

BAND PROFILE

1937 Flood rises to the occasion



Gazette photo by KENNY KEMP

Dave Peyton (left), Doug Chaffin, Sam St. Clair, Charlie Bowen, Joe Dobbs and Chuck Romine are The 1937 Flood, a jug band that combines an eclectic mix of music, age and personalities.

By Rusty Marks

rustymarks@wvgazette.com

HUNTINGTON'S eclectic old-time jug band, The 1937 Flood, finally has its own CD.

It took only 25 years.

"Recording seemed like it would be very hard, and not much fun," says 1937 Flood guitarist and unofficial bandleader Charlie Bowen.

But the band had a ball recording "The 1937 Flood," the group's first disc. The CD was just released by Braxton Recordings in Charleston.

The 1937 Flood will appear at 7 p.m. Friday at the Huntington High Renaissance Center in Huntington. Admission is free, and the program will include material from the new CD as well as a mix of the band's folk, jazz and old-time repertoire.

The flood's live shows are much like

the CD: They may switch gears from racy blues numbers to sweet Appalachian folk music in an instant, then branch off into jazz standards like "Ain't Misbehavin'." About the only thing band members have in common is a resolve not to take themselves too seriously.

IF YOU GO

The 1937 Flood performs in a free show 7 p.m. Friday at the Huntington High Renaissance Center, Eighth Street and Ninth Avenue. For more on the band, visit www.1937flood.com or call 562-3230.

"I think we're the only jug band in West Virginia," fiddler Joe Dobbs announced at a performance last week in St. Albans. "I know we're the only one without a jug."

The band features Bowen, an author and Internet radio host, on guitar; newspaper columnist Dave Peyton on autoharp; Dobbs

(founder of Fret 'N' Fiddle and host of West Virginia Public Radio's "Music From the Mountains") on fiddle; Doug Chaffin on standup bass; Chuck Romine on tenor banjo and Sam St. Clair on

Please see **FLOOD, 3D**

FLOOD

Continued from 1D

harmonies.

The band members come from both sides of the political spectrum and 30 years separate the oldest and youngest members.

"Dave and I are probably the staunchest liberals," Bowen said. "Chuck is a conservative Republican. We don't talk politics much when we play."

The band goes back about 25 years, when Dobbs heard Bowen and Peyton playing at a craft fair and decided they could use a band.

"The core of the group has always been Joe and Dave and me," he said. "We've probably had 25 different people in the group."

The band's latest incarnation started about two years ago when Bowen and crew added Chaffin on bass. "We didn't play out in public that much, because we really weren't interested," he said. But Chaffin was so good

and the band had so much fun after he joined that they decided come out of the living room and onto the stage, he said.

"We usually just played for ourselves," Peyton agreed. "We were just able to get it together this last year. It was the first time we actually all had the time to do it."

Roxine joined the group about a year ago, while St. Clair has been a member for the past several months. Along with their new-found public following and debut CD, Bowen set up a band Web site, www.1937flood.com, and a free e-mail newsletter called "FloodStages."

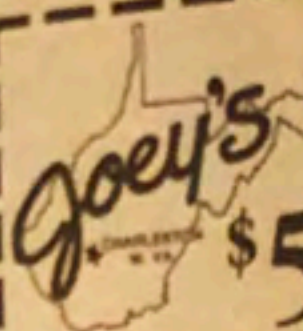
Bowen said the band enlisted Buddy Griffin — a fellow musician and longtime friend of Dobbs' — to record the band's CD. The entire disc was recorded live, with no overdubs. Most of the tunes were captured in one take, except the one or two where Bowen forgot the words.

"We did the whole thing as if we were playing to an audience," he said. "We wanted to capture the fun we have and

bring to an audience."

The CD is available on the 1937 Flood Web site, from Amazon.com, and at Fret 'N' Fiddle in St. Albans. The recording should soon be available at Tamarack. Cost is \$14.95.

To contact staff writer Rusty Marks, use e-mail or call 348-1215.

 **Goey's** January Special

\$5.00 off

LOVER'S PACKAGES

BBQ, Rib & Chicken, Pasta, Steak,
Italian or Fish Lover's

ALL LOCATIONS Present Coupon
Exp. 1/31/02

Peace on

...sled rides an