



The Cougar Cry



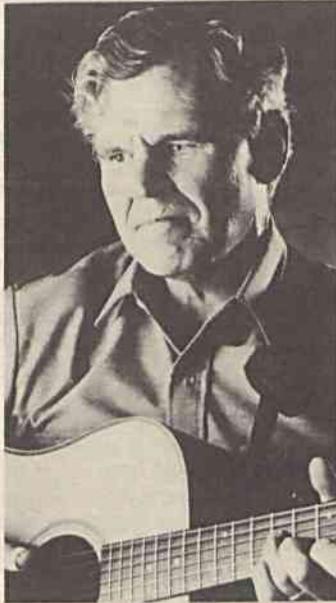
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Doc A Key To Festival



DOC WATSON

The Merle Watson Memorial Festival, now in its seventh year, bears the indelible mark of Arthel "Doc" Watson of Deep Gap.

Doc is a chief draw for many of the top names in acoustic music who come to the festival, not to mention the fans. In addition to Doc and his family being official hosts of the festival, he is closely involved in choosing musicians for the event and helping to maintain its family atmosphere.

The festival is a time of reunions for Doc and many others. He particularly enjoys playing music with old friends through the weekend.

Doc said he is pleased with how the festival is remaining family-oriented and focused on the music he likes.

Doc describes his own music as "traditional plus whatever I want to add. It's not bluegrass, but we do a little bit of bluegrass now and then. It's a lot of old-time country, which is traditional American music, with bluegrass and some blues thrown in. I might even play a country version of a jazz tune."

The musical roots of Doc Watson, who has been blind since infancy, go back to his raising in the mountains of Watauga County. Early on, he learned the old-time fiddle tunes of people like his father-in-law, Gaither Carlton, and another Deep Gap man named Uncle Ben Miller.

Some of his strongest early influences were the original Carter Family, Jimmy Roger and old-time blues musicians like John Hurt, Skip James and Ferry Lewis.

"And then came along Merle Travis and Chet (Atkins), and they are my two top guitar idols," he said. Merle Watson was named for Merle Travis.

Doc was "discovered" by Ralph Rinzler of the Smithsonian Institution in 1960 and made his first "urban" performance at Public School 41 in Greenwich Village in 1961 with Clarence Ashley, Clint Howard, Fred Price and Gaither Carlton.

In 1964, Merle joined Doc as accompanist, road manager and guide. In the years that followed, the relationship developed to where Doc describes Merle as the best friend he ever had. He still marvels at how quickly Merle mastered finger-style picking. Doc and Merle Watson won four Grammys.

Doc Watson today considers himself retired but he still performs for certain causes and at selected locations across the country. "I'm doing about a tenth of what I was doing before I retired," he said.

The musical talent of Doc and Merle Watson continues through Richard Watson of Watauga County, who is their grandson and son, respectively.

Richard has become a festival regular and is known for the blues and blues-type ballads he plays on guitar. Merle's style is easily detected in his son.



Staff Profile



MR. HUGH HASH
Diesel Instructor

Diesel Mechanics instructor, Hugh Hash, has been an omnipresent figure at WCC for 21 years full time and three years part time. "The job has been very rewarding over the years and I am proud of the success of the students," stated Mr. Hash.

A native of Piney Creek near Sparta, he is married to Evelyn Hash. They have five children and six grandchildren. One of his many hobbies include collecting antique tractors, repairing them and working on his

farm. Mr. Hash commented that he would like his area of work to be stronger, developed more, and gain more interested students in the diesel program. He is proud of his students he now has, and the progress they have made. He feels that the students leave WCC with knowledge that the industry needs.

If you don't know Mr. Hash, make it a point to visit the diesel shop at the top of the hill and get acquainted.

-Sheila Burgess

PHI THETA KAPPA TO SPONSOR BLOODMOBILE AT WCC
The Wilkes Community College honors fraternity, Phi Theta Kappa, will sponsor a bloodmobile on the WCC Campus on Wednesday, May 4 from 10:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. The bloodmobile will be held in Thompson Hall in the Student Commons.
For more information, contact Dr. Josephine Hendrix 910/651-8720.

Spring Is Here!