



Bob Dylan and Louie Kemp at Various Times, and with Joan Baez on Stage



Joni Mitchell with Louie on Rolling Thunder Tour

Louie Kemp first met Bobby Zimmerman at summer camp in 1953, before either had reached their teens. They remained best friends for 50 years, along with a third fellow, Larry Kegan (now deceased). The three were inseparable throughout their youths, and then business took them in different directions when adulthood arrived. Kemp excelled in the fish-food industry while 'Bobby' changed his name to Bob Dylan and then changed the world in the 1960's. Nonetheless, they all stayed in close contact as best friends do.

Kemp and Dylan started spending more time together again in the early 1970's, and Louie was a surprise last-minute guest on Dylan's milestone 1974 tour of America with The Band. Kemp was such a fixture that promoters Bill Graham and Barry Imhoff gave him a rocking chair from which to observe the show every night, set up near Levon Helm's drum kit. Talk about exclusivity! And we're honored to be offering that very rocking chair in this sale.

Not long after that tour concluded, Dylan called Louie to his home and excitedly broached the crazy new idea he had for a tour that was the antithesis of that big '74 trek. Dylan was picturing a homespun, informal traveling revue with various and

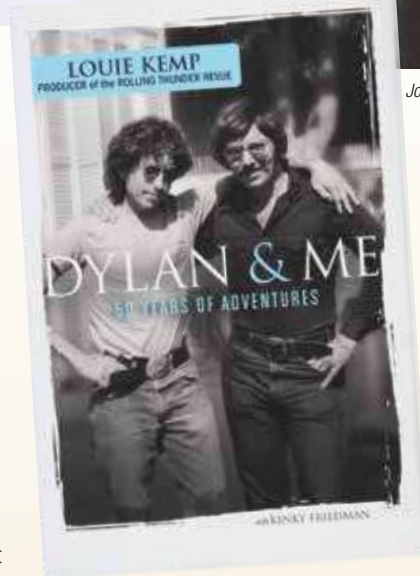
sundry guest musicians, playing intimate halls on short notice. Dylan was going to call it the Rolling Thunder Revue, and would

his old friend be interested in producing the whole shebang?

Kemp accepted, of course, and the rest is history. Bob Dylan's 1975-76 Rolling Thunder Revue tours of America are stuff of legend, and director Martin Scorsese even made a critically



Mr. Kemp Today



acclaimed, partly fictional documentary of the tours for Netflix last year.

Louie was right there in the middle of it all, and his stories are legion. He was the one who took Dylan to Columbia Records in New York with a camera crew, totally unannounced, walked right past reception into president Walter Yetnikoff's office, introduced

him to Bob Dylan for the first time, and thanked him for kicking in \$100,000 of tour support money for Rolling Thunder, something the label almost never did, but who yielded to Kemp's demands.

There, that's *one* story.

So we're thrilled that Louie has consigned these mementos to Heritage for auction... his rocking chair from the 1974 tour and the rest of the items from Rolling Thunder.

Last year, Louie published a memoir called *Dylan & Me: 50 Years of Adventures* (WestRose Press, Los Angeles, ISBN 978-1-733012-1-2). It's as personal an account as you'll ever read about the elusive and mysterious Dylan, who comes across as disarmingly normal through much of the book. There are plenty of Dylan tomes and bios out there, but this one will leave you knowing Bob Dylan the *person* more than any of the others. Mr. Kemp is offering a personally signed copy of his book to the winning bidder of each lot in this auction, along with a Dylan-ephemera bookmark that he designed. Fun added value!

Thank you, Louie!