



NEWSLETTER #295

October - 2008

www.countysales.com

COUNTY SALES
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SPECIAL SALES

This month we are featuring special sales on two labels: **SIERRA** and the **REBEL VAULT MASTER** series. Check out page 2 for some great records and great values!

COLLECTORS' ITEMS

Those interested in some bargain closeouts of CDs that we used to carry, and books as well, can request our **SET SALE "J"**. There are many good items here, at prices well below dealer's cost.

We are also running a **SET SALE-16** that features surplus paper items (magazines, books) plus some lots of 78rpm records and rare 78rpm Test pressings of the Carter Family & others. This list is also available on request.

We have had a number of inquiries about the Volumes 7-8 of the very popular **FLATT & SCRUGGS Early TV DVDs**, and also the coming **TIME-LIFE** series of **HANK WILLIAMS Mother's Flour radio shows** that were originally projected for this fall. We are told that these both will be delayed until early 2009.

5SPH-001 ERNEST V. STONEMAN "Unsung Father of Country Music" One of the true pioneers of recorded country music, Ernest Stoneman was among the first 4 or 5 artists to make commercial recordings in the mid 1920s. And—apart from Fiddlin' John Carson and Gid Tanner's Skillet Lickers—he was a lot more prolific than most of those early acts, recording for numerous labels between 1924 and 1934 (he started on a whole new career in the 1950s). Stoneman was not a particularly good singer, and his guitar playing was rudimentary, but he found good songs and got some excellent musicians to record with him. This beautifully packaged 2-CD set contains 46 of Stoneman's best cuts, including excellent sessions done with fiddler *Kahle Brewer*, *Frank Jenkins*, *the Sweet Brothers* and his own *Dixie Mountaineers* (including his wife *Hattie* and *Eck Dunford*,



plus a variety of solo cuts including his early best-seller **THE TITANIC**. The 4 songs done with *Frank and Oscar Jenkins* are a highlight, especially **THE BURIAL OF WILD BILL**. There are 4 cuts with the *Sweet Brothers*, including a nice **SAY DARLING SAY** and **RAMBLING RECKLESS HOBO**, and several fiddle, banjo & banjo instrumentals with *Kahle Brewer* on fiddle and *Bolen Frost* on guitar are fine string band performances. Especially charming are a few songs that feature Stoneman's wife *Hattie*, particularly **TOO LATE**, **THERE'S A LIGHT LIT UP IN GALILEE** and **MOUNTAINEER'S**

COURTSHIP. This neat set is well mastered and has a 44 page booklet of good notes and neat pictures. A wonderful old-time package!

2-CD set: \$ 30.00

Purchase Amount	\$4.00-29.99	\$30.00-59.99	\$60.00-139.99	\$140.00-199.99	Over \$200.00
U. S. Media Mail	3.50	5.00	7.00	8.00	9.50
U. S. Priority Mail	5.00	7.50	9.75	12.50	15.00
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540-745-2001 * Minimum credit card order is \$25.00 * (Fax) 540-745-2008

SPECIAL SALE ON ALL REBEL 7500- VAULT MASTER SERIES CDs

This month only we are offering all records in **REBEL's 7500 series** at a **SPECIAL SALE PRICE** of just \$ **8.00 per CD**. That means further savings off our already discounted price! There is no minimum and no limit as to how many you can buy. You can even count these towards our regular **SPECIAL OFFER** (Buy any 6 CDs and you can pick out a 7th CD free: but please note that the free CD must be on either the REBEL or COUNTY label!). **Offer ends NOV. 15, 2008.** Take advantage of this limited bargain offer! **NOTE:** our new REB-7520 RALPH STANLEY "Old Time Banjo" release (see page 8) is not included in this sale.

REBEL'S 7500 SERIES is devoted to budget priced CDs of superior recordings from Rebel's huge back catalog, and includes many classic recordings that were never previously available on CD.

REB-7501 SONGS OF THE CIVIL WAR	REB-7511 THE EASTER BROTHERS
REB-7502 LARRY SPARKS "The Old Church Yard"	REB-7512 BLUE HIGHWAY "Lonesome Pine"
REB-7503 DEL McCOURY "My Dixie Home"	REB-7513 JIMMY ARNOLD "Riding With Mosby"
REB-7504 CLASSIC AMERICAN TRAIN SONGS	REB-7514 BEST OF BOYS FROM INDIANA
REB-7505 MARSHALL FAMILY—Vol. 1	REB-7515 MARSHALL FAMILY—Vol. 2
REB-7506 RHONDA VINCENT "My Blue Tears"	REB-7516 SELDOM SCENE "Different Roads"
REB-7507 A CAPPELLA GOSPEL COLLECTION	REB-7517 RALPH STANLEY "Mt. Preacher's Child"
REB-7508 COUNTRY GENTLEMEN "Best of Early"	REB-7519 DAVE EVANS "The Vetco Years"
REB-7509 IIIIRD TYME OUT "Erase The Miles	REB-7522 BEST OF LARRY SPARKS

All of the above are wonderful samplers, some featuring topical themes and some simply "Best Of" Collections of popular Rebel artists. A favorite is the stunning "Feel Like My Time Ain't Long" with 15 brilliant a cappella songs by *Ralph Stanley*, *Marshall Family*, *Country Gentlemen*, *Forbes Family*, *Larry Sparks*, etc (**REB-7507**). All the very best of the wonderful *Marshall Family* can be found on their two issues—fantastic gospel! **REB-7506** "My Blue Tears" comprises the best work from *Rhonda Vincent's* 4 Rebel albums, and *Blue Highway's* "LONESOME PINE" (**REB-7512**) is a real gem, taken from the best of their first three albums. Like *Blue Highway*, *IIIIRD TYME OUT* made its first three records for REBEL and the selections on **REB-7509** ERASE THE MILES are wonderful. A real "sleeper" is the *Jimmy Arnold* disc (**REB-7513**), with superb instrumental work by this late banjo genius. **REB-7516** *SELDOM SCENE* and **REB-7522** *LARRY SPARKS* can both be considered "Best ofs": there's one great song after another on these, and the *Dave Evans* collection (**REB-7519**) includes the fantastic vocals that brought him to the attention of the Bluegrass world. The **REB-7517** MOUNTAIN PREACHER'S CHILD CD by *Ralph Stanley* is a real gem, with 4 powerful a cappella cuts and other great material.

SPECIAL SALE ON SELECT SIERRA CDs

The long established **SIERRA** label of California has issued some great records over the years, including several associated with the Kentucky Colonels. Check the list below for some great titles. We are offering these at a **sale price of just \$ 10.00 this month only** (Ends NOV. 15, 2008). (Regular price on these is \$ 13.50).

SIERRA-6001 MULESKINNER LIVE	SIERRA-6019 STEVE SPURGIN "Distant Faces"
SIERRA-6005 RICHARD GREENE "The Greene Fiddler"	SIERRA-6020 BLUEGRASS ETC "Traveling Band"
SIERRA-6012 FOX FAMILY "Follow My Lead"	SIERRA-6022 SCOTTY STONEMAN "Live in L.A."
SIERRA-6017 FOX FAMILY "When It Comes To Blues"	SIERRA-6023 CLARENCE WHITE 33 Guitar Tunes
SIERRA-6018 KY COLONELS "Livin' In The Past"	SIERRA-6025 EVER CALL READY Fine BG Gospel
SIERRA-6014 BLUEGRASS ETC.	SIERRA-6028 DOUG DILLARD "The Banjo Album"
SIERRA-6013 ROTHMAN-POTTIER "Guitar Duets"	SIERRA-6029 CLARENCE WHITE "Flatpick" (new)

Customers should take special note of the last two numbers: **SIERRA-6029** appears to be all new material by the late, great guitarist *Clarence White*—there are 19 instrumentals from White, recorded by Brooks Otis in 1964—some great guitar work here!. (Clarence White's 33 Acoustic guitar tunes (**SIERRA-6023**) is also a must). The *Doug Dillard* **SIERRA-6028** came out originally as an LP in 1970 on the rare Together label. This issue is an expanded version of the original LP, with 5 extra bonus cuts including Cumberland Gap, Back Up & Push, and Dear Old Dixie. There's some great picking here, despite some superfluous percussion on some tracks. Kentucky Colonel fans will also want to have the "Livin' In The Past" record, and the excellent fiddle workout by the amazing Scotty Stoneman (**SIERRA-6022**). *Ever Call Ready* is a fine Bluegrass gospel album, and the guitar duet disc by *Sandy Rothman and Steve Pottier* is also very nice. (**NOTE** that some of these SIERRA CDs came out previously on the Rural Rhythm label).

JSP-7710 MOUNTAIN FROLIC (Various old-time artists—4 CD set) Here's another of those neatly packaged British imports with tons of music at a really bargain price. As with others in this series, there are over 100 tracks. This set is roughly based on a very early (1940s) Decca 78rpm album of rare 1920s material from the old Vocalion and Brunswick catalogs (*Buell Kazee, Hill Billies, Dad Crockett, Bascom Lunsford*, etc) that proved to be quite influential among folksingers and the early old-time revivalists like *New Lost City Ramblers*. There is plenty here of interest to old time fans, though some of the groups that appear here seem selected totally at random (*George Roark, Charlie Parker, Walter Couch and Red Patterson* are each represented with one cut—all good tracks, but we can't figure out what the connection to the other material is. The groups that get the most attention are *Buell Kazee* (40 songs) and *The Carolina Tar Heels* (22 Victor tracks). There are also 7 pieces each by *Bascom Lamar Lunsford* and *Nelstone's Hawaiians*. Collectors should note right away that the 40 Kazees almost totally duplicate two fairly recent Buell Kazees on the British Archive label (BACM-027 and 214, each \$ 15.00). The Nelstone cuts are nice, and seldom heard, and there are a few well chosen tracks by Dr. Humphrey Bate and Al Hopkins' Buckle Busters. Notes and discography are better than on some other recent JSP issues, but still hard to read. All in all, there's still a lot here for the old time fan to enjoy. **4-CD set: \$ 27.50**



BHM-003 THE EARL BROTHERS "Moonshine" This is the third CD from this group of Californians who are purveyors of a funky, almost primitive early Bluegrass sound. They write most of their own material, and there are faint hints of early Stanley Brothers in their picking and singing. No real information is provided about the group, other than it consists of 4 members (no fiddle). *ROOSTER RUCKUS, DARK DAYS, TRAIN OF SORROW, LIFE FULL OF TROUBLE, HELL ON THE HIGHWAY*, etc **\$ 13.50**

MHR-3085 THE PRIMITIVE QUARTET "35th Anniversary" That's a lot of years for this Bluegrass gospel group from Candler, N.C. As usual, they perform 10 sacred songs in a straightforward style, led by bandleader Reagan Riddle. *JOHN KNEW, SOMEDAY* (the great Tim Stafford song), *GRACE IS THERE, DIDN'T HE SHINE, HE DIDN'T STAY DEAD, THE PRECIOUS ONE, I LOVE TO WALK WITH JESUS*, etc. **\$ 13.50**

MH-1129 HIGH WINDY "A Greater Storm" An album of Solid, well-played straight Bluegrass by this band from the Asheville, N.C. area (a city that has become a hot bed of Bluegrass and Old-Time music activity). The 5-man band is joined on a few cuts by Rob Ickes (dobro), Cody Kilby (guitar), and David Johnson. The songs are almost all originals written by band members Shane Lail, Patrick MacDougal or Ty Gilpin. *GOOD OLE DAYS, DANCE AROUND THE DAISIES, COMING HOME*, etc. **\$ 13.50**

L & H-2007 LIGHT & HITCH (Old Time String Band) We continue to be amazed by the high quality level of many of the Old-Time bands that are springing up all over the country these days. This 5-member group is from Madison County in central Virginia, and they have a terrific recording here that we've already played numerous times. There are 17 fine tunes—about an hour's worth of music—played with an infectious high energy, and with consummate good taste. With two fiddles,



guitar, bass, fretless banjo and banjo uke, the band at times reminds one of the playing of the *Highwoods String Band*, but perhaps a bit smoother. The group starts out with a great Jim Childress tune that we've not heard before, *ROAD TO MALVERN*, then presents one after another superb rendition of wonderful tunes like *ROCKY MOUNTAIN GOAT, FOUR CENT COTTON, CIDER, JOSIO, RYESTRAW, OLD MOTHER LOGO, RATS GONE TO REST, CHEROKEE SHUFFLE* and *CHARLESTON # 2*. This is excellent music that should delight any old time fan (as well as others, too) **\$ 13.50**

ESR-0801 BUCK & COMPANY "This Old Barn" Here's another of those little known regional groups (this one from West Virginia) that can play top-notch Bluegrass. With bass player Jeff Somerville doing most of the lead singing, the band puts a slight contemporary touch (dobro, lead guitar) on some of the 13 songs, all of which are band originals except for *BLUE EYED BOSTON BOY* and Al Wood's *FRISCO*. The group does a very nice job on *HEAVEN'S HOLY CHORUS*—a gospel quartet with just mandolin & guitar accomp. It's good, solid and enjoyable Bluegrass. *RHONDA PEARL, BUGTUSSE, SAN AN TONE, THE HILLS OF HOME, BESSY*, etc. **\$ 13.50**

FBR-1002 AARON WILLIAMS "Inside" Williams is an excellent young mandolin picker who is currently a member of Kenny & Amanda Smith's fine group. On this album (produced by Kenny Smith) he features a good and varied program of 12 tunes, including a couple of his originals. With Smith helping out on guitar, and Joey Cox on banjo, Williams performs very nice versions of *BUFFALO GALLS, WHITEHORSE BREAKDOWN, JESSE JAMES, LEE WEDDIN' TUNE, CHARMAINE*, etc. **\$ 13.50**

BACM-239 THE CHUCK WAGON GANG “Secular & Sacred Songs” Before this famous group became known across the southern USA as one of the top gospel groups, they had already waxed over a dozen secular songs which came out in the late 1930s. Led by “Dad” Carter, the Texas based group did pleasant versions of some good songs like TAKE ME BACK TO RENFRO VALLEY, THE RAINBOW’S END, DEAR OLD SUNNY SOUTH BY THE SEA, I’LL BE ALL SMILES TONIGHT and PUT MY LITTLE SHOES AWAY. These are all here, and they are nice enough, though they don’t have the style or impact that the group was about to attain in just a few years with its gospel work. Actually, there *are* 9 gospel tracks here from the early 1950s that were recorded between 1952 and 1954 when the group was already firmly established as a major force in gospel music—these include the classics I’VE A PRECIOUS FRIEND and O WHY NOT TONIGHT. The original 78s that the secular songs appeared on are very rare collector’s items and they are certainly interesting in light of what this group later became, but they are not essential listening. **\$ 15.00**

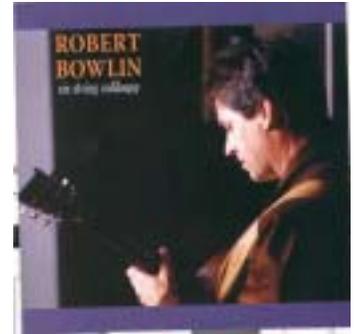
ROU-11619 TONY RICE “Night Flyer” Any Tony Rice release is an event, even if it is just a re-issue, as this one is. On occasion we have hunted for some great Tony Rice songs, not thinking that they were never issued on compact disc. Although most of Rice’s recordings have been on CD many years, several are not, including the songs re-issued here—most drawn from two old LPs (*Me & My Guitar* and *Native American*). They go back to a time when Tony’s voice was still superb—needless to say his guitar playing was as amazing as ever. And the only reason we can see that these were never put on CD before was that overall the albums were not as



strong as all his other LPs & CDs, and that is strictly because of the material chosen. The Rounder label (apparently under Tony’s guidance) has selected 11 songs from the above two LPs, and filled out the disc with 6 other songs from various sources. The real gems from the earlier LPs include FOUR STRONG WINDS, GREEN LIGHT ON THE SOUTHERN, and WHY YOU BEEN GONE SO LONG—most of these featured a group that included *Wyatt Rice, Jerry Douglas, Jimmy Gaudreau and Vassar Clements*. As to the other six cuts, ABOUT LOVE was taken from a *Rice, Rice, Pedersen & Hillman* record, two tracks were previously unissued (a fine Rice original NEVER MEANT TO BE and a lackluster PONY that doesn’t seem to add anything). As good as anything on the disc is a great version of the wonderful John Starling song HE RODE ALL THE WAY TO TEXAS taken from an obscure Rickie Simpkins record. There are two other good tracks that we cannot find a source for: WAYFARING STRANGER and LIKES OF ME. A fine record from one of the great talents in acoustic music. **\$ 13.50**

DWP-821957 AUDEY RATLIFF “Piece Of Cake” Tennessee mandolin picker Ratliff has an enjoyable recording here with 14 pieces—a combination of vocals and tunes split about half and half. Ratliff’s singing is just average but there are nice versions of tunes like SLEEPY EYED JOHN, TWINKLE LITTLE STAR, FOGGY MOUNTAIN SPECIAL and CACTUS POLKA. Ratliff is accompanied by James Alan Shelton, who plays both banjo and guitar and also produced the record. NEVER ON SUNDAY, HEARTLAND, EARLY MORNING RAIN, JOHN DIG A HOLE, etc. **\$ 13.50**

FGM-124 ROBERT BOWLIN “Six String Soliloquy” Bowlin, one of the last musicians to play in Bill Monroe’s band, is known to those close to the Bluegrass scene as both a great fiddler and a great guitarist. Here he certainly proves the latter, with a marvelous 16 tune collection that is one of the best projects yet from the Flatpicking Guitar label. Surprisingly, there is almost nothing in the way of notes about Bowlin here, but that is a minor complaint. The first thing that strikes one about this CD is

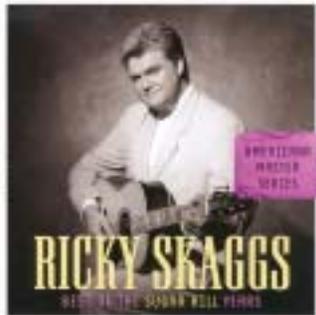


the absolutely wonderful tone that Bowlin achieves from his guitar (a 1976 Thomas Anton Bednark). The tunes are drawn from a variety of genres including old-time (WHISKEY BEFORE BREAKFAST, EAST TENNESSEE BLUES), Jazz, and even one classical piece, as well as 10 of Bowlin’s own original compositions: the overall effect is a remarkably consistent and tasteful record that any guitarist or fan of guitar should love. There is some seriously sophisticated playing here, but it does not come off as flashy or pretentious at any time. It’s a superb album that we can recommend highly. ROSE ROOM, EASTLAND DREAM, NEW FREEDOM, MAYBELLE, I DREAM OF JEANNIE/OLD KENTUCKY HOME, MARITA DEL REY, HE LEADETH ME, DURANGO TANGO, etc. **\$ 13.50**

DSM-2008 THE BYRON BERLINE BAND “My Oklahoma” Berline has a good 16-track album here, featuring a wide variety of material from his own tunes to songs by Bob Dylan (KNOCKING ON HEAVEN’S DOOR) and the Beatles (NORWEGIAN WOOD). Five fiddle tunes are CRICKET, RED BLUFF, EARLY TIMES, PAPA JOHN and BEAVER CREEK. The band includes John Hickman on banjo and Jim Fish on guitar & vocals. Other songs and tunes of interest include SEVEN BRIDGES ROAD, BACK IN THE SADDLE AGAIN, I SAW THE LIGHT and I’M BLUE & LONESOME TOO. **\$ 13.50**

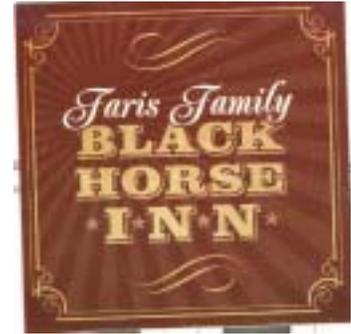
SCR-66 10 YEARS of EUROPEAN WORLD OF BLUEGRASS This new 2-CD set from the Dutch *Strictly Country* label is a great place to get an idea of what is going on in Europe as far as Bluegrass music is concerned. Not too many years ago Bluegrass was pretty much just a novelty once you got outside the USA: then we started to hear of bands from Japan and Canada that were playing excellent Bluegrass. Now—as this 48 track collection demonstrates—there are competent groups all over Europe. This anthology includes bands from Italy, France, Belgium, Finland, Holland and—amazingly—no less than 18 groups from the Czech Republic and/or Slovakia (!). Although there are still some musically weak tracks, there's plenty of good music here—some of the highlights include cuts by *Red Wine* (WINTER'S COME & GONE), *Jiri Kralnik* (fine fiddle work on IDA RED), the Czech group *Relief* with a fine a cappella CALM THE STORM, *The Hickory Project's* HARD CIDER, and nice tracks by *Lonesome Mountaineers* (from Sweden) and *Rolls Boys* (ROUGH EDGES). Also helping to strengthen the set significantly are pieces by a number of American artists who were recorded touring Europe (often utilizing European bands and musicians): these include *Dan Paisley*, *Claire Lynch*, *Bill Clifton*, *Chris and Sally Jones*, *Randy Waller*, *Kate MacKenzie*, *Laurie Lewis* and *The Chapmans* (a really nice hard-edged traditional song, COLD & LONELY). *Chris Jones and Zbynek Buresz* play a neat version of BLUE YODEL # 4 and *Mike Stevens & Raymond McLain* do an unusual but interesting harmonica & banjo version of TRAIN 45. There's a lot to listen to here, and it's well presented, with good notes by Jon Weisberger. **2-CD set: \$ 20.00**

SUG-4045 RICKY SKAGGS “Best Of The Sugar Hill Days” Before he embarked on a country career that took him to the top of that genre, *Ricky Skaggs* made several LPs for the Sugar Hill label, including the one that actually launched his Nashville career: the “*Sweet Temptation*” album (SH-3706, \$ 13.50). The bulk of the excellent material on this re-issue was cut between 1978 and 1982 and includes three tracks from the classic “*Skaggs & Rice*” LP, four from the “*One Way Track*” LP by *Boone Creek*, a lovely duet with *John Starling* (DRIFTING TOO FAR FROM THE SHORE) and a couple of songs done for Sugar Hill's “World's Greatest Show” album. It's all fine material with a cast of other notables including *Jerry Douglas*, *Terry Baucom*, *Bobby Hicks*, *Sharon White*, *J.D. Crowe*, etc. DANIEL PRAYED, I'LL STAY AROUND, IF I NEEDED YOU, LITTLE COMMUNITY CHURCH, NO MOTHER OR DAD, WHERE THE SOUL NEVER DIES, etc. **\$ 13.50**



AR-010 FARIS FAMILY “Black Horse Inn”

An excellent and thoroughly professional job by this 5-member group from Kansas on an impressive collection of well-chosen songs, played in a contemporary Bluegrass fashion. *Rick, Bob, John, Ed and Jim Bob Faris* are good singers and certainly have a feel for arranging their material: they make good use of dynamics and bring subtle nuances to the music, featuring some nice lead guitar work and touches of dobro where it fits in. This is a group well worth hearing. NEVER MIND, EAST VIRGINIA BLUES, DEEP KENTUCKY MINE, PRAY FOR THE BOYS, THOSE MEMORIES OF YOU, etc. **\$ 13.50**



HUNTER-2008 HUNTER ROBERTSON “Sings Songs For The Masses” If you like Old-time banjo picking and you're in the market for something different, you might try this unusual CD. But be forewarned: it ranges from the sublime to the bizarre: “songs for the Masses” it definitely ain't. Mr Robertson is an excellent banjo picker; he also plays 12 string guitar on 4 pieces and his instrumental work is right on (check out the super picking on SOLDIER'S JOY). On a couple of tunes he plays a gut strung fretless banjo, and his 5 original pieces are interesting and well done. He also plays a fine medley of banjo tunes that incorporates BONAPARTE'S RETREAT and DUCKS ON THE MILLPOND with a couple of others in an impressive 5 and a half minute workout. The cuts that feature the 12-string guitar (plus one electric guitar cut) are bluesy, moody, and downright spooky at times. Even a one-man band piece (YOU GONNA NEED SOMEBODY ON YOUR BOND, with slide banjo, kazoo, high-hat and bass drum) adds to the overall interest. So what is so bizarre about all this? Robertson's voice. It's got to be the roughest voice we've ever heard—in Old-time, Bluegrass, Blues or whatever, and the main question we have is whether it is all a put on. Perhaps Robertson feels that this will take him back 80 or 100 years in time to where he would be considered a great find among field recording folklorists. Or perhaps this is his real voice (a scary thought). We will gladly leave that up to the listener to decide, adding again that there is some technically superb, soulful music to be heard here. PRETTY POLLY, OL' VIRGINEE, CRAWDAD HOLE, DOM OSPRITCH, RED WING, WILL YOU GO LASSIE, SOURIS MECHANIQUE, etc. **\$ 13.50**

SFR-001 VARIOUS ARTISTS “Hand-Picked” “Best of Watermelon Park Fest” Recorded at the site of some of the earliest Bluegrass festivals (near Berryville, Va.), this is an interesting, if not totally successful collection of 20 songs & tunes recorded live 2004-05. The recording quality is quite good, and captures the excitement of the moment well. There are 13 bands represented—most of whom you may not have heard of, though a selling feature is the presence of *Tim O’Brien* who does two numbers very nicely (HOLD ON and WORKING ON A BUILDING). Others that regional fans may recognize include *Larry Keel*, *Mando Mafia*, and *David Via & Corn Tornado*. *The Hunger Mountain Boys* play 2 nice songs in an early Monroe Brothers style with just mandolin & guitar, and the 2 tracks by *Will Lee and Danny Nicely* are enjoyable energetic Bluegrass. There are a couple of nice old-time tunes played by *Keith Lovett* (OVER THE WATERFALL) and *Furnace Mountain Band with Keith Lovett* (SALLY ANN). Other cuts range from interesting to strangely grotesque (SONG OF THE WANDERING ANGUS). EAST VIRGINIA, WHEEL HOSS, SHACKLES & CHAINS, GRAVEL ROAD, MANY A MILE, etc. **\$ 13.50**

ROU-0608 THE GRASCALS “Keep On Walkin” We’ve enjoyed this new *Grascals* CD even more than their first two records, which have met with a lot of acclaim. These veterans of the Bluegrass scene, led by *Terry Eldredge* and *Terry Smith* perform in an energetic, sprightly, and engaging manner, and they vary their material from the expected *Osborne Brothers* sound of TODAY I STARTED LOVING YOU AGAIN to the hard driving ROLL IN MY SWEET BABY’S ARMS. We were



glad to see the inclusion of two excellent Aubrey Holt songs: FEELING BLUE and THE SAD WIND SIGHS—these start the album in high fashion and make it clear that the band can play hard-edged, tough Bluegrass as well as some of the more “fluffy” pieces that appeared on their first two albums. The group also includes Danny Roberts, Jamie Johnson and Aaron McDearis. Nice job. **\$ 13.50**

MCM-0004 LARRY SPARKS “The Last Suit You Wear” Sparks is known for consistently high quality in his Bluegrass recordings, and the various pieces here—his vocals and the accompanists’ work—cannot be faulted. Yet the overall effect of this recording leaves something to be desired: there are too many songs of the same tempo (especially to start the album), and many of the pieces tend to drag a bit—in short, it is not classic, memorable Sparks. HAND IN HAND, PRETTY GIRLS, LAZARUS & THE RICH MAN, FOLLOW THE STAR, THE OLD COAL MINE, etc. **\$ 13.50**

BCR-016 LORRAINE JORDAN & CAROLINA ROAD “Why Don’t You Give Jesus A Try” A solid and very pleasant album of Bluegrass gospel songs by Ms. Jordan and her band on a nice assortment of well chosen material including the title song—a good new title by Tom T. and Dixie Hall. The lead vocals are shared by Jerry Butler, Josh Goforth and Ms. Jordan. Ms. Jordan picks mandolin, Josh Goforth fiddle, and there’s some dobro work by Rick Keen. Other highlight songs include LET THE CHURCH ROLL ON, I LIKE THE OLD TIME WAY, IN THE SWEET FOREVER, JUST OVER IN THE GLORYLAND and JUST A LITTLE TALK WITH JESUS. **\$ 13.50**

ROUNDER-0601 SIERRA HULL “Secrets” By now most Bluegrass fans have heard of this young singer and mandolin picker, who is still just a teenager. In this 13 track album nicely produced by Ron Block, her mandolin playing is wonderful—amazing when her age and experience is taken into account. She also sings in a pleasant, gentle voice and is backed up by a group of superb pickers including *Dan Tyminski*, *Clay Hess*, *Stuart Duncan*, *Jim Van Cleve*, *Rob Ickes*, *Jerry Douglas*, *Barry Bales* and even *Tony Rice* on two outstanding cuts. Excellent contemporary Bluegrass here. **\$ 13.50**

ROU-0591 CHARLIE SIZEMORE BAND “Good News” Good to see Sizemore back in the Bluegrass arena with this nicely produced 14 song album that includes his clever song ALISON’S BAND—a candidate for IBMA “Song Of The Year” honors. Sizemore, who was lead singer and guitarist for Ralph Stanley’s Clinch Mountain Boys for many years, shares a dual career as a lawyer in Nashville. Enjoyable Bluegrass here. WHISKEY WILLIE, SILVER BUGLE, MY DYING DAY, DEVIL ON A PLOW, etc **\$ 13.50**

RHY-326 APPALACHIAN MOUNTAIN GOSPEL “25 Bluegrass Classics” The Rural Rhythm label continues to re-issue budget priced albums drawn from the dozens of LPs that were issued in the 1960s and early 70s by the late Uncle Jim O’Neal. Mainstays of their old catalog were such groups as *Hyla Brown*, *Red Smiley*, *Earl Taylor & Jim McCall*, *Mac Martin and Jim Greer* and the *Mac-O-Chee Valley Folks*. There are a lot of nice cuts here, certainly enough to more than justify the bargain price. GREAT SPECKLED BIRD, PAUL & SILAS, OH WHY NOT TONIGHT, KEEP ON THE SUNNYSIDE, I FEEL LIKE TRAVELING ON, LONELY TOMBS, etc. **\$ 11.00**

HARMAN-2008 THE HARMANS “Timeless & True” A solid and very nice job here by this family band from Illinois—they play straightforward, energetic Bluegrass, with Mark, Jeff and Stacy Harman alternating on lead vocals (and all doing a good job). *Alison Krauss* is a guest harmony vocalist on the title cut, and *Stuart Duncan* and *Michael Cleveland* add a lot to the proceedings with their wonderful fiddle playing. The songs are mostly well known standards like GOLD WATCH & CHAIN, HOT CORN COLD CORN, DOOLEY, KATY HILL, ON THE SEA OF LIFE, UNTIL THEN, etc. **\$ 13.50**

VFH-109 FRANK NEWSOME “Gone Away With A Friend” For those who have wondered where Ralph Stanley gets those spine tingling acappella gospel songs that he has become famous for, here is something to stop & listen to. This is not music for the masses, not for the faint hearted, not for anyone who has no ear for anything that can be called “rough”. But it is pure backwoods rural Americana that miraculously still exists in at least one little pocket of the USA. Newsome leads a small backwoods “Old Regular Babtist” congregation called the Little David Church in Haysi, Virginia, in coal mining country. Here he sings by himself, with no accompaniment, and most of the songs will be recognizable to fans of Dr. Ralph Stanley: WHEN I GET HOME, KEYS TO THE KINGDOM, BEULAH LAND, CHILD OF THE KING, and the title song. There are some informative notes by one Christopher Keopp and Jim Lauderdale. This is a fascinating document that will be a revelation to many. **\$ 13.50**

ACOUS-0726 WILLIAMS & CLARK EXPEDITION “Brand New Set of Blues”

Top-notch contemporary Bluegrass from this 4 member band that features ex Bill Monroe banjoist Blake Williams, his wife Kimberly, Bobby Clark on mandolin and Wayne Southards on guitar. 11 of the 14 tracks are band originals, with Kimberley Williams doing a nice job on most of the lead vocals (others are handled well by Southards). Tim Crouch guests on fiddle, and Claire Lynch duets with Ms. Williams on one song (HEAVEN ON EARTH). Nice job by a very good band. DESTINY’S HIGHWAY, LIFETIME OF LOVE, TENNESSEE WALTZ, RIDIN’ THAT MIDNIGHT TRAIN, etc. **\$ 13.50**



MCM-0005 MONEYLAND We’re still not sure what to make of this new project from Del McCoury’s label that makes a social and political statement, something not very common in the world of Bluegrass music. It’s quite a strange record that starts and ends with excerpts from Franklin Roosevelt’s fireside chats, and presents a depression era recording of *Slim Smith’s* BREADLINE BLUES from a 1932 78rpm disc(!) to get the music started. (the record ends with a 2008 version of the same song, this time performed by *Del McCoury, Mac Wiseman, Tim O’Brien, Gillian Welch & David Rawlings*). In between there is some fine music, much of it borrowed from other labels, such as *Patty Loveless’* YOU’LL NEVER LEAVE HARLAN ALIVE and *Dan Tyminski’s* CARRY ME ACROSS THE MOUNTAIN, plus three songs by *Merle Haggard* and an *Emmylou Harris* version of Haggard’s MAMA’S HUNGRY EYES. There is a fine line between songs that beautifully express hardship and problems in a thoroughly musical way and those that let anger & resentment overpower the music. Haggard’s IF WE MAKE IT THROUGH DECEMBER, WHAT HAPPENED? & FARMER’S BLUES are all wonderful examples of the former, whereas MONEYLAND and 40 ACRES AND A FOOL have a nasty, uncomfortable rant despite being well performed by Del McCoury. Tossed into the mix in this interesting but uneven collection are a song by *Bruce Hornsby & The Fairfield Four*, a medley by *Mac Wiseman*, and TRAIN NOT RUNNING by *Chris Knight*. **\$ 13.50**

YEP-2158 JIM LAUDERDALE “The Bluegrass Diaries” Lauderdale had a hand in writing all 11 of the songs on this CD, and he gets backing help from all of the following noted musicians: *Jesse Cobb* (Mand.), *Cody Kilby, Shawn Camp and Clay Hess* on guitars, and *Richard Bailey* on banjo. Helping in the vocal harmony department are *Cia Cherryholmes, Randy Kohrs and Dave Evans* on a couple of tracks. **\$ 15.00**

LDR-011 LARRY CORDLE & LONESOME STANDARD TIME “Took Down and Put Up” Solid and enjoyable Bluegrass by Cordle, who is a good singer and a very good song writer. Most of the songs here are either written or co-written by Cordle, and as with his other material in the past, they are thoughtful and well crafted, like the clever B.Y.O.B. (Bring Your Own Blues). He is backed well by a group that includes *Booie Beach* (lead guitar), *Kim Gardner* (dobro), and *Kristen Scott Benson* (banjo), and sings a good duet with Travis Tritt (ROUGH AROUND THE EDGES). A bluesy MISSISSIPPI KID is also a highlight. SONG FOR KEITH, I’M A LIE, etc. **\$ 13.50**

HRC-147 KEVIN FORE “Round Peak, The Tradition Continues” Here is another good example of the fine old time string band music that continues to pour out of the southern mountain area around Galax, Va. and Surrey County, N.C. Fore, who appears to be in his mid 30s, plays a good clawhammer banjo on a very nice collection of 19 tunes common to the area, such as LET ME FALL, JOKE ON THE PUPPY, FORTUNE, ROUSTABOUT, STILLHOUSE, OLD JIMMY SUTTON, FALL ON MY KNEES, etc. He is joined on guitar and fiddle by a stellar array of musicians well known in the area, including *Benton Flippen, Bobby Patterson, Kirk Sutphin, Chester McMillan, Eddie Bond, Mac Snow and Katie Golding*. It is clear from the playing that Fore has learned a lot from the music of *Kyle Creed, Tommy Jarrell and Fred Cockerham* among others. A very nice project here. **\$ 13.50**

C&LE-201 REVONDA ROBERTS & HARVEST WIND “Stillwater” Solid, pleasant Bluegrass gospel singing by Ms. Roberts on 10 songs (all originals by her). Accompaniment. features all 5 standard Bluegrass instruments plus dobro, and some of the songs are COME & GO WITH ME, THINKING OF A BRIGHTER DAY, I FEEL LIKE PETER, etc., **\$ 13.50**

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