



Herald-Leader Tim Sharp

Julie Adams of the Fabulous Twister Sisters performs during warm-up for show.

## 'Mountain Stage' hopes to benefit from the end of 'Prairie Home'

By Tom Daykin

Northeastern Kentucky Bureau

CHARLESTON, W. Va. — After "Prairie Home Companion" broadcasts its last live show on Saturday, some fans may seek a new companion in "Mountain Stage." "We know there are a few radio stations that are going to put us in that ('Prairie Home Companion') time slot and keep going," said Larry Groce, who is host and co-producer of Mountain Stage. "It won't hurt us."

But while "Mountain Stage" and "Prairie Home Companion" both feature live music performances and comedy skits, the two shows differ. Groce said "Mountain Stage" placed a greater emphasis on music, while "Prairie Home Companion's" centerpiece was host Garrison Keillor's famous monologues.

But Groce and fellow co-producer Andy Ridenour have "Prairie"-size goals. Both say they want to see 250 National Public Radio stations carry "Mountain Stage" — the same number of stations that carry "Prairie Home Companion."

Still, Groce and Ridenour are proud of the show's growth since 1981, when it aired as a pilot on West Virginia Public Radio. The show's format originated with Ridenour, who wanted a variety show for the state radio network. He conferred with Francis Fisher, West Virginia Public Radio's chief engineer, who recommended his friend Groce as the host.

Groce, a singer-songwriter who had a hit in 1976 with "Junk Food Junkie," began working with Ridenour and Fisher. After the pilot aired in 1981, funding was secured in 1983 to broadcast live monthly shows on West Virginia Public Radio's eight stations. The show's format gradually

took shape. While it featured regional groups, it went beyond traditional bluegrass bands and included such artists as the Charleston String Quartet. The show also has had nationally known artists such as the John Blake Jazz Quartet.

"Mountain Stage's" diverse lineup also has included such acts as the Bobs, an a cappella group that performed a cover of the Beatles' "Helter Skelter." The

show also has featured storytellers, poets, music and comedy performed by its regular cast.

"Mountain Stage" eventually went from monthly to twice-monthly to weekly shows. Last June, it began nationwide broadcasts on National Public Radio, and is now heard on tape on about 80 radio stations throughout the country in addition to the live broadcasts on West Virginia Public Radio.

**Lexpress**  
Shuttle Service To The Greater Cincinnati Airport.  
CALL TODAY 277-5382

**Travel Agents**  
An excellent career opportunity with the fastest growing travel network in North America. The Lexington office is growing again & has an immediate opening for an experienced leisure travel counselor. Minimum 1 yr. experience in travel agency required. Excellent working conditions. Good benefits. Salary commensurate with experience. Call Mr. Taylor for appointment.  
**278-7405**  
**TRAVEL AGENTS INTERNATIONAL**  
We're With You All The Way

**HAWAII**  
4 ISLANDS 15 DAYS  
• OAHU \$1265  
• MAUI COMPLETE  
• HAWAII Incl. Inland Airfare  
• FULLY ESCORTED  
ALSO AVAILABLE: 1, 2 & 3 ISLAND TOURS

**The First Step In**  
**CALL GOING PLAC**  
215 EAST MAIN ST. GEORGETOWN, W.

**ATLANTIC QUEEN MOTEL**  
1805 S. OCEAN BLVD. WYRTLE BEACH, S.C. 29577  
For Reservations, Only: 1-800-258-4181

52 UNITS	A. Ocean Front 10' Private Bal 7 Queen Beds 2 Persons	\$65 \$455
ROOMS & EPIC	B. Ocean Front 10' Private Bal 7 Queen Beds 2 Persons	\$62 \$434
PRIVATE	C. Ocean View 10' 7 Double Beds 2 Persons	\$50 \$350
BALCONIES	D. Ocean View 10' 7 Double Beds 2 Persons	\$58 \$406
OCEAN FRONT	E. Ocean View 8' Epn 7 Double Beds 2 Persons	\$52 \$364
AIR COND.	F. Ocean View 10' Double Bed 2 Adults & 2 Children Under 10	\$68 \$476
HEAT		
KIDDIE POOL		

COLOR TV • ELEVATORS • DAILY MAID SERVICE • GOLF PRVY • 9 CLUB STORES • BEAR AMUSEMENTS, RESTAURANTS & SHOPPING  
CALL 803-448-3409  
**CONDOMINIUMS ALSO**  
2 Bedroom — 1 1/2 Bath King &  
TOLL FREE 1-800-258-4101

**DAYTONA Disco**  
from 10% to  
Acapulco Inn, Treasure Is