

THE BACON
PROFESSIONAL
BANJO



THE BACON MANUFACTURING CO.

FOREST DALE, VERMONT



FOR THE IDENTIFICATION AND DATING
OF
VINTAGE GUITARS, MANDOLINS AND BANJOS
CATALOGS FROM THE COLLECTION OF GEORGE YOUNGBLOOD

These are scans of catalogs originally distributed to the public to describe the manufacturer's products available for sale at one point in time.

The intended use for these catalogs is historical research: vintage instrument identification and dating.

These catalogs are not offered here for sale or re-sale – They are only for the academic purpose of instrument identification, research and historical context. Please respect their use and do not reproduce, copy or distribute this information for any other purpose.

It is important to note that instrument catalogs are not always accurate in their descriptions of

instrument specifications or the images used. While product improvements were constantly being made; catalogs often used older existing drawings, etchings or photographs. In some cases instruments were offered in catalogs that had been discontinued for years. For these reasons, catalogs can only be used as general guides for the dating and identification of vintage instruments.

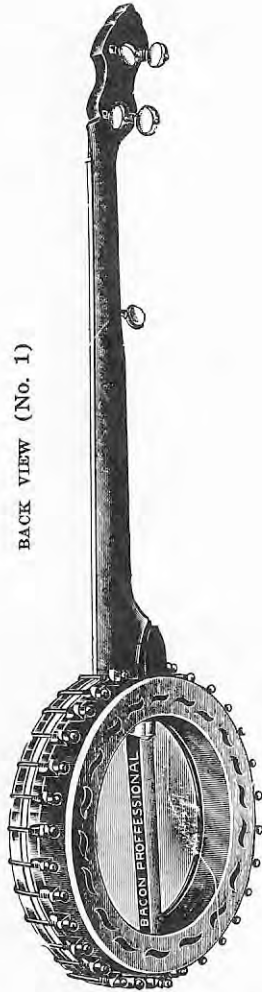
If you are having trouble with some of the instruments details, we may be able to help. Feel free to contact us at:

ACOUSTICMUSIC.ORG:
<http://www.AcousticMusic.Org>

A FEW SPECIAL FEATURES OF THE BACON PROFESSIONAL BANJOS

- 1st. Perfect adjustment, making easy action.
- 2nd. All Rims made of selected Vermont Maple THOROUGHLY seasoned.
- 3rd. Heads—Best quality and of even thickness.
- 4th. Made by skilled workmen, and ALL instruments PERSONALLY tested by Mr. Bacon.
- 5th. Has a most MUSICAL quality of tone—almost "Fluty."
- 6th. Patent annular sounding chamber (hollow) and bell flange top, over which head is drawn, makes the vibration almost TWICE as long as any other banjo made.
- 7th. Most magnificently finished.

BACK VIEW (No. 1)



Bacon Professional

No. 1. (3 octaves)

Price \$40.00

Neck made of selected cherry, (dark mahogany finish) or rock maple; finished natural.

Ebonized maple fingerboard, inlaid with pearl position marks. Fingerboard bound with white celluloid; the frets being inside of binding.

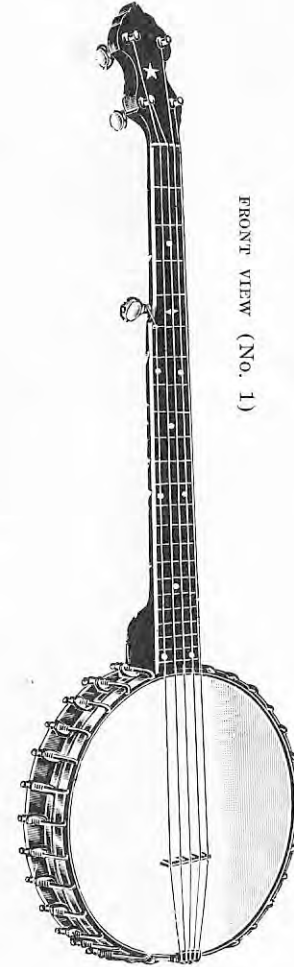
Rim is made of rock maple, built up of four $\frac{1}{8}$ " layers—highly polished; bound with white celluloid, if finished mahogany; and inlaid marquetry if finished in the natural white maple.

Bottom of sounding chamber is made of three layers of $\frac{1}{16}$ in. rock maple.

Best Rogers XXX white head, "Universal" patent non-slipping keys, "No-Knot" tailpiece.

Made in two sizes— $10\frac{3}{4}$ and 11 in. Rim.

FRONT VIEW (No. 1)



“Bacon Professional” No. 2

(3 octaves)

Price \$55.00

THE BACON PROFESSIONAL BANJO No. 2 has a number of new features this season, and is positively the best banjo made for the money.

The rim is made of four layers of $\frac{1}{8}$ in. well seasoned rock maple, with nickel-plated bell flange, over which head is drawn. The bottom of sounding chamber is 3-ply maple veneers and outside edge is bound in handsome inlaid marquetry. The neck is made of selected curly maple with three strips of black and white veneers through center. Best XXX Rogers head and universal patent keys. Handsome pearl design set in peg head, and pearl position marks. This instrument has both a powerful tone and beauty.



New "Bacon Special"

Price \$85.00

This is one of the best selling banjos in our catalog.

Tone is *very* loud, and of fine quality.



Extra heavy rim veneered with handsome curly maple. Bottom of sounding chamber bound on the inside and outer edge with fancy marquetry woods in various colors. Straining hoop made of heavy brass nicked, and notched for hooks of best bessemer steel. Long closed end nuts.

Two piece curly maple neck with fancy colored woods set in back and front of peg head and under the fingerboard. All pearl designs handsomely engraved.

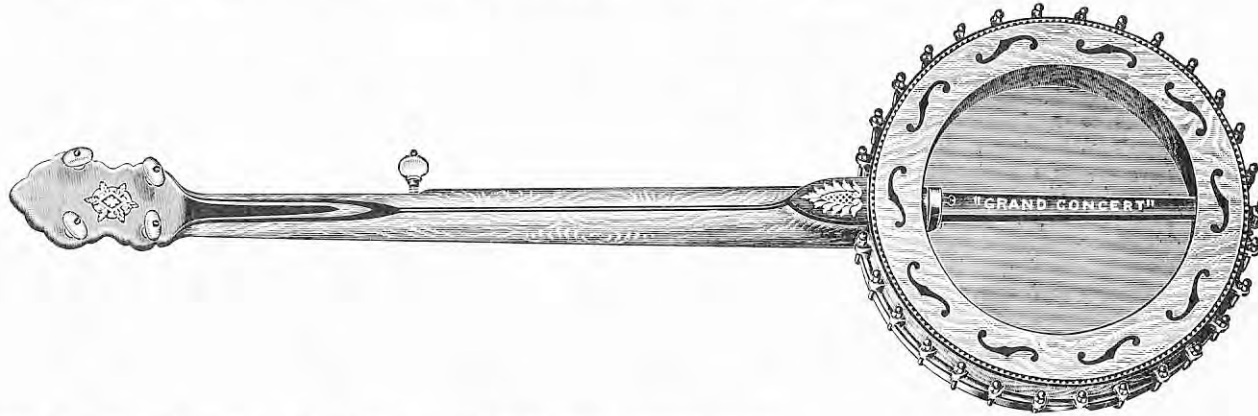
Made in any size from 10 $\frac{3}{4}$ to 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ Rim.

Bacon "Grand Concert"

Price \$100.00

Made expressly for concert playing.

Rich, mellow, powerful tone, with great carrying power. Most beautiful in appearance.



Extra heavy sectional maple rim veneered with pure WHITE HOLLY.

Bottom of sounding chamber made of white rock maple, bound with fancy colored marquetry.

Straining hoop same as "New Special."

The neck is made of choice white holly, with 3 strips of veneering through center. Front of peg head is inlaid with a beautiful floral design of choicest mother of pearl. Pearl keys with gold plated trimmings.

Made in 2 sizes: 11 inch Rim by 19½ Fingerboard; 11½ inch Rim by 20½ Fingerboard.

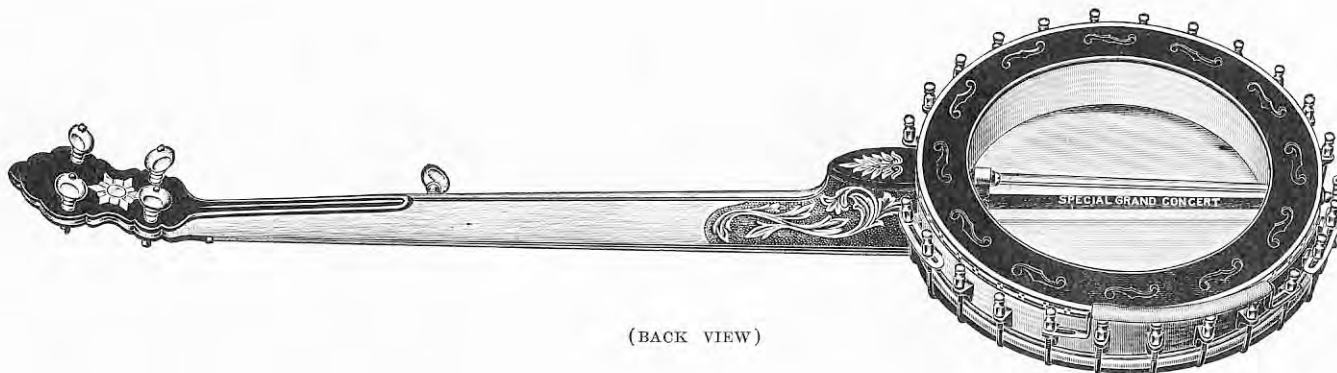
Positioned to suit customer.

N. B. This instrument can be had in curly maple if preferred.

Bacon "Special" Grand Concert

(DeLuxe) Price \$125.00

Positively the finest banjo ever made, both for tone and looks. *A Work of Art.*



(BACK VIEW)

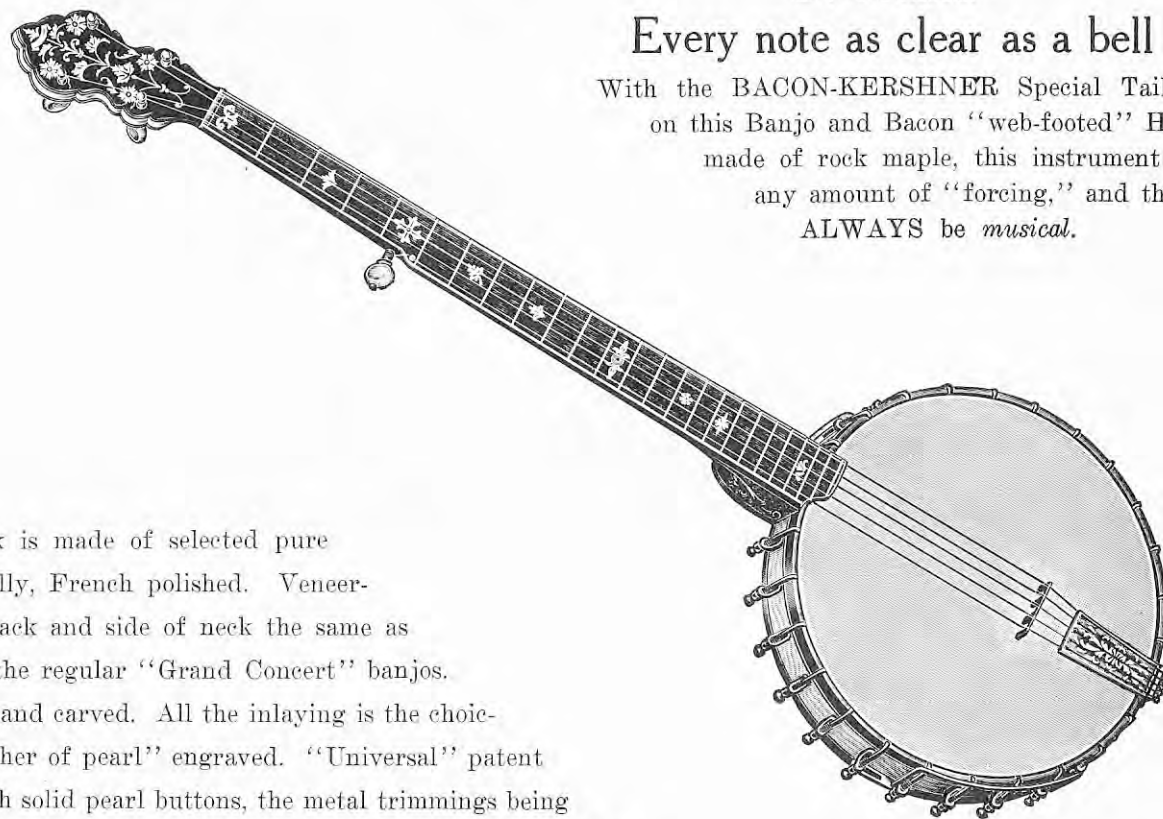
Extra heavy $\frac{5}{8}$ in. Rim. Outside layer a veneering of $\frac{1}{8}$ in. selected white holly. Marquetry on lower edge of rim is a special design of black ebonized holly and white holly checks. Bottom of sounding chamber is made of two thin veneers of rock maple, with $\frac{1}{8}$ in. ebonized black holly bottom, bound on both the inner and outer edge with white celluloid. Straining hoop and hooks and nuts are extra heavy brass, nickel plated.

Front view of "Special" Grand Concert

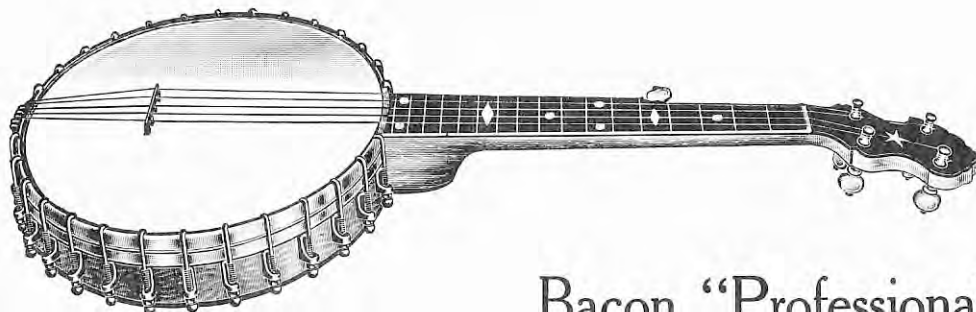
24 FRETS

Every note as clear as a bell

With the BACON-KERSHNER Special Tailpiece used on this Banjo and Bacon "web-footed" High bridge, made of rock maple, this instrument will stand any amount of "forcing," and the tone will ALWAYS be *musical*.



Neck is made of selected pure white holly, French polished. Veneering on back and side of neck the same as used in the regular "Grand Concert" banjos. Heel is hand carved. All the inlaying is the choicest "mother of pearl" engraved. "Universal" patent keys, with solid pearl buttons, the metal trimmings being heavily gold plated. Equipped with Bacon-Goggin Hold-fast ARM REST and Hartnett adjustable TONE-LEVER.



Bacon "Professional" Banjeaurine

Price \$40.00

Finished in natural maple or cherry, 2 piece neck. Bell flange; and sounding chamber the same as all "Bacon Professional" banjos. Used on the Yale University, Harvard, and Union College Banjo Clubs.

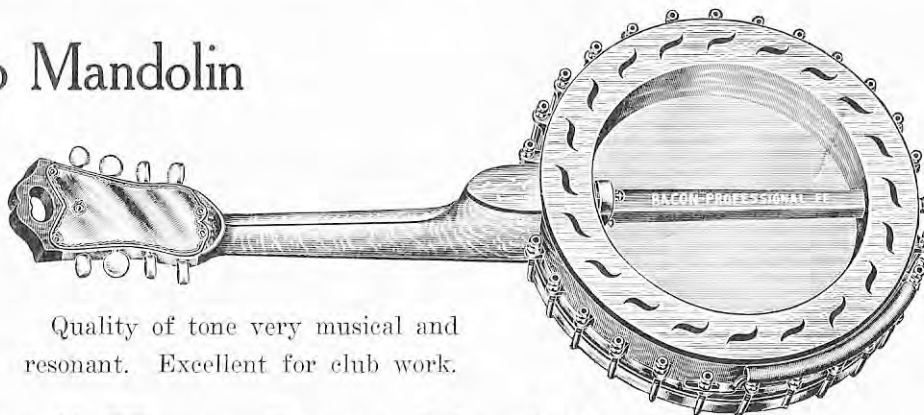
The "Bacon" Banjo Mandolin

Finished in curly or white maple
2 piece neck. Best machine head.

Price \$50.00

Cherry finished, solid, one piece
neck.

Price \$40.00



Quality of tone very musical and
resonant. Excellent for club work.

"Bacon" Tenor Banjo-Mandola

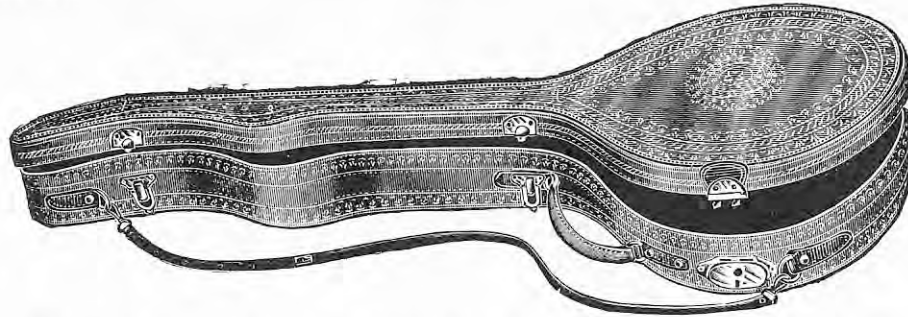
Prices the same as "Bacon" Banjo Mandolins.

Leather Banjo Cases



Black, Russet, Orange or Wine Smooth Grain Leather. Flannel Lined, nicely Embossed, top and bottom Solid Leather.

Price \$7.50



Black, Russet, Orange or Wine SOLE LEATHER, opening whole length, fine lock, patent catches and shoulder strap. VELVET LINED. To order only.

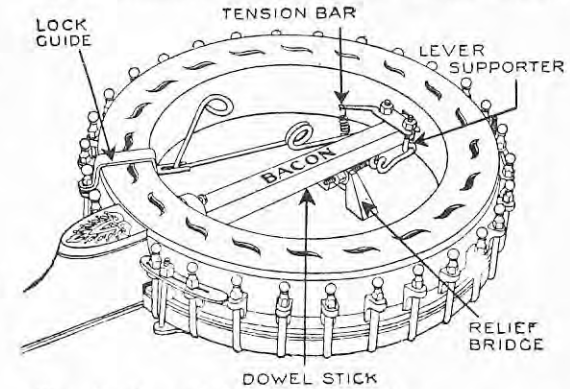
Price \$18.00



Bacon's Famous
"Neverslip" Bridge
Price 10 Cents

The new "Bacon" "Web-footed" banjo bridge, made of rock maple, will neither tip nor slip. Will stand any amount of forcing. Price each, 25c. Special price in dozen lots. This is the best banjo bridge ever offered and we will refund your money if not so. Made in two sizes, $\frac{1}{2}$ in. and $\frac{5}{8}$ in. in height.

The Hartnett Adjustable Tone-Lever

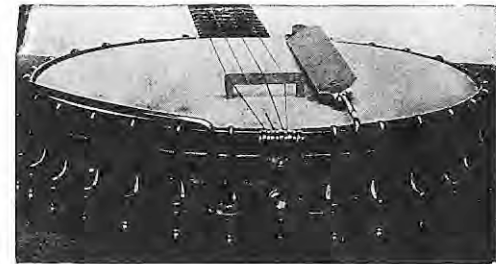


The "soft pedal" of the banjo.

Patented No. 706,381.

Price \$2.00 Each

Hartnett Adjustable Tone-Bar, \$2.00 Each



A Hand Rest for the Banjo.

The "TONE BAR" absorbs the varying pressure of the hand, thus relieving the head and permitting the latter to vibrate to the fullest extent.

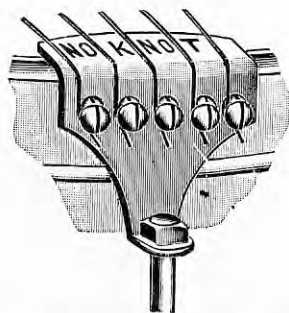
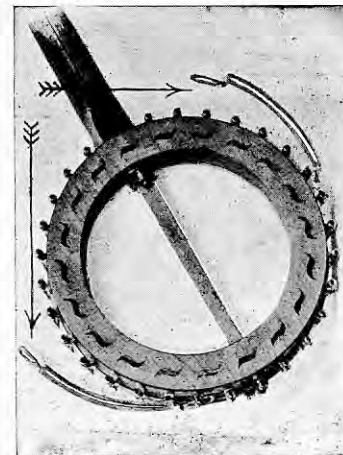


“HOLD FAST”

The Bacon-Goggin Perfection “Hold-Fast”

is one of the most essential attachments ever invented for the banjo. Prevents banjo slipping from knee and wearing the clothes shiny—as well as improves the tone of the instrument. Cannot come in contact with the clothing.

Price 60c Each \$1.00 Per Pair



BACON'S FAMOUS “NO-KNOT” TAILPIECE
35 cents

The celebrated “NEVERFALSE” Gut banjo strings. *Price per bundle of 30 assorted or one kind, \$2.00.*

New rough SONOTONE banjo strings are all guaranteed absolutely true and will outwear any other silk string on the market. *Price per bundle of 30 assorted, \$1.00.*

DE LANO CONCERT FOURTHS, *75 cents per dozen.*

Bacon-Kershner “Special” Banjo Tailpiece

finished plain; nickel plated. *Price each, \$1.00.* Silver plated and engraved, *price \$2.25 net each; with your initial, \$2.50.* The B.-K. special banjo tailpiece is the invention of Mr. B. V. Kershner of St. Louis, Mo., and will improve the tone of any banjo 25%.

For illustration of tailpiece see cut of Special Grand Concert Banjo on page 7.

The Best in the Profession "Bacon" Banjo is Best

PLEASE NOTE DATES

PATERSON, N. J., May 1, 1913.

"Your Grand Concert banjo is the BEST banjo I have ever had, and I have had almost every known make of banjo in my 40 years' experience as a player. The tone is simply grand."

STEPHEN SHEPARD, (Agent).

WILKES-BARRE, PA., June 7, 1913.

"Beats anything ever made. All my pupils who have tried your Grand Concert say the same."

D. ACKER, (Agent).

MARSHALLVILLE, OHIO, June 3, 1913.

"Second New Special received. It has them ALL beat for tone, finish and ease of playing."

E. E. KRITES, (Agent).

EMPORIA, KAS., June 5, 1913.

"Grand Concert received. I am like a 'kid with a new toy.' I don't know how to express my satisfaction, for it is wonderful in volume, completely fills the auditorium at the college."

FRANK A. WEBB.

ROCHESTER, N. Y., 161 Grand Ave.,
March 17, 1913.

Dear Mr. Bacon:—The "Special Grand Concert" banjo you sent me on trial is a dream for looks, and as sweet as a harp. TONE EXCELLENT. You have got my SEVEN most prominent makes badly beaten in every way—LOOKS, TONE and carrying power. Keep the "Bacon" banjo going on trial and they will stick as mine did and never go back.

Yours truly,

JOSEPH S. BRUNETT.

DETROIT, MICH., Studios 511 Gladwin Bldg.,

April 17, 1913.

We consider the "Bacon New Special" banjo the most perfect banjo on the market. Its sustained tone, together with the volume and snappy quality makes it most desirable to both professional and amateur.

Very truly,

HENRY HAUG,
MRS. J. F. MCQUILLEN.

Mr. Willard A. Roberts of No. 123 Boulevard, Hartford, Ct., writes under date of February 26, 1913:

"The 'Grand Concert' received Saturday, the 22nd. You have certainly sent me a beautiful instrument, not only in appearance, but in tone quality, the latter exceeding my expectation. I also wish to thank you for the several attachments which you added.

"I have sold my ———, and your banjos will certainly be recommended by me whenever the opportunity presents itself.

"Again thanking you for sending me such a splendid instrument, I am
Very truly yours,"

E. F. Goggin, —soloist—composer and director of the Union College Musical Club, Schenectady, N. Y., says: "I have tried them all, but yours has them all 'skinned' every way!"

Mr. Goggin plays on a "Special Grand Concert."

D. E. Hartnett, New York City, inventor of the Hartnett adjustable Tone-Bar, Tone-Lever and "Developer system," says: "The tone of the 'Bacon' Banjo is most satisfying to the PARTICULAR banjoist, and it is no wonder that so many of our best players now use a 'Bacon' banjo. An old pupil of mine, and a good banjoist, after trying out your banjo with three other leading makes, enthusiastically exclaimed—'The Bacon beats 'em all!'"

Mr. Hartnett is now using a "Bacon Grand Concert."

PORTLAND MAINE, June 20, 1912.

Dear Mr. Bacon: You certainly have the best yet in banjos. Have played all of the leading makes but the "Bacon" passes them all. You have my best wishes.

Most sincerely,
S. A. THOMPSON, Y. M. C. A. Bldg.,
(Composer and Soloist).

C. S. De Lano—soloist, composer and inventor of the famous "Sonatone" string, says: "My entire class now play on BACON banjos, and there is positively no banjo I have ever tried which equals them."

Mr. De Lano has both a "Special" and "Grand Concert."

Geo. C. Krick, Germantown, Pa., noted guitar soloist and teacher of the three instruments, says: "After playing the 'Bacon' banjo under every condition I believe it is the best of any. Its resonant, powerful tones are superior to any I have ever heard." (Mr. Krick owns a Special Grand Concert.)

Mr. B. V. Kershner, soloist and composer, says, under date of Aug. 24th, 1913: "The Special 'Grand Concert' Bacon banjo has any thing beat I ever heard for tone. The workmanship is perfect. You have the privilege to use my name at any and all times, and you can rest assured I will make the banjo players sit up and take notice, when they see and hear this banjo."

Master Frank C. Bradbury, Phenomenal Boy banjoist, says, under date of Aug. 1st, 1913, Springfield, Vt.: Dear Mr. Bacon. "Received the new 11½ 'Special' and 'Grand Concert' De Luxe a few days ago, and I must say these two excel my 'Bacon' No. 3, which my father gave me two years ago, and I thought this was the best banjo in the world. You are certainly giving the banjo fraternity a most wonderful instrument."

J. J. Derwin, famous as banjo soloist and composer, says: "Your banjos are the best I have yet used—great carrying power." Mr. Derwin uses a "Bacon" New Special.

MINNEAPOLIS, MINN., Sept. 1, 1913.

F. J. Bacon, Forest Dale, Vt.:

My dear Sir.—Replying to your recent favor requesting some expression from me regarding the 11½ "Grand Concert" banjo, would say, I am very much pleased with it.

My observations lead me to believe that it is the greatest tone sustaining banjo I have ever used, and it is extremely sensitive to the touch.

Your banjo has the big, round, full tone so many others lack. It is the ARTIST'S instrument. A trial will convince the skeptical.

Very truly yours,

BURT J. CLARK.

Other such noted teachers and performers are playing the "Bacon" banjo at the present time and claim it superior to all others: Mrs. Rose Fritz Rogers, Syracuse, N. Y.; J. R. Simson, Tonawanda, N. Y.; Elmer E. Perrin, Kansas City, Mo.; Willis B. Ray, St. Paul, Minn.; L. C. Cornell, Jamaica, N. Y.; Miss Bessie Dean, Scranton, Pa.; F. M. Ewing, Williamsport, Pa.; Harry M. Gill, Passaic, N. J.; Myron A. Bickford, 604 The Arcade, Cleveland, O.; W. D. Moyer, Harrisburg, Pa.; J. Worth Allen, Oskaloosa, Ia.; Chas. H. Vrooman, Albany, N. Y.; Ira M. Wasson, St. Louis, Mo.; J. P. Landon, New Britain, Ct.; Fred L. Turner, Pittsburg, Pa.; J. B. Corbett, Chicago, Ill.; Roy Killgore, Grand Rapids, Mich.; Harry Fischer, Newark, N. J.; T. M. Gallagher and Chas. H. O'Connell, New Haven, Ct.; Edward Borgum, Los Angeles, Cal.; T. M. Reamer, Los Angeles, Cal.; Dr. E. Chapman, Minneapolis, Minn., A. A. Turner, Minneapolis, Minn.; Prof. R. C. Hempel, Atlantic City, N. J., and hundreds of others.

