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1/29/64	Bothwell	Evans	120
PRINT DELIVERY DEADLINE			ORDER NO.
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LOCAL

St. Petersburg Times, Sunday, February 2, 1964

He Plays Those Strings Li

By DICK BOTHWELL
Of The Times Staff

The Great American Hootenanny has swept stringed instruments back into popular favor — and nobody is happier about it than a stocky little musician named David D. Yokeley who plays like a man with 18 fingers.

You'll find this small chunk of North Carolina holding forth at 671 Central Ave., St. Petersburg, in Sanborn's New Museum of Old Stringed Instruments. Surrounded by a remarkable assortment of banjos, guitars, mandolins and variations thereof, the cheerful, courteous Yokeley is himself a period piece.

At 60, he's a perfect specimen of the fast - disappearing hill country musician — rapidly being replaced by such youthful groups as Peter, Paul and Mary.

But Yokeley's not complaining. He's happy as a clam, busy repairing instruments and teaching his specialties, banjo "Blue Grass style" and hoe-down fiddlin', as well as guitar:

"I can play anything with strings," he grins proudly showing you around the 50 - instrument collection he's acquired over the years, from friends, fellow musicians and pawn shops.

FOLKS WHO LIKE stringed instruments won't want to miss his display (admission one quarter) for it probably is one of the finest private groups in the country.



FEB 2, 1964

—Staff Photo by Johnnie Evans

D. D. Yokeley, Rare Harp-Guitar

Here is a curious 4-string "hula guitar" from the islands; a home - made guitar carved out of a white oak tree by Yokeley at 14; a 300-year-old violin; a huge mandolin that rings like a steeple bell; a guitar-banjo

and another banjo made from the copper head of a Carolina still.

"This," says Yokeley, lovingly taking up a small, much-worn banjo minus frets, "was owned by an old former slave

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JOHNNIE EVANS

David D. Yokeley, well-known hoedown fiddler and teacher of stringed musical instruments, died Saturday (Dec. 2, 1978) at the age of 75.

Mr. Yokeley was one of a vanishing breed — the hill country musician. He could play any string instrument and had a collection of about 50 that he collected over the years from friends, fellow musicians and pawn shops.

He taught his pupils at Banjo Ranch (a double garage at his home, converted to a studio) until diabetes forced him to quit teaching five months ago. He continued to play even though he had lost the feeling in his fingers from the illness.

DEC 4 1978

**David D.
Yokeley**

**he could play all
string instruments;
had a colorful
career in music.**

