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Bluegrass band is based in “south of the river” suburbs
Long Time Gone releases debut CD: “Leavin’ Home”

Apple Valley, MN (December 30, 2005) — You could almost say it happened by accident. After several years of casually hanging out in a suburban living room, four bluegrass musicians whose main reason for playing together was basically geographic have emerged into the light of day with an outstanding new CD to their credit.



Long Time Gone — Ben Manning (guitar), Jeff Kinnell (fiddle), Leo Rosenstein (mandolin) and Katryn Conlin (string bass) — recorded **Leavin’ Home** with engineer Benji Flaming last fall. The group celebrates the release of the new CD in its natural habitat — Dunn Bros. Coffee, 153rd and Galaxie, Apple Valley on Friday, January 13, 2006 from 7–9:30 pm. No cover charge and all are welcome.

Long Time Gone started up around the year 2000 as a “south of the river” jam session at Ben and Katryn’s Apple Valley home. Mandolin virtuoso Leo Rosenstein, a resident of Burnsville, was a natural recruit for the jam. Eagan resident Jeff Kinnell started showing up with his fiddle, mandolin and open-back banjo.

Nowadays Long Time Gone is distinguished by its relaxed attitude and lack of tension among the players. “We don’t aspire to do this for any reason other than the joy of making good music,” says Ben Manning, adding, “The finished album contains some of our favorites done just the way you’d hear them in a live performance. No frills, no fancy effects, no overdubs — just our band playing the tunes we love.”

Leavin’ Home features Golden Era classics from the likes of Bill Monroe, The Stanley Brothers and Flatt & Scruggs alongside driving fiddle tunes and old-time gems. Dark tales of love and loss like “Wild Bill Jones” and Ola Belle Reed’s “Undone in Sorrow” contrast with the fun and foolishness of “Drop in the Bucket” and “Old Plank Road.” Together, the fourteen songs make a solid bluegrass album with a strong old-time flavor.

Leavin’ Home is available for sale at Homestead Pickin Parlor in Richfield, MN, and through the band’s website, www.longtimegoneband.com. High-resolution photos can be downloaded from the bands’ website or contact Katryn Conlin, katryn@charter.net, for additional press assistance.

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