

# The Legacy of Jimmy McCarroll, Roane County, Tennessee

**Fiddlin' Jim McCarroll**, farmer, coal miner, champion fiddler and tune maker, remembered for a lifetime of unmatched virtuosity and musical personality. Son of two fiddlers and father of four, Jimmy McCarroll was the master of a family repertoire of beautiful traditional dances tunes and the composer of waltzes and contest tunes well known and widely recorded, including the now standard "Lee Highway Blues" (titled "Home Town Blues" by Jimmy and his family). No one fiddles these tunes like the McCarrolls themselves, each in their own distinct styles.



Jimmy McCarroll



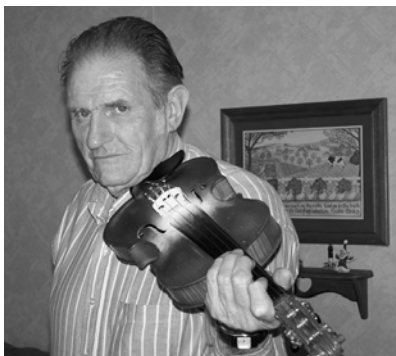
The Roane County Ramblers 1928



Jimmy with sons Charlie, Tom & Arthur, 1946

## Tom McCarroll & Tammie McCarroll-Burroughs

James T. "Tom" McCarroll, born in 1928, worked in city maintenance in Lenoir City for over 30 years, all the while playing fiddle, guitar, and banjo. His daughter Tammie, the only one of Jimmy McCarroll's 13 grandchildren to take up music, was making 45 rpm records in junior high school, recording Rockabilly songs and some of her own compositions, as well as playing with her grandfather's band throughout his life, later performing with her father in the "Bonnie Lou and Buster" show on WJHL-TV in Sevierville, and at RV rallies and parks from Florida to Ohio. In recent years they've been frequent guests at the Laurel Theater and on WDVX, performed at the Festival of American Fiddle Tunes in Port Townsend, WA, and released a CD *Generations*.



## Charlie McCarroll

Following the reissue of the classic 1928 recordings of the *Roane County Ramblers* and the recent high profile appearances of his brother and niece Tom and Tammie, Charlie McCarroll is beginning to attract attention for his own mastery of the repertoire of his father the great Kingston fiddler Jimmy McCarroll. At 72 he is a strong and powerful fiddler playing in a style only barely more modern. Charlie says, "Daddy played a little different than me. He never did learn none of that grass." Charlie performs locally with Tony Thomas, Jack Sandifer and Ray Collett. Charlie has recently been featured on WBIR's Heartland Series and on WDVX's Music of the Cumberland Trail hosted by folklorist and naturalist Bobby Fulcher.