



Organization History

The Country Strummers

Stanley - Ralph Warren Stanley (1929-) - fiddle and piano

Black - Frederick M. Black (1926-1999) - guitar and vocals

Farley - Floyd Clayson Farley (1915-1990) - tenor banjo, guitar and mandolin

Gortner - Ruth J. (Gortner) Grierson (1927-) - piano and fiddle

Bennett - Charles H. Bennett (1922-1984) - not a regular member of the group

Gott - Clarence G. Gott (1918-1981) - fiddle - not a regular member of the group

Grierson - Scott Tanis Grierson (1954-) - wash tub bass - not a regular member of the group

Stanley - Richard Lewis Stanley (1962-) - son of Ralph Stanley - washtub base - not a regular member of the group

"The Country Strummers began their musical career back in 1964. Ralph Stanley and Fred Black were invited to join a group of musicians and singers that were entertaining at the [Knights of Pythias] Lodge Hall in Bernard. This was a program sponsored by the lodge that included dancing, singing and an all round evening of good local talent. This inspired Fred and Ralph to stick with their music and they began a schedule of practice each week, their practice sessions were held on Saturday night. In 1966 Floyd Farley joined Ralph and Fred. Floyd being very talented with any string instrument soon became a real asset to the group. These three musicians kept quite busy playing for local functions, traveling to many of our nursing homes, senior citizens homes and many wedding and anniversary parties.

This is a musical group that is keeping alive the old time music, the jigs, reels, waltzes, fox trots and country music. Many times Ralph would make up a fiddle tune and the others would follow.

In 1973 Mrs. Ruth Grierson joined this group as their pianist and also the fiddle. This made a very strong foursome, many other musicians have played with the Country Strummers but the four named above are the basis for this fine group. Scot, Mrs. Grierson's son sometimes will play with them on the wash tub bass. I had the opportunity to play with them one evening while he was present. He did a fine job." - "Memoirs of a Dance Band" by Charlie [Charles H.] Bennett. Privately printed, p. 38.