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## Bluegrass Ambassadors: the McLain Family Band in Appalachia and the World

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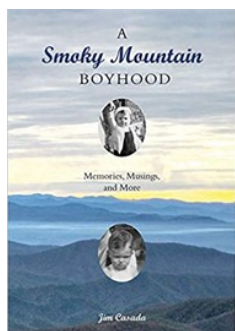
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## REVIEWS

### ***A Smoky Mountain Boyhood: Memories, Musings, and More***



Jim Casada  
Knoxville: The University of  
Tennessee Press, 2020  
ISBN: 9781621906094  
309 p. \$29.95 (Pbk)

Jim Casada was, until his retirement in 1996, a professor of history at Winthrop University. He is the author of seventeen

books on history, the great outdoors, hunting, and fishing, including the award-winning, *Fly Fishing in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park: An Insider's Guide to a Pursuit of Passion*.

This personal collection of stories by Jim Casada is delightful reading and thought provoking for any of us who might have lived near or in the mountains of North and South Carolina, Tennessee, and Virginia. Also for any who were born and spent growing up years immersed in the culture of the Smoky Mountains. Jim Casada's stories help us to reflect upon our own memories.

Chapters such as High Country Holiday Tales and Traditions, Seasons of the Smokies, Tools, Toys and Boyhood Treasures, and Precious Memories are delightful reading.

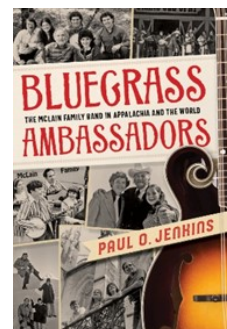
Jim Casada says his hope in crafting this writing is to help those who want to keep the "high county traditions alive." Change is inevitable in any area of our world but some like Jim Casada want to preserve memories and encourage holding fast on those qualities of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness he found in his years in the smoky mountains.

Highly recommended for public libraries and for school libraries. A glossary and index are located in pages 297-309.

Carol Walker Jordan, Ph.D., MLIS.

### ***Bluegrass Ambassadors: The McLain Family Band in Appalachia and the World***

Paul O. Jenkins  
Morgantown: West Virginia  
University Press, 2020  
ISBN: 9781949199680  
288 p. \$26.00 (Pbk)



My attraction to this biography is my mountain heritage. I was born in Kings Mountain, North Carolina, and enjoyed my family's love of "country music and country musicians," and was eager to read and review Paul O. Jenkins' *Bluegrass Ambassadors: The McLain Family Band in Appalachia and the World*.

Paul O. Jenkins' biography is of a family of musicians who succeeded in taking bluegrass music out of the Appalachian Mountains and presenting it abroad. Through accounts of the lives of the parents, children, colleagues and friends, the beautifully written stories of family life, professional lives, and world travel keep a reader enthralled with all pieces of this slice of the American country music world. Each page challenges the reader to want to stop and search for live performances, recorded voices, or music performances.

A great addition to this work are the sections of research: Interpretations, Solo Recordings, Chronology, Discography, Notes, Bibliography, and Index. As a reader, the text of this biography is fascinating and is complimented by the Research sections' awesome accurate and extensive listings.

Highly recommended for music libraries, academic libraries, historical and archival libraries. Excellent group of Illustrations, pages 83-94.

Carol Walker Jordan, Ph.D., MLIS