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After that performance. Bill took me down. I didn't think he was ever going to let me hit the floor, he just hugged and squeezed me that much. The performance really went over well. I've said many times, if it wasn't for Bill Lamey, I wouldn't be playing today. As we go along, I'll explain why. Or maybe it might be self-explanatory. (Tell me why.) Okay. As a kid, playing home, there was no incentive to really learn or go on any further. There was an invitation at one point to come play at a dance. Bill saw me at one of the dances--I was only a young fellow. I can't remember whether he asked for me to go, or we just ended up going to the dance. And Bill asked if--I think the first time was, would I play, like, on exhibition, at the dance. It went from that to playing the last figure of a square set. And eventually I played for the whole three figures of a square set. And with the encouragement and the incentive at--I guess you'd consider it the worst time possible in a young fellow's life--age of 14. Everything else seemed to be more important than the violin, and he was the fellow that kept poking at me, giving me the incentive to continue on with it. Giving me the--more or less--job of playing one figure of a square set, or, as it progressed, playing the full sets. It was really good to have that kind of a push. The compliments as well as the encouragement from him were what it took, and what I needed at the time to keep it up. (You're 14 years old, it's 1969. When you say everything else but the fiddle was important, what do you mean?) Well, I guess-- girls were the biggest thing at that time. Opposite page: Jerry Holland at 12. Above: with his father, who was also Jerry Holland Anything except the fiddle--I guess, is just the easiest way to put it--was the most important. (What kind of plans did you have for yourself?) Well, at that point, other than wanting to come here, I didn't have much, at that point, as far as a view of what I wanted to do, other than--I figured at that time possibly car mechanic! Which wasn't quite what I think and feel and do today-- although I do mechanic work and carpentry. Those were two of the things that I had possible thoughts on following up as a career. Not thinking that this would have developed into what it has, as far as the music portion of my life has been. Again, with his encouragement and the incentives that he had given me in playing, in stages. I think that's where I have to thank him for that. It kept my interest enough to continue on, and learn more and learn different tunes and so on, to where I had a repertoire, that I wasn't afraid to

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