

ACCOLADES FOR OUR PRESIDENT

BY: JUDY CAMPBELL

Our very deserving President, James "Chief" Childers, just keeps on receiving recognition for his unending musical talents.

James was recently presented his FIFTY year plaque for his untiring efforts with the Georgia Mountain Fair Staff Band. During this time period, James has only missed one performance. He participates with this band at the Fair in August for 12 days and again in October 10 days for the Fall Festival and Fiddlers Convention. He performs at other events at the Fairgrounds throughout the year.

James has had the opportunity to play with many celebrities, his favorite being Brad Paisley. He has performed with Brad in the Atlanta area, at Harrahs Cherokee, and at the Strawberry Festival in Plant City, Fl. He has played with many Grand Ole Opry stars from 1962 to the present.

As James was being presented his 50 year plaque, and other gifts, Charles Jenkins D-Blairsville, House of Representative, walked on stage to honor James with a proclamation from the State acknowledging him as a "Georgia Musical Treasure" and read several statements included in the Proclamation expressing his gratitude and that of the House for James' many uses of his talent throughout Georgia. James is a member of the Atlanta Country Music Hall of Fame .

Not only does James have guitar skills, he also plays the banjo. James was invited to a Braves game recently when a group of Banjo players were trying to set a Guinness Book of World Records of the most banjo players present at one time. There were 300, including Famous Earl Scruggs, performing on the baseball field that night.

All my space is about gone !!! I could keep on praising the efforts of this very kind man and devoted friend for several decades. Just one more!!

James will be honored in October for collecting and donating \$ 100,000.00 to the Shrine Childrens Hospital Fund. His picture will be placed on the Hall of Fame at the Shrine Center in Atlanta. Another project that is dear to his heart.

success

