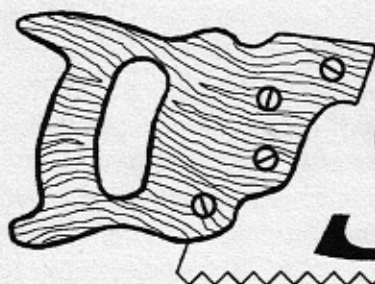


INTERNATIONAL MUSICAL SAW ASSOCIATION



SAW PLAYER NEWS

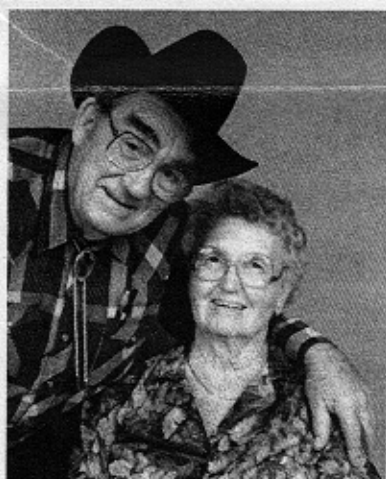
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Charlie's Story

By Charlie Blacklock

*Edited by Viola Blacklock
and Morgan Cowin*

Charlie Blacklock's name is recognized far and wide for his talents and efforts to promote the musical saw, as well as his warm, friendly personality. Charlie is part of a big musical family - his brother



Charlie and Viola Blacklock

Leonard played trumpet in school, and sister Lois played violin. Son Kenneth played clarinet for 34 years in the Santa Rosa (CA) Symphony, and several years with the Oakland symphony. Son Rodney plays folk music on many instruments, and son Paul plays blues and rock

guitar. Charlie's grandson Kenny Blacklock (an IMSA Officer) plays the saw, fiddle, guitar, mandolin, viola, ukulele, bass and keyboards. Granddaughter Karen Exley sings, great-grandson Jack plays drums and xylophone in school, and great-granddaughter Marika (age 4) is learning to play the fiddle from Dad Kenny and Mom Katy Bridges.

Charlie formed the CSPA (California Saw Players Association) and was the President since it's inception in 1993 until the end of 2002, when Charlie's health forced him to slow down. Following are a few of Charlie's many stories...

The year I was born, 1917 (in Hollister, CA), my dad bought two expensive items. One was a new Model T Ford for \$400, and an Edison phonograph costing the same, \$400. Along with the phonograph they got 10 records. This was World War I time, and the songs were "I'm forever blowing bubbles," "Sister Suzy Sewing Shirts For Soldiers," and so on. We played these records for many years, and I still have the phonograph in my living room.

My first instrument was the ukulele. When I was in the second or third grade our school teacher would start the day singing and playing the ukulele. To me it sounded real good. I enjoyed it so much that in the summer I worked hard and made enough money to buy a "uke" of my own. I still have that ukulele. Although I never heard him, my dad played harmonica and fiddle at dances. He had quit playing before I was born, but he still enjoyed music. One time he told me to go over to my aunt's house with my uke and get some help. She was a school teacher and could also play the piano. She gave me a lot of encouragement, and said I was doing fine and to just keep it up.

Next was the harmonica. By age ten I was playing harmonica while driving a tractor pulling a plow on the days that I wasn't in school. I had a harmonica holder that went around my neck, leaving my hands free to handle the tractor. At school a friend also played harmonica, so we did a lot of playing together. We would skip every physical ed class we could to play harmonica together. From the 6th grade up into the first year of high school I also played the clarinet in the school marching band.

In the 1930's my dad bought a radio, and we could get some good country music. One program

