

Aces, Hays headline at The Place

Two fledgling bands that have made great strides up the popularity ladder are billed at The Place. The Billie Hays Band plays tonight at 8 and 11 p.m. The Amazing Rhythm Aces appear Friday night at 8:30 and 11:30 p.m.

Come to the Billie Hays show expecting spirited, hungry rock and roll. Hays began playing piano at age seven and continued to sample numerous other instruments before opting for the singer route. While working for a booking agent she narrowed her musical tastes to rock and ended up as a sax player for a band called Bee Bumble and The Stingers.

From that association Billie and two other members began writing their own music, and added two

more members. Their high energy approach to rock and funk won them the attention of MCA Records. "The music is what I like to call a blend of funk and rock and roll but people who are expecting a disco band are going to be in for a surprise. What we're doing is definitely rock and roll."

Cash Box said of the band's album: "Billie Hays is a powerful female vocalist who brings to mind Grace Slick, not so much because they sound greatly alike but because of their forcefulness; there is nothing timid about Hays' singing. Her band plays straightforward rock with precision."

The Amazing Rhythm Aces have the distinction of combining rock, R&B, country, gospel, rag-

time, Latin and jazz while labeled "the most original synthesis of southern music since The Allman Brothers first hit the scene."

The group consists of lead singer Russel Smith and drummer Butch McDade, the two who brought together bassist Jeff Davis, keyboardist Billy Earhart, engineer/multi-instrumentalist Barry Burton and pianist James Hooker.

Their first album, *Stacked Deck*, was hailed as best debut album of 1975 with the single "Third Rate Romance" topping the country and Top 40 charts. The second effort, *Too Stuffed To Jump*, produced a Grammy Award in 1976 for "The End is Not in Sight." *Rolling Stone* said,

"Musically (The Aces) are as accomplished as they are unpretentious."

Toucan Do It Too, the Aces latest album, received good reviews and contains tighter selections of their varied style. Says Smith, "You know, we're schizo in that we can dig people as far apart as Ella Fitzgerald and Hank Williams. Most of what we like comes out in our music. And, if you don't let it come out when, and in the way it wants to come out, maybe it won't come out at all."

But you all can come out and hear The Billie Hays Band for \$3 tonight and The Amazing Rhythm Aces for \$6 in advance, \$7 Friday. Tickets are available at The Place, the Sun Shop and Everybody's Records.



Amazing Rhythm Aces

Bramlett and Stoneground to bring soul, rock sounds

The queen of blue-eyed soul, Bonnie Bramlett, headlines The Place Saturday night with two



Bonnie Bramlett

shows at 8:30 and 11:30 p.m. Stoneground, one of San Francisco's most notable hard rock bands, will also appear on the Saturday night bill.

Bramlett, once famous for her numerous works with then-husband Delaney Bramlett (Delaney and Bonnie), has recently released her third solo album, *Memories*, on Capricorn Records. She has been labeled soul singer, rock singer, and rhythm and blues stylist, but her latest effort contains her own songs filled with her trademark wailing, heartfelt vocals.

At 15, Bonnie impressed Ike and Tina Turner enough for them to choose her as their first and only white Ikette. Says Bonnie, "Tina would tell me things like, 'Honey you're not in a beauty contest. To sing right, you breathe from that belly and you got to get ugly to be soulful — go ahead and sweat.' Then Buffy St. Marie told me one time, 'Ladies don't sweat, we glow!' And I said, 'Honey, you may be glowin', but this here is sweat.'"

Bramlett has worked with Duane Allman, Leon Russell, Rita Coolidge, Dave Mason, George Harrison and in 1972 with a then-

anonymous crew of sidemen now known as The Average White Band.

Stoneground (the current band) has been together for four years. Tim Barnes is the sole original Stoneground member and started the band eight years ago with Beau Brummel member Sal Valentino.

Current members include Jo Baker, female vocalist formerly with Elvin Bishop; Fred Webb, ex-keyboardist for It's a Beautiful Day; Sammy Piazz, former Hot Tuna drummer and Jefferson Airplane crew member; Annie Sampson, vocalist with Stoneground since 1970 and Terry Davis, newest member and bassist.

Stoneground has been on tour along the West Coast and has released their first album, *Flat Out*, on their own label, Flat Out Records. Credited with an "almost perfect club delivery," the group produces a crisp solid rock sound with a definite regard for the audience and the music.

Tickets for Bonnie Bramlett and Stoneground are \$4.50 in advance, \$5.50 the day of the show and are available at The Place, the Sun Shop, and Everybody's Records.

Poet Creeley opens program of readings

Five nationally recognized poets and writers will be appearing in Eugene this month for the Willamette Writers Guild's "Poetry and People: Art in the Community."

The writers will also be giving readings in Corvallis, Monmouth, Salem, and Albany, during a three-week residency running April 9-29.

The poets appearing in Eugene will include:

Robert Creeley, Tuesday, April 11. Creeley has written 17 books of poems, a collection of short stories, and a novel. He founded and edited the *Black Mountain Review*.

John Ashbery, Tuesday, April 18. His book *Self-Portrait in a Convex Mirror* has won the Pulitzer Prize, the National Critics Circle Award, and the National Book Award.

Carolyn Kizer, Tuesday, April 25. Kizer founded *Poetry Northwest*, and is a consultant in literature on the national Council on the Arts. She held the Roethke Chair of Poetry at the University of Washington.

Robert Duncan, Thursday, April 27. Former editor of the *Experimental Review* and the *Berkeley Miscellany*, he has published eight volumes of poetry, and has been awarded the Harriet Monroe Memorial Prize, the Levinson Prize, and a Guggenheim Fellowship.

W.S. Merwin, Friday, April 28. Merwin has published nine books of poems, two of prose, and 11 translations. He was awarded the Pulitzer Prize for his book of poems *The Carrier of Ladders*.

Each reading will be at noon in the Lane Community College Theater and at 8 p.m. at the University, room to be posted. The exception is Merwin, who will appear only at the University. Admission for all readings is \$1.

Also coming to Oregon as part of the program, but not to Eugene, will be Elizabeth Bishop. She was awarded the National Book Award for her *Complete Poems*, and her work *Geography III* won the National Critics Circle Award and the Bollingen Prize.

TOMORROW

EMU
Food
Service

BEER
GARDEN
4-7 p.m.

12 oz. glass 35¢
pitcher \$1.50/hotdogs 25¢
free popcorn

Free Entertainment By
The Crosstown Flyers

Think of
Down to Earth
when planning
your garden

We have a large selection of ABUNDANT LIFE vegetable, herb and flower seeds, totally organic MAXI-CROP seaweed fertilizer, a good selection of top quality UNION FORK AND HOE garden tools, peat pots, flower pots, wheelbarrows, and galvanized compost buckets. Books on gardening, cooking, and natural living.

AND our basic selection of cookware plus STONEHEARTH BLACK BAKERS STEEL, juicers by CHAMPION and ACME, water distillers, WHITE MOUNTAIN ice-cream makers, and grain mills.

10-7 Monday-Saturday
740 E. 24th & Hilyard
345-7954

