

Proclamation



Ernest Stoneman

Whereas: When ten-year-old Ernest Stoneman saw his first autoharp, he became determined to master it. The first tune he played was "Old Molly Hare," which he had learned from his Grandmother Bowers, and,

Whereas: In September 1924, Pop Stoneman made the first known autoharp recording, which was put on a wax cylinder. The song selected for that recording was "The Ship that Never Returned" or "The Titanic." Many believe this recording was one of the first million-sellers in the music industry, which, along with 28 other early Stoneman recordings, was made only with Pop's autoharp and his voice, and,

Whereas: During a life of contrasting abject poverty and affluent prosperity, Pop Stoneman held his family together while keeping the family's musical career constantly in the forefront of his mind. In 1967, The Stonemans reached the pinnacle of success with RCA and MGM album releases, appearances in Hollywood movies, and their own syndicated television show entitled "The Stonemans" Also during that year, against competition such as The Anita Kerr Singers, Johnny Cash and June Carter, The Statler Brothers, and more, the Stonemans won the coveted Country Music Association Award For Vocal Group of the Year, and,

Whereas: Pop continued to use the autoharp in recordings and performances throughout his life. His last autoharp recording was cut in 1968, 65 years after he mastered "Old Molly Hare," and,

Whereas: Pop Stoneman was an outstanding and popular musician of his age, and shall be an irreplaceable autoharp pioneer for ages to come,

Therefore, let it be resolved that Ernest Stoneman be inducted with highest commendations as the 1994 posthumous member of The Autoharp Hall of Fame.

So it is proclaimed on this, the Second Day of July in the year Nineteen Hundred and Ninety-Four.