



GETTING TO KNOW YOULee Lack

My name is Lee Lack, you probably know me from Variety Nights or from the begin-ning fiddle workshops I have done for Silver Strings. I was born in Peoria, Illinois but later moved to Washington, Illinois, a town that was like Mayberry from the old Andy Griffin TV Show. I pride myself in being a small country gal from where life was simple and everyone cared about one another. I had 2 brothers, one older and one younger, and one younger sister, a Dad who worked hard and a Mom who stayed at home and kept our family happy and content.

Our home was filled with music because my mother played the piano. Every time she played, it was so loud that all the neighbors would stop whatever they were doing, and enjoy the music. My Mother was a classically trained pianist and started me playing piano when I was around 8 years old I played piano until I realized I wanted to deviate, get away from the rigors of reading music, and do my own, more interesting thing. As a teenager I loved listening to old time fiddlers' music and also to my older brother, who was an excellent guitar player.

When we moved to Michigan as an adult, a friend bought a fiddle for \$10.00 and gave it to me. I took it to the Gitfiddler Shop in Northville, and got it repaired. At that time, you got 1 free lesson when you picked up your fiddle. The first tune I learned was Boil That Cabbage Down, and from there I continued to take more lessons. I have been playing the fiddle for over 20 years now. When I met my husband, Tom, he played guitar, and we have been playing together ever since. We have been street performers and paid performers at various civic and historical events. We have 5 grown children and 2 grandchildren. One son is a Rock Guitar star in a group called West Fall out of Flint. One daughter just got home from Egypt, where she worked as a Librarian Archives Specialist for 3 years. Before she left Egypt, I went over for a 2 week visit, and she took me all around that area. What a place! I have worked at 2 music stores as a fiddle and mandolin teacher, and have taught students from 6 to 60 how to play and enjoy these instruments.

Tom has been a truck driver for over 30 years working 10-12 hours 5 days a week. We both look forward to retirement, when we can hitch up our 5th wheel camper and hit the roads camping and entertaining others as we go. We love camping, hiking, bird and sky watching and are really naturalists at heart. We heard about Silver Strings at a Bluegrass Festival years ago where you were performing, and knew it was something for us to join.

Besides playing fiddle and mandolin, I play the claw hammer banjo, penny whistle, and the mountain dulcimer. I also enjoy knitting, needlepoint, and quilting, and have started sewing my own Victorian outfit for some of our playdates. Tom and I had 3 special cats- Booger, Rory, and Harley, who all lived to be over 15 years old. Harley purred like a Harley Davidson motorcycle, Rory looked like a lion, and Booger had a black spot on his nose. Since then we have decided not to have anymore pets because we want to become full time RV'rs and travel forever. If you are interested in learning more about the fiddle or mandolin, look me up. I am a short, little, gray haired, quiet (but always smiling), happy country gal, willing to help.