

The “Branson Experience”

6-15-13



This is **Darrel Claybrook** He is one of the musicians that play on Tuesday morning with all of the other people in the Branson community that come to the Branson Mill Craft Village ‘Pick’n Porch’ for their weekly jam session. They play Folk and Blue Grass Music traditional to this part of Missouri. I am always amazed at what they do, and the great sound they get, all from memory. He is also a master instrument maker with Art Reed. I have had the opportunity to cut some designs into some of the Sweet Harps that he makes, and he is holding one of the first ones I cut, with the Eagles head. This one he painted, but the other close-up is unpainted. He makes a remarkable instrument with such ease and confidence which only comes from being a Master Craftsman.

Darrel, keep up the great job!



Bill Buckman, on the right, another of the Master Instrument makes with Art Reed, is showing Darrel a project he is presently working on. Bill is very articulate and detailed craftsman that has a great deal of pride in making unique and extremely high quality sounding instruments. His specialty is the Dulcimer, and he prides himself in using the unique natural features of the wood to accentuate his instruments. Some people consider rough grain, knot holes, and other so called “flaws” as unusable material, but he turns these works of nature into works of great beauty. Bill is someone that I am very proud to call ‘friend’.

Bill, be proud of the instruments you make!



Bill Wilson is pictured with the Auto Harp he is presently making. He is a guitar specialist with Art Reed, and has a wide selection of instruments on display in the ‘Pick’n Porch’ area of the Branson Mill Craft Village. He also likes to use the characteristics of the wood to enhance the instruments he makes. The Auto Harp he is pictured with is a very special instrument that he has been wanting to making for quite some time. Bill is someone I can always count on to give me the opportunity to use my scroll saw skills on his instruments. I am pleased that he trusts me to be a part of the cutting process on these beautiful creations.

Bill, it is amazing what you do!