



NEWSLETTER #313

July- August 2011

www.countysales.com

COUNTY SALES
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It is with sadness that we note the death of **KENNY BAKER**, who passed away on July 8 at the age of 85. Born near the town of Jenkins in eastern Kentucky, Baker learned the fiddle from his dad Thaddeus Baker in a musically rich area that included Art Stamper and his father Hiram, and two Sumner brothers, Bobby and Marion. Starting as a Blue Grass Boy in 1957, Baker was the right hand man for Bill Monroe for many years, and Monroe introduced him regularly as “the best fiddler in Bluegrass” and featured him on his wonderful “Uncle Pen’s Fiddle Tunes” LP—one of many Monroe recordings he played on. Baker recorded a dozen highly influential albums for the COUNTY label, about half of which are still available today in CD form. Kenny, who is a member of the IBMA Hall of Fame had been in poor health for the past couple of years.

We are also sorry to report the passing of two more musicians who contributed much to rural music in their day: **BENTON FLIPPEN**, an old-time fiddler who died on June 28, was one of the last living proponents of the so-called Round Peak musical style of old time music that thrived in the Galax, Virginia—Mt. Airy, N.C. area. He appeared on a variety of records (LPs and CDs) and was a regular fixture at the Annual Galax Fiddlers Convention. **GEORGE “SPEEDY” KRISE** passed away on June 9 at the age of 89. Krise was a good dobro player in the 1940s and early 50s—a time when there were probably only a handful of nationally known musicians who featured the dobro. He performed with Molly O’Day, Mac Odell, and Carl Butler, among others, and inspired Mike Auldridge and others who helped establish that instrument as an important addition to Bluegrass music. He also was a good songwriter.

BRISTOL RHYTHM & ROOTS FESTIVAL If you live anywhere within striking distance of Bristol Tennessee & Virginia, we highly recommend this wonderful and important event that takes place Friday, Saturday & Sunday **September 16-18**. It is a very well run festival that features all kinds of music, but Bluegrass and country music are a big part of it (It is an event of many stages & venues, with the main stage close to Tim White’s impressive mural that celebrates Jimmie Rodgers and the Carter Family as key figures in the “Birthplace of country music”).

GIBSON F-4 MANDOLIN FOR SALE

For those who collect vintage stringed instruments, we have an early, nice original GIBSON F-4 mandolin for sale. It is a 1913 “pumpkin” finish instrument with inlaid tuning pegs, Serial # 14089. We are not experts on instruments, but from what we can tell it is all original and in beautiful condition. It has an original case, but the case needs replacing. Price is \$ 5500.00. For further information call or write to County Sales or e-mail us at info@countysales.com

SIERRA RECORD SALE

This month we are having a special sale on SIERRA, a California label with a small but excellent catalog. See page 2 for details.

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.					
For US Mail/COD shipments, please add \$6.25 in addition to regular shipping charges.					
For special expedited rates (FED EX, UPS, NEXT DAY, etc) please call or fax us for cost & authorization.					



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

SPECIAL SALE ON SELECT SIERRA CDs

The long established **SIERRA** label of California has issued some great records over the years, including several associated with CLARENCE WHITE and the KENTUCKY COLONELS. Check the list below for some fine titles, and note that we are offering these at a **SPECIAL SALE price of just \$ 8.00** each, this month only (Sale ends September 30). (Our regular Price on these is \$ 13.50—you save over \$ 5.00 per disc!)

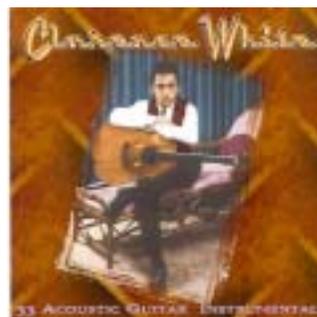
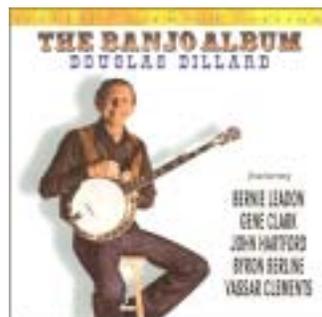
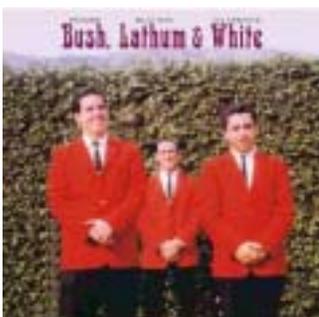
SIERRA-1017	SCOTTY STONEMAN “Live In L.A.”
SIERRA-1018	MULESKINNER (TV Soundtrack)
SIERRA-1019	CLARENCE WHITE “33 Acoustic Guitar Tunes”
SIERRA-1020	KENTUCKY COLONELS “Livin’ In The Past”
SIERRA-1021	SANDY ROTHMAN-STEVE POTTIER Guitar duets
SIERRA-1022	DOUG DILLARD “The Banjo Album”
SIERRA 1024	CLARENCE WHITE “Flat Pick”
SIERRA-6019	STEVE SPURGIN “Distant Faces”
SIERRA-6021	PHIL ROSENTHAL “A Matter of Time”
SIERRA-6025	EVERCALL READY Fine Bluegrass gospel CD
SIERRA-6030	CLARENCE WHITE “White Lightning”
SIERRA-6033	BUSH-LATHUM-WHITE Live early Bluegrass Show
SIERRA M-101	THE HILLMEN
SIERRA M-109	THE KENTUCKY COLONELS “Bluegrass America”

The late Clarence White appears on several of these records, and **SIERRA-1019** is a must for guitar pickers who admire his amazing ability, with 33 tunes that give a fine look at a great & very influential guitarist. He is also heard on the “Livin’ In The Past” album by the KENTUCKY COLONELS (**SIERRA-1020**), and the re-issue of their old Briar LP from 1963 called “Bluegrass America” (**SIERRA M-109**). And the newest Sierra release presents a live show from 1964 featuring Clarence, Billy Ray Latham and Roger Bush—this material has not been available previously—it includes 16 songs & tunes (**SIERRA-6033**).

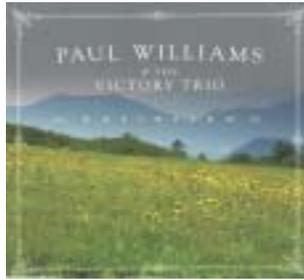
Doug Dillard’s BANJO ALBUM (**SIERRA-1022**) is an excellent record that came out briefly on LP in 1969 on the short-lived Together label and has become a rare collector’s item. At about the same time that label put out a really nice record by THE HILLMEN (which included Don Parmley with Vern and Rex Gosdin) (**SIERRA-M-101**). With successful versions of RANGER’S COMMAND, ROLL ON MUDDY RIVER, GOIN’ UP and Bob Dylan’s WHEN THE SHIP COMES IN, it came out again on a Sugar Hill LP. This new re-issue retains the original art work but has more informative notes and 2 extra cuts (WITH THESE CHAINS and SALT CREEK)—it’s a really nice album of contemporary Bluegrass.

Evercall Ready (**SIERRA 6025**) is a very nice Bluegrass gospel album. **SIERRA-1021** by Rothman & Pottier is a nice collection of acoustic guitar duets, and the Phil Rosenthal Album (**SIERRA-6021**) appears to be from the time he was lead singer for the Seldom Scene and includes backing by Jerry Douglas, Byron Berline and members of the Scene.

Note that some of the album numbers have changed over the years, so check your libraries to make sure you don’t order something that you already may have.



REB-1844 PAUL WILLIAMS & THE VICTORY TRIO “Satisfied” It’s hard to believe that Paul Williams is in his 6th decade as a important figure in Bluegrass music—his stints with the early Lonesome Pine Fiddlers and right hand man for Jimmy Martin have been well documented by now. Remarkably, his lovely tenor voice is as powerful and distinctive as ever, and his series of gospel albums for Rebel is impressive for its consistent quality. As usual, Williams presents a number of his own excellent new songs, beautifully incorporated in a program that includes some well known gems that everyone knows—in this case PAUL’S MINISTRY, SOMETHING GOT A HOLD OF ME, and the up tempo Martha Carson creation, SATISFIED. Another Fine album! **\$ 13.50**



SHULER-2010 CODY SHULER & PINE MOUNTAIN RAILROAD Well played & solid traditional bluegrass by this group from east Tennessee. 9 of the dozen songs are original Shuler songs. **\$ 13.50**

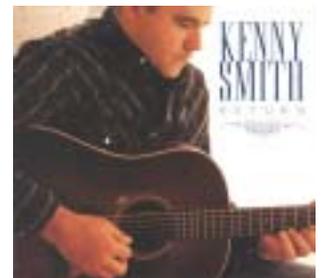
COAL-2011 SCOTT HOLSTEIN “Cold Coal Town” Holstein, from West Virginia, devotes this entire record to songs about coal and mining, in which he creates a pretty consistent tone for his all original material. The mood is somber but not depressing, and the recording is well backed by such artists as Tim Crouch, Scott Vestal, Randy Kohrs, Clay Hess and special guest Don Rigsby. Holstein’s voice is strong and distinctive, sort of in between Dave Evans and Chris Stapleton (of the Steel Drivers), but closer to Evans because of a pure, rural feel rather than the growling, more rock oriented style of Stapleton. There are definite touches of a Stanley Brothers sound in places here as well. It makes for a quite intriguing and impressive album. **\$ 13.50**

JSP-77114 BOB WILLS & HIS TEXAS PLAYBOYS “Remastered” A full one hundred tracks by Wills, whose name is synonymous with Western Swing music. The recordings here—mostly cut for Columbia Records—were made between 1940 and 1947 in Texas, Chicago and Hollywood sessions. An impressive collection at a budget price, this is a welcome 4-CD set that includes memorable tunes & songs like COTTON EYED JOE, TIME CHANGES EVERYTHING, STAY A LITTLE LONGER, NEW SAN ANTONIO ROSE, BIG BEAVER, MAIDEN’S PRAYER, etc. 4-CD set is just **\$ 27.50**

ROUNDER-9106 NEW FOUND ROAD “Live At The Down Home” Lead singer and guitarist *Tim Shelton* has been at it for a long time now, based in east Tennessee. He leads this band that includes *Josh Miller, Jim Van Cleve and two Booher brothers* in a solid Bluegrass collection that combines some straight Bluegrass (REUBEN, LONESOME RIVER, ROOM AT THE TOP OF THE STAIRS) with some originals and some more contemporary songs like Jackson Browne’s THESE DAYS and Dave Loggins’ PLEASE COME TO BOSTON. Oh yes, it’s a live recording, done at Johnson City’s famous Bluegrass venue *The Down Home*, and the recording is good quality, though the raucous crowd gets to be a bit annoying between songs. **\$ 13.50**

DVD: SFR-007 CLYDE DAVENPORT “Shades of Clyde” Clyde Davenport was an excellent old time fiddler and banjo player from the Cumberland Plateau of Tennessee. He was caught in fine shape years ago on a fine County LP that is now unfortunately out of print and not available. But this 39 track DVD will do very nicely to help document this excellent musician and some of the unusual tunes that he plays. When he rolls into ALLNIGHT LONG it brings you back to the wonderful music of Dick Burnett & Leonard Rutherford—from whom Davenport learned a lot. There is almost 90 minutes worth of good old time music here, and we recommend it. Like the other DVDs in this series, the musicians talk about their lives and the music, and the quality of the color and sound is quite good. **DVD: \$ 18.00**

GAT-3 KENNY SMITH “Return” Known as one of the best flat pick guitarists in Bluegrass, and a past winner of IBMA’s prestigious guitar picker of the year award, Kenny Smith presents a superb solo album—his first since his exceptional “STUDEBAKER” record of almost a decade ago. Happily, Kenny heeded the requests of his many fans and came up with a really nice mixture of original numbers and old fiddle tunes, 14 altogether. We were especially impressed with the latter, which include LEATHER BRITCHES, BLACK MOUNTAIN RAG, CUMBERLAND GAP, FORKED DEER, BILLY IN THE LOW GOUND, SAIL AWAY LADIES and ACORN HILL BREAKDOWN. A wonderful guitar album and highly recommended. **\$ 13.50**

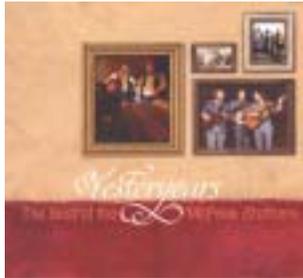


PORC-32321 ANN PORCELLA “Gathering Stones”

Though not strictly a gospel record, many of the songs and themes on this very nice 14-song collection are in fact of a religious nature (I’VE GOT A HOME IN THAT ROCK, LEANING ON THE EVERLASTING ARMS, THE SOLID ROCK, STAIRWAY TO HEAVEN etc). Others touch heavily on death and sadness (I HAVE AN AGED MOTHER, THE DYING SOLDIER and the title song), though the overall effect is more uplifting and inspiring than somber. Most of the accompaniment is simple and tasteful, usually just a guitar and one other instrument (such as fiddle, old time banjo, or a bit of dobro). A couple of the songs remind us of the *Mainers*, and especially nice are Ms. Porcella’s versions of two *Carter Family* songs, I HAVE AN AGED MOTHER and THE DYING SOLDIER. A very nice album with a strong old time flavor. **\$ 13.50**

REB-7521 THE McPEAK BROTHERS “Yes-teryears”

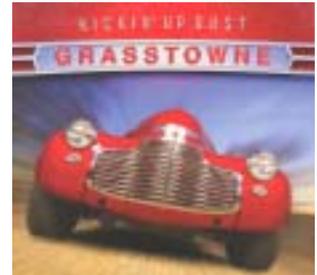
The McPeak Brothers, from Wytheville, Va., were in their prime in the 1970s, at a time when it was a lot harder to make a living from Bluegrass music than it is today. Though greatly appreciated by all who saw and heard them sing, Dewey, Larry, and Mike McPeak survived with various local day jobs, and only got known musically on a regional basis. This wonderful “Best Of” album replaces a long out of print Rebel CD as well as the 2 COUNTY LPs and one REBEL LP that this collection is drawn from. (No less an authority than Sonny Osborne was impressed enough to get the McPeaks a contract with RCA Victor). The McPeak Brothers were ahead of their time in selecting great material from a variety of sources (Michael Martin Murphey, Dallas Frazier, Merle Haggard and Pete Goble, etc.) In our opinion this is one of the most successful contemporary Bluegrass albums ever, with every song a gem. Their masterpieces include THE LAST TIME, SIMON CRUTCHFIELD’S GRAVE, LOST RIVER, STEEL RAILS, SHELLEY’S WINTER LOVE, OLD BLUE TOMORROW, BEND IN THE RIVER and PREACHIN’ UP A STORM. For those who appreciate top-flight vocal trios, this gem of a record is highly RECOMMENDED **\$ 10.00**



BACM-330 LULU BELLE & SCOTTY “The Sweet-hearts of Country Music” As stars of the very popular *National Barn Dance* (heard over WLS Radio in the 1930s and 40s), *Lulu Belle & Scotty* became some of the best known country performers across the nation, thanks to their talent and the strength of WLS Radio (owned by Sears Roebuck). Both were natives of North Carolina, which gave them a more southern, rural sound than most of the *Barn Dance*’s other acts, most of which were from the mid-west. After an early recording career with the American Record Company in the 1930s, the duo continued to make records for several small labels such as London, FM, and Truetone, and that is basically what this British Archive album consists of. (It also includes 6 songs they cut for the Mercury label). (The duo also made records later for the Starday label). Their recordings consisted of novelty pieces, some gospel songs, some ballads, and songs written by Scotty (Wiseman), which include the well known REMEMBER ME and HAVE I TOLD YOU LATELY THAT I LOVE YOU. Some of the other songs here include BANJO SAM, PRECIOUS MEMORIES, BEYOND THE STARRY SKY, KICKIN’ MULE, and I’D RATHER LIVE BY THE SIDE OF THE ROAD. There are 26 tracks here. **\$ 15.00**

RUR-1076 GRASSTOWNE “Kickin’ Up Dust”

Good, strong hard-driving Bluegrass from this band led by *Steve Gulley* and *Alan Bibey*. Bibey does some great mandolin picking on a couple of instrumentals (UP IN THE WHEELHOUSE and the *Kenny Baker* influenced GRASS STAIN)—he also shares in the singing. Gulley, one of today’s more prominent Bluegrass vocalists, handles the bulk of the singing in fine form. The songs are all new to the genre except for WAVES OF SOR-



ROW, a good song written years ago by *Jake Landers and Vassar Clements*, and recorded by them when they headed a band known as the *Dixie Gentlemen*. Especially nice is a Ronnie Bowman and Craig Market song, OLD TIME WAY. **\$ 13.50**

TRIPLE-2011 TRIPLE L BAND “Are You Ready”

Pleasant Bluegrass gospel music from this New Mexico 5-member band (dobro, no fiddle). Songs include ONE DAY I’LL FLY, TURN YOUR BACK, WALKING IN THE SPIRIT, etc. Apart from THIS WORLD IS NOT MY HOME, the songs are originals. **\$ 13.50**

DRYHILL-2011 DRY HILL DRAGGERS “30 Years”

We were selling LPs by this southwest Virginia band when County Sales first moved from New York to Floyd in the mid 1970s. The 6-member group is still at it, providing old time string band music for local dances and other functions in their home region. It’s a lively record, with 14 tunes including LOST JOHN, YELLOW CAT, REUBEN’S TRAIN, JOHN BROWN’S DREAM, etc. **\$ 13.50**

ROU-0660 STEVE MARTIN & THE STEEP CANYON RANGERS "Rare Bird Alert"

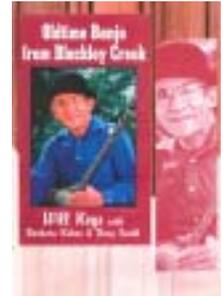
A fittingly strange but colorful packaging accompanies this 2nd musical venture by Martin, the actor, comedian and banjo player who is nicely backed by North Carolina's Steep Canyon Rangers. As he demonstrated in his earlier solo album ("The Crow"), Martin is a darn good banjo player, with a very nice touch that includes a lot of frailing and gentle touches that remind one of Mark Johnson and Tony Ellis. His playing here works beautifully with the straight Scruggs style of the Rangers' Graham Sharp. The songs are all Martin creations, and vary from subtle and sensitive themes to clever comic efforts like *JUBILATION DAY* and *ATHEISTS HAVE NO SONGS*. Martin and the Rangers certainly sound like they are having fun, and in playing some pretty high-powered venues they are probably making a lot of new friends for the music as well. A lot of fun here. **\$ 13.50**



TSQ-2578 FRANK FAIRFIELD "Out On The Open West" In his 2nd album of old time music for the Tompkins Square label, Mr Fairfield has put down a dozen songs and tunes, all but three of them his own compositions. Like his first record, this one has precious little information—we assume that Frank plays the fiddle as that is what he's pictured holding on the cover. He may also be playing old-time banjo, as there are no credits for anything else but a few guitar pickers. The 3 traditional tunes—*HASTE TO THE WEDDING*, *TURKEY IN THE STRAW* and *TEXAS FAREWELL* are nicely played and quite enjoyable. Fairfield's own tunes are also well done and capture the old time spirit. *POOR OLD LANCE*, *FRAZIER BLUES*, *KINGS COUNTY BREAKDOWN*, *UP THE ROAD SOMEWHERE*, etc. **\$ 13.50**

DVD: SFR-005 WILL KEYS "Old Time Banjo From Blackley Creek"

This is our favorite of the DVDs issued by the Spring Fed label, just for the quality of the music and the endearing personality of Keys, who plays the banjo in an unusual 2-finger style, very nicely accompanied by his friends Barbara Kuhns and Doug Smith.—they play 12 pieces including lovely versions of *WEARING OF THE GREEN*, *CHINQUAPIN HUNTING* and *HOME SWEET HOME*. Keys also had a wonderful CD out on the COUNTY label, unfortunately out of print at this time. Nice, relaxed old time music in a fine setting. Well recommended. **DVD: \$ 18.00**



JSP-77113 THE DIXON BROTHERS (With the Callahan Brothers) Before making a few comments on this new 4-CD set from England, we need to point out that the Dixons and the Callahan Brothers did not record together—on this set 3 CDs are devoted to the *Dixon Brothers* and disc 4 is essentially made up of songs by the *Callahans* (1934-1939 recordings for A.R.C.). Those who are intrigued by the Dixon Brothers unique down home style of singing and playing will be glad to see this re-issue of the duo's complete recorded works. The brothers were mill workers in the Piedmont region of the country, who gained a following through their records and radio broadcasts over station WBT in Charlotte, N.C. Influenced by *Darby & Tarlton's* earlier recordings, the Dixons made a total of 81 recordings for the Bluebird label between 1936 and 1938. It is interesting that at least 20 of the cuts appeared only on the Montgomery Ward label, which would tell us that a very significant part of their audience was deeply rural—many of the Ward 78s are so rare that only one or two copies are known to exist today. Apart from a handful of cuts that are pretty noisy, most everything here has a good quality sound. Though a good part of their repertoire is not particularly distinguished, there are more than enough interesting songs, such as *SALES TAX ON THE WOMEN*, *DOWN WITH THE OLD CANOE* (an interesting take on the sinking of the Titanic), *TWO LITTLE BOYS*, *I DIDN'T HEAR ANYONE PRAY*, *INTOXICATED RAT*, *WEAVE ROOM BLUES*, *SPINNING ROOM BLUES*, *WEAVER'S LIFE*, *TWO LITTLE ROSEBUDS* and *THE GIRL I LEFT IN DANVILLE*. The 20 *Callahan Brothers* songs are typical of the brother duet style of the 30s, with songs like *KATIE DEAR*, *MAPLE ON THE HILL*, *ROUNDER'S LUCK*, *SHE'S MY CURLY HEADED BABY* and *I'VE RODE THE SOUTHERN & THE L & N*. Another bargain collection from the British JSP label. **4-CD set: \$ 27.50**

AMPER-60028 DOROTHY JANE SIVER "My Journey Begins" Ms. Siver is a 14-year old fiddler and singer from New York state, and her first foray into the world of recordings is a successful one. She is already an accomplished fiddler, and her voice is pleasant enough—it will likely improve in depth as she grows older. The 10 songs & tunes she has selected create a good showcase for her talent: these include two full force instrumentals in *WHEEL HOSS* and *BILL CHEATHEM*, two Gillian Welch songs (*RED CLAY HALO* and *ONE MORE DOLLAR*), and songs by Allen Mills (*LOVE OF THE MOUNTAINS*) and Louisa Branscomb's ever popular *STEEL RAILS*. A well done and enjoyable record (Bluegrass backing). **\$ 13.50**

GT-2176 DON RENO, RED SMILEY & BILL HARRELL Here is a 4-CD set that essentially gathers all the rest of *Reno & Smiley's* King recordings besides what has already been issued on two previous box sets, plus the four albums that *Don Reno & Bill Harrell* made between 1967 and 1972. Obviously, most Reno & Smiley fans will turn to their earlier material most of the time when they want to hear the great Bluegrass music that this duo recorded. But to those who want the complete works of this band, this set will be a must, and it is offered at a bargain price. It includes the group's **True Meaning of Christmas, Tribute to Cowboy Copas and On The Road** (Truck Driver songs) recordings, plus a few odds and ends from their **World's Best 5-String Banjo** and **Last Time Together** albums, as well as the four full albums' worth of Reno & Harrell material. While little here is up to the quality of their early material, there are some good cuts from each of the original LPs, including the Reno & Harrell albums. And the set includes a 32-page booklet with discography and good notes by Gary Reid. Nice to see Gusto present this set **4-CD set: \$ 27.50**

TSQ-2462 BEN HALL An excellent album here by this young guitarist who plays Travis style all the way on 11 cuts (all instrumentals except for SWEET TEMPTATION and GUITAR RAG). A nicely played acoustic bass is basically the only accompaniment apart from drums which in general don't get in the way of the guitar (except for the tune WINDY & WARM where the drummer whacks away at a volume that renders this nice tune pretty much unlistenable). Hall's electric guitar work is not only skilled, but quite tasteful: his slow versions of KING OF THE ROAD and EVERY TIME YOU LEAVE are especially nice. This disc is a sleeper that is recommended to any fan of Travis picking. MINI & ME, CANNONBALL RAG, THERE'LL BE SOME CHANGES MADE, THE OKLAHOMA HILLS, ALABAMA JUBILEE etc. **\$ 15.00**

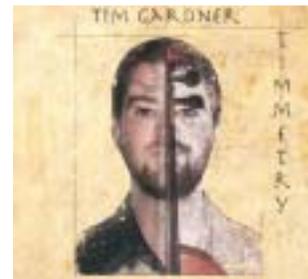


SPC-003 FERRELL STOWE "Personal Tribute to Josh" Stowe is a respected dobro player who now makes his home in Tennessee. Obviously a very big fan of the late John Graves, he has put together this 12 track collection of tunes that were most associated with Graves during his stint with *Flatt & Scruggs*. Fiddler *Johnny Warren*, *Allen Jones* on banjo and *Ron Pennington* on mandolin provide a first class setting for Stowe's dobro. I wish we could leave it at that, but sadly there are "brushes" used on almost every track, and they are miked so high as to be very annoying—at least to this listener. Otherwise a solid recording for those who enjoy Buck Graves' style dobro. **\$ 13.50**

WICKAM-2011 VI WICKAM "Long Time Comin'" We had never heard of Mr. Wickam, but he is a fiddler, and a good one. But you know what they say about first impressions, and after listening to the first track of this CD, where for over 5 minutes a heavy electric bass and percussion make a shambles of TURKEY IN THE STRAW, I was very close to tossing this in the dust bin. But I wanted to see if FORKED DEER and MIDNIGHT ON THE WATER could be any worse, and lo and behold, I found that there is some very nice music on this 13 track CD. The above two tunes are just fiddle backed by simple but excellent guitar work, and CRIPPLE CREEK is sort of appealing even with the electric bass playing (thankfully the drums are gone on this tune). And, there's a very interesting and good version of HANGMAN'S REEL with the fiddle in A tuning and what sounds like a bongo drum that actually is an appropriate addition. Two or three Swing tunes are OK but nothing special, and there are three vocals by three different ladies—these are pleasant enough. It's a mixed bag, but if you can isolate the 4 or 5 nice cuts it could be a keeper for fiddle fans. **\$ 13.50**

CRA-33033 TIM GARDNER "Timmetry"

This is one of the nicest fiddle albums that we've heard in quite some time. Mr. Gardner, who lives in Asheville, N.C., has assembled a wonderful selection of 14 great tunes, and calls on the services of around a dozen apparently local musicians who back him up nicely. Gardner nicely mixes old-time, Bluegrass and Celtic tunes—he is equally strong on the Bluegrass flavored DALEY'S REEL, KATY HILL and Kenny Baker's DENVER BELLE as with old time favorites LAZY JOHN, FORKED DEER, RYESTRAW, BOOTH SHOT LINCOLN, CHINQUAPIN HUNTING and MIDNIGHT ON THE WATER. A couple of the pieces feature vocals, but essentially this is a record of fiddle tunes, and a fine CD at that. **\$ 13.50**



MCM-0015 DEL McCOURY & the PRESERVATION HALL BAND "American Legacies" This record is the first of its kind, mixing Bluegrass with old-style New Orleans Jazz, and it comes off quite well, thanks to musicians who just get out and do their thing without pretensions or over-production and/or unnecessary gimmicks. The Preservation Hall band has been a fixture in New Orleans for well over a generation, and despite many changes in personnel over the years, the musicians obviously love what they're doing and have a good time—as do Del and his boys Ronnie and Rob. The disc includes some country songs like YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE A BABY TO CRY and JAMBALAYA, as well as some good jazz outings on MILENBERG JOYS and I'LL FLY AWAY. It's a fun album and brings to mind the old phrase "A good time was had by all". **\$ 13.50**

SSR-1978 TOMMY EDWARDS “North Carolina—History, Mystery, Lore & More” An attractively packaged record here, with an interesting theme, as North Carolinian Edwards presents 13 songs about his home state (he hails from Chatham County). 6 of the songs are his own originals, that help to augment the songs we might expect to find here: TOM DULA, POOR ELLEN SMITH, CABIN IN CAROLINE, BLACK MOUNTAIN RAG, CAROLINA MOUNTAIN HOME, CAROLINA MOON and FREIGHT TRAIN (from Elizabeth Cotton, who lived less than 25 or 30 miles from Edwards’ home town). Edwards plays guitar and mandolin here, and is helped out on some cuts by Stan Brown and/or Alice Zincone and a few others. HOLY SMOKE, THE CAROLINA WALTZ, DEVIL’S TRAMPING GROUND. **\$15.00**

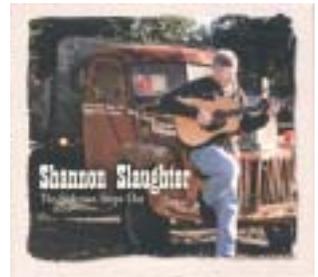
SKFR-1011 RICKY SKAGGS “Country Hits, Bluegrass Style” Don’t be fooled by the title: this is *not* Bluegrass style even though Skaggs and his 6 member band are pictured on the cover all with Bluegrass instruments in their hands. There are 18 musicians & singers named in the credits, including 7 who play the following instruments: Piano, Steel guitar, accordion, percussion, pedal steel and drums. Most Bluegrass fans who buy this CD will feel mis-led or disappointed—it appears to be Skaggs’ way of keeping alive the hits from his country days, now that most of the records from that period are out of print. As a country album it’s a good one, with nice arrangements and a solid collection of songs like I DON’T CARE, UNCLE PEN, CAJUN MOON, YOU’VE GOT A LOVER, DON’T GET ABOVE YOUR RAISING, CRYING MY HEART OUT OVER YOU, and Larry Cordle’s HIGHWAY 40 BLUES. **\$13.50**

ACNY-1109 GILLIAN WELCH “The Harrow and The Harvest” It’s been ages since Ms. Welch had a new album out, so this one is bound to cause some attention. With David Rawlings providing most of the sparse instrumental work (along with Gillian’s guitar and occasional old-time banjo), the duo is immersed in a moody, sultry atmosphere with most of the songs in similar slow tempos. Though the mood may be a little heavy for some, it’s a very consistent album and should be really pleasing for Gillian’s many fans. HARD TIMES, SILVER DAGGER, DARK TURN OF MIND, etc. **\$15.00**

RUR-1081 AUDIE BLAYLOCK & REDLINE “I’m Going Back To Old Kentucky” Audie Blaylock can always be counted on for picking out good songs and having a top-flight band behind him: here he presents a solid tribute album to Bill Monroe (in this 100th anniversary year of Monroe’s birth). He has enlisted some excellent guest performers to join him in this fine, strictly traditional recording: Del & Ronnie McCoury, Bobby Osborne, Glen Duncan, Jason Carter, Lou Reid and Carl Jackson. The dozen songs & tunes not only give Blaylock a chance to perform some superb Bluegrass, but are also another reminder of the endless string of great recordings that Monroe cut in his long career—numbers like IN DESPAIR, MIGHTY DARK TO TRAVEL, OUT IN THE COLD WORLD, YOU’LL FIND HER NAME WRITTEN THERE, CRY CRY DARLIN’, LORD LEAD ME ON, TALL TIMBER, etc. **\$13.50**

ECM-001 SHANNON SLAUGHTER

“The Sideman Steps Out” As soon as we put this CD in the player we thought we were listening to a recording by the *Lonesome River Band*—not surprising, since Mr Slaughter was a member of that group (as well as Lost & Found, Lou Reid, and others). Though he now apparently lives in Alabama, Slaughter is a well respected member of that Virginia / North Carolina group of musicians responsible for that “Lonesome River” sound. Those who have followed Bluegrass for a while will recognize him also as a good songwriter and singer. Along with several of his own songs, he uses material from other popular writers of that area including Craig Market, Mark Brinkman and David Coffey, plus his wife Heather (who also shares in the singing). In recording the 14 songs he has employed a group of outstanding musicians including *Shawn*



Lane, Rob Ickes, Ron Stewart, Ronald Inscore and banjo picker Joey Cox (whose picking is reminiscent of Sam Shelor’s). This is an excellent record for those who like this popular style of hard driving music that seems to please both the traditionalist & contemporary fan. **\$13.50**

PATUX-215 TOM MINDTE AND JEREMY STEPHENS “Radio Favorites and Sacred Songs”

Though the harmonies here are not always on the money, this is a nice collection of old time duets in the brother style. Mindte (mandolin) and Stephens (guitar) are ambitious in tackling some great (but difficult) songs, such as SPARKLING BROWN EYES, I STOOD ON THE BRIDGE AT MIDNIGHT, HE’S COMING BACK TO EARTH AGAIN and ON THE JERICHO ROAD. They do a super job on the Stanleys’ TRAGIC LOVE as well as YOU MADE THE BREAK, WHAT IS HOME WITHOUT LOVE, DON’T FORGET TO PRAY and Don Reno’s HE’S COMING BACK TO EARTH AGAIN (with Stephens hitting the difficult vocal backbeats perfectly). The old and lovely song STOOD ON THE BRIDGE AT MIDNIGHT does not match up to Fiddlin’ Arthur Smith’s poignant version, and it doesn’t help that Mindte and Stephens change the melody. The vocal tricks on COLUMBUS STOCKADE BLUES are awkward, and unfortunately this song is first on the program. But all in all it is a good, honest performance and a reminder as to how much great old material is out there. **\$13.50**

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