

## Notes from Along the County Line

by Betty Westmoreland

Get Well Wishes: **Jean Ritchie**, age 87, folk legend and advocate for peace and human rights. She suffered a stroke recently and was still hospitalized at the last report. See Lee Cagle’s website ([www.leecagledulcimers.com](http://www.leecagledulcimers.com)) for the lyrics/tab for Jean Ritchie’s “Peace Round,” which was sung all over the USA at midnight on New Year’s Eve, in tribute to Ms Ritchie and her contributions to this world.

The **County Line Old Time Music Jam** welcomed the New Year in fine style on Sunday, January 3, 2010. The monthly gathering of old time players met at 2 PM CST at Collierville’s **Sheffield Antiques Mall** (US 57 at US 72, behind O’Charley’s Restaurant). The day was a good one to be indoors, as temperatures hovered in the high 20’s. The mall was warm and the music was mighty fine!

An old time music jam follows a few rules, with the main one being enjoyment. Players try, *really* try, to keep it old time, which implies that the music should come from the late 1800’s and early 1900’s. Participants sit in chairs in a circle, with one person kicking off the session with the choice of a tune. The next player to the right (or left—we don’t stand on formality) takes a turn or passes. Stringed instruments are used almost exclusively, with a few exceptions. The bagpipes, tin whistles, and the Celtic drum called the bodhran (sounds like “take a *bow*, *Ron*”), are permitted. The recent jam involved the following instruments: guitar, fiddle, mandolin, resophonic mandolin, dulcimer, banjo, open-back banjo, and the upright bass. Some songs are instrumental, and some have words sung by the current leader and the rest of the group.

The January jam was enjoyed by the following players: **Randy Sell, Bill Erskine, Donna Gray, Karl Gray, Casey Luttrell, Mike Cannito, Cecelia Chilton, Daniel Fleck, Lee Cagle, Caroline Sanford, Clay Caver, Richard McFalls, Donna Wolf, and Nancy Chase**. Friends and casual onlookers who stopped to listen were: **Valerie Gray, Nat J. Cagle, several shoppers,** and this writer.

The song selection for the afternoon: Out of Hand, Hard Times, Jesus and Me, Natasha’s Waltz, San Antonio Rose, Railroading on the Great Divide,

My Window Faces the South, The One I Love Is Gone, That Old Fashioned Love in My Heart, Memories of Mother and Dad, By and By We're Going to See the King, Wayfarin' Stranger, Angelina Baker, Ashokan Farewell, Redwing, Red Haired Boy, Blue Ridge Mountain Blues, Whiskey Before Breakfast, Jordan Am a Hard Road to Travel, Your Long (Lone) Journey, There'll Be No Church Tonight, Colleen Malone, Unknown Waltz, Blackberry Blossom, New River Train, Gold Watch and Chain, Another Night, and more.

Next scheduled jam: **February 7, 2010 at 2 PM CST**

Other Noteworthy Events:

**\*January Dulcimer Gathering for 2010** Sat., Jan. 16, at Second Baptist Church, 4680 Walnut Grove Road, Memphis ~ New players class in mountain and hammered dulcimer from 8 AM to noon; a noon break for lunch; afternoon class for intermediate players starts 1:30 PM ~ Details and info from Lee Cagle ([www.leecagledulcimers.com](http://www.leecagledulcimers.com) or 901.877.7763) and Betty Dawson ([betty@bettydawsondulcimer.com](mailto:betty@bettydawsondulcimer.com) or 901.218.3501)

**\*SPBGMA Convention** (Bluegrass Music) Thur.-Sun., Feb. 4-7, 2010, at Sheraton Music City near Nashville International Airport ~ Info: Chuck Stearman at [spbgma@kvmo.net](mailto:spbgma@kvmo.net) or [www.spbgma.com](http://www.spbgma.com) or 660.665.7172

**\*Breakin' Up Winter 2010** (Strictly old time festival) Thur.-Sun., Mar. 4-7, 2010, at Cedars of Lebanon State Park, Lebanon, TN, just east of Nashville on I-40 at Exit 238, going south on US 231 six miles toward Murfreesboro ~ This one's fine! Well-known presenters, good food (reservations required for meals), buy-sell-trade instruments and memorabilia, vendors, cabins/lodges/fireplaces, several motels at Exit 238, and jammin' all over the park well into the night! ([www.nashvilleoldtime.org/BUW](http://www.nashvilleoldtime.org/BUW)) Note: Memphis' own Andy Cohen will be a presenter at Breakin' Up Winter!

Have you joined? **West Tennessee Dulcimers** Yahoo! e-group needs YOU! This one's not just for dulcimers; we want old time music information, too: Webpage: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/westtennesseedulcimers> E-mail: [westtennesseedulcimers@yahoogroups.com](mailto:westtennesseedulcimers@yahoogroups.com)

On the Web:

Just Google these: The Carter Family, the Carter Family Fold, Hazel Dickens, Alice Gerrard, Jean Ritchie, and more. Also check out Virginia's Heritage Music Trail, The Museum of Appalachia, The Ozark Folk Center (Mtn. View, AR), Nashville Old Time String Band Association (NOTSBA), Fiddle & Pick (Pegram, TN), and Wood-N-Strings Dulcimer Shop (Townsend, TN)

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

Pick it the old time way!