

**The Ray Ruff
Ruff Records
OAK Records
Story**



- 1. Ray Ruff Singles**
- 2. Ruff and Sully**
- 3. Oak Records**

OAK RECORDS, 6430 SUNSET BLVD., HOLLYWOOD, CALIF. 90028

Ray Ruff (Checkmates) Singles

Norman N-503	I Need Someone/ Half-Pint Baby (March 13, 1961)
Norman N-508 1961)	Love Made a Fool of You/ My Wish is You (late June
Norman N-513	Angel Blue/ Well...Alright (January 13, 1962)
KIXZ 45-101	The KIXZ Twist (jg-001)/The KIXZ Waltz (jg-002) (Δ 43125) (April 1962) B-side shown as by "Groman Tipnagel."
Norman N-524	My Gift to You/ Let Me Tell You About Linda (August 18, 1962)
Norman N-528	Love/ Lonely Hours (December 29, 1962)
Norman N-539	I'm Qualified/A Dream (August 17, 1963)
Bolo B-741	Pledge of Love/A Fool Again (February 1, 1964)
LIN 5034-45	Beatle Maniacs/I Took A Liking to You (February 1964)
LIN 5035-45	Angel Blue/I Took A Liking to You (April 1964)
LIN 5036-45	The Girlfriend's Car/In Dreamland (June 1964)
Storme 101	Ummm Oh Yeah /I'm Gonna Love You Too (July 1964) (Δ 53772)
Sully 100	Pretty Blue Eyes (45-001)/Long Long Ponytail (45-002) (January 1965)

RAY RUFF
★★★ I Need Someone—NORMAN 503—
 A strong romantic effort with Ruff's salable vocal backed by an echoey guitar and chorus sound. Interesting side here that's worth a hearing. (Dundee, BMI) (2:07)

From early 1961 through 1964, Ray Ruff was best known as the lead singer for the Checkmates. He was a friend of producer Norman Petty, who went to work for another Norman – Norm Weinstroer – in November 1960 for the latter's newly-founded Norman Records. Ruff went with Petty to the Norman label, cutting records first under his own name and then with the Checkmates. After leaving the Saint-



Louis label, Ruff found his way to the Seattle-based Seafair Bolo label and released "Pledge of Love" for them as Bolo B-741. By the time that single was released, Ruff had recorded several songs for the LIN label. Like Bolo, LIN was well-established – having released records out of Gainesville, Texas, since March 1954. For them Ruff released three singles, including a Beatles tribute song. After a single for Storme Records later in '64, Ray Ruff was ready to operate an established independent record label.



Ruff and Sully

The singing/songwriting team of Wiley (Walker) and (Gene) Sullivan enjoyed a string of hits in the 1940s and 1950s – beginning at Okeh Records in 1941. After fulfilling his singing contract with Columbia Records – and writing a song made more famous by Elvis Presley – **Gene Sullivan** started up **Sully Records** in Oklahoma City in 1959, (re)releasing his own singles as well as pressing up recordings by other artists. He had opened his own studio in '55 in Oklahoma City.

By the end of 1964, Sullivan had released fifteen records on Sully and was ready to shut down the label. He had partnered with Ray Ruff by this time, who had recorded his most recent single with (his own) Storme label. Ruff and Storme agreed together that Ruff's company, Checkmate Productions, would use the Sully name from the beginning of 1965. At that same time, Ray Ruff started up his own Ruff label and made announcements to that effect in the January 9th issue of *Billboard*.

Ruff and Sully Outlets Set Up

AMARILLO — Checkmate Productions has set up national distribution for its two new labels, Ruff and Sully, it was announced this week by Ray Ruff, Checkmate president.

The labels have packed the Blue Things, Larry Bell, the Fantastics, Danny Kent, Wes Reynolds and the Flippers, and Ray Ruff and the Checkmates.

Starting with #910, Ray Ruff continued to use the Sully series until February 1966. At that Gene Sullivan reclaimed his company name – intending to continue to release singles for Sully Records. These new singles started with number 120 and came out in 1966. At the end of that month, Ray Ruff announced a change in the name from Sully to Sölly, using a similar logo. [Note: Sölly is pronounced Sully.]

Sullivan handed Sully back to Ruff in 1967 for two singles (numbered 1004 and 1021) that Ruff released without the Sully logo. After that, Sullivan returned to his label again,

releasing singles in 1968 and 1969.

Meanwhile, the Ruff label was responsible for at least seventeen singles from January 1965 to summer, 1966 – and another single in 1967.



Sully to Sölly

AMARILLO, TEXAS — Sully Records, with a promising single on "The Silencers" (from the Dean Martin-Columbia film) by Patti Seymour, announces a change in the name of its label to Sölly Records.

Ruff Records Singles

- 1000** The Blue Things Mary Lou/Your Turn to Cry (January 1965)
Black label – later labels were pale blue
- 1001** Buddy Knox Jo Ann/Don't Make a Ripple (February 1965)
Later copies indicate that they were distributed by Jay-Gee Records.
- 45-1002** The Blue Things Pretty Thing-Oh/Just Two Days Ago (May/June 1965)
- 45-1003** The Checkmates Hey Girl/All the Time Now (May 1965)
- 45-1004** Henson Cargill Joe, Jesse and I/Picking White Cotton (1965)
Reissued in February 1968 as Tower 400.
- 1005 ?**
- 1006** Charming Checkmates Just to Make Me Cry/So Hard to Find (1965)
- 45-1007** Bob Finn Existing in City Stone/Why (1965/6)
- 45-1008 ?**
- 45-1009** The Arcades Stay Away/She's My Girl (1966)
- 45-1010** The Trolls That's the Way My Love Is/Into My Arms (April 1966)
- 45-1011** Finnicum On the Road Again/Come on Over (April 1966)
- 45-1012 ?**
- 45-1013 ?**
- 45-1014** Robin Hoods My Love Has Gone Away/Love a Game (1966)
- 45-1015** The BC's Comin' on Home/Oh Yeow (May 1966)
- 1016** The Y'all's Run for Your Life/Please Come Back (June 1966)
- 45-1017** Burch Ray Love Questions / Love Was Made for Two (1966)
The A-side was an update (?) or reissue (?) of Sully 915 from 1965.
- 45-1018** Troy Watson Sherry / Girl I Love and Adore (April 1966)
- 45-1019** The Tiaras Southern Love/Sticks and Stones (1966)
- 45-1020** Page Boys Sweet Love/All I Want (1966)
- RR-1088** Them Walking in the Queens Garden/I Happen to Love You (November 1967)
Reissued quickly as Tower 384 (with picture sleeve)
- Reports that the Rubber Maze single, Tower 351, was originally pressed with a Ruff label have not been confirmed.

In July/August 1968, Ray Ruff joined the A&R staff at Dot Records, which he represented for fourteen months before joining Happy Tiger in September 1969. That's where Ruff is when the Oak story begins.



Ruff Plants the Acorn of Oak Records



In August 1971 – after spending almost two years with Happy Tiger, Ray Ruff made the decision to work on an adaptation of the Bible, labeled Truth of Truths. This project had been percolating in Ruff's mind for four years, and its release was something Ruff was strongly motivated to achieve. The following month he formed Lone Star Records, shortly thereafter creating a subsidiary label called Oak to release the Bible album. That album, Oak's first release, came out on October 11, 1971. It quickly became a hot seller and served to advance the continuation of the Oak label.

Ruff Leaves Happy Tiger To Contemporize Bible

LOS ANGELES—Ray Ruff has resigned as executive producer at Happy Tiger Records to record an independent twin-record album of Old and New Testament stories put to contemporary pop music, titled "Truth of Truths."

Ruff, who followed prexy Dick Pierce from Dot to Happy Tiger as staff producer, said he has been working on his Bible album project since 1967, when he saw a rerelease of Cecil B. DeMille's "Ten Commandments" in his native Texas.

"This recording is not an attempt to capitalize on the current Jesus craze in music but was born long before anyone thought of putting rock and religion together," Ruff said. This project is the end result of my musical life."

Even before moving to Los An-

geles in 1968, Ruff had outlined the Bible stories he felt were most suitable to musical translation and checked his treatments with Harlingen, Tex., clergyman Ray Harrison. Last year he hired seven songwriters to create material for the project working virtually full time. The writing roster consists of Val Stoeklein (whom Ruff produced as a singer at Dot), Helen and Kae Lewis, Lloyd Schoonmaker, Roger Lanoue, Alan Henderson and Don Great. Ruff also wrote several of the album's 29 songs himself. Arrangements are by Ernie Freeman and Dick Hieronymous.

"Truth of Truths" production costs are budgeted at "slightly under \$100,000." The recording will utilize a 30-voice choir, 10 lead

voices and 41 instrumentalists. Ruff put his key artist personnel under contract last June to assure their availability. Sessions started at Gold Star Monday (16) and will continue 14 hours daily, seven days a week, with completion hoped for about Sept. 1.

Producer Ruff Forms Label

LOS ANGELES — Ray Ruff, former executive producer at Happy Tiger Records, has formed his own label, Lone Star Records, headquartered at 6430 Sunset Blvd. However, the company will not release Ruff's \$100,000 twin-disk album of Bible stories set to rock music, "Truth of Truths." Offers from several major labels to purchase "Truth of Truths" rights are being weighed, according to Ruff.

First Lone Star release will be "Little Latin Loop De Lo" by Tascosa, a new group assembled by musicians who worked on "Truth of Truths." Ruff expects to sign a number of the singers who appeared on his Bible package for Lone Star.

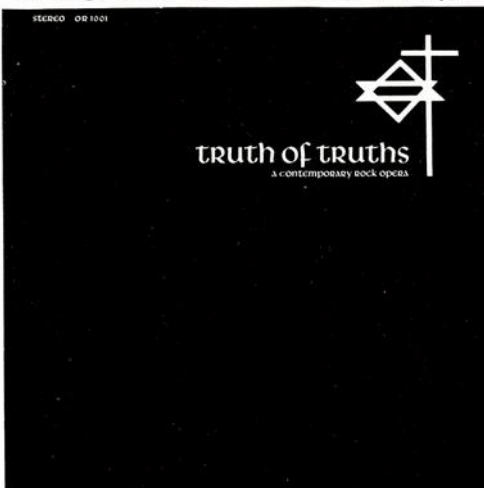
Ruff to Release Bible Stories On Own Label

LOS ANGELES—Ray Ruff will release his twin-record album of Bible stories set to rock on his new label, Oak. Ruff said he turned down bids for his "Truth of Truths" package because no major label would guarantee a pre-Christmas release.

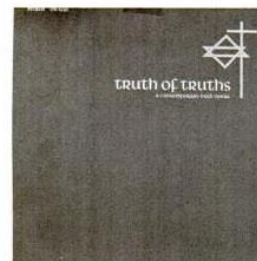
So with a \$250,000 manufacturing and promotion budget put up by the same Texas investors who originally bankrolled Ruff's \$110,000 production costs for "Truth of Truths," Ruff has set up a label exclusively to release the Bible-rock album.

A first pressing of 60,000 will ship Monday (11). Ruff has retained 15 freelance promotion men and will ship to 38 independent distributors and rack-jobbers who have agreed to pay past bills upon reordering.

BOOK OF BOOKS! DREAM OF DREAMS! TRUTH OF TRUTHS!



FOUR YEARS IN THE MAKING
PRODUCED BY RAY RUFF



POP
VARIOUS ARTISTS—
Truth of Truths.
Oak OR 1001

Producer Ray Ruff has a commercial winner in this super, de luxe two-record rock opera production, the first musical adaptation of the Bible in its entirety. Four years of work by seven composers and featuring a cast of over 100 musicians and voices, the superb production lends itself to stage and films. Strong cuts for FM and Top 40 include "Let My People Go," "Forty Days and Forty Nights" and "Resurrection."

NOW AVAILABLE ON



Oak Records Singles

Green Label

During this period, Oak shared headquarters with Warner/Reprise.

OR-100 Lloyd Schoonmaker He Will Come Again/God Called Unto Abraham

Also pressed as OAK-100. (c. November 1971)

OR-101 Pat Liston David to Bathsheba/Prophecies of the Coming Messiah (c. 11/71)

OR-102 Jesse Johnson Holes in My Soul/Funky Soul Stroll (November 1971)

Apparently reissued as Stiletto SL-200.

OR-103 Dick & Sandy St. John Forty Days and Forty Nights/Jesus of Nazareth (December 1971)

OR-104 Ernie Freeman The Overture (short)/The Overture (long) (January 1972)

OR-105 ?

OR-106 Ernie Freeman Come Run With Me/Stella by Starlight (March 1972)

OR-107 John Roman Jackson Welfare Check/Back on Top (February/March 1972)

OR-108 Doug Gibbs I'll Always Have You There/Cloudy Day (September 1972)

OR-109 John Roman Jackson Little Sister/It's Much Too Rainy (1972)

OR-110 The Rhodes Kids Won't Let You Pass Me By/What's it All About (September 1972)
Double A-side

OR-111 Dick & Sandy Maybellene/?

OR-112 Blackjack Hush/Generation

Donnie Brooks (of Blackjack) had recorded Hush in 1968 (originally released as Yardbird 8000 and rereleased as Happy Tiger HT-544 in May, 1970); this is the same basic recording.

OR-113 Five Flights Up Day Before Yesterday/There's Nothing Wrong (With Loving a Stranger) (1973)



At this point in time, Ray Ruff ran for Texas political office and temporarily shut down his record label. In May 1976 he returned to the business and took a position leading up Hitsville (Motown) records. See *Billboard* November 13, 1976, p. 62.

OAK Records at Top With No Logo

OR-1001 Susie Allanson Baby, Don't Keep Me Hangin' On/It's Gone (June 1977)

This single was reissued as WB/Curb WBS-8429. Her album containing the single came out on Curb/WB records in 1978. At the time, Susie Allanson was Ray Ruff's wife. [At least one copy is known with the label style normally associated with records from 1981.]

MCP-102 Pat Boone Oh, Boy/same (c. 1977-8)

MCP-103 Mike Curb Congregation Tornado/A Brand New Day//same (c. 1977-8)

These two songs are from *The Wiz*.

OAK-1006 Chuck Pollard You Should Win an Oscar (Every Night)/Wet, Wild, and Warm (July 1978)

Also released as MCA-40944.

OAK-1007 Sammy Vaughn This Time Around/Rodeo Bum (July 1978)



- OAK-1010** Mark Sefa I Can't Help Myself/Lady Oh Lady (1978)
 Later copies appear on the label with PO Box 1746.
- OAK-1011** Gina Magic Fingers/?? (1978)
- OR-1019** Donnie Brooks This Song That I Sing is for You/Country Dude (1978, red label)

Label With PO Box 1746

- No Number** Donna Douglas Never-Ending Song of Love/You Make My Heart
 Wanna Sing (c. 1978)
 This is the actress. The single has the PO Box label, which dates it to 1978-81.
- OAK-1013** Sherry Brane It's My Party/I Loved You All the Way (November 1978)
- OAK-1018** Dawn Chastain Me Plus You Equals Love/ (December 1978)
- OAK-1020** Joe Douglas You're Still on My Mind/Wine Flow Free (January 1979)



- 001-79** David Daniels Loving You/Family Man (1979)
- 002-79** Miki Mori The Part of Me That Needs You Most (October 1979)
- OA-1010** Miki Mori Driftin' Away/Tell All Your Trouble (January 1980)
- OAK -1012** Debbie Peters It Can't Wait/I Can't Get Enough of You (March 1980)
- DRS-1014/RR-1980** Jerry Naylor Cheating Eyes/America, I'm Coming Home to You (February/March 1980)
- ORS-1017** James Stanfield One Night Angel/Change Me
- ORS-1025** Charlie Phillips Goin' Away/Shambles of My Heart (1980)
- 47354** Glen Castleberry If I Can't Have All of You/You'll See Those Same Old Faces Coming Back
 This single was reported as coming up in the 09/13/80 issue of *Cash Box*. He is mentioned in all three trade magazines on issues dated October 18th and 25th.
- 47584** Pattie Roberts Leaving is Believin'/Born to Lose (1980)
- O??-1027** Denny Hilton Layin' Low/Delores (March 1981)
 Delores (and possibly Layin' Low) came out in late 1980 on the album *You're My Favorite Thing*, Rosebridge RB-5001.
- OAK-1029** Ava Barber I Think I Could Love You Better Than She Did/That's How Much I Love You (February 1981)

Label With No Address (Tree Logo at Top)

- OAK-1032** Jimmy Tucker Kentucky Woman/Tobacco Road (1981)
 Yellow label with logo on top
- OAK-1042** The Tonyans Can't Believe It's Over/Treat Me Like a Man (1981/1982)
- OAK-1046** Marty Merchant Lost in Your Love/I'll Turn You On Again (1982)





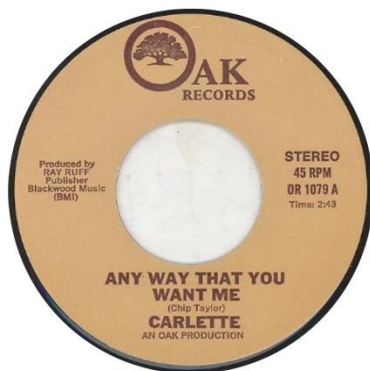
Oak/Curb Records

JT-37212 James Talley Are They Gonna Make Us Outlaws Again?/Whisky on the Side (early 1982)

The album, *American Originals*, which this single advertises, was not released until 1985 when it appeared on the Bear Family label of Germany. The A-side is a different recording than the one that appears on his 1976 single with Capitol Records. Note: the headlines on the label blank are all from late 1981.

From early 1982 to early 1983, Ray Ruff worked with Mike Curb at Primero/Curb Records and released no new Oak singles.

Label With No Address (Tree inside O)



OR-1056 Stephanie Winslow Nobody Else for Me/Another Night (May 1983) Note: Winslow was Ray Ruff's wife.

OR-1057 Luiese Your Heart Will Get You Every Time/Fantasizing (July 1983)

OR-1058 Ralph May Blinded by Moonlight/Keep Me from Blowin' Away (1983)

OR-1059 Phil Harris Love Is/Hey, Hey Pretty Girl [Reno address] (1983)

OR-1060 Stephanie Winslow Kiss Me Darling/Another Night (October 1983)

Simultaneously released on Curb/MCA as MCA-52291. The B-side is the same as OR-1056.

OR-1061 Danny Byram

OR-1062 Joe Moseley

OR-1063 Ralph May

OR-1064 Aubrey Leigh

OR-1065 Sugarfoot

OR-1069 Dani Michaels

OR-1072 Joanna Martine

OR-1073 John Steele

Hank Thompson went on to release the B-side in 1986, and Jimmy Wilcox in 1987.

OR-1079 Carlette

Any Way That You Want Me/Oh Boy (January 1985)

Ray Ruff, who relocated to Nashville from L.A. two years ago, has filed Chapter 7 for his **Oak Productions** and **Oak Records** . . .

Between 1985 and 1987, Ray Ruff was with Luv Records in Dallas. Oak artist Carlette joined Ray at Luv, where he met future Oak artist Burbank Station. Oak filed for chapter 7 bankruptcy protection in early 1986. After a three-year gap, Oak returned with a new series whose numbering ignored the OR- prefix series from 1983-85; the label backdrop remained the same as on those 1983-85 releases.

OAK-1048 Charlie Beckham	Think I'll Go Home/same (June 1988)
OAK-1050 Brian White	It's Too Late to Love You Now/same (May 1988)
OAK-1051 Bob Pack	The Request/We're Closer Now (July 1988)
We're Closer Now is marked as the A-side, but The Request charted.	
OAK-1052 Teddy Spencer	Grass is Greener/same (August 1988)
OAK-1053 Trisha Lynn	I Go to Pieces/same (June 1988)
OAK-1054 Teddy Spencer	Long Cool Woman in a Black Dress/same (7/88)
OAK-1055 Carly Harrington	Badland Preacher/same (July 1988)
OAK-1057 Jerry Lee Tucker	Livin' in Shadows/same (November 1988)
OAK-1060 Leah Marr	Sealed With a Kiss/same (September 1988)
Note: number is the same as OR-1060 from 1983.	
OAK-1062 Trish Lynn	Not Fade Away/same (July 1989)
OAK-1066 Rick Tucker	Honey, I'm Just Walking Out The Door/same (January 1989)
OAK-1067 Tommy & Donna	Take it Slow With Me/same (November 1988)
OAK-1069 Lolita Jackson	Every Time You Walk in the Room/same (March 1989)
Note: number is the same as OR-1069 from 1983.	
OAK-1071 Leah Marr	Half Heaven, Half Heartache/same (September 1989)
OAK-1072 Trisha Lynn	Kiss Me Darling/same (May 1989)
OAK-1073 Maripat (Davis)	No One to Talk to But the Blues/same (June 1989)
OAK-1074 Carlette	Without You/same (January 1990)
OAK-1075 Teddy Spencer	Getting Over You/same (July 1990)
OAK-1076 Aletha	Blue Heart Special/same (May 1990)
OAK-1079 Sylvia Johns	From the First Time/same (February 1990)
OAK-1080 The Amicks	Sharing the Night Together/same (1990?)
OAK-1083 Trisha Lynn	I Can't Help Myself/same (October 1989)
OAK-1084 Leah Marr	I've Been a Fool/same (December 1989)
OAK-1086CD The Reno Brothers	High Sierras (April 1990)
OAK-1088 Burbank Station	Heartache Road/same (April 1990)
OAK-1089 Trisha Lynn	Anything but You/same (June 1990)
OAK-1090 Carlette	Better Keep on Dancing/same (June 1990)
OAK-1091 Carlette	If This Ain't Heaven/same (June 1990)
OAK-1092 Lew DeWitt	Moonset/same (June 1990)
OAK-1093 White Lace	Every Breath You Take/same (July 1990)



Oak Records Albums

Various Artists *Truth of Truths*

OR-1001 (2LP)

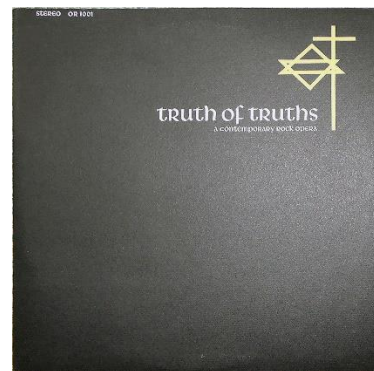
October 1971 [Ray Ruff resigned from Happy Tiger in August in order to produce this album.]

Side 1: The Overture; Creation; The Fall; Forty Days and Forty Nights; Tower of Babel; God Called on to Abraham; Sodom and Gomorrah Were the Cities of Sin

Side 2: Joseph Beloved Son of Israel; Let My People Go; The Ten Commandments; Song of the Children of Israel; David to Bathsheba; Turn Back to God; Prophecies of the Coming Messiah

Side 3: My Life Is in Your Hands; John the Baptist; He's the Light of the World; Hosanna; The Last Supper; I am What I Say I Am; The Trial

Side 4: The Road; The Cross; Jesus of Nazareth; Resurrection; He Will Come Again; Prophecies of the Coming of the End of the World



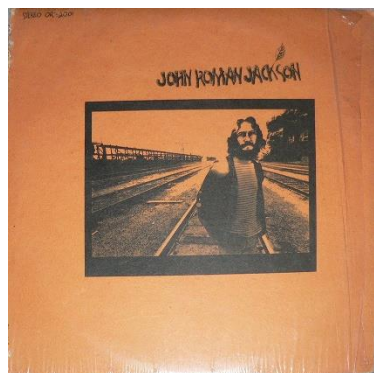
John Roman Jackson *John Roman Jackson*

ORS-2001

February 1972

Side 1: Old Man Jones; Welfare Check; It's Much too Rainy; Back on Top; Run Run

Side 2: Rosemary; Little Sister; Mary's Garden; How 'Bout You; Sometimes



Sammy Vaughn *This Time Around*

OAK-1004

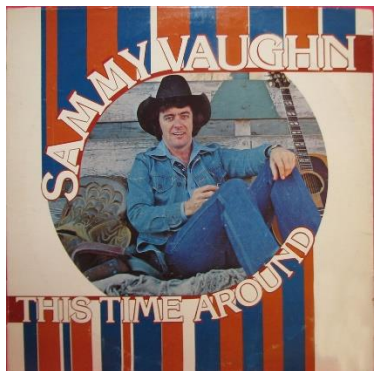
1978

White label with orange print

No PO Box on cover.

Side 1: This Time Around; I Ain't Up to Forgettin' Her Yet; Big Time Rodeo Star; All Over Again; Until the Next Time

Side 2: The Morning After the Night Before; That's All There Is (In the Life of a Fool); Victims of the Pretty Things in Life; Let's Talk it Over in the Morning; Rodeo Bum



Harvey + Cannonball *Hotel Balderdash*

ORS-1010

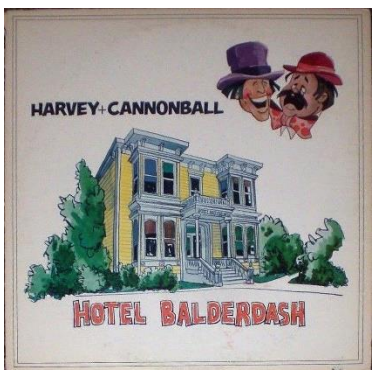
1979

White label with orange print

PO Box on cover.

Side 1: Hotel Balderdash; You're My Best Friend; Our Own Backyard; What Will I Be; Boogie Man in the Dark

Side 2: A Joke a Day; Kid Songs; I Love You; When I Go to the Zoo, I Think of You; Sleepy Time Friend

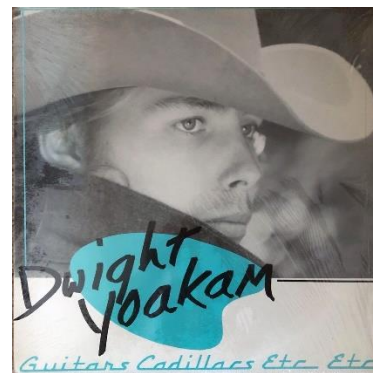


Dwight Yoakam Guitars, Cadillacs, Etc., Etc. **OR-2356**
1984

Side 1: I Won't Hurt; South of Cincinnati; I'll Be Gone

Side 2: Twenty Years; Ring of Fire; Miner's Prayer

With additional songs this LP was reissued in April 1986 by Reprise.



Elvis Presley *Vintage 55 Elvis* **OAK-1003**
1990

Side 1: Interview, Bill Collie; Baby, Let's Play House; Blue Moon of Kentucky; I've Got a Woman; There's Good Rockin' Tonight; That's All Right Little Mama

Side 2: Interview, Scotty Moore; 1st Meeting; Discovery of Elvis by Sam Phillips; The First Recording Session; The Second Recording Session; Shows With the Starlite Wranglers; On Their Own – Elvis, Scotty Moore, Bill Black; Stranded in Shreveport, Louisiana; Grand Ole Opry Appearance; Louisiana Hayride Appearance

