



# NEWSLETTER #324

May - June 2013

www.countysales.com

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## NEW RELEASES

As we head into this Spring & Summer Festival season, there is a strong and impressive group of new, power packed album releases featuring many of the biggest names in Bluegrass. We are doing something a bit different in our Newsletter this time by putting most of the top new releases all on one page (See page 3). And those who purchase 3 or more items from that page will get a free album. See the details on page 3.

**GEORGE JONES**— The man who many experts considered the best country singer since Hank Williams, passed away on April 26, 2013. Although not directly connected with Bluegrass music, Jones had a strong influence on many Bluegrass musicians, and was appreciated by most fans of real country music. He had a colorful career that lasted from the mid 1950s to the late 2000s and he did cut a few Bluegrass songs, some with Melba Montgomery. He did a duet on the fine Ralph Stanley “Clinch Mountain Country” 2-LP set that turned out to be the IBMA “Album of the Year” in 1999 (This is still available: **REB-5001 CLINCH MT. COUNTRY \$ 25.00**) (a 2-CD set)

**DAILEY & VINCENT CD out of print.** We were somewhat shocked to learn that one of our favorite gospel records is already out of print. We refer to the lovely, all a cappella record by Jamie Dailey and Darrin Vincent titled “Singing From The Heart”. We were able to buy up a small supply of these and we’ll have them on a first-come, first-served basis as long as they last. (order **ROUNDER-0610, \$ 13.50**)

## SPECIAL MERCHANDISE PRIZES

It’s time again for us to offer our special merchandise prizes. Anyone who orders anything at all from this Newsletter will be eligible to win one of the prizes that we give out: **\$ 100.00, \$ 50.00, and \$ 25.00.** Orders must be received by July 15, 2013. Winners to be announced in a future Newsletter.

**CD AUCTION** Our sixth auction of CDs will take place shortly. This will consist mostly of compact discs that are now out of print, with some excellent music that is no longer available. If interested, request our “CD AUCTION # 6”

**COMING BEAR FAMILY RELEASES** Be on the lookout for some interesting BOX SETS on the amazing German BEAR FAMILY RECORDS label. One will be an overdue multi CD collection of ROY ACUFF’s music, and the other will be a huge set of old-time recordings made in Johnson City, Tennessee in the late 1920s (similar to the label’s wonderful BRISTOL SESSIONS Box). Coming this Summer.

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	5.50	8.00	10.00	13.00	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 <b>\$11.00</b> in addition to regular shipping charges.					
For US Mail/COD shipments, please add <b>\$7.30</b> 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 LONESOME DAY and certain RURAL RHYTHM CDs

This month only we are offering most of the **LONESOME DAY** Bluegrass catalog at a **SPECIAL SALE** price of just **\$ 9.00 per CD** (regular price \$ 13.50). This Kentucky label run by Randall Deaton has issued records by some of today's top Bluegrass performers. Take advantage of this sale to save over \$ 4.00 per record for any that you may have missed or didn't know about. Additionally, if you buy one or more CDs from this sale, we will give you **FREE**, a special LONESOME DAY 24-track gospel sampler entitled "The Very Things You Treasure—Songs of Faith & Family". This all gospel collection contains Bluegrass gospel songs by all the Lonesome Day artists such as **JEFF PARKER, STEVE GULLEY, RALPH STANLEY II, DARRELL WEBB, etc.** **Following are the records that are on sale. (Sale ends July 15, 2013)**

<b>LDR-004</b>	<b>JEFF PARKER "Two Roads To Travel"</b>
<b>LDR-005</b>	<b>RANDY KOHRS "I'm Torn"</b>
<b>LDR-006</b>	<b>DARRELL WEBB "Behind The Scenes"</b>
<b>LDR-009</b>	<b>LOU REID &amp; CAROLINA "Time"</b>
<b>LDR-010</b>	<b>STEVE GULLEY "Sounds Like Home"</b>
<b>LDR-011</b>	<b>LARRY CORDLE "Took Down &amp; Put Up"</b>
<b>LDR-012</b>	<b>BLUE MOON RISING "One Lonely Shadow"</b>
<b>LDR-013</b>	<b>RALPH STANLEY II "This One Is Two"</b>
<b>LDR-034</b>	<b>WILDFIRE "Crash Course In The Blues"</b>
<b>LDR-036</b>	<b>RICHARD BENNETT "Last Train From Poor Valley"</b>
<b>LDR-038</b>	<b>JEFF PARKER "Go Parker!"</b>

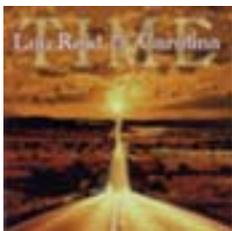
**Also on sale this month are the following RURAL RHYTHM albums—these CDs are just \$ 5.00 Each during the course of this sale (regularly priced at \$ 11.00):**

<b>RHY-182</b>	<b>RED SMILEY &amp; THE BLUEGRASS CUTUPS "20 Bluegrass Favorites"</b>
<b>RHY-244</b>	<b>RENO &amp; SMILEY with BUCK RYAN "20 Fiddle Favorites"</b>
<b>RHY-254</b>	<b>RAYMOND FAIRCHILD "King of The Smoky Mountain Banjo Pickers"</b>
<b>RHY-258</b>	<b>MAC WISEMAN "20 Old Time Country Favorites"</b>
<b>RHY-292</b>	<b>DON RENO &amp; RED SMILEY "Strictly Instrumental"</b>
<b>RHY-294</b>	<b>RAYMOND FAIRCHILD "Best of Bluegrass Banjo Collection"</b>
<b>RHY-320</b>	<b>EARL TAYLOR &amp; JIM McCALL &amp; THE STONY MOUNTAIN BOYS</b>
<b>RHY-402</b>	<b>TATER TATE "20 Bluegrass Fiddle Classics"</b>

The 8 Rural Rhythm records listed above go back to the days of "Uncle Jim O'Neal" in the 1960s & 70s. His label specialized in budget albums with lots of songs and tunes (usually 20 per LP). There was a lot of good music on Rural Rhythm, and the above recordings are all recommended for good music as well as good value.

The MAC WISEMAN contains a lot of traditional songs that he never recorded elsewhere. There is excellent Bluegrass fiddling on both the TATER TATE disc (with Bluegrass Cutups backing) and the RHY-244 CD That features Buck Ryan, along with some nifty Reno guitar work. RAYMOND FAIRCHILD was a hot banjo picker at the time, and is well represented on the two albums listed above. RHY-320 gives a good idea of what this lesser known but excellent Bluegrass band was like at its peak (EARL TAYLOR & JIM McCALL) The RED SMILEY RHY-182 is one of three excellent records (LPs) that he made for the label with superb backing by the Bluegrass Cutups (Tate, John Palmer, Hershel Sizemore and Billy Edwards).

The 8 RURAL RHYTHM CDs are all **\$ 5.00 each** while this sale lasts **(It ends JULY 15, 2013)**.



## EXCELLENT NEW RECORDINGS for the FESTIVAL SEASON

There are always a bunch of new Bluegrass albums that come out around this time of year, as artists gear up for another festival season. But we can't recall any other year when there were so many top-flight new releases by some of the biggest names in Bluegrass. We are going to list these here briefly—all of the following get our highest recommendation! **SPECIAL OFFER:** Buy three or more CDs from this page and we will give you a free CD (our choice). All of the CDs below are **\$ 13.50**

**ROU-9141 DAILEY & VINCENT “Brothers Of The Highway”** This duo has a superb track record in their previous recordings, but this one is as good as anything they've yet done. They dig back to record some older classics like CLOSE BY, TOMORROW I'LL BE GONE, BACK TO HANCOCK COUNTY, BIG RIVER and WHEN I STOP DREAMING. It's a real pleasure to hear these artists at their best!

**FBR-1003 KENNY & AMANDA SMITH “Catch Me If I Try”** Kenny Smith is one of today's great guitarists, and Amanda should be up there for consideration as Female Vocalist of the year if there is any justice—she has certainly paid her dues and she has a lovely voice and knows how to use it. This is smooth, lovely contemporary Bluegrass!

**MH-1462 THE BOXCARS “It's Just A Road”** No group today has as much instrumental talent as the Boxcars, who include Adam Steffey, John Bowman, and Ron Stewart. They can sing too, and this third album of theirs offers some neat material including COAL MINER'S BLUES, TROUBLE IN MIND and an old Baptist song that Tommy Jarrell used to sing, WHEN SORROWS ENCOMPASS ME ROUND. (Someone needs to be more careful with the composer credits—NEVER AGAIN is attributed to Hank Williams, but it's actually the old Benny Williams song that Bill Monroe sang and recorded, and the composer line for the clearly P.D. WHEN SORROWS ENCOMPASS ME is totally bogus.)

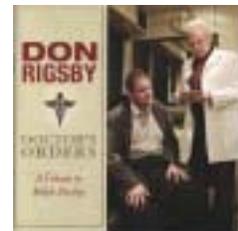
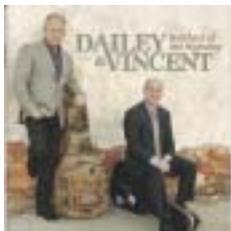
**REB-1841 DON RIGSBY “Doctor's Orders”** A superb singer, Rigsby has a winner here in this tribute to Dr. Ralph Stanley. Backing his fine singing is an elite group of musicians including James Alan Shelton, Larry Sparks, Charlie Sizemore, Barry Bales, Ron Stewart and Steve Sparkman—and Dr. Ralph as well on a few cuts. Along with the fun title song, there are old Stanley favorites like MEDICINE SPRINGS, I ONLY EXIST, SINNER MAN, and BRAND NEW TENNESSEE WALTZ.

**MH-1461 DOYLE LAWSON “Roads Well Traveled”** Apart from Ralph Stanley we can't think of a Bluegrass artist who has made more records than Lawson—and we can't think of any that are less than excellent. He keeps a top flight band at all times, and is a master at picking good songs and arranging them beautifully. (For those wondering, this is a secular album, not gospel). FIDDLIN WILL, DIXIE ROAD, I'M THAT COUNTRY, etc.

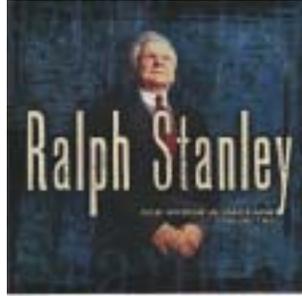
**REB-1851 JUNIOR SISK & RAMBLER'S CHOICE “Story of the Day That I Died”** Junior and his very tight band are among the best of the straight traditional Bluegrass groups these days, and Sisk's voice is at its peak. With its ever growing repertoire of neat new songs (A FAR CRY FROM LESTER & EARL won the IBMA's SONG OF THE YEAR in 2012), the band is a treat to watch & hear.

**MH-1452 DARIN & BROOKE ALDRIDGE “Live at Red, White & Bluegrass”** This husband and wife team have been coming on strong the past few years, and are some of the freshest new faces in the music today. Brooke has a wonderful, expressive voice and is building up a good repertoire of signature songs like LONELY ENDS WHERE LOVE BEGINS and the charming NO ONE NEEDS TO KNOW. Here they are heard performing before a live audience in a well recorded and enjoyable album.

**BCR-035 FELLER & HILL & THE BLUEGRASS BUCKAROOS.** They may not be well known yet, but this duo comes on strong with an interesting choice of songs that includes hard edged traditional 'grass plus their versions of some country songs like Buck Owens' TOGETHER AGAIN and Ray Price's WASTED WORDS. When they kick off WILL HEAVEN BE LIKE KENTUCKY with great twin fiddles, older Bluegrass lovers will have the hairs on their neck stand up! Fine stuff here.



**REB-9502 RALPH STANLEY “Old Songs & Ballads—Volume 2”** This is the second of two budget albums that present some of the great songs that Stanley has recorded over the years but most of which have not been available on CD. His fine bands over the years have included such great lead singers as Roy Lee Centers, Keith Whitley, and Charlie Sizemore, who are heard on this fine collection. The ten songs here include HENRY BROWN, ROSE CONLEY, HANDSOME MOLLY, EAST VIRGINIA, etc **\$ 8.00**



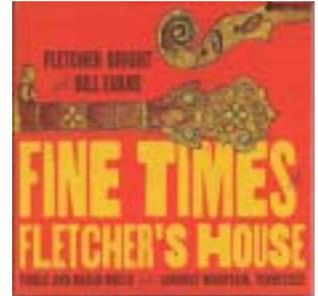
**PRC-1185 MARK NEWTON & STEVE THOMAS “Reborn”** Two longtime Bluegrass veterans team up here for a solid, enjoyable 12 track set. Newton’s background includes significant stints with *Knoxville Grass* and as a founding member of the influential *Virginia Squires* band. Steve Thomas is an excellent fiddler who has appeared on many sessions and has traveled with many top names in Bluegrass and country music. The duo gets some help here from Ricky Skaggs (clawhammer banjo), Scott Vestal (banjo), and Mark Wallace on acoustic bass. The dozen songs are, for the most part, well known standards like NOBODY’S BUSINESS, ARE YOU MISSING ME, KENTUCKY WALTZ, IF IT AIN’T LOVE, BLUE RAILROAD TRAIN, and THE GIRL I LEFT IN SUNNY TENNESSEE. **\$ 13.50**

**TATER-2012 TATER PATCH “Old Time Country Music”** Another in an excellent bunch of old-time CDs that have come out recently. This is a five-person string band from the Delaware area that features two fiddles (Judy Hough-Goldstein and Marge Sume), guitar, old-time banjo and acoustic bass. Shel Sandler does some very nice work on clawhammer banjo, and the overall sound is tight and solid. There are 18 tunes all with sources noted and tunings supplied for fiddle and banjo. About a third of the tracks include vocals by Marge Sume or guitarist Tony Sume. With well-chosen tunes and a strong ensemble sound, this is one very enjoyable record. GRUBB SPRINGS, GOING TO THE WEST, HOBBS DYE, RABBIT IN THE PEA PATCH, etc. **\$ 13.50**

**MFR-130219 VOLUME FIVE “Run”** We are not sure what is the significance of the group name, but this is a relatively new, competent band that has its third album here—it’s well played contemporary Bluegrass with strong singing and an interesting mixture of songs old and new. In addition to their 4 band originals here, they have their versions of PARADISE, LITTLE WILLIE, FOX ON THE RUN, and HICKORY HOLLOW’S TRAMP. **\$ 13.50**

**MFR-120911 DELTA REIGN “Calm Before The Storm”** This 4-piece band that features singing by Benita Murphy uses Bluegrass instruments and has picked out some good songs. John Lawless’ notes to the CD describe the group’s sound as a “Bluegrass/Swing” hybrid—personally we don’t think it works very well. There is a very nice rendition of GOOD WOMAN’S LOVE, but the rest of the dozen songs just don’t seem to lend themselves to a “swing” treatment: COLUMBUS STOCKADE BLUES and A HUNDRED YEARS FROM NOW are OK, but it seems a real stretch to apply this sound to Hank Williams’ THERE’LL BE NO TEARDROPS TONIGHT, WAYFARIN’, and the traditional classic DON’T YOU HEAR JERUSALEM MOAN **\$ 13.50**

**NFR-906-10 FLETCHER BRIGHT & BILL EVANS “Fine Times At Fletcher’s House”** Each of these musicians has had several records out over the years. It was a bit of a surprise for us to see them working together on this neat album, because Mr. Bright is an old-time fiddler from the Chattanooga area of Tennessee and Mr. Evans is a Scruggs style banjo picker who lives in California. But this joint project certainly works and it will be a treat for fiddle fans and those who enjoyed similar projects in the past. (Paul Warren and Earl Scruggs were known for their nifty fiddle-banjo duets, though they never did a full album’s worth of them). The 16 tunes recorded here include such classic pieces as TWO O’CLOCK, DALEY’S REEL, NORTHERN WHITE CLOUDS, YELLOW BARBER, GREASY COAT, SAINT ANNE’S REEL, and ANGELINE THE BAKER. Mr. Bright is still an excellent fiddler and Evans a top flight banjo picker—as this CD shows. Nice job! **\$ 13.50**



**ROCK-2013 ROCKHOUSE STRING BAND “High On A Mountain”** A very nicely done album of 16 old time songs and tunes played by this group from southwestern Virginia. The singing is mostly handled by Kay Elliott, with Rita Quillen supplying harmony, while Mike Elliott plays either banjo, mandolin, fiddle or guitar, and Paul Smith joins the trio as guest, playing fiddle, mandolin or tenor guitar. The group has picked out an especially nice mixture of traditional and newer songs—in the latter category are well done versions of Ola Belle Reed’s HIGH ON A MOUNTAIN and Gillian Welch’s WINTER’S COME & GONE and DIDN’T LEAVE NOBODY BUT THE BABY. Equally effective are the band’s renditions of ANGELINA BAKER, LITTLE SADIE, SALLY ANN, BLACKEST CROW and MY LITTLE CARPENTER. **\$ 13.50**

**FHR-1067 SOUTH CAROLINA BROADCASTERS “Short Time To Stay Here”** An enjoyable album of old-time music from this trio (who have apparently now moved from their home state to Mt. Airy, N.C.) The group consists of David Sheppard (guitar), Ivy Sheppard (fiddle & banjo) and Sarah Osborne (banjo), with all three sharing in the vocals. On this, their second record, the group offers nice versions of **SHORT LIFE OF TROUBLE**, **BLUE EYED BOY** and the a cappella **WHERE THE SOUL NEVER DIES**. **\$ 13.50**

**JG-2012 JOHN GALLAGHER & SCOTT PROUTY “No Corn On Tygart”**

An excellent, well recorded album of old time tunes played on two fiddles with Chris Coole supplying guitar accompaniment. On some of the tunes Gallagher switches to old time banjo (he sings on a few numbers as well). There are a very generous 21 tracks on the recording, and the booklet of notes tells the source for each tune, along with the fiddle tunings. Some of those credited as sources include Henry Reed, J.P. Fraley, John Summers.

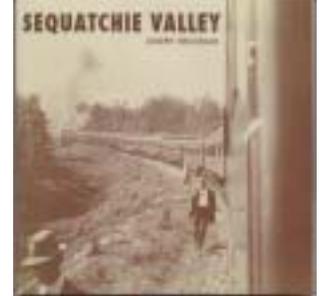


Melvin Wine, Edden Hammons and Addie Graham. Lots of really nice tunes here, including **ROVING PIPER**, **MONEY MUSK**, **COAL HOLLER**, **JENNY IN THE COTTON PATCH**, **LACY BROWN**, **ELZIC'S FAREWELL**, **CRANBERRY ROCK**, **NATCHEE ON THE HILL**, **LADY OF THE LAKE**, and the title tune. This is top-notch old time fiddling and a really enjoyable recording. **\$ 13.50**

**MFR-130409 HAMMERTOWNE** Solid, competent traditional Bluegrass on eleven songs by this 5-member group (2 guitars, no fiddle). Most of the songs are new originals by group members. **THIS OLD MARTIN BOX**, **EMMA**, **TOO FAR GONE**, **WHY DON'T YOU TELL ME SO**, **SO LONG & GOODBYE**, **SOURWOOD MOUNTAIN**, etc. **\$ 13.50**

**HW-1264 SUTTON, HOLT & COLEMAN “Ready For The Times”** Here is a nice old-time recording by a trio of pickers who were associated with the late Doc Watson. As would be expected, Bryan Sutton plays some fine guitar, (as well as mandolin & banjo), with David Holt on old-time banjo and T. Michael Coleman on bass. Also present on a few cuts are Sam Bush (mandolin), Jens Kruger (banjo) and Claire Lynch on harmony vocals. There are 15 well played songs and tunes, all older favorites like **SOLID GONE**, **FORKED DEER**, **TRAIN THAT CARRIED THE GIRL FROM TOWN**, **GEORGIA BUCK**, **DOWN THE ROAD**, **HANGMAN'S REEL**, **CINDY**, etc. Nice job. **\$ 13.50**

**DECO-2012 JOSEPH DECOSIMO “Sequatchie Valley”** Here is a simply but attractively packaged album with lots of really excellent old-time music. Sequatchie Valley is a mountain area in the Cumberland Plateau near Chattanooga, Tennessee, known for much fine old time music; Decosimo grew up there, though the other musicians are from parts as diverse as San Francisco and North Carolina. On this superb 22-track recording Decosimo plays either fiddle or banjo (Luke Richardson or Gail Gillespie play banjo when Decosimo fiddles). There's a wonderful selection of tunes, all well played, and a



nice little booklet of notes provides a good deal of interesting information. (Tunings for both fiddle and banjo are supplied as well). Karen Heil (guitar & vocals) and Decosimo's wife Kasey (cello) are the other musicians on this very successful record. Well-played versions of **NEW FIVE CENTS**, **SALLY BROWN**, **BABY BEN**, **HY PATILLION**, **BOATSMAN**, **KATY HILL** etc. **\$ 13.50**

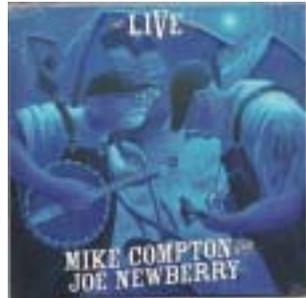
**TSQ-2875 CHARLIE POOLE WITH THE HIGHLANDERS “The complete Paramount & Brunswick Recordings”**

Charlie Poole was at the height of his career when these 12 tracks were recorded on a trip to New York City in 1929. Poole was a valuable commodity at that time, and under exclusive contract with **Columbia Records**. Poole must have realized that recording for any other companies would break the terms of his contract and ruin a good thing he had going with Columbia—the leading major label at the time. So even though he is clearly present on these cuts, the records came out under the names **THE HIGHLANDERS** or **THE ALLEGHENY HIGHLANDERS**, and naturally did not sell as well as the Columbia material. Apart from weaker distribution, these records suffered from **Paramount's** poorer sound quality, so don't be surprised with that aspect of this re-issue. (The cut of **MAY I SLEEP IN YOUR BARN TONIGHT MISTER** shows significant “wow” and was obviously mastered off center on the original recording—the new re-mastering of the rest of this disc by Chris King is quite good.) Unlike Poole's Columbia records, the Highlander sessions included two fiddles (Lonnie Austin and Odell Smith), Lucy Terry on piano, as well as Roy Harvey on guitar. Among the 12 tracks are very nice versions of **LYNCHBURG TOWN**, **RICHMOND SQUARE**, **FLOP EARED MULE** and **UNDER THE DOUBLE EAGLE**. The **Brunswick** session was made up of a 4-part “skit” called **A TRIP TO NEW YORK**. Kinney Rorrer's notes are excellent, and it is good to see this material available on CD, even if it is not on a par with Poole's best work. **\$ 15.00**

**MFR-130423 THE SPINNEY BROTHERS “No Borders”** Fronted by Canadians Allan and Rick Spinney, this band has produced numerous good CDs over the past 8 or 10 years, and they seem to get a littler better each go round. This album is excellent straight, traditional Bluegrass—well produced by Ron Stewart (who also adds his fine fiddle parts—another noteworthy guest is Rob Ickes on dobro). Good songs, good strong singing. **\$ 13.50**

**TBM-012 MIKE COMPTON & JOE NEWBERRY “Live”**

A good, enjoyable 12-track recording by these journeymen musicians, recorded in 2012 at the Brandywine Friends in Delaware. Compton plays his Monroe-influenced mandolin, as well mandola on some cuts, and Newberry plays guitar and banjo—both men sing. It’s a nice combination of old time and Bluegrass material, done up nicely before an appreciative audience. All the cuts are good, but we



liked best LAZY JOHN, ROCKY ROAD BLUES, RALEIGH & SPENCER, THE RIGHTIOUS PATHWAY (actually the Stanley Brothers’ LET ME WALK LORD BY YOUR SIDE), ROCKY ISLAND and FLY AROUND MY PRETTY LITTLE MISS (The last two featuring neat old time banjo by Newberry). Good stuff, recommended **\$ 13.50**

**ECM-002 SHANNON & HEATHER SLAUGHTER & COUNTY CLARE “One More Road”** Known for his songwriting ability, Slaughter is also a recognizable name in today’s Bluegrass scene for his work as a band member with *Lost & Found*, *Lou Reid & Carolina*, and *Lonesome River Band*. He is a good solid singer, and is joined by his wife Heather on this nice collection of 14 straight Bluegrass songs (8 of them written by Slaughter.) It is his second solo release. Ronald Inscore on mandolin is one member of the backing group, and Rob Ickes plays dobro on two tracks. **\$ 13.50**

**SCOT-001 THE IRON LEG BOYS “Open”** Easy going, enjoyable old time music by a West Virginia trio consisting of Andy Fitzgibbon (fiddle), Ben Townsend (banjo) and Matthew Metz (guitar). This project is dedicated to preserving tunes that are unique to West Virginia (or tunes learned from older West Virginia fiddlers). A booklet of notes explains where each of the 17 tunes comes from, and cites as sources such musicians as Edden Hammons, Ernie Carpenter, Melvin Wine, Lee Triplett, Delbert Hughes and French Carpenter. Tunes include COLD FROSTY MORNING, WEST VIRGINIA HIGHWAY, BOB WINE’S TUNE, McCLOUD’S REEL, BRUSHY RUN, HIGH UP ON TUG, BEAR CHASE, CABIN CREEK, etc. **\$ 13.50**

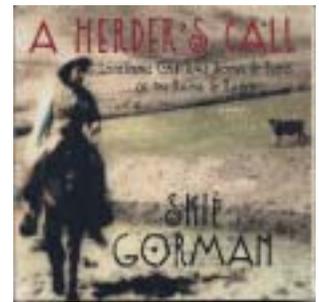
**RUR-1095 GOD DIDN’T CHOOSE SIDES Various artists** A 13 cut program of newly composed songs of the Civil War, sung by Bluegrass artists including Russell Moore, Steve Gulley, Dale Ann Bradley, Ronnie Bowman and Marty Raybon, among others.. Includes a booklet with words to the songs. I’M ALMOST HOME, PROVIDENCE SPRING, REBEL HART, CHRISTMAS IN SAVANNAH, THE RIVER MAN, etc. **\$ 13.50**

**ANDES-2013 MIKE ANDES “The Songs I Sing”** Known for his singing and songwriting with the band NOTHIN’ FANCY, Andes has a well done album of 14 songs—all self penned. Those helping out with the backing include Darren Beachley (vocals), Mark Delaney (banjo), Chris Sexton (fiddle, cello), and Marshall Wilborn (bass). Nice material here. STORM OF LOVE, GO ON, FIELDS OF YESTERDAY, BAILEY’S DANCE, etc **\$ 13.50**

**OLD WEST-006 SKIP GORMAN “A Herder’s Call”**

I am not sure how we missed this really neat record when it first came out, but this is an excellent CD that really deserves to be heard more widely. Though Skip Gorman at one time had a couple of albums on the Rounder label, for the past few years

he has been releasing his CDs on his own OLD WEST label. Although he obviously leans to authentic cowboy themes, he is probably equally known for his fine Monroe style mandolin playing (check out his two excellent mandolin records –OLD WEST-001 “Old Style Mandolin Vol. 1” and OLD WEST-002 “Old Style Mandolin Vol. 2”). The latter issue is a real gem for Bill Monroe fans, as it contains more than a dozen tunes that Monroe wrote and played, but never recorded.) On this “Herder’s Call” album, Gorman shows his extensive talents, that include even fiddling—his versions of TOM & JERRY and SHUCKIN’ THE BRUSH show him to be a very competent fiddler. But the bulk of this disc is devoted to western songs, and he sings these with a restrained but expressive voice that really captures the essence of the cowboy life. There are a generous 19 tracks here, with superb renditions of such classics as STREETS OF LAREDO, THE GREAT ROUNDUP, HOME ON THE RANGE, FUGITIVE’S LAMENT, WHEN THE CACTUS IS IN BLOOM, FADED COAT OF BLUE, BURY ME NOT ON THE LONE PRAIRIE and MY CALGARY HOME. This is a lovely recording that we recommend highly. **\$ 13.50**



**RUR-1112 DAVE ADKINS & REPUBLIC STEELE “That’s Just The Way I Roll”** Adkins shows off a strong voice in this album produced by Steve Gulley. The 10 songs include three penned by Adkins, plus entries from Mark Brinkman, Gulley, and Tim Stafford. Some fans will like Adkins’ powerful vocals—others (including this listener) may find them too rough and a bit out of control at times. PLEASE COME TO BOSTON, HEARTSTRINGS, LAURA MAE, ROSE COLORED GLASSES, etc. **\$ 13.50**

**MRR-1017 SNYDER FAMILY BAND “Building Bridges”** Lots of talent here in this young group in their second album, a nicely produced record that highlights the playing of Zeb Snyder (guitar) and his sister Samantha (fiddle). The dozen tracks on the disc include 6 instrumentals and 4 gospel songs, with all of the material original. In addition to his flat picking, Zeb includes one slide guitar tune and one fingerstyle piece. The gospel songs are settled and sung nicely by Samantha, with Zeb contributing harmony parts. LISTEN TO HIS WORD is a good example of the gospel numbers. The 6 instrumentals range from the very nice FOLKSTON to the overly flashy BLOCKADE RUNNER—a flashy barrage of notes and multiple chord changes with no melody. Rounding out the group are the father Bud on acoustic bass, and mother Laine who helps with the harmony vocals. **\$ 13.50**

**SS-2013 THE SPYDER STOMPERS “Cannonball”** Those who like bluesy guitar playing should find this album intriguing. The musicians involved are Kevin Richards and Jack DiAlesandro, both of whom play guitar (Richards also plays mandolin and DiAlesandro plays some harmonica). Ray DeForest rounds out the group on acoustic bass. There are a very generous 23 tracks here, with the duo going to various early sources for their inspiration—that includes artists from Blind Willie McTell to the Delmore Brothers. The singing here is just average, but there’s a lot of nice picking on cuts like TICKET AGENT BLUES, HANDY’S FLORIDA BLUES, CARROLL COUNTY BLUES, 99 YEARS, RAGGED BUT RIGHT, FLOP EARED MULE, DALLAS RAG, etc. **\$ 13.50**

**OLD BLUE -711 THE STAGE HOGS “A Tribute to the Hill Billies”** The Hill Billies—fronted by Al Hopkins and also known as the Buckle Busters—were one of the first old-time string bands to record, and helped establish the “Hillbilly” name for what would become the basis for old-time and later “country & western” music. They recorded extensively for the *Okeh*, *Brunswick* and *Vocalion* labels, and were a successful act on the vaudeville stage in the mid to late 1920s. So, a tribute to this influential band is certainly in order, and the *Old Blue* label has done a nice job in grouping 5 good old-time musicians from the Galax, Va. area to give their versions of 22 tunes. The pickers include Eddie Bond, Kirk Sutphin, Kevin Fore, Tom Mylet and Snake Smith. Joe Wilson has contributed an excellent set of notes for this fine release. Tunes include BLACK EYED SUSIE, TEXAS GALS, WALKING IN THE PARLOR, CLUCK OLD HEN, CRIPPLE CREEK, SILLY BILL, JOHNSON BOYS, etc. **\$ 13.50**

**FMR-0004 THE WILLIAMSON BROTHERS “Bluegrass!”** Tony and Gary Williamson have been playing their brand of traditional Bluegrass music for several decades now (They accompanied Jerry Stuart on a neat album for County Records in the 1970s). The brothers, who are from North Carolina (Tony is well known nationally as a leading dealer in mandolins) are joined by several friends (including Craig Smith on banjo) to produce a solid, enjoyable CD of traditional standards like WRECK OF THE OLD ’97, I LIVE IN THE PAST, LAMPLIGHTING TIME IN THE VALLEY, etc. **\$ 13.50**

**CWG-1015 THE CHUCK WAGON GANG “Sunday Morning Gospel on WBAP”**

We are not sure how we missed the original release of this record, but suffice it to say that it will be a very welcome album for all of those Chuck Wagon Gang fans who don’t already know about it. Those old enough to recall the 1950s and 60s in the south will remember the many 15-minute mid day radio shows that presented selections drawn from the dozens of gospel songs that the group recorded for Columbia over a couple of decades (the group is still active today, but of course with all different members). This is a particularly notable album because a) it is taken from original broadcasts made in the late 1930s and 40s over radio WBAP in Ft. Worth, Texas, b) it features all the original members—Dad Carter, Jim Carter, Rose Karnes and Anna Gordon, and c) it contains at least a handful of songs that the group never recorded commercially. A nice and interesting feature is that the CD includes 4 songs in which the soprano singing is done by Ruth Ellen Yates, Rose’s sister, when Rose could not be present for a show. Those who remember this wonderful quartet and its distinctive sound will be thankful having this noteworthy and historical material preserved. LET ME LIVE CLOSE TO THEE, ROUND THE HILLS IN GALILEE, VICTORY AHEAD, WILL YOU MEET ME OVER YONDER, TAKE THE NAME OF JESUS WITH YOU, etc. **\$ 13.50**



**BHM-101201 ALAN TOMPKINS “No Part of Nuthin”**

Mr. Tompkins is a DJ whose Bluegrass show is heard over KHYI-FM in North Texas. He also plays bass and sings, which is what this record is about. There’s an impressive list of musicians who provide a good solid background—the group includes Randy Kohrs, Ned Luberecki, Ron Stewart, Sam Bush, Mike Bub and Kenny & Amanda Smith. There are a dozen songs, mostly of the old standard variety, that make for enjoyable listening. Songs include FARTHER ALONG, MORE PRETTY GIRLS THAN ONE, ANGELINA BAKER, SHENANDOAH WALTZ, COUNT ME OUT, etc. **\$ 13.50**

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