



Long-time performer says festival improves every year

By Sam Dieter

Colby Free Press
sdieter@nwkanssas.com

Pickin' on the Plains Bluegrass and Folk Festival sees many bands come back each year, and few musicians have been here longer than guitarist Larry Booth, who helped found the festival.

"Well, I was pretty old when it started," he said, "and I'm pretty old now."

He has a style of playing that he describes as gospel, folk and cowboy ballads, which he said "doesn't change much over the years."

However, Booth said, he's learned new songs over the years. One of his favorites, called "Last Letter Home," is about the Civil War, although it was written recently. Another is an older song called "Cowboy's Lullaby," written by Arlo Guthrie.

"I like songs that tell a historical story,"

Larry Booth, seen with his guitar at last year's Pickin' on the Plains festival, will be back once again this year. He says he's looking forward to the lineup of bands.

he said.

Booth, a solo performer, usually relies on his own guitar and voice during a performance. When attending the festival, though, he will often play with other musicians.

"There are several of us in Colby," he said, who get together to sing and play and accompany each other and just entertain ourselves."

He said he has enjoyed some of the recent changes to the festival. This includes the presence of better-known bands such as Dailley and Vincent, who are coming back for a second year at the festival.

"They're still growing in popularity," Booth said. "I'm really looking forward to seeing them and spending time with them."

Booth will be playing on Saturday afternoon of the homecoming, from noon to 12:30 p.m.

Couple back to home to pick

By Kayla Cornett

Colby Free Press
kcornett@nwkanssas.com

A Pickin' on the Plains favorite, the Sappa Strings, will be performing at the Colby bluegrass festival once again this year.

The band will kick off the event Friday night, the first band to perform, at 6 p.m. Sappa Strings will then return to the stage at 9 a.m. Sunday.

Wayne and Millie Lauritsen make up this familiar duo. Once a farm family in the Colby area, the couple now lives in Divide, Colo.

The Sappa Strings have been entertaining at festivals, community gatherings, churches, rest homes and senior centers for nearly 25 years. After all this time, the couple says they still plan on attending events to entertain their loyal fans.

The band performs a soft style of bluegrass, gospel and cowboy tunes. Wayne sings lead and plays guitar while Millie backs him up with harmony and accompanies on the dobro and autoharp.

The sweet style and old-time sound keep bringing bluegrass fans back to watch their performances on the Pickin' on the Plains stage.

According to the festival's website, www.pickinontheplains.com, "Sappa Strings has developed a quality reputation for bringing traditional favorites to life. They are sure to entertain your appreciation for Kansas heritage while performing wholesome music."

"This heart-warming duo has been with us from the start."



Sappa Strings duo Wayne and Millie Lauritsen have been making bluegrass music together for a long time now.

FARM & RANCH REALTY, INC.

REALTORS • AUCTIONEERS • APPRAISERS

1977 - 2012

35

YEARS OF

EXPERIENCE
EXPERTISE
EXCELLENCE



1420 W. 4TH - COLBY, KS 67701

1-800-247-7863

DONALD L. HAZLETT
BROKER



www.farmandranchrealty.com

"When you list with Farm & Ranch, it's as good as SOLD!!"

