

their cover of "Hot Hamburger" rocks nicely in a Hillbilly beat with steel guitar licks. Check out "Edge Of The World" if you like it wild, most of the other 12 tracks are settled in a somewhat more relaxed atmosphere. No matter if the songs are mid-tempo or fast, they make you tap your feet for sure. Rollin' & Tumblin', Box 7488, Box 7488, Louisville, KY 40257. -GM

Poor Little Fools / Play The Fools
Hit House 98001

They call their music "Rockin' Rollin Honky Tonkin' Swing-A-Billy". Sounds like even more diversity to you?! Well produced with a smooth studio sound this CD might not appeal to "authentic Rockabilly" freaks but "Play The Fools" has definitely more appeal to the masses of roots and 50's music lovers. Powerful music, well arranged, all 13 songs originals by the Poor Little Fools with catchy melodies. The trio (guitar, drums, slap bass) gets help on trombone and saxophone on some tracks while "Three Lefts Do" features a harmonica. Great song! "No Noel" is a fine slow song with nice piano while "Donna Goes To Tijuana" is an interesting instrumental combining Surf and Latin influences. "Love's Last Stand" swings nicely - nice dance groove! They follow that with a hard rockin' "Dean Martin (Gets Chicks)" and "Lonesome Cadillac" goes off in the same direction. Need a short summary? Great stuff, Rockabilly from swingin' to laid back to hot rockin' - and all the lyrics are printed in the booklet, too. Hit House Records, Box 660171, Atlanta, GA 30366. -GM

Hillbilly Idol / Town & Country

This CD starts with a real gem, "It All Depends On You", sorta Bakersfield Country like the Derailers play nowadays. There are a couple of songs that tend in this direction but these five guys usually put more 90's Honky Tonk flavor to most of their songs (still very "rootsy", though). Saying that (and having the CD spinning) they surprise with Bluegrassish material which they handle very well, too. "There Is Nothin' In The World I Wouldn't Do For You" is a catchy Cajun ditty that features some nice accordion and fiddlin'. If you're more into Western Swing, give "Blue From Now On" and "When It Rains I Get Wet" a spin, both enjoyable tracks with nice steel guitar work - and both favorites of mine here with the latter song being one of the many examples of the fine songwriting talents of Hillbilly Idol. They even packaged their CD in a sorta retro

hardcover box and printed the lyrics to their original songs, too. Harmony House, 10191 Kirtland Rd., Chardon, OH 44024. -GM.

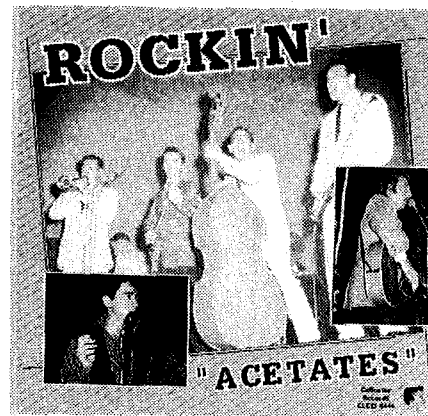
Blue Flame Combo / Blue Flame Rock
Planet X Records 061368

15 songs here on this CD, 47 minutes full of Rockabilly. Their style kinda reminds me of the British outfit Blue Cats who were popular in the early 80's scene. This is classic three-piece Rockabilly with guitar, snare drum and slap bass. "Kool Kats" stars it off with a strong Gene Vincent influence, fine song! The instrumental "Rockabilly Workout" is another of those Gene Vincent sound-a-likes while "Blue Flame Rock" swings nicely and "I Love My Baby" (one of the three cover versions) lets some Sun Records roots shine through. They all handle their instruments very well and write songs about "Hillbilly Bop", "Pick Up A Chick" and "Liquor Store Blues" (about everything a die-hard Rockabilly fan seems to care about, right?) but halfway through the CD you begin to wish they would have used some guest musicians on some of the tracks. It would have added a greater variety (harp, piano, maybe even saxophone?). Damian, Chuck and Steve hail from Orlando and I'm sure they have a strong following with their solid trio sound. Nice cover art - greasers hangin' out in front of a theater where "Blue Flame Rock" is showing. Planet X Records, Box 764, Winter Park, FL 32740. -GM

Di Maggio Bros. / Rockabilly From The Boots Up / RABHOF CD102

Wow, what a strong debut. This trio learned a lot from High Noon, simply listen to the distinctive triple slap Sasso Battaglia provides - just like Kevin Smith. That's not all, the guitar work is at least as exciting. The Di Maggio brothers Massimo and Marco have fine voices, sometimes resembling Elvis a little bit (especially on the Elvis covers) and it's hard to spot an accent at all. Half of the 16 songs are originals by these three Italian cats and they do an excellent job on them. Really surprising are their cover choices, they range from Bill Monroe's "Little Cabin On The Hill" to Sting's "Every Breath You Take" and Mark Knopfler's Dire Straits song "Walk Of Life". Their versions turn out fine just as these songs were designed to be Rockabilly in the first place. The trio does them with such amazing ease. "King Creole" is a terrific track, too. So here we get Rockabilly in

classic trio from (without drums) with catchy melodies and an appealing Hillbilly edge - for two songs they use a guest fiddler. This release puts them in the same league as the best U.S. bands of that genre and it's no wonder the Rockabilly Hall Of Fame picked the Di Maggio Brothers for the second release on their label - see their ad. -GM



Rockin' Acetates / Collector CLCD 4446

Collector Records is a label from the Netherlands whose owner Cees Klop has been active in the 50's reissue field for 30 years! He's specialised in diggin' up unknown rockers from that era and makes lots of them available for the first time ever! That's in particular true with this CD. 30 out of 31 songs came from acetates and never made it to a single - half of them were taken from earlier Collector/White Label album releases. So these tracks are ultra rare but unfortunately pretty scratchy, too. If that doesn't scare you, you'll get to hear a variety of 50's styles within the Rock & Roll field, among them late 50's / early 60's rockin' instrumentals, Rockabilly and covers of hits such as "Move On Down The Line", "Linda Lou", "Folsom Prison Blues" and "The Girl Can't Help It". Music of the 50's is male dominated but here we find some nice girl rockers, too. Sue Walloch does a good job on Gene Vincent's "Be Bop A Lula" and "Stupid Cupid" while Loretta French, Jenny Aquirre and Melanie & The Lyricks rock, too. Among the most exciting songs is a version of Johnny Carroll's "You Two Timed Me One Time Too Often" and further highlights include the Bobby Hicks songs. It's cool to hear Jimmy & Johnny's "Nobody Knows Where You Go" that sounds a lot like their great rockin' duet "Can't Find The Doorknob". The CD cover shows Texas cats Johnny Carroll and Mac Curtis along with Arkansas wild man Sonny Burgess who all have songs on this release. Collector Records, Box 1200, Oud Beyerland, 3260AE, Holland. (Send \$1 for a complete catalog) -GM