

OSSIE BRANSCOMBE TALKS ABOUT THE BAY BOYS FIRST TWO ALBUMS
DOWN HOME FAVOURITES VOLUME I

Over the past eight years a good portion of the records we have sold in our store have been from Canada's East Coast. Being a New Brunswicker myself, I've always been partial to this kind of music. I think I have also developed a good feel for the type of records that appeal to the average Maritimer, especially Newfoundlanders.

When you're in the business of selling records, you look at a new LP differently than most people do. First, you ask yourself, is it good? Secondly, will it appeal to your customers, will it sell? On hearing Down Home Favourites for the first time, my immediate answer to both questions is Yes! In fact, I predict that this will probably be one of the best selling collections of Newfoundland music in 1985.

The genuine Newfoundland sound of the Northcotte brothers, Fred and Les, plus the musical expertise of Walter Ostanek and Graham Townsend, are blended together in this boatload of songs and tunes to take us on a musical voyage to Newfoundland. Included are traditional tunes, some of which Fred had learned from his grandfather; three songs written by Fred and also three written by his friends Eddie Legere, Carl White and Stan McDonald; songs about old sentiments and values being applied in this modern, hectic society.

This LP is very well produced, which should please the radio programmers. While the mix and musical quality are excellent, it still has the

warmth and vitality of the Outports that is generated by two Good Ole Byes from the South West Coast of Newfoundland.

Fred Northcotte was born in a little outport called Coppett and moved with his family to Ramea Island around Confederation time; here Les was born. Both Fred and Les now make their homes in St. Catharines, Ontario, where they play on weekends with their popular band, The Bay Boys. Most of the music they play is from Newfoundland, even though they perform all over Southern Ontario in halls and clubs that normally cater to country music and country rock.

Fred is an accomplished musician and has developed a unique style of playing the accordion and harmonica at the same time. Les plays guitar and bass and does a fine job of interpreting the lyrics of old and newer Newfoundland songs.

On Down Home Favourites, they have combined their years of expertise, with assistance from their good friends Walter Ostanek and Graham Townsend, to give direction and balance to a project which has resulted in this excellent LP. I'm sure if you listen to the fourteen selections, you will agree with me.