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EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY  
Charleston, Illinois

news

February 3, 1982

(17)

HARRY READ, Director of Information and Publications (217) 581-2820

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHARLESTON, IL --Gary Grounds, manager of the photographic laboratory in the Audio Visual Center at Eastern Illinois University, lays down his camera three nights a week and grabs a microphone and a cowboy hat. Grounds is the leader of G.W.'s Country Review, a country-western band.

Grounds, the son of Mr. and Mrs. A.W. Grounds of Route 3, Marion, is a graduate of Johnson City High School.

G.W.'s Country Review includes three other members--Hugh Birch, lead guitar and vocalist; Bob McMillan, bass and vocalist; and Elmer Tate, drums. Grounds plays rhythm guitar, pedal steel, and is the lead singer. The band plays in clubs in the Central Illinois area, ranging from Casey to Decatur and Champaign to Salem.

The band recently taped 12 songs in the home studio of Dr. Burton Hardin, a Professor in EIU's Music Department. He owns and operates a complete recording studio in his basement. Grounds said he was impressed with the highly professional quality of the tape and firmly believes that "Burt Hardin is the best engineer in this area."

Grounds said the band is negotiating to have the tape pressed into an album. Included on the tape are such songs as: "Heartaches By The Numbers", "Rocky Top", "Elvira", and "The South's Gonna Do It Again."

Grounds, who has been interested in music for 10 years, enjoys composing his own lyrics and music. He decided against recording any of his own songs on the first tape because he feels the band needs to first become more established with published works.

The band plays a wide variety of country music plus rock and 50's. Club managers, as well as local country music lovers, appear to be receptive to the music, Grounds said.