

Notes from Along the County Line

by Betty Westmoreland

Undaunted by the fact that Super Bowl XVIII was about to start, the fearless old-time music warriors of the COUNTY LINE OLD-TIME MUSIC JAM gathered once again, tuned their instruments, and set about playing for a couple of hours on February 1, 2009. The Sheffield Antiques Mall in Collierville, TN, offered space to the group on the first Sunday of each month, and football game or no football game, the jammers sallied forth with some great old tunes.

The musicians who came out to pick amid the lovely antiques and gently used items were: **Lee Cagle**, President of the Memphis Dulcimer Gathering, **Cecelia Chilton**, **Hilary Scheel**, **Paul Culpepper**, **Donna Gray**, **Karl Gray**, **Bill Erskine**, **Lea Talley**, **Matthew Jackson**, and **Dean Dameworth**. The supporting cast consisted of Valerie Gray, this writer, and several shoppers who were curious about where that music was coming from. Kevin Wright and Jennifer Eggers dropped in for a listen, as they have taken a liking to the plinky-plunky sound of old-time string band music.

The song selection for the afternoon was as follows: How Long, Redwing, Faded Coat of Blue, Times Are Not What They Used to Be, Bob Wills Is Still the King, Faded Love, The Storms Are On the Ocean, The Old Country Church, Drinkin' and Promiscuity Blues, Maggie, Weary Prodigal Son, Dixie Darlin', San Antonio Rose, Mountain Dew, Keep On the Sunny Side, Spotted Pony, Leavin' Home (a tale of Frankie and Johnny), Wreck of the Old 97, and Willie McBride (Bill Erskine's tribute to the writer's curiosity about the phrase, "Flowers of the Forest").

Feeling a sense of urgency about the start time for the aforementioned football game, the jammers ended their session quickly and departed for their TV sets, their favorite beverages, and dishes filled with Super Bowl munchies.

Next scheduled jam: March 1, 2009

Want to know more? See the Nashville Old-Time String Band Association (NOTSBA) website at www.nashvilleoldtime.org or Google the Carter Family, the Carter Family Fold, Hazel Dickens and Alice Gerrard, or other old-time

string band musicians. Listen to great old tunes online at Sugar in the Gourd at www.sugarinthegourd.com

For still more information: E-mail Lee@LeeCagleDulcimers.com or see her website at www.LeeCagleDulcimers.com

Remember! NOTSBA's annual "Breakin' Up Winter" festival takes place at Cedars of Lebanon State Park (Lebanon, TN) on March 6-8, 2009. Details can be found at the NOTSBA website (www.nashvilleoldtime.org/BUW). If you've never been to "BUW," you're missing out on a feast of old-time string band jamming, guest artists, buy/sell/trade instruments and memorabilia, wax-cylinder recording of your group's sound, hard-to-find CDs, songbooks, sheet music, Sacred Harp (shape note) singing, and much more! This event is a must for lovers of old-time string band music! It's just on the yonder side of Nashville, six miles south of I-40 at Exit 238 (the Murfreesboro exit).