



NEWSLETTER #305

May - 2010

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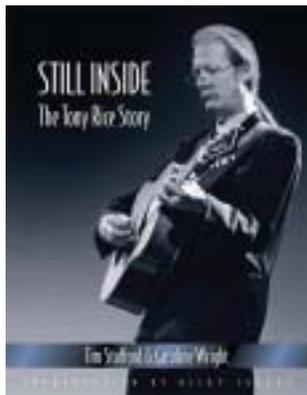
COUNTY SALES
P.O. Box 191
Floyd, VA 24091

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BOOK: STILL INSIDE: THE TONY RICE STORY

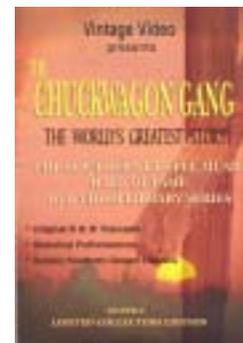
by Tim Stafford and Caroline Wright (Word Of Mouth Press, 2010) 316 pp, hardbound. Just in! This much-anticipated biography of Rice will provide fascinating reading for the myriad fans of this complex musician—an artist in every sense of the word. It's appropriate to call Rice a genius when it comes



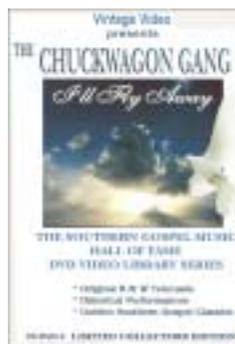
to acoustic guitar playing, and lest we forget, he was a great Bluegrass singer as well until developing problems with his voice years ago. The way the book is divided into 7 chapters interspersed with "On the Road" sections is a bit confusing, but there's plenty of interesting commentary, both from Rice himself and in the way of literally hundreds of quotes from those who have been close to Rice over the years: family members as well as musicians like J.D. Crowe, David Grisman, Peter Rowan, Jerry Douglas, Jimmy Gaudreau, etc. An amazing work about one of the greats of our time, it will be hard for many to put this book down! **\$ 25.00**

GERALD EVANS We are saddened to report the passing of *Gerald Evans*, who died of cancer on April 10 at the young age of 50. Evans, who was known for his fiddle and mandolin work, was most recently a member of *Don Rigby's Midnight Call*, but had also been a sideman with *Dave Evans*, *The Traditional Grass*, *the Wildwood Valley Boys* and *the Goins Brothers* among others.

CHUCK WAGON GANG DVDs Years ago we carried some VHS Videocassettes of the *Chuck Wagon Gang* that were taken from old film footage of Wally Fowler's early TV shows from the 1960s. We now have 4 volumes of these available on DVD—they are in black & white and not the greatest visual quality, but for anyone who loved the singing of this great and highly influential gospel quartet, these are neat to see and hear. They feature the wonderful singing of original members *Anna, Rose and Jim Carter*, along with tenor singers *Pat McKeehan and/or Jimmy Wesson, and Howard Gordon* on guitar. Each volume contains about 12-15 songs such as I'LL



FLY AWAY, NEW JERUSALEM WAY, IN THE GARDEN, LORD LEAD ME ON, CHURCH IN THE WILDWOOD, AFTER THE SUNRISE, ON THE JERICHO ROAD and many others that became standards in the world of Bluegrass. Many rural folks grew up listening to 15-minute daily radio shows that featured this family from Texas with it's unique style.



Check our web site for titles on each of the 4 volumes, or order any of the DVDs (they are all pretty even in quality). These are priced at **\$18.00 per volume**—order any of the four: VV-DVD 1, VV-DVD-2, VV-DVD-3 and VV-DVD-4.

Purchase Amount	\$4.00-29.99	\$30.00-59.99	\$60.00-139.99	\$140.00-199.99	Over \$200.00
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SPECIAL SALE ON ALL COUNTY 2700 SERIES CDs

This month only we are offering all records in **COUNTY'S 2700** 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 to your special offer (buy 6 records and get a 7th CD free). This **offer ends JUNE 18, 2010**. Take advantage of this one-time special offer!

COUNTY'S 2700 SERIES is devoted primarily to outstanding collections of **Old-Time** music and **fiddle** music featuring some of the finest musicians of our time. Check our list carefully, as some of these albums may be going out of print in the near future as supplies run out (several nice items have already been discontinued, including discs by **TOMMY JARRELL & FRED COCKERHAM**, **WILL KEYS** and also the **CHESTNUT GROVE QUARTET**).

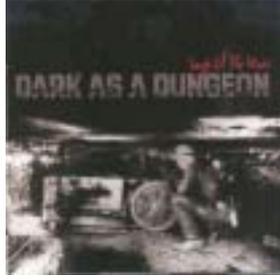
COU-2703 FRANKLIN GEORGE Music for Fiddle, Banjo	COU-2725 TOMMY JARRELL—Vol 2 "Rainbow Sign"
COU-2705 KENNY BAKER "Master Fiddler"	COU-2726 TOMMY JARRELL—Vol 3 Banjo CD
COU-2706 BOBBY HICKS "Texas Crapshooter"	COU-2727 TOMMY JARRELL—Vol. 4 Tommy's Porch
COU-2707 LYMAN ENLOE "Fiddle Tunes I Recall"	COU-2728 RAFE STEFANINI "Hell & Scissors"
COU-2708 KENNY BAKER "Plays Bill Monroe"	COU-2729 ART STAMPER "Goodbye Girls, I'm Going"
COU-2710 RUSSELL FAMILY "Mountain Dulcimer"	COU-2730 RAFE STEFANINI "Glory On Big String"
COU-2711 KIRK SUTPHIN "Old Roots & New Branches"	COU-2731 KENNY BAKER "Frost On The Pumpkin"
COU-2712 ART STAMPER "The Lost Fiddler"	COU-2732 KENNY BAKER "Baker's Dozen"
COU-2713 CLARK KESSINGER "The Legend Of"	COU-2733 KENNY BAKER & BOBBY HICKS
COU-2714 BRAD LEFTWICH "Say Old Man"	COU-2734 JENKINS, JARRELL & COCKERHAM-1
COU-2715 HOLLOW ROCK STRING BAND	COU-2735 JENKINS, JARRELL & COCKERHAM-2
COU-2716 CLAWHAMMER BANJO-Vol. 1	COU-2736 ART STAMPER "Wake Up Darling Corey"
COU-2717 CLAWHAMMER BANJO-Vol. 2	COU-2737 BENNY THOMASSON Texas Legend
COU-2718 CLAWHAMMER BANJO-Vol. 3	COU-2738 TROUBLESOME CREEK STRING BAND
COU-2719 CAMP CREEK BOYS	COU-2739 3 MISSOURI FIDDLERS
COU-2721 STEVEN WADE "Dancing In The Parlor"	COU-2740 CURLY SECKLER "That Old Book of Mine"
COU-2722 VARIOUS ARTISTS "Blue Ridge Christmas"	COU-2741 RAFE STEFANINI "Ladies' Fancy"
COU-2723 TONY ELLIS "Quaker Girl"	COU-2742 TEXAS HOEDOWN REVISITED
COU-2724 TOMMY JARRELL—Vol. 1 "Sail Away Ladies"	COU-2744 RURAL PARLOR GUITAR

County Records has in its catalog several of the all-time great fiddlers on record: starting with the great **KENNY BAKER** (Five CDs including one with **BOBBY HICKS**—every tune is a gem; if you want one great example of Kenny's fiddling, try 2705 "Master Fiddler" which is drawn from his early County LPs). **BOBBY HICKS'** "Texas Crapshooter" is a fine album that features one side Bluegrass and one side Western Swing. **ART STAMPER** is represented with 3 excellent CDs, with 2712 half old-time and half Bluegrass with J.D. Crowe on banjo—his other 2 records are in more of an old-time vein. The great **CLARK KESSINGER'S** COU-2713 is one of the finest examples anywhere of superb old time fiddling! COU-2737 features **BENNY THOMASSON**, generally considered perhaps the very best of the Texas style fiddlers (at least going as far back as Eck Robertson). Other top Texas fiddlers are featured on the wonderful **TEXAS HOEDOWN REVISITED** CD (COU-2742). And don't overlook COU-2707, a lovely collection of tunes well played by **LYMAN ENLOE**; he is also represented on the "**3 MISSOURI FIDDLERS**" with Cyril Stinnett and Casey Jones.

In the Old-Time category, County is famous for its wonderful "**Clawhammer Banjo**" series (COU-2716, 2717, and 2718—a treasury of different old time banjo styles. The 4 disc Legacy of **TOMMY JARRELL** is another key series, with COU-2724 featuring Tommy's fiddling, COU-2726 his equally fine banjo work, and the other two volumes in a string band setting. More of the same can be heard on the two **JENKINS-JARRELL & COCKERHAM** discs (COU-2734 & 2735). And for some great old time music from West Virginia, check out **FRANKLIN GEORGE** (COU-2703) who plays old time fiddle, banjo and even some bagpipes!.

Two of the most influential old time string bands were the legendary **CAMP CREEK BOYS** (COU-2719) and the **HOLLOW ROCK STRING BAND** led by Alan Jabbour (COU-2715.) A more recent, but wonderful group is **THE TROUBLESOME CREEK STRING BAND** (COU-2738), and the superb current day fiddler **RAFE STEFANINI** is represented by three County albums, all top-notch. The delicate touch of **TONY ELLIS'** old time banjo is heard on COU-2723 "Quaker Girl"—this album is cited by *Steve Martin* as being one of his favorites! Don't forget the **RUSSELL FAMILY'S** wonderful mountain dulcimer album—the best selling record in this series, and a real gem!

REB-7510 VARIOUS ARTISTS “Dark As A Dungeon—Songs Of The Mines” Since the earliest days of commercially recorded country music, songs about mining have had a significant place both on records and in oral tradition. Early on the theme was most often a tragic local disaster; more recently songs have dealt with damage to the land and damage to human health. While this is a new collection, the songs here were recorded over many years: what they have in common—in addition to the mining theme—is that these are fine musical performances, from the classic version of *John Prine’s* PARADISE as done by the *Seldom Scene*, to the *Steep Canyon Rangers’* forceful CALL THE CAPTAIN. Although most of the songs deal with the perils and troubles of mining, there are a few that project a nostalgic aspect, such as *David Davis’* THE RIVER RAN BLACK—a powerful piece of music—and the obscure but wonderful *Randall Hynton* song, COAL TOWN SATURDAY NIGHT. Other notable cuts include Becky Buller’s IN THOSE MINES as sung by *Valerie Smith*, and the *Wildwood Valley Boys’* BLACK DUST FEVER, but all the tracks are first rate. Other artists included are *James Alan Shelton, Country Gentlemen, Larry Sparks, Bill Harrell, and Blue Highway*. An impressive collection with 14 fine tracks, issued in Rebel’s budget series. **\$ 10.00**

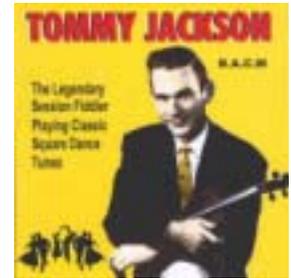


LDR-017 VARIOUS ARTISTS “The Very Things You Treasure” There are 24 tracks on this new album of Bluegrass gospel songs that is essentially a sampler of Randall Deaton’s *Lonesome Day* label of Kentucky. The label has had some strong releases over the past few years, and this collection includes good cuts by Larry Cordle, Ralph Stanley II, Lou Reid, Blue Moon Rising, Jeff Parker, Steve Gulley, Ernie Thacker, Randy Kohrs and Darrell Webb. Most of the songs are newer material, much of it written by the performers. An enjoyable disc and a good value. **\$ 13.50**

TRIPLE-9516 TRIPLE L BAND “Crown Him King” A strong performance of 12 well chosen gospel songs by this 5-piece Bluegrass band from New Mexico (the group includes dobro, but no fiddle). The album includes two nicely sung a cappella songs in CROWN HIM KING and SO HIGH, and a good mix of newer songs plus old standards like JUST A LITTLE TALK WITH JESUS, GOD LOVES HIS CHILDREN, ANYWHERE IS HOME and WHERE NO ONE STANDS ALONE. There are no notes, but the band is made up of all Millers—Len, Levi, Lance, Landon & Amy!. **\$ 13.50**

FMM-13002 FRANK SOLIVAN “Selfish Tears” A solid, well done album of Bluegrass music by Solivan, who is presently a member of the U.S. Navy Band *Country Current*. The talented Solivan, who plays just about all of the standard Bluegrass instruments, here plays mostly mandolin, and is backed by several fine musicians including *Rob Ickes, Jesse Cobb, Mike Munford*. Frank has also written 9 of the 12 songs here, with the title song being a particularly notable piece. Nice work. **\$ 13.50**

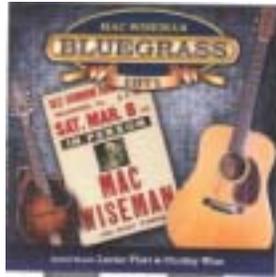
BACM-294 TOMMY JACKSON This is a way overdue re-issue of fiddle tunes by one of the most influential musicians in the history of post-war country music. Though it is not Bluegrass as such, I doubt very much that there is any first or second generation Bluegrass musician who is not familiar with the work of *Tommy Jackson*. Known almost exclusively as a session and sometime road musician, Jackson took part in some classic Bluegrass recordings, including sessions with *Bill Monroe, Mac Wiseman*, and others, and also contributed to the “sound” of country artists like Ray Price. But even more, he is especially known for a series of definitive versions of classic old fiddle tunes like RYE STRAW, SOLDIER’S JOY, BILL CHEATUM, ARKANSAS TRAVELER, LEATHER BRITCHES, and the list goes on and on. Many a country and Bluegrass fiddler learned these tunes from Jackson’s extensive recordings for the Dot and Mercury labels in the 1950s. Hearing Jackson’s “DEVIL’S DREAM” kickoff to so many Opry segments and various Army & Navy radio transcriptions brought a warm excitement to many a listener throughout the 1950s and 60s. Though Jackson’s 8



or 10 long-play albums had a solid audience at one time (among square dance callers as well as musicians), his work never made it to the days of compact discs, and sadly he died in 1979 at the young age of 53, pretty well forgotten except by other fiddlers. Hats off to the British Archive label for gathering up 26 of the DOT label recordings that Jackson made between 1952 and 1955. Brian Golbey’s notes give a good thumb nail history of this artist, who was essentially a Nashville native. The only thing we would have liked to see here is a list of the accompanying musicians, because there is some great note for note mandolin picking on many of these cuts. Rumor has always been that both *Jethro Burns* and *Hank Garland* picked mandolin on various sessions (possibly Lonzo & Oscar as well?) but it would be nice to know for sure. This is a very important and really welcome release. **\$ 15.00**

PATUX-198 LYDIA, EMILY & CLAUDE MARTIN “Ten Thousand Miles” 15 old-time songs & tunes by this young family band from Maryland that features Claude Martin on fiddle, with sisters Lydia and Emily supplying banjo, mandolin, guitar and a bit of piano, tenor banjo and dulcimer. The music is always pleasant, if a bit tentative at times—the musicians appear to be teenagers, though it would have been nice to have a bit of personal information about them: the notes are minimal. Tracks include LITTLE RABBIT, BLACK & WHITE RAG, JIG MEDLEY, STEP AROUND JOHNNY, WILD HORSE, AIN’T NO ASH WILL BURN, STATE STREET RAG, etc **\$ 13.50**

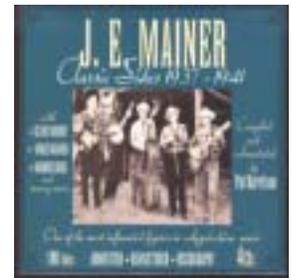
RHY-1059 MAC WISEMAN “Bluegrass 1971” This is a compact disc re-issue of a DVD that came out around a year ago. If you have that item, you won’t need this CD—it’s pretty much identical except that the CD has one additional song “ALL I HAVE TO OFFER YOU IS ME”. If you don’t have a DVD player, this is a good CD to get if you like Mac Wiseman: backed by the *Shenandoah Cut-ups*, Mac is at his best, and *Lester Flatt* joins him on 3 songs. In addition, there is some great triple fiddle work by *Chubby Wise, Tater Tate and Joe Greene*. Songs include ME & BOBBY McGEE, FOUR WALLS AROUND ME, JIMMY BROWN THE NEWSBOY, PRISONER’S SONG, THE BLUEBIRDS ARE SINGING FOR ME, ALL SMILES TONIGHT, etc. A fine disc if you don’t already have the DVD. (For a more extensive review of the DVD, see our web site or Page 6 of Newsletter # 297 **\$ 13.50**)



WDM-7425 LARRY STEPHENSON “20th Anniversary” The steady and reliable Stephenson celebrates 20 years as a Bluegrass artist with this fine package that features duet performances with many of Larry’s friends in the business. With his distinctive high tenor voice so reminiscent of one of his idols, *Bobby Osborne*, he is joined on excellent cuts by *Dailey & Vincent, Del McCoury, Ricky Skaggs, Dale Ann Bradley & David Parmley, Dudley Connell, Marty Stuart & Connie Smith, and Aubrey Haynie*. Instrumentally he is assisted by banjo player of the year *Kristin Scott Benson*—who spent several years in Stephenson’s band. A good selection of 13 songs includes SHELLY’S WINTER LOVE, HAVE YOU COME TO SAY GOODBYE, MULE SKINNER BLUES, GIVE THIS MESSAGE TO YOUR HEART, etc **\$ 13.50**

MFR-100201 STATEMENT “Around The Corner” This is the 2nd Bluegrass gospel CD that we know of from this young 5-member band from our own Floyd County VA. Most of the 14 songs again feature the singing of Ashlee Blankenship, a good singer with a relaxed, slightly understated vocal style—she is especially successful on the old standards COME & DINE and LET THE LOWER LIGHTS BE BURNING. The group gets a little out of control on the last track (KEEP WALKIN’ ON) which starts with a piano intro that doesn’t seem to relate to the rest of the singing or playing. But apart from that song, it’s a nice collection. IT’S UP TO YOU, HE SET ME FREE, etc. **\$ 13.50**

JSP-77124 J.E. MAINER “Classic Sides—1937-1941” As promised in its earlier 4-CD set of old Bluebird recordings by *Mainer’s Mountaineers*, Britain’s JSP label has followed up that important release with this second collection of another 100 songs & tunes. Collectors should be really pleased to have the total *Bluebird* repertoire of the Mainers on these two consistent and very reasonably priced re-issues. But you don’t have to be a dyed in the wool Mainer fan to add one or both of these sets to your library, because there are so many great songs & tunes here at an amazingly low price. On the first of the 4 CDs J.E. is featured, with songs like KISS ME CINDY, DON’T GO OUT TONIGHT, DON’T GET TROUBLE IN YOUR MIND and a number of good sacred songs. Discs



2 and # 3 are all credited to Wade Mainer and his various groups such as “The Sons of The Mountaineers” and his “Little Smilin’ Rangers”. There are a huge number of memorable cuts on these discs, including pieces like LONELY TOMB, LOOK ON & CRY, ANOTHER ALABAMA CAMP MEETING, PALE MOONLIGHT, MITCHELL BLUES, SHE IS SPREADING HER WINGS FOR A JOURNEY (the first version of GREAT SPECKLED BIRD?), and Wade’s huge two sided hit SPARKLING BLUE EYES and WE WILL MISS HIM. The 4th CD includes some late but excellent odds & ends like J.E.’s fiddle favorites CONCORD RAG and COUNTRY BLUES, and Wade’s OLD RUBEN, RAMBLIN’ BOY, and PRECIOUS JEWEL; the disc is then filled out with 4 songs by Steve Ledford, 6 cuts of the Happy-Go-Lucky boys, and 6 Morris Brothers cuts, including the lovely LITTLE NELLIE and DREAM OF THE MINER’S CHILD. Pat Harrison contributes extensive notes on the recordings. (For those interested in the first Mainer set, it is also a 4-CD collection and is also in stock (JSP-77118, \$ 27.50). **4-CD set: \$ 27.50**)

HOR-1276 DOYLE LAWSON & QUICK-SILVER “Light On My Feet, Ready To Fly”

If there’s any one thing you can count on in Bluegrass, it’s that any new gospel album from *Doyle Lawson* is going to be superb. About the only thing different here from his many previous gospel recordings is the presence in his current band of a dobro player—in this case *Josh Swift*. Another slight change is the addition of *Jason Leek* on bass fiddle and various vocal parts (Leek is a former member of Barry Scott’s fine group). Other band members are *Jason Barie* (fiddle), *Corey Hensley* (guitar), and jack of all instruments *Dale Perry* joins the proceedings on banjo, guitar and bass vocals. As usual Lawson has come up with another excellent batch of songs, starting right out with the fine title song (written by Hensley) and then mixing in some new songs along with some old classics like Carl Story’s MIGHTY HARD ROAD TO TRAVEL, the a cappella MY LORD’S GONNA MOVE THIS WICKED RACE, OLD SHIP OF ZION and OH HEAVEN (a great song that we last remember seeing on J.D. Crowe’s MODEL CHURCH album—on which Lawson was present). Great Bluegrass Gospel, HIGHLY RECOMMENDED. **\$ 13.50**

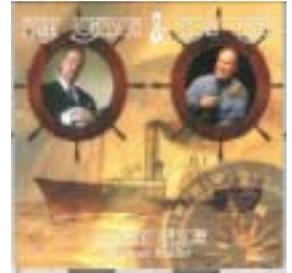


NAPIER-2010 SCOTT NAPIER “All Out Front” Mandolinist Napier was a long time member of *Larry Sparks’ Lonesome Ramblers*, and is now playing with *The Lost & Found*. He’s a good musician and he is backed by a number of excellent pickers including *Michael Cleveland* on fiddle, *Clay Hess* on guitar, and *Josh McMurray* on banjo. (*Bobby Osborne* also makes an appearance here.) 8 of the tunes are Napier originals. Nice job on BLUEGRASS STOMP, LONG HARD ROAD, BLUE BARN, etc. Don Rigsby and Dale Ann Bradley provide vocals on LIFE’S HOURGLASS. **\$ 13.50**

ROU-0656 BLUEGRASS SPECIAL Here’s a good value budget release from the *Rounder* label, with 12 tracks by as many different artists, including *Ralph Stanley* (COTTON EYED JOE), *Dailey & Vincent* (AMAZING GRACE), *J.D. Crowe* (SALLY GOODIN), *Michael Cleveland* (LEE HIGHWAY BLUES), *Ricky Skaggs* (RIVER OF JORDAN), and *James King* (GARDEN IN THE SKY). Also *IIIrd Tyme Out*, *Blue Highway*, *Nashville Bluegrass Band and the Grascals*. Nice selection of old standards, and only **\$ 7.00**

BANG-005 MARK JOHNSON & EMORY LESTER “Acoustic Vision”

From the very first cut here (BROWN COUNTY BREAKDOWN) the listener knows he/she is going to hear something quite different: it’s not Bluegrass and it’s not old-time—though the pickers have the skills and familiarity with those genres. Both these musicians are known for tasteful, subtle acoustic music, and that is what we have here, with Mark Johnson’s clawhammer banjo beautifully complimented by Lester’s mandolin, guitar, bouzouki or fiddle. The duo has made two excellent previous records as well. Johnson uses a standard Deering banjo on most of the 14 numbers, but on a couple he utilizes a fretless 5-string. Tunes range from moody to sprightly on this really nice collection. LITTLE SEAN, BUCK CREEK DAWN, MY SALLY, BROWNTOWN ROAD, MOTHER OF A MINER’S CHILD, etc. **\$ 13.50**

**BEE BALM-303 THE CORNDRINKERS STILL**

This 5-member old-time band from Ohio has been playing together in various forms for ages (over 35 years according to the notes!) and it shows, in this warm, relaxed collection of 18 songs & tunes. Fiddler *Barbara Kuhns* and guitarist *Doug Smith* played with the late and fine banjo picker *Will Keys*, and here Ms Kuhns does a nice job on a group of good tunes including SMITH’S REEL, SARA ARMSTRONG’S TUNE, OLD VOILE, FISHER’S HORNPIPE and a few of her own. *Linda Scutt* (2nd fiddle), *Tom Duffee* (banjo), and *Al Turnbull* (bass) round out the band, all contributing either lead or harmony vocals on the songs, which include three old *Carter Family* pieces (HOME BY THE SEA, IN THE SHADOW OF THE PINES and PICTURE ON THE WALL). The group also gives credit to *J.P. Fraley*, *Bob Walters* and other important sources. Among the interesting pieces is an old Mac Wiseman song, I’MA STRANGER HERE—converted nicely to the old-time style. A very enjoyable, nicely produced and packaged recording. **\$ 13.50**

SH-10 MARK BRINKMAN “On The Brink of a Dream” Brinkman is known in Bluegrass circles as a good songwriter whose work has been recorded by some well known artists. Here he presents and sings 16 songs of his own, and performs them in a pleasant, straightforward manner. Joining him on the disc are *Tim Stafford* (Guitar), *Justin Moses* (banjo, fiddle) and *Alan Bibey* (mandolin) with *Dale Ann Bradley* and *Steve Gulley* helping out on a few vocals. **\$ 13.50**

RHY-1057 BRAND NEW STRINGS “No Strings Attached” 13 songs nicely done in straight Bluegrass fashion by this new band that includes *Matt Leadbetter (dobro)*, *Stuart Wyrick (banjo)* and *Mike Ramsey (mandolin)*—(the other two names are obscured in the artistic but somewhat hard to read packaging). This album is unusual in its choice of songs—while many (if not most) Bluegrass artists include one or two gospel songs on their albums, this record is pretty well split with 5 gospel cuts and 8 secular pieces: Nothing really wrong with that, but it may be a little jarring to some to hear LIVING WATER followed up by THE BLUES CLUB. The gospel tracks may be the strongest material on this CD, with the unaccompanied LIVING WATER a fine, top-notch performance, and definitely our favorite on the album. WHEELS is another good, fast paced sacred piece, not to be confused with the Dan Tyminski or Mike Auldridge songs. This band won first prize at one of the SPGMA contests, and we think includes a couple of former members of the band *New Road*. A good release by a solid 5-member band on which there are guest spots by *Ron Stewart (fiddle)*, *Steve Gulley* and *Dale Perry*. **\$ 13.50**

REBEL-1833 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 style 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!

(NOTE: This is the same album that was issued several months ago by Mullins himself, except that it is now on the REBEL label and we thought it worthy of mentioning again!) **\$ 13.50**



HMB-2010 HAGAR’S MOUNTAIN BOYS “Forever Yours” Solid and competent straight traditional Bluegrass from this band from Roxboro, North Carolina. The four piece band is joined by Jimmy Van Cleve on fiddle and they have picked a variety of old and newer songs by such writers as Lester Flatt, Bill Castle, Randall Hylton, Pete Goble, Travis Tritt, Marvin Davis and others. POET WITH WINGS, LORD DON’T LEAVE ME HERE, HEAD OVER HEELS, SUMMER’S GONE, SHOT MAN BLUES, etc. **\$ 13.50**

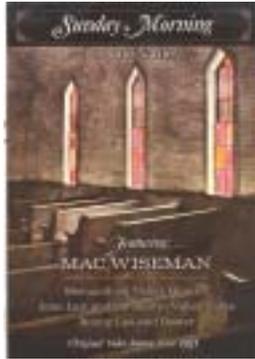
GT-2121 BILL HARRELL with DON RENO The Gusto label (I.M.G.) has put out some nice re-issues in the past few years (mostly under the supervision of researcher Gary Reid), but this CD is more reminiscent of the company’s earlier, sloppier work. It appears to have been put together with little thought and care, and little in the way of information as to who plays what. Bill Harrell made a few good records on his own for the Starday label (actually some of his best work ever) with some great sidemen (Bill Emerson, Buzz Busby, etc). Those six cuts include ONE TRACK MIND, EATIN’ OUT OF YOUR HAND, and TRAGIC HIGHWAY, plus a couple of banjo instrumentals, one of them definitely by Bill Emerson (BANJO WHIZ). The rest of the 20 song disc comes from material that Reno & Harrell cut for Starday/King and includes songs like JUST A PHONE CALL WILL DO, WHERE IS JONES, ALL THE WAY TO RENO and PEACOCK RAG. **\$ 11.00**

JRM-008 JANET McGARRY “Just Passing Through” Ms. McGarry hails from Prince Edward Island in Canada, and judging by this, her 8th album, it is easy to see why she is a popular regional favorite. She has a very pleasant voice with a touch of restrained emotion that grows on you. She is especially effective on ALL THE WORLD IS LONELY NOW, HOLD FAST TO THE RIGHT, GOIN’ HOME, Louisa Branscomb’s WILDFLOWERS ON THE HILL and A ROBIN BUILT A NEST ON DADDY’S GRAVE. A lovely version of Molly O’Day’s TOO LATE, TOO LATE is superb. Ms. McGarry gets nice straight Bluegrass backing from a few musicians including Troy Engle (fiddle, mandolin, guitar and dobro), and Heather Berry on autoharp. A nice album, well worth hearing. There are 14 songs. **\$ 13.50**

DVD: HAP-2010 THE HENRY REED LEGACY The late fiddler Henry Reed, of Glen Lyn, Virginia, has become something of a legend in old-time music, thanks in great part to the work of Alan Jabbour, who learned many tunes from Mr. Reed, and popularized them through his recordings as part of the *Hollow Rock String Band* and later groups. This new DVD tells Reed’s story through interviews with immediate members of his family and others. Reed’s fiddling can be heard in the background as his friends and family discuss not only his fiddling, but his character and way of life in general. Unfortunately, it seems there was never any film or video done on Reed, or I’m sure some of it would turn up here. The packaging states that the DVD contains tunes recorded by “The Reed Family” in 1963, but there’s not as much real focus on Reed’s fiddling as we would like to hear. Still interesting. DVD: **\$ 18.00**

RHY-1056 MICHAEL MARTIN MURPHEY “Buckaroo Blue Grass II” For his second all Bluegrass album Murphey is joined by a host of good musicians on a dozen songs that all have a western theme (11 of the 12 are Murphey originals. Some of those helping our here are Ronnie McCoury and Sam Bush on mandolin, Rob Ickes on dobro, Charlie Cushman on banjo, Andy Leftwich on fiddle and mandolin, and Troy Engle also on fiddle and mandolin. Pleasant contemporary Bluegrass by this noted song writer. **\$ 13.50**

DVD: MP-2107 SUNDAY MORNING IN THE VALLEY Those who have purchased the recently released DVD of *Mac Wiseman* at Renfro Valley will know what to expect on this brand new release from the same company (Ronnie Reno's MANDO-LIN Productions). Filmed in excellent color back in 1971, it presents some wonderful moments at a Sunday morning gospel show at the famous Renfro Valley Barn Dance. The star here again is *Mac Wiseman*



who is featured on 6 of the 18 cuts—he is accompanied in fine fashion by the *Shenandoah Valley Cutups*, who also have 5 songs of their own, among them LIGHT AT THE RIVER, HOME ON HIGH and THANK THE LORD FOR EVERYTHING: this was a fine, underrated band that included *Hershel Sizemore, Tater Tate, Billy Edwards and John Palmer*. There are two cuts by *Bonnie Lou & Buster*, a popular regional band from East Tennessee—Bonnie Lou sings a nice MATTHEW 24. There is also footage of *John Lair*, the force behind the long running **Renfro Valley Barn Dance**. One of the real features here is the triple fiddle work of *Chubby Wise, Tater Tate and Joe Greene*—they play WHAT A FRIEND WE HAVE IN JESUS and take breaks on AMAZING GRACE and other cuts. The songs *Mac Wiseman* does include HOLD FAST TO THE RIGHT, BY THE SIDE OF THE ROAD, REVEILLE IN HEAVEN and THE OLD ACCOUNT WAS SETTLED LONG AGO. Shot over 40 years ago at one of the legendary venues of rural music, this is some of the finest Bluegrass footage that we have from that long ago. FINE!

DVD: \$ 18.00

COMPASS-4532 THE CHAPMANS “Grown Up”

It seems like it's been quite a while since we saw a new release from this mid-western Bluegrass band—and it has been. Considering that this family band is celebrating 20 years in the business, they have had very few albums out to show off their work. This album is somewhat of a retrospective, but the group has chosen to make new recordings of the best songs off their 1995 and 1997 albums for the Pinecastle label. They sound solid and mature here, with good arrangements, and featuring the excellent & distinctive voice of John Chapman on most of the lead vocals. One cut—LOVE'S GONNA LIVE HERE—features a duet with Rhonda Vincent. Guests *Stuart Duncan* (on fiddle) and *Rob Ickes* (dobro) add considerably to the overall sound. WHY DID YOU LIE, JENNY DEAR, RIVER OF SORROW, SMALL EXCEPTION OF ME, etc. **\$ 13.50**

BOOK: KING OF THE QUEEN CITY “The Story of King Records” by Jon Hartley Fox (Univ. of Illinois Press, 2009) 242 pp. During and after the second World War, the recording industry began a significant change that would have a profound effect on music in general in the USA. Instead of just 3 or 4 all-powerful labels, there began to be a steady stream of “Independent” companies that were there to record and promote specialized forms of music that the big labels were not interested in (at least not until they saw the big dollars there). One of the first such labels to arise was KING RECORDS, started and run by the eccentric but highly successful *Syd Nathan*. His location—in Cincinnati, Ohio—was a perfect place to catch musicians, both white and black, as they traveled to perform in venues north and south, rural and urban. Starting in 1943 with a couple of records by *Grandpa Jones & Merle Travis* (under pseudonyms), Nathan built up a significant stable of artists and hit songs by musicians as diverse as *James Brown* and the *Delmore Brothers, The Swan Silvertone Singers and The Stanley Brothers*. Author Fox does a good job in telling the story of KING and its other labels, mentioning most of the key artists in the Country, Bluegrass, Gospel and R & B genres, and giving us a pretty good idea of what Nathan was like (through interviews with many who worked for him). There is lots of interesting material in this excellent book that should appeal to lovers of country/western, rhythm & Blues and gospel music, as well as to anyone fascinated by the workings of the record industry, and independent labels in particular. **\$27.50**

REB-1831 DON RIGSBY & MIDNIGHT CALL “The Voice of God”

It's been quite a while since Rigsby has had a release of his own, but this excellent new album has been worth the wait. Over the years Rigsby has been a key part of such important bands as *J.D. Crowe's New South, Lonesome River Band, Rock County, Longview, Vern Gosdin and the Bluegrass Cardinals*. Here on this nicely produced 14-song album of Bluegrass gospel songs he uses a variety of settings, from one unaccompanied solo to full band treatments. The material that Rigsby has chosen comes from a variety of sources and includes some quite intriguing songs like Tom T. Hall's THEN Y'AIN'T, Paul Craft's CHARGED WITH BEING CHRISTIAN and Skip Ewing's THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO LUKE.



Other songwriters represented are *Larry Cordle, Alan Johnston, Joe Isaacs, and Gillian Welch*. Along with the contemporary material Rigsby mixes in several traditional pieces like his solo version of THE LORD WILL PROVIDE and the fine full group a cappella treatment of HE DONE WHAT HE SAID. The record also includes some of the last studio work of the late Gerald Evans on fiddle. ONE PRAYER AWAY, LEANING ON THE SON, MARY MAGDALENE, etc. **\$ 13.50**

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E1-2304 JOHN COWAN "The Massenburg Sessions" with McCoury, Mike Bub, Shad Cobb (**\$ 15.00**)