



NEWSLETTER #300

July - 2009

www.countysales.com

COUNTY SALES
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We are saddened to announce the passing of **BILL HARRELL**, who died on June 24. He had been in poor health for some time. Bill's contributions to Bluegrass were many: after starting his own bands in the Washington DC area, he joined up with **Don Reno** for a long and productive run, then fronted his own band, **the Virginians**, for many years. He recorded for many labels including United Artists, Monument, Starday, Adelphi, Rebel, Jalyn, Rome, King Bluegrass, Leather and others. In addition to being a fine singer and entertainer, he was a sincere, sensitive man, and we will miss his wonderful friendship.

OUR 300th NEWSLETTER We started County Sales in October of 1965, and this marks the 300th issue of our Newsletter. We are marking the occasion by offering a free REBEL or COUNTY CD to every customer who places an order of 2 or more items between now and **AUGUST 25th, 2009**. The free record will be our choice, but you can pick one of the following categories:

(please indicate when ordering)

BLUEGRASS, OLD-TIME, GOSPEL, or
INSTRUMENTAL

ONLINE CUSTOMERS PLEASE NOTE: Since there is no provision for listing a free CD if you order online, you will need to e-mail your choice of category to sales@countysales.com when you place your order. (Also note that you can still take advantage of our regular Special Offer of a free REBEL OR COUNTY CD (your choice) when you purchase 6 or more items from us (Box Sets, DVDs and Books count as just one item, regardless of price).

COUNTY RECORDS CAPS:

We have a new batch of COUNTY RECORDS caps just in. These come in either black or khaki color with our well known train logo in a red, white and black patch. They are just **\$ 10.00 each** (please specify color wanted)



SALE OF COUNTY 3500 SERIES Following a very successful sale of Rebel CDs, we are now offering our entire **COUNTY 3500 series** of re-issue albums at a **SPECIAL SALE price of just \$ 8.00 per CD**, until August 25th. See Page 2 for details!

NAME THAT SONG CONTEST

We have included a little contest on page 2 to have a little fun and to test your knowledge of Bluegrass and Old-Time music. Next to each name of a city, fill in the name of the song that contains that city's name, along with an artist who recorded it. We will give prizes to six customers who do the best on this!

SET SALE # 17 Our latest sale of surplus records and books is now available upon request. This includes groups of C & W LPs (vinyl), 78s and 45s all at closeout bargain prices. There are also some rare Carter Family test pressings and books on Bluegrass.

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
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.					
For UPS/COD shipments, please add \$9.00 in addition to regular shipping charges.					
For US Mail/COD shipments, please add \$6.25 in addition to regular shipping charges.					
For special expedited rates (FED EX, UPS, NEXT DAY, etc) please call or fax us for cost & authorization.					



SEND ALL ORDERS TO:
COUNTY SALES
P.O. BOX 191
FLOYD, VA 24091



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

SPECIAL SALE ON ALL COUNTY 3500 SERIES CDs

This month only we are offering all records in COUNTY's 3500 series at a SPECIAL SALE PRICE of just \$ 8.00 per CD. That means a savings of \$ 5.50 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 7th CD free). Offer ends AUGUST 11, 2009. Take advantage of this special offer !

COUNTY's 3500 SERIES is devoted primarily to outstanding collections of classic Old-Time reissues of "Golden Age" material from the 1920s and 30s. They represent some of the finest examples of Old-Time music on the market today.

- COU-3501 CHARLIE POOLE "Old Time Songs"
COU-3502 RURAL STRING BANDS OF VA,
COU-3503 DARBY & TARLTON "Lonely River"
COU-3504 OLD TIME MOUNTAIN BALLADS
COU-3505 UNCLE DAVE MACON "Go Long Mule"
COU-3506 ECHOES OF THE OZARKS—Vol. 1
COU-3507 ECHOES OF THE OZARKS—Vol. 2
COU-3508 CHARLIE POOLE—Volume 2
COU-3509 THE SKILLET LICKERS
COU-3510 E.V. STONEMAN "Edison Recordings"
COU-3511 RURAL STRING BANDS OF TENN.
COU-3512 OLD TIME MOUNTAIN GUITAR
COU-3513 MISSISSIPPI STRING BANDS—Vol. 1
COU-3514 MISSISSIPPI STRING BANDS—Vol. 2
COU-3515 ECK ROBERTSON Texas Fiddle Master
COU-3516 CHARLIE POOLE—Vol. 3

- COU-3517 GRAYSON & WHITTER 1928-1930
COU-3518 WEST VIRGINIA OLD-TIME—Vol. 1
COU-3519 WEST VIRGINIA OLD TIME—Vol. 2
COU-3520 CLARENCE "TOM" ASHLEY
COU-3521 NASHVILLE STRING BANDS—Vol. 1
COU-3522 NASHVILLE STRING BANDS—Vol. 2
COU-3523 OLD TIME MUSIC OF SOUTHWEST VA.
COU-3524 TEXAS STRING BANDS—Vol. 1
COU-3525 TEXAS STRING BANDS—Vol. 2
COU-3526 FIDDLIN' ARTHUR SMITH
COU-3527 HARD TIMES IN THE COUNTRY
COU-3528 OLD TIME MOUNTAIN BLUES
COU-3530 ROANE COUNTY RAMBLERS
COU-3531 ALLISON'S SACRED HARPSINGER
COU-3532 VARIOUS ARTISTS—SACRED HARP
COU-3533 OLD TIME MOUNTAIN BANJO

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NAME THAT SONG CONTEST This month, to have a little fun and offer some prizes, we'll test your knowledge of Bluegrass and Old-Time Music by having you identify 20 songs that include the name of a city within the song (not in the title), plus the artist that recorded the song. For example, if the city is HAZARD, a correct answer would be "NINE POUND HAMMER" and the artist "THE MONROE BROTHERS". There may be more than one correct song title and/or artist for certain songs. Cities named in the song title do not count ! (such as PHILADELPHIA LAWYER).

A PRIZE of \$ 70.00 in CDs or merchandise from COUNTY SALES will be awarded to each of 6 customers who get all 20 Cities correct (thrown in a pot for drawing). If no one gets all 20 correct, prizes will be awarded to the top 6 scores!

CITY: SONG: ARTIST:
1. BIRMINGHAM
2. BUFFALO
3. CHARLOTTESVILLE
4. DALLAS
5. DANVILLE
6. EAST CAIRO
7. EL PASO
8. FREDERICKSBURG
9. JOHNSON CITY
10. KINGSTON
11. KOSCIUSKO
12. LONDON
13. MARION
14. MONROE
15. NEW ORLEANS
16. PORTLAND
17. RICHMOND
18. ST. LOUIS
19. ST. PAUL
20. SPENCER

Name Phone or Address

RHY-1041 CROWE BROTHERS “Brothers In Harmony” The Crowe Brothers, fixtures for many years in the Maggie Valley area of North Carolina, and longtime members of Raymond Fairchild’s bands, have a pleasant album of 12 songs here, featuring their nice duets. Most of the album is straight Bluegrass that includes some backup work by Steve Thomas (fiddle), Randy Kohrs (Dobro), and Darren Nicholson (mandolin), though a few cuts lean to a more country sound (WHICH ONE IS TO BLAME). Best cuts on the album are probably the Louvin influenced ARE YOU TEASIN’ ME, GO AWAY WITH ME and WHY NOT CONFESS. **\$ 13.50**

ROU-0647 STEVE MARTIN “The Crow” “New Songs for Five-String Banjo” When celebrities venture into the world of music, the results are usually no more than marginally interesting novelties. Not so in this case: Martin, the well-known comedian, is a very adept banjo player who has produced a fine, thoroughly musical record here, with the help of some country/Bluegrass notables including *Earl Scruggs, Tim O’Brien, Vince Gill, Dolly Parton, John McEuen, Pete Wernick and Tony Trischka*.

It is not “barn burning” banjo, but gentler, more introspective, and very tasteful music with all 15 tunes written by Martin. Most are instrumentals featuring sparse but appropriate accompaniment, with especially nice renditions of CLAWHAMMER MEDLEY, WALLY ON THE RUN, TIN ROOF and a very nice twin banjo workout with *Pete Wernick* on WORDS UNSPOKEN. Two guest vocals are really nice:



DADDY PLAYED THE BANJO (well sung by *Tim O’Brien* and with *Earl Scruggs* adding a banjo part) and PRETTY FLOWERS (with a wonderful duet featuring *Vince Gill and Dolly Parton*). This is excellent, refreshing music, with the emphasis more on melody and mood than on speed and pyrotechnics.

\$ 13.50

OLD BLUE-704 THE NEW NORTH CAROLINA RAMBLERS “Four & A Half” This North Carolina old-time band follows up its excellent first album with another generous helping of 25 tracks featuring *Kinney Rorrer, Kirk Sutphin, Jeremy Stephens and Darren Moore*. The group plays a variety of old-time music, but they specialize both in the Charlie Poole sound and the Carter Family style. Instrumentally they have captured those sounds to an uncanny degree: their two-guitar rendition of the *Roy Harvey & Leonard Copeland* classic BACK TO THE BLUE RIDGE is a neat example of this. Other good cuts include LEAVING HOME, MOTHER’S FAREWELL KISS, FADED COAT OF BLUE, GOODBYE MAGGIE, GYPSY GIRL, etc **\$ 13.50**

UMM-2008 DARRELL WEBB “Live At Bellamy’s” Currently the lead singer and guitarist for *Rhonda Vincent’s* band *The Rage*, Webb has an excellent album here, a live recording on which he is backed by Rhonda and the rest of the band (*Kenny Ingram, Mickey Harris, Hunter Berry & Rhonda*). There are also guest appearances by fiddler Bobby Hicks and Marty Raybon. Solid, straight ahead traditional Bluegrass here. SWEET GEORGIA BROWN, MR. ENGINEER, DIM LIGHTS THICK SMOKE, etc. **\$ 13.50**

REB-1826 BARRY SCOTT & SECOND WIND “In God’s Time” It’s hard to recall a better debut Bluegrass gospel album than this one, unless you go back to the classic “*Rock My Soul*” record from *Doyle Lawson’s* early days on Sugar Hill. And it’s not a coincidence that *Barry Scott* spent over 7 years as a key member of Doyle’s Quicksilver band before deciding to strike out on his own with this powerful new record. The group has done everything right on this, its first recording: the song selection and the arrangements are marvelous, and the vocal harmonies are as good as it gets. The 14-song album is beautifully sequenced with a perfect mix of songs with different moods and tempos, starting with

Leroy Abernathy’s wonderful TAKE A MOMENT AND LIVE (a gem of a song that we have not seen on record since it was

cut by E.C. Ball almost 40 years ago). Scott’s vocals are top-notch, as are the tenor & baritone parts supplied by *Jason Leek and Matt Munsey* respectively, and the bass vocals by *Travis Houck* are some of the best you’ll hear today (Houck also plays dobro). *Zane Petty* adds tasteful banjo on 5 numbers. Adding to the variety and the quality are a couple of a cappella songs, another with just mandolin and guitar, and the guest appearance of *Vince Gill* (vocals on two tracks). *Kenny Smith* on guitar and *Ronald Inscore* on mandolin help out on a couple of cuts as well. Simply put, this is one SUPERB album—

HIGHLY RECOMMENDED! OH WHAT A DAY, A GLORIFIED BODY, IN THAT LAND, WHERE THE EAGLE FLIES, ON THE WINGS OF ANGELS, etc. **\$ 13.50**



MRR-1004 JOHNNY WILLIAMS “Last Day Of Galax” 15 songs nicely performed in traditional Bluegrass style by Williams, who has written 10 of the songs. A noted songwriter from the Danville, Va. area, Williams has recorded with other area bands as well as his wife in the *Jeanette Williams Band*. GOING TO A MANSION, MIDNIGHT RIDER, A CHANGE IN ME, PAPA LOVED RINGING THE BELL, etc. **\$ 13.50**

WJRC-40125 NORMAN & NANCY BLAKE “Rising Fawn Gathering” In their long recording careers *Norman & Nancy Blake* have included a few Celtic tunes on some of their albums, so it is not a surprise to see this new offering that is primarily made up of such pieces (a few of which are quite reminiscent of rural “American” fiddle tunes). They are joined by their old friend, fiddler *James Bryan* and his daughter Rachel, plus the *The Boys of The Lough* (a 5 member band which was quite popular a few years

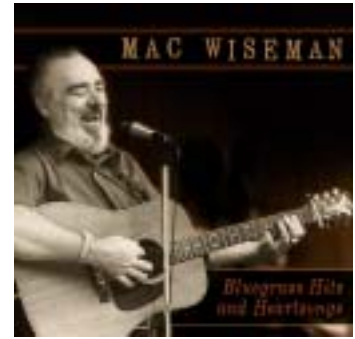


ago at the height of the interest in Scottish & Irish music.) They all work well together, in a warm & relaxed setting that makes for some very nice music (most of it is instrumental, though Norman sings **BONNY BUNCH OF ROSES**, WHILE THE BAND IS PLAYING **DIXIE** and the wonderful southern classic **SWEET SUNNY SOUTH**.) Typical pieces are the lovely **CASTLEBERRY’S MARCH** and **O’CONNELL’S TRIP TO PARLIAMENT**, which feature fiddles, mandolin, cello and guitars. A few tunes include Cathal McConnell on flute. **\$ 15.00**

PRC-6513 DARIN ALDRIDGE & BROOKE JUSTICE “I’ll Go With You” Aldridge—known for his work with the *Country Gentlemen* (as mandolin player) is joined by Ms. Justice on this very nice contemporary album of Bluegrass gospel songs. Both are good singers and they have a well-chosen group of songs including several Aldridge originals mixed with excellent better known numbers like **RIVER OF JORDAN**, **THIS MAN, I’VE GOT MORE TO GO TO HEAVEN FOR** and **MEET ME OVER ON THE OTHER SIDE**. The backing is pretty straight Bluegrass, with the dobro of Perry Woodie providing a more contemporary touch on 4 or 5 of the songs. Nice job. **\$ 13.50**

JEEP-2210 DICK KIMMEL & ADAM GRANGER “Live At The Rhein” A pleasant & relaxed recording of a live show featuring this duo which ends up here as a 2-CD set (it includes about 20 songs and tunes, along with another 20 or so tracks of banter and song introductions. The duo plays mostly old time tunes on mandolin and guitar, though Kimmel also picks up a second guitar or clawhammer banjo for some pieces, and both men share the vocals. Cuts include **FLOWERS OF EDINBOROUGH**, **RAGTIME ANNIE**, **SOLDIER’S JOY**, **WILD TURKEY RAG**, **CRAWDAD SONG**, **ALL THE GOOD TIMES**, **COLD FROSTY MORN**, etc. **2-CD set: \$ 15.00**

REBEL-7523 MAC WISEMAN “Bluegrass Hits & Heartsongs” One of the greatest singers in the history of Bluegrass and Country music is beautifully represented here in this 14 song collection on which Mac is backed by the excellent picking of three members of the *Shenandoah Cutups* (*Tater Tate*, *Billy Edwards*, and *John Palmer*), plus *Buddy Griffin* (2nd fiddle), *Jeff Terflinger* (mandolin) and *Tommy Boyd* (dobro on 6 tracks). The original recordings were made in the mid 1970s for the Cincinnati based Vetco label, to make up for the absence of Wiseman’s wonderful Dot recordings of the 1950s (which were long out of print at the time). In addition to some of Mac’s earlier classics like **DON’T LET YOUR SWEET LOVE**

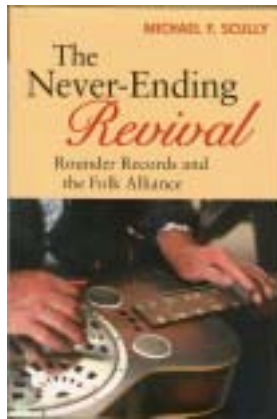


DIE, **FOUR WALLS AROUND ME**, **FIRE IN MY HEART** and **I HAVEN’T GOT THE RIGHT TO LOVE YOU**, the Vetco cuts added some songs that Wiseman had never recorded before: classic old timers like **KNOXVILLE GIRL**, **THE BLACK SHEEP**, **MARY OF THE WILD MOOR** and **LETTER EDGED IN BLACK**—Wiseman sounds great on all of these! The musical quality of everything here is very, very close to the great sound that Mac achieved on his stellar Dot label recordings of the early 1950s. **MY LITTLE HOME IN TENNESSEE**, etc. This is **SUPERB BLUEGRASS**, **HIGHLY RECOMMENDED!** **\$ 10.00**

SFR-003 THE KICKIN’ GRASS BAND Pleasant and enjoyable Bluegrass by this band from the Durham-Chapel Hill area of North Carolina. The group features the singing of *Lynda Dawson*, who also wrote most of the songs on the album (which is their 2nd release). The band’s sound is pretty much straight ahead traditional Bluegrass, but with a few contemporary touches. **GHOST OF NATHANIEL CARTER**, **HOMETOWN**, **RUN AWAY**, **GASOLINE BLUES**, **CHEROKEE SHUFFLE**, **RAMBLING MAN**, etc **\$ 13.50**

NT-1010 ROGERS & JOHNSON “When The Bands Played” This new recording on the North Carolina based *NEW TIME* label, features the work of *Barney Rogers* and *Russell Johnson* (known for his fine previous albums on this label). The record deals exclusively with songs about the civil war, with just about all of them composed by Rogers & Johnson. The arrangements, playing & singing are all first rate here. **ANGEL IN GRAY**, **MISS ANNE’S COTILION**, **NIGHTS ON THE TENNESSEE**, etc. **\$ 13.50**

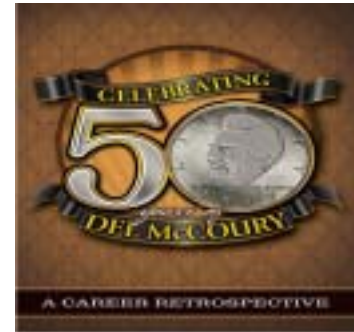
BOOK: THE NEVER-ENDING REVIVAL: ROUNDER RECORDS & THE FOLK ALLIANCE by Michael Scully (Univ. Illinois Press, 2008), 266 pages, hardbound. Scully, in a well researched and interesting book, traces the history of this unique record company from its tiny beginnings as a 3 member collective of college students to its current position as a powerful independent label that has had million-selling records (*Alison Krauss*). It is fascinating to follow the changes in the political, commercial and musical leanings of the three founders of the label, **Ken Irwin, Bill Nowlin and Marian Leighton**, in a relationship that, amazingly, has lasted for over 35 years now. While at first they shunned electric instruments as non-authentic, they eventually found a place for the R & B music of *George Thorogood*, who brought them their first “hit” record (and a lot of cash to use for other projects including Bluegrass acts). Depending on the reader’s personal slant, it will bring either smiles or cynical smirks to hear how the Rounders later resisted the unionization of their employees while at the same time issuing strong pro-union albums by people like Aunt Molly Jackson and other “artists” who projected more protest than music. Author Scully comes at his subject from the viewpoint of a “folk” music lover who grew up on the likes of Pete Seeger, Phil Ochs and Dave Van Ronk, and that accounts for the tie in with today’s Folk Alliance. Scully spends the better part of two chapters discussing Folklore, “Fakelore” and what he calls “The Great Boom” that started in the 1950s, before really getting into the Rounder story. It is interesting—if somewhat amusing—to follow Scully’s preoccupation with the “controversies that roil the folk music world”, and the search for some generally accepted definition of “Folk” music. Bluegrass has always been a mainstay of Rounder Records’ releases, and even though this book deals a lot more with other types of music and what exactly “folk” means, it will be of interest to fans of roots music in general. Suffice it to say that the Rounders would not have achieved the commercial success necessary to document and popularize a lot of marginal types of music (including Bluegrass) had they stuck to their original countercultural guns. **BOOK: \$ 35.00**



ROU-0603 BOBBY OSBORNE “Bluegrass & Beyond” This is the third record from the 76-year old Osborne since joining the Rounder label, and it’s solid, well played Bluegrass like the two before it. Osborne gets help with guest appearances by Marty Stuart and Connie Smith, as well as Rhonda & Darrin Vincent. HYDEN, GIRL FROM YESTERDAY, etc **\$ 13.50**

CWM-003 CHARLIE WALDEN & PATT PLUNKETT “Patt & Possum” Here is another compact disc re-issue of a 1994 cassette from the old Marimac label. *Charlie Walden* is an excellent fiddler from Missouri who had another recent CD listed in our last Newsletter (CWM-002, \$ 13.50). This one is a bit different as he achieves more of a New England sound, with piano as a second instrument, played very nicely by *Ms. Patt Plunkett*. There are a few “jig” type tunes like LITTLE BURNT POTATO, but most of the pieces will be quite recognizable to fans of rural fiddle music, with well played versions of PADDY ON THE RAILROAD, OLD HEN CACKLE, FORKED DEER, LADY OF THE LAKE, MARTHA CAMPBELL, etc. There are 21 tunes in all. **\$ 13.50**

MCM-0050 DEL McCOURY “Celebrating 50 Years” (5-CD Boxed Set) Over the years *Del McCoury* has recorded for a variety of labels including *Rebel, Rounder, Arhoolie, Revonah, Ceili*, and others, and he has maintained a remarkably consistent degree of quality throughout, even with numerous changes in band personnel in his early years. In this new 5-CD set, Del, and his current label, *McCoury Music*, have chosen to re-record songs from all those sources with his current band, making for a consistent sound, even if it’s not a true “retrospective”. The music is certainly solid and excellent throughout, and includes renditions of many lesser known



songs in addition to his most popular numbers like RAIN & SNOW, HIGH ON A MOUNTAIN, GOOD MAN LIKE ME, COLD HARD FACTS, and 1952 VINCENT BLACK LIGHTNING. One negative here—and it is already being pointed to by some buyers—is the value factor. In this day of truly “Deluxe” boxed sets, it seems a bit tacky to put only 10 songs on each CD, thereby stretching a comfortable 3-CD set into five discs in a transparent attempt to justify a higher price. Also, there’s just one 12-page, CD sized booklet, quite adequate and appropriate for a single CD, but far from what you would expect in a 5-record, 50-year compilation. It would be nice to see a few more pages of photos of his early bands and so on, although one nice touch is a list of all 33 of Del’s band members over the years, from Billy Baker to Alan Bartram. Despite these shortcomings, this is still a wonderful collection of songs by one of the finest singers in the history of Bluegrass music, and an artist who has remained true to his roots over half a century. 5-CD Boxed set: **\$ 45.00**

C & L.E. 214 THE ANITA FISHER BAND WITH RAY DEATON “It’s Amazing What A Prayer Can Do”

Ms. Fisher has an excellent album of Bluegrass gospel music here, with 12 mostly standard songs very nicely sung and played. **Ray Deaton**—formerly a mainstay of the fine band **IIIrd TYME OUT**—adds his considerable talent to the collection with his superb bass singing; listen to their wonderful a cappella version of WE SHALL MEET, as well as I’LL LIVE AGAIN, NEVER GROW OLD, I BELIEVE IN THE OLD TIME WAY and I NEED THE PRAYERS. This is a fine Bluegrass gospel recording. **Recommended. \$ 13.50**

CHR-02 THE BANKESTER FAMILY “Somewhere In Between” This group from Illinois is quite a family: the snapshots used in the little booklet inside indicate there are 7 members who all take some part in this predominantly sacred recording. **Phil Bankester**, the father, plays guitar and adds harmony vocals on a couple of the dozen songs. He is joined by his wife and 4 daughters, all of whom have good voices, contributing to a sound that at times is reminiscent of the **Forbes Family**.



(The 7th musician, **Kyle Triplett**, appears to be part of the family by marriage—he plays banjo). **Emily Bankester**, who has a particularly fine voice and also plays fiddle, sings the lead on 6 of the songs, including THE GOSPEL PLOW, AMEN THERE’S A HIGHER POWER, and a marvelous treatment of the old hymn LONG TIME TRAVELER, on which she is joined by Melissa and Dorene for some lovely three part a cappella harmony. This trio also shines on the unaccompanied IS THIS NOT THE LAND OF BEULAH. This is an excellent album that we can recommend wholeheartedly. **\$ 13.50**

WT-2009 WAYNE TAYLOR & APPALOOSA. Not to be confused with the other Wayne Taylor in Bluegrass music (he of **Blue Highway fame**), this Wayne Taylor is known for his distinctive voice and vocal style, and his work for many years as part of the U.S. Navy’s Country Current Band with **Pat White** and **Bill Emerson**. Wayne is now retired from the Navy band, and his current group includes **Emory Lester** on mandolin, **Mark Delaney** on banjo, **Kip Martin** on bass and **Dave Giegerich** on dobro. Taylor’s vocals are always bold and precise and the overall group sound is impressive. Eleven of the 14 songs are Taylor originals. RABBIT, JESUS & ME, DIRT ROADS, DANCIN’ WITH JUDY, 40 YEARS, COLD COLD RIVER, WHEN, etc. **\$ 13.50**

COMP-4511 DALE ANN BRADLEY “Don’t Turn Your Back”

On this very nicely produced album Ms. Bradley shows why she has been selected as the IBMA’s Female vocalist of the year twice now. While Ms. Bradley has had respectable solo recordings in the past (an earlier Gospel CD was especially nice) this is perhaps the first album of hers where everything comes together: to start with the backing is first rate, with **Stuart Duncan** on fiddle throughout, **Mike Bub** on bass, **Tim Laughlin** on mandolin, and banjo work shared by **Gena Britt** and producer **Alison Brown**. Nicely complementing Dale Ann’s lovely voice are superb harmony parts by **Claire Lynch and Steve Gulley**. The songs are a well chosen and nicely balanced collection of old and new (they include 3 songs written by **Louisa Branscomb** (of **Steel Rails** fame). I especially liked her arrangement of BLUE EYED BOY (an old mountain ballad learned from Lily May Ledford in Dale Ann’s Renfro Valley days) and her fine treatment of the classic gospel songs 50 MILES OF ELBOW ROOM and HEAVEN. A very strong and successful album of contemporary Bluegrass **\$ 13.50**



BC-101 HIGH COUNTRY: “The First 25 Years”

Not many bands trace their history as far back as California’s **HIGH COUNTRY**, a pretty traditional Bluegrass band that was established in 1968. At a time when only the top names in Bluegrass recorded for a major label, **HIGH COUNTRY** signed up with the **Raccoon** label, a subsidiary of Warner Brothers, and they put out two good LPs in 1971 that drew some attention on a nationwide basis. They later made albums for the **Swallow, Storm, and Turquoise** labels This well done retrospective features 44 tracks in a 2-CD package. There’s a good deal of variety as the band changed members over the years, but a mainstay of the group was mandolinist **Butch Waller**. Other names you may recognize are **Keith Little, Steve Pottier, fiddler Ed Neff** and **Bruce Nemerov**. This is a nicely done and quite interesting survey of a pioneering band that helped popularize Bluegrass music on the West Coast. 2-CD set: **\$ 20.00**

OH-90168 WADE MAINER “Old Time Banjo Tunes”

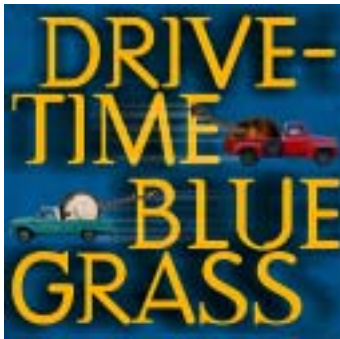
Re-issued from an old LP, this CD contains 16 cuts featuring Mainer (who is over 100 years old at the time of this writing). Wade sings old favorites like BIG EYED RABBIT, DARBY’S RAM, PEG & AWL, LITTLE BIRDIE, CITY ON THE HILL and others, accompanied by his two-finger style banjo work. Sorry to say, there is nothing in the way of information or notes here, apart from a few words of thanks from Wade. **\$ 13.50**

BACM-262 JUNE CARTER “Hillbilly Favorites”

Older Country music fans will remember June Carter as a very talented country comedienne with a ton of personality, a key member of a great musical family, wife to Johnny Cash, and an all round great person. As a soloist, she was not a very good singer, at least in the pre-Johnny Cash years, though there was nothing wrong with her harmonies on the few records she made with Mother Maybelle and her sisters Helen and Anita. But unfortunately her record companies (mainly Victor and Columbia) fed her a steady stream of inferior songs—some of the worst novelty garbage that you’ll ever hear on record. Anyone who ever wanted to put down or belittle country music as “hillbilly trash” could use just about any of the 27 cuts here to make his point. Even Chet Atkins and Homer & Jethro were not able to salvage any of the 3rd rate rubbish like KNOCK KNEED SUZY, CROCODILE TEARS, YOU FLOPPED WHEN YOU GOT ME, BASHFUL RASCAL, FOR CRYIN’ OUT LOUD and THE HUCKLE BUCK. This CD will do nothing good for the memory of a great family. **\$15.00**

REBEL-8005 DRIVE TIME BLUEGRASS

(Various Artists) Even though this CD is obviously aimed at the casual or new convert to Bluegrass who wants as many songs as possible from the top artists in the field, there is no reason that it can’t be enjoyed by even the most dyed-in-the-wool fans. Even if you have every cut here in some form, this is a power packed collection of “hard driving” music that really moves along—great to put in your car CD player (but be careful to avoid the inclination to speed up and get a speeding ticket!). All of the 18 cuts are gems, old and new, and the price is truly a bargain. This is a record to keep around when you crave some invigorating sounds! Tracks by *Del McCoury, Mac Wiseman, Seldom Scene, Junior Sisk, Ralph Stanley, Blue Highway and Red Allen*, among others include HELLO CITY LIMITS, RENO BOUND, ROVING GAMBLER, HIGHWAY 52, MILWAUKEE BLUES, LEAVING BAKER COUNTY, NASHVILLE JAIL, etc. Recommended! **\$9.00**

**PAP-2 THE NEW MULES “Pride Of America”**

It’s great to see a new CD involving *Garry Harrison*, a wonderful old-time fiddler from Illinois who always has some great tunes up his sleeve. On this excellent 18-track album he is joined by his daughter *Genevieve Harrison, Abby Ladin, Smith Koester and Andy Gribble* who form a nice string band. Harrison is a notable and successful collector of old and obscure tunes and songs, mostly from within the southern part of



Illinois, and he makes a point of documenting his sources carefully. Some of the great tunes here include JOHN DYE, L U C I A N SMITH, LIZA JANE and a fine original, YEL-

LOW JACKET. Although there are no exceptional singers here, all the band members chip in with pleasant, straightforward vocals on some interesting songs that include ORPHAN LEFT ALONE, TAKE WARNING YOUNG LADIES, MOLLY BOND (a slightly different version of MOLLY BAWN), ONLY A MINER and ACROSS THE PLAINS OF ILLINOIS (which is an interesting variant of THE GIRL I LEFT BEHIND ME). A well done and very enjoyable record. (Note: this group won the Traditional old-time band prize at the famous Clifftop, West Virginia festival in 2008). **\$13.50**

BACM-270 CLASSIC COUNTRY MUSIC ON THE BLUEBIRD LABEL

(Various Artists) The British Archive label has put out several label anthologies among the over 250 titles in its extensive catalog, and this one is well done, with a nice sampling of music that was being played in the rural South in the 1930s by groups that never achieved the popularity of the *Monroe Brothers, Mainers, Blue Sky Boys and Delmore Brothers*, etc. There are 24 tracks that include a couple each by the *Happy Go Lucky Boys* (a fine Steve Ledford trio), the *Southern Melody Boys, Byron Parker’s Mountaineers, the Rouse Brothers, J.H. Howell, Frank Gerald & Howard Dixon, Pink Lindsey* and others. A couple of tracks that are particularly nice are OVER IN THE GLORYLAND and I AM ON MY WAY TO HEAVEN by Virginia’s *Hill Brothers & Simmons*, (with guitar and autoharp). There’s a good amount of interesting and enjoyable music here for the old-time fan. **\$15.00**

GSQ-586 THE GOOD SHEPHERD QUARTET

“We’ll Sing In Gloryland” The usual solid job by this long established down home gospel quartet from Pennington Gap, Virginia. The four singers use just guitar in backing the 12 songs here, which include STORY OF THE ROSE, I LOVE MY SAVIOUR TOO, LET HIM SHOW YOU THE WAY, WONDERFUL BY & BY, I HEARD MY MOTHER CALL MY NAME IN PRAYER. **\$13.50**

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