

MARCH - APRIL

Mini Newsletter



1994

Dr. Ralph Stanley Fan Club

3368 Guernsey Ave

Memphis Tn 38122

DR. RALPH STANLEY



Ralph Stanley

Presents the 24th Annual

Memorial Blue Grass Festival

At the Hills of Home Park (Old Home Place) on
Smith Ridge between Coeburn and McClure, VA



DIRECTIONS: From Coeburn, take 72 North about one mile, turn right on Rt. 652, go about 6 miles, turn left on Rt. 643, leads to Festival. From McClure, take Rt. 63 to Nora, turn right on Rt. 652, go about 3 miles, turn right on Rt. 643, leads to Festival.

Thursday ~ Friday ~ Saturday May 26-27-28, 1994

Starts Thursday at 6 p.m., Friday at 2 p.m., Saturday at 12 Noon

~ *Featuring* ~

THURSDAY: Ralph Stanley & The Clinch Mountain Boys, Blue Grass Echoes, Gary & Anita with Verlin Sanders, The Larkin Family.

FRIDAY: Ralph Stanley, Bill Monroe, Charlie Sizemore, Blue Grass Strangers, Traditional Grass, Wild Wood Girls, Sam Wilson & Band.

DOC WATSON ~ Special Guest Friday and Saturday

SATURDAY: Ralph Stanley, Jimmy Martin, Issacs Family, Larry Sparks, Blue Grass Strangers, Vince Combs, Brickey Brothers with Dale Kennedy, Goins Brothers, East Ohio Grass, Jeannie Stanley (daughter of Carter Stanley)

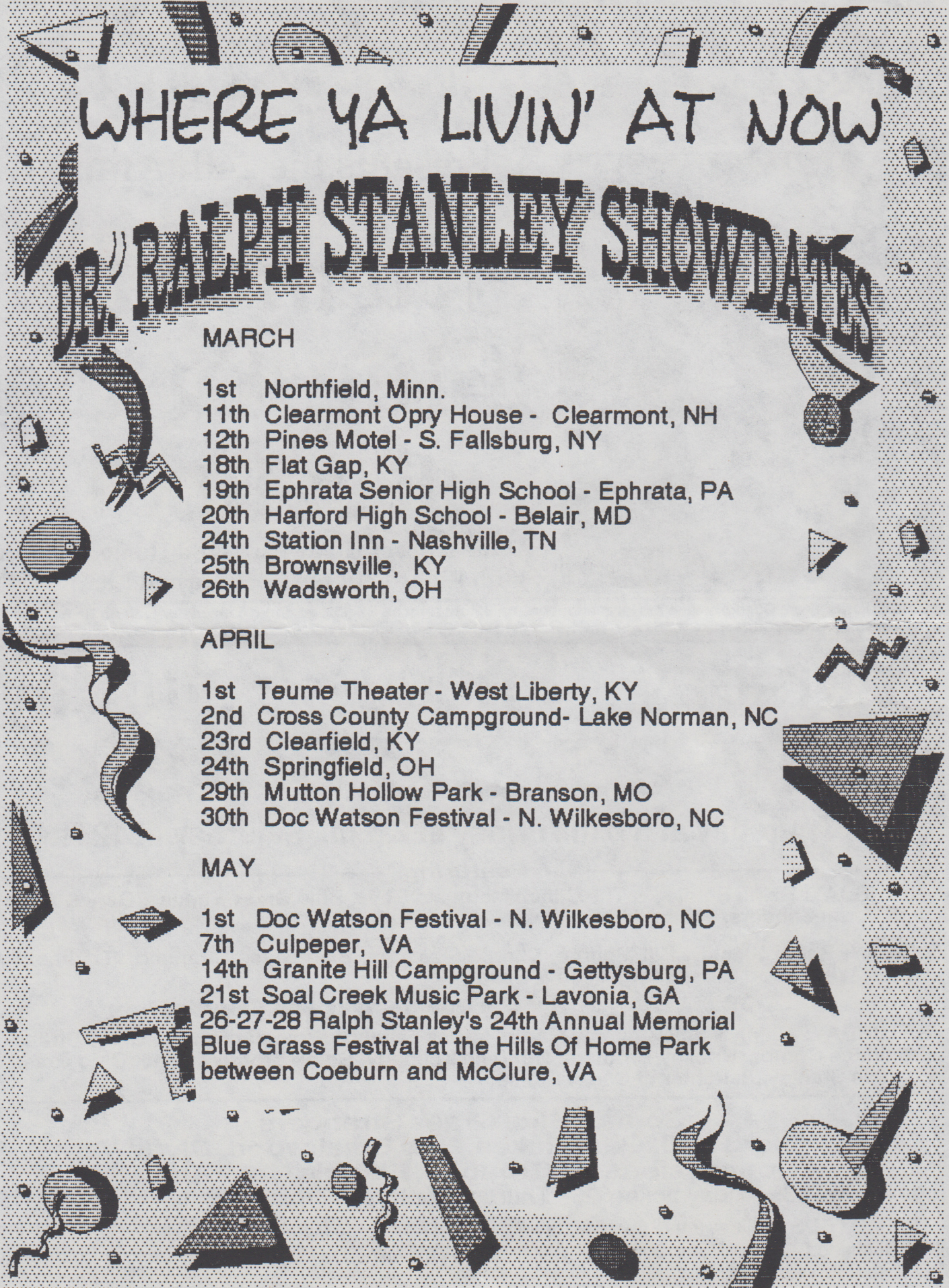
Sound: Blue Grass Strangers

MC's: Willard Hall, Gary Rakes, Bob Smallwood, Clyde Varney
Concessions on Grounds, Electric Hook-Ups

3 day ticket \$35 • 2 day ticket \$25 • Thursday only \$12, Friday or Saturday, 1 day \$15

AREA MOTELS: Holiday Inn - Super 8 Motel - Park Motel - Jefferson Motel, Norton ~ The Inn, Wise ~ Buck's Motel, Clintwood ~ 3-Way Motel, Coeburn ~ Village Motel, Castlewood ~ Gate Way Motel, Breaks ~ Country Inn, Big Stone Gap ~ Ramada Inn, Duffield.

25th Annual Memorial Blue Grass Festival, Same Place, May 25-26-27, 1995



WHERE YA LIVIN' AT NOW

DR. RALPH STANLEY SHOW DATES

MARCH

- 1st Northfield, Minn.
- 11th Clearmont Opry House - Clearmont, NH
- 12th Pines Motel - S. Fallsburg, NY
- 18th Flat Gap, KY
- 19th Ephrata Senior High School - Ephrata, PA
- 20th Harford High School - Belair, MD
- 24th Station Inn - Nashville, TN
- 25th Brownsville, KY
- 26th Wadsworth, OH

APRIL

- 1st Teume Theater - West Liberty, KY
- 2nd Cross County Campground- Lake Norman, NC
- 23rd Clearfield, KY
- 24th Springfield, OH
- 29th Mutton Hollow Park - Branson, MO
- 30th Doc Watson Festival - N. Wilkesboro, NC

MAY

- 1st Doc Watson Festival - N. Wilkesboro, NC
- 7th Culpeper, VA
- 14th Granite Hill Campground - Gettysburg, PA
- 21st Soal Creek Music Park - Lavonia, GA
- 26-27-28 Ralph Stanley's 24th Annual Memorial Blue Grass Festival at the Hills Of Home Park between Coeburn and McClure, VA

Clinch Mountain Tribute

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Winter is almost over and I hope that everyone has stayed warm and dry through these cold months. I myself have had enough of the snow and ice and am ready for some warmer temperatures. I am also ready for the nice sunshine and the outdoor bluegrass festivals.

A lot has happened since you've last read. Ralph and the boys have been working very hard traveling the long roads, bad weather, and cold winds to sing and play for us. Ralph has been on a 3 week tour with the Master's of The Banjo Tour out in California, and Washington, and he returned safely home on Feb. 17. That was just in time to hit the road again with the boys to Valdese, NC.

The banjo tour was a great success, as it would be with Ralph Stanley as the top billing. All the performers did a great job with my sources telling me that is was a wonderful turnout in all the places they performed with performances in Cal. and Washington State.

The best is yet to come a man that deserves it and it is long overdue! Read further on!

SPECIAL BULLETIN

dot dot dot dot dot - in case you were wondering what that was that was big newsroom noise announcing a fantastic news break. As most of you know Ralph's Saturday Night - Sunday Morning album has been receiving plenty of airplay around the world. He is also #1 across the Nation.

Ralph Stanley was nominated for not one, not two, but three Grammy Awards this year. They were County Collaboration, with Ralph and Dwight Yoakam, for Miner's Prayer, which is the first time a Bluegrass performer has ever been in the County category, Best Bluegrass Album of the Year, and Gospel Album of the Year. This is a honor for anyone in the music field. It makes me proud to know that a man like Ralph has finally been recognized for his place in the music field. His music is as pure and clean as the mountain air and strong and powerful as the four winds that blow. He is the heart and soul of Mountain Music.

On the Grammy show Dwight won Male Vocalist and during his acceptance speech he stated that he was nominated for another Grammy with a legend in Country Music, Ralph Stanley, and he was as honored for that nomination more than anything in his career. He thanked Ralph for recording that song.

OTHER NEWS

The Bear Family has released a new two CD set "The Stanley Brothers & The Clinch Mountain Boys, 1953-58 & 1959". This includes all the Mercury masters and two Blue Ridge cuts. The other I mentioned before in a previous newsletter which was "The Stanley Brothers, The Early Starday/King Years, 1958-1961" and I believe that these are available on

cassette also. I know that County Sales is handling these but Elderly Music may be too. You can call or write them and see. These are a must have collection as all of the previous material is unavailable to buy, unless you are lucky enough to have the originals on hand.

I hear through the grapevine that Ralph and Ralph II are making plans for another album. There's nothing like seeing family singing together. Who knows someday we may see Nathan (Ralph's grandson) singing along with Ralph and Ralph II. If Ralph keeps training all those children he'll have enough to start a whole Stanley family band.

The Clinch Mountain Boys made a trip out to California while their boss was on tour out there to join him for two shows in Berekley and Pasadena Cal. Ralph II also made the trip with them.

While out west Dwight Yoakam made a special appearance at one of Ralph's shows. Now there's a boy that hasn't gotten above his rasing. He took time out of his busy schedule to do a number or two with one of his heros. I bet that brought the house down. He'll be the first to tell you that Ralph Stanley is his favorite.

Ralph also did a spot in Dwight's new movie that he is making. Ralph played Train 45 in this movie. I haven't got all the details as to when the

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movie will be out yet but as soon as Ralph lets me know I'll pass the information on to you. It would be worth a ticket just to hear Ralph play that five.

Ralph will be traveling back out west in April to do a yet another special project with Dwight Yoakam. Dwight is making a another movie and Ralph Stanley, yes Ralph Stanley will be in this movie with Dwight. I will keep you up to date as what will happen with this project.

Our beloved leader, Ralph Stanley, will be making a appearance on May 5th, along with Dwight Yoakam on the Dick Clark Show. Keep your eyes and ears peeled for this one.

The TNN, Nashville Network had a special on the week of Feb 21st. TNN showed highlights from the IBMA Awards show and Ralph was shown singing and playing. I hope some of you got to see this. It was great!

STANLEY ON THE AIR

KDEO of Hawaii that plays Country Music has been giving Ralph's Saturday Night - Sunday Morning a lot of air play. Thanks!

KMOX Radio, in St. Louis, Mo. had Ralph in for an live interview Feb. 25th. This is one of the largest Radio stations around, and can be heard in a morjority of the country. They talked about his new album Saturday Night

-Sunday Morning and play a few of the cuts off of this great collection. They opened telephone lines for people to call in and talk to Ralph and they had a terrific response.

John Wright, author of *Traveling The Highway Home - Ralph Stanley and The World of Traditional Music*, was on "Extension 720" WGN Chicago, on Jan. 21st talking about his book and Ralph Stanley. It was a very interesting 2 hours of facts and music.

ARTICLE NEWS

USA Today Jan 7th listed all the Grammy Awards nominees and they listed Ralph in the Vocal Collaboration. Besides Ralph and Dwight their were Reba McEntire and Vince Gill, Clint Black and Wynonna Judd, Reba and Linda Davis and a couple more. But we know who the best is don't we!

On February 2, 1994 the San Francisco Bay Guardian had a excellent write up on Ralph Stanley. This article was written by Kurt Wolff. He talks about Ralph with great pride and respect. He tells of a man who does not bragg about himself but that is proud of his voice and haunting tenor which had been called the "high lonesome singing". I quote him as saying "Ralph Stanley may not be the "father of bluegrass" as bandleader Bill Monroe is known. But he has, both with his brother Carter (who died in 1966) and

on his own, earned his place in the pantheon, thanks not only to his voice but to his unwavering love of the mountain music he grew up with and made his own".

He tells of Ralph and Carter musical career, their first recordings and how they survived the onslot on Rock and Roll.

He then tells of Ralph's Saturday Night - Sunday Morning album and of Ralph's Grammy nomination.

CONCERT NEWS

Ralph has been a very busy fellow these past few months. Here are some highlights on some of the shows. Before I get to far into these I want to thank all of the fan club members who send in these reports. It makes the rest of us feel like we were there.

Ralph performed at the Paradise Theater in Kansas City, Mo. Feb 25th. From what I told it was a packed house with Ralph playing some of the his best music. Ralph and the Clinch Mt. Boys were also spotted at the Henry the VIII Hotel in St. Louis, Mo. playing the indoor bluegrass festival there. While there he brought the house down with his exquisite banjo playing, and his singing of the lonesome mountain sound. The best in Mountain Music, boy what a treat for those people in the Show Me State of Missouri.

STANLEY BANJOS

Ralph still has a few of the 40th Anniversary Banjos for

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sale. Six have been sold to date so that leaves 15 left to go. After number 25 there will not be any more. These are a high quality banjo designed and crafted by Frank Neat. They have that great Stanley Sound that you can't find in any other banjo. They are gold plated with engraving on the arm rest and on the flange of the banjo. They are really a collectors item. If you are planning on getting one of these fine banjos now is the time to get in touch with Ralph at this address: Ralph Stanley, RT HCO5, Box 576, Coeburn, VA 24230.

BANJO VIDEO

Smithsonian/Folkways has produced a video called THE BANJO OF RALPH STANLEY taught by Ralph himself. This tape starts with the first tunes that Ralph learned from his mother in the old time clawhammer style. There are about three different clawhammer styles that he shows us. Ralph also shows us the two finger that he learned and also the three finger style that he now plays. This is not just an instructional tape, it is full of great music too. Some of the tunes on the tape, along with the Clinch Mt. Boys, with Ralph Stanley II, are Little Maggie, Hard Times, Dickenson County Breakdown, Little Birdie, Shout Little Lullie, Clinch Mountain Backstep, Train 45 and many more. This is a 90 minute tape of classic Stanley Music. If you are a banjo

picker like me you definitely want to get one of these. If not you still will want one of these in your video library. The music alone is worth the cost of the tape. It's not often that you get to see Ralph on tape playing that great Mountain music that he made famous. Ralph will be selling these on the road and you can also purchase through Ralph at this address: RT HCO5 Box 576, Coeburn, VA 24230.

MAY FESTIVAL

Don't forget to make plans for the best bluegrass festival of all. The Ralph Stanley 24th Annual Memorial Blue Grass Festival at the old home place between Coeburn and McClure, VA. It's gonna be a great festival as all of Ralph's festivals are. Doc Watson will be Ralph special guest this year for two days. Along with Ralph and The Clinch Mt. Boys the line up will be Charlie Sizemore, Traditional Grass, Jimmy Martin, Larry Sparks and Bill Monroe to name a few. The dates this year will be May 26-27-28. There will be plenty of parking lot pickin', I should say pasture pickin' and great, great music with Ralph and his guests. There are plenty of area motels in case you don't want to camp at the festival site. But for all you people who do like to camp there are hookups available on a first come first serve basis. Be sure to bring your lawn chairs to sit under the shed out in front of the stage to keep you out of the rain

and the sun. The family graveyard will be open so you can see where Ralph and Carter's mother, Lucy Stanley and also Carter are laid to rest. I also think that the old stage down in the holler will be open to see where Ralph and The Clinch Mountain Boys made some great music also before the new stage was built. There will be sign directing you to the festival site plus there will be a handbill included in the newsletter telling you how to get there from Coeburn or McClure. This is the best festival ever - YA'LL COME!

RALPH STANLEY BOOK

Ralph's new book, Traveling The High Way Home-Ralph Stanley and the World of Traditional Bluegrass Music, written by John Wright is now available to purchase from Ralph Stanley. This is an excellent book about Ralph and his many years in music. Told by some of his closet friends, coworkers, and sidemen, they tell about some of their fondest memories and experiences with this great man. There is a 32 page section that Ralph talks about himself from the time of his early childhood to the late 80s.

Wright's introductory chapter tell of Ralph's more than 45 year career with his Clinch Mountain Boys. He also tells of his life and music development after the death of Carter. This is 296 pages of pure Stanley with 23 rare pictures along with and

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appendix of his recording activity. This is a must have book for all Stanley Fans. You can purchase this highly recommend book from Ralph at his shows or you can write to him for one at this address. Ralph Stanley, RT HC05 Box 576, Coeburn, Va 24230. The cost of the book is \$30.00 plus \$3.00 for mailing.

NEW CD

As most of you know Ralph did a Masters of The Banjo tour back in late October. This tour was organized by the National Council for the Traditional Arts. Well the people at Arhoolie Productions make a CD of these performances. It is a collection of different banjo styles, such as Bluegrass, Clawhammer, two-finger, Appalachian melodic, African banjo to name a few. Ralph Stanley is on this collection with his versatile banjo styles and his "high lonesome sound" that he has made famous. His recordings on the CD are Nobody's Love Is Like Mine, I Just Think I'll Go Away, Children Go Where I Send Thee, which by the way is a cappella that no one but Ralph can do best. Ralph also does his best in clawhammer- I Got A Mule To Ride, Rocky Island and Shout Little Lullie. Ralph is in top form with an excellent job of singing and playing banjo with Laurie Lewis on fiddle and vocals and Dudley Connell on guitar and vocals.

Along with Ralph on the CD are other banjo players with their unique style of playing.

Seleshe Damessae, Kirk Sutphin, Tony Ellis, Seamus Egan, Carroll Best and Will Keys. Anything with Ralph Stanley on it is a must have for the serious Stanley Music collector. This makes it nice to have also if you missed these fine performances, it's almost like being there.

You may purchase this CD from Ralph on his shows or through the fan club.

UP ON THE MOUNTAIN

As I mentioned in the last newsletter Ralph celebrated his birthday Feb. 25th. We hope he had a great one!

Tonya tells me that little Nathan sure missed his papaw while he was touring the west coast. Everytime Ralph would call home little Nathan would run to the phone and blow him a kiss without being told to. We don't want to forget Amber either, she missed him very much too. She carried a picture of Ralph around with her while he was gone. As far as she's concerned the sun sets and rises in her papaw.

Lisa Marshall, Ralph's daughter, will be celebrating her birthday March 3rd. Tonya Stanley will also be celebrating her's this month also on March 18th

MOUNTAIN MEMORIES

This month's Mountain Memories comes from Art Stamper. As most of you

know Art is the man who took Clurly Ray's place on the fiddle when he retired. Art is a fine fiddle player, who will play fiddle at the drop of a hat, as well as storyteller. He tells of his trip out west to California with the Clinch Mt. boys in Feb.

He writes that he had a great time on the trip to Cal. with the Clinch Mt. Boys. He and Ralph II told jokes and kept the Clinch Mt. Boys on their toes

This is the story he has to tell. The Clinch Mt. Boys were suppose to leave on Tuesday for the trip out west but instead left on Monday, a day earlier than planed unbeknown to Art. Somehow the message didn't get to Art in time as to where he was suppose to meet them. The boys arrived in Nashville expecting to meet Art at the appointed place but low and behold no Art.

Ralph II was on the phone trying to locate Art and Art was in the meantime trying to find them. Art had called the State Police to try and locate the bus and tell them where to meet him, but the State Police never saw the bus. But everything worked out well and Art met up with the boys in Nashville and they make their trip safe and on time.

Another favorite on the trip was when Dwight Yoakam joined them on the stage in Cal. and did 2 numbers with them. All and all it was a great trip.

Art also said to add this to his column, "It feels great to be working with Ralph again, and I hope to be doing it for a

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long time."

Be sure to keep Ralph in your prayers so he'll be safe and go and see Ralph and The Clinch Mt. Boys as often as you can. I know they will appreciate it. God Bless You All.

Cheryl

DR RALPH STANLEY CD'S AND TAPES

NEW RELEASES

SATURDAY NIGHT- SUNDAY MORNING Excellent double CD or Tape with country and bluegrass artists including Vince Gill, George Jones, Tom T. Hall, Patty Loveless, Emmylou Harris, Ricky Skaggs, Dwight Yoakam, Bill Monroe, Jimmy Martin, Alston Krauss, Larry Sparks, Charlie Waller, Judy Marshall and Charlie Sizemore. This is fast becoming a number one seller. All the songs on this tape are done in the Stanley Style. It is available in CD or tape CD \$25.00 TAPE \$20.00

CHRISTMAS WITH RALPH STANLEY - Latest release from Ralph Stanley and The Clinch Mountain Boys. Great Christmas music done like no one but Ralph can do. This so the only Christmas album Ralph has ever done.* CD \$15.00 TAPE \$10.00

LIVE! AT McCLURE, VIRGINIA This is a double CD. Featured along with Ralph Stanley & The Clinch Mountain Boys are Bill Monroe, Reno-Harrell, Jimmy Martin, Larry Sparks, Country Gentlemen, Goins Bros., Outdoor Plumbing Co. Raymond Fairchild, Sullivan Family, Marshall Family, and Leslie Keith. A double album recorded at McClure, Va. May 23-24-25 1975. CD ONLY \$25.00

MASTERS OF THE BANJO - Ralph Stanley, Carroll Best, Seleshe Damessae, Kirk Sutphin, Seamus Egan, and Will Keys playing their style of banjo. Laurie Lewis, Dudley Connell, Jimmy Trivette and John Doyle are doing the backup for this fine collection of banjo styles. The is the East Coast Tour that Ralph did on The Master of The Banjo Tour. \$15.00 CD only.

TAPES \$10.00

GOSPEL

I'LL ANSWER THE CALL Ralph Stanley, Sammy Adkins, Junior Blankenship, Curly Ray Cline, Jack Cooke
CLINCH MOUNTAIN GOPEL Ralph Stanley, Curly Ray, Jack Cooke, Keith Whitley, Renfro Profit
I'LL WEAR A WHITE ROBE Ralph Stanley, Jack Cooke, Curly Ray, Charlie Sizemore, Junior Blankenship
I WANT TO PREACH THE GOSPEL

CRY FROM THE CROSS Ralph Stanley, Roy Lee Center, Jack Cooke, Ricky Skaggs, Keith Whitley

LET ME REST ON A PEACEFUL MOUNTAIN Ralph Stanley, Keith Whitley, Jack Cooke, Rickey Lee, Curly Ray

I CAN TELL YOU THE TIME Ralph Stanley, Junior Blankenship, Charlie Sizemore, Curly Ray, Jack Cooke

CHILD OF THE KING Ralph Stanley, Charlie Sizemore, Curly Ray, Jack Cooke, Junior Blankenship

OLD COUNTRY CHURCH Ralph Stanley, Roy Lee Centers, Jack Cooke, Ricky Skaggs, Keith Whitley

I SAW THE LIGHT (Stanley Brothers)

HYMNS FROM THE HEART Excellent gospel tape with Ralph and the Clinch Mountain Boys

BACK TO THE CROSS Also an excellent tape with Ralph and the Clinch Mountain Boys

ALMOST HOME An excellent cappella gospel tape along with cuts with Keith Whitley and Ricky Skaggs, Charlie Sizemore, and the current Clinch Mountain Boys.

CLAWHAMMER Great tape with Ralph playing the way his mother taught him

MAN AND HIS MUSIC Ralph Stanley, Roy Lee Centers, Ricky Lee, Curly Ray,
Jack Cooke, John Duffy

DOWN WHERE THE RIVER BENDS Ralph Stanley, Jack Cooke, Curly Ray, Dan
Dan Marshall, Charlie Sizemore, Junior
Blankenship

ON RADIO VOL 1 - Stanley Brothers

ON RADIO VOL 2 - Stanley Brothers

STANLEY BROTHERS WCYB Bristol Radio Cuts from Farm and Fun Time

MEMORY OF YOUR SMILE Ralph Stanley, Curly Ray, Junior Blankenship, Charlie
Sizemore, Jack Cooke,

LEGENDARY STANLEY BROTHERS VOL 1

LEGENDARY STANLEY BROTHERS VOL 2

SOMETHING OLD AND SOMETHING NEW

RALPH STANLEY 16 YEARS

OLD HOME PLACE Ralph Stanley, Keith Whitley, Jack Cooke, Danny Marshall,
Curly Ray, Ed Ferris

RALPH STANLEY AND RALPH STANLEY II LIKE FATHER LIKE SON Great tape
with Ralph II doing Haunted House and Wildwood Flower

LONESOME AND BLUE Ralph Stanley, Charlie Sizemore, Curly Ray, Jack Cooke,
Junior Blankenship

CD'S \$15.00

RALPH STANLEY CLASSIC BLUEGRASS - Ralph Stanley - Classic Mountain Bluegrass
Music

BOUND TO RIDE - Ralph Stanley - excellent collection of Ralph Stanley music

LONG JOURNEY HOME Stanley Brothers

PRAY FOR THE BOYS - Ralph Stanley - Great gospel CD

SACRED SONGS FROM THE HILLS Stanley Brothers

STANLEY BROTHERS SERIES

STANLEY BROTHERS SERIES VOL 3

BACK TO THE CROSS Latest gospel CD

STANLEY BROTHERS - OLD COUNTRY CHURCH

STANLEY BROTHERS - STANLEY SERIES VOL 3 NUMBER 4

ALMOST HOME - latest gospel CD all cappella - excellent

GIVE ME RALPH STANLEY OR GIVE ME DEATH BUMBER STICKERS \$2.00

ADD \$2.00 SHIPPING FEE

Send Check or Money Order To: Cheryl Sexton