

Second } 2nd LETTER :

Kevin:

I'm truly surprised at your reaction to my evaluation of your playing. To me, the very best of your ability is the **ONLY** thing which I see as acceptable. Anything else is a waste of your time, and something everyone else does. That's why banjo playing is in its present state. The kids who are trying to play are in too much of a hurry, and think they have the whole program when in reality, they've only begun.

The band your are with doesn't have to perform the songs that lend themselves to this way of playing. That's up to you to fit these licks into that format. But first you must learn how they are used, where they're used, and why. If you do that, your playing will evolve into your sytle instead of Earl, or me, or anyone else...and isn't that what we're after? I don't think you have the concept of what I'm trying to get across to you, nor do I think you realize the enormity of the project you are undertaking. Think about it. As I told you. you *have* the right hand but you must learn where, why, and how it's used. This is the most difficult part of banjo playing. You'll get it, if you want it badly enough, but you better have the time and patience 'cause it ain't gonna be easy. This is something you are going to have to do on your own. I don't mind spending the time with you, but that isn't going to help your banjo playing. You are going to have to pay more attention to detail...every lick **MUST BE EXACTLY RIGHT**. Every string must be in the right place. Every note must be in the right context. You do that and you become one of the elite, without it, one of the "also rans."

I go with Florida!

Take care, talk to you soon...remember, when I evaluate your banjo playing it's not my friend Kevin I'm talking to, it's a banjo player who wants to become a **great** banjo player. Two completely different entities. My friend Kevin is the one who will send me the 100, plus another 100 after Florida completely destroys Cleveland. Know what though? I really want Cleveland to win, but I think Florida is on a mission.

Frank Neat has the banjo and will have the neck done in about 4 weeks. Should be a great instrument. You'll love it.

SonnyO

10/18/97