

# THE ASH STREET



# RAMBLERS

Bluegrass & Country Gospel



## The band members are in order from left to right...

**Gary Meyer**—Gary is the 5-string banjo player in the group. He first started playing the banjo over 40 years ago while on a special 1-4 year government-sponsored self-improvement “Scholarship” at San Quentin State. A “closet” banjo picker and bluegrass devotee for most of his life, he came out of the closet in 2001 when he joined the Ash Street Ramblers. Gary resides in Vista, California.

**Gary Pay**—Gary has been playing mandolin for 30 years. He is currently playing an F-5 mandolin that he constructed in 1982. The mandolin is another annoying instrument that cannot be tuned. It’s strong point is that it is small and it is hard for the wife to count how many he owns. He is a founding member and has been playing and singing lead vocals with The Ash Street Ramblers since 2000. Gary resides in Valley Center, California.

**Jay Fromlath**—Jay plays base for The Ramblers and also pitches in on harmony and lead vocals. His vocal career began in high school when he joined the chorus for an easy “A” and the opportunity to sit by pretty girls. Then after a 28-year lull, he began his stint as a musician starting first with the guitar in 1998, and later beginning to learn the art of bass when Gary Pay found a fretted bass in a dumpster. He is currently playing a 3/4 double-bass. Jay is a founding member of The Ash Street Ramblers and resides in Escondido, California.

**Ken “Smiley” Simon**—Ken plays the rhythm 12-string guitar and sings background vocal and harmony. He flunked guitar restringing at the Sheboygan Musical Conservatory and was asked to never return. He started playing seriously about 30 years ago and has for the past 10 years played locally for churches and civic functions in duets and trios. Ken is one of the founding members of the Ramblers and lives in Valley Center, California.

**Ves Brown**—Ves is the “old man” and the harmonica player for the group. In 1938 he saw Bob Wills & the Texas Playboys perform on the bed of a flatbed pick-up truck after a sandstorm. From that time on he has been very interested in music of all kinds; playing trombone in junior high and folk guitar in the sixties. Ves didn’t start playing harmonica until retirement in 1988. He played with the Good-Time Gospel Gang for a couple of years and then joined The Ash Street Ramblers in 2001. Ves lives in Valley Center, California.

**Wyatt “Wylie Coot” Troxel**—Wyatt plays the lead and rhythm 6-string flatpick guitar. A versatile picker for over 40 years, he has been recognized several times as a Regional Fingerpicking Champion and in a prior life, won the National Fingerpicking Championship in Nashville. Although now holding a regular job, he has been a studio musician for commercial work and has backed up country and pop singers such as Barbara Mandrel and Linda Ronstadt. He has also played for several un-notable but otherwise fun groups. Wyatt also plays the resophonic guitar (a.k.a. the Hubcap) and the autoharp. He fingerpicks and strums the autoharp, an odd looking, delicate sounding, old-time instrument that can’t be heard over the banjo; so it also doubles as the group’s cheese slicer during practice sessions. Wyatt splits his time between Rancho Cucamonga and Truckee, California.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT JAY FROMLATH @ 760-745-2055.**