Roland White

This month we’re listening to mandolin player Roland White who sadly left this world in late March this year at the age of 83. I only got to meet him once or twice, but he was always the kind, humble Roland, welcoming new friends. He may be best known for being one of the White Brothers, along with his late brothers Clarence (amazing bluegrass guitarist, and one-time member of the Byrds), and Eric (who played bass in the family band). Roland, along with Clarence, was part of the legendary SoCal band, The Kentucky Colonels in the 1960s (originally called the Country Boys). He played guitar with Bill Monroe’s band, and mandolin with Lester Flatt. Later he played for many years with banjo star Alan Munde in Country Gazette, then before forming his own band with his wife Diane Bouska, Roland was a member of the Nashville Bluegrass Band. Truly a stellar musician. Here are some essential tunes you can hear on youtube that span his career.

Alabama Jubilee – Clarence and Roland White recorded in an apartment in Berkeley in 1964
https://youtu.be/LXSTC6SGh9s

That’s What You Get For Loving Me – Kentucky Colonels, at the Ash Grove, LA in 1965
https://youtu.be/dDKOEXXtRz4

I’m Just a Used to Be – Roland “ChiChi” White with Lester Flatt and the Nashville Grass 1973
https://youtu.be/lksvBslbcsw

I Wasn’t Born to Rock and Roll (entire album, 1976) – with Alan Munde and Kenny Wertz
https://youtu.be/zfq7c_Moc4M

Live and Let Live – Roland on guitar with Bill Monroe and the Bluegrass Boys in the 1980s
https://youtu.be/DJASn33EpFE

Midnight – Roland White solo album Trying to Get to You 1994
https://youtu.be/-OjTA8lkiw8

Soldier’s Joy – Roland White and Dianne Bouska, celebrating Bill Monroe’s birthday in 2009
https://youtu.be/n_b7FSjnzNY

She’s Gone, Gone, Gone – Live at McCabe’s in LA in 2013
with Diane Bouska - Guitar, Herb Pedersen - Banjo, Bill Bryson - Bass ,Blaine Sprouse - Fiddle
https://youtu.be/HOTesvtymIA

Christmas Time’s a Coming - with the Nashville Bluegrass Band 2015
https://youtu.be/z4DTtrI9qGhk

And finally, a sweet home movie of Roland, Eric, and Clarence White, The Country Boys, at ages 20,18, and 14 in Griffith Park, LA in 1958. (no live audio, just a later recording added).
https://youtu.be/6x44lArNXRF0

RIP, Roland.