



# NEWSLETTER #322

January - February 2013

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COUNTY SALES  
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## OUR 48<sup>th</sup> YEAR

Going into our 48<sup>th</sup> year in business, COUNTY SALES would like to express our appreciation to all of our customers in all 50 states and over 20 foreign countries. Word of mouth is still our best way of reaching new customers and we thank you for steering friends our way! Despite significant changes in the music business, we still see a steady stream of new Bluegrass and Old-Time CDs coming out, many of them very well produced and offering fine music. We are proud to say we offer the best selection anywhere of records, books and DVDs—there are hundreds of items that you won't find anywhere else. Try us if you're looking for some obscure or out-of-print item. Thanks again for your comments, suggestions, and especially your continued business.

## NEW STANLEY BROTHERS BOOK

As we go to press, there is a new book on the *Stanley Brothers* that is on the way to us. We have not seen it yet, but it should be in stock by February 1 and it will obviously be of interest to a lot of our customers. It is titled **LONESOME MELODIES: The Lives and Music of the Stanley Brothers**, by David Johnson and published by the University of Mississippi Press. List price is \$ 50.00, but we will be selling it for **\$ 39.00**.

The year 2012 was indeed a sad one for Bluegrass and Old-Time music, with the passing of numerous musicians who contributed greatly to the music, including the giants Earl Scruggs and Doc Watson. Unfortunately another great and important artist left us on December 29 with the death of **MIKE AULDRIDGE**. Best known as one of the original and founding members of **THE SELDOM SCENE**, Mike died at the age of 73 after a fairly long bout with cancer. He also was a member of Emerson & Waldron's influential band and the innovative **CHESAPEAKE** later on. In our opinion, Mike Aldridge's smooth and ultra tasteful dobro playing was the single most important element in the rise of what we now call "contemporary Bluegrass", introducing Bluegrass music to a whole new generation of fans. His playing was a major influence on Jerry Douglas and Rob Ickes among other top dobro players who followed. Apart from his talent, he was known as a humble, wonderful person who was highly respected by all who knew him.

We were also saddened to learn of the passing of **WALTER HENSLEY**, the excellent banjo picker who was one of the prominent musicians when Bluegrass music was just taking hold in a big way in the late 1950s and early 60s. Also, **ROSA LEE WATSON**, the wife of Doc Watson passed away on November 22, not that long after Doc's death.

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## HIGHLIGHT ITEMS FROM 2012

### Did you miss any of these excellent records & books from 2012?

As we start A NEW YEAR, we like to look over the past 12 months and point out some of the most popular items that we carry. We can highly recommend any and all of the **CDs, Books, and DVDs** listed below.

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

- REB-1843 JIMMY GAUDREAU & MOONDI KLEIN “Home From The Mills”** A truly lovely, special album of duets with mandolin & mandola backing on some wonderful songs.
- REB-1852 PAUL WILLIAMS “Gonna Stay In The Old Time Way”** Another great gospel album that features Williams’ wonderful tenor voice
- REB-7518 CHRIS JONES & THE NIGHT DRIVERS “Lost Souls & Free Spirits”** Some old cuts are mixed with several new songs to make a solid, well done album. With Ned Luberecki on banjo. (**\$ 10.00**)
- REB-7530 CLAIRE LYNCH & THE FRONT PORCH STRING BAND** A wonderful budget collection taken from her first two great albums includes Wabash Cannonball, Hills of Alabam (**\$ 9.00**)
- REB-8006 TRUE BLUEGRASS BANJO** Great compilation of 16 tunes by Crowe, Osborne, Bill Emerson, Jimmy Arnold, Ralph Stanley, Don Reno, etc a bargain at (**\$ 9.00**)
- REB-8007 TRUE BLUEGRASS FIDDLE** 20 great fiddle tunes played by Kenny Baker, Bobby Hicks, Art Stamper, Richard Greene, Joe Greene, etc (**\$ 10.00**)
- REB-1101 THE SELDOM SCENE “Best Of”** This CD is not a new one—in fact it’s one of the oldest of all Rebel CDs, but since it was out of print for over a year, we mention it again. GREAT
- MH-1404 BALSAM RANGE “Papertown”** Fine contemporary Bluegrass by this Western North Carolina group. A fine followup to their great TRAINS I MISSED album
- MH-1393 DOYLE LAWSON “Sing Me A Song About Jesus”** His latest gospel album
- MH-1361 DARRIN & BROOKE ALDRIDGE “So Much In Between”** Fine harmonies by this Bluegrass duo which will appeal to both traditional & contemporary fans.
- NT-1013 THE GRASS CATS “The Mountains My Baby & Me”** a superb traditional Bluegrass band featuring the singing & songwriting of Russell Johnson
- OB-709 FIDDLE CLASSICS (Various Artists)** Lots of variety on this 26-track anthology that includes Bluegrass, old-time and Texas style artists. Another bargain @ (**\$ 11.00**)
- OB-708 VARIOUS ARTISTS “Old Time Music At The Galax Fiddlers’ Convention”**  
Combination of recordings from the 1960s along with some newer tracks.
- OB-707 TED LUNDY & THE SOUTHERN MOUNTAIN BOYS** Great traditional Bluegrass by this legendary banjo picker from southwest Virginia
- SCOUNT-001 STANLEY BROTHERS “Songs of Tragedy and Redemption “** A very nicely chosen selection Of the Stanleys best cuts from Rich-R-Tone, Columbia, Mercury & King-Starday (**\$ 10.00**)
- SCOUNT-002 FLATT & SCRUGGS “The Sound of Foggy Mountain Soul”** A super collection of some of This band’s finest work from old Mercury and Columbia recordings 29 cuts! (**\$ 10.00**)
- ROU-9128 TONY RICE “The Bill Monroe Collection”** 14 Monroe songs from Tony’s earlier Rounder LPs & CDs, all done beautifully.
- ROU-0638 VARIOUS ARTISTS “Foggy Mt. Special” “A Bluegrass Tribute to Earl Scruggs”**  
Scruggs tunes as played by a dozen top flight banjo pickers
- ROU-0662 LARRY SPARKS “Almost Home”** Sparks does his usual excellent job on this CD, with the title track being especially good. With Don Rigsby & Ron Stewart
- SKFR-1013 RICKY SKAGGS “Music To My Ears”** Most of this is top flight traditional Bluegrass—great cuts of **BLUE NIGHT, LOVING YOU TOO WELL, THINGS IN LIFE** and a great instrumental: **NEW JERUSALEM.**
- RUR-1085 IIIrd TYME OUT “Prime Time”** Led by Russell Moore (award-winning IBMA vocalist) , this band remains one of the finest Bluegrass bands on the scene today
- RUR-1094 VARIOUS ARTISTS “Life Goes On”** Partially to benefit Musicians Against Childhood Cancer, this is a huge, epic collection of Bluegrass songs & tunes that includes the work of some 139 different musicians, with a number of interesting artist combinations (**\$ 15.00**)

- RUR-1101 LONESOME RIVER BAND “Chronology—Volume 1”** An 8-song mini-CD that mixes a few New songs with some remakes of the band’s early recordings(**\$8.00**)
- YODEL-084 BIG FOOT “I’ve Got A Bulldog”** Good Old Time music with Rhys Jones on fiddle.
- UM-006 RHONDA VINCENT “Sunday Mornin’ Singin’ LIVE** Rhonda at her best on these 16 Bluegrass gospel songs ( **\$ 15.00**)
- YAZOO-2203 RETURN OF THE STUFF THAT DREAMS ARE MADE OF** Great 2-CD set of old-time & Blues Taken from rare 78s of the “golden Age” of recording. (**\$ 20.00**)
- DSM-2012 BYRON BERLINE “Jammin’ With Byron”** Lots of fine fiddlin’ on this 22-track Compact disc. Includes Alan Munde, David Grier, etc
- BACM-388 JIMMIE WILLIAMS & RED ELLIS “Classic Bluegrass Gospel”** Hard-edged, at times even spooky recordings that came out originally on Starday 45s. **27 cuts ( \$ 15.00)**
- HURST-2012 JIM HURST “Intrepid”** Fine guitar work and singing by this veteran Includes his Neat GADGET DADDY and the lovely THROUGH THE GARDEN
- FOG-2012 FOGHORN STRING BAND “Outshine The Sun”** Excellent old-time music from This band from the Northwest.
- MCM-0016 DEL McCOURY “Old Memories”** A very nice presentation of Bill Monroe songs Done to celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> birthday of Bill Monroe
- ACD-50029 DEL McCOURY & DAVE GRISMAN “Del & Dave In The Dawg House”** Good to see some “hard-core” Bluegrass on Grisman’s Acoustic Disc label
- SR-1963 JAMES ALAN SHELTON “The Copper Creek Sessions”** A good chance to pick up 26 fine cuts featuring Shelton’s wonderful guitar work (cross pick, flat pack etc)
- NYF-2012 NEW YOUNG FOGIES** A good selection of well played old time music by some of the newcomers to the scene
- OWT-001 RAFE & CLELIA STEFANINI “Lady On The Green”** Fine old time fiddle by Rafe on lots of great tunes
- WHOOOP-202 FLYING JENNY “Ain’t Gonna Grieve My Mind Anymore”** Neat old-time string Band from Birmingham, Alabama (formerly known as RED MT. WHITE TRASH)
- DTM-023 THE KRUGER BROTHERS “Best of the Kruger Brothers”** Talented brothers play A combination of Old-Time, Bluegrass and New Age music.
- TCR-001 VARIOUS ARTISTS “The Crooked Road—A Treasury of American Music”** A wonderful 2-CD set with over 50 good cuts by a wide variety of Southwestern Va. musicians, both Old-Time and Bluegrass. Very nicely done. ( **2-CD set: \$ 20.00**)
- JSP-77155 GID TANNER & THE SKILLET LICKERS** Over 100 songs & fiddle tunes on this Bargain 4-CD import from Britain. ( **\$ 27.50**)
- BOX SET WISE-1091 MAC WISEMAN “The Mac Wiseman Story”** 6 CDs worth of music taken from Mac’s CMH albums of the 1970s. Lots of music! 6-CD Boxed set is (**\$ 45.00**)
- BOX SET BCD-16817 THE DIXON BROTHERS “A Blessing To The People”** An amazing, beautifully produced 4-CD set of the Dixons complete recordings, with a 164-page hardback book of notes, words, and much more. (**\$ 110.00**)
- BOOK: MEETING JIMMIE RODGERS (Oxford Univ. Press, 376 pages.** Lots of Interesting fact s in this well-researched study of the great Rodgers. ( **\$18.00**)
- BOOK: BLUEGRASS BLUESMAN Edited by Fred Bartenstein 142 pages** A nicely edited account of Buck Graves (Uncle Josh) and his influence on dobro pickers. (**\$ 20.00**)
- DVD: LILLY-2003 THE LILLY BROTHERS “True Facts In A Country Song”** a lovingly Produced firm about Everett Lilly and his family (**\$ 18.00**)
- DVD: AHM-11 OLD TIME MUSIC ON THE AUGUSTA HERITAGE STAGE** Good quality film of various old timers like Mervin Wine, Art Stamper, Benton Flippen, Wayne Henderson and Riley Baugus. 26 performances here (**\$ 20.00**)

**UBI-004 ADAM HURT & BETH WILLIAMS HARTNESS “Fine Times At Our House”** A very pleasant and enjoyable old-time offering here, with Adam Hurt playing either fiddle or banjo, and Beth Hartness backing him up on guitar. Most of the tunes are fairly well known, but they are all good numbers and are all well played; they include OLD SPORT, KATY CLINE, SHAKING DOWN THE ACORNS, BILL CHEATHEM, HASTE TO THE WEDDING, RICHMOND and SPEED THE PLOW. **\$ 13.50**

**RUR-1100 AUDIE BLAYLOCK & REDLINE “Hard Country”** Blaylock and his band continue to be one of the leading purveyors of solid, hard edged traditional Bluegrass. Here are another 10 well played songs like HOME IS WHERE THE HEART IS, STORMY HORIZONS, NEWTON’S GROVE, A NATURAL THING, PHILADELPHIA LAWYER, etc. **\$ 13.50**

**OLD HAT-1009 VARIOUS ARTISTS “Cluck Old Hen”** Collector Marshall Wyatt has issued several neat re-issues on his Old Hat label, and here is another—a beautifully packaged 24-track compilation of songs about chickens taken from old 78s. After a few smiles and a look at the impressive 20-page booklet of notes, you can delve into various pieces here—they are both fun and fascinating examples of what was available on record back in the late 1920s and 30s. The material presented is not just rural numbers (Riley Puckett, Cliff Carlisle and the Binkley Brothers), but as the booklet proclaims the album includes Blues, Break-downs, Minstrel Sketches, Imitations, Tin Pan Alley Songs and some double entendre songs. A few of the other artists include Gene Autry, Beale Street Sheiks, George Edgin, Peg Leg Howell, Tune Wranglers, Teddy Bunn, The Georgia Browns, etc. Lots of fun here! **\$ 15.00**



**RUR-1108 AMERICAN DRIVE** Solid traditional Bluegrass from this group that was essentially the “New South” portion of “J.D. Crowe and the New South”. When Crowe retired this year longtime members Ricky Wasson and Dwight McCall decided to keep the group going, Wasson on guitar and McCall on mandolin. Other members of the group are Matt DeSpain on dobro, Kyle Perkins on upright bass, and newcomer Josh Hymer on banjo. Wasson, McCall and DeSpain all share in the lead vocals. Guest Ron Stewart fills in nicely with his usual top fiddling. Songs are mostly new, apart from NOBODY’S CHILD, GOTTA TRAVEL ON and Pete Goble’s WILLOW CREEK DAM **\$ 13.50**

**PR-1440 FLATT LONESOME** Solid Bluegrass on 11 songs by this group that is new to us. It’s a 6-member band that features vocals by three of its members: Buddy Robertson, Charli Robertson and Kelsi Robertson Harrigill (they play guitar, fiddle & mandolin, respectively). They are all good singers and are backed by Paul Harrigill on banjo, Michael Stockton on dobro and Dominic Illingworth on bass. The songs are a mixture of originals plus a few numbers recognizable to most Bluegrass fans: JACKSON, MY FAVORITE MEMORY, Harley Allen’s I’D MISS YOU and one by Hazel Dickens. **\$ 13.50**

**BCR-032 THE BANKESTERS “Looking Forward”** Nicely played and sung contemporary Bluegrass by this talented family in which five different members share the lead vocals. Most effective is Emily Bankester’s fine treatment of LOOKING FORWARD TO LOOKING BACK. There’s also a good but uncredited male vocal on ALL GOOD THINGS. Kyle Triplett is the main instrumentalist, playing solid banjo and some nice lead guitar. Most of the songs feature plenty of good harmony in duets & trios. **\$ 13.50**

**OLD BLUE-710 BANJO CLASSICS (Various Artists)** The Old Blue label had a fairly recent similar record that was devoted to the fiddle. However, whereas the fiddle collection included both old time and Bluegrass fiddle examples, this CD is strictly focused on b a n j o — m o s t l y clawhammer styles at that. It has a wealth of really neat pieces by a significant number of excellent musicians.



The 32 cuts include recordings by Wade Ward, Kyle Creed, Gaither Carlton, Matokie Slaughter, Oscar Wright, Lily May Ledford, Fred Cockerham, and the list goes on. The tuning for each piece is listed, along with the date and place the recording was made (most of the cuts go back to the late 1960s (though there are a few pieces done as recently as 2011 & 2012). Tunes include SALT RIVER, NEW RIVER TRAIN, ROCKY HILL, HOP LIGHT LADIES, BACK-STEP CINDY, JOHNSON BOYS, COUSIN SALLY BROWN, etc.,. In several cases there are two versions of the same tune back-to-back but played by different artists. Good recording quality & good notes by Bob Buckingham. **\$ 11.00**

**OUTLET-2013 CARL SCOTT “The Last Mile”** A really nice guitar album here by this Virginian who has a distinctive easy going style that is somewhat reminiscent of the Carter Family’s music. The 14 tunes are all good, with fine versions of WEEPING WILLOW, JIMMY BROWN, ROSEWOOD CASKET, YOU ARE MY FLOWER, CANNON BALL BLUES, etc. **\$ 13.50**

**GILLIS-2013 LARRY GILLIS “Ringin’ Of The Hammer”** The banjo playing member of the Gillis Brothers and his 5-member band perform 12 Bluegrass gospel songs here (including one instrumental—TRAIN RIDE TO GLORYLAND). Instrumentally the Georgia group has as much of the “Stanley sound” as any group we’ve heard since the old Wilson Brothers outfit. Larry’s banjo has that Stanley ring, and there’s a good amount of excellent lead guitar picking that reminds us of George Shuffler. Unfortunately, much of the lead singing is pretty weak. PEACE BELLS, THINKING OF MOTHER, GOSPEL MEDLEY, NOBODY CAME, I’M NEVER ALONE, etc. **\$ 13.50**

**SCOUNT-007 BILL MONROE “The Father of Bluegrass”**

Here is another 25-track compilation from this import label that has already given us good samplers by Flatt & Scruggs and the Stanley Brothers. The disc has been put together by one Dave Henderson of MOJO (The British rock magazine), and he obviously knows the music. Starting with a Monroe Brothers song (the ever popular



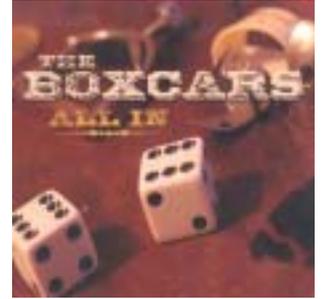
WHAT WOULD YOU GIVE IN EXCHANGE) the album gives us a good sampling of Monroe’s early Bluebird work (MULE SKINNER BLUES, BLUE YODEL #7, etc), then his classic Columbia sides with Flatt, Scruggs and Chubby Wise, and finally a healthy dose of some of Bill’s best Decca cuts. There are a few spots where the sound quality is not what it should be, but for anyone who needs or wants a good Monroe sampler, it’s a huge bargain at **\$ 10.00**.

**PATUX-233 DEWEY FARMER & DERWIN HINSON**

Farmer is a respected mandolin player from central North Carolina who has not been heard from on record recently: going back to the late 1960s and the 1970s he could be heard mainly with A.L. Wood’s Smokey Ridge Boys, and he also recorded with Carl Story and Butch Robbins. Hinson, the other member of the duo plays banjo and lead guitar. The duo does a respectable job on a variety of material that includes old fiddle tunes (OLD JOE CLARK and ARKANSAS TRAVELER), the Beatles’ YESTERDAY, and standards like ROLY POLY, SNOWFLAKE REEL and KANSAS CITY KITTY. The tone of the instruments is very “brittle”, but we assume that is what the players wanted. **\$ 13.50**

**MH-1398 THE BOXCARS “All In”** Any group with this sort of a lineup must be considered one of the very top bands in Bluegrass today, and that is certainly the case with the

Boxcars, a group which includes Adam Steffey (mandolin), Ron Stewart (banjo or fiddle), John Bowman (fiddle or guitar), Keith Garrett (lead guitar) and Harold Nixon (bass). Apart from the old Flatt & Scruggs song I’VE LOST YOU, most of the songs here were written by members of the band—they are all well played and sung. This is an excellent group that can and will appeal to fans of both traditional and contemporary Bluegrass—let’s hope they stay together! **\$ 13.50**



**BARKER-2012 CRAVER, HICKS, WATSON & NEWBERRY “You’ve Been A Friend To Me”**

Fans of the old *Red Clay Ramblers* will welcome this nicely done collection of 15 old time songs and tunes. Bill Hicks (fiddle), Jim Watson (mandolin & bass), and Mike Craver (vocals and piano) are joined by Joe Newberry on banjo in this nicely produced album. Tunes like TEXAS GALS, SALLY ANN, KISS ME QUICK, PINEY MOUNTAIN and LOWE BONNIE are joined by 3 old Carter Family songs that are especially well done: IN THE SHADOW OF THE PINES, MY OLD COTTAGE HOME and the title song, YOU’VE BEEN A FRIEND TO ME. **\$ 13.50**

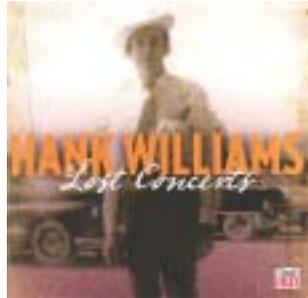
**BACM-394 CLASSIC COUNTRY ON THE FEDERAL LABEL**

(Various Artists). In 1950 the King company started the new, short-lived Federal label—exactly why is not really apparent. Most of what appeared on Federal was ordinary country & western music, little of which was memorable. This 28 track compilation gives us a good sampling—the best of which was some fine gospel songs by Tommy Magness & His Tennessee Buddies (who were Don Reno & Red Smiley in their early configuration: those 4 songs have appeared elsewhere, notably on King’s Reno & Smiley Boxed set). There are 5 songs by Bill Carlisle, but these are mediocre C & W cuts nowhere near as good as his Decca material or even his later Mercury novelty songs. There are 4 songs by the Cope Brothers of “Norris Dam” fame—these are nice duets (OLD COUNTRY CHURCH, GATHERING BUDS, I’LL HAVE A NEW LIFE). Other than these tracks the most interesting on the album are 4 fiddle breakdowns by Fiddlin’ Red Herron, DEVIL’S DREAM, CINDY, BACK UP & PUSH, etc. **\$ 15.00**

**TL—27462 HANK WILLIAMS “Lost Concerts”** The last few years have seen an abundance of great Hank Williams material, thanks to Time-Life and to the Estate of Hank Williams for finally letting a lot of fine music come to market. Just when we think that we’ve seen and heard it all, this new set appears, consisting of respectable portions of two live shows and an interesting interview with a DJ (Mack Sanders) from 1951. The two

shows—a May 4, 1952 show in Niagara Falls, N.Y. and a performance at Sunset Park in Pennsylvania (July 13, 1952), contain nothing new in the way of songs, but you do hear a lot of Hank talking and

bantering with his band members Jerry Rivers and Don Helms. While the sound quality is understandably far from perfect, it is good enough to let the listener really enjoy what he/she hears, and the shows really add another dimension to our appreciation of one of the great talents of the music. In an item of interest to Bluegrass fans is the fact that the great DJ Ray Davis (of WBMD and WAMU fame) was the M.C. of the Sunset Park show! (There’s a small but neat photo of him with Williams in the 12 page booklet that comes with the CD). This is a record that any fan of Hank Williams will want. **\$ 15.00**

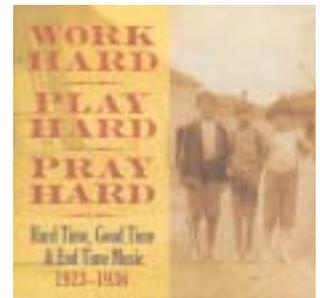


**BACM-393 LUKE GORDON “Dark Hollow”** If any of our readers recognize this name, it will likely be from his Bluegrass rendition of DARK HOLLOW on Don Owens’ Blue Ridge label back in the late 1950s. Gordon was one of those “also rans” who cut some decent music but never really made it big in the country & western scene in the 1950s. This 27 track CD is “country and western” for the most part—in addition to 4 songs on Blue Ridge, the material is drawn from some obscure Starday singles and a bunch of songs that appeared on the so-called “Dollar” labels like Mount Vernon and Spin-O-Rama. At his best Gordon has a soulful country voice obviously influenced by Hank Williams. Some of the best tracks are his versions of DON’T SAY GOODBYE IF YOU LOVE ME, TIME FOR THE WHIPPOORWILL TO SING, and ON THE BANKS OF THE OLD PONCHARTRAIN, as well as the title song. For what it’s worth, I have recently seen bids of over \$ 100.00 on one of his 45rpm discs in an e-Bay auction, so he has a following among collectors. **\$ 15.00**

**PATUX-241 SCOTT BRANNON “Your Old Standby”** Brannon—who had an earlier album on Ray Davis’ Wango label—does a pleasant job singing a dozen Bluegrass and Country favorites like WEDDING BELLS, SINGING WATERFALL, I STILL MISS SOMEONE, IF I LOSE, SING SING SING, MOUNTAIN CHURCH and the title song. He is backed by a quality group of Bluegrass musicians including Michael Cleveland on fiddle, David McLaughlin on mandolin and lead guitar, Marshall Wilborn (bass) and Tom Mindte (mandolin). **\$ 13.50**

**TSQ-2776 WORK HARD, PLAY HARD, PRAY HARD.**

This label—Tompkins Square—has come out with several neat projects over the last 2 or 3 years, and this is one of the best of them. Actually, it’s a 3-CD set (in a small box) that is drawn from old 78s of the 1920s and 30s that seems to be inspired by the legendary Harry Smith LPs that the Folkways label issued in the early 1950s and that influenced so many of us. But what really anchors this new set is the strange story of how it came to be. It turns out that a whole collection of old 78s was about to be thrown into a dumpster in Kentucky, only to be saved thanks to a friend of a friend who fortunately was aware of the value of the records. The 78s belonged to a reclusive collector who had recently passed away (I recall the late Archie Green telling me that he had made a special trip to Louisville Kentucky in the mid 1960s to find out more about this collector, only to be turned away at the



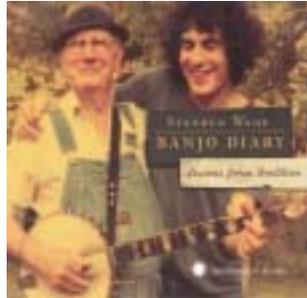
door.) This fine 42-song compilation was produced and annotated by one Nathan Salsburg, working mostly from the collector’s records: it is clear that Salsburg knows his old-time music and has the good taste to include a great array of neat material—most of it not previously available on CD. The set is divided into three discs, one each for the “work”, “play” and “pray” categories, and an excellent multi-page booklet provides a lot of good and interesting information. Some of the musicians included are Georgia Crackers, Allen Brothers, Earl Johnson, Gid Tanner, Hack String Band, Oscar Ford, the Corley Family, Fields Ward and the Kentucky Holiness Singers. Any fan of old time music will love this set and the way it is presented. **3-CD set: \$ 28.00**

**HRC-163 JOHN COFFEY, RAY CHATFIELD, MARVIN COCKRAM and BOBBY PATTERSON “Let Her Rip”** A generous helping of good old time string band music from the Galax area, played by this foursome and featuring the fiddle playing of John Coffey (others in the band are Chatfield (clawhammer banjo), Patterson (guitar) and Cockram (bass). There are 19 tunes including such local favorites as JUNE APPLE, TEXAS GALS, FLORIDA BLUES, SUGAR IN THE GOURD, ROSCOE, BILL CHEATHAM, EBENEZER OLD JOE CLARK, SANDY RIVER BELLE, etc. **\$ 13.50**

**SFW-40208 STEPHEN WADE “Banjo Diary”**

There’s a lot going on in this new and attractive issue from the Smithsonian Folkways label, and it’s a record that we think any fan of old-time banjo will want to have. Wade, who has had records out before—including one on the County label—is a banjo historian as well as a good musician.

He cites a bunch of various sources in a fascinating 40-page booklet of notes that is as informative as the music is good. Covering the songs one by one, he cites and refers to people like Fleming Brown, Charlie Faurot, Woody Wachtel and Tony Ellis (a good friend) in his



own career that started in Chicago. Fleming Brown was apparently a great early influence on other banjo pickers there in the 1960s, and he is mentioned often in the notes. As to the music, Wade has a few other musicians help out, including Danny Knicely, James Leva and Zan McLeod, but the most noticeable is Mike Craver (Red Clay Ramblers) who provides an effective pump organ tastefully in the background. The 18 tunes (Wade sings on about a third of them) are an excellent mixture of common and obscure pieces. Tunes like TRAIN 45, CUCKOO’S NEST, HOME SWEET HOME and LITTLE RABBIT get treatments that are slightly different than popular versions of these pieces. But the most effective are several slow, moody tunes that are really lovely: ROCKY HILL, LITTLE BETTY ANN and HAND IN HAND. These are very reminiscent of a style played by Tony Ellis, which is not surprising as Wade & Ellis have been friends for many years. There are no weak spots in this superb recording, and it continues to grow on me the more I play it. Highly Recommended for Old-Time banjo fans. **\$ 15.00**

**FOUR-2010 \$ 4 DOLLAR SHOE** A pleasant, 17 track record of old-time music featuring Morgan John (banjo) and Tom Collicott (guitar). They sing a few numbers in a Delmore Brothers style, and are joined by either Tony Mates or Dan Tennenbaum on fiddle on several successful renditions of old tunes like TOO YOUNG TO MARRY, WARFIELD, BUF-FALO GALS, NANCY ANN, and WILD HOG IN THE WOODS. A few other tracks feature old time banjo (GEORGIE, HONEY BABE BLUES). **\$ 13.50**

**COMP-4581 LARRY STEPHENSON “What Really Matters”** The high, distinctive voice of Stephenson is heard to good advantage on this 12-song disc that finds Larry on a new label (the Nashville based COMPASS label). He is accompanied for the most part by his own band which includes Kenny Ingram on banjo, Kevin Richardson on guitar and vocals and Danny Stewart, bass. Joining the above are Aubrey Haynie on fiddle and Sam Bush (fiddle on one cut). I SEE LOVE, BEFORE I’M OVER YOU, PHILADELPHIA LAWYER, MY HEART IS ON THE MEND, BIG TRAIN, GOD WILL, etc. **\$ 13.50**

**PRC-1180 TOWN MOUNTAIN “Leave The Bottle**

This is the third record by this Asheville, N.C. based Bluegrass band, and their most successful CD yet. Like their neighboring band The Steep Canyon Rangers, this band plays strictly traditional Bluegrass instrumentally, while the vocals and the songs they have chosen are more in a contemporary vein. A solid album that was produced by Mike Bub. UP THE LADDER, AWAY FROM HOME, FOUR MILES, RUN JUNIOR RUN, HEAVY STONE, LAWDOG, etc. **\$ 13.50**

**REBEL-1849 JOE MULLINS & THE RADIO RAMBLERS “They’re Playing My Song”**

Following in a tradition established by his dad, the late Paul Mullins, Joe has used central and southern Ohio as a base for spreading some superb traditional Bluegrass, and this—his 3<sup>rd</sup> record for the REBEL label—is as good as his best efforts in a long career as DJ, promoter, and band leader.



(Along with his father he recorded several great albums in the past as THE TRADITIONAL GRASS). He has a top flight band and this album has a very nice mixture of material, including a few “oldies” in SHE LEFT ME STANDING ON THE MOUNTAIN, Dave Evans’ WHEN THE SNOW FALLS ON MY FOGGY MOUNTAIN HOME, and an Osborne Brothers four song medley. Other highlights are Becky Buller’s MOSES SET MY PEOPLE FREE and Bill Anderson’s poignant SOME KIND OF WAR. For the 14<sup>th</sup> and final song, Mullins re-visits the well known classic that his dad arranged and popularized: KATY DALEY. A fine CD! **\$ 13.50**

**PRC-1181 NU-BLUE “Nail By Nail”** Excellent Bluegrass gospel on this 7-song “mini CD” Carolyn Routh is the main vocalist here and she does a very nice job on some newer songs written by such composers as Becky Buller, Tim Stafford, Donna Ulisse and Marc Rossi. Songs include MARTHA & MARY, THE CARPENTER, THE ABYSS, MAN FROM GALILEE, etc **\$ 10.00**

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