



Gateway to the Rockies

A Bicentennial Gathering
Lewis and Clark County, Montana 2005

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MISSION MOUNTAIN WOOD BAND TO CELEBRATE LEWIS AND CLARK IN HELENA THIS JULY!

HELENA, MONT., June 1, 2005— The Lewis and Clark Trail Bicentennial Commission of Lewis and Clark County is pleased to announce this summers local Lewis and Clark bicentennial commemoration, “The Gathering- A Gateway to the Rockies Bicentennial Gathering” will include a reunion concert of Montana’s own Mission Mountain Wood Band on July 15 at the Lewis and Clark Fairgrounds in Helena. Gates open at 6 p.m.

The Legendary Mission Mountain Wood Band is dusting off their well-worn guitars, warming up their vocal cords and planning a party unlike any this State has seen since the last time they played at a benefit concert in Libby, Montana in 2003. The special Lewis and Clark bicentennial concert will be the Wood Band’s only fourth reunion in 22 years. And keeping with the spirit of Lewis and Clark- only beer from Helena’s Lewis and Clark brewing company will be sold at the concert.

What is it about the Wood Band that continues to draw what is now two generations of unwavering support from all over the country? The Band’s lone CD Release, *In Without Knocking*, continues to be the best selling CD ever carried by Rockin Rudy’s Music Store in Missoula and though the Band no longer tours or seeks dates, they continue to attract new fans every time they throw a Reunion Party. In the words of Jim Casto, long time stage manager and bus driver, “Mission Mountain Wood Band was not just a Band – it was a way of living life, an

attitude, and more than anything, in the deepest, most profound sense, the Band and their fans became a family.”

Mission Mountain first came to national prominence in the 70’s when they toured non-stop, playing over 250 dates a year around the country. They played major clubs like Mr. Kelly’s in Chicago, CBGB’s in New York City, the Palomino in LA and the Great American Music Hall in San Francisco. Casto says, “we’d roll into The Great American Music Hall in San Francisco on a Wednesday night and it would be standing room only. We’d rock the rafters and the owners would have to pull the power to get us to stop playing at closing time.” The Wood Band played an eclectic mixture of original Blue Grass, Rock and Roll and Good-time Montana Party music that would leave their audiences dancing on the tables.

The group never quite fit the mold of the bands of the era. They were musicians, free spirits and they were jocks. The Wood Band was made up of band members Terry Robinson, Rob Quist, Steve Riddle, Christian Johnson and Greg Reichenberg.

The Wood Band Family suffered a major loss in 1987 when lead singer, Terry Robinson was killed with the Montana Band in a plane crash on Flathead Lake on the Fourth of July. His brother, Bruce Robinson, former lead singer of the band, Whiskey Jack, has stepped in to represent the Robinson vocals on subsequent band reunion concerts.

Opening bands for the reunion concert will feature the Fiddlin’ Foresters and Montana Tunesmith. The Fiddlin’ Foresters are the official “old-time string band of the US Forest Service” that bring conservation and stewardship messages alive through story and song . The Montana Tunesmith consist of brother's Tim and Mike Nordstrom, fifth generation Montanans, well known for their laid back style, having so much fun with their music that people remember what it's all really about- a love for independence, open country, nature and roughness.

Tickets for the concert sell for \$30.00 and include admission to the Mount Helena Music Festival occurring in Helena the same weekend, July 15-17. Tickets can be at the Myrna Loy Center in Helena at (406) 443-0287.

Mission Mountain Wood Band used to joke that there was a fictional place called Mondo, Montana. It is a place we come back to with all our friends where the jokes are a little funnier, the music is hot and the dancing never stops. You can't turn back the clock but you wind it up again... join the Mission Mountain Wood Band this July for the party of the summer that might even rattle the bones of Lewis and Clark!

For more information contact Mary Lou Garret at 442-2674 or Amy Teegarden at 495-3747.

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