



NEWSLETTER #310

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COUNTY SALES
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COUNTY SALES 46th YEAR

As we enter our 46th year in business, we can reflect on some of the major changes that have taken place, especially in the past few years. While digital downloading of music has become a very big factor in the sale of most forms of music, it seems that the compact disc format is still very much holding its own in Bluegrass and country music. We continue to see a steady stream of Bluegrass and Old-Time CDs, more and more of them very well produced and nicely packaged. With somewhere around 5,000 different records, books and DVDs in stock, we are proud to say we have the largest selection anywhere of this music—there are hundreds of items that you won't find anywhere else! We welcome your suggestions & comments, and thank you all for your business!

We are sorry to report the death of **KENNY HADDOCK** back on November 21, 2010. Kenny was one of the early Bluegrass dobro players, and appeared on some very early REBEL and ZAP label LPs and 45s.

CHARLIE LOUVIN We are sorry to report the passing of CHARLIE LOUVIN on January 26, 2011—he was 83. Born in Alabama, he and his late brother Ira formed what many consider the best country duet of all time. Their singing influenced many country and Bluegrass musicians over the years. Charlie recorded many albums after Ira's death in 1964, but the best examples of his music are the wonderful duets that he and Ira cut for Decca, MGM and mostly the Capitol label in the 1950s. Most of their work is available on a superb multi-disc Box set on the Bear Family label (BCD-15561, \$ 150.00 for 8-CDs and a booklet)

PRIZE WINNERS of our Holiday Merchandise Prizes

- 1st Prize (\$ 150.00) WILLIAM DINN, Forest Hills, N.Y.
- 2nd Prize (\$ 100.00) TIFFANY GREGORY, Jamesville, N.C.
- 3rd Prize (\$ 75.00) RONALD MOONEY, Cumming, Ga.
- 4th Prize (\$ 50.00) MICHAEL MAYHEW, Ipswich, England
- 5th Prize (\$ 50.00) JANE PANNELL, Robbinsville, NC
- 6th Prize (\$ 40.00) DAVE THOMAS, Massanutten, Va.
- 7th Prize (\$ 40.00) RICHARD REKON, Mt. View, Calif.
- 8th Prize (\$ 40.00) FRANK COMER, Hyattsville, Md.
- 9th Prize (\$ 40.00) DAVID HORAN, Diana, Tex.
- 10th Prize (\$ 40.00) JOHNNY SHORE, Hamptonville, NC

Thank you all for participating!

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HIGHLIGHT ITEMS FROM 2010

Did you miss any of these excellent albums & books from 2010?

As we start a new year, we like to look over the past 12 months and point out some of the most popular items that we carry. We can highly recommend any and all of the **CDs and BOOKS** listed below!

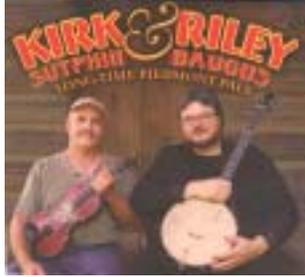
NOTE: All CDs listed below are **\$ 13.50 each** unless otherwise indicated.

- SFW-40180 NEW LOST CITY RAMBLERS “50 Years”** A fine 3-CD set that highlights the long career of this important old-time group (**\$ 35.00**)
- SFW-40202 OLABELLE REED “Rising Sun Melodies”** 19 tracks from the Folkways LPs of this wonderful lady who played old-time, Bluegrass & country music (**\$ 15.00**)
- COMP-4539 MEMORIES OF JOHN** A fitting tribute to the late John Hartford
- COU-2743 SENATOR ROBERT BYRD “Mountain Fiddler”** The late U.S. Senator was a good Country fiddler as this neat CD shows.
- COU-2744 RURAL PARLOR GUITAR** A superb collection of late 1960s recordings by Charlie Faurot—includes E.C. Ball, Lena Hughes etc.
- REB-1831 DON RIGSBY “The Voice of God”** Super collection of interesting gospel
- REB-1833 JOE MULLINS & THE RADIO RAMBLERS “Rambler’s Call”** Mullins has a great new group here—wonderful traditional Bluegrass!
- REB-1834 STEEP CANYON RANGERS “Deep In The Shade”** Best album yet from one of today’s most exciting bands in Bluegrass
- REB-1835 PAUL WILLIAMS “Just A Little Closer Home”** latest recording by one of the greatest singers in Bluegrass
- REB-1837 JUNIOR SISK “Heartaches & Dreams”** One of the best vocalists in today’s Bluegrass scene—lots of good songs here
- REB-1838 BIG COUNTRY BLUEGRASS “The Boys In Hats & Ties”** A fine new disc by this long established group—features the neat title song! (made # 1 on BGU chart!
- REB-7510 DARK AS A DUNGEON** A powerful collection of songs about mining and miners With 14 excellent tracks by as many artists. Just (**\$ 10.00**)
- REB-7524 LOST & FOUND “Down On Sawmill Road”** Really nice 14-song collection of this groups earlier work, (**\$ 10.00**)
- JSP-77124 J.E. MAINER “Classic Sides, 1937-1941”** A great 4-CD set for anyone who likes J.E. and Wade Mainer. 100 tracks from old Bluebird recordings (**\$ 27.50**)
- JSP-77130 GENNETT OLD TIME MUSIC** Lots of GREAT old time music on this label Survey from 1920s and 1930s 78s. 4-CDs with 100 cuts! (**\$ 27.50**)
- JSP-77131 CLASSIC FIELD RECORDINGS** Another super 4-CD set that focuses on minor artists that recorded for the Bluebird label in the 30s 100 tracks (**\$ 27.50**)
- ROU-0610 DAILEY & VINCENT “Singing From The Heart”** Our favorite of the three Dailey & Vincent records to date—a wonderful CD! (All gospel)
- ROU-0633 BLUE HIGHWAY “Some Day”** A good retrospective—most of the tracks are re-issued from earlier records
- ROU-0642 NORMAN BLAKE “Sleepy Eyed Joe”** Ten good cuts at a bargain price (**\$ 9.00**)
- MH-1259 DARRIN & BROOKE ALDRIDGE** Nice work—Brooke has a compelling voice
- MH-1292 CROWE, LAWSON & WILLIAMS “Old Friends”** Hard to beat this superb collection of Jimmy Martin gospel cuts by this amazing trio!
- MH-1309 THE BOXCARS** Nice debut CD by Adam Steffey, John Bowman, Ron Stewart, etc. Excellent straight Bluegrass.
- HOR-1276 DOYLE LAWSON “Light On My Feet”** Another great gospel record by Doyle

- BCR-017** **DAUGHTERS OF BLUEGRASS “Bluegrass Bouquet”** 50 ladies featured on 17 Tom T. Hall songs. Dale Ann Bradley, Valerie Smith, etc.
- SUG-4055** **SAM BUSH “Circles Around Me”** At last a Sam Bush CD that straight Bluegrass fans can really enjoy!
- SUG-4057** **ADAM STEFFEY “One More For The Road”** Well produced album with Dan Tyminski, Stuart Duncan, Ron Block, Barry Bales, etc.
- TL-24922** **HANK WILLIAMS “Revealed”** Wonderful 3-CD box set from *Mother’s Best Flour* radio shows from 1951. **(\$ 35.00)**
- TL-24976** **PATTY LOVELESS “Mountain Soul II”** A wonderful singer and a great CD! With Vince Gill, Rob Ickes, Del & Ronnie McCoury, etc. **(\$ 15.00)**
- TL-25482** **GLORYLAND II** Time-Life presents 18 Bluegrass gospel gems all borrowed from Rebel Records’ vaults. Stanley, Reno & Martin, J.D. Crowe etc **(\$ 15.00)**
- TSQ-2479** **BLOODY WAR** Attractively presented anthology of songs about war by old-time artists of the 1920s and 30s. **(\$ 15.00)**
- UM-001** **RHONDA VINCENT “Taken”** A new label for Rhonda, but more first rate straight Bluegrass **(\$ 12.50)**
- BACM-294** **TOMMY JACKSON** A long overdue re-issue of 26 tunes by this near legendary fiddler **(\$ 15.00)**
- BACM-309** **MAC ODELL “The Old Country Boy”** This fine down home singer from the 1940s deserves a full CD, and this is it. **(\$ 15.00)**
- BANG-005** **MARK JOHNSON & EMORY LESTER “Acoustic Vision”** A lovely combination of Johnson’s clawhammer banjo with other well played instruments
- BTR-110** **FREIGHT HOPPERS** The good old-time group is back after some time away
- HRC-028** **KYLE CREED “Liberty”** Old-Time master of clawhammer banjo
- RHY-1046** **BRANDON RICKMAN “Young Man, Old Soul”** Fine contemporary Bluegrass by ex member of Lonesome River Band
- RHY-1066** **STEVE GULLEY & TIM STAFFORD** Nice combination, good original songs
- YODEL-075** **BIG MEDICINE “Pine to Pine”** Good old time music
- GT-0958** **COUNTRY GENTLEMEN “High Lonesome”** An overdue 2-CD set of all their fine Starday recordings! (2-CD set: **(\$ 15.00)**)
- GT-0959** **RENO & SMILEY “The Early Years”** a superb 4-CD set with over 100 of their classic early cuts. With smaller box than the original, but lower price **(\$ 25.00)**
- JGCD-1003** **JERRY GARCIA BAND “Ragged But Right”** Grateful Dead leader plays old-time and Bluegrass with Sandy Rothman, David Nelson, etc.
- NT-1011** **GRASS CATS “A Good Way To Get The Blues”** Excellent traditional Bluegrass by this N.C. band led by Russell Johnson Title song was # 1 in BG Unlimited
- SKFR-1009** **RICKY SKAGGS “Songs My Dad Loved”** Good songs—Ricky plays all the instruments here
- SIG-2009** **CROOKED STILL “Live”** Group has a different and great sound with their use of a cello, and they pick good songs.
- RAVEN-319** **DOC & MERLE WATSON “Columbus Stockade Blues”** a good collection of their United Artists recordings from the 1970s 30 tracks **(\$ 15.00)**
- SCOTT-2010** **BARRY SCOTT “Sunday Mornin’ Meetin’ Time”** Wonderful Bluegrass renditions of mostly A cappella songs by this ex-Lawson singer.
- OLD HAT-1007** **GASTONIA GALLOP** Fine collection of 1920s & 30s Cotton Mill Songs by Wilmer Watts, Carolina Twins, etc. **(\$ 15.00)**
- BOOK:** **I HEAR A VOICE CALLING** (Gene Lowinger) Interesting recollections of an old Bill Monroe sideman. Lowinger played fiddle for Bill in 1965. **(\$ 18.00)**
- BOOK:** **STILL INSIDE: The Tony Rice Story** (Tim Stafford & Caroline Wright) A fine biography of this guitar giant, much of it in his own words. A must! **(\$ 25.00)**
- DVD:** **SHAN-621 THE LEGACY OF ROSCOE HOLCOMB** Combines John Cohen’s noted *HIGH LONESOME* film with other film and video footage **(\$ 18.00)**
- DVD:** **FBG-001 FAMILIES OF BLUEGRASS** Del McCoury, The Whites, Ramona Jones Cox Family, Dave & Don Parmley etc. **(\$ 18.00)**

OLD BLUE-705 KIRK SUTPHIN & RILEY BAUGUS “Long-Time Piedmont Pals”

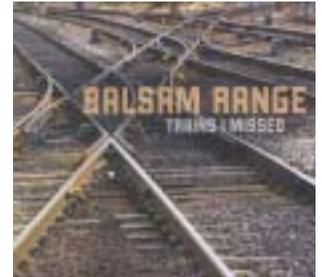
Two of the most respected “younger” old-time musicians from the musically rich areas of Round Peak (NC) and Galax, Virginia get together for this outstanding collection of fiddle & banjo songs & tunes. There are 23 full length pieces featuring Sutphin’s fiddling accompanied by Baugus’ clawhammer banjo and vocals (Baugus, though still a relatively young man is starting to sound more like an “old-timer” than anyone else we’ve heard—and that is a compliment). Even if you have multiple versions of most of these local tunes, you should get to hear this superb record—recorded by Charlie Faurot, and with extensive notes by Kinney Rorrer, this disc showcases two of the very best of today’s old-time musicians and demonstrates just how alive this tradition still is in one particular part of our country. **HIGHLY RECOMMENDED.** SILLY BILL, SUZANNA GAL, FORKED DEER, LAST OF CALLAHAN, RILEY & SPENCER, WILD BILL JONES, FORTUNE, BIRDIE, etc. **\$ 13.50**



SB-10008 THE SPINNEY BROTHERS “Side By Side” Led by *Allan and Rick Spinney* (guitar & banjo respectively), this group is one of the better bands in Canada (they are from Nova Scotia) for good, straight traditional Bluegrass. They’ve put out a number of albums to date (this may be their 8th), and this one is recorded and mixed by *Ron Stewart*, which pretty much tells you it’s going to be a solid, well-produced album (Stewart also plays fiddle here). The songs are a mix of band originals and a few standards like RAMBLING LETTERS, ON THE WINGS OF ANGELS, and JUST A LITTLE AT A TIME (a Stanley influence here, obviously!) **\$ 13.50**

MH-1295 BALSAM RANGE “Trains I Missed”

This band from western North Carolina is establishing itself as a group to be reckoned with: featuring strong lead singing by 4 of the 5 members, it brings a hard-driving yet contemporary style of Bluegrass to the table. Members of the band include *Darren Nicholson* on mandolin, *Marc Pruett* on banjo, *Caleb Smith* on guitar, *Tim Surratt* on acoustic bass and *Buddy Melton* on fiddle. Melton’s lead singing is the most distinctive and assertive, though it seems to be coming from a rock background and sensibility—his performance of the title song is the selling point of the record—it’s a fine song—though to this listener the songs sung by Surratt, Nicholson and especially Caleb Smith are just as appealing. The choice of material on their first album might have been a bit stronger than this effort, and some may find their presentation a bit too intense, but it’s all well arranged and nicely played. **HARD PRICE TO PAY, THE OTHER SIDE, EAST VIRGINIA BLUES, ON THE RUN and MEMORY OF YOU, etc. \$ 13.50**

**5-SP-09002 MATT BROWN “My Native Home”**

This is a tough record to describe, and in fact may be a tough disc for many to listen to. There is enough good old time picking here to recommend the album—if only Mr. Brown had left most or all of the singing to someone else. It seems every other cut features a vocal by Brown, and try as we may to not be over critical, Brown’s singing just leaves a lot to be desired—we’ll leave it at that. Hopefully, others may have a different opinion. To focus on the positive, Brown—who alternates between fiddle, guitar and banjo—has enlisted the services of these top flight musicians: *Tim O’Brien*, *Brittany Haas*, and bassist *Mark Schatz*, and the tunes are well-chosen (there are 17 tracks) with good renditions of FOLDING DOWN THE SHEETS, BILLY IN THE LOW GROUND and an especially nice TAYLOR GIRLS (a Matt Brown original featuring fine fiddling by Ms. Haas. SANDY RIVER BELLE, COMMODORE BARRY, etc. **\$ 13.50**

SPENCE-2010 SHERRY SPENCE “Wind Of Change” 20 tracks of pleasant straight Bluegrass by this lady from Galax, Virginia who is accompanied by a variety of musicians including *Rick Allred*, *Ronald Inscore*, *Jeanette Williams*, *Ron Stewart* and others. All 20 songs are originals by Ms. Spence. KATIE JANE, DO YOU KNOW, THE LETTER, SWEET VIRGINIA LIFE, I WISH I HAD WINGS, MUDDY RIVER, etc. **\$ 13.50**

MFS-10430 BUBBA CHANDLER “Somebody To Sing To” Bubba Chandler will be remembered as a key member of *The Lost & Found* in its early days, and a writer of several of their songs including the popular RABBIT SONG (which he includes on this recording, with the addition of guests *Allen Mills* and *Gene Parker* from the old *Lost & Found* being a nice touch.) After quite a few years he returns here with his own 13 song album. It’s pleasant, easy going music, but leans more to a laid back country sound than to Bluegrass. A heavy dose of drums and percussion is prominent behind most of the tracks. *Sammy Shelor* is present on banjo on several cuts. JESUS AT THE JAILHOUSE DOOR, GREAT BIG MAMA, CASEY’S LAST RIDE, etc. **\$ 13.50**

BACM-323 VARIOUS ARTISTS “Country Gospel—Vol. 1” What at first looks like a promising album of down-home country gospel songs turns out to be a disappointing collection of mostly obscure mediocrities. The 25 tracks run the gamut from groups that leaned more toward a Southern Gospel sound (*Sunshine Boys, LeFevre Trio and Queen City Quartet*) to borderline Bluegrass acts like *Lee Mace, Joe Franklin, and Billie and Gordon Hamrick* (probably the most interesting track here). There were many very nice odd-ball down home recordings from the same time period (1950s mostly), but few of them made it onto some of the labels included here, like Bibletone, Big 6, Fortune and Big 4 Hits. Here’s hoping Volume 2 of this set will contain better music. JESUS STILL HEALS, JUDGEMENT DAY, TATTLER’S WAGON, LITTLE DAVID, NO GRAVE, LONELY TOMBS, CALLING YOU, etc. **\$ 15.00**

McCOY-2010 CHANCE McCOY & THE APALACHIAN STRING BAND

Another really good album of old-time tunes and songs to add to the library (and/or to dance to). McCoy—who is also part of the band **OLD SLEDGE**—is an excellent fiddler and the group has selected an outstanding array of material, balancing it nicely between sprightly string band tunes (fiddle, banjo, guitar & bass) and some solo banjo and fiddle pieces that set off the faster tunes nicely. *Adam Hurt* plays a nice old time banjo here. There are a generous 19 tracks, some of the highlights of which are the full band pieces like *JIMMY JOHNSON, CRANBERRY ROCK, SHELVIN ROCK, TWIN SISTERS, BETTY BAKER, YEW PINEY MOUNTAIN* and *DANCE ALL NIGHT WITH A BOTTLE IN YOUR HAND*. Fine music & recommended! **\$ 13.50**



SIDE-2010 SIDETRACK “Rowdy To Reverent”

You have to go way back as a Bluegrass fan to have seen the *New Deal String Band*—a North Carolina outfit that was one of the early “New Grass” groups in the late 1960s. They were led by lead singer *Leroy Savage*, who shares the spotlight here with *Joe Newberry* (both sing and play guitar). Others in the band include *Gene Knight* on banjo, *Dewey Brown* on fiddle, and *Mike Aldridge* on mandolin. There is also a guest appearance by *Mike Craver (Red Clay Ramblers)* who ends the album with the Carter Family song *WILL YOU MISS ME*. *HIGHWAY OF SORROW, DIAMOND JOE, DON’T BE ANGRY, DAYBREAK IN DIXIE, YOU DON’T KNOW ME, JOHN HENRY*, etc. **\$ 13.50**

OH-90223 KEN SCOGGINS & MILLER’S CREEK “Once In A Lifetime Thing” Pleasant traditional Bluegrass by this band from South Carolina. The band has had a few previous releases on their own label as **Miller’s Creek**. Scoggins’ pleasant voice is backed by a number of contributing musicians including *Alicia Nugent* and *Heather Berry* on harmony vocals, and *Mike Scott* (banjo) and *Owen Saunders*, the excellent fiddler from David Davis’ group. *NO HEARTS WILL EVER CRY, MAN ON THE SIDE OF THE ROAD, KATIE’S LAST WALTZ, BEAN BLOSSOM BIRD*, etc. **\$ 13.50**

REB-1839 JOE MULLINS & THE RADIO RAMBLERS “Hymns From The Hills”

Mullins, who is known for his work as a Bluegrass DJ in Ohio and a 10-year stint as banjo picker and vocalist with the *Traditional Grass*, has put together a top flight band that can take its place with the best of today’s traditional groups. They already have one fine album to their credit (REB-1833 *RAMBLER’S CALL*, \$ 13.50) and you won’t find a better Bluegrass gospel CD than this wonderful 14 song collection. In growing up, Mullins was steeped in the best of Bluegrass, thanks to the work of his father, *Paul Mullins*—considered by many to be one of the best DJs and promoters of hard core Bluegrass in its early years. The elder Mullins—who also played fiddle with several groups—had a long running gospel radio show called “*Hymns From The Hills*”, which is where Joe took the title for this record. Helping to make this album even more memorable are guest spots by *Doyle Lawson, Ralph Stanley, Paul Williams, Rhonda Vincent and Larry Sparks*, all of whom each take one lead vocal. The highly respected Kyle Cantrell of XM Radio has called this one of the best Bluegrass gospel albums he has heard. There’s a great selection of songs, all done beautifully. **HIGHLY RECOMMENDED \$ 13.50**



COOT-2010 NORTH TO ONTARIO 2010 There’s a lot of nice music on this 19-track collection that is the fifth in a series of annual albums featuring as many different Bluegrass bands from the province of Ontario in Canada. The songs are all new and original, evidently one of the requisites for inclusion on this project. I recognized only one name—*Emory Lester*—and a lot of the music is just average, but some of the bands show skill and promise and it’s a good reminder of just how universal Bluegrass music has become. There’s no real information given on any of the groups, except the names of the singers and instrumentalists. **\$ 13.50**

FIDDLE-10003 FRANK SOLIVAN “Dirty Kitchen”

Twelve songs & tunes well played in a contemporary style by Solivan and a group that also includes banjo picker *Mike Munford* as well as guests *Rob Ickes, John Cowan and Moondi Kline*. Solivan is known for his work with the Navy’s *Country Current* band. Half the songs are Solivan originals. DRIFTIN’ APART, SAME OLD LOVE, PAUL & SILAS, RUNAWAY RAMP, etc. **\$ 13.50**

ADINA-1002 THE BROMBIES “From Piney Hills of Hollywood” *Bill Bryson* is part of this California Bluegrass band that for the most part features good singing by *Jo Ellen Doering* and a nice array of mostly new and original songs. *Gabe Witcher* guests on fiddle on 7 cuts. Songs include COME TO ME, EVERY STEP OF THE WAY, PINEY HILLS, OLD ROUGH & READY, THE WANDERER, BUCKY’S BOUNCE, etc. **\$ 13.50**

GCM-2010 JIMMY GAUDREAU “Pieces & Bits”

Lots of nifty mandolin picking on this 18 track compilation that includes new tunes and new versions of tunes Jimmy wrote over a 40 year musical career. Gaudreau, who also plays mandola, octave mandolin and bouzouki, has an impressive group of musicians who helped him with this record (not all at once!). Some of them are *Mike Auldridge, Richard Bennett, Bill Emerson, Wyatt Rice, Moondi Klein, Jens Kruger and Mark Schatz*. An impressive and very enjoyable album for all who like mandolin sounds. **\$ 13.50**

**WR-33 JESSE McREYNOLDS & FRIENDS “Songs Of The Grateful Dead”**

While this may seem to be a very strange pairing, let’s remember that years ago *Jim & Jesse* recorded an entire album of *Chuck Berry* songs (BERRY PICKING TIME IN THE COUNTRY); though there were plenty of raised eyebrows at the time, the album eventually was respected as a well produced concept album with several songs that became important items in *Jim & Jesse’s* repertoire. And Jesse has recorded some instrumentals that were not typical Bluegrass vehicles, so he has been known to step outside the box on more than one occasion. Not being that familiar with the Grateful Dead’s music, we cannot predict how this album will strike fans of Jerry Garcia et al, but somehow the music here seems to be a bit plodding and dragging, without much real emotional thrust, and I don’t think there will be much appeal to straight Bluegrass devotees. STELLA BLUE, LOSER, BIRD SONG, RIPPLE, DAY BY DAY, ALABAMA, THE WHEEL, etc. **\$ 13.50**

TTB-2010 A DEEPER SHADE OF BLUE “Bluegrass To The Bone” A solid, well played collection of 13 songs & tunes in straight Bluegrass fashion by this 5 piece Carolina band that includes dobro but no fiddle. The dobro picker is *Frank Poindexter*, a relative of *Tony, Larry and Wyatt Rice*. A good selection of songs includes a few Poindexter originals plus I’LL STAY AROUND, YOU CAN RUN BUT YOU CAN’T HIDE, I PRAYED FOR YOU, GONNA LAY DOWN MY OLD GUITAR, WHERE WE’LL NEVER GROW OLD, THE GAME (I CAN’T WIN) and FRANK’S TUNE. **\$ 13.50**

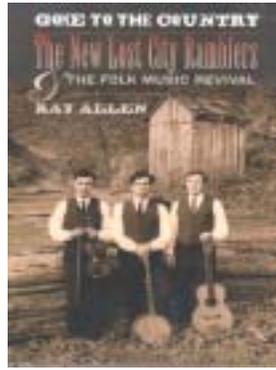
HOTMUD-6742 THE HOTMUD FAMILY “The Complete Vetco Recordings”

Based in Cincinnati Ohio, this band put out 4 LP records in the 1970s, and was a popular regional group at the time. The band was one of the first to play both Bluegrass and old-time music, and unlike some of the other groups that featured old time music at the time, the *Hotmud Family* was not weak in the singing department. In fact *Suzanne Edmundsen* was quite a good vocalist and the other members were all competent singers too—none tried to sound “quaint” or imitate old time styles, a weakness of many of the urban groups and “revivalists” of the period. After well over 30 years, their music holds up very well, and this is a very nice 2-CD package that includes everything that was on the original 4 LPs (a total of 55 songs & tunes), and the set is accompanied by a good set of notes by Jon Hartley Fox. Ms. Edmundsen does a very nice job on songs like MY WANDERING BOY, TEARDROPS FALLING IN THE SNOW and GIRL ON THE GREENBRIER SHORE, and the group shows its “old time” talents on excellent renditions of LAST CHANCE, POLLY PUT THE KETTLE ON and JOHN LOVER’S GONE, among many others. Truthfully, we forgot how good this band was, and it’s great to have its music out again. **\$ 18.00**

**WT-2010 WAYNE TAYLOR & APPALOOSA “Out In The Middle of Nowhere”**

Here’s another good album featuring the strong and distinctive vocals of *Wayne Taylor*, formerly of the Navy’s *COUNTRY CURRENT* band. The 13 songs are a nice mixture of new and old, with the latter including IS IT TOO LATE NOW, WHY DON’T YOU TELL ME SO, OLE SLEW FOOT and a nice version of Jake Landers’ SECRET OF THE WATERFALL. *Emory Lester* on mandolin is part of the backing band. CABIN IN THE SKY, IT’S MY HOME SOUTHERN RAILROAD LINE, WAGES OF SIN, etc. **\$ 13.50**

BOOK: GONE TO THE COUNTRY: “The New Lost City Ramblers & The Folk Music Revival” by Ray Allen, (Univ. of Illinois Press, 2010) 314 pp. A fascinating and very well written book about this group that had much to do with today’s popularity of “Old-Time” music. Author Allen presents a wealth of facts and detail, not only about the group itself, but of the active music scene that *Mike Seeger, John Cohen and Tom Paley* found themselves in during the late 1950s and early 60s. He covers the Washington Square folk scene, the Ramblers many recordings for Folkways, most of the important figures in “Folk” music at the time such as Pete Seeger, Izzy Young (Folklore Center), Ralph Rinzler, Bob Dylan, Alan Lomax, etc. He also mentions the groups that were directly influenced by the Ramblers (such as the *Highwoods String Band*), the ruckus caused at the 1965 Newport Folk Festival when Dylan first appeared with an electric band, and the constant tension in those days between Folklorists, Revivalists, and purveyors of commercial “folk” music. Allen does not try to avoid delicate issues: careful to present all sides of the story, he discusses the problems and tensions that led to Tom Paley’s leaving the band in 1962, to be replaced by Tracy Schwarz. Throughout the book there is an appreciation of the genuine love that the Ramblers had for rural American music, and their desire to share this with a new, young audience. (In addition to their own records and personal appearances, the Ramblers led the way in bringing fine traditional artists like *Dock Boggs, Sam & Kirk McGee, Maybelle Carter, Tom Ashley* and many others to big city venues where they could be appreciated by urban audiences). Amazingly, the Ramblers made less than \$ 5000.00 in 1963, a year in which the Kingston Trio grossed some \$ 300,000 in royalties alone (along with \$ 8000 to \$ 12,000 per show date)—the Ramblers received just \$ 320.00 in royalties for sales of 6 different LPs that they had out at the time. In light of these huge discrepancies, it is certainly ironic—and perhaps very fitting—that the Ramblers had more lasting influence—directly or indirectly—on the vibrant old-time music scene that exists today; more than the groups that really profited from the Hootenanny days craze like the *Limelighters, The Kingston Trio, The Tarriers and Peter, Paul & Mary*. A well-researched & fascinating book.



\$ 22.50

MHMG-001 MOUNTAIN HEART “That Just Happened” With this mini-disc release (7 songs) it appears that the group known as **Mountain Heart** has “left the building”, at least as far as Bluegrass music is concerned. It remains to be seen as to how many of their long-time fans will appreciate the direction in which they are going—this is basically rock music with a real “in your face” heavy sound; heavy percussion, piano, various electric instruments etc. We list it here only to warn fans that this is something quite different than previous records by this band. *Barry Abernathy* is still part of the group, and guests here include *Bryan Sutton, Clay Jones and John Cowan*. **\$ 11.00**

GSM-2501 OLD TIME SMOKY MOUNTAIN MUSIC

It’s always good to learn of some historic old recordings that have just come to light, and this new package is an impressive addition to the library of rural field recordings from the Southern mountains. There are 34 songs & tunes here, all of them recorded in 1939 by one Joseph S. Hall, and commissioned by the National Park Service to document the cultures of mountain people who were being forced to move out in the name of “progress”. Most of the musicians recorded here were from 4 or 5 counties in North Carolina (Madison & Haywood) and Tennessee (Sevier, Cooke). Unlike some Folklorists who sought out primarily ancient Child Ballads, Mr Hall recorded a broader spectrum that included quite a few contemporary country songs like **CURLY HEADED BABY, MULE SKINNER BLUES, CRYING HOLY TO THE LORD** and **DON’T FORGET ME LITTLE DAR-**



LING. There are plenty of even older songs too, (**BOSTON GIRL, KITTY WELLS, PAPER OF PINS**, etc., and some dealing with local events like **THE BIG BEND KILLING**, and **UP ON BIG PIGEON**. The quality of the music varies, but basically it is all interesting—perhaps the most impressive being 5 songs by *Myrtle Conner* of Gatlinburg Tenn., who has fine performances of **LITTLE ROSEWOOD CASKET, PRETTY LITTLE MISS** and **COME ALL YOU YOUNG LADIES**. There is a pretty thick booklet with words to all the songs, notes, and some neat old photos. There are a few mistakes (*Mule Skinner Blues* is attributed to Bill “Malone”, and *Flatt & Scruggs’ BLUE RIDGE CABIN HOME* is *not* the same song as **RAMSHACKLE SHACK**), but overall this is a nice and welcome piece.

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