



Ralph Stanley's... 50th Anniversary



Song and Memory Book

Compiled by James Shelton



Ralph Stanley, Jack Cooke, and Roy Lee Centers on stage at the Annual Memorial Festival circa 1973. (Photo by Marty Britt.)

Front cover photo and logo courtesy of Randy Campbell

Dr. Ralph Stanley

Route HC05 - Box 576
COEBURN, VIRGINIA 24230

Howdy Friends;

I would like to welcome you to my 50th Anniversary song and memory book. First, I would like to thank the Lord for giving me the talent, courage, and health for letting me live to give fifty years to this music. As a lot of you know, brother Carter Stanley and me started this band in 1946. We traveled together for twenty years and on December 1, 1966, Carter passed away. Since then, for thirty years I've tried to carry on with the same old-time mountain style of what they call Bluegrass Music. I think I've taken it back a little farther by starting the acapella singing, lining the songs that I heard and learned in the old churches when I was a boy.

I know that you have seen many write ups on me, but I have brought out things that have never been seen before - like old school photos, pictures of my Mother and Dad and others. I have been so blessed to have had some of the best talent to help me that could be found, such as Curly Ray Cline, Jack Cooke, Larry Sparks, Melvin Goins, Art Stamper, George and John Shuffler, Joe Isaacs, Roy Lee Centers, Ricky Skaggs, Keith Whitley, Danny Marshall, Renfro Profitt, Junior Blankenship, Charlie Sizemore, Ernie Thacker, Sammy Adkins, and Kenneth Davis.

My present band, which I'm very proud of, now consists of Jack Cooke, James Shelton, Steve Sparkman, James Price, John Rigsby, and Ralph Stanley II. I'm thankful to have my son, Ralph II, doing a fine job singing lead for me. I that someday when I lay it down, that Ralph II will carry on the tradition and I think he will. I hope my fans will support him as you have me in the past. Hillard Blankenship has been faithful to me, driving the bus for 14 years. I have a wife and three children which I'm very proud of. I want to thank my wife Jimmie for staying home and taking care of everything so well while I've been on the road. In closing, I want to thank each and every one of you that have supported me, from the bottom of my heart!

Thanks and God Bless,

Dr. Ralph Stanley

Biographical Notes on Ralph's Career

Personal:

- Born February 25, 1927 in Dickenson County, Virginia.
- Married to wife Jimmie and has two daughters Lisa and Tonya, one son Ralph II.
- Shriner and member of Masonic Lodge.
- Served on Dickenson County School Board.

Honors:

- International Bluegrass Music Association's "Recorded Event of the Year" for "Saturday Night/Sunday Morning" September 1993.
- Inducted into the IBMA Hall Of Honor September 1992.
- First recipient of the National Endowment for the Humanities "Traditional American Music Award" presented in 1985 by President Ronald Reagan.
- Honorary Doctorate of Music from Lincoln Memorial University in Harrogate, Tennessee 1976.
- Kentucky Colonel, Honorarium presented by then Governor Wendall Ford.

Musical Accomplishments:

- Has performed continually since 1946.
- Has recorded over 150 albums, tapes, or CDs.
- Has given several musicians their first professional jobs, i.e., Ricky Skaggs, Keith Whitley, Larry Sparks, Charlie Sizemore.
- Has written and recorded many songs that have become standards in the bluegrass field.

Noteworthy Appearances:

- President Jimmie Carter's Inaugural.
- Two extensive tours of Europe.
- Three tours of Japan and the Far East.
- TV show "Austin City Limits" (three appearances).
- Grand Ole Opry (eleven appearances in 1991)
- Hollywood Palace, March 1992.
- Ryman Auditorium in Nashville, Tennessee.
- The Nashville Network, with Dwight Yoakam, Emmylou Harris, and Patty Loveless, April 1992.
- The Queen Elizabeth Hall, London, England, 1994.
- President Bill Clinton's Inaugural festivities 1993.

Latest Releases:

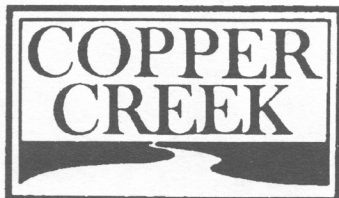
- "Saturday Night/Sunday Morning" CFRC-9001
- "A Gospel Gathering" CFRC-642
- "Classic Stanley" CFRC-9002
- "50th Anniversary" Rebel-1996



Ralph posing with his old 1929 Gibson banjo.
Late 60s or early 70s.



Ralph and daughters Tonya and Lisa at his festival in the 70s.



Salutes

RALPH STANLEY

as he celebrates his 50th anniversary of performing his special brand old-time mountain music. May we continue to be entertained by his haunting sounds from the hills for many years to come!

For a free catalog listing many Stanley Brothers/Ralph Stanley recordings, write to:

Copper Creek
PO Box 3161
Roanoke, VA 24015

PO Box 3161
Roanoke, VA 24015
March 27, 1996

I was first introduced to the music of the Stanley Brothers in the fall of 1973, when an instructor from school allowed me to purchase several albums he obtained at a police auction in Washington, DC. He sold them to me for the incredibly low price of 33 cents apiece. There were five albums I bought from literally hundreds to choose from and they included two by Flatt & Scruggs, two by Bill Monroe and one by the Stanley Brothers - King 772 "The Stanley Brothers Play And Sing The Songs They Like Best." The following spring, I saw Ralph Stanley in person for the first time - at the Indian Springs festival in western Maryland. I had only recently learned that Ralph was fronting his own band, a fact I learned from browsing the record racks of the a local music store. The cover of the Rebel album, "The Legendary Stanley Brothers," listed Carter and Ralph's birthdates and the date of Carter's passing. I remember wondering if I would like the music of Ralph Stanley as I had the Stanley Brothers. My fears were quickly dispelled. Ralph's performance at Indian Springs was magical, and it included a beaming Keith Whitley who had only weeks before replaced the late Roy Lee Centers as the lead singer in the band. Timidly, I was able to ask Ralph if they could perform "Roving Gambler," a tune from the Stanley Brothers "Legendary" collection. He answered in typical Ralph Stanley fashion, short and to the point, "No, we don't do that one anymore."

Since those exciting days of discovery in the early 1970s, the Stanley sound has had a profound impact on my life. The beauty of the music touched a responsive note within and created a desire to learn as much as possible about Carter and Ralph's music and the life and times which fostered it. This led to the research and publication of a Stanley Brothers discography, a booklet which documented their recording sessions and record releases. Following our formation of Copper Creek Records, a major focus of the label centered on the issuance of a collection of live recordings known as the "Stanley Series." As my knowledge of the Stanleys increased, requests for record production assistance and liner notes for Stanley projects soon followed, as did articles for various publications. In 1983, I relocated to Roanoke, Virginia to take a production job with Rebel Records. It didn't hurt that Ralph Stanley was one of the label's leading artists, and it didn't take me long to learn when to expect an order for merchandise each week from Clinch Mountain Boy/record salesman Jack Cooke, who concluded each conversation with, "Can you get those out today" and an earnest, "We appreciate you."

Looking back over the past twenty-three years, it is hard to imagine all the adventures I've gone through that started when the phonograph needle touched down on the vinyl of King 772. As Ralph Stanley celebrates his fiftieth anniversary in the entertainment business, I would like to say "thanks" for the many hours of enjoyment his music has brought to my life. With a hopeful eye to the future, I look forward to many more enchanted moments - Clinch Mountain style, of course.

Sandy Brisk

Family & Friends



Christmas Eve 1995. Daughter Lisa, son-in-law Bryan Meade, Jimmie, Ralph, Ralph II, daughter Tonya, grandchildren Nathan and Amber.



Christmas Eve 1995. Ralph, Jimmie and their grandchildren, Amber and Nathan.



Steve Sparkman and Ralph 1995.
(Photo by Randy Campbell)



Ralph and Ricky Skaggs 1991.



Jimmie and Ralph at a festival 1981.



Ralph with George Shuffler and Larry Sparks 1992.
(Photo by Penny Parsons)



The Father of Bluegrass, Bill Monroe, stops to visit with Ralph and fans at the Memorial Festival in 1988. (Photo by Miles Ward)



Ralph with Maria Muldaur. (Photo by Randy Campbell)



Ralph and bus driver Hillard Blankenship take a coffee break.



Ralph and mandolin wizard David Grisman harmonize at the Sweetwater Cafe in Mill Valley, CA, Feb. 1, 1996. (Photo by Randy Campbell)



Ralph with Carl Pagter, chairman of the California Bluegrass Association, at a show in Sacramento, CA, Feb. 1995. (Photo by Randy Campbell)

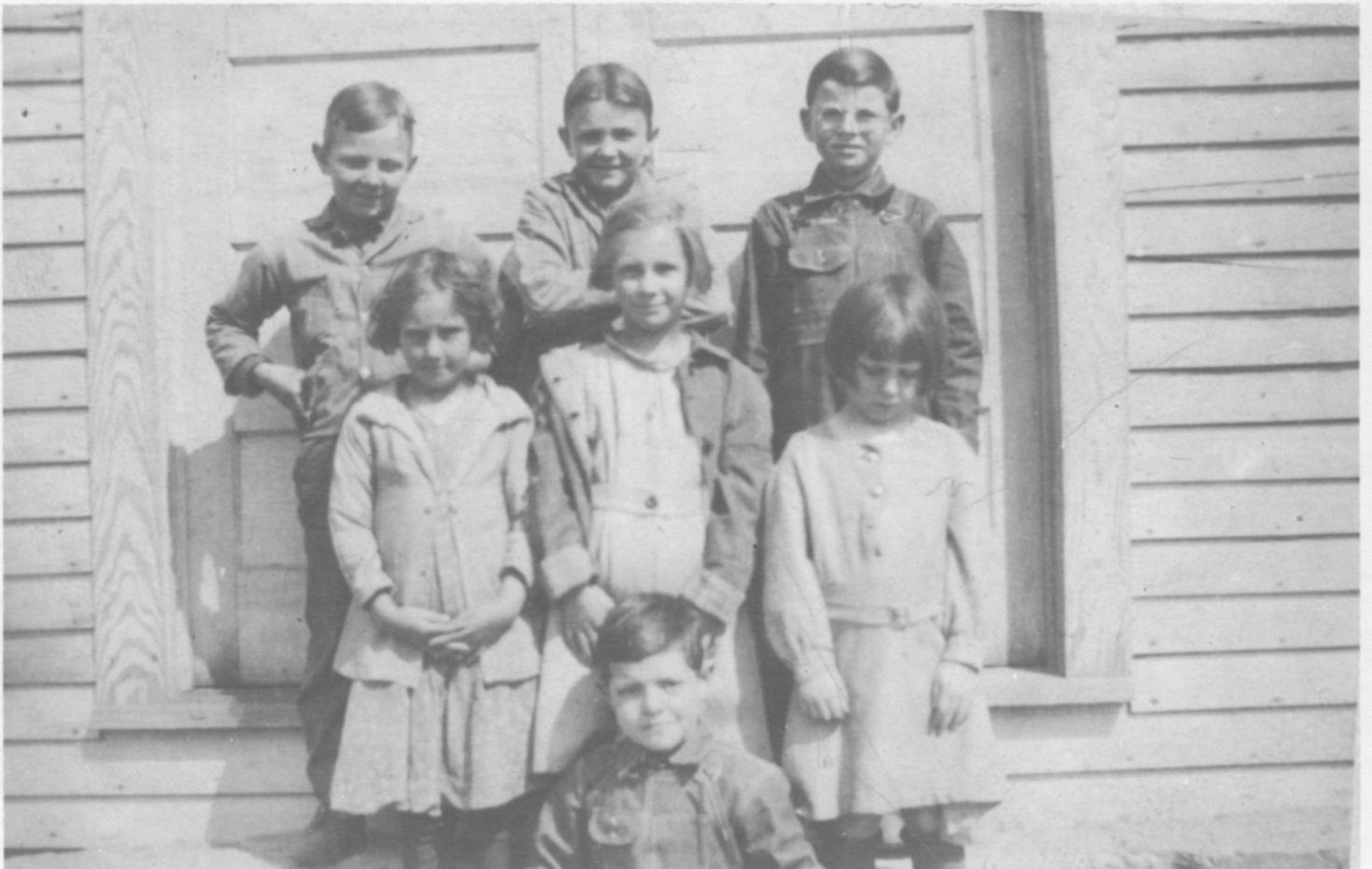
The Early Years



Ralph, mother Lucy Smith Stanley, father Lee Stanley, brother Carter Stanley — probably late 1930s.



A young Carter Stanley on the steps of the Pilot Knob School.



Ralph (back row left) and Carter (back row center) as students at Pilot Knob School around 1934 or '35.



Ralph Stanley, fiddler and boyhood friend Bernard Nunley, Carter Stanley, late 1930s.



Mrs. Lucy Smith Stanley.

26th Annual Memorial Festival, May 23-26, 1996



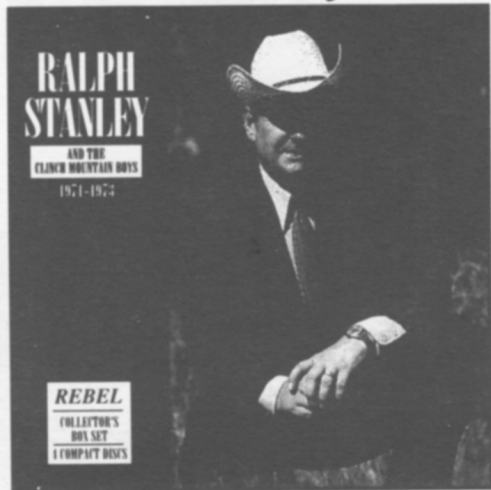
This is the house where the Stanley brothers born on Big Spraddle Creek, Stratton, Virginia. The house still stands.



Carter, Ralph and their father Lee Stanley.

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on 50 Years in Bluegrass Music



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-Jim Macnie, *New Country Magazine*

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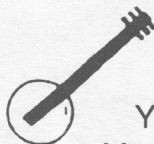


Ralph served in the army from May 1945 until October 1946.



Mrs. Lucy Stanley with mandolin player Pee Wee Lambert. Pee Wee was a member of the Stanley's first band.

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An early publicity shot of Ralph.

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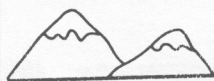
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The Stanley Brothers 1946-1966



The first publicity photo of the Stanley Brothers 1946.



L to R: Art Wooten, Pee Wee Lambert, Ralph, Carter and Ray Lambert at WCYB's "Farm And Fun Time" radio show, 1949.

"One day a salesman for RCA walked into a record store in Harlan, Kentucky, with his supervisor. The salesman asked who the biggest selling artist was, thinking the answer would be Eddie Arnold. When the dealer said it was the Stanley Brothers, the supervisor reared back like a judge and said, 'Who are the Stanley Brothers?', the reply was that they were the hottest thing in the country..."

Carl Sauceman



Ralph, Carter and bass player Henry Dockery at a club date in 1962.



Carter, Ralph, Birch Monroe, Bill Napier and Jack Cooke in Bean Blossom, Indiana 1957.



THE STANLEY BROTHERS

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Man of Constant Sorrow

(T. LaRue)

I am a man of constant sorrow
I've seen trouble all my days
I bid farewell to old Kentucky
The state where I was born and raised

For six long years I've been in trouble
No pleasure here on earth I find
For in this world I'm bound to ramble
I have no friends to help me now

It's fare thee well my old true lover
I never expect to see you again
For I'm bound to ride that northern railroad
Perhaps I'll die upon this train

Maybe your friends think I'm just a stranger
My face you never will see no more
But there is one promise that is given
I'll meet you on God's golden shore

Available on Rebel 1514 "Plays Requests" and Atteiram 1662
"Live at the Smithsonian Institution"

White Dove

(Carter Stanley)

In the deep rolling hills of old Virginia
There's a place that I love so well
Where I spent many days of my childhood
In the cabin where we loved to dwell

(Chorus)

White dove will mourn in sorrow
The willows will hang their heads
I live my life in sorrow
Since Mother and Daddy are dead
We were all so happy there together
In our peaceful little mountain home
But the Saviour needs angels in Heaven
And now they sing 'round that great white throne
(Repeat Chorus)

As the years roll by I often wonder
Will we all be together someday
And each night as I wander to the graveyard
Darkness finds me where I kneel to pray
(Repeat Chorus)

Available on Rebel 1118 "Live At McClure" and Atteiram 1662
"Live At The Smithsonian Institution"

If I Lose

(Ralph Stanley)

I never thought I'd need you, but now I find I'm wrong
Come on back sweet mama, back where you belong
I've gambled over town, find that I can't win
Come on back and pick me up again

(Chorus)

Now if I lose, let me lose
I don't care how much I lose
If I lose a hundred dollars while I'm trying to win a dime
My baby, she's got money all the time

Of all the other gals I know, none can take your place
Cause when I get into a jam, it just ain't in the race
So now that you're back dear, let's make another round
With you here by my side dear, the deal just can't go down
(Repeat Chorus)

Available on Atteiram 1662 "Live At The Smithsonian Institution" and
Starday/King 7000 boxed set "The Early Years"

Little Glass of Wine

(Carter Stanley)

Come little girl let's go get married
I love you so great, how can you slight me?
I'll work for you both late and early
At my wedding my little wife you'll be

Oh Willie dear let's both consider
We're both too young to be married now
When we're married, we're bound together
Let's stay single just one more year

He went to the ball where she was a-dancin'
A jealous thought came through his mind
I'll kill that girl, my own true lover
'Fore I'll let another man beat my time

He went to the bar and he called her to him
She said "Willie dear, what do you want with me"
"Come and drink wine with the one that loves you
More than anyone else you know," said he

While they were at the bar a-drinkin'
That same old thought came through his mind
He'd kill that girl, his own true lover
He'd give her poison in a glass of wine

She laid her head over on his shoulder
Said, "Willie dear, please take me home
That glass of wine that I've just dranken
Has got to my head and got me wrong"

She laid his head over on a pillow
"Let me read you the law, let me tell you my mind
Molly dear, I'm sorry to tell you
We both drank poison in a glass of wine"

They folded their arms around each other
They cast their eyes into the sky
"Oh God, oh God, ain't this a pity
That we're both true lovers, are bound to die"

Available on Rebel 1606 "Memory Of Your Smile" and Rebel 1996
"50th Anniversary"

Lonesome River

(Carter Stanley)

I sit here alone on the banks of the river
 The lonesome wind blows, the water rolls high
 I hear a voice call out there in the darkness
 I sit here alone, too lonesome to cry

(Chorus)

Oh the water rolls high on the river at midnight
 I sit on the shore to grieve and to cry
 The woman I love, she left me this morning
 With no one to love or kiss me goodnight

We met there one night on the banks of the river
 Stood there holding hands and making our vow
 That we'd never part and be happy forever
 But a new love she's found, she's gone from me
 now

(Repeat Chorus)

Available on Rebel 1530 "A Man And His Music"
 and Rebel boxed set "1971-1973"

How Mountain Girls Can Love

(Ruby Rakes)

(Chorus)

Get down boys, go back home
 Back to the girl you love
 Treat her right, never wrong
 How mountain gals can love

Ridin' the night in the high cold wind
 On the trail of the old lonesome pine
 Thinkin' of you, feelin' so blue
 Wondering why I left you behind
 (Repeat Chorus)

Remember the night we strolled down the lane
 Our hearts were gay and happy then
 You whispered to me as I held you close
 "I hope this night will never end"
 (Repeat Chorus)

Available on Rebel 2202 "Live In Japan and
 Starday/King 7000 boxed set "The Early Years"

Ridin' The Midnight Train

(Ralph Stanley)

(Chorus)

I'm ridin' on that midnight train
 My head is hanging low
 These awful blues will follow me
 Wherever I may go.

No matter what I say or do
 You're never satisfied
 I've tried and tried so many times
 I'm leavin' you now good-bye.
 (Repeat Chorus)

Why on earth was I ever born
 I'll never understand
 To fall in love with a woman like you
 In love with another man.
 (Repeat Chorus)

Available on County 776 "On And On" and
 Rebel boxed set "1971-1973"

Little Bennie

(Traditional)

One night as the stars were all shining
 Little Bennie knelt down by his bed
 He asked the dear Lord to forgive him
 For all the bad words he had said.

(Chorus)

Please, Papa don't whip little Bennie
 Please, Papa don't whip little Ben
 He's little and he wants you to love him
 Please, Papa don't whip little Ben.

You remember how Mama loved Bennie
 How she kissed him the morning she died
 She told him to love and obey you
 And I know little Bennie has tried

Oh what if dear Mama in Heaven
 Should be looking way down from the sky
 And see you whip little Bennie
 I know it would make Mama cry

Those very bad words that he said
 He learned from some old wicked men
 He's little and didn't know better
 Please, Papa don't whip little Ben.
 (Repeat Chorus)

Available on Starday/King 7000 boxed set
 "The Early Years" and King 719



Ralph and Carter - early 60s. Carter is holding a copy of one of their many gospel albums on the King label.



This faded and cracked photo shows Carter and Ralph posing together at an outdoor park show in Ohio in the early 60s. (Photo by Norma Fannin)



A King Records photographer took this shot of the Stanleys at a personal appearance in 1963.



Signing autographs for fans after the show.

Celebrating 50 Years of the Stanley Sound in music



In March 1966, the Stanley Brothers toured in eight countries in Europe as part of the "Festival of American Folk & Country Music." They were the first bluegrass group to tour before the European public. The Clinch Mountain Boys at this time included guitarist George Shuffler, fiddler Don Miller, and bass player/comedian Chick Stripling. Sadly, Carter Stanley passed away just nine months later on December 1, 1966. (Photo by Ron Colby)



George Shuffler, Ralph Stanley, and Ralph Rinzler conduct a workshop at the first Bluegrass Festival in Fincastle, Virginia Sept. 1965.

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A poster from the last public appearance by the Stanley Brothers at Bean Blossom, Indiana 1966.

Poster courtesy of Dave Freeman



European tour March 1966.
(Photos by Ron Colby)



"Let me rest on a peaceful mountain...." Carter's final resting place at the Old Home Place on Smith Ridge where the Annual Memorial Festival is held each May. (Photos by James Shelton)





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Festival Dates for 1997: December 12 & 13, 1997



Carter Stanley's 1958 D-28 Martin guitar is on display at the Country Music Hall of Fame in Nashville, Tennessee. (Photo by James Shelton)



Ralph always takes time to sign autographs for admiring fans.

Ralph Stanley Trivia Quiz

1. What record label did the Stanley Brothers first record for?
2. On what album did Keith Whitley and Ricky Skaggs first appear?
3. Who wrote the song "I Only Exist?"
4. When and where did the Stanley Brothers play their last full public performance?
5. When is Ralph II's birthday?
6. On what album did Charlie Sizemore and Junior Blankenship make their debut as Clinch Mountain Boys?
7. What was the first tune that Ralph learned to play on the banjo?
8. Who was President of the United States when Ralph received the National Heritage Award?
9. From what college did Ralph receive an Honorary Doctorate of Music?
10. Which album was nominated for three Grammys in 1994?
- 11.. When did Ralph Stanley and The Clinch Mountain Boys first tour Japan?
12. What famous bluegrass entertainer sang the classic "White Dove" on the 1975 album "Live at McClure"?
13. What is Ralph's middle name?
14. Who builds the famous Stanleytone banjo?
15. What motion picture soundtrack featured Ralph's version of "Train 45"?

Answers: (1.) Rich-R-Tone (2.) "Cry from the Cross" (3.) Jimmie Stanley (4.) October 16, 1966 at Bean Blossom, Indiana (5.) August 20, 1978 (6.) "Down where the River Bends" (7.) "Shout Little Lily" (8.) Ronald Reagan (9.) Lincoln Memorial University (10.) "Saturday Night - Sunday Morning" (11.) 1971 (12.) Jimmy Martin (13.) Edmond (14.) Frank Neat (15.) "Chasers"

Maple City Bluegrass Festival, Huron County Fairgrounds, Norwalk, Ohio June 21, 22, 1996



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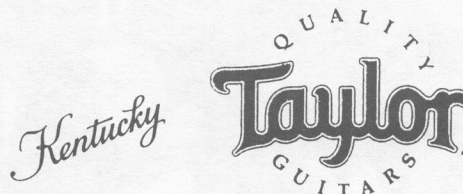
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L to R: Ralph Stanley, Larry Sparks, Melvin Goins and Curly Ray Cline, 1968.

By early 1967 Ralph was back on the road with a new version of the Clinch Mountain Boys. Nineteen-year-old Larry Sparks, from Lebanon, Ohio stepped into the role of lead singer and would remain for 3 years following the death of Carter Stanley. He helped record five albums on the King and Jaly labels.



1968 publicity photo: Curly Ray Cline, Melvin Goins, Larry Sparks and Ralph. (Photo by Carl Fleischhauer)



On stage at the American Legion Park in Culpeper, Virginia, 1968. Curly Ray, Melvin (hidden), Ralph, Larry and an unidentified bass player. (Photo by Mike Seeger)

Shortly after Carter passed away, Ralph went to King Records owner Syd Nathan and asked if he wanted him to continue recording for the label. Nathan replied "Hell, yes! The Stanley Brothers have done well for us and who knows, you might even do better...."



In 1970, Roy Lee Centers from Jackson, Kentucky replaced Larry Sparks as lead singer. Shown here singing a trio with Ralph and Jack Cooke at Ralph's Memorial Festival. Roy Lee's voice bore an uncanny resemblance to Carter's and he became perhaps the best of the Stanley-style lead singers.

In 1971 Ralph Stanley began a long association with Rebel Records. Beginning with the classic gospel album "Cry From The Cross," Ralph recorded a string of great records for the label throughout the 70s and 80s.



By 1971, the band had grown to include two teenagers from Kentucky - Keith Whitley and Ricky Skaggs.



The Clinch Mountain Boys 1972: Back row, L to R, Keith Whitley, Jack Cooke, Roy Lee Centers, Ricky Skaggs, front row, Ralph Stanley and Curly Ray Cline.



This photo was used on the cover of the "Tribute to the Stanley Brothers" by Keith and Ricky on Jack Lynch's Jalyn label, 1971. (Photo by Dan Lacey)



Arriving at Osaka Station on their first Japanese tour, May 1, 1971. L to R: Rebel Records producer Dick Freeland, Roy Lee Centers, Curly Ray Cline, Jack Cooke, Ralph Stanley and their Japanese guides.



Ralph, Jack and Roy Lee on stage in Japan 1971.



On stage at Osaka, Japan May 1, 1971. The album "Live in Japan" was recorded in Tokyo during this tour. Ricky Skaggs and Keith Whitley were still in high school and did not make the tour. Shown here from left to right are Curly Ray Cline, Ralph Stanley, Jack Cooke, and Roy Lee Centers.



Ralph demonstrates the old-time "clawhammer style" of banjo playing for the Japanese as Jack Cooke looks on. Kobe, Japan 1971.



Ralph works the record table at a show in Liberty, Indiana. Early 70s.



Roy Lee and Ralph sign autographs for Japanese fans. (Photo by Nobuharu Komoriya)

The Cry From The Cross

(Johnnie Masters)

One morning in Jerusalem about the break of dawn
A great trial was in session, they tried our blessed Lord
They scorned Him and they mocked Him, they made Him carry the cross
On top of Calvary's mountain, they crucified my Lord

(Chorus)

Oh the cry, Jesus cried from the cross
"Forgive them blessed Father," He cried upon the cross
Oh the cry, Jesus cried from the cross
The son of God was dying to save the world from loss

St. Peter he denied Him at that awful trial that night
He said he never knew Him it was an awful sight
He looked upon St. Peter with the eyes of perfect love
St. Peter's heart was broken, he prayed to God above
(Repeat Chorus)

Crying "Father it is finished," then He bowed his head and died
The world was left in darkness, the graves were opened wide
An earthquake shook Jerusalem, the dead walked into town
The multitudes were frightened, God's wrath came pouring down
(Repeat Chorus)

Available on Rebel 1499 "Cry From The Cross" and
Rebel boxed set "1971-1973"

Beautiful Star Of Bethlehem

(Traditional)

Oh beautiful star of Bethlehem, shining afar through shadows dim
Giving a light for those who have long gone
Into the light of perfect day, it will give out a lovely ray
Oh beautiful star of Bethlehem, shine on

(Chorus)

Oh beautiful star of Bethlehem
Shine upon us until the glory dawns
Give us the light to light the way
Unto the land of perfect day
Oh beautiful star of Bethlehem, shine on

Oh beautiful star, the hope of light guiding the pilgrims through the night
Over the mountains till the break of dawn
Into the light of perfect day, it will give out a lovely ray
Oh beautiful star of Bethlehem, shine on
(Repeat Chorus)

Oh, beautiful star the hope of rest, for the redeemed the good and blessed
Yonder in glory when the crown is won
For Jesus now that star divine, brighter and brighter He will shine
Oh beautiful star of Bethlehem, shine on
(Repeat Chorus)

Available on Rebel 1571 "Climb Mountain Gospel" and
Rebel 1996 "50th Anniversary"

Rank Strangers

(Albert E. Brumley)

I wandered again to my home in the mountain.
Where in youth's early dawn I was happy and free
I looked for my friends, but I never could find them
I found they were all rank strangers to me.

(Chorus)

Everybody I met seemed to be a rank stranger
No Mother nor Dad, not a friend could I see
I knew not their name and I knew not their faces
I found they were all rank strangers to me.

"They've all moved away," said the voice of a
stranger

"To a beautiful home by the bright crystal sea"
Some beautiful day I'll meet them in Heaven
Where no one will be a stranger to me.

(Repeat Chorus)

Available on Rebel 1522 "I Want To Preach The Gospel" and
Atteiram 1662 "Live At The Smithsonian Institution" and
FRC 9002 "Classic Stanley"

Purple Robe

(Odell McLeod)

'Tis a story so unkind in the Holy Book we find
And it tells how Jesus stood alone one day
False accused and there condemned, yet they found no fault with Him
The man who wore the scarlet purple robe.

(Chorus)

Purple robe my Saviour wore, oh the shame for me he bore
As he stood alone forsaken on that day
And they placed upon his head piercing thorns, a bloodstained red
The man who wore the scarlet robe.

In the common judgment hall, He was scorned and mocked by all
The tears of sorrow fell upon His cheek
Soldiers of the wicked man smote Him with their evil hand
His reignment was a scarlet purple robe.
(Repeat Chorus)

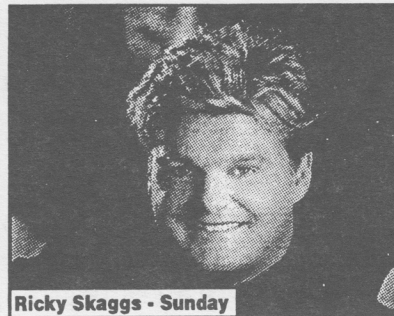
Words of truth that day was plain from the lips of Pilate came
"In this man I see no reason He should die"
But the multitude then cried, "Let this man be crucified"
The man who wore the scarlet purple robe.

Available on Rebel 1544 "Let Me Rest On A Peaceful Mountain"
and FRC 642 "A Gospel Gathering"

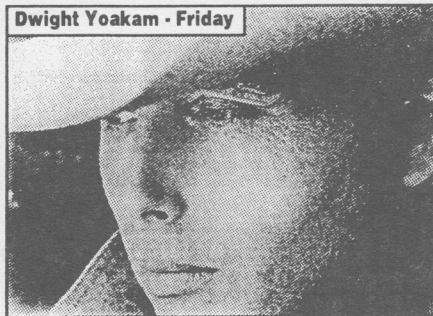
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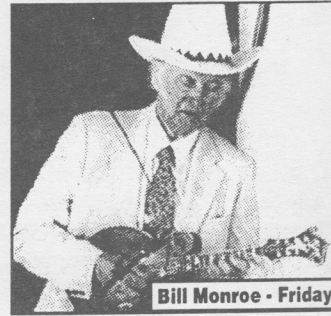
Ralph Stanley Every Day



Ricky Skaggs - Sunday



Dwight Yoakam - Friday



Bill Monroe - Friday

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THURSDAY

6 pm until 11 pm

Ralph Stanley
Shiloh Mountain Boys
Bluegrass Favorites
Gary & Verlin Sanders

FRIDAY

Noon until Midnight

Ralph Stanley
Dwight Yoakam
Bill Monroe
Wildwood Girls
Gary Brewer
Larkin Family
Crossties
Brickey Brothers
Sam Wilson
Bluegrass Strangers
Now & Then
Edwards Ridge Grass
Bill Price

SATURDAY

Noon until Midnight

Ralph Stanley
Larry Sparks
Marshall Family
Goins Brothers
Charlie Sizemore
James King Band
Junior Blankenship
Ernie Thacker
Bluegrass Strangers
Timmy Cline Band
Bluegrass Mountaineers
Vince Combs
Mark Baker w/Dale Kennedy
Clinch Mt. Boys Reunion
Featuring: Larry Sparks,
Art Stamper, George Shuffler,
John Shuffler, Lester Woodie,
Kenneth Davis, Sammy
Adkins, Junior Blankenship,
Joe Meadows, & Joe Isaacs.

SUNDAY

11 am until 6 pm

Ralph Stanley
Ricky Skaggs
The Issacs
Heaven's Echoes
Sarty Sisters

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Our Schedule

THURSDAY, MAY 23rd

6:00 - 6:45 Ralph Stanley	8:15 - 9:00 ... Gary & Verlin Sanders
6:45 - 7:30 Shiloh Mt. Boys	9:00 - 9:45 Ralph Stanley
7:30 - 8:15 Bluegrass Favorites	9:45 - 10:30 Shiloh Mt. Boys

FRIDAY, MAY 24th

12:00-12:30 Crossties	6:15-6:45 Bluegrass Strangers
12:30-1:00 Bill Price	6:45-7:15 Crossties
1:00-1:30 Larkin Family	7:15-7:45 Bill Price
1:30-2:00 Brickey Brothers	7:45-8:15 Larkin Family
2:00-2:30 Sam Wilson	8:15-9:00 Gary Brewer
2:30-3:00 Gary Brewer	9:00-9:30 Wildwood Girls
3:00-3:30 Wildwood Girls	9:30-10:00 Ralph Stanley
3:30-4:00 Edwards Ridge Grass	10:00-10:30 Bill Monroe
4:00-4:30 Now & Then	10:30-11:00 Brickey Brothers
4:30-5:15 Bill Monroe	11:00-11:30 Sam Wilson
5:15-6:15 .Dwight Yoakam w/Ralph Stanley & the Clinch Mt. Boys	11:30-12:00 Bluegrass Strangers

SATURDAY, MAY 25th

12:00-12:30 Timmy Cline Band	5:30-6:00 Larry Sparks
12:30-1:00 .. Bluegrass Mountaineers	6:00-6:30 Timmy Cline Band
1:00-1:30 Vince Combs	6:30-7:00 .. Bluegrass Mountaineers
1:30-2:00 Mark Baker w/Dale Kennedy	7:00-7:30 Vince Combs
2:00-2:30 Bluegrass Strangers	7:30-8:30 Clinch Mt. Boys Reunion
2:30-3:00 Junior Blankenship	8:30-9:00 The Isaacs
3:00-3:30 James King Band	9:00-9:30 Charlie Sizemore
3:30-4:00 Charlie Sizemore	9:30-10:00 Marshall Family
4:00-4:30 Goins Brothers	10:00-10:30 Goins Brothers
4:30-5:00 Marshall Family	10:30-11:00 Larry Sparks
5:00-5:30 Ralph Stanley	11:00-11:30 ... Ernie Thacker & Band
	11:30-12:00 Bluegrass Strangers

SUNDAY, MAY 26th

11:00-11:30 Heaven's Echoes	2:00-3:00 . Ralph Stanley w/special guests, The Isaacs
11:30-12 Noon Ralph Stanley	3:00-3:30 Break
12:00-12:45 The Isaacs	4:30-??? Ricky Skaggs w/Ralph Stanley & The Clinch Mt. Boys
1:00-1:30 Bluegrass Strangers	
1:30-2:00 Sarty Sisters	

Pretty Polly

(Ralph Stanley)

Oh Polly, pretty Polly would you take me unkind
 Polly, pretty Polly would you take me unkind
 For me to sit beside you and tell you my mind.
 Well, my mind is to marry and never to part
 My mind is to marry and never to part
 The first time I saw you it wounded my heart.
 Oh Polly, pretty Polly come and go along with me
 Polly, pretty Polly come and go along with me
 Before we get married some pleasure we'll see.
 Well he led her over mountains and valleys so deep
 He led her over mountains and valleys so deep
 Polly mistrusted and then began to weep.
 Saying Willie, hey little Willie I'm afraid of your ways
 Willie, little Willie I'm afraid of your ways
 The way you've been ramblin' you'll lead me astray.
 Well, Polly, pretty Polly your guess is about right
 Polly, pretty Polly your guess is about right
 I dug your grave the biggest part of last night.
 Then he led her a little farther and what did she spy
 Led her a little farther and what did she spy
 A new dug grave with a spade lying by.
 Then she knelt down before him a-pleadin' for her life
 She knelt before him a-pleadin' for her life
 Let me be a single girl if I can't be your wife.
 Now Polly, pretty Polly that can never be
 Polly, pretty Polly that can never be
 Your past reputation's been trouble to me.
 Than he opened up her bosom as white as any snow
 He opened up her bosom as white as any snow
 He stabbed her through the heart and the blood did overflow.
 Then he went down to the jailhouse and what did he say
 He went to the jailhouse and what did he say
 I've killed pretty Polly and I'm tryin' to get away.

Available on Rebel 1514 "Plays Requests"
 and Rebel 2202 "Live In Japan" also Rebel boxed set "1971-1973"

Gloryland

(Ralph Stanley)

If you have friends in Gloryland
 Who left because of pain
 Thank God up there they'll die no more
 They'll suffer not again
 Then weep not friends, I'm going home
 Up there we'll die no more
 No coffins will be made up there
 No graves on that bright shore
 The lame will walk in Gloryland
 The blind up there will see
 The deaf in Gloryland will hear
 The dumb will talk to me
 The doctor will not have to call
 The undertaker, no
 There'll be no pain up there to bear
 Just walk the streets of gold
 We'll need no sun in Gloryland
 The moon and stars won't shine
 For Christ himself is light up there
 He reigns of love divine
 (Repeat verse 2)

Available on Rebel 1503 "Something Old, Something New"
 and Rebel boxed set "1971-1973"

Little Maggie

(Ralph Stanley)

Over yonder stands little Maggie
 With a dram glass in her hand
 She's drinkin' away her troubles
 She's a-courtin' another man

Sometimes I have a nickel
 Sometimes I have a dime
 Sometimes I have ten dollars
 I'm gonna pay little Maggie's fine

Pretty flowers are made for bloomin'
 Pretty stars are made to shine
 Pretty women were made for lovin'
 Little Maggie was made for mine

Lay down your last gold dollar
 Lay down your gold watch and chain
 Little Maggie's gonna dance for Daddy
 Listen to this old banjer ring

Go away, go away little Maggie
 Go and do the best you can
 I'll get me another woman
 You can get you another man

Available on on Rebel 1514 "Plays Requests" and
 Rebel 2202 "Live In Japan" also Rebel boxed set "1971-1973"

Will You Miss Me?

(A. P. Carter)

(Chorus)

Will you miss me (miss me when I'm gone)
 Oh, will you miss me (miss me when I'm gone)
 Will you miss me (miss me when I'm gone)
 Will you miss me when I'm gone?

When these lips shall never more
 Place a kiss upon thy brow
 But lie cold, still in death
 Will you love me then as now?

Perhaps you'll plant some flowers
 On my cold unworthy grave
 Come and sit along beside me
 When the roses nod and wave.

Available on Rebel 1503 "Something Old, Something New"
 and Rebel boxed set "1971-1973"



Ralph stands atop the hill overlooking the festival grounds on Smith Ridge. The original stage can be seen down in the hollow, 1971.



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*Thank you for your kind help
and encouragement. It was an
honor to perform with you!*

*To a legend in his own time
and our hero,*

We love you, Ralph!

**Dana and Lauren -
The Schankman Twins**



L to R, Curly Ray Cline, Roy Lee Centers, Ralph Stanley, Ricky Lee and Jack Cooke. This photo was taken shortly before Roy Lee Centers was shot and killed near his home in Jackson, Kentucky in the spring of 1974. (photo by Carl Fleischhauer)

"I remember one time the Stanley Brothers were playing at the Jaxon Theatre in Jackson, Kentucky. There were several young boys sitting on the front row, and when it came time for us to take intermission, Carter just stepped down off the stage and hung his guitar around one of the boy's neck. He just sat there and held the guitar 'till Carter came back after intermission. That little boy grew up to be Roy Lee Centers...."

Ralph Stanley

(as told in a private conversation)

"About 6:30 or 7:00 one morning I was in bed and the telephone rang and it was Roy Lee's little boy, Lennie. I don't remember how old he was then but he was real young. He just said 'Daddy's been killed. A fellow shot him last night.'

"Now Keith Whitley and Ricky Skaggs had already been with me while Roy Lee was with me. And when we went to Roy Lee's funeral, why Keith and his mother and dad were there.... So we left and we stopped at a restaurant in Jackson to eat. Well, they invited me over to the booth to sit with them and while we were sitting there why Elmer, Keith's daddy said, 'If you ever need a lead singer I know where you can get one.' I said 'Well, I need one right now.' So he started the next week. That's how it happened."

Ralph Stanley

(as told to John Wright in the book "Traveling the Highway Home" University of Illinois Press)

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Congratulations Ralph Stanley!



1974-75. Curly Ray Cline, Keith Whitley, Ralph Stanley, Ricky Lee and Jack Cooke . (Photo by Carl Fleischhauer)



This photo was used for the cover of the "Clinch Mountain Gospel" album in 1977. L to R: Renfro Profitt, Jack Cooke, Ralph, Keith Whitley and Curly Ray Cline.



Renfro Profitt, Curly Ray Cline, Ralph Stanley, Jack Cooke and Keith Whitley, 1977.



Ralph and Keith



Curly Ray, unknown fan, Keith, and Jack.

"... You can listen to these lead singers all day and all night and you'll never find one that does just what he does"

Ralph Stanley (Introducing Keith Whitley on July 2, 1996 at Berryville, Virginia.)



Publicity photo of the Clinch Mountain Boys, 1978. L to R: Curly Ray Cline, Junior Blankenship, Ralph, Charlie Sizemore (who replaced Keith Whitley as lead singer) and Jack Cooke. This band would remain together for nine years and record many fine albums on Rebel, Blue Jay, Stanleytone, and Old Homestead labels.



Junior Blankenship and Ralph. Junior played lead guitar for 17 years with the Clinch Mountain Boys.



Ralph, Jack Cooke and Charlie Sizemore sing a trio at Ralph's Annual Festival.

This year is Ralph Stanley's 26th Annual Memorial Festival at The Old Home Place



Bill Monroe and Ralph lead other performers in a Sunday morning hymn sing at the festival.



Ralph is presented with an Honorary Doctorate of Music from Douglas Gordon of Lincoln Memorial University. This earned him the name "Dr. Ralph."



Ralph picking his Stanleytone banjo on stage. These banjos are custom built by Frank Neat of Russell Springs, KY.



Performing in Riverfront Plaza, Louisville, Kentucky 1983. (Photo by James Shelton)

More Clinch Mountain Boys



Ralph and Sammy Adkins. Sammy replaced Charlie Sizemore as lead singer in 1986. (Photo by Miles Ward)



Kenneth Davis lead singer, 1994-95. (Photo by Marcel Hugenin)



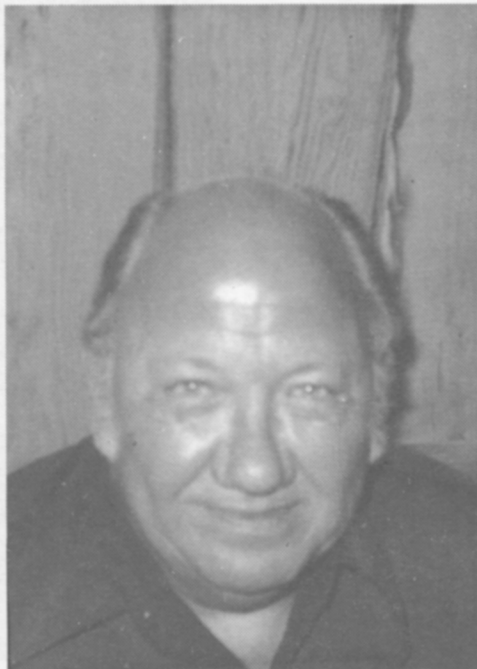
Art Stamper worked with the Stanley Brothers in the early 50s. He came back in 1993 after Curly Ray Cline retired and stayed until 1995. (Photo by Randy Campbell)



Ralph, Ernie Thacker and Jack Cooke 1991. Ernie worked 5 years with Ralph, playing mandolin, guitar, and singing lead. (Photo by Tim Thacker)



Fiddlin' Art Wooten worked with the Stanleys in the early 50s. He appears on some of the Columbia sessions from this period.



Curly Lambert played mandolin and according to Ralph, was one of the best baritone singers the Stanley Brothers ever had.



Ralph Mayo played fiddle on many Mercury, King, and Starday records in the late 50s and early 60s.



George Shuffler, legendary guitarist who popularized the "crosspicking" style of lead guitar. (Photo by Miles Ward)



Clinch Mountain Boys past and present. Back row, L to R: George Shuffler, James Shelton, John Shuffler, front row, Joe Meadows, Lester Woodie. May 27, 1995 McClure, Virginia. (Photo by Grant Colby)



Ralph Stanley at Union Center in New York.
(Photo by Jerry C. Wilsey)



James Shelton and Steve Sparkman, Summersville, West Virginia June 1995.
(Photo by Miles Ward)



Kenneth Davis gets a helping hand from Hillard Blankenship, West Coast Tour 1994. (Photo by Randy Campbell)



Ralph and the boys on stage at the historic Ryman Auditorium in Nashville, Tennessee. August 30, 1994.

Curly Ray

Curly Ray Cline, "The Old Kentucky Foxhunter," worked with Ralph Stanley and the Clinch Mountain Boys for 26 years. He was one of the best old time fiddlers in the business and a wonderful comedian. In all his years in the band, he never missed a show and his lively antics on stage were an important feature to any live performance. Curly retired in May of 1993 and is now in a nursing home in Elkhorn City, Kentucky following a series of health problems. Even today, he is still loved and remembered among fans who ask "How's Curly Ray?" wherever the Clinch Mountain Boys appear.



A familiar sight to bluegrass fans - a smiling Curly Ray!



Curly signs one of his many fiddle albums.



"The Old Kentucky Foxhunter" at work.

and Jack

Vernon Crawford "Jack" Cooke began playing music professionally as a teenager with the Stanley Brothers back in the 1950s. He returned in 1970 to join Ralph and the Clinch Mountain Boys and has been with the group for 26 years. In addition to playing bass, Jack sings various parts in the trios and quartets and also helps drive the bus and sells tapes and CDs for Ralph. He is the band's goodwill ambassador to the public, meeting and greeting fans at the record table where friends often come up and say "Hi, Jack!" Jack tells them never to say that around an airport...



Jack in his favorite seat on the bus.



Curly Ray, Ralph, and Jack at the Ralph Stanley Appreciation Days. McClure, Virginia April 1988. (Photo by Miles Ward)



Jack and Ralph at the record table on tour in California, 1994. (Photo by Randy Campbell)

Ralph II *"Here's a young man I'm awfully proud of...."*



A very young Ralph Stanley II, barely able to reach around his little Martin guitar. He has been travelling on the road with his dad since the age of 4.



"You'd better learn these songs 'cause you might have to sing 'em some day." Ernie Thacker whispers to Ralph II during a break between songs. (Photo by Miles Ward)



Ralph II became the lead singer for the Clinch Mountain Boys in 1995. Here he sings with Dad and Jack Cooke at Summersville, West Virginia, June 1995. (Photo by Miles Ward)



Father and son sing a duet on stage at Needles, California, February 1995. (Photo by Randy Campbell)

Clinch Mountain Boys 1996



L to R: James Price, James Shelton, Steve Sparkman, Ralph Stanley, Ralph Stanley II, John Rigsby, and Jack Cooke. (Photo by Miles Ward)

Friends, I'd like to tell you all a little about my boss man. I have worked for him for 26 years, his name is none other than Dr. Ralph Stanley. Ralph is a very pleasant man. What he says you can bet your boots on it. Ralph and I have been good buddies for a long, long time and traveled hundreds of thousands of miles together. I have enjoyed every minute of it.

Ralph is celebrating his 50th year in the business this year. He has recorded over 150 long play albums and tapes. So, Ralph, I hope me and you can be together as long as our health permits us to travel. To my best boss man ever, this is to Dr. Ralph Stanley, Happy 50th Anniversary. God Bless You, Doc, you're the greatest!

**Your employee and friend forever,
Mayor Jack Cooke**

Friends, this is Ralph Stanley II and I'm here to tell you about the man who's my boss now and has been my boss all of my life. He's the best boss and Dad anyone could ask for. He's been picking and singing for 50 years and has cut some true Bluegrass classics. In my eyes, he is the best and he has taught me everything I know. It really tickled me when I was asked to do the lead singing chores. Every time I get on the stage, I think about who has stood where I am standing. Every time Dad sings "A Man Of Constant Sorrow" while I'm playing rhythm, my right hand wants to stop playing and listen.

I hope he has the best 50th Anniversary celebration. Thank you friends,

Ralph Stanley II

My name is Hillard Blankenship, Sr. I have been driving the bus for Ralph Stanley for 14 years. My son, Hillard Blankenship, Jr. played lead guitar for Ralph for 17 years, so I have been around Ralph for some time and I never knew anybody as honest and as good to his men.

In the years that I have worked for Ralph I have known him to book shows knowing he would lose money just to keep his men working and I think that is thoughtful of him.

I hope he has a good 50th year and I wish him the best. Thanks.

Hillard Blankenship, Sr.

I first saw Ralph Stanley perform in person in 1973 when I was 12 years old, and the experience had a great impact on my life. At the time, I had just begun to learn to play the guitar, and I wore out my copy of Ralph's "Something Old, Something New" album trying to learn the breaks to the songs. I remember sitting in my room and staring at Ralph's picture on the cover, hoping that someday I could become a member of the famous Clinch Mountain Boys. Now today, 23 years later, I sit across from him on the bus and I'm still in awe of the man.

Ralph, I've learned a lot just by being around you. Some folks think that you don't talk much, but the way you hold yourself up in public and the way you conduct yourself as a bandleader speaks volumes. I'm proud to be working with you and I want to say congratulations on a 50 year career that will remain unequalled by anyone in American music.

James A. Shelton

It was 1971 at the Steven's Lake Bluegrass Festival in West Virginia. I was 7 years old and my Dad and Mom took me to my first bluegrass festival. As I sat and watched you for the first time, my Dad told me as much about you as he knew, and I still remember the effect you had on the crowd. It was great! Since 1971, I have been watching, listening, and learning from you. In August of 1995, one of my biggest dreams came true: to stand on the stage and perform with the legendary Ralph Stanley.

I am very proud of you and proud for you, in celebration of 50 years in the business! I wish you many more years, you deserve it all.

Your friend and fiddler, James Price

Ever since I've been big enough to remember, the only music that I can recall hearing is the Stanley Brothers and Ralph Stanley. This music has always dramatically influenced me, especially Ralph's banjo playing and powerful tenor singing. First of all, I would like to congratulate Ralph for his 50th year in music and at the same time, thank him for 50 years of hardwork and devotion to give us the best that Bluegrass has ever had to offer. Not to mention, all the personal thanks for giving me a wonderful start in Bluegrass music. To a great music teacher, the world's greatest boss, and last but not least, a very true friend.

Ralph is a true inspiration to every picker and singer in every form of music worldwide. He has created a style of music known to millions of people as the Stanley Sound. The song, ballads, and instrumentals of this style will live as long as its background, "the mountains" - forever.

Steve Sparkman

It is a pleasure for me to be asked to write a little script about my little buddy and boss, Dr. Ralph Stanley. Ralph is the best boss I have ever worked for and most certainly the best banjo player and tenor singer I've heard in my lifetime. So I wish him the best during his 50th year. Ralph has got more soul in his singing and playing than anybody I ever heard. I have had the best time of my life during my eight months of playing for Ralph Stanley and the Clinch Mountain Boys. If you don't know him personally, let me tell you he is the friendliest and most honest person I have ever known. God bless you.

John Rigsby

White Oak On The Hill

(Mike Todd)

There's a white oak on the hill at my old Clinch Mountain home
That stands straight and true on that windy spur alone
And when the cold wind blows, its roots they bend and moan
And when the storm is passed, it straightens up and goes on.

(Chorus)

Lord, let me be like that white oak on the hill
And help me to live in your Almighty will
Help me on my journey, Lord, to travel on my own
And give me the strength to straighten up and go on.

You know the troubles of this life, they sometimes get me down
And when I look for my friends, they're not always around
Then the good Lord seems to say, "Son, get up and do my will
And always remember that old white oak on the hill."

(Repeat Chorus)

Available on Rebel 1657 "I'll Answer The Call"

Daddy's Rose

(Earl Sykes)

Many years have passed, I'm sorry to say
Since I've been to visit my Daddy's grave
When the telephone rang, I heard my sister say,
"Green briars are growing on our Daddy's grave."

I went to the place where my Daddy lay
And saw the green briars growing up through the clay
So I took me a spade and I took me a hoe
Cleared away the green briars, planted Daddy a rose.

In life, Dad's a briar and Moms are the rose
But in death they're no different, God only knows
Sometimes at midnight when the cold wind blows
I think of the graveyard and my Daddy's rose.
(Repeat verse 2)

I long for the springtime when the rose will bloom
And cast its shadows on my Daddy's tomb
So listen good people to these words I say
And keep green briars off of your Daddy's grave.

Available on Rebel 1657 "I'll Answer The Call"

In His Arms I'm Not Afraid

(Eanes-Carrick)

When I close my eyes in death
Fold my hands across my breast
Sing for me a pretty song
While I take my journey home

(Chorus)

Not afraid to bid this world goodbye
Not afraid to close my eyes and die
For the courage I have prayed
In His arms, I'm not afraid

When I cross that silent sea
Where the home lights beckon me
I'll fear no pain, I'll fear no one
Safe, secure in Jesus' arms

Available on Rebel 1657 "I'll Answer The Call"

The Darkest Hour Is Just Before Dawn

(Ralph Stanley)

(Chorus)

The darkest hour is just before dawn
The narrow way leads home
Lay down your soul at Jesus' feet
The darkest hour is just before dawn.

The sun is slowly sinking
The day is almost gone
Still darkness falls around us
And we must journey on.
(Repeat Chorus)

Like a shepherd out on a mountain
Watching the sheep down below
He's coming back to claim us
Will you be ready to go?

Available on Rebel 1601 "The Stanley Sound Today"
and Starday/King boxed set "The Early Years"

Room At The Top Of The Stairs

(Randall Hylton)

She lives all alone on a dark windy street
In a room at the top of the stairs.
She smokes cigarettes and stares at the wall
Not knowing that my heart lives there.
In the cool of the night she takes me inside
And helps soothe my troubles and pain.
She's warm, she's sweet, her kisses leave me weak
I love it when she touches my face.
She talks about the past, the sorrow and regret
She cries about the gray in her hair.
Well I love her so much but she just won't believe
That any man alive could ever care.
I wish I'd been there when she was a girl
Before love had treated her unfair.
She wouldn't be so sad, and she wouldn't live alone
In a room at the top of the stairs.

Available on Rebel 1647 "Lonesome And Blue" and
Rebel 1996 "50th Anniversary"

Nobody's Love Is Like Mine

(Carter Stanley)

(Chorus)
Nobody's love is like mine
No one so faithful and kind
Love that is true as the ocean
Nobody's love is like mine.

Well they tell me that you have found another
And now you're going far away,
Why have you left me, little darlin'
I've loved you both night and day
(Repeat Chorus)

Well I guess now I'll just go on dreamin'
Wondering why it couldn't be
Someday little darlin' you'll be sorry
For the way you treated me.

Available on Rebel 1118 "Live At McClure" and
County 776 "On And On"

Old Richmond Prison

(Barton Brothers)

Deep in the hills, way down in Virginia
Is where I lived for twenty-three years.
While driving one day, just ridin' for pleasure
Just ridin' for pleasure I had a few beers.
I shot the sheriff of Buchanan County
They threw me in jail without any bail.
They tried me in Buchanan County
For a crime that was done on the Dickenson side.
The jury came in with the verdict on Monday
They said I was guilty and had to do time.
Eighteen years in Old Richmond Prison
Eighteen years seems like forty-nine.
My thoughts go back to my home in the mountains
To Buchanan County near the Dickenson line
To Buchanan County near the Dickenson line.

Available on Rebel 1647 "Lonesome And Blue" and
Rebel 1996 "50th Anniversary"

A Little Boy Called Joe

(Lee Allen and Ralph Stanley)

In a war torn land of poverty somewhere across the sea
A little boy is waiting, he looks a lot like me
His hair is like the sunlight on the wings of a crow
I don't know what they named him, but I'm sure they call him Joe.

(Chorus)
Just a little boy called Joe like so many more I know
Left all alone somewhere across the sea,
I want him to have my name, little Joe is mine to claim
A little boy called Joe belongs to me.

His mother died to give him life the night my orders came
I wanted to be with him, but war's an evil thing
Now he won't recognize me, but I've got to let him know
He means much more to someone than just a little boy called Joe.
(Repeat Chorus)

Available on Rebel 1503 "Something Old, Something New" and
Rebel boxed set "1971-1973"



The mission of the Birthplace of County Music Alliance is:
To bring national and international recognition:

- To the people of the Southern Appalachian region
- To the musical and cultural heritage of the region
- To its role in the development of country music
- To its influence on music around the world

For a complete listing of BCMA events for '96 call 423/968-7456 or write: P.O. Box 216 Bristol, TN 37620.

Ralph Stanley

50th Anniversary Celebration

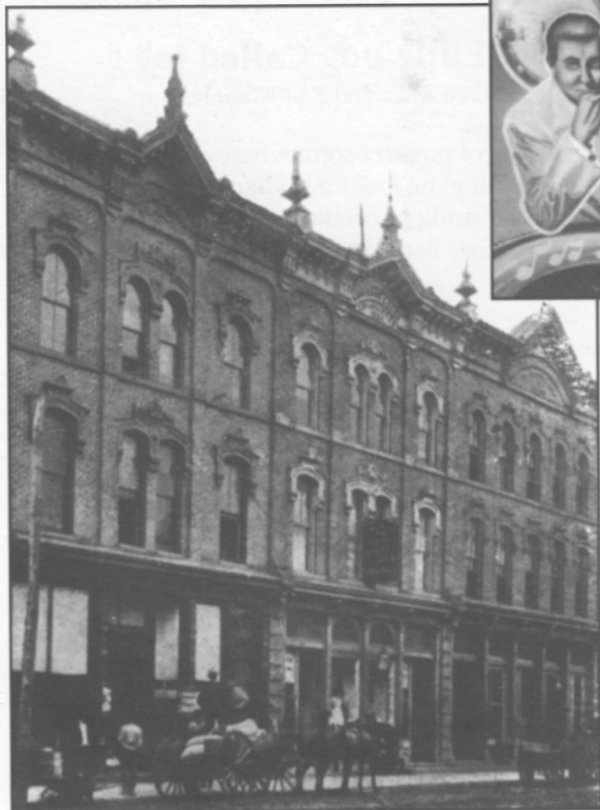
and

WCYB Radio's Farm & Fun Time

50th Anniversary Show

Featuring...
Ralph Stanley
Ricky Skaggs
Mac Wiseman
& Others

November 2nd, 1996
At the Historic Paramount Theater
in Bristol TN/VA



410 State Street, Bristol, TN/VA was the site of Victor Recording Company's historic Bristol Sessions in 1927



Artist Tim White's 30 x 100' mural in downtown Bristol, TN/VA depicts the musicians instrumental in the first nationally distributed, commercial country music recordings by the Victor Record Company. From left to right; Ralph Peer, The Carter Family, Victor Logo "Nipper the Dog", Mom & Pop Stoneman, and Jimmie Rodgers.

COUNTRY MUSIC HISTORIANS hail the "Bristol Sessions" featuring Jimmie Rodgers, the Carter Family, the Stonemans and others, as the Big Bang of Country Music, tracing all forms of country music to these groundbreaking sessions recorded during the summer of 1927.

Hillbilly Fried Chicken



Congratulations
Ralph!

Thanks for being
spokesman for
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Chicken!

Hillbilly Fried Chicken
congratulates
Ralph Stanley for
50 years
in Bluegrass Music!

Hillbilly Fried Chicken
East Tennessee & Southwest Virginia



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MILES WARD
PORTLAND, OREGON



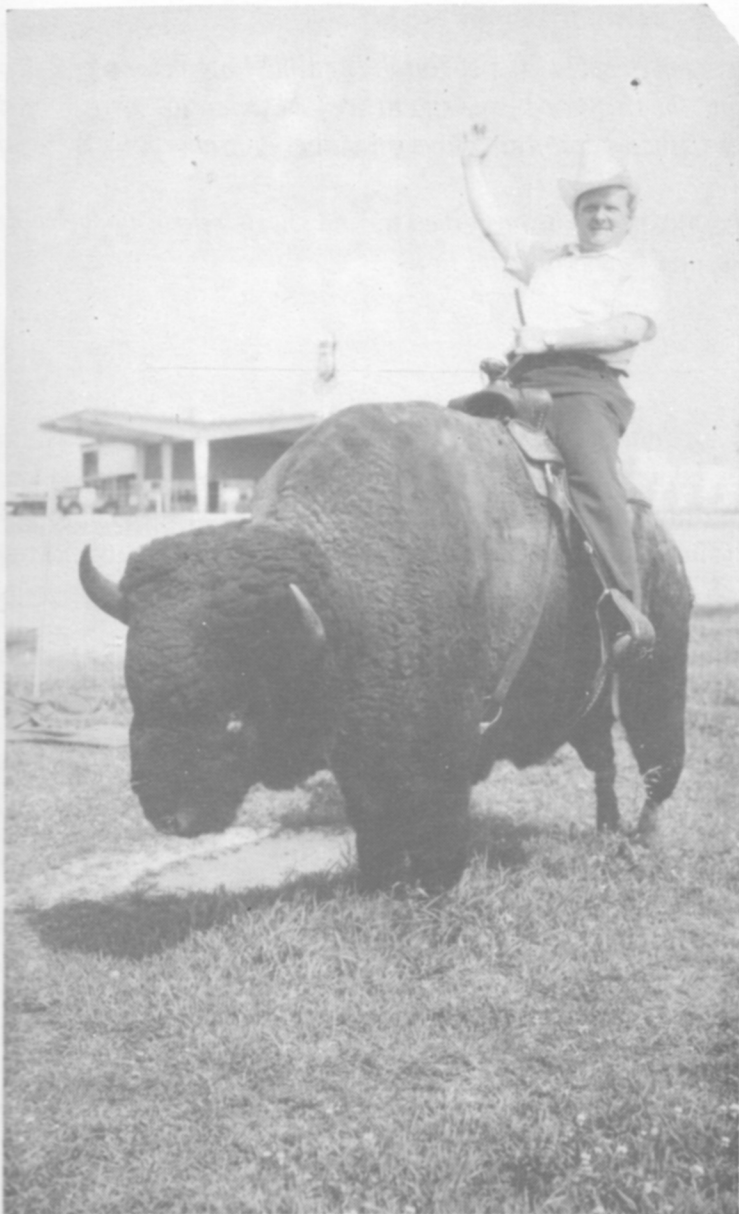
The Clinch Mountain Boys quartet sings an acapella gospel song at Wintergrass '96 in Tacoma, Washington, February 1996. (Photo by Miles Ward)



Ralph Stanley and the Clinch Mountain Boys on the Grand Ole Opry in Nashville, Tennessee October 27, 1995.
(Photo by Ron Rigsby)



Backstage at the Opry, L to R: Steve Sparkman, James Price, Ricky Skaggs, Ralph Stanley, James Shelton, Ralph Stanley II and John Rigsby, October 27, 1995. (Photo by Ron Rigsby)



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Tributes

Ralph Stanley is a legend in his own time. We have always been devoted fans of Ralph Stanley long before we had a chance to meet him in person. It is hard for anyone to imagine the thrill and excitement we had when we were offered our first opportunity to perform with Ralph Stanley and the Clinch Mountain Boys on stage. Not everyone is lucky enough to perform with their idol and inspiration.

We will always be grateful to Ralph for all the help and encouragement he has given us and cherish the unforgettable times with him. Ralph has been extremely kind and generous, and is very special to us.

Dana & Lauren Schankman
The Shankman Twins

I'm honored to get to tell you about Ralph Stanley. He's for sure one of the best friends I ever had. When I worked with Ralph, I was a 20-year-old boy and had never been away from home much at all. He took me in and treated me like my family did. He's been a brother to me and was the only man in Bluegrass I would pick with. His word was his bond, and if he promised you anything, he would do that and more. Every young Bluegrass picker should have the pleasure of picking with Ralph Stanley. I always like to pick and sing with Ralph. The Stanley style is my style and I've always been his number one fan. I'm looking forward to being at his 50th Reunion and I hope several more!

John Shuffler
Former Clinch Mountain Boy

I have enjoyed the Stanley Brothers and Ralph Stanley's music since back in the 40s, when they were on "Farm And Fun Time" at WCYB radio in Bristol, Virginia. Since Carter passed away in December, 1966, Ralph has certainly done a great job of keeping bluegrass music and the legendary sound of the Stanley Brothers alive all over the world. He is a legend in his own time, and his banjo picking and singing will never die. I enjoy working shows with him, he is one of my best friends in music. I hope he will be around for many more years to come!

Melvin Goins
The Goins Brothers

Ralph, it is always a pleasure to sing with you. I'm very honored to have been just a small part of the Stanley Brothers' music and then Ralph Stanley and the Clinch Mountain Boys, 1965-1969. I wish you a happy 50th year in music with many more to follow. Thanks, Ralph, for what you've given to us all . . . The Stanley Sound.

Your Friend,
Larry Sparks

I am happy to have worked with the Stanley Brothers during what I believe were the "golden years" of their career, 1949, 1950 and 1951. I had the privilege of playing fiddle on most of their Columbia recordings, which were later re-released on their subsidiary label Harmony Records. More recently, Bear Family Records of Germany acquired the masters and released them for the third time on CD. I feel that it was due to the strength of songs like "Lonesome River," "The Fields Have Turned Brown," "Man of Constant Sorrow," etc. that they were released so many times. I think it is significant to note that Mr. Art Satherly and Don Law, two of Columbia's top executives, usually flew into Nashville for those recording sessions.

During those golden years, we did some of the earliest live TV shows on WSAZ, Huntington, West Virginia, and were members of the Louisiana Hayride. I have some great memories of those times with Carter and Ralph, Pee Wee Lambert, Smokey Davis, Curley Lambert and other musicians. I say "Congratulations" to Ralph for staying with it and for his many accomplishments. "Happy Anniversary, Ralph!"

Lester Woodie
former Clinch Mountain Boy

I began with the Stanley Brothers in December 1951, worked with them through Carter's death in 1966, and returned to work with Ralph for a while in the late 60s and early 70s.

Ralph Stanley is without question one of the most honest men I have had the privilege to know. His character and integrity have played a big part in his deep commitment to preserving the heritage of good, old-time mountain music. I will always be grateful to Ralph for giving me the opportunity to help develop a style of music that is recognized the world over for being uncompromisingly true. His caliber of music is surpassed only by his stature as a man. I love him like a brother.

George Shuffler

Former Clinch Mountain Boy

Ralph Stanley's accomplishments in bluegrass are legendary. He has kept his own course for 50 years, and has given us some of the greatest music in the history of our country. Above it all there is his voice, seemingly from another time or another world. There is simply no other that can approach it. I have no doubt that a century from now when Bill Clinton and Michael Jordan are known only by their pictures in textbooks, people young and old will still be listening in awe to Ralph Stanley and the Clinch Mountain Boys.

Miles Ward, Portland, Oregon

Friend and Photographer

Ralph Stanley gave me the opportunity to "break into the big leagues" of professional entertainment by allowing me to book him, especially out west in the winter. Ever since I've been working with him, it's like being in the World Series every day. He's truly the "Babe Ruth of Bluegrass Music." If I couldn't get in free, I'd pay money to hear him pick and sing with the Clinch Mountain Boys!

Randy Campbell

West Coast Booking Agent



Ralph Stanley with Randy Campbell (above) and Miles Ward (below).



Dr. Ralph Stanley International Fan Club

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"The Best In Mountain Music"

Legend



Ralph's hometown of McClure, Virginia erected a sign in his honor in April 1988. (Photo by Miles Ward)

*"McClure, VA. Hometown of Dr. Ralph Stanley
In 1946 Ralph and Carter, The Stanley Brothers,
pioneered the sound of bluegrass music. After Carter's
death in 1966, Ralph went on to become a legend in
bluegrass."*

—Inscription on sign erected
by the town of McClure



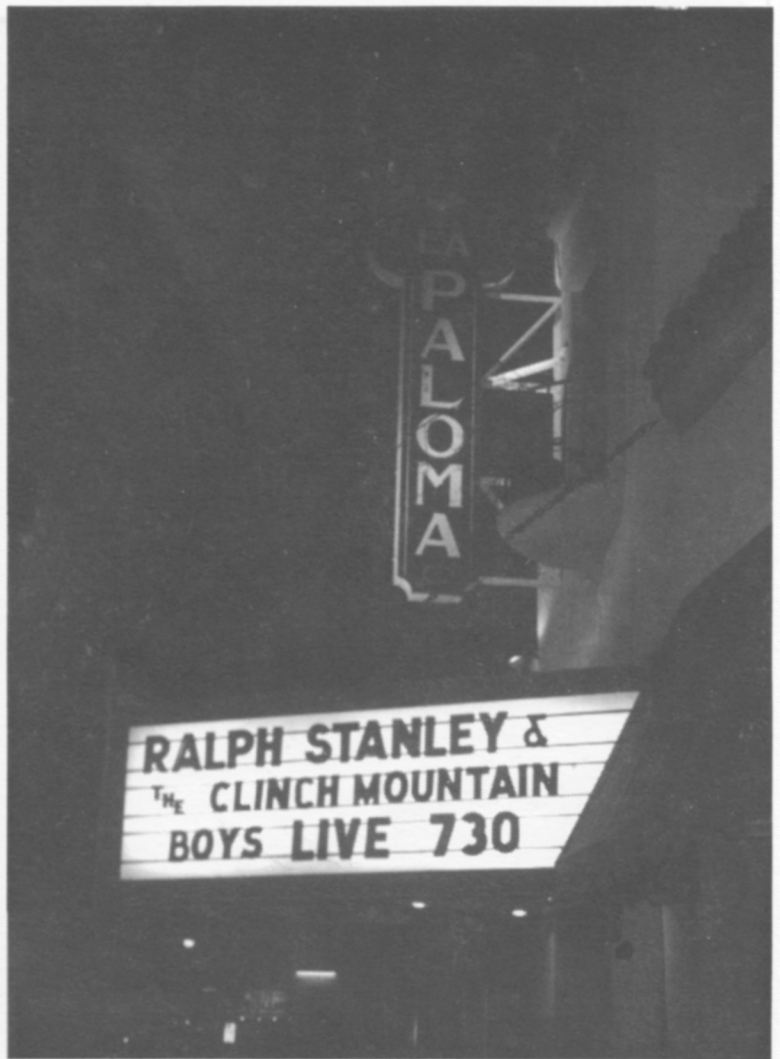
Ralph on stage at the Ralph Stanley Appreciation Days celebration in McClure, Virginia April 23, 1988. (Photo by Miles Ward)



The Stanley Brothers were inducted into the IBMA Hall of Honor at Owensboro, Kentucky on September 24, 1992. At right is Ralph with West Coast booking agent Randy Campbell and at left with his proud wife Jimmie. (Photos courtesy of Randy Campbell)



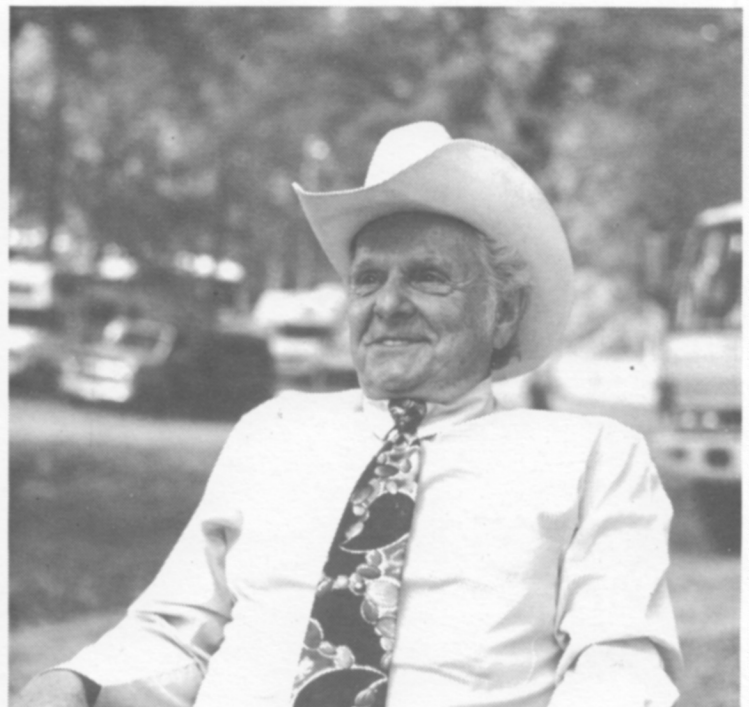
Ralph and John Chelew, promoter at McCabe's Guitar Shop in Santa Monica, California. John, who has booked Ralph at McCabe's for nearly 20 years is holding the 50th Anniversary Stanleytone Banjo. February 9, 1996 (photo by Randy Campbell)



Marquee at the La Paloma Theatre in Encinitas, California February 10, 1996. (Photo by Randy Campbell)



Ralph doing a radio interview on KTAN Sierra Vista, Arizona March 1992. (Photo by Randy Campbell)

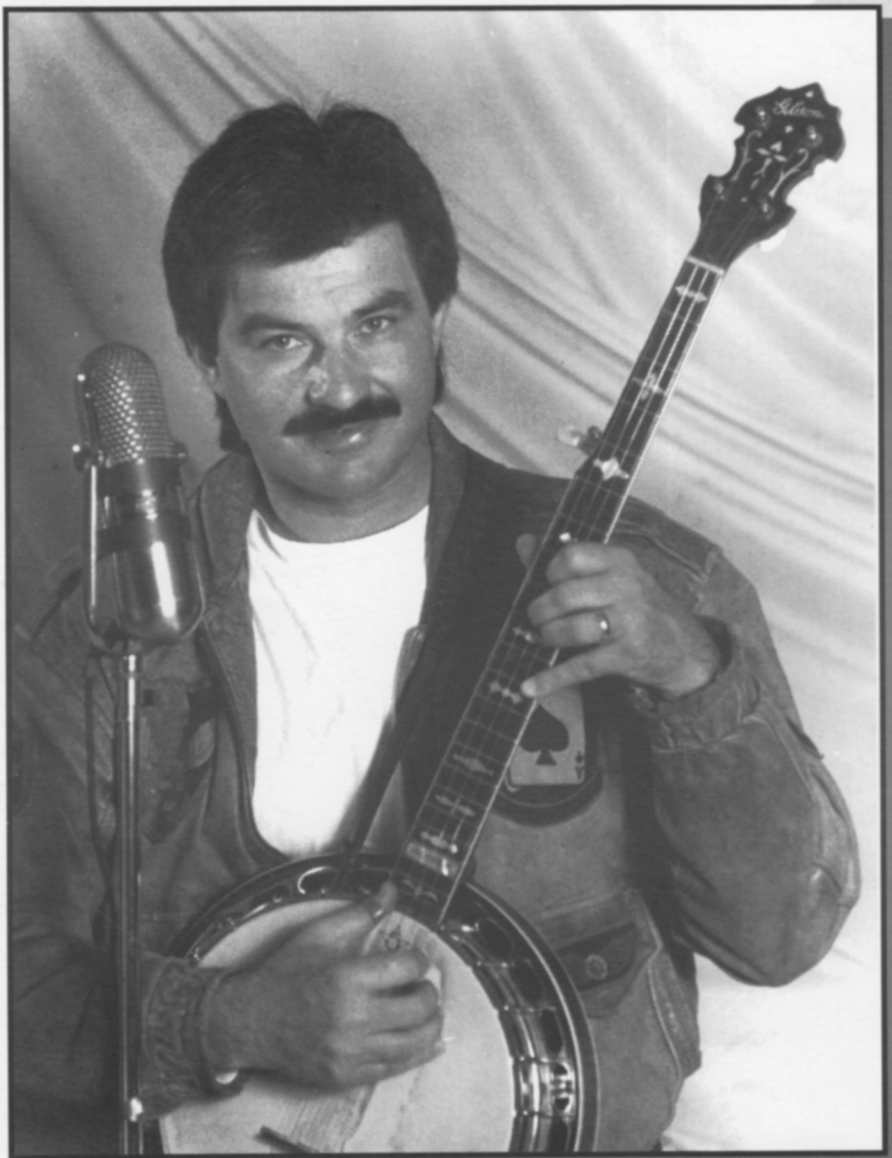


Ralph, relaxed and smiling takes a break at a festival. (Photo by Miles Ward)

Autographs



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