you who like to sing, this month's Tune of the Month is a good one. This month we are featuring a song from the Redwood Album, *The Lighthouse*. This is the album David Green tells about recording in his interview this month.

As David discusses in the interview, harmonies were a primary focus in the material which Redwood recorded. The chorus of this song is a fine example of 3-part "staggered harmony" (my term for when the harmony parts come in at staggered intervals). You need three voices to sing this one.

JOSHUA

6

1 The LORD told Josh-u - a to go to Jer - i-

07

5 cho, and to march sev- en times a round-----

6

9 ----. He fol- lowed faith- ful- ly his 'bles-sed' LORD'S com-

07

6

13 mand, and the walls came tumb-le- in' down -----.

Chorus G

1 And the walls——— came
And the walls——— came

1 And the walls——— came

tum-bl-in' down, Josh-u- ah
tum-bl-in' down.

6 tum-bl-in' down. Josh-u- ah———

D

— marched sev-en times a-round———. The might-y
— marched sev-en times a-round———.

11 marched sev-en times a-round———.

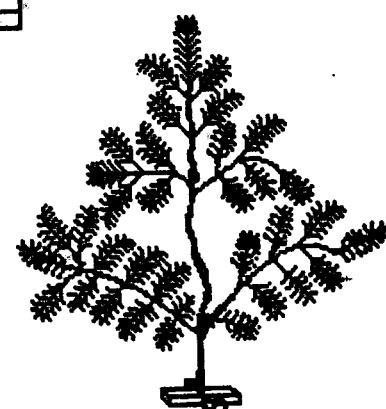
walls——— came tum-bl-in'
mighty walls——— came tum-bl-in'

16 mighty walls——— came tum-bl-in'

down, and the walls came tum-bl-in' down———.
down, and the walls came tum-bl-in' down———.

21 down, and the walls came tum-bl-in' down———.

Joshua uses only the G, D, & D7 chords so it is a good song for beginning instrumentalists to tackle. In fact, you could use the D7 in place of the D making it even easier. There is a fancy ending that uses the C/D/G progression but we haven't printed it here. That ending is easy to pick up from the recording, and we hope to have *The Lighthouse* for sale at the December Jam Session, December 17. Have fun! -ja



Attention! Alternate Jam Session Date Set for December

We will be having a WNDBOTMA jam session in December but it will not be on the fourth Saturday because that day is Christmas Eve Day.

Our December jam session will be held on Saturday, December 17th at the Town & Country Shopping Center in Minot. The jam session runs from 2:00 to 5:00 pm.

Hope to see you there.

WNDBOTMA Officers:

BOB VANWORMER	PRESIDENT	839-2895
MYRON ANDERSON	VICE PRESIDENT	838-8677
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About That Mailing Label

The date to the right of your name on the mailing label is the date your membership renewal is due. "H" indicates an honorary membership (no dues needed) and nothing above your name indicates that you haven't yet joined. If you'd like to join:

Membership dues are \$10.00 per year and should be sent to:

Treasurer
WNDBOTMA
P.O. Box 21
Minot, ND 58701

Make your check out
to:

WNDBOTMA



WNDBOTMA Newsletter is distributed monthly to members and friends of the Western North Dakota Bluegrass and Ol' Time Music Association. Items for publication may be sent to John Andrus, Editor, WNDBOTMA Newsletter, Minot, ND 58701.

Classified Advertisements

Free for Members/Nonmembers - 25 words for \$1.00

We have over 60 Bluegrass and Old Time Music fans on our mailing list.
Call 838-1061 to place an add.

For Sale: Instruments -

For Sale or Trade- 5-string Dobro (play like a banjo) \$450.

Call John Andrus 838-1061 (Minot).

For Sale- 4-string Epiphone guitar, 3/4 size Fender F-25 flat top
guitar. Call Clair Evenson 838-3245

For Sale: Recordings -

For Give Away!- WNDBOTMA Tunes of the Month, Sept-Nov., '88 in "sing
and play-along format" "Great practice aid" - Bring blank cassette to
December Jam Session, Dec. 17 & we will transfer the recording
onto your tape. Free for members.

For Sale- Jerry Douglas Fluxology Dobro LP album. Played once and in mint
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For Sale : Music-Related-

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Wanted -

Wanted- Beginner's 5-string banjo. Call Rick Picard 852-3074 (Minot).

Wanted- 3/4 size acoustic bass. Call Bob VanWormer 839-2895 (Minot).

Lessons -

Bluegrass Banjo lessons, beginning to intermediate.

\$6.00 per half-hour lesson. John Andrus. 838-1061 (Minot)

Next Jam Session:



2:00 to
5:00 pm

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Minot, ND

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resources, etc.

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