

About the Artist *Tim White*



Photo Credit: Susi Lawson Photography 2014

“ Gladly accepting the invitation to be involved with the ‘Copperhead Road’ project was a no-brainer for me. When I’m not picking, singing, or hosting ‘Song of the Mountains’, you can find me painting murals and signs.

But being commissioned to hand-paint a mural on a vintage 1949 Dodge with those iconic suicide doors? Talk about a dream come true for an old-school sign guy! This project was a learning experience I won’t forget. Turns out Steve Earle’s ‘Copperhead Road’ is deeply connected to our own Johnson County! It’s the type of work I love to do, and I know people will come here to experience a very unique part of our beloved region.

”
Thanks to everyone who made this happen.

Tim White

*Tim White Sign Company
Executive Coordinator - Song of the Mountains*

Moonshine Legend

The history of moonshine is as old as the history of East Tennessee itself. As Scottish settlers made their way to our mountain valleys in the mid-1700s, they brought with them their culture and traditions, which included their practice of distilling whiskey. While the skill originated in the old country, the term “moonshine” finds its roots in the clandestine nighttime operations conducted under the cover of the moon. For early mountaineers, moonshining wasn't merely a pastime or a source of supplemental income; for local farmers, they could turn their corn crop into profitable whiskey to help them survive a bad year.

Generations of moonshiners faced off against the federal government in a long-running battle. By the 1920s, the temperance movement was gaining traction and, despite its moonshine origins, Tennessee was one of the earlier states to adopt prohibition laws. This turn of events proved to be a boon for moonshiners as the demand for their product skyrocketed. Suddenly, mass-produced, cheap moonshine became a highly sought-after commodity. Making moonshine was the easy part; getting it to their customers was another matter.

As mechanics invented ways of souping up engines and modifying cars to transport their product, whiskey runners acquired extreme driving skills that would help them make a living and stay out of jail. In their free time, they would race against each other, and these races

eventually evolved into stock car racing and NASCAR. While moonshine is now legal to produce in many states for commercial consumption - unlike beer and wine - it is still illegal to brew at home. Despite the hefty taxes, the legal moonshine industry continues to flourish and this centuries-old legacy brings visitors to our area from around the world.



Gerald Mutter, Mountain City Police Department
Karl Madron Johnson County Sheriff
1928-1940, 1948-1954, 1960-1964



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