

PRESTON FULP

STORY BY HARVEY PEKAR • ART BY GARY DUMM

PRESTON FULP WAS BORN IN 1915 IN AN AREA JUST NORTH OF WINSTON-SALEM, N.C. HIS FATHER WAS A TOBACCO SHARE-CROPPER.

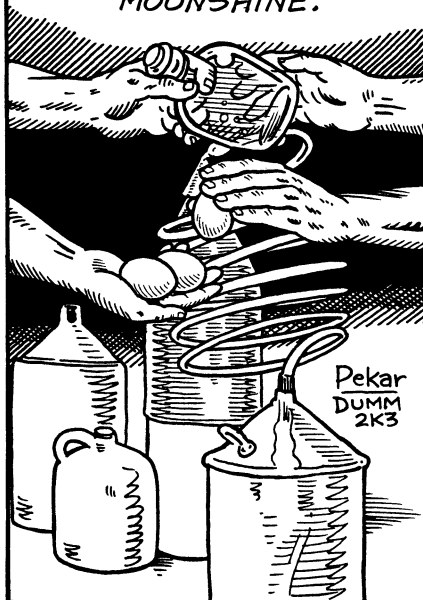


PRESTON STARTED PLAYING GUITAR WHEN HE WAS SIX, AND LATER LEARNED BANJO AND VIOLIN. HE SANG BOTH HILL BILLY & BLUES TUNES, PERFORMING IN BOTH STYLES ON SATURDAY NIGHTS, WHEN HE PLAYED DANCES AT SEGREGATED MOUNT AIRY. HE'D GO TO ONE SIDE OF THE HALL FOR THE BLACKS, AND THE OTHER SIDE FOR THE WHITES.



HE GOT GOOD MONEY PLAYING AT TOBACCO AUCTIONS IN WINSTON-SALEM, OFTEN MAKING ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS FOR WORKING FRIDAY & SATURDAY NIGHTS.

DURING THE DEPRESSION PRESTON HOBEOED IN THE MIDWEST AND CANADA, DOING FARMWORK AND MAKING GOOD SELLING MOONSHINE.



Pekar
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AFTER ABOUT FIVE YEARS HE MOVED BACK TO WALNUT COVE, MARRIED AND WORKED AT GROWING TOBACCO AND AT A SAWMILL.

HE PLAYED INTO OLD AGE, SITTING IN HIS YARD AND PERFORMING WHEN IT WAS WARM ENOUGH. A NEIGHBORING FARMER WOULD GET PRESTON'S GUITAR OUT OF THE PAWN-SHOP IN TOBACCO CURING TIME SO THAT HE COULD SING AND PLAY HOUR AFTER HOUR.

