



The Tale Twister

Cullman Lions Club

October 21, 2019

Program

We had some real entertainment for our program tonight. Lion Charlie Powell introduced Mr. William Craig Mann. Craig is a renowned music historian; he is an ordained minister; often teaches music history & plays at local events such as October Fest, Blooming Festival, etc. He has been music director at several churches; he can play 38 different instruments; he teaches music lessons, and he is a past director of a music museum in Montgomery. He plays with a band called the Mountain Melodies. His day job is that of a photojournalist for the Cullman Tribune. You may have seen him in this capacity as he covered the County Fair for the newspaper. He graduated from Samford University and has a divinity degree.



Lion President Andrew Manning, Mr. Craig Mann, and Lion Charlie Powell.

Mr. Mann began his presentation with a little music history, leading up to the introduction of the dulcimer in America. The dulcimer in its earliest form was first seen in Germany in the 1500's with a name interpreted to mean "scrap piece of

wood." Craig hand-made one that actually looked like a piece of 2x2 lumber about 3 ft long with 4 strings running its length; it was hollow on the inside. Many Germans immigrated to our country's earliest colonies, including the town of Philadelphia, and brought this early pre-dulcimer instrument with them in the 1600's. Many of them moved further south to the northern end of the Shenandoah Valley. There they eventually mingled with Scott-Irish immigrants who thought the German's crude instrument was not loud enough, although they liked the fact that it has a couple of strings that created a drone sound much like a Scottish bag pipe. At any rate, these Scotch-Irish musicians stuck this German 2x2 onto a larger-sound chamber box for more volume; this, then, led to what we now know as the Appalachian Dulcimer. Unlike the fiddle,



Mr. Craig Mann cuts loose with a little toe-tapping music.

the dulcimer was relatively easy to build and to play. Craig brought a couple of dulcimers with him of different styles, one had a tear drop design and one had a figure-eight form. He soon began to give us a demonstration of his musical skills and capabilities of his instrument as he



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knocked out a couple of very impressive and quick moving tunes. His music sounded something like a cross between Chet Atkins and Lester Flatt.

Regarding how easy it is to play, Mr. Mann stated that he could teach anyone to play a tune on his dulcimer in about 2 minutes; he then asked for a volunteer to come up for a quick lesson. Lion Casey Smith rose to the challenge and almost immediately he was playing "Mary Had a Little Lamb." Craig gave us a very informative and thoroughly entertaining program. Following a question, he said he gives lessons in homes and other places, and to see Lion Charlie Powell if to want to locate him down for that. I think we all wished that we could have spent more time listening to him play, but he had another engagement this evening. Hope he can come back again.



Craig has Lion Casey Smith playing the dulcimer in no time at all.

Other Business

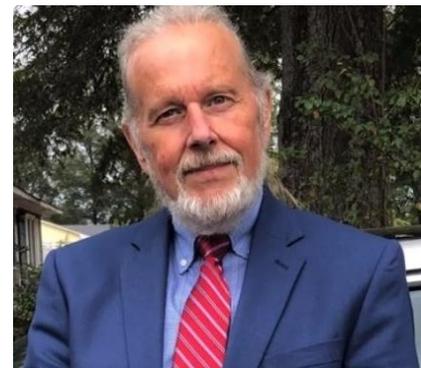
A "Thank You" notes were received from the Leader Dog Organization and the CCCDD.

The Christmas/Fair Banquet will be held on December 9th.

Lion Ed Henke is still taking medical treatments.

Led by Lion Steve Murphree, Lions were out in force supporting the Peinhardt Living Farm with visitor parking for its Family Day Open House on Saturday, October 19. Rain dampened turnout, so most Lions assigned to the afternoon shift got a break and were able to leave their posts early.

Upcoming Programs and Events



Bill Strandlund
Executive Director, Grace Place Cullman

October 28: Mr. Bill Strandlund, Executive Director of Grace Place Cullman.



Lion Larry Bagley
34A District Governor





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Ms. Lesley Ann Hyde

November 4: Ms. Lesley Ann Hyde, paranormal investigator and founder of “Southern Ghost Girls.” Also, speaking will be 34A District Governor, Lion Larry Bagley.

November 11: TBD

November 18: 2019 Fair financial report; Fair Board election (Club members only; no guests).

December 9: Fair Appreciation Dinner at Stonebridge at 6:00 PM.

.Tale Twister Input

If you need something special or to report a correction in the *Tale Twister*, see Lions Carey Thompson or Don Smith at the meetings. Lion Carey can be reached at 256-739-0580 (H) or 256-426-3207 (C). Lion Don can be reached at 256-737-7433 (H) or 256-426-7722 (C).