



"Family Affair" was the biggest hit, and the only consistently catchy one here.



"Fresh," Sly & The Family Stone, artist (Epic/Legacy, ★★★½)

This 1973 album contains the only cover in Sly's album catalog, "Que Sera Sera," plus five bonus tracks of unreleased album masters. The music is peppier than its predecessor, but the snappy up-tempo grooves of the earlier albums are gone. Original groundbreaking bassist Larry Graham is replaced by

Rusty Allen, and Andy Newmark replaces original drummer Gregg Errico. Some of the lyrics hint that this album was step one of Sly's farewell.

One of the best songs, "If You Want Me to Stay," sounds like a potential goodbye: "I'm about to go, and then you'll know for me to stay here I've got to be me."

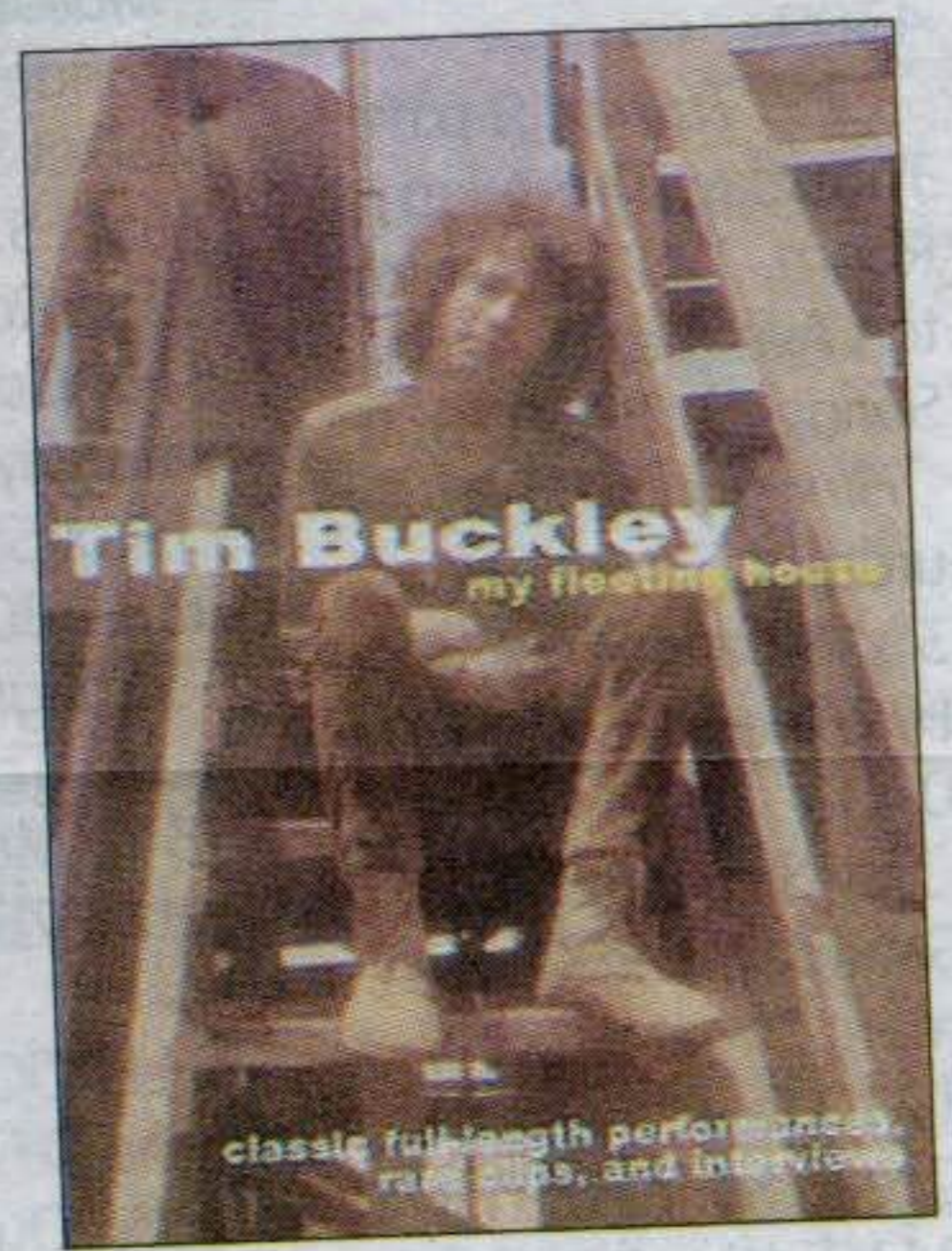
The burned-out feeling of "Keep on Dancin'" belies its happy title, and the previously unreleased "Babies Makin' Babies," is dire. Listeners should find these recordings locally. If not, shop online at www.legacyrecordings.com.

"My Fleeting House," Tim Buckley (MVD-Visual, ★★★½)

This May 15 DVD release is the first-ever collection of Tim Buckley's live performances, and includes 11 full-length songs from the obscure early-'60s singer-songwriter. I was not familiar with Buckley's work, so the performances were totally new to me.

The film kicks off with Tim on the set of "The Monkees," singing "Song of the Siren."

Ricky Flake is a former punk rocker, working musician (he sings with South Mississippi's Tribute to the Ramones, COMMAN-DOS; and, drums with the Deacons) and music fan who lives in Biloxi. Reach him at lobotomy3857@wmconnect.com.



His great tenor voice and ace 12-string guitar work, which served as the basis for most songs here, even as his muse led him into other genres, was quite amazing. In addition to performance footage, two key Buckley collaborators, lyricist Larry Beckett and lead guitarist Lee Underwood, give their impressions of the songs and the recordings they were drawn from. The performances can also be watched minus the narrative content.

I didn't care for the fusion-y direction Tim took midway through his short career, but he was always challenging himself and his audiences. Shop for this DVD at local stores or at www.mvdvisual.com



Beat those mother's day crowds by taking mom out Saturday night! The Deacons will be appearing at Darwell's Cafe in Long Beach (127 East First St, 868-8946) on Saturday evening. Show starts at 6:30.