

Ozark Mountain Daredevils – Bio

Ozark Mountain Daredevils, a country-rock band, were formed during 1971 in Springfield, Missouri and the original line-up consisted of John Dillon [born February 6th 1947 in Stuttgart, Arkansas] vocals, guitars, mandolin, fiddle, piano, harp, autoharp, dulcimer, jawbone, percussion and keyboards, Mike 'Supe' Granda [born December 24th 1950 in St. Louis, Missouri] vocals, bass, acoustic guitar, mandolin, percussion and chicken squawks, Buddy Brayfield [born 1951] vocals, oboe, piano, harpsichord, organ, percussion and electric piano, Randle Chowning [born 1950] vocals, lead electric & acoustic guitars, harp, national steel and mandolin, Steve Cash [born May 6th 1946 in Springfield] vocals, harp, percussion and harpsichord, and Larry Lee [born 1947 in Springfield] vocals, drums, acoustic guitar, synthesizer, piano, percussion, saw, saw & board.

The Ozark Mountain Daredevils were born from the remnants of Springfield groups, the Emergency Band, Buffalo Chips and Cosmic Corncob and His Amazing Mountain Daredevils. The sextet was eventually signed by A&M Records, and their self-titled debut album, produced by Glyn Johns and David Anderle, featured the U.S. Top 30 Pop hit single "If You Want To Get To Heaven." The same band line-up recorded the Johns/Anderle produced "**It'll Shine When It Shines**" and the track "Jackie Blue" scored the band a # 3 U.S. Pop hit single. Anderle went on to produce their third effort "**The Car Over The Lake Album**." When Chowning departed, Norwegian born Rune Walle [guitars, mandolin, sitar] joined the line-up for the David Anderle produced "**Men From Earth**." Further line-up changes had occurred by the time the David Kershenbaum produced "**Don't Look Down**" appeared. Brayfield was replaced on keyboards and vocals by Ruell Chappell, and the line-up was further boosted by mandolinist Jerry Mills and the late Steve Canaday [died September 25th 1999 in a plane accident] on guitar, drums and vocals. During 1977 Cash and Dillon made significant contributions to the Paul Kennerley penned concept album "**White Mansions**" which also featured the late Waylon Jennings and his wife Jessi Colter. "**It's Alive**," a live double vinyl album, proved to be the Ozark's final A&M release, following which they signed with CBS and made their debut for the imprint with another self-titled collection. Produced by John Boylan, the band had by then shrunk to the quartet of 'original members' Dillon, Cash, Granda and Lee. A&M Records issued a compilation recording during 1983, and the band broke up soon afterwards.

With production credited to Cary E. Mansfield and Paul Peterson, in 1985 Varese Sarabande Records released the 1973 recording "**The Lost Cabin Sessions**," a song collection that featured the original band line-up. It appears that "**Heart Of The Country**" was only released in France. The Ozark Mountain Daredevils reunited in the late 1980's and Conifer Records issued the Wendy Waldman produced "**Modern History**." Although the album cover only featured four musicians, the credited players were Dillon, Cash, Granda, Canaday and guitarist D. Clinton Thompson. "**Now Hear This!**" was a band produced, cassette only recording which was sold at their gigs, and featured Dillon, Cash, Granda and drummer Ron Grempe. With production credited to Barry Ehrmann and Paul Peterson, "**Archive Alive**" dated from 1973 and once more featured the original band line-up. Ex-band member Larry Lee produced and guested as a guitarist/vocalist on the New Era Productions Ozarks release "**13**," with a band line-up that ran to Dillon, Cash, Granda, Ron Grempe and the late guitarist/vocalist Bill Brown [d. 24th July 2004 in a house fire].

In 2000 the Universal Music Group issued the twenty-one track retrospective, "**Time Warp - The Very Best of The Ozark Mountain Daredevils**," and in 2006 Varese Sarabande released "**Rhythm And Joy**" which was recorded at the 1980 New Year's Eve concert the band played at the Uptown Theater in Kansas City, Missouri. A DVD of the same show is planned. Having established their own New Era label, during 2002 the Ozarks began reissuing their old albums. To date they have released "**The Car Over The Lake Album**" with extra tracks, "**Men From Earth**," "**It'll Shine When It Shines**," "**It's Alive**," "**Don't Look Down**" with extra tracks, and Columbia's "**Ozark Mountain Daredevils**." In recent years in the UK, BGO Records has released the 2 for 1 collections "**The Ozark Mountain Daredevils**"/"**It'll Shine When It Shines**" and "**The Car Over The Lake Album**"/"**Men From Earth**."

Discography : "**The Ozark Mountain Daredevils**" [1973] ; "**It'll Shine When It Shines**" [1974] ; "**The Car Over The Lake Album**" [1975] ; "**Men From Earth**" [1976] ; "**Don't Look Down**" [1977] ; "**It's Alive**" [1978] ; "**Ozark Mountain Daredevils**" [1980] ; "**The Best Of..**" compilation [1983] ; "**The Lost Cabin Sessions**" recorded 1973 [1985] ; "**Heart Of The Country**" only released in France [1987] ; "**Modern History**" [1989] ; "**Now Hear This!**" cassette only, sold at concerts [1990] ; "**Archive Alive**"

recorded 1973 [1997] ; **“13”** [1997] ; **“Time Warp - The Very Best of The Ozark Mountain Daredevils”** compilation [2000] ; **“Rhythm And Joy - Ozark Mountain Daredevils 1980 Reunion Concert”** [2006] :

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