

Vesta Johnson



Amy Skillman photo

Vesta’s “Blue Flame” is a version of the tune recorded by Jesse Ashlock, one of the influential swing fiddlers with Bob Wills and the Texas Playboys in the 1930s and 1940s. A transcription of Ashlock’s version appears in Stacy Phillips, *Traditional American Fiddle Tunes, Volume 1* (Mel Bay, 1994, p. 30), and, as played by Oklahoma contest champion Herman Johnson, in Jeanine R. Orme, *Herman Johnson: Master Fiddler* (Mel Bay, 1999, pp. 92-93). [Howard Marshall, April 2008]

### 8. Walking In My Sleep (Key of G)

A commonly played tune in Missouri. Many violinists attribute the tune to the early recordings of the Nashville fiddle great, Arthur Smith. More recently, it has become popular on the bluegrass music circuit courtesy of the fiddler Kenny Baker.

### Gene Goforth

*Accompanists: Bob Black (Iowa City, Iowa), five-string banjo; Alan Murphy (Iowa City), guitar*  
*Recorded by Howard Marshall and Margot Ford McMillen, November 20, 1987*

*Location: Holiday Inn guest room during the annual Land of Mark Twain Fiddle Championships, Hannibal*

### 9. Dusty Miller (Key of A)

Announced by Goforth as “the old way” of playing “Dusty Miller.” He learned this tune from his father, Richard “Dink” Goforth in Shannon County. The tune is difficult and was widely heard on radio broadcasts. Goforth, like many other fiddlers, complains that the bluegrass musicians have forced the old tunes that have uneven personalities into the very tight bluegrass mold, to the detriment of old-style fiddling.

## SAIL AWAY LADIES

as played by Gene Goforth  
mm 112

Charlie Walden transcription