



# NEWSLETTER #307

August - September 2010

www.countysales.com

COUNTY SALES  
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### COUNTY RECORDS CAPS & T-SHIRTS

Answering many requests, we now have a new supply of COUNTY RECORDS caps with our well known train logo in a red, white and black patch. Cap colors are your choice of black or khaki and they are just **\$ 10.00.**

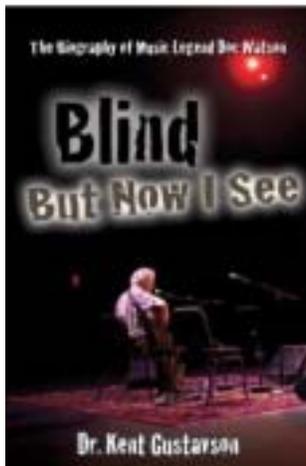
### SPECIAL THIS MONTH

We have a new supply of our popular COUNTY RECORDS T-shirts (with train logo): This month only they are **only \$ 10.00 each.** They come in either white, ash (gray), or Tan Please specify the size you want, **MEDIUM, LARGE, X-LARGE or XXL.**

We also have **REBEL RECORDS** T-shirts on sale for **\$ 10.00** this month. Please specify size and color (White, Navy or Hunter Green).

We are saddened to note the passing of North Carolina musician **CULLEN GALYEAN**, who died on July 13. Galyean in his prime was one of the best Scruggs-style banjo pickers of his time (the 1960s and 70s). He was a member of the **FOOT HILL BOYS** and various other groups in the Galax, Va. and Mount Airy, N.C. area, and for a short time played mandolin for **Ralph Stanley's Clinch Mt. Boys.** Galyean's son, Mickey, is carrying on the family name in Bluegrass, with a band called **RICH-IN-TRADITION.**

**BOOK: BLIND BUT NOW I SEE** by Kent Gustavson, (Blooming Twig Books, 2010) 336 pages, softbound. (The Biography of Doc Watson). This is a fascinating, detailed account of the life and career of one of the giants of American music, Doc Watson. Though any and all fans of acoustic music and the guitar are already familiar with



the basics of Doc's life and music, author Gustavson provides a barrage of details that most of us would not be aware of or may have forgotten (for example the fact that Doc almost died of a ruptured appendix in a Nashville hospital as he was about to join Lester Flatt & Earl Scruggs for their wonderful "Strictly Instrumental" LP). (Another neat passage describes how Earl Scruggs came and knocked on Watson's door—the first meeting of these two amazing pickers—they became good friends and Earl once actually let Doc pilot his plane for a spell!) The author does this partly through scores of interviews with a wide range of musicians, friends and family, opening up stories within a story. Some of the intriguing 20 chapters are devoted to his unfavorable experience in Blind School, his courting of his wife Rosa Lee, his "discovery" by Ralph Rinzler and Gene Earle, his early shows with the Clarence Ashley group, and the beginnings of a recording career with Vanguard Records. The author spends a considerable amount of space dealing with Doc's devotion to his son and playing partner Merle, including various possible scenarios of Merle's tragic death in a middle of the night tractor accident. In a revealing mid-80s conversation with Ralph Rinzler, Doc stressed how much he hated the "road", indicating that had he known what it would be like, he would never have left his simple, down to earth life in his native North Carolina. While we can understand his distaste for endless hours of sitting in airports and motel rooms, it would have been a real loss to all who have come to know and love him as a great musician

and the warm, truly humble person he is. Well Recommended! **\$ 15.00**

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## SPECIAL SALE ON JSP DELUXE 4-CD SETS

This month only we are offering most of the **JSP** country catalog of Deluxe 4-CD sets at a **SPECIAL SALE PRICE** of just \$ **25.00 per set**. That means a savings of another \$2.50 per set off our already discounted price! There is no minimum and no limit as to how many you can buy, and any items you order here CAN be applied towards your special offer (buy 6 records and get a 7<sup>th</sup> CD free) **NOTE:** for special sale purposes each 4-CD set counts as just one item. Take advantage of this special offer !

**The JSP label is a British company that continues to issue attractive 4-CD sets with around 100 songs per issue. They are huge bargains at our normal price of \$ 27.50 per set, and here is your chance to save even more and perhaps pick up one or more sets that you may have missed previously. This special sale will end on October 15, 2010.**

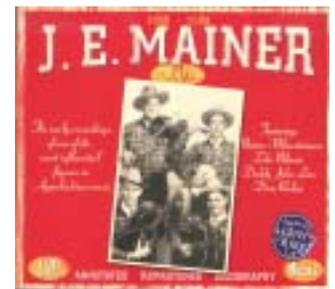
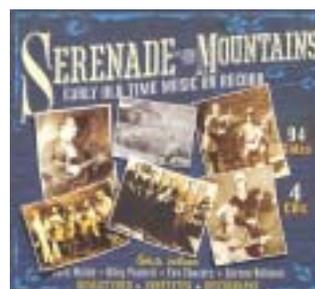
JSP-7727	DELMORE BROS Vol. 1	JSP-7774	PARAMOUNT LABEL
JSP-7726	EARLY CAJUN MUSIC	JSP-7780	SERENADE IN THE MOUNTAINS
JSP-7731	EARLY BLUEGRASS	JSP-7784	DELMORE BROS. -Volume 3
JSP-7732	CLIFF CARLISLE—Vol. 1	JSP-77112	GENE AUTRY
JSP-7745	JUG BANDS (Memphis & Cannon's)	JSP-77100	MOUNTAIN FROLIC
JSP-7743	FRANK HUTCHISON & KELLY HARRELL	JSP-77110	MORE ODDBALL BLUEGRASS
JSP-7749	CAJUN—Volume 2	JSP-77115	EARLY CAJUN—Vol. 3
JSP-7755	MOUNTAIN GOSPEL	JSP-77118	J.E. MAINERS MOUNTAINEERS
JSP-7757	EARLY COUNTRY RADIO	JSP-77119	BILL MONROE (Decca 1950-58)
JSP-7765	DELMORE BROS.—Volume 2	JSP-77124	J.E. MAINER—Volume 2
JSP-7768	CLIFF CARLISLE—Volume 2	JSP-77130	GENNETT LABEL RECORDINGS

It's obvious that someone at JSP really likes the **DELMORE BROTHERS** as well as the older **CAJUN MUSIC**. The music of the **DELMORES** is thoroughly covered with the three Volumes of their music here—Volumes 1 and 2 include almost all of their Bluebird and Decca sides, while Vol. 3 features their King recordings, including the Brown's Ferry Four material and the cuts made with Wayne Raney. Lots of great early Cajun music on JSP-7726, 7749, and 77115: We'd recommend the first and third volumes for the best selection (Denis McGee, Amede Ardoin, Joe Falcon, etc.). Both volumes of **CLIFF CARLISLE** are good representations of his work for several labels in the 1920s and 1930s, and the extensive recordings of **J.E. and WADE MAINER** are well covered in their two volumes.. JSP-7743 (titled **WORRIED BLUES**) is somewhat of a strange combination pairing the music of **Frank Hutchison and Kelly Harrell**, but it's all good music for the Old-Time fan.

JSP-7774 (PARAMOUNT OLD TIME RECORDINGS) and JSP-77130 (GENNETT) are fascinating surveys of the music found on these two intriguing labels that put out some great music in the 1920s and early 30s. The Gennett package is especially good as it basically documents 4 great groups: **DaCosta Woltz, Red Fox Chasers, Fiddlin Doc Roberts and Rutherford & Foster**. The EARLY COUNTRY RADIO survey (JSP-7757) includes some music preserved from the Mexican Border radio stations, including the **Carter Family, Cowboy Slim Rinehart and the Mainers**, plus segments featuring **Roy Hall** and **Charlie Monroe**, plus a **Hank Williams** March Of Dimes broadcast. The JSP-77119 is a fine collection of 97 songs & tunes from Monroe's 1950-1958 Decca masters—a bargain substitute for those who don't want to invest in the more attractive and better annotated Bear Family box sets.

The two Bluegrass sets have a lot of rare and interesting tracks, though JSP-7731 includes some pre-Bluegrass acts like **Roy Hall** and the **Mainers** in addition to material by the **Lilly Brothers** and **Lonesome Pine Fiddlers**.

Here's what you will find in the other anthologies: JSP-7745 includes 98 fine recordings by the two most popular Jug Bands of the 1920s, **CANNON'S JUG STOMPERS** and the **MEMPHIS JUG BAND**. JSP-77100 MOUNTAIN FROLIC primarily features the music of **Buell Kazee and The Carolina Tar Heels**, though there are odds & ends of **Crockett Family, Red Patterson, George Roark** and others. JSP-7780 has no real theme, but includes a wide array of good cuts by various old time artists.



**MH-1292 CROWE—LAWSON—WILLIAMS  
“Old Friends Get Together”**

Three of the finest artists to ever play Bluegrass music take part in this wonderful tribute to the late *Jimmy Martin*. *J.D. Crowe, Paul Williams* and *Doyle Lawson* were all members of some of Jimmy Martin’s best bands, and with him they had a great appreciation for gospel songs. The dozen numbers that they play here were all key pieces of Martin’s repertoire, and it’s great to hear them once again as played and sung by a group of Bluegrass superstars. *Ronnie Stewart* plays fiddle, *Ben Isaacs* plays bass, and *Cia Cherryholmes* and *Sonya Isaacs* supply high harmony vocals on some of the cuts, which include PRAY THE CLOUDS AWAY, VOICE OF MY SAVIOUR, GOODBYE, WHO’LL SING FOR ME, and the classic STORMY WATERS. Great music! **\$ 13.50**



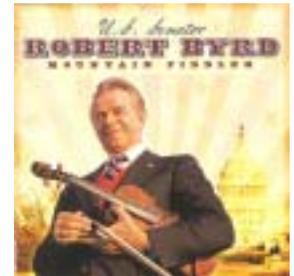
**PCB-2010 PAUL’S CREEK** A nicely done & very enjoyable record by this Asheville NC area band that combines elements of both old-time and Bluegrass music. The album starts off with a bang, with fine versions of ANGELINA BAKER and FRANKIE & JOHNNY, the latter sung by *Carol Rifkin* who provides the vocals on 9 of the 13 tracks, including 4 of her own. Other members of the group include Jamie Soesbee, Troy Harrison and Tim Gardner (noted Asheville fiddler Arvil Freeman is heard on a fine STATEN ISLAND HORNPIPE and the closing TURN YOUR RADIO ON, recorded live at the Mountain Dance Festival). Other top cuts are PAUL & SILAS, FOGGY MOUNTAIN TOP, HESITATION BLUES, CAROLINA CABIN MEMORIES and ROSE OF MY HEART. Good job. **\$ 13.50**

**MVM-2010 DWIGHT LAMB & ELVIN CAMPBELL “Old Time Fiddle Classics in the Missouri Valley Style”** This 34-track album is a CD re-issue of two LPs that came out in 1967 and 1972, featuring Lamb’s fiddling backed up by the guitar playing of Elvin Campbell. It’s solid and enjoyable music, with a wide array of both well known and obscure tunes (some of the more colorful titles are actually tunes that most fiddlers know under other names). Most of the pieces of the 1 & ½ to 2-minute variety, with 4 or 5 waltzes clocking about 3 minutes each. Some of the tunes are LAZY KATE, GRAY EAGLE, PACIFIC SLOPE, DUSTY MILLER, OLD PARNELL, PURCELL’S REEL, GRANNY WILL YOUR DOG BITE, COWBOY WALTZ, etc. **\$ 13..50**

**ROU-0646 SUMMERTOWN ROAD** After seeing this new band in action (at the 2008 IBMA Convention) I was really looking forward to their debut recording: featuring 4 men with top traditional Bluegrass credentials (*Jack Hicks, John Rigsby, Bo Isaac and Randy Thomas*), the group projected a dynamic and hard-edged older approach to the music, which unfortunately is not really conveyed to the listener on this disc. The material is OK and nobody’s doing anything wrong, but the album lacks the excitement that they generated in person. We can only attribute this to the recording quality, which lacks the “presence” of a rich, authoritative sound that is found on the records of most of today’s top bands (and many newer groups as well). Jack Hicks (former banjo picker for Bill Monroe, John Rigsby (who played with Ralph Stanley and Melvin Goins), and Bo Isaac (who picked & sang with Dave Evans) make up a strong, intriguing Bluegrass band, and hopefully future recordings will do them more justice. ROSALEE, TWO MEDALS, FIDDLIN’ JOHN, WINDS OF CHANGE, YOU’RE NOT EASY TO FORGET, etc. **\$ 13.50**

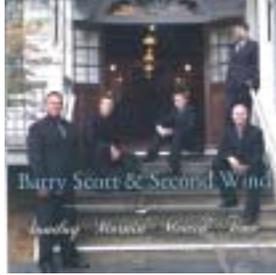
**COU-2743 U.S. SENATOR ROBERT BYRD  
“Mountain Fiddler”**

The late West Virginia Senator was not only the longest serving member of the U.S. Senate, but one of the most influential at one time as well (serving as Senate Majority leader). Many folks did not know that he was a very competent fiddler as well, with a real love and respect for the heritage of his state’s traditional music—he cited the legendary



fiddler *Clark Kessinger* as a musician whom he admired. In the late 1970s, through the efforts of Alan Jabbour, Barry Poss and County Records, he recorded this album (it originally came out on LP in 1978), backed nicely by *Doyle Lawson, James Bailey and Spider Gilliam* (on guitar, banjo and bass, respectively). In addition to good renditions of fiddle tunes like RED BIRD, FORKED DEER, OLD JOE CLARK, DURANG’S HORNPIPE and CUMBERLAND GAP, he proves himself a decent vocalist on songs like DON’T LET YOUR SWEET LOVE DIE, ROVING GAMBLER, MORE PRETTY GIRLS THAN ONE and WISH I HAD STAYED IN THE WAGON YARD, as well as giving interesting intros to several of the tunes & songs. (NOTE: a more extensive description of this record can be found on our web site. **\$ 13.50**)

**SCOTT-2010 BARRY SCOTT & SECOND WIND** “**Sunday Mornin’ Meetin’ Time**” The influence of Doyle Lawson is being heard more and more in Bluegrass gospel music today, and this new recording—intended to fill in a gap between Scott’s wonderful first album for Rebel Records and his future secular disc—is another gem that can take its place among the very best records of the day. It is primarily a collection of a cappella songs, with 7 of the 10 songs in that mode and beautifully done. In addition there is an instrumental version of I’LL FLY AWAY, a full band closing cut of HOW GREAT THOU ART, and Scott plays piano and sings JUST A CLOSER WALK WITH THEE. Scott, who spent several years in Lawson’s band, handles most of the lead vocals, joined by *Matthew Munsey, Jason Leek, Travis Houck and Daniel Salyer*. Great cuts of WAY DOWN DEEP IN MY SOUL, PLACE PREPARED FOR ME, I AM THE MAN, RAINBOW OF LOVE, etc. **\$ 13.50**



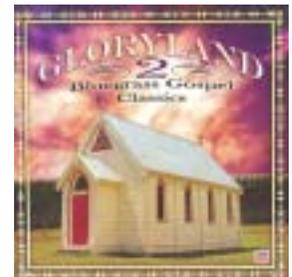
**STECHEER-2010 JODY STECHER & KATE BRISLIN** “**Return**” This husband and wife duo can always be counted on for some lovely singing and arrangements, and for turning up obscure but fine songs. They have had several albums on the Rounder label, but this is their first in several years and it will be highly enjoyable to their circle of fans. Jody uses guitar, banjo and mandolin variously, joined by Kate’s guitar to accompany their fine vocals as they present a good program of 14 songs that include old time numbers like BOAT’S UP THE RIVER, EVERY BUSH & TREE, BACKSTEP CINDY, KEEP YOUR LAMP TRIMMED & BURNING, and WANDERING BOY and MY OLD COTTAGE HOME from the Carter Family repertoire. Hazel Dickens’ OLD CALLOUSED HANDS and Utah Phillips’ OLD BUDDY GOODNIGHT are a couple of more recent songs that also work well for their duets. **\$ 13.50**

**MO5AR ALBEMARLE RAMBLERS** “**Gentleman From Virginia**” We will go along with this group’s description of their playing: “straight-ahead old-time southern string band music—the way we like it”. Two of the three pickers are from central Virginia (*Dick Harrington*, a former member of *Afton Mt. String Band* and *Troublesome Creek*), and *Pete Vigour* (a 25-year member of “*Uncle Henry’s Favorites*”). They are joined by Canadian *Arnie Naiman*, who has been involved with several excellent old-time records with *Chris Coole*. They are solid, yet relaxed, and have a nice selection of 14 songs & tunes including LADY OF THE LAKE, OTTO WOOD THE BANDIT, GLENDY BURKE, LONSOME HOMESICK BLUES, YEW PINEY MOUNTAIN, THE DIXIE BEE LINE, RUBEN’S TRAIN, etc. Good old time music **\$ 13.50**

**RHY-1065 LONESOME RIVER BAND** “**Still Learning**” This fine and highly influential band has been at it for over 20 years now, with an impressive list of musicians who have been members of the band at one time or another—these include *Dan Tyminski, Ronnie Bowman, Don Rigsby, Kenny Smith, Jeff Parker and Brandon Rickman*, among others. Still leading the group and keeping its distinctive sound is *Sammy Shelor*—one of today’s great banjo pickers and a powerful force in the music since taking part in the group’s classic “**Carrying The Tradition**” recording that won the IBMA’s coveted Album of The Year in 1990, and one of the first records to strongly appeal to both traditional and contemporary Bluegrass fans. The current group includes Rickman on guitar, *Andy Ball* on mandolin, *Mike Hartgrove* on fiddle, *Mike Anglin* on bass and of course Shelor on banjo. The group here maintains its reputation for top-flight, hard driving Bluegrass. **\$ 13.50**

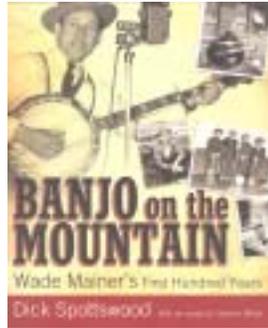
**TL-25482 GLORYLAND 2** (Various Artists)

Due to the success of two huge selling previous Bluegrass gospel anthologies (*GLORYLAND 1 and HEAVEN BOUND*), Time-Life has followed up with another stellar 18-song collection that should please any lover of good gospel music. Like the original *GLORYLAND* disc, this collection is taken completely from the catalog of Rebel Records and includes songs from such artists and groups as *Ralph Stanley, J.D. Crowe, Paul Williams, Rhonda Vincent, Country Gentlemen, Forbes Family, The Seldom Scene, The Lilly Brothers and Larry Sparks*. There are superb renditions of such gospel classics as LITTLE WHITE CHURCH, COME UNTO ME, THE GOSPEL TRAIN, WORKING ON A BUILDING, CAMPING IN CANAAN’S LAND, AMAZING GRACE, SATAN’S JEWELLED CROWN, UNCLOUDY DAY and I PRESSED THROUGH THE CROWD. Unless you already have all or most of these songs, this is well worth having and comes highly RECOMMENDED! **\$ 15.00**



**MARTIN-2010 JACK MARTIN** “**Hound Dog Blues**” Though not many may be familiar with his name, Martin played the dobro in Lester Flatt’s Nashville Grass for a time. He is a competent musician and has a nice selection of songs & tunes here, including KENTUCKY, MAPLE SYRUP RAG, LONESOME MOONLIGHT WALTZ, SWEET BUNCH OF DAISIES, HANG YOUR HEAD IN SHAME, IN THE GARDEN and the title tune. Roland White is among those providing a solid backing for Martin. **\$ 13.50**

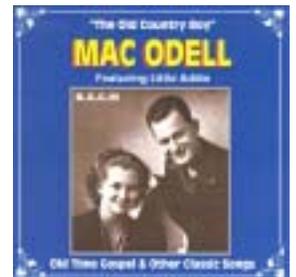
**BOOK: BANJO ON THE MOUNTAIN “Wade Mainer’s First 100 Years”** by Dick Spottswood (Univ. of Mississippi Press, 2010, 134 pages, softbound). Noted musicologist, reviewer and radio host Dick Spottswood has done a nice job in putting together this tribute to an important rural musician from North Carolina who amazingly was still performing at the age of 100! From a musical family that included his brother J.E., Wade made dozens of recordings over the years for Bluebird, King, Old Homestead and others, from the mid 1930s to the present. His 2-finger style of banjo playing, his repertoire, and his band sound became a transitional link between the old-time music of the 1920s and the sounds of early Bluegrass in the late 1940s and early 50s. Spottswood covers his long career nicely, and the book is very well illustrated with a huge number of photos and mementos. There is also an essay on Wade’s banjo style written by Stephen Wade, and an extensive discography. The latter appears to be complete and accurate as far as the Bluebird and King label recordings go, although the fine 2-CD King re-issue (GT-0959, \$ 20.00) is not noted. However there is a serious weakness in the presentation of the more than dozen records that appeared on John Morris’ Old Homestead label—a page or two of description and explanation here would have been most welcome, because it is hard to tell which albums were new material and which were re-issues, as well as what was the reason that some records appeared on the label’s 70000 series, others on the 90000 series. Why are song titles presented for OH-90168 but not for the other Old Homestead discs? And the book does seem a bit pricey at a *list price* of \$ 30.00. Apart from these minor shortcomings this is an informative and welcome book that fans of Mainer’s Mountaineers will enjoy. **Our Price: \$ 25.00**



**JEWELL-005 JENI & BILLY “Longing For Heaven”** This young couple has put together this enjoyable CD that pretty much jumps out at the listener for its sheer laid back simplicity. *Jeni Hankins* sings in a gentle, relaxed manner joined occasionally by *Billy Kemp*—both provide an understated but appropriate instrumental backing using variously guitar, banjo, mandolin and harmonica (Shadd Cobb adds fiddle on one track). Half of the 10 songs are originals, and they do a nice job on I SAW A MAN AT THE CLOSE OF DAY plus two Carter Family songs, SINGLE GIRL and ON A HILL LONE & GREY. A nice addition to the growing list of old-time flavored duet albums. BALLAD OF SALLY KINCAID, LONGING FOR HEAVEN, etc. **\$ 13.50**

**OH-4159 JIMMY MARTIN “Big Jam Session”** This 35-track disc features music that was recorded in a fan’s home in Texas after a personal appearance by Martin and his band, who were working out of the **Louisiana Hayride** in the late 1950s. If you don’t expect too much in the way of sound quality, it is an enjoyable session (Martin’s band at the time, featuring J.D. Crowe and Paul Williams, was probably his best ever). There are no notes to explain who is doing what: Martin fans will be able to identify the vocals by Jimmy and Paul Williams easily, but there are a few cuts by other unidentified singers, and there is fiddle on some tracks, also not identified. Martin does introduce Frank Wakefield as the bass player, and one track (LONG GONE) has a mandolin break that could well be Wakefield. In addition to his early hits, Martin plays a number of songs that he never recorded commercially, such as HO HONEY HO, DIRTY DISHES BLUES, DON’T LAUGH, FIRE IN MY HEART, JOHNSON’S OLD GREY MULE, and LOST TO A STRANGER. **\$ 15.00**

**BACM-309 MAC ODELL “The Old Country Boy”** As Rodney McElrea points out in a good set of notes, it is left to the small, overseas specialty labels to preserve some of the fine but basically forgotten country music that was recorded in the short period of time between the end of World War II and the advent of the long playing record in the late 1950s. While there is precious little market today for the music of Mac Odell, the British Archive has done a service with this release, as it gathers all 26 of the songs that Odell recorded for the Mercury, King and Kentucky labels from 1949 to 1953, and Odell is definitely an artist worth hearing. Odell (real name *Odell McLeod*) is better known today as an excellent songwriter, having penned such pieces as CORA IS GONE, THIRTY PIECES OF SILVER, A CROWN HE WORE and FROM THE MANGER TO THE CROSS. But he was also a very popular radio artist at the peak of his career, when



based in Nashville and other locations, and sold thousands of song books. The material here is of high quality, featuring McLeod’s rich country voice with simple but solid down home backing that includes *Don Reno* on tenor vocals on at least one of the King sessions (he may be playing the mandolin and/or fiddle parts here too). On the eight fine songs that came out on Mercury there’s a nice combination of dobro (*Speedy Krize*?) and harmonica, creating a sound that is reminiscent of some of Roy Acuff’s best work. WILD ROSE OF THE MOUNTAINS, RED BALL ROCKET TRAIN, I’D RATHER HAVE GOD and THIRTY PIECES OF SILVER are just a few of the fine tracks to be heard here. Good coverage of a fine artist. **\$ 15.00**

**SSP-2009 BUDDY PENDLETON “Gems From A Master Fiddler”** It’s good to see this fine Virginia fiddler recording again, and this CD is a well played 15-track record on which Pendleton is joined by a dozen other musicians mostly from his home area (Patrick County) including *Hershel Sizemore, Sammy Shelor, Olen Gardner and Johnny & Jeanette Williams*. Those who have been customers of ours for a long time (think 1960s!) will remember Buddy’s work with *Larry Richardson, the Greenbrier Boys* and ultimately *Bill Monroe’s Blue Grass Boys*. Rather than pursue a career as a sideman, Pendleton returned home early to a job in the Post Office. Pendleton’s fiddling is still solid and there’s plenty of variety on this disc, with some vocals by Johnnie & Jeanette Williams and touches of clawhammer banjo and autoharp. A nice collection of tunes includes FOGGY MT. TOP, FISHER’S HORNPIPE, BILLY IN THE LOW GROUND, THE OLD SPINNING WHEEL, CHURCH IN THE WILDWOOD, TENNESSEE WALTZ, CLINCH MT. BACKSTEP, etc. **\$ 13.50**

**RBR-103 THE RYTHMIA** This trio from Kansas takes their music very seriously, as one can tell from the well worked out versions of some 20 rag tunes and the very informative set of notes. *Pat Ireland* plays fiddle, *Kevin Sanders* plays guitar and banjo-guitar, and *Bob Ault* takes on the mandolin, uke, tenor banjo and 5-string banjo. The material for the most part is pretty obscure—this listener only recognized 3 or 4 of the tunes, (DILL PICKLES, SMOKY MOKES, SUNFLOWER SLOW DRAG), but these were done quite effectively and our guess is that those who like ragtime tunes will really enjoy most everything on this album. There are tunes by the giants of ragtime, Scott Joplin, Charles Johnson and James Scott among others, and there’s a lot to be learned from the notes to each tune. A neat package. **\$ 13.50**

**FC-057 TAYLOR RORRER “Playing Poole”** Rorrer is a 4<sup>th</sup> generation old-time musician whose great-great uncles were *Charlie Poole and Posey Rorer* (!). Here he plays the fiddle on 13 tunes & songs, most of them straight out of the Charlie Poole repertoire. Joining him on various tracks are *Jim Watson (2 vocals), Jeanette Williams (1 vocal), and either David Holt, Edwin Lacy or Bob Carlin* on banjo. Also very much present is Taylor’s father, *Doug Rorrer*, who plays guitar, bass and sings MOVING DAY. Incidentally, Doug Rorrer is also the founder and owner of this *Flying Cloud* label. It’s all enjoyable old-time music—especially nice is a fine version of NEW 5 CENT PIECE. RAGTIME ANNIE, SWEET 16, MOUNTAIN REEL, etc. **\$ 13.50**

**GRIND-2010 DAVID GRINDSTAFF “Here & Now”** Good solid traditional Bluegrass here from Grindstaff, a good singer who is backed by an impressive list of musicians including Tim Stafford, Adam Steffey, Hunter Berry, Haley Stiltner and others. He does a good job on a couple of old Stanley songs—I’M LOST I’LL NEVER FIND THE WAY and THE MAN IN THE MIDDLE, and fills out the 13 track disc with other material from a variety of writers. THE TINKER MAN, ANOTHER LONELY DAY, etc. **\$ 13.50**

**PROPER 153 THE ESSENTIAL CHARLIE POOLE**

At first glance the question pops up: do we really need another box set of *Charlie Poole*, great as he was? There’s already a more attractive box set from CBS/SONY as well as 3 great COUNTY CDs that really contain the best of Poole’s Columbia recordings from the 1920s and early 30s. (COU-3501, 3508 and 3516, \$ 13.50 each). But then we re-considered the situation, having heard that the SONY Box set is running low and *will not* be re-pressed when they are sold out, due to the very high costs of packaging a set like that. So let’s examine this British 4-CD box set more closely: unlike the SONY set, this one includes most of the peripheral recordings associated with Poole and his band mates. Specifically it has all 6 of the wonderful *Roy Harvey & Leonard Copeland* guitar duets, the four tunes done as *The Highlanders*, a *Posey Rorrer* Edison track, about 6 miscellaneous songs by *Roy Harvey*, and the 4-part TRIP TO NEW

YORK skit. For some strange reason, about a dozen of Poole’s 60 or so Columbia recordings have been left out of this set (including great songs like BILL MASON, LEAVING DEAR OLD IRELAND and MILWAUKEE BLUES). Other minor negatives: the point



size of the notes is so tiny as to make them almost unreadable (at least for older folks), and some of the sound transfers from the Columbia 78s appear to be made from less than clean discs—no excuse for this as mint condition copies of all of these exist in the hands of collectors. (In general the sound quality is good). The notes by Russell Beecher appear to be sound (if you can read them), and the overall package is quite attractive. We notice that the CDs were “Made in the Czech Republic”: if that’s what it takes to keep costs down, we’re all for it. It is certainly very much a bargain set at our price.

**4-CD set: \$ 27.50**

**RHY-2002 COMMON STRINGS “Somewhere In Glory”** *Vanessa and Darron Nichols* perform 12 gospel songs competently here, with some assistance on the harmony vocals from *Dale Ann Bradley and Steve Gulley*, and producer *Sammy Shelor* has rounded up a number of good musicians for the instrumental backup, including *Mike Hartgrove* (fiddle), *Brandon Rickman* (guitar) and *Jimmy Creed* (bass). We like the choice of songs, which includes some good ones that you rarely hear today: PREACHING BY THE ROADSIDE, TWILIGHT IS STEALING, NOTHING BUT THE BLOOD, THE PRETTIEST FLOWERS and PAUL’S MINISTRY. **\$ 13.50**

**PATUX-210 DARREN BEACHLEY & THE LEG-  
ENDS OF THE POTOMAC “Take Off”** Good solid contemporary Bluegrass by this 5-member band from the Washington DC area. Long time Bluegrass fans will be happy to see some major names here, including *Mike Auldridge* (dobro), *Tom Gray* (bass), and *Norman Wright* (mandolin). Beachley on guitar and *Mark Delaney* on banjo round out the group, and the 14 songs are mostly new material (at least to Bluegrass) except for nice versions of the Louvin Brothers’ YOU’LL FORGET and Wendy Thatchers’s MISS YOU MISSISSIPPI.

*Tom T. Hall* makes a guest appearance on his song TALL WEEDS & RUST, and *Ray Legere* adds some fiddle work in a few spots. **\$ 13.50**

**SEQ-2010 BROWN, SULLIVAN & CO. “SEQUEL  
TO MAGNUM BANJOS”** There is plenty of sparkling twin banjo picking on this CD that features *Ed Brown*, *Fred Sullivan*, and some of their Tennessee friends. It’s a good album, with a generous 20 tunes, but for those unfamiliar with the group we would recommend first trying the original MAGNUM BANJOS disc, which is even better (BSC-263900, Magnum Banjos, \$ 13.50). *Brown & Sullivan* are backed by fiddle, guitars and bass on an interesting selection of tunes that include some originals as well as pieces as diverse as MISS McLEOD’S REEL and SWEET HOUR OF PRAYER. The tunes are well worked out in chromatic style, presenting a sound that is pretty much unique in the world of banjo instrumentals. The only negative here is that there are no credits or history given—it would at least be nice to know who the backing musicians are. (The original LP came out in the 1970s). TALLA-HASSEE, BANJONATA, MERRYWOOD WALTZ, LITTLE SALLY BROWN, ISRAELI MARCH, etc.

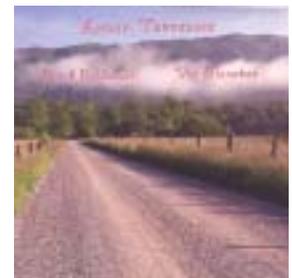
**\$ 13.50**

**MW-2010 MIKE WEBB “The Devil Train”** Webb is a singer and dobro player who learned his trade from the late *Brother Oswald* (Pete Kirby), the longtime *Roy Acuff* sidekick. Webb played professionally with *Wilma Lee Cooper* for a time as well. Here he shows himself to be a good singer, as he shares the vocal chores with guests *Marty Stuart*, *Bobby Osborne* and *Samantha Webb*. His dobro work is also featured on several instrumentals backed by *Marty Stuart* or *Charlie Collins*. One track is an interview with Charlie Collins. Overall, a very nice record, with good versions of THE LAST LETTER, I STILL MISS SOMEONE, STORMY HORIZONS, HOLD FAST TO THE RIGHT and NIGHT TRAIN TO MEMPHIS, among others. **\$ 13.50**

**RHE-200 REDHEAD EXPRESS “Paintin’ The Town Red”** We recently listed an all gospel album by this family band that includes 5 sisters. This primarily secular release is not as consistent, though there are some very nice moments. Much of the standout work is by Kendra Walker, the oldest of the sisters, who—not surprisingly—has the most mature voice and also supplies some very nice lead guitar picking (including an impressive version of BLACKBERRY BLOSSOM). Apryll, who plays rhythm guitar, leads on a nice version of BURY ME BENEATH THE WILLOW, and LaRae sings a lovely arrangement of DON’T THIS ROAD LOOK ROUGH & ROCKY, accompanied by her own clawhammer banjo work. Kendra leads a good version of WHO WILL WATCH THE HOMEPLACE. Three or four of the songs just don’t cut it, and there’s no explanation of why three tracks are duplicated from their gospel album—JESUS HOLD MY HAND led by Kendra and JESUS HOLD MY HAND RETRO sung by Alisa and a weak cut of VACATION TO HEAVEN all appear on both discs. Father of the girls, Brett joins in on some cuts, and Jim Glaspy plays dobro on a few as well. A lot of talent for the future here. **\$ 13.50**

**SAR-2257 BUTCH BALDASSARI & VAN  
MANAKAS “Leavin’ Tennessee”**

The notes tell us that this was one of the last projects that the late *Butch Baldassari* worked on, and though he shares equal billing, it is really primarily a guitar record (and a good one) and it is on Butch’s label, Soundart. I for one would have liked to hear more of Baldassari’s mandolin work (he takes breaks on



just a few numbers), but Butch put the other artists up front on this all instrumental recording, and *Manakas* (acoustic guitar) does a very nice job on 17 tunes that range from old fiddle classics to waltzes and Jazzy workouts. There’s a good amount of fiddle work (by *Stuart Duncan*, *Bobby Hicks* and *Shad Cobb*) nice banjo work by *Scott Vestal*, and *Byron House* plays bass. Especially fine are the renditions of COTTON PATCH RAG, INDIAN ECHO, BLUEGRASS IN THE BACKWOODS, BITTER CREEK, I AM A PILGRIM, YELLOW BARBER and the title tune. A dozen of the tunes are Manakas originals. A neat instrumental disc, especially for guitar pickers & fans. **\$ 13.50**

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