

PURE COUNTRY

THE LEON KAGARISE ARCHIVES

1961-1971

CONTRIBUTORS

PHOTOGRAPHER

LEON KAGARISE, a hi-fi systems installer by trade, attended his first outdoor country music concert in 1958 at the age of 18. He soon returned with a suitcase-sized reel-to-reel tape recorder and a 35mm camera. During the next ten years, Kagarise rarely missed a show in the Washington-Baltimore area and recorded and documented dozens of nationally known country and bluegrass performers of the time, many in their prime. Over the years he amassed an archive of nearly 4,000 hours of pristine-sounding reel to reel recordings of live performances and radio and television shows, and over 600 color candid slides of musicians and their fans in outdoor music parks.

Upon the discovery of his collection, Kagarise's archived of music and photographs was lauded by historians and the Library of Congress as being one of the most important discoveries in the history of American music.

Leon Kagarise died in Baltimore, MD, in January 26, 2008. He has two surviving children.

INTRODUCTION AND TEXT

EDDIE DEAN is co-author of *Man of Constant Sorrow*, a memoir by old-time music legend Ralph Stanley, forthcoming from Gotham Books. His work has appeared in *Men's Journal*, the *Wall Street Journal*, *Harper's*, and the *Journal of Country Music*, among other publications. He was a contributor to *The Encyclopedia of Country Music* (Oxford University Press, 1998) and Da Capo's *Best Music Writing 2000*. Dean lives in Rockville, Maryland with his Maria Allende, and their children, Sophie and Pablo.

FOREWORD

ROBERT GORDON and TARA McADAMS have collaborated on many books and films, and on two children. McAdams is author of *The Elvis Handbook*. Gordon's books include *It Came From Memphis* and *Can't Be Satisfied: The Life and Times of Muddy Waters*. His films include *Respect Yourself: The Stax Records Story*, *William Eggleston's Stranded In Canton*, and *Shakespeare Was A Big George Jones Fan: Cowboy Jack Clement's Home Movies*. Their articles have appeared in publications ranging from the *New York Times* to *Playboy* and *Rolling Stone*. They live in Memphis with their children Lila and Esther.

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