



Spring Edition

Northern Kentucky Bluegrass Music Association

May 2010

Keeping Bluegrass Music Alive In The Northern Kentucky Area

NKBMA Launches New Web Site!

www.nkbma.com

At the beginning of April the Northern Kentucky Bluegrass Music Association made a major change to our association web site. Since the creation of the NKBMA in 2005, communication of Bluegrass music in the tri-state area has always been a major focus of our association. This newsletter, radio blast for concert events, having a presence at local events, jam sessions are all ways we get the word out about what is happening in Bluegrass music in our area and abroad.

As we all know, the world wide web has become one of the major forms of communication in our world today. With the advancements in technology, we as a society can now see what is happening at a moments notice on the other side of the world, watch TV, listen to the radio, buy just about anything you can think of from music to a car all in the comfort of your easy chair at home.

The NKBMA has always known the importance of this form of communication and has made investments and improvements as we mature as an association.

This latest change to our website has been major and required a lot of work from our website team made up of Pam Messer, Ron Simmons and Steve McCain. Making a change to Go Daddy web hosting service was presented to the NKBMA board and approved early this year. Pam Messer has spent countless hours preparing the look of the web site you will see today. While giving the NKBMA a much more professional look, it will also make it easier for you to stay up to date on local bluegrass news, events, bands and even your bluegrass friends.

The new site will offer a much more user friendly calendar page, NKBMA On The Move page showing festivals that our members have visited, school involvement, bluegrass classifieds, a blog page giving instant insight on bluegrass events as they happen.

This web site is made up of information about people and music in our area. To be successful, we need your continued support and information.. If you have bluegrass news or pictures feel free to drop us a line. For pictures - smccain@nkbma.com or news at pmesser@nkbma.com



Bluegrass Memories

By George McCain

I remember as a young boy, about five, the row house my family occupied on Banklick Street in Covington. I cannot recall anything about the interior of the home, but I vividly recall the front of the house. It was a narrow, two story red brick with the door opening directly onto the sidewalk. The window and door sills were of limestone slabs.

If you looked to the left, north on Banklick Street, you observed that the same architecture was obvious for several city blocks. The same was true to the south. However, across the street on the west side, the homes were of wood, and most were small cottages with porches on the front. The sidewalk and street in front of these homes was the playground for the neighborhood children. Those of you like me, who were born during the years of the Great Depression, probably remember a similar description of where you lived, particularly if it was in Covington. The summer evenings, after the families had eaten dinner (supper), social hour would take place out in front of all the homes. The parents would try to socialize and at the same time, keep watch on the little ones, lest they get run over by passing cars. This scenario occurred every evening through the summer months, with the exception of Friday and Saturday nights. They were different. It was on Friday and Saturday that my sister and I would anxiously await for our Father's band of bluegrass and country musicians to arrive.

Along about six o'clock, men with their instruments would begin arriving. Some would leave their instrument cases in their cars, while others would just lean them up against the house. Dad would always come out to greet them and talk about their musical experiences for the past week. It took about half an hour for everyone to show, so along about 6:30, a feeble effort would be made to play a few familiar songs. For the next hour, their efforts were half hearted, frequently tuning their instruments and asking what song was next. During this period, people from blocks away would start gathering in the street. Greeting and talking with the musicians would take place at that time.

When dusk would finally arrive, Dad would stand up from his sitting position on the front step and would put his tuning harp in his mouth and strike, a C or an A note. After last minute tuning, he would tap his foot, count 1 2 3 and away they would go. By this time, the crowd had closed off the street to auto traffic. Most would stand or sit on a blanket in the street. If my memory serves me, they would start off with the song "Aunt Dinah's Quilting Party", followed by "The Waltz You Saved For Me", "Kentucky Waltz" and "I'll Fly Away. I still have a list of gospel songs, written on the back of Dad's checkbook, and the key to be played. They are the following: Amazing Grace, Revive Me Again, There Is A Fountain, Sweet Hour Of Prayer, What A Friend We Have In Jesus, Is Your All On The Alter, How Great Thou Art, When We All Get To Heaven, Heaven Came Down And Glory Filled My Soul, Must Jesus Bear the Cross Alone, Since Jesus Came Into My Heart, Where He Leads Me I will Follow, Near The Cross and The Old Rugged Cross.

I can remember the faces of the band members, but can only remember the name of the banjo player, who was my Uncle Joe. Dad was one of those guys who could play most all Bluegrass instruments, but usually played the lead guitar. He also played the harmonica, mandolin, fiddle and base.

From that point until around eleven-p.m. bluegrass ruled. The neighbors would sing along, dance, run back and forth to their homes for snacks and lemonade. Finally the crowd would all go home with the exception of a few diehards. They and the remaining band would take on a very subdued manner and play and sing way past my bedtime.

About the time I turned eight years old, my family moved to 706 Philadelphia Street, still in Covington. The only thing that changed was we had a much bigger house and yard. It also had a big porch on the front. This provided a makeshift stage for the band. Friday and Saturday nights were still the most important nights of the week when the band and the neighbors would gather for an evening of socializing, snacks and bluegrass music. Many of the residents of Banklick Street would walk to Philadelphia Street to take part in the fun.

All About Doyle



Doyle Lawson and Quicksilver playing the April Concert at the Ole Star Theatre



Doyle And Bill Bellan



Doyle and Dessie Turner



Doyle getting a NKBMA shirt from Steve McCain



Doyle and Judy Pickett

What is it about a star that puts a smile on everyone's face? They are people just like the rest of us. They get up every morning and get dressed just like we all do, have aches and pains just the same I'm sure. I think we all know the answer. People like Doyle Lawson and his band have reached a level of perfection in their art form that most of us will never come close to but we absolutely love to listen to. I have had the pleasure of meeting big name performers like Doyle, Dale Ann Bradley and Rhonda Vincent and to tell you the truth, they are really no different. Just people that are lucky enough to be doing what they love and getting paid for it. While I don't have that same smile when I'm at work, I do feel lucky to meet and listen to the performers I love. Gary Strong and his group at the Ole Star Theatre have been bringing in more and more big names in Bluegrass music as well as the best in local talent. If you want to have that smile you see in these pictures, come out and visit the Ole Star Theatre on Saturday evening. Shows are normally posted on our NKBMA web site at www.nkbma.com

Steve McCain

Bluegrass Memories

Continued from pg. 2

On many Saturday nights, the neighborhood would be disappointed, due to the band being hired out for an event. Quite often, they were hired to play at the Old Family Theater on Seventh & Washington Streets, during the intermissions between movies. For these events the musicians were paid with groceries. I remember when Dad would get home, he would set the groceries on the kitchen table and I would jump up on a chair and look in the brown bags for a package of dried dates that was always there. That was as close to candy that a kid would get in those hard times.

Although my son Steve, never had the opportunity as a child, to hear much bluegrass music, he did hear the many stories recalled by his father and grandfather. He was able to play with many of his grandfather's instruments, especially the ones that I had not destroyed as a kid. Two of his remaining instruments were his guitar and a striped "tater bug" mandolin. By this brief exposure to bluegrass as a child, Steve developed his love for this music. At the age of fourteen, while he was very much involved with his high school band as a trumpet player, he asked for his first banjo. By the way, how many of you know our members Arville and Evelene Epperson? Arville is my cousin and probably remembers more about Dad and the band than I do.

Our children today will never know what a joy it was to be part of this time in American history. By today's standards, we would be considered poor but in our minds we were on top of the world. Bluegrass music was part of our character. Today's bluegrass is a historical recording of how our nation and our American people evolved into a great nation. We produced children that grew up with the Nation, Family, Bible, music and work as the driving forces in their lives. For many of us senior citizens, whenever we hear the sound of bluegrass, the memories come rolling back, which is indeed a pleasure. I commend both the musicians and the listeners for keeping bluegrass music alive and growing. It is organizations like the NKBMA and Willis Music Company that are out front in this effort. I personally appreciate them and their dedication to Bluegrass music. I wish them all continued success.

NKBMA Member
George McCain



The Glenn Ritchie Band

Performing at
Willis Music
In
Florence Kentucky

May 22nd
6:00 pm to 10:00pm

Admission: \$10.00 per person
NKBMA members: \$8.00 per person

For more information call



7567 Mall Road
Florence, KY 41042
(859)525-6050
Manager: Rick Fuchs

Or visit:

www.nkbma.com



WHO AM I ?

A Member Profile

By Steve McCain

Time for you as a NKBMA member to get your thinking caps on and show how much we know about each other or in a fun way, learn a little more about our friends in the NKBMA. Read the following paragraphs and see if you can guess who the mystery NKBMA guest is.

I was born on my dad's birthday in 1969 at St Elizabeth Hospital in Covington, Kentucky.

I have three sisters – Brenda, Susan and Sheri. It's rare that I go somewhere in Boone County that I don't meet someone I'm related to.

I've had several pet raccoons, grew up on a small farm where we had goats and horses, and rarely go anywhere without my dog, Chloe.

My first job was building swimming pools at the age of 14.

I am a veteran of the United States Navy and a Kentucky Colonel.

I was the only engineering student enrolled in the agricultural department at the University of Kentucky – ever.

James Meredith inspired me to my current career as a professional land surveyor.

My favorite place in the world is in Rockcastle County.

I can play Popeye the Sailor on the harmonica, and Anchors Aweigh on the banjo.

I won the 2002 IBMA Martin guitar raffle, and played with Leroy Mack at IBMA in 2009. IBMA is great!!

I play a dobro that I made out of a locust fencepost, and an Beard art model resonator guitar.

I have the best girlfriend ever – and she didn't make me say that.

Now that you know a little more about me. **Who Am I ??** If you don't know, the answer is on page 8.

JUST FOR FUN!



THREE ROOMS AND A PATH

In Nashville, every family boasts of five rooms and a bath;
But in my youth, I never had but three rooms and a path.

They built the out-house on the banks of Tumblin' Creek, and then,
Each time I passed, I had an urge to push the out-house in.

For weeks I fought this powerful urge, and one day I was weak.
I slipped out to the our-house, and I pushed it in the creek.

That night, my Dad called me aside, and all he had to say,
Was: "Do you know who pushed the out-house into the creek today?"

I told my Dad that it was I, he didn't even chide.
But then and there, with leather belt, he prepared to tan my hide.

"But Daddy, when George Washington cut down the cherry tree,
He told the truth, and so his pa, let little George go free."

"But, let me ask you something, son," my Dad said with a frown;
"Was his pa in that cherry tree, when George cut it down?"





Seasonal Recipes

Cauliflower - Walnut Casserole

- 1 medium head of cauliflower (about 2 pounds) broken into florets
- 1 cup regular or low fat sour cream
- 1 cup shredded regular or low fat cheddar cheese
- 1 tablespoon flour
- 2 chicken bouillon cubes, dissolved in small amount of water
- 1 teaspoon dry mustard
- 1/3 cup coarsely chopped walnuts
- 1/4 cup bread crumbs
- 1 tablespoon butter or melted margarine melted
- 1 teaspoon dried marjoram leaves (crumbled)
- 1/2 teaspoon onion salt

Add florets to boiling water, reduce heat and cover. Simmer until tender (about 15 minutes) Do not over cook, drain. Preheat oven to 400 degrees. Mix sour cream, cheese, flour, chicken stock and dry mustard. Place cauliflower in a 10 inch by 6 inch baking dish and spoon cheese mixture over top. Mix chopped nuts, bread crumbs and butter with crushed marjoram and onion salt. Sprinkle over cheese and cauliflower. Bake 15 to 20 minutes or until hot.

www.nkbma.com

Want to keep up on all the NKBMA stuff between newsletters? Log onto www.nkbma.com
Our website includes:

- * NKBMA news
- * Calendar of Bluegrass events in our area
- * Information on local jam sessions
- * Concerts
- * And much more!

A Short Story

Donated by JoAnn Herald

A minister, passing through his church in the middle of the day decided to pause by the altar and see who had come to pray. Just then the back door opened, and a man came down the aisle. The minister frowned as he saw that the man hadn't shaved in a while, his shirt was kind of shabby and his coat was worn and frayed. The man knelt, bowed his head just a moment, then rose and walked away. In the days that followed, each noon time came this chap, each time he knelt for just for a moment, with a lunch pail in his lap.

Well, the minister's suspicions grew, with recent robberies in the area as a main fear he decided to stop the man and ask him. "What are you doing here?" The old man said he worked down the road, and his lunch was half an hour. Lunch time was his prayer time for finding strength and power. "I stay only moments, see, because the factory is so far away. As I kneel here, talking to the Lord, this is kind of what I say. "I JUST CAME AGAIN TO TELL YOU LORD, HOW HAPPY I'VE BEEN SINCE WE FOUND EACH OTHER'S FRIENDSHIP AND YOU TOOK AWAY MY SIN. I DON'T KNOW MUCH OF HOW TO PRAY, BUT I THINK ABOUT YOU EVERY DAY. SO JESUS, THIS IS JIM CHECKING IN TODAY."

The minister, feeling foolish, told Jim, that was fine. He told the man that he was welcome to come and pray just anytime. Time to go, Jim smiled and said, "Thanks", as Jim hurried to the door, the minister knelt at the altar, he'd never done that this time of the day before. As his cold heart melted, warm with love of Jesus the tears flowed, and from his heart, he repeated old Jim's prayer. "I JUST CAME AGAIN TO TELL YOU LORD, HOW HAPPY I'VE BEEN SINCE WE'VE FOUND EACH OTHER'S FRIENDSHIP, AND YOU TOOK AWAY MY SIN. I DON'T KNOW MUCH OF HOW TO PRAY, BUT I THINK ABOUT YOU EVERY DAY SO JESUS, THIS IS ME CHECKING IN TODAY."

Past noon one day, the minister noticed that old Jim hadn't come in to pray. As more days passed without Jim, he began to worry some. At the factory, he asked about Jim and learned that he was ill. The hospital staff was worried, but Jim has given them a thrill. The time that Jim was with them, brought changes to the normally dismal ward. His smiles, a joy contagious, changed people, which was his reward. The head nurse couldn't understand why Jim was so glad when no flowers, calls, or cards came, not a visitor he had. The minister decided to stay by his bedside, he voiced the nurse's concern, Jim, I've seen no family or friends pass by your door, is there anyone I can call?

Looking surprised, old Jim spoke up and with a winsome smile "The nurse is wrong, she couldn't know, He's in here all the time. Every day at noon He's here, a dear friend of mine, you see He sits right down, takes my hand, leans over and says to me " I JUST CAME AGAIN TO TELL YOU, JIM, HOW HAPPY I HAVE BEEN SINCE WE FOUND THIS FRIENDSHIP, AND I TOOK AWAY YOUR SIN. ALWAYS READY TO HEAR YOU PRAY, I THINK ABOUT YOU EACH DAY SO JIM, THIS IS JESUS CHECKING IN TODAY."



Steve Bonafel and One Iota performing at Willis Music in March



Bluegrass Corner

- **May 15th - Olde Star Theatre** - Russell Moore and Illrd Tyme Out. 6 to 10 pm. Admission: \$15.00 Advance - \$18.00 door
Contact 859-824-3200 or 859-992-5775
Children 12 and under are free.
- **May 15th - Appalachian Opry** - Where - Famous Old Time Music Co.
20322 US 33 Wapakoneta, OH 45895 - Famous Old Time Music Co.
20322 US 33 Wapakoneta, OH 45895 - Admission \$10.00
Featuring: Vernon & Kitty McIntyre with the Opry Staff Band, Laura's Comedy Crew and lots more guest artists!!
Bluegrass, old country, comedy and fun!!!
- **May 22nd - Willis Music** - Mall Road in Florence, Ky. Presents the Glenn Richie Band and Higher Vision. Admission \$10.00 - NKBMA Members' Admission \$8.00
visit www.nkbma.com for more information.
- **May 28th- NKBMA Jam Session** at Willis Music in Florence, Ky on Mall Road— Starts 6:30 to 10:00. Bring your instruments and have some fun.
- **May 29th - Olde Star Theatre** - presents the James King Band – 6pm to 10 pm - show starts at 7pm. \$10.00 dollar admission. Contact 859-824-3200 or 859-992-5775
Children 12 and under are free.
- **May 29th - Wheeling Jamboree** - 8:00 PM - 9:00 PM - Bluegrass with Vernon McIntyre's Appalachian Grass.
- **June 4th to 6th - Sally Gap Bluegrass Festival** - Williamsburg, Ky. This is the 3rd Annual festival for Sally Gap. Great after-hours jamming. Sometimes the feature band will stay up all night with you! The food is AWESOME!
- **June 7th - NKBMA monthly board meeting** at Willis Music in Florence, Ky.
- **June 10th - 13th - Festival Of The Bluegrass** at Horse Park in Lexington Ky.
- **June 18th - 19th - Renfro Valley Bluegrass Festival** - Two days of outdoor festival fun. Includes nationally known Bluegrass performers, vendors, food vendors, camping and more. Contact Ticket Office for prices.
- **June 25 - NKBMA jam session** at Willis Music in Florence, Ky. 6:00 to 10:00



Thanks JoAnn

In the past few years that I have been president of the NKBMA I noticed that there are two words that I use more than anything else when working with the NKBMA, that would be “Thanks JoAnn!” Jo Ann Herald, a long time member of the NKBMA stepped up and voted into the position of Secretary on our NKBMA board and has most defiantly been the string that binds us together. Just about every great event the NKBMA has put on, it has been a little bit better because of JoAnn Herald. It may be buying stage decorations, running split the pot, taking cash at the door, keeping track of the NKBMA membership log and last but not least we never go hungry. JoAnn loves to cook and I must say always brings a dish to either a jam session or even our board meetings. I know I have gained a few pounds since Jo Ann has had the Secretary position. Well a few months ago, JoAnn announced that she was going to have to leave the position to take care of some personal business. While I am pleased JoAnn will continue to be a member of the NKBMA and advisor, she will visit us as much as possible, I will most defiantly miss the help she has been to the association. So the next time you see JoAnn at a jam or concert, do like I do and say “Thanks JoAnn!”

Steve McCain
President
NKBMA



7567 Mall Road
Florence, Ky.
41042
859-525-6050

Located across from the Florence Mall and next to H.H.Gregg on Mall Road, our Florence Superstore has it all. Store manager Rick Fuchs brings years of service and experience to meet your every need. Our Florence location also features a 24 track digital recording studio and performance center in addition to the Kate Young Music Makers studios and lesson center.



June 10th - 13th, 2010

At Kentucky Horse Park
In Lexington Ky.

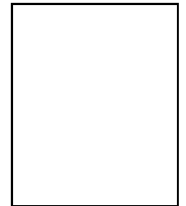
3 Stages of Music

Big Names Playin'

Seldom Scene
Illrd Tyme Out
Mountain Heart
JD Crowe
Doyle Lawson
Grascals
Lonesome River Band
Nothin Fancy

Visit www.festivalofthebluegrass.com
For more information

Answer to the Who Am I question on page 5. Mr. Tom Bushelman



NKBMA
PO Box 133
Hebron, Ky. 41048

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