



Alton native Andy Dykeman went from playing drums in a band to becoming a chiropractor. He's completing his internship at Rosewood Chiropractic Clinic, 33 E. Airline Drive in Rosewood Heights, and plans to buy the business when the owner retires.

Musician Chiropractor makes career adjustment

By **DAVE WHALEY**
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ROSEWOOD HEIGHTS – Andy Dykeman is ready to put his days as a starving artist behind him. While rock ‘n’ roll is a lucrative profession for a lucky few, paying the bills is a struggle even for moderately successful bands such as Judge Nothing. That was the band in which Dykeman played for 10 years with fellow Alton natives Doug Raffety and Flea Bodine. Raffety played guitar and was the lead singer; Bodine (nicknamed “Flea” even before the Red Hot Chili Peppers bassist of the same name) played bass; and Dykeman was the drummer. After the band broke up in 1997, Dykeman became a forensic technician in Nashville, Tenn. From there, he attended Logan College of Chiropractic in Chesterfield, MO., and now he’s completing his internship at Rosewood Chiropractic Clinic, 33 E. Airline Drive. When Samuel Brinkley retires, Dykeman, 37 will buy the business, which has been around since 1960. “I might finally get

paid for doing something I like to do,” Dykeman, said. Judge Nothing released two CDs, “I’m a Big Girl Now” in 1995 and “Riveter” in 1996. Even with those and touring with the likes of Joan Jett and Green Day, the band members never realized financial stability in the music business. Dykeman thinks he’s finally found his niche.

“I didn’t want to become one of those ‘doorknob docs.’ Those are doctors who have their hands on the doorknob while talking to their patients because they’re in a hurry to move on. I always wanted to be a small-town or country doctor who would have more time to spend with my patients.” There was one other benefit to chiropractic as opposed to forensics. “It was more exciting to work with live people,” Dykeman said with a laugh. “And this is one profession where you can sit and work with a patient for 45 minutes.” Dykeman will be only the third owner of Rosewood Chiropractic Clinic. L.L. Hertenstein built

the clinic in 1960 and worked there until 1977. Brinkley bought the business then, and his father-in-law, Blair Alden, worked with him until retiring 10 years ago. Dykeman’s parents, Wilbur and Susan Dykeman, live in Alton, as does his brother Mike. His sister, Betsy, is a nurse at Barnes-Jewish Hospital. “I got a late start in this, but I think I finally made my mom happy,” Dykeman said. “I got my bachelor’s degree (from Southern Illinois University Edwardsville) in philosophy, but you can’t do much with that. Then there was the rock band.” Dykeman and his wife Jennifer, live on the Hill in St. Louis, but he said he feels at home at Rosewood, where he began an internship in September 2003. “I think this will be it for me until I retire – if I retire,” he said. I could do this for 40 years and still only be 77.” Meanwhile his rock ‘n’ roll career still means a few dollars now and then. Raffety lives in Chicago, and Bodine is now

a patient of Dykeman’s. They receive royalty checks from some of their songs that are played on “Dawson’s Creek” and “Party of Five” on the WB network. But their swan song took place Feb. 2, 1997, in Minneapolis. “Flea said it was probably his last gig,” Dykeman said. “I felt the same way. Doug was still kind of hoping we would change our minds, but that was it. “On the way home from Minneapolis, we stopped at a diner in Iowa, and the waitress asked us if we were with the band. We weren’t sure what she was talking about. We found out that it was the anniversary of the plane crash that killed Buddy Holly, and they always had bands coming in for that.” Holly was killed along with Ritchie Valens and J.P. “The Big Bopper” Richardson near Clear Lake, Iowa on Feb. 3, 1959. The significance wasn’t totally lost on Dykeman as he contemplated the end of his musical career. “I guess it really was the day the music died,” he said.