

GEORGIA'S GOSPEL STARS, THE MORRIS BROTHERS TO RETIRE FROM THE ROAD



PRESS RELEASE - Prepared by Bob Phillips, Public Relations Director National Traditional Country Music Association, Inc.

Marietta, Georgia....."One of the most exciting and truly Christian Gospel acts in Southern style Gospel, is retiring from long-distance travel," says Bob Everhart, President of the National Traditional Country Music Association. "We have had the extreme pleasure of working with the Morris Brothers from Marietta, Georgia, in the past, and certainly welcome them to the 35th National Old Time Country, Bluegrass, and Gospel Music Festival in LeMars, Iowa this year. Herb and Homer Morris, have been performing old-time Gospel music in the old-time country and bluegrass way for more years than they care to remember, however they are making one last long-distance run for the Lord Jesus, to the tall corn state of Iowa."

According to Sheila Everhart, President of Prairie Music Records, and booking agent for the festival, "We are so pleased that both Herb

and Homer Morris are going to come so far to be with us. Both of these gentlemen are in their 80's, and the travel part of show business can be difficult sometimes, to say the least, so being the last big long-distance run for them, is quite an honor for us."

The Morris Brothers recently recorded a new CD, entitled "Heart to Heart." One of the songs on this particular CD is called "Cry, Cry for America." According to the Morris Brothers, "God has been so very good to America; however, we are heading down the wrong road. In time of need we have in the past turned to God for help. He stands ready to help us again if we will only listen to His call."

"This particular song," according to the Everharts, "immediately captured our attention. We passed the entire CD along to the Rural Roots Music Commission, and they have unanimously agreed to award their "Bluegrass Gospel CD of the Year" to the Morris Brothers this year."

The Morris Brothers are country boys, growing up on a farm in North Georgia. Their father, Frank Morris, was a Baptist preacher. In 1927 he formed a gospel singing group called the Morris Family. They had a weekly radio show on WTFL in Toccoa, Georgia, and later on WSB, a 50,000 watt giant, in Atlanta. The Morris Brothers eventually grew up with their family music makers, and recorded for Vocalion Records in Atlanta. Homer plays mandolin and Herb the acoustic guitar. These brothers are the last of the brother duets still active, having recorded over 20 albums of gospel music. They are retiring from long-distance road travel, and are doing their last

show at the 35th Old Time Music Festival in LeMars, Iowa, Aug. 30-Sept 5.

"The Morris Brothers are in good company in LeMars this year," Bob Everhart added, "Patti Page, the largest selling female recording artist in history will be with us at the same time the Morris Brothers are. Ms. Page just recently released a more countrified version of her 'Tennessee Waltz' as well as her biography. She joins the Morris Brothers and Bill Anderson from the Grand Ole Opry at our annual get together, to be inducted into America's Old Time Country Music Hall of Fame. Also on the bill is Terry Smith who wrote "The Far Side Banks of Jordan" for Johnny and June Carter Cash. So also, is Cindy Cash (3rd daughter of Johnny Cash from his first marriage), going to be with us for a show she is hosting called "A Tribute to My Dad." Jim Reeves goes into America's Old Time Country Music Hall of Fame this year, with cousin Dale Howard representing him. It all keeps us pretty busy what with 650 performing artists on ten sound stages going for seven days."

"Even though the Morris Brothers are retiring from the road, we certainly hope this is not the last recordings we will hear from them. These guys are living legends, and have done the work of the Lord Jesus throughout their lives. So even though they are giving up long-distance travel, the road to the recording studio is not so long, maybe we can expect some great recordings from them still."

More information about the NTCMA is available at their website www.orgsites.com/ia/oldtimemusic