

OLD HARP



Number 20
Fall 1997

The
New Harp of
Columbia
Newsletter

149 1/2 Years of Old Harp

THE NEW HARP OF COLUMBIA CALENDAR — 1997 SINGINGS

<u>DATE</u>	<u>DAY</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>DINNER?</u>	<u>INFORMATION (CONTACT PEOPLE)</u>
September 28	Sunday (4)	11 AM	Yes	Headrick Chapel Singing, Hwy. 321 (Wears Valley Rd.), Sevier County (B) (O)
October 5	Sunday (1)	1:30 PM	No	Valley View Baptist Church Singing, Valley View Rd. off Hwy. 321 (Wears Valley Rd.), Sevier County (J) (L) (F)
October 11	Saturday	10:30 AM & 12 NOON	No	Museum of Appalachia Homecoming Singing, Norris, TN (B) (O)
October 19	Sunday (3)	2 PM	No	Dollywood Singing (I) (E)
October 26	Sunday (4)	2 PM	No	Maryville College Singing, Blount County (K)
November 26	Wednesday	6:30 PM	Yes	Thanksgiving Eve Pot Luck & Old Harp Singing, Laurel Theatre, 16th & Laurel Ave., Knoxville (D) (H) (S)
December 13	Saturday	10 AM	No	Sugarlands Singing, Sugarlands Visitor Center, Great Smoky Mtns. Natl. Park (I) (E)

VARIOUS

<u>MONTHLY</u>	<u>SUNDAYS</u>	<u>7 PM</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Old Harp, 2nd and 5th Sundays of each month beginning in November, usually at Laurel Theatre (downstairs), 16th and Laurel Ave. (S) (O)</u>
<u>SINGING SCHOOLS ARRANGED:</u>				<u>Seminars, workshops, 3-day and 10-day classes for asic and advanced music (both 4-note and 7-note notations) (O)</u>

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PHONE THE APPROPRIATE CONTACT PERSON(S) — SEE LIST ON PAGE 2.

CONTACT PEOPLE

★★★ Unless otherwise noted, area code for phone #s on this list is 423. ★★★

NAME	PHONE	ADDRESS	CITY	ZIP
(B) Lois Luebke	693-9292	311 Triplett Lane	Knoxville, TN	37919
(C) John Wright Dunn	448-6445	7937 Old Hwy. #73	Townsend, TN	37882
(D) Gideon Fryer	524-3136	509 11th St. #2006	Knoxville, TN	37916
(E) Martha Graham	453-3276	210 Conner Hts. Rd.	Pigeon Forge, TN	37863
(F) Luke Headrick	453-2407	3007 Headrick Dr.	Sevierville, TN	37862
(H) Terry Faulkner	584-3659	4178 Ridgeway Rd.	Knoxville, TN	37919
(I) Reford & Velma Lamons	453-4581	1418 Jay Ell Rd.	Sevierville, TN	37862
(J) Henry Lawson	453-7638	3538 Wears Valley Rd.	Sevierville, TN	37862
(K) Tom & Nan Taylor	984-8585	603 Court St.	Maryville, TN	37803
(L) Bruce Wheeler (weekdays)	974-5421	P.O. Box 1049	Pigeon Forge, TN	37863
(O) Larry Olszewski	584-6633	1232 Forest Brook Rd.	Knoxville, TN	37919
(S) Kathy Jones	691-8678	9121 Garrison Rd.	Knoxville, TN	37931

UPCOMING SINGINGS — 1997

HEADRICK CHAPEL SINGING—Sept. 28, 11:00 AM

Located just across the Blount County line in Sevier County on Hwy. 321. Singing starts at 11:00 A.M., potluck dinner at 12 NOON, with singing afterwards until about 4:00 P.M. For information, call Lois at (423) 693-9292 or Larry at (423) 584-6633.

VALLEY VIEW BAPTIST CHURCH SINGING—Oct. 5, 1:30 PM

This church is located about 10 minutes east of Wearwood Schoolhouse. There is a large sign on Hwy. 321, indicating the turn for the church. Turn south at the sign; the church is at the fork in the road. Bruce Wheeler, Henry Lawson and Luke Headrick are the hosts. For more information, call Luke at (423) 453-2407 or Henry at (423) 453-7638 or Bruce (weekdays) at (423) 974-5421.

MUSEUM OF APPALACHIA HOMECOMING SINGING—Oct. 11, 10:30 AM & 12 NOON

The first singing usually starts sometime around 10:30 AM, the second a little after 12 NOON. We sing at the old log church, sharing time with the do-re-me singers from Kentucky. For more information and tickets, call Larry at (423) 584-6633 or Lois at (423) 693-9292. (We usually have the tickets available at the Headrick Chapel Singing.)

DOLLYWOOD SINGING—Oct. 19, 2:00 PM

This Singing is held at the Chapel in Dolly-

wood. Reford Lamons and Martha Graham are the hosts. Please bring your harp book as it is your free pass into Dollywood. Allow extra time to take the tram from the parking area to the front gate and to walk to the Chapel. For more information, call Reford at (423) 453-4581 or Martha at (423) 453-3276. We thank Bill Cody for this yearly invitation.

MARYVILLE COLLEGE SINGING—Oct. 26, 2:00 PM

This singing is hosted by Tom Taylor. We sing in the Old Post Office located in the center of the Maryville College campus. For more information, call Tom at (423) 984-8585.

EPWORTH THANKSGIVING EVE SINGING—Nov. 26, 6:30 PM

This annual event is held Wednesday evening before Thanksgiving at the Laurel Theatre, located at 16th and Laurel in Knoxville. Turkey is provided. Gideon Fryer is the host for this singing. For more information, call Gideon at (423) 524-3136; Terry at (423) 584-3659; or Kathy at (423) 691-8678.

SUGARLANDS VISITORS CENTER SINGING—Dec. 13, 10 AM

Sugarlands Visitors Center is in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park on Hwy. 441, just outside of Gatlinburg. Reford Lamons will host. We will sing till noon. For more information, call Reford at (423) 453-4581 or Martha at (423) 453-3276.

REMINISCENCES OF WILEY LAMONS — FROM AN INTERVIEW BY SHAREE RICH

I have heard of Old Harp since I was born. My mama and daddy sang it as well as my grandparents. I did not hear my Granny Lucinda [Ogle Clabo] sing any.

All my brothers and sisters could sing it. My aunts and uncles on both sides as well. One way you could tell a Lamons — if you could sing Old Harp. We'd just gather around the table after supper and sing and sing.

I remember going to Singings at the school house up on the mountain gap between Big Dudley and Little Dudley. I don't know or remember if the school had a name; it was just for the community. I wasn't even old enough to go to school back then, but the whole family would go and sing.

[*Compiler's note:* Early school houses in the lower Appalachians were situated at the headwaters of two streams on opposite sides of a mountain, in a gap. Students would walk up hill in the morning and back down in the afternoon. There is a "School House Gap" between Townsend and the Smoky Mountain Park that is of this type.]

Zachary [T. Z.] McCarter taught the first singing school I attended. I was about 5 years old then. He was the regular school teacher, but during the times school was out, we'd have singing schools, and he'd teach them, too. Y. J. Schultz would be another fellow who taught the singing schools back then.

How did they pitch the song in the old days? At the singing schools like Zachary had, they would have a tuning fork, but hardly anybody around here would have one. Mostly at the singings they would just get the pitch naturally. Columbus Conner would pitch with his voice, but he would have a peculiar way of doing it, I thought. He would get up and sing fa-me-do, fa-me-do, til he got it right. It didn't matter what the song was — it was always fa-me-do.

How did I learn music? The singing school teacher would write the notes on the scale, and we would go over them. The first song I could learn to sing by myself all the way through was "How tedious and tasteless the hours," [#16]. I was five or six when I learned that one.

I was born up on Big Dudley at the Roundtop, in a two-story log cabin that was built by Ol' Dr. Fish. He had been a doctor in the Confederate Army in the War Between the States. It is now in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. We lived there 'til I was seven. Then we moved to Caney Creek, near Grandpa Clabo.

What do I remember about Beech Grove [on Caney Creek]? I remember going to lots of singings there. They would have them pretty often and our whole family would go. They had a lot of good singers there — Beecher, Pate [Granville], Bud and Rob Perryman, Arthur Blaine Shields, Nancy Perryman. They were real good singers.

Yes, I do remember Will Perryman. And, yes, he was a good Old Harp singer. He was also an awful good fox hunter and always had really good hounds to hunt with. His wife, Nan, she was a Myers, was a good singer, too. I reckon all their children sang, too. There was Mantha, Ruby, Herstel, Blaine — all good singers.

My grandpa Henry Clabo was a great lead singer. In my mind he was the best I ever saw and I have seen a lot of Old Harp singers. Grandpa Henry had a little hymn book that he carried around with him about all the time. It didn't have any notes in it, just words to the songs. He knew the rhythms so well that he could sing the Old Harp to it. He did it all by ear. He impressed me at my early age to do that.

Wiley Franklin, Henrietta Sharp's and Martha Graham's daddy was a great bass singer. Since I sang bass, too, I would try to sit by him at a singing so he could make me look good at the rough parts of a song. He was a good one all right. Later years, when I went to church at Pigeon Forge Baptist, we sang in the choir together — the three Wileys, Wiley Ward and Wiley Franklin.

Haskew Trevena probably knew more Old Harp Songs than anyone I ever knew. I don't know of him teaching a singing school, but he could have. Columbus Conner was another good singer as well as Andy Davenport, Y. J. Schultz, and of course, Zachary McCarter, my first teacher.

The singings today are like the old days in that they are pretty lively; people seem to enjoy them. There was always just a bunch of people in the

(continued on back page)

Reminiscences of Wiley Lamons (cont'd)

community who were Old Harp Singers just like today. Not everybody sang it and not everybody went to the singings.

The singings differ by one major point in that it is not being passed down to the younger generations like in my childhood days. My daughter knows how as well as a few of my nieces and nephews, but I don't believe any of their children know how to sing it. My grandsons have good voices, but they have never learned how to sing the Old Harp.

My advice to all is just learn the shapes and enjoy Old Harp. Old Harp is sacred music; not everybody likes it. I enjoy going to the singings, and I can't sing like I used to, but enjoy listening.

[Wiley Lamons will be 90 years old on December 14th of this year. We thank him for allowing us to become a small part of him in his life, as he is a part of us.]



THANK YOU

We would like to thank all the contact people for their input in getting the schedule finalized. Also thank yous need to go out to Ann Strange for keying in the text and proofreading, and to Sharon and Allan Hjerpe (who are still in East Tennessee) for layout, formatting, editing and proofreading.

Our thanks to Jubilee Community Arts and Karan Dotson for the keeping and updating of our mailing list, for allowing us to use Jubilee Community Arts as our mailing address, and for publicity throughout East Tennessee. (Melody Reeves is now in Boulder, Colorado.)

Last year, many people contributed toward the continuation of this newsletter. We currently have enough funds to keep it going for about another year. We would like to thank all of you who are helping to keep our tradition going through this *Old Harp Newsletter*.



Old Harp Newsletter

c/o Jubilee Community Arts
1538 Laurel Avenue
Knoxville, TN 37916-2016

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WANTED: HARP SINGING PHOTOS & ARTICLES

If you have pictures or articles on Old Harp that we can use in next year's *Newsletters*, please send them to Larry Olszewski, 1232 Forest Brook Rd., Knoxville, TN 37919, or phone Larry at 584-6633.

If this box is checked, your subscription has expired.

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

