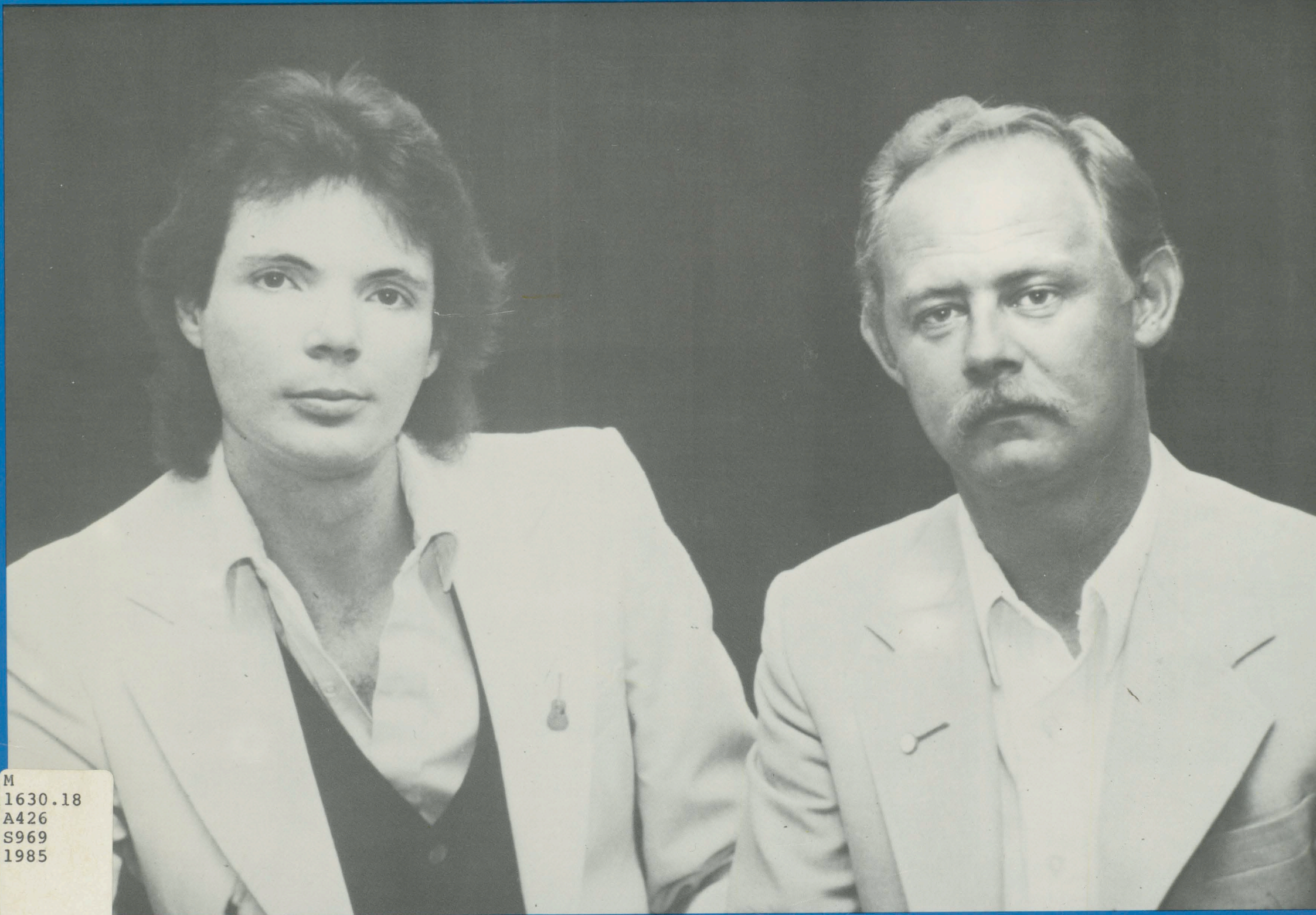


FOLKWAYS RECORDS FTS31049 STEREO

HARLEY ALLEN & MIKE LILLY

Suzanne



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1985

MUSIC LP

HARLEY ALLEN & MIKE LILLY

SIDE I.

1. **SUZANNE 2:37**
Harley Allen, Acuff & Rose Publishing Co.
2. **I DON'T BELIEVE YOU MET MY BABY 1:53**
D. Warden, Tree Publishers; BMI
3. **MOONSHINER 2:42**
Traditional P.D.
4. **ARKANSAS 2:57**
Surefire Music
5. **NO MOTHER OR DAD 2:35**
Curley Seckler
6. **BABY BLUE EYES 3:14**
Jim Eanes
7. **BILL CHEATHAM 1:10**
Traditional P.D.

SIDE II.

1. **BLUE NIGHT 2:00**
Kirk McGee BMI
2. **SEVEN YEAR BLUES 3:27**
Louvin Bros. & E. Hill BMI
3. **USED TO BE 1:40**
Bill Monroe
4. **CHAIN GANG 3:12**
Traditional P.D.
5. **AIN'T ME BABE 2:17**
Bob Dylan M. Whitmark & Sons Publishing / ASCAP
6. **I'M ALWAYS ON A MOUNTAIN 2:15**
Chuck Howard, ATV Music Corp. / Shade Tree Music Inc.

Harley Allen—Vocal Lead, Tenor, Guitar, Mandolin
 Mike Lilly—Vocal Lead, Baritone, Banjo
 Scott Adams—Baritone, Mandolin
 Larry Nager—Electric Bass
 David Moore Jr.—Fiddle
 Jr. Bennett—Fiddles (Side II, #6)

CREDITS

Recorded at—Jewel Studios, Cinn. Ohio Feb. & March, 1984
 Engineer—Jr. Bennett
 Mixed by—Harley Allen & Larry Nager
 Produced by—Red Allen
 Album cover photos—Barbara Rion



Flatt and Scruggs, Reno and Smiley, Moore and Napier...the duo has a rich tradition in bluegrass music, overshadowed sometimes by the more familiar brother and family act. Family members share the same genes, upbringing and musical experiences. They can achieve an almost eerie harmony of vocal ensemble and instrumental approach.

On the other hand, dissimilar parts can occasionally be used to create a team of unexpected power and durability. Husbands and wives know this; so do artists and business firms. Samson and Delilah, Antony and Cleopatra, Rodgers and Hammerstein, Newman and Redford...now we give you Allen and Lilly.

Harley Allen, 28, is heir to a bluegrass legacy, having grown up under the tutelage of Red Allen, the famous singer. Sinewy and complex harmonies are the Allen family stock-in-trade. Red and the Osborne Brothers brought the trio from an Andrews Sisters curiosity to a bluegrass art form. While other children start with nursery rhymes, the Allen boys limbered up their vocal chords with the unique intervals of Ira and Charlie Louvin...and went on from there.

Harley inherited the voice, and shared with his late brother Neal a talent for songwriting. Until recently the Allen Brothers worked as a family group (often appearing on stage and on record with their father). This training gave Harley a thorough grounding in bluegrass music, public performance and the entertainment business. A 1983 solo album on Folkways cemented his reputation as one of the leading singers in bluegrass today.

Mike Lilly, 34, was 11 when his father started him on the banjo. It wasn't long before this talented young musician had absorbed the styles of Earl Scruggs, Don Reno, Eddie Adcock and Allen Shelton and was off to set the world on fire. Teaming with Dayton mandolinist Wendy Miller, Mike played

locally and then began his professional career with Larry Sparks and the Lonesome Ramblers.

Mike has always been an individualist, a standout in any band. He has a playful approach to music, demonic intensity and a passion for infusing every break with an extra measure of licks. His work with Larry Sparks, Wendy Miller and the Country Gentlemen awed and inspired a whole generation of young pickers. In other bands, Mike's powerful voice was never given the spotlight it deserved. He has the range to sing all parts, but is especially most impressive in the lower register.

For 35 years now, Daytonians have been exposed to some of the finest talents in bluegrass music. Harley Allen and Mike Lilly have long been local favorites, but absolutely none would have picked them for duet partners at the front of an exciting new band. Perhaps it is that very improbability that makes the Allen-Lilly band's debut such a delight, in Dayton and throughout the bluegrass world.

In this, the group's first album, you will hear that the whole is truly greater than the sum of the parts. Two strong solo voices blend beautifully, their different timbres creating a broader and richer sound than most duets. Both love the classic bluegrass sound, and it shows, but Harley and Mike each bring separate tastes and directions to their music. Mike's perky rhythms enliven Harley's sensitive melodies. Harley's nuances and colorings give wings to Mike's backwoods intensity. And so it goes, whetting the bluegrass lover's appetite for more.

The Allen-Lilly band's first album is completely developed—successful and satisfying from the first cut to the last. It breathes new life into old music and old excitement into new music. This is a collaboration that should last a long, long time. There's lots more where this came from!

Fred Bartenstein, Dayton, Ohio, April 1984