



NEWSLETTER #292

May - June 2008

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COUNTY SALES
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SHAN-615-DVD BEST OF THE FLATT & SCRUGGS TV SHOW—Volume 5 Judging from the huge number of fans gobbling up these extremely popular DVDs, I'm not the only one who can't get enough of this wonderful vintage material that has been rescued and nicely presented by *Shanachie Records* in collaboration with the *Country Music Hall Of Fame*. This 5th volume contains another two full length 30-minute TV shows (black & white) from June of 1961 and March of 1962. Each show contains about 10 songs & tunes, plus banter and Martha White commercials, and as on the first 4 volumes there are some songs that the group never recorded commercially, like Lester's *THE GIRL I LOVE DON'T PAY ME NO MIND* and a lovely *HAND IN HAND WITH JESUS* by the *Foggy Mountain Quartet*. *Hylo Brown* is a guest on one show, singing *STONE WALL* and *HILLS OF GEORGIA*. The more you see of this great band in its prime, the more one can appreciate all the virtues of the individuals as well: Earl's banjo picking is truly something to smile & marvel at, Curly Seckler's bold, authoritative tenor singing fits perfectly with Lester Flatt's lead, and Josh Graves' dobro work reminds us older Bluegrass fans what an impact he had on the music (there was essentially no use of the dobro in Bluegrass until Graves joined Flatt & Scruggs in the mid 1950s). And Flatt's lilting, masterful and highly nuanced vocals are a thing of beauty—as is his friendly & smooth manner as perhaps the finest M.C. that Bluegrass ever saw. Other songs include *CABIN ON THE HILL*, *I'LL NEVER SHED ANOTHER TEAR*, *WHO WILL SING FOR ME*, *EARL'S BREAKDOWN* & *HOLLOW POPLAR*. **\$ 18.00**



SHAN-616-DVD BEST OF THE FLATT & SCRUGGS TV SHOW—Volume 6. As above, with two shows from May 1962. On these shows Curly Seckler is not present, so Hylo Brown fills in on tenor (and sings a few solos including *GIRL IN THE BLUE VELVET BAND*). Scruggs plays *FLINT HILL SPECIAL* and a neat *LONESOME ROAD BLUES*, and the Quartet features *ON THE ROCK WHERE MOSES STOOD* and *I'LL NEVER BE LONESOME AGAIN*. The band was featuring a lot of Carter Family songs at the time, with Earl on guitar, and here they include *KEEP ON THE SUNNYSIDE* and *FALSE HEARTED LOVER*. Lester & Hylo do a great duet on *LIVE AND LET LIVE*, and Paul Warren has his fiddle pieces with Earl's banjo very much present. Flatt & Scruggs' show was thoroughly professional and quite sophisticated musically, yet it was 100% aimed at and welcomed by a purely rural audience: a unique time and occurrence in the history of country music. **\$ 18.00**

SPECIAL OFFER

We remind our readers that you can always take advantage of our standing **SPECIAL OFFER** if you buy 6 or more CDs. If you buy and pay for 6 items, you can select a 7th CD at no charge. The only condition being that the free compact disc must be either a **REBEL** or **COUNTY** label recording. Also note that books, box sets and DVDs count as just one item (regardless of price).

BLUEGRASSNOW MAGAZINE

Those with internet access should check out the web site for this "magazine"—it has stopped publishing a printed version and is exclusively on the internet now. There are lots of articles, reviews and various interesting new features. Go to bluegrassnow.com.

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540-745-2001 * Minimum credit card order is \$25.00 * (Fax) 540-745-2008

SPECIAL SALE OF LP ALBUMS

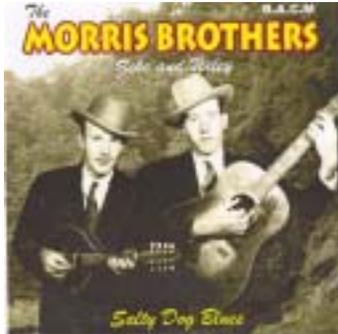
As some of our customers are aware, there has been a revival of interest in Vinyl Long playing albums (LPs) in the past few years. The issuance of new recordings in this format has not yet trickled down to Bluegrass music at this time, though there have been LP releases on at least one or two of *Alison Krauss*' records. But the collector's market for vintage LPS has kept growing, and we now have the largest list we have ever had of persons bidding in our periodic auctions of collectible Bluegrass, Old-Time and Country LPs. (If you'd like to add your name to our LP auction mailing list, just send us your name and address on a 3 x 5 index card).

In any case, we have located a number of old LPs that remained in our COUNTY SALES stock from years past, or that we bought long ago when they were discontinued. The following items are **ON SALE at just \$5.00 each** while supplies last. There is a lot of really good music here, including things that have never come out on compact disc! There is no minimum or limit on these LPs, but they cannot be used toward the Special Offer of 1 Free CD if you buy & pay for 6 (See Page 1).

COU-777	VIRGIL ANDERSON "On The Tenn. Line" GREAT old time banjo picker!
HER-612	APPALACHIAN TRAIL Good Virginia BG band, with Linda Lay vocalisat
ROU-0063	NORMAN BLAKE "Whiskey Before Breakfast" Super LP of Guitar pickin'
COU-752	BLUE SKY BOYS A lovely 10-song old-time duet album recorded in 1963
REB-1507	THE BLUEGRASS 45 "Caravan" First Japanese Bluegrass band in USA
JA-0054	BUZZARD ROCK STRING BAND Harry Bickel old-time string band
SH-3707	DAN CRARY "Sweet Southern Girl" (with two vocals by Vince Gill!)
COU-788	CLYDE DAVENPORT "Clydeoscope" Great Cumberland plateau fiddle & banjo
ROU-0093	JERRY DOUGLAS "Fluxology" with Skaggs & Tony Rice (Douglas' 1 st solo album ?)
JA-0057	DUSTY MILLER Fine Bluegrass— early Tim Stafford, Barry Bales, Adam Steffey
REB-1683	JIM EANES "50 th Anniversary Collection" with Craig Smith, Steve Wilson
REB-1631	FORBES FAMILY "Gleams Of That Golden Morning" A classic gospel LP
REB-1667	FORBES FAMILY "Farewell" Wonderful harmonies
ROU-0277	TONY FURTADO "Swamped" Banjo LP
REB-1488	WALTER HENSLEY "Pickin' On New Grass" His early banjo LP
TURQ-5058	HIGH COUNTRY "Blue Highway" Butch Waller group, from 1987
COU-783	RAMONA JONES "Lady's Fancy" fiddle LP (Corner clipped)
CLR-12	THE McLAIN FAMILY BAND "Carnegie Hall Concert 1982"
REB-1540	ROY McMILLAN "Time To Think" fine Mountain Bluegrass
ROU-1028	UNCLE DAVE MACON "Laugh Your Blues Away" most from home recordings
MCA-101	JIMMY MARTIN "Widow Maker" Pretty early Decca material—fine cuts
MCA-140	BILL MONROE "Country Music Hall Of Fame" lots of early classics
MCA-708	BILL MONROE "Sings Bluegrass, Body & Soul"
MCA-5625	BILL MONROE & Stars of the Bluegrass Hall Of Fame
MB-113	LEON MORRIS "International Bluegrass" on Jessup label
ROU-0276	LYNN MORRIS BAND
LRLP-3003	JIM ORANGE & ORANGE BLOSSOMS "Bluegrass At Home
ROU-0137	MARK O'CONNOR "Soppin' The Gravy" Early LP by the great fiddler
REB-1656	LARRY RICE "Time Machine" Fine work with Tony Rice, Sammy Shelor, etc
ROU-0201	TONY RICE "Me & My Guitar" Lots of great songs, fine guitar work
REB-1575	THE SHUFFLER FAMILY "Gospel Pickin" Gospel vocals (not instrumental)
FE-38954	RICKY SKAGGS "Don't Cheat In Our Home Town" Fine early Epic LP
LBG-7710	DON SOWARDS & LAUREL MT. BOYS "Carolina Sunshine" Good West Va. band
JA-0033	LARRY SPARKS "It's Never Too Late" Scarce 1980 Sparks LP
JA-010	I.D. STAMPER "Red Wing" A Kentucky Dulcimer LP
JA-030	MARION SUMNER "Road To Home" Great Kentucky fiddler
NR-13671	DAVE VERNON & THE DIXIE REBELS 1982 Virginia band
CCS-109	MAC WISEMAN "Early Dot Recordings—Vol. 2) Great early cuts!

BACM-220 THE MORRIS BROTHERS

“Salty Dog Blues” Wiley & Zeke Morris were active in the same period as the Blue Sky Boys, Monroe Brothers, Delmores and Mainers, but they never achieved the same kind of fame, in part due to the fact that Zeke Morris spent more time as a member of Wade Mainer’s bands than with his own older brother. Although the *Morris Brothers* made fewer records as a duo, their music was of a high quality and some real gems were cut by them in



several sessions in 1938 & 1939, plus a 1945 Charlotte session that produced their best known song, SALTY DOG BLUES (later a very popular track for *Flatt & Scruggs*). This very welcome CD presents 21 of the 28 pieces the duo cut for the Bluebird label, plus 3 of the four songs from the classic 1945 session that also included great cuts of TRAGIC ROMANCE and SOMEBODY LOVES YOU DARLING. (Why the 4th track of this session was left off is a mystery, as GRAVE UPON THE GREEN HILLSIDE is probably one of the loveliest brother songs ever issued, with wonderful mandolin & guitar and an achingly beautiful duet). Other fine numbers include LITTLE NELLIE, RIDING TO SEE THE SUN GO DOWN, DON’T SAY GOODBYE IF YOU LOVE ME, GREAT SPECKLED BIRD and IF YOU LOVE YOUR MOTHER. TELEPHONE TO GLORY is among a few songs done in a style very similar to *Charlie Monroe’s Boys*, and JESUS HOLD MY HAND may well have been a source for Bill Monroe’s later version of that fine hymn. This is a wonderful album & collection, highly recommended. **\$ 15.00**

CWM-2008 LEROY TROY, TERRY ELDRIDGE & LARRY PERKINS “3 Fingers & A Clawhammer”

Here’s another good album salvaged from old recordings of the past, featuring three Nashville area musicians. Troy—the clawhammer picker—is joined by the Scruggs style banjoist Perkins and guitarist Terry Eldridge on a nice collection of old time tunes that were put out only on a 1992 cassette that got little distribution or attention. There’s enough good music here to make this a worthwhile record, but someone should have taken a little more time in getting it ready for release: four of the first 6 songs are all out of order in the credits, and there are two versions of CRIPPLE CREEK—one is a good take, the other has terribly corrupted sound and surely was not intended for inclusion here. Tunes include LIZA JANE, MISSISSIPPI SAWYER, DOWN THE ROAD, SOURWOOD MOUNTAIN, etc. **\$ 13.50**

CAGES-0261 CAGES BEND “Now I’m Lonely”

This is a very well produced album by a 5-member band from Tennessee—it’s a group that would definitely be called “contemporary” in style, but for a group in that category there’s definitely an

unusual amount of high energy, hard driving Bluegrass. Sim Daley, the excellent banjo player who accounts for much of the drive, is the only one of the band who does not sing. Tony Watt (guitar) and Daniel Hardin (bass) handle



3 of the vocals, but the prominent singing features either Missy Radeke-Daley (who also plays fiddle) and Jenni Lyn Gardner (mandolin). They are joined in some lovely harmonies by Jana Mougin (not part of the group). Almost all of the material is new, and includes good songs by Jon Weisberger, Randy Kohrs, and Becky Buller. We ran across this CD by accident: it’s a fine band that should be better known! EVERY SHADE OF BLUE, HIGH LONESOME ROAD, NOW I’M LONELY, GETTING OVER YOU, etc. **\$ 13.50**

MCR-002 ALAN MUNDE “Old Bones” It’s always a pleasure to get a new recording by Munde, one of our favorite 5-string banjo pickers. While this CD is new to the market, it actually consists of previous recordings that were not used on past projects, so there’s a variety of material here, some of it fine and some just ordinary because of rather weak vocals. Highlights here are clearly the instrumental cuts that spotlight Munde’s creative ideas and arrangements—these include SWEET DIXIE, HICKORY HOLLOW, LITTLE RABBIT, WAIT TIL THE SUN SHINES NELLIE, LITTLE DARLING PAL OF MINE and a wonderful version of CINDY that features just Munde’s banjo with Joe Carr on mandolin. The best cuts (those listed above) include superior work by David Grier (guitar), Mike Compton (mandolin), Roland White, the late Gene Wooten (dobro) and Billy Joe Foster. Some neat stuff here. **\$ 13.50**

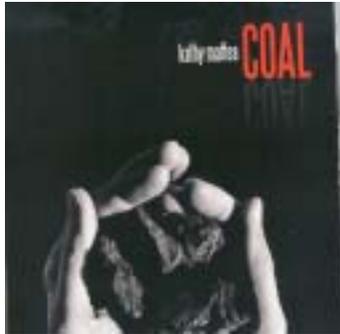
MONT-2006 ROBERT MONTGOMERY “Windy & Warm”

Mr. Montgomery, from Alabama, plays a nice finger style guitar on this disc., which includes a very generous 24 tunes (a few of the tunes feature his work on banjo). Montgomery plays in a group with Philip Steinmetz, and if you are not familiar with him, Steinmetz is heavily influenced by the playing of Grandpa Jones and Uncle Dave Macon. So it’s no real surprise that Montgomery includes several tunes associated with Macon’s sidekicks, Sam & Kirk McGee: FULLER BLUES, KNOXVILLE BLUES, BUCK DANCER’S CHOICE and CANNON BALL BLUES. An enjoyable record. **\$ 13.50**

DAVIS-2007 ELDON DAVIS “Untold Treasures”

Dobro picker Davis adds to his catalog of recordings with this 16-track collection that shows a fair amount of variety. Tim Eldridge adds his lead guitar to about a dozen cuts and Davis gets some help on harmony vocals on some of the songs too. A few of the pieces are nothing much, including JOHN WILKES BOOTH and LISTEN TO THE FALLING RAIN—both with hoky sound effects. But there are nice treatments of BEN DEWBERRY’S FINAL RUN, DIG A HOLE, SOME OLD DAY, DOBRO ISLAND, FORT WORTH DRAG and 4 gospel songs by the fine songwriter Dee Gaskin (whose songs also appear in the repertoire of Doyle Lawson. **\$ 13.50**

CP-53260 KATHY MATTEA “Coal” Primarily a country music artist, Kathy Mattea has had more than a few brushes with Bluegrass music: she appeared with *Ralph Stanley* on his epic *Clinch Mountain Country* album, and has recorded several songs written by fellow West Virginian Tim O’Brien, including her hit WALK THE WAY THE WIND BLOWS. On this notable album she pays tribute



to her native state and the occupation that has pretty much defined that part of our country: coal mining. Producer Marty Stuart has created a very moody all acoustic background that is as understated as it is tasteful. The songs are well chosen, including 3 pieces by Billy Edd Wheeler, a couple by Jean Ritchie (including her classics THE L & N DON’T STOP HERE ANYMORE and BLUE DIAMOND MINES) and others by Si Kahn, Hazel Dickens, Darrell Scott (his fine YOU’LL NEVER LEAVE HARLAN ALIVE) and of course Merle Travis (Mattea’s version of DARK AS A DUNGEON includes an extra verse we’ve never heard before). Most of the fairly sparse accompaniment is provided by Stuart’s mandolin & guitar, Byron House on bass and some fiddle and banjo work by the excellent and versatile Stuart Duncan. This is not a Bluegrass album, but many Bluegrass fans will find it a very worthwhile CD. **\$ 15.00**

PATUXENT-161 GARY FERGUSON “Live At Podunk”

A live show recorded in 2005 at a Bluegrass festival in Hartford, Connecticut. Ferguson, who is probably known more as a songwriter than a singer, has a nice voice and does a good job on the 12 songs on this well recorded album (4 of the songs are his own, including the nice ALITTLE RAIN. Helping to make this a very pleasant effort are Mike Auldridge on dobro, Ron Stewart on fiddle and Emory Lester on mandolin. **\$ 13.50**

TR-0420 PATENT PENDING “Long Road Home”

This is the first record that we’ve seen in a long time by this West Virginia Bluegrass band. It’s a good solid album of traditional Bluegrass by the group, which had previous recordings on the *Flying Fish* and *Copper Creek* labels. Members include Jim Steptoe on banjo, and Eldred Hill on mandolin and lead vocals. Instrumentally the band is strong, with nice fiddling by Wayne Lanham and some tasteful lead guitar by Ed Barney. The old Flatt & Scruggs song WHAT’S GOOD FOR YOU and Mike Henderson’s BACK TO CAROLINA come off the best of the dozen vocals. Nice job. **\$ 13.50**

ROUNDER-0578 LONGVIEW “Deep In The Mountains”

This, the 4th album by this supergroup is every bit as good as their three previous efforts, and it is well titled,

as this is hard core traditional Bluegrass of the highest order. While 3 of the original members of this 6-member group are no longer part of the band (Glen Duncan, Dudley Connell and Joe



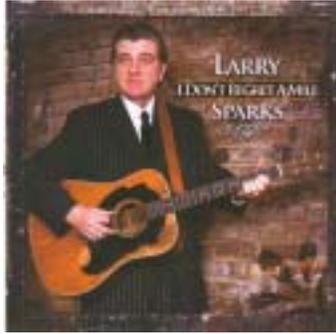
Mullins), nothing is lost as the new members are Lou Reid (vocals & guitar), Ronnie Stewart (fiddle) and J.D. Crowe (banjo). They join founding members Don Rigsby, Marshall Wilborn and James King in a memorable set of songs that include little-known but good pieces like Cullen Galyean’s DON’T LEAVE ME ALONE, John Sloas’ OLD LOG CABIN, Ivery Melton’s I LOVE YOU YET, and Dudley Connell’s WEATHERED GREY STONE along with FIRST FALL OF SNOW, EATING OUT OF YOUR HAND, GEORGIA BOUND and ROOM AT THE TOP OF THE STAIRS. Reid and Rigsby each take the lead vocal on 3 songs, while James King shines on five cuts. Two tracks feature lovely high baritone renditions. like the best of the early Stanley Brothers’ work. Another GREAT record here! **\$ 13.50**

SCB-2008 SCOTT COUNTY BOYS “Standing Room Only”

solid, competent traditional Bluegrass on 14 songs & tunes (three instrumentals include CLINCH MOUNTAIN BACKSTEP, SWEET LAURIE and SNOWDEER). Scott County, Virginia is right in the back yard of Ralph Stanley, so it’s no big surprise that the group shows a very heavy Stanley influence, both in sound and repertoire (8 of the songs have Stanley associations, such as JUST A LITTLE AT A TIME, HOME IN THE MOUNTAINS, STANDING ROOM ONLY, MAPLE ON THE HILL and SHARECROPPER’S SON. **\$ 13.50**

LSM-1947 LARRY SPARKS “I Don’t Regret A Mile”

Sparks continues to turn out wonderful music—in this case the Bluegrass Gospel that he does so well. There are only 10 songs here, but they are good ones, mostly newer material from the pens of Marshall Warwick, Connie Leigh, Homer Jackson and others. Only WHAT KIND OF MAN is a repeat of a title done by Sparks in the past, and it’s a good version. Sparks gets a chance to show off some fine, bluesy guitar work and is nicely supported by his current band which includes Jackie Kincaid on mandolin, Mike Feagan on fiddle, Josh McMurray on banjo and “Dee” Sparks on bass. SOMETHING GOING ON IN THE GRAVEYARD, GET ON UP, JUST AN OLD COUNTRY PREACHER, etc **\$ 13.50**

**ROMRAE-01 ANDREW EVERSOLE “Creature”**

Those who enjoy “progressive” or experimental sounds of acoustic Bluegrass may find plenty to enjoy in this 14 track modern workout by this young N.C. banjo picker. There’s some really weird stuff here (AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL and HISTORY OF MAN), but Eversole shows he can pick an excellent straight Scruggs style on two traditional numbers: OLD JOE CLARK and KATY HILL. His banjo picking is actually pretty straight on many pieces, but between the material (mostly original) and the funky arrangements I don’t think there’s too much here that is going to appeal to most Bluegrass fans. UFOs OVER AFRICA, YOU WANTED ME DEAD, RED BLUES, FUNKY FIDDLE, etc., **\$ 13.50**

PRC-4011 VARIOUS ARTISTS “Ultimate Banjo”

This re-issue of 15 instrumentals draws on the catalog of the Pinecastle label and its artists over the years, led by Sonny Osborne (whose tunes here are FOGGY MOUNTAIN BREAKDOWN and AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL). There is actually a track (FOGGY MOUNTAIN TOP) by Earl Scruggs, who was never on this label but appeared as a guest on a Larry Perkins CD. Some of the other banjo pickers to be heard here include Scott Vestal, Eddie Adcock, Ross Nickerson and Greg Cahill, and tunes include MRS. ROBINSON, TURKISH MARCH, JESSE JAMES, RED RIVER VALLEY, HIGH STEPPIN’ etc. **\$ 13.50**

PRC-6512 JASON BARIE “The Past is Present”

With a fairly large number of working bands on the Bluegrass circuit these days, there is plenty of work for sidemen, and I think most fans would agree that the quality of these pickers has continued to rise significantly over the last 15-20 years. This has created a problem in that just about every sideman wants his own record out to showcase his talents, and while musically they may be eminently qualified, there just isn’t much of a market for these, apart from the few that the musicians can sell themselves on show dates. Some labels, like Pinecastle, have recognized this problem and have created separate series for these records (that at one time would have been called “vanity pressings”). Jason Barie, a young fiddler who has worked with Jesse McReynolds’ band, is a quality musician (he also plays mandolin & guitar and sings), and there are some very nice, well played tunes & songs on this disc (which also includes Steve Dilling on banjo, and Tim Massey on vocals). Barie has several neat original instrumentals here that show a heavy Bill Monroe and Kenny Baker influence—these include CUSTOM COACH, EPSALON’S REVENGE, MONROE’S OLD HOMESTEAD, and a very nice fiddle & banjo duet STELLA & THE BLACKSMITH. **\$ 13.50**

PRC-1161 LARRY STEPHENSON “Thankful”

This veteran of Bluegrass has an excellent Bluegrass gospel album here, with top flight singing and solid instrumental backing that features :Larry’s mandolin, Aaron McDearis on banjo, Shad Cobb on fiddle and Missy Raines on acoustic bass. The harmony vocals feature Sonya Isaacs, Ben Suratt, Dustin Benson and Warren Goad, who provides some fine bass singing in the quartets. Especially effective are the fast paced and medium tempo tracks like PRESS ON O PILGRIM, ARE YOU WASHED IN THE BLOOD, and WHEN I GET HOME. **\$ 13.50**

EISLER-2008 MIKE EISLER “Lost Tribe”

Here are a dozen well played Bluegrass instrumentals, all of the tunes written by Eisler, who appears to be from Oregon (he is a former member of the *Sawtooth Mt. Boys*). (As there are no specific credits or notes, we assume that Mike plays all of the instruments except bass fiddle, which is provided by Eisler’s son Rob). From the brief notes to the tunes we gather that the fiddle is Eisler’s main instrument, but he is certainly more than competent on all of them. A few of the pieces (THE HIGHLANDS, THE LONG TOM and JENNY SUE) are reminiscent of various Bill Monroe tunes. All in all this is a very nicely done album for anyone who likes instrumental Bluegrass. **\$ 13.50**

HAR-5 ROGER WILLIAMS “A Resophonic Retrospective”

Those who love the sound of the dobro as it was played in somewhat earlier times should really like this excellent album that presents a generous 21 full length tunes by Williams, who gets some fine backup work by Raymond Legere on mandolin, fiddle and lead guitar, plus banjo & bass by other competent musicians. Williams lives in Connecticut and it sounds like he heard plenty of Wilma Lee & Stoney Cooper and Buck Graves’ dobro work in years past. The selection of tunes is a nice mixture of lively instrumentals like ROANOKE, FIRE ON THE MOUNTAIN, ARKANSAS TRAVELER and DURHAM’S BULLL, along with older country songs that lend themselves perfectly to the dobro: NO ONE NOW, NO ONE WILL EVER KNOW, MAGGIE BLUES and BIG BOUQUET OF ROSES. A well done, very enjoyable disc **\$ 13.50**

ROU-0594 BLUE HIGHWAY “Through The Window Of A Train” This wonderful band adds to its reputation as one of the very best contemporary

Bluegrass groups in the country with this top notch recording of all new and original material. It is nothing less than amazing that the group’s five members are exactly the same today as when they cut their first album for Rebel in 1995—the marvelously consistent and



tasteful sounds they achieve reinforce the fact that there is no substitute for time and experience. The songs here—all written by members of the band—are all excellent, and are delivered with conviction and power by the band’s 3 superb vocalists: Wayne Taylor, Shawn Lane and Tim Stafford. Rob Ickes dobro work is as smooth & tasteful as ever. It is a thrill to listen to this beautifully produced album, the work of a thoroughly professional and highly artistic band. **HIGHLY RECOMMENDED. \$ 13.50**

ICR-0202 BYARD RAY “A 20th Century Bard” Byard Ray was one of the first rural musicians to be “discovered” in the folk “revival” that started in the late 1950s. It may have been his outgoing personality or where he was from (the Sodom Laurel section of western North Carolina) that was responsible for much of his popularity, because music wise there were many better old time fiddlers in other parts of the country like Kentucky, the Round Peak area of North Carolina, West Virginia and Indiana. Ray—who was also associated with Obray Ramsey—parlayed his new found popularity into a sideline career that included appearances on TV commercials, gigs with urban folkies and rock musicians, a trip to England and even movies. Though his playing here is just average, the disc is nicely presented and has its points of interest. The 23 tunes are mostly just the fiddle (or banjo) of Ray, although there is a vague suggestion of some guitar work way off in the background on a few pieces. The 5 banjo tunes that Ray plays here are actually more interesting than his fiddle tunes—these are pretty nice versions of CRIPPLE CREEK, SOURWOOD MOUNTAIN, a BANJO MEDLEY, WHOA MULE and PRISONER’S SONG—the latter two with nice vocals by Ray. A very curious inclusion is Ray’s interpretation of Bill Monroe’s CHEYENNE (which Ray calls “SHY ANN”) and his take on SCOTLAND—it is obvious that he owned the 45rpm record by Monroe that featured CHEYENNE backed with SCOTLAND! The tunes were apparently recorded in the 1970s—it is very likely they would have been stronger had they been cut in the last 50s or early 60s. And the sound is a bit muddy. With all that said, give credit to the producers of this CD, which is quite interesting and well presented. GREY EAGLE, SOLDIER’S JOY, SLOW BUCK, CRICKET ON THE HEARTH, FLIGHT OF WILD GEESE, etc. **\$ 13.50**

CADLEY-2007 JOHN CADLEY “The Closer I Get”

A very nice CD of contemporary Bluegrass featuring the singing and songwriting of Cadley, who sings in a soulful, relaxed style and whose voice is sometimes reminiscent of Norman Blake. The album is very nicely produced by Clay Hess, who also plays guitar and mandolin and is joined by some other standout musicians in Randy Kohrs (dobro), Terry Baucom (banjo) and Beth Lawrence and Darrin Vincent on bass fiddle. A consistently enjoyable album of good songs, well done (all 12 songs are Cadley originals). TRAIN OF TROUBLE, I WILL NOT RUN, NEW YORK HILLS, DOWN HERE, etc. **\$ 13.50**

BCR-015 HEATHER BERRY & TONY “Before Bluegrass”

Here’s a very refreshing and interesting album on Tom T. Hall’s Blue Circle label that features nice duet singing by Heather and her husband Tony, with Carter Family style guitars & auto-harp. The songs are all pretty new, most of them written by Tom T. and/or Dixie Hall (plus 3 by Ms. Berry) but they adapt very nicely to the old Carter style. One is the catchy CAN YOU HEAR ME NOW that Doyle Lawson also did recently in a fine version. Nice songs & nicely done. SALLY IN POOR VALLEY, HAZEL CREEK, CREECY BEANS, HOUND DOG BLUES, PRISONER’S PRAYER, etc. **\$ 13.50**

BACM-222 GRADY MARTIN & THE SLEW FOOT FIVE “Cornstalk Hop”

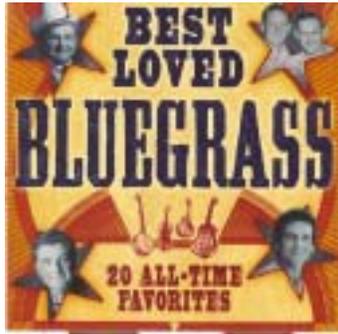
Grady Martin was one of a handful of legendary country musicians who became much sought after session players in Nashville in the years following World War II. A creative and marvelous guitar picker, he appears on countless records (both hit and also-ran) by the big names of country music. He occasionally made a few records under his own name, and this new compilation from the British Archive import label brings together 28 tracks, mostly “hot” instrumentals that were recorded for the Decca label between 1951 and 1957. The tunes are not only country pieces like COLUMBUS STOCKADE BLUES, SIOUX CITY SUE, MEXICALI ROSE and SWEETHEARTS OR STRANGERS but also pop standards like STAR DUST, SEPTEMBER SONG, CHICAGO and ALLEGHENY MOON. If you like western swing, small “swing” combos or “hot” country riffs, you will most likely enjoy most, if not all, of this welcome record. Our only complaint is that it does not list personnel—I think Tommy Jackson is among the other players, but there’s little data provided. **\$ 15.00**

FAT DOG-207 TIM WHITE “With Banjo & Friends—You Asked For it”.

East Tennessee banjoist and DJ Tim White is joined by some friends in this pleasant 13-track workout on which White plays 5-string dobro as well as banjo. The songs & tunes are all standards like WILDWOOD FLOWER, SALLY GOODIN’, ROCKY TOP, FOGGY MOUNTAIN BREAKDOWN, DOUG’S TUNE, HIGHWAY OF SORROW, CRAWDAD SONG and CRIPPLE CREEK. Joining White are Tim Laughlin (mandolin), Hunter Berry (fiddle), Mac Puckett (guitar & vocals) and some harmony vocals by Larry McPeak. The album is not as strong vocally as instrumentally. **\$ 13.50**

BOOK: LONESOME COWGIRLS & HONKY-TONK ANGELS by Kristine McCusker (Univ. Illinois Press, 2008) 200 pp softbound In this new and interesting book, Ms. McCusker details the careers of some of the early women performers in country music. The book is subtitled "The Women of Barn Dance Radio", and a quick look at the brief table of contents lets the reader know quickly that the author has narrowed down the scope of her study dramatically: there are just 6 artists covered: *Linda Parker, Lulu Belle, The Girls of The Golden West, Lily May Ledford, Minnie Pearl and Rose Lee Maphis*. Perhaps it's a good thing that Ms. McCusker has zeroed in on these few ladies, but I find it a bit disturbing that there is not even a mention in the index of *Molly O'Day*, who was one of the most important women on the scene and did appear on shows such as the *Tennessee Barn Dance* in Knoxville, and likewise *Rose Maddox*. (There are very brief references to Kitty Wells and Rachel Veach). There's still a lot of good research that has been done by the author here, and this is definitely a worthwhile contribution to the country music library. **\$20.00**

REB-8004 BEST LOVED BLUEGRASS Any Bluegrass fan would be hard pressed to find as much top quality music on one CD—regardless of price, and this 20-track CD is a great bargain at the price of just \$ 10.00. The list of artists reads like a who's who of Bluegrass, with a song each by Ralph Stanley, Mac Wiseman, Tony Rice, Seldom Scene, Country Gentlemen, J.D. Crowe, Reno & Smiley, Del McCoury, Claire Lynch, Larry Sparks and others. The songs here include some of the most popular as well: BRINGING MARY HOME, TRAIN 45, ATLANTA IS BURNING, DREAM OF A MINER'S CHILD, DARLING COREY, WHITE HOUSE BLUES, FOOTPRINTS IN THE SNOW, FOX ON THE RUN, etc. In short, this is a great sampler and a neat album to keep close to the CD player in your car or truck! **\$ 9.00**

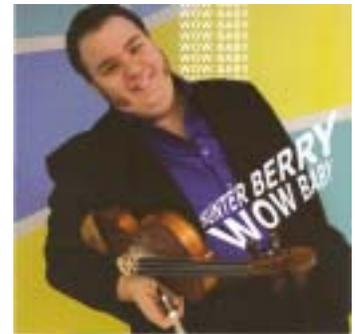


RM-10408 WAYNE TAYLOR "Dear Mom" Not to be confused with another fine Bluegrass singer of the same name who is a member of *Blue Highway*, Taylor has carved out a nice niche for himself with his distinctive and strong lead vocal work. Known throughout the Bluegrass world as a key member of the U.S. Navy's *Country Current* band, Taylor has now retired from that job and will be performing with his own solid group (he has also guested on the fine recent album by his former Navy band mate Bill Emerson (REB-1823, *Bill Emerson & The Sweet Dixie Band*, \$ 13.50). Lots of excellent musicians add their talents to this very nice record, including Rickie Simpkins, Ron Stewart (fiddle), Emory Lester (mandolin), Mike Auldridge (dobro) and others. Taylor sounds great on LITTLE WHITE CHURCH, WAYFARING STRANGER, OLD RUGGED CROSS and other songs including 5 of his own. **\$13.50**

MZC-2008 MARY Z. COX "Florida Banjo" Another enjoyable old time banjo presentation by Ms. Cox, who has at least 4 or 5 other similar projects in print. On this one she plays a variety of banjos, and is accompanied on some cuts by Kerry Blech (fiddle), Box Cox (guitar) and Jim Crozier (bass). CLUCK OLD HEN, CHINQUAPIN, SPANISH FANDANGO, PEACH BOTTOM CREEK, WATERBOUND, LOCH LAVEN, etc. **\$13.50**

UMM-001 HUNTER BERRY "WOW Baby"

Berry, who is fiddler for *Rhonda Vincent's* band, has a winner with this excellent 12-track CD. His fine fiddling is highlighted in 6 instrumentals, including really nice versions of the traditional classics BILLY IN THE LOW GROUND, LEATHER BREECHES, RAGTIMNE ANNIE, and FIDDLER'S DREAM. These are nicely offset with some good guest vocals and a swinging version of KANSAS CITY KITTY that also features Buck White, Buddy Spicher and Bryan Sutton. Keith Williams is the vocalist on SOFTLY & TENDERLY and a good IN THE PINES, and Marty Stuart and Bobby Osborne help out on a superb nod to classic Bluegrass with I'M WAITING TO HEAR YOU CALL ME DARLING. Last but not least are two other vocals: a nice BLUE KENTUCKY GIRL by Sally Sandker (Rhonda Vincent's daughter) and HARD LIVING, an excellent hard driving Bluegrass cut that features a Rhonda Vincent/Sonya Isaacs duet. If all that isn't enough, check out the list of other guests: Tony Rice, Doyle Lawson, Ronnie Stewart, Adam Steffey, etc., etc!. A first class CD by a top young musician!. **\$13.50**



MFR-80223 MARCIE HORNE "Everything's Blue" A nicely done CD by Ms. Horne, a good singer from southwestern Virginia. She is surrounded with a solid Bluegrass setting that apparently includes her own band plus guest appearances by Sammy Shelor (banjo & guitar), Alan Bibey and Jason Robertson (mandolin), and vocal harmonies by Jeanette Williams. Six of the 14 songs are originals by Ms. Horne. HANDS OF TIME, OLD TRAIN, THGIS OLD HIGHWAY, OLD BROKEN TREE, etc. **\$13.50**

MFR-80201 MIKE MITCHELL "Thirteen Hours" A solid, nicely done fiddle album by Mitchell, who is helped out by the band *Blue Moonshine* and Sammy Shelor and Barry Collins on banjos. It's a mix of standards (MONEY MUSK, JERUSALEM RIDGE, BLACKBERRY BLOSSOM) three originals, and several vocals including LONG BLACK VEIL and SO ROUND, SO FIRM). **\$13.50**

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