



The U and I Band with Jim Kweskin

by Lois Wadsworth

Musician Jim Kweskin's enthusiasm about bringing the U and I Band to the WOW Hall Friday night, November 8, is contagious. Kweskin is best known for the unique sounds which brought his Jug Band some measure of success in the 1960/70 era. On the phone, Kweskin comes across in an open, communicative manner, expressing his close connection to the eight other musicians in the group. For much of the last 20 years, Jim Kweskin has been playing his music at home with an extended family which includes this seven man and one woman "fantastic band." Recently, the band decided they wanted to play their

music for other people, too. They decided to take the show on the road to coincide with the family's publication of U and I magazine (available by mail from Los Angeles).

The U and I Band is an all-acoustic dancing-music band, so plan to shake it up on one of the best dance floors in town. The group's music is eclectic: jazz, jug band, pop, gospel, Benny Goodman swing, Bob Wills western swing, Irish ballads, Woody Guthrie folk songs, country, and rhythm and blues. This musical variety is produced on guitar (Kweskin), harmonica (Geordie Gude), fiddle (Loryn Johanson),

banjo (Lyman Johanson), piano (Terry Bernhard), drums, congas and spoons (John McGovern), cello (Etta Russell), mountain dulcimer (Anthony Gude), and mandolin (Richie Guerin). At least five of the nine band members (including Kweskin himself) sing as well.

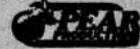
Kweskin relates that audience response to the family band has been terrific. They've been playing in the Midwest and hope their Northwest Coast tour will draw similarly enthusiastic audiences inspired by the feeling of community and love of folk music engendered by the sixties. How many people did you say could fit on that dance floor?

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