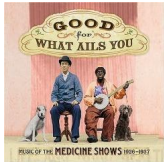


Good For What Ails You: Music Of The Medicine Shows (1926-1937) [2005]

Written by bluesever

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Disc 1 1. Daddy Stovepipe & Mississippi Sarah - The Spasm - 2:52 2. Gid Tanner & Riley Puckett - Tanner's Boarding House - 3:05 3. Lil McClintock - Don't Think I'm Santa Claus - 3:06 4. Dallas String Band with Coley Jones - Hokum Blues - 3:14 5. Shorty Godwin - Jimbo Jambo Land - 2:57 6. Fiddlin' John Carson & His Virginia Reelers - Gonna Swing On The Golden Gate - 2:57 7. Pink Anderson & Simmie Dooley - Papa's 'Bout To Get Mad - 2:59 8. Charlie Parker & Mack Woolbright - The Man Who Wrote Home Sweet Home Never Was A Married Man - 3:14 9. Jim Jackson - Bye, Bye, Policeman - 3:03 10. Walter Smith - The Bald-Headed End Of A Broom - 2:56 11. Allen Brothers - Bow Wow Blues - 3:21 12. Beans Hambone & El Morrow - Beans - 2:53 13. Stovepipe #1 and David Crockett - A Chicken Can Waltz The Gravy Around - 3:08 14. Grant Brothers & Their Music - Tell It To Me - 2:57 15. Carolina Tar Heels - Ain't No Use Working So Hard - 3:08 16. Walter Cole - Mama Keep Your Yes Ma'am Clean - 2:47 17. Kirk McGee & Blythe Poteet - C-H-I-C-K-E-N Spells Chicken - 2:54 18. Banjo Joe - My Money Never Runs Out - 2:53 19. Henry 'Ragtime Texas' Thomas - Railroadin' Some - 3:19 20. Prince Albert Hunt's Texas Ramblers - Traveling Man - 2:55 21. Johnson-Nelson-Porkchop - G. Burns Is Gonna Rise Again - 3:01 22. Blue Ridge Mountain Entertainers - Baby All Night Long - 2:47 23. Chris Bouchillon - Born In Hard Luck - 3:19 24. Memphis Sheiks - He's In The Jailhouse Now - 3:11

Disc 2 1. Pink Anderson & Simmie Dooley - Gonna Tip Out Tonight - 3:09 2. Sam McGee - Chevrolet Car - 3:09 3. Gid Tanner & His Skillet-Lickers - It Ain't Gonna Rain No Mo' - 2:58 4. Cannon's Jug Stompers - Bring It With You When You Come - 2:45 5. Blind Sammie - Atlanta Strut - 3:11 6. Uncle Dave Macon & His Fruit Jar Drinkers - Go Along Mule - 3:07 7. Earl McDonald's Original Louisville Jug Band - Casey Bill - 2:48 8. Frank Stokes - I Got Mine - 3:06 9. Chris Bouchillon - Hannah - 2:57 10. Bogus Ben Covington - Adam & Eve In The Garden - 2:42 11. Alec Johnson & His Band - Mysterious Coon - 3:15 12. Carolina Tar Heels - Her Name Was Hula Lou - 2:59 13. Three Tobacco Tags - Reno Blues - 2:39 14. Papa Charlie Jackson - Scoodle Um Skoo - 3:17 15. Frank Hutchison - Stackalee - 3:05 16. Walter Smith - The Cat's Got The Measles, The Dog's Got The Whooping Cough - 2:59 17. Hezekiah Jenkins - Shout You Cats - 3:08 18. Tommie Bradley - Nobody's Business If I Do - 2:58 19. Charlie Poole & The North Carolina Ramblers - Sweet Sixteen - 2:52 20. Charlie Parker & Mack Woolbright - Ticklish Reuben - 2:40 21. Jim Jackson - I Heard The Voice Of A Porkchop - 2:52 22. Dallas String Band with Coley Jones - Shine - 3:01 23. Emmett Miller & His Georgia Crackers - The Gypsy - 3:21 24. J.E. Mainer's Mountaineers - Kiss Me Cindy - 2:06

James "Beans Hambone" Albert - Guitar, Vocals Austin Allen - Tenor Banjo, Vocals Lee Allen - Guitar, Kazoo Pink Anderson - Guitar, Vocals Tom Ashley - Guitar, Vocals Blind Blake - Guitar Blue Ridge Mountain Entertainers

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Charley Bouchillon - Fiddle Chris Bouchillon - Vocals Uris Bouchillon - Guitar Tommie Bradley - Guitar, Vocals T.M. Brewer - Vocals Lucien Brown - Sax (Alto) Charlie Burse - Guitar, Vocals Benny Calvin -Mandolin Gus Cannon - Banjo, Vocals Cannon's Jug Stompers The Carolina Tar Heels Fiddlin' John Carson - Fiddle, Vocals Fiddlin' John Carson & His Virginia Reelers Gene Cobb - Falsetto Walter Cole - Vocals Ben Covington - Banjo, Harmonica, Vocals David Crockett - Guitar, Harmonica Dallas String Band Simmie Dooley - Guitar, Vocals Gwen Foster - Guitar, Harmonica, Vocals Shorty Godwin - Guitar, Vocals Grant Brothers & Their Music Claude Grant - Guitar, Vocals Jack Grant -Mandolin, Vocals Clarence Greene - Fiddle Beans Hambone Sam Harris - Guitar Roy Harvey - Guitar Prince Albert Hunt's Texas Ramblers Frank Hutchison - Guitar, Harmonica, Vocals Jim Jackson - Guitar, Vocals Papa Charlie Jackson Hezekiah Jenkins - Vocals Snuffy Jenkins - Banjo Alec Johnson Earl Johnson & His Dixie Entertainers - Fiddle, Vocals Johnson-Nelson-Porkchop Coley Jones - Mandolin, Primary Artist, Vocals Jab Jones - Jug Sam "Stovepipe No. 1" Jones - Vocals Noah Lewis - Harmonica Uncle Dave Macon - Banjo, Vocals Uncle Macon Dave & His Fruit Jar Guzzlers - Choir J.E. Mainer - Fiddle J.E. Mainer's Mountaineers Lil McClintock - Guitar, Primary Artist, Vocals Earl McDonald - Jug, Vocals Earl McDonald's Original Louisville Jug Band Kirk McGee - Fiddle, Vocals Sam McGee - Banjo, Guitar, Vocals Clayton McMichen - Fiddle, Vocals Blind Willie McTell - Guitar, Vocals Memphis Sheiks Emmett Miller - Vocals Ralph Miller - Piano Mississippi Sarah & Daddy Stovepipe George Morris - Guitar, Vocals Charlie "Bozo" Nickerson - Vocals Fate Norris - Banjo North Carolina Ramblers Charlie Parker - Guitar, Primary Artist, Vocals Jack Pierce - Fiddle, Vocals Charlie Poole - Banjo, Vocals Blythe Poteet - Guitar, Vocals Riley Puckett -Guitar, Vocals James Robinson - Violin Posey Rorer - Fiddle Bayless Rose - Guitar Mississippi Sarah Claude Slagle - Banjo Cal Smith - Banjo Odell Smith - Fiddle Walter "Kid" Smith - Vocals Vol Stevens - Mandolin Frank Stokes - Guitar, Vocals Lowe Stokes - Fiddle Stovepipe No. 1 Gid Tanner - Fiddle, Vocals Gid Tanner & His Skillet Lickers Henry Thomas - Guitar, Reed Pipes, Vocals Three Tobacco Tags Doc Walsh Banjo, Vocals Marco Washington - String Bass Norman Woodlieff - Guitar Hosea Woods - Guitar, Vocals Mack Woolbright - Banjo, Vocals

The American medicine show came into its own shortly after the Civil War with the rise of so-called patent medicines and the almost complete lack of regulations concerning the ingredients that went into them, and any number of noxious tonics, elixirs, and nostrums with trumpeted healing powers were hawked by silver-tongued pitch doctors to the audiences who flocked to see the various acrobats, dancers, fire-eaters, snake handlers, comedians and musicians who entertained at these free extravaganzas. As a cost efficient way of merging entertainment with merchandising (and where manufacturing meant mixing ingredients in a bathtub), these medicine shows successfully traveled the so-called "kerosene circuit" of rural and small town America until the dawn of the 20th century, when the rise of radio and movies, and the passage of the 1906 Pure Food and Drug Act, combined to render them obsolete. The medicine show blueprint of offering free entertainment to attract audiences and then using intermissions to push products on them has hardly gone away, however, and is still the driving force behind radio and television in the 21st century. The musicians featured in these colorful

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traveling medicine shows were professionals, at least professional enough to leave their home communities and take to the road, and luckily several of these musicians were still active in the 1920s and early '30s when the fledgling recording industry was just getting off the ground, and numerous commercial 78s by former medicine show entertainers were issued in the prewar era. Two discs' worth of these 78s have been assembled here by Old Hat Records, an independent label out of North Carolina dedicated to the preservation of American vernacular and regional music, and if listening to these tracks isn't exactly like standing out under those kerosene lights, it's the next best thing. Among the gems on Good for What Ails You are the version of "I'll Be Glad When You're Dead, You Rascal, You" by Daddy Stovepipe (Johnny Watson) and Mississippi Sarah (Sarah Watson) called "The Spasm" that opens the set; the bizarre "Beans" by Beans Hambone (James Albert) and El Morrow, a record so odd it is remarkable that it was ever considered for commercial release (a rambling, half-improvised monologue on beans, it rides over a maddening single-string guitar riff that seems always on the edge of breaking down completely); the delightful "Railroadin' Some" by Henry Thomas, which recalls a train trip across Texas and north to Chicago in an impressive litany of towns and train stops, and Jim Jackson's 1928 recording of "I Heard the Voice of a Porkchop," a surreal parody of the Scottish hymn "I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say." Mixed in are an engaging assortment of blues, rags, re-formatted minstrel tunes, jug and string band pieces that continually surprise and delight. Old Hat is to be commended for the obvious care in which this collection is assembled, and fans of Harry Smith's Anthology of American Folk Music may well find that this one is even wilder. --- Steve Leggett, Rovi

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