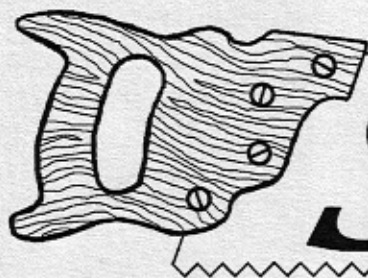


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Remembrances of Charlie Blacklock



By Art Peterson

Playing music with Charlie Blacklock was more than a musical experience. I first met Charlie at a folk festival in San Francisco. He was giving a musical saw workshop and I decided to check it out. What a sound, wow, that saw just sang in his hands and everyone was enthralled with Charlie. After the workshop, Charlie - who said he had seen me play guitar - asked if I'd back him up on the main stage. Well, I asked him what tunes he'd be playing and we just started to get it together when a fella came running in and said, "Charlie, hurry up, you're on..." Charlie quickly put his saw and bow in his case (he'd made a wooden case for his saws and covered it with leopard skin paper) and we ran onto the stage. Everything went well since Charlie knew what songs to play with someone who hadn't played with him before and, since he played harmonica along with his saw, he knew what key he'd be in. The only mishap was that, in his haste to put his saw in it's case, he had caught a large paper clip on it which caused a buzz in his playing until he realized the problem

and knocked the paper clip off with his bow. Charlie always said that was the first time he played saw with a "fuzz tone."

A while later Charlie called and said he had a gig in Benecia at Rosebud's Ice Cream Parlor in a couple months; he said he'd like me to play it and he also asked me if I knew an accordion player. Well, fate was with us, I had just started playing accordion again myself (I took lessons for a year when I was eight years old) and so, I worked hard leading up to that gig and became Charlie's



Art Peterson & Charlie Blacklock in the early 1980's

