

Bluesman 'cottons' to live shows

By Daria Jackson
Emerald Supplement Editor

Live performances keep

James Cotton in the business of playing the blues. "I love performing live," said Cotton, who recently

concluded a week-long stint on "Late Night with David Letterman" when the television show aired from Chicago.

"It's my life. I'm not getting rich doing it, so if it wasn't for enjoyment, I could quit. But when I see people having fun, being themselves, enjoying themselves, even if it isn't but for five minutes, it's the biggest payday I ever had in my life."

Cotton, a legendary harmonica player, blues singer and songwriter, will appear with his seven-piece band Sunday at 8 p.m. on the main stage of the Folk Festival.

As a child, Cotton discovered that he could make \$46 in one hour by playing the blues harp on his front porch in Tunica, Miss. By the age of nine, he had run away from home in search of his idol, Sonny Boy Williamson, whose unrestrained approach to harp blowing has been considered one of the starting places of rock and roll.

Williamson took Cotton in, and for the next six years Cotton traveled all over the country with Williamson's band and learned his style. At the age of 15, Cotton decided to travel on his own.

Cotton's first stop was West Memphis, Ark., where he played harp for four years with another blues great, Howlin' Wolf.

While with Wolf, he hung out with the fledgling Sun Record Company crowd, jamming with the likes of Bobby "Blues" Bland, B.B. King and the only white face in the crowd — Elvis Presley.



Courtesy photo

Schooled at the knee of such blues greats as Howlin' Wolf and Sonny Boy Williamson, James Cotton now fronts on his own. Cotton will be the feature performer as the Folk Festival concludes Sunday.

At 19, Cotton began working with Muddy Waters and spent the next 12 years as Waters' bandleader and harmonica player.

When he left Waters' band in 1966 to strike out on his own, Cotton's reputation was expanding beyond the blues label. Boz Scaggs, Mike Bloomfield, Steve Miller and Bonnie Raitt all named Cotton as a major influence on their

music. Janis Joplin, always hard to please, would have no group or musician tour with her twice, except Cotton.

Today, Cotton and his band play at festivals around the world, to audiences ranging in size from the 100,000-person crowd at the annual Chicago Blues Festival to the more intimate 600-seat clubs like The Great American Music Hall in San Francisco.

MONDAYS THROUGH FRIDAYS

Luncheon Specials

Hoy Lum
Gal Fuhn **3.50**

Chicken Laksa **3.50**

CHINA BLUE RESTAURANT
879 E. 13th 343-2832

After a Day in the Sun
Relax with a Silverstar Movie

SILVERSTAR VIDEO

Rent 1 Movie, Get 1 Free
(with equal or greater value)
expires June 22, 1989

1888 Franklin Blvd. (next to 7-11 on Villard) 344-2691

Harmonize your look this Spring with a great cut from

PRECISION HAIRWORKS

haircuts still **\$7**

PRECISION HAIRWORKS

Monday thru Friday 9:00-6:00, Saturday 9:00-5:00
29th & Willamette (behind Round Table) 343-1182

Fahey features self-taught style

John Fahey has been called the spiritual father — hard-bound edition — of the open

tuning/steel string guitar school known as American Primitive.

"What I did," Fahey said, "was single-handedly make the steel-string American guitar a respectable concert instrument."

"I was just trying to get my music respectable, of course, but also the instrument," he said. "I used the term 'American Primitive Guitar' because I was self-taught... It just means untutored."

Fahey's music combines elements from blues, country and Indian styles. He was born in Maryland and spent his youth listening to his father play popular songs on the piano and classical harp.

His mother also played piano, but leaned toward semi-classical tunes. Inspired by blues and ragtime artists such as Bobby Leecan and Robert Cooksey, Fahey bought his first guitar, for \$17, at the age of 13.

"I was a very, very slow learner," Fahey said, "and I taught myself to play. I never had a lesson."

Since those early days, Fahey has recorded numerous albums and has continued an active touring schedule.

His four Christmas albums have been his biggest sellers and heaviest airplay albums, and these recordings have made him a Christmas institution.

Finally! A Quality Futon Choice in Eugene.
Hand crafted with a personal touch at home operated prices.

DELUXE FUTONS FRAMES & MORE

	Futons		Futon Frames
	mattress	with cover	Three-way folding frames
Single	79.00	99.00	Single—starting at \$75.00
Double	109.00	139.00	Double—starting at \$103.00
Queen	129.00	159.00	Queen—starting at \$123.00

PHONE 689-8435 • 1851 River Rd
Free Delivery

And now also featuring pillow furniture: Chairs & Loveseats.
See me also at the University Street Fair May 17th-19th.

Sy's PIZZA

COUPON

SERVING DELICIOUS NEW YORK PIZZA 7 DAYS A WEEK

By the slice—or by the whole pizza
Choice of reg. crust or deep dish sicilian

Come down or call up Sy's and order these great specials.

1 FREE SODA PLUS 10¢ OFF ANY SLICE OR **\$1.00 OFF ANY SMALL PIZZA** PLUS **2 FREE LARGE DRINKS** **\$2.00 OFF ANY LARGE OR MEDIUM PIZZA**

Sy's New York Pizza 1211 Alder on campus 686-9598
11:30-Midnight Mon.-Sat. 3:30-Midnight Sun.
coupon good through 5/22/89

Beginnings Books & Learning Space & Co.

GIFTS FOR YOUR MIND, HEART AND SOUL

- Fine Used Books & Tapes
- Healing Stones & Crystals
- Mandallas • Cards • Light

Mon.-Thurs. & Sat. 10-6, Fri. 10-8
1247 Villard St. 345-0920
Across Franklin Blvd. from U of O

Bing Cherry Palace

Fashion Name Brands at a fraction of the price

BUY • SELL • CONSIGN

62 West 13th Ave.
(Between Willamette & Olive)

344-4891
11am-5pm
Mon-Sat