



# MSOTFA

## Bulletin

(Spring 1996)  
An Official Publication of the  
Missouri State Old Time Fiddlers Association  
P.O. Box 7423  
Columbia, MO 65205

### BETHEL, 1996

We've been getting a lot of questions concerning fiddle activities in Bethel, Missouri, this summer. Fact is, things were sort of up in the air for awhile. But it looks like happenings in Bethel related to Missouri fiddling will be bigger than ever this year. Here's a run down of the activities we have planned.

#### **Bethel Youth Fiddle Camp---June 11 to 14, 1996**

We are now accepting applications for students to the 1996 Bethel Youth Fiddle Camp. Now in its 9th year, the Camp provides an unequaled opportunity for young fiddlers and guitarists (ages 8-16 years) to study with master performers in the Missouri-style. This year's faculty will include Pete McMahan, Bob Holt and Charlie Walden. Participants learn in both group and one-on-one sessions which concentrate on technique and the unique and challenging Missouri repertoire of hoe-downs and waltzes. Also, there is ample opportunity for jamming, learning to square dance and play music for dances, plus cookouts, campfires, a hayride and the inevitable water-balloon battles.

The Camp opens with registration and get-acquainted activities beginning late afternoon on Tuesday, June 11, and ends at around 1:00 PM on Friday, June 14. Campers are housed in the somewhat rustic Bethel Bed and Breakfast facilities and take all meals at the Bethel Fest Hall restaurant. Fees for the Camp are \$250. This includes all instructional materials and activities, plus room and board. We hope to see your favorite young fiddler or guitarist on hand for this important opportunity. If you know any youngsters that would be interested, please have their parents call Charlie Walden at 847-869-1630. Enrollment is limited to only twenty students. **IMPORTANT NOTE:** Applicants at all levels of ability will be considered.

#### **Mid-America Old Time Fiddling Championship---June 13-16, 1996**

While the Bethel Youth Fiddle Camp has served an important function in allowing young folks to learn to play Missouri-style fiddle music, we feel strongly that there is need to bring adults who want to sharpen their fiddlin', guitar or piano accompaniment skills together with some of Missouri's better old-time fiddlers and accompanists to soak up some tunes and techniques. To this end we have created "The Missouri Fiddlers Gathering." If you've ever yearned to learn tunes from bona fide veteran old-time fiddlers, play for and dance in a genuine Ozarks-style square dance, or get into a high energy fiddle jam that could last until the break of dawn then you need to show up in Bethel with instrument in hand on Thursday, June 13. There will be many of Missouri's best old-time fiddlers and accompanists in town to show you the ways of "Show-Me" fiddling.

The registration fee for the entire weekend is only \$50 dollars (\$40 if you register by June 1, 1996---MSOTFA members get an additional \$5 off) and includes the cookout on Thursday night. Besides all the great music and workshops you'll get these other goodies: Official MSOTFA ballcap and #2 lead pencils, special discount on MSOTFA recordings and books (good June 14 only) and a cassette tape set containing 100 essential Missouri fiddle tunes for further study at home (The tape set alone sells for \$20). Of course if you can't make it on Thursday and Friday for the workshops be sure to come on Saturday and Sunday for contests, concerts, workshops and dances. Admission to Saturday and Sunday events will be around \$5/day (contestants get in free). For further information call 847-869-1630 or 76252.255@compuserve.com for email. A complete information packet including lodging, faculty list, etc. will be forwarded to you.

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### CONTEST RESULTS

#### ◆ **Columbia, January 13**

Open Div.: 1st, Billy Lee; 2nd, Pete McMahan; 3rd, Matt Wyatt; 4th, Howard Marshall; 5th, Lynn Wells; 6th, Pete Petree; 7th, Mike Wells; 8th, John White; Jr. Div.: 1st, Priscilla Westgate; 2nd, Craig Wilson.

#### ◆ **Boonville, January 20**

1st, Matt Wyatt; 2nd, Pete McMahan; 3rd, Howard Marshall; 4th, Bill Shull; 5th, Mike Wells.

#### ◆ **Boonville, March 16**

Open Div.: 1st, Lynn Wells; 2nd, Charlie Walden; 3rd, Matt Wyatt; 4th, Pete McMahan; 5th, Mike Wells; 6th, Billy Lee; 7th, Richard Harness; 8th, Bill Eddy. Jr. Div.: 1st, Priscilla Westgate; 2nd, John Westgate; 3rd, John Williams.



## REVIEWS

BY POSSUM WALDEN

### Hollis Taylor, "Tricks & Tunes from the Devil's Box." (Book).

Hollis Taylor is a trained violinist gone-native playing old-time and jazz fiddle music. I first heard of her through my long-time associate, guitarist John Stewart. He sent me a copy of Hollis' tape "Twisted Fiddle" on which she goes hog-wild and puts a new bend on many familiar tunes. She is an active performer and teacher, won a passle of fiddle contests, has toured extensively in Europe and has produced numerous books and cassettes on fiddle playing (ask for a complete list from the address below).

If ever there was a book tailor made (no pun intended) for this fiddler it is this one. I've gotten a considerable reputation in the last few years for playing trash fiddle licks and tunes outside the normal tradition--you know, hokum. Well if Hollis can play all the low-brow, tasteless licks and barnyard imitations in her book then she has dethroned the ol' Possum as the king of junk.

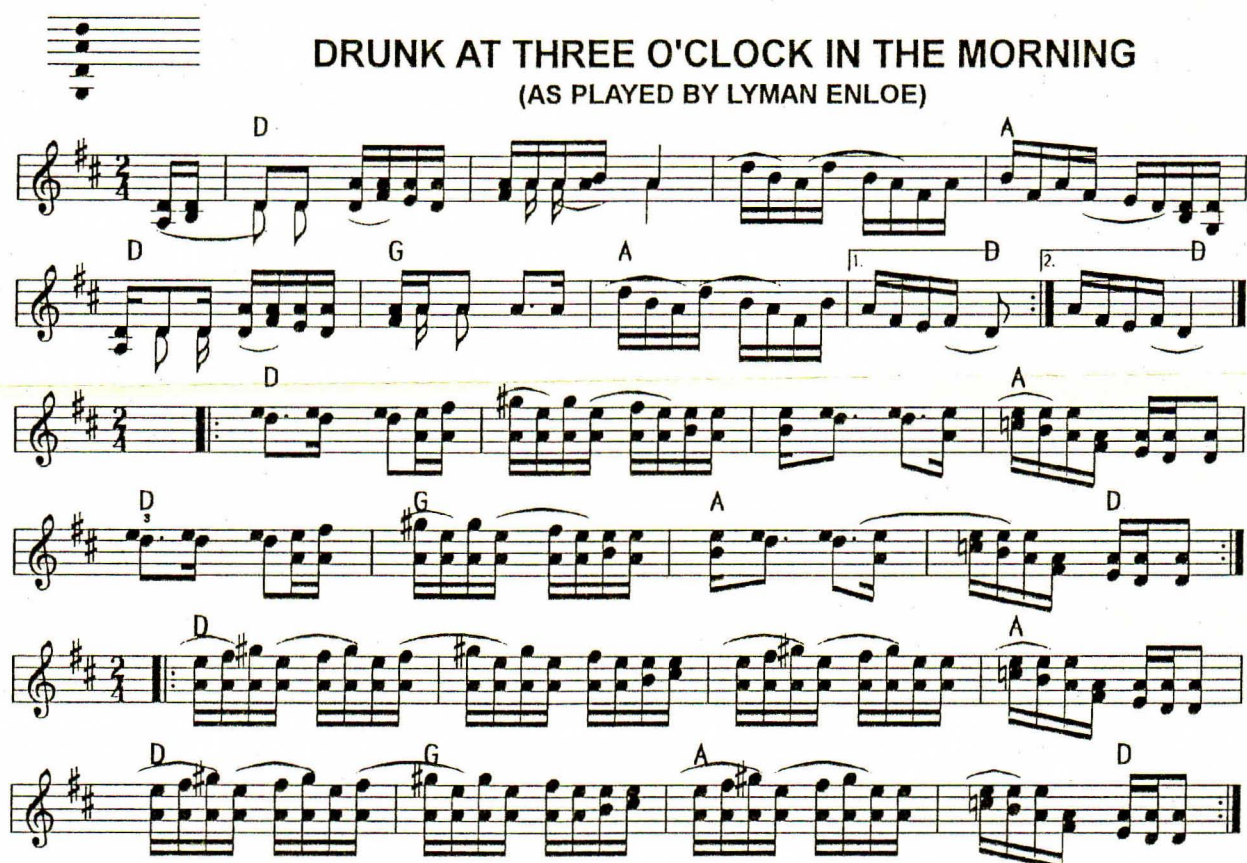
But seriously, what Hollis Taylor has compiled is a great collection of tricks for the fiddle, some of her own creation and many long-standing favorites. More than that, it is an exploration of a variety of unorthodox techniques used in a variety of tunes. This is the kind of stuff that can entertain kids and pets in your home or enthrall an unsuspecting audience and make them toss coins into your fiddle case.

Hollis starts with simple animal noises and moves on to fiddle tunes and various effects that can be applied. She draws from a lot of sources and genres of music. There are transcriptions of Vernon Solomon's "Cripple Creek" and Luke Thomasson's "Midnight on the Water" along with many other Texas-style tunes. Of special interest are transcriptions of playing of Bus Boyk, a cowboy swing fiddler who had his heyday in the 1950s and 1960s and who though well into his 7th decade is now actively performing again in the Portland, Oregon, area.

There's a lot of interesting material here. The only limitation I can see is that you need to be a pretty good music reader to handle this stuff. Also, the tunes are written out in long-hand rather than as machine transcriptions making the music a little difficult to read. This said, "Tricks from the Devil's Box" is still an excellent volume. It would be especially useful to a trained violinist wanting to dabble in country fiddle playing. Price: \$17.00 postpaid. Order from: Hollis Taylor POB 4666 Portland, OR 97208-4666

## NOTES

Orville W. "Buss" Maddox, 76, died April 15, 1996. Buss was a WWII veteran serving as a platoon sergeant, was at Normandy on D-Day, and was the most decorated soldier from Calloway County. He started playing the fiddle at age eight, inspired by fiddler Seth Bradley. By age 14 he was playing for dances and parties. He was co-founder of the dance band The Missouri Wildcats along with George Rutherford and Pete Hopkins during the early days of Radio KFAL. In later years he played for nursing home and parties and was active with MSOTFA.



**DRUNK AT THREE O'CLOCK IN THE MORNING**  
(AS PLAYED BY LYMAN ENLOE)

Be sure to tune your E string down to D!