

# Musicians & Network

A NEWSLETTER  
FOR AND ABOUT LOCAL MUSICIANS AND CLUBS  
IN THE WASHINGTON METROPOLITAN AREA

**October 1990**





# Cover Story

I don't remember the first time I heard Chick Hall play guitar, but I do remember the first time I ever really sat and listened, and paid attention to what I was hearing. It was Easter Sunday, 1957. By this time Chick was the owner of The Surf Club and playing there nightly. I was so impressed by his mastery of the guitar, that I just had to learn to play myself. Needless to say I was hooked. But let's backtrack a little.

Chick Hall was born in Chapel Hill, North Carolina in 1923. He grew up and went to school in South Norfolk, Virginia. He took up playing guitar when he was just barely a teenager. He is a self taught musician. His first guitar was a "Stella" acoustic. He was captivated by the sound of the electric guitar, so he took the mouth-piece from a telephone receiver, taped it to his acoustic guitar and wired it into the radio. Almost, but no cigar. He saved up his money and bought a Gibson "Charlie Christian Model" electric guitar. He started playing with a band called The Virginia Cavaliers when he was 15. In 1941 he went to work with the Virginia Rounders. He worked with the Phelps Brothers, Norman, Willie, and Earl who had made western movies with Gene Autry and Roy Rogers. In 1943 he was drafted into the Army Air Corps. He joined special services and played with 424th and 425th Air Force Bands, lead by Glenn Miller. He also was part of a group that cut armed forces radio discs for the boys over seas. When he left the service he went back to work with the Virginia Rounders, playing radio shows and dances. In 1948 he came to Washington D.C. and went to work right away. His skills landed him recording dates, radio shows, local club dates, and a T.V. spot on Jimmy Dean's local show. He played behind Patsy Cline at Turner's Arena. On Saturday afternoons he would jam with Charlie Byrd and Billy Gibson at a local music store. He won the East Coast Guitar Championship at Watermelon Park, Warrenton, Virginia two years straight. He has always held the respect of his fellow muscians. He has always been a friend to anyone interested in music, whether it be teaching, offering advice, or sharing his stage with them so they could be seen and heard.

As a musician he's "Mr. T". He has tone, taste, timing, and incredible technique. As a person he's beautiful inside and out. On or off the bandstand, he can't be beat.

He and his wife, of 47 years, Martha, have two sons. Chick Jr. and Chris. Both are musicians. Mr. Chick and Mrs. Martha Hall have 7 talented grandchildren, and there's sure to be more musicians out of the bunch.

If you have never heard Mr. Hall perform, you should treat yourself to his music. When he plays the guitar, it's as if the instrument becomes a voice singing. He's special. They don't make 'em like him anymore, and I'm proud to say, he's my father.

Chick Hall, Jr.



Recently Chick Hall, Sr. underwent heart by pass surgery. He is recuperating at home. I hear from Chick, Jr. and Chris that he is doing very well.

There is not enough you can say about this man. Roy Green having played music with Chick Hall for thirty three years says that he looks upon him as a brother.

He has managed to hang on to his employees for a long time. Most of which have been there as long as the Surf Club.

We would like to thank Chick Hall, Jr. for the wonderful story about his father.

To all of you who would like to send a card or a note, mail it to the Surf Club 4711 Kenilworth Avenue, Hyattsville, Maryland 20781.

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#### THE HALL FAMILY



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#### THE ANNUAL CHILDRENS SHOW

The second annual benefit show for the National Childrens Center was held July 15th at the Crossroads and Legends in Bladensburg. Approximately 300 people attended and a good time was had by all.

Special thanks to Bob Rice for coordinating the bands, to Mark Baxter for the great job done on the sound system, to big Wayne and Bob Rucci for the fabulous job done in all the other areas.

Also many thanks to all the participating bands who volunteered their efforts and talents to make the show a success.

Nora O'Neill from the National Childrens Center gave certificates of appreciation to all the bands and to Tony Ford for their efforts.

*Lola Suwall*



The Village Barn is surely a legend in its own time. I can't think of another club in the area having been at the same location for that long. The people who come through these doors are friendly and down to earth. The atmosphere is pleasant and The Barn is well known for its huge 450 sq. ft. dance floor and the many good dancers who have always frequented The Barn. Roger T., the dance instructor, yells out the latest dances; and the couple dozen dancers are quite good at picking up on his instructions. Everyone is welcome to join in. "The secret to our success is our huge dance floor and our loyal and devoted employees", said Tom Alexander, the clubs manager since 1978. The Barn actually has seven people on their staff whose combined time is 107 years. One woman retired after 30 years of service here.



50-YEARS 50- YEARS 50-YEARS

The drinks are reasonably priced and the fare is simple, serving pizzas and hamburger type of food. So why is place like the Village Barn which usually has bands like Southern Winds and City Slicker hosting bands like The Platters and The Coasters, etc.

"We like to have a 50's night". "A lot of our people like 50's music, so every six months, or so, we like to have something for them".

The Barn is into community service, it has raised about \$175,000 for different charities, such as Muscular Dystrophy, liver transplant patients and for musicians without insurance.

The Village Barn was opened in 1940. The Building itself was built in the early 1900s and was a bar before prohibition started in 1920. Tom Alexander says it became a private club then. He and his wife, Francyne, found an old roulette wheel on the second floor while cleaning the place out.

Prine George politician George Perry bought the place in 1943. It was he established country-western bands and entertainment seven nights a week. Mr. Alexander's father-in-law, Ted Mars, a successful restaurateur, bought the place in 1962. He died in 1978 at 86, passing the place on to his daughter and son-in-law.

Tom Alexander's deep appreciation of music has helped him not only in selecting bands but in maintaining a "really good" rapport with the artists.

"I don't think musicians get enough credit for what they do", Mr. Alexander said. Especially the sidemen who travel with the bands. They make the stars, but don't get the recognition".

Mr. Alexander reeled off the names of at least 25 acts that have come through the Barn's doors, including Roy Clark, Kitty Wells, Ernest Tubb, Farron Young and Jimmy Dean before he became the sausage king. Jimmy Dean and Roy Clark got their start in the Washington area.

The exterior of the Village Barn has been recently remodeled as you see by the above photograph. It looks beautiful.

A thousand stories could be told of people meetin', fallin in love and getting married because of this place.

"We've withstood the test of time, the trends and the fads".



**\*\*CISSIE LYNN\***

"I was born a Coalminer's Daughter's, Daughter"

Hello, let me introduce myself to you. I'm the Coalminer's daughter's, Daughter, CISSIE LYNN. I'd like to tell you just a few things about myself and things I've done while traveling and playing music. I hope by the time you read this, we'll feel like we've known each other forever and become great friends.

I was born in Bellingham, Washington and we moved to Tennessee when Mama started singing country music. We attended several schools and moved several times while I was still little but finally made our home in Hurricane Mills, Tennessee and this is where I still call home.

I guess growing up I never thought much about singing. Goodness, how could I with a mother so great and wonderful as Loretta Lynn and an aunt great like Crystal Gayle. I guess I thought it would be insane to attempt such a career move but I guess it was in the cards. Here I am singing country music and loving it very much. You know, I feel it's very hard on entertainers kids to get in the business, because you're judged lots of times before you open your mouth. I think I have been very lucky. The Lynn name is very respected, Thanks to Daddy and Mama that it helps to get my foot in the door, but Lordy if I can't hold my own it will shut real quick. I think that God watches over me very close, because for 5 years I have been on my own and have worked very steady and I hope to believe I have given people some good clean entertaining country music.

Before going out on my own, I traveled with Mama for 2 years and loved it. We played at the Kennedy Center and I even got to meet Gene Autry, what a great honor that was. I went to Germany and Egypt, a dream so many people would love to come true. I stood in the Great Circle at the Grand Ole Opry and sang. While I was on the road with Mama, I performed at my first Casino. I toured at coliseums, fairs and clubs. I'd say it was probably the best year and a half of my life but the best part was being with Mama.

I have had the honor of meeting and playing for some great and special people. In fact, one of them was the President of The United States (George Bush). I don't think there is a higher honor than playing for the President of this great country.

Now let me tell you about my band, The Coal Dusters, my husband John Beams takes care of all my business transactions on the road as my road manager, and is also my rythm guitar player. John has been in the music industry since 1972 and he's orinally from Alice, Texas. Cissie Lynn and The Coal Dusters travel all across country in a GM tour bus. The Coal Dusters consist of five members in the band. They also carry a qualified sound man.

Oh by the way we got the name "THE COAL DUSTERS" from Mama. I am the Coal Miners Daughter's Daughter.



**IF YOU GO**

WHAT: CISSIE LYNN SHOW  
WHERE: VILLAGE BARN, 6601 SUITLAND  
RD, MORNINGSIDE  
WHEN: SUNDAY OCTOBER 28TH  
PRICE: \$7.50 RESERVED SEATING  
PHONE: (301) 735-0757



# CROSSROADS

1990

1990

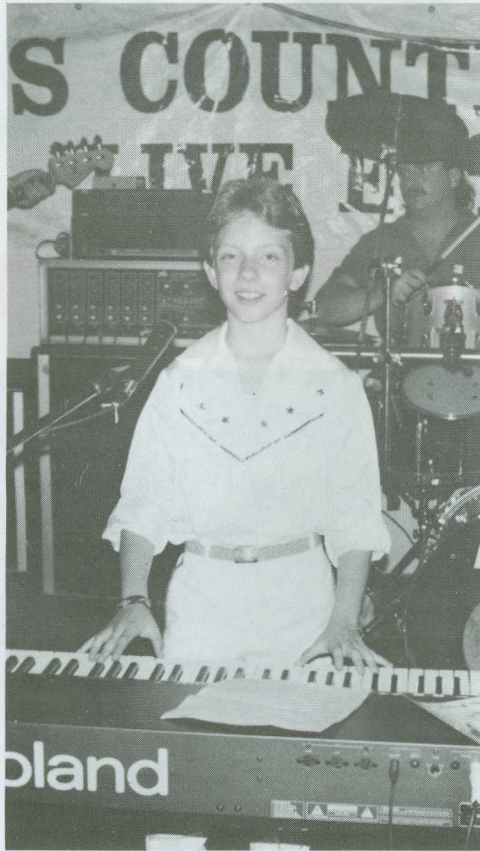
## OCTOBER

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>3 Ladies Night!</p> 	<p>4 <b>WET</b></p> 	<p>5 Party Night with Baxter Brothers Band</p> 	<p>6 Dance Contest Win Cash</p> 
<p>10 Ladies \$1.00 for most drinks with Baxter Brothers Band</p> 	<p>11 <b>T-SHIRT</b></p>	<p>12 and DJ Nick Davis!</p> 	<p>13 Party Night with Baxter Brothers Band</p> 
<p>17 and DJ Nick Davis!</p> 	<p>18 \$100 Weekly Prize</p>	<p>19 DJ Nick Davis!</p> 	<p>20 Party Night with Baxter Brothers Band</p>
<p>24 TALENT NIGHT OCTOBER 24TH FINALS! Win Cash</p> 	<p>25 \$500 Final Prize</p>	<p>26 Diamond Ring Giveaway for the Ladies</p> 	<p>27 DJ Nick Davis!</p> 
<p>Oct. 31 &amp; Nov. 1 <b>Halloween</b> Costume Contest</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scariest</li> <li>• Sexiest</li> <li>• Most Original</li> </ul>   <p>Both Nights!</p>			

Call 927-3636 • Peace Cross • 4103 Baltimore Ave. • Bladensburg, MD



YOUNG TALENT TO BE ON STAR SEARCH



Exciting new talent Tony Ford has been seen in many of the local clubs in the area. A dynamic ten year old piano man who mesmerizes his audiences with his renditions of the old songs of the legendary Jerry Lee Lewis.

Tony hails from Young Harris, Georgia, a small town outside of Atlanta. Performing for only two years he has accomplished a great deal. He will be leaving for Hollywood, California September 28th to tape for the Star Search Show on the 30th of September. This will be aired at a later date. To be on the Star Search Show young Tony beat out one hundred and two youngsters in Baltimore.

This young man has performed on shows with Ronnie McDowell, Jason Dee Williams, Ronnie Dove and Smokin' Joe Frazier. Not bad for only being in the business for two years. On July 15th Tony donated his time and talent on the second annual show for the underprivileged children and donated a fifty dollar check out of his own savings.

Currently he is touring and doing shows with Benny Dean. Recently, while returning from doing two shows in Kentucky with Benny Dean, Tony stopped in Waynesboro, Virginia and entered the annual East Coast Championships. He performed in the under sixteen contest and won the vocal and instrumental categories.

If you have not seen this young man, you have missed a treat. Tony's life long dream is to meet the Ol' Killer himself. Jerry Lee Lewis is his idol.

*Barbara Kyrell*

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Prizes



PWP NOVA 960



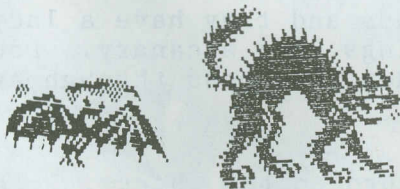
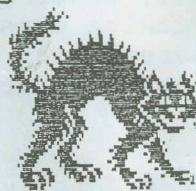
Costumes

HALLOWEEN

BEEN

OPEN

DANCE

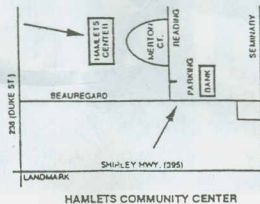


(Sat, Oct 27, 90)

Hamlet's Community Center  
Alexandria  
Beauregard/  
Reading/Merton

"BYOB"  
(Food, Snacks,  
and Sodas  
Provided)

8 PM - Midnight  
\$7 mbrs - \$9 non-mbrs



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## THE FABULOUS COASTERS



On September 18th, at the Village Barn, we had the opportunity to see Charlie Brown and his fabulous Coasters. One terrific show. One nostalgic song after the other. Not only doing old Coaster songs, but doing songs made famous by other artists, such as Smokey Robinson, The Drifters and Wilson Pickett just to name a few.

Just finishing a show at the Washington Hilton having performed for Marion Barry and the Reverend Jesse Jackson, they will be doing a show at Pop's Tavern in Baltimore. They will be recording on September 29th, "A TRIBUTE TO THE COASTERS", TO REVIVE SEARCHIN' AND STAND BY ME, to be released the end of October, on GO RECORDS. The Coasters can be booked through Billy Baker and associates, phone #301-247-7446.

The Coasters band is marvelous and they have a lady keyboard player named Delilah who sings like a canary. Lookin' forward to seeing the Coasters when they pass through again.

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Johnny Anthony has a brand new record on the charts, it's # 85 this week with a bullet. The record is called "More Than Once In A While". I hear it's getting a lot of play on WPOC in Baltimore.

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If you never have seen or heard a fine talented group of musicians known as the Silver Band who are now working out of the northern Virginia area, be sure to catch their show. Hopefully we can have a picture story in the next issue.

