



NEWSLETTER #311

March - April 2011

www.countysales.com

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

PHONE ORDERS: (540) 745-2001 FAX ORDERS: (540) 745-2008

As we send our Newsletter to the printer, we have just learned that Bluegrass and Country music Impresario **CARLTON HANEY** passed away on March 16, at the age of 82. Born in Reidsville, N.C. in the heart of Bluegrass country, Haney had as much to do with the popularity of Bluegrass music as anyone. As promoter of the first two **ROANOKE BLUEGRASS FESTIVALS** in 1965 and 1966, he set the standard for the yearly gatherings that would bring together most of the top groups, along with fans from all over the world. His early festivals at Berryville, Va. and his own park in Camp Springs, N.C. were legendary, highly influential events that gave Bluegrass artists much needed work and at the same time created hundreds—if not thousands—of new fans for the music. All that directly led to the healthy scene that today includes several hundred yearly events. Before starting his festivals, Haney had been manager for Bill Monroe and then Don Reno & Red Smiley, and had also promoted highly successful country “supershows” in Charlotte, Knoxville, Philadelphia and other markets, featuring big country stars like *Conway Twitty, Merle Haggard and Loretta Lynn*. An outspoken eccentric who could be quite opinionated (in a charming way), he probably has not received

all the credit he is due. But there is no doubt that he loved Bluegrass and did much to increase its popularity significantly.

We were also saddened upon learning of the death of **DOC WILLIAMS**, who died on January 31 at the age of 96. Though a native of Ohio, he did much to spread the popularity of country music through his long time association with WWVA radio in Wheeling, West Va. He was especially popular in New England and eastern Canada.

COUNTY RECORDS CAPS & T-SHIRTS

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 another 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 size wanted, **MEDIUM, LARGE, X-LARGE or XXL.** (We also have several styles of **REBEL** T-shirts available—call for details if interested).

Purchase Amount	\$4.00-29.99	\$30.00-59.99	\$60.00-139.99	\$140.00-199.99	Over \$200.00
U. S. Media Mail	3.50	5.00	7.00	8.00	9.50
U. S. Priority Mail	5.00	7.50	9.75	12.50	15.00
International/Canadian orders will be charged exact shipping costs based on weight of the order					
ALL CUSTOMERS ARE CHARGED A \$1.50 HANDLING FEE * ALL VIRGINIA CUSTOMERS MUST ADD 5% SALES TAX.					
For UPS/COD shipments, please add \$9.00 in addition to regular shipping charges.					
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For special expedited rates (FED EX, UPS, NEXT DAY, etc) please call or fax us for cost & authorization.					



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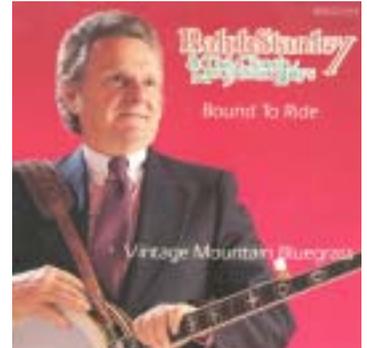


540-745-2001 * Minimum credit card order is \$25.00 * (Fax) 540-745-2008

SPECIAL SALE OF REBEL RECORDS

For a very limited time we are offering all of the following CDs at a special price of just **\$ 7.00 per CD**. There is no limit to how many you can purchase, and these can be used toward your SPECIAL OFFER (Buy 6 and get the seventh CD free—but your free CD must be *any Rebel or County CD*, not limited to this list!). This list includes many of Rebel's best-selling records, most of them never offered before at this special sale price! Also note the special pricing on all three **REBEL box sets!** **OFFER ENDS MAY 10, 2011.**

CCS-111	FLATT & SCRUGGS "You Can Feel It In Your Soul"
REB-1103	SELDOM SCENE "Live At The Cellar Door"
REB-1104	COUNTRY GENTLEMEN "Live In Japan"
REB-1111	DEL McCOURY "Classic Bluegrass"
REB-1114	RALPH STANLEY "Bound To Ride"
REB-1118	RALPH STANLEY "Live At McClure"
REB-1127	RED ALLEN "Keep On Going"
REB-1128	RED ALLEN "Lonesome And Blue"
REB-1499	RALPH STANLEY "Cry From The Cross"
REB-1504	KEITH WHITLEY & RICKY SKAGGS "2 nd Generation"
REB-1511	SELDOM SCENE "Act One" (Their 1 st Album)
REB-1559	COUNTRY GENTLEMEN "Joe's Last Train"
REB-1574	COUNTRY GENTLEMEN "Calling My Children Home"
REB-1582	TONY RICE "Guitar" (Tony's 1 st album)
REB-1585	J.D. CROWE "Model Church" Classic gospel record!
REB-1602	DAVE EVANS "Going 'Round This World"
REB-1621	JIMMY ARNOLD "Southern Soul" classic Civil War record
REB-1651	BILL EMERSON "Home of the Red Fox"
REB-1654	LARRY SPARKS "Silver Reflections" One of his best records
REB-1665	RHONDA VINCENT "New Dreams & Sunshine"
REB-1675	COUNTRY GENTLEMEN "Let The Light Shine Down"
REB-1688	LILLY BROTHERS & DON STOVER "Early Recordings"
REB-1690	LONESOME RIVER BAND "Carrying The Tradition" Great
REB-1709	DEL McCOURY "Livin' On The Mountain"
REB-1713	IIIRD TYME OUT "Grandpa's Mandolin"
REB-1726	LARRY SPARKS "Blue Mountain Memories"
REB-1730	RICHARD GREENE "Wolves A-Howlin'" Great fiddle disc
REB-1746	BLUE HIGHWAY "Midnight Storm" a classic CD
REB-1752	KARK SHIFLETT "& Big Country Show"
REB-1754	PAUL WILLIAMS "Old Ways & Old Paths" Fine gospel
REB-1770	RALPH STANLEY "Clinch Mt. Sweethearts"
REB-1773	MARK NEWTON "Charlie Lawson's Still"
REB-1775	RALPH STANLEY II "Stanley Blues"
REB-1780	LONGVIEW "Lessons In Stone"
REB-1785	JAMES ALAN SHELTON "Song For Greta"
REB-1787	DAVE EVANS "High Waters, Bad Blood"
REB-1789	DON RENO & RED SMILEY "Together Again"
REB-1790	JAMES PRICE "Fiddlin' The Old Time Way"
REB-1796	ROCK COUNTY "Rock Solid"
REB-1798	KENNY & AMANDA SMITH "House Down The Block"
REB-1810	RALPH STANLEY "Shine On" Fine gospel album
REB-1811	KENNY & AMANDA SMITH "Always Never Enough"
REB-1816	STEEPCANYON RANGERS "One Dime At A Time"
REB-1820	JOHN STARLING "Slidin' Home"
REB-1822	PAUL WILLIAMS "Where No One Stands Alone"



The following **REBEL** boxed sets are offered for the first time at a special sale price of just **\$ 29.00** Each (regular price is \$ 45.00). These are all 4-CD sets with great booklets. Each set contains around 100 songs and tunes. Great collections!

REB-4000	REBEL RECORDS 35th ANNIVERSARY BOX (Wonderful survey of the label)
REB-4001	RALPH STANLEY Complete 1971-1973 Recordings with Whitley, Centers, etc.
REB-4002	COUNTRY GENTLEMEN "1962-1971" 110 songs & tunes!

OLD BLUE-706 THE NEW NORTH CAROLINA RAMBLERS “Live and Lively”

This is an excellent, generous helping of old-time music by a band that takes its music seriously but still has a lot of fun in presenting it.

The four who make up the band are *Kinney Rorrer, Jeremy Stephens, Kirk Sutphin and Darren Moore*—all well schooled in the style of *Charlie Poole* and other old time musicians from the Danville and Virginia/North

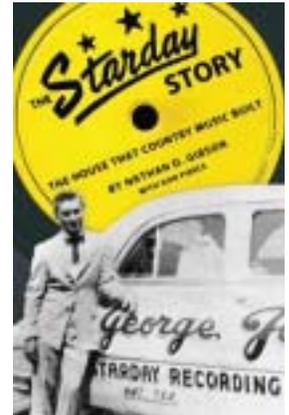


Carolina border area that gave us a very impressive amount of great musical recordings in the 1920s and 30s. The band does not limit its repertoire to the Poole sound, but is well versed in other styles of rural music including the sounds of the *Carter Family* (FATE OF DEWEY LEE, WEARY PRODIGAL SON, WILL YOU MISS ME). There are 20 cuts here, in a well-produced and nicely packaged album. A fine recording by an excellent old-time band—RECOMMENDED! **\$ 13.50**

RUR-1072 BOBBY OSBORNE “Memories” After a brief stint on Rounder Records, Bobby—the elder of the two *Osborne Brothers*—continues merrily along with this new album for another new label, Rural Rhythm. It’s a pretty solid workout that includes re-makes of some of the *Osborne Brothers* biggest hits like ROCKY TOP, RUBY, and UP THIS HILL & DOWN. Don’t expect this to have the power and finesse that Sonny & Bob had back in their heyday in the 1960s, but Bobby still does sound good, and the backing musicians are solid and competent. The only real negative here is the heavy-handed drums and percussion. **\$ 13.50**

BER-0426 BULL HARMAN & BULL’S EYE “Aiming To Please” We remember Bull Harman from an earlier record that featured excellent guitar playing—there’s plenty of that here too on this album that is quite pleasant overall. The 14 songs & tunes are a well chosen mixture of contemporary and traditional pieces that include ST. ANNE’S REEL, CAROLINA STAR, BODY & SOUL, THIS LITTLE LIGHT OF MINE and BLACK EYED SUSIE. The band gets a bit more adventurous with more contemporary songs like STAND BY ME, THERE IS A TIME, and LAST THING ON MY MIND—but the vocals on these are pretty tame. Harman’s very different arrangement of ST. ANNE’S REEL as well as other tunes showcase his excellent picking and the fine tone he gets from his instrument. **\$ 13.50**

BOOK: THE STARDAY STORY by Nathan D. Gibson (University Press of Mississippi, 2011) 266 pages, hardbound. Bluegrass and country music fans who were around in the 1950s and 60s know how important a label Starday was. After Elvis Presley and the rockabilly craze came along in the mid 50s, the major record labels paid very little attention to “hard” country and Bluegrass music, proceeding into the “Nashville Sound” or “countryopolitan” after the rockabilly craze was over. Fortunately, a tiny label, started in Texas by Jack Starnes and “Pappy” Dailey, found a niche for the more traditional forms of country music, and became a major player on the scene, thanks mostly to the leadership of *Don Pierce* and the “discovery” of future superstar *George Jones*. The author of this excellent book, Nathan Gibson, does a superb job in detailing the somewhat complicated history of Starday, thanks in large part to his extensive interviews with Pierce before Don passed away in 2005 at the age of 89. Thanks to Pierce and others who worked for the label (including a young Martin Haerle, who went on to start C.M.H. Records later), the book is filled with anecdotes and facts that are generally not known, including some interesting sales figures. Apart from *George Jones*, the label recorded many other country artists like *Cowboy Copas* and *Roger Miller*, but Starday’s strength was in its extensive Bluegrass roster, which included the *Stanley Brothers*, *Jim & Jesse*, *Bill Clifton*, *Carl Story*, *The Lewis Family*, *The Lonesome Pine Fiddlers*, *Jim Eanes* and the early *Country Gentlemen*. One of the great features of the book is an amazing 70 page section that lists every LP and every single (45rpm) issued over the years by Starday and its affiliates (like the Nashville label and even the company’s various custom releases). This material, compiled by several advanced collectors, makes up a wonderful reference and resource. The book is a bit expensive—list price is \$ 50.00—but it tells a fascinating story that will be of interest to those who recall the delight of purchasing the early LPs and 45s by groups like the Stanley Brothers, Bill Clifton, Jim & Jesse and The Country Gentlemen back in the early and mid-1960s. Our price is just **\$ 39.00**



BCR-026 CEDAR HILL “I’ve Got A Thing About Doors” Led by Frank Ray, this long established Midwestern group has another good album of solid, old fashioned traditional Bluegrass. Dobro player *Ferrell Stowe* is part of this band. **\$ 13.50**

BCD-16094 THE BRISTOL SESSIONS

1927-1928 Sometimes called “The Big Bang of Country Music”, the two field recording sessions that the Victor company conducted in the summer of 1927 and the fall of 1928 are particularly significant in that they included the first recordings by *The Carter Family* and *Jimmie Rodgers*, who were destined to become hugely successful and influential artists in the history of country music as we know it.. Curiously, there were only two songs cut then by Rodgers (SLEEP BABY SLEEP and THE SOLDIER’S SWEETHEART), who had to wait until his next record (BLUE YODEL) to start making a really big splash across the nation. And the *Carter Family’s* relatively modest contribution to this story is just a 6-song sampling that included some of Sara Carter’s most impressive vocals including the powerful SINGLE GIRL and WANDERING BOY. But any old time music fan will quickly realize the depth and quality of the music that was recorded in these historic sessions—it is a huge tribute to the good taste & judgment of Ralph Peer, the Victor producer who organized these sessions which accounted for more than 125 songs and tunes, most of them of very high musical quality. Though many long time

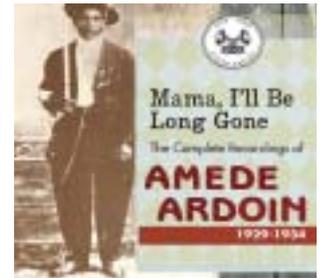


collectors and fans will already be familiar with most of the artists on this set, it is instructive to look at them from a new angle, and this amazingly beautiful production gives us a chance to do just that. Apart from the music, the feature here is a fantastic 108-page hardbound book that contains dozens of great photos, a thorough discography, pictures of record labels and words to all the songs (did you ever try to copy down the words to BILLY GRIMES THE ROVER or BIG BEND GAL?). Just think of the richness of rural music at the time, when Ralph Peer could put a tiny notice in the local Bristol Virginia/Tennessee newspaper and end up a few days later with some of the all time classic recordings of such artists as *Alfred Karnes*, *J.P. Nester*, *B.F. Shelton*, *Ernest Stoneman*, *Ernest Phipps’ Holiness Singers*, *The Shelor Family*, *The Bull Mountain Moonshiners*, *Shortbuckle Roark* and *Blind Alfred Reed!!* There is a lot of music we could zero in on, but here are some of the greatest cuts ever: *Alfred Karnes’* THE DAYS OF MY CHILDHOOD PLAYS and WE SHALL ALL BE REUNITED has to be one of the greatest pairings ever, and the same can be said of *B.F. Shelton’s* DARLING CORA and PRETTY POLLY, *J.P. Nester & Norman Edmonds* fiddle/banjo duet of TRAIN ON THE ISLAND with BLACK EYED SUSIE, and both of the Shelor Family’s classic pairings. And don’t fail to catch the amazing gospel songs by Ernest Phipps, like SHINE ON ME and JUST A LITTLE TALK WITH JESUS. A word of praise and thanks to Ted Olson, Tony Russell and Bear Family’s Richard Weize for an absolutely stunning job! 5-CD set & Book: **\$ 120.00**

PATUX-207 MAC MARTIN & ED BROZI “Sun Racer” An interesting collection of old time songs sung in the “brother” style by this duo, recorded in 1970 and 1972 as home recordings. Martin & Brozi play guitars and *Bob Artis* joins them on mandolin on some of the material. The songs are old timers like I’M FREE AT LAST, DEATH OF FLOYD COLLINS, TWO LITTLE ROSEBUDS, EAST BOUND TRAIN and WRECK OF THE 1262. **\$ 13.50**

TSQ-2554 AMEDE ARDOIN “Complete Recordings 1929-1934”

Anyone with an appreciation for vintage Cajun music will treasure this 2-CD set, which is nothing less than spectacular both in the quality of the music and the highly attractive presentation (which includes superb remastering of the old 78s by Chris King, who has also written the notes). The set contains all 34 of the songs and tunes that Ardoin recorded (many also featuring the wonderful fiddling of *Dennis McGee*). Collectors of the old 78s will realize what a feat it was just to find clean copies of the original records—some of these extreme rarities have only turned up in the past few years (a complete collection like this could not have been done even 5 or 6 years ago). Accompanying himself on the accordion, Ardoin sang in a soul-searing style that influenced other Cajun musicians such as the great Iry Lejeune. Tragically, Ardoin’s musical career was ended sometime in the 1930s with a senseless beating, but at least he left a fair number of superb recordings that are lovingly presented here. **\$ 20.00**

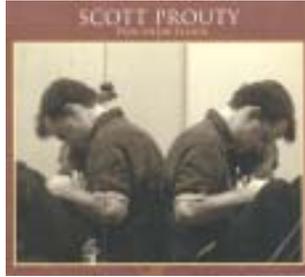
**THRILL-249 THE BLACK TWIG PICKERS “Ironto Special”**

There’s a substantial amount of interesting old time music on this 15 track album, though you might not know that if you happen to start by playing two very strange cuts—LAST PAYDAY AT COAL CREEK and ROCKING IN A WEARY LAND. The group’s versions of these well known pieces may be “quaint” and different, but they don’t really add anything to an otherwise good, well produced album. Singing is definitely not the group’s strong point, but only 3 or 4 vocals are included (among them the 2 songs named above). The band—which is from southwest Virginia—has learned much of its music from local legends like *Sam McNeil*, *Richard Bowman*, *Sherman Wimmer*, *Henry Reed* and others. *Mike Gangloff* plays fiddle (also banjo on occasion), *Nathan Bowles* is heard on banjo, washboard and bones, with *Isak Howell* picking guitar. The band is at its best on the full string band fiddle tunes, but there are some nice solo banjo and solo fiddle pieces, plus some fiddle & banjo duets that provide a nice change of pace in a well sequenced collection. SMOKER WEDDING MARCH, WALLS OF JERICO, OLD JACK GILLIE, SARO, etc. **\$ 13.50**

GCR-1001 TYLER GRANT “Up The Neck” A nicely done album of 14 flatpicked guitar instrumentals by this musician who is currently based in Colorado. Some tunes are guitar solos, while others feature mandolin, bass and Bluegrass style banjo accompaniment. Most of the tunes are originals with a contemporary flavor—a couple seem lacking in direction or melody (DESERT FLATPICKING, FUNKY BOULDER) but most of Grant’s own compositions are played with a moody, tasteful touch, and the 4 old standards are the highlights of the record (FORKED DEER, BEAUMONT RAG, I DON’T LOVE NOBODY, and PRESIDENT GARFIELD’S HORNPIPE). Nice job. **\$ 13.50**

SRP-001 SCOTT PROUTY “Puncheon Floor”

It’s thrilling to see the steady flow of excellent old-time albums that are being put out these days by hitherto unknown musicians. Prouty is a good fiddler based in the Washington, D.C. area, and he credits his meetings with the late *Melvin Wine* and *Wilson Douglas* as being key influences. The 17 tunes here were learned from well known old time musicians like *Ward Jarvis, Sherman Eddens, Bob Walters, J.W. Day, Bruce Greene, French Carpenter* and others.



Arrangements range from just banjo or just guitar to completely unaccompanied. Tunings and brief notes on the tunes are provided. The tunes are a good mixture of favorites (CAMP CHASE, SIXTEEN DAYS IN GEORGIA, CUMBERLAND GAP, etc) to obscure (OLD MISTER MOORE, SOUR APPLE PIE, NANCY DALTON, etc). A solid and very enjoyable old-time fiddle collection. **\$ 13.50**

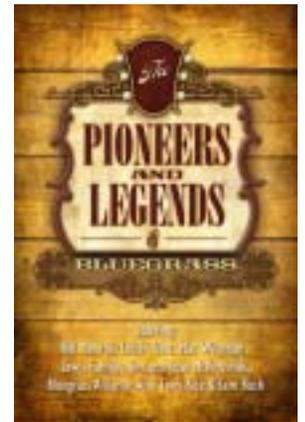
BCD-16559 ALLERTON & ALTON “Black, White & Bluegrass” An interesting story here in this record that presents some “rescued” recordings by this Maine-based country duo that played over radio in a brother duet style as early as the late 1940s and early 1950s. Such groups were not common in New England at the time, and even more unusual was the fact that guitarist Alton Myers was black. Myers and mandolinist Allerton Hawkes were both record collectors who loved the sounds of the *Monroe Brothers, the Blue Sky Boys* and other southern duets—they met scouring antique stores for old records. (Al Hawkes went on to later start the EVENT label, a small but superb company that issued records by the *Lilly Brothers, Charlie Bailey and Dick Curless* among others in the mid 1950s). A 34-page booklet with many photos helps tell this unusual story. There are roughly 25 tracks here, some from radio shows, some from home recordings and practice sessions. (Import) **\$ 17.00**

BPM-1111 NORA JANE STRUTHERS Normally we would not list a record like this, as Ms. Struthers is clearly a Singer/songwriter or Folk type, not a Bluegrass or old-time singer. However, her backing here definitely *is* Bluegrass, with an impressive list of accompanying musicians including *Stuart Duncan, Bryan Sutton, Shawn Lane, Scott Vestal, Brent Truitt, Rob Ickes, Dennis Crouch* and *Tim O’Brien*. And Struthers is an excellent singer with a very pleasant voice. So, for those who like that combination, this CD is certainly worth hearing. (Ms. Struthers has a few video segments on **You-Tube** for those who want to sample her work). Eleven of the dozen songs are her own—the lone exception being a very nice version of SAY DARLING SAY. **\$ 13.50**

HILL-2010 THE HILLBENDERS “Down To My Last Dollar” A contemporary Bluegrass group currently based in Springfield, Missouri, this is a high energy young group that has already won first prize at the Telluride, Colo. Bluegrass contest. The songs are sung and played with a pronounced rock flavor, featuring brothers Gary and Jim Rea. The group also includes dobro (Chad Graves) and fiddle work supplied by *Jeremy Garrett* of the Stringbusters. The 13 songs include BLUERIDGE CUT-OFF, DONE WRONG LOVE SONG, HARD WAKIN’ UP, NANCYPANTS, MIDNIGHT OIL, etc. **\$ 13.50**

DVD: MANDO-0410 PIONEERS & LEGENDS OF BLUEGRASS

Here is some more of the film footage that Ronnie Reno has been issuing on his MAN-DO-LIN label. There’s no real notes or information on the material, but those who have picked up earlier DVDs in this series will know pretty well what to expect. We think the filming was done at Berea, Ky. at a Bluegrass festival held in the 1970s. The color and quality is really nice, making for a great souvenir for those who want to see these musicians in their prime. This DVD has 2 or 3 songs each by *Bill Monroe, Lester Flatt, Mac Wiseman, Jim & Jesse, The Lewis Family and the Bluegrass Alliance*. Many will be excited to see a very young



Tony Rice and Sam Bush at the mic, playing & singing 500 MILES and I JUST THINK I’LL STAY AROUND. *Lester Flatt* sings Folsom Prison Blues and his Nashville Grass picks SHUCKIN’ THE CORN with a band that includes *Haskel McCormick on banjo, Paul Warren on fiddle and Josh Graves on dobro*. Jim & Jesse play HARD HEARTED, PARADISE and COTTON MILL MAN with a group that includes *Joe Meadows* (I think) on fiddle. A well done DVD that will bring some good memories back. **DVD: \$ 18.00**

NWT-101 NORTHWEST TERRITORY “Encore”

Here is a sampler of tracks from some 5 albums recorded over the years by this Ohio based straight Bluegrass band. The group was established in 1987 and included the highly thought of bass player *Ed Ferris* on its first album. Another well known name here is the late mandolinist *Dempsey Young*, who appears on six of the 18 later cuts. Mike Gorrell is singer and guitarist, and Darla Evans provides some of the lead vocals. A nice selection of material includes RABBIT SONG, BARB WIRE BOYS (great song), UNCLE PEN, HOME SWEET HOME, REBELS YE REST, YOU WERE ONLY FOOLIN' and TIMBERLINE **\$ 13.50**

JSP-77138 RILEY PUCKETT “Selected Sides”

One of the “heroes” of old-time music thanks to his work with the *Skillet Lickers* and other Georgia musicians, Riley Puckett was also one of the most prolific, having been part of more than 300 recordings between 1924 and 1941. The blind artist's vocals and guitar runs contributed greatly to the many successful numbers that were cut by *Gid Tanner's Skillet Lickers*. As a solo performer he obviously had a great appeal to rural audiences, as witnessed by his large body of recordings, and there is no denying the soul and feeling in the best of his work. However, a lot of his recordings were pretty drab and unfortunately this 4-CD set (with 100 tracks) does not show Puckett at his best. It is not clear why the set jumps around from session to session, (it is not the chronological order common to such sets) but maybe it is good that the better numbers pop up from time to time to make things a bit more interesting and listenable. Fact is, whether by his own choice or the demands of the record companies, Puckett was given mostly pop material, most of which is not particularly inspiring (though some of the later Bluebird cuts are bouncy and surprisingly successful, thanks in part to faster tempos and some nice mandolin work by *Ted Hawkins*). Some of the highlights of this set include the two guitar solos Riley did, plus some duets with Tanner and a few classic fiddle tunes by *Clayton McMichen*, along with two mandolin & guitar duets with Ted Hawkins (KIMBALL HOUSE and HOP HIGH LADIES). While it's nice to have this bargain priced compilation as a reference piece, to be really solid musically the hundred songs could be trimmed down to the best 20 or 25, with good rural pieces like WAITIN' FOR THE EVENING MAIL, PREACHER & THE BEAR, GEORGE COLLINS, RAGGED BUT RIGHT, K.C. RAILROAD. DON'T LET YOUR DEAL GO DOWN, PUCKETT BLUES, RAMBLING BOY and THE OLD SPINNING WHEEL 4-CD set **\$ 27.50**

MARRIOTT-2005 JUNIOR MARRIOTT Strangely, there are no notes or credits to this 14 tune album done in the Texas contest style. The disc came out a few years ago but has just come to our attention: it's good Texas fiddling on a typical selection of tunes like SALLY JOHNSON, DURANG'S HORNPIPE, APPLE BLOSSOM, DUSTY MILLER, TUGBOAT, etc. Junior is accompanied by his son on “sock” guitar (and possibly some overdubbing of his own guitar). For those who like the Texas fiddle style this is a very nice collection of well played tunes. **\$ 13.50**

ROU-0664 A BLUEGRASS GOSPEL

SONGBOOK An excellent 13-track sampler here, drawn from Rounder's extensive back catalog. There are classic recordings here by *Blue Highway* (WON-DROUS LOVE), the *Bluegrass Album Band* (MODEL CHURCH), *Nashville Bluegrass Band* (GOSPEL PLOW), *Ricky Skaggs* (RIVER OF JORDAN) and *Tony Rice* (WAYFARING STRANGER). Just a cut below these are songs by *The Weary Hearts*, *James King*, *Dailey & Vincent* (AMAZING GRACE), *Dry Branch Fire Squad*, *IIIrd Tyme Out* and *the Grascals*. A good performance by *J. D. Crowe* (CRYIN' HOLY) is dampened by crude and superfluous percussion, and a track by *Phyllis Boyens* is simply out of place on a Bluegrass anthology. It would have been nice to see individual artist credits, and without budget pricing Rounder may face very limited sales on this sampler. **\$ 13.50**

JVG-8952 JIM & VALERIE GABEHART “It's My

Turn” Nicely played straight Bluegrass on a dozen songs & tunes by this West Virginia husband & wife team. Jim & Valerie take turns with the lead vocals, which are well performed. Assisting the Gabeharts are *Jason Carter*, *Rob Ickes*, and *Steve Thomas* on a nice program of songs. **\$ 13.50**

LDR-034 WILDFIRE “Crash Course In The

Blues” Solid and straightforward Bluegrass by this band led by *Robert Hale* (guitar & vocals). He is joined by *Steve Thomas* (mandolin, fiddle) and *Johnny Lewis* (banjo). Songs include a few standards like 21 YEARS mixed with newer songs by Vince Gill, Keith Whitley, etc. **\$ 13.50**

GIBSON2010 GLENN GIBSON “When Times Are

Hard” Gibson is a good dobro player who does some nice work on this 13-track recording, with help from *Michael Cleveland* on fiddle, *Jesse Brock* on mandolin, *Daniel Grindstaff* on banjo and others. Gibson also sings lead on the songs in a pleasant manner. Almost all of the tunes and songs were written by Gibson. ON KERRICK LANE, CRY BABY, BARBARA ALLEN, etc **\$ 13.50**

PATUX-212 TRAVIS CHANDLER & AVERY COUNTY “State of Depression”

A solid traditional workout on 13 songs and tunes by this mandolin picker who has played in the bands of *James King*, *Audie Blaylock* and *Danny Paisley*. A good array of material includes BLACK DUST FEVER, LET ME FALL, HAVE YOU COME TO SAY GOODBYE and COTTON FARMER. For a relatively young musician, Chandler hands out high compliments to a very impressive list of those who influenced him the most: Jimmy Martin, Benny & Vallie Cain, Buzz Busby, Don Stover, Walt Hensley, Ted Lundy and Bob Paisley and even Benny Jarrell. Quite nice. **\$ 13.50**

BACM-326 COUNTRY MUSIC ON THE GOLD STAR LABEL Gold Star was one of the regional labels that sprang up right after World War II—based in Houston, Texas, it featured not only local country music, but Blues, Polka, Tex-Mex and Cajun music as well. This 28-song anthology has one or two cuts each by mostly obscure regional country artists. Some may recognize a few of the names such as *Eddie Noack*, *Hank Locklin*, *Aubrey Gass* and of course the well-known Cajun fiddler & singer *Harry Choates*. There's also a rare surprise track by *Ray & Ina Patterson* (SUNNY SIDE OF LIFE), a fine husband & wife duet in the Blue Sky Boys style who later recorded 3 wonderful LPs for the County label. Though there are no real gems here (apart from the Ray & Ina and Harry Choates cuts), the album is a good survey of typical country sounds from the Southwest in the late 1940s, and the notes by Phillip Tricker give some good background to the artists & tunes. **\$15.00**

RUR-1075 VARIOUS ARTISTS “Blue Moon of Kentucky”

Coming out in this 100th anniversary year of Bill Monroe's birth, this is a well done all instrumental tribute to the father of Bluegrass music. Looking at the pickers who were selected for this album, we would expect nothing less than excellence: a total of eight artists share in the recording, which includes their versions of KENTUCKY WALTZ, ROAD TO COLUMBUS, MOLLY & TENBROOKS, I SAW THE LIGHT, LONESOME ROAD BLUES, CRYING HOLY and the title tune (18 tracks in all). The musicians are Bryan Sutton (Guitar), Mike Scott (banjo), Aubrey Haynie (fiddle), Mike Compton (mandolin), Ben Isaacs (bass), Adam Steffey (mandolin), Tim Stafford (guitar), and Rob Ickes (dobro). There is a generous amount of good Bluegrass picking here. **\$13.50**



BCR-023 BEN GREENE “Bluegrass Sideman” An interesting and solid album of straight Bluegrass by Greene, who is currently banjo picker with *Lorraine Jordan's* group. Greene has played in the past with *Continental Divide*, *James King*, *Lost & Found* and other bands, and rates guest appearances here from Junior Sisk, Russell Moore, Ron Stewart, David Parmley, Randy Graham, Timmy Massey, Allen Mills, James King and Greg Luck among others. A dozen cuts include 5 instrumentals plus BYE BYE BLUES, LOVE OF THE MOUNTAINS, CRAZY HEART, LIZA JANE, etc **\$13.50**

RUR-1070 BLUE MOON RISING “Strange New World” Despite a really tacky cover, there's good, solid Bluegrass here, by a relatively new band that has issued several good and enjoyable CDs previously. Seven of the 13 songs were penned by lead singer and guitarist Chris West. **\$13.50**

WM-2011 LONESOME WILL MULLINS “Clawhammer Banjer” The young Clintwood, Virginia musician plays 12 tunes and songs here, most of them featuring his clawhammer or frailing style banjo picking (similar to Ralph Stanley's style). He is backed on many of the cuts by fiddle, guitar, mandolin and upright bass. REUBEN'S TRAIN, JOHN HENRY, RED ROCKING CHAIR, WISE COUNTY JAIL, IDA RED, CINDY, etc. **\$13.50**

GT-2169 THE BAILES BROTHERS “2010” The *Bailes Brothers* were known for writing a lot of great country songs in the 1940s, and they had a fine, very distinctive style of singing and playing, too. From the state of West Virginia, there were 4 of them—*Walter, Johnnie, Kyle and Homer*, and they appeared in different pairings on different recordings with little or no change in their sound. Their earliest and best recordings were made for the Columbia label, and they later recorded for King—it is from the latter that this 20 song album is taken. Actually, some of the cuts from their 1953 session are quite nice despite some sound problems. Unfortunately this album mixes that material with some junky recordings that were made in 1973, resulting in a weak and pointless disc. On an album that is almost exclusively devoted to gospel songs, what on earth is a song like BULLFROG BOOGIE doing here? This is not one of Gusto's prouder moments, and we would urge anyone interested in this great group's music to hunt out the wonderful Bear Family CD import of a few years back (BCD-15973, \$17.00). This CD is no bargain, despite the price. **\$11.00**

MM-6841 BOYD DEERING (With Jim & Inge Wood) “Bridges” The notes to this interesting collection of fiddle tunes point out that Mr. Deering was highly influenced by the great fiddler Kenny Baker, and it was Deering's intention to come up with a dozen or so original tunes such as those Baker recorded in the eleven or twelve LPs that he recorded on the County label over the years. Curiously, Deering plays the mandolin, not the fiddle, and even more curiously, the tunes on this disc really feature the fiddling of *Jim Wood* more than Deering's mandolin. So far, in a couple of plays, I could not really point to any “memorable” tunes, but that is not to say it isn't good music. The overall feel of the record is very nice, focusing on Wood's fiddle, Deering's mandolin breaks, and solid guitar backup by *Inge Wood*. Taking nothing away from Wood's playing, the sound is more like a middle Tennessee sound, and is not really akin to Baker's playing (in the way that Aubrie Haynie's or Blaine Sprouse's is). A goodf, listenable record here. **\$13.50**

LAMP-101 MISTY STEVENS “Love Lies Bleeding” A Pleasant and nicely sung program of 11 songs, all but three of which are originals by Ms. Stevens. Tasteful Bluegrass backing is featured, with fine fiddle by *Michael Cleveland* on 10 of the 11 tracks. **\$13.50**

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