

JERUSALEM RIDGE



Our first visit to Rosine, KY was Sept. 27 and 28, 2007 to attend Jerusalem Ridge Bluegrass Festival 2007. My husband has watched the Cumberland Highlanders show on RFD-TV for some time and the outdoor setting complete with dog made us think we'd like to attend.

We had no idea of the size of the festival and how small Rosine, KY was. Just the fact that a "dream" could be produced by hard work from dedicated rural people makes you glad to be there. The Monroe Foundation is keeping the form of music alive. It was good to see young band members with so much confidence and skill learning from and playing with the masters of this type of American art. The bands were excellent, the natural setting, the friendly people all made it a very relaxed two days for us.

Kentucky and American could certainly be proud of a festival that was so safe. We left out chairs overnight as that seemed to be the norm - yes, next - day right where we left them! Good food, reasonable fees. The music never stopped.

Rural life at its best! Such a large group of people but everyone was patient and friendly and the shuttles took you back to your car.

We think the southern people are more mannerly and that in itself would be great for America to see at the Monroe Homeplace.

The vision of Campbell Mercer has surely been attained by this 7th year. There is going to have to be more parking, more volunteers and more facilities because the dream has been started and the fans are coming.

We think it would be a wise investment for Kentucky to support this project. There will be a lot of money spent in the area during festival time. We stayed in Owensboro and drove to Rosine two times.

Mr. and Mrs. Larry K. Bucklin, Missouri



For my 70th birthday, my 3 sons, 2 from Wisconsin where I am from and 1 from Olympia, Washington, had planned a surprise trip for the 4 of us to "No Where" and kept me in suspense the whole while until we left Milwaukee where we all met. They had bought tickets from you for the Celebration and it was certainly the highlight of my life as I watched you every week. We spent all day Thursday and Friday with you folks and then had to leave as son had to fly back to Washington on Sunday AM. BUT WHAT AN EXPERIENCE!!! YOU'RE A TOP NOTCH ORGANIZER AND I'LL CALL YOU A FRIEND BECAUSE YOU HAVE MADE ME A BETTER PERSON FOR THE EXPERIENCE. I DON'T KNOW HOW MANY TIMES I HAD TO DRY THE TEARS FROM MY EYES WITH SUCH BEAUTIFUL MUSIC. ESPECIALLY THE 3 OR 4 THAT WERE ABOUT MOTHERS AND MOM'S. I DIDN'T WIN THE DRAWING FOR THE MANDOLIN BUT IT WAS A LONG SHOT ANYWAY AND GLAD TO HAVE DONATED FOR THE FOUNDATION. Lots of stuff I didn't have time to see in 2 days. I couldn't tear myself from the seat long enough to look around. AGAIN, THANKS FOR ALL YOU DO!!!!!!

SINCERELY
**Greg R.
Amberg, Wisconsin**



Bluegrass in our schools program

We finally made it to Jerusalem Ridge in Kentucky in 2007. What a great place for a festival. We even ran into other Vermonters who also had driven to the festival. You should be proud of what you have done with the area.

We had a wonderful time. The people were so friendly - eating breakfast at the diner in Beaver Dam - and seeing such great performers as Stacy York and Michael Feagan. The music was great - on both stages and all the small groups of pickers. We were there for the Friday and Saturday performances. The square dancers were fun to watch. We go square dancing every Saturday night. I had a ball taking the clogging workshop given by Tommy Brown's wife.

We have enjoyed watching the Cumberland Highlanders on RFD all winter - and to finally meet the performers was quite an experience.

Thank you for keeping bluegrass alive and growing. We look forward to visiting the Kentucky area again.

Looking forward to purchase more of the DVDs to keep us occupied during the long snowy months here in Vermont.

**Judy I.
Vermont**

My family and I just returned from the Festival at Rosine... Words cannot tell you, "how much we enjoyed it"...One of the best vacation's we have had in a long time...All the Staff were so helpful..."Thank Them", for Us...

So many talented people were playing on every corner...Great music...We also stopped by the Barn Jamboree, enjoyed every minute of it also...Looking forward to returning next year...Keep it going, and also the RFD-TV show...It was like being a piece of History, sitting on the porch of the "Old Home Place", listening to "Bluegrass"...

Thanks Again & God Bless...
Jim M. and Family



Just wanted to drop you a line to say thanks for another great festival. This was our 4th time there and my wife and I both wanted to let you know what a great festival it is. We are already looking forward to next year. Our favorite artists are Phillip Steinmetz, Tommy Brown, Gary Bewer, Dave Davis, Melvin Goins, Kings Highway and of course The Cumberland Highlanders. Oh, I almost left out Alex Leach, Cody Norris and Tom Isaac's (They are fantastic). Hope to see you next year. Oh, by the way, I think it is great how you help young people by letting them play on the Cumberland Highlander's show and also helping sponsor the Bluegrass in the School's Program.

**T. and J. W.
Wickliffe, KY**

I just got through watching the show on RFD-TV from this year's festival. I thought it was the best ever. The music and dancing -- that's real Americana! The camera work and editing were excellent, as was the sound. I also saw the article on the New York Times web site. I think it was a great compliment to the work that you are doing to remember Bill Monroe and Bluegrass Music. Thanks so much!!!

**Ben and Paula B.
Washington State**

Everything was just what we hoped for... will be back again next year!!!!

Tommy W.



To view more photos go to www.jerusalemridgefestival.org

JERUSALEM RIDGE

"Bringing You Good News of what Six Years of Preservation, and Presentation of Kentucky's Culture, Talent, History and Natural Beauty to the World have produced

250 Dedicated Volunteers for the Festival
 44 Bands Representing the Best in Bluegrass Music
 12,000 Fans from 44 States and 7 Foreign Countries
 National Coverage by the New York Times and RFD TV
 County school children involved in their own wholesome culture
 Estimated \$4 Million in time donated by Monroe Foundation volunteers since 2001
 Motels and Restaurants Full or near capacity in Four Counties During the Festival
 Unity with county government

\$2 million in area economic benefit over the 4 days in 2007 from fan dollars



Hi, too old to make it this year (85). Already a member of the Monroe Foundation and want to renew membership. I first saw Monroe in Sept. 1935 at a one room school house in Cleburne County, Alabama, cost a dime, been a fan of his ever since. Thank you for what you are doing to keep his music going and also the home place.

O.W.
 Carrollton, Georgia



The festival was just the best that I have ever attended. Well run, awesome music, helpful people, clean porta potties, beautiful setting for a festival. And best of all no sound of new grass.

Then there was something that I felt at different times at the festival grounds and also at the cemetery in Rosine that is hard to describe. I guess I would have to say that I felt that Bill and the others that have gone to a better place came back to listen with us. If so I am sure they went back home as happy as I did.

I really hope that I will be able to attend again next year and I will spread the word at all the small festivals in this area about how great this is and encourage them to attend if they possibly can. I must say it was an experience like none other I have ever had.

I have been to many bluegrass festivals in the last five years but they all pale in comparison to this one.

I believe it is very important that this beautiful area with Bill Monroe's home place and ancestral farm along with Rosine and his gravesite be preserved for future generations. Now that the State of Kentucky has made bluegrass the official music of the state I would hope that they will see the importance of supporting the Monroe Foundation to preserve the birthplace of this beautiful music.

Lloyd H.
 Peosta, Iowa



Campbell and Staff,

A little note of thanks from four guys from Wisconsin. We took my Dad down there this past weekend for the festival. He was totally surprised when we told him where we were going and you folks totally made his 70th birthday.

We have been to music festivals before and have NEVER experienced anything as well set-up as Jerusalem Ridge. It is big but yet has that small homey feeling. Everyone there on the staff was so friendly and helpful.

Best of all the music was FANTASTIC! Unfortunately we had to head back on Saturday but Thursday and Friday we spent the whole time watching the music and enjoyed every second. The sound and energy put into bluegrass has always been something I admired and I am now even more inspired!

Since getting back to Wisconsin I have done nothing but rave about our experience and definitely are planning on coming back and probably bringing a few friends I plan on converting to bluegrass fans.

If you every question if the amount of effort you folks put into this festival is worth it, as a bystander that did not have a clue as to what to expect when we arrived I would have to tell you to keep doing what you are doing. The grounds are absolutely stunning! The natural amphitheater is the best we have ever seen, the camping area was great! The entire experience was more wholesome and fulfilling than I ever expected.

THANK YOU!!!! and God! Bless!
 Jeff R.
 Milwaukee, WI



WOW! What a great time we had at the festival! We were 1st time attendees and will be back!

We want to congratulate you on a job well done. The logistics of getting all the bands to commit, then to schedule and get them there had to be overwhelming and a LOT of work! You can be proud of the job you did.

THANK YOU for offering some of the best there is in the Bluegrass field for all of us to enjoy!

Wanda and Jim W.
 Florida

The Monroe Foundation
 274-9181
docmercer@earthlink.net
www.jerusalemridgefestival.org



Hi from Phelps, N.Y. Got home in time to watch the Cumberland Highlanders on R.F.D. TV Monday at 9:30 P.M. We had a wonderful time. Your festival was everything I expected and even more. All the work you and everyone else put into it certainly showed. Thanks again for the wonderful time.

Sincerely
 Joyce & Ron S.
 Phelps, N.Y.

Just wanted to drop a line and say thanks for a wonderful festival. I really can't imagine one any better. I think Bill Monroe would approve as well.

Short version, YOU DONE GOOD!!!

The gravesite was so special to me too.

Did you notice the BIG wind that came up just as the mandolin player took off on My Last Days On Earth. Maybe it was just me but I thought it was spooky. I'd like to think it was Bill's spirit letting us know he was there with us.

Anyway thanks again
 Byron O.
 Owensboro



Just a few lines to let you know that we sure did enjoy the festival. I think you people are the salt of the earth. You were so nice to us. Thanks for letting sit near the stage for I can't walk on the hill very well. We will be back next year if nothing rips, strips, or comes loose and the Lord is willing.

MAY God Bless
 Doyle and Debbie W.
 Canton, Texas

Dear Folks

Just a line to let you know how much we enjoyed being a part of the best bluegrass festival on earth. Everyone is so friendly and kind. You hate to leave we always see old friends, and make new ones there hope to see you again and thanks for a wonderful time. We will keep it in our hearts always.

Randall N.
 North Carolina



In April and May this year, a long time friend and I had the great privilege to visit the USA on a bluegrass music holiday. We took in several festivals, many jam sessions, some workshops and many tourist haunts across Kentucky, Tennessee and North Carolina. Without a doubt the most remarkable discovery for me was the Old Home Place on Jerusalem Ridge.

I was very impressed by the restoration project under taken by the foundation on the Monroe residence and also by the wonderful hospitality shown to us by the volunteers stationed at the Bill Monroe home-stead on the day. Being able to pick some banjo on the front porch of Bill Monroe's old home place is something I still talk about to my friends here in Australia.

Please accept and pass on my sincere thanks for the work of your foundation and the many supporters and volunteers that have made the project a reality. Your work made this Aussie's holiday something very special. I will be back.

Gregory M.
 Warragul Vic.
 Australia



We had a great time and the music was the best. I am in Law Enforcement for the last 33 years and could not get over the way people acted; no problems and everyone got along great. I saw only ONE deputy sheriff the whole time I was there. Should we have anything with a group that large in (my town) I would have at least 10 or more of my deputies on the grounds at all times. You should also be proud that the group never moved any ones chairs during the night to get a better place to sit. This goes to show the kind of people that enjoy this music are a lot like the people that settled that great part of America. I will retire in about 3 years and will be looking to move to your part of God's Country. Debbie and I want to thank you and your wife for all the hard work that you do so that others can enjoy something that is readily available to you but not to the rest of us.

Thanks
 R.M.
 Texas

Just wanted to say thank you for all the work you have done for Bluegrass Music. All of your volunteers were top notch as well as the vendors and the fans. It was truly the best event I have ever attended.

Who would have believed that many people could come together and have that much fun without Drugs & Alcohol? Maybe the rest of the world could learn a few things from Bluegrass Fans!

God Bless You
 Steve C.
 Marion, Ky.

Doc

What a time!
 What a time!

I'm stunned that RFD has had that impact on us. We'd ask "what brought you here?", and about 80% would raise their hands to RFD.

I'm still thinking what a beautiful sight that hillside made, viewed from the stage. BEAUTIFUL. You did it!!!

David R.
 Texas

Just had to e-mail you, and tell you how much we enjoyed the Bluegrass Festival. We couldn't get over how wonderful all the people were, so friendly. We met a lot of nice people. So many people and no fights or drinking, just great.

We liked it so much that we are booked in for next year. With the good Lord willing we will be there next Oct.

Thanks
 Alberta & Melvin C.
 Danville, Vermont

I can't tell you what a great weekend we had. I find it hard to describe to people who haven't been there. Relaxing, peaceful, wonderful music in every direction you look. This was like a little piece of heaven. Thank you for your part in what was truly a blessing to me.

Rita M.
 Arkansas

Just wanted to let you know that my wife and myself had a great time at this years festival. Best music in the world. Hospitality was top notch and many wonderful folks. We love your Cumberland Highlanders and all the others. Please keep up the great work.

Again, thanks a million for a great weekend.
 Tom C.
 Ohio



We truly want to thank you from our hearts, for again, placing your life into such a great show. Every service that your crew provided was just "Top Notch". We sincerely thank you for considering us again this year to perform at Jerusalem Ridge. Not only is it a pleasure, but it is an honor.

Sincerely,
 Rick Ott - Dave Leatherman
 and Stone County



Doc, if I should die today, I would be the happiest man you have ever seen. I am so happy I was able to make the festival there. My wife is not necessarily a bluegrass fan, but she also thoroughly enjoyed the program. The park is perfect for the festival and the line up was also out of this world. Thanks also for taking the time to talk with me and if you see Wayne and Joe Isaacs, thank them also. It made my day, month and year to meet all of you.

Cliff M.
 Huntsville, Arkansas

I have finally managed to arrange my parent's trip to Jerusalem Ridge Festival!! Bill Monroe has always been my Dad's all time favorite, and so this has been their biggest dream, and they never imagined that they would ever get this opportunity, so they are so excited about this!! They watch your show faithfully every Monday night, and they have gotten me watching it now too! My parents are 79 and 82, and are coming from Alberta, Canada, so my husband and I are flying them to our home in Phoenix, and then I am flying with them to Nashville, and my husband is driving our motor home and picking us up at the airport Weds. night the 26th, and we want to drive straight to your grounds, so they can wake up in the morning and bring their chairs to get a good seat. Their names are Bud and Joyce K. from Alberta, Canada.

Thanks again for all your help!
 See you soon!
 Janice S.
 Phoenix, Arizona

The Jerusalem Ridge Bluegrass Celebration was great! My favorites were Ralph Stanley and band, Cumberland Highlanders, and Melvin Goins. But, all groups did a really good job.

I appreciate all you do to keep this going. Thanks also for being unashamed to be testimony for Jesus Christ!

I will always remember one day a few years ago when my wife and I made a trip to Rosine and visited the cemetery. Later that day we went up to see the newly restored Monroe Homeplace, you met us at the door and showed the two of us around just like we were a whole of people. You made us feel very special.

Thanks,
 John C.
 Owensboro, KY