



NEWSLETTER #298

March - April 2009

www.countysales.com

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

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MAILING LIST

Thanks to all of our customers who let us know about the mailing problem we had with our last Newsletter. Due to a malfunction in our mailing service, quite a few customers received as many as 5 extra copies of the newsletter, while others never got a copy. This summer we will be going to a new mailing system that should eliminate occurrences like this. If you did not get NL # 297, let us know—we have some extras.

SPECIAL MERCHANDISE PRIZES

It's been a long time, but we are once again offering some special merchandise prizes: all customers who place an order with us between now and May 29, 2009 will be eligible. Winning names will be drawn at random.

1ST PRIZE: \$100.00 credit

for anything we sell at County Sales

2nd PRIZE: Your choice of any BEAR FAMILY Boxed set up to 5 Units (4 CDs plus booklet)

3rd PRIZE: 5 regular price (\$13.50) CDs of your choice

4th & 5th PRIZE: 3 regular price (\$13.50) CDs of your choice.

SPECIAL SALE on COUNTY & REBEL RECORDS

In the light of the tough economic times, we are going to do the best we can to keep prices down so that customers can get the most for their entertainment dollar. With that in mind, this month we are featuring some choice items from the REBEL and COUNTY catalogs at the special price of just **\$7.00 a CD** (below wholesale cost). See page 2.

This offer will end on MAY 15, 2009.



FIELD RECORDER'S COLLECTIVE

All serious fans and collectors of old-time music should by now be aware of the excellent CDs being put out by this organization headed by **Ray Alden**—a dedicated and knowledgeable fan of the music. The fascinating discs in their catalog are not sold in stores and must be ordered direct from Mr. Alden, who presses them up in small quantities, with royalties being paid to the families of the artists. Most of the records have between 20 and 30 cuts, and though there is a fair amount of fading into performances, the sound quality of the albums we've heard is pretty good. The music generally comes from live field recordings made by Mr. Alden and a variety of other collectors, and most goes back to the 1960s (in some cases earlier). A recent random handful of discs from their expanding catalog included items by **John Ashby**, **Round Peak—Vol. 2**, **P.T. Bell** (Texas fiddler from the 1940s), and one called **Galax Gems**. (On the latter you'll find tunes with **Wade Ward**, **Norman Edmonds**, **George Pegram** and **Kyle Creed**, among others. You can send for their catalog from **RAY ALDEN, 124 QUAKER BRIDGE ROAD, CROTON, N.Y. 10520**

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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International/Canadian orders will be charged exact shipping costs based on weight of the order					
ALL CUSTOMERS ARE CHARGED A \$1.00 HANDLING FEE * ALL VIRGINIA CUSTOMERS MUST ADD 5% SALES TAX.					
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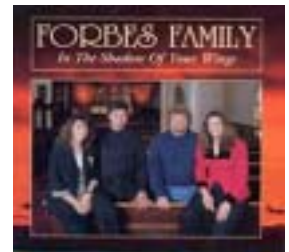
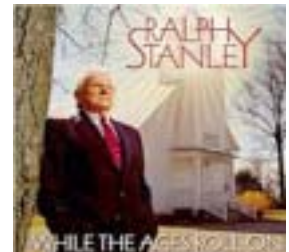
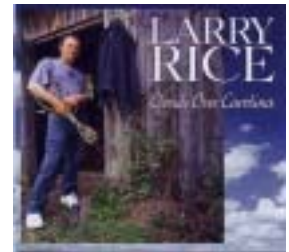


540-745-2001 * Minimum credit card order is \$25.00 * (Fax) 540-745-2008

SPECIAL SALE OF REBEL & COUNTY RECORDS

For a very limited time we are offering all of the following CDs at a special price of just **\$7.00 per CD**. There is no limit to how many you can purchase, and these can be used toward your SPECIAL OFFER (Buy 6 and get the seventh CD free—but your free CD must be *any Rebel or County CD*, not limited to this list!). This list includes many of Rebel's best-selling records. Also note the special County CCS- series—when these are sold out there will be no more pressed.
NOTE: This offer ends MAY 15, 2009.

- CCS-111 FLATT & SCRUGGS "You Can Feel It In Your Soul"
 CCS-112 CARTER FAMILY "Clinch Mountain Treasures"
 CCS-117 FLATT & SCRUGGS with DOC WATSON Instrumental
 CCS-119 BILL MONROE "American Traveler" Instrumentals
 REB-1528 SELDOM SCENE "Act 3"
 REB-1536 SELDOM SCENE "Old Train"
 REB-1559 COUNTRY GENTS "Joe's Last Train"
 REB-1571 RALPH STANLEY "Clinch Mt Gospel"
 REB-1651 BILL EMERSON "Home of the Red Fox"
 REB-1663 COUNTRY GENTS "Return Engagement"
 REB-1665 RHONDA VINCENT "New Dreams & Sunshine"
 REB-1691 IIIrd TYME OUT (Their 1st album)
 REB-1692 RHONDA VINCENT "Bound For Glory"
 REB-1700 LARRY SPARKS "Travelin'"
 REB-1703 IIIrd TYME OUT "Puttin New Roots Down"
 REB-1704 RONNIE BOWMAN "Cold Virginia Night"
 REB-1705 CHARLIE SIZEMORE "Back Home"
 REB-1715 COUNTRY GENTS "Souvenirs"
 REB-1725 BILL HARRELL & FRIENDS
 REB-1731 BLUE HIGHWAY "Wind To The West"
 REB-1733 FORBES FAMILY "Shadow Of Your Wings"
 REB-1737 RICHARD GREENE "Sales Tax Toddle"
 REB-1738 RICHARD BENNETT
 REB-1744 MARK NEWTON "Living A Dream"
 REB-1749 CHRIS JONES "Follow Your Heart"
 REB-1758 AULDRIDGE-BENNET-GAUDREAU
 REB-1761 CLIFF WALDRON "Seasons Past"
 REB-1762 LOU REID "Blue Heartache"
 REB-1764 MARK NEWTON "Follow Me Back To The Fold"
 REB-1765 RALPH STANLEY "While The Ages Roll On"
 REB-1772 KARK SHIFLETT "In Full Color"
 REB-1776 ROCK COUNTY Don Rigsby-Glen Duncan band
 REB-1777 DAVE EVANS "Hang A Light Out For Me"
 REB-1778 DOYLE LAWSON "Tennessee Dream"
 REB-1780 LONGVIEW "Lessons In Stone"
 REB-1785 JAMES ALAN SHELTON "Song For Greta"
 REB-1788 LILLY BROS. "What Will I Leave Behind"
 REB-1789 DON RENO & RED SMILEY "Together Again"
 REB-1795 MARK NEWTON "No Boundaries"
 REB-1801 LARRY RICE "Clouds Over Carolina"
 COU-2703 FRANKLIN GEORGE West Va Old-Time. Great
 COU-2705 KENNY BAKER "Master Fiddler"
 COU-2706 BOBBY HICKS "Texas Crapshooter"
 COU-2712 ART STAMPER "The Lost Fiddler"
 COU-2728 RAFE STEFANINI "Hell & Scissors"
 COU-2740 CURLY SECKLER "That Old Book Of Mine"
 COU-2742 TEXAS HOEDOWN REVISITED Fiddle
 COU-3501 CHARLIE POOLE—Vol. 1
 COU-3515 ECK ROBERTSON Texas Fiddler
 COU-3517 GRAYSON & WHITTER (1928-1930)
 COU-3523 MUSIC OF SOUTHWEST VA.
 COU-3530 ROANE COUNTY RAMBLERS fiddle band



BARKER-726 JIM WATSON “*This World Would Be All Sunshine*” Watson, who was a member of the old *Red Clay Ramblers* band long ago, is a veteran old time musician from North Carolina, and he has an enjoyable 16-track album here on his own label. He has a very distinctive high register voice, and a leaning to sentimental old songs (at least on this recording). He gets sympathetic backing from a variety of musicians including Mike Craver, Chris Brashear, Alice Gerrard, Gary and Tony Williamson, Joe Newberry, and fiddler Bill Hicks. Songs include SWEET SUNNY SOUTH, DADDY & HOME, UNCLOUDY DAY, WRITE A LETTER TO MY MOTHER, PRODIGAL SON, THE DEATH OF ELLENTON, VISION OF MOTHER, etc. **\$ 13.50**

ROU-0617 DAILEY & VINCENT “*Brothers From Different Mothers*” It doesn’t seem that long ago that *Jamie Dailey & Darrin Vincent* came out with their first album—a recording that won all sorts of awards (8 or 9 of them?) at the *IBMA Bluegrass Awards Show* last September. That superb album contained numerous excellent songs including the truly outstanding BY THE MARK, and established this band as one of the most popular and talked about groups in Bluegrass. They have followed it up with a disc that is equally fine, drawing songs from sources as diverse as *Gillian Welch* again (she wrote BY THE MARK) and the *Statler Brothers* : (YEARS AGO and THERE IS YOU work pretty well in a Bluegrass setting, though the unison chorus on YEARS AGO is somewhat jarring, though it certainly creates a change of pace). No less than 7 of the songs are of the hard-driving variety that should please any and every fan of traditional



Bluegrass, and the gospel cuts like WHEN I’VE TRAVELED MY LAST MILE, OH YE MUST BE BORN AGAIN and WHEN I REACH MY HOME are masterpieces. THERE IS YOU, one of the 2 Statler songs, turns into a *Louvin Brothers* style piece by the time it ends: GIRL IN THE VALLEY is very reminiscent of the old *New Quicksilver Band*, and the *Gillian Welch-David Rawlings* song WINTER’S COME & GONE is lovely (though the version done recently by *Kenny & Amanda Smith* is equally fine). Everyone who enjoyed their first recording will find plenty to like just as much in this top-notch new disc. HIGHLY RECOMMENDED! **\$ 13.50**

STEIN-2009 PHILLIP STEINMETZ “*Live From Mandolin Farm*” On this, his third recording (at least), Steinmetz sounds more forceful both in his singing and his banjo playing, as he comes up with another enjoyable program of 17 songs and tunes with help from his band the *Sunny Tennesseans* (Mark Hargis, Mike Fulkerson, and Robert Montgomery—they play 2 guitars and a bass). Steinmetz plays in a style heavily influenced by *Grandpa Jones* (his Great Uncle) and *Uncle Dave Macon*, and many of the tunes here reflect that. A nice job here and if you want a good sample of this entertainer’s work we would suggest this as the best of his three CDs. OLD RATTLER, ARE YOU FROM DIXIE, WALKING IN MY SLEEP, 8 MORE MILES TO LOUISVILLE, ROLL ON BUDDY, CAN-NONBALL RAG, etc. **\$ 13.50**

REB-1828 KENNY & AMANDA SMITH “*Live & Learn*” On this, as on their previous

albums, the Smiths present a smoothly textured contemporary Bluegrass sound highlighted by the wonderful, soulful singing of Amanda. The subtle, outstanding guitar work of Kenny adds substantially to a very warm sound—he contributes a couple of nice vocals as well. Ron Stewart adds his fine fiddle and banjo work to some of the tracks, and Alan Bartram is on bass. All the songs work seamlessly for the band, but I especially like their takes on Norman Blake’s RANDALL COLLINS, the traditional CRUEL WILLIE, Gary Brewer’s BLUES DOWN IN KENTUCKY and Wayne Winkle’s DO THE BEST YOU CAN. Another lovely album from this Virginia couple. **\$ 13.50**



STONEMAN-2008 RONI STONEMAN “*First Lady Of Banjo*” One of the very first women to tackle Bluegrass banjo, Ms. Stoneman is still picking and making appearances after a successful career with the Hee Haw show. On this recent CD she is backed by sister Donna on mandolin and brother Jim on bass, along with her son Robert Cox on guitar. Here she plays a bundle of standard and oft requested instrumentals like DEAR OLD DIXIE, GRANDFATHER’S CLOCK, FOGGY MOUNTAIN BREAKDOWN, SHUCKIN THE CORN and BANJO SIGNAL, etc. Probably due to a long career of trying to get maximum reaction from the crowds, Ms. Stoneman plays a lot of these tunes a bit too fast, resulting in a choppy sound. HOME SWEET HOME, CRIPPLE CREEK, LADY OF SPAIN, DELIVERANCE, etc. **\$ 13.50**

BACM-202 FISHER HENDLEY with his Aristocratic Pigs Hendley was a popular entertainer and early promoter of rural music in the Carolinas in the 1920s and 30s, featured over WBT radio in Charlotte, NC among other shows. His recorded output—much of which is included in this 22 track record—was a mixed bag of authentic old-time music and schmaltzy pop flavored pieces. The cuts included on this disc are divided about half and half. The 10 more interesting songs & tunes include an early (1925) song with banjo, (LET YOUR SHACK BURN DOWN) a really nice HOPALONG PETER, and 4 good string band cuts with his 1933 band, the Carolina Tar Heels (not to be confused with the Dock Walsh and Tom Ashley group of the same name). But the real highlights of this CD are 4 tracks that Hendley made for the Victor label in 1930 with Henry Whitter & Marshall Small, including the fine banjo/guitar instrumentals TAR & FEATHERS and SHUFFLE FEET SHUFFLE. The remaining dozen cuts, made in 1938, are lackluster, hoky material with accordion, etc., but there's enough of interest here for the serious old-time fan or historian. **\$ 15.00**

PATUX-180 ANGELICA GRIM “Look For Me”

We had not previously heard of this 19-year old California gal, but if she stays within the Bluegrass genre we will all probably hear quite a bit more from her. In this album that is wonderfully produced by Frank Solivan (of the US Navy “Country Current” band), Ms. Grim shines through with a strong, true voice that indicates she is totally at home in a Bluegrass setting. The Maryland based Patuxent label has surrounded Ms. Grim with some stellar pickers including *Mike Munford* and *Bill Emerson* on banjo, *Mike Auldridge* on dobro, *John Miller* (guitar), *Solivan* on mandolin and harmony vocals, and the always amazing *Michael Cleveland* on fiddle (he seems to appear on every Patuxent CD these days!). The 12 songs are well selected, with Ms. Grim doing a stand out job on I STILL MISS SOMEONE, IF I NEEDED YOU, SHE'S MORE TO BE PITTIED, her own LOOK FOR ME, and two Hazel Dickens songs. Particularly strong are rousing versions of HAND IN HAND WITH JESUS and HE TOOK YOUR PLACE. A superb recording that we can recommend highly.

\$ 13.50



MRR-WM-001 WHITETOP MOUNTAIN BAND “Loafer’s Dream” A pleasant 15-track collection from this popular family band from way back in the mountains of Southwest Virginia that has been preserving the legacy of the late Albert Hash, a much respected fiddler and instrument maker. The present group features Thornton Spencer (fiddle) and his wife Emily (banjo) and their daughter Martha. The material is split about evenly between old-time and a sort of Bluegrass (Jackson Cunningham on mandolin helps out on the latter songs, which include IF THAT’S THE WAY YOU FEEL, I THREW AWAY THE KEY, and DRIFTING TOO FAR FROM THE SHORE). The more old-timey cuts feature LIBERTY, SALLY ANNE, ROCKY ISLAND, KEEP MY SKILLET GOOD & GREASY and DEVIL’S DREAM. **\$ 13.50**

MULLINS-10687 JOE MULLINS & THE RADIO RAMBLERS “Rambler’s Call”

Mullins, a former member of the *Traditional Grass* and the super group *Longview*, and a noted Bluegrass radio personality who has followed in the footsteps of his dad (fiddler, promoter and DJ Paul Mullins), brings a brand new group to the Bluegrass scene—a superb band that plays an excellent, dynamic brand of tasteful music. Mullins has chosen his material well, and every track on the album is first-rate—it’s a real pleasure to hear the fine arrangements of OLD BLUE TOMORROW, HEAVEN’S GREEN FIELDS, FARMER’S BLUES, DON’T YOU WANT TO GO HOME, NO LONGER AN ORPHAN, ANOTHER DAY ANOTHER DOLLAR, THE OLD ROCKING CHAIR and the title song. We can recommend this without qualification to anyone who loves good, solid traditional Bluegrass! **\$ 13.50**



STARDAY-0840 THE A.L. PHIPPS FAMILY “Old Time Mountain Pickin’ & Singin’. Kentucky’s Phipps Family had a sound remarkably similar to that of the Carter Family, and for a time in the late 1950s and 1960s the group gained a good measure of popularity, issuing several LPs on the Starday label, one for the Folkways company, and numerous 45rpm and LP issues on their own Pine Mountain label. With A.L. Phipps and his wife Kathleen having passed away some years ago, it looks like this CD is the only example of their music that is currently available to the general public. Though primarily known for their renditions of old Carter Family songs, there is just one example of that here—a nice recording of POOR ORPHAN CHILD. The remaining pieces, while very much reflecting the Carter influence, are a variety of gospel and topical songs like KENTUCKY MINE EXPLOSION, THE ENGINEER’S LAST RIDE, DEATH’S BLACK TRAIN, DEATH OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN, etc. **\$ 11.00**

ROU-0574 DRY BRANCH FIRE SQUAD “Echoes Of The Mountains”

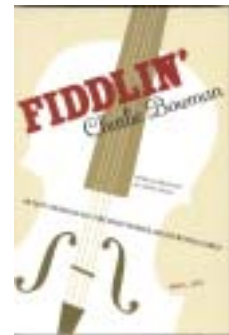
The current version of this band led by Ron Thomasson includes Tommy Boyd (banjo & dobro), Brian Aldridge (guitar & mandolin), and Dan Russell (bass & banjo), and this is about the 10th record that Dry Branch has done for the Rounder label (probably a few more if you go back to LP days!). As usual they present a good selection of songs, including DIXIE COWBOY, LITTLE JOE, POWER IN THE BLOOD, STORMY WATERS, ECHO MOUNTAIN and UP ON THE DIVIDE. Strong, traditional sound. **\$ 13.50**

JA-0084 BRETT RATLIFF “Cold Icy Mountain” Despite some awkward, pretentious notes (“*This collection has the power of a mine explosion, the power of young lust, the power of war... etc. etc.*”) this is actually a very nice old time record, with 16 traditional tunes featuring Ratliff’s old time banjo, with full string band on a few tunes where he is joined by the *Clack Mountain String Band*. Ratliff himself has added some informative notes about the tunes, and he carefully names the sources for each of them: names like *Buddy Thomas, Rufus Crisp, Buell Kazee, Pete Steele and Addie Graham*. The record is attractively packaged in an 8-panel digipak, and we may assume that the artist is from Kentucky, though there is precious little real information among all the cutesy verbiage: it would be nice to know something about Ratliff, like where he is from, his age and background! There are a lot of neat tunes here, well played, and it’s nice to see the June Appal collective (from Whitesburg, Ky.) putting out CDs again. FORKED DEER, BLUE GOOSE, AIN’T GONNA WORK TOMORROW, 9 MILES OUT OF LOUISVILLE, etc. **\$ 13.50**



CICD-1007 COSTA CAMPBELL LLOYD & CLINE “Still Live Too” Here is a nice 20-track collection of old time songs & tunes by a 4-member band that includes Jim Lloyd, Jimmy Costa, Mark Campbell and Darrell Cline. They feature several songs by Uncle Dave Macon, along with other good tunes like GREEN RIVER MARCH, DUNBAR, DONE GONE, PATRICK COUNTY BLUES, GOIN’ DOWN TOWN, etc. **\$ 13.50**

BOOK: FIDDLIN’ CHARLIE BOWMAN by Bob L. Cox (Univ. of Tennessee Press, 224 pp. softbound). Collectors of old-time records from the 1920s will be aware of *Charlie Bowman* from several fine fiddle records he made with his brothers, plus his work with *The Hill Billies*, (otherwise know as *Al Hopkins & His Buckle Busters*). Few people, however, would be aware that Bowman was a full time musician and entertainer who played with many other bands (including the *Blue Ridge Ramblers* and the *Rice Brothers*) and traveled the vaudeville circuit, a good part of the time with two of his daughters, who were also talented performers. Author Cox has done an excellent job in covering the life and career of Bowman, who made east Tennessee his home. The book is nicely enhanced with a lot of good photos, and there are 4 appendices, one of them listing all Bowman’s tour dates in 1931-32, preserved by his daughter Jennie. A very well done and informative book. (See our web site for a more extensive description of this book). **Book: \$ 22.50**



PATUX-177 NATE LEATH & FRIENDS “Rockville Pike” Leath has a nicely produced old-time record here, featuring his fiddle on all but two of the 14 tracks here (he plays dobro on those). He is joined by no less than 11 other singers and musicians, including *Mark Schatz*, who plays acoustic bass (and old-time banjo on one cut). There is singing on 8 of the 14 tracks, but the strength of the album lies in Leath’s fiddling, along with some nice old-time banjo by *Sarah Jarosz* and equally impressive 2nd fiddle by *Tatiana Hargreaves*. There are good, spirited versions of RIDE OLD BUCK TO WATER, RICHMOND, GREASY COAT, MISS McLEOD’S REEL, TENNESSEE MOUNTAIN FOX CHASE and a couple of Leath originals, ROSIN ON THE GOURD and the title tune. Good guitar work on most of the pieces by *Danny Knicely* provides a solid anchor. The singing—shared by Ms. Hargreaves and 5 others—is inconsistent, with only one song really standing out: Gillian Welch’s NO ONE KNOWS MY NAME, very nicely sung by Ms. Jarosz. MOONSHINER, WILD BILL JONES. **\$ 13.50**

SMM-203 MAC & JENNY TRAYNHAM “When The Roses Bloom In Dixieland” Pleasant and enjoyable old time duets by Mac & Jenny. On this CD they play two guitars with many of the 13 songs in the *Delmore Brothers* style (sounds like Mac is playing a tenor guitar on some pieces). There’s a nice selection of good songs like FUGITIVE’S LAMENT, SEE THAT TRAIN, I SEE GOD IN EVERYTHING, BEAUTIFUL STARS, BROKEN HEARTED LOVER, SAILOR ON THE DEEP BLUE SEA, etc. **\$ 13.50**

BATTEN-2008 AL BATTEN & THE BLUEGRASS REUNION “36 Years and Counting”. Here is a North Carolina band that has been active in Bluegrass for more than a generation. Led by banjo picker and lead singer Batten, the group is tight and solid and sounds like it’s still having a blast playing traditional Bluegrass music. A good batch of songs includes JORDAN, PLEASE DON’T HONEY PLEASE, CAROLINA MOUNTAIN HOME, AUNT DINAH’S QUILTING PARTY, BOOTLEG JOHN, SWEETEST LOVE, etc. **\$ 13.50**

AUCTION-008 THE HARMANS “All Prayed Up” The five members of this Illinois family have another very nicely done album here, with some help from Stuart Duncan, Michael Cleveland, and Brent Truitt (mandolin). This time it’s an all Bluegrass gospel record, with 11 well chosen songs that include ON THE SEA OF LIFE, THE ANGELS REJOICED, LIVIN’ IN THE NAME OF LOVE, ON THE SEA OF LIFE, UNTIL THEN, GONNA BE MOVIN’, I’M WINGING MY WAY and HELP ME. Nice job. **\$ 13.50**

WC-2009 JOHNNY WARREN & CHARLIE CUSHMAN “A Tribute to Fiddlin’ Paul Warren” *Paul Warren*, longtime stalwart in *Lester Flatt & Earl Scruggs’ Foggy Mountain Boys* never got to put out records of his own fiddling, because in the 1950s it was customary for bandleaders to forbid their sidemen from making records and selling them at shows (my, how things have changed). Fortunately, quite a few of the old Martha White TV shows of the late 1950s and early 60s have been preserved, and we can enjoy and admire Paul Warren’s excellent fiddling by watching those—every one of those shows includes at least one Warren fiddle tune, and most are backed up by Earl Scruggs’ banjo. But now to this superb CD: Paul’s son, *Johnny Warren*, a great fiddler in his own right, has teamed up with Nashville banjo picker par excellence *Charlie Cushman* on this really fine 17 tune collection. The album features a lot of the obscure tunes that Warren learned growing up in central Tennessee. In addition to his better known tunes (HOLLOW POPLAR, KATY HILL, BUCK CREEK GAL and SUGAR TREE STOMP (both Warrens were big fans of Fiddlin’ Arthur Smith)), there are tunes you will never hear anywhere else: WAIT IN THE KITCHEN TIL THE COOK COMES HOME, WEEKENDER’S TWO-STEP, TWO HOG WEEDS AND ONE STALK OF CORN, OLD JOE CAN’T PLAY THE FIDDLE, etc. Warren and Cushman work together beautifully, and they are joined on some tunes by guests Earl Scruggs, Curly Seckler, and Marty Stuart. This recording is beautifully done and a very appropriate tribute to one of the great country/Bluegrass fiddlers. With notes by Eddie Stubbs. **\$ 13.50**



RHY-1044 MICHAEL MARTIN MURPHEY “Buckaroo Bluegrass” Mr. Murphey is known primarily as a good country songwriter, with several of his songs having been recorded repeatedly by Bluegrass artists. Happily, three of the first four cuts on the disc are among his very best songs: CAROLINA IN THE PINES, LOST RIVER, and WHAT AM I DOING HANGING AROUND—and this alone would carry this album, Murphey’s first foray into the Bluegrass genre. The 11 songs are all Murphey originals, and though the others are not as strong as the above 3 pieces, it’s all good listening, as the singer is backed up by an all-star cast of musicians that includes *Andy Leftwich on fiddle, Pat Flynn (guitar), Rob Ickes (dobro), Charlie Cushman on banjo, and Ronnie McCoury* sharing mandolin duties with *Sam Bush*. *Rhonda Vincent* adds a harmony vocal on CAROLINA IN THE PINES. A solid and very pleasant album. **\$ 13.50**

MH-1206 BALSAM RANGE “Last Train To Kitty Hawk” On their 2nd record, this Asheville-based band has another successful helping of first-rate Bluegrass music that should appeal to both the traditional and contemporary fan. Good lead vocals are contributed by Tim Surrent, Caleb Smith and Buddy Melton, and Marc Pruett (banjo) and Darren Nicholson (mandolin) provide much of the excellent instrumental backing. A nice selection of songs include powerful versions of the traditional I’M LONESOME WITHOUT YOU and DOWN IN CAROLINE. Other highlights of a more contemporary nature are PLACE NO WREATH, SOMEWHERE IN BETWEEN, SPRING WILL BRING FLOWERS, the late Dottie Rambo’s THE HOLY HILLS, and the title track. An excellent record by a group to be reckoned with. **\$ 13.50**



BACM-256 JIMMY LONG “Silver Haired Daddy Of Mine” Those who collect early Gene Autry records will be quite familiar with Long, who joined Autry on many of his sessions, including his very first record (for Victor) and his huge hit, the title song of this album. Long also made some records on his own and with his 14-year old daughter Beverly—recorded in 1930 and 1933 for the Gennett and Victor labels, most of these are extremely rare and this is the first time we have seen many of these on CD. As evident on the 22 songs presented here, Long’s style was reminiscent of both Jimmie Rodgers and Autry: a few cuts are definitely in the Rodgers mold, complete with yodel and guitar runs. Others feature two guitars, one of them played slide style. The songs are mostly of the sentimental type like MY OLD COTTAGE HOME, CRADLE OF MY DREAMS, THE OLD FOLKS BACK HOME, THE OLD CHURCH CHOIR, and TWO LITTLE ORPHANS. **\$ 15.00**

BOOK: THE SUNNY SIDE OF APPALACHIA “Bluegrass From The Grassroots” by B.L. Dotson-Lewis (Infinity Press, 2008) 184 pp, softbound. Ms. Dotson-Lewis, who is from Mooresville, N.C. has put out this modest, homey collection of photos and interviews of various Bluegrass artists, places and personalities. The first 40 pages are devoted to photos, mostly taken at the annual Bluegrass Festival at Summersville, West Va. A few are professional shots donated by the artists (Lilly Bros, Jesse McReynolds) but most are informal photos taken by the author. The remainder of the book features interviews with people like *Bobby Osborne, Tony & Aubrey Holt, Melvin Goins, Jamie Dailey, Jesse McReynolds, Lorraine Jordan* and quite a few others including Edgar & Eunice Kitchens, the founders and operators of the Summersville Festival. Not essential, but a nice souvenir with some interesting material. **\$ 15.95**

ACM-250 JULES ALLEN “The Singing Cowboy”

Texan Jules Allen was one of a handful of authentic cowboy singers to be signed up by record labels (notably Victor) in the 1920s—it’s safe to say his records, along with those of a few others like *Carl Sprague*, *Peg Moreland*, *Harry McClintock* and the *Cartwright Brothers* paved the way for the phenomenally successful careers of the movie cowboys like *Gene Autry* and *Roy Rogers* in the 1930s & 40s, and later all the ersatz “cowboy” and “western” singers that followed. Allen—who was born in 1883—recorded just 22 songs in two marathon sessions in 1928 and 1929: they are all here on this comprehensive disc, sung mostly with just a simple guitar accompaniment (a few have fiddle and harmonica as well). Here you’ll find songs like TEXAS COWBOY, ZEBRA DUN, COW TRAIL TO MEXICO, THE DYING COWBOY, LITTLE JOE THE WRANGLER, THE DAYS OF FORTY NINE and PUNCHIN’ THE DOUGH. A couple of songs that just about everyone knows—HOME ON THE RANGE and OLD CHISHOLM TRAIL—feature melodies that are significantly different from those we are familiar with today. With informative notes by Tony Russell. **\$ 15.00**

SPC-0002 FERRELL STOWE “Trnava”

Stowe, a good Midwestern dobro player, shows a more contemporary side here than on his previous records, which have been more in the Josh Graves mold. The title of the album happens to be the name of the town in the Slovak Republic that was home to the Dopyera Brothers, creators of the original dobros. The tunes TRNAVA and RETURN TO TRNAVA are moody, nicely done instrumentals with a sparse but effective, somewhat modern flavor. The rest of the dozen tunes are a nice mixture of Stowe’s own compositions and some well chosen and effectively played standards. Highlights include BANKS OF THE OHIO (solo Dobro), a very nice DON’T THIS ROAD LOOK ROUGH & ROCKY (Stowe backed only by Stephen Mougins’ guitar), PATHWAY OF TEARDROPS, and LIFE’S HIGHWAY with excellent vocal by *Carl Jackson*. *Mougins*, *Jesse Cobb* (on Mandolin) and *Jeremy Garrett* (fiddle) help out on a few tunes. **\$ 13.50**

MFR-81228 STATEMENT “Walk, Talk & Testify”

Honest, well played & sung Bluegrass gospel music by this 5-member band from southwest Virginia (no fiddle). Ashlee and Josh Blankenship alternate on the vocals and they have a good selection of 13 songs including HOLDING UP THE LADDER, ALL PRAYED UP, LITTLE MOUNTAIN CHURCH HOUSE, GOD BLESS THE USA, WORKING ON A BUILDING, WILL THE CIRCLE BE UNBROKEN, AMAZING GRACE, HAMMERS IN HEAVEN, etc. **\$ 13.50**

DAVIS-2009 ELDON DAVIS “Make Me A Pallet”

Another in a series of self-produced albums by this Midwestern dobro player. He is joined on this 10-tune recording by Tim Eldridge on guitar and Wade Mitchell on bass. A nice selection of tunes includes MAGGIE, HOUSE OF THE RISING SUN, CHEROKEE SWING, SNOWBIRD, WILLOW GROVE, etc **\$ 13.50**

VIGOR-2005 BOBBY TAYLOR “Ragged Shirt”

Taylor, a very good West Virginia fiddler, has appeared before on various old time collections. Here he is joined by *Jim Nelson* on guitar and *Jeff Miller* on banjo as he plays full length versions of 22 good tunes. These include HAPPY JACK, RUN SMOKE RUN, RICHMOND POLKA, BILLY IN THE LOW GROUND, RACHEL, TWIN SISTERS, MARTHA CAMPBELL, SPOTTED PONY, SANDY RIVER BELLE, WILSON’S HORNPIPE, NEW FIVE CENTS and others. A very enjoyable fiddle recording. **\$ 13.50**

JSP-7732 CLIFF CARLISLE “A Country Legacy 1930-1939”

Unless you go back to the days of LPs, very little of this Kentucky born singer has been available, despite the fact that he and his brother Bill were very prolific recording artists in the 1930s. That has now been corrected by Britain’s *JSP label* which presents not only this 84-track, 4-CD collection, but another similar set as well (JSP-7768 “Cliff Carlisle Volume 2, also **\$ 27.50**). Cliff—who actually appeared on some of *Jimmie Rodgers* recordings—had a simple but appealing style. Influenced by Hawaiian guitarists in the 1920s, he was one of the first country entertainers to feature an unamplified steel guitar (he influenced *Brother Oswald* and *Josh Graves* among others). Like Rodgers, he had a warm southern voice and a good yodel, and he recorded a wide variety of material from risqué double entendre songs to spirited, charming gospel pieces that included his young son Tommy singing as well. (It is quite interesting to note that fellow Kentuckians Bill and Charlie Monroe between them recorded at least 8 of the songs that Cliff waxed, including FOOTPRINTS IN THE SNOW, VALLEY OF PEACE, GOODBYE

OLD PAL, WHEN THE CACTUS IS IN BLOOM, END OF MEMORY LANE and GIRL IN THE BLUE VELVET BAND). This 4-CD set presents a good cross section of the material Carlisle cut for a variety of labels including Gennett, A.R.C., Bluebird and Decca. It’s kind of curious to find songs like ASH CAN BLUES, SAL’S GOT A MEAT SKIN, MOUSE’S EAR BLUES, and THAT NASTY SWING on the same disc as THE BLIND CHILD’S PRAYER and WHEN THE ANGELS CARRY ME HOME, but no matter: there are some neat up tempo numbers featuring Bill Carlisle’s distinctive guitar work (SALLY LET YOUR BANGS HANG DOWN, RAISE A RUCKUS, BROKEN HEART, UNCLOUDY DAY etc), a bunch of hobo songs and Cliff’s fine take on TROUBLE IN MIND and the rousing SHINE ON ME. Quite an interesting set, and we’d recommend this one over Volume 2 for those who would just like one good sampling of this entertainer. **4-CD set: \$ 27.50**



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