



By Joe Goldmark
©1978, LO-BALL Records

Pickin' My Pleasures would be good background for a big turkey dinner. The quick but mellow sounds of Joe Goldmark's pedal steel wouldn't slow up mashed potatoes. They're the kind of notes you'd hear at a hip country/western bar in Dexter.

Pedal steel player for the Billy C. Farlow (who sang lead with Commander Cody) Band, Goldmark is backed on his first album by a group of very talented Bay Area musicians. Besides the varied music Goldmark coaxes from his pedal steel, the album contains fine piano work by Billy Philadelphia (another member of the Farlow band) and superb lead guitar by Andy Reiss.

The record appears on Goldmark's own independent label and includes a wide selection of music. There's a George Harrison piece, "Crackerbox Palace;" a Beatles tune, "Something;" rock and roll, "Romeo and Juliet;" and original swing and country songs.

Much of the music is quick and bouncy, but the whole album is easy-listening. The music has a warm texture that evokes memories of lovely summer nights. Danceable rhythms force a search for swing steps learned in seventh grade gym class and if none are found, a natural swaying takes over.

Quality pedal steel music doesn't happen on the rock scene very often, but *Pickin' My Pleasures* provides it. The album is available at local record stores but if it can't be found, a note dropped to LO-BALL Records, 5965 Ocean View Dr., Suite B, Oakland, CA, 94618 will probably make it appear.



The Original Movie Soundtrack
©1978, MCA Records

There are places, mind you, on this earth, that have FM radio stations that, on first listen, sound exactly like AM sta-



By GLEN OZONEWOOD
Pickin' My Pleasures
By JERRIL NILSON
FM

FM movie soundtrack great for party tunes; 'Pickin' for turkey feed

tions. And those stations often employ the same gimmicky tactics to obtain the same boast — "We have a larger listening audience."

Well, folks, the film industry now brings us a cinematic look at contemporary all-music radio with Universal's *FM*, "a humorous, often biting yet warmly human look at the personal and professional battles waged daily by these (disc jockeys) popular men and women who keep rocking, wall-to-wall sound pouring out over the airwaves."

And, what would a movie about FM radio be without a soundtrack complete with today's supposed top FM sounds?

The two-record set appeared well before the film's premiere in Eugene and has a wide selection of Top 40, AM and FM style music. Out of 20 songs, five are new releases. These include Steely Dan's "FM" and "FM Reprise" both versions of the movie's theme, Randy Meisner's "Bad Man," Jimmy Buffet's "Livingston Saturday Night," and Joe Walsh's "Life's Been Good To Me."

Steely Dan has managed to produce another infectious - beat - number - a - la - studio - orchestration - and - insightful - lyrics song in the title number. FM radio becomes associated with "laid-backness" and girls, wine and sex — "Give her some funky up music/She treats you nice/Feed her some hungry reggae/She'll love you twice." And the catch phrase is, "No static at all." However, some might feel that today's FM plays much more static than the FM of old.

The reprise version of "FM" contains some nice solo work by unfortunately unnamed artists, and, neatly placed at the end of side four, ties the album nicely.

Randy Meisner, bass man for the Eagles, boasts a solo release, "Bad Man." Though Meisner's voice is better suited to the tight vocal harmonies of the Eagles quintet, this single is a nice driving rock 'n' roll number with a lot of potential. Does this signal a soon-to-be-released album, or perhaps the Eagles are branching out? We will have to wait and see.

"Livingston Saturday Night" is a single from Jimmy Buffet's latest album *Son of a Son of a Sailor* and one of the more hilarious tracks from the movie, *Rancho Deluxe* (for which Buffet wrote the soundtrack). This has choice Buffet lyrics, about Saturday nights in a small town though the music isn't his best — "...just got paid/with any luck at all you just might get laid."

Buffet performed this version of "Livingston" live (filmed for the movie) at the famous Coconut Grove in Los Angeles' Ambassador Hotel.

Joe Walsh, currently with the Eagles, has the last new release on *FM*, "Life's Been Good." This is the tale of a famous, wealthy rock star (not quite autobiographical, however) — "I have a limo/ride in the back/Lock all the doors/in case I'm attacked." This single is very reminiscent of Walsh's own album, *So What?*, with great Walsh guitar solos and the unmistakable Walsh voice. Again, should we be looking for another solo effort by this Eagles member?

The rest of the album consists of these top chart singles: Two numbers by Linda Ronstadt performed live in Houston for the movie, "Tumbling Dice" and "Poor Pitiful Me;" Bob Seger and the Silver Bullet Band's "Night Moves;" Steve Miller's "Fly Like An Eagle;" Foreigner's "Cold As Ice;" Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers' "Breakdown;" Dan Fogelberg's "There's A Place In The World For A Gambler;" Billy Joel's "Just The Way You Are;" the Eagles' "Life in the Fast Lane;" Steely Dan's "Do It Again" (the oldest FM selection); Boz Scaggs' "Lido Shuffle;" Boston's "More Than a Feeling" (an FM fairy tale come true); Doobie Brothers' "It Keeps You Runnin';" James Taylor's "Your Smiling Face;" and Queen's "We Will Rock You."

What you have then is a collection of today's FM, none yet legendary or historically important such as might be found on a set entitled *The Last Waltz*, recording of the Band's last performance. But, here conveniently instead are perhaps some of your favorite songs and most likely what will become another great Saturday night party album.

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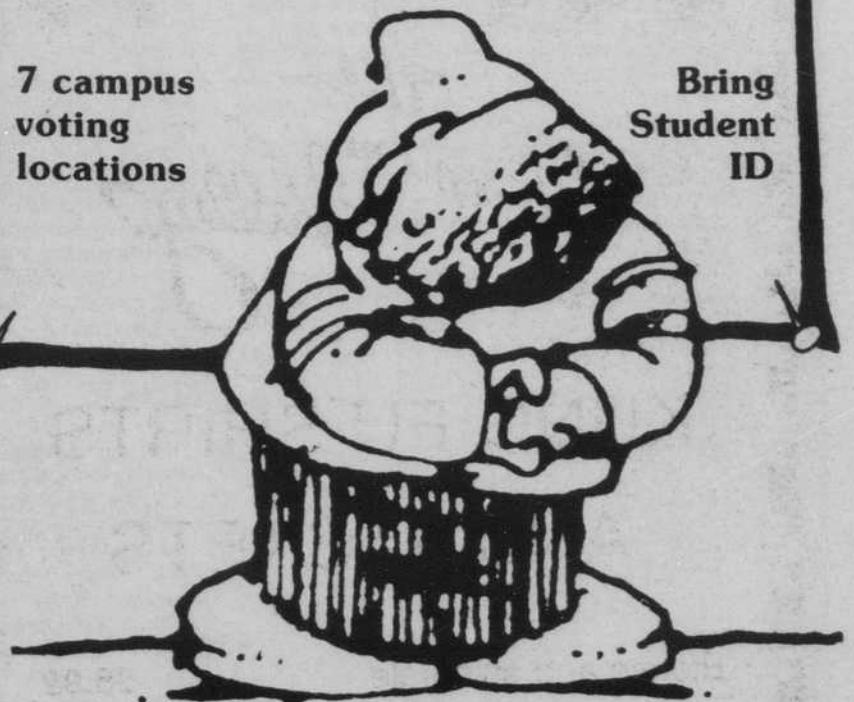
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