

**Interviewee: Darley Fulks**

**Interviewer: John Harrod**

**Disc 13**

**01: The Old Slave on His Way to the Poorhouse Bb/ talking about Doctor Northcutt (5:57)**

**(fiddle playing)**

**Fulks:** That old man played it, he said, it's so much like I feel like now. See he was a doctor, moonshinein and everything, beat anything I ever saw in my life. I never saw nothing like it in my life. We went in there to make a location, contractor me and Gordon Wells(?), contractor all around, on his farm, he had a thousand acres. And we went down to the low end of the farm, next to the, called Gladly Creek, plum down through there, and there was a spring up on top there, that furnished a little water, we could get started on it, but there was a path leading from that spring down the hill and a pack of wolves. And this contractor said to Kelly Picky, said "Kelly, where's that pistol (conversations overlapped(?)). When Bill Cocks was working with me, and I was looking up there one day I noticed, he said "I was thinking about you." And there was a little stream of water run right up next to Doc's house, big log house, two story house, he said, "where's that smoke?" I said, "you aught to know where it is."

**Harrod:** yeah

**Fulks:** I said, "they're moon shinning up there?" And he said, "yes." He said the condition of that man right now, he'd die before he'd give up.

**Harrod: Yeah**

**Fulks:** and he said he was as thin(?) as a tiger. And they went on and to the wells, he sold whiskey, but I didn't drink

**Harrod:** uh-huh (yeah)

**Fulks:** And I said there was four of us, a crew

**Harrod:** uh-huh

**Fulks:** And that's fine he says, "Darling all you guys are nice people except one." And I said, "well who's that Doc?" And he said, "Pet." A feller by the name of Porter Centers

**Harrod:** Talking about

**Fulks:** And I said, “why do you say that Doc?” and he said, “he beat me out of a quart of whiskey.” We set up to leavin and gone, he’d already left, and I was still there. He said, “he beat me out of a quart of whiskey.” And I thought, you know, what hurt him so bad was the condition that he was in,

**Harrod:** Yeah

**Fulks:** in a deep depression.

**Harrod:** Yeah

**Fulks:** He’d take chickens, he’d take corn, he’d anything you had to give him.

**Harrod:** Yeah

**Fulks:** And his wife had died and he’d married a had, I know he had two or three little children. Desperate.

**Harrod:** Yeah

**Fulks:** (overlapping conversation (?))

See John and I didn’t have any sense back then, that’s been forty years ago. (?) I can’t don’t play it the way I should play you know, I miss. I can tell when I miss you see. I don’t play it right here.

## **02- When the Sun Goes Down in the Mountains ( 3:42)**

**(fiddle playing)**

**Fulks:** Do you like that one?

**Harrod:** What the name of that?

**Fulks:** (?)

**Harrod:** Got the words to that?

**Fulks:** (?)

**Harrod:** When the Sun Comes Over.

**Fulks:** Yeah. “When the Sun Goes Down in the Mountains, ain’t no sun shine in the hills. Now I think I’m right, I’m not sure. “Everything is peaceful in the valley, except

the wiper wile.” I can’t, see I’m not at myself son. I don’t want to tell you something and then someone come along with that any say Darley was wrong.

**Harrod:** I doubt if anyone would do that. I doubt if anybody knows that song.

**Fulks:** I’ll play that other one if I can think of it, *I live in the Mountains of Old Kentucky*.  
(fiddle playing)  
Turn it off yeah.

### **03- Working on an Old Log Train G (3:44)**

**Fulks:** Jaybird Kelly would always, he made it, I guess he made it because nobody played but him, because I never heard nobody else play it but him. Somebody might have but I know I never heard it. It’s *Workin on an Old Log Train*, there’s another one (?). And I’ll tell you what turned me against it, was that there *Orange Blossom Special*.

(laughing)

**Woman:** Right

**Fulks:** (?) and I’ll play it for ya, I don’t like to play it. But I’ll play it for ya

(fiddle playing)

**Fulks:** (laughing)

**Harrod:** Well that’s alright, now that’s better than the Orange Blossom Special.

**Fulks:** I was watching the Johnny Carson(?) show and there was four fiddlers lined up there and played that (laughing)

**Woman-** Oh Gosh

(laughing)

**Fulks:** I couldn’t take it, (?)backed all the way up to the television

**Harrod:** Did that have words to it, that *Working on the Log Train*?

**Fulks:** Oh I don’t think so. I don’t think this has any words to it.

**Harrod:** But Jaybird Kelley made that up?

**Fulks:** Jaybird Kelley

**Harrod:** Yeah. Well Darley that's what you wrote, that's what you wrote in that letter to me, that's what I was trying to remember. You said you'd thought of some more of his pieces. You named em, that Jaybird Kelley plays.

**Fulks:** It's an unreasonable tale, God's my witness, I was in town and my grandfather had died and I lived with my grandmother, I was about sixteen or seventeen years old, granny sent me to town, sent me horse back, and I run into Jaybird over there. And he lived way back in this country here and he was horse backin. I said, "Jaybird go home with me. Go home and stay all night with me. I said ain't nobody over there but granny and me." He'd been over there. And he said, "Darley do you got a fiddle?" I said, "yes and a banjo too." "Well alright let's go." We went over there. Granny got our supper and we got to working and Granny got our supper, and she'd seen him dance once or twice I never had seen him dance. And John if I never get up it's the truth, that man got to dancing, he got down on the floor dancing with his hands and knees

**Harrod:** (laughing)

**Fulks:** I've never seen anything like it since God ever made it.

**Harrod:** (laughing)

#### **04- Talking about Jaybird Kelly and Bob Johnson (3:41)**

**Fulks:** Now Gordon Wells was born and raised in this county and him and his sister both took the Freeman World Fair, in 1904 dancing, single dancing I'm talking about. And he told Gordon Wells one day, he said "Gordon you won the prize at the world's fair" he said "I want to dance with you." And Gordon said if you step off the floor I'll dance with ya. (laughing) Right down on that floor and them feet a pattin and them knees a pattin, I never seen nothing like since God ever made me on the face of the earth. That's the truth if I never get out of this house, poor old granny she laughed. (laughing)

**Harrod:** (laughing)

**Fulks:** and I'll tell ya what's the truth. I never in my life, I never in my life seen a man that danced like that man did, he was double jointed and people wouldn't dance against him that's all. Now Gordon, he turned, and he bluffed Gordon, he said "now if you step off the floor I'll dance against ya."

**Harrod:** Do you know any of those fiddles over around Salyersville?

**Fulks:** No, now I saw a lot of them over around Paintsville, there they had place there I told you about.

**Harrod:** Paintsville?

**Fulks:** a park, yeah side it, every time I got the chance I'd go down there, in the summertime especially, if it was a pretty day there'd be all kinds of banjos(?) down in that park there, there was beer joint right at the end of it. We'd go down there and get beer and then go back, fiddle and dance, and that's where I heard, where that old man told me. Let me see now what was his name? John I told you his name.

**Harrod:** Bob Johnson.

**Fulks:** Bob Johnson. He hummed everything (humming)

**Harrod:** (laughing)  
I know a fellow like that. He can't help himself.

**Fulks:** Well I'll tell ya that there was a fella playing a piece John I can't think of what it was to save my life, to save my life now. I now I've told you about it. This fella was a playing and I said, "what do you call that?" He was a pretty good fiddler too. She told me what it was called, *Whoopidy Woman* (?). Wasn't that what it was?

**Harrod:** *Mud Fence* wouldn't it?

**Fulks:** *Whoopidy Woman* ? And the piece was, I said, "now I'm not an expert in music but that's not the right tune to that piece." I asked him what he called it, what's the name of it? And he told me he called it *Whoopidy Woman*. Andrew Jackson. Andrew Jackson.

**Harrod:** Andrew Jackson, yeah

**Fulks:** Yeah

**Harrod:** Another story

**Fulks:** and that's Andrew Jackson, somebody's changed the name of it. He's a nice feller, I said let's go out here were (?)Johnson is and I'll show you that I'm right. There's a lot of these fellers changing the names to these pieces, and we went up there and Bob, he was about half drunk, and I said "Bob play Andrew Jackson," and he went to playing it and it was just like I was telling ya. And he said that's all I ever did hear it called, *Whoopidy Woman*, and I said "that's not right."

**Harrod:** Some people call that tune Waynesburg. Waynesboro. Waynesburg? Which is it?

**Woman :** Waynesboro.

**Harrod:** Waynesboro, yeah.

## 05- 'traitor' story (3:25)

**Fulks:** He said, "you'll never have nothing in your life." And I thought (?) I've got everything piled up in the shed

**Harrod:** Well I save fiddle stuff

**Fulks:** John I tell you what, you remember stuff old people tells ya. I know one time my grandfather had a buggy house, we drove a buggy, and had eight hundred acres on the farm and had a bunch of renters and he had to keep a bunch of mules there, all these fellers had to have a team, you know had to have something to plow with, in the summer. Well they had mules for these renters you know and so there wouldn't be no (?) men come after his mules they were there in the barn, and there was a plow stock in the buggy house, a man come up and said, "Steve have you got a, have you got a plow stock you're not using?" "No I haven't." Well I knew that was a lie John, I knew that was a lie, but I kept quiet. I didn't say nothing you know until that man had left and I said, I always called him Pappy, and I said, "Pappy there's a plow stock up there in your buggy house." "I know it son. I know it son," but he said, "now let me tell you something, don't you forget this, you have to have dealings with people to find them out" and he said, "and I wouldn't let that man have nothing." He said, "he's a traitor, there's nothing to him, nothing to his word. He's traitored me one time and I'm not foolin with him no more." And I'll never forget that. I'll never forget that. And I couldn't have been over eight years old. He said you have to have dealings with people to find them out. And that's the truth. That's the truth. A feller right down here, I thought was straight, crooked, stole my stuff.

**Harrod:** You told me a bunch of stories one time about Creaser Hurst, wouldn't it?

**Fulks:** Yeah.

**Harrod:** Where did he live?

**Fulks:** It was on, his father was the, his father was the richest man in this whole country. And he owned, well he owned thousands and thousands of acres in Wolfe and Breathitt(?) and I remember the old house where they raised his family. And his timber, they sold all his timber, well they give it away years ago you know, made a fortune.

**Harrod:** So he made his money in timber?

**Fulks:** Yeah

**Man:** Who is this you're talking about?

**Harrod:** Caesar Hurst

**Fulks:** Caesar Hurst

**Harrod:** I've heard, Fay King, some way or another was

**Fulks:** Clay King

**Harrod:** No the lady who's been to see you, from Stanton. Her husband's the, what is he? He's the district judge down there at Stanton. King lady.

**Woman:** Fay

**Harrod:** Fay King

**Fulks:** Clay King

**Woman:** Fay

**Harrod:** Fay

**Fulks:** Fay King?

**Harrod:** Yeah, she's been here to see ya.

**Fulks:** see me

**Harrod:** Yeah she's, well she's a Gram, from Breathitt County.

**Fulks:** I don't fool with no Grams.

**Harrod:** (laughing)

**Woman:** (laughing)

**Harrod:** Tell me about Caesar Hurst

**Fulks:** There's nothing that I want to put on tape.

**Harrod:** You don't? no, ok.

**Fulks:** he had a brother

## **06- Silver Mine story (1:58)**

**Fulks:** well this guy who fixed my belt clamp come along and he said, "you don't belong up here do ya?" And I said, "no I live down next to Camps(?)." And he said, "you know

where Pine Ridge is?" I said, "yes I know where Pine Ridge is." He said, "I drilled a well out there and drilled though a, I couldn't get, the bits couldn't stand it it was so hard," and he said, "I might have made up my mind it's silver," said, "I caught it. I caught it out of the bailer(?), dumped the bailer in the bucket and washed it out and it was silver." I said, "what well was that?" And he said, "that's a secret." I said, "what, where is the well?" He said, "we never did get a drop of water." And I knew a girl that lived out there, right next to the school, and said "aught if you knew where that," I said, "what's your name," he said, "George Talbee." Said, "George Talbee's my name." I told him my name, and I saw Orveal Shanaltze(?), a driller who lived out there, and I said, "Orv do you know where a George Talbee drills? A dry hole out here, when you're drilling for water, when he's drilling for the school?" And he said, "yeah." And he wouldn't tell me right where it was(?) but he said, "it was so hard I had to dress one bit after the other, liked to have never got through it." There ain't no doubt about it. And a feller told me there was well dug way out on Dog Creek, and there was a man

**Harrod:** on Dog Creek

### **07- Mabel's beans (2:12)**

**Fulks:** How's that?

**Man:** What did they hit down there, what did they hit at the bottom of that well that would ruin a tool?

**Fulks:** Up here you mean?

**Man:** Yeah

**Fulks:** I'll tell ya what they did, they shot it and they didn't clean it out, and all that sand in there. That's was ruined em. I told em they didn't know a thing about the business.

(laughing)

And it wasn't none of my business. After this happened I told em, "you aught never to have let the rig left here before you cleaned the well our."

**Man:** Yeah

(skip in recording)

**Fulks:** Now in his history book, back over behind Bill Davis, sitting with his back to you, playing the fiddle, left handed. I want you to look that up and see if I'm telling you the truth.

**Harrod:** That was in a school book?

**Fulks:** It was in a history book, in a history. The first history John, when the kids get the first history.

(skip in recording)

**Woman 1:** It's called, now let me see if I can say it right. I usually get it mixed up. A tobacco worm bean.

**Woman 2:** huh (laughing)

**Woman 1:** and it grows, it's a big white bean, and it grows about that long and it'll crook(?)

**Woman 2:** uh-huh

**Woman 1:** That's one of the best white beans I ever saw in my life. And you want to plant it in corn and let it

**Woman 2:** oh it's a vinin bean

**Woman 1:** yeah it's a vinin bean. But it's so far ahead of a white half runner

**Harrod:** it is?

**Woman 1:** It's daylight and dark.

**Harrod:** We planted our beans with out corn this year

**Woman 1:** yeah, yeah

**Woman 2:** That's the way to do em.

**Woman 1:** I like to do em that way you don't have to mess with those old stakes and all that stuff.

**Woman 2:** That's right. (laugh)

**Woman 1:** That's a pain in the neck.

**Woman 2:** that's right. It's a job to stick beans.

**Woman 1:** It is. It's a pain to stack tomatoes much less do the beans (laugh).

**Woman 2:** And I've got a tomato that I ordered the seed of it and I saw a picture of one that growed, that grows from eighteen to twenty-four foot high.

**Woman 1:** what

**Woman 2:** And it's guaranteed to grow two bushels to the plant.

**Woman 1:** oh my gosh. (laugh)

**Harrod:** (laugh) I'd be afraid of them. (laughing)

### **08- Untitled (1:04)**

**Fulks:** *All I got that's done gone* is the best fiddle piece I ever heard in my life

**Harrod:** yeah

**Woman 1:** well it is.

**Fulks:** That's the best fiddle piece and somebody ought to go and string a little bunch of roses along on top of his grave. For that piece.

**Harrod:** There's a fellow up Winchester that could play that piece real good. He coming into that music store there on Main Street.

**Woman 1:** Who's that?

**Fulks:** Now that's

**Harrod:** McCorth

**Fulks:** *All I got that's done gone* is the best fiddle piece I ever heard in my whole life. It's go the music back on

**Woman:** I don't think I've ever heard anyone as crazy about a fiddle

**Harrod:** (laughing)

**Fulks:** I used to could hear a piece

(laughing)

**Man:** I was a little worried about you for a while, John said you hurt your hand.

**Fulks:** I did. I fell, I was running after a cow and fell and I run my hand into a pile of coal. I liked to tore my fingers off.

**Woman:** He's been knocked out for a year.

**Fulks:** I had the awfulist time that night and after I got over that I got into that bee swarm out there and got stung. I had the worst fall I ever had in my life.

### **09- All I've Got's done Gone C (2:47)**

**Harrod:** Everybody's favorite?

(fiddle playing)

**Harrod:** That's great

**Man:** Yeap

**Fulks:** That's the greatest fiddle tune ever played on a fiddle I think. Not because I play it. I learned it from Sillies and he learned it from Doc Roberts.

(fiddle strumming)

I've never heard a fiddle tune like that john.

**Man:** that's your greatest fiddle tune

**Fulks:** That's a great fiddle tune.

### **10- Colored Fiddlers at Mt. Sterling- talking about Bill Livers (3:53)**

**Fulks:** I used to could, I used to could hear a piece and I could hold it in my head. I know one time I was in Mt. Sterling and a, I took a pair of mules down there and give em away, swap tem for a ol' horse. It was young crazy thing, didn't have no sense. Well on my way back, it was fifty some miles home, according to the old people who'd made the trip back and forth, and that day I heard two colored people play *Martha Campbell*, that's the first time I ever heard it, one on guitar, one on fiddle one playing guitar, and I thought and I'll still think this, they were the greatest players I've ever heard. Now they don't play *Martha Campbell* like these colored folks did, you know play it. I tried to play like it. Now I heard that there and I got on my horse and got to humming that and whistling that and holding every way I could to that. I got home at daylight I had fifty some miles to ride

**Harrod:** yeah

**Fulks:** and a, just a little after daylight I rode in home. Well I kept hummin on that and humming on it and hummin on it, I'd never hard it before, and I finally caught it. And then I heard another feller play it one time. I believe that was at Mt. Sterling played exactly, this was a white man, played exactly like this colored feller played, and I knew I had it right, but now then they left out part of it and they don't play it, they don't play it like they used to play it. And there's a lot of tunes, we had a fiddler here he was a Virginia man, come out of Virginia when he was young, come here, played *Bonaparte's Retreat*, well there was a feller down in Nashville, Tennessee, that Peewee come and tore that piece all to pieces

**Harrod:** Oh, yeah, yeah.

**Fulks:** That's right. And left out part of it.

**Harrod:** Yeah.

**Fulks:** I know, I know.

**Harrod:** Yeah.

**Fulks:** Because I heard that Pat(?) play it too many times, too many times. So forget it. And they'll pick up a piece and they'll change it to whatever they'll want to call it just after they're finished with it. Callin, something about a lady. What was it I said John? *Whoopidy Woman*. Calling an old fiddle piece called *Andrew Jackson*, calling it *Whoopidy Woman*. Well he probably thought I was a smart elic but I told him the truth.

**Harrod:** uh-huh

**Fulks:** I said that's not the name of that piece. And he went with me out there, was an old time fiddler humming and everything.

(skip in recording)

**Fulks:** Oh yeah, yeah.

(laughing)

That's where I met John. That night.

**Harrod:** Yeah, yeah.

**Woman:** Well now I won't say you dances all over the street. You danced down on the street, by the platform. I thought you was John's wife, we called her John's wife for a long time till

(laughing)

We got to, you know, know them better.

**Fulks:** I went around there to old (?) when he quite playing, to give him some money, and I ran into you and I said, “what become of the old colored feller,” you said, “I think they took him in there to give him a drink,” or something like that.

(laughing)

**Man:** Yeah (laughing) you didn’t have to twist his arm to do that.

(laughing)

No you didn’t

**Fulks:** Yeah, well that’s you John.

**Woman:** I remember Jane a dancing that night.

**Man:** Jane can just do so many things.

(laughing)

**Harrod:** How about *Martha Campbell*?

(fiddle playing)

**Man:** *Martha Campbell*, that’s the one he was talking about a moment ago wasn’t it?

### **11- Martha Campbell (1:34)**

(fiddle playing)

**Man:** That’s how he played it, where did you say?

**Woman 1:** Mt. Sterling

**Fulks:** Mt. Sterling

### **12- The Old Slave On His Way to the Poor house (2:59)**

(fiddle playing)

**Fulks:** Yeah I'm out of practice John, she knows this is the first time I've picked up a fiddle in I don't know when.

(fiddle playing)

(?) John. You know that's a real bow.

### **13- Working on an Old Log Train F (4:25)**

**Fulks:** I've forgot half those people, with the little pole on their shoulder and a hoodie(?) on their back

**Harrod:** Yeah

**Fulks:** and that's where this old fiddler met him, asked him where he was a goin. He said Old Muskie(?) put him out and he said, I can remember some of what he said he could still cut the saw wood and milk the cow and feed the hogs, he got tired of it and he walked, you know a slave(?). I could have got that John if I had any since, but then I was having family trouble on top of family trouble and it's a wonder if I would have got the tune.

(fiddle playing)

**Harrod:** What key did you do that in?

**Fulks:** F

**Harrod:** F?

**Fulks:** I tell you John I'm the only one left now, the only one, if you'll find another one I'll swallow that cricket(?). Now no one plays in F and I want John to learn it so bad. You don't find nobody, you can't find nobody. All the old timers played in F, they were not violin players. They couldn't run way down here and get it, they had to stay up here.

**Harrod:** uh-huh

**Fulks:** and they dropped over into F. Of course here's low F here (music plays), here high F here (music plays). See they didn't have to, sometimes they go down in here (music plays). You can ruin that dropping into F there (music plays)

(fiddle playing)

**Harrod:** Darley that's a good piece. I like those train sounds.

**Fulks:** John that other, that *Orange Blossom Special* turned me against it. I was always ashamed to play it.

#### **14- Manassas C (1:47)**

(fiddle playing)

**Harrod:** That's it.

**Woman 1:** Yeah, that's it

(fiddle playing)

**Harrod:** That's one of my favorite pieces

**Fulks:** It is?

**Harrod:** and I've been trying to learn it. I'm getting closer than I was

**Fulks:** (laugh)

**Harrod:** But it's got some extra beats in it

**Fulks:** (laugh)

**Harrod:** throw me off. I got on to that extra beat in Andrew Jackson, but that's just got one extra beat in it. I think *Manassas* has got more than one

#### **15- Talking about Caesar Hurst (5:27)**

**Fulks:** He had a brother with all this money, this man he had thousands of acres of land here and he was a captain in the war, in the old Civil War; he just had one eye. He was a big man. And he left his log house and built a big brick, over in Estill(?), he lives there in that big brick house, it's a mansion.

**Harrod:** I've seen it. Yeah.

**Fulks:** Now you've seen it, over on the corner? Will we go by it?

**Harrod:** It's back up the side street isn't it?

**Fulks:** Yeah, that's right yeah. Well let's see, he was the oldest boy and he had a brother and he thought he was killed. (?) And a lot of people, people that lived here, U.S. history

(?), and he made it so that (?) he'd get everything. That was probably true because he robbed(?) all he sisters and he went down to Florida and got into some kind of a real estate (?), yeah I've heard it and he spend two hundred and some thousand dollars there.

**Harrod:** (laughing)

Fulks: And when he died they took everything he left up here, sold all the land, and that's all gone, the home's gone, and when he died he had an old cemetery down (?) in Lexington, that's all he had he run through all this fortune, all this money, no telling how much money, they said he lost two hundred and some thousand dollars in Florida and he lost a lot in Breathitt County. Now he run a saloon up there when that was a dry county. I know that to be a fact because he had brothers and sisters that married the circuit judge (??) (background noise) Somebody asked that judge, the way I heard it, "Why do you allow that?" and he said, "I want to live here.(??)"

Harrod: (laugh)

Fulks: I know too many (??) (unintelligible) everybody knew that, everybody knew that.

Harrod: Yeah I heard he was an awful bad man.

Fulks: Oh there's no telling how many men he killed, had killed. He took Bill Bailey's wife and (??) Bill Hurst was named after old Captain Bill, his name is Bill Hurst, and there was a depot over there, run from Jackson down to West Liberty then (??) Bill Hurst and he owned everything around there(??) and he took Bill Bailey's wife and they were going to kill him. And he got two fellers (??) one of them fellers when they got Bill Bailey up there and killed him was (??) there was two of em. That was one of them guys that pistol whipped(??) Miles Hall(??) they said he was in Jackson and would be gone about a week or two. And as he was going up there them Callahan's and Harvey's and things you see, well Neal(??) come down the road one time, the railroad track and he had he had a bootleg joint there. There they was bootlegging liquor out on the side of the railroad tracks, back off the runway(??) and I remember that place. And they'd go in there gambling and buy whiskey too, and Bill past and they told he, "Come on in here Bill and get ya a drink." He didn't know he was going into a death trap you know, well when he opened the door they opened fire on him and killed him (??) dead. Then there was another feller over here

Harrod: That was Hurst then?

Fulks: Yeah, yeah Hurst had killed his grandson

Harrod: And he took his wife

Fulks: Yeah and he took his wife  
There's not doubt about that. Now his father-in-law, he married kind of a young girl(?) about fifteen(?) and of course he had money, and I knew her father well and he told me

that he (??) this girl I can't remember her name, June, June Hatten(??) said, "Did so and so pay for that grave out there?"

"No not yet."

Said, "I ought to go out there dig him up and stomp his bones."

Harrod: (laughing)

(unintelligible)

Harrod: Darley do you know any Indian Stories? About Indians in this country? Did you ever hear anybody talk about the Indians around here?

(unintelligible)



**Interviewee: Darley Fulks**

**Interviewer: John Harrod**

**Disc 14**

**01- Fife & Drum F (2:50)**

**Harrod:** Alright play that one.

(fiddle playing)

**Harrod:** Which one is that?

**Fulks:** Fife and Drum

**Harrod:** Did you learn that from Dave Athy?

**Fulks:** Yeah. I wouldn't say that I learned it direct from him but now he's the boss of it. He's the instigator of it (laughing)

**Harrod:** (laugh)

**Fulks:** Cause I've always heard em, "Where'd you learn that piece from, Dave?" Maybe my uncle, maybe my grandfather, I don't know John, but he played all them old pieces. Johnny he's a peculiar man, he kept a fiddle, a fiddle was he life. Now they auctioned em off here about a year or two ago, or three, and he only had one relative(?) in the world and that was a granddaughter and she came back here when he died and took, she was appointed administrator and took charge of everything. And I can't remember where she left them fiddles, but she came back here and had a sale and sold a lot of old junk stuff he had and his two fiddles, but Richard Yate(?) got one and I can't, he had one at the barber shop and one at the house. And if he wouldn't cutting somebody's hair or shaving somebody he was sittin there playing that fiddle. Oh many times I've heard him way, sawing away, all the way past the barber shop. That's a good baby

(baby crying)

**Woman:** As soon as you say that she starts crying (laugh)

**Harrod:** Yeah (laugh). Now play the *Old Confederate March*.

## **02- The Old Confederate March (1:11)**

(fiddle playing)

**Fulks:** I got nervous and started missing notes, that's the reason I quite.

## **03- Untitled (:20)**

**Fulks:** I fell off about, how much was it?

**Woman:** Fifteen

**Fulks:** Fifteen pounds maybe it was(?)  
(?)

(music plays)

## **04- The Shepherd & His Sheep F (1:53)**

(fiddle playing)

**Fulks:** *Shepherd and Sheep*, that's all I know now John I thought I might could play it but it slipped my mind. The feller that I learned that from is up in Illinois. He said he learned it from a couple of strangers(?)

**Harrod:** Hum

**Fulks:** From St. Louis, we was forty miles this side, east of St. Louis, at, I can't think of the name of the town right now, workin in Orville(?)

(fiddle playing)

## **05- Talking about Jim Little/ talking about Kessinger Bros (2:52)**

**Harrod:** Do you remember Jim Little?

**Fulks:** yeah

**Harrod:** Well that was his grandfather.

**Woman:** Well now Darley that old woman that brings me the ducks and comes here so much, she's mixed up with Jim Little, some way.

**Fulks:** You know the name Carle Banks?

**Harrod:** Yeah

**Fulks:** Well now Boul Banks, now John I hate to say this

(skipped on tape)

**Harrod:** What do you remember about Jim Little?

**Fulks:** I remember a lot about him, I remember a lot about him, he was a nice man. And he had a boy. What was that boy's name? Seems like he died of cancer. I know where he old home is. I know where Jim Little used to live, on Devil's Creek(?), back in that Flatbush country.

(skip on tape)

About his boy, Willy Little, he's dead now I think.

(skip on tape)

**Harrod:** Kessinger?

**Fulks:** Kessinger Brothers

**Harrod:** You had some of his records

**Fulks:** Oh I had a bunch of em.

**Harrod:** uh-huh. Yeah I got some of his records too

**Fulks:** you have?

**Harrod:** yeah, he's

**Fulks:** You got the, *Wild Geese*?

**Harrod:** Not by him. I've heard other people play it. Did you ever hear him play in person?

**Fulks:** No I never did hear him.

**Harrod:** oh

**Fulks:** Just on records, but I saw on paper where he went to (?). Johnny went out to Salt Lake City, they had a national contest and he went out there and won it.

**Harrod:** yeah I heard about him, it wouldn't too long before he died, that he won that national

**Fulks:** They used to go as Kessinger Brothers.

**Harrod:** Right. I didn't know their records sold down in this country.

**Fulks:** Oh yeah.

**Harrod:** Yeah he's from West Virginia.

**Fulks:** John I had, I guess I had a hundred, over a hundred records. I had one of these old fashioned things full (?) I left my watch, I left my change and a solid gold emblem and I don't know what all I left there John, pictures. I never got nothing. And I'm satisfied, she set the whole thing a fire and burned up the old gramophone, phonograph(?), whatever you want to call it and all the records. Banjo pieces I had, well I just had it full that's all.

**Harrod:** Yeah.

**Fulks:** Well I wouldn't a took nothing for it.

#### **06- Talking about education, family, and music/ escapades at school (5:44)**

**Fulks:** There used to be a feller, I don't know whether he's alive yet, cause he was a sick man, him and his wife run a second hand store, and they handled records, old records and new records too. Well every time they'd get in a bunch of new records, or old records either one they'd always call me and I'd always go to the house and listen to at theirs, and then pick out

**Harrod:** Is this Campton?

**Fulks:** and then pick out what I wanted. Yeah here at Campton. But for somebody to handle them in a music stores, there wouldn't no music store here. Breathe and Might(?) used to have one maybe.

**Woman (Mable):** yeah.

(skip in tape)

**Fulks:** Places over yonder, coming up that big long hill, coming out, coming towards Campton

**Harrod:** yeah

**Fulks:** on the right

**Harrod:** yeah

**Fulks:** Well there's where my father was raised. He walked to Campton back to school of a mornin. Had to if you got any schoolin. Well he wanted an education, I didn't want any education, and he done his best, he sent me to (?) School and when we moved out on the farm he sent me to Campton School, and I wouldn't interested. I was telling Mable the other night(?) I wanted to be over at my grandfather's where there was old auctions and mules, and horses, peep owls, monkeys,

**Harrod:** (laughing)

**Fulks:** Johnny it was a paradise over there (laughing)

**Harrod:** (laughing)

**Fulks:** I seen it one time, they had three monkeys, a bunch of peep owls, genies, ducks, geese, I don't know what all speckled birds(?), ground hogs (laughing)

**Harrod:** (laughing)

**Fulks:** beat everything I ever saw in my life, I thought that's all I wanted to see(?), but my father he wanted me to get an education. He didn't stop till he, I don't know how he done it, but his father put him through the old Wesleyan College at Winchester. He graduated from there. And that's all he'd study about, is that he wanted me to get an education, and me a frolicking around didn't care nothing about it.

**Harrod:** (laugh)

**Fulks:** That was my mother's people, that was my mother's people. Had to go look at the people, they'd end up going to the dance and play their fiddle and drink good whiskey.

**Harrod:** Well Darley that's just about the story of my life too. My dad's been disappointed in me and few times for what I've done. But I think now he, he's kinda come to terms with it. But a lot of people don't think the music amounts to too much.

**Fulks:** Well now John I'll tell you what, I've seen a time that if you would have took my fiddle away from me I don't what I would have done, you got all down in the dumps, you're troubled you're bothered, your mind's wrecked. Trouble, and with just a fiddle pretty soon you forget about it all.

**Harrod:** That's right.

**Fulks:** That's right.

My mind was set, no way my father was going to change me, no way John. No way John, I just couldn't change. I couldn't change. I was as much different, as almost a white man and a colored man is different in their skin. Even without an education I didn't care about an education. I never would have went the fifth grade if it wouldn't have been for him. He made me go to school, put me in a boarding school over in Hazel Green(?) every year for three or four years. I'd rather been in the penitentiary.

**Harrod:** (laugh)

**Fulks:** That's the truth (laughing). Somebody's got to work John it's not in everybody to be graduated from some big high flash(?) college.

(skip in tape)

We took that bed and we threw it in the pond, we was wrestling on the bed, throwed that in the pond

**Woman (Mable):** Hey Darley, tell him about putting the girl in the boiler.

**Fulks:** No I don't want to tell that.

**Edwards:** A girl in the boiler? (lauging)

**Harrod:** (laughing)

**Edwards:** That sounds gruesome.

**Mable:** Darley tell him that tell he'd love to hear that.

**Fulks:** Oh I was about eleven or twelve years old John, (?) was an old school house up here where we went to school, we had to walk up the road here about a mile, and this guy drilled a hole and left the rig there(?), and them days it was steam, boilers you know there wouldn't no, now there's molders(?) you know they've done away with all the steam, I don't know what made me do that, I opened that boil door and picked that little girl up and stuck her back, of course there wouldn't no fire in there. And John when she got out she went to screaming and somebody run over and when she got out of there her face was the awfulest look, soot.

**Harrod:** (laugh)

**Fulks:** on it you know. John there wouldn't a one at school to tell on me. Not a one. Her mother was a big woman, a fighter

**Edwards:** Oh

**Fulks:** She come down the next morning, she said "I come down here to see who put my child in that biler." She called it a biler

**Harrod:** (laugh)

**Fulks:** Old regular boiler (??) a dry hole and left it, they got to asking questions and finally she said, "as mean of a boy as Darley Fulks wouldn't even have done a thing like that(??)"

**Harrod:** (laughs)

**Fulks:** And there wouldn't a word. There was lady down here knows about it, "she's an invalid now isn't she Mabel?"

**Mable:** yeah

**Fulks:** She told Mable about it. She saw it.

**Mable:** Yeah when granny was on her death bed (two voices overlap)

**Fulks:** (??) I didn't mean to hurt that kid.

(voices overlapping)

**Harrod:** (laugh)

### **07- Cancer Remedy (8:18)**

**Mabel(?):** He was boarding at her addy's and when her daddy found out he had this gun he goes and tells Darley's daddy and Darley's daddy come up there and, said "Darley where's your pistol? I hear you got a pistol." No he didn't have one, but anyway his daddy made him go and get it, and Ruth she laughs and tells he took it out on a walk and made him take a hummer or a sledgehammer or something, and beat it all to pieces.

**Edwards:** (laugh)

**Harrod:** Oh, no.

**Fulks:** That was all fun John, I didn't mean to shot anyone with that.

John there was a woman come here, she had a cancer on her, it was a hard site to look at. Well she'd been over to Doctor Mathis(?) and he took a pair of tweezers and he pulled the scab off of that and it was that long and about that wide, right across the face there. Well she come here wanting some medicine, and I never did charge, I don't know the people I give the medicine to just take the cancer off of em, and I never charged her nothing for the medicine.

**Harrod:** Do you make the medicine or do you just get so much of it?

(overlapping conversations)

**Fulks:** No, No, Granny bought it off an Injun, that come here. John he was highly educated, had a diploma. He had a map, I call it a map, under he arm, but he told me an old white man seen that(?), I didn't even ask him, (?), come on down here to this Still Water Bridge and this white man, he had a map and he staded in Oklahoma and he had all kinds of maps of these counties, Wolfe, and all and West Virginia, and on his map I didn't see it, was Cabin Creek, West Virginia, and as far as he could figure it out he was in West Virginia, he placed these maps all together and he was in West Virginia on Cabin Creek. Well he took his map and he went there. Well he didn't know where Cabin Creek was and he couldn't find it and he didn't get how to find it, and he took a white man with him and they looked about a year all over Cabin Creek, couldn't find nothing. Well he knew this remedy and when they went broke he went broke and this white man did to, hunting for mineral, hunting for mine way back (??). They had to go on this white man's (??)

**Harrod:** uh-huh

**Fulks:** But anyway, they stopped right by this Still Water Bridge(?), this old man had a store, not this bridge it was a big iron bridge, a big a big long bridge too (baby crying), and this old man on this end of the bridge run a post office and a store called Still Water, Still Water Post Office, on the banks of Still Water down in there. Well they stopped and said "Do you know anyone with cancer?" And that old man knew a colored(??)lived over the hill over there, come out where Rocky Branch emptied into Still Water, just like this Trace Fork does here. There was somebody in the store, an old one by the side of the road and said, "Boy I had trouble in that path that goes over that creek over yonder(?), take em on over the gravel." I told em, I says(?), "when you get in that path over there, this feller's going to show you the path. You follow that path don't go out of it and you'll go over the hill and there's another holler over there, another creek." Old man had a (??) on him, had one on his nose Joe, John. Way boy and when that come off of there that was the awful looking man you ever saw. Well they took that off of there and made their headquarters there(?). Well John this old man and his wife had a son, and his wife and daughter that lived there with him, with the old folks. A son and his wife and a

daughter lived with the two old people and the old man had the cancer. Well they made that their headquarters and they come right by the ridge(??) coming out of there and I got a little friendly(??) with both of em. Well one time he come by the ridge and said a, he says, "Darley." Had a solid gold(??) watch, a nice watch, and I said, "Bozo" or "Lozo" or something like that was his name. Marshall, he went by the name Marshall, but that wasn't his name. He told me his name. (??) for (??) county and I used to work there and Harmony(??) is the country seat. I said, (baby crying) "I saw you come up the road, come up out the point down there and we couldn't see ya for about a hundred yards, and I just happened to seen him a coming around the pike you know(??) and I said, "What's the matter?" He said, "If it hadn't been for Tom Ratliff, the old man who had the cancer on his nose, Bo would have killed me." Bo went wild and this white man was with him(??). Went wild about this girl. I said, "I'll tell you what you do. Lives in (??) a widow woman(??) and I have some money(??)." And I said, "You know where the pump is out back the court house is don't ya?"

"Yeah."

"Oh they said I don't have any cancer, they took one man he was bed fast with it, he said looked like they were going to take half his foot off when he came out." Well anyway I said, "You go to that pump and turn, facing the court house it's in the back now." I said, "look west, across the street over there, across the creek, a big two story house over there." And I said, "that's the widow woman. She might buy it."

"Couldn't buy the watch(??)"

He said, "I'll sell her my remedy I got to get out of here(??)."

Tom said that boy was trying to shot him. Well I couldn't work no more after I thought well he'll go on and give that woman a bogus deal, rob her. Well I worked an hour or two and then said, "well let's set down. I'm going in." Well I had to walk four miles, he did too, four miles to town. John well I said, "Granny." I always called her Granny. "I said, "Granny what did, did that Indian come?"

She said, "Yeah."

I said, "What did he do?"

She said, "I bought a (??)"

I said, "What did you give him?"

She said, "don't ask what I give him look here what I got."

Well John she got a sieving(??) jar. Was it a half a pint Mable that sieving jar?

**Mable:** No, it's a pint jar

**Fulks:** A pint jar about half full, it looked like roofing tar(??). Got the recipe for that, where they get it, how to mix it and everything and got there (??) and she never did tell us what she give for it. But I've took off, I took one off of Maud Thomas(??) head (baby crying) and what I give her she (??) gave another feller (??) and I said, "don't you tell anybody that, that I gave you that medicine." I didn't charge her for it. I bet she charged him and he said she didn't. I saw him in a store one day(??) Mable what's that feller's name? Hazel? What is that feller's name that Maud called and took that place off his face?

**Mable:** Dale Pence(??)

**Fulks:** Dale Pence

### **08- Cancer Remedy (6:37)**

**Fulks:** Dale Pence was sitting there and I came in and he said, “Darley you left your car out there.” And I said, “yeah. What happened Dale.” He said, “A woman took the cancer off my face with that (baby crying) (??) one came here a while back, I told her I said, “Now,” (baby crying) (??) took one off of Grover Foxes(??) hand, one off of Maud Thomas’s(??) forehead, off my sister’s forehead and gave my sister and got rit of one off her back(??). But anyway, this woman went to Doc Mash(??) and he pulled, took that scab off of that. Well that started irritating there and she had to take I don’t know how many shots and finally got her alright. And I kept, Mable kept, I said Mable, “Call that woman see how she is, with cancer.” Well finally somebody lived over there. Who was it Mable?

**Harrod:** Patty and Fin(??)

**Fulks:** Yeah. They lived close to em and said she was afraid it would burn her up. John they said it’s like a red hot iron, for about, six to eight hours. Orville Cox(??) told me he walked the floor with that one on his hand, and it’s gone and I’ll tell you what the Indian told me one day, and I can take you within ten feet of where we was sitting in an old rig(??), right there near the well and he told me, I said, “You ever fail?” “Never.” He said, “We had one case where we turned the cover back and a lady was all cancer and we knowed it’d kill her. We didn’t try to take em off of her. She had so many on her, they were all over her.” And he said, “One woman,” he said, “we would have never got her to if it hadn’t been for her husband, she never would have let us take, she had one on the side of her face.” And he said it was a big one. “We told her,” he said, “that it will eat ya up. I’ll eat you up. I’ll eat you up. It’ll kill ya.” Finally she agreed and her man a telling her, said, “they’re telling you the truth, you better let em take it off.” Afraid it’d burn her, so she’d heard that it would burn her and it does, they say. He said, “I had a high power reading glass, a high powered glass,” he said, and he said, “she finally agreed if one of us would stay with her, till she quit hurting, she’d let us take it off.” And I said, “Alright I’ll stay with ya.” He said, “I took that glass and got to looking at that thing.” He said, “I saw a black hair growing(??) right over her nose.” Like a black thread or a black hair, right out of the (??), and he said, “I got to watching that and,” he said, “I’d get tired and go away and like a hand on a clock.” I never will forget what he told me it was like, he said, “you can’t see it move, a hand on a clock, but,” he said, “it’s moving just the same.” And he said that’s the way that thing done, that cancer done, that big root a going over her tongue, over her nose. And he said, “I kept watching it and finally it got over here, maybe in an hour (coughing in background), (??) said it stopped over in here somewhere.” And every bit of that turned just as red as blood, where that medicine was soaking in there, killing it. Well John we had a little girl had something on

her mouth, on her tongue, we took her to Lexington. Went to (??) I told that nurse in there I said, "I want the best professional(??) to look at this child." I said, "what's the matter with her? (??) must have gotten her," I said, "Honey show her your tongue." Showed her a big wart back there. Well and she said, "now when this doctor from Mayo(??) comes in I'll call him and tell ya." Directly(??) there was a great big ol' man come in there, not a big bellied man, just a big man. She said, "there he is." She called him. I thought I'd never get his name. He said, "you go get a gown and meet me at the hospital room, to take that off. She went after the gown John and come back and said, "I haven't got a dime a trying, lost every cent we had, she had. To pay the hospital bill and, you know the operation, we had two or three hundred dollars, in her pocket book, whatever you call it. I said, "it might be the best thing that ever happened call that nurse down there at that (??) and get her to call that doctor and ask him if we owe him anything, we're going home." I said, "I've got enough in my pocket to get home on(??)." An old preacher, it was a wart, a old preacher took it off. But Bo, I run into Bo in Campton one day, this, I don't know where the Injun was, he left somewhere maybe doctoring somebody, I asked him, I told him about this kid's tongue. He looked at it and he said, "Now I don't believe that's cancer." Well he rolled up, now it's not (??) John. He rolled up another piece about like a lead pencil and I'd say about an inch long, charged me ten dollars for it and said, "now you touch that about two or three times to her tongue a day," and he said, "If it's a cancer why, we'll find out and we'll take it off." Well we done what he said and it's still on there, never turned raw or nothing. So I'm going to hunt me a doctor one of these days John and I'm a gonna sell that. I'm going to sell that remedy. It's too good a remedy to die and leave and not tell people about it. Granny's the only one who ever had it. There's was a woman down here who's boy find (??) married that girl after that Indian left

**Harrod:** You got the recipe for it how to make it?

**Fulks:** huh?

**Harrod:** Do you have the recipe for it?

**Fulks:** Yeah. I got everything John. I got a

**Harrod:** Do you got it written down?

**Fulks:** huh?

**Harrod:** Do you got it written down?

**Fulks:** Yeah, 19

**Mable:** It was wrote down in 1927.

**Harrod:** 1927, that was a long time ago.

**Mable:** There was a guy here the other day wanting to know about it.

**Fulks:** Oh he was gonna have that.

**Edwards:** (Laugh)

**Fulks:** Yeah I told him I ain't got it.

**Harrod:** (laugh)

**Fulks:** I ain't got it. I just lied to him

**Mable:** (laugh)

#### **09- Silver Mines (4:56)**

**Fulks:** I can't think of it, Wartrey(?) he says, " You know where the Pine Ridge school is don't ya?" and I said, "yeah." He said (bells ringing), "I used to build water wells." He said, "I went through something, (?) tore my bit all to pieces." And he said there was drill bit on the end of (?), and says, "I thought we would have to give it up. Didn't have no water and there I was in this hard stuff." And he said, " I got to catching that," and he said, "this mineral is silver." I said, "what dept is that?" He said, "that's a secret." And I went to (?), he was a drealer the same as I was and he lived out there at Pine Ridge and I said, "Orv, do you remember where a feller, by the name of George Taube, drilled a well out here for the school and got a dry hole?" He said, "Yeah. I know where that well is." He lived(?) right close to the school there. He'd go out there when he wasn't busy and watch him drill it. It's here John there's no doubt about it. John there's a place down on Brook Camp(?), you ought to go see that. It's called Rock Bridge. You know where Natural Bridge?

**Harrod:** Yeah

**Fulks:** You ever see Rock Bridge?

**Harrod:** Yeah.

**Fulks:** John there's a turkey track(?) if it hadn't been knocked off.

**Harrod:** Yeah

**Fulks:** Did you see that turkey track?

**Harrod:** uh-huh

(silence on recording)

**Harrod:** It was like a direction marker wouldn't it?

**Fulks:** yeah

**Harrod:** I mean it was arrow it'd point you toward something.

**Fulks:** Now John I wouldn't say I'd tell ya a lie mislead ya for the world. I had an uncle had a boy was at the University of Kentucky, school, university. Well he (baby crying) logged way back there, that's all any of us could do was log back in this country, cut timber, virgin timber. I day he come to me and said, "Darley you got a horse?" I said, "Yeah. Why?" Now he was my uncle. He said, "I'll tell you what I want you to do. I want you to go to Glady Creek." Now that's in Red River, in below Sky Bridge. "And go to the upper splash down(?)." That was the last splash down on Glady. "Now you remember that?" I said, "Yeah."

"Take a little sack with ya. Take a little meal sack son." At the end of that, when we was burying the foundation log, down in the ground, we dug into some oil there. Where I'd been sweltered(?) and melted. And we piled it up there, and it'll be some of it left. (?) Well I went up there where the splash down was, well I finally found it and a feller told me, "Go right down this point. You can't miss it, go down this point. To the end of the point. There it is on the right." Well I went down there John and there it was. I found it. And I brought it back home and John I got some big things, that big. Put em across in front of me. Used to flour(?) didn't come on in paper(?) come on in bags, and I have one of them bags with me. You could just see where that stuff had turned loose(?), melted, turned loose. There wouldn't no doubt in my mind when I seen that, I knew I knew good and well, that he said, "now they buried that there." And he told me how many feet down, that they'd put this log to keep it from washing out. John did you ever see a splash down?

**Harrod:** Yeah

**Fulks:** They're run by trigger. You hit a trigger, knock it through and that turns the whole thing loose you see. Well anyway there was two on that creek. One way down low and that one was way up a mile and a half, two miles, maybe three miles up Glady. And when I saw that done that I said it's true. It's true. It's true. Well he gave it to his boy to take to Lexington and they laughed at him. Had no way to analyze it you know and tell anyway and they didn't even try to analyze it. Laughed at him. Made fun of him. I know what I'm talking about, as God as my witness to that John.

**10- Becky Timmons (1:39)**

**Fulks:** She come in here from New York or some place, stayed here, went broke and died here.

**Harrod:** Looking for the mines. Yeah I heard about her. Yeah it was Tom Clark wrote a book about her, in that book of his about the Kentucky River. He mentioned her.

**Fulks:** Now it's his John. And then when that George, now it's his security don't you think it isn't. Now I never believed this tale but I'm going to tell you what George Sage(?) told me. George Sage(?) said there was some old log men. They logged way back yonder there, old oxen and mules. He said, "there on Grady(?), my daddy had a log job," he said, "and I was just about twelve years old, (?) through the brush and woods and cliffs," and he said, "I found a cave with dates and things in it, on Grady. Went back in the hill, like a coal bank." Cause I never believed that John. He might have told the truth. He said there were figures, dates and things cut out on the wall, on the outside. I didn't believe that, but that's what he told me. He's a preacher

## 11- Gold and Silver in Mill Creek (1:33)

(Overlapping conversations)

**Fulks:** There's three of em in that Mark Booth(?), Jim Roberts and John Hughes. John Hughes was a merchant chair(?). Well two of them were merchants, Mark Booth was too, that was Orville's daddy. They had it awful rough down there John, David Swift Monday, seems like there's three on that, three names, and three hundred and something on that rock(?). They dug that up way down yonder in Devil's Creek country somewhere. It was John it was in a store there for years anyone could see that.

**Harrod:** uh-huh

**Fulks:** They dug that up

(interference on tape)

Over at Natural Bridge, right in the white lime was gold streaks, like hairs, all over that, under the water, creek running over, Mill Creek. A stream about that big, that big

**Harrod:** uh-huh

**Fulks:** Spring, gold if there was any gold, that's gold. But it seems like I understand that they built a dam at the mouth of Mill Creek (??)

## 12- Callahan G (1:31)

(fiddle playing)

**Fulks:** (dog barking) It's been forty years since I played it and I missed you see (??)  
Callahan

**Harrod:** Play us some more

**Fulks:** Does he play like that?

**Harrod:** Well I played it in a different key was all, but that sounds like it.

(fiddle playing)

## 13- Story of Ed Callahan (1:36)

**Fulks:** That's the old Callahan's that I heard when I was a boy. And I think he's mistaken about somebody being hung, over in Clay County. Now them Callahan's live right up in Breathitt(??). Ol' Ed Callahan hired some men, I don't know how many men he hired to kill John and, he had a store and he had a wall built around his store. Well he had a window in the back end of the store and it wouldn't walled up back there and the woods right in here and they found it out, they found out where he shot from and they found back there showing a man a pair of shoes and he got too far in there(??) and Mac Rose(??) mother was his sister, and actually talked to Mac one day about it and I asked, "Who killed Ed Callahan?" He said, "Black John Smith." Never thought about that(??) that was the fork they put the rifle in and everything(??)

**Harrod:** hum

**Fulks:** Found where the water and cans(??) never got a change to get em(??) they were there for a week(??). Go back every morning there was caned goods and things there where'd they'd eat. Forks where they'd eat and a fork where the rifle laid.

(cough)

Found everything you wanted to find. And his daughter, there was a big write up out there in the papers John I mean, and his daughter, his daughter got on a horse and rode all of Breathitt County to try to find out or try to get a little information on who done that, and she never did get nothing.

**Harrod:** Do you think that tune was named after him?

**Fulks:** I do. I really do.

#### **14- Farewell General Lee F/ Tennessee John Fortner (3:22)**

(fiddle playing)

**Fulks:** Do you like that piece son?

**Harrod:** Yeah

**Fulks:** Its an old one. I don't care about the music part of it, it's just no telling when that was made.

**Harrod:** What was the name of it?

**Fulks:** Farewell General Lee

**Harrod:** And who brought that in here?

**Fulks:** How's that?

**Harrod:** Who brought that in here?

**Fulks:** Tennessee John Fortner, brought that in here after the Civil War.

**Harrod:** Well tell me about him.

**Fulks:** John I don't know much about him. I just remember him. He come back here and died here, but I can't remember anything about him.

**Harrod:** But he was born in Wolf County.

**Fulks:** Yeah he was born in Wolf County. And he went to Tennessee. I think he joined the army in Tennessee. I'm not sure about these things now John, but anyway he come back and died here, and they called him Tennessee John Fortner. And I knew one of his brother's well, ol Uncle Bill, I knew him very well, but I wasn't too well acquainted with him John because he was, I was just a kid when he come back here. I remember him though

#### **15- Fast Music & Slow Music (2:48)**

**Fulks:** These old tunes John, now I'm not crazy about this, fast music John like square dancing, I used to play it all the time, as you get older you leave it, ain't now doubt about that you see. And now then I like just like, I play, I like to play music John that's, got memories about it, that's old. And I don't care nothing about these fast paces no more. There alright, I have nothing against em I used to play em all the time, but I just, you know, I just, I'm older and after John died, after John Fulks(??) died that took my partner and I just lost interest in music. I sometimes play the fiddle a little, try to play, I never did, nobody on earth ever heard me say, John that I was a fiddler. I just have to tell I saw around on the fiddle, that's all I have to tell em (laugh). I don't claim to be a fiddler. But I do like to pick up these old pieces if I, there's a lot of them John I've forgotten, several I know yet, but I just, got older, lost my partner. Nobody around here to play with me. (background noise)

**Harrod:** How old are you now?

**Fulks:** I'm eighty-eight.

**Harrod:** Eighty-eight.

**Fulks:** If I live to see October I'll be eighty-nine John. I was born October 5, 1895.

**Harrod:** I guess you were eighty-one when you came up and introduced yourself to me down there in Campton

**Fulks:** Yes

**Harrod:** I remember you were eighty-one when I met ya.

**Fulks:** John what ever become of that old colored man?

**Harrod:** He's in the nursing home up there in Owenton.

(animal noise in background)

**Fulks:** Where John?

(skip in tape)

Cecil Rose(??) and Jim Alan(??) when to a fiddler contest in Ashland(??) and, I'm afraid she'll fall John (background noise). She's not used to all this stuff. Get her John before she falls.

**Harrod:** She'll be alright.

**Fulks:** (??)

**Harrod:** Do I want to go in the house right now.

### **16- Everybody's Favorite C (1:47)**

(Fiddle playing)

### **17- In a Little Irish Tavern F (1:40)**

(Fiddle playing)

**Fulks:** Do you like that piece son?

**Harrod:** yeah

**Fulks:** I like it just fine. I studied about that piece for a long long time and it finally come to me one night. And I used to play it regularly.

**Harrod:** That was Dave Athey's(??) piece?

**Fulks:** Yeah

### **18- Differences Between Northern and Southern Styles (2:16)**

(overlapping conversations)

**Fulks:** Little Orange Tavern, In a Little Orange Tavern, it's a (??) piece. Up north they don't know nothing about our music(??)

**Harrod:** How was it different?

**Fulks:** There dancing's different John, two, maybe time about the same(??). I mean the music time.

**Harrod:** uh-huh

**Fulks:** time(??), but they're, some way or another they don't. Well John it's a different country, and people's got their roots different. Where they come from and how they started. I don't have nothin against em at all but they don't play like we do.

**Harrod:** How is it different? Can you remember what their fiddlin sounded like?

**Fulks:** They sound different John. They play music different, pieces they liked that you didn't like at all. It didn't have any meaning to it to me.

**Harrod:** uh-huh

**Fulks:** It's a, it's one reason, and then there's a lot of difference John in us north and south. Now out here in Kentucky, in these mountains of Kentucky, we roosted here, our forefathers are here, and they live different, from most of the people, up north especially. And I've studied about that quite a bit. They don't cook the same up there as they do here, that's different. And there's a lot of things different. I have nothing against the northern people at all, but it's, it's a difference in life and a difference to live (??). It's a difference in music.

**Harrod:** What about Texas? You were in Texas too weren't ya?

**Fulks:** Yeah

**Harrod:** What about the Texas fiddlers? How do they sound?

**Fulks:** No they're just like us. Just like us. I'll say this now John, there was a fella by the name of, ain't that awful, Guy, Guy Wilson.

### **19- Texas Music\_Guy Wilson, Fiddler from Ranger, Tenn/Hazel Green Academy/ Blind Bill Day (6:39)**

**Fulks:** I was working out at Rangers(??) then John and we happened to be working daylight(??), and they had a dance hall right out of Ranger, and I'd been hearing about it and I wanted to go out there so bad, and this Saturday(??) night I went out there, and I heard this feller playing this fiddle, a young like feller, I'd say he was in his late twenties, or early thirties, and he was a fiddling fool(??), and now I learned a piece or two from him and I played one a while back and I can't think of it now to save my life.

**Harrod:** And this was in Texas?

**Fulks:** In Texas. Well I got right up close (??) as I could get to him. He was on a platform and I was down on the ground, and he played so smooth that I took up with that guy. There wouldn't no jobbing and jerking, just a smooth fiddle piece and what he was played(??) he was playing for a square dance. And John I go back every time I get a chance and that was the summertime and they'd have that dance every Saturday night. Somebody, I don't know who run it or anything about it, and one night I waited till it was over with and I got to talking with this feller, and after I moved from Ranger, over next to

Breckinridge to a little place called, Cotton Plants(?). I think the name of the post office Necessity(?). It's the awfulest country you ever seen John, dry, I don't know how people live. But anyway I got to writing letters to him and, he promised me faithful that he would come and see me some time back there but he never did come. And I learned him some pieces and he learned me some pieces.

Harrod: huh

Fulks: I lived in a tent and he'd come over there, and I told him what time I was workin and what I worked for. He come over there and stay of a morning with me

Harrod: huh

Fulks: and he told me what, he was something about the oil business John, he works in the oil fields

Harrod: What years were you down there?

Fulks: Huh?

Harrod: What years were you in Texas?

Fulks: Let's see John, nineteen and, nineteen twenty, and I got my leg bustled up in nineteen twenty and left there. People's the same John, I can't tell no difference in em. Talk like we do, act like we do. And fine people, fine people, southerners.

(Skip in tape)

And he don't play it like you play it, he play like I play it(?) cause I don't see what's right, I'm not cascading(?) nobody, not trying to run nobody down. But everybody plays it different. He plays it exactly like we played it(?). And then, let's see, now that's one of em. And that piece you named there a while ago that I played, what was the name of that John?

(skip in tape)

I was over there for three winters, three terms.

Harrod: What was it like back then?

Fulks: Well John I hate to say this, but that's the town(?) there was something wrong somewhere, it's never was growing any. It's about like, of course there's a few building now on the out skirts of Hazel Green, and that wasn't there when I was there, but Main Street hadn't changed but very very very little, in all these years.

Harrod: What do you think about those settlement schools? Do you think that school is a good thing?

Fulks: Well, I'll tell ya John

Harrod: Are you sorry to see it close down?

Fulks: I just remember what Christian organization run that school there for years, and I know one particular feller, (??) picked him up, his family had nothing. And I don't know how he come to get there, but they put him through that school and I don't know now where he is, but he's way up somewhere, and they fed him and clothed him, and took care of him and made him go through school. I've eat at the table with him. They had a dinning room for the girls and boys but they had a dormitory for each one of em.

Harrod: uh-huh

Fulks: a dormitory for the boys and a dormitory, well of course I stayed with the boys cause I'm a boy, and I knew that feller very well and I guess, I guess there's been a lot of em that I didn't know about, from Hazel Green and some from valleys that don't grow. I don't know why that is. Of course Campton(??) wasn't big(??) it was just kinda a village like, till that highway went through there of course that's all it is now.

(skip in tape)

Now Bill Wilson(??) he used to come with my grandfather, (??) and he was blind, and they made up money and sent him, I forget now where they sent me to. But he made a piece up, a fiddle piece, it's on record, I remember it being on record, but I never did see it. *Once Blind Now I Can See Again*, was the name of the piece. It's a slow piece kinda

Harrod: I believe I've heard that. He made up a piece about his self didn't he?

Fulks: Yeah yeah he did.

Harrod: And he called it *The Blind Fiddler of Lost Hope Holler* or something like that.

Fulks: Something like that I don't what it was. Something about a blind fiddler. I remember the last time I saw him. He'd stepped high(??), of course that was a custom to him because he'd been like that for years and years, but lord he'd been with my granddaddy many and many a time. He'd take a buggy and go get him, a old buggy, take him home with him.

## **20- Untitled (1:29)**

(overlapping conversations)

**Fulks:** Wild Goose Chase. And that great fiddler over in Huntington, I forget his name, he say that they him some western state(??) for a national contest and he won that, but I understand he's dead now. It seems like it's Jim, what's his name. He lives at Morehead, she might, they told me that he's dead(??). Now let's see.

(skip on tape)

Now John I don't know what got a woman to do that(??). I guess she burned him up. When I left there I left with (??) was that fiddle right there, a traveling bag, and I said, "Now don't move that bed(??)," I said, and my brother(??) said, "I won't (??)." I've got it up at that place fashioned up in a, smokehouse. And all my records went and my pictures all that stuff's gone. And I got one daughter that's took care of her, in the last days(??). She brought me some pictures and I have a picture, I have a picture of my father John, but I don't know what went to it(??). I guess she burned it. Now she's in a grave paying for it all. And no a bit more respect for my feelings or my people than a dog

## **21- Tennessee Waltz C (1:25)**

(fiddle playing)

**Fulks:** John right here's where they don't get it, I've had to stop right here(??)

(fiddle playing)

**Fulks:** (??)

(fiddle playing)