

Indiana Hoedown IH017  
Traditional Music from the Hoosier State

DAVID HALL

- PT David Hall, Tell me, you're not originally a Hoosier  
I take it.
- DH No
- PT Tell me where you're from
- DH Winchester, Kentucky
- PT When did you come to Indiana
- DH After I got out of service, I think about '55.
- PT And you settled in Monticello then.
- DH Yeh, I lived in Delphi & Floren & Warsaw  
I went to Utah a year, been here since
- PT Where's Winchester Kentucky
- DH Its 19 miles east of Lexington
- PT And you came here after you got out of  
the service which would have been about when
- DH '56
- PT '56. You were what, in your early 20's. yeh.
- DH mm-mm.
- PT So why don't you fill me in on how you learned  
to play the fiddle
- DH Oh my Dad used to play all the time. I  
never did play it. But I <sup>when I went</sup> ~~went~~ in service, this  
other guy played guitar, and I checked out a  
fiddle at the in the, where they had instruments  
Anyway, I checked a fiddle out. Kept that fiddle  
[whole time] I was in service. And uh, we  
played. I played on the ship in an amateur  
show one time & won 25 dollars out  
of the ships store. And we got to Italy  
They had me play for a square dance  
over there. 'n when I went to Japan I  
played in enlisted mens dubs 'n I
- PT What, you were playing old hoedowns then.
- DH Yeh
- PT What was the first tune you played
- DH Oh, Umm I can't remember.
- PT You uh - lets see, you've told me about  
several different bands you've been with  
Can you give me the whole story.



DH Yeh, I used to play in Lafayette & around in different bands in taverns & places. The Eagles & the Moose

PT That was not B.G.

DH No, ~~no~~ uh-uh. Mostly country & western. Well out in Utah I played, to make a little money I'd go and set in with bands. And they'd pay me.

PT The Country & western bands, you didn't play breakdown pieces or anything like that.

DH Yeh, uh-uh. This last band I played in we played some Bluegrass.

PT what was the name of this band.

DH The Pace Changers.

PT Pacechangers. And they're from

DH Wolcott, Indiana.

PT And how did you get, uh, when did you start playing ~~at~~ with uh Wildwood Flowers. Is that your first real B.G. band?

DH Yeh. I started to play with another band before them. The Drifters.

PT The Drifters

DH Yeh

PT That was B.G.

DH Mm-mm They're local guys around here, Lafayette & ...

PT who are some of the people in that

DH Dave Quisenberry & ~~Bob~~<sup>Bert</sup> Banning & Marvin here, he played bass with us.

PT Uh, how about the Pace Setters was that it

DH Pace Changers.

PT Pace Changers

DH That was country

PT who were some of the people in that band

DH Caryl Muller & Wayne Muller mostly a family bunch.



PT Yeh what kind of instrumentation did they have

DIT Electric Drums, electric guitar & electric bass. We got an album out. I got it over there

PT Um You came from a pretty musical family, your.

DIT Yeh. None of em ever made it success playin any where.

PT Who all played in your family.

DIT I had two uncles, & my dad, & my Grandpa. Most of em, guitar & fiddle. I got a bunch of cousins that plays karnio one plays fiddle.

PT At Family gatherings you have a lot of music.

DIT Never have

PT But you heard old fiddle music a lot when you ~~was~~ were growing up.

DIT Mm-mm

PT Thats how you were able to just pick it up & get started with it. ~~Yeh~~

DIT Yeh I spose

PT Well, you've ~~be~~ been in country bands, & bluegrass bands & you've played for square dances. It's my of that. Has your fiddling been changed thru all of that.

DIT Yeh, theres different, in country & in bluegrass. It's totally different.

PT Can you tell how it is different

DIT Rhythm. In Bluegrass you got a faster rhy than. Quicker changes.

PT Um. After you got out of service, you were talking about square dances. Did the country bands play for square dancing

DIT Yeh, mm-mm.

PT Did You have a regular caller that used to work with the band.

DIT Yeh. Jim Mikels. Used to ~~work~~ play with him a lot. In Lafayette. Columbia Park. He used to play the guitar & I played



fiddle + we'd have square dances there every Saturday.

P: So, uh, you've played mostly in this area of Indiana. You've never really gone out on the road.

DH: No. In that service. That's where I started really started from. I played with J.O. Crone.

P: Oh yeh

DH: I played with a bunch of stars from country. And we backed them up. Tommy Overstreet, and uh, Luanna Lindsay, Dickie Lee. And we play where Bill Monroe when he's down at Lafayette. They had a show & we had a show too.

P: So, since about 1954 or 55 what you haven't stopped fiddling since then.

DH: Oh yeh, I fiddled off and on then. I didn't fiddle regular then like I am now.

P: Now you're in a band that's workin pretty steady. Uh...

~~MIKE POWERS~~



Indiana Hoedoen IH017  
Traditional Music from the Hoosier State

MIKE FLOWERS

- P: Okay your name again
- MF Mike Flowers I'm from Colfax Indiana
- P: Your band (MF) And we presently have a band called the Wildwood Flowers, And we play pretty much traditional bluegrass music.
- P: Uh-uh
- MF We do do some new stuff but its just very few numbers. We appreciate the, you know, the southern flavor of bluegrass. I think Dave fiddles a good southern style of fiddlers. Its not the jazz thats going around now. But we seem to get along well with that particular style the older stuff.
- P: When you say traditional bluegrass what do you...
- MF Oh, well thats such a wide <sup>wide</sup> term I don't even like to use the label. But its the only means by which you identify. Uh, Its not just, its not perhaps not what people would call the roots of B.G. music. Even traditional, oh the only way you can say traditional music, I would suppose would be ~~the~~ people like, the style that maybe ranges with Bill Monroe and Ralph Stanley + some of the older BG groups. Theres change that goes even into their stuff. I suppose that if you listen to B.G. + if you understand the terminology you may not agree with it, but at least you understand it. Nobodys been able to pinpoint the difference between.
- P: Then it doesnt mean only the older mountain music like, uh, Colfax.
- MF No, uh. If youre going to get into the older mountain music, if youre going into strictly Appalachian music, youve got to make a little



Difference then, in instrumentation. You don't use a 3 finger Scroggs style banjo. You've got to go back to the older drop thumb, frailty type banjo, you know, particularly if you get a good old time sound. And the difference in the fiddling. If its if its if you're really going to be a purist about it, theres a considerable difference in the way they fiddle. I've seen some people like in Calax who were on the borderline. Still call themselves old-time fiddlers, but they were very, very close to Bluegrass. Bluegrass puts in a lot of more notes. Their use, uh, you know, particularly in Carrol + Grayson Counties areas they use alot a lot of drone. They very seldom single string it. Its drone all the way through. And its, you know, if you sit down + listen to somebody whos really really good old time fiddler like Tommy Jarrell. A guy that hasnt got any notoriety but I think probably the best old time fiddler in that particular area of the country is Harold Hansen ~~leaks~~. And he was taught by Glen Smith + Grandpa Ward + people like this. And if you set down and listen to these people you can tell, you can tell that minor difference in there that just makes a step enough. And usually tempo between old time + traditional or an older style of B.G. is faster. And chord changes differ a little ~~at~~ ~~bit~~ bit. I discovered that this summer when we played old Toe Clark. When the oldtimers play ~~of~~ OTC they don't add the F.

Yeh

Its G right straight thru till they get to the ~~B~~ D, no F. If you add the F then



(2)

Look at you and frown. Like, Ah, there's one of them irredigious bluegrassers.

PT Well tell me the story then about how Mr. F Wildwood Flowers got started.

MF Tell him about the corn cob

PT Tell me any thing you ~~are~~ want to add

MF Well, the whole, the whole thing kind of started when, when I was about 16 or so. My Dad, I devilled him for a guitar. I was playing woodwind ~~at~~ at the time, and I got along with it all right. It was a high school thing you know. But I devilled him ~~for~~ enough for a guitar that they broke down + bought a 20 dollar guitar + said you learn to play this + then you can buy your own good one. + So I, I messed with that all during high school + really fell in love with the thing. I was terminally bitten, you know, dear down to the bone with it. And then, uh, I listened to a lot of Woody Guthrie, you know, + people like that. I got into the folkie movement. That went down in the 60's, and really got ~~on~~ on that train + rode it hard. I I liked it, but there but there was just that certain something that I was looking for that wasn't quite there either.

And I had a friend of mine, his dad had played harmonica for 20, 20 some years. And we got together + started playing blues. + He's a fine blues harp player. His name is Bill Barry. He's from Bossville, Indiana. And we kicked it around for about 2 or 3 years and uh, one time +, he kept talking about wanting to, you know, my dad kept talking about wanting to get into music, so I, as a as, The best thing I could do for him, was what he'd done for me. He'd bought me a



\$20 Silvertone. So I went out + bought him a washtub + ~~gone~~ got an E string off and old bass + got a broom handle + made him a bass. ~~to~~ And said now when you learn how to play this one, then we'll get you a better one.

So we started playing a lot of tunes, or a lot of lot a fun pan alley music. Just a blues harp + the gut bucket bass. And myself on guitar. We played on street corners all over, allow Indiana, into Ohio ~~a~~ a little ways. Just. Just drive into a town some night + plop down on the corner + start playing + sometimes you were well accepted, and sometimes you were throwed out. It's a situation that you soon got to learn to respect + you had a good time with. And we kinda went on that way for awhile + I went to Bean Blossom

I'd heard about BB, BB you know that's the place to go. And I heard. I really didn't even know what the music was called until I learned the name bluegrass. And I heard little pieces of it on T.V. And I started thinking now that's the sound that I've been looking for. You know. The 3 part harmony + the drive ~~you know~~ think, I think that's what's contagious about B.G. is that drive.

Y T Yeh,

MF So I went to Bean Blossom + the 1st person I ran into in BB, didn't know him from Adam ~~was~~ ~~that~~ was the guy sitting right there on that stool, was Dave Hall. And he was standing right toe to toe with Mr. Baker. And they were fiddling + having themselves a heck of a good time. And, uh, I remember my 1st impression of B.G. was, My God this stuff is wicked fast. It just It just it took me. I stayed there that weekend I was absolutely infatuated with it, but I was having a terrible time trying to



(3)

keep up speed wise. so. I bought. I was  
bitten with that thing you know. I was  
into it. And so I bought a whole  
mess of record albums and came home &  
started working. And I started trying to  
play more B6 & soft <sup>kinda</sup> phrased out of the  
blues type music that we were into.  
And the street corner stuff. And  
went to work for a restaurant. & uh,  
In the evenings in the slow times. I got  
I found out that there was a banjo player  
in Frankfort I had this restaurant in Frankfort  
Indiana. And there was a banjo player  
I used to sit in there & play my  
guitar. well one evening he came  
in & uh, what luck, you know, I  
found a banjo player & we, we had  
a ~~for~~ pretty good time. The people used  
to come in and listen to us occas-  
sionally. And then, we started going to  
Battleground. That's about the first, 1st  
2nd year they had the Battleground  
thing. And we made some friends  
over there, and then like on wednesday  
nights. These people would come in. And  
then sometimes we'd have a bluegrass  
group there, but there'd be as high as  
10 people. Uh you know. Couple  
guitar players, couple mandolin players,  
just who ever decided to show up.  
And we went down to there. we  
kinda formed a group for a while. You  
know. we pieced together a group.  
And we went down to Eagle creek.  
at the festival, the 1st year they had  
it down there. Not the 1st year  
It was the 2nd or 3rd year I think  
And we didn't even have a name. we  
played for our own enjoyment. And uh,  
no public type thing. And uh, they got us



up on stage & uh someone said who are you  
And we said we don't know. So somebody  
gave us the name Wildwood Flowers. So  
we just, we just went right on through  
with that, and we never really bothered  
to change it. I guess it fit so we kept the  
name WF's + studied B.C. as much as you  
can when you work one job & have another  
interest.

And when people <sup>would</sup> you know, people drop  
out on the way in a band situation  
or don't want to play any more. And  
about a year & a half ago we decided  
that we would take it up. Like playing  
for money on the weekends & stuff. And we  
started that. And the central core of  
the group was after the one banjo  
player that that 1st started out with me,  
Phillip Lorringer left, a guy by the  
name of Terry Fletcher used to play  
with us so he came in after Phil left  
& uh, I picked up a guitar player here  
& there & used to play mandolin. And  
we just kinda progressed the thing.  
And now we play about every weekend  
somewhere & we ~~enjoy~~ enjoy it tremendously.  
You know, we're in right now, I think  
I think the biggest kick that we're into  
<sup>you know</sup> the thing that we like to do more  
than any thing else is play & write our  
own music, which I think that's where  
that's where it is, you know, as far as  
longevity in the field of B.C. You got to  
have people putting up, putting new material  
into it, so you've got something to do.  
And that's pretty much how the whole  
thing got started.

PT Who is the band then

MF The WF's, I'm MF I'm playing guitar.  
My Dad Marvin F, he's playing the upright bass.  
And we got a fellow by the name of Chuck  
Clinton from Lafayette, Ind. playing mandolin & for us.  
& Terry Fletcher is playing banjo, & Dave Hall's playing



(4)

fiddle for us.

PT And Dave's been with you how long

MF About a year

DH Yeh

MF Yeh just about a year.

PT Did you have another fiddler before that,

MF Yeh. John Watson was with us for

about a year. He's from Lafayette. We were doing a little bit more old time stuff than what were doing now. We do

we do about 2 or 3 songs in the B6

group where I I do clawhammer

bango work. That can be done & it

makes a nice change you know an interesting break. That's uh, pretty

much the story of the progress

right now. We we enjoy it. you

know. Sometimes it gets to be a

strain on family relationships

& that kind of stuff but uh you

know, If you have a good time

at it I think every thing can be

worked out. That's very important.

PT So you're pretty definitely a B6 group

MF Oh yeh

PT And you're, would you describe

yourself as a B6 fiddler? If you

had to pick out a word to describe

your fiddle playing. would it be B6

or old-time or what,

DH Uh In between I think, B. 6. & old

time.

PT Yeh, okay

MF Yeh, I'll agree with that. He still has

that flavor. That makes it. That still

gives us that old-time sound, but it's

got the power that B6 has got.