

Farlow revving up own band in preparation for new album

Since the breakup of the Lost Planet Airmen, lead vocalist/lyricist Billy C. Farlow has been pursuing a solo career with his own band and own brand of music. At the present, he is recording and negotiating a contract for his own album.

With rowdy, feisty, cowboy boot stompin', Farlow beats out the chords on a Gibson Hummingbird that is not amplified. "I just use it like a stage prop," he says. "Merle Haggard does that too."

Farlow will make 8 out of 10 cuts on the new album himself, with one "old swing tune" and one by his buddy Michael Clark up in Nevada. This album will come

from Farlow's musical headwaters. "It'll be heavily blues-oriented, a lot of rhythm and blues

by TIMOTHY SPARROW
of the Emerald

and funkadelic-type stuff," he says.

Farlow's musical roots are not "Rockabilly," he says, having earned his spurs with Chicago/Detroit Bluesmen. "When I was 16, I got to back up John Lee Hooker a couple times in Detroit." By association with his first band, Sam Lay and the Mojo workers, he got acquainted with

the late Howlin' Wolf, Otis Spann, and Earl Hooker. "I guess stuff like that remains the most treasured memories of my career so far, playin' with the people I idolized."

So how does an Alabama-born, Detroit-bred Billy C. wind up with the Bay area — based Lost Planet Airmen? "Most of those guys were from Michigan or the Midwest. A lot of them guys went to college at the University of Michigan. I had my own band then. That's how I met Cody, up in Ann Arbor."

At 25, Farlow is optimistic. "We're makin' our move in '78, and I think everybody's gonna hear about it."

County booklet to explain house building permits

If you are thinking about building a home in Lane County, but feel a little bewildered about county and state rules and regulations, a new Lane County publication is now available to help you.

"The Home Construction Permits Guide," a 30-page booklet available free from Lane County, is designed to help the first time individual home builder through the county's application and construction paperwork process.

The booklet advises home builders about such requirements as site evaluations, permits, applications, plan changes, building inspections.

Other areas covered include septic tank installation and maintenance, water supply systems, mobile home placement, agricultural buildings and other structures, state electrical requirements and the relationship of other county departments and agencies.

The booklet is designed along a question and answer format based on an analysis of what citizens generally are concerned with during home construction.

Copies of the booklet are available from the permit processing section of the county's Environmental Management Department.

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