

ality through his connection with the now famous "Arkansaw Traveler" colloquy. It cannot be definitely established that he actually originated the dialogue, and his authorship has been frequently disputed. Many others have been credited with the authorship of it or almost identical pieces, but Arkansans generally give the honor unquestionably to Faulkner.

During the political campaign of 1840, Faulkner toured the state with A. H. Sevier, Archibald Yell, Chester Ashley and William S. Fulton. Some authorities say that the incident occurred on the Illinois Bayou near Russellville. Others say it was in the backwoods region of the Bayou Mason country in Chicot county that the party lost its way and happened upon the dilapidated shack of a squatter. Goodspeed, in describing Faulkner's personality, wrote, "He was born to encounter just such a character as he did chance to find, playing on a three-stringed fiddle, the first part of a particular tune, the last part of which he longed to hear."

As spokesman for his party, Sandy Faulkner quizzed the man, who showed no inclination towards hospitality. Faulkner's native wit, which had opened the hearts of all he met, was no weapon against the churlishness of the squatter. But his mastery of the violin succeeded where his personal magnetism had failed. Taking the battered old fiddle, he played the rest of the tune that so intrigued the backwoodsman, and charmed the man into an elaborate display of friendliness, which included giving Faulkner the only dry spot in the kitchen, feed for his horse, and a turn at the whiskey jug.

Returning to Little Rock, Faulkner attended a banquet at the Anthony House bar-room on Markham street, where he told his story gleefully for the first time in public. In the words of Goodspeed, "After meeting this rare character in the woods, Faulkner was able to carry a rare treat to his admirers in the village and settlements....His zest in the ludicrous, his keen wit and his inimitable acting, especially his power of mimicry and his mastery of the violin, enabled him to offer his associates an entertainment never surpassed, either on or off the mimic stage."

The dialogue, with its violin accompaniment, captured the fancy of the people and soon became quite famous. Everywhere Faulkner went, he was asked to perform----and being of a convivial nature, he always obliged, usually accompanying himself on the violin. Even as far away as New Orleans, he recited his conversation with the squatter. This was done at a banquet, at the request of the governor of Louisiana. The success of his performance is testified to by the fact that the St. Charles hotel placed a plaque engraved "Arkansaw Traveler" over the door of his room.

In spite of the merriment surrounding the episode of the Arkansaw Traveler, trouble had caught up with the carefree Sandy Faulkner. Financial worries had hovered over him for some time, and he had literally fiddled while Rome burned.

But the first major disaster which came to him was the death of two of his children, which occurred only a week apart. The Arkansas State Gazette of September 8, 1841, carried this