SPECIAL HOLIDAY ISSUE 1990

The Root Beer Rag

Backstage Holiday Visits

On our cover . . .

Live from New York we bring you the famous Christmas tree at Rockefeller Plaza. With the jovial spirit of the season all around, Root Beer Rag asked Billy and the members of Billy's band how they celebrate the holidays. Almost all answered, "With a special feast!" Perhaps you would like to try some of their favorite recipes.

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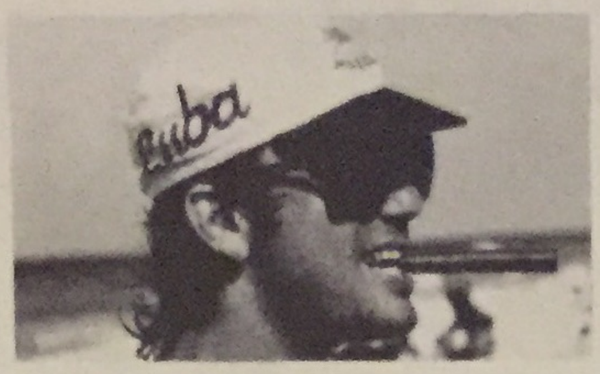


Russell Javor's Special Eggnog

Ingredients:
ice
1 egg
one shot of vodka

Instructions: Put ice in glass. Fry the egg. Drink the vodka. Merry Christmas!

Billy Joel says his favorite holiday meal begins with clams on the half shell, followed by shrimp creole and eggplant parmigiana.

Billy's Creole Delight

Ingredients:
4 tablespoons vegetable shortening
5 tablespoons flour
½ cup minced onion
2 cloves garlic, minced
¼ cup green pepper, chopped
⅜ cup celery, diced
1 8-ounce can tomato sauce
3 cups water
½ teaspoon salt
¼ teaspoon cayenne pepper
3 pounds fresh jumbo shrimp, cleaned and deveined

Instructions: Melt shortening in a 2-quart sauce pan. Add flour and cook over medium flame, stirring constantly to make a golden-brown sauce. Add onion, garlic, celery, and green pepper and cook until tender. Add tomato sauce. Stir and cook about 5 minutes. Add water, salt and cayenne pepper. Simmer mixture for 15 minutes. Add shrimp, cover and simmer for 20 minutes more. Serve over rice. Serves four to six.

Richie Cannata reports that his mother, Anna, starts cooking their family feast several weeks before Christmas. The many courses of their Italian food festival include melon with prosciutto, antipasto, manicotti, meatballs and sausage, leg of lamb stuffed with garlic and olives (a recipe passed down from Richie's grandmother), turkey and almond nut ring. After the meal, Richie claims the Cannatas are never too full to join together around the piano and sing.

Mom's Manicotti

Ingredients for pancakes:
1 cup flour
1 egg
1 cup water
⅛ teaspoon salt

Instructions: Blend ingredients together until very smooth. Pour into 8" non-stick pan that's coated with hot oil. Pour any excess pancake batter back into bowl. Cook until medium brown. Lay most attractive side down on paper toweling while you cook the rest.

Ingredients for filling:
1 pound ricotta cheese
1 well-beaten egg
2 tablespoons Parmesan cheese
¼ pound diced mozzarella cheese

Instructions: Mix ingredients together. Place heaping tablespoon into each shell and roll up. Bake in a preheated oven at 350 degrees for 15 minutes covered with a tomato sauce of your choice. Serves ten.

David Brown says his favorite dish for all occasions is his girl friend's original recipe:

Julie's Chicken Livers with Onions

Ingredients:
1 pound chicken livers
fresh mushrooms
large onion
1 pound butter
wine
Marie's Italian Garlic Dressing
noodles
paprika
salt and pepper

Instructions: Slice mushrooms and onions and sauté in butter. Season lightly with salt and pepper. Add livers and dash of whatever kind of wine you have on the shelf. Simmer on low heat and add a few generous splashes of garlic dressing when almost done. Serve on top of noodles. Garnish with paprika. Serves one very hungry musician.

Christmas Cooking á la Liberty

Ingredients:
1 Piano Player
1 Drummer
2 Guitar Players
1 Bass Player
1 Sax Player

Instructions: Put all musicians in one room. Let them simmer by themselves. After they're done cooking, they should be starving and anything will taste good.
CAUTION: DO NOT MIX SAX PLAYER WITH BASS PLAYER ALONE. MAY CAUSE EXPLOSION.

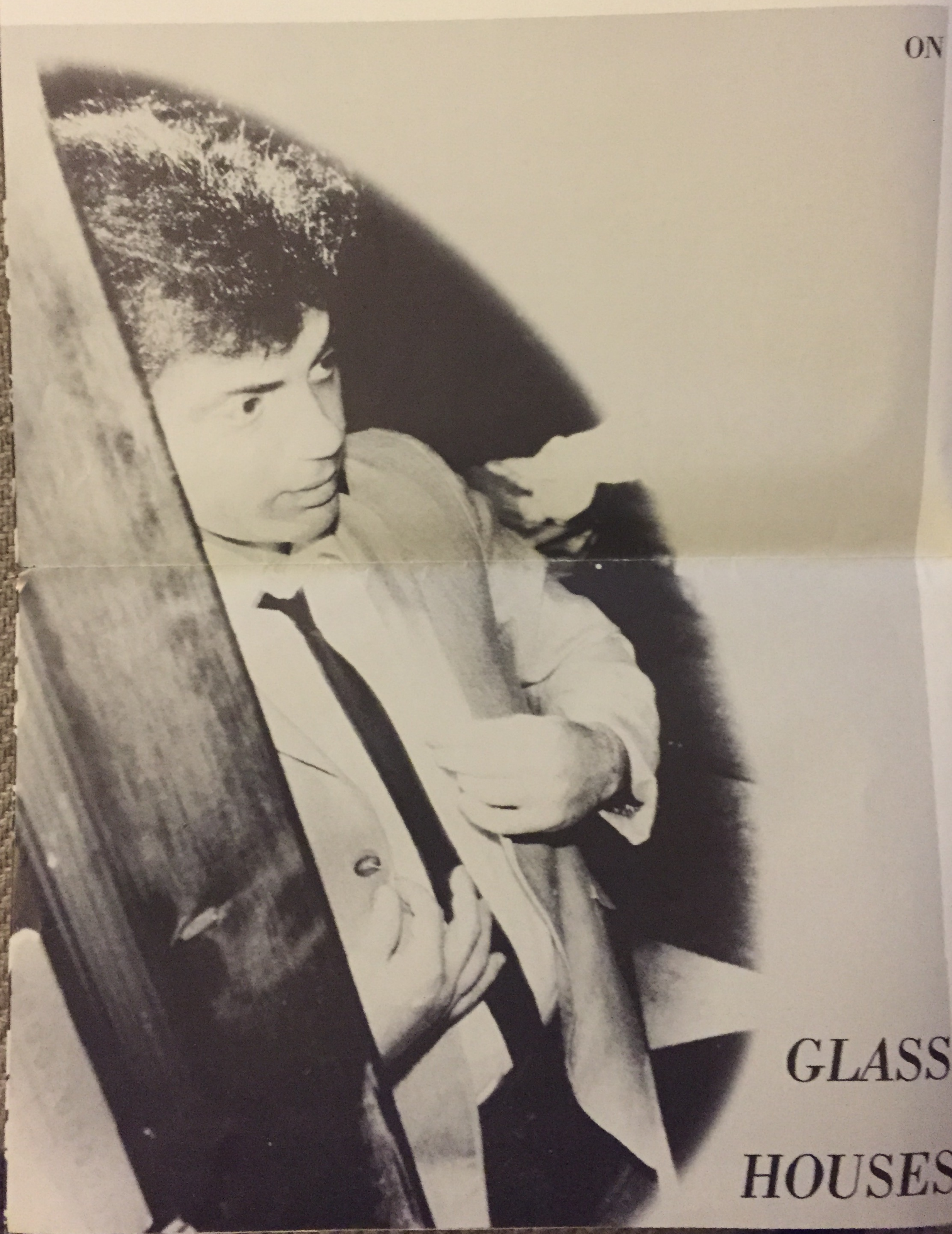
Doug Stegmeyer's Holiday Message

December 25th means lots of gifts and more
That is, unless your birthday falls just two days before
It's one gift for your birthday
The same one for Christmas Day
You know you'd get two different gifts
If you were born in March or May
So if the 23rd's your birthday
Then it's the same for me and you
Have a very Merry Christmas
And a happy birthday too!

Doug celebrates his 29th birthday this year.

REFLECTIONS

ON



GLASS

HOUSES

It's a parking lot behind a concert hall on a hot August night back in '79. Inside, Joe Jackson is getting ready to hit the stage. Outside, I'm sitting in the front seat of a station wagon listening to some rough tracks of some brand new music and it sounds good—really good. The guy sitting next to me thinks so too. At that point in time, Billy Joel could have been anywhere else, basking in the back-to-back platinum success of *THE STRANGER* and *52nd STREET*. But here he is, checking out someone else's concert, talking about exciting new albums, bands he's getting into, and playing tapes of fresh musical ideas that, in the months to follow, would evolve into *GLASS HOUSES*.

The album arrived early in '80. It's funny now recalling the somewhat shocked reactions friends gave upon hearing *You May Be Right*, *Sometimes A Fantasy* and especially, *Close To The Borderline*. Of course, that reaction is too often an occupational hazard for artists striving to explore new areas. It is a tribute to Billy's vast musical experience that *GLASS HOUSES* contains such a variety of material. It carries on a Joel tradition of offering albums that explore many experiences and moods, songs introducing a cast of characters playing out scenes we can all identify with.

GLASS HOUSES continues Billy Joel's ongoing romance with the daily drama of metropolitan life in America, particularly in a city called New York. Whether it's the bravado of walking the tension-filled sidewalks of Bedford Stuyvesant (*You May Be Right*), the classic glamor of a romantic interlude at Manhattan's regal Plaza Hotel (*I Don't Want To Be Alone*), or the suburban shopping center chic of Long Island's Miracle Mile (*It's Still Rock And Roll To Me*), the theme recurs.

However, *GLASS HOUSES* succeeds in communicating beyond the New York City skyline. The brandy-soaked Parisian loneliness of *C'Etait Toi (You Were The One)* and the Latin-flavored solo on *Don't Ask Me Why* lead to other stops on the tour. *Through The Long Night* is another attempt to somehow express love in realistic terms. *She's Always A Woman*, *Honesty*, and most notably *Just The Way You Are* have been earlier fruits of the search. Not quite as serious is the controlled desperation our hero faces in *I Don't Want To Be Alone*—a "what am I doing here?" saga highlighted by a sensuous Richie Cannata sax solo. Then there is the impossible dream girl *Lenya*. The well-paced tension of the keyboards will fill future summers with the sound of waves beating upon the shore with this tale of one who got away.

Sleeping With The Television On takes the singles bar situation and mocks it with the glorious pop hook-lines of "All night long" and "Talk to me." Its star-spangled white noise opening effect is one of several production surprises on the album. Touch-tone telephone dialing introduces *Sometimes A Fantasy*, a modern love story of boy with telephone meets girl with telephone. Ma Bell may never be the same after all the heavy breathing on this high energy rocker!

Let's not overlook that Billy still plays a mean piano. The solo on *Don't Ask Me Why*, so perfect in structure, is actually three separate piano solos overdubbed to give the proper south-of-the-border atmosphere. *GLASS HOUSES* also features the excellent musicianship of the Billy Joel band. Their headlining moments are memorable: "Ricco" Cannata's whaling set on *It's Still Rock And Roll*, the driving DeVitto-Stegmeyer drums and bass intensity on *Borderline*, and throughout, the complementary guitar work of Javors and Brown. Of course, credit must also go to the studio finesse of producer Phil Ramone, commonly referred to as "the sixth guy in the band."

Finally, *Close To The Borderline* represents the high pressure surrounding our first step into the '80s. Here come Billy's messages, whether we're ready or not, with the devil-may-care attitude that *You May Be Right* expresses as the album begins. Each song reflects musically Billy's rock roots in bar bands like the Hassels and Attila.

Hindsight is always perfect. So I have the advantage of evaluating *GLASS HOUSES* after its overwhelming success this past year. Simply stated, a great album is one that returns to mind often, and each time, recreates the atmosphere of its arrival, as well as becomes a source of new meaning and discovery. *GLASS HOUSES* clearly possesses all of these elements. And it makes us wonder about the next Billy Joel album, and where that one will take us. In the tradition of its predecessors, *GLASS HOUSES* has lived up to the promise of expected high musical standards, and has broken new unexpected musical ground.

Denis McNamara
is program director and announcer for WLIR-FM radio in New York.

1980 YEAR IN REVIEW

January: **Billy records *GLASS HOUSES* . . .**

February: **52nd *STREET* wins Best Album and Best Male Vocalist Grammy Awards . . .**

March: **GLASS *HOUSES* released worldwide . . .**

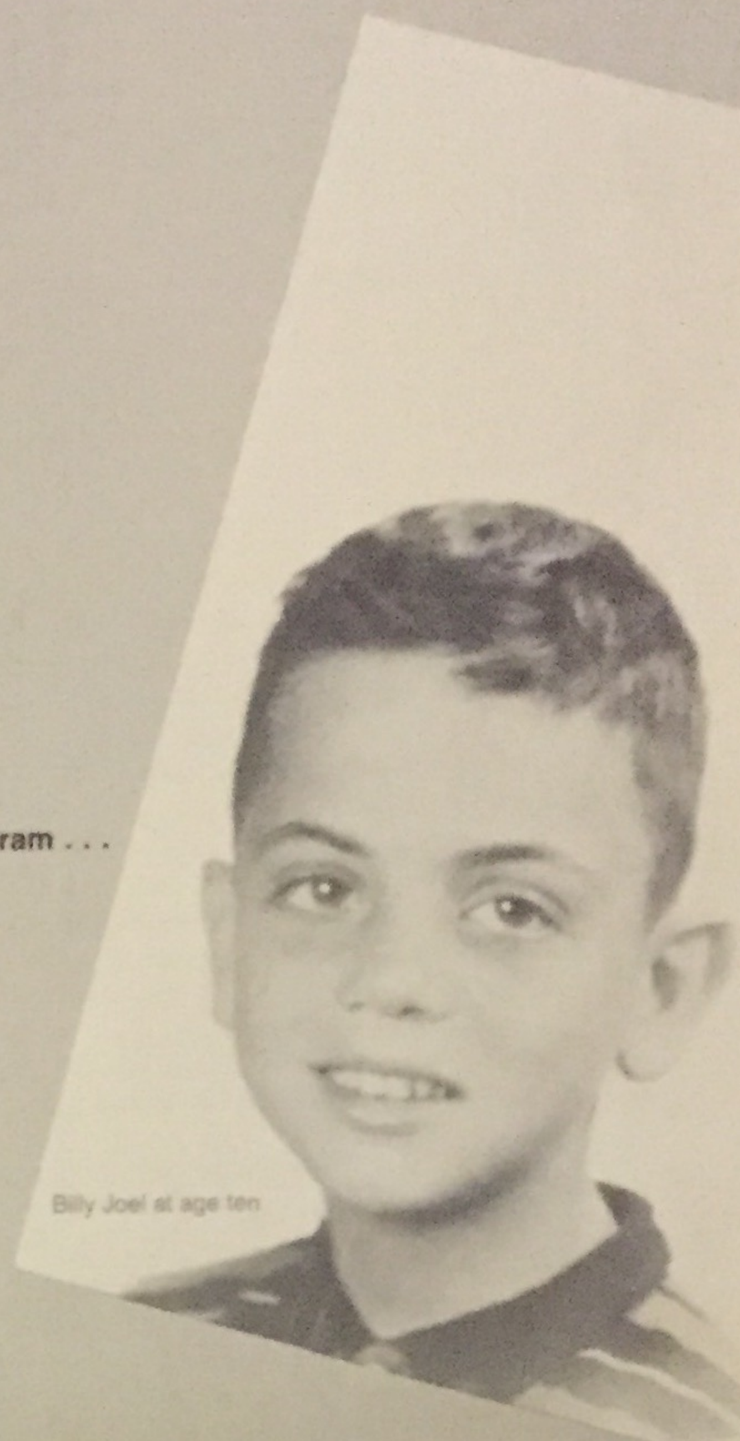
April: **Billy tours Europe,**

Jerusalem Tel Aviv	Israel
London Manchester	England
The Hague	Holland
Stockholm	Sweden
St. Etienne Nice Turin Paris Lille Bordeaux	France
Madrid Barcelona	Spain

May: **BJ's first network television interview broadcast by ABC-TV's "20/20" program . . .**
BJ celebrates his 31st birthday on May 9 . . .

June/July/August: **Summer Tour, Part I—**

Providence, RI
Montreal, CANADA
New York, NY
Cleveland, OH
Lexington, KY
Philadelphia, PA
Hartford, CT
Milwaukee, WI
Chicago, IL
Kansas City, MO
Minneapolis, MN
Los Angeles, CA



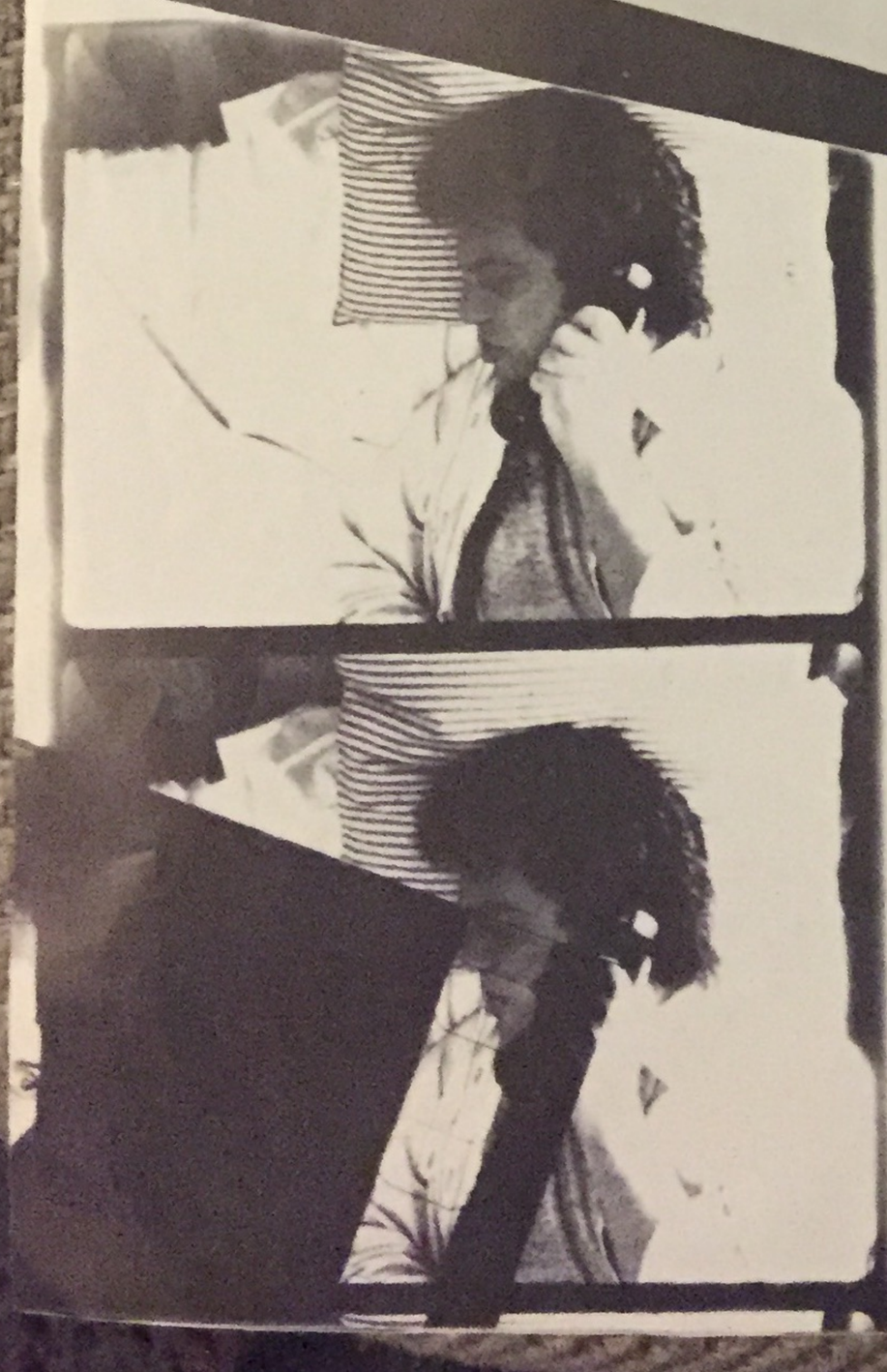
Billy Joel at age ten

September: **Billy is cover story of *Rolling Stone* magazine (11/4) . . .**
Receives Madison Square Garden Golden Ticket Award for fastest sellout in Garden's one-hundred-year history . . .

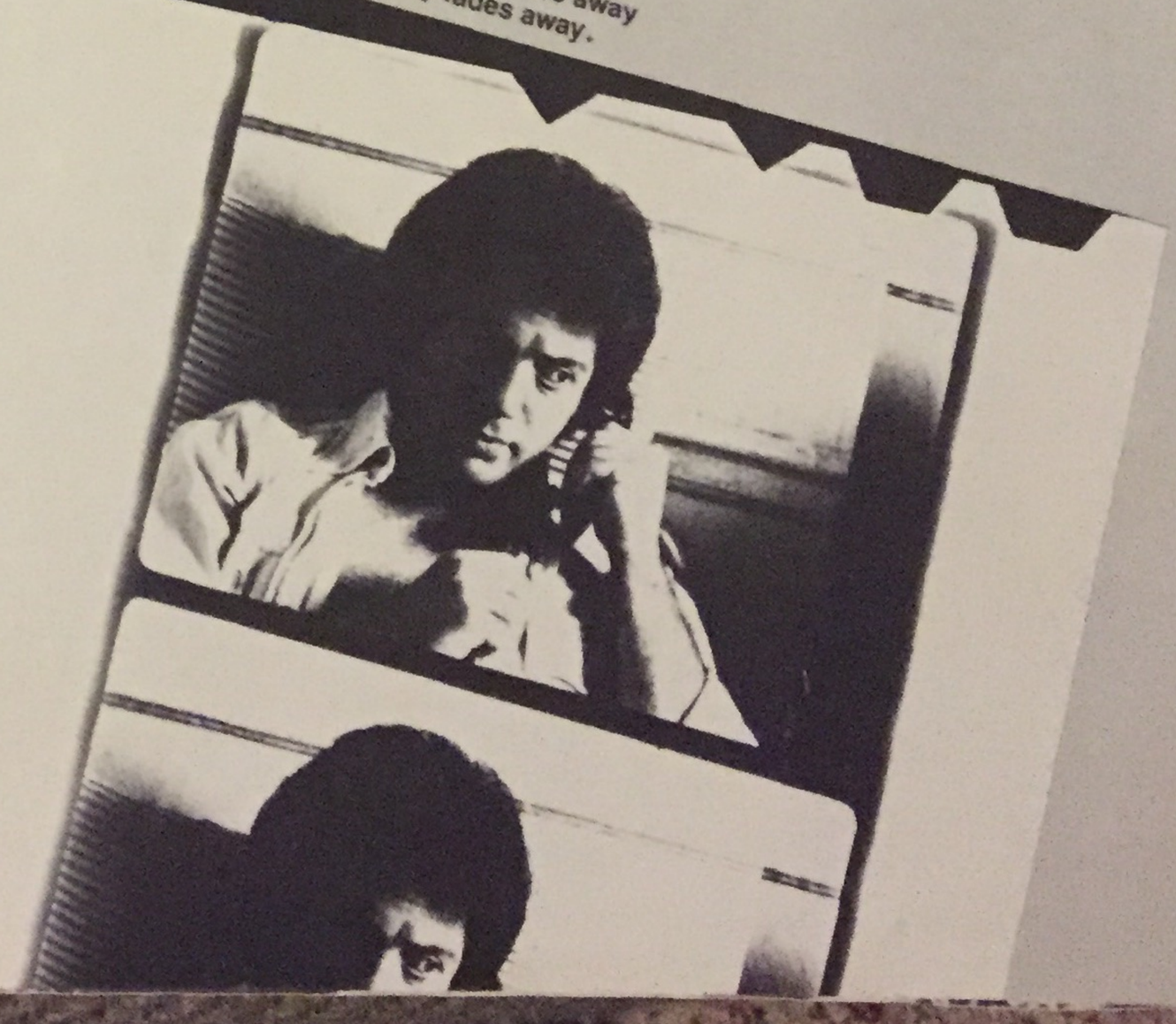
October: **A film short based on *Sometimes a Fantasy* premieres on NBC-TV's "1980 Jukebox Awards" show . . .**

November: **Songwriters Hall of Fame presents Billy with the 1980 Hitmaker Award for outstanding achievements as a songwriter and recording artist; previous recipients include The Bee Gees, Dolly Parton, Frank Sinatra and Barbra Streisand . . .**

December:



A picture postcard, a folded stub, a program of the play
File away the photographs of your holiday.
And your mementos will turn to dust,
but that's the price you pay
For ev'ry year's a souvenir that slowly fades away
Ev'ry year's a souvenir that slowly fades away.



S'AFETY FIILM

RAG BAG

RAG BAG

RAG BAG

What was the first song that you wrote and sang, and how old were you? Denis Gooding, Republic, OH
The first song I wrote was probably a make-believe Beethoven piano sonata that I made up while I was supposed to be practicing a real Beethoven piece. I knew my mother was listening, so I decided to improvise my own stuff because I was getting bored reading everyone else's music. I must have been around ten or eleven at the time.

Why have you stopped doing *Captain Jack* in your concert show? Harris Mendelson, Port Chester, NY
We still do perform *Captain Jack* every now and then, but we do it less frequently because we found that, as time went on, we were just going through the motions instead of performing it with real enthusiasm. I don't like to pretend that I am giving an inspired effort in front of an audience. I would rather leave a song out than do it without emotion.

What are your favorite hobbies? Jun Hee Chung, Seoul, Korea
Fishing, motorcycle riding, racquetball, handball and watching good movies.

What is your favorite movie from 1980? Richard Hocking, San Francisco, CA
Raging Bull.

What is your favorite album from this past year, other than your own? Mary Campagna, Weehawken, NJ
***ZENYATTA MONDATTA* by The Police.**

Billy Joel

Send your question to:
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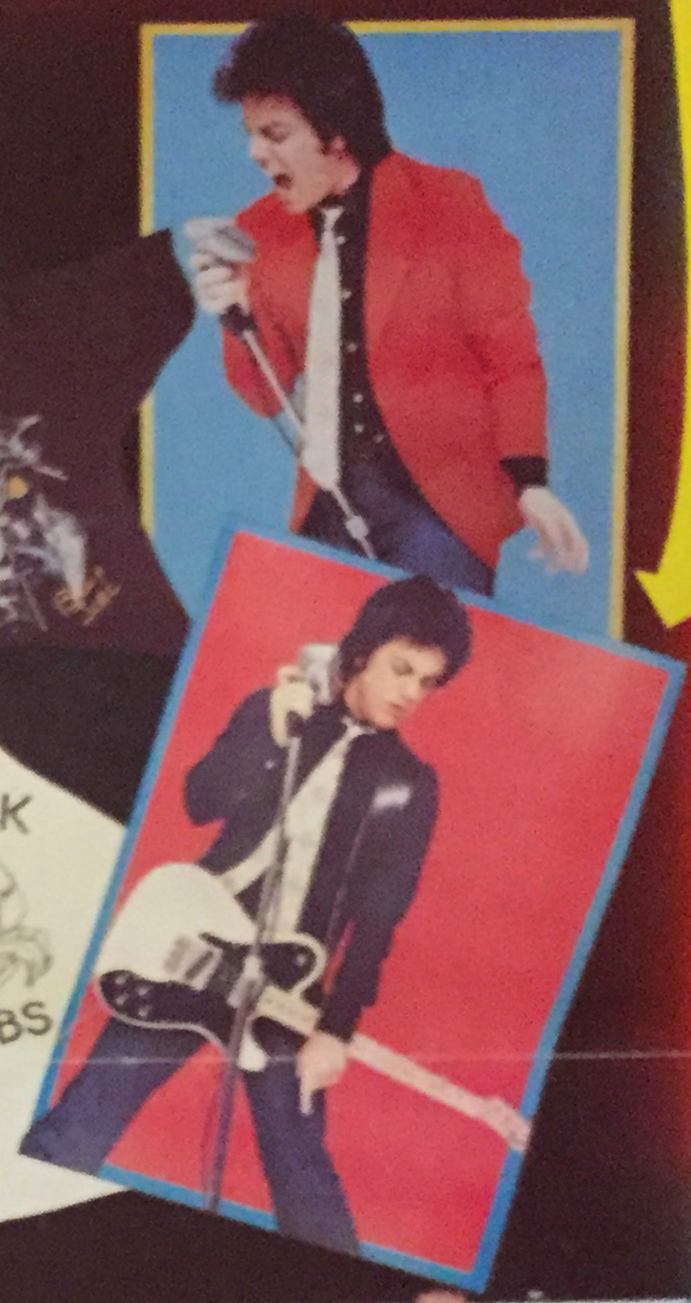

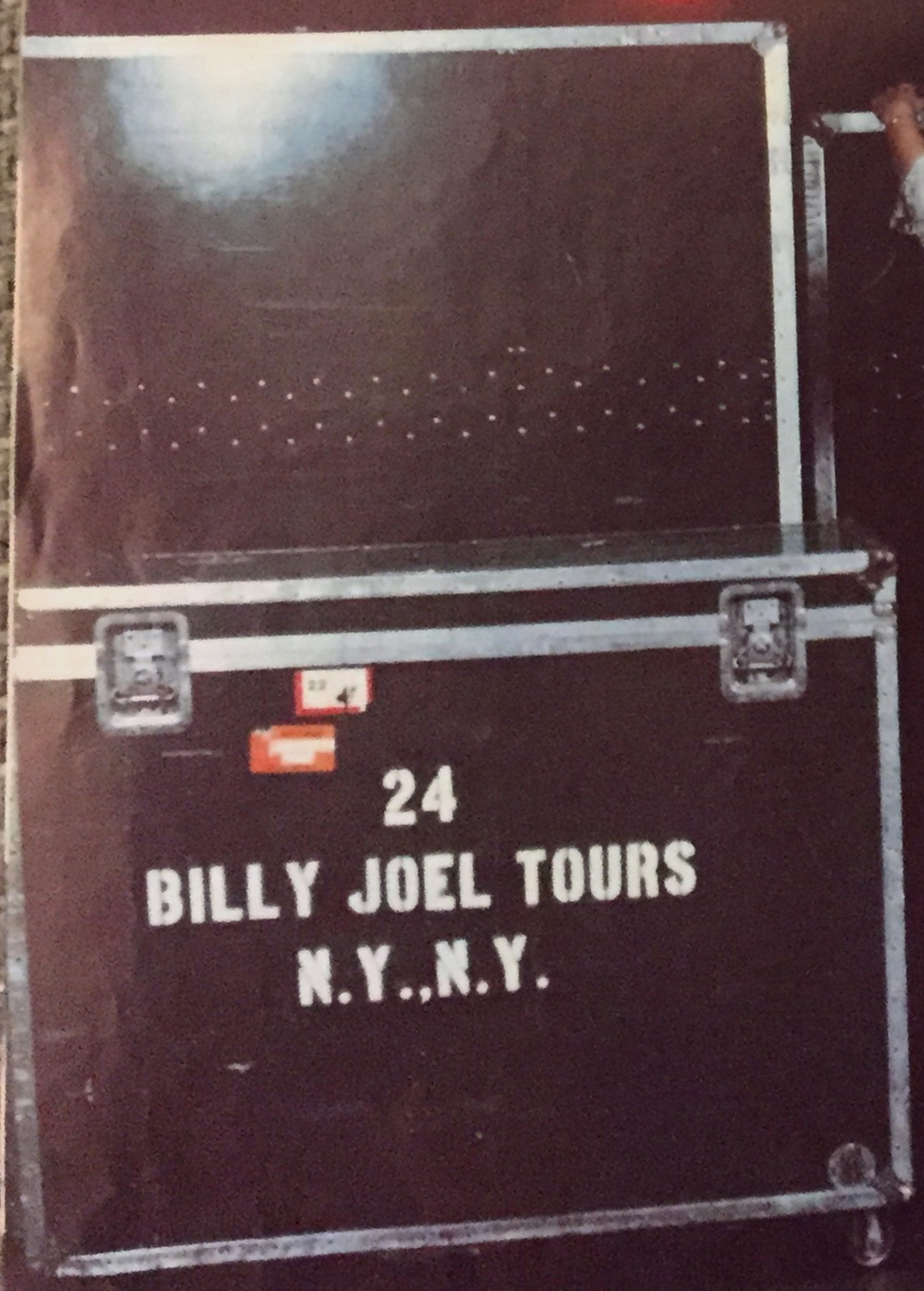

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