

BGRASS, INC. HERITAGE LIST
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**Profiles of Cincinnati/Dayton area
organizations of significance in the
history of bluegrass music**

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ORGANIZATIONS

ADCO RECORDS A Cincinnati label owned by “Hobo” Jack Adkins. He recorded himself as well as Gurney Adkins and Ray Goins, Don McHan, Cuddles C. Newsome, and several gospel groups.

ALLEN BROTHERS The Allen Brothers were a Dayton band formed by Red Allen’s four sons. They performed with Red and also independently. Harley sang lead and tenor and played guitar and mandolin, Neal played mandolin and wrote some of their songs, Greg played banjo and sang baritone, and Ronnie played bass and sang baritone. They recorded three LPs with Red on King Bluegrass Records and three albums on their own, two on Rounder and one on Folkways. They started appearing together in the early 1970s. Neal passed away in 1974 but the remaining three brothers continued on until the early 1980s. Harley left to write songs in Nashville and Greg and Ronnie are back playing music together at the Stockyards Restaurant in Dayton in 2006.

ALLEN-LILLY BAND The Allen-Lilly Band was one of the most exciting and tightest bluegrass bands ever based in Dayton. Harley Allen was featured on lead vocal and guitar, Mike Lilly on banjo, Scotty Adams on mandolin, and Steve Bryant on bass.

ANTIOCH COLLEGE Located in Yellow Springs, Ohio, Antioch College (now University) has long been friendly to bluegrass music. At the school’s Kelly Hall, the first bluegrass concert on a college campus was held on March 5, 1960, headlined by the Osborne Brothers. Antioch’s WYSO radio station has programmed live and recorded bluegrass and old-time country music for many years. The “WYSO Country Jamboree” was presented at Kelly Hall for a time. Since 2002, “Banks of the Ohio”, a weekly web/broadcast/satellite program dealing with the history of bluegrass music originates at WYSO. Hosted by long-time broadcast personality and bluegrass authority Fred Bartenstein, it is a production of the International Bluegrass Music Museum.

APACHE CLUB Located on Germantown Pike near the old Dayton Speedway, the Apache Club was one of the early venues for the Osborne Brothers.

APPALACHIAN FESTIVAL Cincinnati’s celebration of its Appalachian culture, the Appalachian Festival is observing its 37th year in 2006. It is presented by the Appalachian Community Development Association each Mothers’ Day weekend, and features bluegrass music, storytelling, crafts, living history, food, and dancing.

APPALACHIAN GRASS The Appalachian Grass is a traditional but also progressive and a very professional bluegrass group. The early band included Jim McCall on guitar and vocals, Katie Laur on vocals, “Junior” McIntyre on banjo, Dave Cox on mandolin, and Dalen Jackson on bass.

ARK RECORDS A Cincinnati label owned by Roy Shepherd and Bill Lanham, Ark Records issued over 125 releases in the early 1960s, all country, gospel, or bluegrass.

Bluegrass artists with records on Ark included J.D. Jarvis, Old Joe Clark, Harley Gabbard, the Pelfrey Brothers, Jimmy Murphy, Jack Cooke, the Baker Brothers, and Dave Woolum.

ARVIS RECORDS Arvis was a short-lived Cincinnati label (about 15 releases) from the early 1960s. It was owned by Estel Lee (Scarborough) and probably Bob Mooney. They issued two records by Harley Gabbard and the Burns Brothers, one by Dave Woolum, and one by Ernest Stacy and Harlin Kazy.

AUNT MAUDIE'S COUNTRY GARDEN Aunt Maudie's was a Cincinnati bar at 1207 Main Street in the Over-the-Rhine District which was opened by Lou Ukelson around 1971. It featured bluegrass, most notably Earl Taylor and Jim McCall and the Stoney Mountain Boys. It was patronized by Appalachian people as well as local college students who were into bluegrass at the time.

BABE'S PLACE Babe's Place was a bar on East Fifth Street in Dayton near Stivers High School. In the late 1960s and early 1970s it played host to the Easterners and other bluegrass bands.

BARRELHEAD GANG Smokey Ward's radio troupe when he was at WPFB in Middletown was known as the Barrelhead Gang. Some of the musicians that were a part of the group at various times included Jimmy Martin, J.D. Crowe, Jim and Jesse McReynolds, Fairley Holden, Jo DePew and Wayne Tilford, and the Osborne Brothers.

BEACONS The Beacons are a bluegrass gospel group that performs primarily in churches around the tri-state area of Ohio, Kentucky, and Indiana. Started in 1993, their 2006 lineup includes Leo Howell and Ray Townsend on guitars, Mike Terry on mandolin, Tim Monroe on fiddle and guitar, Gary Hopkins on bass, and Sherrill Jennings on banjo. Notable former members include New Found Road's Tim Shelton and WBZI Radio station owner and banjo player Joe Mullins.

BGRASS, INC. Bgrass, Inc. preserves and celebrates bluegrass music and its heritage in the Cincinnati/Dayton region. Thanks to a confluence of commercial and social factors, the Cincinnati-Dayton Region has played a unique and consistent role in fostering bluegrass from its inception in the late 1940s. Communities of Appalachian migrants provided local audiences for bluegrass performers, while radio stations and independent record labels and studios disseminated their work throughout the region and around the country. The result has been not only vitally important music, but a rich, distinctive social and cultural history that can shed much light on the origin and development of the music. Many of the sources from which such a history can be compiled are in danger of disappearing, as musicians and other participants grow older, materials decay or disappear, and social and economic forces alter the audiences and institutions that have sustained the music. We stand in danger of irreplaceable losses with the passage of time and changes in circumstances, and such losses will have an effect not

only on regional musicians and audiences, but on the entire field of bluegrass music and its study.

BIG 4 HITS RECORDS Big 4 Hits was one of Carl Burkhardt's cover labels. They purported to be a better value because they all had four songs instead of two, hence the label name. Most of the releases were country and some were reissues of Kentucky and Gateway material. There was some bluegrass by Sonny Osborne, Billy Thomas, and Ray Anderson.

BITTER END At 401 Wayne Avenue in Dayton, Ohio, the Bitter End is where the Osborne Brothers were appearing in the mid 1960s. Earlier, it had been known as Johnny's Night Club.

BLACKSMITH SHOP Located in McGonigle, Ohio, the Blacksmith Shop was a roadhouse on U.S. Route 27, a few miles south of Oxford. In the early 1930s, Jimmie Skinner appeared there in a band called The Crazy Kats. In the 1950s the house band was the Sandy Valley Boys, who could play country, bluegrass, and rockabilly and included Don Boone, Nelson Young, Roy Marcum, Glen Scott, future Hee-Haw star Kenny Price, Bill "Zekie" Browning, and Herman Kress. Directly across the street was the Twilight Inn, that had extended bookings for blues artist Lonnie Mack and big band leader Tommy Wills. Later on, the Blacksmith Shop became the Rusty Nail.

BLAZING STUMP BAR A constant for many years on East Fifth Street in Dayton in what is now known as the Oregon District, the Blazing Stump featured country and bluegrass music. In its heyday, it probably qualified as one of those bars referred to as "skull orchards."

BLUE MOUNTAIN BOYS (ALLEN/BROCK) The Blue Mountain Boys were put together by Red Allen around 1952 or 1953 to do an eight-week tour of Kentucky and a short tour in Chicago. The band consisted of Red Allen, Carlos Brock, Lonnie Brock, and fiddler Johnnie McKee. It was billed as Red Allen, Carlos Brock, and the Blue Mountain Boys. It was a learning experience for four young musicians.

BLUE MOUNTAIN BOYS (LEWIS) On a 1951 recording session for MGM Records at Herzog Studios in Cincinnati, Joe "Cannonball" Lewis billed his band as the Blue Mountain Boys. In addition to Joe, the band consisted of James "Shorty" Whitaker on mandolin, Ray Brandenburg on banjo, Coy Farmer on rhythm guitar, probably Billy Thomas on fiddle, and an unknown bass player.

BLUE NOTE RECORD SHOP The Blue Note was located in a house on North Dixie Drive in Dayton, Ohio, a few blocks north of the traffic circle. They carried a good stock of country and bluegrass records, originally 78 rpms, but later 45s and LPs. Carlos Brock cited the Blue Note as the place he and his brother went to buy records to learn the songs they would later sing in the bars around Dayton.

BOONE COUNTY JAMBOREE WLW's hillbilly barn-dance-type show was the Boone County Jamboree, starting in 1939 and continuing until the mid 1940s. Grandpa Jones, the Delmore Brothers, Merle Travis, Bradley Kincaid, Curly Fox, and Texas Ruby all were members of the Boone County Jamboree.

BOYS FROM INDIANA The nucleus of the Boys From Indiana was brothers Aubrey and Jerry Holt and their uncle Harley Gabbard. Aubrey and Harley had been performing together off and on since the 1950s and lived in southern Indiana. The Holt brothers and Harley were friends with Paul "Moon" Mullins, who at the time was doing a DJ show at WPFB in Middletown. When "Moon" would need an opening act for some of the live shows he would bring to Middletown, he would call on "them boys from Indiana" and they would come over and join with "Moon" and Noah Crase to open the show. After a while, the five of them decided to go on the road and just called themselves The Boys From Indiana with Paul Mullins and Noah Crase. They cut a gospel LP on Jewel, but when they signed with King Bluegrass and recorded "Atlanta Is Burning" in 1974, things opened up for them. They did four LPs on King Bluegrass. In the late 1970s, "Moon" and Noah decided to get off the road but Aubrey, Harley, and Jerry continued on after adding new band members. They recorded four more LPs on their own Old Heritage label and one on Atteiram. Rebel Records acquired their King Bluegrass recordings and continues to reissue them from time to time.

BROWN'S FERRY FOUR A gospel quartet formed at WLW in Cincinnati by Merle Travis, Grandpa Jones, and Alton and Rabon Delmore, the Browns Ferry Four recorded 44 songs on King Records in the late 1940s and early 1950s and pretty much set the standard for later gospel quartets. Many years later, the Hee Haw Gospel Quartet was modeled after the Brown's Ferry Four.

CANAL STREET TAVERN Located at First Street and Patterson Boulevard in Dayton and known at one time as Evelyn's Corner Cafe, the Canal Street Tavern became the listening room for acoustic music in Dayton when Mick Montgomery bought it in the early 1980s. The size of the room is a blessing when it comes to good listening but it also limits the acts to local groups, national acts on the verge of making it, acts from the past, and single performers. Bluegrass, traditional country, cajun, folk, and rock all have a place here. Bluegrass perennials the Dry Branch Fire Squad play two nights every year around New Year's. Bluegrass legend Frank Wakefield has played the Tavern several times as has bluegrass guitar superstar Tony Rice, as well as the New Grass Revival, the Seldom Scene, the Nashville Bluegrass Band, Red Allen and the Allen Brothers, and John Hartford. The western group Riders In the Sky has played here numerous times, as has Cajun legend D.L. Menard and western swing group Hot Club of Cowtown. One-time local TV personality and country yodeler Kenny Roberts has played the Canal Steet, as has Ohio country star Bobby Bare.

CASA GRANDE The Casa Grande was the Cincinnati night spot where Joe "Cannonball" Lewis played after leaving the Wiggle Inn in the late 1940s.

CENTRAL RECORDS A Middletown label owned by Delbert Barker and probably Steve Lake, Central issued a lot of custom records for local bluegrass bands in the 1980s.

CHARLEY'S TAVERN Owned by Charles Brown in the 1950s, Charley's Tavern was located at 156 Brown Street in Dayton, Ohio. The Brock Brothers and Noah Crase played there and, a little later on, Bob and Sonny Osborne were there.

CHATAUQUA PARK Opened in the late 19th century, the park was a stop on the nationwide Chatauqua circuit which promoted religious and evangelical programs as well as musical shows. Located between Miamisburg and Franklin on the Great Miami River, it became a home for bluegrass and country shows when Steve Lake began promoting shows in the open air auditorium in the late 1960s. The first annual Chatauqua Bluegrass Festival on September 10, 1967 headlined Ralph Stanley with Larry Sparks singing lead, Bill Monroe, the Osborne Brothers, Don Reno and Bill Harrell, Jim McCall and Earl Taylor, Moon Mullins and the Valley Ramblers, the Moore Brothers, and the Cornhuskers.

CIRCLE BAR The Circle Bar was at 429 West Third Street in Dayton in the early 1950s and was owned by Nathan and Julius Chudde. It was on the north side of West Third Street; the Spur and the Friendly Inn were on the south side. An ever-changing combination of young bluegrass musicians that included Red Allen, Carlos and Lonnie Brock, Red Spurlock, Johnnie McKee, Noah Crase, and Bob and Sonny Osborne alternated among these places. When urban renewal came to Dayton in the 1960s, all these bars were demolished, along with almost everything else between Wilkinson Street and the Miami River, replaced with various government buildings, Sinclair College, and other buildings.

CITYFOLK A nonprofit arts organization, Cityfolk began in 1980 as a grassroots project to organize more traditional and ethnic arts events in the Dayton area. It brought the National Folk Festival to Dayton from 1996 through 1998, and has sponsored an annual folk festival since then. Some of the more notable bluegrass events sponsored or co-sponsored by the organization include "The Buckeye Barndance" at the Victory Theatre in 1985, "The Dayton Bluegrass Reunion" at Memorial Hall in 1989, and the "Earl Scruggs: Family and Friends" banjo workshop and concert at the Nutter Center in 2002. The organization was guided through the first 18 years of its existence by the dedication, enthusiasm, and hard work of founder Phyllis Brzozowska.

CLINCH MOUNTAIN BOYS The Stanley Brothers named their band the Clinch Mountain Boys for the most prominent natural feature of their southwest Virginia home community. Ralph Stanley continued to use the name after he began his solo career. Some of the musicians who went through the Stanley Brothers version of the Clinch Mountain Boys were fiddlers, Art Wooten, Art Stamper, Lester Woodie, Ralph Mayo, and Chubby Anthony. Mandolin players included Pee Wee Lambert, Curley Lambert, and Bill Napier, who also played lead guitar. George Shuffler and Chick Stripling were a couple of the bass players; Shuffler was also featured on lead guitar. Ralph used a lot of

lead singers over the years: Larry Sparks, Roy Lee Centers, Charlie Sizemore, Keith Whitley, Ralph Stanley II, and others. George Shuffler, Melvin Goins, and Jack Cooke were some of the bass players. Curly Ray Cline was the fiddle player for many years and Ricky Skaggs played fiddle and mandolin in the early 1970s. Lead guitar players have included Ricky Lee, Junior Blankenship and James Allen Shelton.

COLLINS RADIO AND TV Located at 5449 West Third Street in Drexel on the outskirts of Dayton, Ohio, Collins' main business was repairing radios and TVs and installing TV aerials and towers. However they maintained an inventory of 45 RPM country and bluegrass records, including those by local artists which were non-existent in the big record stores in the 1950s.

CORN DRINKERS They are more old-time country than bluegrass, but the Corn Drinkers have been around the Dayton area for many years, playing the traditional music, which was the forerunner of bluegrass. They have done a lot in conjunction with WYSO and played for square dances at Carriage Hill and other places. Members are Barb Kuhns, Linda Scutt, Tom Duffee, Doug Smith, and Al Turnbull.

COUNTRY GRASS This Country Grass was from Springfield and had a very tight and professional band. They played around Dayton and Springfield and also in Indiana and did some of the bluegrass festivals. At their peak in the 1970s, the band included Wayne Horsley on guitar and lead vocal, Bob Ferguson on banjo, Ted Wallace on mandolin and tenor vocal, Elmer Huff on dobro, and Johnny Carroll on bass.

COUNTRY PARDNERS The Country Pardners were from the Cincinnati-Dayton area and included Bill Price on mandolin, Carlos Brock on guitar, and Bobby Simpson on banjo. They had three singles released on RCA Victor in 1956. Although the records were good solid bluegrass, they weren't able to achieve the same level of success as Jimmy Martin and the Osborne Brothers did on the same label at roughly the same point in time.

CRYING COWBOY SALOON The Crying Cowboy was located at 109 West Main Street in Springfield. Proprietor Dewaine Dodds began featuring bluegrass music in the mid 1970s. The Dry Branch Fire Squad began their long career there, and in fact cut their first album there live in 1977.

CRYSTAL PISTOL A large night club at 300 North Broad Street in Fairborn, Ohio, close to Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, the Crystal Pistol booked name country and bluegrass bands on the weekends in the 1970s. The Osborne Brothers appeared there several times when they were at the peak of their popularity. At one time, it was called The Grand Ole Opry, but they were probably forced to change the name to the Crystal Pistol because the Opry frowned on other entities using their name.

DELMORE BROTHERS Alton and Rabon Delmore were probably the most versatile of the brother duets. They did soft brother-style harmony in the 1930s, hillbilly

boogie and pre-rockabilly in the 1940s, and blues in the 1950s. Their most significant contribution to bluegrass came when they were at Cincinnati's WLW and King Records, where, with Grandpa Jones and Merle Travis, they formed the Brown's Ferry Four which set the standard for gospel quartet singing for years to come. The Delmore Brothers have been elected to the Country Music Hall of Fame.

DEW MOUNTAIN BOYS Lee Allen's band was called the Dew Mountain Boys. At the time of their second Jalyne LP in 1974, the band consisted of Lee Allen on guitar and lead vocals, Ron Thomason on mandolin, Lloyd Hensley on banjo, and Sherry Tuttle on bass. They had a long run at Otto's in Hamilton, Ohio.

DIXIE GOSPELAIRES Lillimae Whitaker's band, based in Hardin County, Ohio, was called the Dixie Gospelaire. The core of the original band was Lillimae on rhythm guitar and vocals, her husband Charlie Whitaker on mandolin, and Noah Hollon on banjo. Over the years, other members have included Wayne Lewis, Tommy Boyd, Joe Isaacs, and Dwayne McCumbers.

DIXIE RYDERS In 2006, the Dixie Ryders have been playing bluegrass around the Dayton area for more than 30 years. Leader Bob Hamblin has been singing lead and playing mandolin since the beginning. Over the years, other long-time members have been Gene Bowlin, lead guitar player and sometime lead singer; Bill Howard, banjo (both three finger and clawhammer style); and Delbert Holt, rhythm guitar and comedy. Other band members have been "Fiddling" Harold Staggs, Todd Elam, Alton Elam, Ellis Shockley, Roger Watts, Wilbur Carpenter, and Leo Howell. They have recorded an LP on Old Homestead and two LPs on Central, a cassette on Central, and some self-produced tapes and CDs.

DRY BRANCH FIRE SQUAD Along with the Hotmud Family, the Dry Branch Fire Squad was heavily involved with the rebirth of bluegrass music in the Dayton, Ohio, area during the 1970s. Led by Ron Thomason, the band has survived into 2006 still issuing CDs, although Thomason has moved to Colorado. The band still returns each year to the Canal Street Tavern in Dayton for its annual New Years' show. A lot of fine musicians have been members of Dry Branch over the years, including: Chris Montgomery, Johnny Baker, Robert Leach, John Hisey, John Carpenter, Mary Jo (Dickman) Leet, Charlie Leet, Suzanne (Edmundson) Thomas, Bill Evans, Dave Edmundson, Dick Erwin, Brian Aldridge, Tommy Boyd, and Dan Russell. The band has had 13 LPs or CDs on Rounder, three on Rite, and one on Gordo.

EAGLE CAFÉ A Cincinnati bar that used hillbilly music in the 1940s-1950s era, the Eagle Cafe was where Joe "Cannonball" Lewis was playing when Fred Rose came to hear him and signed him to an MGM recording contract.

EDITH'S TAVERN A bluegrass bar at 1432 East Fifth Street in Dayton, Ohio, Edith's was where Paul "Moon" Mullins and the Valley Ramblers were appearing in the late 1960s.

ENGLE'S BAR The original Engle's Bar was at 400 Cincinnati Street in Dayton. It used a lot of country and bluegrass bands. Red Spurlock played there in the 1950s. In the late 1950s, Engle's became the headquarters for Chuck Wiley, the self-proclaimed "King of Rock-n-Roll".

EXCELLENT RECORDS Started in 1952 by Estel Lee (Scarborough), the Excellent label was active until the late 1950s. Artists recording for Excellent included Dave Woolum and Noah Crase, Ray Lunsford, Harley Gabbard and Aubrey Holt (as the Logan Valley Boys and as the Logan and Laurel County Boys), Ralph Bowman, and Harlin and Stanley and the Wright Brothers.

FAMILY ROOM BAR The Family Room is the Dayton bar where the Allen Brothers played their first engagement as a band.

FLATT & SCRUGGS Lester Flatt and Earl Scruggs left Bill Monroe's Blue Grass Boys in 1948 to form the third, and one of the most influential, groups in bluegrass history. Before landing a steady early morning radio spot on Nashville's WSM and a berth on the Grand Ole Opry, the band appeared on a number of southern radio stations and booked show dates primarily within their listening area. The band's earliest recording sessions were held in Cincinnati, presumably at Herzog Studios, during 1948 and 1949, for the Mercury label. All of the 16 numbers recorded in Cincinnati have become classics, but "Foggy Mountain Breakdown" was the biggest seller, primarily due to its use as the chase theme in the 1967 movie "Bonnie and Clyde." The Flatt & Scruggs partnership ended in 1968, though both continued as leaders of their own groups.

FOGGY MOUNTAIN BOYS Flatt & Scruggs named their band the Foggy Mountain Boys after the Carter Family's popular song, "Foggy Mountain Top."

FRANK'S TAVERN On Webster Street in the factory area in north Dayton, Frank's featured a lot of bluegrass bands in the 1970s and 1980s.

FRIENDLY INN The Friendly Inn was at 408 West Third Street in downtown Dayton, one of several bars in the 400 block of West Third that featured bluegrass music in the 1950s. It was owned at one time by William Greenblatt but was sold to Milton A. "Little Mickey" Friedman who eventually changed the name to Little Mickey's. The Osborne Brothers and Red Allen were playing at the Friendly Inn when they received word that they were going to be signed to an MGM Records contract.

GATEWAY RECORDS Gateway, one of Carl Burkhardt's labels, issued many country and pop covers. From a bluegrass standpoint, its 3000 series is important because it featured several records by Sonny Osborne including "A Brother in Korea" about his brother Bobby. There were also some Guy Blakeman fiddle records as well as a single by Joe "Cannonball" Lewis.

GOLDEN FLY A bar located at 1907 North Main Street in Dayton, the Golden Fly was the scene of several of the early appearances of the Allen Brothers in 1973. The establishment derived its name from its owner, Bernard “Benny” Goldflies.

GREENE COUNTY STUMP JUMPERS The Greene County Stump Jumpers was a band made up of Antioch College students, including Alice Gerrard and Jeremy Foster. Antioch is located in Yellow Springs, Greene County, Ohio. Alice and Jeremy organized the first bluegrass concert on a college campus when they presented the Osborne Brothers at Antioch on March 5, 1960. The Greene County Stump Jumpers opened that concert followed by the Plum Creek Boys from Oberlin College in Ohio, a band that included future bluegrass authority and historian Neil Rosenberg.

HAGAN BROTHERS Neither Hagans nor brothers, the Hagan Brothers were an early 1970s band that included Ken Williams on banjo, Mike Sugarman on guitar, Ron Murphy on bass, Greg Dearth on fiddle, and Peach Hampton on mandolin and fiddle. They cut an LP on Kanawha in 1974.

HASPIN ACRES Located near Laurel, Indiana, 10 miles west of Brookville, Indiana on Indiana Route 121, Haspin Acres was the scene of several bluegrass festivals in the mid to late 1970s which featured most of the big names in bluegrass at the time.

HERZOG STUDIO Herzog Studio was located at 811 Race Street in Cincinnati and was owned by E.T. “Bucky” Herzog, who had been an engineer at WLW. He used his friendship with a lot of the local entertainers to get the studio going. All of the records on the Radio Artist label were recorded at Herzog, including those made by the Turner Brothers and by Jimmie Skinner. Hank Williams recorded his signature song “Lovesick Blues” at Herzog Studio, using WLW’s Pleasant Valley Boys (Jerry Byrd, Zeke Turner, Tommy Jackson, and Louie Innis) as his backup band. Joe “Cannonball” Lewis did some of his MGM sessions at Herzog. Flatt & Scruggs’ Cincinnati sessions, including “Foggy Mountain Breakdown,” were also presumably recorded at Herzog Studio.

HILLTOP INN/TAVERN The Hilltop was a roadhouse bar located between Franklin and Middletown, Ohio, that used country and bluegrass music in the 1950s and beyond. Noah Crase played there early in his career.

HORSESHOE BAR The Horseshoe was a club in Middletown, Ohio, where, in the 1960s, Paul “Moon” Mullins had a band and occasionally booked in name bluegrass bands.

HOTMUD FAMILY They were a traditional band, sometimes bluegrass, sometimes old-time country, and sometimes ragtime. They were present and influential in the rebirth of bluegrass music in the Dayton area during the 1970s and into the early 1980s. They were the first band to play at Sam’s Bar and Grill on West Fifth Street,

opening the way for other local bluegrass bands. They were instrumental in bringing bluegrass to the Dayton Living Arts Center and hosted the “WYSO Country Jamboree” which was broadcast from there. The nucleus of the band was Dave Edmundson on fiddle and mandolin, Suzanne (then Edmundson) Thomas on guitar and Rick Good on banjo. Michael Hitchcock, Tom Harley Campbell, Jerry Ray Weinert, T.J. Lundy, Gary Hopkins, and Tom McCreesh were members at various times. The band became nationally known and played the festival circuit as well as recording four LPs for Vetco and two for Flying Fish.

THE ISAACS The Isaacs are a family gospel group that originally consisted of Joe and Lily Isaacs and their three children, Ben, Sonya, and Becky. Later on, Becky’s husband, John Bowman, and Sonya’s then-husband Tim Surrett were added. In 2006, the group consists of Lily, Ben, Sonya, Becky, and John. Joe and Lily lived in Morrow, Ohio, and had a band from 1975 to 1986 called Joe Isaacs and Sacred Bluegrass. As their children got older and began appearing more and more with them, the decision was made in 1986 to have an all-family band and call it The Isaacs. The group today is based in LaFollette, Tennessee and has been accepted by both bluegrass and southern gospel audiences.

JALYN RECORDS Jalyn was owned by Jack Lynch and was located at 1806 Brown Street in Dayton (which was actually Jack’s apartment). From 1963 to 1978, Jalyn was a significant player in the bluegrass record business, issuing LPs by Ralph Stanley, Don Reno & Bill Harrell, the Goins Brothers, the Valley Ramblers, Lee Allen, and Curly Ray Cline, as well as many LPs by local bluegrass and gospel artists. One of the most interesting LPs was “A Tribute To the Stanley Brothers,” recorded by Keith Whitley and Ricky Skaggs as teenagers shortly after Ralph Stanley discovered them. Jalyn also issued approximately 100 singles which really document Dayton bluegrass and bluegrass gospel of the time. Larry Sparks cut a single on Jalyn in 1966 as “Larry Sparks and the Sandy Mountain Boys” which pre-dated his recordings with Ralph Stanley.

JEWEL RECORDS Founded by Rusty York in 1961, Jewel began in York’s garage and moved to a rented building which he eventually purchased at 1594 Kinney Avenue in Cincinnati’s Mt. Healthy suburb. Rusty York’s experience as a club and road musician, his business and engineering experience gained working for Jimmie Skinner, and his multi-instrumental abilities on guitar, banjo, and resonator guitar all stood him in good stead when he opened his studio. He engineered and produced hundreds of custom recordings on Jewel for local musicians in all fields of music but primarily country, gospel, and bluegrass. He engineered sessions for Rural Rhythm, Vetco, and other labels. He produced bluegrass records sold through special radio offers by the Jimmie Skinner Music Center. Bluegrass musicians who recorded at Jewel include Mac Wiseman, Hylo Brown, Katie Laur, the Boys From Indiana, Joe Isaacs, the Russell Brothers, Larry Sparks, J.D. Jarvis, and Jimmie Skinner, among others.

JOHNNY’S NIGHT CLUB Johnny’s was a bar located at 401 Wayne Avenue in Dayton, Ohio. In 1953 and 1954, Lonnie and Carlos Brock and Sonny Osborne were the house band there. Later on, it became The Bitter End.

KANAWHA RECORDS The Kanawha label was founded by Ken Davidson in the early 1960s in West Virginia. The original purpose of the label was to document old-time music in the area, primarily fiddle music. The label hit pay dirt when they released an album by Clark Kessinger, a highly regarded old-time fiddler who hadn't been heard of for years. After a detour to Florida, the label moved to Dayton and started recording some bluegrass records. They included LPs by the Hagan Brothers, Dorsey Harvey, and Ron Thomason, and a single by Chris Montgomery.

KEG # 1

KEG # 2 The first Keg was a bar at 1725 West Third Street and the second was located at 611 North Western Avenue in Dayton. Both existed in 1953 and were managed by George M. Taylor, but by 1960 only the Western Avenue location remained and was owned by Art Guy. They featured hillbilly music. "Little" Bun Wilson had a band at the Western Avenue location in 1955 before he went to Nashville and became a comedian with Ernest Tubb, prior to settling at Renfro Valley. "Cousin" Bill Hamby, a well-known local DJ and singer, also had a band there.

KEN-MILL CAFÉ The Ken-Mill was so named because it was at the corner of Kenton and McMillan Streets in Cincinnati. In the early and mid 1960s it had bluegrass six nights a week with Earl Taylor and the Stoney Mountain Boys, which in 1963 included Earl on mandolin, Jim McCall on guitar, Vernon ("Boatwhistle") McIntyre on bass, and Vernon ("Junior") McIntyre Jr. on banjo. Other band members at various times included Walter Hensley, Jim Hensley, Frankie Short, and Bennie Birchfield.

KENTUCKIANS (ALLEN) After he split with the Osborne Brothers and moved to Washington, D.C., around 1960, Red Allen selected this name for his band and he continued to use it as long as he had a band. The original Kentuckians included Red on guitar, Frank Wakefield on mandolin, Ralph "Robbie" Robinson from Columbus, Ohio, on banjo, Tom Morgan on bass, and sometimes Billy Baker on fiddle. Later members included Bill and Wayne Yates, Bill Emerson, Scotty Stoneman, Porter Church, and Richard Greene.

KENTUCKIANS (LEWIS) The Kentuckians were a group that played around the Dayton and Portsmouth, Ohio, areas in the mid to late 1960s and included Wayne Lewis, Paul Morris, R.C. Meade, Gerald Evans, Sr., and Ray Davis. They cut two singles for Dayton's Jalyn Records in 1967 and accompanied Paul "Moon" Mullins on several records.

KENTUCKY RECORDS Kentucky was Carl Burkhardt's first label in the Rite-Gateway group. It became active in the early 1950s and eventually issued around 120 singles. The bulk of the recordings were covers or sound-alikes that were sold for bargain prices as special record offers on WCKY and other radio stations. Several young

local bluegrass artists got a start on this label including Sonny Osborne, Jim & Jesse, and Red Allen.

KING RECORDS King Records was founded by Syd Nathan and located at 1540 Brewster Avenue in Cincinnati. Its first recordings were done in Dayton, Ohio, in a studio on the second floor of the Wurlitzer Building, an art deco structure on the east side of South Ludlow Street between Fourth and Fifth Streets (still standing in 2006). Nathan brought Grandpa Jones and Merle Travis to Dayton to record under fictitious names because their employer, WLW, didn't allow its artists to make records. They did a duet as the Sheppard Brothers and Merle recorded solo as Bob McCarthy. Grandpa eventually became one of King's biggest selling artists under his own name, and he and Merle along with the Delmore Brothers made the famous Brown's Ferry Four records on King. Two of the best first-generation bluegrass bands helped keep King afloat during some of its lean years. The Stanley Brothers and Don Reno & Red Smiley recorded literally hundreds of songs for King. Other bluegrass artists who recorded for King included Tommy Magness, Jimmy Martin & Bob Osborne, Wade and J.E. Mainer, Mac O'Dell, Leon Jackson, Charlie Moore & Bill Napier, Bill Duncan, the Easter Brothers, Shannon Grayson, and Ralph Stanley.

KING BLUEGRASS RECORDS Not to be confused with King Records, King Bluegrass was an offshoot of Lemco Records in Lexington, Kentucky. A couple of the early LPs were issued on both Lemco and King Bluegrass labels. King Bluegrass was located at 4766 Glendale Milford Road in Cincinnati, Ohio, although a lot of their recording continued to be done at the Lemco Studios in Lexington. The label was operated and apparently owned by Robert Trout. It began issuing LPs in 1973, and got off to a rather auspicious start with LPs by Ralph Stanley, Red Allen and the Allen Brothers, J.D. Crowe & the Kentucky Mountain Boys, and Don Reno & Bill Harrell. Tony Rice did a landmark guitar album on King Bluegrass with his first LP, titled simply "Guitar." Larry Sparks cut three albums for the label, which included two of his best-known songs, "A Face In the Crowd" and "Smokey Mountain Memories." The Boys From Indiana recorded four LPs for King Bluegrass, the first one being the acclaimed "Atlanta Is Burning." The label issued 45 LPs and 16 singles before disappearing around 1977.

KING'S ROW At the intersection of Clifton and Ludlow near the University of Cincinnati, King's Row was the bar home of the early Appalachian Grass.

KITTY RECORDS A label owned by Ott Ginter of Miamisburg, Kitty became legendary because it released two 1951 singles that marked the first time that the Osborne Brothers appeared together on record. The rare recordings featured Louise Osborne (Bob & Sonny's sister) singing lead, Bobby singing tenor and playing mandolin, Sonny playing banjo, and supposedly Jimmy Martin playing guitar, although Jimmy later denied being on the recordings.

LAKE JEWELRY Lake Jewelry, at 215 South Main Street in Franklin, Ohio, was founded by Wilbur "Red" Lake and operated by his widow Betty and their two sons,

Steve and Gary, after his death. Because of Red's love of bluegrass and country music, Lake Jewelry began to carry records and eventually had by far the largest selection of bluegrass and country LPs and 45s in the Dayton/Cincinnati area, eventually moving into CDs. They also sell instruments and strings, and continue in the jewelry business.

KATIE LAUR BAND In the mid-to-late 1970s, the Katie Laur Band backed Katie on her recording sessions and traveled with her on the festival circuit and for other personal appearances. The basic group was Katie on guitar, Jeff Roberts on banjo, Jeff Terflinger on mandolin, Buddy Griffin on fiddle, and Rich Flaig on bass. Later members included Larry Nager on bass, Bill LaWarre on mandolin, and Jon Weisberger on bass.

LITTLE MICKEY'S

LITTLE MICKEY'S # 2 The first Little Mickey's was at 408 West Third Street in Dayton, and was previously known as the Friendly Inn before being purchased by Milton A. "Little Mickey" Friedman. It was a bluegrass haven in the 1950s. At some point after urban renewal had caused Little Mickey's to be demolished, "Little Mickey" opened Little Mickey's Country Club at 133 East Fifth Street in downtown Dayton. It featured modern country music and rock and roll.

LIVING ARTS CENTER The Living Arts Center was in a warehouse at 612 Linden Avenue in Dayton and was part of the Dayton City School System. The Hotmud Family conducted workshops and jam sessions there which grew into the "WYSO Country Jamboree" in 1974 and continued there each Wednesday night until the Living Arts Center closed in 1977 due to funding problems.

LONESOME RAMBLERS A lot of musicians have gone through Larry Sparks' band, the Lonesome Ramblers. Notable alumni from the Cincinnati/Dayton area include Joe Isaacs, Mike Lilly, Wendy Miller, Tommy Boyd, Art Wydner, David Harvey, Dave Evans, and Larry's sister, Bernice Sparks Neely.

MAC-O-CHEE VALLEY FOLKS In 1961, Jim Greer formed the Mac-O-Chee Valley Folks with Valeda Greer, Bob McPherson, and Dalton Burroughs. The intriguing name comes from a creek that runs through Logan County near West Liberty and Bellefontaine. In 1963 they cut an LP on Rite Records in Cincinnati, aptly titled "Bluegrass In Ohio". Around this time, they became members of the WWVA Jamboree in Wheeling, West Virginia and played a lot of personal appearances up and down the east coast. They recorded four LPs for Rural Rhythm Records and one for the Rite subsidiary, Golden Shield. They disbanded in the 1970s after becoming tired of the road, but had reformed in 2006 and were making appearances around Ohio with two of the original members back on board, Jim on banjo and mandolin, and Bob McPherson on guitar and lead vocals.

MARCUM BROTHERS Bill and Dewey were the Marcum Brothers. They called their band the Stanton Mountain Boys and played around the Dayton area. Bill

played guitar and sang both tenor and lead. Dewey played both lead guitar and banjo and sang lead. Other musicians who worked with them were Jimmy Brewer, Ronnie Hatton, Dorsey Harvey, and Herman and Delbert Holt.

MECCA BAR Located at 636 Washington Street in Dayton, Ohio, the Mecca Cafe was owned in the 1950s by Anthony Hasselman. By 1960 it was called the Mecca Bar, and was being managed by Housard Hazel which apparently resulted in it also being referred to as Hazel's. Lonnie and Carlos Brock and Noah Crase played there in the early 1950s.

MELODY RECORDS Founded in 1964 by Reverend William M. Jones in Hamilton, Ohio, this label concentrated on gospel records and released singles and/or LPs by Dave Woolum, Joe "Cannonball" Lewis, Joe Isaacs, J.D. Jarvis, and Curly Ray Cline, as well as a number of gospel groups.

MEMORIAL HALL Located at 125 East First Street in Dayton, Ohio, and opened in 1910 as a memorial to the men from Montgomery County who had fought in the Civil and Spanish-American Wars, this venue played host to most of the bluegrass and country package shows to come through Dayton for many years. Beginning in late 1938 and continuing until October 1939, John Lair's "Renfro Valley Barn Dance" was broadcast from the stage of Memorial Hall, while construction of the barn in Renfro Valley, Kentucky, was being completed. Bob Osborne first saw Bill Monroe and the Blue Grass Boys there in 1947. In the 1950s there would be shows with seven or eight name acts with a general admission charge of \$1.00; if you wanted to sit in the first couple of rows it was 25 cents extra. In those days, bluegrass and country acts appeared on the same show. Lester Flatt and Earl Scruggs appeared there shortly after "Earl's Breakdown" had been released and every time Earl would do the tuning thing on his banjo the crowd would just go nuts. In 1989 the "Dayton Bluegrass Reunion" was staged there, which brought together many of the bluegrass acts that had made Dayton famous in the bluegrass world over the previous 40 years. In November of 1993 it hosted "A Tribute To Red Allen."

MERMAID The Mermaid was at 3100 East Third Street in Dayton. At one time it had been a true night club featuring jazz and pop music. In the early 1970s it began featuring bluegrass with Gene Sweet and Blue Grass Unlimited as the house band. Red Allen made appearances here in 1971.

MIDWESTERN HAYRIDE The successor to WLW's Boone County Jamboree, the Midwestern Hayride started on radio in 1945 and moved to TV in 1948. Eventually the Hayride was used by both the NBC and ABC-TV networks as a summer replacement show. Some of the performers included the Turner Brothers and the Pleasant Valley Boys (Jerry Byrd, Tommy Jackson, Louie Innis, and Zeke Turner). Toward the end in the 1970s the show was syndicated and used some national guest stars, including the Osborne Brothers.

MOUNTAIN DAYS Mountain Days is the annual celebration of the Appalachian culture in Dayton, Ohio. August, 2006, is the 20th anniversary of the two-day event, which features bluegrass, country, old-time music, and clogging. Both national and local acts are featured. There are booths with traditional food, crafts, and organizations that can provide help for Dayton's Appalachian population. The event is coordinated by the Our Common Heritage organization.

MUDDY RIVER BAND A progressive-leaning bluegrass band, the Muddy River Band played a lot around the Dayton area in the late 1970s and early 1980s. Members included leader and bass player Ron Murphy, Ron's wife Lora on guitar and vocals, Wayne Luessen on lead guitar, Pam Gadd on banjo, and Danny Cade on fiddle. They cut an album on Vetco in 1980.

NU-GRASS PICKERS An excellent traditional band, although rather short-lived, the un-aptly named Nu-Grass Pickers featured Sid Campbell, who played guitar and sang lead. Don Edwards played bass and sang tenor, Paul (Moon) Mullins played fiddle, and Noah Crase played banjo. They cut one album in 1973 for the Pine Tree label of Hamilton.

OBADIAH'S Originally a rock venue near the Dayton Mall, Obadiah's presented bluegrass shows for a very short time. It had two floors and a relatively large seating capacity. It opened in the early 1980s, a time when Dayton was starved for live bluegrass. They brought in J.D. Crowe, who hadn't appeared in the area in years. Keith Whitley was singing lead when he was at his peak as a bluegrass singer. It was so crowded that people were virtually hanging from the chandeliers. It was standing room only even though the place had a lot of seats. This was the most enthusiastic crowd Mac McDivitt ever saw at a bluegrass show in Dayton. The only thing that would come close is when Earl Scruggs appeared at Memorial Hall the first time.

OKI BLUEGRASS ASSOCIATION The Ohio, Kentucky, Indiana Bluegrass Association was established in October of 1980 with the purpose of promoting, encouraging, and preserving bluegrass music. To those ends the organization has held monthly meetings, jam sessions, and issued a newsletter. It has organized and held bluegrass festivals at Round Eyes Park near Laura, Ohio and at the Polish Club park at 3690 Needmore Road in Dayton, to raise funds as well as give local bands a chance to play and earn some money.

OLD CHATTER BOX The Chatter Box was a hillbilly bar at Third and Central in Cincinnati in the mid 1940s. Nelson Young was in the house band there. Guests that sat in included Clayton McMichen, Cowboy Copas, and "Fiddlin'" Red Herron.

OLD HOMESTEAD RECORDS Old Homestead is located in Michigan but has recorded quite a few bands from the Cincinnati/Dayton area, including Larry Sparks, Mike Lilly and Wendy Miller, and Lee Allen.

OSBORNE BROTHERS Bobby and Sonny Osborne were born in Hyden, Kentucky, but grew up on a farm on Olt Road in Jefferson Township just west of Dayton, Ohio. Along with their sister Louise, they appeared in various configurations on WPFB in Middletown, Ohio. In the mid 1950s, they played most of the bars in Dayton that used bluegrass music, eventually landing a spot on the WWVA Jamboree in Wheeling, West Virginia. They commuted to Wheeling on Saturday nights and during the week they could be spotted at the taxi stand on Second Street at the side door of Rike's Department Store in their cabs, waiting to pick up a fare to help make ends meet. Joining with another Kentuckian-turned-Daytonian, Red Allen, they secured a recording contract with MGM Records with the help of Dayton DJ Tommy Sutton. While working with Red they developed the high lead style of bluegrass trio harmony which freed the brothers from being dependent on an unrelated lead singer and which revolutionized bluegrass harmony. This gave them relatively the same sound as they moved through a succession of third members of the trio. They moved from MGM to Decca Records and in 1964 they became members of the Grand Ole Opry. They worked on perfecting their harmony and became masters of the "elegant ending." Their quality performances, their professionalism, and their good business sense helped move bluegrass music from the "skull orchards" to the concert halls. They were the Country Music Association Vocal Group of the Year in 1971, they appeared at the White House when Richard Nixon was President, their recording of "Rocky Top" was chosen as a state song of Tennessee and their recording of "Kentucky" is a state song of Kentucky. They are members of the IBMA Hall of Honor and the Kentucky Music Hall of Fame.

OTTO'S PARADISE INN In the mid-1970s, Jack Lynch and a variety of pick-up bluegrass bands held forth at Otto's, a country music bar located at 1430 Wayne Avenue in Dayton, Ohio, and owned by Otto Zavakos.

OUR COMMON HERITAGE Our Common Heritage was founded in 1972 to preserve the dignity and promote the equitable treatment of the Appalachian people of Dayton, Ohio, and to give them a greater voice in the operation of the city. A tireless promoter of the organization has been Lela Estes. The group has funded an annual scholarship in her name to benefit a Dayton student with an Appalachian background attending Sinclair Community College. Our Common Heritage also sponsors the annual Mountain Days celebration.

PARK GRILL At 216 East Third Street, in downtown Dayton, Ohio, the Park Grill featured country and bluegrass music in the 1950s and beyond. Smokey Ward was appearing there in June of 1955.

PINE TREE RECORDS The Pine Tree label was started in 1964 in Indianapolis by the Bluegrass Blackjacks as a vehicle to release records by their group. After three singles, the label was sold to Melody Records in Hamilton, Ohio, which eventually released approximately 15 more singles and in excess of 50 LPs by a variety of bluegrass artists and groups. Probably the most significant release was "Ramblin' Guitar," which was Larry Sparks' first LP and served to kick off his career as a solo artist after he left Ralph Stanley's Clinch Mountain Boys.

QUEEN CITY RECORDS Queen City Records or QCA as it came to be called was founded in the early 1950s by Edward R. Bosken as Queen City Album Company to print album jackets for LPs. It eventually expanded into manufacturing and issuing singles and LPs on the QCA label and doing custom record manufacturing. Rusty York used QCA for pressing a lot of the singles and LPs he issued on his Jewel label. J.D. Jarvis, the Easter Brothers, the Sullivan Family, and Jimmie Skinner all had LPs issued by QCA. One of the stranger LPs issued by QCA was a collaboration between banjo player/rockabilly Rusty York and blues/rock guitarist Lonnie Mack doing “Dueling Banjos” and other songs at the time of the “Deliverance” craze.

RABBIT HASH RAMBLERS The Rabbit Hash Ramblers were a Cincinnati-area bluegrass band in the early 1970s. One of the members was guitar player Harry “Sparky” Sparks, who later was one of the original owners of the Famous Old Time Music Company at 6107 Montgomery Road in Cincinnati.

REDHEADS The Redheads were a recording band consisting of Red Allen, Red Spurlock, and Frank Wakefield. They cut a good version of “Love and Wealth” and “You’ll Always Be Untrue” on Dayton’s BMC Records, issued in 1959.

REM RECORDS Rem was a Lexington, Kentucky label owned by Bob Mooney. He recorded a lot of bluegrass bands from Southwestern Ohio, including Harley Gabbard, Dave Woolum, Paul Mullins and Benny Birchfield, Jim McCall and Benny Birchfield, Les Hall, and the Powell Brothers.

RENFRO VALLEY BARN DANCE When John Lair left WLS in Chicago to start the Renfro Valley Barn Dance, he had the performers and the sponsor and a contract with WLW in Cincinnati to broadcast the show, but no barn. Before land was acquired for a performance barn and other buildings to be constructed at Renfro Valley, Kentucky, the show was broadcast from Music Hall in Cincinnati from October 1937 until late 1938. It was then moved to Memorial Hall in Dayton, Ohio, where it remained until November 4, 1939, when it finally was broadcast from the barn at Renfro Valley. Early artists in Cincinnati and Dayton included Red Foley, the Duke of Paducah (Whitey Ford), Lily May Ledford and the Coon Creek Girls, fiddler and comedian Slim Miller, Millie and Dolly Good, the Callahan Brothers, and others. Years later, when Paul Braden founded WPFB in Middletown, Ohio, he hired Renfro Valley artist Smokey Ward, who raided the talent at Renfro Valley, bringing along with him Little Eller, Shorty Hobbs, Old Joe Clark, and Fairley Holden.

RHYTHM RATS The Rhythm Rats were organized in 1988 after meeting at a festival in Warren County, Ohio (probably the Old Tyme Music Festival which is held annually at Caesar’s Creek Pioneer Village near Waynesville). Members were Kenny Jackson on fiddle, Paula Bradley on guitar, and Whitt Mead on banjo. They were into old-time music and in 1992 recorded a cassette for Larry MacBride’s Indiana label Marimac. Titled “Pretty Crowin’ Chicken” it had some really eerie feeling fiddle tunes

such as “Indian War Whoop” and “Lost Indian.” They issued a second album, “I Believe I’ll Go Back Home.” Eventually they all moved on to other bands, although they apparently still get together occasionally and appear as the Rhythm Rats.

RITE RECORDS The parent organization for Gateway, Big 4, Big 6, Kentucky, and other record labels was Rite Records in Cincinnati. Rite provided recording studios and a pressing plant to press records for those labels, as well as providing custom recording and pressing services for a host of independent local and national labels, from one-record vanity labels to national labels such as Starday and 4-Star.

ROUND EYES PARK Near Laura, Ohio, Round Eyes Park was the site of the OKI bluegrass festivals, which featured local as well as some national bluegrass bands.

RUBY’S WHITE SANDS Located at 3559 Valley Pike in Dayton, Ohio, Ruby’s White Sands was a roadhouse also known as the White Sands and as the Club Laredo. Over the years it used a lot of different styles of music, but in the late 1950s and early 1960s, it was the Friday and Saturday night musical home of the Osborne Brothers.

SAM’S BAR AND GRILL Originally known as Sam’s Lunch Room and located at 9 West Fifth Street in Dayton, the name was changed to Sam’s Bar and Grill and eventually was known by the patrons simply as “Sam’s.” It became a haven for bluegrass music in the early 1970s, featuring such acts as the Hotmud Family, the Dry Branch Fire Squad, the Muddy River Band, Lee Allen, Red Allen and the Allen Brothers, the Falls City Ramblers, the Dorsey Harvey Band, the Hagan Brothers and others. It was owned by Mike Zunis, who had a history in the bar and restaurant business going back to the heyday of downtown Dayton night clubs in the 1950s. It eventually moved to 35 West Fifth Street. Mick Montgomery operated “Open Stage Night” at Sam’s on Tuesdays, which served as a springboard for opening his own bar, the Canal Street Tavern, after Sam’s closed.

SINCLAIR COMMUNITY COLLEGE Sinclair College has hosted the Reach Across Dayton Conferences (bridging Appalachian and African-American cultures), Bluegrass Music Workshop, and early Cityfolk events that presented traditional music.

SKINNER, JIMMIE MUSIC CENTER The place to buy bluegrass records in Cincinnati and Southwestern Ohio for many years was Jimmie Skinner’s Music Center. They put together special offers of bluegrass recordings which were sold in the store and over WCKY and other stations. They also promoted local acts with a one-hour live radio show each day.

SMITH BROTHERS Dallas and Bobby Smith were two brothers from Cookeville, Tennessee, who came to Dayton, Ohio, in 1959 and played around the Dayton area for about a year before leaving for Nashville. While in Dayton, they worked as a trio with Don Swaford (who called himself Don Ford) as the Smith Brothers, and

played some of the same clubs that Red Allen and Bob and Sonny Osborne were playing at the time. Several years later, the Smith Brothers changed their band name to The Boys From Shiloh.

SPUR, THE The Spur was a hillbilly music bar on West Third near downtown Dayton in the same area as the original Little Mickey's. Mac McDivitt recalls Red Allen playing there.

STANLEY BROTHERS The Stanley Brothers, Carter and Ralph, probably made more appearances around the Dayton area than any of the other first-generation bluegrass bands. They appeared at Chataqua Park, at Antioch College, at American Legion Halls, VFWs, Maple Gardens on West Third Street, and other small clubs. Sometimes they would appear with only lead guitar and bass player George Shuffler, and other times they would enlist local record producer and musician Jack Lynch to play bass. Arguably, the Stanley Brothers had more of an influence on the style and repertoire of local Dayton bands than the other first-generation bands. Natives of Virginia, their sound was more like the old mountain sound, modernized by Ralph's driving five-string banjo and Carter's songwriting ability and easy, laid-back vocal style. They recorded for Columbia, Mercury, Rimrock, Cabin Creek, Blue Ridge, Rich-R-Tone, Starday, and Wango, but the bulk of their later recordings were for King Records in Cincinnati where, in 1960, their recording of "How Far To Little Rock", a reworking of the old "Arkansas Traveler" routine, reached Number 17 on the Billboard national country chart. Their career together was cut short when Carter passed away in 1966. They were inducted into the IBMA Hall Of Honor in 1992. A play was written about their life and performed by Abingdon, Virginia's Barter Theater in 2005 and 2006.

STONE VALLEY Just off Interstate 74 west of Cincinnati near Harrison, Ohio, Stone Valley was home to several bluegrass festivals in the early 1980s. The New Grass Revival made one of their rare appearances in this area at one of the Stone Valley festivals. The name came from Joe Stone, who promoted the festivals as well as other bluegrass and country events in the area.

STONEY MOUNTAIN BOYS Mandolin player Earl Taylor's band was named the Stoney Mountain Boys, in honor of a geological feature near Taylor's birthplace in the southwestern Virginia coalfields. The first version was formed by Earl in 1947, with Lucky Saylor and Elmer Kinsler. In 1952, Earl's band was composed of Sam "Porky" Hutchins and future Country Gentlemen leader Charlie Waller. Later additions included Vernon "Boatwhistle" McIntyre, former Stanley Brothers fiddler Art Wooten, and Detroit legend Rufus Shoffner. Boatwhistle remained with Earl for the next 35 years, fathering second-generation Stoney Mountain Boy Vernon "Junior" McIntyre. In 1957, the band included Boatwhistle, Waller, and Hutchins. Later, Walter Hensley was added on banjo and Charlie Waller dropped out to form the Country Gentlemen. By 1959 the band was playing seven nights and two afternoons a week in Baltimore, Maryland, and had caught the attention of folk music scholar Alan Lomax who booked them into New York's Carnegie Hall on April 3, 1959, where they became the first bluegrass band to play that hallowed hall. The band at the time was Earl on mandolin,

Walter Hensley on banjo, Sam Hutchins on guitar, and Boatwhistle on bass (Curtis Cody on fiddle was added for the New York date). Soon after, Jim McCall joined the band and was to remain with Earl off and on for many years. In 1961, the band moved to Cincinnati where they were to become local bluegrass legends.

SUNNY MOUNTAIN BOYS The Sunny Mountain Boys is a band name once associated with Jimmy Martin & the Osborne Brothers but which remained with Jimmy Martin when that act split up. The classic Sunny Mountain Boys, one of the tightest bluegrass bands ever, had Jimmy on guitar and lead vocals, Paul Williams on mandolin and tenor, and J.D. Crowe on banjo and baritone vocals. Other prominent graduates of the Sunny Mountain Boys include Bill Emerson, Doyle Lawson, Gloria Belle, Vernon Derrick, Paul Craft, Bill Yates, Audie Blaylock, Kenny Ingram, Vic Jordan, Johnny Dacus, Earl Taylor, and many others.

SUNRISE RECORDS Sunrise was a label in the Rev. William Jones' Hamilton operation that included Pine Tree and Melody. Sunrise recorded J.D. Jarvis, Joe "Cannonball" Lewis, and others.

TENNESSEE CUT-UPS The Tennessee Cut-Ups were Don Reno & Red Smiley's backing band on King Records, other labels, and their TV and personal appearances. The classic lineup included Don on banjo and tenor vocals, Red on guitar and lead vocals, Mack Magaha on fiddle, and John Palmer on bass. Ronnie Reno worked with them, as did Sid Campbell and Steve Chapman. The Cut-Ups are probably the most under-rated of the early bluegrass bands, probably because they stuck close to home in Virginia for their daily Roanoke TV show. Don Reno's great banjo, tenor singing, and songwriting ability, Red Smiley's relaxed lead singing and rhythm guitar playing, Mack's showmanship and excellent fiddle, and John Palmer's solid bass along with the group's comedy skits as "Chicken & Pansy Hot Rod" made the Cut-Ups an exciting group to watch. Don Reno kept the band name after an amicable split with Red Smiley in 1964.

TIMBERLINERS The Timberliners were the band that Hylo Brown put together in the late 1950s when he got a chance to do a TV show for Martha White Mills. Hylo played guitar and sang lead, Red Rector played mandolin, Jim Smoak banjo, Clarence "Tater" Tate fiddle, and Joe "Flapjack" Phillips bass.

TODD'S FORK BLUEGRASS FESTIVAL Located near Morrow, Ohio, the Todd's Fork Bluegrass Festival was active in the mid 1970s and featured many top-name bluegrass acts, as well as the best of the local bands from this area. One of the highlights was when they brought in the Lilly Brothers from Boston, one of their few (if not the only) appearances in Southwestern Ohio.

TOM'S TAVERN At 1511 East Fifth Street in the heart of East Dayton, Tom's had bluegrass music every Friday and Saturday in the early 1970s. Larry Sparks played there as he was trying to get his solo career under way.

TOP TENNESSEE RECORDS Top Tennessee was a Dayton label that produced predominately country records, but did release the classic bluegrass record “Loneliness” by Red Spurlock and the Powell Brothers.

TRACE FAMILY TRIO Proteges of Tommy Sutton, the Trace Family Trio had a very popular record in the Dayton area titled “The Lord Will Make a Way Somehow.” Consisting of a mother and two daughters, they had a lasting influence on other local gospel groups.

TRADITIONAL GRASS Few bluegrass bands were more aptly named than the Traditional Grass. They had a wonderful classic-era sound, but with fresh songs and a very professional approach to the music. Formed in Middletown, Ohio, in 1983 with Paul “Moon” Mullins on fiddle, Joe Mullins on banjo and tenor vocals, Mark Rader on lead guitar and lead vocals, and Bill Adams on bass, the band performed part-time until 1991, at which time they went full-time and hit the festival circuit. After issuing four self-produced cassettes, they secured a contract with Rebel Records and put out four CDs before disbanding in 1995. They released two more self-produced cassettes which reprised the years 1984-1994. During their existence, the only personnel changes were adding Gerald Evans, Jr. on fiddle and mandolin, and using Glen “Cookie” Inman and, later, Mike Clevenger on bass after Bill Adams left.

TURNER BROTHERS (RED AND LIGE) A mandolin and guitar duet who were on WLW for a long time, recording for Radio Artist and Mercury Records, the Turner Brothers cut an early version of “Kentucky” as well as numerous gospel songs. Red eventually became a minister and started his own Turner record label which issued gospel records, mostly by him.

URBAN APPALACHIAN COUNCIL The Urban Appalachian Council of Greater Cincinnati was formed in 1974 with the stated goal of “promoting a decent quality of life for the Appalachian citizens of Greater Cincinnati.” Their various programs attempt to do this by promoting education and leadership development, providing family services, celebrating the Appalachian culture, and helping with employment and training. In 2006, the organization is acting as fiscal agent for the Bluegrass Music Trail Project whose goal is to provide free Appalachian music lessons and instruments for poor Appalachian children.

VALLEY RAMBLERS The Valley Ramblers were a solid traditional bluegrass band from the Dayton-Middletown area fronted by Don Warmouth singing lead and playing guitar, Noah Crase playing banjo, and Bobby Gilbert playing bass and singing tenor. They cut two singles on Jalyn in 1967 and two LPs on the same label in 1967 and 1969. Their fiddle players alternated between Bennie Williams and Paul “Moon” Mullins. Harold Staggs and Buck Howard were added on their first single and David Cox played mandolin on their second album.

VERONA LAKE RANCH Verona Lake Ranch was a country music park located five miles west of Walton, Kentucky, on Route 16, about 25 miles south of Cincinnati. Beginning in the early 1950s, country and bluegrass music shows were held there every Sunday afternoon at 2:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. during the summer months. It drew heavily from Cincinnati and southwestern Ohio, as there wasn't a comparable venue in that area. The park was started by W.D. Scroggins and later purchased by Thurston Moore, Hillbilly and Western Scrapbook publisher, whose wife Georgianna did a lot of the emcee work. It used local name artists as well as national artists. Bill Monroe was one of the earlier artists to appear there, Jimmie Skinner and Ray Lunsford were semi-regulars, Rusty York and Willard Hale played there, as did the Stanley Brothers, Smokey Ward, and big-name country artists such as Johnny Cash and George Jones.

VETCO RECORDS Founded by Lou Ukelson in Cincinnati around 1968, the Vetco label's artist roster reads like a who's who of bluegrass music in the Cincinnati-Dayton area: Jimmie Skinner, Jim McCall, Junior McIntyre, Katie Laur, the Hotmud Family, the Muddy River Band, Paul "Moon" Mullins, Earl Taylor, Harley Gabbard, Dave Evans, and J.D. Jarvis. There was also a short-lived old-time music series which reissued 78 rpm recordings supplied by Springfield record collector Bob Hyland.

VILLAGE TAVERN Located at 8087 Vine Street in Cincinnati, the Village Tavern had bluegrass on Friday and Saturday nights using local artists such as Mike Lilly and the Allen Brothers, and national acts such as the Country Gentlemen and Ralph Stanley. George Ross, the tavern's operator, also produced at least one bluegrass show at the Victory Theatre in Dayton.

VIRGINIA BOYS Jim and Jesse McReynolds named their band the Virginia Boys, in honor of their home state. While they were at WPFB in Middletown, the band included Jim on guitar, Jesse on mandolin, Larry Roll on guitar, and Dave Woolum on bass. Over the years it has included Allen Shelton, Jim Buchanan, Don McHan, Keith McReynolds, Vassar Clements, Bobby Thompson, Chick Stripling, Carl Jackson, Curly Seckler, and Buddy Griffin, among others.

VIRGINIA TRIO In the early 1950s, Jim and Jesse McReynolds and Larry Roll cut five excellent sacred singles for Kentucky Records as the Virginia Trio. Great mandolin by Jesse and fine trio singing were highlights of these 10 recordings, which have been issued over and over again under various names on 78s, 45s, LPs, and CDs.

WBZI/WEDI/WKFI_____ When Joe Mullins bought Xenia's WBZI-AM in 1995 and changed the format to classic country with bluegrass and gospel, it made for a lot of happy listeners in the Miami Valley of Ohio. Using name country DJs from the past such as his dad, Paul "Moon" Mullins, Jack Bartley, and Chubby Howard, he let everyone know upfront that this was a real country operation. Joe pulled air time himself, as well as using bluegrass authority Fred Bartenstein and musician Tim Shelton, who subsequently left to form the group New Found Road. The station had its own band

that appeared at remotes around the listening area. The whole operation had the feel of a 1950s radio station, but with 1990s professionalism. Later on, WBZI began simulcasting on WEDI in Eaton and WKFI in Wilmington as “Classic Country Radio,” significantly broadening the local listening area, and still later began streaming broadcasts to the World Wide Web.

WCKY Originally licensed to Covington, Kentucky (hence the call letters), WCKY-AM went on the air in 1929, and moved its studios to Cincinnati in the early 1930s. In the 1930s, acts such as the Skillet Lickers and Hugh Cross broadcast live shows daily from WCKY. In the 1940s, the WCKY Jamboree became the best known hillbilly DJ show in America with Nelson King voted the top hillbilly DJ in the country for eight consecutive years. He was followed by Wayne Raney in 1956. In 1961, WCKY began broadcasting the live WCKY Ohio Jamboree from Madison Lake Park in London, Ohio, with Clay Eager as the emcee and featuring both country and bluegrass music.

WLW Dubbed “The Nation’s Station,” WLW-AM went on the air in Cincinnati in 1922 and was a pioneer broadcaster of hillbilly music. Some of the early entertainers were Cousin Bob and His Kinfolk and Bradley Kincaid. John Lair used WLW as an interim stop for the Renfro Valley Barn Dance, between WLS in Chicago and its final home in Renfro Valley, Kentucky. In 1939, the Boone County Jamboree was founded and, because of WLW’s 50,000 watts of clear channel power (at one time 500,000 watts), the station attracted some of the best musicians of the day. The Boone County Jamboree was eventually phased out and the Midwestern Hayride was born in 1945, went to TV in 1948, and continued until the early 1970s.

WMUB WMUB-FM is licensed to Miami University in Oxford, Ohio, and broadcasts from Williams Hall on Miami’s campus. It began operations in the late 1940s. For 25 years, Jan McLaughlin played bluegrass records on her “Oak Street Ramble” show on the weekends. That run came to an end in June of 2006, when Jan left the station. As the station said goodbye to Jan it would appear they have also said goodbye to bluegrass music.

WNKU WNKU-FM, licensed to Northern Kentucky University in Highland Heights, Kentucky, went on the air in 1985 with a broadcast format of folk and bluegrass music. Although that format has changed over the years to its 2006 format of Album Adult Alternative and NPR, it still broadcasts a bluegrass show that has been a fixture on the station since 1989, “Music From the Hills of Home,” featuring Katie Laur and Wayne Clyburn. Long-time Cincinnati area musician/DJ/host Laur and engineer/banjo player/bluegrass fan Clyburn have a Sunday evening 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. slot that attracts fans from the Tri-State area as well as worldwide listeners to the station’s internet stream. In addition to records, there is a lot of history, commentary, and banter between the two hosts. In 2006, WNKU program director Grady Kirkpatrick produced and hosted a two-hour documentary on the career of the Osborne Brothers that is distributed internationally by Bgrass, Inc.

WNOP A Newport, Kentucky, station that went on the air in 1948, WNOP-AM was heavily involved in hillbilly music during the 1950s. A live show was broadcast daily from the Jimmie Skinner Music Center in downtown Cincinnati. Jimmie himself did a DJ show on the station for a time. The Sandy Valley Boys presented a long-running WNOP program for Sims Furniture in the 1950s.

WONE WONE-AM went on the air in Dayton, Ohio, in 1949, and was owned by Skyland Broadcasting Company. Their hillbilly DJ show was known as “Skyland Ranch” and was emceed at various times by a couple of the most popular hillbilly DJs to ever hit Dayton, Tommy Sutton and Bill Hamby. Mornings were hillbilly and afternoons were pop. This all changed when the station was sold and went through a series of owners and format changes. Around 1970, it went top-40 country with no older country, no local artists, no sacred music, and no bluegrass. Then, amazingly, in the late 1970s, the station employed Fred Bartenstein to do a Sunday-night bluegrass show on the station for a few years, which probably reached an audience previously unfamiliar with bluegrass.

WPFB Located in Middletown, Ohio, WPFB-AM was originally owned by Paul F. Braden and signed on the air September 1, 1947, with Ranny Daly as the program director. Braden had two refreshing ideas that started drawing listeners immediately. He instituted remote news broadcasts several days a week from smaller towns around Middletown, such as Lebanon and Eaton, which had been under-served by the larger radio stations, and he programmed hillbilly music which appealed to the hundreds of thousands of transplanted southerners who had come north to work in the factories of Middletown, Hamilton, Cincinnati, and Dayton. The Osborne Brothers, Red Allen, Dave Woolum, Hyllo Brown, Jimmy Martin, J.D. Crowe, Jim & Jesse, Smokey Ward, Old Joe Clark, and Fairley Holden all worked at WPFB on the live daytime shows and the Saturday night “WPFB Jamboree,” which was broadcast from a tent on the grounds, later a barn, and finally the Middletown National Guard Armory. National name acts including Hank Williams made appearances in WPFB’s tent. In 1964, DJ Paul “Moon” Mullins came to WPFB and built himself into a bluegrass broadcasting legend.

WYSO Licensed to Antioch College (now University) in Yellow Springs, Ohio, WYSO-FM went on the air in 1958. As early as 1973, the station was programming bluegrass and old-time country music with shows such as “Live Music Crawling Out Of Your Radio” and “Traditional Country Music,” followed in 1974 by the “WYSO Country Jamboree.” Other shows which have featured bluegrass over the years include “Walkin’ In the Parlor”, “Rise When the Rooster Crows”, “Saturday Night Request Show”, “Faded Love”, “The Country Music College of the Air”, and “Bluegrass Breakdown,” and “Bluegrass Countdown”. All of these shows were staffed by volunteers who provided a wide and varied music selection and opinion about bluegrass music. In 2006, hosts included Joe Colvin and Steve Shaw’s “Down Home Bluegrass” and “Rise When the Rooster Crows” (Sunday morning gospel), Fred Bartenstein’s “Banks Of the Ohio,” and Ray Garrison’s “Midnight Ramble.”

WYSO COUNTRY JAMBOREE Started at the Living Arts Center on Linden Avenue in Dayton in April of 1974, the “WYSO Country Jamboree” was broadcast live each Wednesday night. The Hotmud Family was instrumental in getting it started, but before it went off the air, most of the amateur and professional bluegrass musicians living in the Miami Valley had appeared on the show. When the Living Arts Center closed in 1977, the Jamboree had a succession of homes: Kelly Hall at Antioch College, Wilbur Wright High School in Dayton, Blair Hall at Sinclair College, and finally the UCB Cafeteria at Wright State University.

WZIP Located at Sixth and Madison in Covington, Kentucky, WZIP-AM went on the air in 1947 and was a presence in Cincinnati-area radio in the early 1950s. Larry Roll had a live show daily from WZIP in 1950, and Ray Scott was a long-time musician and hillbilly DJ at the station.

WALKER STREET BAND A Cincinnati band from the early 1980s, the Walker Street Band included Mark Rader, Wayne Clyburn, Bill LaWarre, and Joe Brashear.

WHEAT STRAW Wheat Straw was a Dayton group that consisted of Alan Gray on rhythm guitar, Miles Hathaway on mandolin, Joe Gibbs on bass, and Julie Gray on banjo. Alan, Miles, and Joe did some soft trio harmony which was somewhat folk-oriented and Julie was a pretty, petite woman who played some of the hardest driving bluegrass banjo you would ever want to hear. They cut two albums on Old Homestead in the mid 1970s.

WIGGLE INN Joe “Cannonball” Lewis played for a long time at Cincinnati’s Wiggle Inn bar, after he got out of the service in the late 1940s.

WILD CHERRY PARK Wild Cherry Park was located 16 miles north of Dayton on Garland Road, just off State Route 48, between West Milton and Union. It had shows irregularly during the mid to late 1960s, featuring both bluegrass and country acts -- sometimes on the same show. A good example was “Tennessee Day” on July 17, 1966, when they had bluegrass artists Bennie Birchfield & Jim McCall and the Bluegrass Partners, Red Spurlock & the Powell Brothers, Herman Holt & the Mountain Boys, and country artists Donnie Bowser & the Stonehearts, Mary Lou Turner & the Twin Valley Boys, Ronnie Dale, and Luke Gibbons, among others. They also had nationally known artists from time to time, including Bill Monroe.

WILDWOOD VALLEY BOYS In the beginning, the Wildwood Valley Boys could easily have been called the “Boys From Indiana Number 2,” since three of the original members were sons of Aubrey and Jerry Holt and Harley Gabbard. Tony Holt, the lead singer and guitar player was Aubrey Holt’s son; Jeff Holt, the mandolin player and eerie tenor singer was Jerry Holt’s son; and Harlan Gabbard, the resonator guitar player, was Harley Gabbard’s son. The band also included Glen “Cookie” Inman on bass, Wes Vanderpool on banjo, and Gerald Evans on fiddle. Eventually, all departed except Tony Holt, and Aubrey Holt has become a member of the band. Through early 2006, the band had issued six CDs on Rebel Records.

