



NEWSLETTER #303

January-February 2010

www.countysales.com

COUNTY SALES
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ALLEN SHELTON and JACKE COOK

We are saddened to report the passing of two well loved members of the Bluegrass community. Banjo player **ALLEN SHELTON** died on November 22, 2009. Allen was a favorite of many for his famous smile and personality as well as his excellent banjo picking. He was known for his early work with Jim Eanes and later was a key member of Jim & Jesse's finest bands. He was known for his bouncy, dynamic style and his fine versions of *LADY OF SPAIN* and *LITTLE OLD LOG CABIN IN THE LANE*.

JACK COOKE, long time member of *Ralph Stanley's Clinch Mountain Boys* passed away on December 1 of a massive heart attack. He had stepped down as Stanley's regular bass player recently because of deteriorating health. Known for his fine vocal work, Cooke also played guitar and sang lead with Bill Monroe, appearing on some of Monroe's finest mid-1950s recording sessions.

COMPATABILITY OF DVDs.

In answer to questions that we hear from time to time, it is our understanding that all of the DVDs that we carry will play properly on foreign equipment. To the best of our knowledge we have not had any DVDs returned by overseas customers. If any experts know otherwise, please let us know.

SET SALE "K"

By the time you get this Newsletter, we will have another of our popular **SET SALES**, which consist of magazines, surplus LPs, 45s, CDs and 78s sold in group lots at bargain prices, as we clear our warehouse and make room for new product. The current list also lists some long discontinued VHS Videocassettes of interest. If interested, please request "**SET SALE K**" when you place your order, or call or send a postcard or letter and we will send you a copy. You can also request a copy by e-mail.

TL-24922 HANK WILLIAMS "Revealed"

As promised, here is the next batch of wonderful recordings taken from the **Mother's Best Flour** radio shows that Hank pre-recorded on transcriptions for daily airing at the height of his short but amazing career. Those of you who purchased the first set (TL-80031, *The Unreleased Recordings*, \$35.00) will have a good idea what to expect here—more great recordings done by Hank and his band in an informal, relaxed setting. This is another 3-CD set, packaged exactly like the first box, with a neat booklet of notes and photos. There are not as many "first time on record" songs on this new set, but it is very doubtful that that will matter to fans of the great country singer. What we have is a sampling of his hits on one disc, another CD that has a number of his "Luke The Drifter" recitations, and a third CD that features gospel songs like *LORD BUILD ME A CABIN IN GLORY*, *FARTHER ALONG* and the ancient *I AM BOUND FOR THE PROMISED LAND*—a real gem here! Each of the 3 discs includes a complete "bonus" show, just the way these shows were heard by those lucky enough to have had their mornings brightened by these marvelous recordings back in 1951. Although Hank left us a lot of great studio recordings, these tracks add significantly to his overall legacy—it is indeed fortunate that they were saved from the dumpster years after Hank's death. The **TIME-LIFE** company has done a fine job in presenting these superb, important artifacts. The sound quality is excellent, too.



3-CD Boxed set: \$ 35.00

Purchase Amount	\$4.00-29.99	\$30.00-59.99	\$60.00-139.99	\$140.00-199.99	Over \$200.00
U. S. Media Mail	3.50	5.00	7.00	8.00	9.50
U. S. Priority Mail	5.00	7.50	9.75	12.50	15.00
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.					



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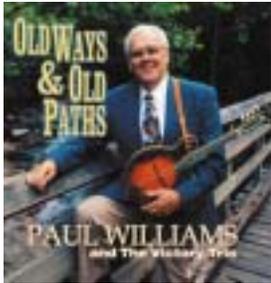
540-745-2001 * Minimum credit card order is \$25.00 * (Fax) 540-745-2008

SPECIAL SALE ON PAUL WILLIAMS CDs

THIS MONTH ONLY we are offering all of **PAUL WILLIAMS'** REBEL CDs at a special low price of just **\$10.00 per record**. This includes his fine, brand new recording **"JUST A LITTLE CLOSER HOME"** (see below). This special sale will be good through **MARCH 16, 2010**.



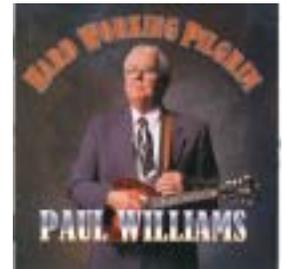
With his series of wonderful albums over the past few years, Paul Williams has established himself as one of the finest singers of Bluegrass Gospel music ever, and deservedly so. His last album, **"WHAT A JOURNEY"** got considerable attention in the Southern gospel stores as well as the Bluegrass market, and Williams is much in demand at Church programs throughout the Southeast. His brand new album—"JUST A LITTLE CLOSER HOME" (**REBEL-1835, \$10.00**) continues the high standard that Paul has set in his recordings and choice of songs.



REB-1754 "OLD WAYS & OLD PATHS" Includes wonderful cuts of GO REST HIGH ON THAT MOUNTAIN, BEULAH LAND, THE GREAT BEYOND and BE LOOKING FOR ME.

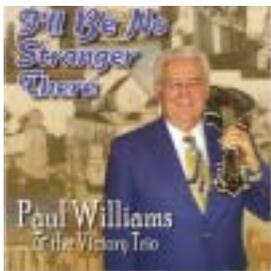
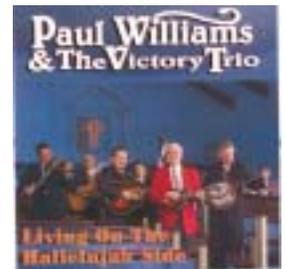
REB-1774 "HARD WORKING PILGRIM"

With the wonderful version of SUPPERTIME as well as THERE IS A FOUNTAIN, SURELY I WILL LORD, and THERE'S BEEN A FEW TIMES.



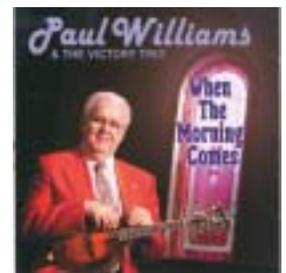
REB-1784 "I'LL MEET YOU IN THE GLORYLAND" has STORMY WATERS and GOD SAVES OLD SINNERS, and SOMEBODY WAS PRAYING FOR ME

REB-1794 "LIVING ON THE HALLELUJAH SIDE" includes the masterpiece WHISPERING HOPE, plus IF MY LIFE'S AN OPEN BOOK and WHEN I SHALL RIDE THE CLOUD.



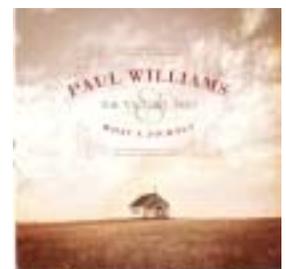
REB-1804 "I'LL BE NO STRANGER THERE" includes IT'S A LONESOME ROAD, LIGHT AT THE RIVER, and Tom T. Hall's THERE'S ALWAYS A LIGHT IN THE CHURCH.

REB-1814 "WHEN THE MORNING COMES" has I CALL IT HOME, WHEN I GET HOME and Paul's great rendition of WHEN THEY RING THOSE GOLDEN BELLS.



REB-1822 "WHERE NO ONE STANDS ALONE" with the songs DUSTY PAIR OF SANDALS, THE OTHER SIDE OF JORDAN and 2 more masterpieces, I PRESSED THROUGH THE CROWD and the title song.

REB-1830 "WHAT A JOURNEY" contains MY MOTHER'S BIBLE, THERE'S A MIRACLE EVERYWHERE YOU GO, a fine cut of COME & DINE and the most requested I WENT DOWN A BEGGAR AND CAME UP A MILLIONAIRE



COUNTY SALES HIGHLIGHTS of 2009

As we start a new year we like to look over the past year and point out what were some of the most popular items we handled. We can highly recommend any and all of the CDs and Books listed below!

NOTE: All CDs listed below are **\$ 13.50 each** unless otherwise indicated.

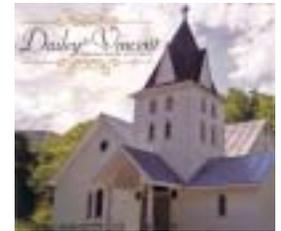
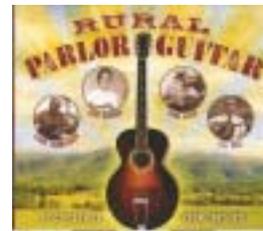
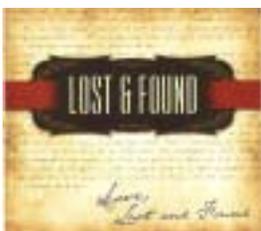
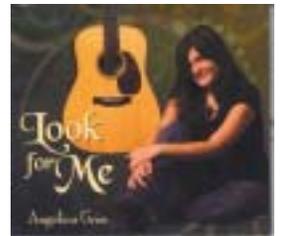
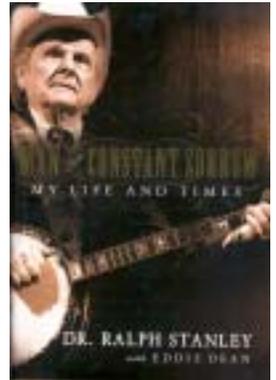
BOOK: MAN OF CONSTANT SORROW by **Dr. RALPH STANLEY** It is amazing how this book keeps selling—it has a wealth of recollections by Ralph of his youth and his career in music. Wonderfully edited by Eddie Dean, you feel that Ralph is talking directly to you. A must read for Bluegrass fans **\$25.00**

BOOK: PURE COUNTRY features neat C & W and BG photos by late Leon Kagarise **(\$ 32.50)**

- ROU-0647 STEVE MARTIN “The Crow” Martin is a darn good banjo picker with a neat touch.
 REB-7523 MAC WISEMAN “Bluegrass Hits & Heart Songs” Great 1970s Bluegrass **(\$ 10.00)**
 ROU-0610 DAILEY & VINCENT “Singing From The Heart” A gem of an a cappella CD!
 REB-1834 STEEP CANYON RANGERS “Deep In The Shade” powerful, solid Bluegrass
 REB-1829 LOST & FOUND “Love Lost & Found” Old favorites at their best
 REB-1828 KENNY & AMANDA SMITH “Live & Learn” great couple plays fine Bluegrass
 PATUX-180 ANGELICA GRIM “Look For Me” It’s a sleeper, but superb trad. Bluegrass!
 WC-2009 JOHNNY WARREN & CHARLIE CUSHMAN “Tribute to Paul Warren” Fine
DVDS: SHAN-617 and 618 BEST OF THE FLATT & SCRUGGS Shows Marvelous
 Video from early 1960s. These are volumes 7 & 8 **(\$ 18.00 each vol.)**

DVD: MP-0208 MAC WISEMAN DVD great stuff with Tater Tate, Joe Greene,
 Chubby Wise, Lester Flatt etc., In bright color. **(\$ 18.00)**

- COU-2744 RURAL PARLOR GUITAR 4 fine old time guitarists incl. E.C. Ball
 BCR-017 DAUGHTERS OF BLUEGRASS Quite a celebration here, more than 50 ladies share.
 SFR-105 HOWDY FORRESTER finally a re-issue of his great MGM fiddle album!
 RHY-1045 RUSSELL MOORE & IIRD TYME OUT includes “Hard Rock Mountain Prison”
 TSQ-2219 THE RED FOX CHASERS 2-CD set of great 1920s string band cuts **(\$ 18.00)**
 REB-1826 BARRY SCOTT & SECOND WIND “In God’s Time” Wonderful BG gospel!
 COMP-4511 DALE ANN BRADLEY “Don’t Turn Your Back” Award winning female vocalist
 REB-8005 DRIVE TIME BLUEGRASS 18 great up tempo tracks for a bargain **\$ 9.00**
 ROU-0635 DOYLE LAWSON “Lonely Street” Top flight traditional Bluegrass
 REB-7520 RALPH STANLEY “Old Time Pickin’” Ralph plays clawhammer **(\$ 10.00)**
 REB-1825 JUNIOR SISK “Blue Side Of The Blue Ridge” A whole bunch of good songs!
 RHY-1042 AUDIE BLAYLOCK & RED LINE They pick classic songs & play them well
 ROU-0586 DAN TYMINSKI “Wheels” Superb traditional Bluegrass here!
 REB-7522 LARRY SPARKS “Best Of” Boy he had a bunch of great songs! **(\$ 10.00)**
 ROU-0596 MICHAEL CLEVELAND The great young fiddler has a fine CD here



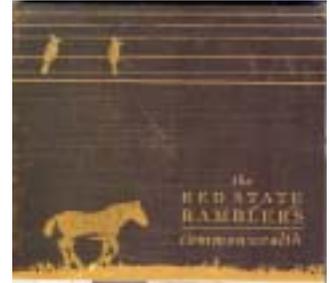
TSQ-2257 FRANK FAIRFIELD This is a very strange release, especially for a more-or-less “major label”—(the *TOMPKINS SQUARE* label has recently given us the impressive box sets *PEOPLE TAKE WARNING* and a *RED FOX CHASERS* 2-CD compilation). Here there are no notes, no identification of the artist, and no title. On top of that, the listing of songs is divided into “Side A” (6 tracks) and “Side B” (another 5 tracks) as if this was an old vinyl LP (!). It is old-time music, with Mr. Fairfield singing and accompanying himself on old-time banjo, fiddle or guitar. His singing and phrasing on *NINE POUND HAMMER*, *CUMBERLAND GAP* and *FAIR MARGARET & SWEET WILLIAM* is vaguely reminiscent of Bascom Lunsford, and the whole thing makes pretty nice listening, but it would be nice to know something about the artist, and maybe some notes to the songs! *BLACKBERRY BLOSSOMS*, *DYING COWBOY*, *OLD PAINT*, etc. **\$ 13.50**

SIG-2009 CROOKED STILL “Live” This is the 4th CD issue by this fine, highly distinctive group that we will put in the “old-time” category even though they have their own sound that really cannot be categorized. This is a live album that draws for its material mostly on songs that have already been done on their first three albums—the only drawback to this superb album is the fact that only 4 of the songs are new to CD: *GOLDEN VANITY*, *WIND & RAIN*, *WHEN FIRST UNTO THIS COUNTRY* and *WADING DEEP WATERS*. These would alone be worth the cost of the album to me, but it’s still great to hear the other pieces in a live setting—the sound quality is excellent and you feel the presence of a very appreciative crowd. The group’s personnel is basically the same as on their last album, but slightly different from their first two releases, which featured Rushad Eggleston on cello—a key element in the band’s sound. We thought Eggleston might be hard to replace, but Tristan Clarridge fits right in with no drop off of talent, and the group now also includes Brittany Haas, a fine fiddler. Aoife O’Donovan is a superb singer with an enchanting voice, and everything she sings here is noteworthy: she gets a little rambunctious on *COME ON IN MY KITCHEN*, but everything else is wonderful, starting with a knock out version of Gillian Welch’s *ORPHAN GIRL*, and the eerie *WIND & RAIN*. If you haven’t yet been introduced to this group, we recommend highly that you check them out. **HIGHLY RECOMMENDED \$ 13.50**



OLD '97-013 RED STATE RAMBLERS

“Commonwealth” Four relatively young musicians put forth an excellent album of old time music with a Kentucky influence, playing fiddle, banjo, guitar and bass. There are 17 well chosen pieces, mostly instrumentals but with 3 or 4 respectable vocals thrown in including a cut of *MAN OF CONSTANT SORROW* that is more reminiscent of *Emry Arthur* than *Ralph Stanley*. There are excellent versions of *INDIAN ATE THE WOODCHUCK*, *5 MILES TO TOWN*, *CURLY HEADED WOMAN*, *YELLOW BARBER* and a different version of *IDA RED*. A bowed bass solo break on *CUMBERLAND BLUES* is also a nice touch. A very well played album, and recommended to old time fans. **\$ 13.50**

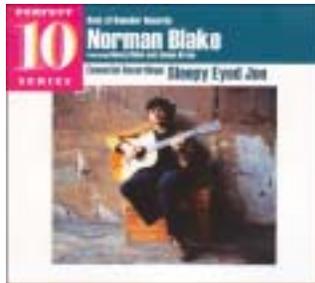


MV-2009 BOB WALTERS “The Champion” We’ve never seen an album quite like this one (actually a 2-CD set) that features the music of *Bob Walters*, a near legendary mid-western fiddler. It’s an extensive collection of tunes recorded and preserved in the collection of *Dwight Lamb*, a noted fiddler in his own right. The first thing that strikes one about this album is the huge number of tunes included: a total of 80! They are arranged in alphabetical order from *ADRIAN’S HORNPIPE* to *WOODCHOPPER’S BREAKDOWN*, and the list includes Walters’ versions of well known tunes like *LOST INDIAN*, *BILL CHEATHEM*, *DURANG’S HORNPIPE* and *CUCKOO’S NEST* to the totally obscure *TOBACCO HILLS*, *PADGETT*, *PURCELL’S REEL*, *SHOAL CREEK BREAKDOWN*, and *BEAUX OF ALBANY*. The accompaniments vary: some pieces feature simple guitar, some piano, and some are just solo fiddle. Sound quality varies a bit, but it’s generally typical home recording, and despite the number of tunes they don’t give one the feeling that they are just short snatches. It’s a good look at a famous fiddler whose work never made it to commercial recording, and it’s a bonanza as a reference piece or for those wanting to learn new tunes. **2-CD SET: \$ 18.00**

WERNER-2009 MISSY WERNER “Drifting & Dreaming” Pleasant enough contemporary Bluegrass by this lady from Ohio. She has chosen an interesting group of songs old and new by writers such as Dolly Parton, Harley Allen, Dwight McCall, etc., and she is nicely backed by a group of excellent musicians including Alan Bibey, Tim Stafford, Randy Kohrs, Ricky Wasson and Ron Stewart. *THE ROPE*, *GOODBYE*, *IN MEMORY*, *SNOWBIRD*, *PLANT SOME FLOWERS ON MY GRAVE*, *GYPSY*, *JOE & ME*. **\$ 13.50**

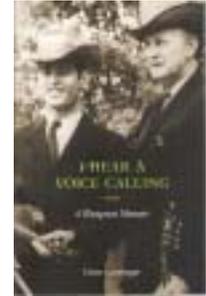
BEE BALM-307 THE KESSINGER BROTHERS “Original Fiddle Classics 1928-1930” Rescued from the old *Kanawha* label of St. Albans, West Va., this is the only actual re-issue from old 78s that the label ever issued. In preparing the original LP, the label most likely did not work from the best condition 78s, so there’s a lot of noise on the dozen cuts here, but wow! what fiddling! Hearing these cuts again reminds us just how great a fiddler **Clark Kessinger** was: listen to his takes on 16 DAYS IN GEORGIA, GOING UP BRUSHY FORK, SOPPING THE GRAVY, MISSISSIPPI SAWYER and GARFIELD MARCH, as well as the lovely waltzes like BOARDING HOUSE BELLS ARE RINGING. Listening to DON’T LET YOUR DEAL GO DOWN and SOPPING THE GRAVY it becomes clear that many of the best Texas style fiddlers must have learned some of their tunes from Kessinger’s records, too. **Clark Kessinger** (with his nephew Luches on guitar) recorded extensively for the Brunswick label in the late 20s—we could use a really good collection with clean sound and more extensive notes, but meanwhile this disc will give a pretty good idea of the skill and talent of this master. **\$ 13.50**

ROU-0642 NORMAN BLAKE “Sleepy Eyed Joe” Just 10 songs & tunes on this CD, which is the first entry on the Rounder label’s new “Perfect 10” re-issue series—made to sell for less than \$ 10.00. The tracks were selected by Norman & Nancy Blake, and are good ones, especially BILLY GRAY, SLEEPY EYED JOE, 50 MILES OF ELBOW ROOM and the lovely FIELDS OF NOVEMBER, on which Norman plays fiddle backed by **Charlie Collins** on guitar. The Alabama fiddler **James Bryan**, who worked with the Blakes often in the early 1980s, is featured on 3 tracks. The cuts here were recorded between 1975 and 1987 and were selected from a large body of recordings that Norman & Nancy made for the Rounder and Flying Fish labels in their prime. **\$ 9.00**



GAITHER-46014 THE ISAACS “Naturally” Billed as “an almost a cappella collection” this 16-song album captures the lovely harmonies of one of the finest groups in the Bluegrass gospel field today. There’s a fairly long list of accompanying musicians, including **Bryan Sutton** (guitar & banjo), **Aubrey Haynie** (mandolin & fiddle), and **Rob Ickes** (dobro), but almost all of the arrangements feature just a tasteful guitar backing, allowing the vocals to really shine. The first song on the disc, LITTLE BIT OF HEAVEN, is marred by a hoky washboard and could be a turn off, but keep playing and you will come to lovely tracks like I HEAR THE VOICE OF MY BELOVED, HARD TIMES COME AGAIN NO MORE and THE THREE BELLS. **\$ 15.00**

BOOK: I HEAR A VOICE CALLING by Gene Lowinger (Univ. of Illinois Press, 2009) 84 pp, softbound. The University of Illinois Press has been the leader in publishing books on various types of music, and here they have added another work that will be of interest to **Bill Monroe** fans, among others. Lowinger was a teenager from New York City when he fell in love with Bluegrass music, got together with a precocious band that included **David Grisman, Jody Stecher and Winnie Winston**, and actually won the band prize at the prestigious Union Grove Fiddlers’ Convention as the **New York Ramblers**. Inspired by the path taken by banjo picker Bill Keith, Lowinger tried out for a place in **Bill Monroe’s Blue Grass Boys** and won it, becoming Monroe’s fiddler for the next year or so (it’s hard to believe this all goes back that far, but



Lowinger was Monroe’s fiddler at the legendary first **Roanoke Bluegrass Festival** at Fincastle, Va. In 1965). After his stint with Monroe, Lowinger went on to pursue a training in classical violin (1966-1992) but in the early 1990s he made a number of guest appearances and road trips with Bill, and took a large number of photographs of Monroe and other Bluegrass personalities, which take up about 20% of the book. Lowinger’s recollections make for fascinating reading, not only for the facts pertaining to Monroe’s personality and the music, but for gaining insight into Lowinger’s own search for a successful, happy life. Gene was not only a northerner, but was Jewish to boot, and throughout the book there is a sort of sad undertone of his quest to please his father, who was always disappointed that his son did not become a doctor or lawyer. This is the 2nd book about Monroe from an ex-Blue Grass Boy (see Bob Black’s **Come Hither To Go Yonder**) and gives us another good look at the father of Bluegrass Music, who inspired and changed so many of our lives. **\$ 18.00**

DTD-013 TAKE ME TO THE WATER “Baptism in Vintage Music & Photography” The Dust-To-Digital label of Atlanta has another fascinating project here, in the form of a 96-page hardback book of rare photos from the collection of one Jim Linderman. There are several dozen sepia tone shots, mostly from the 1890-1950 period, of both white and black congregations in the act of single or multiple Baptismal immersions. There are a few pages of descriptive commentary, plus a 25-song CD that draws interesting material from both the black and white rural traditions. Some of the artists represented here with performances (mostly from the 1920s) are Dock Walsh, Washington Phillips, J.E. Mainer, Birmingham Jubilee Singers, Moses Mason, Frank Jenkins, Bill Boyd and the Carolina Tar Heels. A very impressive collection of photos and a very entertaining album’s worth of music. **BOOK & CD: \$ 37.50**

AM-5125 PHIL ROSENTHAL “A Treasury of Bluegrass and Country Songs”. A collection of 17 songs and tunes put out by Mr. Rosenthal on his own American Melody label. Rosenthal was the lead singer for the *Seldom Scene* right after *John Starling* left that band, and he wrote their MUDDY WATER among other songs. RYE WHISKEY, OLD JOE CLARK, WILDWOOD FLOWER, GOOD MORNING BLUES, etc **\$ 13.50**

REB-1834 STEEP CANYON RANGERS “Deep In The Shade”

In the past couple of years the *Steep Canyon Rangers* have made huge strides in becoming one of the more popular acts on the Bluegrass circuit, but in fact the North Carolina group has been at its trade for around 10 years now, getting progressively tighter and more experienced. An extensive tour of major venues last fall backing comedian/banjoist *Steve Martin* has got them wide exposure, enabling them to do something rare—gain a younger audience while still playing hard edged traditional Bluegrass. They are at their best to date on this new CD that features mostly the songs of banjo player *Graham Sharp* and bass player *Charles Humphrey*. Highlights of this fine record include TURN UP THE BOTTLE, THERE AIN'T NO EASY STREET, THE MOUNTAIN'S GONNA SING, HAVE MERCY, and a neat a cappella treatment of Leadbelly's old SYLVIE. Top flight Bluegrass, RECOMMENDED! **\$ 13.50**



BS-3081 KIM JOHNSON “Keepers” Here is a nice collection of 19 tunes & songs that feature *Kim Johnson*, a West Virginia lady who learned her old-time music from *Wilson Douglas*, an excellent fiddler who had an LP album out on the Rounder label at one time. Ms. Johnson is joined here by a variety of musicians on pieces that vary quite a bit in interest and quality. By far the best of these are four cuts that feature the late Mr. Douglas' fiddling (YEW PINEY MOUNTAIN, JUNE APPLE, CAMP CHASE and TOM CARPENTER. There's also a good cut with *Tracy Schwarz* (BOATING UP SANDY), and a very nice treatment of a Hank Williams song (MAY YOU NEVER BE ALONE) sung by *John Lilly*. There's a line or two of notes to each of the tunes, but little in the way of real information on the various artists. Still, a nicely done disc of good old-time music from West Va. **\$ 13.50**

COOT-2009 NORTH TO ONTARIO The third volume of this annual collection of some of the best of the Canadian Bluegrass bands. This one features such groups as *Honeygrass*, *Silverbirch*, *Scotia Junction*, *Winter Line*, and *Pam Brooks*. 18 tracks altogether. **\$ 13.50**

RHY-1043 TOMMY WEBB “Heartland” The distinctive and instantly recognizable voice of Tommy Webb is well served in this nicely produced album of straight, traditional Bluegrass on which 5 of the 14 songs are Webb originals. He has filled in the rest of the disc with a good variety of other material including RIVER OF JORDAN, CLINCH MT. BACKSTEP, LITTLE SADIE (on which he plays clawhammer banjo), and Pete Goble's NO ROOM INSIDE YOUR HEART. There is also a re-do of A HARD ROAD TO HOE, a standout performance on an earlier Webb album (this version is about as good, and one of the best tracks on a fine album). The album is produced by Ronnie Stewart, who appears to have added his instrumental touches throughout the recording—he even plays dobro here(!). TEARDROP INN, GOOD DAY TO RUN, FALL UPON HIM, etc. **\$ 13.50**

SUG-4054 JEREMY GARRETT “I Am A Stranger”

A solid and enjoyable album of contemporary Bluegrass from this member of the infamous *Stringbusters*, a popular Nashville area band. Jeremy—who fiddles and sings—is surrounded by excellent musicians on this 11-track workout that includes 5 of his own compositions. In addition to other members of the *Stringbusters* (*Andy Falco*, *Chris Pandolfi*, *Andy Hall*, *Travis Book* and *Jesse Cobb*), you will find a few cuts featuring *Shawn Lane* (mandolin), *Julie Elkins* (banjo), and *Dennis Crouch* or *Mike Bub* on bass. The only “standard” included on the disc is a version of Flatt & Scruggs' WHAT'S GOOD FOR YOU—Garrett does an excellent job on this one, making the listener wish that he had included a couple more like this. A good album. **\$ 13.50**

PATUX-200 CHRIS WARNER “Goin' To The Dance”

It seems like ages ago that this fan—along with many others—was so highly impressed with *Chris Warner's* work in *Jimmy Martin's* band, where his crisp and dynamic banjo playing was right in the same league with other great pickers who worked with Martin before that: *J.D. Crowe*, *Bill Emerson*, *Vic Jordan* and *Alan Munde*. We lost track of Warner in the years that followed, but we're glad to see him on the scene again (he did have a few great cuts on *Geoff Stelling's* fine *Stelling Banjo Anthology* (REB-1815, \$ 13.50) a couple of years ago). He pretty much shares this album with Tom Adams, who plays guitar and provides the lead singing. Others on the 14-track album include *Michael Cleveland* and *Patrick McAvinue* on fiddle, *Steve Street* on bass and *Mark Seitz* and *Dick Laird* on mandolin. About half the songs are instrumentals—these include LEAVIN' TOWN from the Jimmy Martin days and a nice fiddle & banjo duet with *Michael Cleveland* on TURKEY BUZZARD. **\$ 13.50**

RHY-2001 LARRY SPARKS “I Just Want To Thank You Lord”

This album that Larry Sparks issued some years ago just to have another piece to sell at his table (it came out under the title “I Want To Be Like Jesus”) is a bit thin in the overall sound, but is pretty typical Sparks, with some good gospel songs and Larry in good voice. Accompanying Sparks here are Scott Napier (mandolin), Josh McMurray (banjo) and Matthew Madden (bass). **\$ 13.50**

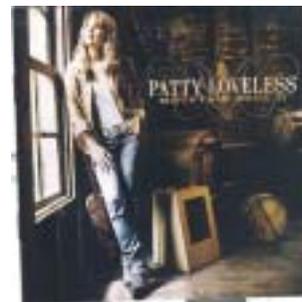
SSS-001 LOUDON WAINWRIGHT III “High Wide & Handsome” We have very mixed feelings about this new 2-CD offering, which is sub-titled “The Charlie Poole Project”. On the one hand, it is beautifully packaged, with really nice graphics and an extensive multi-page booklet that includes words, pictures, and period sheet music covers. It is obvious that a lot of time and thought went into this production. On the other hand, *Charlie Poole* was such a distinctive and engaging artist, and was so much a product of and reflection of his time, that to try to duplicate or add to his work today seems pointless. There are 30 songs here, about 2/3 of them Wainwright versions of songs that Poole recorded between 1925 and 1931—most of these covers here hold little interest after one has heard the Poole originals. The remaining 9 or 10 songs are written by Wainwright and/or producer Dick Connette and are peculiar “would be” Poole songs with titles like OLD BALLYHOO, WAY UP IN NEW YORK CITY, and NO KNEES. At their best they seem innocuous and out of place, and at their worst may make most old-time fans cringe. Granted that there would be no point to slavishly copy the fiddle-banjo-guitar arrangements that Poole & his band did so well, but Connette’s arrangements—some with trumpet, trombone, piano, and/or drums—seem very reminiscent of most major label’s past attempts to “spruce up” or somehow “improve” on the originals (and when you’re doing this to the music of a *Charlie Poole* or a *Jimmie Rodgers*, brother, you’d better be on the money!). It is very possible other listeners will have a different take on this project, and hopefully it may lead some newcomers to *Charlie Poole’s* original records. And, to end on a positive note, it has made us go straight to the superb Columbia box set on Poole for another listen to all the great music Charlie recorded. MONKEY ON A STRING, here we come! **2-CD set: \$ 18.00**

(Note: The Poole box set on SONY is still available: CK-92780, \$ 35.00, and so are 3 separate CDs of Poole on the COUNTY label @ 13.50 each).

OH-4061 THE CARTER FAMILY “Gonna Live On Down The Line” At first glance this 28-song disc appeared to be a repeat of some of the Acme label recordings that A.P., Sara, Janette & Joe Carter recorded in the early and mid-1950s. On closer examination that is not exactly the case, though the Acme recordings are referred to in the very brief and not very helpful notes, and many of the songs seem to be from that body of work (which is available in full—supposedly—on the excellent 2-CD set issued fairly recently by the British JSP label). But there are at least 10 or 11 songs here that don’t appear on the JSP set, and these may come from border radio cuts or some recordings that were made by A.L. Phipps in the late 50s. There are some rough spots in the sound quality on some tracks, but for hard-core Carter Family fans there is enough to be of interest here, with songs like SWEET BYE & BYE, DEATH IS ONLY A DREAM, ONB JORDAN’S STORMY BANKS I STAND, WHEN OUR LORD SHALL COME AGAIN, THE DYING MOTHER, etc. **\$ 15.00**

BCR-019 JERRY BUTLER & JOHN WADE “Haulin’ Grass” On Tom & Dixie Hall’s *Blue Circle* label, this is a solid album of hard-driving, traditional Bluegrass with a truck driving theme. The songs are well selected and include John Denver’s BACK HOME AGAIN, Lester Flatt’s BACKIN’ TO BIRMINGHAM, Jerry Chestnut’s LEGEND OF THE HIGHWAY and three songs by Tom T. and Dixie Hall (SHORTY IS FORTY, DADDY’S GIRL and FORTY YEARS OF LONESOME (co-written with Don Rigsby)). Butler’s lead vocals are excellent, as is the backing by *Kenny Ingram* (banjo), *Chris Harris* (mandolin), *Matt Leadbetter* (dobro) and *Ron Stewart* (fiddle) **\$ 13.50**

TL-24976 PATTY LOVELESS “Mountain Soul II” While Patty Loveless is known as a country singer, she has made many friends in the Bluegrass field thanks to a wonderful soulful voice that reflects the eastern Kentucky upbringing that included heavy doses of Bluegrass music—especially the sounds of the Stanley Brothers. She has also appeared with *Dr. Ralph Stanley* on a classic version of PRETTY POLLY (heard on Ralph’s CLINCH MT. SWEETHEARTS CD, REB-1770). An earlier “MOUNTAIN SOUL” CD (EK-85651, \$ 15.00) was a superb disc that—like this one—found her surrounded by



a great lineup of superior acoustic instrumentalists. This new CD includes a few tracks that will be familiar to most of our readers—WORKING ON A BUILDING and GLORYLAND (with Vince Gill). *Del, Rob and Ronnie McCoury* appear on this record, along with *Rob Ickes, Mike Auldrige, Bryan Sutton and Carl Jackson*. Excellent music by a great country singer. **\$ 15.00**

FGM-128 FLATPICKING BLUEGRASS The theme of this new album is to feature a dozen different vocalists who also happen to be excellent flat pick guitarists. All twelve of the singers are backed by a “studio” band made up of *Shadd Cobb* (fiddle), *Dave Harvey* (Mandolin), *Chris Joslin* on dobro and banjo, and *Charlie Chadwick* on bass. The singers/flat pickers include *Kenny Smith, Tim Stafford, Jim Hurst., Chris Jones, Josh Williams, and Richard Bennett*. Songs are standards like IN THE PINES, GONE HOME, I’LL STAY AROUND, SIX WHITE HORSES, BANKS OF THE OHIO, AIR MAIL SPECIAL etc. A successful and enjoyable album. **\$ 13.50**

DB-339 DEWEY BROWN “Hard Times For A Fiddler” Brown is the current fiddler for Ralph Stanley’s Clinch Mountain Boys and has a well played album of 15 good fiddle tunes here, backed by a group that includes James Alan Shelton, Steve Sparkman, and the late Jack Cooke (bass). Ralph Stanley, Del McCoury and Nathan Stanley each provide one vocal. BEAVER DAM, LEE HIGHWAY BLUES, TWO O’CLOCK, WALKING IN MY SLEEP. **\$ 13.50**

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RHY-1052	RANDY KOHRS "Quicksand" New CD featuring ace dobro picker
SUG-4057	ADAM STEFFEY "One More For The Road" Fine mandolin with Tyminski, Barry Bales, etc
ACONY-0908	DAVE RAWLINGS MACHINE "A Friend of a Friend" Gillian Welch partner (\$ 15.00)
PINE-2863	GOING DOWN TO RALEIGH 2-CD set of string band music, 1976-1998 (\$ 22.50)
SR-013	HIGH COUNTRY "Perfect Companions" Calif. Bluegrass with Butch Waller, etc.
TMS-1332	JEFF TOLBERT "Mercy & Grace" Bluegrass gospel by Primitive Qt member
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YODEL-001	JOE HERMANN "Gather Round" Nice old-time, 15 tunes & songs, hammer dulcimer etc
HRC-160	ALBERT HASH 1976 recordings by this legendary fiddler from SW Virginia
PATUX-198	LYDIA, EMILY & CLAUDE MARTIN "10,000 Miles" Old-time, young group
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BACM-284	JESSE RODGERS "Songs Of The Hills & Plains" Mostly from 1930s (24 songs) (\$ 15.00)
BACM-285	THE TEXAS RANGERS Volume 1 "The Early Years" mid 1930s Decca & transcriptions (\$ 15.00)