

**Credits:**

Laura Boosinger - Banjo

Guitar: Tracks 11 & 16

Lead Vocals

Harmony Vocals: Tracks 3 & 12

Josh Goforth - Fiddle: Tracks 1, 3, 8, 10, 13

Lead Guitar: Tracks 2, 4, 6, 7, 11, 12, 15, 16

Mandolin: Track 5

Lead Vocals: Tracks 3 & 12

Harmony Vocals: Track 4

Amanda Luther - Bea Smathers' Bass Fiddle

Bryan Sutton - Lead Guitar: Tracks 1, 2, 3, 7, 8, 10, 13, 14

Harmony Guitar: Track 5

Buddy Spicher - Fiddle: Tracks 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 12, 14, 15, 16

Mark Howard - Rhythm Guitar: Tracks 4, 6, 12

Lead Guitar: Track 9

Soprano and Baritone Ukulele: Track 6

Mandolin: Track 16

Joey Miskulin - Accordion: Tracks 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 14, 16

Kenny Malone - Percussion: Tracks 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 14, 15

Produced by Laura Boosinger and Mark Howard

Mixed and recorded by Mark Howard at Signal Path, Nashville, TN

Assistant engineer: David Shipley

Mastered at Foxwood by David Shipley

Art Direction: Luanne Price Howard

Hair and set design by

Charles Clemmons

Cover Photography: John Warner

Smathers Band and Champion Dancers  
photo courtesy of David Burnette

Contact Laura at

[www.lauraboosinger.com](http://www.lauraboosinger.com)

to learn more about

The Mountain Dance and Folk Festival

and Shindig on the Green visit

[www.folkheritage.org](http://www.folkheritage.org)

Laura plays a banjo made especially for her by Bart Reiter.

Josh Goforth plays a Wayne Henderson guitar.

Amanda Luther plays the string bass that was in the Smathers Band since the 1930's and was given to her in 1997 by Luke's daughter, Linda Smathers.

And, we were just glad to have Bryan, Buddy, Joey, Kenny and Mark play anything they wanted to!

Luke Smathers String Band LP's are available from June Appal Recordings - [www.appalshop.org](http://www.appalshop.org)

A biography of Luke Smathers is found in the journal, "May We All Remember Well, Volume II"

From Brunk Auctions at [www.brunkauctions.com](http://www.brunkauctions.com)





### 1. Sally Ann

Traditional, Arrangement Laura Boosinger

This was always our first tune in every practice and concert

### 2. Whispering

John Schonberger / Richard Coburn / Vincent Rose

It seems that all of the older fiddlers I have met played this number

### 3. Alabama Jubilee

J. Yellen / George L. Cobb

Luke's daughter, Linda, told me that she remembers growing up with a red vinyl 78 of "Alabama Jubilee" with the lyrics being sung. She said she heard it a lot and was



*The Band: (left to right) Amanda Luther, Buddy Spicher, Laura Boosinger, Bryan Sutton and Josh Goforth*

fascinated with the red color. "We had so many records in the house, and that was the only colored one and certainly the lightest in weight! I know he didn't let me play with it, but I definitely remember handling it a lot."

### 4. Together Again

Buck Owens

Charles Gidney was particularly fond of "classic country." I was glad when he asked me to sing this one. I've always felt

some kinship to Buck Owens as my paternal grandmother's family were Missourians transplanted to the Bakersfield area. This one is for Charles and Polly.

### 5. "New" Panhandle Rag

Webb Pierce / Leon McAuliffe

I never knew the tune had words until I heard my friend, Vollie McKenzie, sing it on his great CD "This Train."

### 6. My Little Grass Shack In Kealahou, Hawaii

Bill Cogswell / Tommy Harrison / Johnny Noble



*Gin-U-Wine Hi-Wi-Yan Natives - (left to right) Aunt Joy Culbertson, (who is currently looking for a gentleman with a weed eater.), Frances Leggett, Mama Ladelle, Laura and Aunt Aurelia Rolan*

In 1942 both Harold and George were drafted into the U.S. Army Air Force and were stationed in England. World War II gave the Smathers Band a whole new repertoire. I loved when we did these Hi-Wi-Yan Numbers!! But to tell the truth, I never could tell what those Hawaiians were singing. When we got ready to record this, I searched the internet for the lyrics. But alas, I could never get all of those syllables to fit without hearing them sung. Luckily, I found a great video of the famous (or is it infamous?) "Cowboy" Jack Clement singing the song replete with ukulele and Aloha shirt. Turns out our producer, Mark Howard, had recorded the track!! Even better, while we

were recording one day, Cowboy came into the studio!! We are still trying to peel Amanda off of cloud nine as she was the only one who got to shake hands with the legend himself. You can check out Cowboy at Thom Bresh's website: <http://www.bresh.com/Video/v.grassshack.html>

### 7. Texas Plains

Stuart Hamblen

I always sang Patsy Montana's classic "I Wanna Be A Cowboy's Sweetheart" in the band. That song was essentially taken from this tune. Both Harold and David Holt used to do "Texas Plains." We changed the key and "reorganized" the words for our version. I can sure relate to being tired of freeways!!!





Quay Smathers, George Smathers, Luke Smathers, John Marion Smathers, Harold Smathers  
 On the left, behind the band, is Bascom Lamar Lunsford, founder of the Mountain Dance and Folk Festival  
 Black and white photograph of The Smathers Band and the Champion Dancers, 1937 on their way to the National Folk Festival in Chicago, IL

### 8. Miller Blues

Slim Miller

This was a tune that the band learned in the 1930's from the playing of Slim Miller and the Cumberland Ridge Runners. In 1937 the Smathers Band was asked to accompany the Champion Square Dancers at the National Folk Festival in Chicago. While in Chicago, the dancers were asked to perform on the popular WLS "National Barn Dance." Unfortunately, the Smathers Band was not allowed to play for the dancers as they did not belong to the musicians union. But, they did get to meet Slim Miller and that almost made up for being excluded from performing on the famed radio program. This one is especially for Daphne Queen Smathers, Harold's wife of over 50 years.

### 9. Up A Lazy River

Hoagy Carmichael/ Sidney Arodin

We especially love Kenny Malone's percussive paddlewheel sound on this one.

### 10. Billy In The Lowground

Traditional, Arrangement Laura Boosinger

This is my favorite fiddle tune that Luke played. He always played it with a tag on the end of each part. We were never sure where Luke came up with this version. Charles thinks it was Luke's arrangement.

### 11. I Love You So Much It Hurts

Floyd Tillman

A great song! I was once asked to "play" Patsy Cline at a four-year-old boy's birthday party. This was on the list of songs he wanted to hear Patsy sing!

### 12. Sweet Sue, Just You

Victor Young / Will Harris

When Josh and Amanda were about 15, they started to become familiar with Luke's music through Hilary Dirlam, a local musician who was working with high school students teaching them traditional music of the region. Josh and Amanda,



along with Adam Landers, did this song in their band. Hilary played bass with the band after Bea Smathers passed away.

### **13. Cacklin' Hen**

Traditional, Arrangement Laura Boosinger

We would play this tune every year at The Mountain Dance and Folk Festival in Asheville. Part of the tradition included eggs rolling on the stage when the fiddle made the hen cackle! Every year the audience looked forward to this part of the show.

### **14. Dinah**

Sam N. Lewis / Joe Young/ Harry Akst

In the 1930's, The Champion Fibre Company, where Luke, Harold and George were employed, hired a band director and offered music lessons to its employees. Luke took up the trumpet, George the clarinet, Harold the trombone and Quay the tuba. This is one of the songs they learned from sheet music and played in the Champion Concert Band.

### **15. Darkness On The Delta**

Jerry Levinson / Marty Symes / Al J. Neiburg

This has always been a favorite of mine.

### **16. The Waltz You Saved For Me**

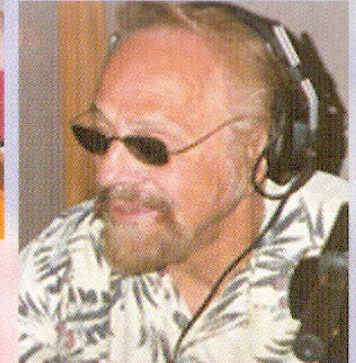
Wayne King / Emil Flindt / Gus Kahn

Luke Smathers died July 17, 1997. His funeral was a celebration of the music he loved. Several members of the community came together to play at his service, including veteran guitar player Leonard Hollifield and the latest generation of musicians which included Josh Goforth, Amanda Luther and Adam Landers. This was the last song I sang for Luke.

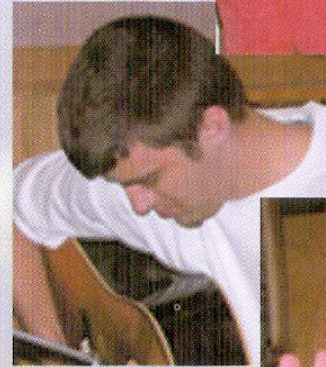
*Amanda Luther*



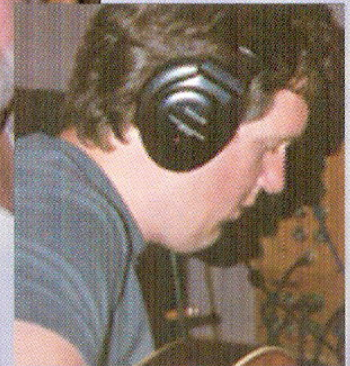
*Buddy Spicher*



*Josh Goforth*



*Bryan Sutton*



*Mark Howard*

