

I got the opportunity from Jennifer of Wisconsin Information Biker Guide www.wisconsinbikerinformationguide.com to cross off of my bucket list one item this last month. That was to chat with my all time favorite entertainers Charlie Daniels. Although it was a phone interview didn't detract from the fact that I had the opportunity.

The interview lasted about 12 minutes and with the questions I was trying to correlate them into the biker realm. Here is what was asked. Enjoy!!!

Preacher: Good Morning. This is my first phone interview, but I am truly honored to be doing it with one of my all time favorite musicians.

Preacher: What is your favorite venue to play? Big crowds, small crowds, fairs, biker events and why?

Charlie: No real difference to me, everybody gets the same show.

Preacher: How did you get into playing the fiddle and why the fiddle?

Charlie: I started on the Mandoline and guitar, and one day someone had a fiddle and I asked to give it a try. As they say, the rest is history.

Preacher: Your music is different song to song. Uneasy rider, Boogie Woogie Fiddle, Long Haired Country Boy. What is your inspiration for your music?

Charlie: It's usually something someone says, a phrase that sticks in your mind, like "Devil went Down to Georgia", something that catches. One night I was sitting in the kitchen playing my guitar and my Wife was cooking I had this idea about leave this "Long Haired Country Boy" as an example. Uneasy rider- I was



playing in the Louisiana and there was a group of hippies from San Fransisco. They were worried about there safety being in the south.

Preacher: Congratulations on 50 years in the business! How do you attribute your success over the years?

Charlie: Revelation of Gods Love and the interest and energy to my music, It's my life, it's what I am. and what I've become. Wouldn't trade places with anyone. No other musician, politician or anybody. It's my thing.

Preacher: What is your advice to the young people of today?

Charlie: One of the worst or best things is peer pressure. Don't be vulnerable. Enjoy what you do. Be an individual and do what it takes to march ahead of the crowd. Don't do what everybody else does. Work a little harder in sports or something and decide what you want to be. Find a job that you can really look forward to every morning.

Preacher: Do you find music is a good out for kids?

Charlie: I do believe that. I was not a natural musician. I had to work hard at it. While other kids were out to the movies, I was home practicing my guitar or sawing on a fiddle.

Preacher: Have you ever ridden in the past?

Charlie: I had a Honda dirt bike when I was a teenager. But I am not very good working on machinery. I am not an athlete. I had a good time on it, but I figured I'd better quit while I was ahead before I got a broken arm or lost a finger.

Preacher: You are a true patriot and Veteran supporter. Why?

Charlie: I am not a veteran, but during World War II, I was 4 or 5 years old and we'd listen to the casualty list on the radio. With the bond drives and collections of things from nylons to cooking grease, tin cans to newspapers, we helped out the war effort however we could. All the like minded people that were concerned about the sons and daughters that were risking their lives for our freedom pitched in. They are there protecting our way of life. With Japan bombing our island and the Germans trying to take over the world, we needed to stop them anyway we could. That's were I come from and that's how I feel. The loyalty and gratitude for anyone who is serving or has served in the military.

At the end of the interview I told Charlie Daniels to "keep on doing Dude". (I can't believe I said that) And it was over. We did attend the show that afternoon at Country Thunder. My wife got a chance to thank him in person for my interview and was told, "You're welcome Darling." She was feeling pretty good after that! He then shot off the national Guard cannon and headed to the stage for his show.

All in all I had a great time and look forward to seeing Charlie Daniels in concerts for years to come. He may be 71 but has the energy of a much younger showman.



Charlie Daniels talking to some of our National Guard

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