



Bob Delevante **“Columbus And The Colossal Mistake”** Relay Records

“Columbus And The Colossal Mistake” is Delevante’s sophomore album, and it opens with the title cut. In the chorus the narrator compares how he met his sweetheart by employing the allusion *“Columbus went looking for the Far East baby when America got in his way, Now I guess I know just how good he must have felt when I bumped into you that day.”* As for ‘the colossal mistake’ we’re informed they’re his *“best laid plans”* which seem to consistently go awry.

The steady pop/country rhythm that [for the most part] drove the album opener ratchets up a gear on “Circles Round Me” – the hook being *“That girl she runs circles round me.”* Next up “Close My Eyes” is a song inspired by love, “An Old Picture Of You” a fond reminiscence of a still vital relationship, while, supported by jangly electric guitars, “Fly Home To” serves the dual purpose of being a song about ‘the road’ and ‘love.’ Now you might be getting the idea that Bob is somewhat love struck. So here’s the exception - driven by a bluesy harmonica “Venice Is Sinking” is a reflection on the effects of gravity and water on this Italian Adriatic coast city. For all its historic significance, on my sole visit there I concluded that it was a massive rotting slum – best left alone. As the cut closes a bell tolls [for whom?], and the wind blows [cold and bleak].....

“Like A Meadowlark Blues” features guitarist Buddy Miller and some of his raunchy riffs, “The Things I Long To Hear,” which follows, finds Emmylou Harris on backing vocals. The city of Texarkana lies partly in Texas and Arkansas, and the lyric to the upbeat “Texarkana State Of Mind” is a play-on-words relative to being in a confused mental state, aka ‘on the borderline.’ The content of the blues workout “Paint My House” is pretty much explained by the title, and “The Garden Wall,” closes the album.

On the review disc The Ramones song “Blitzkrieg Bop” and a ‘sound effects filled’ reprise of “Texarkana State Of Mind [Jawharp Mix]” are listed as bonus cuts. The latter pair should have been left on the mixing room floor.....

Folkwax Score 6 out of 10

Arthur Wood.

Kerrville Kronikles 08/06.