



Palo Alto performances

Members of Oganookie are, from left, Bob Stern, Timmy Ackerman, Bruce Frye, Jack Bowers and George Stavis.

Santa Cruz mountain rock band to appear

Oganookie, a new rock band from the Santa Cruz Mountains near Boulder Creek, will make its first Palo Alto appearance this week with performances tonight through Sunday at the In Your Ear, University Avenue at High Street.

The five-member band features Bluegrass-rock music played on banjo, violin, bass, guitar, piano, mandolin and drums. Unique to this group is the combination of electric banjo with electric fiddle.

Oganookie, which is managed by Peter Troxell, former managing director of the Stanford Repertory Theater (SRT), will be appearing at In Your Ear with Dan Hicks and His Hot Licks.

Performances are at 9 o'clock nightly, with a 3 p.m. Sunday show for the under-21 audience.

Each member of Oganookie comes from a different musical background.

Timmy Ackerman (drums) has been playing jazz and hard rock since starting in the New York area at the age of 14. Bob Stern (violin) had a long classical background before turning to rock music. George Stavis (banjo) has been playing primarily Bluegrass music since age 12. Jack Bowers (piano and mandolin) has chiefly country western roots and is the band's composer. Bruce Frye (guitar and lead vocal) has played mainly folk and blues

music since starting his career in San Diego.

Country western feeling is prevalent in the band's music, along with touches of folk, blues, jazz and rock. Bowers has composed more than a third of the group's music.

The Oganookie members live and work together in the Santa Cruz Mountains, and perform several nights a week from Monterey to Berkeley.