



# Musicians of the Midnight Sun

Thank you for visiting the Musicians of the Midnight Sun website. Even though these blogs are being posted many weeks after the launch of the Musicians of the Midnight Sun website, my hope is that they will remain as a document along with the website itself with the intention to give a little bit more of a personal story of my relationships with these featured artists.

## Peter Lafferty

When I first started to interview guitar players for this project, from players like *Tony Buggins* and *George Mandeville* mentioned *Peter Lafferty* as an inspiration when they were starting out. *Tony Buggins* remembers playing guitar with a comb when he backed up fiddlers, just so that he could be heard and then *Peter* came along, playing in a *Chet Atkins* finger picking style and quite a few players picked up that technique and ran with it. *Nick Sibbeston* was one. He grew up in ɁıɁɁɁ Kųę, (Fort Simpson,) and remembers growing up with *Peter* and the *Lafferty* family who Nick was related to. Many of the *Lafferty* family were very musically talented and hold a long lineage of music and Metis genealogy here in the north.



P E T E L A F F E R T Y "THE MACKENZIE DRIFTER"

Peter Lafferty promotional photo, circa 1964

I was able to track *Peter* down in Whitehorse, YT and interviewed him for the project. He is a soft, spoken man with a humble nature when it comes to talking about his musical life. From a young age, he travelled around the country worked jobs and played his guitar on his off hours with the local players in whatever town he was working in. For example, he worked with the power corporation installing electrical utilities in Denınu Kųę (Fort Resolution) in the early sixties and played with *Angus Beaulieu*. Some of those sessions with *Angus* were recorded as were sessions with the *Lafferty* family back in ɁıɁɁɁ Kųę. It is amazing to listen to the high quality of musicianship in these recordings!



Quartet photo L-R Medore Laramie, Peter Lafferty, Norman Junior Brierre, Don Latimer. 1963, North Bay, ON (Photo © Peter Lafferty)

It is equally as amazing to hear *Peter's* stories of playing music in the late 1950s here in the north and over the next 15 or 20 years, of playing in the south. His story is one that goes back the farthest in the project's timeline. *Peter* left the north in the 1960s, travelled as a professional musician in bands and as a solo performer until the early 1970s when he landed a job and gigs as a musician in Whitehorse. *Peter Lafferty* still plays his guitar and lives there today.