THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE MARTIN GUITAR COMPANY • VOLUME 3 • JULY 1997

Nashville, TN, July 11, 1997 - Johnny Cash, one of country music's most distinctive figures, and The Martin Guitar Company are proud to introduce the D-42JC Johnny Cash Limited Edition Signature Model, a collaboration between the respected "Man in Black" and Martin. The Johnny Cash Limited Edition Guitar will be available from Martin dealers throughout the world. The edition will be limited to a maximum of 200 guitars, each numbered in sequence and personally signed by Johnny Cash and C.F. Martin IV, Martin's Chairman and CEO.

Johnny Cash, the youngest performer ever inducted into the Country Music Hall of Fame, is also in the Rock 'n' Roll Hall of Fame and the Songwriters Hall of Fame. Although he starts every concert with the words, "Hello, I'm Johnny Cash," this is one artist who needs little introduction. Cash is one of the most recognizable and respected figures in country music and is acknowledged to be one of the biggest stars the industry has ever produced. Throughout his long career, Johnny Cash has shown tremendous loyalty to Martin guitars. His favorites include the first black Martin guitar ever made, Cash's custom D-35 made in 1989.

MARTIN HONORS JOHNNY CASH WITH LIMITED EDITION D-42JC SIGNATURE MODEL GUITAR

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 6)

Alice's Restaurant Massacre,' the classic anti-Establishment folk song that helped define the Woodstock era, has reached the age of 30. In honor of the anniversary of this folk anthem about Guthrie's escapades with the police and the draft board, The Martin Guitar Company is proud to announce a collaboration with songwriter Arlo Guthrie to create two limited edition guitars, a six-string 0000-28H AG and a 12-string 000012-28H AG. The Martin Guitar Company will craft up to 30 of each of these commemorative "Alice's Restaurant" limited edition guitars. Each instrument will be numbered in sequence and signed by Arlo Guthrie and C.F. Martin IV, Chairman and CEO of the Martin Guitar Company.

MARTIN COMMEMORATES 'ALICE'S RESTAURANT' 30TH ANNIVERSARY WITH ARLO GUTHRIE LIMITED EDITION GUITARS

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 6)

Dalbergia latifolia
East Indian Rosewood

ROSEWOOD UPDATE
Martin's Dennis Tenges goes to India. The above tree, nearly 7 feet in diameter, is one of the largest living rosewood trees in the world. Find out why it can't be cut down. (Story on Page 7.)
Dear Martin enthusiasts,

That’s me with my bear pictured on the right. The picture was taken about 40 years ago at my parents’ home at the corner of North and Main Streets in Nazareth. My family’s ancestral homestead was just across the street, next to the original “North Street” Martin guitar factory. A lot of history happened there and a lot has changed.

I’ve certainly changed over the years, and so has our business. I’m proud to say that we’re more successful than we’ve ever been. We’re making great guitars, and the demand for our instruments is astounding. In particular, many of our newly introduced instruments are providing great sounding guitars at a very reasonable price, a trend that is especially popular with younger, up-and-coming guitarists.

Speaking of new, we’re very proud to be introducing the Johnny Cash D-42JC Signature Model. It’s no surprise that this guitar is black. It is also strikingly beautiful. The challenge, naturally, was to create an instrument with as much integrity as the man. That’s what we did!

We had some fun with the Arlo Guthrie/Alice’s Restaurant 30th Anniversary Edition of 6- and 12-string models. The scrimshawed mother-of-pearl church on the headstock looks spectacular and of course the circles and arrows! As with all of our limited edition projects, we have tried to do some good by setting aside a portion of the proceeds for charity.

About a year ago, Tom Humphrey gave me a call and asked whether we could help him meet the overwhelming demand for his uniquely designed classical guitars. Lots of discussion, negotiation, and sweat created the Martin/Humphrey Classic. Tom’s design is a fairly radical departure from tradition, but the fact is that it performs better than the old designs do, both in playability and tone. We think we have a winner with this one.

And speaking of winners, be sure to keep your eyes open this Fall for a brand new book entitled “Martin Guitars, An Illustrated Celebration Of America’s Premier Guitarmaker.” The authors, Jim Washburn and Richard Johnston, and the folks at Rodale Press, put a ton of research into this project, and it shows. I think this book will make the perfect Christmas gift for anyone who loves guitars.

I hope I don’t sound too much like a wine cooler commercial when I say that I greatly appreciate the tremendous enthusiasm and support we receive from our customers. We have a wonderful product and a great process, but not everyone knows that. For those who haven’t been here, I’d like to extend an invitation for you to visit us and take a tour of our factory. We’d love to show you first hand why our acoustic guitars are the best in the world.

Sincerely,

C. F. Martin IV
Chairman & CEO, The Martin Guitar Company
SOLO ON MARTIN

Dear Mr. Martin,

I’ve been playing guitar for some 20 years and between my wife and I, we’ve probably owned more than 25 guitars, most of which were “other” American-made brands. My point is that I consider myself an acoustic guitar buff with considerable knowledge in both sound and craft.

Approximately one year ago, I bought a D-1R with an unusual top. I liked it because it was loud, crisp and balanced. Well, I’ve been playing it for the past year, and I don’t ever pick up my Taylors and Gibsons any more. They’re collecting so much dust, I think I’ll sell them.

I can’t understand how the D-1R, a surprisingly inexpensive Martin with laminated rosewood back and sides, can sound better than the other solid wood guitars in my collection. The guitar records excellently, which is unusual for a Dreadnought, but it has a bassy punch. I feel the laminates must provide a stiffer box, and coupled with the patented “A-frame” bracing pattern and the solid top, these things all work in conjunction to produce a guitar that is beyond any word’s description.

Thank you for building an acoustic guitar that sends chills through me every time I play it!

Sincerely,
Bart Boeckler
Fletcher, NC

NEW SP™ STRING A WINNER

Dear Mr. Martin,

I picked up a set of Martin SP™ strings at the Anaheim NAMM Show, but it was not until just recently that I put them on my 000-21. By the way, I believe I have the only solid head 000-21 ever made by Martin.

In any case, I usually go through strings in one set, but I used the SPs for four sets over a three-day period. I do lots of Celtic ballads and it happened to be St. Patrick’s Day. The strings actually lasted through all of that! Now, two weeks later, I’m still using them at home and the strings are still good.

Congratulations! You are clearly on to something good!

George Hergen
Roswell, Georgia

MORE SP™ ACCOLADES

Dear Mr. Martin,

I can’t believe the sound of your new “SP” strings. These things are awesome! I’ve used many brands of strings over the years, but these blow them all away. To call these strings “bright” is an understatement. They really do ring. But it is their presence, their authority, their statement that really sets them apart. They take a “tune” beautifully. When they’re tuned, they’re tuned!

I’ll tell you, I’ve been playing old songs that I haven’t played in years just to hear them on these strings. The SPs are an incredible accomplishment.

Thanks!
Pete Morjal
Lavergne, Tennessee

TOUR DE’ MARTIN!

Dear Mr. Martin,

My wife and I would like to express our thanks for the hospitality shown to us during our recent tour of your factory. Our love and respect for Martin products has only been strengthened by our visit. To say we felt privileged is an understatement. Indeed, owning a Martin guitar is very special.

Sincerely,
Hugh & Suzanne Evans
Waterford, CT

SMILING AND STRUMMING

Dear Mr. Martin,

I just bought my first Martin, though I’ve been playing for more than 30 years, and I currently own more than 20 guitars. A recent Kingston Trio performance in Nashville took me back to my folk music roots. I started looking for the right Martin to suit my needs. I ended up buying a new D-1 Dreadnought. It produces incredible volume and clarity of tone, and the finish and neck size have instantly made it my favorite guitar. Rest assured I will be smiling and strumming on my D-1.

Sincerely,
Harry Stephenson
Sales Manager, WAMB AM-FM
Nashville, Tennessee

KINGSTON TRIO TRIO!

Dear Mr. M. Martin,

Remember when you were a kid and you got your first Martin guitar, and you opened the case for the first time and smelled the aroma of the wood. That’s how I felt when I received the first photographs of our Kingston Trio Limited Edition Instrument Set. Thanks.

Sincerely,
George Grove
The Kingston Trio

We’d Love To Hear From You.
Send Your Letters To:

Dear Mr. Martin
C. F. Martin & Co.
P. O. Box 329
Nazareth, PA 18064-0329 USA
The Women And Music Program at Martin Guitar is celebrating a roaring success with its first guitar model, the 00-16DB. This unique instrument, which was a Limited Edition, is the first of its kind to be designed specifically for women and has stirred unprecedented media notice in the marketplace. From “CNN” to “US News & World Report,” the excitement for this small bodied, big sounding axe, rippled through the industry as dealers worldwide snapped up all 97 instruments debuted at the Winter NAMM Show in two days! The success of this guitar at retail has provoked long overdue discussions about the role of women in guitar playing, from music stores to trade publication boardrooms. The mandate is clear — and the group responsible for the guitar, is thrilled to be able to offer another model. To preserve the integrity of the Limited Edition, this new instrument will be offered with Rosewood back and sides, and a slightly different, but no less elegant, fingerboard pattern. With its distinctive rosette and binding, slotted headstock, and Waverly tuners, this 00-sized guitar will offer total comfort without sacrificing power because of its deeper Dreadnought depth. The rich overtones produced by its rosewood body will enchant players of all styles.

The Women And Music Group, responsible for initiating this model, has also shown that it is a winner from an internal company point of view, as this is the first time in Martin’s 164 year-old history that women have played a significant role in the design of a specific guitar model.

A true win-win situation for all. 

Diane Ponzio is a singer-songwriter-guitarist based in NYC and is part of The Women And Music Group at Martin Guitar. In addition to her full-time concert schedule, she proudly performs at Martin Guitar clinics worldwide and is about to release her third CD.

Q & A

Q: I have been greatly influenced by Eric Clapton’s music. He certainly has contributed a great deal to my musical enjoyment over the years. So naturally, when the 000-42EC Eric Clapton Signature Model was released as a limited edition of 461 instruments in 1995, I went out and purchased #406. I love this guitar so much that when the 000-28EC was released in 1996, I didn’t hesitate in getting one of those as well. I got #140, and now I am a celebrity when I show up at my local music store.

Even though I am not a professional guitarist, I am having no problem trying to justify my recent purchases. I have been looking for these Martin instruments since 1970 when I first became aware of them. I now own three Martins, a D-62 and the two 000 Clapton models. I am in heaven!

One issue is unsettled. The 000-28EC does not give a final number of instruments to be made on the interior label. How many total 000-28ECs do you anticipate making?

Stephen Ford, Lake Charles, Louisiana

A: The 000-42EC was an incredible success in every respect, including a donation to the Clapton Charitable Trust For Children in the amount of $92,000. At C. F. Martin, there was a standing joke that we wished Eric had moved about a mile down Ocean Boulevard, perhaps to 4610 instead of 461. Then we could have better satisfied the demand for this great sounding and beautiful guitar. There were a lot of guitarists that missed out on this edition and after a year passed, we approached Eric Clapton about a second model, simpler in its appointments, but still maintaining the extreme integrity of the original 000 vintage design. We made two prototypes of the 000-28EC and when Eric played them, he liked them even better than his 000-42EC model. We proposed to Eric that we add this model to the Martin stock list as part of our Vintage Series line of guitars. He liked that idea.

Though each guitar is numbered in its chronological sequence, no limitation has been placed on how many of this model Martin will make. As of this newsletter, Martin has crafted more than 1300, and there are standing backorders for at least 400 more. These are great guitars, and at Martin, we suspect we’ll be making them for quite some time.

❖
C.F. Martin & Co. is proud to announce a historic and highly significant collaboration with Thomas Humphrey, one of the world’s most renowned and respected classical guitar makers. The Martin/Humphrey CTSH Classical Guitar and the Martin/Humphrey C-1R Classical Guitar will become important additions to Martin’s outstanding line of guitars.

Thomas Humphrey’s guitars are so prized, musicians have been willing to wait as long as five years for one of his hand-made instruments. Therefore, when demand began to far exceed Humphrey’s production capabilities, he decided to seek a partner to create quality instruments that would bear his name. This collaboration with the venerable Martin Guitar Company will make the “ Millennium” design readily available to a larger number of players at a more affordable price.

“It became necessary to form a cooperative venture with a larger guitar producing facility in order to meet the demand, and if anyone can do a spectacular job making this design, it would have to be Martin,” notes Humphrey. “Martin is near my home in New York so I am able to work very closely with them. I feel extremely fortunate to be with the best.”

The Martin/Humphrey C-1R and CTSH Classical Guitars meet Humphrey’s exacting design requirements. Both will have the extraordinary arching of his considerably thinner and uniquely lattice braced soundboard. They also feature the trademark elevated neck and fingerboard facilitating much greater access to the highest notes. These design features give Humphrey guitars their optimal sound and harp-like tonal response. The rosette is a multi-colored wooden classical mosaic. The neck dimensions are of the traditional classic proportions and shape.

The Martin/Humphrey C-1R Classical Guitar is made with a solid Western red cedar soundboard, and the back is laminated two piece East Indian rosewood. The sides are of laminated East Indian rosewood.

The most unusual element of the Humphrey design is the elevated and pitched neck and fingerboard, which makes playing in the upper registers of the neck much easier but also gives the guitar a surprising tonal edge.

Among these respected artists are Sharon Isbin, Elliott Fisk, Sergio and Odair Assad, Carlos Barbosa-Lima, Costas Cotsiolis and Ricardo Cobo.

The Martin/Humphrey CTSH Classical Guitar, made for the more discerning classical guitarist, is crafted with a solid Englemann spruce top. The back is solid two-piece East Indian rosewood with style 45 mosaic back inlay strip. The sides are of solid East Indian rosewood, and the fingerboard is contoured with contemporary classical arching. The binding of the CTSH Classical Guitar is made of East Indian rosewood with black/white inlays on the top, sides and back.

The Martin/Humphrey CTSH Classical Guitar is made with a solid Western red cedar soundboard, and the back is laminated two piece East Indian rosewood. The sides are of laminated East Indian rosewood.
Johnny Cash

JOHNNY CASH
(CONTINUED FROM FRONT COVER)

He also plays a Martin Bicentennial Limited Edition (#375), and a custom D-45 made in 1982 and signed by both C.F. Martin III, and C.F. Martin IV.

The Johnny Cash D-42JC Signature Model is the first all black limited edition guitar ever offered by Martin. Hand-crafted entirely of solid woods, this D-42JC is a 14-fret Dreadnought with high performance, forward-shifted scalloped X-bracing. The three piece back is made of East Indian Rosewood with Martin style 45 multi-colored back inlay strips. The neck shape was inspired by the Hank Williams/Johnny Cash D-45. The fingerboard is genuine ebony and is inlaid with abalone stars, delicately bordered with mother of pearl. The rosette and the perimeter of the body are bordered with highly colorful style 42 abalone pearl inlay. Johnny Cash's signature will be inlaid between the 19th and 20th frets. A portion of the proceeds from the sale of the Johnny Cash Limited Edition Guitars will be donated to The Carter Family Memorial Music Center.

“The Johnny Cash D-42JC Signature Model is the first all black limited edition guitar ever offered by Martin.”

A native of Kingsland, Arkansas, Johnny Cash began playing the guitar and writing songs in the 1950s while serving in the Air Force. His hits include such favorites as “I Walk The Line,” “Folsom Prison Blues” and “A Boy Named Sue.” Widely known for his prison performances and songs, Cash has won three Grammy Awards. He is married to singing partner June Carter.

Martin Guitar dealers will begin to take orders for the Johnny Cash Limited Edition Guitars immediately, though due to heavy demand for Martin instruments, this edition will not appear in stores until early 1998. As with all Martin guitars, the construction process takes both time and expertise.

The Martin Guitar Company dates back to the 1830s when Christian Frederick Martin, Sr. moved to the United States from Europe. The guitar shop he set up over 160 years ago has been continuously family owned and operated. Current Chairman and CEO, Chris Martin IV, is the sixth generation Martin to head this venerable company.

The 12-string limited edition “Alice's Restaurant” Commemorative utilizes fingerboard and headstock inlays which are identical to the six-string model. Standard 12-string modifications have been made to the neck width and shape, the interior top bracing pattern, the bridge configuration, and the tuning machines.

Arlo Guthrie selected the 0000 stage/studio model, formerly referred to as the “M” size Martin body, because this has been his favorite guitar size for several decades. The “H” stands for herringbone, specifying Martin’s legendary herringbone 28 specifications.

Martin Guitar dealers worldwide will begin to take orders for the 0000-28H AG and 000012-28H AG Arlo Guthrie Signature Models immediately, although the guitars will not be available until early 1998. The construction of all Martin guitars is a process that takes both time and expertise.

By the way, if you’re a fan of “Alice’s Restaurant Massacre,” or if you would like to find out more about Arlo Guthrie, we recommend that you try connecting to “ArloNet” on the World Wide Web. It’s a great site!

The web address is a bit long: <http://www.clark.net/pub/arlonet/arlonet-main.shtml>.

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MANAGING ROSEWOOD

Martin’s quality representative, Dennis Tenges, at the rosewood section of one of the governmental log depots in India. The logs in this yard will be registered, sorted for quality, and auctioned. Only falldown or dead trees can be cut from government land.

In February, the head of Martin Quality, Dennis Tenges, ventured to India to get a first hand look at the supply line of East Indian rosewood. The following excerpt from his travel log will serve to reassure the world that Martin Guitar leads the charge in the responsible, prudent use of our valuable natural resources.

“Approximately 48 travel hours after leaving Nazareth, I arrived in the small town in India where our rosewood is processed. I found the Indian culture warm, courteous and caring; a civilization at peace with themselves and nature.

There are several sawmills in this town, but ours is the only one that processes rosewood within a few hundred miles. The majority of their rosewood, as well as nearly all timber, grows on government owned land. Rosewood trees are grown and used on tea plantations to provide necessary shade. These plantation trees are harvested when they become too large and the “umbrella” begins to block all of the sunlight. The national and state government strictly enforces laws preventing the harvesting of living East Indian rosewood trees from government land. All dead and fallen trees from government land as well as properly registered plantation rosewood must be transported to one of the government log storage depots. Here the wood is catalogued, registered and secured. The logs remain under watch 24 hours a day by live-in conservationist officers and their families, pending an official state government auction. These auctions occur only one or two times each year at each depot. All other species of logs gathered from government land are also controlled in this manner.

Logs can only be purchased by citizens of India who are properly licensed and bonded. The registration for the log now passes to the new owner. No rosewood is allowed to be exported in log form. The sawing and processing of the logs into qualified products must occur in India. Martin receives rough dimensioned bookmatched sets of guitar sides and backs, as well as smaller dimensioned blanks for fingerboards and bridges.

The logs are painstakingly studied for days or weeks by several veteran sawyers until they reach a consensus on the one best way to cut the log to maximize the quality and the yield. After each pass of the saw, the log is restudied and repositioned if necessary. Unlike most manufacturing climates where speed and efficiency are the measure of success, our “partnering” company in India truly embraces, as we do, the notion that “wood is of the essence.”

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 8)
A small percentage of guitar enthusiasts will write us letters stating that their instrument has “a beauty mark.” Wood is the product of nature and has natural character. If the wood is solid, stable, and free from cracks or open grain, we will use it because we believe that we have an obligation to use our resources responsibly.

I was greatly impressed with the dedication and determination India expends to manage their environment. We are going to continue to use the best quality materials available from the most responsible and legitimate sources that we can identify.

It has become evident that individuals, companies, and countries alike are feeling the ecological and economic impact of tropical rainforest destruction, temperate forest mismanagement, acid rain, global warming, species endangerment and conservationist legislation. In a global scope, The Martin Guitar Company is an extremely small user of wood. Nevertheless, acquisition of raw materials is becoming more difficult, and the public is becoming more confused about the issues. Concerned customers have begun to inquire about what we as a company are doing (or not doing) to contribute to the preservation and responsible management of our natural resources. This statement is intended to address those concerns, clearly and honestly.

C. F. Martin formalized its long-standing ecological policy in 1990. This program embraced the judicious and responsible use of traditional natural materials and encouraged the introduction of sustainable-yield, alternative wood species. Our consumer focus group research has led to the introduction and widespread acceptance of guitars utilizing structurally sound woods with natural cosmetic characteristics formerly considered unacceptable. We have also developed numerous sustainable-yield, alternative wood guitars for industry-wide exhibitions intended to educate our consumers and provide direction for the company and industry.

The company recognizes CITES as the governing authority on endangered species and closely follows their directives. The company has more recently begun exploring the viability of utilizing Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certifiable wood sources and supports the introduction of FSC guitar models as soon as commercially feasible.

NEW RODALE BOOK CELEBRATES THE LONG LEGACY OF C. F. MARTIN & CO.

“Martin Guitars: An Illustrated Celebration of America’s Premier Guitarmaker,” by Jim Washburn and Richard Johnston, published by Rodale Books. This exquisite 256-page hardcover edition published by Rodale Books features more than 470 color photographs and illustrations of Martin instruments. The text includes complete information on all of the Martin models, interviews with major artists that revere Martin guitars, plus much more! The book will become available from Martin, as well as national book outlets, in October of 1997 with a retail price of $40.00. A must for all lovers of fine guitars!
**C. F. MARTIN TRIBUTE TO FAMOUS HISTORIC LARGE SOUNDHOLE MODEL**

C. F. Martin & Co. is proud to announce the introduction of the HD-28LSV (Large Soundhole Vintage) model. This unique re-creation draws its inspiration from a specific pre-war Martin 1935 D-28, Serial #58957.

As a matter of historical record, Serial #58957 was owned by the late legendary Clarence White. It was subsequently sold to bluegrass virtuoso Tony Rice.

The soundhole of the original guitar was enlarged in the 1960s due to severe picking (and cigarette ash) damage. Wood was removed from the lip of the soundhole to the first rosette ring, yielding an enlarged 4 5/16" diameter soundhole. The sound of this guitar has been highly revered and in part attributed to this unusual modification. Another modification was the replacement of the original Martin fingerboard with a longer length Gretsch fingerboard, bound in white and without position markers.

The appointments for the HD-28LSV have been beautifully recreated for this special Vintage Series addition to Martin’s stock line of acoustic guitars.

**BACKPACKER® MEETS DANCING FLEA**

Martin recently introduced the Backpacker® soprano ukulele. This tiny, all mahogany-bodied instrument maintains the clever design of its larger predecessors, the immensely popular steel-string and classic Backpackers®, which have far out sold all other travel guitars made! As of this printing, more than 52,000 guitarists worldwide are now proud Backpacker® owners.

The Backpacker® Ukulele is constructed of all solid woods, features a 13.614” scale length like the Martin 0-Uke and is shipped in its own black canvas protective bag. With a total length of less than 22 1/2” and a weight of only 12 1/2 ounces, this is an easy instrument to take with you.

Backpacker® ukuleles should start to appear in music stores during the Fall. Visit your local dealer soon to try one on for size.

**C. F. MARTIN IN IRELAND**

On a trip to Ireland last September, Art Edelstein stopped in to the town of Kilrush in County Clare. There, to his surprise, he found the shop shown in the above photo. This particular “C. F. Martin” is a printer by trade. Perhaps a long lost relative? Art just happened to have his Martin T-shirt on. The rest is history.

**C.F.MARTIN® STRINGS**

For The Life Of Your Music.

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For more information, call us at 1-800-633-2060 or visit us on the internet at http://www.mguitar.com

**Eric Clapton**

Performer

When the world hangs on every note you bend, you choose your strings very carefully. That’s why Eric Clapton uses Martin Strings on his Martin acoustic guitars. Whether he’s rocking your soul with some deep, earthy blues, or bringing you to tears with moving ballads, the tone and clarity of his strings are crucial to his success. When it’s time to restring your instrument, use Martin Marquis®, Martin Strings, Martin Phosphor Bronze, or Martin Cryogenic. After all, the best string with the best!
CCMA PRESENTS MARTIN HUMANITARIAN AWARD

C. F. Martin & Co., in conjunction with Kief Music Company of Surrey, British Columbia, has co-sponsored the Canadian Country Music Association’s annual Humanitarian Award for many years.

This year’s award was presented by last year’s recipient, Joan Kennedy, to singer, songwriter, and actor Tom Jackson, who is becoming as well-known for his charitable work as he is for his recordings and starring performances in the hit CBC-TV drama series “North Of 60.”

The C. F. Martin Humanitarian Award was presented to Jackson in recognition of his work in creating, arranging, organizing and hosting The Huron Carole, a series of Christmas benefit concerts held in nine Canadian cities last year to aid food banks and the homeless.

WINFIELD WINNER

Jim Baggett from Mass Street Music in Lawrence, Kansas, presented a specially inlaid Vintage Series OM-28VR to Canadian guitarist Don Ross, who won the 1996 Finger Picking Guitar Championship at Winfield, Kansas. This event, run by the Walnut Valley Association, is one of the biggest and best guitar competitions of its kind in the world.

The Martin OM “Orchestra Model” guitar design has come to exemplify the optimum fingerstyle instrument, treasured for its slightly wider than standard neck width plus its extreme balance and clarity of tone.

C. F. MARTIN HONORED WITH BEST FAMILY BUSINESS AWARD

C. F. Martin & Co. was recently honored in the category of Best Family Business at a reception in Wilkes Barre, PA, for the territory of northeastern Pennsylvania. This award, accepted by CEO and Chairman, C. F. Martin IV, qualifies Martin for subsequent levels of competition. With six generations and 164 years of family ownership, Martin stands as the oldest surviving guitarmaker in the world. In addition, Martin has been recognized as one of the Top 25 American Products by the “Made In The USA Foundation.”

AMERICAN SONGWRITER CONTEST WINNER ANNOUNCED

Recently, Garrett Dawson of Antioch, Tennessee, was named the Grand Prize Winner in the Lyric Writing Contest sponsored by American Songwriter Magazine. He received a Martin D-1R Dreadnought acoustic guitar plus 12 sets of Martin Strings as the Grand Prize for this contest. Garrett wrote in to thank us for sponsoring the contest, saying: “I can’t tell you how much it means to aspiring songwriters and musicians to be so acknowledged. The impact of such an experience on a budding career is truly priceless.”

THE CANADIAN COUNTRY MUSIC ASSOCIATION

The

Martin&Co.

EST. 1833

Humanitarian
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THE
CANADIAN
COUNTRY
MUSIC
ASSOCIATION

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Raymond Massman, an aircraft technician from Tyrone, Georgia, loves to get out into the open spaces with his Backpacker® guitar. He gets together with friends several times a year for such treks. The photo above was taken late last summer in the Bitterroot National Forest near Missoula, Montana, looking back on Trapper Peak at an elevation of 10,153 feet. The group was backpacking off the trail toward a lake and ended up in this spot, which was not exactly where they wanted to be. So Raymond pulled out the Backpacker® and entertained his cohorts while they checked their bearings.

Amanda Rose, a high school sophomore from Taunton, MA, joined a group of environmentally committed student members of the Earth Service Corps for an educational trip to the rainforests of Costa Rica. But she couldn’t bear to be without a guitar, so she took her Backpacker® along. The trip was a huge success and her Backpacker® brought much enjoyment to the group, especially when they were all stranded in a hut in the middle of nowhere during the many tropical rainstorms. Amanda was amazed at how well the Backpacker® held up to the Costa Rican humidity. She did apologize for her photograph: “It’s hard to hold a camera still when you’re being eaten alive by mosquitoes.”

David Cicoletti of Mountain View, California, wrote to us about the excellent time he had traveling throughout India with his Backpacker® guitar. He played on palm-fringed shores, on the backs of camels and elephants, in yoga ashrams with sitar and tabla players, and on the tips of 12,000 foot glaciers. Here he took time out to entertain his camel driver with a few verses of Blackberry Blossom. “The Rajasthani men sure love to dance!”

Clinton Viebrock is an airline pilot and guitar enthusiast. He owns two Martins (a 000-28 and a D-18), but with the space constraints aboard the aircraft, it is much more practical for him to travel with his Backpacker®. Above he is posing in his perch with his instrument array. He wanted to assure everyone that he is much too busy during actual flights to play his guitar, but he finds plenty of time in transit on “terra firma.” Clinton is a resident of Telluride, Colorado, where he volunteers annually for the famous “Planet Bluegrass” festival. Volunteering gets him close to the stage where he gets inspiration for future flights!

We’d love to hear your Backpacker stories. Send them to: “The Sounding Board” Box 329, Nazareth, PA 18064

This Is Your Captain Strumming
David Campbell of Virginia Beach, Virginia, is an avid hiker and guitarist. Those two hobbies seem to go together rather nicely, especially if you have a Backpacker® guitar. He had long dreamed of hiking the entire Appalachian trail, an enlivening 2155 mile trek which stretches from Springer Mountain, Georgia to Mount Katahdin, Maine. He finally did it, beginning in Georgia and heading north. At right, he finds serenity atop one of Pennsylvania’s rolling hills. Below, David reached the end of his journey after six months. Here he is bundled up next to the trail marker at Mount Katahdin. David is planning a sailing trip to Costa Rica, an extended safari in Africa, a summer trek in Wyoming, and innumerable other adventures. He plans to take his Backpacker® where ever he goes.