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*Ralph Rinzler Folklife Archives and Collections*

## **Dog Trot House; Shellhorse, Pire, Brogdon; Wine Making; G. and P. Tanner, M. Anger**

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Speaker 1: About some of the people from South Georgia. I urge you all to get a program book that which contains the names of all the people who participated from South Georgia and also some essays about South Georgia, food preservation techniques, and the [dogtrot house]. Other things that we discovered in South Georgia. Thank you very much for being with us this afternoon. [applause] Speaker 2: Welcome you to the music stage. We're gonna hear some what they call social music. You know, music for having a good time, back in the days when people had to make their own music. Well now, some people still make their own music but you don't have to because you have cassettes and TV and radios and all that kind of stuff. All that equipment. Now, in the old days, people had their voices and they had some stringed instruments, at least in the state of Georgia, where the musicians on this stage are from. In the mountain regions and in the piedmont, just below the piedmont, one of the most popular forms of entertainment was the string band and the fiddle band. And the fiddle was, of course, a European instrument that had come over with the settlers from the British Isles. And they played their old reels and jigs and dance tunes on it. And it became a pioneer instrument. It could travel west pretty easily, and in the old days the fiddle was pretty rare but it was about the only instrument around. An Afro-American instrument, the banjo, was developed in the nineteenth century and became popular. That was added to the fiddle, so fiddle-banjo combination became well [hell sway] at dances. And then, about the turn of the century, the guitar started making its appearance in the mail-order catalogs and drifting up from Texas. Now, in the twenties and thirties, you know, some talent scouts were coming down from the north, trying to put on commercial, old-time 78 RPM records. Some of them, what they call, the old traditional music. And one of the musicians they found was a man named Gid Tanner, who lived in Georgia. He was a fiddler and he got together a group called the Skillet Lickers. And they put out some of the most sensational records of this wild, exuberant fiddle band music. They'd have some of those two fiddles going and they had a great blind guitar player named Riley Puckett. And several musicians drifted in and out of that group and they sold a lot of records for.



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