# WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA DULCIMER COLLECTIVE



## <u>2016 – 4th Quarter Newsletter</u>

The Western North Carolina Dulcimer Collective is a member-supported group of players of mountain and hammered dulcimers, and those who enjoy listening to dulcimers and/or playing other traditional instruments with them. The group meets once per month to share tunes and information. Dues are \$5.00 per year payable to *WNCDC* – Mail checks to Carl Cochrane, 3239 Heritage Circle, Hendersonville, NC 28739-3553.

## **DULCIMER CLUB NEWS**

<u>Monthly Tunes</u>: You get a bit of a break this quarter – four tunes, but they're all pretty easy! <u>October 9<sup>th</sup></u>: <u>Cumberland Gap</u>. There are lots of versions of this song. This tune is based on Leroy Troy's version on the CD, "Songs of the Civil War". The lyrics here are based on several versions and are common, but each singer seems to sing it their own way! <u>November 13<sup>th</sup></u>: <u>Red Light Saloon</u>. This is a song of loggers across the northern US. "The Folk Song Abcdedary" in 1966 stated, "most versions of the song are unprintable," so this is the version they included. There was a Red Light Saloon in Muskegon, Michigan in the 1870's, but they say it's not clear the song was written about it. <u>December 11<sup>th</sup></u>: <u>Rattlesnake</u>. From singing of Aunt Molly Jackson, Clay County, KY. Collected and arranged by Alan Lomax, "Folksongs of North America", 1960. And our annual extra <u>Holiday song</u>: Sir Donkey. A thirteenth century hymn (originally "Orientis Partibus") used in Christmas pageants, which evolved into "The Friendly Beasts." Here, not only is the donkey the bearer of the Virgin to the manger, but he also brings frankincense and myrrh.

	Song Review Sc	CHEDVLE
October:	Blow, Boys, Blow Boulavogue Castle by the Sea (NH)	(1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter, 2007) (1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter, 2008) (3 <sup>rd</sup> Quarter, 2007)
November:	Castle by the Sea (Spain) Cole Younger Come, Let Us Be Joyful	(4 <sup>th</sup> Quarter, 2006) (2 <sup>nd</sup> Quarter, 2009) (1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter, 1991)
December:	Carol Of The Hay Christmas Eve The Deacon's Daughter	(4 <sup>th</sup> Quarter, 1998) (4 <sup>th</sup> Quarter, 2006) (3 <sup>rd</sup> Quarter, 2009)

# **Cumberland Gap**

 Cumberland Gap, with its hills and rocks,
 Cumberland Gap, with its hills and rocks.
 Cumberland Gap, with its hills and rocks,
 Home of the panther, bears and fox.

### [CHORUS]

Lay down, boys, and take a little nap, They're kickin' up a fuss in the Cumberland Gap. Lay down, boys, and take a little nap, They're kickin' up a fuss in the Cumberland Gap.

- 2. Cumberland Gap is a mighty fine place, Cumberland Gap is a mighty fine place, Cumberland Gap is a mighty fine place, Three kinds of water to wash your face.
- 3. Me and my wife and my wife's pap We're all going down to Cumberland Gap Me and my wife and my wife's pap We're all going down to Cumberland Gap.

There are lots of versions of this song. This tune is based on Leroy Troy's version on the CD, "Songs of the Civil War". The lyrics here are based on several versions and are common, but each singer seems sing it their own way!

## **Red Light Saloon**

- Early one morning I strode into town, And looking for fun I went strolling around.
   I knew I would find me some sport pretty soon,
   When I saw there a place called the Red Light Saloon.
- 2. I walked in the door and stepped up to the bar,A handsome young lady said, "Have a cigar."I smoked that cigar while she sang me a tune;And I felt right at home at the Red Light Saloon.
- 3. She mussed up my hair and sat down on my knee, Said, "Jack, you're a woodsman, oh that I can see."
  "Well, that's what I am, tell me, how did you know?
  "Your muscle is hard from your head to your toe."
- 4. She felt all my muscles
  to prove she was right,
  And I smoked my cigar
  without striking a light.
  Now many a man has been led into ruin,
  From the treatment you get
  At the Red Light Saloon.
- Then early next morning
   I bid her goodbye,

   As she gave me a kiss
   with a tear in her eye.
   And I didn't discover till early in June
   That she'd slipped me a keepsake
   from the Red Light Saloon.
- 6. I'll curse that young lady till the forest turns blue;
  And with whiskey and women, I swear I am through.
  But I know as I swear I would give my fortune
  Just to be back again in the Red Light Saloon.

This is a song of loggers across the northern US. "The Folk Song Abcdedary" in 1966 stated, "most versions of the song are unprintable," so this is the version they included. There was a Red Light Saloon in Muskegon, Michigan in the 1870's, but they say it's not clear the song was written about it.

### Rattlesnake

- 1. Rattlesnake, O rattlesnake, What makes your teeth so white? I've been in the bottom all my life, An' I ain't done nothin' but bite, bite, Ain't done nothin' but bite.
- 2. Muskrat, O muskrat, What makes you smell so bad? I've been in the bottom all my life, Till I'm mortified in my head, head...
- 3. Groundhog, O groundhog, What makes your back so brown? It's a wonder I don't smotherfy, Livin' down in the ground, ground....
- 4.Rooster, O rooster, What makes your claws so hard? Been scratchin' this gravel all my days, It's a wonder I ain't tired, tired...
- 5.Jaybird, O jaybird, What makes you fly so high? Been robbin' your cornpatch all my life, It's a wonder I don't die, die...

From singing of Aunt Molly Jackson, Clay County, KY. Collected and arranged by Alan Lomax, "Folksongs of North America", 1960.

# **Sir Donkey**

- 1. Out from the lands of Orient, Was the donkey divinely sent. Stong and very fair was he, Bearing our burdens gallantly. Heigh, Sir Donkey, oh heigh.
- 2. Red gold from Arabia, Frankincense from far Sheba, Myrrh he brought and through the door Into the church he bravely bore. Heigh, Sir Donkey, oh heigh.
- 3. Stuffed with grass, yet speak and say, "Amen," donkey with every bray, "Amen, amen," say again, Ancient sins hod in disdain. Heigh, Sir Donkey, oh heigh.

A thirteenth century hymn (originally "Orientis Partibus") used in Christmas pageants which evolved into "The Friendly Beasts." Here, not only is the donkey the bearer of the Virgin to the manger, but he also brings frankincense and myrrh.

# ⇒ October '16 ← Cumberland Gap

Mountain Dulcimer: D-A-dd and D-A-AA Rowdy

M.D. Arr: Steve Smith

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# ⇒ NOVEMBER '16 Red Light Saloon

Mountain Dulcimer: D-A-dd and D-A-AA

M.D. Arr: Steve Smith

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# ⇒ December '16 ←

# Rattlesnake

Mountain Dulcimer: D-A-dd and D-A-AA Freely

M.D. Arr: Steve Smith

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# $\Rightarrow$ Christmas '16 $\Leftarrow$ Sir Donkey

Mountain Dulcimer: D-A-dd and D-A-AA Gently

M.D. Arr: Steve Smith

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Western North Carolina Dulcimer Collective c/o Steve Smith 607 East Blue Ridge Road East Flat Rock, NC 28726

# MEETING DATES

October 9, 2016 November 13, 2016 December 11, 2016

### **MEETING LOCATION/TIME**

Second Sunday of each month from 2:30-5:00 at The Folk Art Center Upstairs Gallery, Blue Ridge Parkway, Asheville

The Folk Art Center is located on the Blue Ridge Parkway at Milepost 382, about 1/2 mile North of US 70, just East of Asheville. Take I-40 Exit 55 to Highway 70, then left to the Parkway, or take I-240 Exit 7 and go East on Highway 70 to the Parkway. The Club meets in the upstairs gallery, across from the top of the ramp as you enter the Folk Art Center.

Handicapped Access is available: From Highway 70, go West from the Parkway just past the VA Medical Center to Riceville Road. Go to the Folk Art Center Service Entrance. A ramp leads to a second floor entrance next to where we set up.