Louis Marshall “Grandpa” Jones
(1913-1998)

By Jerry Long
c.2025

<u>The Kentucky Encyclopedia</u>, John E. Kleber, editor,
(Lexington, KY: The University Press of Kentucky, 1992), p.480:

JONES, LOUIS MARSHALL. Country music singer and banjo player Louis Marshall ("Grandpa") Jones was born in Henderson County, Kentucky, on October 20, 1913, to sharecroppers David C. and Arcadia (Wise) Jones. He spent his childhood in Kentucky, Indiana, and Ohio, leaving school in 1928 for an Akron, Ohio, radio show. During the 1930s he had radio programs in Ohio and West Virginia and toured New England with Bradley Kincaid. He was featured on Cincinnati station WLW's "Boone County Jamboree" during 1941-44. He performed on the "Grand Ole Opry" in 1946, left it for other radio programs, then rejoined it in 1959. In 1969

he became a charter member of the cast of the "Hee Haw" television program. In 1978 he was elected to the Country Music Hall of Fame.

See Louis M. Jones and Charles K. Wolfe, *Everybody's Grandpa: Fifty Years Behind the Mike* (Knoxville, Tenn., 1984). Compiled by Charles F. Faber

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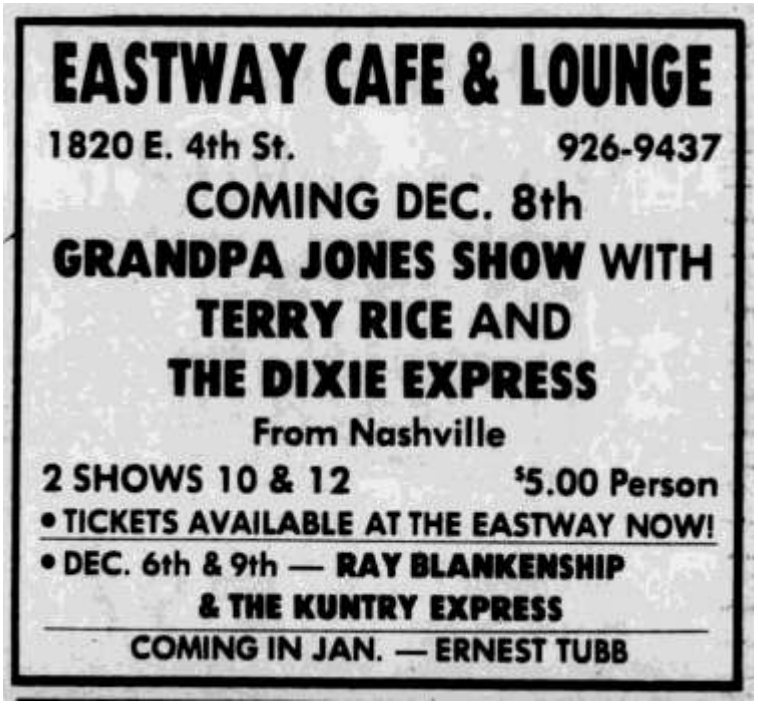
Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Friday, 8 December 1978, p.4D:



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Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Sunday, 31 December 1978, p.1D:

By Keith Lawrence, Messenger-Inquirer

It's not quite a three-hour drive from the bullet-riddled city limits sign at Niagara, Ky., to the parking lot of the Country Music Hall of Fame in Nashville. But finding a niche inside can take a lifetime – or longer.

In the past 50 years, tens of thousands of pickers and singers have dreamed about going down to Music City and making their mark in country music. Thousands of them actually made the trip. But only 29 of them have reached the pinnacle of success – inclusion in country music's hall of fame.

The latest to be enshrined there is Louis Marshall Jones, whose trip to country music immortality began in the hill country of southern Henderson County on Oct. 20, 1913. Sixty-five years later, he completed the trip from Niagara to a permanent slot in the hall of fame.

Actually it wasn't Louis Jones who the Country Music Association honored last October. It was a figment of his imagination – a fiesty old codger and banjopicker extraordinaire named Grandpa Jones.

It's 9:30 p.m., Friday, Dec. 8. Jones has just spent more than five hours driving through freezing rain from Nashville to Owensboro's Eastway Cafe. He's trying to relax in the comfortable dressing rooms behind the nightclub on U.S. 60 east of Owensboro for a few minutes before his first show at 10.

Country music histories tell how Jones used to sneak out to the bunkhouse of his father's Henderson County sawmill and teach himself to play the guitar of one of the e sawmill hands – but they leave the impression that he grew up in Niagara.

"I was born in Niagara," he says. "But we left there when I was not very old at all. We moved about every two years – all around, Smith Mills, out toward Dixon, a lot of places. We even lived in Evansville for 13 months."

When he was 15, the Jones family left the western Kentucky-southwestern Indiana region and moved to Akron, Ohio. By the time he was 16, Jones had completed high school and was working full time in show business as a radio singer. "I've been on ever since – off and on," he chuckles.

He took a 75-cent guitar down to Akron's Keith Albee Theatre where 450 people had entered a talent contest being sponsored by a man named Wendell Hall.

When the music had settled, Jones walked away with the $50 first prize. He used the money to buy a new guitar and, in March 1929, signed on as a regular performer with Akron radio stations WFJC and WJW.

He was still Louis Jones then and on through the early years of the Depression. Grandpa was a few years down the road. In 1935, already a veteran performer and not quite 22 years old, Jones went to Clarksburg, W.Va., to join Bradley Kincaid's troupe of musicians.

Kincaid, a fellow Kentuckian, was a big name in country-folk music in those days. In the '20s, he had been a star of the WLS National Barn Dance in Chicago – the "first artist to perform mountain songs on the radio." He billed himself as "The Original Authentic Folksinger."

Kincaid was on the road in 1935 playing as many as three shows a day up and down the East Coast. It was during those long days and longer nights on the road that Grandpa Jones was born – in, believe it or not, Boston.

"We were playing so far up into Maine and then driving back to Boston at night to be on the air early in the morning," Jones recalls. "I was tired and Bradley would say, 'Come on up here to the mike. You're just like an old grandpa.' I talked this way , (his 'Grandpa' voice) and people got to wondering how old I was.

"They got to writing in saying, 'How old is that old feller? He sounds like he's 80.' "

With that inspiration, Grandpa Jones was born in 1935.

Kincaid donated a pair of 50-year-old boots. Jones pasted on a handlebar mustache. "Old-timey" pants with suspenders were added along with a beat-up old hat. Audiences, not realizing Grandpa Jones was just turning 22, delighted in seeing the old codger leap into the air and click his heels during a rousing song.

The costume hasn't changed much through the years because Jones has grown into the part. He still wears the boots, now nearly 100 years old, on stage. The suspenders have become a bulletin board with pins donated by the governor of Tennessee, Girl Scouts, the American Heart Association and others. But the mustache is real these days.

But who is Grandpa Jones? Is he modeled after anybody?

"Back in 1933, I toured with Lum and Abner," Jones recalls. "I think that had a little bit to do with it. I remember Lum used to wear house slippers. I got them one time and tried to wear them, but I went back to the boots."

Country music historian Bill Malone speaks of Jones as representing the end of the line of medicine show, minstrel show and vaudeville performers in country music.

Television critics reinforce the notion of Jones as a vaudeville performer by saying "'Hee Haw" is vaudeville revisited. Jones disagrees, "It's nothing like vaudeville," he says.

"Of course, I wasn't ever really in vaudeville. It went out just about the time I started. I wish it would come back. I'd love to be in it. Vaudeville usually had five or six acts in a big theater. One came on right after the other. It was really interesting.

"I remember I used to go to the Keith Albee Theatre in Akron, where I won the contest before I went on the air. I used to think, 'Boy, I'd like to be in that vaudeville.'"

Although he missed that era, Jones played in nearly every vaudeville theater on the East Coast as part of the Bradley Kincaid show. "We played a lot of little theaters between pictures," he recalls. "They had been closed and then reopened. They had good acoustics."

Is that something g young performers are missing today?

"Oh Lord, yeah," Jones sighs.

Although Jones is best known as a banjo player using, as a Grand Ole Opry publication notes, "a near forgotten dropthumb technique," he was only a guitar picker and singer until 1937.

He left Kincaid that year to go to work for a radio station in Wheeling, W.Va. It was there that he learned to play the banjo (pronounced "banjer" in most of his songs) from another country music star of that era, Cousin Emmy.

Later, he moved to radio station WLW in Cincinnati as star of the "Boone County Jamboree" and formed his own band, The Grandchildren.

That lasted several years, then World War II came along. In 1944, Jones left the radio station and joined the Army. He soon found himself in Germany but his music career followed him across the Atlantic.

"The old man let me off one hour to go and broadcast over the Armed Forces Network (in Munich)," Jones says. He was part of a group known as the "Munich Mountaineers."

"I broadcast there for a long time and played for any of the outfits that would come and get us and bring us back." But when he arrived back in Cincinnati at the end of the war, Jones found the station's management "didn't seem to care whether I came back or not."

That was a break. He headed for Nashville to audition for the Grand Ole Opry. In 1946, he found himself working in Opry sponsored tent shows around the country with Pee Wee King, Minnie Pearl and a few others.

In the early '50s, Jones moved to Washington, D.C., and took over Jimmy Dean's early morning television show. "About that time Elvis hit with his rock and roll and that fixed country music for a while," Jones says with a wry smile. "So I came back to Nashville. Then I left again and came back within 11 months. I guess I'd better stay there now."

In 1968, CBS was putting together a new country music program for prime time. Jones was one of those selected as a regular performer on "Hee Haw." The show, which went into syndication after leaving the network, has been a television phenomenon. Did Jones expect the success that followed?

"No," he admits. "I didn't when it started. I just didn't think it would go. I didn't think people would take to it. I thought the name was bad, but I had to swallow that. It was just right for it."

The show, Jones says, "has been a help to me. I never did make anything in this business much – only just a living – until 'Hee Haw.' Now I can go out and ask decent price. 'Hee Haw' has helped me a lot."

A prolific writer, Jones has written between 300 and 400 songs. "I used to write nearly everything I recorded when I was on King (records). I still write once in awhile, but not like I used to," he says. "My stuff's out of date, you know."

A few minutes later an audience will be roaring at Jones' stories about his baldheaded uncle and other bits of country humor he's picked up through the years.

One thing he doesn't quite understand is why there are no new country comedians coming along. "I sorta worry about it," Jones says. "Well, I don't really worry about it, but I think how good it would be if people would do that. A young country comedian, that's what they need – but they're not coming along."

Country music fans have been noticing for years that Jones is part of a vanishing breed. The Opry years ago, listed him as "an institution in the world of country folk music and humor."

That may be part of the reason for his election to the hall of fame in October – joining such people as Muhlenberg County's Merle Travis and Ohio County's Bill Monroe.

The nominees were all rather legendary Johnny Cash, Vernon Dalhart (one of the first country music recording artists), Jones, Hank Snow and The Sons of the Pioneers. CMA members selected Jones.

"I thought Cash would win it," he says, "but I reckon they felt sorry for me. I was honored that they would think enough of me to elect me."

It gave his career another boost. "Since that hall of fame thing, dates are coming in way ahead of time," he notes. "I've got to either stop them or I'll be out on the road too much. I can't take it like I used to. If it wasn't for the traveling, it'd be a snap. After you get there, there's nothing to it."

A few years ago he was on the road 150 to 200 days a year at fairs, auditoriums and "Hillbilly Parks" – "that's like the bluegrass festivals they have now."

A serious heart attack and open-heart surgery slowed down his road shows a few years ago, but Jones is back on the road now, mostly playing fairs and a few bluegrass festivals.

George McCormick, a Porter Wagoner alumnus who plays guitar for Jones now, comes into the dressing room. "They're rowdy tonight," he says.

"What do you mean?" Jones asks. "You'll see," McCormick says, going for his guitar.

Jones sighs. "I quit playing these places (nightclubs) years ago," he says. "I'm only doing it for ACE."

The Association of Country Entertainers is composed of the more traditional country musicians like Jones, Ernest Tubb and others. The Eastway Cafe has been booking ACE members in recent months.

Will "real" country music survive with so many performers like Dolly Parton "crossing over" (which some fans pronounce "selling out"') into the pop field?

"The stuff they call country music now is a sad deal," Jones says. "Some of it is with the rock and the horns and things. I can't tell you there will always be (hardcore country music) because I don't know. But I'd think there will be."

Soon Jones is on stage playing the rousing songs that have long been part of him – "Mountain Dew," "Old Rattler,' "'Eight More Miles to Louisville" and many of the old Jimmie Rodgers songs.

Despite Grandpa ("Pa" to his friends) Jones' success, hasn't Louis Jones ever wondered what it would have been like to have made it as a "straight" singer?

"No," he says. "I haven't got the voice for it to start with. I'm just thankful I can do something and entertain a little bit."

But listen to him on Merle Travis' "Dark as a Dungeon," his own "Tragic Romance" or "Fallen Leaves" or any number of the old Jimmie Rodgers songs. Jones is as good a bluegrass singer as you'd want to find. And he's versatile too. With his wife, the former Ramona Riggins, he's an accomplished bell player. "I play four (one in each hand and one on each foot) and she plays the other two."

Jones, an avid hunter and fisherman, lives on a cattle farm outside Nashville now. He doesn't get up into Green River country much any more, he says.

"But I got a letter the other day from a fellow down in Central City. He said he takes care of about 500 acres of coal mining land and we could hunt on it. I'd love to get up there sometime."

He picks up his banjo and heads out the door toward the nightclub. In the short walk, Louis Jones disappears and Grandpa Jones leaps onto the stage, beating his banjo in a frenzy, leaping into the air, clicking his heels and singing the praises of that "Good Ole Mountain Dew."

"You're in hillbilly country now, Grandpa," a man yells.

"I know it," he yells back. "I was raised around here."

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<u>Messenger-Inquirer</u>, Owensboro, KY, Friday, 3 August 1990, p.6E:

America's favorite grandpa isn't ready to stop performing

By Joe Edwards, Associated Press

NASHVILLE – After more than a half century performing as a gentlemanly old man, Grandpa Jones is sure of one thing: He's grown into his act.

Little did he know that when he was 22, an offhand remark by a colleague would earn him a lifelong nickname and career persona.

"Get up here to the mike; Grandpa Jones you're just like an old grandpa," radio entertainer Bradley Kincaid told him.

Fifty-four years later, he's still getting in front of the mike. And he's still everyone's grandpa.

He's one of the few performers who's been on television virtually every week since 1968. That was the first time "Hee Haw" went on the air, and Jones has been on the country music-humor show ever since.

Chances are he's going to be on the small screen much longer. Even if the one-hour program went out of production today, there would be more than 20 years of reruns to use.

Since he was 22, Jones has been on stage in a battered gray hat, brown Western boots and brightly colored suspenders. A bushy mustache fails to conceal a mischievous grin. A timeworn banjo is a constant companion.

"They don't have to make me up too much anymore," he says jocularly backstage at "Hee Haw," referring to his age, 76.

Every week on "Hee Haw" is a segment as traditional as the show's famous corn field. Cast members ask in unison, "Hey, Grandpa! What's for supper?"

He responds exuberantly with a lip-smacking menu of country food:

"Corn bread and gravy. Candied yams. Butter beans. Blueberry cobbler. The more to eat, the more to spare."

Not even Jones recalls how the routine got started.

"It seems pretty popular. When I go out on personal appearances, they holler that from the audience all the time. I have to have an answer quick."

Fellow performers on "Hee Haw" call him "Grandpa" or "Pa" off stage. In fact, "Hee Haw" producer Sam Lovullo says, "Everyone on the cast says he's their favorite.

"He means everything to the show. He's a link to traditional country music we have with Minnie Pearl, Roy Acuff and others. He's made a career off rural music and rural sayings."

George "Goober" Lindsey of "Hee Haw" and "The Andy Griffith Show" tells this story about Grandpa playing in a celebrity golf tournament. "We gave him pair of golf shoes. He said, 'They're pretty good shoes if I can just get these tacks out of the bottom.'"

Jones was born Louis Marshall Jones in Henderson County, Ky., the youngest of 10 children. He began playing mandolin and fiddle as a youngster, and also learned to play a 75-cent guitar. But it was banjo playing that earned him recognition.

His family moved to Akron, Ohio, where in 1929 he won first prize in a talent contest, winning $50 in $10 gold pieces.

"It bought me the first good guitar I ever had," Jones recalled. "I've been on stage ever since."

He has performed on the Grand Ole Opry country music show since 1946. In 1978, he was elected to the Country Music Hall of Fame.

Jones still makes up to six personal appearances a month, playing such banjo favorites as "Mountin Dew" and "Old Rattler." His wife, Ramona, a fiddler, often joins him.

He has entertained at such diverse venues as Carnegie Hall, the Hollywood Bowl, various state fairs and the Smithsonian Institution.

He says his biggest thrill was not on "Hee Haw" or at Carnegie Hall but on a flat bed truck in rice paddies performing for American troops in Korea.

"We got within 20 yards of the front lines playing for the boys for four or five weeks," he recalled. "The boys liked everything you did because some of them hadn't seen anyone from the states in nine months."

He says being on "Hee Haw" has been one of the many joys of his long tenure in show business.

"I've had a big time. It's more like fun than a job. There's a lot of good boys and gals on it. We've had a lot of fun and no trouble," he said.

Herald-Leader, Lexington, KY, Friday, 20 February 1998, p.6A:

Grandpa Jones, 'Hee Haw' regular, Kentucky native, dies

Associated Press: NASHVILLE - Grandpa Jones, whose banjo playing, brightly colored suspenders and mischievous grin made him a country music favorite and a *Hee Haw* regular for more than two decades, died yesterday evening. He was 84.

Mr. Jones died at about 7 p.m. at McKendree Village Home Health Center of complications from a series of strokes following a Jan. 3 performance on the Grand Ole Opry, said Opry spokesman Jerry Stroble. Jones suffered his first stroke in 1991, but came back to perform on the Opry.

Mr. Jones, born Louis Marshall Jones, was best known for his banjo playing, singing and comedy on the syndicated TV show *Hee Haw*, which ran from 1968 to 1993.

Its humor was pure cornpone, such as Jones asking Junior Samples: "Junior, I saw you riding on a mule and your wife was walking behind you. Why was that?" Replies Samples: "My wife ain't GOT no mule."

In his most famous segment, cast members would ask in unison, "Hey Grandpa, what's for supper?" Jones would respond exuberantly with a lip-smacking menu of country food:

"Corn bread and gravy. Candied yams. Butter beans. Blueberry cobbler. The more to eat, the more to spare."

He said in a 1990 Associated Press interview that he was not sure how the "what's for supper?" routine began. But it became part of his act.

"When I go out on personal appearances, they holler that from the audience all the time. I have to have an answer quick." His outfit never changed down through the years: the suspenders, battered gray hat and brown western boots.

On the *Hee Haw* set, when Jones was off camera he often sat off stage, trading quips and spinning yarns with fellow entertainers.

He picked up the nickname "Grandpa" when he was 22 and disguised himself as an old-timer during a performance. A colleague said offhandedly, "get up here to the mike; you're just like an old grandpa."

Jones was born Oct. 20, 1913, in Henderson County, Ky., the youngest of 10 children. He began playing mandolin and fiddle as a youngster, and also learned to play a 75-cent guitar. But it was banjo playing that earned him the most recognition.

His family moved to Akron, Ohio, where in 1929 he won first prize in a talent contest, winning $50 in $10 gold pieces.

"It bought me the first good guitar I ever had," Jones recalled in 1990. "I've been on stage ever since."

He spent his early years as an entertainer in Wheeling, W.Va., and Cincinnati. He began singing on the Grand Ole Opry in 1946.

Among his hit songs were *Old Rattler, Eight More Miles to Louisville, Mountain Dew, Old Rattler's Pup* and *Tragic Romance*.

He once said his proudest moment was entertaining American troops in Korea in 1951 on a flatbed truck in rice paddies.

"We went as far as they'd let us go," he said. "It was rewarding to see the boys who had not seen anybody from the United States for nine months at least."

He performed at such diverse venues as Carnegie Hall, the Hollywood Bowl, various state fairs and the Smithsonian Institution. His wife, Ramona, a fiddler, often performed with him.

Jones was inducted into the Country Music Hall of Fame in 1978.

Bio by William Bjornstad on findagrave.com

Country Musician. He is best remembered as an old-time country and gospel music singer and banjo player who always wore his pants tucked inside his boots, whose animated performances were often characterized by his leg kicks and foot stomping, and as a charter cast member of the CBS television show "Hee Haw" that aired from 1969 to 1971, before a 20-year run in local syndication. Born Louis Marshall Jones, he spent his teenage years in Akron, Ohio, where he started singing country music songs on radio station WJW. In 1931, he joined the Pine Ridge String Band, which provided the musical accompaniment for the very popular Lum and Abner show. By 1935, his pursuit of a musical career took him to WBZ (AM) radio in Boston, Massachusetts, where he met musician/songwriter Bradley Kincaid, who gave him the nickname "Grandpa" because of his off-stage grumpiness at early-morning radio shows. The name stuck and he decided to create a stage persona based around it and started performing under the name, playing the guitar, yodeling, and singing mostly old-time ballads. In 1937, he met musician Cousin Emmy in West Virginia who taught him the art of the clawhammer style of banjo playing, which gave a rough backwoods flavor to his performances. In 1942, he joined radio station WLW in Cincinnati, Ohio, where he met fellow Kentuckian and country musician Merle Travis. A year later, they made their recording debuts together for Syd Nathan's upstart King Records and by 1944, he was making records under his own name and had his first hit with "It's Raining Here This Morning." Shortly afterward, he enlisted in the US Army and after his discharge in 1946, he went back to recording

for King Records. He moved to Nashville, Tennessee, in 1946, and started performing on the Grand Ole Opry. Later that year, he married Ramona Riggins who, as an accomplished performer herself, would also be a part of his performances. Some of his older famous songs that he recorded include "Eight More Miles to Louisville" (1946, which he wrote), "Old Rattler" (1947) and "Mountain Dew" (1947). In 1956, he signed with Decca Records and recorded 16 songs, including "The All-American Boy" (1959, which reached number 21 on the US Country charts), "T For Texas" (1962, which reached number 5 on the US Country charts), and "Night Train to Memphis" (1963). In 1969, he joined the television show "Hee Haw" where he played banjo by himself or with fellow banjo player Dave "Stringbean" Akeman and also provided slapstick comedy in skits, and joined cast mates Buck Owens, Roy Clark and Kenny Price in a gospel segment at the end of some shows. In 1978, he was inducted into the Country Music Hall of Fame. His autobiography, "Everybody's Grandpa: Fifty Years Behind the Mike," was published in 1984.

Grandpa Jones was buried at the Lutons United Methodist Church Cemetery in Goodlettsville, Davidson County, Tennessee.

<u>The Gleaner</u>, Henderson, KY, Wednesday, 19 February 2014, pp.1A & 8A:

Historical society OKs Grandpa Jones marker

By Frank Boyett, The Gleaner

HENDERSON, Ky. -- The Kentucky Historical Society has approved a highway marker honoring Louis “Grandpa” Jones, which will allow fundraising to begin.

“We were told not to collect any monies until it was approved,” said Linda Hallmark, vice president of the Henderson County Historical and Genealogical Society, which began researching

Jones about a year ago. “Now we need to start collecting donations for the marker,” which is expected to cost about $2,500.

Once the money is collected and submitted to the state it will probably take about six weeks to erect the marker,” she said. “We won’t know when the dedication of the marker will be until all this happens.”

Donations can be sent to the local historical society at P.O. Box 303, Henderson, KY, 42419 or dropped by the society office in The Depot between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays. A pamphlet detailing the musical career of Jones can be obtained at the society office.

The roadside marker will be placed at his birthplace at 15979 Kentucky 136-East near Niagara. The approved text on the front side will read: “Louis Marshall Jones was born Oct. 20, 1913, in Niagara, Ky. He was known as “Grandpa” Jones throughout his 70 year career as a country music entertainer. He began performing old time banjo & singing in the 1920s, receiving national attention on the radio by the 1930s. He made his recording debut in 1943.”

The opposite side of the marker will read: “In 1946, Jones joined the Grand Ole Opry & married music partner Ramona Riggins. He was a cast member of the TV show “Hee Haw” from 1968 to 1993 and was inducted into the Country Music Hall of Fame, 1978. He died on Feb. 19, 1998, in Tn. and was among the First Pioneers inducted into the Kentucky Music Hall of Fame in 2002.”

Hallmark said she hopes the needed money can be raised within a month, allowing a dedication in late April or early May.

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<u>The Gleaner</u>, Henderson, KY, Saturday, 18 October 2014, p.3A:

Dykes featured at ‘Grandpa’ Jones event

By Gleaner staff

Dedication of the historical marker honoring Louis Marshall "Grandpa" Jones will take place Saturday near his birthplace at 15979 Kentucky 136-East with state and local dignitaries and musical artist Doyle Dykes.

"He's going to do a medley of songs that Grandpa Jones performed the most," said Linda Hallmark, vice president of the Henderson County Historical and Genealogical Society. "It's his tribute to him."

Dykes has been called, along with Tommy Emmanuel, one of the best fingerpicking guitarists in the world and was a longtime endorser of Taylor guitars.

The dedication ceremony will begin at 2 p.m. today at Niagara Methodist Church near the intersection of Kentucky 416 and Kentucky 136.

Participants might want to consider carpooling, because parking is limited, Hallmark said.

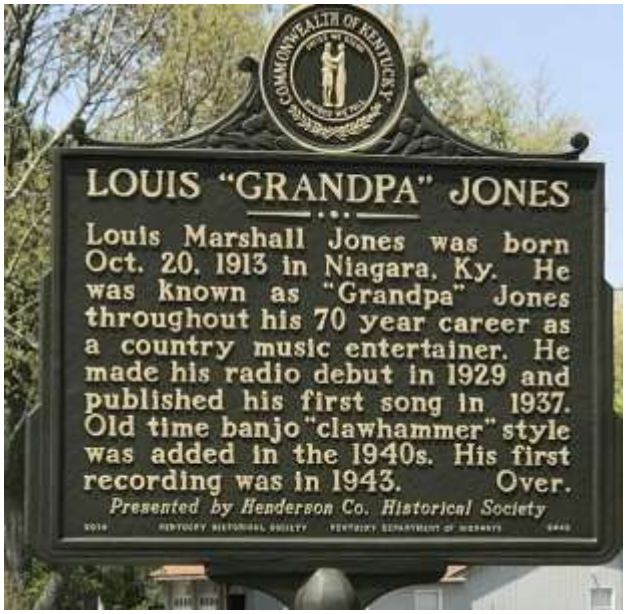
Jones was born about one-tenth of a mile away from the church Oct. 20, 1913, and had a 70-year career as a country musician and comic. He made his radio debut in 1929, published his first song in 1937 and cut his first recording in 1943.

He was a cast member of the TV show "Hee Haw" from 1968 to 1993 and was inducted into the Country Music Hall of Fame in 1978.

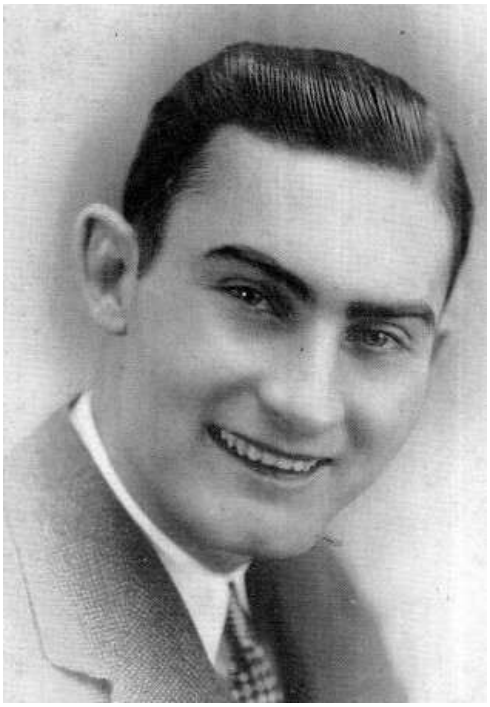
Grandpa Jones Historical Highway Marker

Inscription: Side 1 – Louis Marshall Jones was born Oct. 20, 1913 in Niagara, Ky. He was known as "Grandpa" Jones throughout his 70-year career as a country music entertainer. He made his radio debut in 1929 and published his first song in 1937. Old time banjo "clawhammer" style was added in the 1940s. His first recording was in 1943. Side 2 – In 1946, Jones joined the Grand Ole Opry & married music partner, Ramona Riggins. He was cast member of the TV show "Hee Haw" from 1968- 1993 and was inducted into the Country Music Hall of Fame, 1978. He died on Feb. 19, 1998 in Tn. and was among the First Pioneers inducted into the Kentucky Music Hall of Fame in 2002.

Erected in 2014 by Kentucky Historical Society and Kentucky Department of Highways. (Marker Number 2442.) The marker is located near Robards, Kentucky, in Henderson County. It is on Kentucky Route 136 0.2 miles south of Route 416, on the left when traveling south.



A resident of rural Ridgetop, Tennessee, outside Nashville, Grandpa Jones was a neighbor and friend of fellow musician David "Stringbean" Akeman. On the morning of November 11, 1973, Jones discovered the bodies of Akeman and his wife, Estelle, who had been murdered during the night by robbers. Jones testified at the trial of the killers; his testimony helped to secure a conviction.



Louis Marshall “Grandpa” Jones. Lower right on Hee Haw set with Minnie Pearl