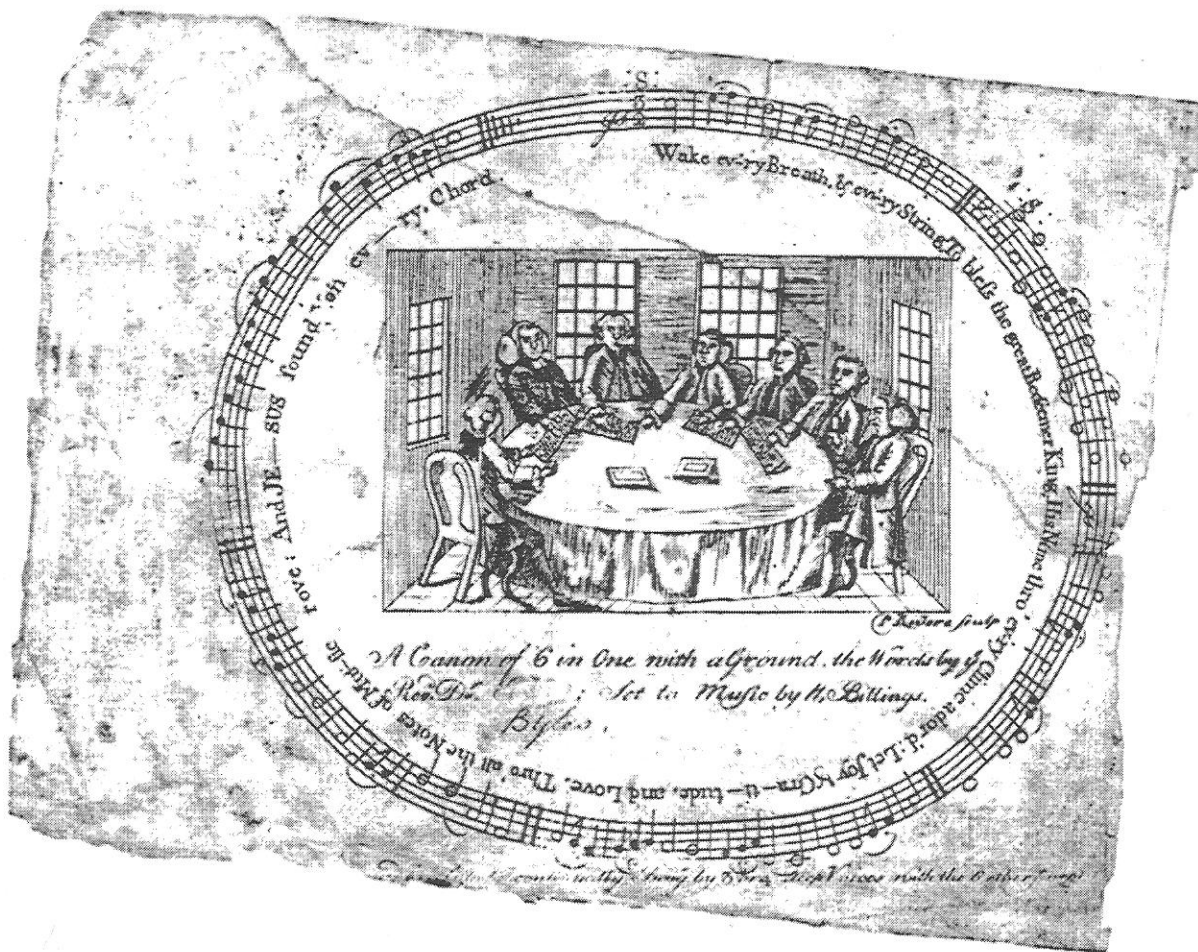


OLD HARP



Number 19
Spring 1997

The
New Harp of
Columbia
Newsletter



A Canon of 6 in One with a Ground

the Words by Rev. Dr. Byles, Set to Music by W[illiam] Billings.

Wake ev'ry Breath, and ev'ry String, To bless the great Redeemer King,
His Name thro' ev'ry Clime ador'd. Let Joy and Gratitude and Love,
Thro' all the Notes of Music rove; And JESUS sound on ev'ry Chord.

Engraved by Paul Revere, from the *New-England Psalm Singer*, printed by Edes and Gill in Boston in 1770.

[Billings's note on performance:] N.B. The Ground Bass to be continually sung by 3 or 4 deep voices with the 6 other parts

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>
March 7	Friday	6:30 PM	No	Jubilee Festival Presentation, Laurel Theatre, 16th & Laurel Ave., Knoxville (O)
March 9	Sunday (2)	11 AM	Yes	Epworth Old Harp Singing, Laurel Theatre, 16th & Laurel Ave., Knoxville (D) (H) (S)
March 30	Sunday	5:30 PM	Yes	Easter Singing, Gooch-Mabbs Residence, 4401 Alta Vista Way, Knoxville (T)
April 6	Sunday (1)	1 PM	No	Oldhams Creek Singing, just off the end of King Branch Rd., Sevier County (N) (P)
April 27	Sunday (4)	2 PM	No	Tuckaleechee Methodist Singing, Townsend (C) (K)
May 18	Sunday (3)	2:30 PM	No	Old College Singing, Tennessee Wesleyan College, Athens, TN (U) (V)
June 15	Sunday (3)	11 AM	Yes	Beech Grove Primitive Baptist Church Singing, Sevier County (G) (A)
August 17	Sunday (3)	2:30 PM	No	Cades Cove Missionary Baptist Church Singing, Great Smoky Mtns. Natl. Park (C) (K)
September 14	Sunday (2)	2 PM	No	Wears Valley Methodist Church Singing, Hwy. 321 (Wears Valley Rd.), Sevier County (J) (R)
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

MONTHLY	SUNDAYS	7 PM	No	Old Harp, 2nd and 5th Sundays of each month, usually at Laurel Theatre (downstairs), 16th and Laurel Ave. (S) (O)
VARIOUS	Cordova (in West Tennessee) (Q)
SINGING SCHOOLS ARRANGED:				Seminars, workshops, 3-day and 10-day classes for basic and advanced music (both 4-note and 7-note notations) (O)
	

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PHONE THE APPROPRIATE CONTACT PERSON(S) — SEE LIST AT THE TOP OF PAGE 3.

CONTACT PEOPLE

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

<u>NAME</u>	<u>PHONE</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>CITY</u>	<u>ZIP</u>
(A) Sharee Rich	429-5877	829 Gnatty Branch Rd.	Sevierville, TN	37876
(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
(G) Shirley Henry	453-5983	1850 Little Cove Rd.	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
(N) David J. Wilson	453-0241	2453 Middle Creek Rd.	Pigeon Forge, TN	37863
(O) Larry Olszewski	584-6633	1232 Forest Brook Rd.	Knoxville, TN	37919
(P) Veta King	428-1375	313 Wickcliffe Court	Sevierville, TN	37862
(Q) Joel Kasserma	(901) 756-6184	1608 Stable Park Court	Cordova, TN	38018
(R) Warren Massey	453-8286	3032 Ogle View Rd.	Sevierville, TN	37862
(S) Kathy Jones	691-8678	9121 Garrison Rd.	Knoxville, TN	37931
(T) Bill Gooch, Meg Mabbs	522-0515	4401 Alta Vista Way	Knoxville, TN	37919
(U) Carroll L. Ross	745-4505	P. O. Box 1356	Athens, TN	37371
(V) Sara Hamilton (weekdays)	745-7504	TN Wesleyan College	Athens, TN	37371

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, Karan Dotson and Melody Reeves 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 resigning from Jubilee Community Arts as of April 15. We wish her well in her new life in Boulder, Colorado.

Last year, many people contributed toward the continuation of this newsletter. We would like to thank all of you who are helping to keep this spiritual tradition going.



VAN SERVICE?

Al Wishart, who runs a van service, is willing to help drive groups to various Singings. If you are interested, please *write* as soon as possible. Include your name, address, phone number, singing(s) you wish to attend, and your pickup location. Send your information, as soon as possible to: Larry Olszewski, 1232 Forest Brook Rd., Knoxville, TN 37919.

A Special "Thank You" to Debbie Billings and Graphic Creations

For their many years of printing the *Old Harp Newsletter*
at a discount, thus helping us continue the Tradition

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GRAPHIC CREATIONS

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UPCOMING SINGINGS — 1997

JUBILEE FESTIVAL PRESENTATION — March 7, 6:30 P.M.

At the Laurel Theatre, 16th and Laurel Ave. in Knoxville. It is a tradition to open the festival with Old Harp singing in a square to introduce people to the music and to the Old Harp Singers. This should last about an hour. We'll invite the community to come back to sing with us on Sunday. For more information, call Larry at (423) 584-6633.

EPWORTH OLD HARP SINGING — March 9, 11:00 A.M.

This annual singing at the Laurel Theatre, 16th and Laurel Ave. in Knoxville, starts with singing at 11:00 A.M., then a potluck at 12 NOON and singing again at 1:00 P.M. Come for the day of singing or just for part of it. For more information, call Gideon at (423) 524-3136; Terry at (423) 584-3659; or Kathy (423) 691-8678.

EASTER SINGING — March 30, 5:30 P.M.

This singing, held at the home of Bill Gooch and Meg Mabbs, 4401 Alta Vista Way, Knoxville, starts with a potluck and the singing immediately after. Prepare yourself for "Easter Anthem" again this year—everyone at least look at your part. For more information, call (423) 522-0515 to talk to Bill or Meg.

OLDHAMS CREEK MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH SINGING — April 6, 1:00 P.M.

Daylight Savings Time begins today, so remember to reset your clocks. This Sunday singing will be hosted by David Wilson, the preacher at Oldhams Creek. The church is located off Hwy. 441, south of Pigeon Forge. Turn east on King Branch Road and take it to the end. Turn right at Boogertown Road, go about 100 yards, and the church is on the left. For more information, call David at (423) 453-0241 or Veta at (423) 428-1375.

TUCKALEECHEE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH SINGING — April 27, 2:00 P.M.

This singing is hosted by John Wright Dunn and Tom Taylor. It is the closing event for the Blount County Dogwood Arts Festival. Going into Townsend from Maryville on Hwy. 321,

turn right where the sign indicates "to Tuckaleechee Caverns." Go about a mile; the church is on the left. For more information, call John at (423) 448-6445 or Tom at (423) 984-8585.

OLD COLLEGE SINGING — May 18, 2:30 P.M.

This singing takes place in the Old College Center of Tennessee Wesleyan College, Athens, TN. We have moved the singing to the upstairs to be able to include the visitors comfortably. Refreshments are brought in after the singing. For more information, call Carroll Ross at (423) 745-4505 or Sara Hamilton (weekdays) (423) 745-7504.

BEECH GROVE PRIMITIVE BAPTIST CHURCH SINGING — June 15, 11:00 A.M.

This is an all-day affair with a potluck. Shirley Henry will turn the church over to Sharee Ann Rich promptly at 11:00 A.M. There is a feed at 12 NOON and singing again at 1:00 P.M. Heading south out of Pigeon Forge on Hwy. 441, take the first right, onto Caney Creek Road. Go about 2 miles and the church is on the left. For more information, call Shirley at (423) 453-5983 or Sharee at 429-5877. (This is Father's Day, and a good place to take Dad.)

CADES COVE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH SINGING — August 17, 2:30 P.M.

This is the third church on the Cades Cove Loop Road in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. This singing is being hosted by John Wright Dunn. Please give yourself an extra hour of travel time to cope with the camera-toting tourists on safari shooting the wildlife in Cades Cove. For more information, call John at (423) 448-6445 or Tom at (423) 984-8585.

WEARS VALLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH SINGING — September 14, 2:00 P.M.

This church is located on the north side of Wears Valley Road, about 2/3 of the way from Pigeon Forge to Townsend. Henry Lawson will host with John O. Clabo assisting. For more information, call Henry at (423) 453-7638 or Warren at (423) 453-8286.

UPCOMING SINGINGS (CONT'D)

HEADRICK CHAPEL SINGING — September 28, 11:00 A.M.

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

VALLEY VIEW BAPTIST CHURCH SINGING — October 5, 1:30 P.M.

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 (week-days) at (423) 974-5421.

MUSEUM OF APPALACHIA HOMECOMING SINGING — October 11, 10:30 A.M. & 12 NOON

The first singing usually starts sometime around 10:30 A.M., 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 — October 19, 2:00 P.M.

This Singing is held at the Chapel in Dollywood. 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 — October 26, 2:00 P.M.

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 — November 26, 6:30 P.M.

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 — December 13, 10 A.M.

Sugarlands Visitors Center is in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park on Hwy. 441, just outside of Gatlinburg. Reford Lamons will host with Carl Whaley bringing out the shaped-noted hymnals for Christmas carols in the last half hour. We will sing till noon. For more information, call Reford at (423) 453-4581 or Martha at (423) 453-3276.

Glenn Cardwell has retired from being Chief Ranger at the Visitor Center and is now President of the Great Smoky Mountains Historical Society. He can be reached by writing to him at 540 Emerts Cove Road, Sevierville, TN 37876-9124.



SIDE NOTES

- The Epworth Old Harp Singers usually meet at 7 P.M. at the Laurel Theatre on the 2nd and 5th Sundays of each month. There may be some changes due to concerts or Singings. For more information, call Larry at (423) 584-6633.

- Joel Kasserman is interested in singing Old Harp in Cordova, TN. For information call Joel at (901) 756-6184.

- Old Harp and Sacred Harp are sung near Nashville, TN. For more information call Tim Reynolds at (615) 646-6485.

- Sacred Harp is sung monthly in Huntsville, AL. Call David Ivey at (205) 881-5291.

- Sacred Harp is sung monthly in Atlanta, GA. Call Doug and Laurie Allison at (770) 925-8089.

- Balkan Singing is held weekly in Knoxville, TN. Call Meg Mabbs at (423) 522-0515.

- Christian Harmony is sung in NC and GA (various dates). Willie Israel puts out a newsletter. Call her at (704) 254-1330.

ON OLD HARP: AN INTERVIEW WITH MRS. THELMA TEFFETELLER

The singers would all pile into the bus at the Market Square Mall, downtown Knoxville, on a Sunday morning. Mr. Perryman from Loudon County or Frank Carter (my brother-in-law) would be driving. I was the "baby" of the group.

All the singings were within an hour and a half drive, from the Primitive Baptist Church at Little Pine Barrens in Claiborne County, to Mt. Carmel Presbyterian in Morgan County. The Singings to the south went to Coker Hill Primitive Baptist Church in Blount County.

Most of these singings were slowly dying out. Most singing hosts would get on the phone to Frank and see if he could get up a group and help fill out the chorus. We usually did. Our group, the Knox County Old Harp Singings, was formed of retirement-minded people, who had a background in Old Harp. These people had the time and inclination to attend the Singings they had originally been brought up with. Time and family obligations gradually caused them to drift apart.

I believe the Green County Convention (which folded in the mid-1920s) and the East Tennessee Old Harp Singers (disbanded in the mid-1950s) were also made up of retired people who formed and met until they all died out.

A lot of that information is in a couple of heavy boxes in the attic, but it is too cold, heavy, and awkward for me to get it down now. I stored it because I was the last secretary of the Knox County Old Harp Singers. Mr. Bates Elliot was the last president. I have not heard from him in years, though I hear from you that he is with his son in Seymour. [He is now in Sevier County Nursing Home and is about 99 years young.]

It is funny that I got into Old Harp Singing because I was bored, with a need for something to do on Sunday afternoons. We would sometimes sing all the way to the singings, sing, eat and sing, and sing all the way back. We had some great singers back then. Frank, of course ... Mr. Perryman ... A couple of twins who were the best of altos....

NOTE: Mrs. Thelma "Teffie" Teffeteller passed away on December 21, 1996. Even

though she never mentioned it, she was a member of the Salvation Army for 25 years, the Home League, and the League of Mercy.

— Larry Olszewski

LUKE AND LENA HEADRICK

Luke and Lena Headrick have been pillars in the harp singing community for over half a century. Born in 1913, Luke remembers sitting next to his father at harp singings and learning to sing from him. His solid bass voice has been a regular feature of harp singings for as long as almost anyone can recall.

In fact, the Headrick family's connection with harp singing goes back further than that. In 1898, Henry King and Jake Headrick (Luke's grandfather) started the Wears Valley singing by inviting singers from Cades Cove, Dry Valley, Tuckaleechee, and Sevier County to get together for a harp singing. Then, in 1900, J. T. "Tommy" Headrick (Luke's uncle), along with others, planned another singing and in 1924 helped to make the Wears Valley singing an annual affair. Two years after that, Luke began attending harp singings.

Lena Brewer's family moved to Wears Valley from Knox County in 1918. Luke met Lena at a revival at the Wears Valley Baptist Church — she had come to the revival with another boy, whom Lena maintains was "just a friend" and relative. Luke asked Lena if he could take her home from the revival, and she consented. They were married in 1937.

In 1938 they began to build their home and added to it as children arrived — eventually three daughters (Virginia, Lois, and Helen, two of whom are harp singers). Their comfortable and tasteful home sits on land that has been in the Headrick family since at least 1832.

Luke worked at Alcoa for six years and after that made a living raising chickens. Lena taught school for 32 years, with one stint at the Little Cove School where she was the only teacher. Lena began singing harp music regularly after their marriage, and she still does a wonderful job leading songs at every singing.

LUKE AND LENA HEADRICK (CONT'D)

Luke and Lena Headrick have seen many changes come to Wears Valley and to harp singing. Luke recalls the first automobile in Wears Valley, possibly owned by his uncle Tommy Headrick. He also remembers setting off with his father for Sevierville in a wagon drawn by two mules. It was almost an all-day trip.

In their opinion, harp singing has changed as well. "More of the singers know more about music now than before," said Lena, and Luke added that more different songs are sung today than in the past. "Singers from Knox County used to come in a bus," Lena said and smiled, "but after a big dinner on the ground they didn't sing very much." Luke and Lena agreed that gradually songs were pitched in

lower keys, partly because long-time leader Burl Adams did not like songs pitched so high and also because Knox County harp singer Frank Carter liked to sing them in lower keys as well. Also, they said, today the songs are sung quite a bit faster.

Luke and Lena Headrick are a gracious couple who recently celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on February 10. And as harp singers, they are still going as strong as they were in May 1950 when they were part of a group of harp singers who traveled from Wears Valley to Columbia University in New York to sing harp music and be recorded. They truly are pillars of harp singing!

—Bruce Wheeler

MAILING LIST BEING UPDATED

We would like to thank Janie Wilson and Melody Reeves of Jubilee Community Arts, who in the past have included the *Old Harp Newsletter* in their grant proposals to the National Endowment for the Arts. The funds are drying up and this newsletter now must run on a break-even budget. Jubilee Community Arts will continue to keep our mailing list and print our labels, but everything else will be on a cash-and-carry basis.

Therefore I am requesting that anyone interested in the *Old Harp Newsletter* send me their

name, address, zip code, and phone number (if you like) to reconfirm that the reader is still living and the address is correct. You may use the form below.

For those who have not contributed to the newsletter this year, a \$1.50 donation would cover the two issues sent per year. Those not sending at least a postcard to the *Old Harp Newsletter* by **June 1, 1997**, must be dropped from the mailing list.

—Larry Olszewski

I SUPPORT OLD HARP. PLEASE KEEP SENDING ME THE *OLD HARP NEWSLETTER*.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (optional) _____

I am enclosing \$1.50 to cover the cost of two issues of the *Old Harp Newsletter*.

I am enclosing an additional donation of \$_____ to help with the costs of *Old Harp Newsletter*.

Fill out this form, then clip it and mail it to: *Old Harp Newsletter*, c/o Jubilee Community Arts, 1538 Laurel Ave., Knoxville, TN 37916-2016.

ODIS CLINTON ABBOTT: FROM AN INTERVIEW BY SHAREE ANN RICH

[When asked how long he has been Old Harp singing...] I've been practicing maybe 15 years, but I learned shape notes at ten or eleven years old. My uncle taught notes at church. It was Old Harp when I learned it. It was just called shape notes.

Church was very important. I belonged to the Missionary Baptist Church in the Cove and was baptized in a nearby creek. Some of the things we said "no" to back then we say "yes" to today. For example, we didn't fish on Sunday or have Halloween on Sunday. Sunday was more sacred in my childhood.

School back then was all day like it is now. It was a two-teacher school with maybe 25 or 30 children in each room. We packed lunch from home — whatever could be raked up. Biscuits, jams and jellies most of the time. Just what could do us until we got home for supper.

We had to move out of the area when they made the National Park in 1932. They appraised the area,

and took it away from my father. It was a heart-breaking thing when it happened.

Tennessee has changed awful...

NOTE: I would like to thank Odis and Sharee for this article, which was for a school paper. (She made 105 points out of 100!) The interview was edited to fit the *Old Harp Newsletter*. Sharee has promised to write more articles for this *Newsletter*. We appreciate her efforts in this area and her involvement in running the Beech Grove Primitive Baptist Church Singing. *ATTAHARP!*

WANTED: HARP SINGING PHOTOS

In celebration of 200 years of Old Harp in East Tennessee, and 150 years of singing out of *The Harp/New Harp of Columbia*, we would like to do a color spread of all of the 1997 Singings for the Spring 1998 issue of *Old Harp Newsletter*. If you have photos to contribute, call Larry at 584-6633.



Old Harp Newsletter

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

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MAILING LIST BEING UPDATED

Postage costs make it necessary for us to weed out our mailing list. **EVERYONE** who wants to keep getting the *Old Harp Newsletter* should fill out and send the "clip-and-mail" coupon on page 7. *If we do not hear from you by June 1st, you will be dropped from our mailing list.*

If this box is checked, your subscription has expired.

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

