



HARRY HARPOON

“Money equals distance to me.”

Marv: It was my pleasure to interview Harry Harpoon at Gold Rush 2010 in Buena Vista, Colorado. Harry is an exceptional Blues guitarist, singer, and harmonica player. Harry has performed all over the world.

Marv: Welcome to Gold Rush 2010. Harry, you are a fantastic entertainer but that’s not all; you’re also a mountain man dressed in buckskins, moccasins, a medicine pouch, a gourd canteen and a possibles bag. This man is decked out folks.

Marv: Harry, I don’t you...you don’t know me be we love the west. Harry, tell us about you.

Harry: Wow, these little machines actually work. I’ve been in the mountains so long I’ve forgotten about technology. Anyways, this is my first time at Gold Rush Days but I’ve been signing for forty some years and I haven’t played all around the world but that is one of my goals. I love to sign and play and I love to be entertained and there is some fantastic music at Gold Rush Days. I’m meeting a lot of people, as I go down the road. People come up to me all the time and say, “Well, I used to play.” Personally, I cannot imagine not playing. I don’t wright as much as I use to. I would wright five songs a day now it’s lucky if it’s five a year. I try to make ‘em count. The first song I did today was a tune by Utah Phillips, a dear friend, who passed away last year, May 23rd, 2009. That song is on my album, “Fish or Cut Bait.” You know, I am only fifty eight but people are telling me I’m an old timer. Yep, I’ve been at it a long time. I’ve had the great fortune to play with the finest writers, singers and players on the planet. ...I swear I’ve heard your name before. No kindin’.

Harry: I’m kind of an “Old Foggy.” I like to play acoustic guitar and electric. I play at weddings, wakes, funerals, brothels...

Marv: Bar Mitzvahs

Harry: Bar Mitzvahs, hey, I’ve carried the Ark. Boy, you name it, I’ve either done it or I’ll do ‘er.

Marv: Where are you from originally?

Harry: Born in Whittier, California. I've lived all over the country and different places around the world. Money equals distance to me. It's like...you got some money, you can travel. I love to fish. Pretty much crazy for fishing and tying flies since the time I started playing harmonica, which was at the age of three. My Grandpa played all kinds of instruments and with some pretty famous people. So, I guess it runs in the family.

Marv: You must have some special feeling for the mountains, considering your dress.

Harry: Well, I am torn between the mountains and the sea. When I'm not in the mountains I'm out to sea, working on a fishing boat. I'm also working on completing a master's program. That's another life entirely. I love the desert. I love the country side, as it said in the song, "I'm just along for the ride."

Marv: Harry, your style of guitar playing is similar to a fellow I heard at Cedaredge, Colorado, at their Apple Fest. He represented Martin Guitar.

Harry: WOW, that's quite a complement. Well, I bought this National guitar from David Starr at Cedaredge. He's a dear friend of mine. I guess it's a small world.

Harry: Thanks again for the complement but I really consider myself a harmonica player. If you caught my last song, that's my main instrument.

Marv: Shenandoah. It was very touching. I find it interesting that music as well as words can invoke such strong feelings in us.

Harry: Well, I'll tell you what, it could even be the National Anthem.

Marv: Harry, do you have an affinity for Native Americans?

Harry: I have a lot of Cherokee blood in me, on both sides.

Marv: ...even though you were born on the west coast.

Harry: My uncle Jess was on the tribal council and would go back to Oklahoma once a year. I was raised to live and take care of myself in the woods. We would spend every moment we could as far out of Los Angeles as possible. When I went to school at Billings, Montana, I would go to people at rendezvous and ask about their ancestry. The majority of people at rendezvous had some Native blood.

Marv: Sorry, I didn't mean to digress from your music.

Harry: No...no...no, it's all good.

Marv: Harry, I know this was your first time at Gold Rush Days, but I sure hope you come back. You have to take in the Burro Race tomorrow morning.

Harry: What time?

Marv: I think it's around 10:30AM, but hey, stay up, have fun and take it in.

Harry: ...As I am want to do! Hey...to be continued!

Marv: Thanks so much Harry Harpoon, it was my distinct pleasure.