

The
MADDOX BROTHERS & ROSE

Live - On The Radio
Excerpts from 1953 Radio Broadcasts



1. KAW-LIGA (Rose - vocal)
2. PETER COTTONTAIL (Rose - vocal)
3. NEW STEP IT UP AND GO (Don - vocal)
4. HONKY TONKIN' (Rose - vocal)
5. I'M AN OLD, OLD MAN (Fred - vocal)
6. UN-HUH, HONEY (Rose - vocal)
7. PRETTY LITTLE DEDON (Don - vocal)
8. LET'S WALK THAT-A-WAY, NOT THIS-A-WAY (Cal - vocal)
9. TAKE MY HAND PRECIOUS LORD
10. ON MEXICO'S BEAUTIFUL SHORES (Fred - vocal)
11. MR. KNOW IT ALL (Young girl of 22)
12. THERE'S A RAINBOW IN EVERY TEARDROP (Rose - vocal)
13. YOU GOTTA HAVE A LICENSE (Fred - vocal)
14. WATERBABY BLUES (instrumental)
15. JOHN HENRY (Fred - vocal)
16. MR. KNOW IT ALL (Daughter is 16 years old)
17. WHEN GOD DIPS HIS LOVE IN MY HEART (Rose - vocal)
18. MY BUCKET'S GOT A HOLE IN IT (Fred - vocal)
19. BEAUTIFUL LOUISIANA (Rose - vocal)
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37. WAIT A LITTLE LONGER (Rose - vocal)
38. IS HE SATISFIED (Rose - vocal)

1 & 2: The Squeakin' Deacon program from the Riverside Rancho - KXLA 3/29/1953
3 & 4: Western Varieties TV program - KTLA-TV 7/24/1953 (Doyle O'Dell - host)
5 - 9: KXLA Special Presentation 7/27/1953
#10 - 38: KXLA (Pasadena, Ca.) live studio broadcasts - early December 1953

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The Maddox Brothers & Rose: Fred, Don, Cal, Henry, & Rose Maddox

At the height of their career, The MADDOX BROTHERS AND ROSE were billed as America's Most Colorful Hillbilly Band - and they certainly lived up to their publicity! The Maddox family came from Alabama and made their way to California during the depths of the Great Depression. They experienced the life depicted in "The Grapes of Wrath" - something most of us have only read about or seen in the movies. The Maddox brothers and little sister Rose started out singing songs they grew up with at home - songs they learned from their father and mother, from neighbors, from traveling musicians, or heard on the radio. They sang on the freight trains coming west and they sang in the camps where they were shoved together with other "Okies", "Arkies" and other escapees from the horrors of the Dust Bowl and the Great Depression. They had heard that in California, the Garden of Eden, money grew on trees. But they soon found out that reality was very

different and that Woody Guthrie was right when he sang that "you might as well go back to beautiful Texas, if you ain't got the Do-Re-Mi." The only work they could find was as "fruit tramps" - to pick the fruits and harvest the vegetables in California's great Central Valley. After living in Oakland's "Pipe City" - a camp where huge concrete pipes offered the only shelter - they finally wound up in Modesto. Brother Fred Maddox one day decided he was sick and tired of picking fruit for peanuts and went to radio station KTRB to ask if they couldn't use a hillbilly band. The manager said if you can get a girl singer, you've got the job. Fred told his little sister Rose she would have to fill that role - and the rest is history!

The Maddox Brothers & Rose with their energy and traditional southern songs soon were a popular act among the hundreds of thousands of fellow dust bowl refugees who had made it to the California Central Valley. With World War II came dramatic

changes - musically and otherwise. Musically, boogie woogie and swing really jacked up country music and the Maddox Brothers and Rose loved every note of it. But the best part was that due to the war the depression was finally overcome. Those not serving in the military were employed in huge numbers in war-related industries and they were all making good money. Soon there was actually a labor shortage and large numbers of Mexican nationals were admitted to do the field work no one else wanted to do anymore. Soon the Maddox Brothers & Rose were able to make a good living just making music - and their fellow southerners and Texans were swarming to the dance halls and theatres where they made endless appearances especially up and down the West Coast. Rose used to love to tell the story that the Maddox Brothers and Rose damn near put Bob Wills out of business - at least on the West Coast!

This CD is a rare gem indeed - because it lets us "tune-in" on what went on back in 1953 at several venues but mostly in the studios of KXLA - where the Maddox Brothers and Rose were broadcasting "live" every afternoon from 5 to 5:30. During November and December of 1953 the band was also appearing every Wednesday and Friday night at the

Riverside Rancho, on Riverside Drive in Los Angeles (now part of the Golden State Freeway!). The recordings were made on a Webcor reel-to-reel tape recorder at the super slow 3 & 3/4 speed but with the speaker wires of the radio tapped and fed directly into the recorder's input plug.

Glenn E. Mueller was 14 years old when he was first knocked over by the wild sounds of the Maddox Brothers & Rose. In 1949 Glenn was listening, in his home in north Hollywood, to the already full-time country music station KXLA in Pasadena when Cliffie Stone played on his noon time program "Navajo Maiden" by the Maddox Brothers & Rose. Glenn had already heard "Tramp on the Street" - but the banter, hollering and yelling on "Navajo Maiden" turned him into a complete Maddox Brothers & Rose fan! Glenn's parents did not appreciate country music but he was the first kid on the block to get a reel-to-reel tape recorder and proceeded to tape his by then favorite country music group: the Maddox Brothers and Rose at every opportunity he had. He saw them live for the first time when the group appeared on Cliffie Stone's "Home Town Jamboree" TV program on a Saturday night broadcast from the El Monte Legion Stadium in 1949. Shortly after Glenn turned 16 he went to see the group "live" and in person. On

February 2, 1952 he persuaded two girl friends, who like his parents, were not especially keen on country music, to accompany him in his car to the Riverside Rancho since he was now old enough to drive! Apparently the two girls thoroughly enjoyed the Maddox Brothers and Rose and I am sure young Glenn's company as well. In 1957 at a picnic sponsored by the Town Hall Party at Malibu Park, Glenn

met his future wife, Sally - who was the daughter of Alta, one of the Maddox's non-singing sisters. They were married in 1958 until their divorce 30 years later. Thanks, Glenn! first for making these historic recordings as a young boy, and secondly for making them available to Arhoolie Records and the rest of the world to hear for the first time!

(Chris Strachwitz - May 1998)

Recorded off the air by Glenn E. Mueller

Produced by Chris Strachwitz

Cover photo by Glenn E. Mueller taken at the Riverside Rancho, 1953

Cover by Beth Weil, Booklet and tray card layout by Morgan Dodge

Tracks 1 & 2: The Squeakin' Deacon's program from the Riverside Rancho - KXLA 3/29/1953

Tracks 3 & 4: Western Varieties TV program - KTLA-TV 7/24/1953 (Doyle O'Dell - host)

Tracks 5 - 9: KXLA Special Presentation 7/27/1953

Tracks 10 - 38: KXLA (Pasadena, Ca.) live studio broadcasts - early December 1953

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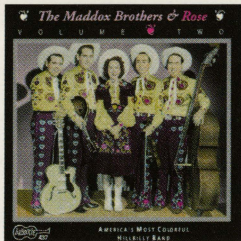
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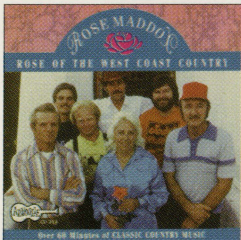
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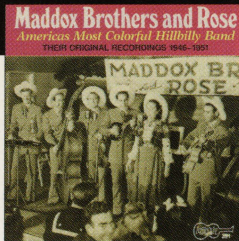
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"America's Most Colorful
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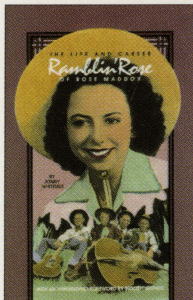
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"Rose of the West
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with Vern Williams



CD/C 391

"America's Most Colorful
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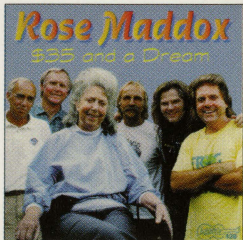
BOOK

Ramblin' Rose
the Life and Career of
Rose Maddox
by Jonny Whiteside



CD 447

"On The Air"
The 1940's



CD 428

"\$35 And a Dream"
(Grammy nominee)

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ALL PREVIOUSLY UNISSUED RECORDINGS

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Caution: These recordings were made directly off the air, and contain occasional tape drop out and radio crackling.

Recorded off the air by Glenn E. Mueller

Produced by Chris Strachwitz

Cover photo by Glenn E. Mueller (taken at the Riverside Rancho)

Cover by Beth Weil

Booklet and tray card layout by Morgan Dodge

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