

Missouri Folklore Society Newsletter

P.O. Box 1757, Columbia MO 65202
<http://missourifolkloresociety.truman.edu>

Volume 39 Nos. 3-4

Fall 2015



At the conclusion of the Jefferson City meeting, outgoing co-presidents Roger Jungmeyer and Debra Greene, Lincoln University, gleefully hand over the gavel to Betsy Delmonico of Truman State. Next year's meeting will be held in Kirksville.



As always the meeting featured music, scholarship, crafts, demonstrations, panels and discussions.

Above: Howard Marshall and Irwin Rice play at the Friday night jam.



Mariah Marsden , a graduate student in creative writing, talks about the representation of rural and Ozarks life in Missouri publications.



A last hurrah for the Truman Hotel. Dave and Cathy play in a somewhat seedy ballroom; maintenance had been understandably deferred, as the building is slated for destruction at the end of the month (Roger and Debra endured some nailbiting days when it looked like it might not survive long enough to host our long-scheduled event).



Lisa Higgins, Director of the Missouri Folk Arts Program, introduced a panel of Community Scholars to talk about their experiences working with and documenting local groups in areas such as oral history, quilting and storytelling. L-R: Mary Peura of Ste. Genevieve; Angela J. Williams of Kansas City; and Sarah Denton of Calico Rock, AR/West Plains, MO. (photo by Debbie Bailey)

Read more here:

<http://mofolkarts.missouri.edu/docs/pubs/Mag059.pdf>

<http://mofolkarts.missouri.edu/docs/pubs/Mag064.pdf>

<http://mofolkarts.missouri.edu/docs/pubs/mag067.pdf>

Below, Ken and Janelle Burch prepare to provide dulcet dulcimer accompaniment to the cakewalk.





Getting ready for the cakewalk.

Below, Carol Fisher arranges the table.





Young scholars

LuAnne Roth (Mizzou) brought a group of students to talk about folklore in popular and mass-culture, especially film: Cara Alexander (senior), Drew Koch (MA candidate), and Kelsey Rogers (senior).

Norma Cantu (UMKC) led a delegation working on Latina lore in the Kansas City area, as well as presenting her own work on *Los Matachines*, paraliturgical dance transplanted from Texas to Missouri. Below, L-R: Maritza Fernández, Laura Castro de Santiago and Alicia Rodríguez.

Next page: Truman State also fielded a team. Back row — Patrick McGlasson, Nick Puleo, Lucas Corey-Yares; front: Maple Adkins-Threats and Emily Wildhaber. Topics ranged from rave-culture to online memes to local history and Child Ballads.





End of an era: likely the last convention to be held at the old hotel.



Nick Puleo shows a delighted Loretta Washington how kandi is exchanged at a rave, in the spirit of PLUR.





FIELDS OF ATHENRY

PRODUCED
FOR THE MISSOURI FOLKLORE SOCIETY
IN HONOR OF RUTH BARTON AND DON LANCE
FOR THEIR MANY CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE SOCIETY'S MISSION TO STUDY
AND PRESERVE MISSOURI'S FOLKLORE AND MUSICAL HERITAGE

RUTH AND DON BROUGHT DEDICATION, CONTAGIOUS ENTHUSIASM,
AND GENUINE INTEREST TO ALL ASPECTS OF FOLKLORE. RUTH SERVED
AS TREASURER AND RECORD KEEPER FOR MORE THAN TWENTY YEARS,
HER WARM AND WELCOMING SPIRIT MAKING HER THE SOCIETY'S
AMBASSADOR. TO HIS TWENTY-TWO YEARS AS SECRETARY AND EDITOR,
DON BROUGHT CAREFUL SCHOLARSHIP, HARD WORK, AND A CARING HEART.

RUTH BARTON

DON LANCE

THEIR SPIRITS WILL CONTINUE TO GUIDE THE
ENDURING EFFORTS OF THE SOCIETY.

BECKY SCHROEDER AND CLYDE FARIES
TITLE USED BY PERMISSION FROM PETE ST. JOHN / SAINT MUSIC

Liz Faries and her daughter recently visited the town of Athenry, in Ireland, where they learned the proper pronunciation of the name.

At the meeting, Liz read a nice letter from the staff of the castle at Athenry, Ireland, thanking them for the gift of their CD, "Fields of Athenry," which Clyde and Liz produced as a fundraiser several years ago.

Minutes from the November meeting:

Thursday, November 12, 2016
Jefferson City

Meeting called to order 2pm in the Roanoke Room, Truman Hotel

Present: Clyde Faries, Liz Faries, Adam Davis, Roger Jungmeyer, Debra Greene, Dave Para, Sharon Brock, Andrea Davis, Lyn Wolz, Cathy Barton, Neal Delmonico, Betsy Delmonico, Linda McCollum, George McCollum, Ken Burch, John Fisher, Carol Fisher

Secretary's report (distribution of minutes from previous meetings) delayed to Saturday meeting, due to low turnout.

Treasurer's report: journal seems to have brought in more and renewed memberships. People seem to respond to actually getting something. Naturally there were expenses. Interest rates remain low. George called attention to a discrepancy in the numbers: about \$600 out of balance Dave offered to get exact numbers for Saturday's meeting. Motion to approve report postponed until we can look over the figures more carefully.

Roger made announcements about the locations of various activities. Note that the nearest restrooms are downstairs.

Adam reported preliminary planning for 2016 in Kirksville. We need to set dates. November 3-5 or 10-12. John and Carol volunteered Sikeston (we were last there in 1999).

Carol and John's foodways volume has been distributed (vol 29-31, 2007-2009). Lyn's volume is in mockup (vol 27-28, 2005-6) Now Lyn is working on an index for the first 30 years. We have other projects in view. Jim and Adam are considering monographs.

Lyn spoke about the open folklore website agreement. They've already been digitized through vol 24. Searchability was somewhat limited. We will now make fulltext available. We need to decide who signs the contract.

Newsletter is in preparation. Adam talked about new content at the website.

Dave reported changes to the board, including the death of Fr Phil Hoebing. New presidents Betsy and Barb Price nominated for next year, followed by a Fisher and a Burch. Neal Delmonico nominated to the board.

No committee reports. By the end of the meeting, Dave had found the error in the treasurer's report – the bank records on which it were based did not reflect all current deposits. Report moved by Linda, seconded by Liz. Approved.

Dave read a nice note from Becky Schroeder.

Note: we have quite a few dead addresses in our mailing list, so some journals went lost. Possibly thirty, and the list has been purged.

Liz read a nice letter from the staff at the castle at Athenry thanking them for the gift of their CD, "Fields of Athenry"

Adam reported on Jim Vandergriff's health issues.

Adjourned 3:16

Respectfully submitted,

Adam Davis

There was discussion of location and a reminder that we want to alternate between central and non-central locations. The Fishers have graciously agreed to host in Sikeston for 2017. Barb Price made a strong case for Marshall in 2018 – or we could swap these two years. We seem to have support for Marshall in 2017 and Sikeston in 2018.

Spring board meeting. Saturday April 9, tentatively. Cathy & Dave will check on the Boone County Historical Society.

The Society thanks Sam Griffin, as well as the Lincoln University Foundation, Sharon for registration, Judy for the auction, Dave for his efforts in registration. We will send the chef a note of thanks for superb food and service. Thanks especially to Debra Greene and Roger Jungmeyer for a splendid meeting.

Carol Fisher agreed to join Debra Greene, Rachel Gholson and Betsy Delmonico in reading Schroeder Prize submissions. Discussion of shifting dates.

Thanks to Neal Delmonico for all he's done to get the new issue of *MFSJ* out.

New rotation of board membership and officers voted. 2016 president Betsy, 2017 either Fishers/Burches or Price, depending on whether we're in Marshall or Sikeston. Moved Betsy Delmonico, seconded Lyn Wolz. Adopted.

We should invite Norma Cantu to see if she'd like to be added to the board. Adam will contact her.

Gavel handed over.

The ad hoc LRP (long range planning & communications) group meets informally after this. Adjourned 11:27

Respectfully submitted,

Adam Davis

Members' Meeting
Saturday, November 14, 2016
Jefferson City

Meeting came to order in the Roanoke Room of the doomed Truman Hotel and Conference Center'

Present: Debra Greene, Roger Jungmeyer, Dave Para, Cathy Barton, Rachel Gholson, Adam Davis, Andrea Davis, Lyn Wolz, Susan Bryson, George McCollum, Linda McCollum, John Fisher, Carol Fisher, Ken Burch, Janelle Burch, Joe Lindell, Neal Delmonico, Betsy Delmonico, Alanna Preussner, Barb Price, Antonio Holland, Don Carlson, Mim Carlson

Reports: gavel has been found, and was put to use at 10:31

Secretary submitted minutes from Potosi (November 2015) and the April meeting at Lenoir in Columbia. Corrections. Moved Dave Para. Seconded Cathy Barton, adopted.

Treasurer Dave Para submitted report. Moved Lyn Wolz, seconded , Linda McCollum approved. Corrected by George "Eagle-Eye" McCollum.

The auction netted \$1134; the food social brought in \$67. More money than expected came in at registration.

Adam reported at least three additional volumes in preparation: Loretta Washington's memoir, public folklore (Lisa Higgins), Folklorica (Cantu), plus the new one from Lyn. Other projects in prospect.

Secretary signed the paperwork authorizing publication of searchable files of MFSJ at Open Folklore.

Lyn and Adam will look at the brochure, and we will print a few thousand. We will contact Liz Faries, who has a deal with Office Depot. Adam will mail the file to the membership for their use.

For next year, we have to choose between 1st and 2nd weekends in November. 1st weekend is better for deer hunters. 2nd weekend is better for Sam. Mobility issues decide us on Days' Inn. Group did not express strong preference.

Missouri Folklore Society
 Jefferson City, MO
 November 12, 2015
 Financial Statement Jan.1 to Nov., 2015

	INCOME	
	2014	2015
Membership Dues	\$1,055.00	\$1,245.00
Annual Meeting	\$4,179.00	\$4,864.00
Donations, Grants	\$145.00	\$18.00
Sales	\$211.00	\$610.00
Interest	\$50.12	\$41.70
Miscellaneous		\$21.95
Refund		
Total	\$5,640.12	\$6,800.65

	EXPENSES	
Journal Printing	\$100.00	\$4,869.61
Newsletter Printing		
Annual Meeting	\$6,368.90	\$354.37
Refunds		
Postage	\$67.80	\$639.17
Awards	\$165.87	
Supplies	\$122.74	
Miscellaneous		
Total	\$6,825.31	\$5,863.15

Checking Account Balance 12-31-2014	\$26,095.15
CD 12-31-2014	\$18,893.54
Schroeder Endowment Fund CD	\$14,597.20
Total Account Balance 12-31-2014	\$59,585.89

Checking Account Balance 10-30-2015	\$25,377.92
CD 10-30-2015	\$18,917.13
Schroeder Endowment Fund CD	\$14,615.31
Total Account Balance 10-30-2015	\$58,910.36

In other news:

Evelyn Trickel, sister honored for philanthropy:



(Adapted from the *Trenton Republican Times*, Monday, April 20, 2015: “Rotary Club Honors Sisters with Paul Harris Fellowship.”

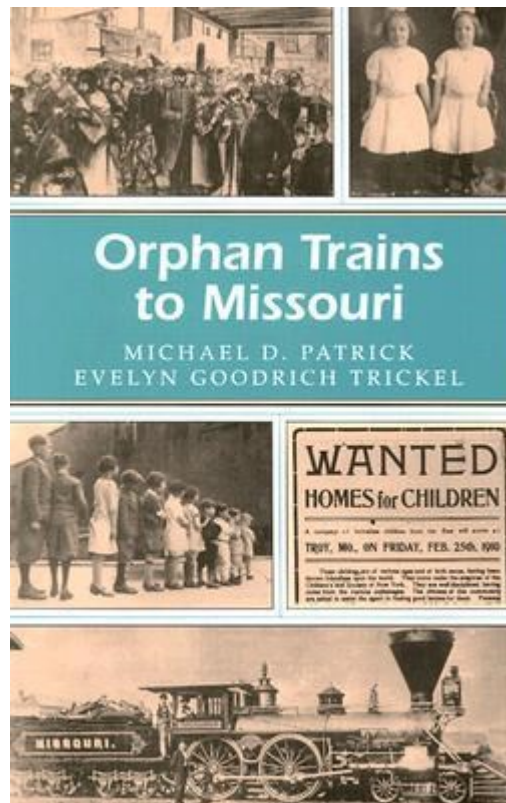
The Trenton Rotary Club honored two sisters for their dedication and countless hours spent volunteering at the local Church Women United Thrift Shop. Margaret Rice and Evelyn Trickel were presented Paul Harris Fellow awards by Rotary President Sarah Maloney during

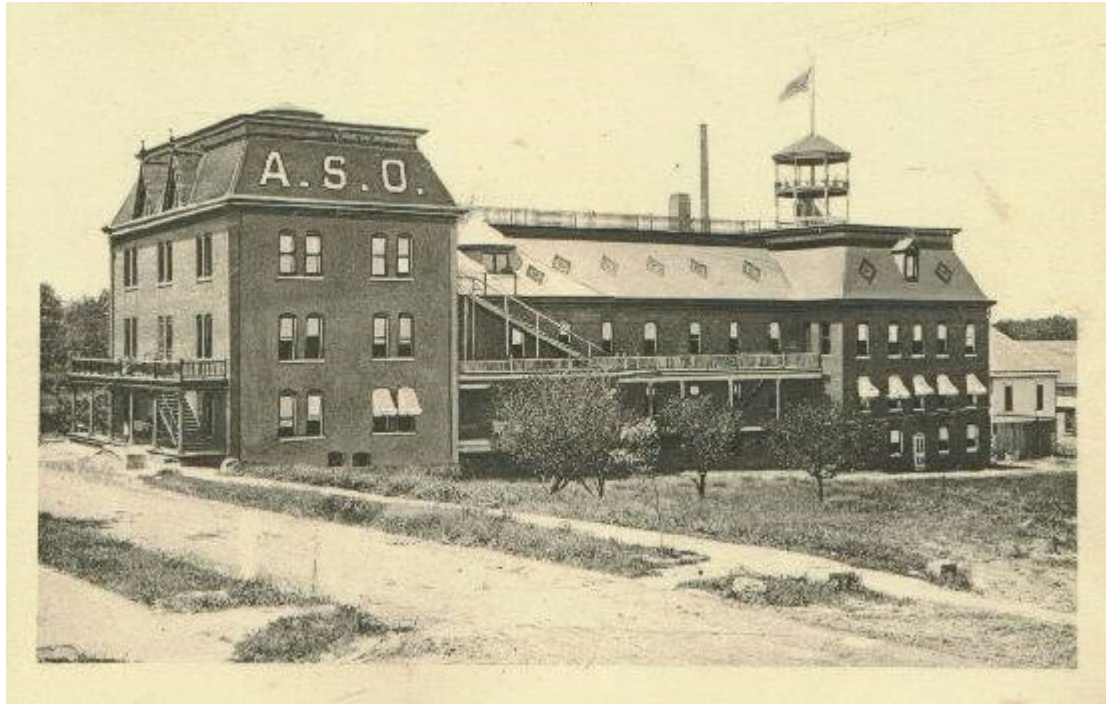
the club's weekly meeting on Thursday (April 16) . Mrs. Rice and Mrs. Trickel will each receive a Paul Harris Fellowship certificate and pin from the Rotary International Foundation.

The Paul Harris Fellowship was established in 1957 in honor of the organization's founder to recognize individuals Rotarians for their generous contributions to the Rotary International Foundation. Individual Rotarians and Rotary Clubs can honor non-Rotarians the award with a \$1,000.00 donation to the foundation. Directors of the Trenton Rotary Club voted several weeks ago to honor Mrs. Rice and Mrs. Trickel.

Mrs. Rice and Mrs. Trickel are the first non-Rotarians to be so honored by the Trenton Rotary Club.

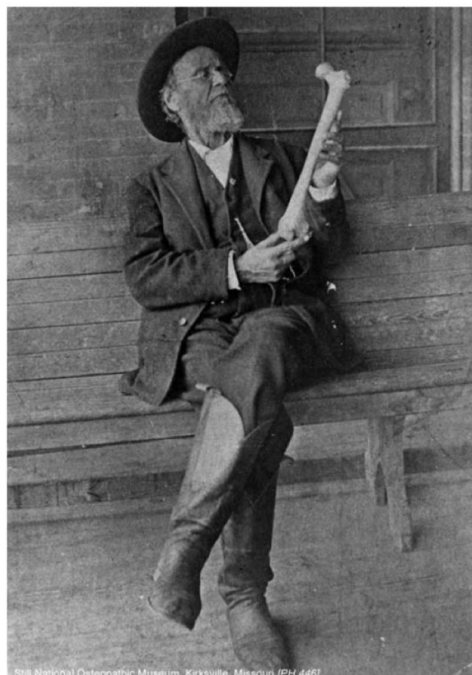
Evelyn has long written about the history of the orphan trains and their precious cargo.





Plans are underway for the 2016 meeting in Kirksville. Organizers Betsy Delmonico and Barb Price are setting a tentative theme of healing, in keeping with our venue, the home of osteopathic medicine. For various reasons, current prospects make the first weekend of November (3,4, & 5) look inevitable. Send your ideas for papers, presentations, demonstrations, activities — whatever — to

bprice@truman.edu or
bdelmoni@truman.edu



Still National Osteopathic Museum, Kirksville, Missouri (PH 446)



Update on Max Hunter Research Project – You Can Help!



Dear Missouri Folklore Society Members:

When I sent my regrets about not being able to make the November conference, Adam Davis kindly invited me to share an update on my biographical research around the life of Ozark folk song collector Max Hunter. As many of you are already aware, I am doing much of my research from the remote state of New Hampshire and this presents certain challenges. However, I have gathered a wealth of material and have had some invaluable conversations over this past summer, some of which I will share with you here. Over the past year several months both friends and acquaintances have asked me how I ended up embarking upon this Missouri voyage, given that I'm a New Englander; to them I can only reply that the Muse chooses us. We rarely choose the Muse.

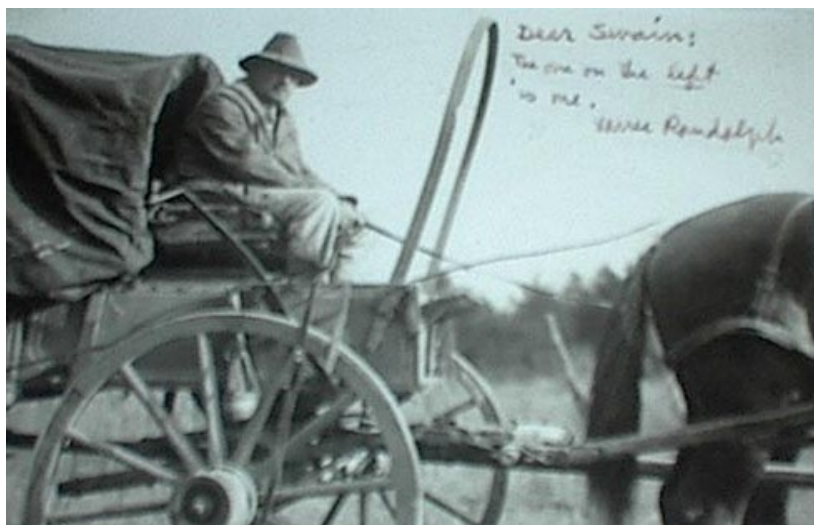
My first research trip was to Columbia, Missouri in July. There I spent a week immersing myself in the Schroeder Collection at the State Historical Society where I pored through materials both on Hunter himself as well as on folklorist Loman Cansler, who was collecting at much the same time. As noted by Donald Lance in 1998 (Volume 20) of your own journal, *MFSJ*, "Although Cansler collected the majority of his songs in Missouri he also collected in Colorado, Illinois, Kansas, and Indiana. Hunter limited his collecting to the Ozark Mountain area through which he traveled as a sales representative for a refrigeration supply company." In addition, Cansler--a guidance counselor by profession--was part of the academic community while Hunter was not. That said, they both amassed impressive and important collections.

During my week in Columbia Becky Schroeder, now 94 years of age, was particularly generous with her time and editorial expertise. She and her husband Adolf ("Dolf") cherished their friendship with Max. Professor Schroeder was one of Max's biggest champions and served as an important link to the academic community in Columbia. To quote Becky, "Getting to know Max and Virginia Hunter was one of the great joys of our lives in Missouri. My husband liked to sing (mostly German songs) and I liked to listen, both to German and American folk songs, so it was a happy time." In July of 1977 Becky and her husband invited Max to give a folk song presentation at the University's Festival of Missouri Folk Music and Dance. The Schroeders also conducted many interviews with Max, sometimes in the company of Donald Lance (professor of linguistics at Mizzou, a specialist in dialects, and longtime pillar of the Society).

I have been in touch also with MFS member (and performers) Cathy Barton Para and Dave Para since the beginning of this project. Cathy conducted highly informative interviews with Max while she was a grad student in Folklore and Historic Preservation at Western Kentucky University in Bowling Green. Cathy, one of Max's favorite traditional singers, also played a prominent part in some of the videos that were made of Max during the early 1980's.

One of the high points of my research, while in Columbia, was reading Professor Schroeder's own reflections on the history of folk song collection. His deep insights and gift for seeing broad patterns in both the evolution of folk songs and their paths of travel will go a long way towards informing my own writings. The Anglophile in me is particularly interested in the presence of Child ballads in the Hunter collection; this is something that also interested Professor Schroeder (as stated in his 1978 Proceedings of the International Centenary Conference of the Folklore Society): "Associations between the Missouri scholars and English and European folklore scholars were remarkably close in the early days of collection." And he goes on to describe the relationship between MFS founder Henry M. Belden and British song collector Cecil Sharp, among others. After some sleuthing on my part, I recently acquired a copy of **Fern Denise Gregory's** thesis on "Selected Child Ballad Tunes in the Max Hunter Collection of Ozark Folk Songs," which she wrote in 1979 while a student at Central Missouri State University. If anyone knows Ms. Gregory, or how I might get a hold of her, please let me know!

Folklorist and writer Vance Randolph's name came up repeatedly during my time in Columbia, as did that of his wife and intellectual partner, Mary Parler Randolph. Randolph and Parler first met Hunter at the Eureka Festival in 1956, heard him sing some real folk songs, and basically took him under their collective wing. As has since been amply documented, the Randolphs are credited with getting Max to stop erasing songs and to use better equipment. They immediately recognized that his unique situation as a traveling salesman would serve as an asset rather than a hindrance. And history has proven them right—Max collected almost 1,600 songs during his 20 years on the sales circuit. Even though he didn't make their acquaintance until they were late in years, Max was particularly proud of his association with the Randolphs.



During the time that Max befriended the Randolphs he also made the acquaintance of an important singing partner, **Joan O'Bryant** of Wichita, Kansas. O'Bryant died at the tragically young age of 41, in an auto accident in Colorado, but not before she and Max recorded several songs together; one of these is the playful "Miss, You have a Very Fine Farm," which can be heard on the Max Hunter digitized website out of MSU.

<http://maxhunter.missouristate.edu/songinformation.aspx?id=0523>

The entire Joan O'Bryant Kansas Folklore Collection is now housed at Wichita State University, and her musical collaboration with Hunter will also be part of my story.

I have been following many research trails, not all of which I can detail here. I continue to search for anyone who was personally acquainted with Max's often elderly informants, but the passage of time naturally works against me. I am particularly interested in **Kris Ann Parker**, **Johnny Mullins**, and a woman named **Stephanie Isaacs** who, as a very young woman, frequently performed many of Max's songs.

It has been rewarding to finally get a hold of Max's own writings, in particular his 1974 paper entitled: "Pioneer Ozarker—Complex Man," which he put together for a series of talks. Through reading this document it has become clear that Max was an expert in several areas, and these strengths enhanced his success as a collector. There is Max the raconteur, who told stories both about himself and his informants with his characteristically understated brand of humor; there is Max the environmentalist, who mourns the loss of natural landscapes; and Max, the social historian who had some interesting insights into settlers in the Ozarks: "The Ozarks did not become a melting pot. The small communities of the minority groups that settled in the Ozarks can still be found today." As an untrained folklorist he also was highly observant of people's superstitions and documented these with unflinching enthusiasm. Many of these beliefs were regularly put to work in his own family: "When my father or his brothers would have an ear ache, my Grandmother Hunter would have them urinate in a cup and would very slowly pour this in their ear. My dad said it worked." And this is perhaps one of Max's greatest qualities—he was passionate about giving us the song or the superstition, exactly as it was delivered to him.

But my personal favorite is Max the geographer who creates his own working definition of what constitutes the Ozarks region, and pokes fun at 'established' geographers:

"...more surprising is a map I recently saw that was supposedly put out by the National Geographic Society that had the southern boundary of the Ozarks starting in Oklahoma about Warner, then extending eastward into Arkansas to a little north of Little Rock. Then the line begin to drop off in a southeasterly direction to below West Memphis....If we keep on, looks like the whole middle section of the United States is going to be Ozark Country."

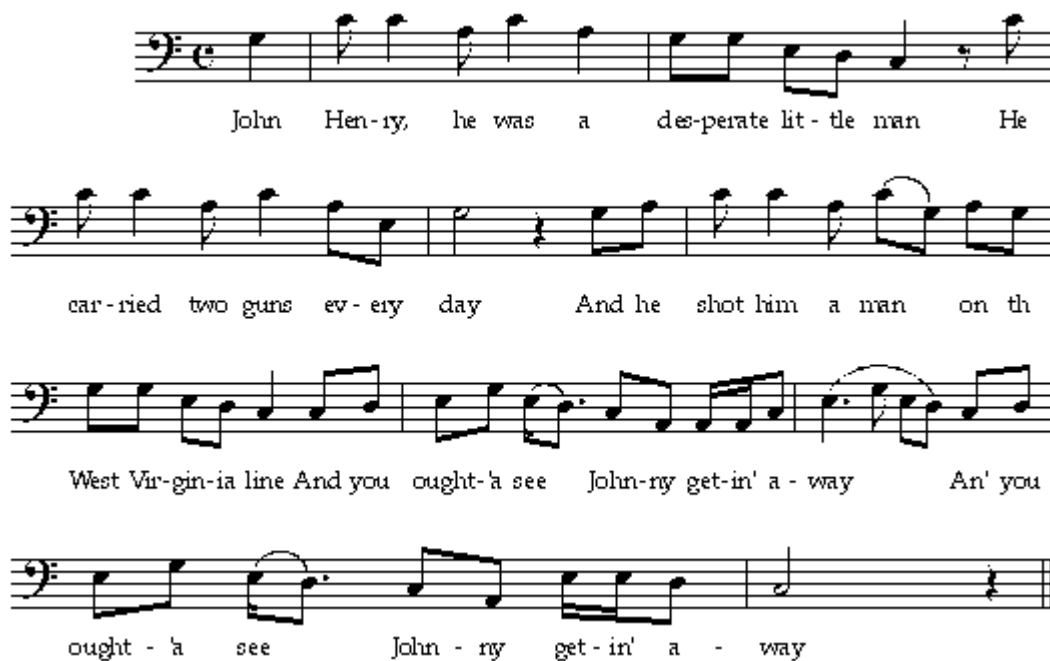
I am currently in touch with the vibrant arts community in Springfield, Missouri in preparation for my next research trip. I have been in conversation with performer **Mark Bilyeu** who, along with his wife **Cindy Woolf**, recently put out a fantastic recording of Ozark songs from both the Max Hunter and John Quincy Wolf collections. I have been hoping against hope that Wolf (a very popular English professor at what is now known as Rhodes College in Memphis, TN) and Hunter got to meet one another, but it now appears unlikely. But it is of much comfort to know that great use has now been made of their respective collections.

I have also been speaking with fiddle tune collector Gordon McCann of Springfield. Gordon knew Max from the perspective of both a business man as well as a fellow collector, so he has shared some interesting insights into Max's character. He sent me an informative package of newspaper clippings about Mr. Hunter. Gordon has also showered me with wonderful fiddle CD's, (including one from Art Galbraith), which pleases this old-time fiddler to no end; I will have to "study up" in anticipation of meeting Mr. McCann during my next trip to Missouri!

Which brings me to fundraising efforts—a somewhat necessary 'evil' in this day of limited grant availability. I have made some progress in this area, but would appreciate any donations (no matter how humble) which will help me get to Springfield and back in the Spring of 2016. Here is a link to my campaign: <https://www.gofundme.com/hunterbiography>.

Fundraising aside, please get in touch with me about any recollections you might have of Max Hunter or his informants. Although it will be some time before I can name a specific publisher, my goal is to have this biography written by the Spring of 2017.

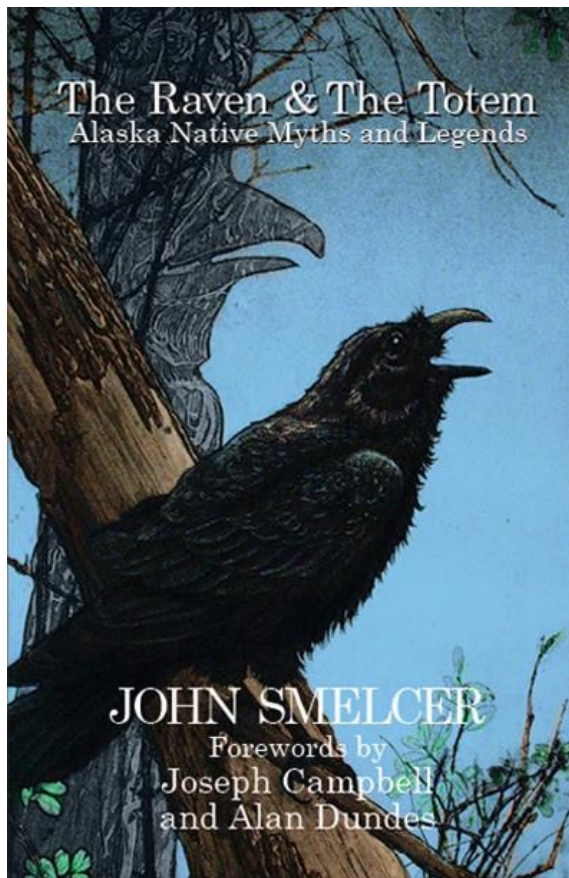
Sarah Jane Nelson
Londonderry, NH



John Hen-ry, he was a des-perate lit-tle man He
car-ried two guns ev-ery day And he shot him a man on th
West Vir-gin-ia line And you ought-'a see John-ry get-in' a - way An' you
ought - 'a see John - ry get - in' a - way



Dr. John Smelcer, one of the last speakers of the Ahtna language, and author of its only dictionary, performed myths and stories he learned from his grandmothers (whose epic journey through the wilderness is recounted in his book *The Great Death*). The Truman State University planetarium was converted for the occasion, with artificial trees and a campfire the fire-marshal would approve of. Smelcer wore regalia stitched by his ancestors and played a drum he had made himself, for an SRO crowd. A recording of crackling logs and crickets, plus an accurate projection of the Alaskan night sky, along with the northern lights, completed the illusion.



A 25th anniversary edition of *The Raven and the Totem: Alaska Native Myths and Legends*, has been published by Neil Delmonico's Naciketas Press, with cover art by Rusty Nelson, of Truman State. The book carries original forewords by Joseph Campbell and Alan Dundes and illustrations by Larry Vienneau.

Naciketas Press
715 E McPherson
Kirksville, MO, 63501
660-665-0273
manager@naciketas-press.com