In an age of iPods, internet radio, home theaters and Netflix, it's hard to imagine what people did for entertainment a century ago.

Some were lucky enough to have a Victrola phonograph, and later a radio, but often young people had to get creative with some good old-fashioned, toe-tappin' fun.

"They just had a good time," said Virginia Mosenteen, recalling her parents' stories from the 1930s.

Music was often part of an evening's entertainment, as friends would get together with their instruments to pass the time—a "jam session" of sorts.

Mosenteen said her dad, Oliver Anderson, played the trumpet and sax when he was a boy in the school bands, and later played around with things like the violin and banjo during the neighborhood jam sessions.

Phillips County Museum is lucky to have Oliver Anderson's ukulele banjo in their music

collection, donated by Anderson's daughter, Virginia Mosenteen. Faint writing on top of the instrument lists names of band members in the "Trego Orchestra," a group of friends from the Fairfield community in the 1930s.

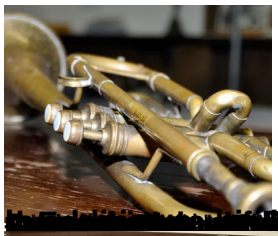
—Enterprise photo

It was never an official band, she said, but rather an informal hobby for the young people in the area. They didn't travel much back then, so getting together at a neighbor's house was the highlight of the week.

Anderson grew up in a farm family in the rural Fairfield area, northwest of Holyoke. This primarily Swedish community had many young, single people in the 1930s, so there was much opportunity for them to get together, with their musical instruments in tow.

Mosenteen's mom, Dorothy, was another young person who moved there to teach at the Fairfield school.

"How unusual to have that many young people!" said Mosenteen. "They just ran around and had a lot of fun."

On rare occasions, the group would head down the highway for some roller skating or a picnic, with the guys providing the cars and gas in exchange for a picnic meal prepared by the girls.

Mosenteen said the Fairfield community was very religious, so although they played music, their entertainment never involved any dancing or card playing.