

Indiana Hoedown IH026  
Traditional Music from the Hoosier State

Donald Duff

00 "Back when I was kid, why, we didn't have any televisions back there, the only thing we had then was the radio. And my Dad was a great lover of the, of the Grand Old Opry in Nashville, Tenn. So that was the highlight of the week, <sup>was</sup> on Saturday night all of us sitting around listening to the radio. So uh, I guess that's where I got interested in the fiddle. And uh, my Dad had, uh, my Great Grand dad's fiddle that was in the upstairs of the house here that I live in. It had laid up there for 40 years. And my great Grand dad had played this before he went to the Civil War. Then after he passed away, nobody wanted to fiddle, and my Dad said he wanted it, but he couldn't play it, so it laid up there and was never played. So I told my Dad, I'd like to learn to play the fiddle. Oh, he says, you can't never learn to play. He says, I can't play any kind of musical instrument and he says, your mother can't either, he says you'll never ever learn it, said in the first place, said the fiddle's the hardest instrument to learn to play. And so I kept after kept after him told him, I wanted to learn to play the fiddle, if he got me one or fix that one up upstairs. So he finally consented to get me a fiddle, and uh, and uh, well, he said, tell you what I'll do, He said my Brother in law, he said, over Crawfordsville, said he used to play in Orchestra, said, he's got a fiddle, and said, it's still string up, he said, I'll go over there and see if he wants to sell that 'n and uh, he says I'll, if you can learn to play <sup>it</sup> I'll fix up the one upstairs for you. So we went to, over there one Sunday, and picked up the fiddle. He is my Uncle. He tuned it up for me, & sent it home with me. So I got the thing out in the back seat and <sup>by</sup> ~~that~~ the time I got back home which was about 30 miles I ~~could~~ <sup>was</sup> already could get parts of the Turkey in the Straw uh played out on that thing, so my Dad, he wasn't long decided that maybe I could play something. So my mother said, well, says... said uh, if you learn to play the fiddle, said there's only one thing, said, that I ask, and, I'er, says I rather you wouldn't play for square dances. Uh says, I growd up thru that age, myself, and says there's usually a pretty, rough group that follers square dances.

and uh, says I, ~~and~~ rather, said, that you, you not play  
for them, and so uh I never have and my mother's  
still living and uh after she's gone. why, I've lived this  
long never played for, for a square dance, I'll, I'll not  
change my ways now. But I do enjoy the old  
square dance type music. And I always have. That's  
what took my ear to it when I listened to it on  
the Grand Old Opry. Roy Acuff's fiddler & some of  
them played some of them ~~so~~ good old time music, and uh,  
so uh, That's pretty well the story I guess - ~~and~~ I can  
think of right at the present time."

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