



NEWSLETTER #336

July- August 2015

www.countysales.com

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We were very sorry to note the passing of **JOE WILSON**, who was connected with Old Time and Bluegrass music in many ways. Wilson, who was born in eastern Tennessee, worked with and for various record labels, and served many years as the head of the National Council for Traditional Arts in Washington DC. He also promoted and led the shaping of the now popular *Blue Ridge Music Center* on the Blue Ridge Parkway in Virginia, and while with the

NCTA arranged overseas tours for many musicians. He was a real champion for authentic rural music and its artists. Joe died on May 17.

SPECIAL MERCHANDISE PRIZES

Once again it's time to offer our special merchandise prizes. Anyone who orders anything at all from the Newsletter will be eligible to win one of the prizes that we give out: **\$100.00, \$50.00, and \$25.00** worth of COUNTY SALES credit. Orders must be received by **SEPT. 15, 2015**. Winners will be announced in our next Newsletter.

BCD-17348 THE CHUCK WAGON GANG "Complete Recordings, 1936-1955"

We never thought we would ever see a set like this coming from the German BEAR FAMILY label—a company that started out with mostly rockabilly and pop compilations. But after a series of beautifully presented country and Bluegrass sets, Bear Family has produced this amazing work that covers the entire career of this famous family group—probably the most popular and best known gospel quartet to ever record. There must still be countless thousands of rural families who recall coming in around noon for their mid-day meal—perhaps as much to hear the Chuck Wagon Gang's radio programs as to eat their food. Though the family group started as a western or country outfit (hence the name), it soon made it as a unique, distinctive gospel quartet that featured the wonderful voices of Rose Carter (soprano) and Anna Carter (alto). The family was led by "Dad" Carter and for a while performed (mostly in their native Texas) as the Carter Family (not to be confused with the famous family from Virginia). Amazingly, this 5-CD set contains some 400 songs,



many of which are familiar to today's country and Bluegrass fans. It would take several pages just to list a fraction of the songs that became Bluegrass standards—here are just a few: JESUS HOLD MY HAND, CHURCH IN THE WILDWOOD, ON THE JERICHO ROAD, I'LL FLY AWAY, LORD LEAD ME ON, I'VE FOUND A HIDING PLACE, COME UNTO ME, GOD PUT A RAINBOW IN THE CLOUDS, and dozens more. The first of the 5 CDs features the type of song that the group recorded in its early days—pleasant versions of TAKE ME BACK TO RENFRO VALLEY, PUT MY LITTLE SHOES AWAY, OKLAHOMA HILLS, THE ENGINEER'S CHILD and SUNNY SOUTH BY THE SEA. This wonderful group of songs is accompanied by an equally impressive 148-page hard cover book that is loaded with photos from the family's collection, has a complete discography, and is topped off with excellent appreciations written by Eddie Stubbs, Bill Malone, and Marty Stuart. Even by Bear Family's high standards, this is a most impressive project—superb in every way, truly a gem! 5-CD set with Book: **\$120.00**

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					
ALL CUSTOMERS ARE CHARGED A \$1.50 HANDLING FEE * ALL VIRGINIA CUSTOMERS MUST ADD 5.3% SALES TAX.					
For UPS/COD shipments, please add \$11.00 in addition to regular shipping charges.					
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P.O. BOX 191
FLOYD, VA 24091



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

SPECIAL SALE ON ALL COUNTY 2700 SERIES CDs

This month only we are offering all CDs in **COUNTY'S 2700 SERIES** at a **SPECIAL SALE PRICE of just \$7.00** per CD. That means a savings of over \$ 6.00 per CD off our already discounted price! There is no minimum and no limit as to how many you can buy, and any items you order here CAN be applied to your SPECIAL OFFER (buy 6 records and get a 7th CD free). This offer ends **SEPTEMBER 7th, 2015**. Take advantage of this one-time special deal!

COUNTY'S 2700 SERIES is devoted primarily to outstanding collections of Old-Time and Fiddle music featuring some of the finest musicians of our time. Check our list carefully, as some of these albums will be going out of print in the near future as supplies run out (several nice items have already been discontinued, including CDs by TOMMY JARRELL & FRED COCKERHAM, WILL KEYS, FRANKLIN GEORGE, BRAD LEFTWICH, CLARK KESSINGER and the CHESTNUT GROVE QUARTET.

CO-2705 KENNY BAKER "Master Fiddler"	CO-2727 TOMMY JARRELL—Vol. 4 "Tommys Porch"
CO-2707 LYMAN ENLOE "Fiddle Tunes I Recall"	CO-2728 RAFE STEFANINI "Hell & Scissors"
CO-2708 KENNY BAKER "Plays Bill Monroe"	CO-2729 ART STAMPER "Goodbye Girls"
CO-2711 KIRK SUTPHIN "Old Roots, New Branches"	CO-2730 RAFE STEFANINI "Glory On The Big String"
CO-2712 ART STAMPER "The Lost Fiddler"	CO-2732 KENNY BAKER "A Baker's Dozen"
CO-2716 CLAWHAMMER BANJO—Vol. 1	CO-2733 KENNY BAKER & BOBBY HICKS
CO-2717 CLAWHAMMER BANJO—Vol. 2	CO-2736 ART STAMPER "Wake Up Darling Corey"
CO-2718 CLAWHAMMER BANJO—Vol. 3	CO-2738 TROUBLESOME CREEK STRING BAND
CO-2719 CAMP CREEK BOYS	CO-2739 THREE MISSOURI FIDDLERS
CO-2723 TONY ELLIS "Quaker Girl"	CO-2740 CURLY SECKLER "That Old Book Of Mine"
CO-2724 TOMMY JARRELL Vol. 1 "Sail Away Ladies"	CO-2741 RAFE STEFANINI "Ladies' Fancy"
CO-2725 TOMMY JARRELL—Vol. 2 "Rainbow Sign"	CO-2742 TEXAS HOEDOWN REVISITED
CO-2710 THE RUSSELL FAMILY Mt. Dulcimer	CO-2743 U.S. SENATOR ROBERT BYRD Fiddle!
	CO-2744 RURAL PARLOR GUITAR

COUNTY RECORDS has in its catalog several of the all-time great fiddlers on record: starting with the great **KENNY BAKER** (Five CDs including one with **BOBBY HICKS**—every tune is a gem. If you want one great example of Kenny's fiddling, try 2705 "Master Fiddler" which is drawn from his early County LPs. **ART STAMPER** is represented with three excellent CDs, with 2712 half old-time and half Bluegrass with **J.D. CROWE** on banjo—his other two records are in more of an old-time vein. **BENNY THOMASSON** is among the outstanding Texas fiddlers featured on CO-2742 "TEXAS HOEDOWN REVISITED". A great collection of 24 tunes. And don't overlook COUNTY-2707, a lovely collection of tunes well played by **LYMAN ENLOE**—he is also represented on the **THREE MISSOURI FIDDLERS** with **CYRIL STINNETT** and **CASEY JONES**.

In the **OLD-TIME** category **COUNTY** is famous for its wonderful **CLAWHAMMER BANJO** series (County 2716, 2717, and 2718)—a treasury of different old-time banjo styles. The 3-disc Legacy of **TOMMY JARRELL** is another key series, with **COUNTY 2724** featuring Tommy's fiddling, and **COUNTY 2726** and **2727** showing him in a string band setting.

One of the most influential old time string bands was the **CAMP CREEK BOYS**, (County 2719), which included Kyle Creed, Fred Cockerham and Earnest East. A more recent, but superb string band is **TROUBLESOME CREEK STRING BAND** (County 2738), and the excellent current day fiddler **RAFE STEFANINI** is well represented by three County fiddle albums, all top-notch. The delicate touch of **TONY ELLIS'** old time banjo is heard on **QUAKER GIRL** (County-2723—this album is cited by *Steve Martin* as being one of his favorites. Responsible for many of the other CDs in this series was the late Charlie Faurot, who recorded and edited the fascinating **RURAL PARLOR GUITAR** album (which includes fine work by E.C. Ball, Lena Hughes, Lewis Thomasson and Arkansas' Earl Blair. And don't forget the **RUSSELL FAMILY**,s wonderful mountain dulcimer album—the best selling record in this series, and a real gem!

SPECIAL SALE ON ALL REBEL-7500 SERIES CDs

This month only we are offering all records in **REBEL'S 7500 series** at a **SPECIAL SALE PRICE** of just \$ **7.00 per CD**. That means a savings of \$ 3.00 per CD off our already discounted price! There is no minimum and no limit as to how many you can buy, and any items you order here CAN be applied towards your special offer (buy 6 records and get a 7th CD free). **Offer ends SEPT 7th, 2015.** Take advantage of this special offer !

REBEL's 7500 SERIES is its Budget series devoted primarily to outstanding collections of classic Bluegrass recordings from Rebel's vaults. Many of the discs are extra-length "Best Of" or retrospective collections that include up to 16 or 18 tracks. They represent some of the finest examples of Bluegrass music on the market today!

REB-7502 LARRY SPARKS "The Old Church Yard"	REB-7514 BOYS FROM INDIANA "Good Time Blues"
REB-7503 DEL McCOURY "My Dixie Home"	REB-7515 THE MARSHALL FAMILY—Vol. 2
REB-7505 THE MARSHALL FAMILY—Vol. 1	REB-7516 SELDOM SCENE "Different Roads"
REB-7506 RHONDA VINCENT "My Blue Tears"	REB-7517 RALPH STANLEY "Mt. Preacher's Child"
REB-7507 A CAPPELLA GOSPEL COLLECTION	REB-7519 DAVE EVANS & RIVER BEND "Vetco Years"
REB-7508 BEST OF EARLY COUNTRY GENTLEMEN	REB-7520 RALPH STANLEY "Old Time Pickin'"
REB-7509 IIIIRD TYME OUT "Erase The Miles"	REB-7522 BEST OF LARRY SPARKS
REB-7510 DARK AS A DUNGEON Mining Songs	REB-7523 MAC WISEMAN "Hits & Heartsongs"
REB-7511 THE EASTER BROS. "Holding Up The Ladder"	REB-7524 LOST & FOUND "Down On Sawmill Road"
REB-7512 BLUE HIGHWAY "Lonesome Pine"	REB-7527 LARRY SPARKS "Let Him Lead You"
REB-7513 JIMMY ARNOLD "Riding With Mosby"	REB-7528 BODY & SOUL "Tribute to Monroe"
REB-7518 CHRIS JONES "Lost Souls & Free Spirits"	REB-7529 LET THE LIGHT SHINE DOWN Monroe Tribute
REB-7521 McPEAK BROTHERS "Yesteryears"	REB-7530 CLAIRE LYNCH "Hills of Alabama"
	REB-7534 LARRY RICE "The Best Of Larry Rice"

The three **Larry Sparks** CDs provide a great representation of some of Larry's best work: His "Best Of" includes great songs like A FACE IN THE CROWD, BLUE VIRGINIA BLUES, TENNESSEE 1949 and JOHN DEERE TRACTOR, while REB-7502 and 7527 feature some of his many gospel classics like I'VE JUST SEEN THE ROCK OF AGES, THE OLD CHURCH YARD and THE TESTING TIMES. Just about all of the **Marshall Family's** best work is to be found on REB-7505 and REB-7515, such as I JUST WANT TO THANK YOU LORD, GLORYLAND and AMAZING GRACE. Another fine Bluegrass gospel compilation is the **Easter Brothers** CD, with their hit THEY'RE HOLDING UP THE LADDER. And for those who love a cappella gospel, REB-7507 is a gem, with wonderful cuts by the **Country Gentlemen, Paul Williams, The Forbes Family, Ralph Stanley** and others.

REBEL-7506 **Rhonda Vincent** is a good selection of the best songs from the 4 CDs that she made for REBEL. Other great single artist offerings include a "Best of" from the first three albums that **Blue Highway** made, including superb songs like SOME-DAY, LONESOME PINE and IN THE GRAVEL YARD, and there is great early material from **Del McCoury** on his "My Dixie Home" CD. REB-7509 by **IIIrd TYME OUT** has cuts from their first three records, including the fine ERASE THE MILES, MOUNDSVILLE PEN and GRANDPA'S MANDOLIN. **The Boys From Indiana's** hit ATLANTA IS BURNING is included on the excellent collection of their early King Bluegrass recordings. **Mac Wiseman's** "Hits & Heartsongs (REB-7523) is a super collection of 14 songs that he recorded in the 1970s with the Shenandoah Cutups, and REB-7519 includes the best tracks from Dave Evans' first recordings as a solo act, cut for Cincinnati's Vetco Label (99 YEARS, BARABARA ALLEN and HIGHWAY 52 among them).

Ralph Stanley is well represented by two outstanding CDs that showcase his old-time banjo picking (REB-7520) and a lovely collection of great gospel songs like I'LL WEAR A WHITE ROBE and WALKJING UP THIS HILL ON DECORATION DAY (REB-7517). The impressive banjo talents of the late **Jimmy Arnold** can be heard on REB-7513 "Ridin' With Old Mosby", and some of the fine songs cut early on by the **Country Gentlemen** are to be found on REB-7508. A recently released anthology of songs about mining contains wonderful performances by such groups as **Blue Highway, Steep Canyon Rangers, Sparks, David Davis, the Seldom Scene and Keith Whitley & Ricky Skaggs.** REBEL-7528 and 7529 are two albums that are tribute CDs to **Bill Monroe** on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of his birth—7528 is all secular material and 7529 is all devoted to gospel songs recorded by Rebel artists over the years—both CDs are outstanding.

REB-7521 by the **McPeak Brothers** is one of the most popular albums in this series—with songs like LOST RIVER, SIMON CRUTCHFIELD'S GRAVE and SHELLY'S WINTER LOVE, every cut is a gem! REB-7518 **Chris Jones** features some of his best early work for REBEL, plus a few cuts previously unissued. And REB-7530 features the very best of **Claire Lynch's** early work with her group the **Front Porch String Band.** The under-appreciated Larry Rice is a fine collection of the late artist's best work, and also features the great guitar picking of his brother Tony Rice.

DVD: SHAN-623 KITTY WELLS and JOHNNIE and JACK. Those who have seen any of the colorful films shot by Al Gannaway in the early and mid 1950s, will know what to expect with this wonderful entry into the world of country music—when country music was at its post-war peak. (Another recent Shanachie DVD called “YOU ARE THERE” featured other important artists including Bill Monroe, Grandpa Jones and the Louvin Brothers, among others—it is still available @ **18.00.**) If you ever were at the *Grand Ole Opry* in the early 1950s, you will recall just how colorful and impressive it was. The stage settings and the colorful clothes worn by the artists are made brilliantly vivid thanks to the fact that Gannaway shot these shows on 35mm film—rather than 8mm or another lesser format. And the Shanachie label has picked the right artists for this DVD, as Johnnie & Jack and Kitty Wells were two of the most colorful acts in country music at the time (they traveled together, often with Roy Acuff, as Johnny Wright and Kitty were husband and wife). There are 22 tracks on this DVD, and they feature many of these artists’ most popular recordings, such as Kitty’s MAKING BELIEVE, YOU AND ME, THOU SHALT NOT STEAL, I DON’T CLAIM TO BE AN ANGEL, AFTER DARK and LONELY SIDE OF TOWN. And two of Johnnie & Jack’s biggest hits are here—ASHES OF LOVE and POISON LOVE, along with NO ONE DEAR BUT YOU, S.O.S. I WANT TO BE LOVED, I GET SO LONELY and DOWN SOUTH IN NEW ORLEANS. The DVD ends on a fine note with Ernest Tubb leading all the cast members in a spirited CRAWDAD SONG which turns into a neat square dance. If you are too young to remember these shows, we suggest you add this to your collection—it’s a fine way to get a real appreciation of some of the greatest years in country music’s colorful past. **\$ 18.00**



MFR-150120 VOLUME FIVE “Voices” Competent and well played traditional Bluegrass by this 6 member band that includes dobro as well as the other 5 standard instruments. Songs include AMANDA, GOING ACROSS THE MOUNTAIN, SATAN’S RIDGE, COLDER & COLDER, etc. **\$ 13.50**



MFR-150602 SIDELINE “Session Two” Solid, well played Bluegrass in the traditional style, by this group that includes Steve Dilling (long time banjo player with IIIrd TYME OUT). Others in the band include Skip Cherryholmes on guitar, Jason Moore (bass and harmony vocals), Aaron Ramsey on mandolin, Brian Aldridge with the lead vocals, and the excellent Ron Stewart on fiddle. 11 good songs include I’D RATHER DIE YOUNG, HANDSOME MOLLY, ROSE IN PARADISE, GOING ACROSS THE SEA and a very nice LORD DON’T LEAVE ME HERE, sung in a cappella style. **\$ 13.50**

VOX-12003 ANTIQUE PERSUASION “Don’t Forget Me Little Darling” “Remembering The Carter Family” In the past there have been some ill-conceived “tributes” to old-time artists by present day musicians. We can think of several that have done no favors to past heroes such as Blind Alfred Reed, E.C. Ball, and of course Jimmie Rodgers. So it was with a bit of trepidation that we put this new disc in the player. As it turns out, we had nothing to worry about, and really we are thankful for this wonderful new release



which will get a great deal of playing time here. The trio of artists who do such a lovely job here are Brandon Rickman (lead and rhythm guitar and vocals), Jenee Fleenor (lead vocals, guitar, fiddle and mandolin) and Brennan Leigh (lead and harmony vocals). Most of our readers will know of Mr. Rickman from his fine work with *Lonesome River Band*—one of the top Bluegrass bands of today. The group could probably have chosen just about any dozen songs from the Carter Family’s extensive and great repertoire, but the 12 that are featured here make for a superb program. And most importantly, the trio sings and plays with ultimate respect for the Carters, and yet these are not just slavish imitations: there are a few slight variations such as on the ever popular I’M THINKING TONIGHT OF MY BLUE EYES, and of course the use of the fiddle turns out to be a nice touch. (Mark Fain is also present on acoustic bass). Some of our favorites here are BROKEN HEARTED LOVER, HELLO STRANGER, ON THE SEA OF GALILEE, LOVER’S RETURN and DARK & STORMY WEATHER—but every cut is well done, with wonderful singing by the two ladies (Jenee Fleenor and Brennan Leigh) and Rickman. We don’t know whose idea this record was, but it was a good one. **HIGHLY RECOMMENDED \$ 13.50**

ROC-3323 DON RENO & RED SMILEY

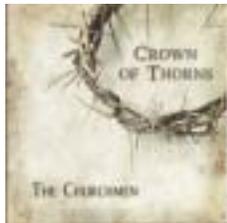
RockBeat—a new label to us—has previously issued a pair of good Bluegrass records by Bill Monroe and Jimmy Martin—both taken from live show tapes. This new release of a 1957 show at New River Ranch (in Maryland) is just as interesting—perhaps moreso because there is little in the way of live Reno & Smiley on the market today. Those who saw this band live in the 1950s and very early 1960s will welcome this album, as it captures the band in its prime. Reno & Smiley shows of that time were more unpredictable—in addition to some of their trademark songs like TALK OF THE TOWN, LET'S LIVE FOR TONIGHT, DRIFTING WITH THE TIDE, and I'M THE BIGGEST LIAR IN TOWN, they bring in some unexpected numbers like I WALK THE LINE, and THAT'S ALRIGHT MAMA.



There are several nicely done gospel songs like OLD COUNTRY CHURCH, SPRINGTIME IN GLORY, JESUS IS WAITING and a really fine version of GONE HOME. Of course there's plenty of Don Reno's banjo (LIMEHOUSE BLUES, DOUBLE BANJO BLUES and WHEN YOU AND I WERE YOUNG MAGGIE), and Mack Magaha is featured on the fiddle on BILLY IN THE LOW GROUND, DOWN YONDER, SALLY GOODIN and ORANGE BLOSSOM SPECIAL. As you can gather, there's a lot of music here (26 tracks) and the group sounds like everyone is having a good time. Our only complaint here is the minimal "thin line" packaging—no notes, just a list of the titles. It would have been nice to have a few words from someone familiar with the group and/or the New River Ranch setting. **\$ 13.50**

MFR-150707 THE CHURCHMEN "Crown Of Thorns"

This gospel group from southwest Virginia has had several previous records out, all featuring solid Bluegrass accompaniment. This is probably the best of them, an excellent effort anchored by the superb fiddling of Ron Stewart (not a member of this 4 man group, but a guest whose presence on all 13 tracks is a big plus here. The songs are all new and include two by Becky Buller (who has become an important and impressive songwriter in the Bluegrass genre). Songs include A CROWN OF THORNS, HARBOR IN THE SKY, FIRE & FLOOD, I'D RATHER HAVE JESUS, etc. **\$ 13.50**



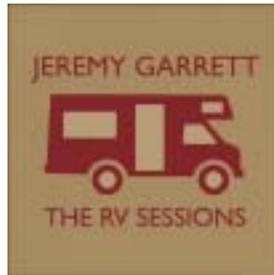
DUAL-1685 ROBERT EARL KEEN "Happy Prisoner" "The Bluegrass Sessions" It is now getting more and more common to see artists from other genres putting out Bluegrass albums of their own. It says one of two things: either A) songs in their normal style are becoming ho-hum affairs and the artists are looking to do something different, or B) they genuinely like Bluegrass and now have the freedom to produce such albums without being vetoed by their labels. (It also is clear that Bluegrass is no longer a step child in the music business). We have had Bluegrass albums from Dolly Parton, Dierks Bentley, and Alan Jackson, among others. With all due respect to Mr. Keen—who is a well known artist in the folk music field—we wonder if this new record will make any sort of splash (or ripple) among Bluegrass fans. It may be just our own biases here, but Keen's singing is clearly of the "folk" variety and seems affected. Compare this with the fairly recent CD by Alan Jackson (a very successful seller, by the way)—Jackson's voice is totally natural and lends itself nicely to a good selection of mostly new material. We *can* say that Keen has picked out a very nice selection of songs, some of which include LONG BLACK VEIL, POOR ELLEN SMITH, VINCENT BLACK LIGHTNING, 99 YEARS, TWISTED LAUREL, T FOR TEXAS, EAST VIRGINIA BLUES, FOOTPRINTS IN THE SNOW, THE WALLS OF TIME, WHITE DOVE and OLD HOME PLACE. Among the nine backing musicians are Danny Barnes (banjo & guitar) and Sara Watkins on fiddle, and there are guest appearances by Lyle Lovett, Peter Rowan, and Natalie Raines. **\$ 15.00**

**VT-2006 RED SQUIRREL CHASERS "Shakin' Down The Acorns"**

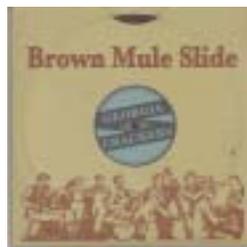
While this is technically a new group, the members will be familiar to many—if not most—of our old-time music fans and musicians. Appearing on the St. Louis based VIGORTONE label, the four piece band includes Jim Nelson (guitar & lead vocals), Stephanie Coleman (fiddle), Jim Collier (mandolin and vocals) and Dedo Norris (bass). This is, essentially an old time record, with a generous 16 tracks that include such tunes as SHADY GROVE, SUGAR IN THE GOURD, OLD BOB, DURANG'S HORNPIPE, RUN MOUNTAIN and JAYBIRD DIED WITH THE WHOOPING COUGH—Ms. Coleman's fiddling is strong and solid on these. The band then adds a semi-Bluegrass touch by including SHORT LIFE OF TROUBLE, NO LETTER IN THE MAIL, MOONSHINER, and NEW RIVER TRAIN among others. As the band points out, it's Bluegrass without the banjo (!). Nice job. **\$ 13.50**



JG-2015 JEREMY GARRETT “The RV Sessions” Today sometimes it is difficult to tell a temporary “preview” record from the final product. Yes, we know that the music is a whole lot more important than the packaging, but really, when your project looks like *re-cycled paper bag*, with barely readable lettering, it seems to tell the would-be purchaser one of three things: a) “Hey, we saved a bunch of money on the packaging” or b) “this looks like a pretty unimportant record—we’ll play it once or twice then chuck it in the waste basket; or c) “we’re going to force people to download this record even if they would prefer to have an attractive and informative digipak or jewel case presentation.” There are no composer credits on this 12-track record (which I guess means that all are Garrett’s originals). It would be nice to see something in the way of credits, like where it was recorded and what other musicians took part (or did Garrett do all the picking and singing himself?) Enough of the negative—Garrett is a very respected and talented young musician, and this disc has plenty of interest, especially for the younger crowd that he is part of. What I liked here was the rather sparse backup on most of the tunes—just guitar and mandolin here, guitar with fiddle there, etc.—and the guitar and fiddling is excellent. **\$ 13.50**



GC-2015 GEORGIA CRACKERS “Brown Mule Slide” This 5-member old time band has gathered a group of 18 songs and tunes that are all associated with the state of Georgia one way or another. Many of the numbers were recorded in the 1920s and 1930s by members of Gid Tanner’s Skillet Lickers and other derivative bands. The group members make use of a wide range of instruments including cello, piano, 6-string banjo, pump organ and mandolin, besides the standard fiddle—banjo—guitar combo. An unusual instrument for old time playing is provided by Dub Hudson on clarinet. Lots of good Georgia tunes here, like 12th STREET BLUES, BULLY OF THE TOWN, ATLANTA BLUES, GEORGIA BLACK BOTTOM, etc. **\$ 13.50**



(The group has another similar CD available—“HILLBILLY WOBBLE” The discs are \$ 13.50 each).

HHS-2015 HELEN HIGHWATER STRING BAND

Here is a neat little item—a disc with only 5 songs (priced accordingly). The group is a Nashville based band that consists of musicians that most of our readers will recognize: David Grier (guitar), Mike Compton (Mandolin), Shad Cobb (Fiddle) and Missy Raines (bass). Two of the songs are Shad Cobb originals: CRYIN’ AND SINGIN’ and a really nice GLORY BOUND.



The other three are Johnny Cash’s BLUE TRAIN, the Callahan Brothers’ THIS CRAZY CRAZY FEELING, and PLEASE BABY. The group plays with verve, and all four members share in the vocals. We hope that we’ll see a full album of this band somewhere down the road. **\$ 8.00**

PRC-1196 DALE ANN BRADLEY “Pocket Full of Keys”

12 songs nicely sung by Ms. Bradley—who is one of today’s best female Bluegrass vocalists. She is backed here instrumentally by a good group that includes Michael Cleveland (fiddle), Steve Thomas (guitar & mandolin), and Phil Leadbetter (dobro). Vocal harmonies are supplied by an equally impressive group: Tina Adair, Ronnie and Garnett Bowman, Jeff White and Jim Lauderdale. The dozen songs are well chosen and make up an excellent platform for Dale Ann’s singing—there are only a couple of well known “standards”



here, one of which is a superb, lovely version of SWEET HOUR OF PRAYER. AIN’T IT FUNNY, HARD LESSON ROAD, RACHEL PACK YOUR SUNDAY CLOTHES, etc. **\$ 13.50**

VAM-010 BILL & MAGGIE ANDERSON “Rest My Weary Feet”

A pleasant 14-song collection of old time and country music by this duo who now make their home in Southwestern Virginia. Apart from a few standards that are heard here (REDWOOD HILL, THE L & N DON’T STOP HERE, LAST TRAIN FROM POOR VALLEY), the bulk of the songs come from the pens of such current day writers as Chris Stuart, Becky Buller, Marshall Warwick, Mark Brinkman and Mark Simos. **\$ 13.50**



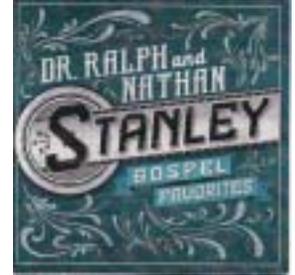
RUR-160 RED SMILEY & THE BLUEGRASS CUTUPS

This is one of quite a few records produced in the late 1960s by the late Uncle Jim O'Neal, who founded the *Rural Rhythm* label. His method of operation was to issue albums (LPs at the time) that had at least 20 songs—all of them old-time pieces that were long clear of any royalty obligations. He then offered these records over the radio at budget prices, and undoubtedly did very well. Red Smiley was among the artists recorded by O'Neal, and the three records that Smiley cut were all full of good songs and tunes, well played. (In his band at the time were Billy Edwards on banjo, John Palmer on bass and Tater Tate on fiddle). A typical sampling of the songs Smiley cut included LITTLE MAGGIE, SHADY GROVE, WRECK OF THE No. 9, 900 MILES, FALLEN LEAF, IN THE PINES, and SOMETHING GOT A HOLD OF ME. On this re-issue Billy Edwards sings a couple and Tater Tate contributes short but sweet versions of the fiddle tunes BIG SANDY and BLACK EYED SUSAN. A nice CD. **\$8.00**



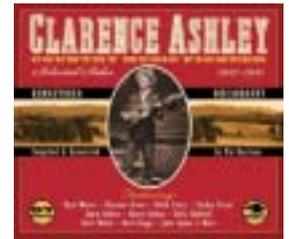
NS-2015 DR. RALPH AND NATHAN STANLEY "Gospel Favorites"

Led by his grandson Nathan, Dr. Ralph continues to put out some very nice records. In this case it's a good assortment of new and old—there are only 10 songs but they are done up nicely with the current version of the Clinch Mountain Boys (Mitchell Van Dyle on banjo, Dewey Brown on fiddle, Randall Hibbitts on bass, and Junior Blankenship on lead guitar. There are strong and solid versions of WHERE COULD I GO, WILL THE CIRCLE BE UNBROKEN, BEAUTIFUL STAR OF BETHLEHEM, RANK STRANGER, I SAW THE LIGHT and an a cappella version of GLORYLAND. Among the three "newer" songs is a fine version of BE LOOKING FOR ME. **\$13.50**



JSP-77186 CLARENCE ASHLEY "Country Music Pioneer"

Just out, this interesting looking item is on the way to us as this is being printed. It is a 4-CD set presented in the familiar JSP format, and like other sets in this series it contains around 100 songs & tunes. Ashley's recorded repertoire was not that extensive, so the set also contains the recordings of several other artists who knew and played with him during that "Golden Age" of old-time music. Those additional musicians include Emry Arthur and Byrd Moore. Fans of these artists (or of old-time music in general) will appreciate all of the music in this set, but we will further amplify our comments in our next Newsletter after we have a chance to see and play this. From the track record of the British JSP label, we feel it is safe to say that this set will be of interest to many, and it's a real bargain at **\$27.50**



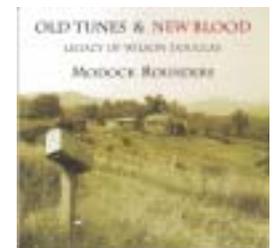
STR-40765 BILLY STRINGS & DON JULIN "Fiddle Tune X"

There is some outstanding guitar picking on this obscure disc by two musicians from Michigan: Strings plays guitar and sings, and is especially dynamic on tunes like BEAUMONT RAG and SALT CREEK. He is joined by Don Julin on mandolin and tenor vocal; the duo offers 17 tracks on this disc, just about all of them from the Bluegrass and Old-time repertoires. Apart from the dynamite version of BEAUMONT RAG which kicks off the record, the pair does some nice work on WALK ON BOY, OPEN UP THEM PEARLY GATES, I AM A PILGRIM, and POOR ELLEN SMITH. Especially effective are the slower paced LONESOME MOONLIGHT WALTZ, and a good rendition of one of our favorite songs, MISS THE MISSISSIPPI AND YOU, the great Jimmie Rodgers number. A good part of the album was recorded "live". No less than 3 of the songs hark back to the Stanley Brothers—SHARECROPPERS' SON, THAT HOME FAR AWAY, and HOW MOUNTAIN GIRLS CAN LOVE. A neat album that is not likely to be found in stores! **\$13.50**



CD-3085 MODOCK ROUNDERS "Old Times and New Blood—The Legacy of Wilson Douglas"

The late Wilson Douglas was a fine West Virginia fiddler with an impressive repertoire, and a person who shared his love of old time fiddling with a younger generation. This 21 track collection serves his memory well, featuring excellent fiddling by Jesse Pearson, accompanied by Kim Johnson on old time banjo and Cody Jordan on guitar. The well played tunes include many that old time fiddle lovers will recognize, such as SHELVIN ROCK, BOATING UP SANDY, YEW PINEY MOUNTAIN, CAMP CHASE, CUCKOO'S NEST and ELZIC'S FAREWELL, along with some lesser known pieces, Nicely played and presented. **\$13.50**



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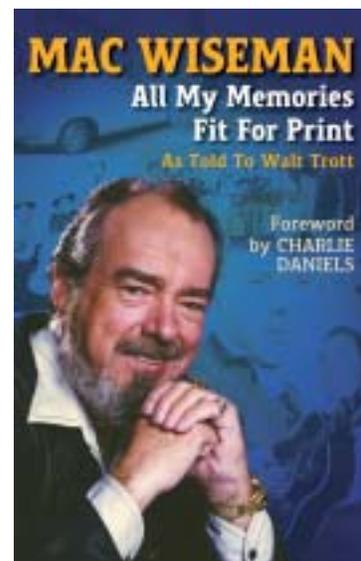
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NEW MAC WISEMAN BOOK A new book by and about MAC WISEMAN is now available. Just in, this will be reviewed in our next newsletter, but is available now. The title is **MAC WISEMAN—ALL MY MEMORIES FIT TO PRINT.** Our price is **\$ 25.00**



SPECIAL SALE ON ALL

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See page 2 and 3

AUCTION # 153 now available. Those of you who collect the old 78rpm records might like to get a copy of our current auction list. Our latest issue contains lots of scarce & clean records from the 1920s and 30s. There are also a number of excellent Bluegrass and Country discs. If interested, let us know and we'll send you a copy. (Those already on our auction mailing list don't need to respond to this as all collectors who are already on our list will get the new auction automatically).