



Field Notes

News from Traditional Arts Indiana

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Fiddles, Fondant, and Fine Angus

This summer marked the first *Traditional Arts Indiana State Fair Fiddle Contest*, an event that drew talented fiddlers from all over the state and region. Indiana's decidedly strong fiddle tradition



Scott Conley smiles before mounting the stage at the TAI Indiana State Fair Fiddle Contest. Scott won the beginner's division.
— Photo by Erin Roth

is owed in large part to the large migration from the Upland South to Indiana's industrialized cities.

Experienced judges listened as 33 contestants from ages 5 to 75 played hoe downs, reels, and waltzes. Thirteen year-old Scott Conley of Jasper County won the beginner's division. Scott is an apprentice with TAI's apprenticeship program. Olivia Smiley of Decatur County won the open-class.

Rich Walter, ethnomusicology graduate student at IU helped to research and develop the contest.

This year's *State Fair Masters* included a 90-year-old candy-making couple from Hancock County and a family of third generation Angus seed-stock breeders from Montgomery County.

Mary K. Borgman learned to make candy as a child by watching her mother prepare for Christmas. She began exhibiting at the State Fair fifty years ago "to see if I could beat somebody," she says with a good-spirited laugh. Mary and her husband, Raymond, now work together as a team. They have won more grand prizes than anyone in the candy division, competing with their granddaughter whom Mary taught.



State Fair Master Mary Borgman making fondant.
— Photo by Erin Roth

In 1945, Jim Patton's grandfather bought his first Angus. Since then, Jim and Randee Patton's family have been breeding some of this country's finest purebred Angus seed-stock. Jim's father was known for having a good eye. Picking a good heifer or bull is the key to successful breeding. Quali-



State Fair Master Jim Patton.
— Photo by Erin Roth

ties once prized in a cow — short, deep, and fat — are now being bred out. "My whole family has developed a pretty good eye," says Jim. Jim and Randee's children are all ten-year veterans of 4-H, winning multiple competitions locally and nationally.

In the Archives

TAI deposited in the Indiana Historical Society's Library and Archive 65 cassettes of recorded interviews, nearly 1000 slides, 250 black and white photographs, fieldnotes, tape and photo logs, transcripts, and ephemera. TAI is creating a public record for all Hoosiers — researchers as well as descendents of interviewed traditional artists.

TAI Sponsors...

Good Ol' Summertime Series featured bluegrass music on June 28 at the Buskirk-Chumley Theater in downtown Bloomington. TAI sponsored performances by The Chestnut Mountain Band from Metamora and New Frontier from Bedford. Also performing was the Bannister Family of Columbus. The evening culminated with the audience singing along to all three bands playing "Will the Circle be Unbroken."

TAI sponsored cooking demonstrations and a dance performance at the first *Summer Latino Festival* in Bloomington, August 23. Carlos Nuñez demonstrated the making of *Pan de Muertos*, a special decorated, yeast bread made for *Día de los Muertos*. And Socorro Jimenez made tamales, a specialty made with *masa* and pork, wrapped in corn husks. Angela Castañeda, an IU anthropology graduate student, interpreted and facilitated questions and provided contextual information for the demonstrations. Eduardo Hernández, former member of the *Ballet Folklórico de México*, performed traditional Azteca dances. More than 1000 people attended this first year event. Sponsors included the Monroe County Parks and Recreation, as well as Bloomington's Community and Family Resources Department.



Robert Turner and the Silver Hearts Singers performing at the Kennedy Center's Millennium stage in Washington, D.C.

— Photo by Erin Roth

On the Road

At the invitation of the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress and the Kennedy Performing Center, Robert Turner and the Silver Heart Gospel Singers performed during the summer concert series "Homegrown: The Music of America." The steps to the Library of Congress were filled with government employees on their lunch breaks and lucky tourists happening by. By the end of the Silver Hearts' performance at the Kennedy Center, members of the audience, who were already on their feet, spontaneously moved to the front of the stage to join Robert Turner, dancing and clapping.

Robert Turner and the Silver Hearts represent over forty years of gospel music in Indianapolis, home to a thriving gospel music scene and the oldest African American gospel recording studio in the country.

Traditional Arts Indiana (TAI) is dedicated to expanding public awareness of Indiana's traditional practices and nurturing a sense of pride among Indiana's traditional artists. TAI, a partnership of the Indiana Arts Commission (IAC) and the Indiana University (IU) Department of Folklore & Ethnomusicology, works locally with individuals and organiza-

tions to promote and facilitate cultural documentation and public programming. The National Endowment for the Arts, the IAC, IU and private donations support the work of TAI. For more information, contact Erin Roth, Manager, (812) 855-0418, <tradarts@indiana.edu>. Visit the TAI website at <www.indiana.edu/~tradarts>.

The TAI Team

Ilze Akerbergs, Technical Assistant
 Velma Carmichael, Office Support
 Inta Carpenter, Director
 Dorothy Ilgen (IAC), Advisor
 Monica Peterson (IAC), Advisor
 Amanda Robbins, Administrative Assistant
 Erin Roth, Manager
Fieldworkers 2003: Delia Alexander,
 Lisa Overholser, Erin Roth, Lara Serrano

*Selling your art?**Are you required to pay sales tax?*

John Zile, blacksmith from Middleton attends festivals, craft fairs, and demonstrates at historic sites. The items he sells range from \$5-35. He shares with us his experiences with Indiana sales tax.

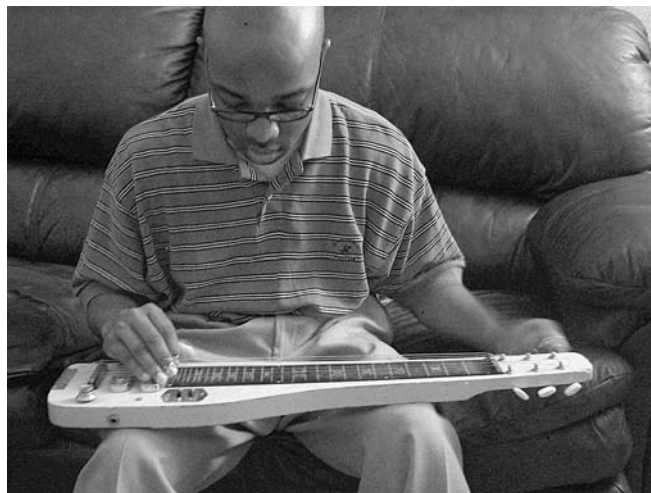
“My wife deals in antiques so I was aware of the need to have a sales tax number if you’re going to sell anything. I went to the Indiana Department of Revenue in Muncie a couple of years ago to get a tax number. The number exempts you from paying sales tax on items related to your artwork. But it also obligates you to pay sales tax on what you sell. The paperwork is kind of a nuisance but if you want to do what’s right and not have to look over your shoulder all the time, then it’s worth it. The paperwork can be done monthly, quarterly, semi-annually, or annually depending on how much you sell. I pay 6% of what I sell towards sales tax. If I send in my paperwork on time, I receive a .83% savings on that 6%.” If you would like to contact John with questions or comments, please call our office at (812) 855-0418.

Latinos in Indianapolis

Lara Serrano, an IU Folklore & Ethnomusicology graduate student and musician from Puerto Rico, is hitting the road this semester, discovering the *botánicas*, bakers, and *bolero* singers in Indianapolis’ Latino communities. Her fieldwork will lead to performances and demonstrations at the March 20th Celebrate Us! event at the Indiana Historical Society.



An enthusiastic audience greets Robert Turner and the Silver Heart Singers at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. — Photo by Erin Roth



Clary Butler plays a lap steel guitar.

— Photo by Delia Alexander

*Creating, Changing, Renewing**Portraits of Indiana’s Traditional Artists**Clary Butler, Jr.*

Sacred Steel originated as early as the 1930s in the House of God Church, an African American church in the Holiness Pentecostal tradition. Clary Butler, a law student living in Indianapolis, grew up in the House of God Church in South Carolina and is one of a handful of “Sacred Steelers” who are introducing the instrument to members of the House of God in Indiana. Fieldworker Delia Alexander interviewed Clary in June. In this excerpt, Clary talks about his relationship with his steel guitar:

“This instrument, when it’s played to perfection, and you’ve got the right tone quality coming out of your amp, it gets to your soul because all of a sudden you’re moaning and groaning like

The TAI Apprenticeship program: Passing It On

TAI encourages traditional artists to apply for the Master Apprenticeship program. Master artists receive a \$2500 honorarium to teach qualified apprentices.

Those who apply are evaluated according to the traditionality of the art form, excellence of the master, the promise of the apprentice, and the significance of the art form to the master and the apprentice’s community or group.

To apply, go to <www.indiana.edu/~tradarts/programs/maapcriteria.htm> and download an application, or contact our office at (812) 855-0418.

a songster would do but you're able to hit more notes because you have two full octaves here and you can jump from this one to that one without breaking a windpipe...."

"I'll come home and I'll just be playing and, you know, just kind of figuring stuff out and sometimes it sounds like cats. And you *do* that day after day after day because there's a *love* for it because we realize what this thing becomes and then it gets to your *soul*. So, you know, when things ain't going right with your girlfriend you get on the guitar. When your parents are mad at you, you get on the guitar. When there's nothing on TV, you get on the guitar and so it really speaks to your soul. I don't feel right if I don't play it during the day.



Clary playing the pedal steel guitar.

— Photo by Delia Alexander

I play before I go to sleep. I wake up in the morning and just play a tune. Sometimes when I don't even feel like playing it, I'll walk to get something to drink and I'll rub my hands around the guitar and it's just one of those things."

Clary Butler is listed in our artist directory on our website: <www.indiana.edu/~tradarts>. He's available for performances, demonstrations, or educational talks.

The Bulletin Board

- *December 14, Sunday, 7pm* — "Robert Turner and the Silver Heart Gospel Singers Pre-Christmas Gospel Fellowship." Church choirs, small gospel groups from around Indianapolis. Christ Missionary Baptist Church, Indianapolis. Call 317/925-4132 for information.
- *Indiana Arts Commission's Individual Arts Project Grant \$1,000. Deadline February 2, 2004.* For application, call 317/232-1268 or download a copy from <www.in.gov/arts>.
- *March 20, 11pm-4pm* — "Celebrate Us! Our Families, Our Cultures, Our City." Indiana Historical Society, Indianapolis. TAI is a sponsor of this event.
- *Tippecanoe County Historical Association gift shop is looking for traditional crafts to sell on consignment.* Call 765/476-8411 x 203 or <angela@tcha.mus.in.us>.