



NEWSLETTER #318

May - June 2012

www.countysales.com

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A SAD YEAR FOR BLUEGRASS

As Bluegrass fans come to terms with the passing of **EARL SCRUGGS** in late March, other deaths have rocked devotees of the music: within the stretch of a month we have lost **DOC WATSON**, **DOUG DILLARD** and **EVERETT LILLY**, all of whom greatly contributed to the spread and popularity of the music we love. See page 2 for our own tributes to these wonderful artists.

COMPACT DISCS & THEIR FUTURE

Despite all the talk about the “demise” of the compact disc, we don’t see that coming in the immediate future, at least not for Bluegrass and Old Time CDs. Unlike some other forms of music that are seemingly “disposable” after the new has worn off, CDs of old time and Bluegrass music seem to retain their value and may well be as “collectible” as the old vinyl LPs in the future. (we have now run 5 successful auctions of compact discs and note an ever-increasing interest in the format). We know that our customers value the notes and pictures that come with a CD, and also want to know who plays what, etc. Let’s face it, a CD is a lot more colorful and personal than a digital download! We continue to get a healthy, steady stream of albums to review and carry on our web site and in our newsletter, and more and more of them are very nicely packaged.

That being said, we are aware that there are fewer and fewer actual record stores today, so that artists

rely more and more on venue sales, and when the initial supply of a record is sold, it is often not practical for a record label or an individual artist or band to “re-press” that record. In one recent week we had 5 or 6 re-orders cancelled by suppliers who let us know that they had run out, and that their record would not be available anymore. In short, we encourage customers not to miss out on records that they would really like to own.

A NEW SURPLUS CD SALE

Those who would like to see our new listing of surplus CDs can check that feature on our web site or request a printed list if you don’t have access to a computer. Not only will you see another big batch of CDs at a special sale price of just **\$5.00**, but you’ll have a choice of several rare special items free if you purchase 6 or more CDs from this sale. There is a lot of really good and interesting music here too!.

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
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International/Canadian orders will be charged exact shipping costs based on weight of the order

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DOC WATSON

As we were preparing this month's Newsletter, we learned of the passing of DOC WATSON, one of the true giants of acoustic music. Doc was 89 years old. An amazing number of tributes have come in from all over the world, including a 5 column obituary in the New York Times—and Doc deserved all of them. Though Doc was best known for his wonderful guitar picking, there was a lot more to Watson than that. His repertoire was amazing, and he moved easily from flat picked guitar to fingerpicking style, to clawhammer banjo and to harmonica, singing in a warm, friendly manner that made every audience feel at ease and yet fascinated with his skills.

The oft-told account of his accidental "discovery" and subsequent musical career makes a unique but thrilling story, and we have to go back to thank Clarence "Tom" Ashley and Ralph Rinzler for their parts in getting him before the public and started on his musical journey, which lasted over 6 decades. Over the years Doc made what seem like dozens of records (LPs and CDs), and we can't think of one that was inferior in any way. Starting with some early LPs for Folkways (which still stand out for their down-home warmth), he recorded primarily for Vanguard, United Artists, Flying Fish, and Sugar Hill, and also took part in the highly influential WILL THE CIRCLE BE UNBROKEN project that sold over a million records. He cut albums with Chet Atkins and with Flatt & Scruggs, and did many with his son, the late Merle Watson, who sadly died in a tractor accident in his 30s. He joins his idol Merle Travis as one of the legendary guitarists of country & acoustic music.



EVERETT LILLY

We are sorry to report the passing of EVERETT LILLY of the LILLY BROTHERS, who died on May 8 at the age of 87. From the town of Clear Creek, West Virginia, the brothers were playing and singing in the style of the Monroe Brothers at an early age, and made their first records (78s) in the 1940s.

They teamed with the great banjo player Don Stover and fiddler Tex Logan in bringing Bluegrass music to a New England audience through their shows at the renowned Hillbilly Ranch in Boston and other shows and venues. Records that they cut for the Event label around 1956 are some of the finest Bluegrass music ever recorded. Everett also spent some time as tenor singer



and mandolin picker for Lester Flatt & Earl Scruggs in the early 1950s where he was part of some of their great records for Columbia. Everett had tragedy in his family—his son Jiles was killed in an auto accident in Boston in 1970, an event that caused Everett to move back to his native West Virginia, and in 2006 his son Charles was killed in another crash that also took the life of country entertainer Billy Walker. The Lilly Brothers & Don Stover were inducted into the IBMA Hall of fame in 2002—their importance in creating a large following for real Bluegrass in New England can't be overstated—Bill Keith, Joe Val, Peter Rowan, the Rounders and many others were highly influenced by the Lillys.

DOUG DILLARD

The banjo playing member of The Dillardards died on Wednesday, May 16. Doug was an early Scruggs style picker, and he and his brother Rodney joined forces with local friend John Hartford in coming up with one of the first Bluegrass bands in Missouri and the St. Louis area. Doug was a creative banjo picker who added some neat licks to the music and influenced many including John McEuen and others. Doug and his brother Rodney—along with Dean Webb, and bass player & raconteur Mitch Jayne made up a very popular band in the 1960s, recording several influential long playing albums for the Elektra label. Their appearances as The Darlins on the hugely popular Andy Griffith Show gave many people their first taste of real Bluegrass music.



RAY PATTERSON

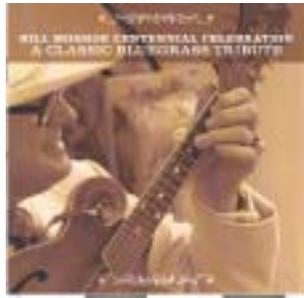
With sadness we say goodbye to another fine musician who died on April 27—Ray Patterson. Ray will be better known as one half of the team of Ray & Ina Patterson, who recorded three wonderful albums (LPs) of old-time

duets for our COUNTY RECORDS label starting in the mid 1960s. Ray & Ina lived a quiet life in Colorado, playing a limited number of shows, but were popular fixtures at the San Diego Folk Festival for several years. They started their musical career in the days of 78s, recording for the little known Gold Star and Cozy labels, and later made a lovely 45rpm disc for Maryland's Glenmar company before County signed them up at the suggestion of some British collectors. Their County LPs are now prized collector's items.



JME-2011 JIMMY MAYNARD & THE CUMBERLAND MT. BOYS Sub-titled “Bluegrass Music of the 60s”, this album may appeal to those who enjoy some of the early sounds and styles of Bluegrass. Serious students of Bluegrass will recognize Maynard for his time in Bill Monroe’s band—he can be heard as guitar player and vocalist on Monroe’s “Bluegrass Ramble” LP of this mid 1960s. Based in middle Tennessee he also played with Curly Seckler and Carl Tipton, and also had his own early LP on Murray Nash’s Do-Ra-Mi label called “Nashville Bluegrass Opera” (as *The Cumberland Mountain Boys*). The 15 songs & tunes here are well played, with especially good twin fiddle work on the instrumentals **\$ 13.50**

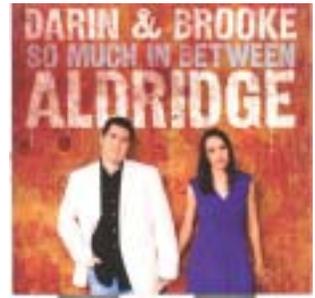
ROU-9123 BILL MONROE CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION This 2-CD set is packed with 28 excellent performances by a variety of artists who have appeared on various Rounder records over the years—from early Joe Val to today’s favorites like Dailey & Vincent. Enhanced by a 20-page booklet of notes by Bill Nowlin, the album presents a bunch of fine performances of great songs and tunes by Ricky Skaggs, the Bluegrass Album Band, Michael Cleveland, Tony Rice, Bobby Osborne, Claire Lynch, Vern Williams and others. Songs and tunes include TOY HEART, WICKED PATH OF SIN, I HEAR A SWEET VOICE CALLING, YOU’D BETTER GET RIGHT, CHEYENNE, WALLS OF TIME, JERUSALEM RIDGE, WHEEL HOSS, etc. **2-CD set: \$ 15.00**



MWM-2011 MISSY WERNER BAND “Three Kinds of Lonesome” Ms. Werner has a strong voice and uses it well on this 14 song recording that is nicely produced by Jon Weisberger. Somewhat unusual for this day and age Ms. Werner uses her own band here instead of a collection of Bluegrass superstars, and the results are quite satisfactory. The writer and publisher credits are hard to read but include Mark Brinkman, Larry Cordle, Stephen Mouglin and Weisberger. An enjoyable album. **\$ 13.50**

RUR-1098 BRAND NEW STRINGS “Stay Tuned” A competent and solid job here by this 5 piece band on their second release on the Rural Rhythm label. The group includes Mike Ramsey (guitar and vocals) and Stuart Wyrick (banjo). (It would be nice to have some personal information on the group—such as where they are from). There are only 7 songs on the disc, but the disc is priced accordingly; seems like this is part of a trend to get away from the traditional 12-song package. **\$ 10.00**

MH-1361 DARIN & BROOKE ALDRIDGE “So Much In Between” Following up a successful first album for the Mountain Home label, this is another excellent recording that can appeal to fans of both traditional and contemporary Bluegrass. Mandolin player Darin Aldridge was a member of the Country Gentlemen for several years, and his wife Brooke (formerly Brooke Justice) has a lovely, distinctive voice that is immediately recognizable. They have a nice assortment of songs here, some of the best of which are LONELY ENDS WHERE LOVE BEGINS, WILDFLOWER, LORD LIFT ME UP and Don Stover’s fine THINGS IN LIFE. Recommended. **\$ 13.50**

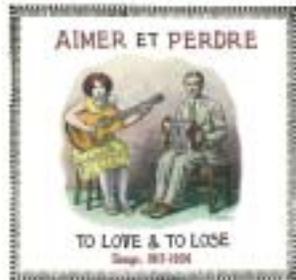


DRYHILL-2012 DRY HILL DRAGGERS “Dreaming Of A Little Cabin” This band from the mountain areas of Virginia and North Carolina has been around for many years now, in one form or another. This new release could be called a “Tale of Two Records”—on the one hand the band plays some excellent, rollicking old time music, but other tracks are amateurish with some ragged singing. The best cuts—featuring two fiddles and prominent clawhammer banjo—are the type of music you’d hear backing up the dancers at the Galax Fiddlers’ Convention: these are RACHEL, BLACK MOUNTAIN RAG, GREY EAGLE and a fine LIZA JANE. DEVILISH MARY and ROCKY ISLAND include singing, but are still lively and quite enjoyable. On the negative side are some good songs that unfortunately don’t come off very well—several of them (WEEPING WILLOW TREE, I STILL MISS SOMEONE and the title song) really do “drag”—pun not intended. A mixed bag here. **\$ 13.50**

COMP-4573 SPECIAL CONSENSUS “Scratch Gravel Road” Banjo picker Greg Cahill has maintained an excellent band in the Chicago area for many years now, and this new album is another first-rate collection of solid Bluegrass, well played and sung. It’s basically traditional style ‘grass, though there are some contemporary touches. Apart from SEA OF HEARTBREAK, the songs are all pretty much new to the genre, and include compositions by such writers as Harley Allen, Craig Market, Mark Brinkman, Billy Smith and Tim Stafford. The record also includes the work of guests Stuart Duncan, Chris Jones, Josh Williams and Alison Brown. We are not sure why the 4 core members of the band do not seem to want to use their last names anywhere in the notes and credits in this otherwise nicely produced CD. **\$ 13.50**

BACM-364 “OLD TIME TUNES & SONGS Volume 2” The British Archive of Country Music is responsible for this random 22 track anthology that includes some gems along with some material from the 1920s and 30s that is definitely of lesser interest. Some of the more appealing cuts include GOING UP TOWN and AUNT CLARA’S WALTZ by Sharp, Hinman & Sharp, JOHNNIE GET YOUR GUN (Fate Norris), ENGINEER FRANK HAWK (Rainey Old-Time Band), and good songs & tunes by Bela Lam, Odus & Woodrow, Gwen Foster, and the Tennessee Ramblers. Somehow a 1952 cut of Wade Mainer’s BLUE RIDGE MT. BLUES has also sneaked in among the mostly 1920s recordings that also include 2 fiddle tunes by Uncle Am Stuart, H.M. Barnes, The Allen Brothers, John & Emery McClung and Ernest Thompson. Some quite interesting tracks here, but not essential listening for the most part. **\$ 15.00**

TSQ-2653 AIMER ET PERDRE “To Love & Lose, 1917-1934” Another lavishly packaged 2-CD set from the Tompkins Square label, this one featuring love songs from a variety of sources, but heavy on Cajun (10 songs) and ethnic songs & dance music from eastern Europe (19 cuts, many Ukrainian). There is also a smattering of old-time southern pieces, including Dock Boggs FALSE HEARTED LOVER, the Carter Family’s I NEVER WILL MARRY, Emry Arthur’s SHE LIED TO ME and the Stoneman Family’s lovely TOO LATE, TOO LATE. Though this may be of limited interest to most of our customers, those who enjoy the classic Cajun sounds of the 1920s will find this worthwhile for cuts like QUELQ’UN EST JALOUX by Guillory & LeFleur and others that feature Dennis McGee, the Breaux Freres, Soileau & Robin and Joe & Cleoma Falcon. A lovely booklet is included, though there are some problems with the transcribing of the words to songs. Lovely production! **\$ 20.00**



MFR-120313 THE SPINNEY BROTHERS “Memories” We carry 5 or 6 records by this band from Nova Scotia, Canada. All of them have been good solid & straight traditional Bluegrass, with the only thing really different here is that this record appears on the Mountain Fever label (out of Southwestern Virginia), whereas all their previous CDs came from Canada. Their songs are well selected, with a few good old standards like CABIN ON A MOUNTAIN, TRUCK DRIVER’S QUEEN, and REBELS YE REST, mixed with tracks by writers like Marshall Warwick, Larry McPeak and Carl Jackson (3 songs). It doesn’t hurt any to have Ron Stewart guesting on fiddle and producing, and Rob Ickes supplying some dobro on a few cuts. **\$ 13.50**

STEIN-2012 PHILLIP STEINMETZ “When The Wagon Was New” Steinmetz, who has had several other records in the past, is a disciple of Uncle Dave Macon and Grandpa Jones. On this pleasant collection he takes turns featuring the old-time banjo or finger picked guitar to accompany songs like MY GAL’S A HIGH BORN LADY, FREE LITTLE BIRD, IF I HAD MY LIFE TO LIVE OVER, AIN’T GONNA WORK TOMORROW, EAST BOUND FREIGHT TRAIN, and CANNON BALL BLUES. The 13 songs and tunes here include several Sam & Kirk McGee numbers as well **\$ 13.50**

MH-1393 DOYLE LAWSON & QUICKSILVER

“Sing Me A Song About

Jesus” Over the years

Doyle Lawson has been

one to count on for solid,

traditional Bluegrass. He

has also been quite pro-

lific—at last count we

have noted at least 35 dif-

ferent records of his that

we carry at County Sales.

But the one word that

comes to mind instantly

upon playing this disc is

“slick”. There is a fine line

between “slick” and “well

produced”, and we will

let others make this assess-

ment. But consider these

facts: there are now 7 mem-

bers of Lawson’s current

band; two people are listed

as playing percussion on

this disc; there is some lap

steel; and do we really

need to know the custom

maker of Doyle’s boots?

And the songs—though all

well crafted—no longer

seem to include any of those

old mountain and gospel

gems that filled the likes of

“Rock My Soul” and

“Heavenly Treasures” (have

they all been used up?).

This is not a knock on

Lawson or his music—every-

thing about this record is

thoroughly professional,

and obviously Doyle knows

the direction he wants

to go in; it’s just that we

miss the soul and feeling

that were there in prior

albums. **\$ 13.50**

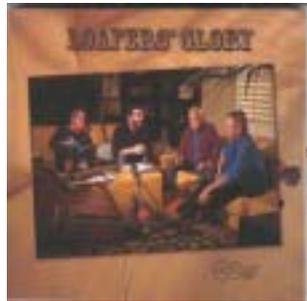


SCOUNT-003 HANK SNOW “The Master of Melancholy”

For those who would like a generous sampling of the music of this significant country stylist of the 1940s and 50s, this new budget priced will do nicely. It contains a good representation of his work over a long & distinguished career, and includes his two biggest hits, I’M MOVIN’ ON and THE GOLDEN ROCKET. There are some nice early cuts from his Canadian days, and some wonderful mid-50s cuts that are now nearly forgotten, like A FOOL SUCH AS I, I DON’T HURT ANYMORE, YELLOW ROSES, I’M GLAD I GOT TO SEE YOU ONCE AGAIN, and the great hobo song THE LAST RIDE. It’s also nice to hear his versions of PUT MY LITTLE SHOES AWAY and LETTER EDGED IN BLACK. It would be good to have some discographic details and some meaningful notes, but this is still a good record with 26 songs. **\$ 10.00**

MFR-120228 SWEET POTATO PIE “Brand New Day” Four gals make up this Bluegrass band that has evidently been around for over 11 years. They have a pleasant sound and are quite competent on their instruments—guitar, banjo, fiddle and bass, but no mandolin. Their 13 song program includes Bill Monroe’s SWEET BLUE EYED DARLING, a couple of Bob Wills tunes (ROLY POLY and BRAIN CLOUDY BLUES), DELTA DAWN, WALKING THE FLOOR and a few band originals. **\$ 13.50**

ARH-542 LOAFER’S GLORY Folks all over the country are by now quite familiar with the 4 members of this west coast group—Herb Pedersen and Bill Bryson have been mainstays of the Bluegrass scene in California for many years, and Tom Sauber is quite well known to old time fans: the fourth member is Tom’s son Patrick Sauber, who does a great job on banjo, singing and especially the mandolin. For those who are wondering just what this is—Bluegrass or Old-Time—we can report that it is a very happy and successful combination of both. The group basically works in a



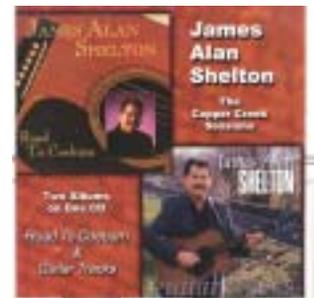
Bluegrass framework, but when it tears into songs & tunes like BANJO PICKIN’ GIRL, MILWAUKEE BLUES, OTTO WOOD THE BANDIT, and the neat instrumental CROW LITTLE ROOSTER, you would think these guys have been playing old-time music for decades (maybe they have!). On several of the pieces Tom Sauber plays clawhammer banjo, otherwise he takes the fiddle while his son plays an excellent Scruggs style banjo. The band spices up the program with well played versions of country songs MAY YOU NEVER BE ALONE, the Louvins NEW PARTNER WALTZ and Roy Acuff’s JUST TO EASE MY WORRIED MIND, as well as The Osbornes’ I’LL BE ALRIGHT TOMORROW and the rousing old-timer LET ME FALL. Everything here is played with spirit and authority, making this one of the neatest new albums of the year. **\$ 13.50**

RKRS-2012 ROBIN KESSINGER & ROBERT SHAFER “Old Friends” These two excellent guitarists from West Virginia have appeared singly and together on several previous self-produced projects. They are adept at both old-time fiddle tunes (ST. ANNE’S REEL, BITTER CREEK, FORKED DEER, DALEY’S REEL) and jazz/swing pieces (LADY BE GOOD, SHANTY IN OLD SHANTY TOWN), though occasionally they go on excursions of notes that seem to be random and pointless. Other tunes include DIXIE HOEDOWN and I’LL SEE YOU IN MY DREAMS. **\$ 13.50**

JSP-77158 BRADLEY KINCAID “A Man and his Guitar” It is curious how much tastes have changed over the years when it comes to rural music. Groups that were totally obscure in the 1920s are heroes today, while some of the most popular entertainers of that time are almost forgotten now. Bradley Kincaid in the late 1920s was one of the 4 or 5 most popular country artists: he was a regular performer on WLS radio and later WSM’s Opry, as well as other top radio stations, he sold thousands of records and was the first rural artist to cash in on the sale of song books that were advertised over the radio—his first few song folios went into many printings and surely sold in the 6-figure range if not higher (he eventually put out 13 different songbooks). But even with a magnificent array of old traditional songs, his music has never really struck a chord with today’s old time music fans. His simple guitar playing was just rudimentary, and his singing, while pleasant, lacked the color and character of down home musicians like Jimmie Rodgers, the Carter Family or Cliff Carlisle, or even Gene Autry. This 100 track compilation (4-CD set) covers just about all of his career which extended from 1927 to the early 1950s. Because he recorded for several labels there are multiple versions of many of the songs, including 3 very similar versions each of BARBARA ALLEN, THE FATAL WEDDING and THE BLIND GIRL. Kincaid was certainly more than a footnote in the history of rural American music, and it’s good to have a comprehensive collection like this available. With a good set of notes by Pat Harrison. 4-CD set: **\$ 27.50**

SR-1963 JAMES ALAN SHELTON “The Copper Creek Sessions” Shelton, the superb guitarist and right hand man for Ralph Stanley, has re-issued—on his own label—two older albums that came out originally on the Copper Creek label. As with

all of James Alan’s projects, the music is first rate and presents a good showcase for his distinctive cross-picking guitar style. The 26 cuts are sprinkled with appearances of other top musicians, including Adam Steffey, John Rigsby, Steve Sparkman, Ben Isaacs, Barry Bales and the fine fiddler James Price. An excellent re-issue. **\$ 13.50**



BCR-031 THE BANKESTERS The second record that we have seen and heard from this family band that plays solid Bluegrass. All 4 daughters are adept vocalists who seem almost interchangeable in taking the lead. They play and sing a nice selection of material including songs written by Donna Ulisse, Tom T. Hall, Terry Smith, and Ralph Stanley among others. **\$ 13.50**

BRISTLECONE-1007 BOB AMOS “Borrowed Time” Amos was the leader of the excellent group *Front Range* that made about 5 very good records for the Sugar Hill label years ago. Amos has since moved from Colorado to Winchester, Va., and now to New England. His music is still first rate, as this album demonstrates. It is all original material except for an interesting take on Robert Johnson’s *LAST FAIR DEAL GONE DOWN*. Included is a new version of *THE ROAD HOME*—a fine song that appeared on an earlier CD. **\$ 13.50**

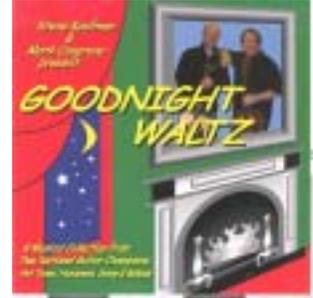
OWT-001 RAFE & CLELIA STEFANINI “Lady On The Green” It’s always a treat to get a new record by Rafe Stefanini, as you know it’s going to be filled with good tunes and fine fiddling. The Italian born Stefanini moved to the USA many years ago because of his love for the music, and he makes his home in eastern Pennsylvania, where he repairs instruments as well as performs. On this disc he is joined by his daughter Clelia—she plays fiddle and guitar and Rafe plays fiddle, banjo and guitar; they both sing as well.



The tunes and songs are all good ones, and come from legendary old time musicians like Oscar Wright, Bob Walters, Casey Jones, Marcus Martin and the Carter Family. They are played and sung with skill and respect. *ELKHORN RIDGE, DUSTY MILLER, COLLIN MEDLEY # 1 and # 2, POPLAR BLUFF*, etc. **\$ 13.50**

NS-0198 VARIOUS ARTISTS “A Special Tribute to a Living Legend, Dr. Ralph Stanley.” This project has been put together by Dr. Ralph’s grandson, Nathan Stanley, who has arranged for several noteworthy artists from the Country Music and Bluegrass fields to each choose and record a favorite song of Ralph’s. Though at first glance you might expect Dr. Ralph to be present here, he does not take part in the recording. Most of his band is here, however, and they provide a very nice setting for the guest performers, who include Vince Gill, Ricky Skaggs, George Jones, Naomi Judd, The Lewis Tradition, Linda Davis & The Whites, and Gene Watson. Rounding out the list of performers are Ralph Stanley II, Don Rigsby and Nathan himself (who does a creditable job on *A ROBIN BUILT A NEST ON DADDY’S GRAVE*). Apart from George Jones, who does not really sound so good here, the performances are all solid, thanks in part to the instrumental backup that features Don Rigsby on mandolin, Dewey Brown on fiddle, Mitch Van Dyke on banjo, and Junior Blankenship on guitar. Songs include *THE MASTER’S BOUQUET* (Skaggs), *OH DEATH* (Gene Watson), *PRETTY POLLY* (Vince Gill), and *KATY DALEY* (Ralph II). Though the sound is fine, the record really cries out for nicer packaging—a booklet with photos of the musicians & guests would have added a lot. **\$ 13.50**

SBR-012320 STEVE KAUFMAN & MARK COSGROVE “Goodnight Waltz” We must have missed the original release of this record, which actually came out in 2010. But it’s not too late to point out that there’s some really great flat pick guitar work on this 15-tune package that features the playing of two national Guitar champions. There’s a great list of tunes here, and they are well arranged and brilliantly played—some feature amazingly fast picking, but it is always tasteful and appropriate, and not the ragged, helter-skelter sounds that plague some of today’s younger musicians who seem to want to set records for notes played per minute). Some personal favorites here are *CUCKOO’S NEST, PANHANDLE RAG, ANGELINA BAKER* and *DALEY’S REEL*, but all the tracks here are good. **\$ 13.50**



NFR-9069 BILLEVANS “In Good Company” For those in the market for some modern and progressive (*very progressive*) banjo sounds, this record will most likely be of real interest. Evans—who had an earlier record on Rounder—is obviously a very talented picker, and the “cast of thousands” who join him here make up a who’s who of modern and new age acoustic pickers. These include David Grier, Mike Marshall, Andy Falco, Chris Pandolfi, Darol Anger, Matt Flinger, Etc. etc. There is a 4 tune Beatles medley (*HARD DAY’S NIGHT, LUCY IN THE SKY*, etc), and a version of *FOLLOW THE DRINKING GOURD* with vocal by Tim O’Brien. Otherwise, traditionalists and old fogies like this listener may spend their time in vain searching for some melodies here. We *can* say that this is a very well produced and attractively packaged CD, and most likely will be a real treat for New Age fans. **\$ 13.50**

OH-4185 UNCLE DAVE MACON “Just From Tennessee” For those who would like a good sampling of Uncle Dave Macon’s work but don’t want to invest over \$ 200 for the amazing Bear Family boxed set, this would be a good starting point. There are 26 tracks, and they include such highlights as *DEATH OF JOHN HENRY, WAY DOWN THE OLD PLANK ROAD, LATE LAST NIGHT WHEN MY WILLIE COME HOME, WHOOP EM UP CINDY, POOR SINNER FARE YOU WELL* and *RISE WHEN THE ROOSTER CROWS*. The disc also contains 3 great Sam McGee guitar showpieces, *FRANKLIN BLUES, BUCK DANCER’S CHOICE* and *KNOXVILLE BLUES*. I would defy anyone over 40 to be able to read the notes, but the music is there. **\$ 15.00**

SHOEFLY-2012 “Six-Fifty” An interesting and entertaining album that has elements of old-time, Bluegrass and country music but fits in no particular mold. We’re not sure what the album title refers to, and we wish there were some notes to inform the listener as to who is doing what here. But overall there is much to recommend this 16-track recording that brings back some names from the past, specifically Rick Good and Paul Kovac, both of whom play banjo and guitar—we assume it is Good playing the clawhammer banjo and Kovac the Scruggs style, but we can’t be sure. Similarly Sharon Leahy and Emma Young are listed as vocalists—they sing a nice duet on GIVE ME THE ROSES, but their solos are quite different with no indication as to who sings what. The strongest numbers are those featuring the old-time banjo sounds, with excellent, lively renditions of THINGS IN LIFE, LOGAN COUNTY BLUES, CHILLY WINDS, and Uncle Dave Macon’s GO ON NORA LEE. Other surprising sources include PeeWee Maddox’ ROCKY ROAD OF LOVE (which works nicely), and Connie Smith’s I’LL COME RUNNING (which doesn’t). Overall this is a well played and enjoyable record. **\$ 13.50**

WHOOOP-202 FLYING JENNY “Ain’t Gonna Grieve my Mind Anymore” Here’s another group that we always enjoy listening to: from the Birmingham, Alabama area, the 5-member old time band picks out great songs and tunes and plays them with a lot of spirit. There are 15 tracks here, with some great tunes learned from old records, such as WOLVES HOWLING, BROKEN DOWN GAMBLER, GOING DOWN THE RIVER, SMOKE ABOVE THE CLOUDS, MISS McLEOD’S REEL, OLD HUNDRED, etc **\$ 13.50**



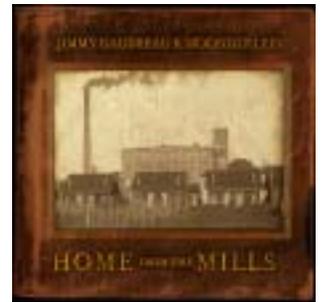
TL-26514 THE GRASCALS “Dance Til Your Stockings Are Hot and Ravelin” Here’s a curious little 6-song disc that is somehow connected to “Mayberry’s Finest”—a brand of food that is apparently one of this band’s sponsors (what happened to Cracker Barrel?) It’s a musical tribute to the Andy Griffith Show, and the band plays a really nice version of DOOLEY, as well as decent renditions of STAY ALL NIGHT, OLD JOE CLARK, BOIL THEM CABBAGE DOWN, LEANING ON THE EVERLASTING ARMS and the Mayberry’s Best theme song. A neat little souvenir for only **\$ 5.00**.

DS-20102 NEDSKI & MOJO “Nothing More” An excellent 11 song collection by this duo, better known in their real lives as Ned Luberecki (banjo) and Stephen Mouglin (guitar and most of the vocals). Mouglin is a good songwriter and singer and a member of Sam Bush’s band. This CD is a very nicely done program of contemporary Bluegrass, with all but one of the songs written by either Mouglin or Luberecki, including the fine GINNY DANCED. **\$ 13.50**

WEBB-2011 TOMMY WEBB “From Rock ‘N’ Roll to Bill Monroe” Kentuckian Webb has another strong album here that clearly shows the work of Ron Stewart, the producer who plays fiddle as well as some banjo and guitar. (Adam Steffey is heard here on mandolin). Webb has a distinctive voice that is marked by an intensity that gets your attention quickly. He also plays some clawhammer banjo on a nice version of SHADY GROVE. Other cuts feature songs by writers like Pete Goble, Alan Johnston and Webb himself. **\$ 13.50**

REB-1843 JIMMY GAUDREAU & MOONDI KLEIN “Home From The Mills”

Don’t be put off because this record does not fall into any specific category (Bluegrass, Old-Time, Country, “Americana” etc). The fact is there are shades of all of those genres here, but essentially Gaudreau & Klein have fashioned a style that is uniquely theirs, and it seems completely natural and unforced. Amazingly, the duo achieves a highly textured instrumental sound, thanks to Gaudreau’s exciting and tasteful work on mandolin, mandola, guitar and octave mandolin. Klein, who spent time as lead singer for the Seldom Scene and the relatively short-lived Chesapeake band, is a dynamic and very distinctive singer who comes up with some lovely, soulful passages both in his solos



and his duets with Gaudreau. The songs here (14) are wonderful: the first three cuts on the album (BENDING BLADES, LEAVING NANCY and ROD McNEIL) are more than worth the price of the album, but everything works beautifully, from the two neat instrumentals (FISHER’S HORNPIPE and WHISKEY BEFORE BREAKFAST) to Townes Van Zandt’s IF I NEEDED YOU, CLOSE THE DOOR LIGHTLY WHEN YOU GO and Gordon Lightfoot’s SHADOWS. This is a stunning record that we HIGHLY RECOMMEND! **\$ 13.50**

DAVIS-2011 ELDON DAVIS & CHARLIE COLLINS “Hard Times” A low-key, pleasant 10 track album featuring dobro player Eldon Davis (who has had at least 8 previous releases). Davis is joined on guitar by the late Charlie Collins, and several other musicians—unfortunately there is no key as to who plays what. Some of the picking is on the amateurish side, but on the better tunes & songs the overall effect reminds one of a comfy front porch picking session. HARD TIMES, CANNONBALL BLUES, LIZA JANE, CAROLINA STAR, AGES & AGES AGO, etc. **\$ 13.50**

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