

Proclamation



Kilby Snow

Whereas: Kilby Snow, one of the old Grand Masters of autoharp, loved autoharp from first sight of this instrument, and so begged, cried, pleaded, and cajoled for this instrument from the age of three that he caused his father to dispossess the family of its precious ice cream freezer in exchange for an autoharp, thereby to reestablish peace and harmony in the Snow household, and,

Whereas: At the age of about six years, Kilby Snow claimed championship of all autoharp players in the state of North Carolina, playing his first tune, "Molly Hare," and,

Whereas: Being a pioneer of lead and melody picking on the autoharp, Kilby Snow cut a trail from the manicured civility of parlor autoharp strumming into uncharted autoharp territory, a trail which today lies largely obscured, untraveled, and unmarked, with but few musical maps left to guide today's players to his style, attitude, and philosophy, and,

Whereas: Kilby Snow developed a singular style of holding and playing the autoharp, sprinkling his music with his signature drag notes and back slurs, and,

Whereas: Continuing lifelong to pursue and perfect his playing, Kilby Snow wrote at the age of sixty-two that he was still learning new slurs and tunes on the autoharp, and,

Whereas: Long after he has gone on to, as he said, "teach the angels how to really play 'harp'" his genius on the autoharp is still being studied, copied, and admired,

Therefore, it is fitting and proper that Kilby Snow rightfully comes now to embrace the spirits of others today who share his love for the autoharp and its music, and stands proudly as a charter member in the roll of The Autoharp Hall of Fame.

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