



# NEWSLETTER #297

January-February 2009

www.countysales.com

COUNTY SALES  
P.O. Box 191  
Floyd, VA 24091

PHONE ORDERS: (540) 745-2001

FAX ORDERS: (540) 745-2008

## BLUEGRASS & OLD-TIME MUSIC 2009

Despite the horrid state of the economy, and an equally bad forecast for the record industry, *Bluegrass* and *Old-Time* music appear to be in fairly healthy condition for now, judging by the number of festivals and the huge number of new compact disc releases coming on the market. Reality may set in this summer as gasoline prices go up, making it harder and harder for working bands to survive and for fans to get to as many events as they'd like to. We at **COUNTY SALES** will try to do our part by trying to work out special sales with various labels so that CDs become more affordable. Toward this end we are running a special sale on the **REBEL-1100** series in this Newsletter (see Page 2). We very much appreciate your support at this time—please mention our service to a friend—word of mouth is still our best source of new business!

## CD AUCTION LIST

We now have available, on request, our first ever **AUCTION OF COMPACT DISCS**. It was about 23 years ago that we started carrying Bluegrass CDs (there weren't any before that!) In that time many of those issued have remained in print, but in the last few years we have started to see many discontinued. Our list includes some discs that are already prized collector's items, like the Flatt & Scruggs **FOGGY MT. BANJO CD**, some discontinued King box sets and even some of the early CD issues that came in "long boxes".

Many neat items here! Ask for "CD AUCTION"

## BLUEGRASS NOW

We are sorry to note that the magazine **BLUEGRASS NOW** has ceased publishing, after many years on the scene. It was a nicely produced and informative publication that will be missed.

We were very saddened to hear of the passing of **BUTCH BALDASSARI** who died on January 10 after a long battle with a brain tumor. A fine mandolin player, Butch took part in many sessions, played with many bands and had a number of very fine albums out including a great one for the Rebel label, "Old Town" (REB-1681). Butch was also a good businessman who had his own label and gave lessons to countless aspiring pickers. He came to Nashville as a member of the band **WEARY HEARTS**, (Chris Jones, Mike Bub, Ron Block and Butch—quite a lineup!)

We also note with sadness the death of **KEN ORRICK** on Jan.24 of a massive heart attack. Ken led the excellent west coast band **LOST HIGHWAY** for many years and was an excellent singer with a distinctive voice. His band was quite influential, and included one of the first gigs for *Stuart Duncan*, and also *Lauren Seapy*—one of the first of the really good female banjo pickers. He made a number of good albums for *Hay Holler* as well as his own label.

## LESTER FLATT & EARL SCRUGGS—More DVDs!

The latest two volumes in *Shanachie's Martha White* TV series are on the way to us now and should be here in stock by the time you read this! These have been some of our most popular sellers ever—see brief reviews of these on Page 4!

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
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For special expedited rates (FED EX, UPS, NEXT DAY, etc) please call or fax us for cost & authorization.					



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## SPECIAL SALE ON ALL REBEL-1100 SERIES CDs

This month only we are offering all records in **REBEL'S 1100 series** at a **SPECIAL SALE PRICE** of just \$ **10.00 per CD**. That means a savings of \$ 3.50 per CD off our already discounted price! There is no minimum and no limit as to how many you can buy, and any items you order here CAN be applied towards your special offer (buy 6 records and get a 7<sup>th</sup> CD free). Offer ends MARCH 30, 2009. Take advantage of this special offer !

**REBEL's 1100 SERIES** is devoted primarily to outstanding collections of classic Bluegrass recordings. Most of the discs are extra-length "Best Of" or retrospective collections that include up to 18 tracks They represent some of the finest examples of Bluegrass music on the market today.

REB-1101 SELDOM SCENE "Best Of"	REB-1118 RALPH STANLEY "Live At McClure"
REB-1102 COUNTRY GENTLEMEN "25 Years"	REB-1119 DAVE EVANS "Classic Bluegrass"
REB-1103 SELDOM SCENE "Live At The Cellar Door"	
REB-1104 COUNTRY GENTLEMEN "Live In Japan"	REB-1121 LOST & FOUND "Across The Blue Ridge"
REB-1107 LARRY SPARKS "Classic Bluegrass"	REB-1123 EMERSON & WALDRON "Best Of"
REB-1108 KENNY BAKER & JOSH GRAVES Guitars	REB-1124 CLIFF WALDRON "Best Of"
REB-1109 RALPH STANLEY "Classic Bluegrass"	REB-1125 VIRGINIA SQUIRES "Best Of"
REB-1110 STANLEY BROS. "Long Journey Home"	REB-1126 RALPH STANLEY "Man Of Constant Sorrow"
REB-1111 DEL McCOURY "Classic Bluegrass"	REB-1127 RED ALLEN "Keep On Going"
REB-1112 LOST & FOUND "Classic Bluegrass"	REB-1128 RED ALLEN "Complete County Recordings"
REB-1113 BILL HARRELL "Classic Bluegrass"	REB-1129 CHRIS JONES "A Few Words"
REB-1114 RALPH STANLEY "Bound To Ride"	REB-1130 RALPH STANLEY "Great High Mountain"
REB-1115 STANLEY BROS. "On Radio"	

Item for item, records in the **REBEL-1100** series represent some of the best selling and most popular CDs in this extensive catalog, thanks to extra value (most have 18 tracks) and the inclusion of the artists' best material. For example **REB-1107 LARRY SPARKS** contains songs like *Face In The Crowd, Tennessee 1949, John Deere Tractor, Blue Virginia Blue and Smoky Mt. Memories*. **REB-1111 DEL McCOURY** is another power packed album, with *Rain & Snow, Eli Renfro, Take Me To The Mountains, and Standing On The Mountain* among the 18 cuts from early in Del's career. **REB-1102 COUNTRY GENTLEMEN "25 Years"** was originally a 2-LP set, and includes 24 songs from *Matterhorn, Two Little Boys, & Teach Your Children to Redwood Hill, Helen, Little Bessie and Copper Kettle*—a wonderful collection! Of the two Seldom Scene albums, **REB-1103** is the classic "**Live At The Cellar Door**"—Rebel's all-time best seller (this was also a 2-LP set originall). Their other release here is a knockout collection of 16 of their best recordings from their great first 4 Rebel LPs (**REB-1101**), like *City Of New Orleans, Muddy Water, Rider*, etc.

The popular icon **Dr. RALPH STANLEY** is represented by 5 choices here, including his highly successful **REB-1126 MAN OF CONSTANT SORROW** which contains *Oh Death, Angel Band, I Am Weary, Hard Times*, and the title song. **REB-1130 GREAT HIGH MOUNTAIN** has some cuts with Keith Whitley & Roy Lee Centers and a previously unissued "*Wild Geese Cry Again*". **REB-1109 CLASSIC BLUEGRASS** and **REB-1114 BOUND TO RIDE** are both super 20-song "best of" collections—the former hard Bluegrass and the latter more of Stanley's Old-Time side. There are also two albums by the **STANLEY BROS**: **REB-1110** is the wonderful secular record from their old Wango days, with **REB-1115** taken from old radio shows for Jim Walter Homes when the Stanleys were in Live Oak, Florida.

Some of the most powerful Bluegrass you will ever hear are to be found on **REB-1119 DAVE EVANS** and the two **RED ALLEN** CDs (**REB-1127 "Keep On Going"** from Red's days on Rebel & Melodeon, and **REB-1128 "Lonesome & Blue"** the complete County recordings) Great stuff! And a real "sleeper" is **REB-1108 KENNY BAKER & JOSH GRAVES "The Puritan Sessions"**—this is not fiddle & dobro as one might expect, but some amazing fingerstyle guitar work by Baker on 24 tracks from two old Puritan label LPs. The fine contemporary singer-songwriter & guitarist **CHRIS JONES** has some of his best work out on **REB-1129 A FEW WORDS**. The **VIRGINIA SQUIRES** were an early "supergroup" with Sammy Shelor, Mark Newton and Rickie & Ronnie Simpkins: their best work from 4 early Rebel LPs is heard on **REB-1125 BEST OF THE VIRGINIA SQUIRES**

One of the most popular & influential groups in the early days of "contemporary" Bluegrass was **BILL EMERSON & CLIFF WALDRON** of "Fox On The Run" fame. Cliff followed up their 3 great LPs with several of his own, and the best of all these is to be found on **REB-1123 EMERSON & WALDRON** and **REB-1124 BEST OF CLIFF WALDRON**.

While REBEL has no plans to discontinue any of the above in the immediate future, we would suggest you take advantage of this super sale to fill in your library: note that several fine early albums in this series are no longer available, including fine collections of **McPEAK BROTHERS, JIM EANES, MAC WISEMAN** and **WILMA LEE COOPER**. Don't miss out

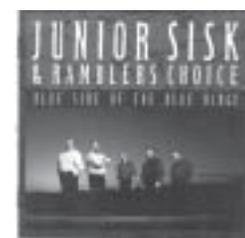
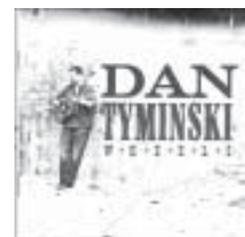
## HIGHLIGHT ITEMS FROM 2008

Here's a brief list of some of the finest releases from last year—all still available!

- TL-80031 HANK WILLIAMS "The Mother's Best Flour Shows"** The event of the year for hard country fans—3 CDs worth of previously unheard Hank! (**\$ 32.50**)
- OLD B-702 LARRY RICHARDSON & BLUE RIDGE BOYS** Wonderful traditional Bluegrass from North Carolina in the mid 1960s
- REB-7520 RALPH STANLEY "Old Time Pickin'"** Great clawhammer style banjo with some vocals—many of the tunes previously unissued (**\$ 10.00**)
- BANJO-2007 BANJO GATHERING** A very impressive 2-CD set featuring many—if not most of today's best old-time pickers. Over 50 neat performances (**\$ 18.00**)
- REB-1803 JIMMY GAUDREAU & MOONDI KLEIN "2:10 Train"** Just a lovely album of duets with mandolin & guitar, and Klein's fine singing. A real "sleeper".
- JSP-4201 CARTER FAMILY "The Acme Sessions"** An important 2-CD collection of all this groups later (1954) Acme recordings—lots of fine music here (**\$ 22.50**)
- ROU-0604 DAILEY & VINCENT** This album won just about every award given out at the IBMA Awards Show—and they deserve them all—**GREAT** Bluegrass!
- SFC-100 MARCUS MARTIN "When I Get My New House Done"** Wonderful collection of 26 tunes from this western N.C. Old-Time fiddler
- HOR-1155 DOYLE LAWSON "Help Is On The Way"** Another outstanding collection of great Bluegrass gospel songs
- FOX-2008 MARTIN FOX & JAY WINEGAR** A fine 18-tune collection of fiddle/banjo
- ROU-0578 LONGVIEW "Deep In The Mountains"** The 4<sup>th</sup> album by this super group that plays the best of traditional, hard-core Bluegrass music!
- ROU-0594 BLUE HIGHWAY "Through The Window Of A Train"** Stunning Bluegrass from one of today's best bands. The title song is a masterpiece.
- ROU-0586 DAN TYMINSKI "Wheels"** Here's what a powerful singer can do with some great material! Top-flight trad. Bluegrass!
- REB-8004 BEST-LOVED BLUEGRASS** Various Artists, A terrific bargain with 20 songs by some of Bluegrass' greatest artists, and just **\$ 10.00!**
- TGR-003 NATHAN & RALPH STANLEY "Where Will You Go"** Young Nathan Stanley's career is off to a great start with this, one of his first albums. All gospel.
- REB-7522 LARRY SPARKS "Bound To Ride: A Best Of collection"** At least 4 of Sparks' best songs, but everything here is good and it's a budget (**\$ 10.00**)!
- SIG-2013 CROOKED STILL "Still Crooked"** This old-time band has a unique and intriguing sound thanks to a fine cello and some great songs.
- REB-1825 JUNIOR SISK & RAMBLER'S CHOICE "Blue Side of Blue Ridge"** One of today's best traditional Bluegrass singers, Junior really has a way with a good song
- REB-1830 PAUL WILLIAMS "What A Journey"** Powerful gospel singing by this master
- 5SPH-001 ERNEST V. STONEMAN "Unsung Father of Country Music"** Contains 46 songs From this early old-time pioneer, lovely presentation, good notes (2-CD: **\$ 30.00**)
- L & H-2007 LIGHT & HITCH** For straight out danceable old-time music, this band is really hard to beat!
- ROU-11619 TONY RICE "Night Flyer"** It's always neat to see a new Tony Rice album, even if it's all re-issued material. There are cuts here from some rather obscure LPs.
- FGM-124 ROBERT BOWLIN "Six String Soliloquy"** A great guitar album
- OLD H-1006 IN THE PINES** Various old time artists from 1920s & 30s Great old music!

The following are DVDs (All absolutely SUPERB!)

- MP-0108 DON RENO & RED SMILEY DVD (\$ 18.00)**
- SHAN-615 FLATT & SCRUGGS Martha White Shows Vol. 5 (DVD: \$ 18.00)**
- SHAN-616 FLATT & SCRUGGS Martha White Shows Vol. 6 (DVD: \$ 18.00)**



**HRC-032 RAFE BRADY “Cherokee Rose”** Brady was one of a handful of near legendary musicians from the rich musical area around Galax, Va. and Mt. Airy, N.C. He played with many professional bands, but did little or no recording while in his prime years. This CD was actually recorded as an LP in 1981 on the Heritage label, and gives a rough idea of what this fiddler could do, even though he was 68 years old when it was recorded. The 17 tunes and songs include mostly standards like HOPLIGHT LADIES, SILLY BILL, TEXAS GALES, SOLDIER’S JOY, KATY HILL, CACKLIN’ HEN and EBENEZER, but also show a few numbers that he picked up from older musicians like Charlie Poole (HAVE A DRINK ON ME) and Frank Jenkins (SUNNY HOME IN DIXIE). Brady is accompanied here by Ron Mullenex or Tom Mylet on clawhammer banjo or Bobby Patterson on Bluegrass banjo, and Dale Morris on guitar and bass. Brady sounds good here and we can only imagine what he sounded like in his prime. **\$ 13.50**

**JDWS-002 BANJO BASH AT BUCKEYSTOWN (DVD)** We reviewed this when it came out as a VHS Videocassette in 1998: now that it is available in DVD form it’s worth mentioning again. It is quite impressive to see the huge number of banjo pickers (professional and amateur) who turned out for this monster jam that took place at a farm in Maryland. There are around 25 pickers featured, both Bluegrass and Old-Time. Most recognizable are names like Tony Trischka, Eddie Adcock, Bill Emerson and Mark Johnson, Tony Ellis, Mike Seeger, Bill Keith, Reed Martin, Leroy Troy, Bela Fleck, Murphy Henry and Bruce Molsky. Most of the footage (especially that shot outside) is in vivid, sharp color, and the sound quality ranged from good to excellent. This is a neat item for aspiring banjo pickers of all ilks. **DVD: \$ 25.00**

**KOCHDV-4241 CHARLIE DANIELS & FRIENDS “Live From Nashville—Preachin’ Prayin’ Singin’”** Pleasantly informal is the word for this DVD shot before a small but appreciative gathering at the Country Music Hall of Fame. Daniels surprises us by having a pretty good handle on Bluegrass, and he is joined by an interesting group of folks that includes *Mac Wiseman, Earl Scruggs, The Whites, and Del McCoury* and his band. There are some rough spots in the singing and playing, due to what looks like some minimal rehearsal time, but everyone is having a good time and there’s some good music played, and Daniels’ recollections of growing up with Bluegrass are interesting. A real surprise here—in what looks surely like a full gospel album—is the inclusion of three secular songs: UNCLE PEN, SALTY DOG BLUES and 1952 VINCENT BLACK LIGHTNING, of all things! Del McCoury’s band, along with dobroist *Andy Hall* do a nice job in backing Daniels, who gives a respectable, honest treatment of WALKING IN JERUSALEM, I’VE FOUND A HIDING PLACE, THE OLD CROSSROAD, THE OLD ACCOUNT WAS SETTLED, I’LL FLY AWAY, WORKING ON A BUILDING, etc. **DVD: \$ 20.00**

**IOR-49 THE GORDONS “Our Time”** This Illinois based duo, Gary & Roberta Gordon, has been involved with several very nice albums in the past, and here they have another good one. Some of the 14 songs are of a Bluegrass nature, others have a distinct old time flavor (SHADY GROVE, RANDALL COLLINS, BLACK JACK DAVEY) or a general acoustic quality: it’s all tastefully handled, with some outstanding accompaniment provided by several excellent musicians including Bruce Molsky (banjo & fiddle), David Johnson (fiddle), and Robert Bowlin (guitar, mandolin & fiddle). Gary Gordon plays guitar and dobro, and Roberta the autoharp. A nice mix of good material also helps make this a successful record. **\$ 13.50**

**SHAN-617 DVD BEST OF THE FLATT & SCRUGGS TV SHOW—Volume 7.** Considering that these TV shows from the early 1960s were almost lost, we are fortunate indeed to have *any* of this great material to enjoy, let alone some 16 full length half hour shows. Led by Lester Flatt’s warm MCing, the group plays about 10 numbers per show, including some songs and tunes that the band never recorded commercially. There’s plenty of *Earl Scruggs* great banjo picking, *Curly Sechler’s* superb tenor singing, *Uncle Josh* (Buck Graves) on the dobro, etc. As on the other DVDs in this series, there are two half hour shows—one is a combination of shows from 1960 & 1961, and the second show appears to be the oldest in the series, dating to 1956 (!). Have fun picking out some of the subtle differences between the earliest and latest shows! Guesting on this show is *Kentucky Slim*, with a little dance routine that older Flatt & Scruggs fans will remember. Some of the songs here include BEFORE I MET YOU, DOWN THE ROAD, HAVE YOU COME TO SAY GOODBYE, LOVE AND WEALTH and OLD FASHIONED PREACHER. **DVD: \$ 18.00**



**SHAN-618 DVD BEST OF THE FLATT & SCRUGGS TV SHOW—Volume 8.** In the course of listing 8 different DVDs we’ve pretty much said it all—these shows are a real treasure—an immense treat for those who remember seeing them some 45 to 50 years ago, and for younger Bluegrass fans a great opportunity to see just how good, smooth and professional this band was in its prime. It really set the highest example to follow, and who knows what Bluegrass would be like today if examples like this were not ingrained in the many country musicians who ended up choosing a career in Bluegrass. Check out the Foggy Mountain Boys’ performances of LITTLE CABIN HOME ON THE HILL, WHAT A CHANGE ONE DAY CAN MAKE, IF I SHOULD WANDER BACK TONIGHT, IS THERE ROOM FOR ME, BUCK CREEK GAL, FLORIDA BLUES, TURN YOUR RADIO ON, DIM LIGHTS THICK SMOKE, FOGGY MOUNTAIN SPECIAL and SIX WHITE HORSES **DVD: \$ 18.00**

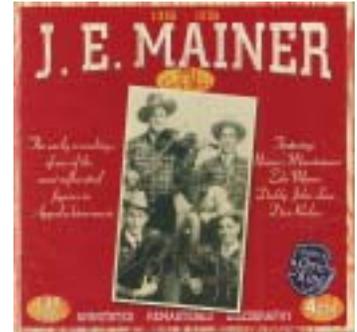


**ROU-0618 EARL SCRUGGS with FAMILY & FRIENDS “Live At The Ryman”** It is certainly wonderful to see *Earl Scruggs* still making records at the age of 83. Earl made his first appearance on the stage of Nashville’s Ryman Auditorium in 1945 as a member of *Bill Monroe’s Blue Grass Boys*, and with the late *Lester Flatt* fronted the wonderful Foggy Mountain Boys on that stage from 1953 until 1969. This new CD was recorded live in June of 2007: a bit of quick arithmetic reminds us that there is a 62 year association between Earl and the Opry stage: all we can say is “WOW” (and don’t we all wish we could have been in the Ryman audience for just one of those 1945 shows (or even a 1954 show!)). As far as this new record goes, we’re sure this was a “feel good” occasion for all concerned and they picked out some good songs & tunes (18 of them), but do not expect the kind of music you would have heard 40 or 50 years ago: Earl can still pick (listen to LONESOME REUBEN and STEP IT UP & GO), and he’s joined by some good sidemen including Rob Ickes on dobro, Hoot Hester on fiddle, and Jon Randall on some vocals, but the addition of clarinet, electric guitar and the unrelenting percussion really dilutes the music for this listener and very likely will limit the enjoyment for many who idolize this living legend. SALTY DOG BLUES, EARL’S BREAKDOWN, SOLDIER’S JOY, BLACK MT. BLUES, DOIN’ MY TIME, IN THE PINES, YOU ARE MY FLOWER, FOGGY MT. BREAKDOWN, etc. **\$ 13.50**

**MFS-81219 MELODIE BOWER “Pray”** This record is not one that most of our readers would expect to see here: a collection of gospel songs and hymns played on the piano. But since Ms. Bower is a native of our own Floyd County, we said we would give it a listen, and we’re glad we did. Ms. Bower plays 12 classic hymns in a warm, relaxed, heartfelt manner that is clearly reflective of the best of rural traditions (we usually don’t think of the piano as a rural instrument, but there are a few great recorded examples of it, most of which come from Southwestern Virginia). The album reminds me of the type of home made music that one could still hear on the radio of a Sunday afternoon in the 1950s and 1960s—simple, unpretentious but with a world of feeling. Lovely cuts of SWEET BY & BY, THERE IS A FOUNTAIN, FARTHER ALONG, SWEET HOUR OF PRAYER, COMING HOME, PASS ME NOT, etc. **\$ 13.50**

**5SP-8004 BENTON FLIPPEN & THE SMOKEY VALLEY BOYS “An Evening at WPAQ, 1984”** Fiddler Benton Flippen is one of the last of the old-time masters of the Galax, Virginia string band style, and this nicely packaged 20 tune album presents a very nice selection of old-time music that was recorded at the legendary radio station WPAQ in Mt Airy, N.C. back in 1984. Benton’s band at the time included other well known area musicians like *Paul Sutphin*, *Verlen Clifton*, *Frank Bode* and *Paul Brown*. Nice stuff. Tunes include FLORIDA BLUES, KATY HILL, SALLY ANN, DURHAM’S BULL, GO HOME, JUNE APPLE, MISSISSIPPI SAWYER, REDBIRD, etc. **\$ 13.50**

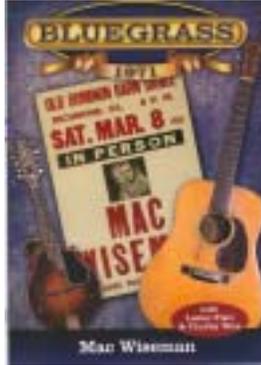
**JSP-77118 J.E. MAINER “1935-1939”** The Mainer Brothers—J.E. and Wade—were among the most recorded old-time musicians of the 1930s, with around 160 songs and tunes recorded for the wonderful Bluebird label. With that considered, they have not been particularly well represented on CD up to now. This excellent, well remastered 4-CD set takes care of that in a big way: it includes 75 of the 160 songs and tunes, with a second set apparently scheduled to include the remaining cuts. (Curiously, in order to accomplish filling out two 4-CD sets, the 4<sup>th</sup> disc in this package is devoted to the songs of *Daddy*



*John Love, the Dixie Reelers and the Morris Brothers*—artists all closely connected with J.E. and Wade). The Mainers were a transition group, learning many of their songs from older musicians like *Grayson & Whitter*, *Frank Hutchison*, etc (some they obviously learned from 78rpm records!). In addition to the rollicking fiddle tunes that J.E. featured (TRAIN 111, SEVEN & A HALF, HOP ALONG PETER) Wade joined with Zeke Morris for many brother style duets that proved popular in the 1930s—their MAPLE ON THE HILL was a huge hit. The Mainers’ music was in turn picked up by the *Stanley Bros.* and practically every early Bluegrass band that played and recorded in the 1940s and 50s. This set—a wonderful bargain at just **\$ 27.50**—is attractively packaged, though the type size in the notes is painfully small and there are a number of mistakes in the discography provided (Zeke Morris is not credited for his vocals on the first 11 tracks, and the lovely fiddle playing on ONE TO LOVE ME is mis-attributed to J.E. But there’s plenty of spirited, highly enjoyable old time music here, with a lot of good songs—ballads, fiddle tunes, and gospel songs. 4-CD set: **\$ 27.50**

**KP-2008 KATI PENN “My Turn To Cry”** This lady from Kentucky has a good voice and does a nice job on a good selection of contemporary material from a variety of sources. Rob Ickes has produced the album, and there is solid and appropriate accompaniment by several good pickers including *Andy Leftwich on mandolin*, *Aaron McDearis on banjo*, *Bryan Sutton* on guitar, and Ickes on dobro—Ms. Penn plays fiddle. Pleasant work on SUN’S GONNA SHINE, GONNA TAKE A TRAIN, I’M GOING HOME, JOHNNY & SALLY, TOO FAR GONE, CRAZY LOVE, etc. **\$ 13.50**

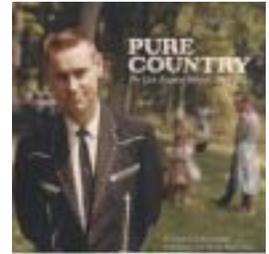
**MP-0208 MAC WISEMAN (DVD)** Here's some more great vintage film footage rescued for posterity: this presents a show done at the Renfro Valley Barn Dance in 1971. The color is beautiful, the images sharp and the sound good, and Mac is in wonderful form. He is backed beautifully by the Shenandoah Cutups, and this is a good chance to see and really appreciate the work of a lesser known but thoroughly professional band (*John Palmer, Hershel Sizemore, Tater Tate and Billy Edwards* doing some fine, crisp banjo work). A main, great extra here is some super triple fiddling by *Tate, Chubby Wise and Joe Greene* (a superb fiddler who is rarely seen or heard in recordings). **DVD: \$ 18.00**



**OH-4123 CARL STORY “My Lord Keeps a Record”** There's a lot of music here—24 songs—but the shoddy production negates the value of this disc. The notes, by Ivan Tribe, do indicate that the material comes from Wayne Raney's Rimrock label, which explains the mediocre sound quality (apparently the master tapes were not available, because this disc sounds like it's taken straight off old LPs—and the Rimrock records were notoriously poor quality pressings). Many of the songs were recorded by Story elsewhere, usually in better versions. According to Tribe's notes, the other members of the band here were long time Story associates Claude Boone, the Brewster Brothers, and Tater Tate. MYLORD KEEPS A RECORD, I'LL BE HAPPY, I'M READY TO GO, LONESOME ROAD, GOD PUT A RAINBOW, GLORY HALLELUJAH, LAST REUNION DAY, SHADOW OF DEATH, etc. **\$ 15.00**

**DIRT-0056 THE WILDERS “Someone's Got To Pay”** Another motley assortment of songs & tunes from this Midwestern band that plays some country, some old-time and some numbers that defy categorization. There are 20 tracks here, most successful of which are 4 nicely played old-time fiddle tunes featuring Betse Ellis: BROKEN DOWN GAMBLER, OLD DIRTY BOOT, ROCK IN THE WOODS, and COLLARD GREENS. About half the songs deal with a murder trial—some of these feature just Ike Sheldon's piano, another bottleneck guitar: they range from subtle and understated to loud and raucous (WILD OLD NORRY, with drums & electric bass). It's a combination I just can't get used to, though after at least 4 or 5 albums it is clear that this group has a following. SITTIN' ON A JURY, MY FINAL PLEA etc. **\$ 13.50**

**BOOK: PURE COUNTRY “The Leon Kagarise Archives 1961-1971”** Process Press, 2008, 194 pp, hardbound. As we get further and further away from the days when country music was truly a reflection of honest-to-goodness rural life, we have been extremely fortunate to have had some wonderful examples of that culture survive unexpectedly (like the amazing *Hank Williams* “Mother's Best Flour” radio shows, and the DVDs that document some early visual examples of *Reno & Smiley, the Stanley Brothers* and the classic *Flatt & Scruggs* Martha White TV shows). Now we have this new book that will be pure magic for any folks lucky enough to have attended shows at the country music parks that brought real country music to the fringes of the northern states, especially Pennsylvania, New York, and Ohio. Leon Kagarise was a shy man from Baltimore in his 20s when he discovered a new world that he immediately loved: real country music that he could hear on WCKY in Cincinnati and see in person at New River Ranch and Sunset Park on summer Sundays. There were very likely quite a few others who came to know and love the music through the shows at these parks, but Kagarise was unusual in that he had professional recording equipment and knew how to use it (that was actually his business). He was also a decent photographer, and this book is



drawn from some 700 color slides that he took at the parks, mostly in the 1960s. There is an almost endless procession of country artists—both well known and obscure—that includes *Roy Acuff, Johnny Cash, George Jones, Ernest Tubb, Bill Monroe, Flatt & Scruggs, the Stanley Brothers, Connie Smith, Hank Snow, Kitty Wells*, etc. etc. And fans will have fun in spotting some of the sidemen, like Rual Yarbrough and Kenny Baker in Bill Monroe's band, and Jim & Jesse on stage with a very young Carl Jackson on banjo and Joe Greene on fiddle, Benny Martin with Don Reno, etc. But it is clear that Leon's favorite band was the *Stoneman Family* (also known at that time as the *Bluegrass Champs*). Kagarise was obviously fascinated by Donna Stoneman, with the result that there is a whole chapter worth of shots of this band (a group that was very popular regionally for a while, but never caught on with the Nashville crowd, which was just getting into the “Countryopolitan” sounds that would effectively kill most of real country music). The unique atmosphere that was Sunset Park and New River Ranch is very nicely summed up in brief but well written forewords and introductions by Robert Gordon and Eddie Dean. There is also a lovely section of photos that Kagarise took on a trip to southwestern Virginia, where he visited the A.P. Carter store and the home of Wade Ward. Even those who were never at one of these parks can get a wonderful idea of the idyllic atmosphere, where families (many Amish) would spend a Spring, Summer or Autumn Sunday mingling with the musicians and taking in two or 3 usually fine shows. For \$ 1.00 a carload, it was hard to beat! **\$ 32.50**

**HMG-1004 DONNA ULISSE “Walk This Mountain Down”** Following up her recent “When I Look Back” album, this ex-Nashville country demo singer has another well produced contemporary Bluegrass album. The lineup of sidemen is similar to her last recording, with **Rob Ickes (dobro)**, **Andy Leftwich (fiddle & mandolin)**, **Scott Vestal (banjo)** and **Byron House (bass)**. All 12 songs are originals by Ms. Ulisse, and though they are OK, nothing really stands out—it would be nice to see how she handles some standards or songs from other contemporary writers. LOVE’S CRAZY TRAIN, THE TROUBLE WITH YOU, THE KEY, THESE TROUBLES, I LIED, etc. **\$ 13.50**

**OH-90035 LARRY SPARKS “Where The Sweet Waters Flow”** A welcome re-issue of one of Sparks’ early Old Homestead LPs. The 12 songs include WAYFARING STRANGER, WHAT KIND OF MAN, WHERE WE’LL NEVER GROW OLD, ME & JESUS, JESUS IS THE ROCK. **\$ 13.50**

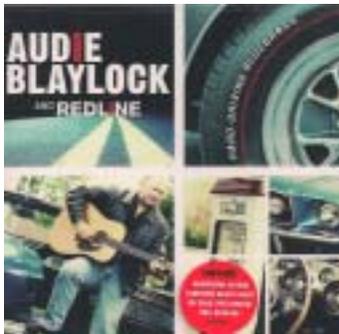
**5SP-8001 CAROL ELIZABETH JONES “Cataloochee”** Known as one of the better singers among today’s old-time revival crowd, Ms. Jones has a good album of 12 songs that show off her voice and vocal style very nicely. While her previous albums (some with **James Leva**) have mainly featured her original songs, this one is more impressive, with just two of her songs balanced out with a good variety of other material—it’s neat to hear her treatment of the Delmores’ I’M GONNA CHANGE MY WAY, Ola Belle Reed’s I’VE ENDURED, Jean Ritchie’s WEST VIRGINIA MINE DISASTER, NINE POUND HAMMER and Molly O’Day’s lovely TOO LATE, TOO LATE. **\$ 13.50**

**RHY-1042 AUDIE BLAYLOCK & REDLINE**

Blaylock, who spent some time as guitarist with Rhonda Vincent’s band, now fronts a good little group of his own that can play some tough, hard-edged Bluegrass, as this new album shows. What I really

love here is that Blaylock has gone back and picked out some wonderful old songs that you just don’t hear anymore, for example: TWO L O N E L Y HEARTS, ROLL ON BLUES, G O O D B Y E , YOU’LL NEVER

BE THE SAME, MOUNTAIN LAUREL, MY BLUE EYED DARLING, MY DARLING’S LAST GOODBYE, and a real obscure one, Cullen Galyean’s LONELY RIVER. A fine album. **\$ 13.50**

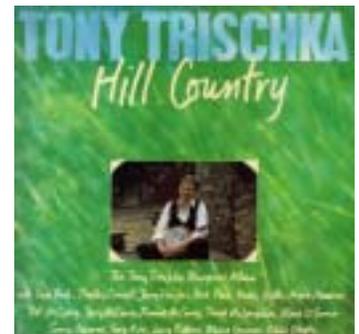


**5SP-8002 MATT BROWN “Falls Of Richmond”** Strong, enjoyable collection of old-time tunes featuring Brown, who plays fiddle on most of the cuts (he plays a good old time banjo on 2 tracks and sings with guitar on two others). The record is nicely annotated with tunings indicated and sources given for the tunes, which include SHADY GROVE, SAY OLD MAN, OLD SLEDGE, FALLS OF RICHMOND, PINEY RIDGE, etc. **\$ 13.50**

**PRC—1162 NOTHIN’ FANCY “Lord Bless This House”** Twelve good Bluegrass gospel songs get solid treatment from this popular central Virginia band led by lead vocalist and mandolin picking Mike Andes. Guest **Cody Kilby** provides some background help on lead guitar. Nice job on GONE HOME, WHERE THE SOUL NEVER DIES, BELLS OF ST. MARY’S, LEAN ON ME, HOUSE OF GOLD, PEACE IN THE VALLEY and HEART THAT WILL NEVER BREAK AGAIN. **\$ 13.50**

**ROUNDER-0203 TONY TRISCHKA “Hill Country”** While Trischka’s more “far out”, progressive type albums have been re-issued since the early days of CDs, this excellent album from 1985 has stayed buried among a host of old LPs until now.

As much as Trischka is revered as a banjo innovator who has influenced many, it’s important to recognize him as an all around master of the instrument who is capable of some great, pretty traditional playing as well (and a recent set of his collaborations



with other banjo greats has brought him the recognition he deserves). On this record there is plenty of great banjo work, good tunes and wonderful support from a group of pickers that includes Tony Rice on guitar, Adam Steffey, Sam Bush and David McLaughlin on mandolin, Eddie Stubbs, Ron Stewart, Mark O’Connor, and Blaine Sprouse (fiddles). This is an album that any and every Scruggs style banjo picker can enjoy. **\$ 13.50**

**FM-7211 RICH HAMILTON “Cornstalk Fiddle & a Shoestring Bow”** Mr Hamilton plays everything on this nice old-time disc—fiddle, banjo and guitar, and while it looks like it’s the fiddle that is featured, some of the nicest sounds here come from Hamilton’s old time banjo pickin, on tunes like COUSIN SALLY BROWN, ARKANSAS TRAVELER, CHILLY WINDS and CIDER MILL. A very pleasant 12-track recording (3 or 4 cuts are OK vocals). The artist is from New Hampshire. **\$ 12.00**

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YODEL-072	RAFE & CLELIA STEFANINI "Never Seen The Like" Great old time fiddle
RHY-1044	MICHAEL MARTIN MURPHY "Buckaroo Bluegrass" Fine songwriter plays BG
BCR-018	MELVIN GOINS & WINDY MOUNTAIN "Dancin' In The Dirt"
BARKER-726	JIM WATSON "This World Would Be All Sunshine" Carolina old-time artist
NFR-9068	BILL EVANS & MEGAN LYNCH "Let's Do Something" Banjo, fiddle
COMP-4498	MISSY RAINES & THE NEW HIP "Inside Out" Award winning bass player
LDTR-1002	SONGS FROM THE ROAD BAND "As The Crow Flies" Charles Humphrey group
PD-2201	PAM DALEY "Someone Like You" good contemp. BG with Ickes, David Grier, etc
JA-0084	BRETT RATLIFF "Cold Icy Mountain" Old Time music from June Appal label
JA-0085	UNCLE CHARLIE OSBORNE "The June Appal recordings" late Old Time fiddler
UYW-2008	JON WEISBERGER "If This Road Could Talk" Bluegrass with Ron Block, Chris Jones etc
MBM-0919	MORRIS BROTHERS with PAUL BREWSTER "Treasures Untold" BG gospel
NT-1010	ROGERS & JOHNSON "When The Bands Played" Solid Bluegrass, Civil War theme
MRRWM-001	WHITETOP MOUNTAIN BAND "Loafer's Dream" Old time from southwest Virginia
OFR-005	HUNGER MOUNTAIN BOYS "Live & Early Studio Duets" 19 Old time songs
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