Gypsy Gyppo String Band  
Expo 74 Folklife Festival  
Spokane, WA  
live recording by Pop Wagner

Regan was an influence on Wagner, and on Sandy Bradley, who took this repertoire in the late 1970s with her as she traveled east, bring fresh dances and energy to the contra dancers of that time. Sandy says, "To say Wild Bill was an 'influence' is a bit over the mark. I was motivated by his imperfect timing, because my head knew how it should have been. I did benefit from his repertoire, mostly also to be found in Cowboy Dances. He was a charming fellow."

The Gypsy Gyppo String Band  
Inspired by the rural fiddlers, banjo pickers, and country bands who recorded and performed before World War II, the Gypsy Gypos played string band music with a '60s sensibility that respected the old-timers’ style but treated it as source material rather than holy writ. Though carriers of the Southern mountain tradition, they didn’t try to duplicate the originals note for note. In the mid-1970s the Gyppo band turned on a whole new generation of urban enthusiasts—who had never been anywhere near old Grange halls or rural community centers—to square and contra dances by holding them in town. Audiences at the Gypos’ shows were young computer programmers and social workers in blue jeans and long skirts; they had almost nothing in common with the organized square dance club whose members sported string ties and fancy shirts or crinolines under pastel dresses. The band’s Monday Night Dance was the starting point for today’s thriving dance scene; it continues with other bands to this day. The dances in the Folklife Festival’s Roadhouse, where thousands swing their partners in contras and squares every year, owe their origins to the Gyppo band’s influence. (John Ross)

1974 lineup, according to Sandy Bradley:  
Jerry Mitchell—mandolin  
Sandy Bradley—guitar  
Warren Argo—banjo  
Jimmy Borsdorff and Jack Link—fiddle

Others in the band at later times: Bob Naess and Armin Barnett—fiddle