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— Danny James, Sounds of Yesterday

# Music for the ages



The Republic photos by Andy Heidt

**Sounds of Yesterday**, a senior band specializing in country, bluegrass and gospel, consists of Danny James (clockwise from above), Keith Thompson, Art Burton, Marge Fitzpatrick and Norman Handt.

**WHAT:** Sounds of Yesterday, a senior band specializing in country, bluegrass and gospel.

**WHO:** Band members are Art Burton, Marge Fitzpatrick, Norman Handt, Danny James, Keith Thompson and part-timers Ken Christopher and Arnold Ellison.

**WHERE:** The group performs at senior centers, fairs, dances, hog roasts, family reunions, special events and private parties.

**INFORMATION:** 372-7683 or send e-mail to dannyjames@borean-bible.net

## Seniors citizens jam for audience, fun

**By Maria Miller**  
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On Monday afternoons, Danny James' cozy basement becomes the Sounds of Yesterday's pickin' place.

Band members make sure to avoid the word practice.

"Once a week, we jam," James said.

"Practice is too much work."

The five-member group, which formed approximately three years ago, has gained a following by performing at senior centers, fairs, dances, hog roasts, family reunions and private parties.

Band members, ranging in age from 64 to 73, started out playing the songs they like and soon discovered their favorite country, bluegrass and gospel tunes are a big hit with older audiences.

"These particular songs were popular in our younger days," James said. "You don't hear that music nowadays."

"We like the old country," added band member Keith Thompson.

James and Thompson began playing for pleasure about a decade ago then gradually invited friends to join them.

"We never intended to go any further than the two of us pickin' once a week," James said. "We have fun at what we do."

The band's regular members include James, Thompson, Norman Handt and Art Burton, all from Columbus, and Marge Fitzpatrick of Scipio. Fiddler Ken Christopher and banjo player Arnold Ellison occasionally play with the group.

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## 2004-02-28 Keith Thompson Band

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