

Notes from Along the County Line

by Betty Westmoreland

The Fourth of July holiday has come and gone. While Independence Day is a cause for celebration, it can also bring sorrow. **The County Line Old-Time Music Jam** was saddened to learn of a death in Lee Cagle's family. Her father's sister was killed in an accident, and Lee left to attend the funeral in Birmingham, AL. Our thoughts and prayers go out to Lee and her other family members.

With Lee's encouragement, and recalling the adage that 'the show must go on,' the County Line Old-Time Jam met at Sheffield Antiques Mall in Collierville, TN (US 57 at US 72), at 2:00 PM as scheduled on July 5, 2009. The musicians who gathered were: **Bill Erskine, Karl Gray, Donna Gray, Barney Hopper, Nancy Chase, Mike Cannito, and Hilary Scheel. Valerie Gray, Donna Wolf**, several customers in the mall, and this writer were there to enjoy and support old-time music. The musicians were seated in a circle, and someone started a tune. The choice was passed to the next player, and that player was free to choose a song or pass. The selection continued around the circle throughout the session.

The song selection for the session: The Boxer, Unknown Waltz #1, Black Waters, Tennessee Waltz, My Rough and Rowdy Ways, Cattle Call, New River Train, Ridin' Down the Canyon, The Water Is Wide, Rangers Command, Oklahoma Hills, Get-Right Church, Times Are Not What They Used to Be, The L&N Don't Stop Here Anymore, Wabash Cannonball, The Sweetest Gift, When the Roses Bloom in Dixieland, Make Me a Pallet on Your Floor, Unknown Waltz #2, I Never Will Marry, The Crawdad Song, San Antonio Rose, John Brown's March, and Ashokan Farewell.

Several regulars at the jam answered the siren call of the **Swannanoa Gathering**, which is held annually on the campus of Warren Wilson College in Swannanoa, NC. The Gathering holds special events for Guitar Week, Traditional Song Week, Fiddle Week, and Old-Time Music and Dance Week.

This writer heard the siren call of the Java Cabana in the Cooper-Young District in Midtown Memphis. Not quite Swannanoa, but closer to home! She had just met the **Honey Dewdrops**, who came by the Collierville Historic

Town Square Bluegrass & Old-Time Music Jam, and this wonderful couple were about to perform at Java Cabana. The Honey Dewdrops are **Laura Wortman** and **Kagey Parrish**, who are married and living in Scottsville, VA. The former teachers decided to make a go of what they really love, and what they really love is playing folk/American Traditional music. We love that and we think they might be onto something, since so far, they have appeared at Memphis' Folk Alliance, *A Prairie Home Companion with Garrison Keillor*, the Center for Southern Folklore, and many coffee houses, listening rooms, and house concerts.

The Honey Dewdrops write and perform much of their own material, they harmonize beautifully, and they do wonderful things on guitar and mandolin. Their new CD is called *If the Sun Will Shine*, which seemed appropriate to the couple at the time that they were recording the album at home in their barn. They recalled that it rained and rained and rained some more during that recording session! The CD is nothing short of wonderful! The band T-shirt is lovely, with an old Gramophone spouting beautiful flowers from its horn.

Their program at Java Cabana: Bluest Blue Eyes, Without Tears, Way Out on the Old Saint Sabbath, Don't Leave Me Here, Wandering Boy, How We Used to Be, Miner's Prayer, Everybody Knows This Is Nowhere, Ain't No Grave, Nowhere to Stand, 1918, Long Journey Home, Petals, Can't You Hear Me Callin', When Was the War, Sow 'Em on the Mountain, and Long Black Veil.

Next scheduled jam: **August 2, 2009, at 2:00 PM CDT**

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

Need more information? You could google the Carter Family, the Carter Family Fold, Hazel Dickens and Alice Gerard. Or check out Virginia's Heritage Music Trail known as The Crooked Road at www.thecrookedroad.org. Also see The Museum of Appalachia at www.museumofappalachia.com. While you're at it, check out the schedule for the Ozark Folk Center in Mountain View, AR, at www.ozarkfolkcenter.com.

For more information about old-time string band music in Tennessee: www.nashvilleoldtime.org or www.fiddleandpick.com (Pegram, TN) or www.clemmerdulcimer.com (Townsend, TN)

For local dulcimer and old-time music information: Lee@LeeCagleDulcimers.com or www.LeeCagleDulcimers.com

For information about The Honey Dewdrops: www.thehoneydewdrops.com
MySpace: www.myspace.com/thehoneydewdrops