

Discography (Cont.)

Doyle Lawson & Quicksilver, *Heaven's Joy Awaits*, Sugar Hill, SGRH 137602B.
Tennessee Strings, Rounder LP1033.
Bruce Molsky, *Soon Be Time*, Compass CD 7 4432 2.
Leroy Troy, *Old Grey Mare*, Rounder CD 0426.
Hedy West, Vanguard VRS 9124.
The McGee Brothers and Arthur Smith, Folkways, FA 2379.
Fiction Brothers, *Things Are Coming My Way*, Flying Fish, FF 204.
Gastonia Gallop: Cotton Mill Songs and Hillbilly Blues, Old Hat, CD 1007.
Early Days of Bluegrass, Vol. 1, Rounder, LP1013.
Old Time Fiddle Classics, County, LP507.
Songs of the Tobacco Tags, Vol. 1, Old Homestead, OHCS 156.
Aunt Molly Jackson, Rounder, LP1002.
Bob Wills & the Texas Playboys, *For the Last Time*, United Artists, UA-LA216-J2.
Virgil Childers, *Never Let the Same Bee Sting You Twice*, Document, DOCD 5678.



The New Holland Honey Eaters

present

Linthead Stomp:

Cotton Mills, Radios and Old-Time Music



The poem *Hand-bill Distributed in Buncombe County, North Carolina: 1915*, from Ron Rash's collection *Eureka Mill*, is used with the kind permission of the author.

Introduction

The New Holland Honey Eaters have been presenting the old-time music of the American southeast in historical contexts through “on-stage documentaries” for over twenty-five years. Recently, we developed what amounted to a theatrical reproduction of the style and content of an early rural radio “barn dance” program.

We had so much fun, that we wanted to find a way to continue to put old-time music into historical context while keeping at least some of the dynamic radio-show format that we so enjoyed. The result is *Linthead Stomp: Cotton Mills, Radios and Old-Time Music*.

The action takes place in the modern-day studio of mythical southern radio station *WYOY*, now part of the *NBC* national network. As the show opens, a local history program is in progress - hosted by **Ms Sarah Piersall**. Her guest is **Dr. Henry Stanton**, a local college professor who has been doing research on southern cotton mills and their associated music. Stanton has brought along two retired mill workers, **Hiram Suggs** and **Elvira West**, to share their thoughts and experiences.

Station *WYOY* has been in continuous operation since the late 1920s, and the tunes and songs illustrating the narrative are presented through regular ‘flashbacks’ to the then-independent station during the Depression era.

These flashbacks depict a variety of shows and characters over an unspecified time. The setting is impressionistic than realistic - in the sense that there is little consistent characterisation across the musicians and show hosts depicted. Also, the performers, songs and events presented at *WYOY*-past (with the *WYOY*—flagged mic), while all genuine in themselves, are an impressionistic collage rather than an attempt at historical accuracy. It is the narrative as delivered by Stanton, Piersall, Suggs and West at *WYOY*-present (with the *NBC*—flagged mic), that presents the facts of our story to the audience.

Throughout the performance slides, field-recorded voices and film clips illustrating the dialogue are projected—again, to illustrate the dialogue, songs and tunes impressionistically and, hopefully, to help you to TAKE this historical journey rather than simply listen to it.

Bibliography

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- Suggs, George G., “*My World is Gone*”: *Memories of Life in a Southern Mill Town*, Wayne State Univ. Press, Detroit, 2002.

On the Web

- A site for a potted history of the mills: <http://runofthemillvillage.wordpress.com/>
- An interview with Kinny Rorer: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=73ya3dO4s_I
- A seven-part lecture by Patrick Huber, the author of *Linthead Stomp*: <http://www.youtube.com/user/SouthernHistorical/videos>
- A 1982 video of Phebel Wright playing with his wife Flora and Fiddler Marion Sumner. The 30-minute film finished with *Linthead Stomp*: <https://archive.org/details/2324PhebelFloraWithMarion>
- A glossary of textile mill terminology can be found at: <http://www.glencoenc.com/library/doc4.htm>
- Archived interviews with mill workers can be heard on: <http://docsouth.unc.edu/sohp/industrialization.html>

Discography

- The Dixon Brothers, *A Blessing to People*, Bear Family Records, BCD 16817 DK.
- Pete Seeger, *American Industrial Ballads*, Folkways Smithsonian Folkways, SFW40058.
- Charlie Poole and the North Carolina Ramblers, *Old Time Songs*, County CO-CD-3501.