

Old Man Luedecke

Mole in the Ground"

Independent

Old Man Luedecke's solo debut album is a real fine record. Clawhammer banjo accompanies Chris Leudecke's soft tenor singing on a collection of his original tunes that follow close in a line behind the Carter Family, Bob Dylan, and that rambler, Jack Elliott. Clearly a strong son of the old

folk tradition, his pre-truck banjo picking style is tasteful and gracious, reminiscent more of Ola Belle Reed than Scruggs or Reno, though he lets loose for a fairly rip-snorting version of *Mole in the Ground*. Chris' lyrics run from lucid and rhythmic to wryly humorous: yodel phrases become love songs in "Yodelady—yodelady of my dreams—and you make my blood run clean," consumer culture is slyly criticized in *The First Day of Fall* and *The Cable Blues* ("see me fishing at the break of day...they took my cable away—everyone's so damn concerned that my bills is paid"). *One Time in Rome* and *Sugarman* both carry a kind of romance and pleasure that is both teasing and touching. Chris's voice is lovely, his songwriting skill exceptional, and his banjo playing just right for this old-timey, conversational album

—By Annie Clifford