

Herb Pedersen – Bio

Herb Pedersen was born in Berkeley, California on April 27th 1944. His parents had been raised in San Francisco and had settled across the bay where his father served a policeman. Pedersen developed a love of music from an early age and it was on his mother's old Stella that he learned to play guitar. At school, during his early teens he teamed up with Butch Waller [mandolin], and they developed a repertoire of material that included songs recorded by Everly Brothers, Louvin Brothers and Jim & Jesse. In his mid-teens Herb formed the bluegrass band, The Pine Valley Boys, and during this period he met and became friendly with future Byrd Chris Hillman who, at that time, was a member of The Scottsville Squirrel Barkers. In 1967 Herb spent a short time working with Lester Flatt, while Earl Scruggs was indisposed. Pedersen also worked for a time with David Grisman's Smokey Grass Boys.

Pedersen was invited to join the *family [bluegrass] band*, The Dillards, when Doug Dillard left to form a recording partnership with ex-Byrd Gene Clark. Herb was a member of the band for three years and recorded two albums with them. In 1971 Pedersen left The Dillards to form Country Gazette with Byron Berline [fiddle], Roger Bush [bass] and Billy Ray Latham [banjo], but was soon replaced by Alan Munde. When Gram Parsons recorded his final album, "**Grievous Angel**" [1974], Herb was one of the sessions players. Having met Emmylou Harris at the latter sessions, a couple of years later he worked on her debut solo recording "**Pieces of The Sky**" [1975]. In 1976 he appeared on Chris Hillman's "**Slippin' Away**" solo album, and went on to cut a couple of solo albums of his own for CBS – "**Southwest**" and "**Sandman.**" Pedersen chose not to capitalise on his solo releases by touring in support of them, and instead, joined the John Denver's band for four years. The other band members were guitar legend James Burton, Emory Gordy, Jim Horn and famed Wrecking Crew drummer, Hal Blaine. In 1979 Pedersen and Rodney Dillard co-produced The Dillards "**Decade Waltz**" and he was credited on the liner as *The Decade Dillard*.

In 1982, Herb teamed up with David Grisman, Emory Gordy [ex Hot Band], Vince Gill [ex Pure Prairie League] and Jim Buchanan to record the bluegrass album "**Here Today.**" In the mid-eighties Herb cut another solo album, "**Lonesome Feeling,**" this time for Sugar Hill, as did Chris Hillman, following which the pair formed the highly successful Desert Rose Band. The other *original* band members were Bill Bryson [bass], John Jorgensen [guitar], plus Steve Duncan [drums] and Jay Dee Maness [pedal steel]. Having cut seven original albums the band split up in 1993. Pedersen's next project, the Laurel Canyon Ramblers, consisted of Bryson, Latham and Kenny Blackwell [mandolin]. Sugar Hill issued the quartet's debut "**Rambler's Blues**" and two more albums have followed. As well as maintaining a touring schedule with the Ramblers, in the last few years Herb and Chris have recorded two albums as a duo, and they've also cut three discs in partnership with Tony and Larry Rice.

One of Pedersen's teenage contemporaries was the late Jerry Garcia. When David Grisman, Peter Rowan and Vassar Clements decided to reform the mid-seventies aggregation, Old And In The Way, Herb was invited to take Garcia's place. Late last year, now known as Old And In The Gray, the quartet assisted by Brynn Bright [upright bass] issued a self-titled album.

Discography :

solo : "**Southwest**" [1976/2002] ; "**Sandman**" [1977] ; "**Lonesome Feeling**" [1984] :
with Dillards : "**Wheatstraw Suite**" [1968] ; "**Copperfields**" [1970] ; "**Decade Waltz**" [1979] :
with Desert Rose Band : "**Desert Rose Band**" [1987] ; "**Running**" [1988] ; "**She Don't Love Nobody**" [1989] ; "**Pages Of Life**" [1990] ; "**True Love**" [1991] ; "**A Dozen Roses**" [1991] ; "**Traditional**" [1993] ; "**Life Goes On**" [1994] :
with Here Today : "**Here Today**" [1984] :
with Laurel Canyon Ramblers : "**Rambler's Blues**" [1995] ; "**Blue Rambler 2**" [1996] ; "**Back On The Street Again**" [1998] :
with Chris Hillman : "**Bakersfield Bound**" [1996] ; "**Way Out West**" [2002] :
with Tony Rice, Rice and Chris Hillman : "**Out of The Woodwork**" [1997] ; "**Rice, Rice, Hillman And Pedersen**" [1999] ; "**Running Wild**" [2001] :
with Old And In The Gray : "**Old And In The Gray**" [2002] :

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