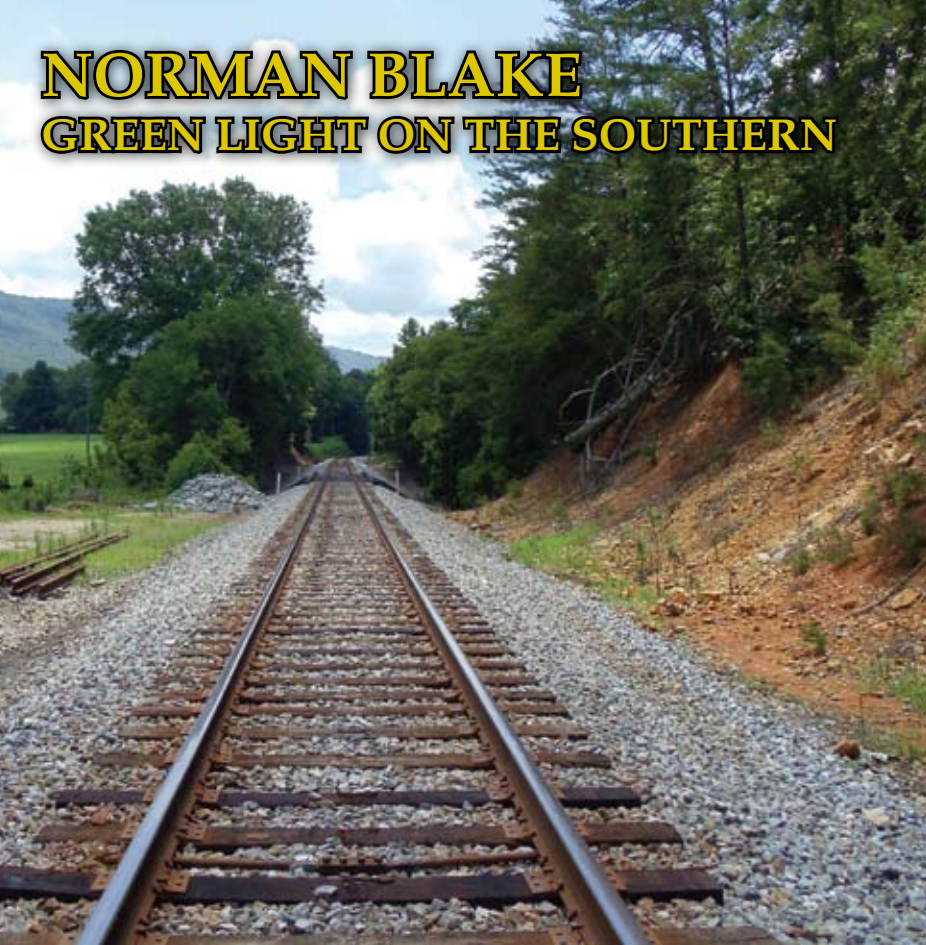


NORMAN BLAKE

GREEN LIGHT ON THE SOUTHERN



Howdy Folks

Just a few reflections on my life and career. I was born March 10th, 1938 in Chattanooga, Tennessee and brought up in north Georgia from the age of eleven months.

Let me just say that two things have been constant in my life, the guitar and the ever present Alabama Great Southern Railway, known as the A.G.S. I hung out down on that railroad as a boy to the great dismay of my mother, who was afraid I would get my foot stuck in a switch point and get run over by a locomotive or fall off a railroad bridge into the creek and drown. But somehow, I managed to survive.

I strapped a guitar around my neck about age eleven and started down a long road that led me through many summers, many experiences and many miles. I started playing music with my wife Nancy about 1974. She has been a faithful musical partner, constant companion and spiritual advisor over the long haul. Her devotion has been an inspiration in my life. Without her, I could not have survived many hardships.

Three years ago, we retired from the road to our home place in Rising Fawn, Georgia. We needed to find a quieter world away from The Show Business and what has become The Great American Theme Park mentality. I have seen the rural music I loved from childhood grow fainter and farther away in a commercial and urbanized society that seems to care little for the charm of old fashioned Southern string music and its long gone practitioners.

Once again, Plectrafone Records has invited me to do another recording session. So here are some of the old songs I sing and play around home. One can live by the sentiment and poetry found in many of them.

Thank you for the years of support and well wishes. As is inevitable, one grows weary and has to stop and rest. It seems that time has come for me.

Peace be with you all,

NORMAN Blake



Over the years I have been frequently asked where the songs I play come from. I don't pretend to be an authority like some, but here is what I have come up with on this 17 song collection.

1. Roll On Buddy

Recorded by Charlie Bowman & his bros, Johnson City, TN, Oct. 16, 1928 - Columbia Records. As a boy, I heard the McGee bros do this tune live on WSM Radio.

2. Goodbye To The Plains

Recorded by the Carter Family, NYC, June 18, 1937. This seems to be a Carter Family version of a Sons of the Pioneers song.

3. Little Bunch Of Roses

Recorded by the Murphy Bros Harp Band, Atlanta, GA , Dec. 4, 1930 - Columbia Records. Also recorded by Clarence Green, Bristol, TN - Victor Records. Published 1871 by William H. Delehanty.

4. The Tramp

Recorded by the McGee Bros, NYC, May 11, 1927 - Vocalion Records. There are other recorded versions.

5. Hawaiian Mother O'Mine

Recorded by Hawaiian Serenaders (Frank Fereras Hawaiians) Dec. 14, 1927 - Banner Records. Also by

Ferera and Paaluhi, Jan. 23, 1928
- Okeh Records. Composers
Joe Davis & Roxanne Hampton.

6. The Old Wooden Rocker

Recorded by Bradley Kincaid,
NYC, Sept. 14, 1933 - Blue Bird
Records. Also recorded by
Vernon Dalhart, NYC, Jan. 20,
1928 - Banner Records.

7. Railroading On the Great Divide

Recorded by the A.P. Carter
Family, Bristol, TN, Mar. 7,
1952 in the
studios
of radio
station
WOPI
- Acme
Records.
Sara Carter
Bayes,
composer.



8. Steel Guitar Chimes

Recorded by Roy Acuff
& his Crazy Tennesseans,
Birmingham, Al, Mar. 22, 1937
- American Record Corporation
ARC 'Clell Summey Dobro'.
Pete 'Oswald' Kirby with Roy
Acuff's band from 1938 or 1939
on, played it on WSM Radio. I
learned it in about 1953. It is
also called Maui Chimes.

9. Have No Desire To Roam

Recorded by the Blue Sky Boys,
Charlotte, NC, Aug. 2, 1937
- Blue Bird Records. Lyrics
written in 1914 by English born
poet, James Rowe. Melody
by gospel composer, James D.
Vaughan.

10. Green Light On the Southern

I wrote this song in the 1980's.
A boyhood recollection of
summer days down along the
Southern Railroad in Sulphur



Flying Virginian No. 4 struck a rock on the road, Oct. 23, 1890, killing engineer George W. Alley and injuring the fireman. My version is a composite of several, as I have known it a good many years.

13. He Rambled

Recorded by Charlie Poole & the North Carolina Ramblers, NYC, May 7, 1929 - Columbia Records. Known in jazz circles in the 1920's as Oh Didn't He Ramble. Copyright, 1902 by Will Handy. It is based on the old folk song The Derby Ram.

14. Whistling Rufus

Recorded by McLaughlin's Old Time Melody Maker's, Memphis, TN, Feb. 14, 1928 - Victor Records. Kerry Mills the composer also wrote at a Georgia camp meeting. What I play on the guitar is more like

Springs, Georgia in the 1940's. The old AGS or Southern is now the Norfolk Southern

11. Fifteen Miles From Birmingham

Recorded by the Delmore Bros, Rock Hill, SC, Sept. 29, 1938 - Blue Bird Records.

12. The Wreck On The C&O

There have been around seventy versions of this railroad ballad collected by folklorists and A&R Record Company men. The FFV, Fast

Rufus Blossom by the McGee Bros. recorded, NYC, May 11, 1927 -Vocalion Records. My father's name was Rufus.

15. Goodbye Dear Old Stepstone

Recorded by Ernest V. Stoneman & his Dixie Mountaineers, NYC, Nov. 21, 1928 - Edison Records. Composed by A. J. Crider & George B. Chase, 1880 as The Old Doorstep. Also recorded by the Floyd County Rambler's, NYC, Aug. 29, 1930 - Victor Records.

Also Bascom Lamar Lunsford, Ashland, KY, Feb. 6, 1928 - Brunswick Records. Stonemans version is the closest to the original text. I have stayed closest to his version in text and melody.

16. Bandit Cole Younger
Recorded by Cowboy Edward L. Crain, NYC, July 23, 1931 -Conqueror Records. Crain recorded the song again Aug. 17, 1931 - Columbia Records.

17. The New Spanish Two Step

Recorded by Bill Boyd & his Cowboy Ramblers, San Antonio, TX, Oct. 30, 1938 - Blue Bird Records.



Norman Blake: Vocals

1928 00 45 Martin Guitar

1938 J 35 Gibson Guitar

1928 Gibson L 1 Acoustic Slide Guitar

1941 000 21 Martin Guitar

1935 Model 27 Dobro

1929 Nick Lucas Special Gibson Guitar

1920 Gibson Ivory Top A 3 Mandolin

Nancy Blake: Harmony Vocals

Recorded by David Hammonds,

Fort Payne, Alabama - Cook Sound Studio

May 24 & 25, June 19, July 17 & August 2, 2010

Producer: Norman Blake

Executive Producer: Scott O'Malley,

Plectrafone Records, Colorado Springs, CO

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Cloverdale Crossing, between Rising Fawn &

Sulphur Springs, Georgia

Norman Blake listening photo by Stephen V. Smith

Other photos by Norman & Nancy Blake

Map from Alabama Department of

Archives and History

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& Kathleen Collins

Special Thanks to Bill Martin

This album is dedicated to my friend,

the late Mike Seeger



GREEN LIGHT ON THE SOUTHERN

1. Roll On Buddy
2. Goodbye To The Plains
3. Little Bunch Of Roses
4. The Tramp
5. Hawaiian Mother O'Mine -
Joe Davis, Roxanne Hampton
Joe Davis Music, ASCAP
6. The Old Wooden Rocker
7. Railroading On The Great Divide
8. Steel Guitar Chimes
9. Have No Desire To Roam
10. Green Light On The Southern -
Norman Blake, Nannor Music, BMI
11. Fifteen Miles From Birmingham
Alton Delmore, Vidor Publications Inc., BMI
12. The Wreck On The C&O
13. He Rambled
14. Whistling Rufus
15. Goodbye Dear Old Stepstone
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PLECTRAFONE
RECORDS

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*All songs traditional; Adapted & arranged by
Norman Blake, Blake & Blake music except as noted*



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For best results use
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VOCAL AND INSTRUMENTAL

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