



The Hoedowner

The Official Publication of The Oregon
Old Time Fiddles Association

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December 1, 2005

From the Prez: "Article 11 Purpose"

Season Greetings to our to our members.

To promote, preserve and perpetuate Old Time Fiddling and Old Time Music. To encourage everyone, especially young people, to play the fiddle and appreciate OLD TIME FIDDLING and OLD TIME MUSIC. To provide regular times and places to meet to play this kind of music.

From now on, through the rest of my term as president I will reprint something from our By-laws. This month I thought it important that we review the purpose of the OOTFA. The reason the OOTFA was organized. If we follow this we will have no trouble deciding what kind of music to play. When it comes to a persons ability to play their instruments and other forms of entertainment, the OOTFA has adopted a saying that address this very well. You will find it on the back of the Roster. "Use the talents you possess, for the woods would be strangely silent, if no bird sang but the best" Written by John Audubon.

Congratulations to Mr. Don Maddox of Ashland, Or. He's a member of the OOTFA and district 4. He is also the last surviving member of the famous, "Maddox Brothers and Rose," an excellent country music band of the 40s & 50s. I remember them well. Don was recently inducted to the "Western Swing Music Hall of Fame." Hooray Don, we're proud of you.

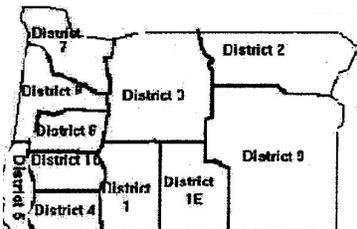
Now, I would like to remind everyone, it's not too early to start thinking about who will be next year's State Officers. I have asked Larry Gallagher to be chairperson of the nominating committee. If you know anyone willing, please let him know.

Also, if you wish to receive your January Hoedowner, your 2006 dues should be paid by December 15. Dues are now \$20.00 for 2006 and beyond. Please pay them to your district chairperson.

Please note that we'll be having a state quarterly meeting in Springfield on January 6, 2006.

And now, in closing I would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. It's a joyous time of the year when we can get together with our family members and friends. I love to watch the grandchildren and the great grandchildren as they tear into their gifts at Christmas time, they get so excited. I guess that's what Christmas is all about. And now as Roy Rogers would say, "Happy Trails to you till we meet again."

Bob Ervin President, OOTFA



District 1

Chairman - John Northcraft
541-723-5421
Co-chairman: Jerry Ruddock
Sec/Fran Coker: 541-783-3478
Treasurer: Membership
Sheila Fry: 541-850-9062
PO Box 295
Keno, OR 97627

Merry Christmas to everyone!!

Wow - can you believe another year has pretty much come and gone already? Looking back, we've had some ups and downs, but over all, music filled twelve months. Hope the holidays bring you smiles, music, friends and good food.

At our November meeting, it took us awhile to find any member willing to take on the task of Co-chair. After the voting dust settled, we are pleased to announce that Jerry Ruddock is our newly elected District 1 co-chair. Congratulations Jerry! On a related note, Irene is now our Activities Director for upcoming engagements. Faye gave us an update on Walter Gilliland. At that time, he was back in Dorris, CA, staying at a neighbor's house, but not doing well at all. His mother had suffered a slight heart attack. So please be praying for these two for better times. Thanks.

On another get well soon note, Jan Lancaster hasn't been feeling well lately. Also, by the time you read this, Howard Priddy will have had his shoulder joint replacement surgery. We hope you both will be up and back with us soon.

It was great fun to meet Meg Graf (a former member) now from District 6, and her friendly driver (I asked his name, but didn't write it down, and now I've forgotten it -- please forgive me). Meg played her fiddle, her flute, and of course George - her Bass saxophone! Oh yeah -- you know we bass players, whatever variety, have to stick together!

Congratulations and Best Wishes to our newest married couple - Steve Currie and new bride Cori. They got married October 30th. It's going to be fun seeing Steve help guide the musical talents of both Vikki and Brandon.

We welcome all of you to our District 1 "family"

Reminder from Sheila our Treasurer - please be sure to pay your 2006 dues before Dec. 15. By doing so, you will definitely be included in the state-wide OOTFA roster. Also, it just makes much easier bookkeeping! Thanks.

Our District 1 December schedule is as follows: 3rd - Favell Museum 1:00 PM downstairs, 4th -- our annual Christmas dinner potluck and monthly meeting noon at Villa West Mobile Estates, 11th - Jam and Dance, noon at Shasta View Community Hall, and 15th - Klamath Rehab at 10:30 am. Hope to see you there.

Happy Birthday wishes to our District 1 December birthday person: Irene Ruddock 12/10. Our December Anniversary couples are: Phil and Sheila Fry 12/9, and Jerry and Irene Ruddock 12/18. Bye for now and remember - Be thankful for good friends, great music and a life well lived.

"It's renewal time! If you want a January Hoedowner you must renew with your District membership chair by December 15th."

Fran Coker, Reporter District 1

District 1E

Chairperson: Rosa Lee McLain
541-947-2903
Co-Chair: Dale Bryant
Sec/Treas.: Sharilyn McLain
541-947-4623
Membership: Bev Perry
628 North J St.
Lakeview, OR 97630

Greetings fiddle family, October was a good month for District 1E. We gained three new members-Vic (fiddle) and Kay Parkhurst from Christmas Valley and Shirley Stewart (guitar) from Lakeview. Welcome aboard.

Also, in October we began what may become a yearly event for us. Instead of using our "education fund" to send one or two people to fiddle camps, we decided to bring the fiddle camp to us! That way, we could all benefit. We asked a couple of veteran guitarist/ fiddlers, Bob

Shaffar and Les Tucker to come to Lakeview and put on a fiddle and a guitar workshop. We couldn't have been happier with the turnout (we had 20 people at the guitar class) and the instructors. Great job, fellas. We'd also like to thank Bob Huffman for helping with the guitar workshop, and of course Paula Sanders with the very beginner fiddle class. We had lots of jammin' before, after and in between the instruction, the best part of any fiddler get-together in my humble opinion. What a great idea.

November 12 we played for the Christmas Valley Library Fund at the Grange Hall in Fort Rock. We love to play in the isolated spots like Fort Rock. The audiences are very receptive and really have an appreciation for live music- especially old time music. We'd hear comments like, "They just don't play waltzes any more." And then they got up and showed just how they were done.

In December we will play at the Lake County Senior Center in Lakeview from 10:30 'til noon. Also, we'll be at the Lake District Long Term Care Facility on December 6 and 20 from 10:30 until 11:30 a.m. Our next jam will be on December 10 at 2:30 p.m. at the Lake County Fairgrounds and the next business meeting is December 12 at 7:00 p.m. at the Senior Center. December birthdays are: Myrle Sheperd on the 10th and Eileen McLain on the 13th.

Dues are due for 2006, ladies and gentlemen.

What did the mother turkey say to her disobedient children?
If your father could see you now, he'd turn over in his gravy!

Eileen McLain, reporter,
District 1E

District 3

Chairman: Dale Anderson
541-382-9094
Co-Chair: Art Bigelow
541-312-3017
Sec/Treas/Membership:
Earlene Ervin
6189 N.E. Wainwright Road
Prineville, OR 97754
541-447-5451

Howdy from District # 3: Our last VFW show was Nov 6th. We had 14 musicians on stage. Great concert music from those who performed. There was a lot of dancing, with food prepared from the Doescher family. We had a meeting afterwards, with 25 members attending.

Our next VFW SHOW will be Dec 14th, hope to see ya there.
New Member: Lori Prime from Redmond.

District # 3: We have a circle jam session on Dec 10th. This will be our Christmas party at Pine Forest Grange time 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. The District will be providing the meat for the Potluck. Please bring a covered dish for the potluck. Donations are needed to pay for the use of the building. This is in Bend, hope to see ya there. District 3 needs all members to pay dues by Dec 15th in order to get your next year's Hoedowner. Dues are \$20.00 a year per family. Send your dues to our District Membership Chairman: Earlene Ervin 6189 NE Wainwright RD, Prineville, OR 97754.

District # 3: Members while performing on stage, songs must be 45 years or older. And, with good taste in mind.

District 3 will be having a VFW SHOW, January 1st at the Redmond VFW. Dates to Remember: Dec 4th VFW SHOW Redmond 1-4 p.m. Dec 10th Christmas Party Pine Forest Grange Bend 10-4 p.m. Jan 1st VFW SHOW Redmond 1-4 p.m.

Closing Thoughts: May god be with those who are sick, or lost love ones. Our prayers go out to you. Happy Birthday and Anniversaries to all this month.

" I want to believe in the power of smiles, hugs, a kind word, truth, justice, peace, dreams, the imagination, mankind, and making angels in the snow." Pass this on to someone and, brighten their day by helping them remember the simple things in life.

Reporter: Rhea Bigelow, District 3

District 4

Chairman: Judy McGarvey
541-779-8145
jmccgarvey97@charter.net
Co-Chairman: Lee Ferguson
541-772-6462 frlee8@aol.com
Sec/Treas: Judy Lyons
541-956-0618
Membership: Marcia Zellman
541-899-7677
Publicity: Cathy Frutchey
541-734-2023
cathyfrutchey@hotmail.com
Parliamentarian: Bob Zellman
541-899-7677
Reporter: Rick Reichert
541-488-3741
reichert@jeffnet.org

It was cloudy and a little chilly for our monthly meeting and sign-up jam at the Grants Pass Grange. Judy McGarvey handed out the November district 4 calendar, and her OOTFA calling card with the 2006 meeting schedule on the back. The '06 schedule and Nov. calendar are also available on the NEW district 4 website: www.ootfa4.org.

If you haven't already done it, PLEASE RENEW YOUR OOTFA MEMBERSHIP!

Last month this reporter forgot to mention the special award given to Ruthie and Grumpy Kimmel, for their work in support of District 4. November's award went to Lola and Gene Williams for their many contributions to the district. Thank you all for showing us by example what it means to make selfless contributions for the betterment of the group!

There were several interesting music events in October. Lindsay Gasik, Judy McGarvey and Don Maddox competed in the Western Open fiddle contest in Red Bluff. Judy placed 5th, and Don 6th in the Senior Senior division. Don was also recently inducted into the Western Swing Music Hall of Fame in Sacramento. Congratulations, Don! Our musicians played for the re-opening of the old Butte Creek Mill in Eagle Point. We also played at the 75th anniversary of the Bellview Grange in Ashland. In all, we provided 106 hours of community service in October.

Judy McGarvey presented the idea of having a fiddle and guitar

workshop in Medford early next year. This would be available to OOTFA district 4 members only, and paid for by our scholarship funds. More on this later. Lee Ferguson announced that she will be hosting a beginner's banjo jam at her home, and to call her for details.

Our big holiday meeting on December 3 is starting to take shape. Judy Lyons will cook the turkeys, and has a sign-up sheet for folks to provide the other dishes. Please call her to sign up for your favorite dish. Also, don't forget to bring your trade-ins for our first "western shirt exchange"! District 4 Meeting info for the next 3 months: December 3: Roxy Ann Grange, Medford -- January 7: Eagle Point Grange, Eagle Point -- February 4: Fruitdale Grange, Grants Pass.

Thanksgiving is coming right up, so this month's raffle prizes were food related. Drawing winners received measuring cups and spoons, turkey table decorations, placemats, wall hangings, pastry brushes, a pumpkin flag and an OOTFA cookbook! Many thanks to Lee Ferguson for selecting these great prizes.

Al DeWees is back at the stand-up bass, and Libby is also feeling better. Other health news is not as bright. Cliff Cooper is in a nursing home with hospice care, and Linda Chambers father recently passed away.

"Do not neglect your music. It will be a companion which will sweeten many hours of life to you." (Thomas Jefferson, 1790) Rick Reichert, District 4 reporter "It's renewal time! If you want a January Hoedowner you must renew with your District membership chair by December 15th."

District 5

Chairman: Larry Gallagher
(541) 572-2742
Co-Chair: Hal Weiner
(541) 902-2336
Secretary/Treasurer: Kathy Nash
(541) 902-1981
Membership: Karen Weiner
(541) 902-2336
PO Box 261, Florence, OR 97439

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to everyone!!

The turkeys were carved, ham was sliced, potatoes were mashed and everyone got stuffed at our annual Holiday party on November 19th. We had a full audience who clapped, sang and danced to the tunes of many musicians at our sign-up jam.

Thanks to those intrepid musicians, especially Bob and Marie Bailey from District 8 who helped play for the Stockman's dinner on Nov. 12th. It was a great success, and Larry Gallagher was even surprised over his "surprise" birthday party!

There will be no jam in December. Our next jam will on January 14th at 1:00 PM. There will not be a potluck for this January jam. Location will be announced in next month's Hoedowner.

Now for a shameless plug. All are invited to Florence to attend the Winter Folk Festival on January 21-22. There is a \$5 admission fee per day. Several of our OOTFA members will be playing in bands here on January 21st including Daniel Partner, The Greenes with Jim Hockenull, LeRoy Newport and his band, The Gorsetones, with Fred Groves and Bob and Jerene Shaffar, and many others. This will be a day to hear some of the best oldtime, folk and bluegrass music in the state.

There are still many District 5 members who have NOT paid their dues. Please get them to Karen Weiner no later than mid December or you will not get your Hoedowner for January!!

Happy natal day to all Decemberites and best wishes to those 12th month knot tiers!!

Hal Weiner, Reporter District 5

District 6

Chairman: Bob Strelow
541-782-4803
Co-chair: Joe Moyle
541-343-5894
Sec./Treas. Bernie Roberts
541-689-5764

Membership: Mark Ratzlaff,
25701 Cochran Ct.
Veneta, OR 97487
541-935-8506

I can't believe we're almost at the end of 2005! They say the older we get the faster time goes. So I must be at least a hundred and four this year! Do you seem to turn your calendar to a new page every couple of weeks too?

District 6 will be holding it's jam at the Lebanon Moose on December 4th. I understand this is the 27th year for the annual Fiddlers/Moose party. The lodge invites people to enjoy a free Christmas Dinner. Joe Moyle promises a visit from Santa Claus and maybe even an elf. There is no charge, but if you want to help, a collection, to be split between OOTFA and the Moose will be taken. So come on out. It'll be another great fiddlers' get together. Good food and good company. Directions: the Moose Lodge on is on the right as you leave Lebanon on Highway 20 bound for Sweet Home maybe a mile out of town.

Several District 6 fiddlers recently participated in special area fund raisers, a covered bridge in Sweet Home which badly needed repairs and the American Cancer Society benefit in Jasper. (Yes, a few hardy fiddlers attended both.)

The Sweet Home event was sponsored by the Weddle Bridge Community Awareness Group. Our own Paula Sanders coordinated that program. At the Jasper Grange, Red's WVCMA group sponsored the 2nd annual Relay for Life with Oral Robbins. Oral, who is still battling cancer himself, says the benefit raised over 700 dollars for the American Cancer Society. Good job and thanks to all who participated. Isn't it nice to do a good deed and have a great time while you're at it?

A dues reminder. OOTFA editor Lew Holt says if you want to receive the next Hoedowner you need to get your renewal paperwork in no later than December fifteen. Mark Ratzlaff is our membership person. If you haven't yet managed to connect up with him, he'll be at the Dec.

4th Lebanon Moose Christmas party or you can send your twenty dollar check to him at: 25701 Cochran Ct, Veneta, Or. 97487.

Happy December birthday to Thelma Salley, 12/1, Vi Epperly 12/2, Mark Carmickle 12/6, Rick Dobson 12/10 and Marlene Chatoian 12/14. Also Betty Hawkins 12/19, Lloyd Shriber 12/23 and Della White 12/24. Oral Robbins was a Christmas baby appearing on December 25th. On 12/27 we have two fiddler birthdays, Richard Marino and Ellen Strelow.

We also have anniversaries to acknowledge. Bob and Ellen Strelow (didn't I just mention Ellen earlier?) celebrate on December 17th. Frank and Frieda Chandler were married on 12/9/60 and Gary and Vi Epperly on 12/27/50. Congratulations to all and Happy Holidays everybody.

Don't forget to check out the monthly Friday night jams at the Central and Crow Granges and keep fiddlin'!

Judie Eads, District six Reporter

District 7

Chairman: Jim Kuether
503-663-3634
Co-Chairs: Dick and Donna
Foreman 503-630-3577
Sec/Treas: Barbara Petrin
503-639-1688
Membership: Myrtle Arnold
2941 SE Llewellyn Avenue
Troutdale, OR 97060
666-3529

Joe Hamm has made a very generous donation to District 7's newly established Scholarship Fund. Thank you Joe! You have set a good example for the rest of us.

Condolences from the membership go to the family and friends of Russ Phillips. His wife Butchie wants to thank all the musicians who played at the funeral. Russ was very special and will be missed.

Best wishes go to members Jeff Walter and Eileen Walter on their recent marriage. Mr. and Mrs. Walter are at home at their new place, 6020 SE Lexington Street in Portland 97206. Eileen is

continuing her fiddle teaching at the new address. The cell phone number is still the same -- 503-701-1578. Congratulations!

SHAMELESS PLUG FOR TWO OF OUR OWN!!!!

Sunday, December 4 from 12:00 - 3:00, the duo of "Extra Measure," also known as Jeff and Eileen Walter, will be performing at the Arts and Crafts Show at the Oregon Convention Center at 777 NE Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd. in Portland.

As we head into the dark days of winter we have some opportunities to bring light and music into the lives of our senior citizens in the district and brighten our own lives in the process.

On SATURDAY, December 10, from 3:30 until 8:30 we'll be able to celebrate our holiday feast and jam at J.J. North's Grand Buffet at 10520 NE Halsey in Portland. You will be responsible for paying for your own dinner. Specify that you are with the Oregon Old Time Fiddlers. Be ready to pay your 2006 \$20.00 membership fee.

Sunday, December 18 District 8's regular Jam at the McMinnville Senior Center. All visitors are welcome. Take 99W (Pacific Highway) to McMinnville, turn left at the McDonald's (on the right). The Center is on the left a few blocks towards the park.

Sunday, January 8, 2006, is our regularly schedule OOTFA Jam at the Gladstone Senior Center, 1050 Portland Avenue in Gladstone. From 11 - 4

Sunday, February 12 will be our OOTFA Jam at the Canby Adult Center 12 50 S. Ivy Street in Canby.

Saturday, February 18 is District 8's regular Jam at the McMinnville Senior Center. All visitors are welcome. Take 99W (Pacific Highway) to McMinnville, turn left at the McDonald's (on the right). The Center is on the left a few blocks towards the park.

Sunday, March 12 Lake Oswego Adult Center 11 - 4 p.m.

Reporter, Gail Foster, District 7.

"It's renewal time! If you want a January Hoedowner you must renew with your District membership chair by December 15th."

District 8

Chairman: Marie Bailey
503-835-7185
Co-Chair: Ray Cunningham
503 763-8848
Sec/Treas/ Chris Lang
503-982-6224
Membership: Jackie Stephenson
567 Leasure St
Woodburn, OR 97071

Sunday, November 20th fiddlers, back up and listeners came from near and far to McMinnville. While the very able kitchen crew put the finishing touches on dinner, 21 fiddlers assembled to learn a new tune taught by Eileen Walter. First we learned the basic tune, then several ways to ornament the tune. Thanks Eileen for teaching the workshop.

Dinner! Oh my, was there ever a lot of good food! Thanks to all who cooked and brought such tasty dishes. And a special thanks to all the kitchen crew. Thanks too, to those who set up tables and chairs and did the clean up chores later.

The afternoon jam had 40 signed up. We always appreciate visitors from other districts. It was good to have Alan Ede there singing and dancing. He's been away from music for a while. Two of our young fiddlers performed. Jacob Nelson of Salem who will play like great Grandpa, Joe Hamm someday and Robbie Griswold of Lyons. Robbie is one of our champion fiddlers, and also a scholarship recipient.

Good to see Don Simons too. Also Lee and Ruth Jones who stopped in for a while. And we're glad to have Fred and Charlotte Hardin back from their travels.

December 18th, Sunday. Once again we'll gather at McMinnville for a jam. No potluck. Bring a sack lunch if you wish. Another great workshop is planned! Carol Ann Ledbetter will be teaching starting at 11 am. The emphasis will be: How can I improve this tune? Students are invited to

bring questions, concerns and specific interests. Bring your fiddle. Come and learn!

Jim Hockenhull has agreed to give a workshop on playing Cajun style fiddle. This will be at our Feb. 18th jam in McMinnville.

We send our love and condolences to Robert and Mary Terry on the death of their son. He had been ill for some time.

Fiddler Mary Schatan of Willamina is experiencing heart problems. Hope you are better soon, Mary.

Wishing all of you a Happy Holiday season.

Alice Holt, District 8 reporter "It's renewal time! If you want a January Hoedowner you must renew with your District membership chair by December 15th." Send to Jackie Stephenson. Thanks.

District 9

Chairperson: Dorothy Coon
541-493-2512
Co-Chair: Ruel Teague
541-573-2868
Secretary/treasurer/membership:
Rose Johnson 541-573-6237
We held a brief business meeting at our November, 13th jam and Janet Brayman offered to fill the chairperson post until we have a quorum to elect a new officer. Thank you Janet! Plans are set for the holiday to be held at our next Senior Center potluck and jam on Dec. 11th. The club will provide the turkey (to be prepared by George and Hilda Sahlberg) and the potatoes (to be prepared by Rose and Wayne Johnson). All others are asked to bring a potluck dish to compliment the meal. Cards were signed for Gene Thomas and Tom Tucker from Mt. Vernon who have undergone recent surgeries.

Guests for the afternoon were Betty and Bill Chapman of Christmas Valley, Dist. 1E and Jim and Lenora Thomassen from Canyon City. Jim plays the old time "flub tub base." We always appreciate the talents the guests lend to the program.

We have lost two of our members. Life time member

Bessie Blair of Princeton recently passed away and our banjo player Roy Reed has moved over to Sweet Home.

Walt Cooper, Joe Enneberg, Ron Jahns and Julia Milleson performed for the Cattlewomen's meeting held at the Big Bear Lodge on Nov, 2nd. They enjoyed the huge steak dinner.

Janet Brayman and Julia Milleson did the Sept. music at Ashley Manor and we are looking for a larger turnout at Ashley Manor on Dec. 19 at 6:30 PM. The Aspens play date will be on Dec. 9 at 7:00 PM.

Enjoy the Holidays

Julia Milleson, Reporter District 9

"It's renewal time! If you want a January Hoedowner you must renew with your District membership chair by December 15th."

District 10

Chairman: Lyneatte Werlinger
541-643-1606
Co-Chairman: Don Hamlin
541-440-0917
Treas. Glynn Deaton
541-839-4501
Secretary: Barbara Sullivan
541-673-8981
Membership & PR: Flo Sangsland 541-863-6109

We had a great Thanksgiving Dinner at our November get-together and Jam session. Many Thanks to all the cooks as the food was delicious. We enjoyed the afternoon with lots of good music. Besides our regular group of players, Joe Jones was over from Boise, Idaho strumming his guitar and singing. We all enjoyed listening to him. He is Sharon Werlinger's Grandfather. Also DeWayne and Maxine Fritz joined us and DeWayne sang for us. It was a fun afternoon.

We were sorry that Marge Hasty could not join us. Marge, we hope to see you next month. Doris and Don Dilbeck were there on Saturday after many months absents. Doris had taken a flying leap off her deck, breaking her leg, but is recovering nicely now.

Thanks to all the visitors that joined us. Virginia Nutt had been gone seven years and now she is back.

Flo Sangsland, our Membership person, would like to remind everyone that the dues should be paid by December for the year 2006 and then you will get "THE HOEDOWNER."

We need you all to be gearing up for our next fun-filled day with good music, food and friends on Saturday, December 10th at the Community Building in Winston. Bring a potluck dish and come at 11:00 AM. Hope to see you all.

Joyce Pickett is retiring as Reporter for the winter and will be back when the weather breaks.

This is Clare Eaton, your winter reporter for district 10. I would like to remind you of the Spring OOTFA State Meeting that is now at Polk County Fairgrounds. I need to find out the date of the State Meeting. (*April 6-7-8 with the state meeting on the 8th.*) I have been gone all summer in Canada and Alaska.

Clare Eaton, Reporter District 10

"It's renewal time! If you want a January Hoedowner you must renew with your District membership chair by December 15th."

Notes from Lew: The Gaston Jubilee Contest will be held on Saturday, Feb. 4, 2006 in Gaston. Invitations will go out shortly after Christmas. If you do not receive an invitation and want to participate, check our web site, Oregonoldtimefiddling.org, or drop me a note. Three very fine judges have accepted invitations to judge: Starr McMullen from Corvallis. Dorothy Campo from Yakima and Ivan McDaniel from John Day. I am excited.

I have DVDs of the convention -- one DVD for all day Wednesday, one for Thursday, one for Friday, and one for Saturday night. They are \$5.00 each -- one \$7.50 with postage -- two \$12.50 with postage. Three \$17.50 with postage. Four \$22.50 with postage.

State Contest DVDs. I have one DVD for Friday. One DVD for Saturday with the OPEN Division and Pee Wees. And I'll have the second DVD for Saturday, soon. Same price as above.

Now I have an excellent DVD - 3 hours and 33 minutes -- of the Saturday night sign up jam at Merrill. \$5.00 if I hand it to you. \$7.50 by mail. It is worth it just to see Jon Blasius do his trick fiddling after the show was over.

New members for December Hoedowner:
Monica Kelley, Milwaukie
Rod Trumble, Florence
Wanda Hill, Westlake
Jerome Ustby, Astoria
Johnny Williams, McMinnville
Linda & Dick Meyers, Jacksonville
Lori Prime, Redmond
Joanne & Gerald Clark, Brookings
Mark Ratzlaff, State Membership Chairman

if you have an email address and if you are not receiving email updates from me, it must mean that I don't have your email address. Please drop me an email so I'll have your email address.

Our great big thanks go to Helen Washburn from Canby for her very generous contribution to the 2006 contest. She especially enjoys the Pee Wee Division "the little kids."

Peg Willis from Pendleton, fiddle teacher and fine person, wrote about her recent trip to Africa. I must share part of the letter with you which demonstrates the power of fiddle music.

Then there was Fiona. I met her at the rehab center at Gahini. She is blind and deaf - 4 years old. They've been trying to make a connection with her to help her. One day I played Laura's fiddle for the kids there. Fiona was fussing and thrashing around, but they insisted that she get up and put her hands on the fiddle. Finally she complied, and what happened was amazing. She could feel the vibrations as I played and began bouncing and clapping in time to the music. Then she would reach back for the fiddle again, then bounce

some more. Eventually she found the scroll and put it in her mouth - of course! I just thought to myself, "Laura, you're going to have to forgive me for letting this kid chew on your scroll. It's worth it!" (She did forgive me.)

The next day I played again and - even before feeling the instrument, Fiona began clapping and dancing! Whoa! That's powerful! It was the breakthrough they'd been waiting for. I so wanted to stay on there and watch her develop. Obviously,

there's much more work to be done in helping her connect with the outside world, but at least now, there's an opening. They know that she can hear at least a little. It was a precious experience!

Thanks Peg for sharing the experience.

Daniel Forster in Gaston is now giving fiddle lessons.
dforster@gabrielsbanner.com

Eileen Walter writes -- my fiddle teaching studio has moved to 6020 SE Lexington Street in Portland - cell phone number is still the same -- 503-701-1578. Thanks so much, Eileen

Sheri West -- fiddle and mandolin lessons in Southern Oregon. Fiddleist@aol.com or (541) 665-0673.

Lew

CALENDAR

(Be sure to read the district news for the specific times, places and activities.)

Dec.

3 Favell Museum Klamath Falls 1
3 Roxy Ann Grange Medford 4
4 Villa West Mobile Estates Klamath Falls 1
4 VFW Redmond 3
6 Moose Hall Lebanon 6
10 Lake County Fairgrounds Lakeview 1E
10 Jam Pine Forest Grange Bend
10 J.J. North's Grand Buffet Portland 7
10 Community Building Winston 10
11 Shasta View Community Hall Klamath Falls 1
11 Senior Center Burns 9
18 Senior Center McMinnville 8

2006

Jan.

7 Grange Eagle Point 4
7 Quarterly meeting/jam Springfield 6/state
8 Senior Center Gladstone 7

Feb.

4 Fruitdale Grange Grants Pass 4
4 Contest Gaston
12 Adult Center Canby
18 Senior Center McMinnville 8

April

6, 7, 8 State Convention Rickreall

May

19, 20 State Contest - Chemeketa Salem