

ENTERTAINMENT

Bluegrass to rock: Red Ramblers play it all

By H. C. Hutto
Emerald Entertainment Editor

The Red Clay Ramblers don't know what kind of music they play.

At least, they don't like to say. The Red Clay Ramblers, scheduled to appear in concert Oct. 7 at 8 pm in the EMU Ballroom, like to call their sound "whatzit" music.

"They started out as a traditional string band and the music they played derived from the blue grass and blues country sound found in Appalachia," said Frank Gosar, the heritage music coordinator for the EMU Cultural Forum — the sponsor of the concert. "But they're so fervently eclectic, borrowing from such diverse elements as Irish, country, blues, and jazz, that the name they use to call their music — "whatzit" — is appropriate."

Gosar said The Red Clay Ramblers are "folk processing in action." Like folk music itself, the band is influenced by all kinds of music and cultures. They take a little bit of this, and a little bit of that, and mix it all together and produce a singular sound all their own.

Such a sound has been appealing enough to enable the band to perform on two different off-Broadway productions. In fact, The Red Clay Ramblers first professional gig was in the off-Broadway hit musical, "Diamond Studs — The Story of Jesse James."

Not only did the band members perform their music, they also appeared in the play itself, as members of the



Courtesy photo

The Red Clay Ramblers, a versatile folk band, will play in the EMU Ballroom on Oct. 7.

notorious outlaw gang who toted on stage their fiddles and banjos and played furiously while committing their acts of crime.

From that curious beginning in 1975, The Red Clay Ramblers have gone on to record eight albums, tour Africa, Asia and the Middle East, and establish themselves as America's most versatile

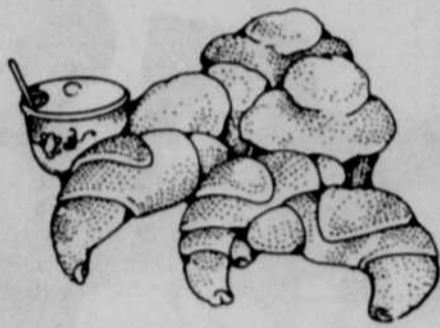
string band.

Then, 10 years after their off-Broadway debut, the band returned to the stage in Sam Shephard's "The Lie of the Mind." Their successful collaboration with Shephard didn't end when the play finished its run.

Shephard asked the band members to help him with his new film, "Far

North." The band agreed, and wrote the original music for the film which is tentatively scheduled to open next spring.

Tickets for the concert are \$5.50 in advance and \$6.50 the day of the show for general admission. Students will receive a \$1 discount. Tickets are available at the EMU Main Desk, and at Balladeer Music, located in the Fifth Street Public Market.



SAM'S BAKERY

- Danish Pastries
- Croissants
- Apple & Blueberry Turnovers
- Cookies
- Muffins

Buy any menu item and receive the second menu item of same or lesser value FREE.

Expires October 8, 1987

Also serving
GOURMET COFFEE

810 East 12th
Next to SAM'S TO GO
(Open 7:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.)

