



Will Bolfa

Will Bolfa was born October 30, 1917, to Charles and Amy Bolfa. He was the oldest of nine children, 6 boys and 3 girls. He was raised on a small farm in the community of Grand Louis located five miles west of Mamou, Louisiana.

In 1936 Will married Euna Fontenot. He and Euna had two children, Mary Jane and James Davis Bolfa. Will raised his family in the same community he was born in, Grand Louis, and he lived his entire life there until his death in 1979.

At the age of 10 or 11 he began to play the fiddle. He learned from his father, Charles, who learned from his father. His first fiddle was made from a cigar box, however, he soon earned enough money to buy himself a new fiddle which is still in his family today. He and his brothers enjoyed playing music and would entertain the locals by playing house dances in the community. In 1948 he and his brothers, Dewey and Harry, formed a band, "Dewey Balfa and his Musical Brothers." Later Rodney joined the band which became known around the world as "The Balfa Brothers."

Will was a man of many trades. He was a musician, farmer, carpenter, heavy machine operator, and could fix and restore anything around the house. He never completed the first grade yet he entertained people on college campuses and played for dignitaries. He never did any of these things to be remembered and yet he is remembered for all that he was and did.

Will played second fiddle mostly but he also wrote songs and sang and played first fiddle on a few songs as follows: "*La Valse De Balfa*," "My Old Wagon," "Think of Me," "*La Valse de Port Author*," and "*Les Blues de Cajun*." In addition to the songs he sang, he also performed on many albums along with his brothers, these are:

Balfa Brothers, "*J'ai Vu Le Loupe, le Renard e La Belette,*" "*Lache pas la Patate,*"
"The Balfa Brothers Play More Traditional Music," "The Balfa Brothers' New York
Concert."

On February 6, 1979, at age of 60, Will was killed in a tragic car accident in Bunkie,
Louisiana along with his brother, Rodney.