

Notes from Along the County Line

by Betty Westmoreland

Never let it be said that a little rain, wind, and falling temperatures would deter hardy souls from a Sunday afternoon old time music jam. The jam meets monthly on the first Sunday from 2-5 PM Central.

The **County Line Old Time Music Jam** met nature's adversity head-on, and the musicians were mighty glad to be indoors at the **Sheffield Antiques Mall** (Poplar Avenue at US 72, behind O'Charley's) on a dreary, rainy Sunday afternoon. Antiques and memorabilia seemed to be a perfect backdrop for old time, folk, and traditional music.

Coming on the heels of the popular annual **Memphis Dulcimer Gathering & Folk Festival**, which was held this year at Second Baptist Church in Memphis, the old time jam provided more great opportunities for picking and singing.

Lee Cagle and **Caroline Sanford** are responsible in large part for the old time jam. Lee also heads up the Memphis Dulcimer Gathering & Folk Festival. In addition to those responsibilities, Lee teaches dulcimer through group and private instruction. When does Lee get any rest?

Musicians who joined in the jam on October 4, 2009, were as follows: **Lee Cagle, Bill Erskine, Nancy Chase, Donna Gray, Karl Gray, Hilary Scheel,** and **Daniel Fleck**. The supporting fans were **several shoppers, a precious 18-month old in a stroller, Valerie Gray,** and this writer. All we needed was YOU!

Following is a partial list of the tunes which were selected in the jam. This list reflects a move to more old time music, rather than a mixture of old time, bluegrass and country tunes. This writer really likes it old time in the County Line Jam.

Tunes: John Brown's March, Sail Away Ladies, The Water Is Wide, The Cowboy Waltz, FDR (Franklin Delano Roosevelt) Is Back Again, Everybody Wants to Go to Heaven, The L&N Don't Stop Here Anymore, Dark as a Dungeon, The Golden Vanity, Ramshackle Shack, White House Blues, The Riddle Song, Goober Peas, The Birds Were Singing of You, Soldier's Joy, I Lost My True Love, Fair and Tender Ladies and Dona Dona.

Next scheduled jam: **November 1, 2009 at 2 PM Central** (Remember that Daylight Saving Time ends that very day! Set your clocks and FALL BACK!)

Don't forget to join the new **West Tennessee Dulcimers** Yahoo! e-group. You are encouraged to submit old time string band music information, too:

Webpage: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/westtennesseedulcimers>

E-mail: westtennesseedulcimers@yahoogroups.com

More information:

Lee Cagle's website: www.leecagledulcimers.com

E-mail Lee: lee@leecagledulcimers.com

Phone: 901.877.7763

Be sure to Google these: The Carter Family, the Carter Family Fold, Hazel Dickens and Alice Gerrard.

Virginia's Heritage Music Trail: www.thecrookedroad.org

The Museum of Appalachia: www.museumofappalachia.com

The Ozark Folk Center in Mountain View, AR: www.ozarkfolkcenter.com

Nashville Old Time String Band Association (NOTSBA):

www.nashvilleoldtime.org

Fiddle & Pick in Pegram, TN: www.fiddleandpick.com

Wood-N-Strings Dulcimer Shop in Townsend, TN:

www.clemmerdulcimer.com

Thanks to the owners and staff of Sheffield Antiques Mall in Collierville, TN, for the space and time for old time string band music!

Oh, and **Breakin' Up Winter** is coming up on the first weekend of March 2010. The *strictly* old time music event is held at Cedars of Lebanon State Park, Lebanon, TN (east of Nashville). General directions: I-40 east to Lebanon and exit 238. Turn right on US 231 toward Murfreesboro and go six miles. Look for the park on the left. The festival is a humdinger—good presenters, good food, buy-sell-trade old time instruments and memorabilia, vendors, cabins/lodges/fireplaces, and a boxcar load of fine jammin'!

More about Breakin' Up Winter is at: www.nashvilleoldtime.org/BUW

Pick it the old time way!