

**COVER SHEET**

TRANSCRIPTION NUMBER: 11 OF 17

Transcriber: Amanda Fickey, PhD, Independent Contractor  
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Interviewee: Raymond McLain  
Interviewer: Jesse Wells  
Cinematographer: Sean Anderson  
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Transcription Notes:

**JW:** Jesse Wells

**RM:** Raymond McLain

**SA:** Sean Anderson

In some cases, words such as “um”, “uh”, “and”, “so” and “yeah” have been excluded.

Time notations have been included at approximately 2-minute intervals.

... Indicates pause, delay in conversation, or, weak transition/no transition in themes.

The following names of musical genres have been capitalized: Bluegrass, Old Time, and Country.

Attempts were made to verify the names of all musicians and geographical locations referenced throughout this interview.

**0:00**

**RM:** I'm not fine with anything that's not mine.

**[Demonstrates "My Old Kentucky Home" on banjo]**

**0:24**

**JW:** We are doing an interview with Raymond McLain for the Kentucky Craft History and Education Association, July 31<sup>st</sup>, 2012. Raymond, could you tell us a little bit about the work you do and the position you are in here at Morehead State University?

**RM:** Well, how much do you want me to tell? Do you want me to start when I was born, when I was just a little baby?

**JW:** Yeah, yeah, we'll definitely get there.

**RM:** Ok, well, I grew up in Hindman, KY, in Knott County. I started playing with my father early on for country dancing and for many others... a lot of it in the living room really just to enjoy music.

**JW:** How old were you when you first picked up an instrument?

**RM:** Well, I'll tell you about my earliest musical memories. Daddy had a Martin guitar and he left it sitting out by the fireplace and he never said, "Don't touch that." I knew it was important, and I knew I needed to be careful of it. I don't know how old I was, I wasn't very old, but I remember going up to it and just picking the B string like that and when I did, it was like this sort of feeling went through me and through the air and I thought, that can happen. Other early musical memories are sitting on his lap while he played the piano for dancing and riding on his shoulders while he danced. I remember those very early. He just always had musicians in our house. A lot of musicians and a lot of music around all the time... It was pretty natural just to want to be involved in it. So, when I was 9, a friend left her upright bass at our house and daddy saw me playing the strings of it, so he told me which strings to play and where the different notes were and he got a chair so I could finger the notes. I started playing with him and he would take me with him a lot of times.

**3:00**

**JW:** So that was your first instrument?

**RM:** My first instrument was the upright bass, yeah. It was Ethel Capsis' bass that she left at our house. So I started playing with my father. To make a long story short, in time my sister started playing with us also and we started playing for events further and further from home. Eventually we called ourselves the McLain Family Band and we toured, well, quite a far distance away from home. We started a weekly television series on the Hazard television station when they first went on the air in the late '60s and we played there weekly on that station until we moved away.

**JW:** You were living in Hindman at that time...

**RM:** Yes. Still in Hindman. Eventually, we moved to Berea when I was 17. My father developed and taught what were the first college courses specifically dealing with Bluegrass music and the first college course dealing with Appalachian music at Berea in 1971. I thought it was '70, but I started doing the math and I think it must have been '71. So, we started touring further and further from home as I said and eventually played in '52 foreign countries around the world. Our main focus here is on luthiery and luthiers. Now I certainly am not anymore of a luthier than anything. The only repair here that I've done is to set-up my own instrument and a lot of time oversee that with my pocket knife and whatever happens to be available when anything happened. But it was very nice to have good instruments. My first good instruments were made by Homer Ledford, who lived at that time in Winchester, Kentucky, and was a very, very dear family friend. That's where my first good instruments came from.

**JW:** Do you remember going to his shop? Do you have good memories...?

**RM:** We often went to his shop and Homer would talk while he worked and a lot of times his main tools, of course he had tables and saws and all kinds of carving tools, a lot of them he made, a lot of times he would work with things like a nail that he bent into a particular shape to do a particular thing that he always had to do, or his pocket knife which he kept very sharp and was just such a craftsman with that. I can show you a banjo that he built for me...

**6:09**

**JW:** Oh, absolutely. I think a lot of people have talked about Homer Ledford's luthiery and the amount of influence that he has had on so many musicians and luthiers. Musicians all the way around...

**RM:** Well he was a good musician himself too, and he loved instruments. He understood what they were and why they were important. No one ever gets to see the back of a banjo, and this is, of course, got quite a few scratches and things because I've used it so much and I've taken it literally around the world with me, but he did such a beautiful job carving such pretty patterns. He thought that they ought to be, that they ought to be a pleasure to hold because you spend a lot of time with an instrument, he thought it was important that they sound good and that they play well and that they play in tune and they have a nice tone, but he also thought that they ought to be beautiful. I think he did make a very distinctive design.

**JW:** That's a beautiful instrument.

**RM:** But I had this and you can see there are quite a few repairs. You can see where this binding has been broken at one time and a lot of times if you are flying a lot you want to have them in the best cases that you can get and you want to take as good of care of them as you can and that, but my father always said that instruments are to be used. They are to be played, and if you play one, things are going to happen. The way to have nothing happen to it is to leave it alone in the case. So we always used our instruments, but sometimes if they had to be checked as baggage things would happen and they would be broken. I can remember many times flying into the Lexington airport and on the way home driving by the way of Winchester by Homer's shop and dropping the instruments off and he took such good care of us and such good care of the instruments. He was just such a craftsman. He gave a lot of good advice, not only about instruments and about playing music, but also about life. He and his wife, Calista, always made us feel welcome there, and we'd have a lot of conversations while he was working on the instruments. Sometimes we'd drop them off there as we went home, and pick them up in a day or two when we were going out to play again. Daddy said, "Sometimes we probably couldn't have afforded to

have played music the way that we did if it had not been for Homer taking such good care of our instruments and taking such an interest in what we did." I will always appreciate him for that.

**9:24**

**JW:** Definitely a part of your success. You got to have nice instruments that sound great and look great.

**RM:** The banjo that I was holding at the beginning was one that Frank Neat had worked on extensively and built, and Frank, just last week I got back from Alaska, I was playing at the Fairbanks Summer Arts Festival with Mike Stevens, and somehow in the course of trip and the baggage, the neck actually was broken on my banjo and I took it to Frank Neat just last night actually, and he is going to have to put a new neck on it. He can use the fingerboard from the old neck and some of the distinctive parts of it, but the part that is broken... He was very reassuring, he said, "I have a nice piece of old Maple that I can use." It is reassuring when you have someone that you trust absolutely. Frank is, he has a touch, and I don't know how to describe it in any other way. Even when he does a set-up, he just has a touch, a sense about what that banjo needs. He'll go around it and he will touch the head here and there and he'll look at particular places, but he actually adjusts only the parts that need adjusting. If I try to set-up a banjo I go through and I adjust all the brackets and I adjust the truss rods and I tighten this and that and I loosen this and that and I end up touching every single part of it that can be adjusted. Frank doesn't. He just goes through and does what needs to be done and no more.

**JW:** He has a great feel for setting up an instrument.

**11:20**

**RM:** I think that's what makes him a master at that.

**JW:** Part of that is experience, and part of that's probably just a natural intuition that he has for the instruments.

**RM:** And he is such a good player himself. I think someone who was not a great musician might not have the same sense for the instrument. I think a lot of our luthiers are good musicians.

**JW:** Yeah, it seems like they are. Now can we see Homer's mandolin?

**RM:** Let me show you Homer's mandolin.

**SA:** Can I see the back of that?

**RM:** Certainly.

**SA:** I want to get a couple of close-ups.

**RM:** Now I'm afraid that I over time you see some scratches and repairs and some places where obviously it's had wear, it's been used... Always with love.

**JW:** I always think that's a part of the beauty of the old instruments.

**SA:** Can you turn it so I can see that carving where the neck is?

**RM:** Certainly.

**JW:** And did he copy any certain carving when he did that, or did he just...?

**RM:** I think that this is his design. He always was partial to Dogwood blossoms, and he's got several of them on this instrument. Some of his carving tools I believe he made, and some of them are fine carving tools.

**JW:** It's nice to see one fully carved because a lot of the old Vegas and factory-made instruments were pressed. Those heel carvings were not fully carved.

**RM:** I didn't know that.

**JW:** You can actually see the little pinholes from the steam press that they used on the Maple.

**RM:** Really? You can see, another thing that is interesting is that these instruments are as beautiful inside as they are outside. The parts that you never see are beautiful.

**JW:** When was the banjo made?

**RM:** Well it would have been in the late '60s. It's when I still lived in Hindman.

**JW:** Homer is mostly known as a dulcimer maker, but he made some great guitars, banjos...

**RM:** But you see how pretty it is even in here.

**13:57**

**JW:** Did he make the tone ring?

**RM:** He made the rim.

**JW:** The rim.

**RM:** The tone ring, I think, this metal piece here is the tone ring, I believe, but this he made.

**JW:** That's an unusual tone ring.

**RM:** Well it's interesting. He set it on fret wire.

**JW:** That's...

**RM:** He said that he wanted the effect, he liked the bright resonance of the ball bearing tone rings, and he said that he thought if he set the tone ring on fret wire that it might have the same effect of giving the benefits of the rim but at the same time giving a little separation there so that the tone ring could vibrate. I've never heard of anybody else doing that.

**JW:** No, that's very unique.

**RM:** The labeling, ok, I'll tell you exactly when he made it, he made it in 1969.

**JW:** 1969.

**RM:** And it says, "Handmade by Homer C. Ledford. Winchester, Kentucky. Special made for Raymond McLain III." And this says number: [Can you see if this says number 9 or number 4?]

**JW:** It says 4.

**RM:** I believe it says 4. I think this is the fourth big banjo he made. He also made small banjos with a smaller head and fretless, but this was, I think that's right, I think it is about the fourth one he made.

**15:37**

**RM continues:** And it says, "Guaranteed." And he told me it was guaranteed for life.

**JW:** Wow. It's beautiful and it sounds great too. Can you play a tune? A little bit. Play a little snippet for us.

**RM:** What do you think I ought to play?

**JW:** It's so good to look at these instruments. Is it in tune? I guess you'd have to tune it.

**RM:** It's just in C right now. I don't know if I'm anywhere near standard.

**JW:** That's ok.

**17:03-17:55**

**[Demonstrates on banjo]**

**RM:** I don't know, I'm a little out of practice. What should I play?

**[Tunes banjo]**

**18:23-19:24**

**[Performs "My Old Kentucky Home"]**

**RM:** Mistakes and all.

**JW:** I didn't hear any. What do you think about? Do you think about Homer when you play that banjo?

**RM:** Do I ever... I think of Homer frequently, because you know Homer and Calista did something for us.

**[SA interrupts. Filming paused]**

**19:58**

**RM:** You know, Homer did something for us that was more even than taking care of the instruments because we felt like he believed in us and we could go to him and Calista for validation. If we wanted to try something, if we wanted to do something, they would say, you could tell them your ideas, and they would say, "I believe you can do it. I think you can," and that meant a whole lot from someone who was working on your instrument. It's much more personal. It's nice to go to a music store and buy a nice instrument, that's a nice thing too, and there's a lot to that, and that instrument becomes a part of you if you spend a lot of time with it and love it. But it's even more special when you know the person that sanded it, and person that roughed it out and took pains to smooth those edges and make that neck feel good in your hand. There's something to that too, especially when they say, "Play a little bit for me and let me hear you play. Let me hear the way you play," and they make it for you in such a way that it suits you. So yeah, I think of Homer every time I play that banjo, or every time I play that mandolin I think of him.

**21:41**

**JW:** So he shaped your musicianship through his art.

**RM:** The musician needs the luthier.

**JW:** Can we see the mandolin?

**RM:** Yeah, let me show you this mandolin. I think this mandolin is beautiful. He named it, "The Gem." When he made this he had not made very many mandolins, very many big mandolins. You know how he made his first mandolin? And he still had it and played it for years. He made it by looking at a picture of Bill Monroe.

**JW:** Wow.

**RM:** A picture of Bill Monroe holding the mandolin back in the day when they wore their riding britches and so forth and it has the WMS microphony. He showed me the picture. He had it on his wall in his shop. He made his first mandolin from looking at that picture of Bill Monroe. When he started they didn't have the internet of course, or really as many ways to travel or see people unless they came touring through your town or close to it, and so, he made that first mandolin from looking at a picture of Bill. Really it's remarkably good. It's only slightly larger than most mandolins, which is something you couldn't tell, but he got the scale, and it played well in tune. It was a beautifully sounding instrument.

**JW:** That's amazing.

**RM:** On this one, the labeling on this one says, "Handmade by Homer C. Ledford. Winchester, Kentucky."

**JW:** The Gem.

**RM:** I played this with Don Reno and Red Smiley and Bill Harold, and I played this with my family, with the McLain Family Band. My sister Alice played this mandolin. She played it all over the world. She did.

**JW:** Some very unique inlays on the fingerboard. I love the fact that Homer was willing to make beautiful designs of his own. And of course sometimes he'd start with something he particularly liked from a Vega or Gibson or some Martin or some other inlay that he really admired. He loved the old banjos because they had so many distinctive inlays. And then he'd change them and he, he was an admirer of craftsmanship as well as being a craftsman himself. I just think he did such beautiful... See how they all fit together. Each one by itself is beautiful, but taken all together they are just beautiful.

**25:08**

**[Demonstrates on mandolin]**

**26:18**

**JW:** Such a unique voice.

**RM:** It really speaks.

**JW:** It does.

**RM:** It really speaks, and Homer played it so sweetly. He played such beautiful melodies. He loved melody you know, and I think that's why this mandolin sounds that way, because Homer himself loved those sweet melodies. He did a lot of inlay all the way around with the abalone.

**JW:** And the pearls...

**RM:** All the way to emphasize that distinctive F-model, that distinctive Gibson F-model shape, but then to put the, and he told me that wasn't easy...

**JW:** I imagine not. Pretty tight space around the scroll holes.

**RM:** Yeah, he said this part was particularly hard when he got in to these close corners and the curls and the curves and so forth.

**JW:** It's beautiful. Maybe we could talk a little bit about Frank Neat.

**RM:** Yes. You want me to hold Frank's, or the one that says, "Neat" on it.

**JW:** Yeah.

**RM:** Why don't we do that?

**JW:** That would be great.

**RM:** I mean, this one says "Frank Neat" too.

**JW:** Dr. Andrews has his Neat banjo too. A whole shop of Neat's...



**RM:** Yeah.

**27:57**

**[RM demonstrates on banjo]**

**RM:** With a banjo, you want that fluid tone, especially for a Bluegrass banjo, that fluid... You hear that? When you get that fluid sound up there, that's hard. This right here...

**[Demonstrates on banjo]**

**RM:** That's not an easy thing. Every banjo doesn't have that. You know what I'm talking about? That little magic kind of bell like liquid tone. Hear that? And it doesn't drop away. That's what Frank's banjos have, and the old Gibson's did, and some of the new instruments that people are making also have that but it's not an easy thing evidently to, every banjo you buy doesn't have that.

**JW:** True...

**RM:** That quality. But that's the first thing that I listen for in a really good banjo.

**JW:** Old Vanderpool shows you that on the Chief that he plays that Frank Neat built.

**RM:** Yes, yes he does. Frank builds all the Chiefs for Sonny Osborne, all the Stanley Tones for Ralph Stanley, and really quite a few more banjos than you realize have some of Frank's workmanship. Again, the neck is so important in a banjo and if you have one like this that fits your hand all the way down... Some banjos are good here, but not all the way down. Some banjos are good here, but this doesn't feel right. That shape is so important, and also is selecting the right piece of wood. Now this is Mahogany here. The one he made for me here is Maple and it has a slightly different tone and a slightly different feel. I think they are both beautiful, but he told me that this was a particularly old piece of Maple that he found.

**JW:** The finish is just...

**RM:** Oh it's just right, isn't it?

**JW:** Yeah, the color... His attention to detail is unmatched.

**31:01**

**RM:** I love it that he put his name right here, Frank Neat. I asked him to do that, to put Frank Neat in the block there in pearl.

**JW:** You want to talk about some violins builders you've worked with?

**RM:** We're talking about Kentucky craftsmen aren't we?

**JW:** Yeah. Are there any?

**RM:** Well, yes. Of course, you know I have a lot of respect for Art Mize and I've worked with, recently, Greg Cornett in Louisville, and there are a number of people. Of course, the person really that I started with was Mr. Miller.

**JW:** J.B. Miller.

**RM:** Yes, J.B. Miller in Lexington, KY. He, I mean, my fiddle was not a great violin. It was a fiddle. And I loved it, and he could set that fiddle up and get more tone out of a fiddle that wasn't really a lot to work with in the first place, and he, again, he's another craftsman that was willing to take time with musicians, listen to them play, set the instrument up for you, because that's kind of a personal thing. A set-up. I borrowed Tim O'Brien's fiddle in Hugo, Oklahoma one time, we were on a show together and something had happened to my fiddle and I wasn't able to play it and I asked him if I could borrow his fiddle and he loaned it to me and he gets such beautiful tone out of his instrument and it is a good instrument. When I got ready to play it, I realized about the first note I played I was going to have to play that a lot more gently than I played mine because I tend to dig in and saw away at the fiddle a little bit and Tim's action was so low that if I played the way I normally do the string came right down to the fingerboard and made a squawk. And I thought, uh oh. I'm going to have to ease up and I did and I tried to play you know, with his touch as much as I could. But there's a lot of a person's personal playing style in a set-up.

Oh J.B. Miller. I bought my first good bow from him. He had a drawer of bows and he said, "Why don't you just pick you one out of that drawer," and I went through and I played with all the bows and finally I found this one that I just loved. I said, "I really love this bow," and he said, "Ok. Then I'll sell it to you, but that is the best bow in there." And I said, "Well how much is it?" And he said, "How much do you have to spend?" Well, I said, "Mr. Miller, I've got about \$250.00." He said, "That's exactly how much that bow is, \$250.00 dollars." And I thought, well I knew he wouldn't cheat me, and I knew I thought that's a funny way to price a bow, how much do you have and that's how much it is. Of course, I found out many years later that it was a very expensive bow and I could have never have afforded it if he'd told me what it was really worth and I know he was just trying to help me and I am so grateful to Mr. Miller and to all those people that helped me and so many other people in our music community here in Kentucky. I think that might be another reason there is such a strong music community here in Kentucky, because it's not a matter of someone just playing it's a matter of the whole family and the whole community really embracing that part of our culture and thinking it's important.

**35:44**

**JW:** You've got a lot of generosity from those folks who have helped you and many others.

**RM:** A lot of generosity from many folks who have helped me...

**[Interruption – phone rings]**

**36:29**

**RM:** I think I was going to say something like a lot of generosity for me and for everyone else. Oh, I know exactly what I was going to say. People have been very generous to me and to all my friends that play. Not only in terms of luthiery and instrument repairs and instrument set-up and that sort of thing, but also from older musicians who are willing to share their knowledge and their music they love, the tunes

they love, and the music that has become part of us. In a way, it sort of defines who we are. That's one reason why I love everything that's going on at Morehead State University's Kentucky Center for Traditional Music. The Kentucky Center for Traditional Music is carrying on something now at this university setting that has happened, and will continue to happen informally, well it's been going on for generations of course from the sources of music up to the present day, and sometimes people think that if you study something by studying it you change the nature of it, and that can happen. But I think that as long as we have the involvement of professional musicians and recreational musicians, and basically the same people that do it informally, the same people that love this and do it because it's just a huge part of their life, I think that it's going to continue in the same vein. You know, it will probably help in terms of preservation because people can come to the archives and hear and see. For example, Kentucky fiddlers who are no longer with us, people like Ed Haley, or J.P. Fraley, or Buddy Thomas, any number of our important fiddlers. We probably have one of the best collections in the world of Kentucky fiddlers and information about Kentucky fiddlers; their music, in some cases videos, Hiram Stamper, Arch Stamper, so many that have been really important. So in that sense, and down to the present day because, of course, we have current recordings there on the part of our students and on the part of people that are making exciting new music in Kentucky that's part of the same tradition.

Performance development of our musical styles because while we are studying and want to know exactly what has been going on in the past we are also part of a living tradition. This tradition should never be frozen as if we were putting the whole tradition in a glass case somewhere and it stops because my father has always said, "The most important and the most consistent element of tradition is change and evolution." And I believe that's true, and that's happening today and as long as we embrace that I believe it's going to be an important part and it will never stop this music growing. People ask me sometime, "What's going to happen to traditional music?" Whether they are talking about Bluegrass, Old Time, Country, whatever style within traditional music they are talking about. They say, "What's going to happen to this? Are we going to lose the old ways? Are we going to stop developing?" And I think it's going to change in every direction. I think we will continue to go back and study and love and appreciate all the older styles and we have more resources now than we've ever had to study the older styles because up to a certain point of course people thought that with the advent of sound recordings, when they developed records, phonograph records and tape recording, they thought the folk process would stop because people could go back and tell exactly how it was and that would be one source and one definitive right way to do it and another way would be wrong. But it didn't happen that way. In fact, it's even encouraged more growth because people can go back and study that, and be inspired by it, and then play it that way and play another way too.

When they were doing that wonderful tribute to the fiddler from Pike County, Paul David Smith, that just passed recently, and they did the beautiful tribute to him out at the old Morehead Pine Music Festival, one of the things I loved was the conversation about how many ways he could play a tune. And he'd go back and play it the way he learned it, and then he'd play it twenty-seven other ways before he stopped and each one would kind of grow out of the original and the development that he just played, and they say he played twenty-seven different ways before he was done. He knew how the tune went, and he knew also how to put his own stamp on it.

**42:31**

**JW:** Exactly. They said he never played it the same way once.

**RM:** I heard that.

**JW:** I liked that.

**RM:** He never played it the same way once.

**JW:** He loved to improvise. That's something a lot of true traditionalists don't reach for I don't think.

**RM:** Well, when Paul David Smith came the night Mark O'Connor was down at the Kentucky Center for Traditional Music, I loved it that Mark just stood and listened to him play for about five minutes. He was completely mesmerized by this old Kentucky gentleman playing the fiddle and you know, Mark could play, I think they were playing "Pile Them Cabbage Down" and you know, Mark has played that tune probably a hundred thousand times in his lifetime and can play it brilliantly in any style, in any way that he wants to, and he obviously had a sincere love for what Paul David Smith was bringing to the that same tune and the ways that he was playing it had obviously a lot of mutual respect there and I think that speaks so well for both of them.

**JW:** Absolutely. Since we are talking about the Center here at MSU maybe you could mention the importance of the art of luthiery to our students and to the younger generations.

**RM:** I really believe that the art of luthiery is developing the same way that music is developing. Because as we are building on our cultural traditions and developing new versions of old tunes, writing new music in the same style, people are doing the same things with instruments and with even peg head design or inlay patterns with new techniques for ways to make instruments sound better and better and better. Of course, the old instruments always have something that can't be replaced in a new instrument, but at the same time, people have always wanted to develop new, I mean even back in the turn from the eighteenth to the nineteenth century, to the eighteen hundreds to the nineteen hundreds, they were developing new ways to make banjos or guitars louder, to project more, in days before a good PA systems were available you had to do that all acoustically. People are still doing that today and coming up with new ways to improve the sound of instruments to make them easier to play, and I think that young people, well of course young musicians always want to figure out how to set their instrument up better. We are in the process at Morehead State right now of developing a class in instrument set-up and maintenance. That's something that most of us of my generation just had to learn by trial and error and you know, we had the benefit of older luthiers to help us with that, but I think that when we have a class that is set-up that way it gives students resources and an opportunity to try these things in a very serious dedicated setting in an environment where they are going to be able to experiment and to...

**JW:** It's nice to have that sense of having a mentor and an expert who can eliminate a lot of that trial and error, that whole process.

**RM:** Help direct you toward that. E.C. Miller told me when I started teaching in the university, he said... Now, E.C. Miller was an old country gentleman that played the banjo. Bought his banjo from Earl Scruggs back in the early '60s, and in his lifetime taught more than two thousand people to play the five stringed banjo. And he said, "I'll tell you something, Raymond. When these kids come in, you want to help them and show them everything you can, but let me give you a little piece of advice. When you see that somebody is at the point that they are going to figure it out on their own, you stop. Don't show them that. Let them discover that, because if you show them they'll learn that, but they won't know how to

go on and take it the next step.” He said, “If you stop and let them discover that part on their own, then they’ll be able to do that all their lives.” And I thought that was some very good advice.

**JW:** Absolutely.

**[SA: Interruption in filming – changing battery.]**

**47:59**

**[Demonstrating on banjo]**

**RM:** And it’s funny, he does so little. You know, he only does what needs doing. And, you know, he touched this, took it apart, looked at it, and put a wrench on this, moved the wrench on it, and I felt like saying, “You didn’t do anything.” But when he’s done, it has that sparkle.

48:45

**[Demonstrates on banjo]**

**49:06**

**RM:** Has the sparkle, doesn’t it?

**JM:** Mhm. It’s got it.

49:25

**[Continues to demonstrate]**

**49:32**

**RM:** Is there anything else you’d like?

**SA:** Room tone.

**RM:** Room tone.

**SA:** That’s good.

**RM:** You know, Sean, do you have any footage of Jesse actually playing?

**JW:** Yeah.

**50:22**

**[RM begins to demonstrate again]**

**JW:** I’ve never heard a banjo that just played like that...

**[RM continues to play]**

**JW:** I've played them before. I've played Dr. Andrews banjos. Feels that way...

**RM:** Everyone of Frank's just feel that way...

**JW:** Frank's just...

**RM:** They have it, don't they?

**50:58**

**[RM begins to play again.]**

**RM:** I mean, I don't have my picks on right now, but...

**[Resumes playing – "Amazing Grace"]**

**53:21**

**RM:** Listen to that ring. Hear how the sound doesn't drop? You know, some banjos will go and there will be a little **(indicates wave with hand)**...

**JW:** Scoop.

**RM:** A little scoop in it. Yeah.

**JW:** Completely calm.

**RM:** Hear that ring?

**53:53**

**[RM resumes playing]**

**56:29**

**JW:** Leave all those notes on there.

**[RM resumes playing]**

**RM:** If you decide you don't want that let me know [referring to banjo]. Oh, I never did tell you what he charged me to set that up? Did I tell you what he charged me? He said, "Why Raymond, I built it. Why would I charge anybody to set it up?"

**JW:** Wow.

**[JW begins to play]**

**57:59 – 1:03:25**

**[RM begins to play mandolin; JW continues to play banjo]**

**1:03:25**

**RM:** If we did that very much, we never would get very much done, would we?

**[Cut in film]**

**1:03:35**

**RM:** I love that mandolin. If he had not made that mandolin for me, I don't know that the same things would have happened in my life that did.

**1:03:58**

**[Filming stops]**

**1:04:04**

**End of interview**