

MOUNTAIN MUSIC

1937 Flood, Kessinger, more fill caves with sound of music



By **DAVE LAVENDER**
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A member of the old-time music group the Corndrinkers, fiddler Barbara Kuhns trods a well-worn path from tiny Medway, Ohio, to Olive Hill, Ky.'s Carter Caves State Resort Park every year to get another musical drink from the fountain of fiddling knowledge.

Kuhns started coming to the J.P. Fraley Mountain Music Gatherin' in 1977, attracted by the presence of Fraley, one of the deans of Kentucky old-time fiddling who is known and respected around the world.

Fraley, who has made several noted recordings for Rounder Records,

was named an Appalachian Treasure by Morehead State University in 1998.

"As a fiddler, I have been very lucky and very influenced by the people who come to the festival," said Kuhns.

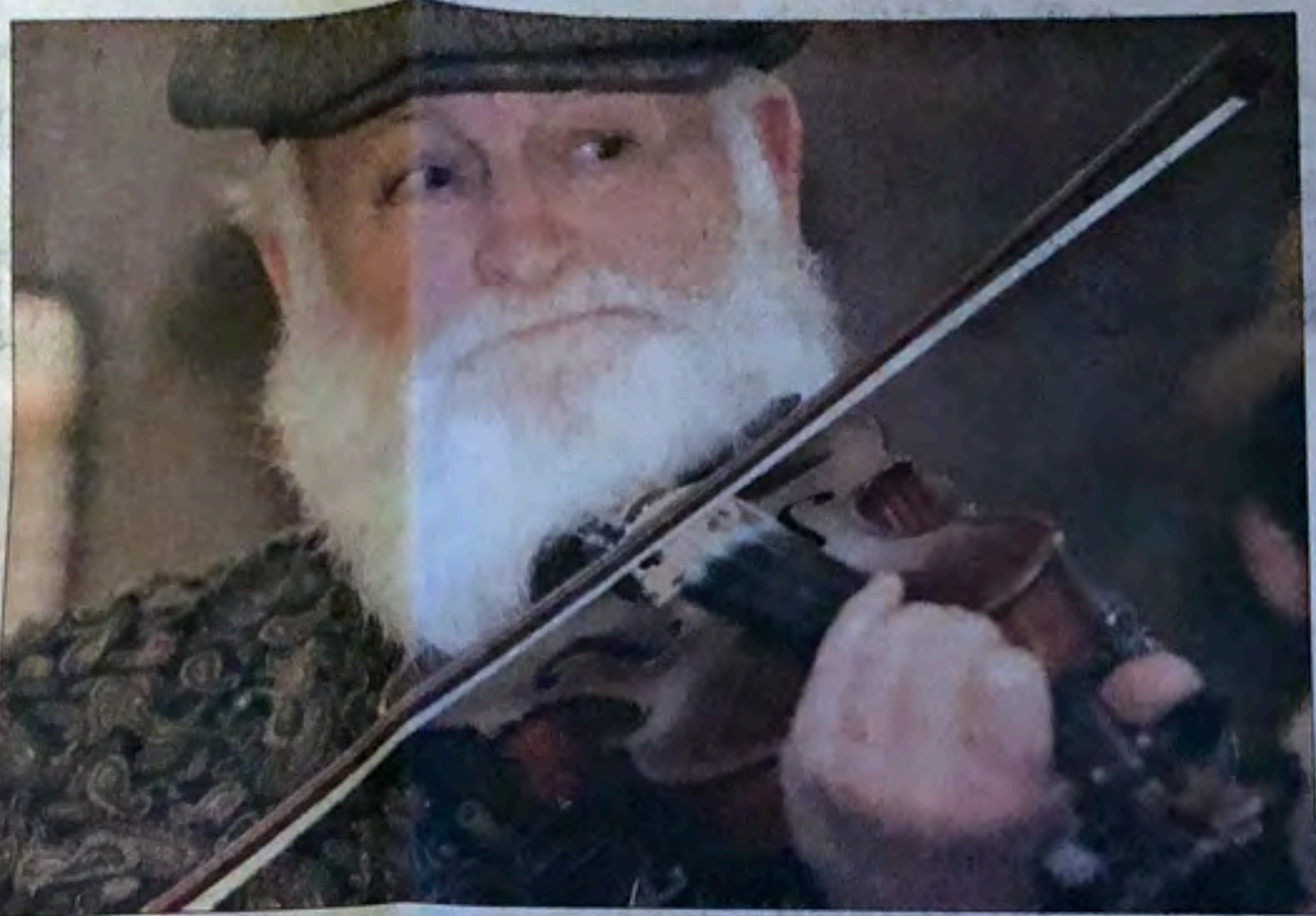
who now helps organize the mid-back festival. "J.P. has a wonderful and smooth style, and I love the

fact that he has always played whatever he likes and not worried about what kind of music it is. If he likes it, he will learn a tune and play it his own wonderful style."

This year's festival starts at 8 p.m. today with a free Campground Get Together. The festival heats up and heads over to the amphithe-

ater on Friday and Saturday with full plates of workshops, storytelling, ballads, Carter Family songs and showcases of every instrument from the Dulcimer to the Fiddle. The festival ends Sunday with a free gospel Singing in the Campground from 9 to 11 a.m.

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TOP RIGHT: Charlie Bowen, right, Doug Chafin and the 1937 Flood will perform at J.P. Fraley's Mountain Music Gathering, which begins today at Carter Caves State Resort Park in Olive Hill, Ky.

ABOVE: Joe Dobbs and 1937 Flood will fill Carter Caves with their well-traveled bluegrass during the J.P. Fraley's Mountain Music Gathering.

LEFT: Local band Wiley Dew are traveling to Carter Caves for the J.P. Fraley's Mountain Music Gathering.

BELOW: National flat-picking champion Robin Kessinger is scheduled to perform during the J.P. Fraley's Mountain Music Gathering at Carter Caves.

File photos/The Herald-Dispatch



If you go

WHAT: J.P. Fraley's Mountain Music Gatherin'

WHEN: 8 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 7; 7 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 8; 1 p.m. Friday, Sept. 9; 11 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 10; and 9 a.m. Sunday, Sept. 11

WHERE: Carter Caves State Resort Park, Olive Hill.

TICKETS: \$20 for Thursday-Sunday programs; or individual prices

QUESTIONS? (606) 286-4411.

ON THE WEB: www.parks.ky.gov/resortparks/cc

Music

■ Continued from 1D

Such well-traveled old-time musicians as 1937 Flood, former National flat-picking champion guitarist Robin Kessinger, the Reed Island Rounders, Wiley Dew, Ann and Phil Case and former Carter Caves park ranger and musician John Tierney are set to perform Friday-Saturday, Sept. 9-10.

Kuhns said Fraley, who lives in Hitchens, Ky., will be at the festival, which is held in honor of Fraley's late wife and music partner, Annadeene, who died in 1996.

With no instrument competi-

tions and short sets by everyone on stage so several musicians can share the spotlight, the festival has a family feel all its own.

"It isn't very competitive. It is more of an informal family reunion because people are very friendly with each other and anybody can join in out in the parking lot," Kuhns said. "That's the way it should be. J.P. loved jamming more than being on stage."

Tickets for the weekend are \$20. Folks can also pay to go to different events, which each cost just a few dollars admission. Check out a complete festival schedule online at www.parks.ky.gov/resortparks/cc or call (606) 286-4411.