

A LIFE HISTORY *OF*
ACIE CARROLL

by
Ricky L. Carroll

April 26, 1983
Dr. Lynwood Montell

" If you ever write anything about me, I want people to know that I have no television and no car and I'm just as content as I can be."

Acie Carroll March 4, 1983

I have lived in Edmonson County, Kentucky for most of my life, but I had never heard any reference to Mr. Acie Carroll. It wasn't until I was enrolled in college and taking a folklore class under Dr. Lynwood Montell that I heard of Acie Carroll. That was in 1981, but I didn't get the experience of meeting Mr. Carroll until February 1983, when I was doing an independent study in folklore. Together, Montell and I decided I should do a life history of Acie Carroll.

My first encounter with this grand old gentleman on February 2, 1983, proved more than I had anticipated. I knew he was an elderly man, so I assumed he would be home just sitting, but this was not the case at all. I had to track Acie down and bring him back to his home to do our interview. I left Acie Carroll that day with respect and he left me with inspiration about life.

Acie Carroll was born January 5, 1890, on the same land he lives on today. He was one of ten children born to his parents. He grew up in a one-room log home his father built. Acie's hardships have been many, but he has kept his faith. His father was an on and off alcoholic. He died when Acie was about eight years old, leaving Acie's mother to provide and manage for the family.

In 1910, Acie's younger brother, Charlie, was murdered in their backyard by members of the Night Riders. Acie can yet remember that terrible night and narrates the terrible criminal act with remorse. After one of our interviews, Acie told me, " Can you imagine? My brother was in the backyard shot, bleeding to death. I started to go to him and as I stepped off the porch two double-barreled shotguns were put up to my temples and one of the men said, ' You take one more step and your head is coming off your shoulders.'"

Acie married his first wife in 1912, was married to her for thirty-six years until her death. He was single for seven years until he married his second wife. They were married for twenty-two years until her death. Acie has lived alone since then in his modest white-frame house on Carroll Ridge Road in the Broadway Community of Edmonson County.

He doesn't let his age get him down. At ninety-three, Acie Carroll is as active as anyone I know half his age. If he either needs or wants to go somewhere he will walk or hitch a ride with someone he knows. He told me that in his lifetime, he has been through enough to run a person crazy, but Acie said, " I get up and keep on going."

All his life Acie has been a farmer. He still makes it a rule to plant a garden every year. He goes out with his hoe, clears the ground, and plants his garden. Acie said he was thankful to have lived this long and still be able to have his memory. But, Acie has taken care of himself. He has never drank alcoholic beverages, smoked, and he doesn't drink coffee.

Acie Carroll has devoted his life to serving God. Even today, he travels as near as one-half mile and as far as Indiana to go to church. His ideals and morals are often reflected in his conversations.

I found a true friend in Acie Carroll. He has made me feel like I've known him all my life. My grandmother described him as being one of the last of the old-timers. It's true that Acie Carroll came from a breed that has almost died out. He's one of the last of the great story tellers and performers. Mr. Acie Carroll is not a Hollywood celebrity, but he has become a star that shines very bright in my eyes.