



NEWSLETTER #330

May - June 2014

www.countysales.com

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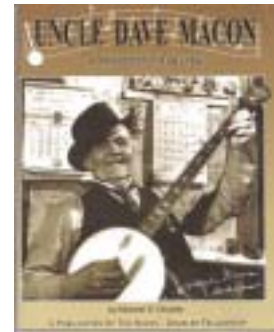
SET SALE LIST of LPs

Those who still collect LPs (VINYL) or just want something "Quaint" to hang on the wall will be interested in a special sale we are running this month of almost 100 various LP records that have been stored in our warehouse since the 1980s. These are all brand new records with a whole lot of good music on them, and the list includes LPs by Flatt & Scruggs, Bill Monroe, Jimmy Martin and the Stanley Brothers among others. The LPs are priced very reasonably at \$ 4.00 to \$ 12.00 (many of these LPs have sold for \$ 20.00 and more in various record auctions and conventions.) Request our "VI-NYL" Sale list!

GEORGE SHUFFLER. Bluegrass music lost another of its greatest first generation musicians when GEORGE SHUFFLER passed away on April 7, just 4 days short of his 89th birthday. Although he played with numerous other bands, including his own family gospel group, Shuffler was best known for his work with the Stanley Brothers and later Ralph Stanley. He popularized a unique cross picking style of guitar playing, and was equally known as one of the best bass players in Bluegrass. (His standout walking bass on the Stanley Brothers' first Mercury session in the early 1950s is considered by many a classic contribution to a classic session. Shuffler had a good sense of humor and was an all around great guy and a friend to many.

UNCLE DAVE MACON "A Photo Tribute"

Booklet. We have never had the pleasure of attending the annual UNCLE DAVE MACON DAYS, a festival which is held in Murfreesboro, Tennessee every year, but from everything we hear, it's a great event with a lot to enjoy. Run by the Macon family, which has done so much to preserve the legacy of this great old-time entertainer, this year's event will be the 37th Annual, and the dates are July 11-13, 2014. It appeals to both old-time and Bluegrass fans, with contests for aspiring musicians and an appearance on Saturday



by the super band Dailey & Vincent. In conjunction with the festival, the Macon family has put together a very nice 32-page booklet titled **UNCLE DAVE MACON: A photo Tribute.** This contains about 70 photos including over 40 never published before. We are carrying this neat item which will appeal to the many fans of this legendary performer. The price of the booklet is \$ 14.00.

Still available from us is the wonderful **GO 'LONG MULE** CD by Uncle Dave on the County label (COU-3505) which we are offering this month for just \$ 9.00; it's a great representation of Macon's music! **(COU-3505, \$ 9.00)**

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

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For special expedited rates (FED EX, UPS, NEXT DAY, etc) please call or fax us for cost & authorization.



SEND ALL ORDERS TO:
COUNTY SALES
P.O. BOX 191
FLOYD, VA 24091



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

SUMMER SURPLUS CD SALE

With over 4000 different CDs in stock, it is easy to end up with excess inventory, and in order to make room in our warehouse for all the new releases coming out, we are once again offering a **SUMMER SALE** of records on which we need to trim down our stock. So, we are offering an extensive number of CDs that will be on sale for this Summer (or until they sell out). These are being offered at the **BELOW COST** price of **JUST \$5.00 each**. You can buy just one, or as many as you like, and they **can** be counted toward your "Special Offer". IN ADDITION, if you buy 6 or more CDs from **the list below**, you can **select one** special collector's item as listed below **FREE OF CHARGE!** These items are not available elsewhere and are **not for sale** — please do not ask to order these separately, they are only offered **FREE**, your choice of ONE for each 6 surplus CDs that you purchase. (**NOTE: The website allows you to also choose a Rebel or County CD free - this offer is VOID when choosing a Free CD from our COLLECTOR's CDs, you may only choose one Free CD Offer**).

The FREE COLLECTOR'S CDs are:

RG-1201 FLATT & SCRUGGS (Rare early RADIO GEMS CD from radio transcriptions,

includes HAVE YOU COME TO SAY GOODBYE and THE FAMILY WHO PRAYS).

DCN-1002 RALPH STANLEY "Live At McCabe's Guitar Shop: (Rare, short-lived CD—a nice live show!)

CCS-111 FLATT & SCRUGGS "You Can Feel It In Your Soul" Great, early Columbia gospel cuts

CCS-114 BILL MONROE "In The Pines" Classic early Decca material

ST-5000 RALPH STANLEY "Clinch Mountain Boys Reunion" A great 2-CD set!

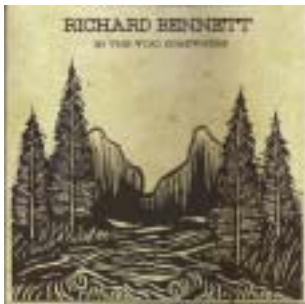
BLR 3311	<u>JUSSI SYREN & GROUNDBREAKERS</u>	SEA OF CHANGES
EW 112	<u>ROB ICKES/ANDY LEFTWICH/DAVE POMEROY</u>	THREE RING CIRCLE
HWR 1004	<u>CROSSTIES</u>	HOME
LMM 003	<u>LEROY MACK (DOBRO)</u>	SCRATCHIN MY BEARD
LOC 2000	<u>BARBARA LAMB (FIDDLE)</u>	BLUE ON DAKOTA
LR 10414	<u>HARVEST WIND</u>	ANCIENT OF DAYS
MANDO 0901	<u>RAGTIME SKEDADDLERS</u>	
MARLEE 01	<u>KIM DUNHAM</u>	HOW MUCH LOVE
MBM 1020	<u>MORRIS BROTHERS (GEORGIA GROUP)</u>	HEART TO HEART
MCK 2003	<u>JIM MARSHALL</u>	HAULIN FREIGHT
MITCH 001	<u>MIKE MCCOLLUM</u>	SIMPLE AND CLEAR
MM 0021	<u>ORPHEUS SUPERTONES (OLD TIME)</u>	WHEN THE ROSES BLOOM IN DIXIE LAND
MM 0050	<u>FAT CITY STRING BAND (INFLUENTIAL OLD TIME GROUP)</u>	THE ORIGINAL
MM 6826	<u>BOYD DEERING</u>	FIDDLE TUNES ON MANDOLIN
MS 0049	<u>ALEX HIBBITS</u>	ITS ABOUT TIME
MS 2005	<u>ABRAMS BROTHERS</u>	CARRYING ON
MS 66702	<u>BLUE GRASS REVUE</u>	DOWN IN CAROLINE
MTJ 11806	<u>MIKE TATAR JR (FIDDLE)</u>	
MTR	<u>BILL TRIPP</u>	HURRICANE
MV 1001	<u>MONROEVILLE (CONTEMPORARY BLUEGRASS)</u>	
NMD 1001	<u>JANIE FRICKE</u>	COUNTRY SIDE OF BLUEGRASS
NR 2002	<u>PETE WERNICK</u>	LIVE FIVE UP ALL NIGHT
OBR 032	<u>SHAWN CAMP</u>	LIVE AT THE STATION INN
OBRO 1001	<u>OVERALL BROTHERS</u>	
OFR 004	<u>HUNGER MOUNTAIN BOYS</u>	THREE
OHOP 1999	<u>OHOP VALLEY BOYS</u>	UP ALL NIGHT

OWT 001	<u>RAFE STEFANINI/CLELIA (GREAT OLD TIME FIDDLE!)</u>	LADY ON THE GREEN
PB 2002	<u>LOOSE TIES</u>	TANGLED ROOTS
PC 1002	<u>JIM TOLLES & MAGIC TRUCK (OLD TIME)</u>	HARD FOR TO LOVE
PL 05 0001	<u>HIGHWAY ONE</u>	PAINT THE TOWN
PL 06 0001	<u>CONSTANT CHANGE</u>	LIVE FROM THE PEPPERMILL
PROPER 006	<u>VARIOUS (OLD TIME)</u>	TRIBUTE TO BLIND ALFRED REED
PRT 002	<u>RAY HESSON (BLUEGRASS BANJO)</u>	FIVE PICKER
PVS 775	<u>PLATTE VALLEY BOYS</u>	ANOTHER DAY OF LONESOME
RC 122	<u>CHRIS SHARP</u>	WORKING IT OUT
RC 124	<u>TIPTON HILL BOYS</u>	SONGS WE LIKE
RCH 1001	<u>R C HARRIS (TRADITIONAL BLUEGRASS FROM NORTH CAROLINA)</u>	SCENIC ROUTE
RG 030	<u>WILDERS</u>	THROW DOWN
RHE 200	<u>REDHEAD EXPRESS</u>	PAINTIN THE TOWN RED
RHR 59	<u>RAMBLIN JACK ELLIOTT</u>	SOUTH COAST
RJ 2003	<u>RICK JAMISON</u>	OPEN SPACES
RUBIN 54	<u>BING BANG BOYS</u>	IM FEELING GOOD
SBM 1208-96	<u>ART BLACKBURN & SANDI SCOTT</u>	FLAME IN MY HEART
SCHEPPS 2007	<u>JAKE SCHEPPS</u>	TEN THOUSAND LEAVES
SD 898	<u>MATT COMBS</u>	DEVILS BOX
SF 10270	<u>SUREFIRE</u>	SOMETHING OLD SOMETHING NEW
SFR 102	<u>BILLY WOMACK</u>	DOWN AT THE BARBER SHOP
SFR 107	<u>HAMPER MCBEE (INTERESTING MOONSHINE CD)</u>	CUMBERLAND MOONSHINER
SFSS 916	<u>SCOTT FREEMAN</u>	SOUVENIRS
SGW 1	<u>STAINED GRASS WINDOW</u>	VIEW THROUGH A STAINED GRASS WINDOW
SHS 2009	<u>DENNIS MODLIN/BACK CREEK STRING BAND</u>	APPALACHIAN FIDDLE TUNES
SIR 101	<u>J T GRAY (OF STATION INN FAME)</u>	ITS ABOUT TIME
SMR 101	<u>SAWMILL ROAD (GOOD BLUEGRASS)</u>	ONE
SOP 545	<u>RICH WILBUR (LATE WEST COAST BLUEGRASS SINGER)</u>	IN THE CITY
SOUTH 2008	<u>JASON BAILEY</u>	SOUTHWOOD
SRM 102	<u>ANDY MAY</u>	DANCE OF LIFE
SSE 197	<u>EAST RUN BAND</u>	THE CLARKSBURG LINE
STACY 2004	<u>JERRY STACY</u>	COLD TRAILING
TA 951	<u>ABEELS</u>	COME AND DINE
TEXTRACS 002	<u>ROD MOAG & TEXAS GRASS</u>	BY REQUEST
THP 003	<u>TRAVER HOLLOW</u>	IRONTO SPECIAL
THRILL 249	<u>BLACK TWIG PICKERS (VA OLD TIME)</u>	THE FOUR OF US
TL 0001	<u>TIM GRAVES (FEATURING THE DOBRO)</u>	THE OLD HOME
TMP 1	<u>TUESDAY MOUNTAIN BOYS</u>	FRESH PRESERVES
TOM 0380	<u>TOM GODLESKI (OF BUNCOMBE TURNPIKE)</u>	LIVIN ON THE EDGE
TRACE 2002	<u>ALAN LANEY</u>	AS THE WIND BLOWS
TREAD 02	<u>MELISSA WEBB</u>	OUT ON THE OPEN WEST
TSQ 2462	<u>BEN HALL (FINE TRAVIS STYLE GUITAR)</u>	EVENING SHADE
TSQ 2578	<u>FRANK FAIRFIELD (OLD TIME)</u>	PALE RIDER
TWI 27979	<u>TWILITE BROADCASTERS</u>	JUBILEE
VMP 200	<u>EMORY LESTER</u>	FROM ROCK N ROLL TO BILL MONROE
VSR 108	<u>LAURIE SKY</u>	BY REQUEST
WEBB 2011	<u>DARRELL WEBB</u>	THE MAN IN THE CROOKED HAT
WF 2012	<u>WALKER FAMILY</u>	
WHITT 2003	<u>STEVE WHITT & FLATT LONESOME</u>	

MFR-140415 THE STEVENS FAMILY “Down On The Farm” A dozen songs in straight Bluegrass style by this 6-member family band: Mom & Dad along with three sons and one daughter. Songs include a couple by Craig Market, 3 by David Ray Tuck and one each by Ron Block (A LIVING PRAYER, and the late Randall Hylton (WHERE RAINBOWS TOUCH DOWN.) OLD FASHIONED LOVE, RISE ABOVE, SHE’S THE ONE, CITY OF GOLD, HOW GREAT THOU ART, LITTLE WOODEN BOX, etc. **\$ 13.50**

LDR-041 RICHARD BENNETT “In The Wind Somewhere”

This is probably the best of the half dozen albums that Bennett has recorded to date. He is usually compared with Tony Rice, both for his guitar playing and for the timbre of his voice, and in fact Tony appears here on at least one track (W A Y F A R I N G STRANGER) with his guitar (no indication as to when Tony’s part was recorded) .Two strong factors contribute significantly to the success



of this record: for one, a small group of great pickers supply the backing: Ron Stewart on fiddle, Adam Steffey on mandolin and Mark Schatz on bass. (Shawn Lane also helps with the harmony vocals). Additionally, Bennett has chosen 10 excellent songs, furthering his reputation as having good taste in choosing his material. The impressive list of songs includes LAST THING ON MY MIND, YESTERDAY, GEORGIE, ACROSS THE GREAT DIVIDE, FIRE ON THE MOUNTAIN and the title song, along with a lovely version of the fine FIELDS OF GOLD. A very nice album, well recommended. **\$ 13.50**

PRC-1188 THE GENTLEMEN OF BLUEGRASS “Carolina Memories” 14 tracks of solid, respectable, traditional Bluegrass by this North Carolina band. The record is produced by Lorraine Jordan, who has become a key figure in the promotion of Bluegrass in the Raleigh, N.C. area. This album shows the significant influence of the Country Gentlemen and Seldom Scene, with no less than 5 songs that are associated with those bands: TRAVELING KIND, WALTZ OF THE ANGELS, KEEP ME FROM BLOWING AWAY, THIS MORNING AT NINE and BLUEBIRDS CALLING ME—plus there is a Tribute song to John Duffey. **\$ 13.50**

MFR-140318 VOLUME FIVE “The Day We Learn to Fly” Smooth, excellent straight traditional Bluegrass by this 5-member band from Southwestern Virginia. Fiddler Glen Harrell and guitarist Jeff Partin handle the lead vocals well. The all gospel effort includes mostly newer songs. THANKS AGAIN, UNTIL I FOUND THE LORD, HEART OF ME, DADDY DOESN’T PRAY ANYMORE, MIRACLE TODAY, etc. **\$ 13.50**

ADD-3093 THE JIMMIE DAVIS COLLECTION, 1929-1947 Davis—who among other things was a governor of Louisiana, a renowned gospel singer, and also lived to be 100 years old—was not your typical country recording artist. I mean, who else had a repertoire that ranged from TOM CAT & PUSSY BLUES and HIGH BEHIND BLUES to SUPPERTIME and TAKE MY HAND PRECIOUS LORD ? This new 2-CD collection with 53 songs covers most of his early recordings from 1929 to 1934—all recorded for the Victor label, and many of them of the risqué variety. In the 1930s he became known more for his hit recordings of NOBODY’S DARLING BUT MINE and YOU ARE MY SUNSHINE (the latter two were on the Decca label.) If you have a liking for Davis (who early on was heavily influenced by Jimmie Rodgers and Gene Autry), there are plenty of interesting cuts here, among them MARKET HOUSE BLUES, GET ON BOARD AUNT SUSAN, DAVIS LIMITED, THE LAST LETTER, EASY RIDER BLUES, DOWN AT THE END OF MEMORY LANE and THE PRISONER’S SONG. An interesting set. **2-CDs, \$ 18.00**

REB-1850 RALPH STANLEY & RALPH STANLEY II “Side By Side”

Well into his eighties, Dr. Ralph Stanley continues to put down some solid recordings of old and new songs. He is here equally joined for the first time on disc by his son Ralph II. “Two” as he is known, has developed into a fine singer, and here splits the duties with his dad, performing good versions of songs like DARLING LITTLE JOE, CAROLINA MOUNTAIN HOME, and



DON’T STEP OVER AN OLD LOVE, while Dr. Ralph sings WILD BILL JONES, I’VE STILL GOT 99, WALKING WITH YOU IN MY DREAMS and the new DON’T WEEP FOR ME (a Shawn Lane song). Old favorite Steve Sparkman returns to do the fine banjo work, and the dependable John Rigsby is featured on mandolin and fiddle. A really nice album from the Bluegrass Legend & Son. **\$ 13.50**

RUR-1117 BILL EMERSON & SWEET DIXIE “Dancin’ Annie”

Nicely played and enjoyable straight traditional Bluegrass by Emerson and his current band (which includes Wayne Lanham on mandolin and Chris Stifel on guitar). Fiddle playing is supplied by Pat White, Rickie Simpkins and Wally Hughes, and the vocals are shared by Stifel, Lanham and Teri Chisholm. Two instrumentals feature Emerson’s banjo and Lanham’s mandolin: WHISTLE STOP and STATE LINE RIDE. **\$ 13.50**

MVM-2013 CYRIL STINNETT “Legendary Missouri Fiddler” Fans of Missouri style fiddling will most likely know a lot about Stinnett and his amazing repertoire of fiddle tunes. He is represented on County’s “Three Fiddlers From The Show Me State” (County-2739, \$ 13.50) and other fiddle collections. Thanks to the work of the locally well known collector Dwight Lamb, we now have this video that shows Stinnett playing around 100 different tunes, accompanied by simple but solid open chord guitar playing. Stinnett was filmed by Lamb in 1979 and 1980, in 3 different settings, and was well in control of his instrument. Stinnett specialized in the hornpipe style, and played a number of tunes in the key of Bflat. Many of his tunes have the same basic structure and start to sound the same, but there’s a lot of wonderful fiddling here for those who can appreciate it. **DVD: \$ 15.00**

ROU-9170 BLUE HIGHWAY “The Game” It’s difficult to add much to the saga of Blue Highway—the supergroup that is now celebrating its 20th year with all 5 original members still together. After recording their first three albums for Rebel Records back in 1994, the group has issued around a dozen records, mostly on the Rounder label. It seems like Shawn Lane is playing a somewhat bigger part in



the songwriting and vocals these days—he contributes 4 originals to this disc, including the title song. Of course the wonderful dobro playing of Rob Ickes is always a defining part of the group’s sound—Ickes has garnered over a dozen major awards for his playing over the years. Some of the standout songs here include CHURCH BELL WEDDING BLUES, WHERE JASMINE GROWS, TALK IS CHEAP and ALL THE THINGS YOU DO. A special feature is a fiddle & dobro workout by Shawn & Rob, FUNNY FARM, and Shawn’s vocal & fiddle treatment of the traditional HICK’S FAREWELL is a gem, and worth the price of the album. This is the epitome of smooth yet spirited contemporary Bluegrass—highly recommended. **\$ 13.50**

LP-001 JOHNNY CAMPBELL & THE BLUEGRASS DRIFTERS Nice instrumental work by Campbell—a fiddler in the Kenny Baker mold—and several others including Chris Henry on mandolin. Apart from weak singing, this is a warm, friendly album with a good bunch of songs and tunes like OLD BOOK OF MINE, LONESOME FEELING, LETTER FROM MY DARLING and THE GOSPEL PLOW. The instrumentals—RUNNIN’ LATE, ME & JIMMY, and LOST TUNE are highlights. **\$ 13.50**

MFR-140329 DETOUR “Going Nowhere Fast”

One of a crop of talented new groups on the scene, this 6-member band has a lot going for it in the singing of Missy Armstrong and the songwriting of mandolin picker Jeff Rose. The supporting cast is solid as well, and the album should have appeal to fans of both traditional and contemporary Bluegrass. Ms. Armstrong contributes a soulful version of AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL and the group does a nice job with TRAVELING THE HIGHWAY HOME and the unexpected I CAN SEE CLEARLY NOW—not a Bluegrass song, but the group makes it work quite well. Eight of the thirteen songs are Jeff Rose originals. **\$ 13.50**

UM-007 RHONDA VINCENT “Only Me” Ms.

Vincent has come up with a somewhat different concept here—issuing a 2-CD set that is half Bluegrass and half dedicated to country music. And, there are only 6 songs per CD. But don’t let that bother you, as the set is priced as one item at a normal price. And, though a half dozen of the

songs are clearly country in origin (ONCE A DAY, BENEATH STILL WATERS, BRIGHT LIGHTS



& COUNTRY MUSIC), they are played here in a mostly Bluegrass setting, which works out fine. The 6 Bluegrass songs include I NEED SOMEBODY BAD TONIGHT, WE MUST HAVE BEEN OUT OF OUR MINDS, BUSY CITY, etc., plus ONLY ME—an impressive duet with surprise guest Willie Nelson. It’s all good music here and reminds us of what some of Rhonda’s main influences were growing up (such as Connie Smith’s ONCE A DAY). Smith’s style and vocal inflections are all over this piece. A nice project from one of today’s top artists. **\$ 13.50**

RUR-1116 JIM & JESSE & THE VIRGINIA BOYS

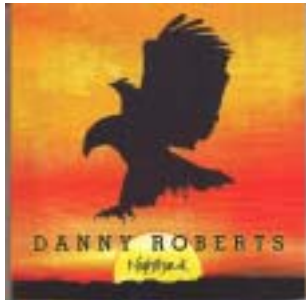
“Radio Shows” Originally issued as a 2-LP set on their own Old Dominion label, the songs and tunes here were taken from live recordings made in 1962—happily saved by the duo at a time when most successful Bluegrass artists were recording right over the tapes they made for their radio and TV shows. There are 26 tracks on this new CD, mostly songs & tunes that they never recorded but included on their radio shows for Martha White Flour, their sponsor at the time. It’s a great selection of material that their many fans will be thrilled to have, with fine versions of songs like ON THE MISSISSIPPI SHORE, I CRIED AGAIN, ON THE BANKS OF THE OHIO, FOGGY MOUNTAIN TOP, PRECIOUS MEMORIES, etc. At the time of these recordings, Jim & Jesse had probably their best group ever, with Alan Shelton on banjo, Jim Buchanan on fiddle, and Don McHan on guitar & extra vocals. Shelton gets to play BYE BYE BLUES and BEER BARREL POLKA, and Buchanan does a nice job on CHEYENNE and SNOWFLAKE BREAKDOWN. Nice to see this available again. **\$ 13.50**

MRR-1020 CLOSE KIN “Our Roots Run Deep”

There was an earlier “Close Kin” record not too long ago, also on the Mountain Roads label from Bristol, Tennessee, and featuring a mixture of Bluegrass and Old Time music. The difference in the two CDs is that the earlier issue featured some well known stalwarts like Adam Steffey, Eddie Bond, Tim White and Johnnie & Jeanette Williams, while this new album is all sung and played by a younger group of musicians between the ages of 11 and 17 (and all of them from North Carolina and southwest Virginia). You may not have heard of any of the young pickers here, but you most likely will in the near future. 16-year old Lindsey Nale of Galax, Va. handles most of the vocals and does a nice job. There are eleven different musicians on this project, and they all comport themselves nicely on the well chosen dozen songs & tunes such as HELL BROKE LOOSE IN GEORGIA, TENNESSEE MOUNTAIN FOX CHASE, FORTUNE, ONE MORNING IN MAY, and THINGS I USED TO DO. The youngest picker, 11-year old Kitty Amaral plays old time fiddle, as does 17 year old Levi Funk. 13 year old Madison Shepherd of West Jefferson, N.C. plays clawhammer banjo, and so on. Though we hardly need a reminder, there are significant numbers of fine young musicians who happily are following in the footsteps of the early masters of Old Time and Bluegrass music. A neat album, nicely packaged. **\$ 13.50**

MH-1523 DANNY ROBERTS “Nighthawk”

Roberts, the mandolin picker for the GRASCALS has a very nice record here, featuring 13 tunes and songs—10 of them his own compositions. There’s a good deal of variety here and everything is well arranged and played. Roberts is joined by several top Bluegrass musicians including Aubrey Haynie, Adam Haynes and Jimmy Mattingly (fiddles), Mike Compton, Ronnie McCoury and Sam Bush (mandolins) Tim Surrett (acoustic bass)



and Kristen Scott Benson (banjo). All of these pickers contribute substantially to the recording, and Roberts has made a wise choice in adding three songs to provide variety, helping to set off the instrumentals. The songs are sung by Roberts’ daughters Jaelee and Andrea, who do a very nice job on HOW GREAT THOU ART and I WENT DOWN A BEGGAR AND CAME UP A MILLIONAIRE. Especially effective are NEW GIL RAMBLE, F-5 RAG, NIGHTHAWK and a lovely duet of just mandolin and Kristen Benson’s banjo on DANIELLE’S WALTZ. A fine mandolin album. **\$ 13.50**

DBFS-2014 DRY BRANCH FIRE SQUAD “Don’t Forget This Song” This long established band led by the inimitable Ron Thomasson has been away from the studio for several years now, and it’s good to see them back on the scene, at least as far as recordings go. The band has been almost unique in its approach: while not an “old-time” band it makes use of old-time repertoire, and as a Bluegrass band it has a whole lot of rough edges. But the bottom line is the enjoyment it provides to a significant group that likes and appreciates the “old” styles of rural music, and there is plenty of that here in this 17-track recording. The band today consists of Brian Aldridge, Tom Boyd, Dan Russell and of course Thomasson, and some nice fiddling is supplied by Heidi Clare. The band has selected a variety of good songs such as DARK AS THE NIGHT, PAIN IN MY HEART, BLACK JACK DAVY, I’VE ALWAYS BEEN A RAMBLER, OVER THE GARDEN WALL, HIGHWAY OF SORROW, etc. **\$ 13.50**

SUG-4105 BRYAN SUTTON “Into My Own”

There’s plenty of great guitar work on this excellent record on which guitar ace Sutton is joined by a few stellar musicians: Sam Bush and Ronnie McCoury (mandolins), Stuart Duncan and Jason Carter on fiddle and Noam Pikelnny on banjo. Sutton tackles a nice variety of material from traditional tunes (SWANNANOWA TUNNELL) to waltzes and even picks one tune out on clawhammer banjo (RUN AWAY) and sings a few as well. There are subtle shades of Norman Blake on OLE BLAKE and Sutton does a fine WATSON’S BLUES as a duet with Ronnie McCoury on mandolin. There are great cuts of CUMBERLAND REEL and CRICKET ON THE HEARTH. It all adds up to a fine, lovely album. **\$ 15.00**

**HRC-079 A TRIBUTE TO FRED COCKERHAM**

Ever since Wade Ward, Kyle Creed and Fred Cockerham were “discovered” in the early 1960s, there has been a steady interest in the old-time music of Round Peak and the area around Galax, Virginia—both among local residents as well as students and music throughout this country and even in foreign countries as well. This new CD seems to gather recordings made in 1989, with 14 classic tunes of the area, played by a group that includes Riley Baugus, Greg Hooven, Barbara Poole, Verlin Clifton & Ray Chatfield. Though you may have heard these tunes many times, this disc is a good one with fine examples like CIDER MILL, WALKING IN MY SLEEP, FIRE IN THE MOUNTAIN, BACK STEP, FALL ON MY KNEES, NATURAL BRIDGE BLUES, JOHN HENRY, etc. **\$ 13.50**

COMP-4627 SPECIAL CONSENSUS & FRIENDS “A Bluegrass Tribute to John Denver”

A good idea for an album, and it’s surprising that it hasn’t been done before. This CD was nicely put together by Greg Cahill and his band along with a guest list that includes Jason Carter (fiddle), Rob Ickes (dobro), Michael Cleveland (fiddle), Rhonda Vincent, Peter Rowan, Claire Lynch, Jim Lauderdale and Dale Ann Bradley. Cahill has been leading this Chicago based group for ages (the notes proclaim that Greg and his band have issued 17 albums over the years!) Many—if not most—of Denver’s songs work well in a Bluegrass setting, and this new album presents excellent versions of **BACK HOME AGAIN, ROCKY MOUNTAIN HIGH, THIS OLD GUITAR** and **THANK GOD I’M A COUNTRY BOY**. And guest Claire Lynch joins the group for a “killer” performance of **WILD MONTANA SKIES** (the high point of the record) It also includes the expected **TAKE ME HOME COUNTRY ROADS** (probably Denver’s best known song), though this version does not quite match the great early versions of this song by the Country Gentlemen or The Osborne Brothers. An excellent album that should interest many. With a good set of notes by Dave Royko. **\$ 13.50**

**SFW-40199 THE SELDOM SCENE “Long Time...Seldom Scene”**

This is a well produced tribute to one of the first—and perhaps the most influential of all contemporary Bluegrass bands. It’s now over 40 years ago that this Washington, D.C. area band started, with 5 musicians who just wanted to pick and sing privately, never intending to become a major force in the music. Unfortunately, two key members of the original band have passed on (John Duffey and Mike Auldridge). John Starling—whose smooth vocals added so much to the band’s distinctive sound—retired from the group years ago, but he does make a guest appearance on a couple of cuts here. So the music is the same, yet not the same—with replacements like Lou Reid, Dudley Connell and Fred Travers, it is still a super-group with much to offer. The current band offers its versions of older Scene material, everything beautifully done—though some may wonder why the group would duplicate songs like **WAIT A MINUTE, CALIFORNIA COTTONFIELDS, PARADISE, WALK THROUGH THIS WORLD WITH ME**, and other classics from the band’s years with **REBEL** and **SUGAR HILL** that are still very much available in their original form. But this fine package (which includes 16 songs and an excellent 32-page booklet of notes by Pete Reiniger), shows that the group is alive and well and still can touch us with wonderful songs such as **LORENA** and **LIKE I USED TO DO**. A nice package, well recommended. **\$ 15.00**

**FMR-0005 VASSAR CLEMENTS “Memories of Music City USA”**

Here’s a neat and unexpected record that really caught us by surprise. It is not Bluegrass, but rather a jazzy, swing album—that should not surprise anyone as Vassar was as much a jazz musician as a Bluegrass player; fact is, he could do it all (from his early recording with Bill Monroe and Jim & Jesse, to his part in the Nitty Gritty Band’s influential *Will The Circle Be Unbroken album*). What may take many aback is the fact that Vassar does all the singing on the 13 cuts here, and it’s good & distinctive—we had to do a double take as there’s been precious little of Vassar’s singing on the many projects that he has taken part in. Another surprise here is that all 13 songs were written by Jake Landers; until we recall that Vassar aided the Dixie Gentlemen (Rual Yarbrough, Herschel Sizemore and Landers) in a few excellent albums in the 1970s. On this disc (recorded back in the mid 1990s) Clements is backed by Steel, Piano, Drums and Rhythm guitar, but Vassar seems very much at home here, and it’s excellent music. Thanks to Randy Woods for rescuing and releasing this music. **\$ 13.50**

SGM-2014 GARY BREWER & THE KENTUCKY RAMBLERS “Homestretch”

Gary Brewer, along with his family, has been playing & writing Bluegrass music for many years now, with older members of the Brewer clan playing old-time before that. This new album features a generous program of 16 songs & tunes featuring Gary’s singing and guitar work. Along with three other Brewers Mason, (Mandolin), Wayne (bass) and Finley (2 lead vocals), Gary is joined here by Larry Beasley on banjo and Dan Boner (who provides some nice fiddling). Solid and enjoyable playing that includes some original pieces, country songs and traditional numbers like **RUN JOHNNY RUN** and **RAKE & RAMBLING BLADE**. **FRUIT JAR BLUES, THE DAY WE FIRST MET, GREEN RIVER, SALT RIVER STOMP**, etc. **\$ 13.50**

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