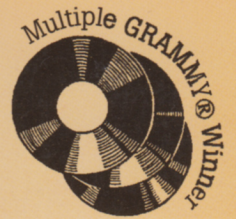
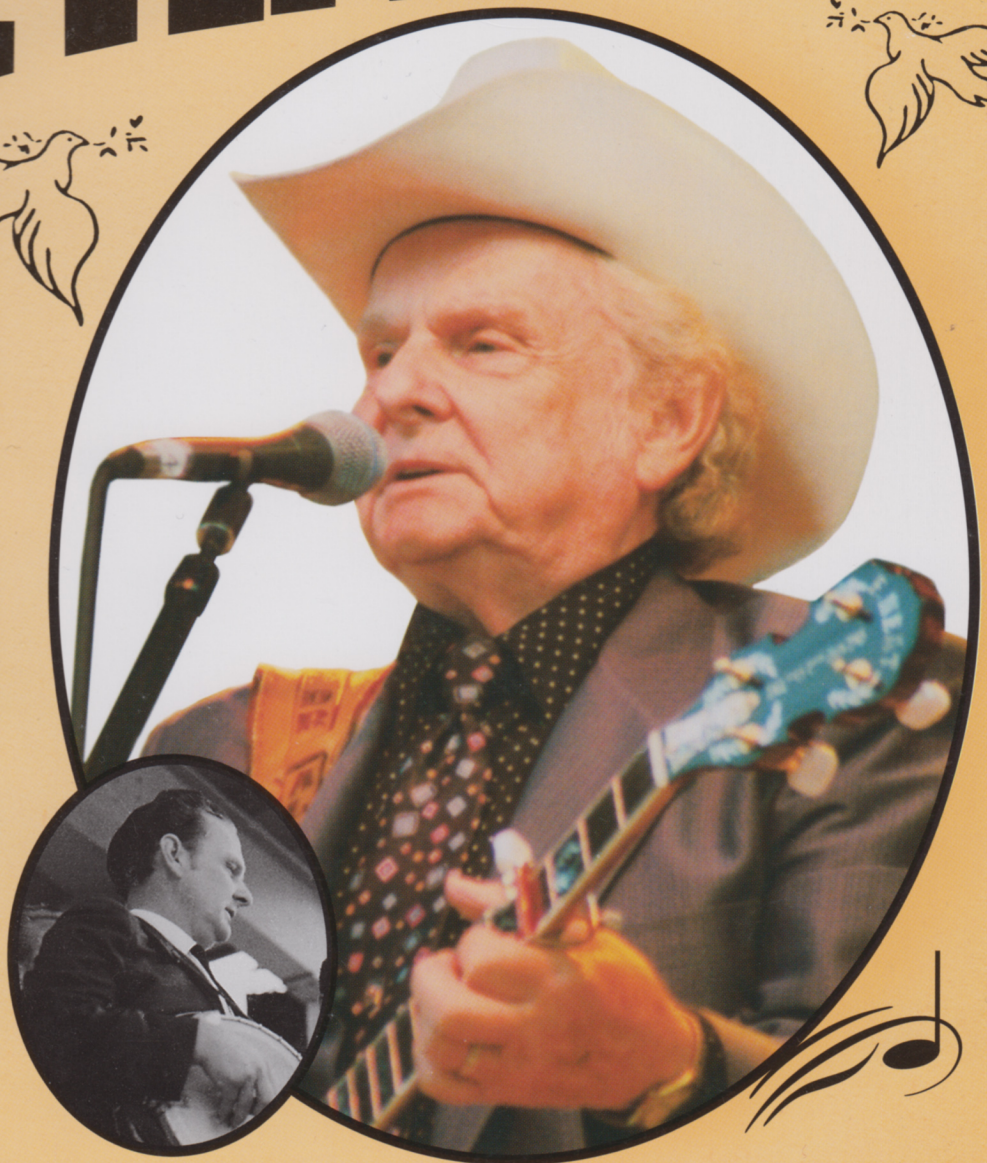


HONORARY
SOUVENIR
PROGRAM



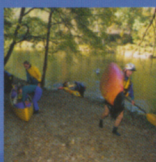
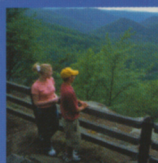
Dr. RALPH STANLEY

33rd
Annual
Memorial
Bluegrass
Festival



➔ May 22, 23, 24, 2003 Hills of Home Park, VA ⇐

Heart of Appalachia Celebrates Dr. Ralph Stanley, Living Legacy



Virginia  is for Lovers™

PROUDLY HONORING LEGENDARY DR. RALPH STANLEY, the Heart of Appalachia region joins Dickenson County and Clintwood, Virginia in establishing the area's newest museum, due to open in 2004:

The Ralph Stanley Museum & Traditional Mountain Music Center

This will add to dozens more of the wonderful natural, historical and cultural attractions of the southwestern mountain region of Virginia. Also honoring traditional mountain culture, THE YEAR OF APPALACHIA is the focus for THE SMITHSONIAN FOLKLIFE FESTIVAL OF 2003, on the mall in Washington D.C. over the 4th of July!

It will be the official launch for our exclusive line of Appalachian Legacy foods, honoring Dr. Stanley and "generations of taste sensations!" Please visit the websites below for more information!



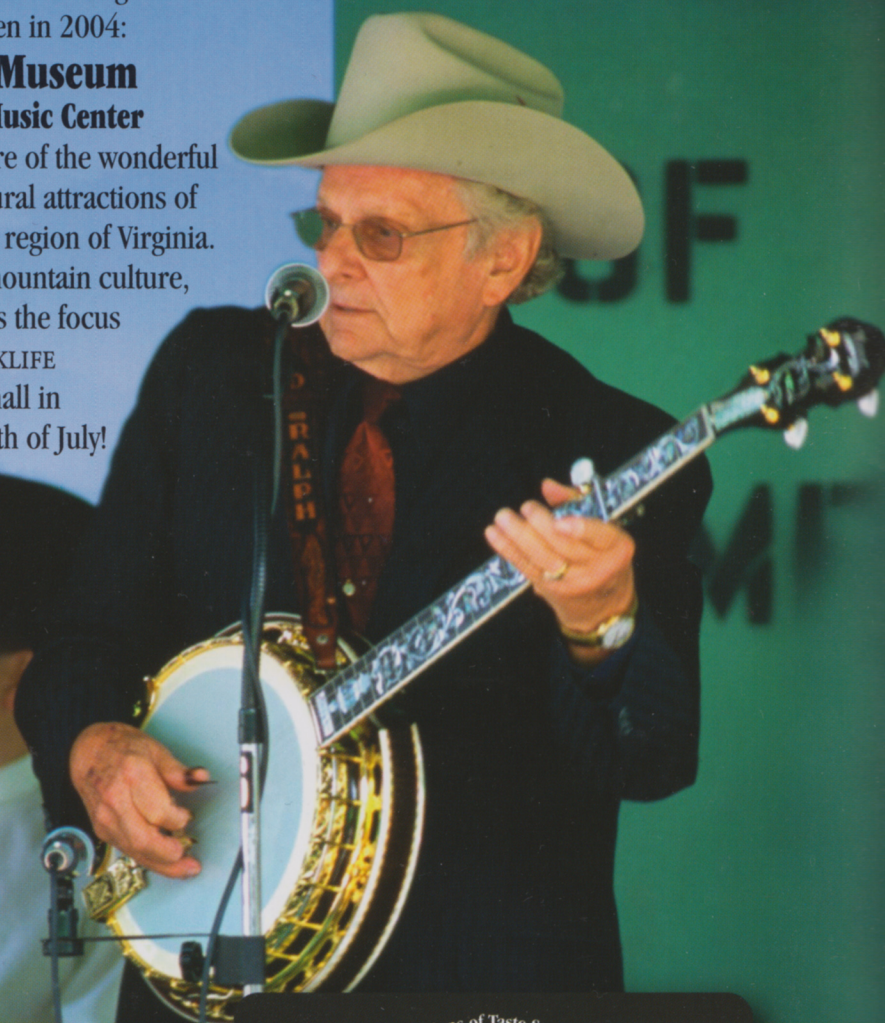
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THE HEART OF APPALACHIA

heartofappalachia.com

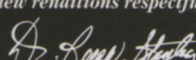
appalachianlegacy.com

and coming soon: ralphstanleymuseum.com



Old Fashioned Jam Cake Mix

Net Wt. 17.7 oz. (502g)

The foods produced under the Appalachian Legacy label are inspired by comfort foods of the creative mountain settlers in Southwest Virginia: new renditions respectful of old classics. "Reminds me of Mother and Hills of Home." 

PHOTOS ©2001 TIM COX



Dr. RALPH STANLEY
Route HC05 Box 576 Coeburn, Virginia 24230

May 22, 2003

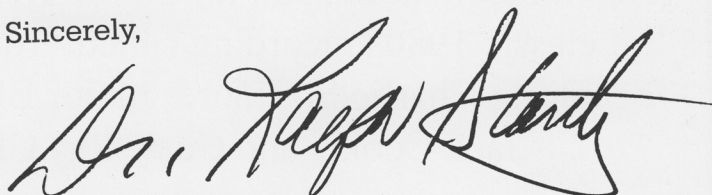
TO ALL MY FRIENDS,

I want to thank each and every one of you for supporting me and my music all through the years. In the past couple of years, I have gained a lot of new fans due to the success of the "O Brother, Where Art Thou?" soundtrack and I appreciate all of you too. I hope that you too will enjoy my singing and playing as much as my older fans and friends have.

I want to thank my wife and family for being with me all through the years. I especially want to thank The Clinch Mountain Boys, both past and present for always being there when I needed them and for their many contributions to the Stanley sound.

I hope that you will enjoy this book. Thanks for everything folks , and God Bless You.

Sincerely,



Dr. Ralph Stanley

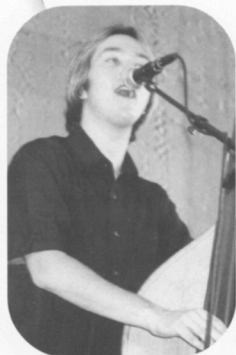
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Dear Ralph,
You are our
hero, our
inspiration, and
our mentor! You
made our dreams
come true by putting
us on stage with you
the first day we met

(over 8 years ago) and many times since! You'll
FOREVER be the TOP "KING OF MOUNTAIN
SOUL" (Bluegrass) music!! Congratulations on all
your well-earned success!! We are forever grateful
for all you've done for us!

Your friends,

The Shankman Twins: Dana
and Lauren and our brother
(and band member,)
Michael Alden



Ralph,

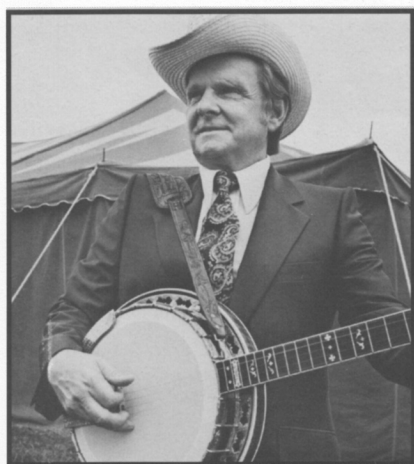
Thanks for a Lifetime of Great
Music and Friendship!

Your Friend,

Larry Ehrlich
Larry Ehrlich



*Congratulations to **Dr. Ralph Stanley** on 56 years of performing
old-time mountain-style bluegrass music!*



Attention fans of Ralph Stanley & the Clinch
Mountain Boys:

Be on the lookout soon for the Re-Release of the
classic 1980s recording called "16 Years."

Featuring Charlie Sizemore, Junior Blankenship,
Jack Cooke, and Curly Ray Cline

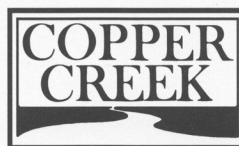
Cotton-Eyed Joe • That Happy Night • Don't Wake Me Up • I Lived In Her
World • When You Go Walking After Midnight • Say Won't You Be Mine •
Sixteen Years • Dickenson County Breakdown • Can't You Hear The
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Ralph Stanley and The Clinch Mountain Boys

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Coeburn, Virginia 24230



There are very few musicians who can maintain a fresh and lively approach while playing in a traditional style of the past. Ralph Stanley is the only professional old-time country musician playing today. What makes his music different from the often slick and gaudy Nashville sound is that it is based upon and fully conscious of hundreds of years of tradition. Old ballads were brought from England to the Southern Appalachian Mountains where for centuries they were transmitted from father to son. The rich heritage of these ballads, the religious music of the hill people and the fiddle and banjo used for square dance music are all present in the music of Ralph Stanley, which is closely related to the popular Bluegrass form.

Born in rural Southwestern Virginia, Ralph learned to play banjo from his mother. It was her inspiration and a great natural talent that led Ralph and his guitar playing brother to form the Stanley Brothers in the early 1940's. The two played on local radio stations and were soon in demand for appearances throughout the south; later the rest of the country and the world. The Stanley Brothers' appeal was that they performed the material that was closest to the hearts of mountain people. Their voices had a quality that brought to mind all the old things that are such a strong part of everyone's life.

On December 1, 1966, tragedy struck and Carter Stanley died, ending the career of the Stanley Brothers. When Ralph sings today in his mournful, high tenor voice, the listener doesn't even have to close their eyes to see little white churches, dirt roads, newly plowed fields, winding mountain streams, and the mist rising out of the valley at daybreak.

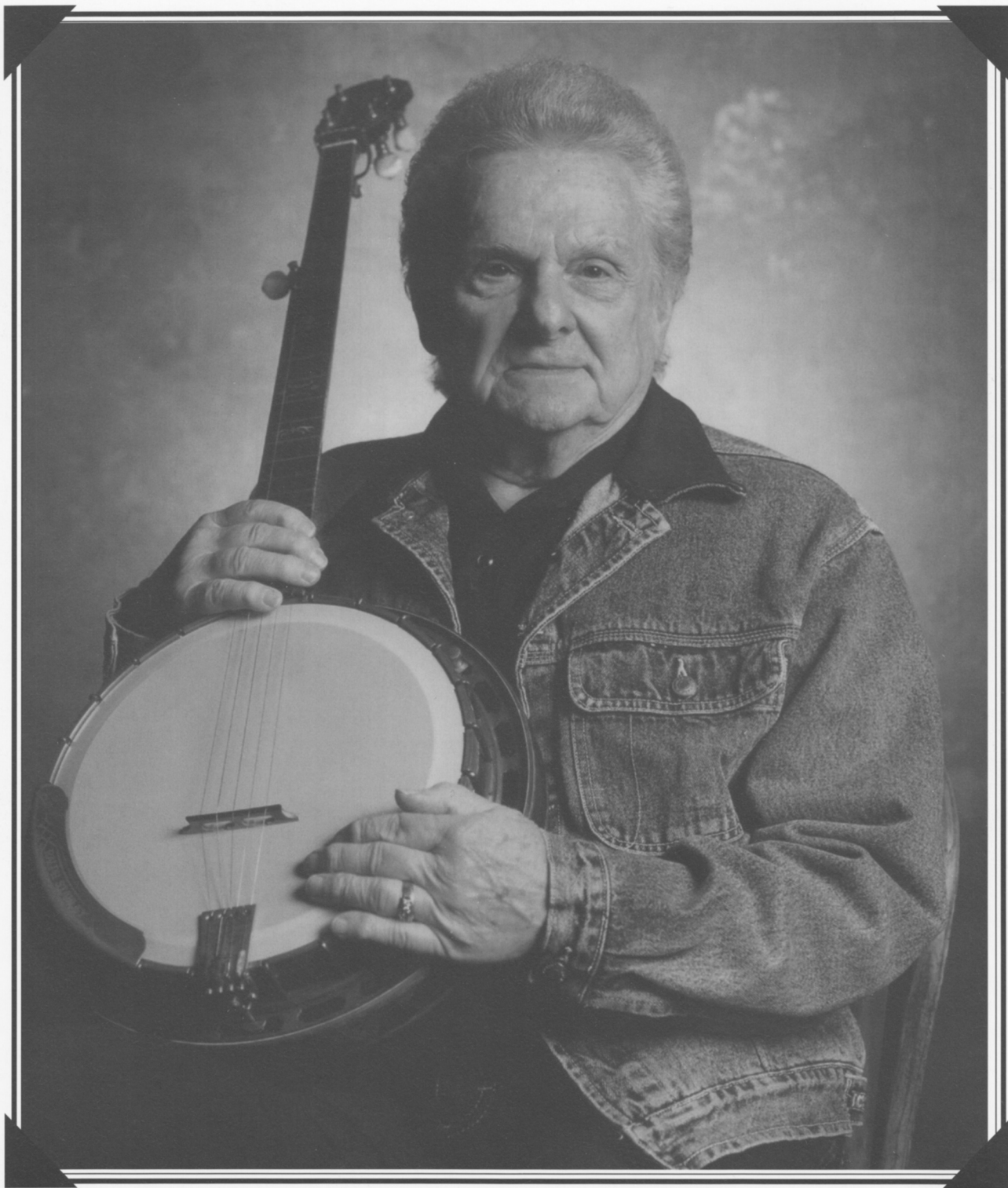
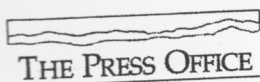


Photo by Jim McGuire Courtesy Rebel Records



publicity@thepressoffice.net
Ph: 615 269-3670

Ralph Stanley

Born February 25, 1927 in Dickenson County, Virginia; lives in Coeburn, Virginia

Honors and Acknowledgements

- 2003 Grammy - Best Bluegrass Album—*Lost In The Lonesome Pines* (Jim Lauderdale, Ralph Stanley and the Clinch Mountain Boys)
- 2003 Lifetime Achievement Award, North American Folk Alliance
- 2002 Grammy (2): Best Male Country Vocal Performance - "Oh Death" Album of the Year - for his contributions to the album *O Brother Where Art Thou* Received his first Grammy at age 75; numerous nominations
- 2002 IBMA (International Bluegrass Music Assoc.) Recorded Event of the Year- Clinch Mountain Sweethearts
- 2001 CMA Award, Album of the Year - for his contributions to *O Brother, Where Art Thou?*
- 2001 ACM Award, Album of the Year - for his contributions to *O Brother, Where Art Thou?*
- 2001 Ralph J. Gleason Award from the Rex Foundation - "outstanding contributions to culture"
- 2001 Platinum Album - Mercury Records *O Brother, Where Art Thou*. He is featured in two performances on the soundtrack album for the Coen Brothers' film—"Oh, Death" (Stanley's classic a cappella solo) and "Angel Band" (The Stanley Brothers).
- 2001 Ralph Stanley Day in San Francisco - February 6, 2001, declared by Mayor Willie Brown
- 2001 IBMA Album of the Year - for his contributions to *O Brother, Where Art Thou?*
- 2000 Library of Congress "Living Legend" Medal
- 2000 Grand Ole Opry Induction - first of the new century
- 1999 IBMA Album of the Year - Clinch Mountain Country, Ralph Stanley & Friends
- 1999 IBMA Recorded Event of the Year - Clinch Mountain Country, Ralph Stanley & Friends
- 1993 IBMA Recorded Event of the Year - Saturday Night/Sunday Morning..
- 1992 IBMA Hall of Honor Induction
- 1985 National Endowment for the Humanities "Traditional American Music Award" - First recipient ever, presented by President Ronald Reagan.
- 1976 Honorary Doctorate of Music - Lincoln Memorial University in Harrogate, TN

Noteworthy appearances

- CBS Grammy Awards Show performance
- CBS "Late Night w/David Letterman"
- CBS "The Early Show"
- ABC "Good Morning America"
- NBC "The Tonight Show"
- TNN "The Life and Times of Ralph Stanley"
- Performed at Library of Congress Bicentennial Celebration in April 2000.

-continued-

- Stanley is the centrally featured artist in D. A. Pennebaker's *Down From The Mountain*, a documentary on the making the *O Brother* soundtrack—shown in art theaters around the country and available on video.
- *The Ralph Stanley Story*, a documentary directed by Herb E. Smith for Appalshop Film and Video is available on video.
- "Salute To Ralph Stanley," a live five-hour music and interview show, was broadcast March 21, 2001, on WSM-AM, the Grand Ole Opry station. Involving Stanley's musical recollections of the past 55 years, it was designed and hosted by DJ, musician and music scholar Eddie Stubbs. The entire show can be heard at www.wsmonline.com.
- Featured in the bluegrass segment of "A Century of Country," 13-show series aired on TNN.
- Performed for Presidents Carter and Clinton's Inaugurations (1977 & 1993).
- Performed The Queen Elizabeth Hall in London; two extensive tours of Europe; three tours of Japan and the Far East.
- Numerous appearances at the Radio City Music Hall, Carnegie Hall, Ryman Auditorium, Grand Ole Opry, PBS's "Austin City Limits," Hollywood Palace, Greek Theatre, Tramps (NY), among many others.

Musical Accomplishments

- Performed continually since 1946. The patriarch of traditional and bluegrass music still does over 150 dates a year.
- Has recorded over 170 albums, more than 30 albums in over 30 years with Rebel Records.
- Has written and recorded many songs that have become bluegrass standards.
- Has unique style—unlike Bill Monroe's style or Flatt & Scruggs'.
- He is one of the last living founders of a distinctly American art form, which blends rural-based lyrics with fluid, jazz-like instrumental improvisations.
- Stanley's music—particularly his high, mournful vocals—is so raw, powerful and authentic that it has moved and inspired performers from all musical genres. Bob Dylan, Joan Baez, Dwight Yoakam, Vince Gill, Jerry Garcia, Hal Ketchum, Patty Loveless, John Anderson credit Stanley as a major inspiration.
- He has a "cool factor" among younger musical stars unmatched by anyone else in the country/bluegrass scene.
- Stanley's band, the Clinch Mountain Boys, has been the incubator for two generations of country and bluegrass superstars, including Ricky Skaggs and the late Keith Whitley.
- Ralph Stanley continues to live in and draw strength from the country, in his case the remote mountainous region of southwestern Virginia.

02/2003



A handshake
agreement from
1992 that's
still in effect.

Dr. Ralph Stanley

Honorary Souvenir Program – 2003
Superior Communications Company

May 22, 2003

Dear Fans,

It is my privilege to present this first ever Honorary Souvenir Program celebrating Ralph's 57 years of outstanding music.

Many of you have known Ralph longer than me. He and I first met in 1987 and we started working together in 1992. After 5 years, I felt I knew Ralph fairly well. However, it wasn't until I attended my first Festival in 1997 that I came to fully appreciate Ralph. I saw at the "Old Home Place" the source of his strength, the birthplace of his songs and more important, the center of his spirit and soul.

Though I have been with Ralph for 11 years, and have seen his career "explode" internationally-particularly with the "O Brother, Where Art Thou?" phenomenon-I know that this is not Ralph's 'natural environment.' Ralph is most comfortable among his fans, his friends and his family, much like himself- singing his songs here- "In the Hills of Home."

I hope you enjoy this program. I know you'll love the festival!

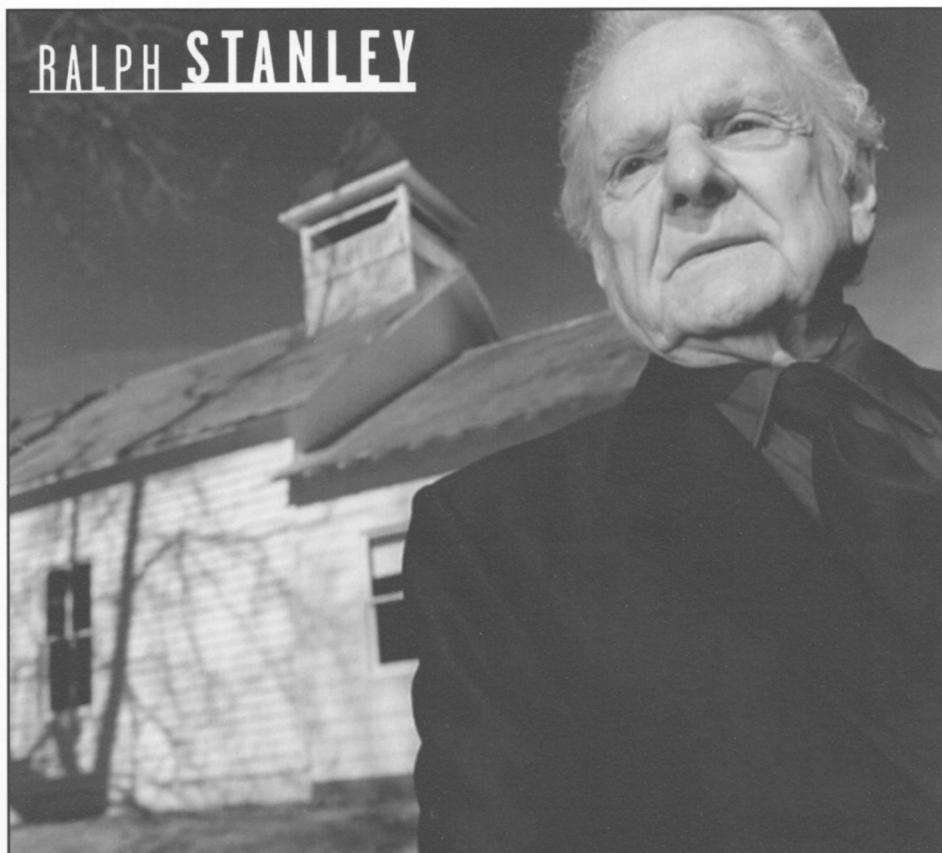
Sincerely,



Randy Campbell
Executive aide to Ralph Stanley

(P. S. Anything in this book in parenthesis are my thoughts, comments and opinions and are not necessarily researched facts. Oh and Ralph-thanks for letting me "always play in the big leagues" by working with you!)

West Coast Office (323) 258-0969 email campbellsuperior@aol.com
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**DMZ proudly salutes
Dr. Ralph Stanley.
It is an honor to represent
one of the world's
greatest musicians.**





GEORGE ALLEN
VIRGINIA



United States Senate
WASHINGTON, D. C.

May 22, 2003

Dr. Ralph Stanley
Superior Communications Company
340 South Columbus Boulevard
Tucson, Arizona 85711

Dear Ralph:

Please accept my best wishes on your 33rd Annual Memorial Bluegrass Festival. I sure wish I could join you to celebrate your many positive contributions to the music industry.

Ralph, you are a wonderful ambassador for the Commonwealth of Virginia. Your work has invigorated and elevated the spirit of people around the world and raised awareness, appreciation and understanding of our rich musical heritage.

As much as there is to show for your first 56 years, I believe the years to come will be even more successful. I look forward to seeing you on the trail ahead!

With warm regards, I remain

Sincerely,

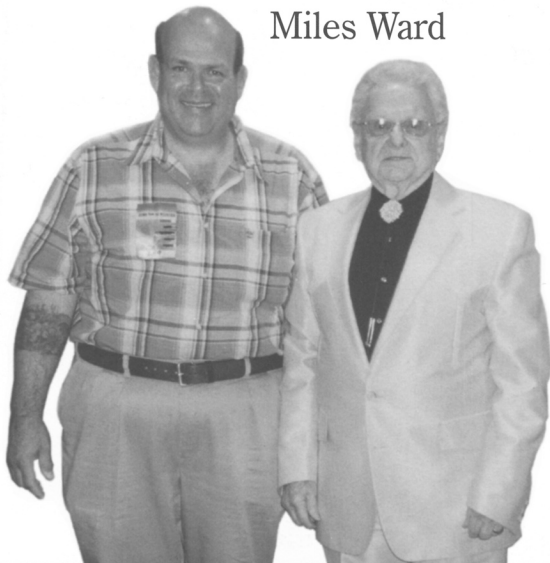

George Allen

THANK YOU RALPH,
for a lifetime of *Beautiful Music*
that will last forever!

Your friend for life,

Miles

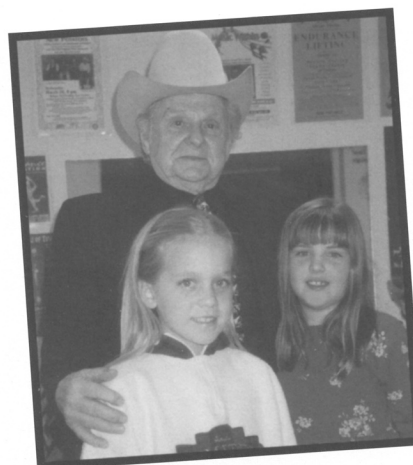
Miles Ward



Ralph with Maria
Muldaur, who
sang "Memory of
Your Smile" on
"Clinch Mountain
Sweethearts"
with him..
(Mill Valley, CA)



"Trio of Sweethearts"



Tucson, Arizona
"sweethearts"
Rachel Campbell and
Hannah Waller ...
who might sing with
Ralph someday, if
they'll keep up their
lessons!

DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATES

- (✓) SENATOR: **Phillip Puckett**
- (✓) DELEGATE: **Bud Phillips**
- (✓) TREASURER FOR DICKENSON
COUNTY: **Donnie Rife**
- (✓) COMMISSIONER OF REVENUE
FOR DICKENSON COUNTY:
Ronnie Robbins

ALL PROUDLY SUPPORT BLUEGRASS
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We respectfully ask for your consideration.
(Vote: **Tuesday, November 4, 2003**)



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AND INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

ASSISTANT WHIP

CO-CHAIR,
CONGRESSIONAL INTERNET CAUCUS



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

April 21, 2003

Mr. Randy Campbell
Executive Aide to Ralph Stanley

Dear Randy:

It is a privilege to offer these remarks upon the occasion of the 57th year of Ralph Stanley's outstanding career as one of America's foremost entertainers.

As the most famous resident of the Ninth Congressional District, Ralph Stanley brings tremendous pride to our region for the acclaim he has received throughout his career. He has now risen to the very front ranks of the performers most in demand around the world. His growing fame and popularity brings and ever increasing pride to Southwest Virginians that he is one of our native sons.

Since my early days in public service, I have been privileged to know Ralph Stanley. He graciously conducted a performance on behalf of my first campaign for the House of Representatives, and I have been privileged to introduce him to large audiences in the region on several occasions since. He is truly a cultural ambassador for the Southern Appalachians in general and the Mountains of Virginia in particular, and it is with great pleasure that I offer congratulation to him in the 57th year of his performing career.

With kind regards, I remain

Sincerely

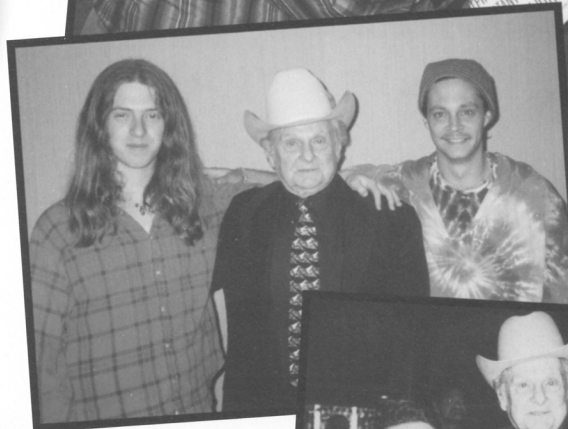
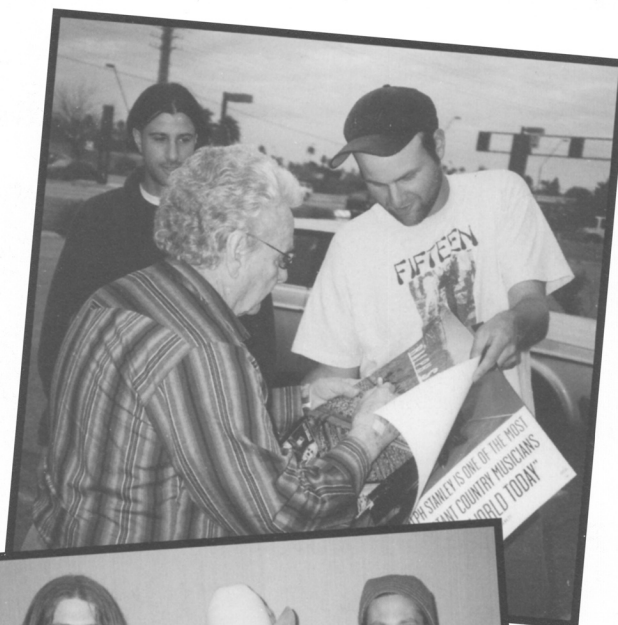
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Member of Congress

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(540) 980-4310



God Bless you, Dr. Ralph. I'm grateful for your inspiration and friendship. Every time I pick up my banjo, I think of you and the hills of old Virginia. All the best ... Your Friend,
Dan Stacy



Time Out For Fans!

For more photos of the Stanley Brothers & other folk and bluegrass greats, visit www.cookephoto.com



Uncle Ralph,

Thanks for carrying on the "Stanley Sound" Worldwide! Daddy would be so proud of you! Also, thanks for all you have done for all of us. We love you!

Bill-Carter-Buckshot-Jeanie
(Family of Carter Stanley)



RALPH,

I enjoyed working with you on: "Climb Mountain Sweethearts," "Climb Mountain Country," and "Saturday Night and Sunday Morning."

Best wishes always!

-Bil VornDick

The Festival(s)



Long before most of the world knew... Ralph's Loyal Fans at his Annual Festival knew...



...and Mr. Bill Monroe, "The Father of Bluegrass Music", knew, too. He and Ralph played each other's festival's, Ralph at Bean Blossom, Indiana, and Bill here in Coeburn, for many years. Picture at left, Ralph welcomes Bill in the late 1980's.

Photo by Miles Ward © MW

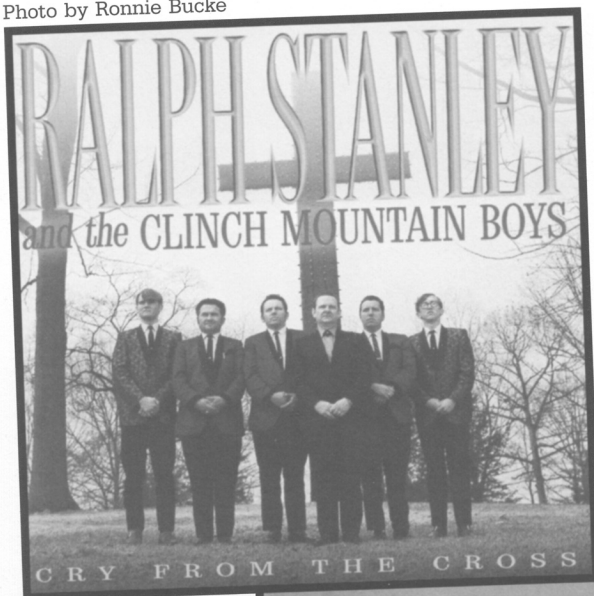
"Down in the Pit" on stage in the late 1980's – Ralph and The Clinch Mountain Boys plus one (or is it II?)

L-R Curly Ray Cline, Junior Blankenship, "young Ralph Stanley II", Ralph, Sammy Adkins, and Jack Cooke.



© MW

Photo by Ronnie Bucke



Early 1970's Clinch Mountain Boys

A major force for a long time in the beginning days of the Festival.

L-R Ricky Skaggs, Curly Ray Cline, Roy Lee Centers, Ralph, Jack Cooke, and Keith Whitley.

Many fans from this era will tell you this lineup was Ralph's finest!

Ralph and Roy
Lee Centers
August, 1972 at
"The Country
Gentlemen's"
Festival in
Webster, MA.

Before his tragic,
untimely death in
1974, Centers had
quickly gained the
reputation as the
lead singer

sounding the most like Carter – a place he still
holds with many fans who saw the band then...



Photo by Phil Zimmerman Courtesy of Rebel Records

June, 1977 at a Lexington, Kentucky
taping for Kentucky educational TV.

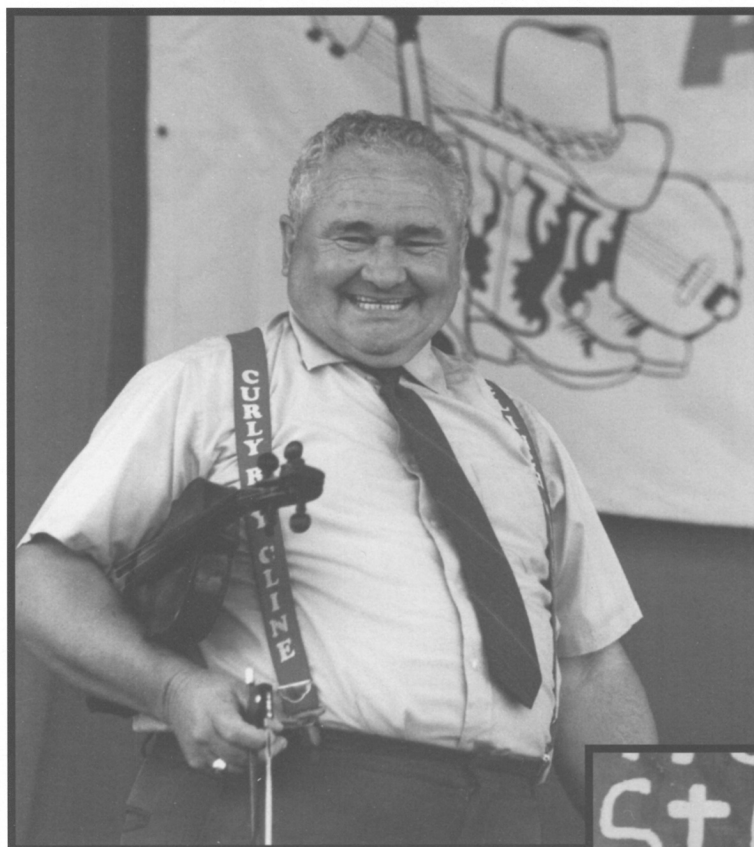
Ralph, Jack, and Keith Whitley.

Keith spent, all total, almost 7 years with
Ralph (2 different stints). When he left in the
late 1970's, he went to Nashville and had
several huge hits, and profoundly influenced
many future artists, including Ralph Stanley II.
His untimely death in May 1989, was a huge
loss to bluegrass and country music.



Photo by Frank & Mary Godbey Courtesy of Rebel Records

Curly Ray Cline



Photos by Miles Ward (MW)

Curly Ray Cline – Late 1980's "With a fiddle and a smile", the old Kentucky Foxhunter had as good of a life as any musician ever did! He worked a couple of shows with The Stanley Brothers in late 1966, then stayed with Ralph for 26+ years straight until 1993, when declining health forced him to retire that year.

He passed away in Kentucky in August of 1997. Ralph and the Clinch Mountain Boys sang at his funeral, and served as pallbearers. We still get requests for "Curly Ray Cline" key chains from fans and promoters who knew him. (He might likely be the most talented "side man" I ever saw in any band. My first tour with Ralph in 1992 included Curly Ray. I'll always be thankful that I put him on a few stages out west.



Curly Ray Cline and Ralph in the 1970's

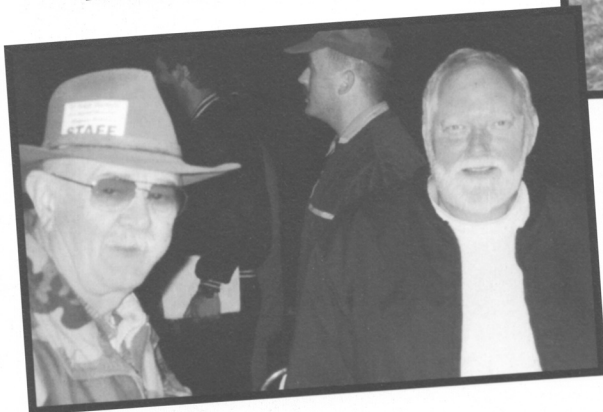
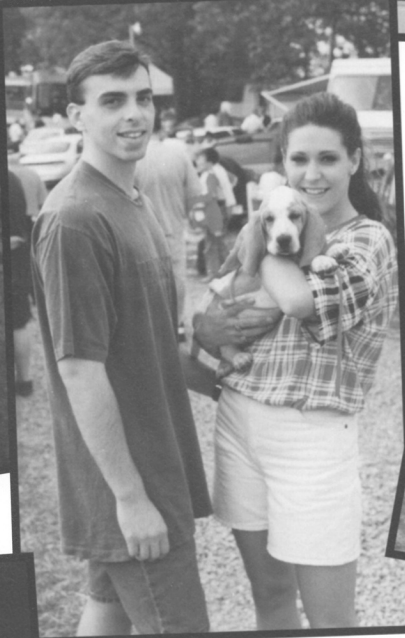
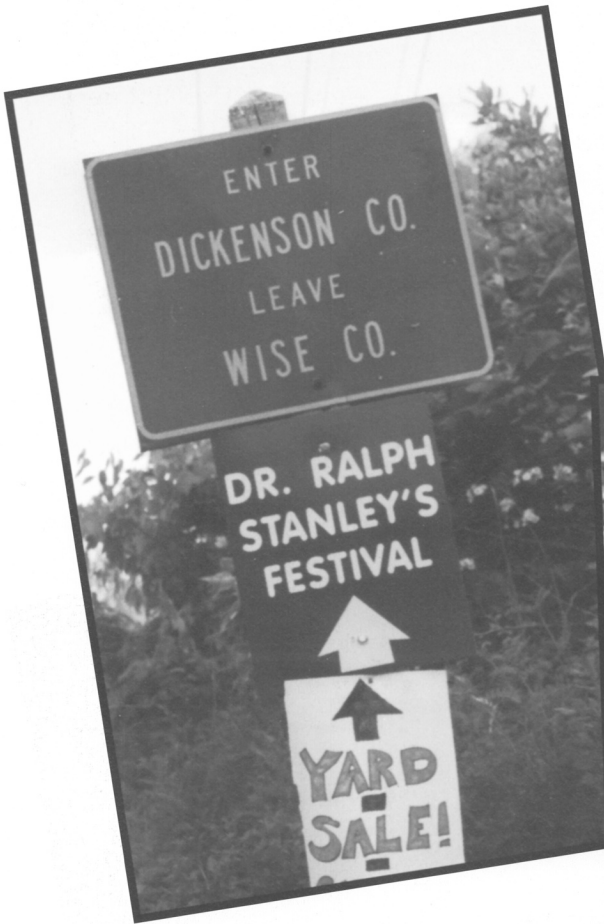


MW

At his Annual Festival in the late 1980's, Ralph is never more at home than when he's on stage on Smith Ridge. He's truly "preaching to the choir."

'Festival Bound'

to the Old Home Place



Arnold Huffstutler, left, comes down from Ohio each year, and almost literally "runs the festival" for Ralph, at no charge. He's here with one of his "draftee recruits."

All creatures, and critters all sizes and ages are welcome here!



'Ladies Day,' every day...1997



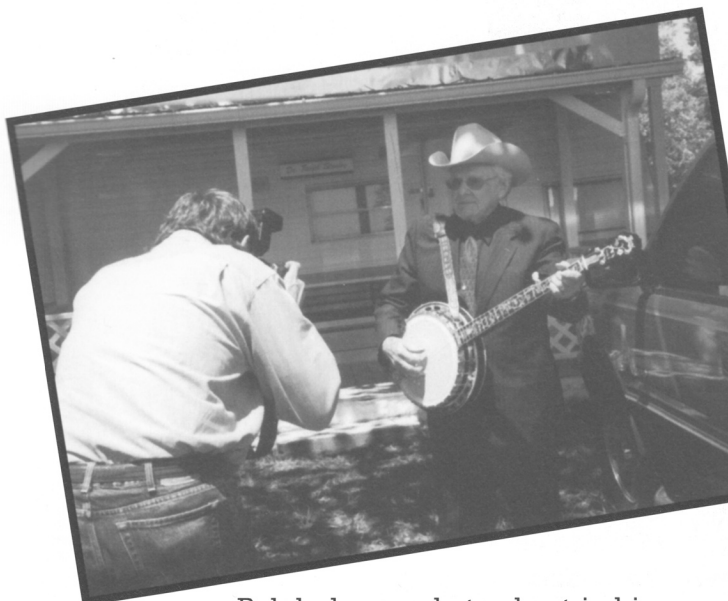
'Ace publicist' Norma Morris, of The Press Office in Nashville, gets a poster signed in 2001. Norma has been a major partner in Ralph's success, particularly since 1998.



'Virginia's finest' keeping peace and order.



Maintaining a balanced diet.



Ralph does a photo shoot in his 'front yard' on the Festival Grounds.



Ralph is never more at home than when entering the gates at the Festival grounds, with fans waiting to say hello!

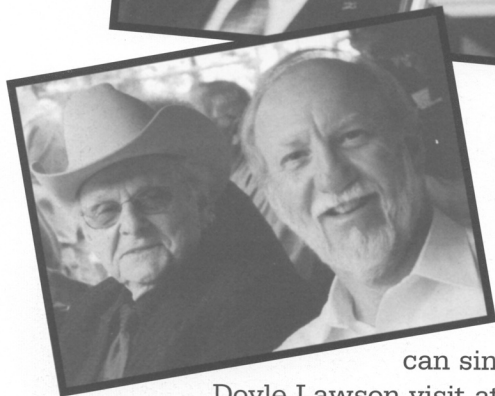
Music Among

Friends ...



You never know who will stop by unannounced to sing with Ralph. Tom T. Hall joins Ralph in 2001, on stage and at the merchandise table. He and Miss Dixie (his wife)

spent all 3 days with Ralph, and celebrated Tom T's birthday. Tom T. grew up in nearby Kentucky, and always wanted to be in a bluegrass band. He recorded with Ralph on "Saturday Night and Sunday Morning", and inducted Ralph into the International Bluegrass Music Association (IBMA) "Hall of Honor" in September, 1992. (He's also written and recorded a hit song or two in his life).



You could fill several large hymn books with the gospel music these two gentlemen

can sing! Ralph and

Doyle Lawson visit at the merchandise table in 2001. Doyle is a real crowd pleaser, and a fine Christian gentleman.

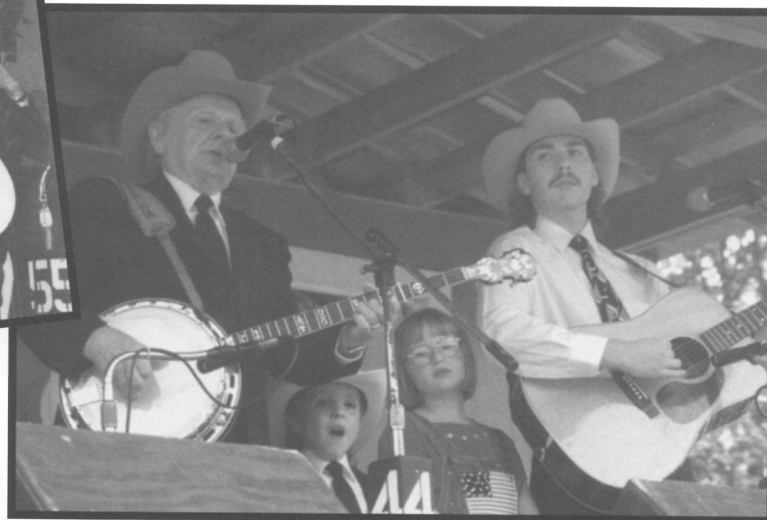


MC Willard Hall and Ralph in 2001. He's just "Boar Hog" to everyone who knows him! (Check out the hat!)

... & Family



Ralph Stanley and The Clinch Mountain Bo...er, Girls!? Actually, it's Ralph, his wife Jimmi, and daughters Tonya (Nathan's Mom), and Lisa. All 3 are always at the festival, and help out anywhere there's a need. -May, 1997



"Handing down The Stanley Sound." 3 generations of "Old Time Mountain Style Country Music" on stage in 1997. L-R Ralph, Nathan, Amber and 'Two'

FAREWELL CARTER...



Photo © John Byrne Cooke



American Legion Park,
Culpeper, Virginia June 26, 1966
Photo by Walt Saunders



...FOR
A LITTLE
WHILE



33rd Annual Memorial Bluegrass Festival Performers



King Of Bluegrass Jimmy Martin

with his High Lonesome Sound

He's known everywhere as "The King of Bluegrass." From the hills of Sneedville, Tennessee he talked himself into a job with Bill Monroe in 1950 at the Grand Ole Opry. He quickly established himself as one of the THE GREAT LEAD SINGERS in bluegrass music history. (That has not changed in 50 years!)

After 5 years, he left Monroe and formed his own band. He worked on the famous Louisiana Hayride and had several major country hits in the mid 1950's. In 1970, he was instrumental in the recording of the classic *Will the Circle Be Unbroken* album with The Nitty Gritty Dirt Band, which brought a whole new generation to

bluegrass music. He's in the IBMA Hall of Honor and the Bill Monroe Bluegrass Hall of Fame.

Jimmy and Ralph made one record together, *First Time Together* (Hollywood/King Records,) and he sang on *Saturday Night and Sunday Morning* with Ralph. He remains a TOP DRAW at Ralph's festival and elsewhere around the country. (In my opinion, Jimmy is the top attraction other than Ralph himself at the festival! He's a joy to watch and worth the price of a ticket by himself.)

PERFORMING
Thursday, May 22

Reeltime Travelers

From Johnson City, TN this 5 piece acoustic band plays old-time music with a fresh, new approach! They were guests in 2002 on the "Down from the Mountain Tour" and were multiple award winners at the Merlefest Chris Austin Songwriting Contest in 2002. They made their Grand Ole Opry debut in January 2003. WATCH OUT FOR THIS "HOT FIVE"—they are young, talented, high-energy performers who are going places! (Thomas Sneed is a good guy to know. He helped me a lot last summer with some Ralph Stanley business. Thanks, Thomas.)



Gillian Welch and David Rawlings

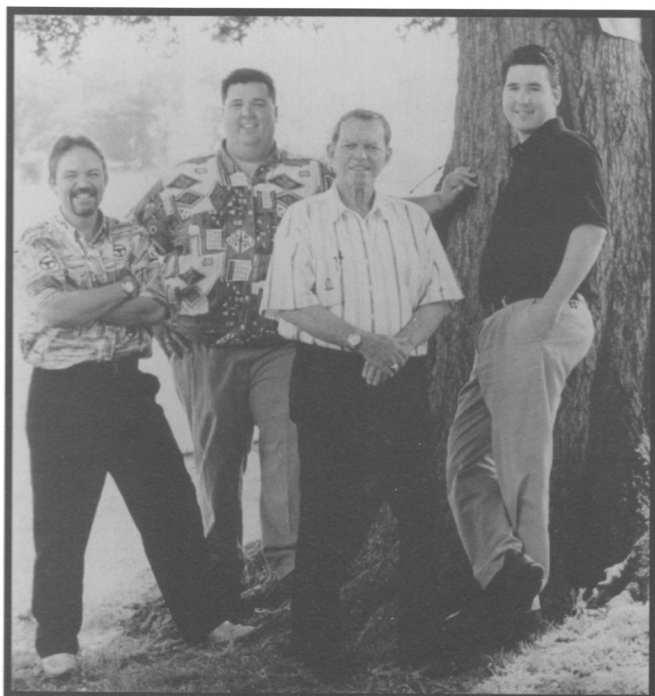
They are one of America's most sought-after and popular folk music acts. They are wonderful songwriters and performers who have developed a whole new set of fans since meeting Ralph.

David and Gillian first worked with Ralph on "Clinch Mountain Country." Gillian like Ralph, also picked up a Grammy for her work on "O Brother, Where Art Thou?" in 2002.

They have become welcome regulars at the festival. (David keep working on that big "G" cord, you never know when Ralph might need one!)



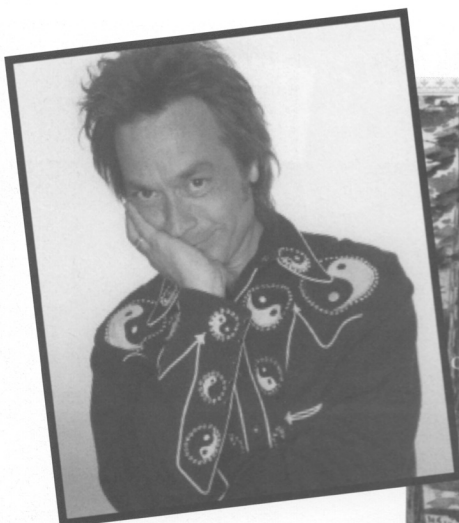
PERFORMING
Friday, May 23



Charlie Waller and The Country Gentlemen

Since July 4, 1957, the name "Charlie Waller and The Country Gentlemen" has been associated with the finest sounds in Bluegrass music.

Charlie Waller is a founding member who played the first date, and he'll likely play the last one, but hopefully, that won't come for a long time! The band brought a smooth, 'cosmopolitan' sound to bluegrass music, and created a legend. Charlie is a member of the IBMA Hall of Honor, and the band is in the Bill Monroe Bluegrass Hall of Fame, and they have recently recorded and released new versions of some of their greatest hits called "45 years of Memories", now out on Pincastle label. Charlie was born in Texas, but at age 10 moved to the Washington, D.C. area, which is where the band began and the legend was created!



2003 GRAMMY® Winner

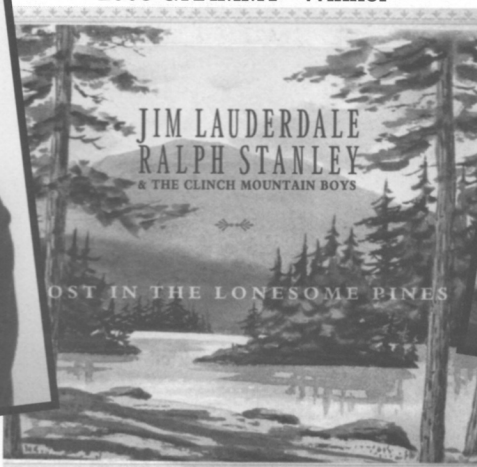


Photo by Liz Tormes

HIGHLIGHT

JIM LAUDERDALE AND RALPH STANLEY I FEEL LIKE SINGING TODAY

(Reprinted from *Bluegrass Unlimited*
February 2000)



Rebel Records, REB-CD-1 755

Jim Lauderdale is one of the most prolific songwriters in contemporary country music, and has penned numerous hits for artists like Vince Gill, Kathy Mattea, and George Strait along with several recording projects of his own. So why would such a successful country artist want to venture into bluegrass? It turns out that this North Carolina native has extensive bluegrass roots along with an enduring admiration of Ralph Stanley and his music. When he initially arrived in Nashville in the late 1970s, it was in pursuit of a bluegrass career. When that did not work out, he eventually moved into mainstream country music. His love for bluegrass became apparent when he featured Ralph and the Clinch Mountain Boys on his 1997 CD, "Whisper." Later, he guested on Ralph's "Clinch Mountain Country" project.

Ralph has even made Jim Lauderdale an honorary Clinch Mountain Boy. Since there was an obvious chemistry between these two artists from different music genres, it was natural that they should come out with an album of their own. The result was "I Feel Like Singing Today," featuring Jim and Ralph on 15 glorious selections that are an amalgamation of originals and standards. Any lingering doubters need only to listen to the spine-tingling duets on "Maple On The Hill" and "You'll Find Her Name Written There" to fully appreciate the magic between these two musical giants. However, the real showpieces are the nine Jim Lauderdale compositions. Among the most notable are the title song, "Highway Through My Home" and the whimsical "Who Thought The Railroad Wouldn't Last." There are also powerful renditions of Johnnie and Jack's "What About You" and Carter Stanley's "Harbor Of Love." Among the most dramatic performances are the original gospel numbers including the a cappella rendering "Like Him," which is one of the most memorable gospel recordings of recent vintage. "I Feel Like Singing Today" is a musical treasure of immeasurable proportions that mere words cannot describe. Highly recommended!! (Rebel Records, P.O. Box 7405, Charlottesville, VA 22906, Web: <www.rebelrecords.com>)LM

PERFORMING
Friday, May 23

Jim Lauderdale

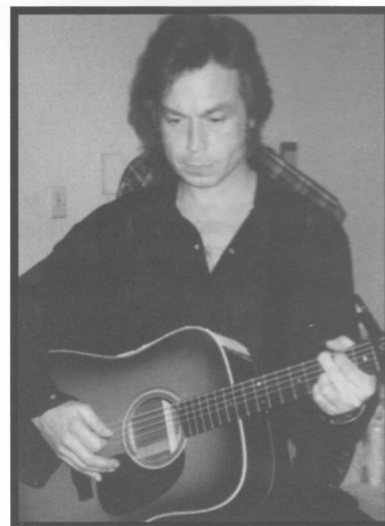
Long one of Nashville's most sought after songwriters, he's written hits for George Strait, Patty Loveless, George Jones, The Dixie Chicks and many others. However, Jim, a North Carolina native, truly found his "singing soul mate" when he first recorded with Ralph on *Clinch Mountain Country* in 1999.

Ralph returned the favor singing on Jim's next album. In 1999 Jim hired Ralph and the current Clinch Mountain Boys for an entire album, *I Feel Like Singing Today*. It earned a GRAMMY® nomination for "Best Bluegrass Album" in 2000.

Their follow up album *Lost In The Lonesome Pines*, released in 2002 hit the jackpot, winning the "Best Bluegrass Album" GRAMMY® in 2003. It was Jim and each Clinch Mountain Boy's VERY FIRST GRAMMY®, and Ralph's third.

He's become a regular guest star of the Grand Ole Opry and a fan favorite at Ralph's festival.

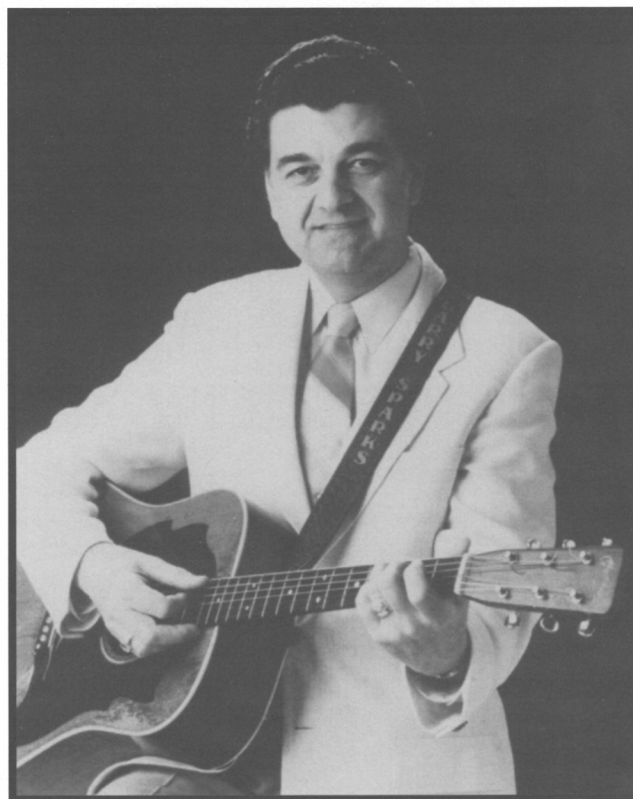
(Jim, you can now honestly say about all the ladies looking at this page "she's looking at me!" -And Thanks for the Ryman backstage pass)



PERFORMING
Saturday, May 24

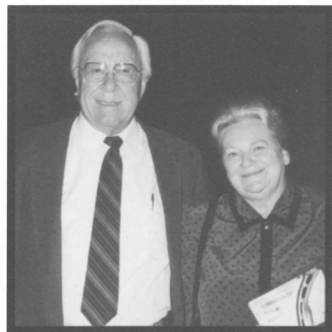
Larry Sparks & The Lonesome Ramblers

Like a fine wine, or a vintage guitar, Larry Sparks, a native of Ohio, just seems to get better with age. As a 19 year old, he became the first lead singer with Ralph Stanley, after Carter had passed away in Dec., 1966. (He had played guitar with The Stanley Brothers some, but very rarely sang). He worked with Ralph when the only other Clinch Mountain Boys were Curly Ray Cline and Melvin Coins. In the early 1970's, Larry decided to go out on his own. It's been working ok for over 30 years. The strength of his music lies in his rich warm voice and bluesy, rhythmic guitar playing. (I promoted some shows with Larry in 1997 out west, and he told me he'd like to be known as "the youngest old-timer" in bluegrass music. I think it fits!)



George Shuffler

His bio could be a book by itself! He's been playing guitar since age 10, and professionally since he turned 16 in the early forties. He had already played with The Bailey Brothers and Jim and Jesse when he joined "The Stanley Brothers" in 1951. He played



bass and lead guitar (the first ever with the Stanley's) and created his unique cross picking style during this period. He was with Ralph and Carter, often as a trio, until Carter's death on December 1, 1966. (He was at the hospital with Ralph on the night of Carter's passing.)

When Ralph made the difficult decision to carry on "The Stanley Sound," George was the first to say "I'm with you." He left in 1968, then re-joined Ralph in 1970 for a couple of years.

In 1972, having tired of the constant road, and wanting to spend more time with his beloved family, in Valdese, North Carolina, he formed The Shuffler Family Band. The band had a very successful gospel music career throughout the South for more than 15 years.

Today, he still helps Ralph out periodically. He did one tour out west in 2000, and was on bass in the band in January 2000 at Ralph's Grand Ole Opry induction because Jack Cooke was recovering from open heart surgery.

PERFORMING
Saturday, May 24

He's always a festival favorite, and is truly as close to Ralph as any brother! (In baseball, they always talk about "the greatest living player." Since Ted Williams died last year, it's now said to be Willie Mays. I'm hereby anointing George Shuffler as "The Greatest Living Clinch Mountain Boy," as someone who has truly aged to perfection.)



Photo © John Byrne Cooke

Melvin Goins and Windy Mountain

A 50+ year veteran in bluegrass music, Melvin has done it all! He's a performer, festival promoter, booking agent, disc jockey, and music educator. From a musical family in Bluefield West Virginia, he and his brother Ray were



heavily influenced by The Stanley Brothers. (With no electricity, they heard their music on a battery operated radio!)

In 1952 Ray and Melvin joined "The Lonesome Pine Fiddlers" when Melvin was just 16. They played with "The Lonesome Pine Fiddlers" for many years and eventually formed and played as "The Goins Brothers."

In early 1966, Ralph needed some shows for the "The Stanley Brothers," and called Melvin from Florida. Melvin booked shows for Ralph and they hit it off so well, Ralph asked Melvin to join the band. Melvin joined the band and the last year of Carter's life the "Clinch Mountain Boys" consisted of Ralph, Carter, Melvin and George Shuffler. After Carter's death, Melvin continued playing for Ralph for 3 more years. He re-formed "The Goins

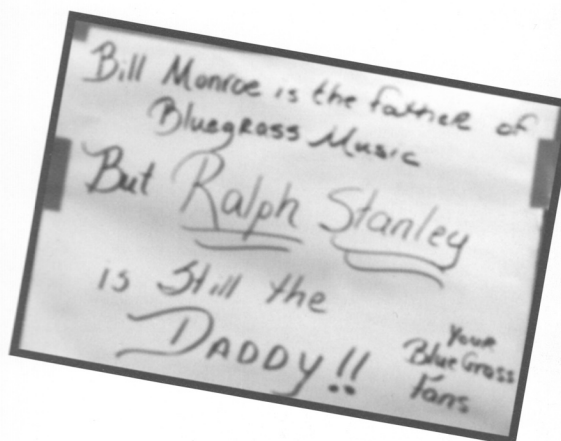
Brothers" and played nationwide until Ray's health failed a few years ago.

He's won numerous awards, played for the Governor of Kentucky and has been a guest several times on The Grand Ole Opry. He's got a fine band and continues to be one of the MOST IMPORTANT men in bluegrass music.

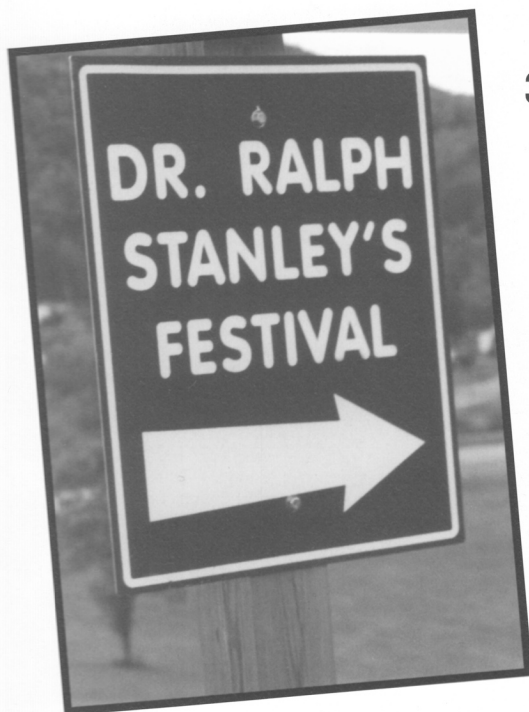
(If you ask him for something, he just might tell you "I can take care of that too!")



See ya next year!

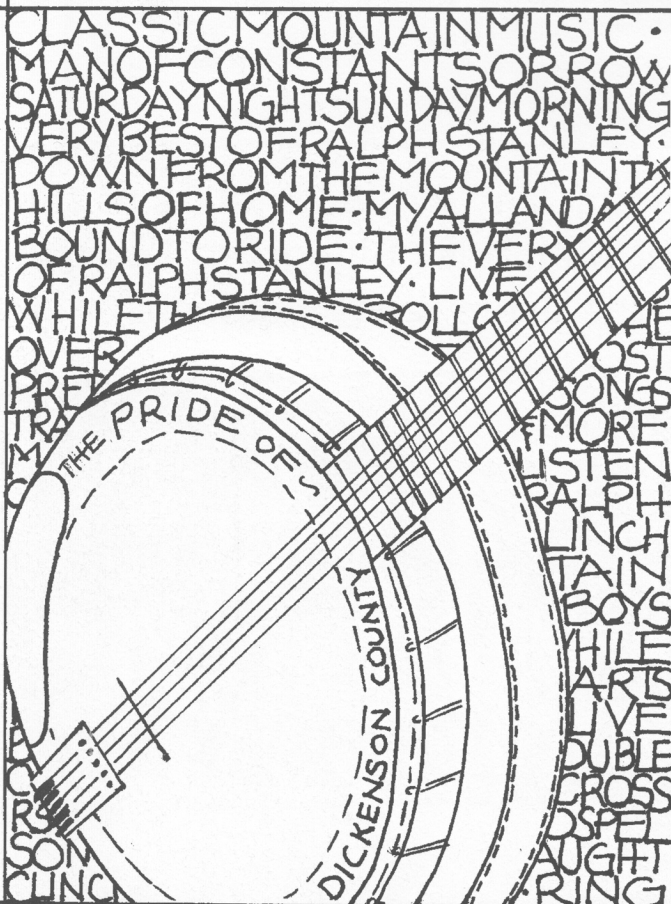
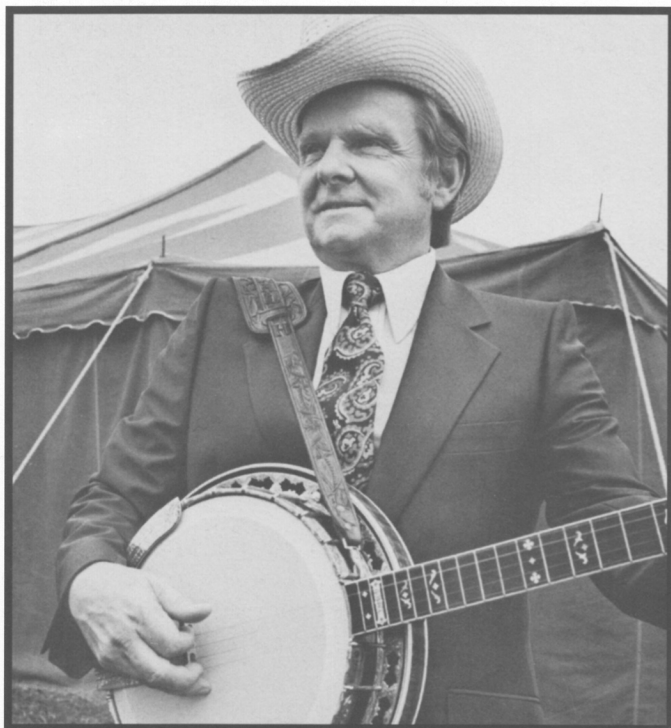


See you again, May 27-28-29, 2004 at the
34th Annual Memorial Bluegrass Festival!
(Get the flyers ready, James!)



Dr. Ralph Stanley

"Aging Gracefully"



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Photo by Carl Fleischhauer Courtesy Rebel Records



The first time I saw
Ralph and Carter Stanley was at the Morgan
Theater in Grundy, Virginia in the late 1940's.

The last time I saw them together was in
Richlands, Virginia in June or July of 1966. In 1989,
I started driving the bus part-time from Maine to
California. Then Ralph recorded a song that my
brother-in-law Alfred Miller and I wrote together called
"Little Jimmy." I've attended all the Bluegrass Festivals
at the Old Home Place but one. I also painted his home
and fences around his house. Ralph and Jimmi have
been great friends of my wife Myrtle and me all these
years. My daughter Donna and I are in two of
Ralph's videos. I also have driven Ralph to the
Grand Ole Opry several times over the years.
Congratulations, Ralph on all your success!

Your friend,
LEONARD STACY

Suwannee Valley Bluegrass Show
Branford, Florida

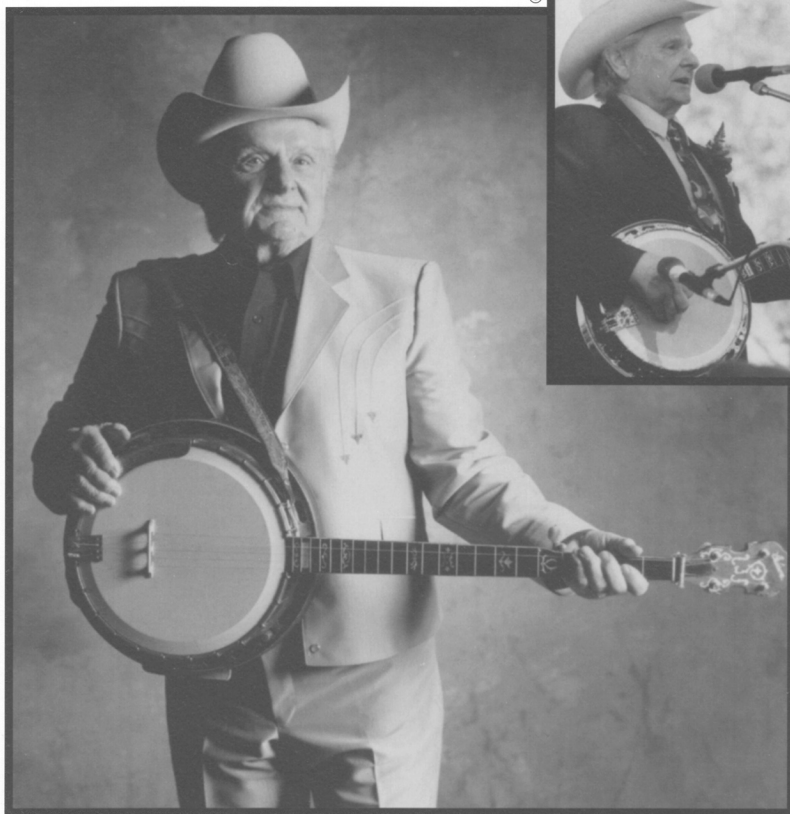
© MW

Dear Ralph,

You are the greatest
music ambassador that God has ever given
us! Your gift of music will go on and on,
touching the hearts, minds and souls of
people until earth is no more! I will forever
be grateful for the way your music and
your kind loving friendship has touched
my life.

Always your friend,
Sharon Bennett





© MW

Photo by Jim McGuire 2001 Courtesy of Rebel Records

The Best Thing I've Heard All Year (1996)

by Paul Williams

(Excerpt from *Crawdaddy*, Winter, 1997)

The very best thing was a concert by Ralph Stanley and The Clinch Mountain Boys. I only went because it was three blocks from my apartment, at the local movie theater (La Paloma in Encinitas, CA). I knew next to nothing about bluegrass and didn't know what to expect. I was blown away!! Ralph Stanley, (celebrating his 50th year performing bluegrass), indeed is one of the few surviving great men of American music in the late 1940's.



It was exciting to be in his presence, but even better was the quality of his performing and bandleading at age 69. His sincerity, commitment, and passion were unmistakable, and irresistible. It was a night of inspiring and genuinely transcendent music. I'll travel many miles to see and hear this show again if I get a chance. — (PW)



"Well, Ralph, you showed
'em all, didn't 'ya!"

*Your friend, Greg
(Copper Creek Records).*

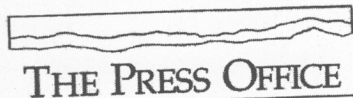
Dr. Ralph,
**Thanks for keeping us FULL every Memorial Day
weekend! Congratulations, and continued best wishes!**

Sincerely, The Management and Staff at:

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What They're Saying About Ralph Stanley

Rolling Stone

"A master performer without an expiration date..."

NPR's "Fresh Air"

"...easily the most eminent bluegrass singer in the world."

Denver Post

"Then there was Stanley, today's Elvis of traditional music. With his hands casually clasped at his waist, he filled the theater with his plaintive plea against dying, 'O Death,' whose solemn lyrics he magically makes uplifting."

Chicago Tribune

"The timeless air has always been present in the voice of Ralph Stanley.... There was nothing high, lonesome or mournful about his tone. Instead, he embodied the protagonist in an ancient murder ballad. His voice was sharp, scolding, vengeful, and it's why this music cuts so deep..."

Chicago Sun Times

... Ralph Stanley is undeniably the most important figure in bluegrass music today."

Seattle Post-Intelligencer

"For Loveless, the highlight of the "Down From the Mountain" show, which runs about two hours 45 minutes with intermission, is performing with Stanley. [Patty speaking about performing with Stanley]" "I guess I'm just partial to Ralph. He's the father of this kind of music and he closes the show, and to watch him and stand right next to him, it's almost like being with family. I find myself tearing up and thinking, 'I wish my dad could see this. I truly wish he could.'"

Boston Herald

"Ralph Stanley closed the show with several monumental, harrowing vocals, his howling voice chiseling through 'Man of Constant Sorrow' 'Angel Band,' 'O Death' and a touching group encore of 'Amazing Grace.'"

Philadelphia Inquirer

"And then there was Stanley, who began his set singing 'O Death' solo and ended it by leading the entire cast — and the enthralled crowd — in a goosebumps-raising 'Amazing Grace.' In a voice raspy but firm, the 74-year old pioneer did nothing fancy with 'Man of Constant Sorrow' or the rousing 'Angel Band.' He just gave his plainspoken all, moving the air in the room like a man who can't shake sorrow but still yearns for the light."



RECORD REVIEW:

By: Lee Taylor

"RALPH STANLEY" (DMZ/Columbia CK86625) July 2002

If you know me, you know how I feel about Ralph Stanley. I've never yet made it through one of Ralph's sets completely dry-eyed and composed. The man gets to me at a level that I really can't explain. So if you're expecting an objective review of this latest project, forget it. I'd just about pay to hear Ralph sing the Congressional Record.

"Ralph Stanley" is the first project for the new DMZ sub-label of Columbia, established by T-Bone Burnett for the express purpose of getting wonderful but generally unheard traditional music out to a larger audience. This is something T-Bone knows something about, to which the stunning success of the "O Brother, Where Art Thou?" soundtrack stands witness. That T-Bone would pick Ralph Stanley for his first project also tells me the man knows something about authenticity when he hears it.

For YEARS now, we've heard Ralph in the same basic setting, against the comfortable backdrop of the Clinch Mountain Boys, singing the songs we know and love, pretty much the same way he's been doing it since the early forties. With this project, that all changes. For that reason, I'm sure some purists aren't going to like it. Instead of Jack Cooke and James Price and Ralph II, this piece of work is laid out against the backdrop of a completely different set of musicians. Norman Blake plays guitar as only Norman can (plus mandocello and dobro and some other things), Stuart Duncan plays very old-timey fiddle (and some pretty good banjo), Dennis Crouch plays rich, sumptuous plucked and arco bass, and Mike Compton continues to put the MAN in mandolin. In case you haven't noticed, that's most of the current lineup of the Nashville Bluegrass Band, but this is a very UN NBB sounding project.

Out front is the unmistakable, emotion laden, aged to perfection voice of Ralph Stanley. I don't understand it, but the older and frailer Ralph seems to get, the better he sounds. Like the patina on an old piece of furniture, the years simply add to the beauty and complexity of Ralph's voice. Layered on top of the rich interplay of the musicians these songs are al-

most more tone poems than tunes. Each piece seems to conjure up a feeling, or an essence, instead of just a sound. Some of this stuff sounds OLD, like a hundred years or a thousand years old, old as the hills kind of old. Fifteen verses of an old English ballad kind of old. And, man, is it ever good! This really isn't a bluegrass project. It's more pre-grass, or proto-grass. You can hear elements of bluegrass in there, but this music is really in a different place altogether. "The Girl From The Greenbriar Shore" is probably the "grassiest" cut, and probably will be the "hit" from the project, in the same way that "Man of Constant Sorrow" stood out from the rest of the "O Brother" songs. I like that one a lot, but I also like the really modal, Dock Boggs-ish treatment of "False Hearted Lover's Blues" and the simple antique ballad "Little Mathie Grove."

Another word about the picking. It really is splendid in a way unlike anything I've heard recently. The layering and interplay is amazing, at times very subtle and subdued, at other times almost as complex and cacophonous as a Mozart vocal sextet, yet always supportive of each other and the vocal. I'd have to think they laid most of the tracks live, I don't see any way you could get this level of interaction with overdubs.

The project was produced by T-Bone Burnett, and recorded and mixed by Mike Piersante at Sound Emporium in Nashville. If you haven't figured it out by now, it sounds wonderful. The mixes are big as a house, full of depth and width and fullness. The cover art and graphic layout is cool, but pretty minimalist, and the liner notes are very sparse, much less than I would have expected of a "major label" project.

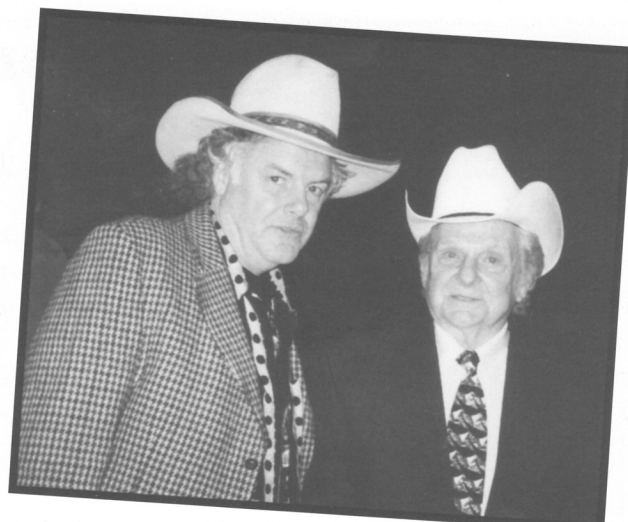
This project is getting some major league promotion. Ralph's been all over the TV, newspapers, magazines, etc. You're going to see and hear a lot about Ralph, and a lot about this record. It isn't all hype. This one is the real thing. Just like Ralph.

Reprinted from the SEBA BREAKDOWN, South Eastern Bluegrass Association (SEBA), P.O. Box 20286, Atlanta, GA 30325 www.sebabluegrass.org



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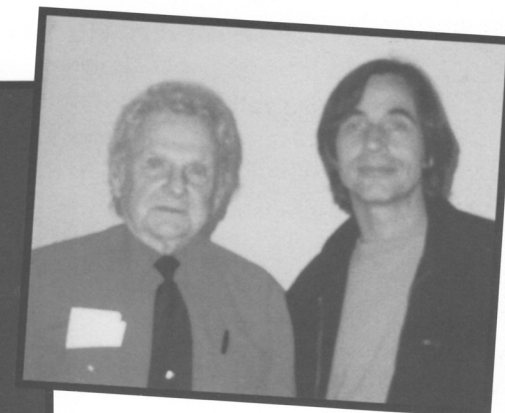
"Two Thoroughbred Entertainers"...
Ralph with Castle Newell II (yes, Skips Dad),
a Glendale, CA resident (near the Sunset Strip)...
at McCabes Guitar Shop, in Santa Monica, CA



California Boy and ex-Bluegrass Boy Peter Rowan visits Ralph out west ©RC

With an office on the Sunset Strip, and a west-coast based career, DWIGHT YOAKAM nevertheless still has his "soul and heart" in the "Hills of Home" of eastern Kentucky, where he grew up listening to "The Stanley Brothers" and Ralph. He's as good a friend as Ralph has ever had!

"Ralph's voice to me, sounds as if an archangel is back on this earth singing or articulating emotion through song"—Dwight Yoakam, 1997 (Clinch Mountain Country)



©RC

No stranger to the Sunset Strip, Orange County, Calif. native pop singer/songwriter Jackson Browne visits Ralph in Santa Barbara, CA

©RC



DEFINITELY NOT
NEXT YEAR'S
FESTIVAL LINEUP
Ralph with his new
music "buddy's –
Tower Records,
Sunset Strip,
Hollywood, California
June 2002
(I wonder if Ozzy
Osbourne can sing
bluegrass?!)



©RC

THE PRESS OFFICE

2607 Westwood Drive • Nashville, TN • 37204
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PRESS RELEASE

Contact: Norma Morris
February 28, 2002

For Immediate Release

Ralph Stanley Honored With Two Grammys Triumphs Include Best Vocal Performance, Best Album

Nashville - Ralph Stanley got some late 75th birthday presents Wednesday (Feb. 27) when he won two Grammys, including the hotly contested Best Male Country Vocal Performance prize. That category pined him against such heavyweights as Tim McGraw, Lyle Lovett, Willie Nelson, Johnny Cash and hot newcomer Ryan Adams. The famed Virginia-born singer and banjo player reached the three-quarter-century mark Monday (Feb. 25).

Stanley won the vocal performance award for his bone-chilling recording of "O Death" from the O Brother, Where Art Thou? soundtrack album. His second Grammy was for his contributions to the album itself, which won the Album Of The Year grand prize, defeating collections by U-2, India.Arie, Bob Dylan and Outkast. It also took the Best Compilation Soundtrack Album honor, in which it triumphed over the soundtracks for Bridget Jones 's Diary, Moulin Rouge, Shrek and The Sopranos: Peppers & Eggs.


Within the past few years, Stanley has become one of the most roundly praised artists in bluegrass, old time and mountain music. His body of work and forlorn, lonesome singing style have inspired glowing articles in Rolling Stone, The New York Times, Spin and Billboard and a major profile in the New Yorker last summer by novelist David Gates.

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THE BANJO OF RALPH STANLEY
hosted by Mike Seeger
with special guests
The Clinch Mountain Boys
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This intimate look at Ralph Stanley's pioneering banjo style begins with the first tunes he learned from his mother in the old-time clawhammer technique and progresses through the three-finger bluegrass picking he helped make famous. Included are both detailed instruction and full-band performances of some of the most beloved Stanley Brothers tunes.
Produced by Smithsonian/Folkways and Homespun Video

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FOR FRIENDS AND FANS OF BLUEGRASS MUSIC

bluegrass now

Volume 6, Number 3
May/June 1996 • \$3

A LOOK AT THE LIFE AND MUSIC OF BLUEGRASS LEGEND
Ralph Stanley

Celebrating 50 years of music & memories

■ Butch Baldassari
Clawgrass player Mark Johnson
300

LIFE CHANGING!!



Cover Courtesy of Mercury/Lost Highway Records - Nashville, TN

"Things Have Changed"...this according to T-Bone Burnett when he accepted the 2001 "Album of the Year" Grammy® award in Los Angeles on February 27, 2002 for "O Brother, Where Art Thou?".

This 19 song collection of old-time and "old time sounding but newly recorded" country/folk tune's (including one from Ralph and one from "The Stanley Brothers"), with virtually no mainstream airplay, vaulted to the top of all forms of music charts in 2001 and 2002.

With sales now over 6 million, this "Lost Highway" label (Mercury) sound track has sold far more than it's parent movie by the same name...a very rare occurrence indeed!

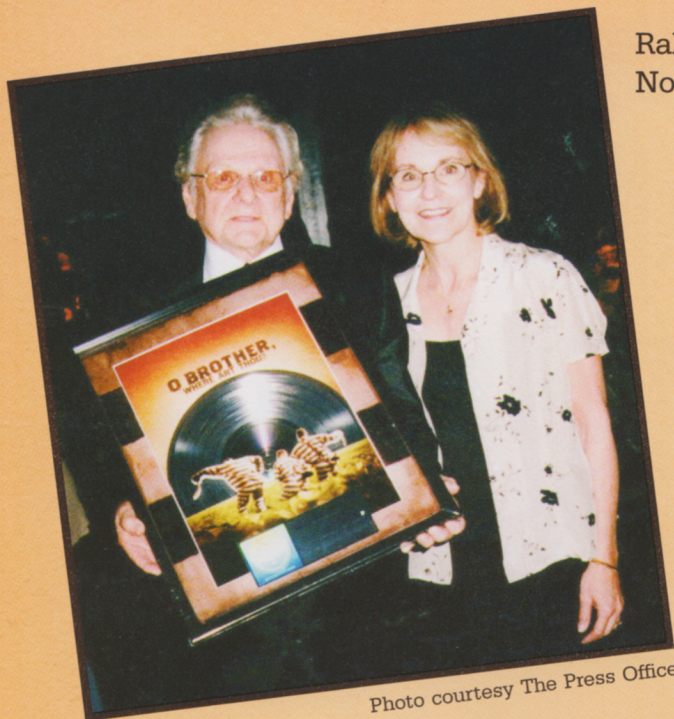


Photo courtesy The Press Office

Ralph and ace publicist
Norma Morris, May 2001

OH, BROTHER, HOW LIVES CHANGE!

RALPH STRIKES GOLD IN COEBURN!!
First Gold Record ever for Ralph (Platinum actually, representing at least 1 Million sold), given at Lost Highway/Mercury Records party in Nashville, TN— May, 2001, just 5 months after the release of "O Brother, Where Art Thou?". (Now at 6 times Platinum, and climbing).

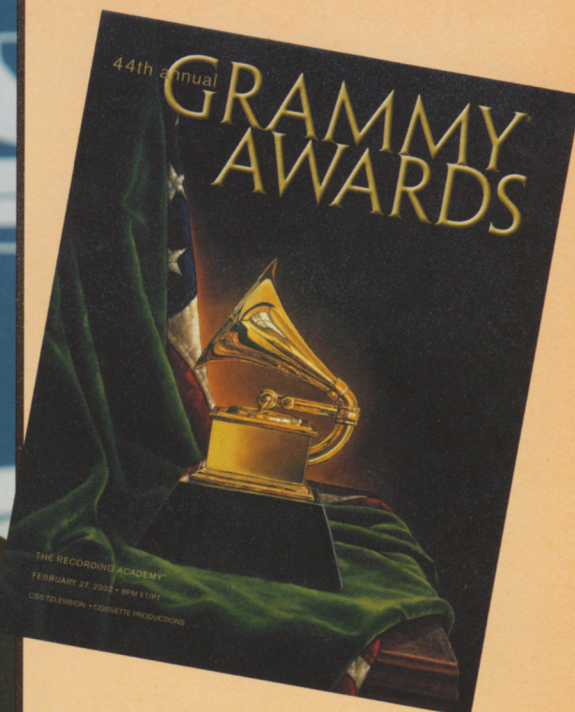
**"RALPH STANLEY IS ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT COUNTRY
MUSICIANS IN THE WORLD TODAY" - T BONE BURNETT**

Music's Men of the Year – 2001

Ralph and T-Bone Burnett, the producer of "O Brother, Where Art Thou?" soundtrack share time and a smile at McCabes Guitar Shop, Santa Monica, in February, 2001. (Just maybe the smiles had something to do with the fact that "O Brother" was shooting up the music charts, eventually topping all categories of country and pop music!



© RC



At age 75 in Feb. 2002, Ralph was the oldest performer ever to win his FIRST GRAMMY.® What a birthday present!!

Recording artist Ralph Stanley wins GRAMMY® Award for Best Male Country Vocal Performance at the 44th Annual GRAMMY Awards in Los Angeles on February 27, 2002. Photo Courtesy of the Recording Academy® (NARAS ©2002) Photographer: Kathryn Indiek/ImageDirect

Album of the year—
2002 GRAMMYS®
for cast of *O Brother
Where Art Thou?*



"O Brother Where Art Thou?" soundtrack wins GRAMMY® Award for Album Of The Year at the 44th Annual GRAMMY Awards in Los Angeles on February 27, 2002. Photo Courtesy of the Recording Academy® (NARAS ©2002) Photographer: Chris Pizzello/ImageDirect

All due thanks to Heather Medure, N.A.R.A.S.



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The Town of Clintwood (Virginia)
is Proud to be The Future Home of the
RALPH STANLEY MUSEUM

Opening in the Summer of 2004



Congratulations Dr. Stanley on all your success!

Mayor Donald Baker
Vice Mayor Glenn Lawrence
Council Member Ron Kendrick
Council Member Bob Adkins
Council Member Danny Lambert
Council Member Roy Fletcher



Sing Out! Cover Photo © Mary Ellen Mark 2001
Courtesy Scott Atkinson www.singout.org

DWIGHT YOAKAM

Dear Ralph,

I hope that this token of congratulations on your Grammy nomination finds you well and happy.

I was excited and thrilled with true joy to hear your name announced as a nominee for "Best Country Male Vocal Performance".

I hope that my vote along with those of all the other NABF members gives you the award hands down. Your performance of "Oh Death" was simply stunning. It continues to be an enormous honor in my life to know you and to have worked with you.

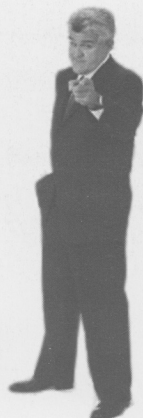
Sincerely,



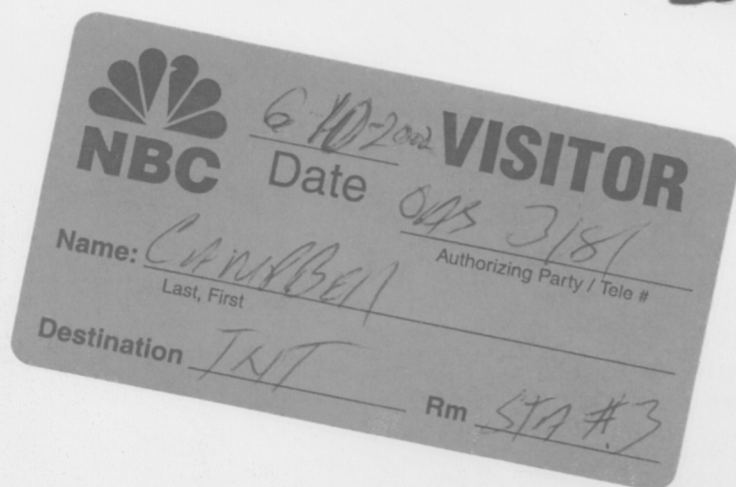
TOURS

DWIGHT YOAKAM

"THE TONIGHT SHOW WITH JAY LENO — June 10, 2002- First ever appearance by Ralph on this nearly 50 year old tradition. He sang "Girl From the Greenbriar Shore" from his DMZ Album/CD, "Ralph Stanley"— (James Allen Shelton made the trip and played guitar)



The Tonight Show &



Page 1 of 1

The Late Show!

Subj: Ralph Stanley to Appear on Late Show w/David Letterman
Date: 8/30/01 3:26:02 PM US Mountain Standard Time
From: publicity@thepressoffice.net (The Press Office)
To: Campbellsuperior@aol.com (Randy Campbell)



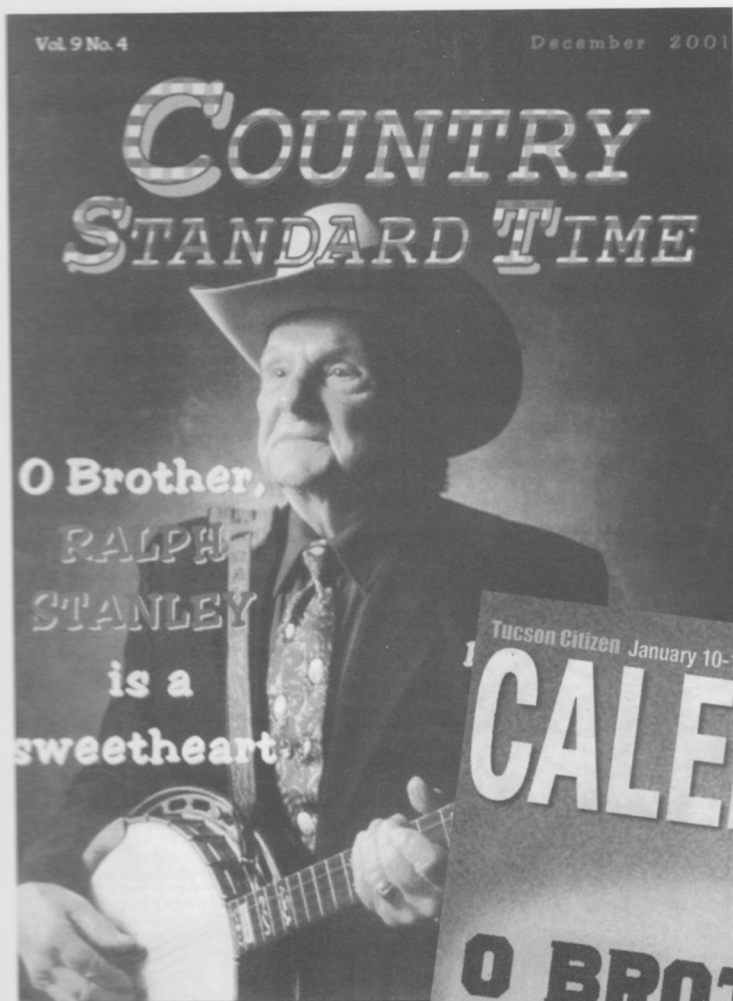
MEDIA ALERT August 30, 2001

Contact: Norma Morris (615) 269-3670

publicity@thepressoffice.net

Ralph Stanley will make his debut on CBS's *Late Night With David Letterman* Monday, Sept. 3, at 11:30 p.m. ET/PT (10:30 p.m. CT). Stanley's performance will cap a season of stellar achievements that include a June appearance at Carnegie Hall with the cast of the *O Brother, Where Art Thou?* soundtrack album; the continuing tenure of the *O Brother* soundtrack at No. 1 slot *Billboard's* top country albums chart; a major profile in the Aug. 20/27 issue of *The New Yorker* magazine; and the September 25 release of *Clinch Mountain Sweethearts*, a collection of duets on Rebel Records between Stanley and Joan Baez, Dolly Parton, Gillian Welch, Iris DeMent, Lucinda Williams, Sara Evans, Chely Wright and others.

##



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Ralph,
Your work has
affected so
many over the
years. Thanks
for all the great,
soulful mountain music!
You deserve every honor that
comes your way.

Jay Orr

Senior Museum Editor
Country Music Hall of Fame®
and Museum



Newsweek

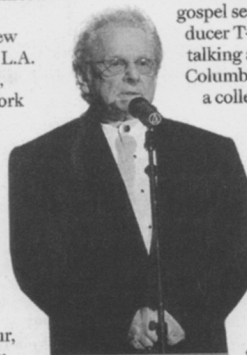
Periscope

MUSIC

Mountain's Majesty

A BODY COULD GET gray hair just following the 75-year-old Ralph Stanley around. This isn't merely a figure of speech: I've got gray hair and I've been following the 75-year-old Ralph Stanley around. On Memorial Day weekend the mountain-music patriarch sang as well as I've ever heard him at his annual festival in Virginia. The following weekend I caught up with him at an RV park in Connecticut.

This week, to promote his new CD, he flies to L.A. to do Jay Leno, then to New York for a concert and CBS's "Early Show." Then it's on to Louisville to rehearse for this summer's "Down From the Mountain" tour, with Emmylou Harris and other



O BROTHER: Stanley

usual roots-music suspects.

Most of this is happening because of Stanley's 3-minute 21-second a cappella performance of the traditional "O Death" on the platinum-selling "O Brother, Where Art Thou?" soundtrack. It got him a surprise Grammy this year for best country vocal, a six-year, six-record deal with Columbia and the promise of a role in the upcoming film version of Charles Frazier's novel "Cold Mountain." He's also got gigs well into next year with his own handpicked band, the Clinch Mountain Boys, who are really the best interpreters of his music. He's still got one album to do under his contract with Rebel Records—probably a gospel set. And he and producer T-Bone Burnett are talking about their second Columbia CD—probably a collection of Carter

Family songs. But Stanley's got some long-range plans as well. "I want to do a show on my 100th birthday," he told me and my 90-year-old father backstage in Connecticut. We said we'd be there.

—DAVID GATES

1975 as hunder rally (at the '80s gwriter rries of ett and devout ducing ums for untung ig mu- 2's ALL um of is past ca will s."

toriety. tes him sion as usiness t tacks. be the Most !—not them low; sten- h for . In- t as- had "—O ould rt. I nett. on't

T Bone's Musical Babies



THE NEW ONE **The Ya-Ya** sound track dips into authentic Cajun music, with some Dylan thrown in

THE OLD GOLD **Ralph Stanley, 75**, is the high priest of old-time mountain-soul music



THE BIG ONE **O Brother** sold 6 million copies and primed the market for adult listeners

He also knows how to make something good. For the Ya-Ya sound track, Burnett spent months going through his incalculable record collection ("Collections," he says. "They're spread all over Los Angeles in storage spaces, houses, studios ...") and doing research to come up with an entertaining Louisiana-mix tape. In addition to tracks by

Mahalia Jackson, Slim Harpo and Blind Uncle Gaspard (you don't know Blind Uncle Gaspard?), Burnett found Mark and Ann Savoy, Cajun music's performing keepers of the flame, and recorded a new string arrangement for Richard and Linda Thompson's *Dimming of the Day*. Then, because he could, he got Bob Dylan and Lauryn Hill to throw in some new material too.

For music-loving adults annoyed by radio and bewildered by MP3s, Burnett provides taste and authenticity—a mass product that feels tailored to the individual. Never mind that DMZ has a distribution deal with Sony. "We want to remind people," says Burnett, "that there's a person choosing this music."

There are rap and contemporary-rock albums in DMZ's future, but succeeding with throwback fare clearly appeals to Burnett's contrarian nature. While the industry churns out aborted Next Big Things, Burnett will dig through his collections for an upcoming *Cold Mountain* sound track and put the finishing touches on a Tony Bennett album. "I don't need to build a media empire," says Burnett. "I just want to put out some good records for a while."

The Real Man of Constant Sorrow

Ralph Stanley has been performing the music he calls old-time mountain soul since 1946, but only recently has he started attracting audiences beyond folk and bluegrass festivals. "I've got 4-year-olds wandering up to me now and singing *O Death*," Stanley says of his star turn on the *O Brother, Where Art Thou?* sound track. "It's pretty funny."

While his new audience may be a tad precious, Stanley is anything but. Growing up in the Clinch Mountains of Virginia in the 1930s, he learned the banjo from his mother while his brother Carter took guitar lessons from the mailman. The Stanley Brothers were naturals, and soon they were performing live out of a Bristol, Va., radio station and recording for Columbia. At one point, they were the biggest act in Appalachia not named Bill Monroe.

Their popularity belied the fact that the Stanley Brothers were a couple of dark-minded dudes. "I'm the real man of constant sorrow," says Ralph quietly, referring to the *O Brother* track sung by Dan Tyminski. "Truly, I've been singing

KING RALPH: At 75, Stanley is still the master of old-time mountain soul

that song for almost 60 years." In a typical Stanley Brothers song, good battles evil, loses and sometimes gets to heaven. Carter died of cancer in 1966, but Ralph still sings his version of the American Gothic. On *Ralph Stanley*, his first album for T Bone Burnett's DMZ Records, Ralph sings a tune called *Mathie Grove*, the tale of a husband who took his cheating wife and "cut off her head and kicked it against the wall." The magic is that Ralph has a voice that makes the grotesque sound matter-of-fact. When he sings, he's like a train whistle out of the past. At one point, Burnett asked him to sing a bit more like a rock 'n' roller. "He didn't really get it," says Burnett. "He can only sound like Ralph Stanley." For that we should be thankful.

—J.T.



TIME, JUNE 10, 2002

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Ralph in ... the news!

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Ralph Stanley Joins Grand Ole Opry

JANUARY 15, 2000



Photo courtesy Grand Ole Opry



"The Mother Church" of
Country Music—
The Ryman Auditorium®,
Nashville

PORTER WAGONER and Kentucky Mountain Girl PATTY LOVELESS officially induct RALPH into country music's most "elite club". Both Porter and Patty sang duets with Ralph on "Clinch Mountain Country", released in 1998.

Just before Patty and Ralph performed a "hair and roof raising" version of "Pretty Polly", Ralph had this to say about his Opry membership: "I'll carry the name of the Grand Ole Opry out everywhere that I go. I'll always respect it, and I'll never let it down".

RALPH AND JOHNNY RUSSELL (Louisville, KY1999),

Johnny was host of the 7-8 PM televised segment (Country Music Television) of the Opry, in which the ceremony took place. Other's on the show were Joe Diffie, Trisha Yearwood, Billy Walker, and Reba McEntire.

Johnny, who loved traditional country and bluegrass music, before his death in 2001, had started playing some of the same festivals that Ralph did over the years.

(He was a unique personality, and known to write and record a hit song or two in his career, also).



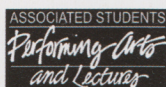
© RC

Ralph, you're like a father figure to us!

We're proud to have had you perform at
San Francisco State University.



*Thank you for bringing your
gospel and bluegrass roots.
May the good Lord bless and keep you.*



Muata Kenyatta, Director
Scott Davey, Associate Director
& the staff of A.S. Performing Arts

T E L E G R A M

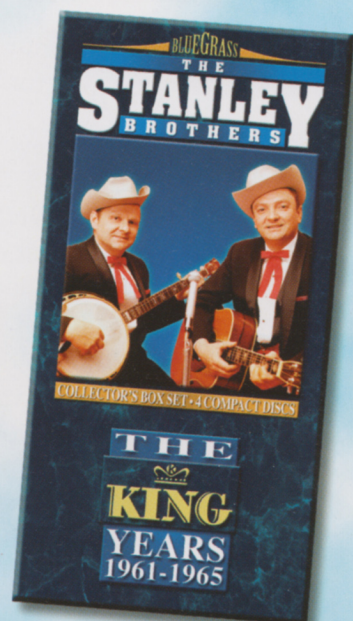
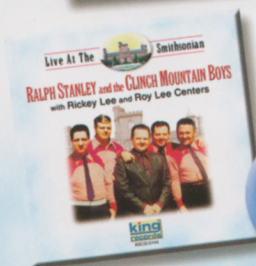
January 15, 2000
TO: Dr. Ralph Stanley - Ryman Auditorium,
Nashville, TN "THE DOCTOR IS IN THE HOUSE"

-
The Grand Ole Opry House, That is!
Congratulations RALPH on your induction
tonight!!
NO FILIBUSTER NEEDED! YOU ARE THE BEST!!!!
Your friend, Randy Campbell
Tucson, Arizona

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THANK YOU, RALPH!

You Make Us Proud To Own The Original Recordings
Of Ralph Stanley And The Stanley Brothers!



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Photos by © Randy Campbell

IT'S LUCKY 7 AND 8 FOR RALPH, AS HE WINS HIS FIRST TWO GRAMMY® AWARDS (MUSIC'S HIGHEST HONOR!!) after 6 previous nominations. He's here at home in "The Red Room" with the coveted well deserved trophies.

Ralph strikes gold in Coeburn!



Dr. RALPH STANTLEY



Photo by Señor Jim McGuire Courtesy of Rebel Records

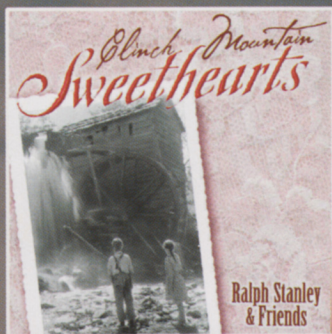
33rd Annual Memorial Bluegrass Festival

May 22, 23, 24 2003

Hills of Home Park, Virginia



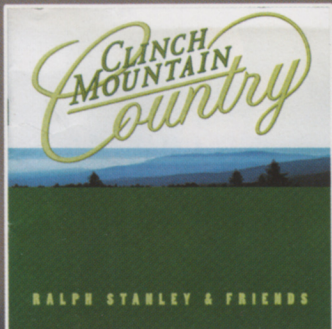
Ralph Stanley, Nathan Stanley, and Ralph Stanley II



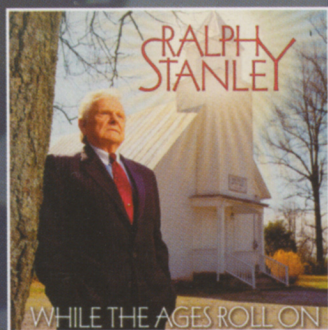
Rebel 1770
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Rebel 1126
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Rebel 5001
Available CD & Cassette



Rebel 1765
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A National Treasure...

Dr. Ralph Stanley Has Become The Symbol For Authentic Mountain Music



Rebel 4001 Stanley Box Set
Four CDs and Booklet



Porter Wagoner

He's in the Country Music Hall of Fame, and is the "Host Supreme" on the Grand Ole Opry, which he joined in Feb., 1957. He's been a supporter of Ralph's for years, and specifically asked to induct Ralph into the Opry, even though he was not host of that hour.

He recorded "White Dove", with Ralph on "Clinch Mountain Country" in 1998. He said then, "When I was in school, I learned the words to "The White Dove" from the Stanley

Brothers record which we had at home. So you could imagine what a thrill it was to sing that song with Ralph. He is a great man, a true American Original".

(I sent Porter some photo's I'd taken of him and Ralph at the Opry, and told him how much I'd enjoyed his and Ralph's duet of "White Dove"- which is my favorite Stanley song of all time! His reply is here. Porter had the first country music TV show I ever saw in the early 1960's. I still hope to book these two legends someday, if only to get the phone number of Porter's tailor!)



Porter and Ralph (Nov. 1996, backstage at the Opry, at Ralph's 50th Anniversary celebration)



**"MY DEEPEST THANKS FOR WORKING WITH ME
AND CONGRATULATIONS ON OUR GRAMMY®
AND AMERICANA MUSIC ASSOCIATION
'SONG OF THE YEAR!'"**

Ralph by the way, she's looking at you! Your friend forever, Jim Lauderdale

Porter Wagoner

October 27, 1998

Mr. Randy Campbell
SUPERIOR COMMUNICATIONS COMPANY
340 S. Columbus Blvd.
Tucson, AZ 85711

Dear Randy,

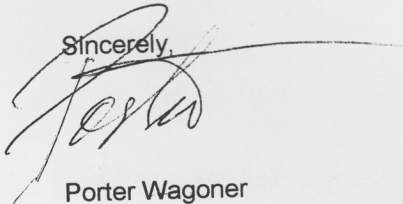
Thank you for the kind letter that you wrote to me. Ralph Stanley is such a special person and it was an honor for me to be on his latest project with him.

I would love to work some dates with Ralph next year. Just get in touch with my booking agent at the address or number below.

Joe Taylor
Joe Taylor Artist Agency
2802 Columbine Place
Nashville, TN 37204
615/385-5666 Fax # 615/385-5669

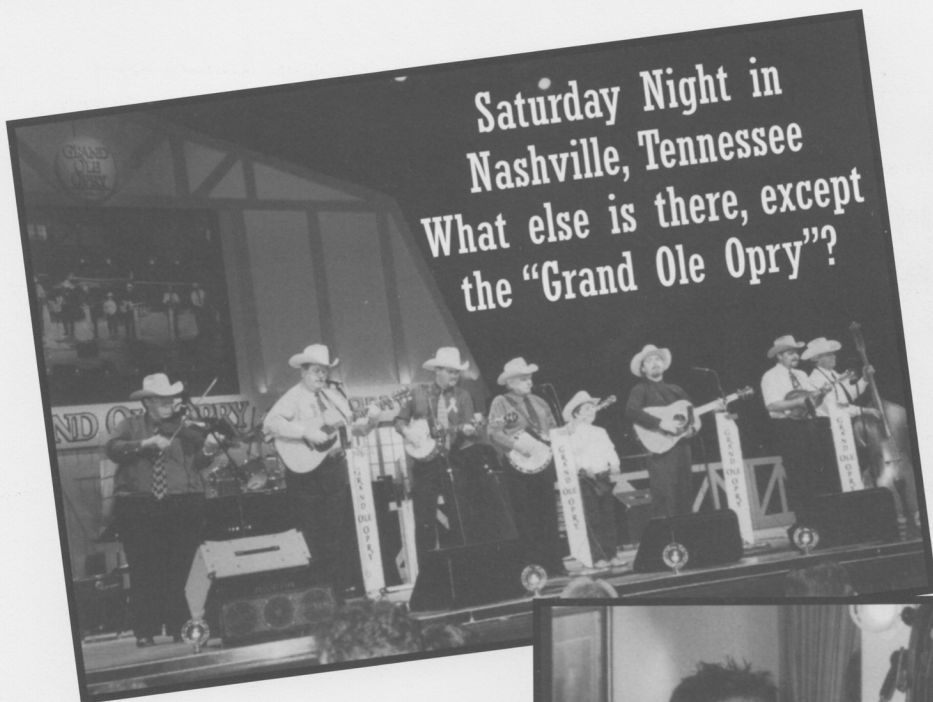
I look forward to working with you and Ralph next year.

Sincerely,



Porter Wagoner

PW:cwc



OPRY'S 76th Birthday "homecoming" October 13, 2001

"Bluegrass Matinee" –
Ralph Stanley and The
Clinch Mountain Boys
(8 pieces strong!!)

Photos by © Randy Campbell

"The Real Show" is often in the Dressing Room"— Ralph and Ricky Skaggs rehearse a number while sharing a dressing room in Oct., 2001. Ricky, who got his first job with Ralph as a 15 year old in 1971, was and is heavily influenced by Ralph and The Stanley Brothers. Ralph once said about Ricky, "He has enough talent for 5 men, and I always knew he would do well on his Own". (I'd say he has. I think he's had the best individual career of any of the ex-Clinch Mountain Boys).



Stanley Sound to Endure for Generations! Ralph, Nathan, and Ralph II

When giants walked among us



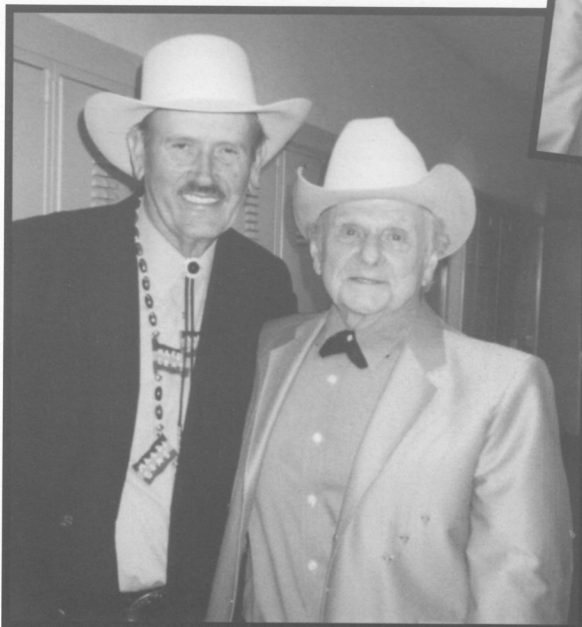
George and Ralph have known each other since the 1950's, when The Stanley Brothers and George Jones worked the same country music circuit in the south. George was one of the first "names" outside of bluegrass to record with Ralph. He is on both "Saturday Night and Sunday Morning" and "Clinch Mountain Country" ("Window Up Above" is worth the price of the disc by itself!)

It was one of the most "magical electric nights" I've ever seen, anywhere in music! I just wish they had been on the same segment, so they could have performed together. (I challenge anyone to debate me that these two LEGENDS are not the TWO GREATEST TRADITIONAL COUNTRY SINGERS OF ALL TIME!)

"Singing with Ralph Stanley is like painting with Picasso" — So said Hal Ketchum after recording with Ralph on "Clinch Mountain Country". (I love this quote! Maybe there is some meaning to the fact that the very first voice heard on Disc #1 is Hal on "How Mountain Girls Can Love".)



"Ahhhh-EEEE!"- It's Ralph and Jimmy C. Newman. They are about the same age, and both started their careers in the late 1940's. (For my ears, if you took out the drums and accordion from Jimmy C. 's "Cajun country music", it would fit right in with Ralph's old time mountain style sound).





Winter Tour

January 25 - February 20, 2002

18 Shows - 17 Cities - 27 Days

Summer Tour

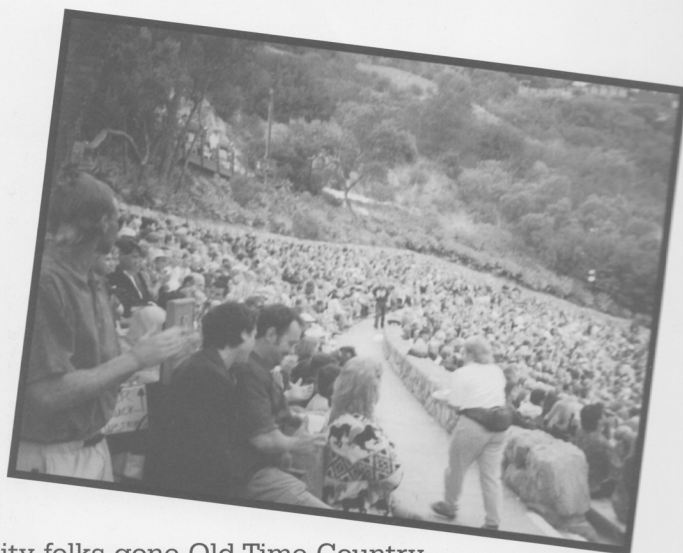
June 25 - August 22, 2002

44 Shows - 43 Cities - 58 Days

Down From the Mountain and across North America!


Success of "O Brother, Where Art Thou" soundtrack CD, the Documentary film/CD "Down from The Mountain" (filmed live at The Ryman Auditorium in May, 2000), and a Carnegie Hall, New York City show in June, 2001 gives birth to major live tour in 2002 with most artists from the projects, and special guests!

Tour was called: "The Coen Brothers and T-Bone Burnett Present Down From The Mountain: Music from the film, *O Brother, Where Art Thou?* and played most of the major performing arts venues in the U.S. and Canada.



City folks gone Old-Time Country—
Audience at Santa Barbara, California
County Bowl, August 2002

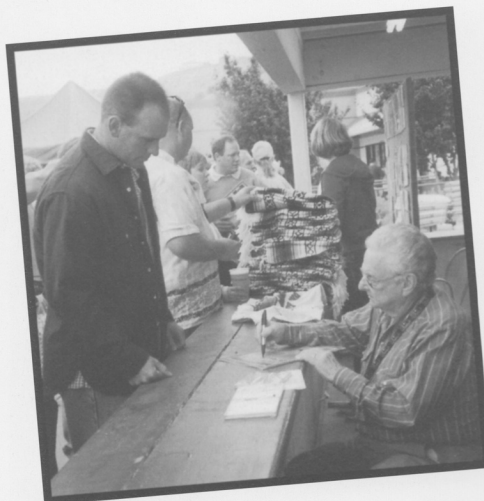
DAVID GRISMAN
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featuring
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Alan O'Bryant - Herb Pedersen - Ralph Rinzler
Ralph Stanley & The Clinch Mt. Boys - Mac Wiseman and others

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Ralph is never
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autograph ...
a sale ... or to
meet some
fans!



3 SONGBIRDS IN FINE FLIGHT" Patty Loveless, Emmylou Harris and Ralph share the mic in San Jose, CA in Feb., 2002. Both previously sang duets with Ralph — Patty on "Clinch Mountain Country—check out " Pretty Polly"—and Emmylou on "Saturday Night and Sunday Morning". (Patty and Ralph sent bolts of "pure emotional electricity" through the audience when they paired up on the shows I saw. Their segments together were the clear highlights of the 3 1/2 Hour performance.)



"OH DEATH"
From "The King of
Mountain Soul"



Ralph directs the "Down from the Mountain" choir – "Oh Come, Angel Band" and "Amazing Grace" closers got constant "Standing Ovations!"



L-R Del McCoury, Buck White, Ralph, and Tim Dillman

The Ralph Stanley Quartet...?

Actually, one of the men is an imposter as a singer/musician. However, Tim Dillman, owner of Music City Coach, has been known to get a bus or two on the road for entertainers. He handled most of the transportation needs for artists and crew on the tour. He also acquired and had built, to Ralph's own specifications, "Bus Number One", Ralph's best bus ever, with which he took delivery in Dec., 2001. (He can drive a bit too, and he is a true artist in his own field! He'll also buy you breakfast at 4 am, if you can just stay up!)

...or the Ralph Stanley Trio?

The 2 Stanley's could work as a duo, but the other guy is much better on the telephone and "behind the scenes" on Ralph's behalf. (Although Ralph is a fan of Elvis!)

L-R Randy Campbell, Nathan Stanley and Ralph



FAMILY DRUG CENTER FRIENDS AND STAFF...

We Wish Ralph all the best...and congratulate him on all of his success over the years!!!

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"Simply, the "King and Queen of Country Music"!—Ralph and Emmylou - San Diego, CA - July 31, 2002
(I don't think they could have done this tour without either one of them. They are THE REAL DEAL!!)



Photos by © Randy Campbell



"RALPH AND HIS BUDDY, BOB"...
That would be Bob Neuwirth - Production "Boss" of the entire 2002 DFTM Tour! He's also a singer, songwriter, and producer.

NATHAN STANLEY - Professional Musician!
— His progress on mandolin, and traveling with his "Pap Paw" on his 2002 summer vacation, got him his first official check as a musician! He appeared on stage as part of the finale on the tour, and got paid!



DEAR RALPH ... I WAS HAPPY TO "BUILD" THE BUS YOU DESIGNED AND SO RICHLY DESERVE!



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Friends Along the Music Highway



Emily Robison (banjo/vocals, THE DIXIE CHICKS) and her husband, Charlie, visit Ralph "deep in the heart of Texas", in Bandera (near her home).

100 plus years of country music between them! Ralph and Ray Price, in Tempe (Phoenix), AZ, after playing a show together.



Arlo Guthrie with "one of my heroes" .. (his words) .. Strawberry Festival, Yosemite, CA

Friend, Attorney, Producer ...
but mostly, friend ...
Larry Ehrlich in Berkeley, CA



David Grisman shares a mic at Sweetwater (Mill Valley, CA)



Castle "Skip" Newell III and wife, Barbara always treat us like Royalty when we visit them at Spotswood Farm in Northern California.





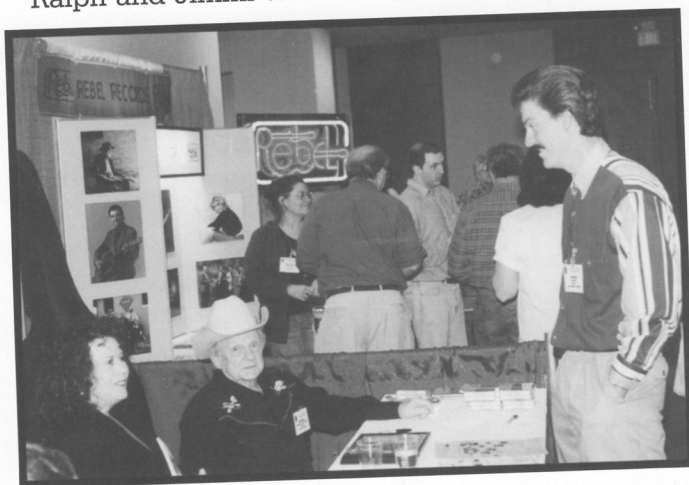
Rebel staff with Ralph at IBMA Convention-1999, Louisville, Kentucky. L-R Rebel Records owner Dave Freeman, Ralph Stanley, Greg McGraw, Mark Freeman, Chet Rhodes, Burgess Hurd



Vintage Jukebox at International Bluegrass Museum-Owensboro, Kentucky. Plays vintage 78 rpm records — mostly bluegrass/mountain style country from mid 1940's — early 1950's (Courtesy of a donation including records from Dave Freeman of Rebel Records)

Ralph &

Ralph and Jimmi work the Rebel booth



"THE R & R TEAM ...MAKING GREAT MUSIC TOGETHER SINCE 1971"

Ralph and Rebel Records are as linked in the "business" as "Elvis and RCA." After 30+ years, Ralph and Rebel continue to set the standard for old-time mountain style country and bluegrass music!

Ralph helps 'sell' "Clinch Mountain Country"

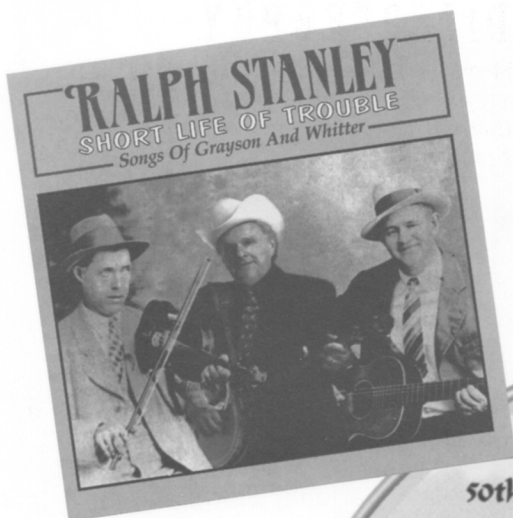


Congratulations
Ralph Stanley
for years of dedication to the
music we love.

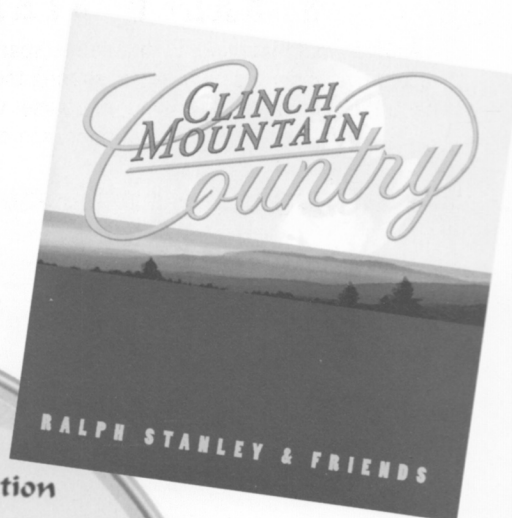
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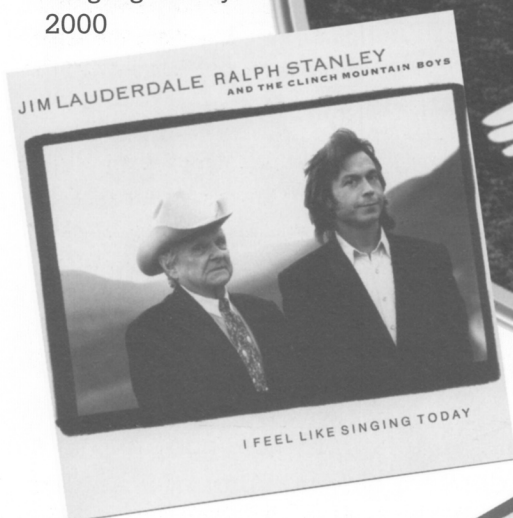


Short Life
of Trouble
1998

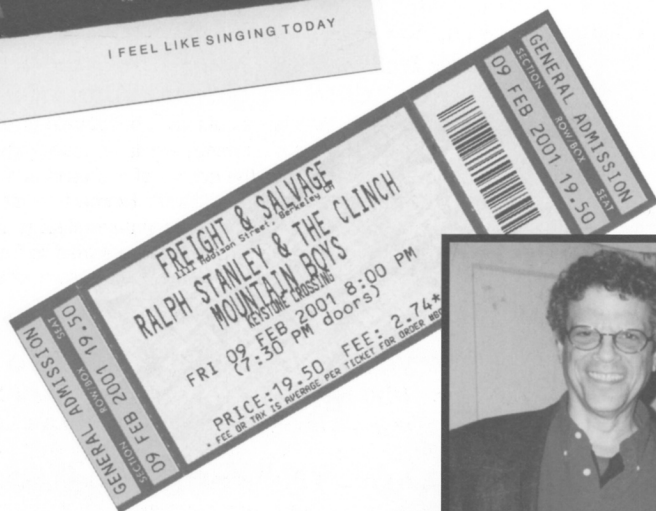
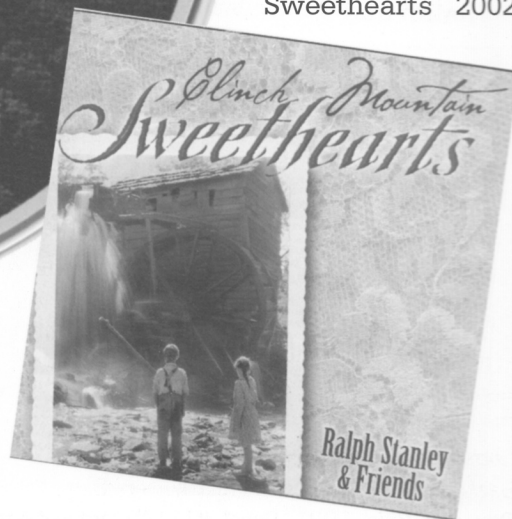


Clinch Mountain
Country
1999

I Feel Like
Singing Today
2000



Clinch Mountain
Sweethearts 2002



Steve Baker
always opens up
several nights for
us at The Freight
and Salvage
in Berkeley,
California

A RALPH STANLEY SELECTED DISCOGRAPHY

As one would imagine, with a career spanning more than half a century, Ralph Stanley has an amazingly deep legacy of recordings under his own name, sharing the spotlight with artists as diverse as Jimmy Martin and Jim Lauderdale, with his band the Clinch Mt. Boys, and, of course, with his brother Carter as The Stanley Brothers. Below is a sampling of currently inprint recordings representing highlights throughout his career.

As RALPH STANLEY (AND w/THE CLINCH MT. Boys)

Ralph Stanley, 2002, DMZ/Columbia #86626
Live at McCabe's Guitar Shop 2.11.01, 2002, DCN #1 002
Live At The Smithsonian, 2002, King #5144
Lost In the Lonesome Pines (W/Jim Lauderdale), 2002, Dualtone #1125
Clinch Mountain Sweethearts, 2001, Rebel #1770
Man of Constant Sorrow, 2001, Rebel #1126 (compilation)
Echoes of the Stanley Brothers, 2001, Varese #6215
 (collects two early 70s releases: Michigan Bluegrass, 1971, and Gospel Echoes of the Stanley Brothers, 1973)
While the Ages Roll On, 2000, Rebel #1 765
I Feel Like Singing Today (w/Jim Lauderdale), 1999, Rebel #1755
Clinch Mountain Country (2-CD set), 1998, Rebel #5001
Songs My Mother Taught Me & More: Clawhammer Style Banjo, 1998, Freeland #655
My All and All, 1997, Rebel #1 740
Memory of Your Smile, 1997, Rebel #1606
Sixteen Years, 1996, Copper Creek #0138 (compilation)
Like Father Like Son, 1996, Copper Creek #0110
Short Life of Trouble: Songs of Grayson & Whitter, 1996, Rebel #1 735
Child of King, 1996, Rebel #1619
Down Where the River Bends, 1996, Rebel #1 579
I Want to Preach the Gospel, 1996, Rebel #1 522
Classic Mountain Music, 1996, Freeland #649 (compilation)
Classic Gospel, 1996, Freeland #646 (compilation)
 1971-1973 (4-CD set), 1995, Rebel #4001 (compilation)
A Gospel Gathering (W/ Joe Isaacs), 1995, Freeland #642
Classic Stanley, 1994, Freeland #9002 (compilation)
Saturday Night & Sunday Morning (2-CD set), 1994, Freeland #9001
Almost Home, 1994, Rebel #1 707
Pray for the Boys, 1994, Rebel #1 687
Christmas Time, 1994, Freeland #639
Back to the Cross, 1994, Freeland #638
Bound to Ride, 1991, Rebel #1114 (compilation)
Classic Bluegrass, 1990, Rebel #1109 (compilation)
Ralph Stanley and Raymond Fairchild, 1989, Rebel #1677
I'll Answer the Call, 1987, Rebel #1 657
Lonesome and Blue, 1986, Rebel #1647
I Can Tell You the Time, 1985, Rebel #1637
Stanley Brothers Classics, 1985, Wango #103
The Stanley Sound Today, 1981, Rebel #1601
First Time Together (W/ Jimmy Martin), 1980, Hollywood #175 (was Gusto)
Clinch Mountain Gospel, 1977, Rebel #1571
Live! at McClure, Virginia, (w/others), 1975, Rebel #1118

Cry From the Cross, 1972, Rebel #1 499
Live in Japan!, 1971, Rebel #2002
Hills of Home, 1969, King #6102 (was #1069)
Over the Sunset Hill, 1968, King #6109 (was #1 032)

FOR THE STANLEY BROTHERS:

The Best of the Best, 2001, Federal #6560 (There have been at least 4 different versions of this recording all released by this label under the same title.)
Clinch Mountain Bluegrass (Live at Newport 1959 & 64), 2001, Vanguard #77018
The Complete Starday and King Instrumentals, 2000, King #5121
Earliest Recordings: The Complete Rich-R-Tone 78s (1947-1952), 1997, Revenant #203
Angel Band: The Classic Mercury Years, 1995, Mercury #528191
Early Starday/King Years: 1958-1961 (4-CD set), 1994, King #7000
Complete Columbia (1996, Columbia #53798) or 1949-1952 (1994, Bear Family #1 5564) (These are essentially the same recordings with different notes and a couple of different outtakes ... one domestic, one an import.)
1953-1958, 1959 (2-CD set), 1991, Bear Family #1 5681
Live Again: WCYB Bristol Farm & Fun Time, 1988, Rebel #2003 (reissues two previously released live radio performances) On Radio, 1981, Rebel #1115 (collecting two recordings available only on tape, Vol. 1 [County #780] & Vol.2 [County #781])
Shadows of the Past, 1981, Copper Creek #101
Long Journey Home, 1964, Rebel #1110 (orig. Wango #104)
Old Country Church, 1961, Hollywood #127 (orig. King #750)
Sacred Songs from the Hills, 1960, Starday #122
Hymns and Sacred Songs, 1959, King #645
The Stanley Brothers, 1958, King #615

The above lists are by no means definitive, but should give you more than a leg up in tracking down currently available recordings. (Note, too, that we haven't included any of the dozens of samplers and multi-artist collections that feature Ralph or The Stanley Brothers — most notably the O Brother soundtrack or Down from the Mountain releases of late.) For The Stanley Brothers' recordings in particular, we tried to focus on either original releases or "complete" reissues. There are many, many additional repackagings of material with lots of overlap.

FOR ADDITIONAL READING:

Traveling the High Way Home — Ralph Stanley and the World of Traditional Bluegrass Music By John Wright (University Of Illinois Press /1993) 273 pp. / Paperbound. Generally well-done book using interviews from 22 different individuals — including Ralph Stanley — to give an interesting overview of Ralph's career as well as insights into his personality. (\$15.00)

Reprinted by permission SING OUT!, Fall 2002 Vol. 46 No. 3 www.singout.org

Down the Road

The Stanley Brothers first recorded "The Lonesome River" when they were in their twenties. When Bob Dylan sang it with Ralph Stanley fifty years later, the difference was a lifetime of experience.

IN 1961 GIANTS WALKED THE earth. Bob Dylan, recording his debut album that year, described his music as a cross of "Sonny Terry with the Stanley Brothers. . . with Big Bill Broonzy, with Woody Guthrie." Remarkably, all of those icons—names that now seem to belong purely to history—were alive for the young Dylan to observe, to study, to soak up. Forty years later the only person from that list still around, one of our last surviving links to the cauldron of folk, blues, and country music that helped create Dylan, is Ralph Stanley.

Stanley (currently riding high from his inclusion on the platinum-selling *O Brother, Where Art Thou?* sound track) and his brother Carter (who died in 1966) were, along with Bill Monroe, the architects of bluegrass music, and their haunting, almost otherworldly recordings from the '40s and '50s defined a uniquely American sound. Since Dylan adapted the Stanley Brothers' arrangement of "Man of Constant Sorrow" on his first album (a rendition bleak enough to knock any visions of George Clooney right out of your head), he has frequently returned to their music. A brooding version of "Rank Strangers to Me" closed 1988's *Down in the Groove*, and, in addition to paraphrasing several Stanley Brothers lyrics on 1997's *Time Out of Mind*, Dylan has added numerous Stanley songs to his concert repertoire in recent years, including "Searching for a Soldier's Grave" and "I Am the Man, Thomas."

So it's no surprise that Dylan has called his 1997 duet with Ralph Stanley the highlight of his career. Their

recording of "The Lonesome River" is taken from an album titled *Clinch Mountain Country*, a two-CD set in which Stanley, age seventy at the time, borrowed the Frank Sinatra *Duets* model and sang with a lineup of country stars ranging from George Jones and Porter Wagoner to Dwight Yoakam and Vince Gill. But where the other guests sound giddy, exhilarated to be joining their voices to one of the few singers truly deserving that worn-out title *living legend*, something strange happens when Dylan steps up to the microphone.

In the Stanley Brothers' original 1950 recording, "The Lonesome River" is the sound of a man resigned but accepting of his fate—his woman has left him that morning, so he sits on the riverbank "to grieve and to cry." But it's clear he knows that this is how things are, that he'll shake it off and move on, and that singing the song is what will help him through the heartbreak. It is the sound of Ralph and Carter Stanley, ages twenty-three and twenty-five, discovering the pain that life can deal out but knowing that there's still a long road in front of them.

With Ralph Stanley and Bob Dylan's recording of "The Lonesome River" almost fifty years later, we've come to the end of that road. Dylan sings the verses alone, sounding firm but on the edge of tears, and when he reaches the last line—"But a new love she's found/She's gone from me now," dragging out the word *gone* until it just trails off—all you hear is despair, with none of the young Stanleys' defiance. Dylan's vocal offers up the life experience of a fifty-six-year-old

man who had recently written a song of his own with the refrain "I'm sick of love."

When the two craggy voices first join in on the chorus, Dylan sounds older than Stanley, who is fourteen years his senior but seems to come from another era entirely. But really Dylan sounds outside of age and time, staring down his own legacy and his own mortality; this duet is, as far as we can tell, Dylan's first recording after his heart scare in 1997.

As a twenty-year-old singing "Man of Constant Sorrow," as well as songs like "See That My Grave Is Kept Clean" and "In My Time of Dyin'," Dylan had a young man's romantic obsession with death, and the Stanley Brothers' clear-eyed, fatalistic mountain perspective was there for him. All these years later, as night after night Dylan charts the unprecedented territory of being a rock 'n' roll elder statesman who refuses to assume the comfortable mantle of a nostalgic oldies act, the Stanley Brothers' songs continue to guide Dylan through matters of life and death. "That's my religion," he said of their songs a few months before the session with Stanley. "I don't adhere to rabbis, preachers, evangelists. . . I've learned more from the songs than I've learned from any of this kind of entity. The songs are my lexicon. I believe the songs."

We listen to bluegrass standards by the Stanley Brothers and Bill Monroe and feel that this "old-timey" music has been around forever. Soon, removed from the historical specificity of the '60s to which it was always only marginally connected, Bob Dylan's music



will acquire the same timelessness, and it will probably be impossible to imagine that "A Hard Rain's a-Gonna Fall" or "Tangled up in Blue" or "Every Grain of Sand" have simply not always been there.

Of course emotions like loneliness

and disappointment are universal, but "The Lonesome River" shows that a song can create different ways to explore those feelings at different stages of life, which is as good a description of Bob Dylan's approach to his own career as I can come up with.

It's also the favorite song of Ralph Stanley's wife, Jimmie, on the *Clinch Mountain Country* album, and that's got to count for something. ★

★ Listen to Ralph Stanley & Bob Dylan's "The Lonesome River," track #4 on the 2001 OA CD ★

ART BY JOE CIARDIELLO

FIFTH ANNUAL MUSIC ISSUE OXFORD AMERICAN 37

© Oxford American 2001 Music Issue

"Singing with Ralph Stanley was the highlight of my career." -Bob Dylan, 1997

Reprinted by permission Oxford American, 2001 Music Issue www.oxfordamericanmag.com Courtesy Katherine Walton

Ralph Stanley & The Clinch Mountain Boys



L-R James Price, James Shelton, Steve Sparkman, Ralph Stanley, Ralph Stanley II "Two", John Riggsby, and Jack Cooke Photo by Miles Ward Salem, Oregon, February 1996

The Clinch Mountain Boys Today

The current band has been together without any changes since August, 1995. Except for Jack Cooke, I've known them all since they joined Ralph. We've traveled together thousands of miles, had lots of laughs, (told a few lies) had a disagreement of two, but mostly it's been a blast! It continues to be a privilege for me to put these extraordinarily talented men on stages across the nation with Ralph Stanley. I love sharing their "magic" with the rest of the world! (What's astonishing to me is that there is not ONE FORMAL MUSIC LESSON among them!)

In the profiles that follow, we asked each band member to tell us "What being a Clinch Mountain Boy and working with Ralph means to me." I hope you enjoy getting to know the Clinch Mountain Boys of 2003.

"THE BAND"

Today — as he and his band has for 56+ years — Ralph Stanley and The Clinch Mountain Boys remain "unplugged."

THE CLINCH MOUNTAIN BOYS are as follows:

Band Leader, Vocals, and Banjo — RALPH STANLEY
(*playing includes his famous "clawhammer" style of banjo picking*)

Lead Vocals/Rhythm Guitar — RALPH STANLEY II
(*Ralph's son*)

Fiddle — JAMES PRICE

Lead Guitar — JAMES SHELTON

Acoustic (Stand-Up) Bass — JACK COOKE

Mandolin — JOHN RIGSBY

Banjo — STEVE SPARKMAN

Everyone in the band lives near their "roots" in either Virginia, West Virginia, Kentucky or Tennessee.



James Price
Fiddle

"Being a Clinch Mountain Boy to me is having the most important side man job in this business. It means learning from one of the creators of this music, by whom so many thousands were influenced by and play today. I guess to sum up how it feels- is that I feel like I have stepped into a dream and a picture I've been looking at all my life!" -James Price

Native of Boone County, West Virginia. Became a Clinch Mountain Boy in August, 1995. (He also sings a bit, can make you laugh a lot, and used to have a pet penguin.)

"It has been an honor to work with Ralph for 9 years now. I never dreamed as a child I would be able to work with my greatest hero. Playing banjo for Ralph, is for me, bigger than life itself"

-Steve Sparkman

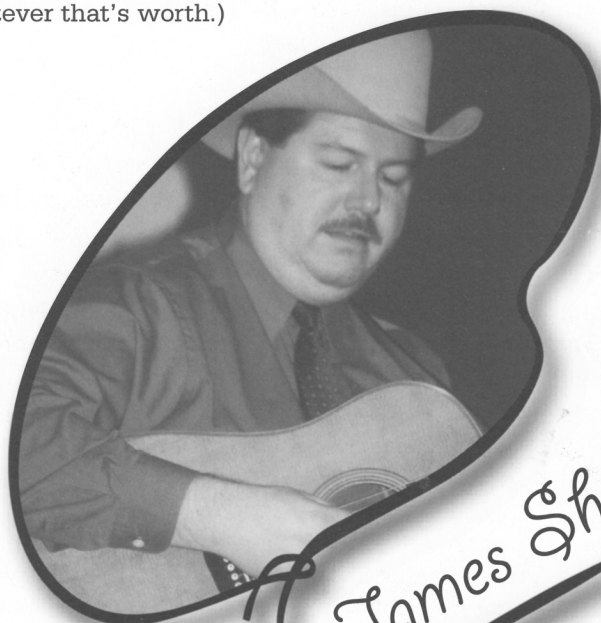
Native of Harlan County, Kentucky. When Ralph broke his leg in June 1994 and couldn't stand, Steve filled in on banjo and has been in the band ever since. (My daughter thinks he's the cutest and coolest Clinch Mountain Boy, for whatever that's worth.)



Steve Sparkman
Banjo

"For me, working with Ralph as a Clinch Mountain Boy has been a lifetime dream come true. After 9 years and hundreds of shows, it is still the greatest thrill in the world to step on stage with him. Thank you Ralph for allowing me the opportunity to be a part of the Stanley legacy" -James A. Shelton

Born in Virginia, but a native of Eastern Tennessee (where he was raised.) Clinch Mountain Boy since March, 1994. (He can take care of things on the road, and has been known to book a show or two in recent years, but just won't sing!)



James Shelton
Lead guitar



Jack Cooke
Bass

"It has been an honor to work with Ralph for 33 years and to have been a part of the Stanley Brothers band for 2 years back in the 50's. If I could, I'd do it all over again! I hold the record for being with the Clinch Mountain Boys longer than anyone. Thanks Doc, for all the great years and memories!" -Jack Cooke

Native of Norton, Virginia. Played with The Stanley Brothers for awhile in the 1950's as a teenager. Re-joined Ralph in June 1970. At 33 years, is the longest serving Clinch Mountain Boy ever! (He used to drive the bus-if you made him- and he can also sing, mostly on the "antique segment" of the show.)

"It really means a lot to work with such fine musicians and to play with a Grammy winning band and Ralph Stanley." -John Rigsby

Native of Kentucky. Joined the band in August, 1995. (He sings and yodels, and could have been a preacher with his knowledge of the Bible.)



John Rigsby
Mandolin



Ralph Stanley II
Lead vocals/
Rhythm Guitar

"It's a dream come true, not only to work with my Dad, but to stand in the spot where some of the greatest singers have stood. Plus the knowledge of learning the business from the master himself." -Ralph Stanley II

Native of Coeburn, Virginia. Officially became a Clinch Mountain Boy in August 1995. Actually, "Two" as he is known, has been "in the band" since he could talk, having first performed with his famous Dad when he was three years old. He's been on stage nearly every week since then! (He also knows his football! If he had not become a singer, he'd probably be the starting Quarterback for the Washington Redskins by now!)



Courtesy Copper Creek Records
Photo by Alan Maggard

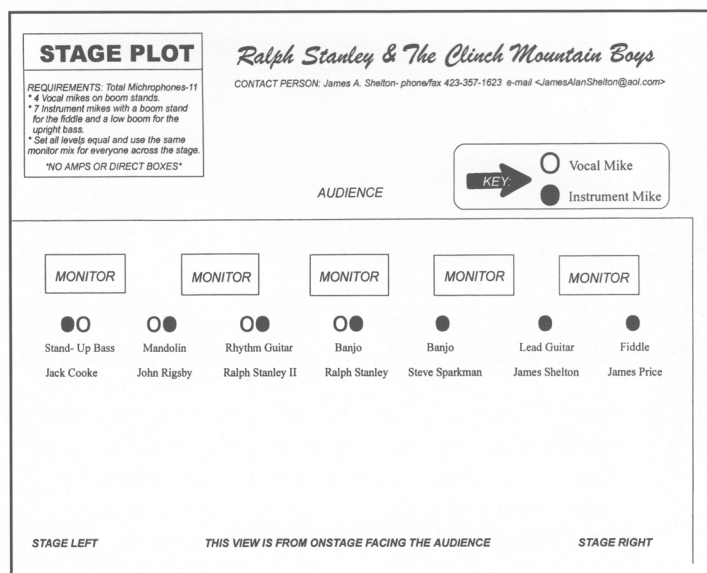


On mainstage at Wintergrass, 1996 Tacoma, Washington, February 24, 1996
L-R Steve Sparkman, Jack Cooke, Ralph, Ralph II and John Rigsby



Photo courtesy Sharon Bennett

Rob Bennett with surprise 69th Birthday cake on stage for Ralph, as Laurie Lewis looks on, February, 1996.



Donnie & Doris Rife
Proudly Support
The Legendary
DR. RALPH STANLEY
& BLUEGRASS MUSIC!!

E.C. French

Bus Driver, Merchandise Man, Ralph's Aide, etc., etc. Native of Coeburn, Virginia. Came with Ralph in March, 1997. Not enough space to describe how important he is to the success of RALPH STANLEY & THE CLINCH MOUNTAIN BOYS. Let's just say that he gets them to shows safely, early and often! He takes especially good care of Ralph all the time! (P.S. he loves Heather, horses, Mexico and Elvis!)



Honorary Membership

This certifies that

Miles A. Ward

is now and forever an **Honorary Member**
of **Ralph Stanley's Clinch Mountain Boys Band**

Through his staunch support as a long time fan, "blood
Virginian, extraordinary photographer, Treasured and
Trusted Friend and "Good Samaritan", Miles has helped
greatly to preserve forever **The Stanley Sound**.

So done this 24th day of August, 1996.

Ralph Stanley

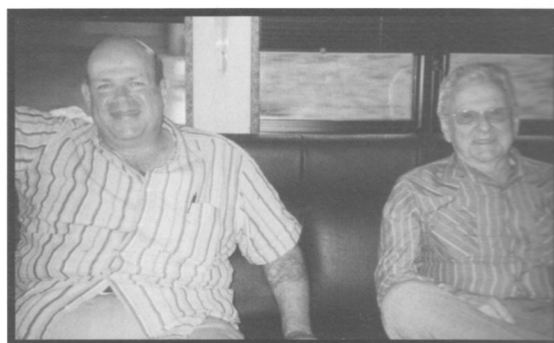
Ralph Stanley
Coeburn, Virginia

Randy Campbell

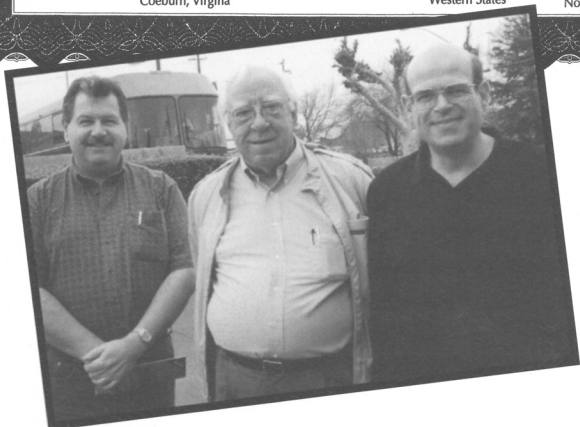
Randy Campbell, Agent
Western States

No. 002

"The Seventh Clinch Mountain Boy" - Miles Ward

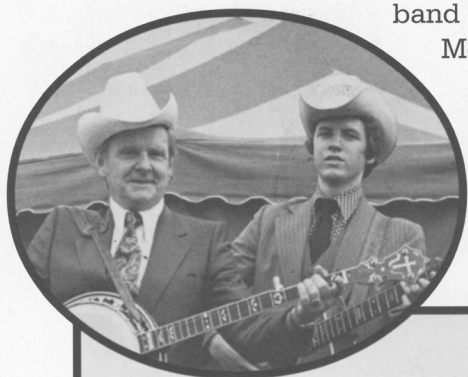


A great fan and friend of Ralph, a native Virginian, and as of August 24, 1996 an HONORARY CLINCH MOUNTAIN BOY. Ralph presented him with this honorary certificate on stage at the Oregon State Fair in Salem. (Miles is one of the first and best friends I've made, thanks to Ralph. He took a lot of the photos you see in this book (MW.) Miles is always ready to help out the band in any way he can. He also knows a thing or two about baseball, and is a pretty fair country lawyer, but we won't hold that against him.)



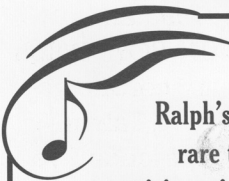
L-R 'Clinch Mountain Boys' James Shelton, George Shuffler and Miles Ward, February 2000, California

RALPH STANLEY AND THE CLINCH MOUNTAIN BOYS — (1978-1987) The only band to serve together longer without changes than the current Clinch Mountain Boys! This is the record to shoot for, guys! (9 years!)



L-R (below) Curly Ray Cline, Junior Blankenship, Ralph, Charlie Sizemore, (who replaced Keith Whitley as lead singer), and Jack Cooke. [Photo Courtesy of CHARLIE SIZEMORE, with Ralph inset, who still holds the record - a least for one more year - of longest serving lead singer with Ralph]



 Ralph's one of those rare treasures — a musician with a sound so unique and distinctive that you know it's him after hearing one or two notes — and I'm always glad to be listening. Thanks Ralph, and congratulations. -Dave Royko

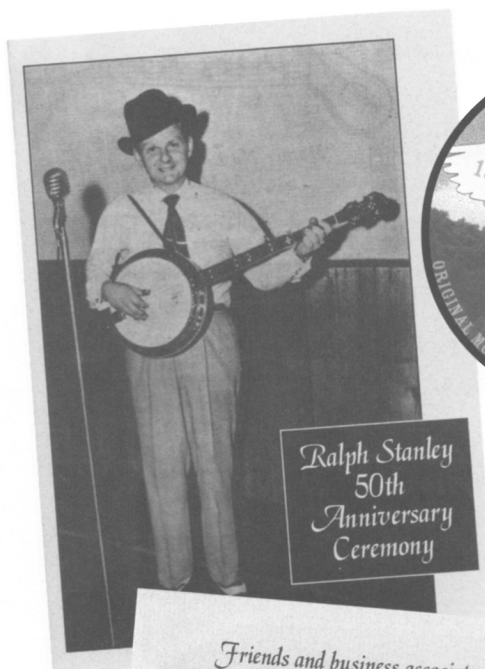


Dr. Ralph Stanley & The Clinch Mountain Boys Fan Club

Members receive a membership card, 8x10 photo, and quarterly newsletter with schedule and updates. To join send \$15 to:

Dr. Ralph
Stanley
& HIS CLINCH MOUNTAIN BOYS

Ralph Stanley Fan Club
C/O Betty J. Fox
1950 Highland Meadows Dr
Centerville, OH 45459
Phone: 937-434-3537
www.dr.alphstanley.com



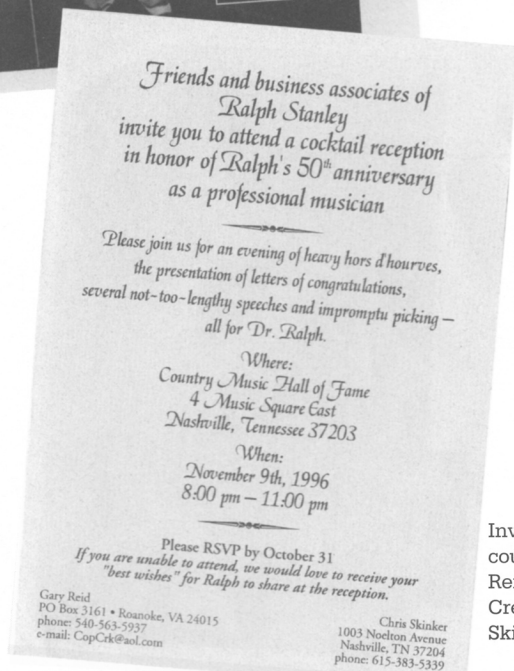
Ralph and Gary Reid (owner, Copper Creek Records, and Music Historian Extraordinaire)

The Party of the Half Century

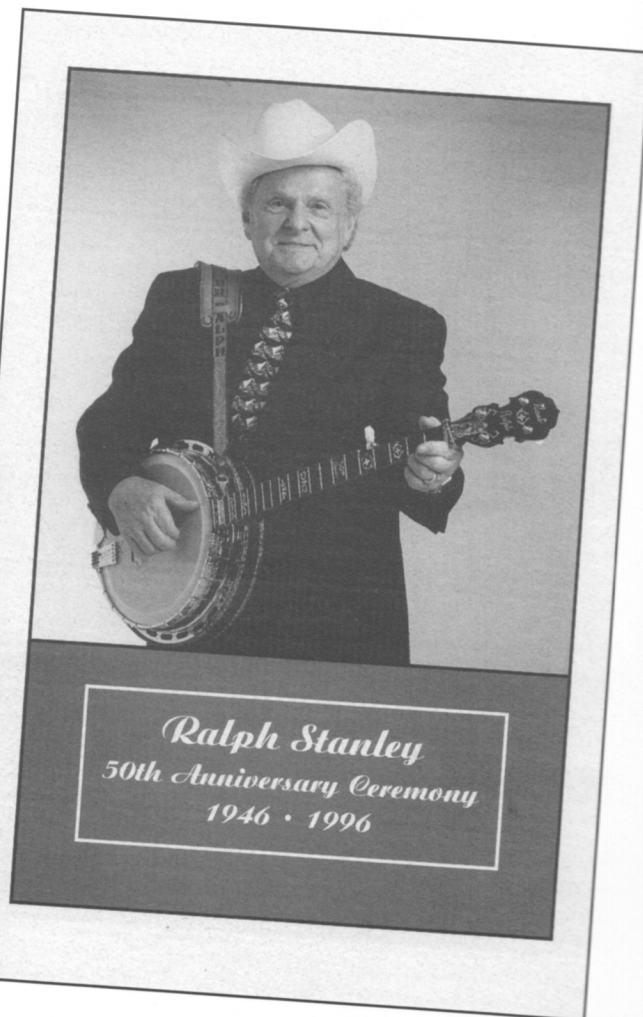
"RALPH'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY IN MUSIC CELEBRATION"

Nashville, Tennessee, Saturday, November 9, 1996

Planned and co-hosted by Gary Reid and Chris Skinker



Invitation
courtesy Gary
Reid, Copper
Creek/Chris
Skinker



Chris Skinker (left) with Kitsy Kuykendall, Ralph and Dan Hays

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

November 8, 1996

Dr. Ralph Stanley
HC-05, Box 576
Coeburn, Virginia 24230

Dear Ralph:

I am delighted to join your many friends and countless fans in congratulating you as you celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of your music career.

As singer, composer, and masterful instrumentalist, you have brought the beautiful harmonies and distinctive sound of bluegrass to appreciative audiences in America and around the world. Your heartfelt vocals and trademark style of playing banjo have set high standards for your peers and have both influenced and inspired a new generation of musicians.

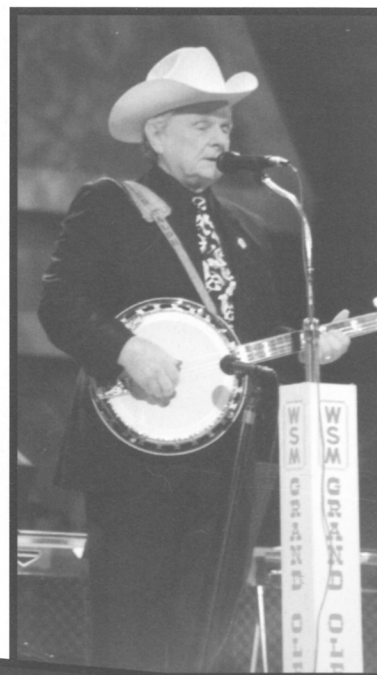
You can look back with pride on a lifetime of commitment to promoting and preserving the traditional music of your native Appalachia. Thank you for all you have done to enrich America's cultural heritage, and best wishes for continued success and every future happiness.

Sincerely,

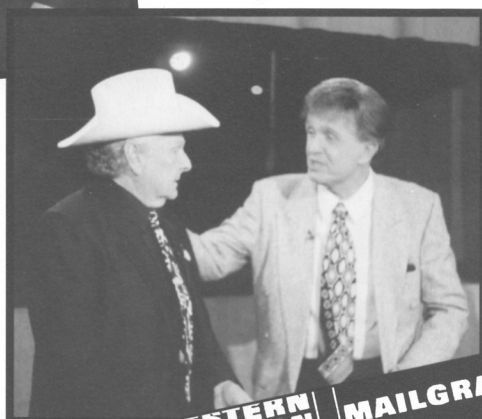


Grand Night - Grand Occasion - at The Grand Ole Opry- All for Ralph!!

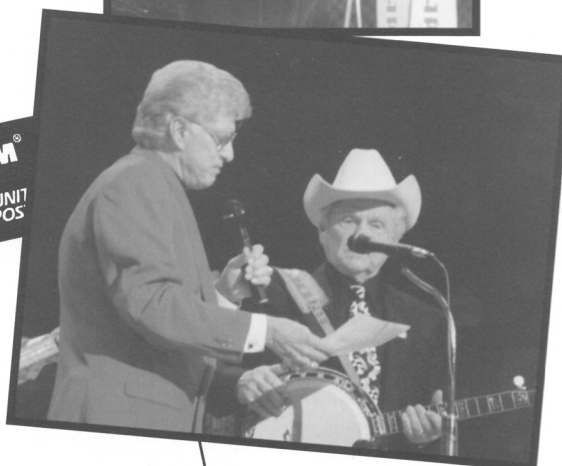
Ralph and Little
Jimmy Dickens



Bill Anderson
interviews Ralph on
"Opry Backstage"
prior to televised
appearance by
Ralph and Clinch
Mountain Boys



WESTERN UNION MAILGRAM UNIT POS



TV Host Del Reeves
reads telegram to Ralph
from special fan from
New York City

DEBBIE SWEENEY
PO BOX 870 AT COOPER STATION
NEW YORK NY 10276

052975001498 10/31/96
EM14959

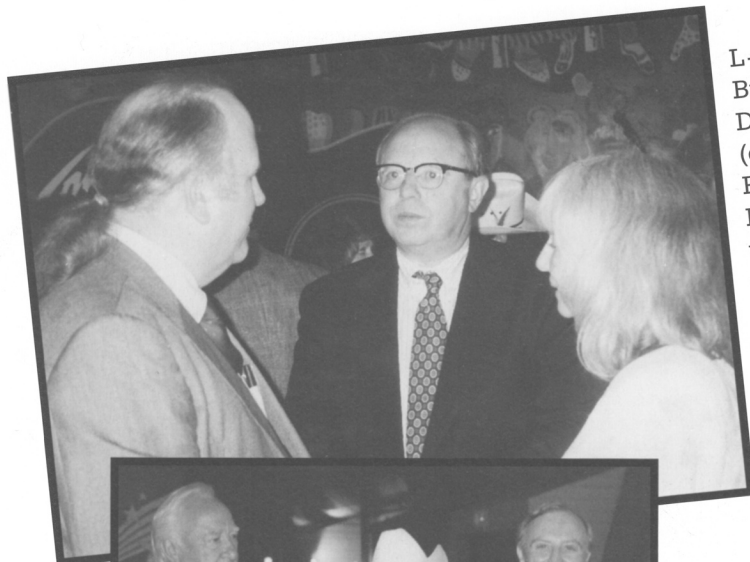
DR RALPH STANLEY
CARE GARY REID

DEAR DR. RALPH STOP THE FIELDS HAVE TURNED BROWN STOP NOT FOR YOU
THOUGH STOP HAPPY ANNIVERSARY STOP YOU'LL LIVE FOREVER.

BEST WISHES,
BOB DYLAN
MGMCOMP 20:28 EST

Ralph and Clinch Mountain
Boys entertain the fans!





L-R
 Bil VornDick,
 Dave Freeman
 (of Rebel
 Records) and
 Ms. VornDick
 wouldn't
 miss it!



Ralph accepts our thanks and a gold
 watch for his 50 years of music

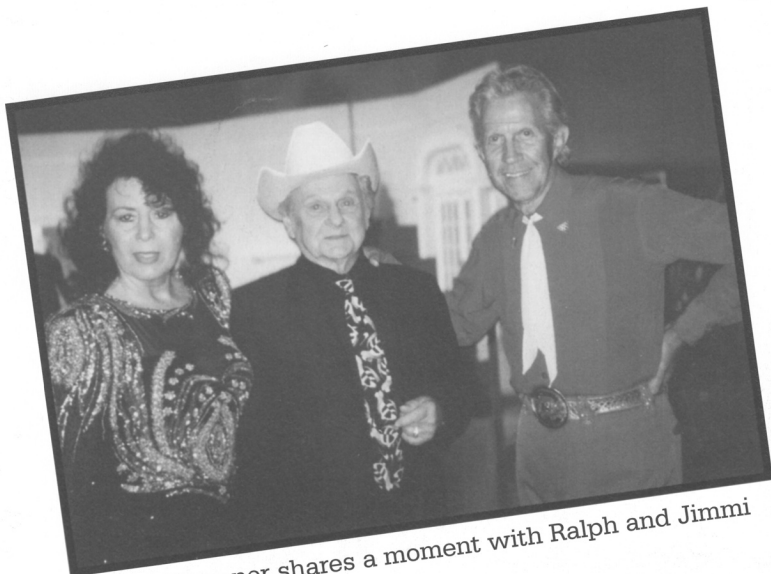


L-R George Shuffler and
 Randy Campbell greet Ralph

**"COUNTRY MUSIC
 HALL OF FAME"
 becomes
 "PARTY CENTRAL"
 after Opry**



Ralph with his long-time friend, Jack Lynch
 (left) and his guest (right)



Porter Wagoner shares a moment with Ralph and Jimmi

Kentucky girl
 and Opry Star
 Skeeter Davis,
 long-time fan
 and friend





Dr. Ralph Stanley is honored at Lincoln Memorial University in Harrogate, TN, on October 16. Proceeds from a concert by Ricky Skaggs, the Del McCoury Band, and Mountain Heart went to establish the Dr. Ralph Stanley Endowed Scholarship at LMU. Dr. Ralph received his honorary doctorate from LMU in 1976. The Dr. Ralph Stanley Tribute Concert is now an annual event each October at the University.

(Photo courtesy LMU)

©RC

Lincoln Memorial University ...Harrogate, TN...It's where "the Doctor" in Dr. Ralph Stanley was earned...He got an Honorary Doctorate for his "visiting professor" work at the school, teaching a course on "mountain style country music", back in 1976.

There's now a scholarship endowed in his name, and every Oct., a benefit concert will be held to keep \$\$ coming in. (Ralph is booked this Oct. 3, 2003)

More Awards and Honors



Ralph and Pete Wernick-President, IBMA (International Bluegrass Music Association... with "The Stanley Brothers"

plaque ... at Induction Ceremonies - IBMA Hall of Honor...Owensboro, KY , Sept. 24, 1992

Ralph Stanley Appreciation Days ... McClure, VA , (closest town to Ralph's rural birthplace)... April 22, 1988

©RC



Producer Bil VornDick and Ralph sweep Major Categories..

with "Record of the Year" and "Recorded Event of the Year" for "Clinch Mountain Country"...IBMA- October, 1999...Louisville, KY



16-20 Sept., 03
Morehead, Ky.
(3rd week of Sept. every year!)

Poppy Mountain
Presents **The 11th Annual**
IIIrd Tyme Out Bluegrass Festival

We'll see you here, Ralph, like we do every year! Congratulations on your much deserved success!

Your friends,

Marty Stevens, Tim Cahall, and staff

Watch for **NEW FESTIVAL** in Florida—
Coming Early 2004

Tickets/Info ... 606-784-2277
8030 US 60E Morehead, KY 40351
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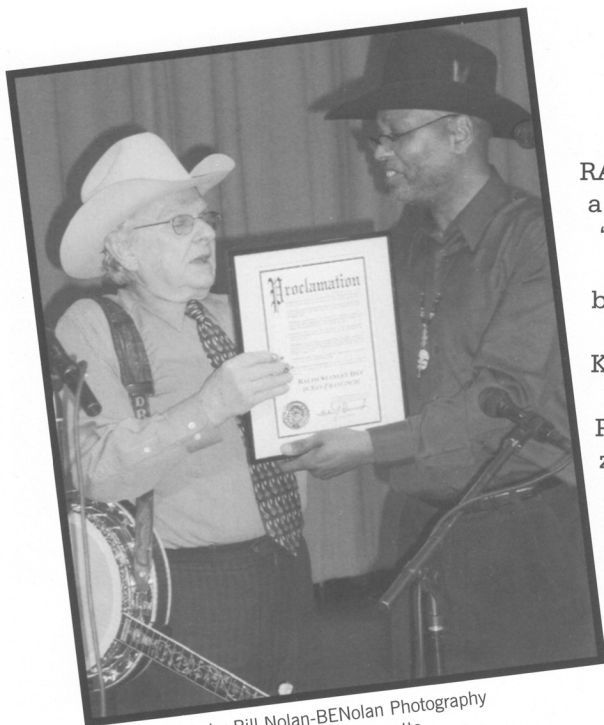
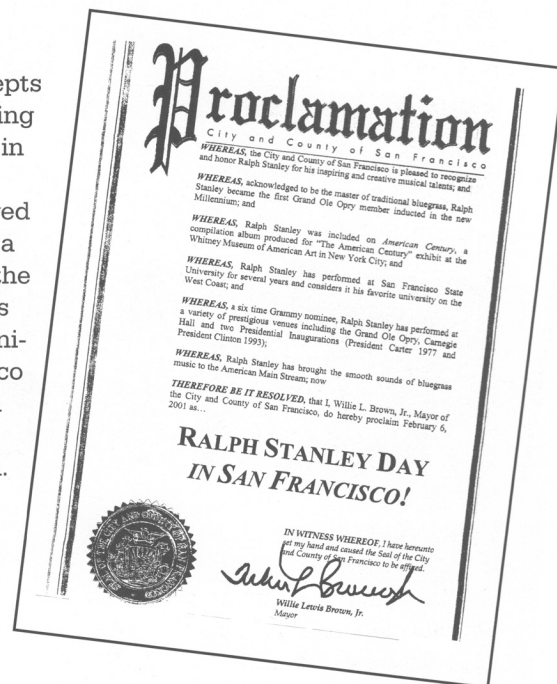


Photo by Bill Nolan-BENolan Photography
courtesy Muata Kenyatta

RALPH STANLEY RULES

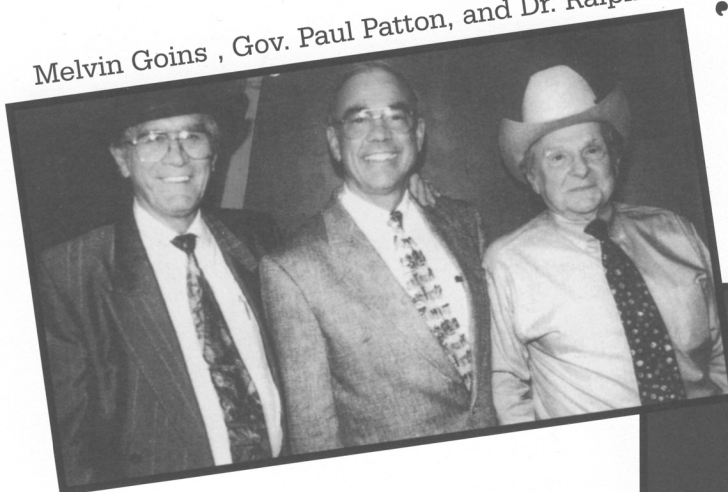
Bluegrass legend
RALPH STANLEY accepts
a proclamation declaring
"Ralph Stanley Day" in
San Francisco. The
bluegrass titan received
the honor from Muata
Kenyatta, Director of the
Associated Students
Performing Arts organi-
zation at San Francisco
State University, on
behalf of the city's
mayor, Willie Brown.
(text courtesy
*Country
Music Magazine*)



RALPH STANLEY DAY IN SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF... FEB. 6, 2001 ...

so Proclaimed by S.F. Mayor Willie Brown

Melvin Goins, Gov. Paul Patton, and Dr. Ralph



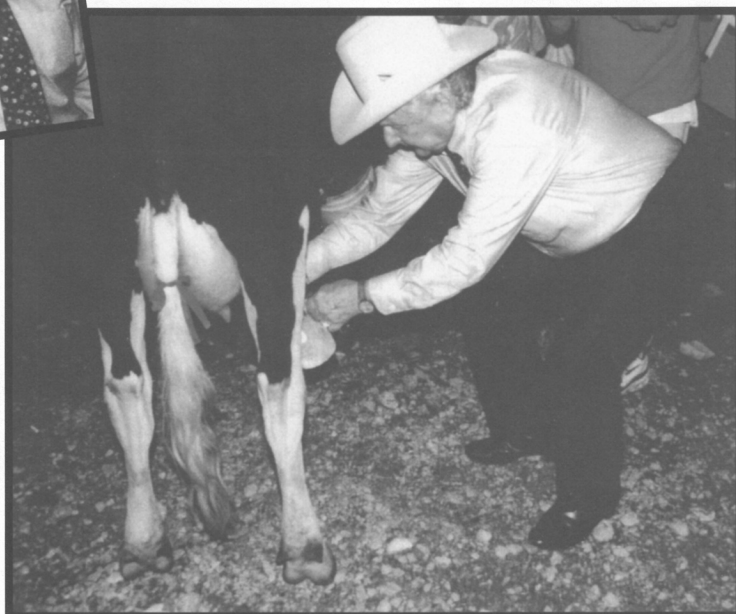
1997 COW MILKING CHAMPION...

Poppy Mountain Bluegrass Festival,
Morehead, Kentucky...and by virtue of the
judge, Kentucky Gov. Paul Patton
(Democrat).. STATE OF KENTUCKY
CHAMPION as well, by a "squeeze"
over Melvin Goins.

(photo by Col. Tom Carter...courtesy of
Poppy Tim Cahall and Marty Stevens)

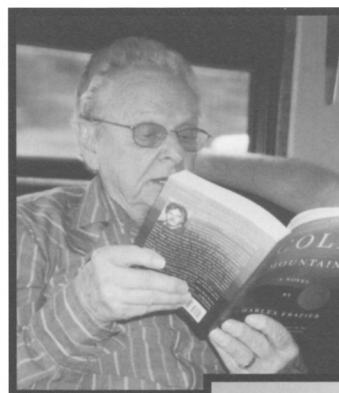
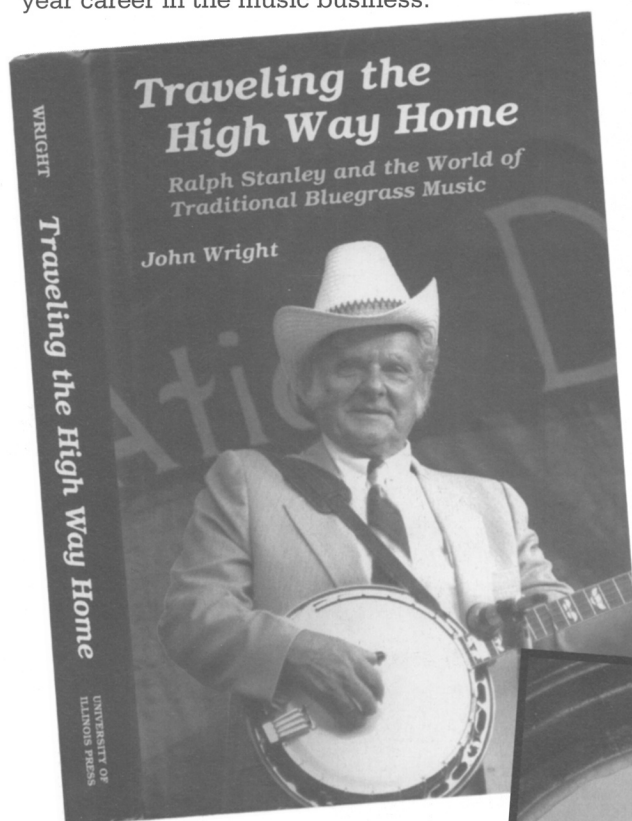
"THIS SKILL COULD COME IN HANDY DURING HARD TIMES"...

Ralph beating Melvin Goins in a milking
contest by just a few squeezes!



Traveling the Highway Home – Ralph Stanley and the World of Traditional Bluegrass Music. Biography by John Wright, © University of Illinois Press. Published 1993. Includes 'first person' interviews with nearly two dozen friends, band members, and business associates of Ralph, and Ralph himself, on his then 40+ year career in the music business.

*To my old Buddy Randy Combs
Have enjoyed working with you
Dr. Ralph Stanley*



First GRAMMIES® ...is OSCAR® next? Ralph studies his character in preparation for his very first acting role. He'll play a blind man in the Civil War era story "Cold Mountain" and sing on the soundtrack. Movie and CD are due out in December, 2003. Produced by T-Bone Burnett.



Ralph greets Herb E. Smith, Producer/Director of "The Ralph Stanley Story" at the San Francisco State University (SFSU), California, February 2001.

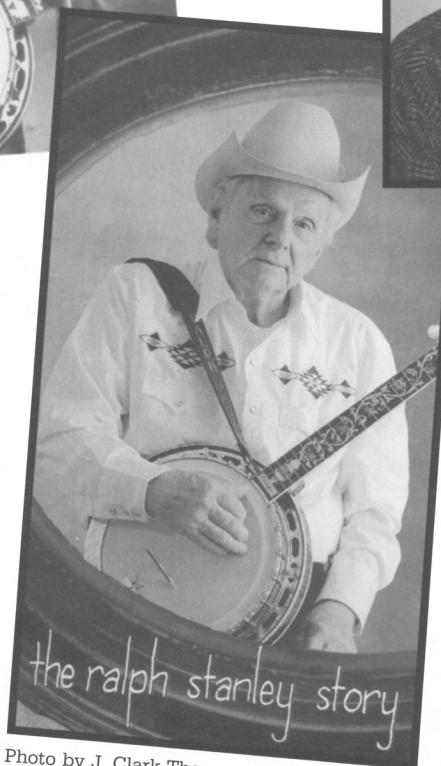
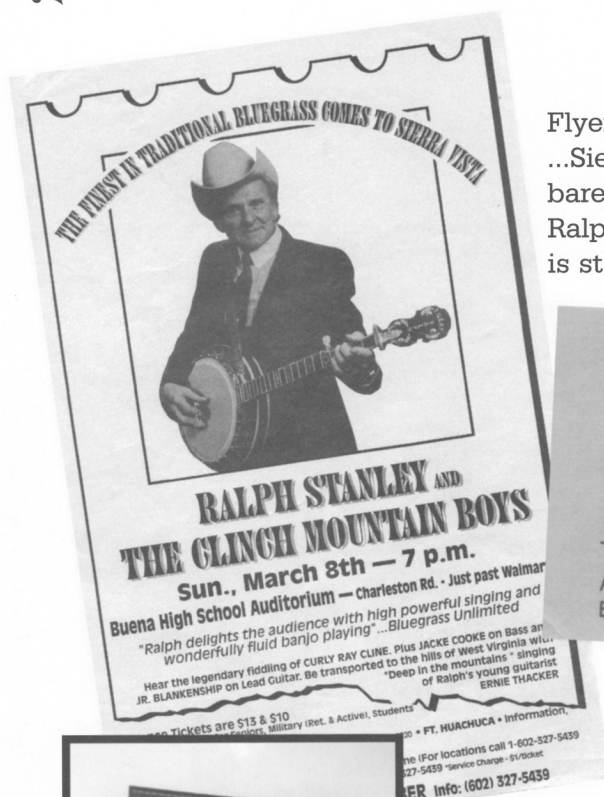


Photo by J. Clark Thomas
Courtesy David Reynolds
– Appalshop

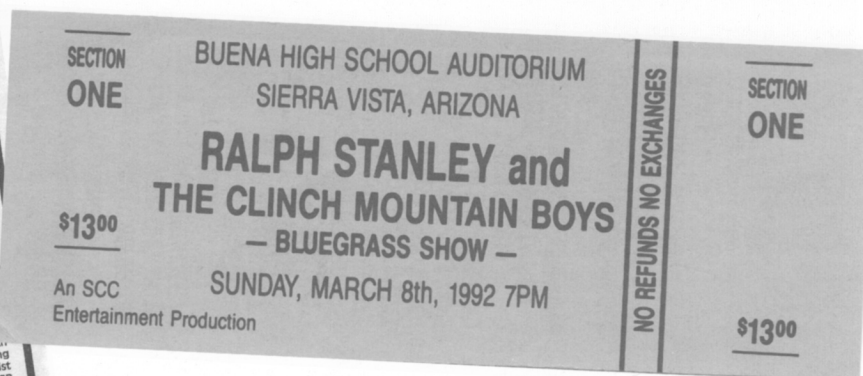
**First
read
the
book
...then
see the
movie!**

Excerpt from HIGHLIGHT-VIDEO Review by Bob Allen
"Other documentaries may be made about bluegrass great Ralph Stanley in years to come. But it's hard to imagine one as deeply moving and as emotionally true and revealing as this one, which was filmed over several years by director Herb. E. Smith of Appalshop, a distinguished Kentucky-based non-

profit cultural center." Reprinted by permission from *Bluegrass Unlimited Magazine*, 1-800-BLU-GRASS, © July 2001



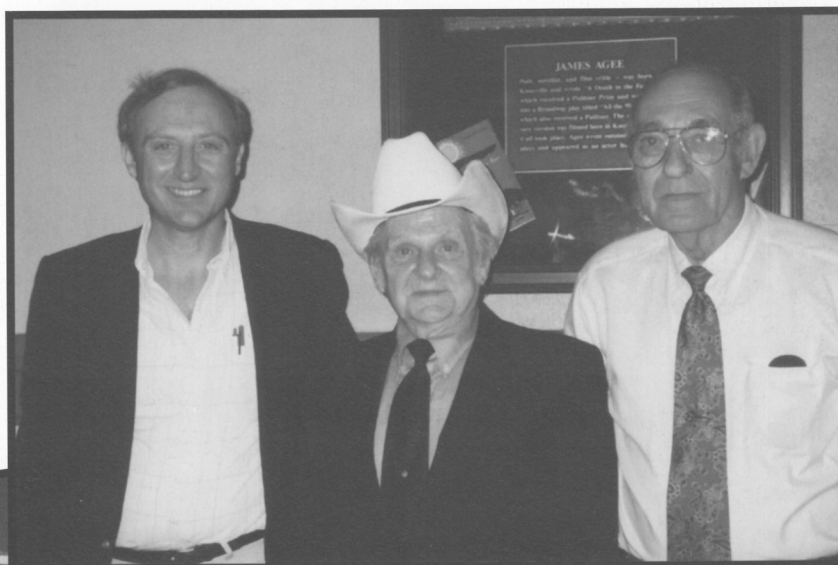
Flyer/ticket.....MY FIRST SHOW WITH RALPH...March 8,1992
...Sierra Vista, Arizona (Buena High School Auditorium) (I barely broke even on the show, after paying the school and Ralph. However, I must say, eleven-plus years later, that show is still PAYING ME ROYALTIES, as I'm still working with Ralph!



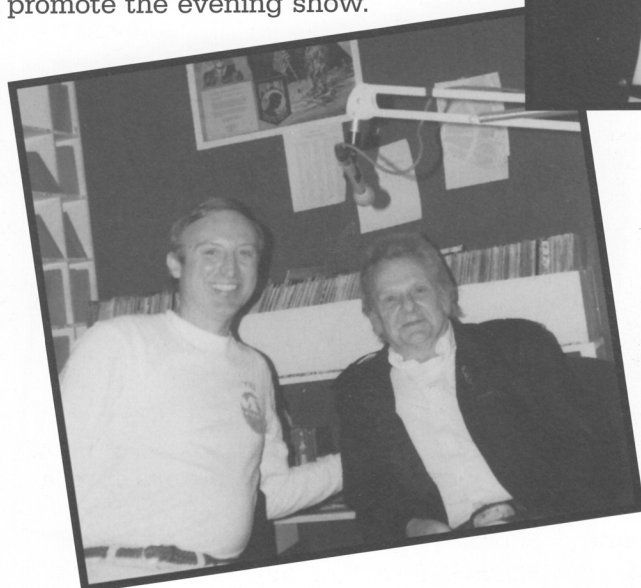
Ralph and Me



First photo taken of me and Ralph together...KTAN Radio, Sierra Vista . We stopped off that afternoon to promote the evening show.



Me, Ralph, and my good friend, Benny Wilcox—
Knoxville, TN—May, 1994



I met Benny in Dalton, GA in 1969. He was a true "mountain man" from Turtletown, TN (near the North Carolina border). He was the first person who "turned me on" to The Stanley Brothers and Ralph's music. That was about all he had in his collection, and he played mostly Stanley gospel songs in a family band, "The Wilcox Trio". He died in 1999. I still miss him, but am so glad he got to meet Ralph with me!



"Who's Gonna Fill Their Shoes?"

Ralph, me, and George Jones, backstage at the Grand Ole Opry, Oct., 2001. Thanks, Ralph and George, for all you've done—and keep doing—to keep country music PURE! (Now if only a small bit of this talent could just rub off on me!)

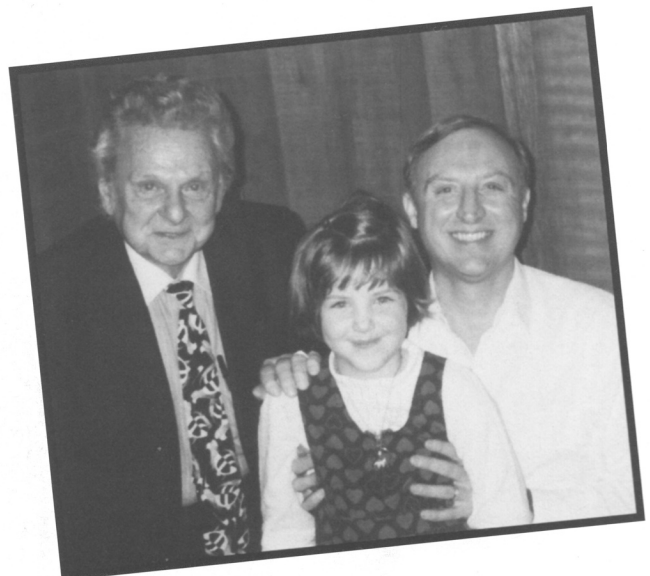


"Bus Buddies"...Interstate 80—near Sacramento, CA...Feb., 1995

Some more of Ralph

and Me!

Ralph, me, and my daughter, Rachel, (then age 6), in Calif., Feb. 1996. (Ralph was the first professional entertainer she saw, in 1992, when she was 2 ½). She's 13 now, and likes pop music, but she still likes Ralph, and he likes her. Ralph let her join us on the bus for part of a tour in 1999. It was a big thrill for her!

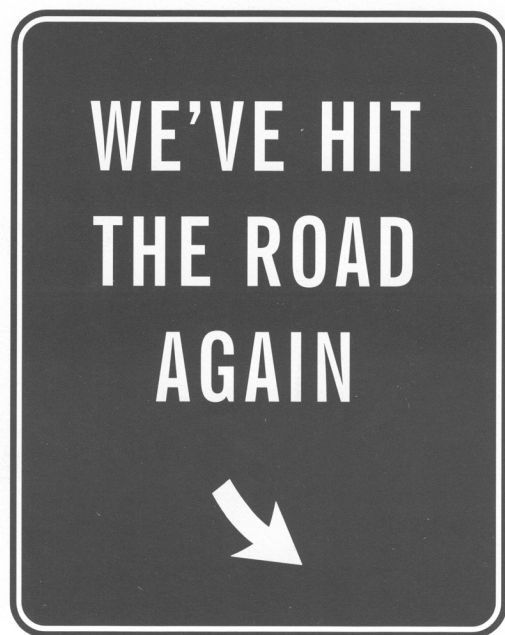


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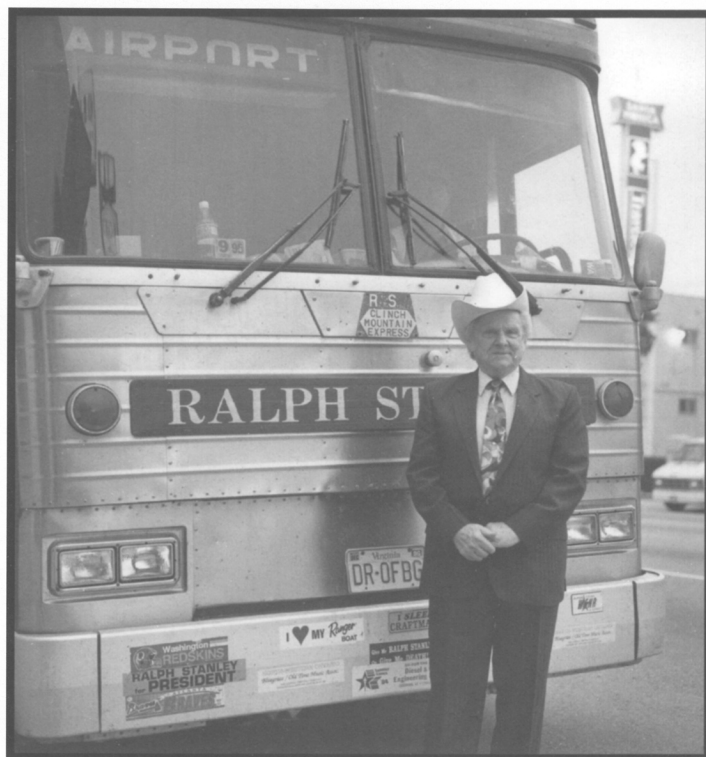
"For my 80th birthday in August of 2002, I got a surprise present from my children — a trip to Birmingham, Alabama (in my home state), to see you in the "Down From The Mountain" tour. Randy had set it up with his sisters, and kept it from me. The hug from you on your bus after the show, plus your closing the show by having everyone hold hands while singing "Amazing Grace" was a better gift than any money could have bought! Thanks so much, Ralph, for touching the souls of people all these years with your songs, particularly your Sacred Hymns! Also, thanks for being so good to my son for all these years...*Your friend,*
Lois Duensing



Ralph and his Band of Happy Music Making Mountain Men...



Poogie Jude

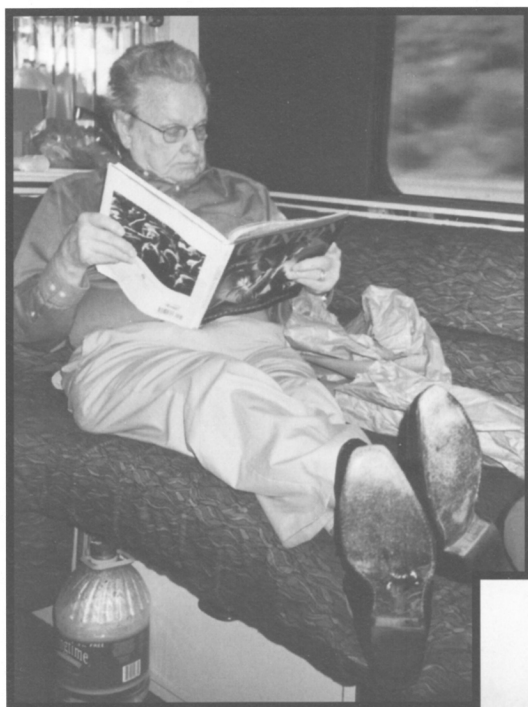


"All dressed and somewhere to go"....(Ralph with his bus "The Clinch Mountain Express".... Los Angeles, CA... mid-1990's (photo by Sam Dylan)

The Clinch Mountain Express hits the road.



'Road Again' photos by Randy Campbell



We've got time to read, and shows to view (and David's here from Newsweek, too.) ↓

Chicago Tribune

Beyond banjo

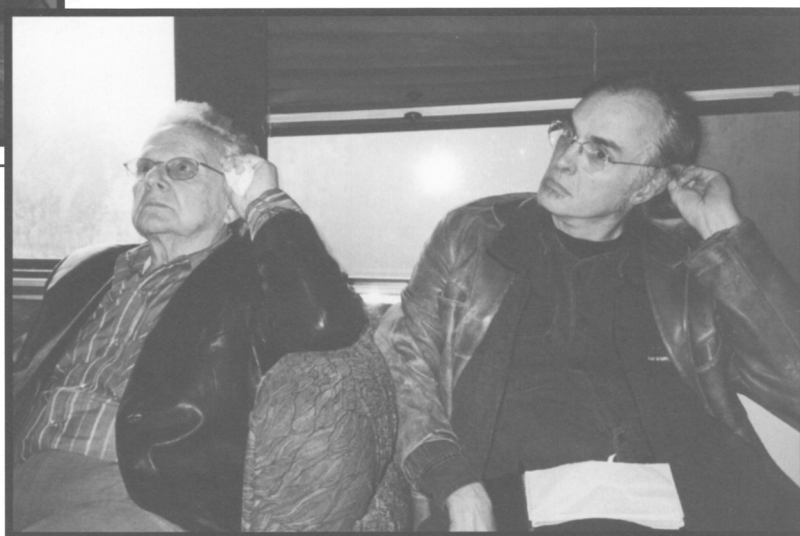
Ralph Stanley weaves his spell with vigor, drive

By David Duckman (David Royko)

SPECIAL TO THE TRIBUNE
MARCH 10, 1996

As hard as it is to describe the unique power of Ralph Stanley's performance Friday night at the Old Town School of Folk Music, it is even more difficult to explain exactly what makes the live Stanley experience so compelling.

It all begins with the music, which blends hard-core traditional bluegrass with elements of old-time rural string band styles, and is delivered with such vigor and drive that the temptation to get up and dance becomes almost distracting. Then there is Stanley's singing, which is straight and unsentimental in interpretation, with a texture as raw and gravelly as a backwoods trail, but dead-on accurate



(EXCERPT)

and as loud as a train whistle. Much of the credit for the magical spell cast by Stanley must go to the musicians he hires, as well as the sheer size of his band. While most bluegrass groups are quartets or quintets, Stanley's current version of his Clinch Mountain Boys sounds like a Bluegrass Philharmonic with its twin banjos, twin guitars, fiddle, mandolin, and bass, for a total of seven instrumentalists. And though the size might prove unwieldy for lesser pickers, Stanley's ensemble is nimble enough to operate with the dexterity of a duo while piling up a mountain range of notes.

By permission from David Royko,
Tribune Publishing Co.

RIDING WITH THE DOCTOR

It is another Thursday morning in the coalfields of Virginia. The roaring engines of coal trucks interrupt the sound of chirping birds and other signs of nature in the town of Coeburn. Just as the mine workers and others are preparing for work, a man pulls up in a SUV. This starts his workweek.

He is the boss and foreman. Two other members of his crew have already assembled. As he loads his tools and wares from his SUV, the others arrive. They join the foreman loading up for the workweek ahead. This isn't a group of workers from the local miners union. It is Dr. Ralph Stanley & the Clinch Mountain Boys.

Many members of the band hit the local grocery store and a fast food restaurant, stocking up for the many miles ahead before heading out on the road.

There is the normal morning chitchat on the bus. But one topic is Jack Cooke who does not make this trip due to illness. Local musician Jeff Brown takes Cooke's spot playing the bass fiddle for the band this weekend. James Alan Shelton hands "Two" [Ralph Stanley II] an article he found on the internet.

Dr. Ralph and the boys are on their way to Nashville to play the Ryman Auditorium; the first stop on a four-city tour that will cover seven states. This round of shows includes Music City, two stops in Kentucky, and across the Mississippi to Steelville, Mo.

This is a standard weekend, four cities in as many days. The August schedule is packed with trips to Oklahoma and Wisconsin. The road is a second home to them—they find themselves just as much a part of the road as they are of the music, stopping for dinner at truck stops only to head right back for the road to go to the next show. Many times they ride through the night, sleeping over rough roads and potholes along the way. As much as they are rushed to do a show, they are left to sit for many hours to kill time. There are many hours of boredom waiting to get to the next appearance.

The Boys always find something to do. While driving through the night, there is always someone that stays up with the driver. Each member of the band takes turns—even Ralph Stanley, him-



Ralph tunes up...



...and signs lots of autographs!

self, is known to sit up a while as they travel through the night. The "shotgunner" talks with the driver and watches the road and navigates. There are always twists and turns that the driver will need help with, especially if they are traveling to new or unfamiliar venues.

Traveling for so long, there is always

conversation. The topic can vary from talk of the best route of travel to and from the next show or the weather. One thing for sure is Ralph II talking about his love of the Washington Redskins, going into training camp and winning the Super Bowl. James Price does not limit his sense of humor to the stage. Price, the Clinch Mountain fiddler and renowned artist impersonator, with his sense of humor, brings out his lighter side while traveling.

Getting in and out of locations is not always easy—the Ryman is no exception; with cars parked on each side of the alley, driver E.C. French has little room to spare. Once there, the members have to setup for the show. Bluegrass night at the Ryman is not like most shows. The band shares the night with the Del McCoury Band. They have very little space, less than what the band is accustomed to, and they set up next to McCoury at the table.

Backstage, close friends and associates in Nashville meet them. Ricky Skaggs stops in to pay a visit in the green room before waiting in the wings for the Del McCoury Band to wind up their portion. The crowd is treated to Ralph Stanley live at the Ryman, the venue of the "Down From The Mountain" soundtrack recording.

There is no mistaking that *O Brother* has helped bluegrass. The soundtrack has catapulted the musicians' touring schedule and popularity. The band is spending more time on the road. The band plays many new venues, and each venue is different. The stages vary from city to city; from the "Mother Church" of country music one night to a show ring in northern Kentucky. The fans are not always at the shows for the ambiance. They are there to see a living legend perform. Ralph Stanley has seen a big change over the years. "It was in just a few states," says Stanley. "Now it is worldwide."

During the Old Mill Bluegrass Festival, fans swarm Stanley. There are a group of boys that arrive at the record table just after Ralph has left for the stage. They remain at the record table during the one-hour set until Stanley returns to autograph items. In east Kentucky, he is admired by the old, idolized by the young, and puts

By Sid Bolden

newcomers to mountain music in awe. Many older fans recall the days that he and brother Carter Stanley were broadcast on WCYB, performing the Farm And Fun Hour. One fan reflects on how they would have to conserve the battery power just to hear the Stanley Brothers on the radio.

The long afternoon turns into evening. The crowd grows larger to beat the heat of a summer's day. During the second set, Ralph clawhammers his Stanleytone banjo. Fans flood Ralph and the Boys exiting the stage before they head to the bus and the next town. They make a stop in West Liberty, Ky., for some fast food before going to Steelville, Mo.

There are times when more than one driver is needed for the long hauls. On the way to Missouri, the bus picks up a relief driver. After picking up the relief driver, the band arrives at their destination with the rising sun to the their back. The show is not until the afternoon, so they must sit and wait.

The band members retreat to the Wildwood Spring Lodge, the host of the show at the Chevy Theatre, to get ready for the performance. After a short break, the group is back at the theatre meeting fans and setting up for

the show. Just like all the other locations, people are excited to experience the Clinch Mountain sound of music. There are fans that have only heard and have never seen Stanley and his band.

After the fourth show in as many days, the lodge hosts members to dinner. After the dinner, the musicians wind down for the ride through the night. Another round of shows is complete. The members are eager to get back to the hills of Virginia and head home.

As we head home, I look back at the trip—four cities traveling seven states—from the hills of Virginia, the Ryman, Alexandria, Ky., West Liberty, Ky., and Steelville, Mo. The life of a road musician is not the glamorous life it may seem. One musician told me many fans only see the bus roll in, a 45-minute show, and then the bus leave. They don't see the long trips on the road, the short stays for shows, eating on the run, going to the performance, staying in hotels just long enough to clean up for the next show, and then riding through the night getting to the next appearance.

The trip is exciting, traveling with a high mileage band and sharing the

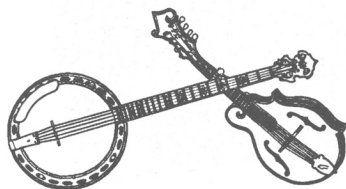
experiences of a road musician's week-end. Pulling off at truck stops to fill up the bus and the body with fuel. Sitting up in the middle of the night with the driver as the "shotgunner," crossing over the Mississippi in the early morning hours as the sun rises on the way to Steelville. The bus was headed west into the night sky; I watched the sun rise in the east.

I wonder how Ralph does it. He has done it for so long. I asked him how much longer he would continue to tour. "Maybe two weeks or ten years," he says. "It depends on a lot of things. But probably not ten years."

The bus makes one last stop in the middle of the night, in Kentucky at a truck stop. I go in and get one of those greasy truck stop sandwiches. I stay up for a while with Ralph II and E.C. French, and as the bus goes through Hazard, I head back to my bunk. In the midmorning hours, the 45-foot Silver Eagle arrives in Coeburn. The bus will rest until she spreads her wings over the highways for another ride with the doctor.



Riding With The Doctor by Sid Bolden
Reprinted by permission from Bluegrass Unlimited Magazine, 1-800-BLU-GRASS, © October 2001



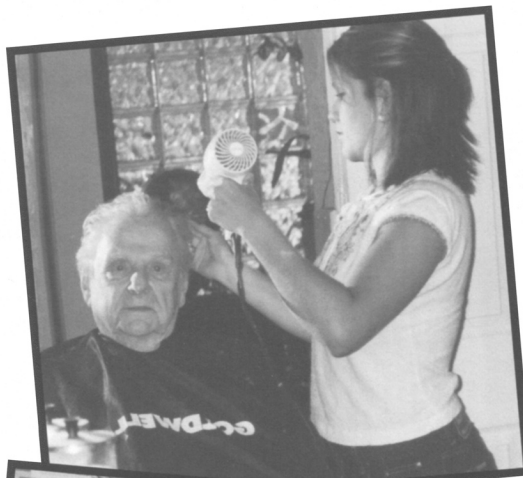
San Diego Bluegrass Club

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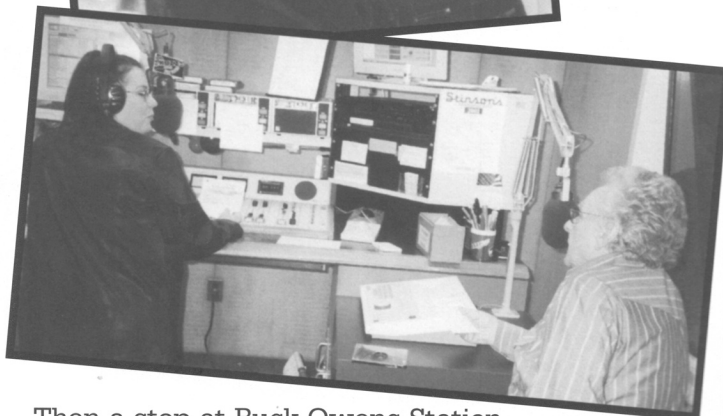
FEBRUARY 1995

HEN RALPH STANLEY SINGS, it's easy to forget that the style of music we call *bluegrass* is not much more than fifty years old. Stanley's music sounds as if it comes up from the center of the earth, pouring out of the rocks and trees of his native Virginia mountains.

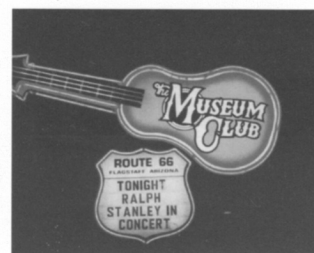
If you had a time machine, you could travel back to hear a piano concert by Ludwig von Beethoven or a horn solo by W.C. Handy. But you don't need a time machine to hear a man who helped to define the bluegrass style. Ralph Stanley and the Clinch Mountain Boys will travel to you, performing at Mandeville Auditorium on the UCSD campus in La Jolla on Friday, February 17. (By Elizabeth Burkett)



**Ralph
always
strives
to look
his
best...**



Then a stop at Buck Owens Station,
KUZZ RADIO (Bakersfield, CA)



Well, we're tuned up right,
and rarin' to play... ➔

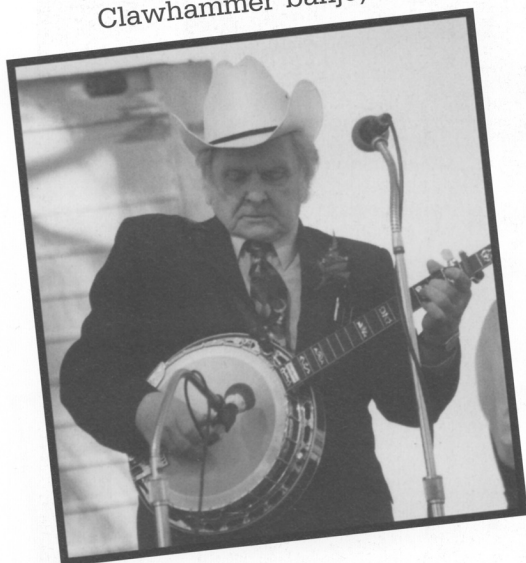


...particularly for his many fans **Way Out West** ↑



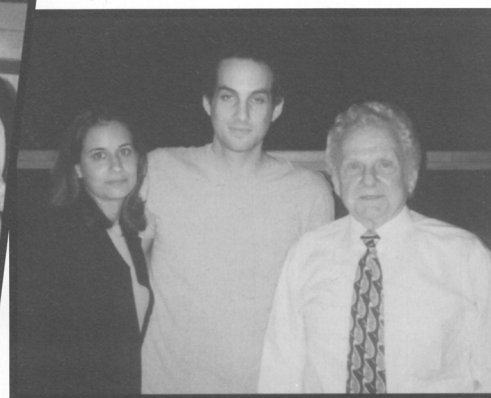
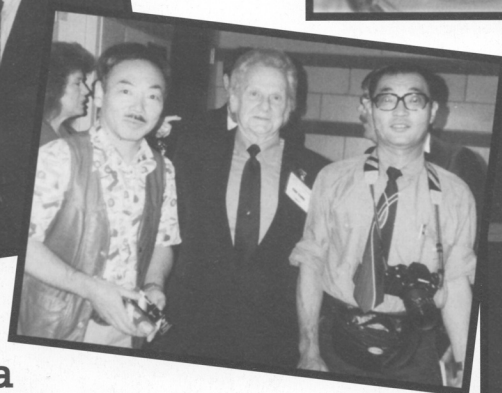
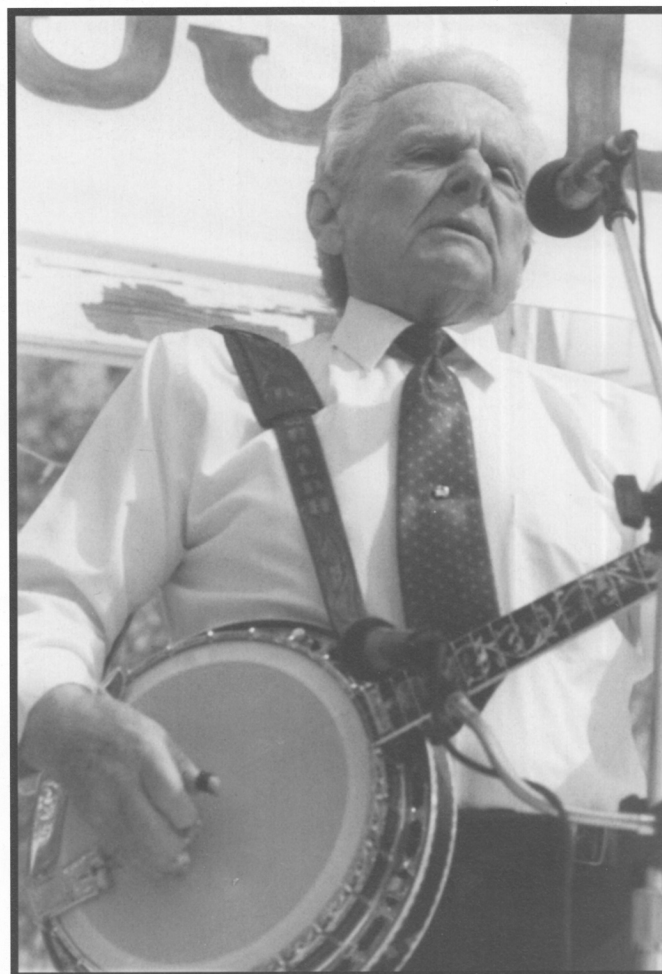


("Finger lickin' good" ...
Clawhammer banjo)



We'll do it
our way...
Ralph's
way...
each
day...
and
ALWAYS!

... some **Old Time
Mountain-Style** Country
Music — What They Call Bluegrass



Some fans just got a
"music education in the cities of our
nation" ... from Ralph.

If you missed the show, don't worry, now, my
friends ... because Ralph and the Clinch Mountain
Boys will soon be "hitting the road again!"

(all apologies to Willie Nelson)

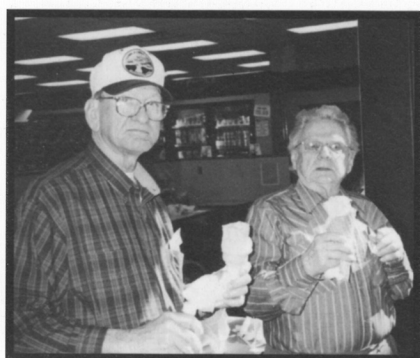


The other Arizona...

"Digging Out" after a show at Mormon Lake Lodge, Arizona (near Flagstaff)... Feb., 1998



BEWARE: Tourist crossing ahead



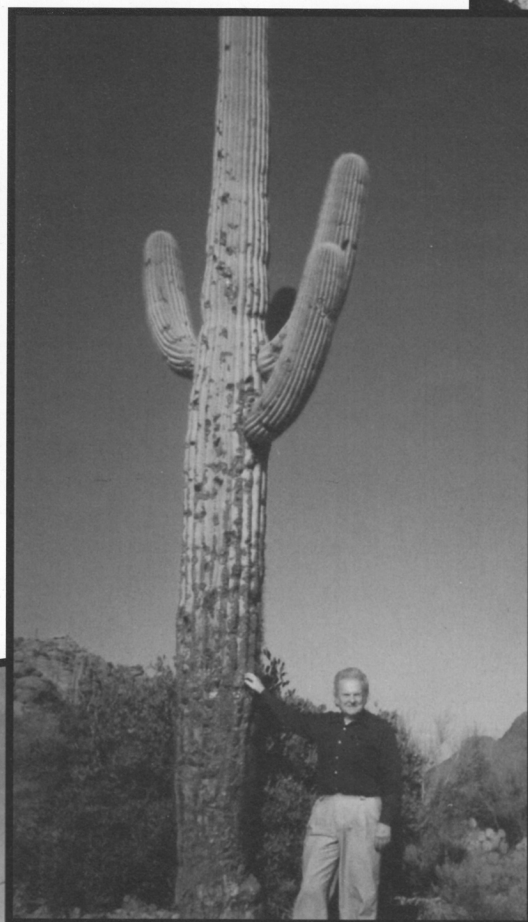
"Satisfying a Sweet Tooth"... Ralph and his friend, Charles "Wyatt" Earp...Calif., 2000



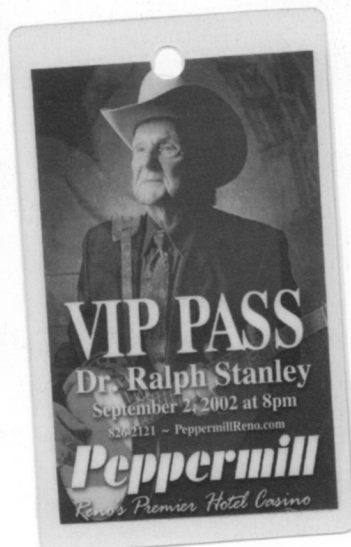
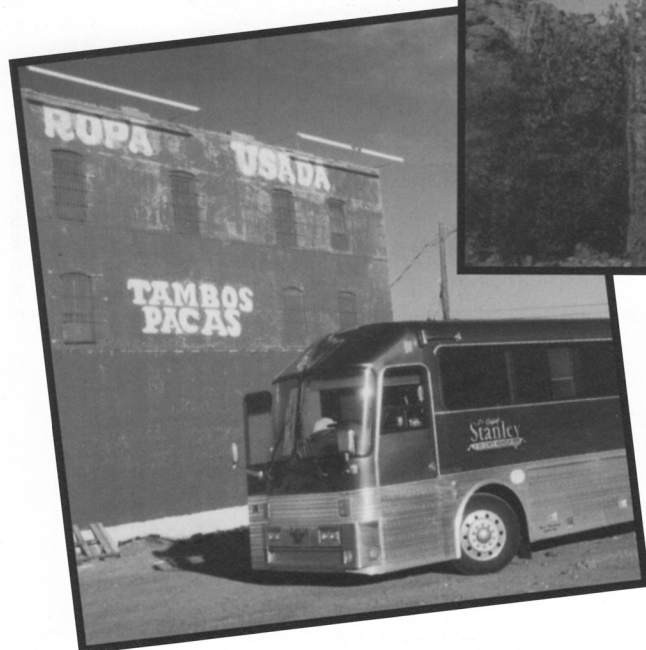
Señor Ralph Stanley, el Vaquero de Virginia, es el hombre grande!!

(translation by Gerardo Garcia, Tucson, Arizona

(Oh, go to the library and look it up-it's Spanish)—El Paso, Texas , just back from Juarez, Mexico... Feb., 1999..



Ralph and a "Desert Pine Tree"...Giant Saguaro Cactus ... Tucson, Arizona April,1995



"How much do you want to bet, that it was a Great Show?...Our first casino date...Reno, Nevada...at The Peppermill...Labor Day, (Sept. 2002).

RALPH AND BILL MONROE—Their careers together spanned 70 years of the 20th Century! When Ralph was a young boy, he listened to Monroe on the Grand Ole Opry in the late 1930's-early 1940's. By the late 1940's, "The Stanley Brothers" and Bill Monroe and The Bluegrass Boys were the biggest acts in country music! After 20 years as rivals, Ralph and Bill became friends, and worked together constantly, from the mid-1960's until Bill's death in 1996. Ralph is the only man alive to play EVERY BEAN BLOSSOM Festival in Indiana. He has a lifetime contract there.



Ralph and Bill-Costa Mesa, CA-Aug.,1987
(first photo I ever took of Ralph, when I first saw him play. Appropriately, it was with Bill Monroe).



Ralph and Bill — early 1980's photo by Carl Fleischhauer, courtesy Rebel Records



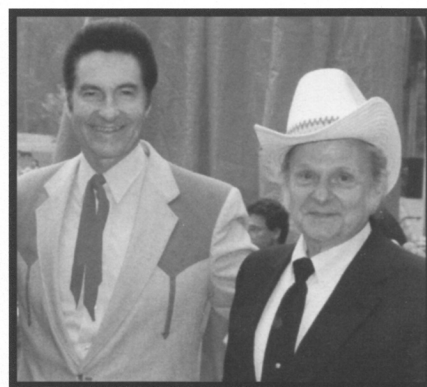
Leonard Stacy, Bill, and Ralph at Bean Blossom, Indiana—early 1990's — (I think Leonard would agree he's standing in some "mighty tall musical cotton") photo courtesy Leonard Stacy

"IF THESE WERE THE ONLY MEN WHO HAD EVER RECORDED BLUEGRASS AND OLD-TIME COUNTRY MUSIC, THERE WOULD STILL BE A VERY IMPRESSIVE AMOUNT TO LISTEN TO!"

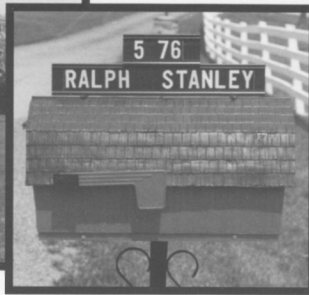
Private Club: Legends Only Need Apply

RALPH AND JIM McREYNOLDS (Of Jim and Jesse and The Virginia Boys)

Jim and Jesse were born and raised in Coeburn, VA. Ralph and Jim were born just 2 weeks apart in Feb., 1927. Jim and Jesse started their band a couple of years after "The Stanley Brothers". With their own unique styles, they set a "brother duo" sound that is yet to be equaled in bluegrass and country music, to this day. (It's very simple—Jim and Ralph are the TWO MOST IMPORTANT PERSONS in my professional life! Jim and Jesse were the first professional musicians I ever saw, 1961 in Alabama, when I was 11 years old.—I was "hooked" on this type of music! Later, we became friends, and I eventually booked some shows with them out west. In 1987, I went to see them on "The Legends" show in So. Calif., and that's when I first saw Ralph. Jim introduced me to him! Jim and I remained close until his death on Dec. 31, 2002. On Jan. 1, 2003, it was Ralph who told me Jim had passed away. We were meant to be "linked", and we always will be.)



©MW



Home ...

"Sharing the Gold" - Coeburn, Oct. 2002



"The Morning After The Grammy's"
Sunset Strip, Hollywood, CA –
Feb. 28, 2002



"Best Trophy A Man Can Get" – Oct. 1999



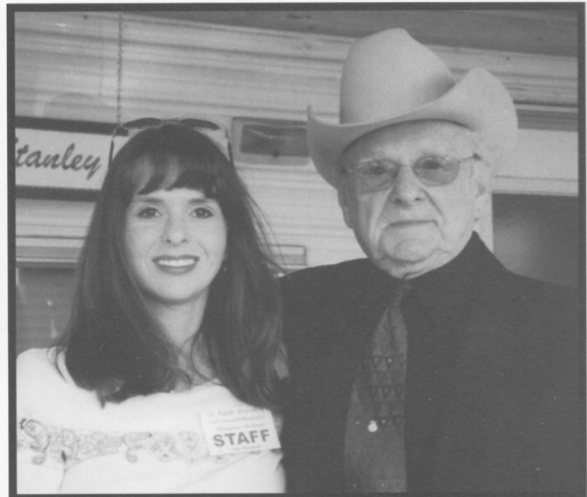
"Side by Side, for over 40 years"



Appreciation Days..."Ralph and Jimmi
Appreciated by town of McClure, VA"- April, 1988



Carter and Billy with "Uncle Ralph"—(They're Carter's sons, and come up from Florida every year for the Festival)—May, 2001

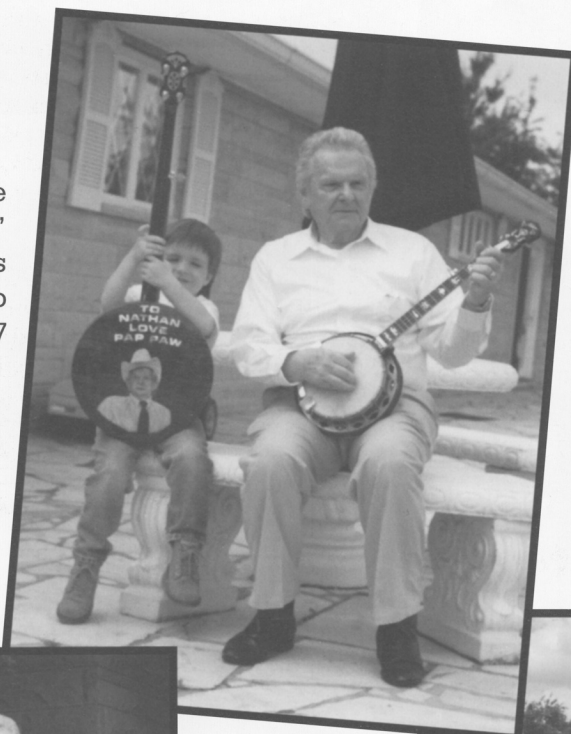


"Ralph and daughter, Lisa- 2001 Festival (she usually works the gate).

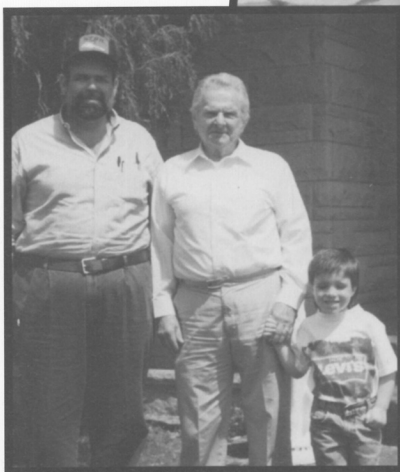
... and Family

Reunion

"Learning the Family Business"
- Nathan and his "Professor Pap Paw"—May, 1997



Ralph and Jimmi, with Jimmi's sister, Rena and brother-in-law, Jake, in Ontario, CA, where Rena lives—Feb., 2002



Miles Ward, Ralph and Nathan-Miles got promoted to "family" a while back by Ralph



"Country Boys Down on the Farm" —(Ralph and Jimmi always make me feel at home when I'm here)

Acknowledgements & Thank You's!

COVER

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PHOTOS - JOHN BYRNE COOKE — (Stanley Brothers-1964) (www.cookephoto.com) Walt Saunders (Stanley Brothers, 1966) — Miles Ward-(many) — Charlie Sizemore- Schmidt PR -Nashville- Jessie and Darlene (Grand Ole Opry photos) — Sylvia Lynch-(LMU) — Muata Kenyatta-SFSU-, Leonard Stacy, Sharon Bennett, Marty Stevens, Tim Cahall and Col. Tom Carter (Poppy Mountain)— Norma Morris- Rebel Records photographers-from all album/CD jackets- courtesy of Dave Freeman — (and particularly Jim McGuire-for center poster pull-out) — and the N.A.R.A.S. — (FOR THE GRAMMY® PHOTOS—HEATHER MEDURE, PAGE 35 IS DEDICATED TO YOU — and thanks for finding me a ticket for the show!) — APPALSHOP-David Reynolds & Herb E. Smith — Sam Dylan, Los Angeles CA

RECORD COMPANIES — REBEL RECORDS — Dave and Mark Freeman, and staff-for this book and your support for 11+ years!—COPPER CREEK — Gary Reid and Greg Greenstein- PINECASTLE RECORDS — Amy Murray — DUALTONE —Tracy Coats of Jim Lauderdale's office - KING RECORDS —Virginia Biggs - MERCURY-Jill Boles-DMZ-

T-Bone Burnett and John Grady (formerly of Lost Highway/ Mercury)— who gave birth and a continuing great life to "O Brother, Where Art Thou," that inspired and filled several pages of this book, and changed lots of lives, especially Ralph's.

PUBLICATIONS - Following gave us permission to use portions/whole articles on Ralph -

BLUEGRASS UNLIMITED — Sharon McGraw and Pete Kuykendall —

BLUEGRASS NOW — Deb Ashby-Bledsoe — **SING OUT** — Scott Atkinson — **OXFORD AMERICAN** — Katherine Walton — **TUCSON (AZ) CITIZEN** — Michael Chihak —and A.J.Flick— **COUNTRY STANDARD TIME** — Jeff Remz — **Chicago Tribune** — David Royko — **Crawdaddy** — Paul Williams — **San Diego Bluegrass Club Newsletter** — Elizabeth Burkett-**SEBA BREAKDOWN**. - Mike Warga — **TIME** — Grace Anderson-Smith- **NEWSWEEK** —Jerome Rankine — Country Music Magazine

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Of course, eternal gratitude to DR. RALPH STANLEY, for endorsing this project, and for letting me be a part of his life for the past 11 years-and for creating and singing the songs that will endure forever! -(Randy Campbell-May, 2003)



Autographs

Sunset ...



"In the Deep Rolling
Hills of Old Virginia ,
at a Place Ralph Loves
So Well"... but the
Voice and Legacy of
Dr. Ralph Stanley will
NEVER GO DARK!



Singing 1946 until ?

Shhhhhh!!



Carry on, Ralph, God Bless You, Always ... and Thanks for the 'ride" -RLC

Comin' to the Spotswood Barn

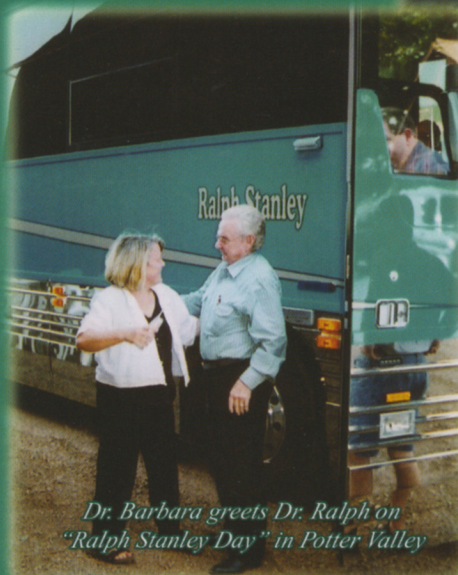
Thank you Dr. Ralph Stanley for your shows at our Spotswood Barn in Potter Valley, Mendocino County, California. When my husband was 9 years old, in 1949, he heard you and Brother Carter on the radio, playing *The White Dove*, and quickly learned to play the guitar and sing in the "old time way." His voice still trembles when he tells the story of riding in the car in 1949 with his mother, Leona Ellen Herrick, in California, and hearing you both on the radio. "I almost jumped out of the window," he says. His mother's people, the Herricks, settled in Virginia in 1642. They were related to the English poet Robert Herrick, and poet Jonathan Swift. I'm sure these were the old time heartstrings you tugged when he was a boy. His father is from a Scotch-Irish family who settled around 1812 in Kentucky, Ohio and Michigan. Skip's father came to Hollywood in 1944 as a composer-arranger and pianist in the studios. His red-haired grandmother was a pianist in the silent movies in Detroit. Both Skip's mother and father, with classical backgrounds, encouraged him to follow his heart...and Ralph and Carter Stanley. I can tell you he plays every evening in the kitchen and loves life!

We thank you all for keeping this music alive with our wonderful friends, Ralph II and the Clinch Mountain Boys. Praise the Lord! We look forward to seeing you at Spotswood Barn this summer and having you sleep in our bed each time you come out. This friendship has meant so much to us and the many folks who come to see you perform. We love you all!

- Barbara Newell, PhD.



*Ralph and Ralph II on stage at the
Spotswood Barn in Northern California*



*Dr. Barbara greets Dr. Ralph on
"Ralph Stanley Day" in Potter Valley*



*Skip Newell portrays
the Solemn Old Judge,
George D. Hay*



Fine Wood Finishes

*To my old Buddy Larkin Turner
Dr. Ralph Stanley*



MARK OF EXCELLENCE

Having been a life-long fan of the Man and his music, imagine the excitement and pride that I feel having Dr. Ralph as a valued customer. A valued customer is one thing, but to have Dr. Ralph as a personal friend and confidante are priceless! I consider myself blessed and privileged to know this fine man and to be a small part of this tribute to the Legend.

Larkin Turner
Dealer Principal
Turner Chevrolet, Inc.

TURNER CHEVROLET



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