

Produced by JOHN R. CRAIG

FOLKWAYS RECORDS FTS 31106

# SAGEGRASS

**Ted Sage, Andy Sage, Ricky Sage & Charlie Smithson**



COVER DESIGN BY RONALD CLYNE

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# SAGEGRASS

with Ted, Andy and Ricky Sage and Charlie Smithson

## SIDE ONE

1. One Sided Love 2:05
2. The Likes Of You 2:05
3. Leaving's Heavy On My Mind 1:25
4. Tennessee Blues 3:00
5. Lonesome Without You 2:20
6. Souvenirs 2:20
7. I Don't Love Nobody 2:25

## SIDE TWO

1. Love Is Like A Flower 2:00
2. Blue Ridge Cabin Home 1:55
3. 32 Acres 2:35
4. Day Break In Dixie 1:30
5. You Don't Need To Move A Mountain 2:15
6. Huckleberry Hornpipe 2:30
7. More Pretty Girls Than One 2:20

Produced by: JOHN R. CRAIG  
Recording by: STAR RECORDING COMPANY  
Millers Creek, North Carolina  
Recording Engineer: MARSHALL CRAVEN  
Photography: GILBERT BLACKBURN

SAGEGRASS is composed of brothers Ted, Andy and Ricky Sage along with their good friend, Charlie Smithson. The brothers came from a very musical and large family of seventeen children who all play one instrument, or another. Their early training was primarily from their father who plays fiddle and banjo and from their grandfather and uncles, all of which spent many hours together swapping songs, ideas, stories and generally getting very good at playing their respective instruments.

Ted Sage, oldest member of the group, plays banjo on most selections when performing but can also play bass, guitar, and mandolin. He usually sings lead, but his nice tenor harmonies are also heard from time to time. Ted first learned to play the banjo by standing on a chair so that he could reach the instrument that his father had hung high up on the wall to keep away from the children. Since Ted could not take the instrument down, he learned to play the banjo while it hung from the wall!

Younger brother Andy Sage plays mandolin and guitar on most numbers but is quite adept at playing all the string instruments. His soft, sensitive lead vocals bring a quiet charm to the group sound and blend well when singing harmony.

Ricky Sage, the youngest family member, plays guitar, mandolin, bass and fiddle and, also, sings lead and provides a pleasing harmony that blends well with his brothers' voices. An interesting fact about his playing style is that he plays left handed though he leaves the instrument strung up right handed. This style takes some "getting used to" when trying to follow his chord patterns while playing, but when asked why he plays this way, he just smiled and said "That's the way I learned".

Charlie Smithson is the bass player in the group, although he also plays banjo and guitar. It is also interesting to note that he also plays left handed which makes the group as exciting to watch perform as well as listen to their music.

The members of the group were influenced by the old time and traditional bluegrass musicians. Their instrumentation is typical of most bluegrass groups with the exception of their non use of the fiddle.

Most of the selections contained on this album were learned from listening to recordings of Bill Monroe, Lester Flatt & Earl Scruggs, The Stanley Brothers, and The Country Gentlemen, but you will also find older versions such as Sam & Kirk McGee's "I Don't Love Nobody" from the 1930's and more recent selections like "Souvenirs", written by John Pryor.

"Lonesome Without You", a Stanley Brothers release of the mid-1950's along with "Daybreak In Dixie" fit right in with later tunes such as "The Likes Of You" and "When Someone Wants To Leave". "Your Love Is Like A Flower" and "Blue Ridge Cabin Home" were recorded in the early 1950's by Lester Flatt & Earl Scruggs with the recently hired Buck Graves playing dobro on "Blue Ridge Cabin Home".

Selections like "Leaving's Heavy On My Mind", a more "country flavored" tune, and "32 Acres", written by Randle Hilton and recorded recently by The Bluegrass Cardinals show the newer roads taken by Bluegrass musicians.

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