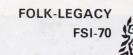
Bill Staines

The Whistle of the Jay

FOLK-LEGACY RECORDS FS1-70





Bill

Staines

with Guy Van Duser, Lana Pettey, Susan Hansen, Rick Lee, Vicky Van Duser, Karen Staines, Caroline Paton, and Stanley Longstaff.

Bill Staines lives, by choice, in rural New Hampshire - real, honest-togoodness, kindling-splitting, wood-hauling, country living - where a new song may grow out of a quiet stroll along a wooded riverbank, or spring quickly to mind in the echoing spang of an axe in the clear, cold air, as some storm-downed birch is trimmed for the firebox. Even the shrill, reminding whistle of the goading jay, scolding a man to his morning chores, may carry with it the beginnings of yet another song.

A good life, yes, but a man must go where his work takes him, and Bill's work is his music. An increasingly full concert schedule demands that much of his time be spent on the road, a singing, songwriting solivagant, sharing his songs with enthusiastic audiences from New England to Texas to California, while New Hampshire becomes a place of refuge and respite, the place where Karen, busy with her own work, waits for his return.

Thus it is that Bill's songs tell us of more than woodstoves in winter and whistling jays. He writes of all of us, and his love for the land through which he wanders finds sure expression in his songs - not in the prideful predications of some who would impress us with their wisdom; Bill's concerns are stated in less obtrusive ways - lovers meet and waltz at a country fair, a trapper sings of his years in the northern woods, and lessons of life and love and of the love of life are to be found in the joyous polyphony as "all God's critters" discover that they, too, have a place in the choir.

These are good, singable songs of real people, living, working, dancing and dreaming in a land of real rivers, forests, prairies and towns. Listen to them, learn them, share them with your friends – they are telling us some things we ought to know.

> Sandy Paton February, 1979

Recorded by Sandy Paton Photographed by Karen Elrod Staines

SIDE 2:

 SIDE 2:

 The Logging Song (Staines, BMI)

 Piney River Girl (Staines, BMI)

 A Cowboy's Hard Times (Staines, BMI)

 2:57

 Jubilee (Staines, BMI)

 3:14

 Mexico Way (Staines, BMI)

 3:06

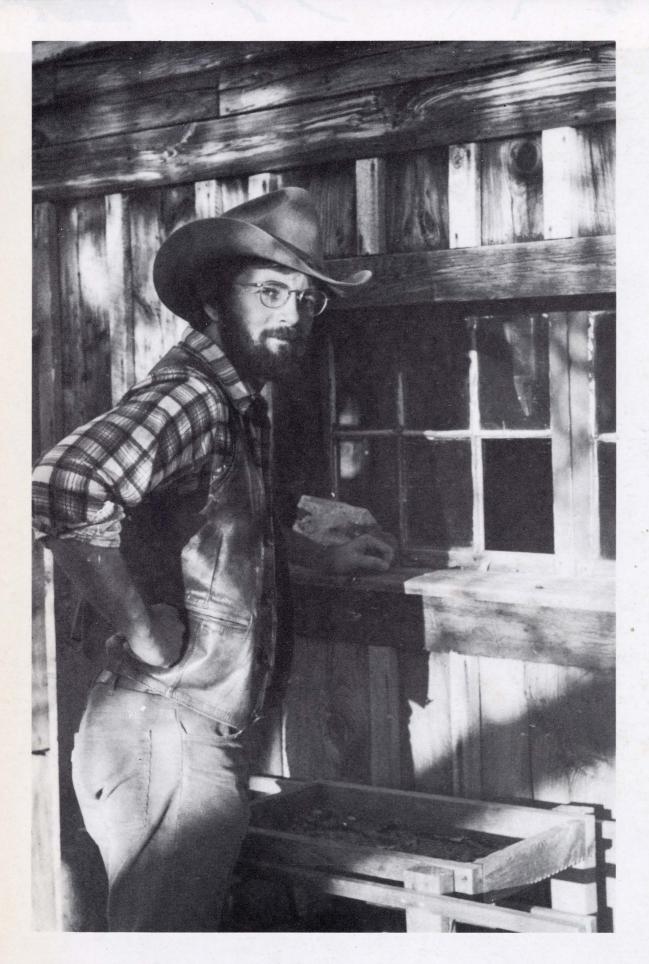
 A Place in the Choir (Staines, BMI)

 2:40

 Diver (Staines, PMI)

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SHARON, CONNECTICUT 06069



SIDE 1:

Missouri Road Song (Staines, BMI)	2:31
The Roseville Fair (Staines, BMI)	3:26
Ol' Jack (Staines, BMI)	2:53
Joli Girl (Fowler, ASCAP)	3:05
Henri LeBlanc (Staines, BMI)	2:38
The Rivers of Texas (traditional)	3:24
The Lover's Waltz (McQuillen)	2:01

FOLK-LEGACY RECORDS, INC.

Bill Staines The Whistle of the Jay



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FOLK-LEGACY RECORDS, INC.

SHARON, CONNECTICUT 06069

The Whistle of the Jay Introduction

The gold New England autumn was gone. The wood was in and only a few birds remained near my home in New Hampshire to cheer the arrival of the sun each morning. One jaybird, however, never failed to remind me that there were things to do or places to go. As if pretending to be some great songbird, he would sit on his tree branch outside my window and whistle and call until I was forced to throw back the curtain and look him straight in the eye. I would suddenly realize, however, that I was now wide awake and being blinded by the sun that he was using to warm himself.

It had been two years since I had recorded an album and so it was that at this time, just before the first snows of winter, I gathered up some musician friends and we descended upon the home of Sandy and Caroline Paton in the hills of Connecticut to do this record.

Recording for Folk-Legacy tends to be a family experience and our weekend there proved to be no exception. For two days we rehearsed, recorded, listened, laughed, recorded again, listened and smiled. Then there was some chicken and strawberry yogurt pie and more recording. A game of darts and a beer or two and Lola, the shepherd dog, quietly looking for a place to have her first litter of pups.

A special thanks goes to everyone who sang and played on this album. To Lana Pettey on bass, to Susan Hansen on five string viola, to Rick Lee who played piano and banjo, and to my favorite guitar player, Guy Van Duser. Guy tells me that he wants at least one "Mexico song" on each of my albums so that he can play his Spanish guitar licks. Thanks also to the folks in the chorus: my wife Karen, Guy's sister Vicky, Caroline Paton, and Stanley Longstaff.

The songs we recorded are close companions of mine. I've traveled with them all over the country and it's a pleasure to be able to play them for folks like you.

By the way, Lola did have her pups just before we left for home.

So now it's all over and that jaybird's back calling to me again. I'll finish these notes now.

I'm on the road tonight.

Bill Staines December, 1978

- i -

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Bill Staines December, 1978

Side 1, Band 1.

MISSOURI ROAD SONG

A night drive through Ohio and Illinois in the wind and rain, the morning sun reflecting off of the Gateway Arch in St. Louis as I crossed the river, the chatter of the diesel jockeys on the radio, all bound for different parts of the country, the early morning feeling of late Spring — all became my inspirations for the "Missouri Road Song."

Good morning, Missouri, and how have you been?

I've driven all night just to see you again,

And there's thunder behind me and plenty of wind,

And mountains ahead where I'm going.

This ragged old car says hello to you, too.

It's been many a mile since when first we were through, Just a couple of drifters with nothing to do But to go where the wind was a'blowing.

Your cornfields lie waiting for the sweet summer sun To bring back the life winter took on the run, And it's westbound through your small towns with a song to be sung, Just a child on the open road.

Good morning, Missouri, the sun's at

my back, There's the sound of the horn of a fast rolling Mack

As it runs up behind, as it burns down the track,

Just a'chasing the shadow before it.

There's a feeling inside says I wish I could stay,

But there's songs to be sung and there's places to play,

And there's plenty of time on some other old day

To share one or two and remember.

The dark of the night lifts away with the dawn. The fools on the road will be out before long, And the birds in the fields lift to flight with a song, My song of the open road.

Side 1, Band 2. THE ROSEVILLE FAIR

Oh, the night was clear And the stars were shining And the moon came up So quiet in the sky. And the people gathered 'round And the band was a'tuning. I can hear them now Playing "Coming Thru the Rye."

You were dressed in blue And you looked so lovely, Just a gentle flower Of a small town girl. You took my hand And we stepped to the music. And with a single smile, You became my world.

And we danced all night To the fiddle and the banjo. Their drifting tunes Seemed to fill the air. So long ago, But I still remember When we fell in love At the Roseville Fair.

Now we courted well And we courted dearly, And we'd rock for hours In the front porch chair. Then a year went by From the time that I met you And I made you mine At the Roseville Fair.

And we danced all night To the fiddle and the banjo. Their drifting tunes Seemed to fill the air. So long ago, But I still remember When we fell in love At the Roseville Fair.

So here's a song For all of the lovers, And here's a tune That they can share. May they dance all night To the fiddle and the banjo, The way we did At the Roseville Fair.

- 1 -

Side 1, Band 3. OL'JACK

A tune pieced together from some feelings of living in the country where the air smells of wildflowers after a rain and you can still play ball in the road.

They used to work mighty hard on the old back forty Back when I was just a little lad, Digging up the fields and laying down the furrows When the weather it was good or bad.

I remember well what my daddy used to say

As he pushed along behind the plow. "Jack's a good ol' mule and there ain't another like him,"

- And the sweat was dripping off his brow.
 - And he sang, "Ol' Jack, can you hear the wind blow?
 - Ol' Jack, can you feel the time go?
 - Ol' Jack, you don't look like much,
 - But you've always been a friend to me."

Old Jack had been around for as long as I remember

And perhaps another year or so, And there never was a time when that floppy-eared critter Didn't put his heart in every row.

When the crops came up, Daddy used to stop and smile

And he'd say he was a thankful man For the little bit of time that he had under Heaven

To be living and to work the land.

He sang....

When the snows fell down in the middle of the winter

- Jack would pull us down along the road
- In a rickety sleigh that we got from the neighbors
- With two runners that were bent and bowed.

Then we'd all stop awhile and we'd listen to the wind

- As it whistled on the winter's night.
- Jack would listen, too, and Daddy'd sing in the snow
- As it settled on the fields of white.

He sang....

And so I stand in the fields of this little old farm And I push along behind a plow. I remember all the times and the seasons and the wind

And the little lad that's older now.

I got an old mule and I call him Jack,

And he puts his heart in every row, A woman and a son and an old time song

And I love to sing it very low.

I sing....

Side 1, Band 4.

JOLI GIRL

"Joli Girl" was written by Elkin (Bubba) Fowler who now makes his home in Krum, Texas. Bubba wrote the song while living in New York City some years back, where it's easy to lose yourself and easier to write about it.

- We walked the streets of Greenwich Village,
- Holding hands like school kids
- In the summer August sun,
- Smiling at the passing strangers on their way
- And wishing that the end would never come.
- And a flower lady sold me one red rose
- To give to you for your chestnut hair

Just to make it shine,

- And I gently held you to me
- And whispered, "Joli girl, Joli girl,
- Will you be mine?"

- 2 -

Then we stopped into the fruit stand on the corner For some coconut champagne, And a taxi driver cussed us 'Cause a blind man got his tip And tapped a thank you with his cane. Then we ducked out of the rain into this tiny little shop That traded books and floppy hats for rings and beads,

And I gently held you to me And whispered, "Joli girl, Joli girl, You're all I need."

Oh, Joli girl, now please don't ask me How long I'll be staying, You'll just end a simple dream we both can share. Tomorrow is another day And I'll be far, so far away, Oh, Joli girl, I may be anywhere.

So let's spread our blankets in the park And hold each other close, The night is coming on and soon we'll have to go. But always remember, Joli girl,

Joli girl, I lave you so.

(repeat last verse)

Side 1, Band 5.

HENRI LEBLANC

Well, I go by the name Henri LeBlanc And trapping is my trade. My daddy was French and my mama was a squaw, I was born in the hemlock shade. Forty-four years in the northern woods From Quebec to Hudson's Bay, Forty-four years in the northern woods Where the bear and the beaver stay. Well, it ain't very warm in November's storms, But it's off to my traps I go, And the whistle of the jay in the trees on the way

Breaks the hush of the falling snow.

From my piney log shack with my traps on my back To my hills of evergreen, The music that I know is the North wind's blow And the cry of the wolverine. When it's early in the Spring and the high geese sing, Headin' up to the northern grounds, When it's early in the Spring and the river breaks up With a moanin', groanin' sound, Then it's off on the road with my furs in a load For the ladies around the town. Well, they'll look mighty nice for a very fine price And be warm when the wind blows down. And my life goes along like a song and a river Flowing down along the way. Through the months and the years and the smiles and the fears, I find a friend in every day. Je suis connu par le nom LeBlanc Et je suis un trappeur. Fils de Francais, ma mere etait indienne, Je suis ne sous les epinettes. Quarante-quatre ans dans les bois du nord, De Quebec jusqua la Baie D'Hudson. Quarante-quatre ans dans les bois du nord Ou se trouve le grand elan. Forty-four years in the northern woods From Quebec to Hudson's Bay, Forty-four years in the northern woods Where the bear and the beaver stay. Side 1, Band 6. THE RIVERS OF TEXAS Many times I've been reminded of this song as I've traveled through

this song as I've traveled through Texas and crossed one of the rivers mentioned in it. Rivers have always been magical things to me and I decided that it was time for me to record this song. It was collected by folklorist Vance Randolph from Mrs. Irene Carlisle who claims to have learned it from a hired hand from Texas.

Well, we crossed the broad Pecos And we crossed the Nueces, Swam the Guadalupe And followed the Brazos. Red River runs rusty, The Wichita clear, But down by the Brazos I courted my dear.

But aown by the Brazos I courted my dear. Li lil li lee li lee Give me your hand, Li lil li lee li lee Give me your hand. Li lil li lee li lee Give me your hand, There's many a river That waters the land.

The fair Angelina Runs glossy and gliding, The crooked Colorado Runs weaving and winding. The old San Antonio Courses the plain, But I never will walk By the Brazos again.

Li lil li ...

I hugged her and I kissed her And I called her my Candy. The Trinity is muddy, The Brazos quicksandy. I hugged her and I kissed her And I called her my own, But down by the Brazos She left me alone.

Li lil li ...

With the girls of Little River You can't do no wrong, The Sulphur and the Sabine Are still mighty long, And down by the Neches There's girls by the score, But I never will walk By the Brazos no more.

Li lil li ...

Side 1, Band 7. THE LOVER'S WALTZ

This tune is by Bob McQuillen, accordion and piano player for numerous New England country orchestras, including the Canterbury Orchestra. It's published in book #3 of Bob's Notebook; Jigs, Reels, and Other Tunes, copyright 1978 by Bob McQuillen, Dublin, New Hampshire.

side 2, Band 1. THE LOGGING SONG

It's early in the morning, When the birds sing in the pines, The sun peeks through the forest Where the cold river climbs. The men are up at five o'clock And to the trees at six. A hard day's work, a good night's sleep,

Is all they ever mix.

Way, hey, another brand new day On the wild and windy shores of old Super-i-ay.

From North Bay to Fort William On the rocky northern shore, The mills are filled with cedar pulp And the boats are filled with ore. I worked in a logging camp, My daddy did before. We're calloused hands and weathered skin

And iron to the core.

Way, hey ...

Now the flies are thick and the men get sick, It's as cold as it can be, And nothing's unexpected In the north coun-ter-y. When the summer ends and the winter comes, It's forty-two below, We settle down in plywood shacks And cover up with snow. Way, hey ...

Way, hey ...

- 4 -

Now, when I die I will have seen The wonders of the sea And I will have climbed the mountains In the western coun-ter-y. But most of all I won't forget The wild and wondrous thing, The falling of the timber When it's early in the Spring.

Way, hey ...

Way, hey ...

Side 2, Band 2. PINEY RIVER GIRL

Piney River is a little town nestled down in the Blue Ridge Mountains of Virginia where the redbirds and the whippoorwills can touch you with a song.

I heard the sound of a redbird sing And the call of a whippoorwill As the sun poured over the eastern ridges And warmed the morning hills. I heard the sound of an old blue hound As he wakened to the day And shook off all of his hound dog dreams

And wandered on his way.

Thinkin' 'bout old Virginia And a Blue Ridge memory That fills my mind with another time And brings her home to me.

Thinkin' 'bout old Virginia And a Blue Ridge memory That fills my mind with another time And brings her back to me.

She loved the sound of the banjo's ring,

She loved the bluegrass tunes. As I recall, she knew them all Beneath the mountain moon. She loved the soft and the easy wind I never was a drunkard As it whispered in the hills, And I'd like to think that if I were there She'd maybe love me still.

Thinkin' bout ...

The times they come, the times they 90;

You win, sometimes you lose. But I love the livin' in every breath

And I love to sing the blues.

But when I hear a redbird sing

My heart jumps in a whirl. It reminds me of the time once spent

With a Piney River girl.

Thinkin' 'bout ...

Side 2, Band 3. **A COWBOY'S HARD TIMES**

I once saw an old wrangler sitting on a bench outside of a bar in Cut Bank, Montana. We talked for awhile and, later, I wrote this song for him.

Well, I once was a cowboy And I used to run wild. I rodeoed, wrangled and Rambled in style. But I'm too old for horses, Too old for the show, And I'm too young for Heaven, Now where shalt I go?

Where shall I go, Oh, where shall I go? I'm too young for Heaven, Now where shall I go?

I had me a true love And I made her my wife, And I swear that I loved her Most all of my life. But the cold of the winter And the wind laid her low, And she's gone on before me, Now where shall I go?

Where shall I go, Oh, where shall I go? She's gone on before me, Now where shall I go?

But this I can say, The taste of the whiskey Gets better each day. The bartender scowls, "Mack, You're drinkin' too slow, And we close in ten minutes." Now where shall I go?

- 5 -

Where shall I go, Oh, where shall I go? They close in ten minutes, Now where shall I go?

So it's out on the street With the stars burning bright, And nothing but memories To share with the night.

(repeat first verse & chorus)

Side 2, Band 4. JUBILEE 23MIT GRAH 2YOSWOO A

An old time get-together on the river — clowns, wide-eyed children, fiddles, people dancing, river packets. A picture of another time.

> Jubilee, wasn't it a jubilee? Jubilee, wasn't it a jubilee? They were singing out together, They were shouting revelries. Jubilee, now, wasn't it a jubilee?

They were dancing by the river, They were dancing by the sea. They were bouncing all the babies Up and down upon their knees. They were laughing out happy, They were crying out free. Jubilee, Lord, wasn't it a jubilee?

They were bangin' on the banjos, They were pickin' on guitars. They were blowing out the bass notes On the crockery jars. They were sliding on the washboards, Bangin' spoons upon their knees. Jubilee, Lord, wasn't it a jubilee?

Jubilee ...

They were comin' from the valleys, They were comin' from the towns: Now, they came to see the paddlewheel And the showboat clowns. They were comin' from the farmland, (repeat last verse) They were comin' from the sea. Jubilee, Lord, wasn't it a jubilee?

Jubilee ...

Now, isn't it a picture, All these times gone by? Well, he used to tell me stories With a twinkle in his eyes, And I wished I could have been there, As I sat upon his knee. Jubilee, Granddad, I'll bet it was a jubilee.

Jubilee ...

Side 2, Band 5. MEXICO WAY

I wrote this song a long time ago, but it still remains a favorite of mine.

> I was picking guitar In a small Texas bar And the people were watching me play, When I spotted her eyes, Big as old southern skies That hung over Mexico way.

I was singing this song About how I'd been done wrong And she smiled at the words that I'd say. I knew in my head She understood what I said, Down by Mexico way.

We walked and walked, And talked and we talked, She sang songs to me through the night. She played my guitar And my thoughts wandered far, And I held her so close and so tight.

Now I'm leaving town, My head spinning 'round, Bound for some other city to play, But I'll always care For the lady who's there, Down by Mexico way.

As it whispered in the hills, And I'd leve to think that if I ware there

- 6 -

side 2, Band 6. A PLACE IN THE CHOIR

It makes me feel good to sing this one. It's fun to think of all the different animals clapping and making music. Listen to a porcupine sometime.

All God's critters got a place in the choir, Some sing low, some sing higher, Some sing out loud on the telephone wires, And some just clap their hands,

Or paws, Or anything they got now.

.

All God's critters ...

Listen to the bass, it's the one on the bottom

Where the bullfrog croaks and the hippopotamus

Moans and groans with a big t'do And the old cow just goes moo.

The dogs and the cats they take up the middle

While the honeybee hums and the cricket fiddles,

The donkey brays and the pony neighs And the old coyote howls.

All God's critters ...

Listen to the top where the little birds sing On the melodies with the high notes

ringing,

The hoot owl hollers over everything

And the jaybird disagrees.

Singin' in the night time, singing in the day,

The little duck quacks, then he's on his way.

The 'possum ain't got much to say And the porcupine talks to himself.

All God's critters ...

It's a simple song of living sung everywhere By the ox and the fox and the

grizzly bear, The grumpy alligator and the hawk above,

The sly raccoon and the turtle dove.

All God's critters ...

All God's critters ...

Side 2, Band 7. RIVER

A collection of thoughts about parts of my life — winding, revealing, and always moving, much like a river. We all feel the flow of that river.

- I was born in the path of the winter wind And raised where the mountains
- are old. Their springtime waters came

dancing down

And I remember the tales they told.

The whistling ways of my younger days Too quickly have faded on by,

But all of their memories linger on

Like the light in a fading sky.

River, take me along In your sunshine, Sing me your song. Ever moving and winding and free, You rolling old river, You changing old river, Let's you and me, River, Run down to the sea.

I've been to the city and back again; I've been moved by some things that I've learned,

Met a lot of good people and I've called them friends,

Felt the change when the seasons turned.

I've heard all the songs that the children sing

And listened to love's melodies. I've felt my own music within me rise

Like the wind in the autumn trees.

River ...

Someday when the flowers are blooming still, Someday when the grass is still green, My rolling waters will 'round the bend And flow into the open sea.

- 7 -

So, here's to the rainbow that's followed me here, And here's to the friends that I know, And here's to the song that's within me now. I will sing it where e'er I go.

River ...

All songs by Bill Staines recorded here are copyright 1978 or 1979 by Mineral River Music, BMI, except "Mexico Way" which is copyright 1977 by Folk-Legacy Records, Inc., BMI. All rights are reserved.

"Joli Girl" was written by Elkin "Bubba" Fowler and copyright by Shantih Publishing/Daytime Music, ASCAP.

"The Lover's Waltz" is copyright 1978 by Bob McQuillen and "The Rivers of Texas" is traditional.

- 8 -

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FROM THE PUBLISHERS

Folk-Legacy Records, Inc., was founded in 1961 by Lee B. Haggerty, Mary W. Haggerty, and Sandy Paton. Our primary purpose has been to preserve the rich heritage of our traditional music and lore while encouraging the best of what has been termed the "emerging tradition" — that is, the performance of authentic folk material by dedicated interpreters (those not born to the tradition but whose repertoires are derived from it), as well as the creation of new songs and ballads by contemporary songmakers whose original material has been influenced by their respect for our folk legacy.

Our first recording (FSA-1: Frank Proffitt, of Reese, North Carolina) is one example of the former; this album might well represent the latter. We feel that the two aspects of our endeavor are of equal importance and urge our readers and listeners to investigate them both. To listen only to the interpretive artists is to overlook the sources of their inspiration; to listen only to the traditional performers is to ignore a new, non-commercial music that offers much of value to contemporary living.

In addition to the performances they contain, our records are engineered to our own high standards of sound quality, and nearly all are accompanied by a booklet of notes, comments, and full lyrics to the songs. We have been proud of these "hidden extras" in spite of the extra cost and effort they require - for a small company, a large factor, but, we believe, an indispensable one.

The best proof of the extent of our commitment to these policies is the list of our releases, every one still in print:

FSA-1	Frank Proffitt
FSA-2	Joseph Able Trivett
FSA-3	Edna Ritchie
FSI-4	Fleming Brown
FSI-5	Howie Mitchell
FTA-6	Richard Chase:
	Jack Tales
FSE-7	Paddy Tunney
FSE-8	Peg Clancy Power
FSC-9	Marie Hare
FSC-10	
FSA-11	Max Hunter
FSA-12	Eugene Rhodes
FSA-13	Hank Ferguson
FTA-14	Ray Hicks:
	Jack Tales
FSA-15	Lawrence Older
FSI-16	Golden Ring
FSA-17	Hobart Smith
FSA-18	Arnold Keith Storm
FSB-19	Bob and Ron Copper
FSB-20	Harry Cox
FSE-21	Bill Meek
FSA-22	Beech Mountain,
	Vol. 1
FSA-23	Beech Mountain,
	Vol. 2
FSA-24	Carolina Tarheels
FTA-25	Hector Lee:
	Mormon Tales
FSA-26	Sarah Ogan Gunning
FSA-27	Grant Rogers
FSI-28	Sandy and Jeannie
	Darlington

FSA 1 Frank Droffitt

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