

THE HILLMEN

SAME

Brown Mountain Light/ Rangers Command/ Sangaree/ Blue grass chopper/
Barbara Allen/ Fair and Tender Ladies/ Goin' up/ When the ship comes in/
Fare thee well/ Winsborough Cotton Mill Blues/ Prisoner's plea/ Back
road fever/ Roll on Muddy River.

(Sugar Hill SH 3719 Import).

The Sugar Hill label was featured in an article in a recent issue of Country Music World and this album is another excellent addition to their catalogue.

Possibly it would be best to place this album within its historical context. The Hillmen included Chris Hillman, later a Byrd, and the Gosdin Brothers, Rex and Vern, who later recorded an album with Gene Clark after he left the Byrds. Vern also enjoyed some success as a solo artist in the late Seventies. The four piece group was completed by Don Parmley who left professional music after the band split up in 1964, but later formed the Bluegrass Cardinals. Originally released on the Together label in 1971, but quickly deleted after the company went under, the tracks had actually been laid down early in 1963.

The original, 'Hillmen' album contained eleven tracks, but for the purpose of this re-release, two tracks have been dropped , while four, previously unavailable ones have been added.

The group were managed by Jim Dickson,(who produced the album), and Eddie Tickner who now manages Emmylou Harris. Dickson also produced some of the Byrd's later recordings.

The album features traditional songs like 'Barbara Allen' alongside compositions by contemporary writers like Bob Dylan and Pete Seeger. It appears that Dickson encouraged the band to write its own material, (Obviously a man of vision)considering how few performing writers there were in the early Sixties), and five Gosdin Brothers compositions are featured, including one written with Chris Hillman.

An interesting artifact, possibly a little off-beat in the true blue-grass field, but well worth a listen. Available from Mike's Country Music Room, in Aberdeen.

Written by,

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