

PORTERVILLE, CA. RECORDER

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VISALIA-TULARE-PORTERVILLE METROPOLITAN AREA

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Desert Rose plays California Country

Group performs Friday evening

Described as a vibrant gust of California Country, the Desert Rose Band is the headline entertainment May 19 at the Porterville Fair.

Desert Rose has recorded several hit songs including the smash hit "One Step Forward and Two Steps Back," on their second album, "Running."

Their most recent hit, "He's Back and I'm Blue," illustrates the group's unique combination of old and new and established them as a group of extraordinary musicians.

Before they played their first notes together in 1985, the Desert Rose Band's credentials were impressive.

Band leader Chris Hillman went from a country group with Vern Gosdin to being bass player for the 1960's folk-rock group, The Byrds.

Hillman moved on with Gram Parsons to form the Flying Burritto Brothers and then collaborated with Stephen Stills on the 1974 Top 20 single "Fallin' In Love."

Singer and banjoist Herb Pederson has worked with Kenny Rogers, Linda Ronstadt and Dan Fogelberg.

John Jorgensen, guitarist and mandolinist holds a degree in woodwinds and played with Benny Goodman and Rose Maddox. Bassist Bill Bryson has played in the Country Gazette and on motion picture soundtracks.

Jay Dee Manness' session credits include playing steel guitar for the Byrds, Ronnie Milsap and Rod Stewart.

Drummer Steve Duncan's credits range from Ricky Nelson to Roger Miller to T-Bone Burnett.

Hillman attributes the traditional country elements in Desert Rose to the regional country sound of



Southern California. Their albums, says Hillman, are also true to the band's beginnings as a live act.

Their song subjects broadened the concept of country, Hillman said, and fit with the concept of Desert Rose, adding new dimensions to traditional elements.

Grandstand shows begin at 8 p.m. Fair dates are May 17-20.

The Desert Rose Band.