Owensboro, Kentucky and its Bluegrass Music Museum & Hall of Fame

According to Bluegrass Heritage Foundation, the roots of bluegrass have been traced to the 1600s from Ireland, Scotland and England. European immigrants who migrated to southern states in the Appalachian regions wrote and sang songs reflecting their home-hill/farm life. Country or mountain music became the names associated with that type of music. The invention of the phonograph and the radio made that music nationally known.

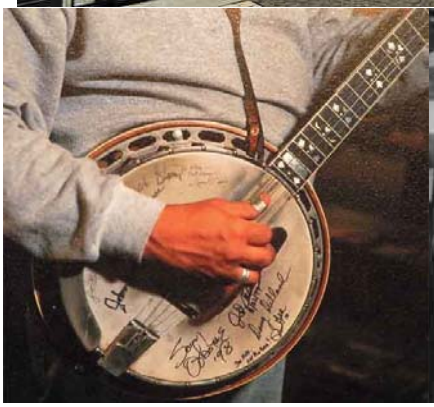
NPR's article, "Bill Monroe: Celebrating the Father of Bluegrass at 100," was written in 2011. Bill Monroe was a longtime American bluegrass music musician and songwriter. He was born in 1911 in Jerusalem Ridge, Kentucky, and died in 1996 in Springfield, Tennessee. Moore was one of eight children who worked on his family farm. He lost his parents early in life. His uncle is attributed as the person that drew him to music. Monroe with his mandolin pioneered bluegrass music when he formed a group named the Blue Grass Boys and regularly performed on the weekly Grand Ole Opry radio show. Bill Monroe's career lasted over 58 years. Over 150 different musicians worked with his band over the years. Even rock n' roll stars like Elvis Presley, Carl Perkins and Buddy Holly were Monroe fans.

Owensboro formed an international Bluegrass Music Museum in 1991 and opened a year-round facility in 1995. In October 2018, a new building will become the Bluegrass Music Hall of Fame & Museum. The facility will have an auditorium with exhibits and bluegrass memorabilia.

According to "Owensboro, Kentucky, Some Early History," until 1797, today's Daviess County was the wild frontier area of Kentucky. William Smothers, born in Virginia, came down the Ohio river and stopped at a point that today is known as Owensboro. By 1815, Daviess County was formed. Prior to being called Owensboro, the site was known as "Yellow Banks," because of the soil along the Ohio River. The town was planned in 1817. The General Assembly of Kentucky named the area after Colonel Abraham Owen, a fallen hero at Tippecanoe. In 1893, the town became Owensboro, from the former Owensborough.

Owensboro's early industry was agriculture, distilleries and mining coal. Today Owensboro is the industrial, retail and cultural hub of western Kentucky. Owensboro has the fourth largest population in the state of Kentucky. It is 109 miles southwest of Louisville, Kentucky.

This photo program is about the bluegrass history and the Smothers Park Playground.



In 1945, Monroe began playing at the Grand Ole Opry

OWENSBORO
Parking Garage
Bluegrass Museum
RiverPark Center
Smothers Park
Owensboro Symphony

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The Jam Session

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Credits-Bluegrass photos taken at the Museum. Sources: http://bluegrassheritage.org/history-of-bluegrass-music/, http://www.bluegrassmuseum.org/events-at-the-museum/2017/5/25/international-bluegrass-music-museum-and-hall-of-fame-seeking-artifact-donations, https://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/bluegrass-museum-renamed-bluegrass-music-hall-of-fame--museum-300631538.html, https://www.thoughtco.com/essential-bluegrass-music-artists-1321993, http://tonyclark.com/funfacts-owb/, https://www.npr.org/2011/09/12/140366232/bill-monroe-celebrating-the-father-of-bluegrass-at-100, https://www.biography.com/people/bill-monroe-21369943, http://www.owensboro.org/, https://visitowensboro.com/, http://www.jstor.org/stable/23372654?seq=1#page_scan_tab_contents (Owensboro, Kentucky-Early History), and https://www.owensboro.org/page/about-owensboro.