

CONTACT:

Will Meyer

Museum of Appalachia

P.O. Box 1189, Norris, TN 37828

Phone: 865-494-7680

E-mail: willmeyer@museumofappalachia.org

April 17, 2025

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Museum of Appalachia Celebrates East Tennessee's Rich Music History with
New Exhibit**

NORRIS, Tenn.— The Museum of Appalachia is set to unveil a new exhibit on April 25th that celebrates the vibrant history of East Tennessee's musical roots and radio heritage. The exhibit brings to life one of the region's most beloved radio variety shows, the *Mid-Day Merry-Go-Round*, which aired from 1936 to 1961 on WNOX, East Tennessee's first radio station. At the heart of the exhibit is archival audio from a once "lost" 1938 *Mid-Day Merry-Go-Round* program--the only early program recording known to exist today.

The *Mid-Day Merry-Go-Round* captivated Southern Appalachia with a blend of hillbilly music, gospel, comedy acts, and even jazz—capturing the voices and sounds of a bygone era. “This exhibit offers an immersive journey into East Tennessee's musical past, a time when families would gather around the radio to listen to homegrown talent that helped define Appalachian music,” says Museum President Lindsey Gallaher. The exhibit aims to not only preserve but also rekindle appreciation for the region's cultural soundscape and its contribution to Appalachian roots music.

The Mid-Day Merry-Go-Round exhibit was made possible thanks to generous grant support from the Norris Area Community Foundation. In appreciation of their commitment to the community, the Museum is offering half-price admission on April 25th to Anderson County residents.

Exhibit audio was provided to the Museum by *Tennessee Archive of Moving Image and Sound* and Bradley Reeves of *Smoky Mountain Radio and Archives*.

The Museum of Appalachia, a Smithsonian-Affiliate, is located 16 miles north of Knoxville, one mile east of I-75, at Exit 122.
