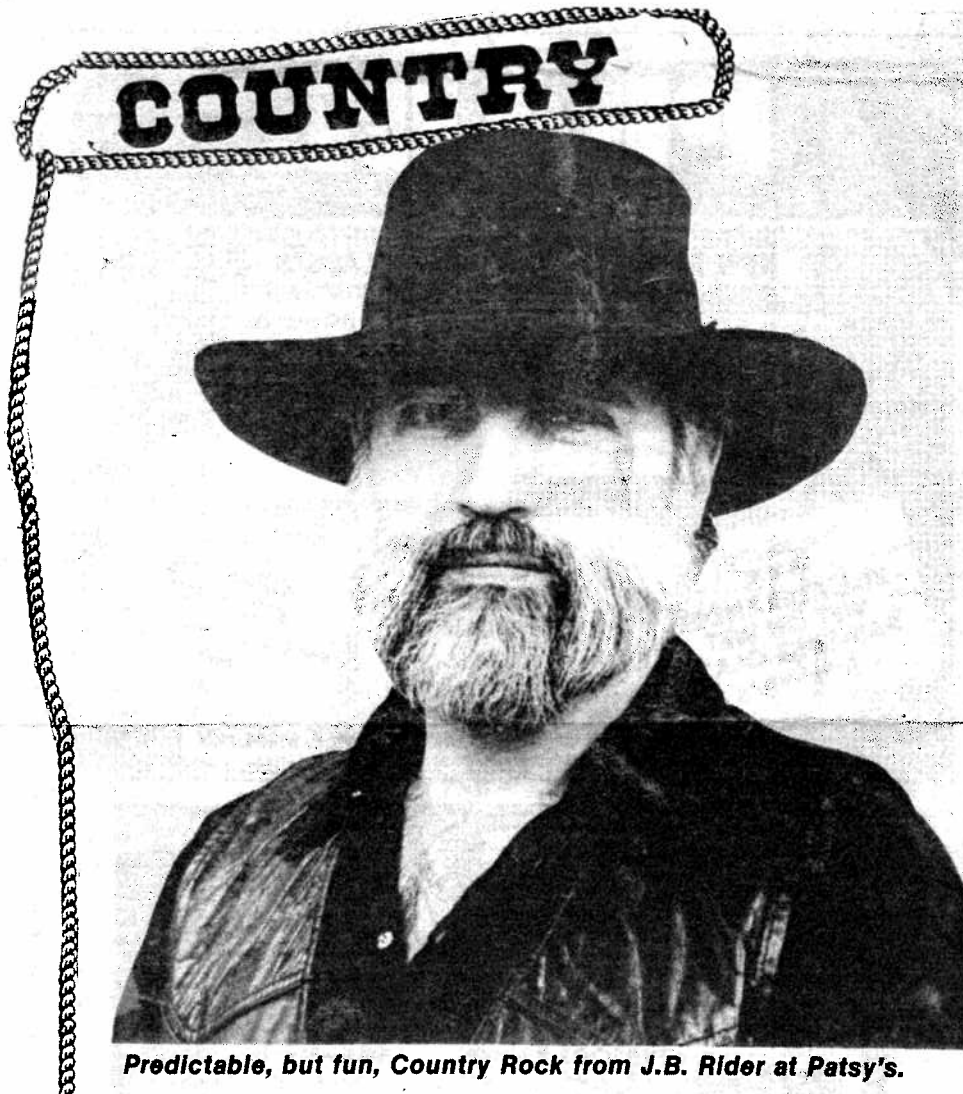


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**Predictable, but fun, Country Rock from J.B. Rider at Patsy's.**

**J.B. Rider**  
*Patsy's Homeport*

Country rock fans from the rock era who seemed to forget their roots into the '90s would be disappointed in J.B. Rider. This is a roots band. Standard,

predictable country blues, with a hint of Chuck Berry. As a matter of fact, J.B. has been around. Rider played with Albert King, Chuck Berry and the Great Bo Diddley. He apologizes out loud for having been a big white red-neck member of The Drifters. The

band played diligently while Rider wailed out authentic Waylon Jennings on "Working cheap" and "Little Sister," written by Dight Yoakam and redone by Elvis Presley. We heard "Tulsa Time" in its original Don Williams form (better known as Eric Clapton's hit single back there).

It was hillbilly rock as opposed to rockabilly. The band has one Australian (Kerryn Tolhurst on guitar with Rider) who adds a flavor of folk. Other than that treat, all you can expect from the J.B. Rider band is traditional honky tonk blues without the honky tonk. Yet if you love Johnny Cash and Hank Williams, and if you are fifties nifty and need to hear Sam Cooke again, this band is consistent.

The most exciting number was Waylon Jennings' "Angels Flying Too Close to the Ground." The rhythms escalated here, and the vocal harmony betwixt Dan Hurt and J.B. Rider is not exactly jello. Yet, for the diehard country heart, this music is correct and solid. I would have liked a peddle steel or a fiddle somewhere on stage, but it was all just hats and spurs. Rider has a penetrating voice and every one of his fans call him "a good apple" and "a really great singer with a humble attitude." The hillbilly rock band is not blues oriented enough to be sure, but they do rock like the fifties' hard core that ignored bluegrass and folk. The J.B. Rider band is just a refreshing bunch of good apples with a hoedown beat. —Linda Mesch ■

**Desert Rose Band**  
*Bottom Line*

The Desert Rose Band, one of country's fast rising groups, was in full bloom while playing to a sold

out audience at the Bottom Line. With three albums under their belt and a forthcoming greatest hits release they are currently riding high on the new wave of country music. The band fronted by former Byrds member Chris Hillman, a 25 year veteran of the music scene, founded the group just 3 years back.

Desert Rose was eagerly greeted from the moment they hit the stage. They rambled through a string of their hits including "One Step Forward And Two Steps Back," "Summer Wind" and "She Don't Love Nobody." The audience couldn't help but clap along to "Missing You," a tune off their third album, *Pages of Life*.

Though Hillman appears to be the driving force behind this group, each member, all well accomplished musicians in their own right, play their part in making this band a truly unified effort. Herb Pederson, vocal arranger and backup guitarist, parked up the set when he took the vocal reins on an old Buck Owens tune, "Hello Trouble." John Jorgenson also had his moment in the spotlight with a clever slap-back delay guitar solo showing off his impressive playing ability. Jay Dee Maness, who plays a tasty pedal steel guitar, certainly showed the audience why he has won the award for best steel player twelve times in a row. Bill Bryson, the man on bass, and drummer Steve Duncan, also fine musicians, provided a solid backbone. Add to that some choir-like harmonies, making Desert Rose a real tightly knit group. The only thorn on this rose was that they held off with most of the fast numbers until the end of the set, but all in all, it was a most enjoyable evening.

—Nancy Mala Rosen ■