

"IT SEEMS FAST TO US"

# Roadoilers

OLD-TIME STRING BAND



## Forward

They never smoked. They always listened to their moms. One day they met and decided the only way out was to play music. Thus the Roadoilers was born, though hardly anyone noticed until now. All of this complex history leads to the boys' debut album (they didn't know you don't pronounce the "t" in debut - part of their charm). On this rousing CD you'll hear The Roadoilers' slick versions of tunes with the coughs, wheezes, moans and cusswords removed by technological means. It's still raw stuff, and we hope you enjoy their refined performances. Later on they'll be putting out an additional CD of crude out-takes, but for now...

- Peter Stack

## Acknowledgements

THE BAND SENDS ITS HEARTFELT THANKS TO NANCY DUNN FOR PROVIDING US WITH A PLAY SPACE, AND TO RAY EDLUND FOR SEVERAL DECADES OF SUPPORT FOR OLD-TIME AND BLUEGRASS MUSIC. JOHN WOULD LIKE TO THANK, JUDY K, KEELEY, AND QUINN FOR URGING US FORWARD, HIS FOLKS FOR NOT HAVING HIM COMMITTED AT A YOUNG AGE, HIS GRANDFATHER, JOHN LOUNSBURY, FOR INSPIRING HIM TO BECOME A FIDDLER AND BANJO PLAYER, AND DAVE GORDON FOR MAKING HIM STOP PLAYING BLUEGRASS. MIKE, PERRY AND CHUCK THANK THEIR RESPECTIVE PARTNERS AND SPOUSES, BILL, LONE AND JENNIFER.

### 1. **Spring Creek/Bucks in the Brush**

A pair of northern Missouri tunes. Spring Creek comes from Clyde Martin of Martinstown. Mike learned Bucks in the Brush from Pearl Sivetts of Unionville, Missouri. Pearl was Mike's main fiddling influence.

### 2. **New Money**

John learned this tune from a random sheaf of tunes that got passed hand to hand around West Marin until somebody bothered to open the envelope and try some of them out. A Kentucky tune, apparently.

### 3. **Walkin' in the Parlor**

While standing in the dinner line at the Mariposa Folk Festival, John learned this from Suzanne Edmundson of the Hotmud family.

### 4. **Ain't Gonna Work Tomorrow**

Chuck learned this tune while playing in the Vern Williams Band, and learned most of the words from the Carter Family.

### 5. **Sally in the Garden/Ship in the Clouds**

John learned Sally in the Garden from a book of tunes transcribed by John Burke. Typically, not reading all of the introduction, he wound up playing it in a totally different key than everyone else. Ship in the Clouds came to us through Sandy Stark and Bob Naess, who John played with in the Swamp Root String Band.

### 6. **Arizona Stomp**

From a 30's recording of the East Texas Serenaders.

### 7. **The Mendota Rag**

This is another Pearl Sivetts tune, named after the now-defunct coal mining town of Mendota, just east of Unionville, Missouri. The tune is not a full blown classic rag, but it's raggy enough to fit the name.



**8. Sandy Boys**

John learned this tune from fiddler Lynn Buckner, who had the patience to continually start it when John couldn't remember it.

**9. John Johanna**

Chuck first heard this one in 1962 from the singing of Kelly Harrell on a Library of Congress recording by Harry Smith.

**10. Texas Gals/Tennessee Wagoner**

Mike first heard Texas Gals on a Doc and Merle Watson recording, but thanks to John and Perry, it's on our "hot tunes in C" list. Tennessee Wagoner is a pretty common tune which Mike learned from Pearl.

**11. Star of the County Down**

John learned this tune from the playing of fiddler Tom McCreesh. The tune made quite an impression, so John brought it West with him. This is the waltz version of the song, which is a version of a jig.

**12. Jonah and the Whale**

Perry learned this song from Paul Hostetter of Bonny Doon, in the Santa Cruz mountains of California.

**13. Billy Martin**

This is the "G" version of a tune Pearl played in both A major and G modal. The version played here is similar to "Granny Will Your Dog Bite," played by Bob Walters in R.P. Christeson's "Old Time Fiddler's Repertory."

**14. Good Old Summertime**

John learned this tune from the humming, singing and whistling of his relatives, but learned the words from an Uncle Dave Macon record.



15. **Pig Ankle Rag**

A pretty common rag that John learned from the Highwoods Stringband at the time he was playing with the Swamp Root Band in central New York State.

16. **Saro Jane**

Another Uncle Dave Macon song that John and Mike played in the Arkansas Sheiks band. Our arrangement and vocal harmony comes from the Sheiks and Karana Hattersley-Drayton.

17. **Joke on the Puppy**

A tune recorded by Gid Tanner. Also called "Ryestraw." Perry's chord arrangement is different than Riley Puckett's.

18. **Jessie Polka**

Written in 1916 by Quirino F. Mendoza y Cortés, this tune was originally titled "Jesusita en Chihuahua." Mike learned this tune from Tom Marion, and John and Mike have been playing this as a fiddle duet for about 30 years, since the Arkansas Sheiks days. Some things never change.

All tunes traditional except number 18: Peer Music International.



**Recorded January 24 & 25, 2003** at Mars Hall, Marshall, California

**Recording Engineer** • Kent Matke    **Mixologist** • John Pedersen

**Mastering** • Neal Harris    **Artwork** • Corrine Haverinen

**Photographs** • Lone Fly and Judy Kaufman

© 2006 The Roadoliers



**Chuck Wiley**  
Bass & Vocals

**Mike Drayton**  
Fiddle & Vocals

**John Pederson**  
Banjo, Fiddle,  
Banjo-uke, & Vocals

**Perry Fly**  
Guitar & Vocals



1. Spring Creek/Bucks in the Brush
2. New Money
3. Walkin' in the Parlor
4. I Ain't Gonna Work Tomorrow
5. Sally in the Garden/Ship in the Clouds
6. Arizona Stomp
7. Mendota Rag
8. Sandy Boys
9. John Johanna
10. Texas Gals/Tennessee Wagoner
11. Star of the County Down
12. Jonah and the Whale
13. Billy Martin
14. Good Old Summertime
15. Pig Ankle Rag
16. Saro Jane
17. Joke on the Puppy
18. Jessie Polka

