

THE OREGON • OLDTIME • FIDDLERS' HOEDOWNER

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May 2021

Getting Back to Business & *MUSIC!*

District 9's High Desert Campout is scheduled for June 17, 18 and 19, 2021 in Burns!

The usual Jamboree activities are being suspended due to the pandemic. Folks are welcome to come to the Harney County Fairgrounds to camp. All the facilities will be open and available for small group jams. No stage shows are planned and the campout will not be widely advertised to the public. COVID safety protocols are to be followed. Anyone who knows they are exposed to or have COVID-19 at time of the Campout are asked to defer attendance to another year.

OOTFA Spring Membership Meeting June 19, 2021, 1:00 pm

Regarding COVID, the Harney County Fairgrounds are open at this time for limited use and Oregon Oldtime Fiddlers' Association, an *organization*, is allowed to gather for a *meeting*. Therefore, we can hold our first Membership Meeting in over 1½ years based on the information from the State of Oregon Sector Risk Level Guidance Chart.

Cancellation may happen should Harney County have a spike in COVID cases. We will provide announcements on the OOTFA website, Facebook OOTFA and High Desert Fiddlers pages, and the June Hoedowner. Folks are welcome to come early and stay later at the Fairgrounds. Hope to see a few folks in June for a jammin' good time...We're lonesome for you all.

All the usual facilities will be available for jamming during the 2021 High Desert Campout as well as the spacious outdoors. Folks gathered in the Exhibit Hall during the 2019 Jamboree. The Memorial Hall (big red), 4-H building and Sale Barn will also be open.

Camping at the Fairgrounds is \$20 for hookups and \$10 to dry camp per day with donations accepted to offset the rental of the facilities. Motels are available in the Burns area. Availability of onsite food is still pending. To help us understand the number of folks who might attend please reply to Facebook invite, email Janet Braymen at hammerin@centurytel.net or call Janet at 541-573-1323 or any of the District 9 officers.

Due to an ever-changing situation, last minute cancellation may happen should Harney County have a spike in COVID cases.



"Jam Queen" Donna Reuter is featured in District 7's report on page 8



Ed MacKenzie, Diana MacKenzie and Fran Coker at a past High Desert Campout

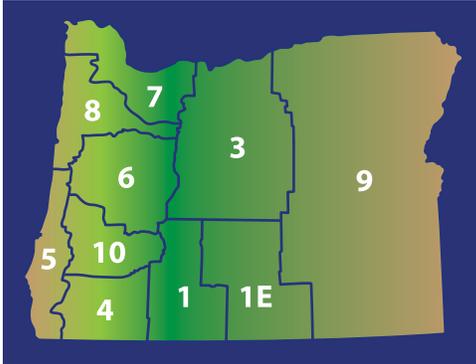
This is a good news/bad news time. The good news is a way has been found to have a **membership meeting**. It will happen in Burns at one in the afternoon on June 19th, the day after the summer state board meeting, happening same place at six pm on June 18th.

The High Desert Fiddlers have, once again, invited us to use their facilities during their Jamboree. We will have to take all precautions and follow all state and local mandates. But I am sure we can manage that!

We will vote on some very important issues; including bylaw revision, adoption of procedures, and election of officers. To make it easier for members that can not attend (for whatever reason) proxy voting will be available. This is first for us and is being allowed because of the pandemic restrictions.

Now for the bad news; this year's West Cascades Fiddle Camp is cancelled. No acceptable venue could be found. It takes a lot to meet the COVID restriction requirements.

Next month will be better. Wear your mask, wash your hands and keep your distance. All of us working together can whip this thing. ~ Scott



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2021 OOTFA ROSTER • \$3.50 MAILED • Available Now!

OREGON OLDTIME FIDDLERS' ASSOCIATION
2021 ROSTER
A Listing of ALL OOTFA Members currently registered.

LEARN TO GET ON "THE ROAD" BY DOROTHY...	"One mark of a great musician is they'll perform a song they don't even like with just as much passion as one of their most favorite tunes."	Don't Grow Up!!!! <i>It's a trap.</i> Become a musician and you can just stay a kid forever.
These are the "old-time" fiddlers... and you know they know their fiddle!	Musical Thoughts for 2021	NO MATTER WHAT KIND OF MUSIC YOU LOVE... PLAY IT!
Somebody told a boy that he wasn't good at fiddle.	"Most musicians who are fortunate enough to live to 60 and older are no longer able to play sports, run excruciatingly long distances, or perform to play their instruments at their regularity. Music - truly a lifelong passion."	"A musician never masters their instrument. The more they learn, the more they realize they don't know."

WEBSITE www.ootfa.org
FACEBOOK at Oregon Oldtime Fiddlers' Association

Available in two different formats
The printed version will be \$3.50 (mailed) and the PDF version emailed upon request.

Send \$3.50 to Patti Luse, 979 Ascot Dr, Eugene, OR 97401 for the printed Roster or email her at pattiluse@comcast.net for the PDF version.

The front and back are covered in thought provoking music quotes most from www.musiciansunite.com



FIDDLE CAMP CANCELLED FOR 2021

We tried in every way to have Fiddle Camp 2021 but due to more COVID cases and venues refusing to "let us in", we are announcing that **West Cascades Fiddle Camp & Workshops** aka **WCFCW** will not happen in 2021. HOWEVER...our **10th Anniversary Fiddle Camp** WILL happen in 2022. Our Website, www.fiddlecamp.net will come alive next fall with information as plans are made. In the meantime, you can log on and see what wonderful times we have had over the years.

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Happy May wishes to you and yours! I would love to spend a moment and recap the **State Fiddle Contest**. I would like to say a HUGE thank you to **Terry** and **Sharilyn McLain** for hosting District One at their house in Lakeview for the contest. I would like to thank **Ms. Sheila Fry** for driving and the super **fun** fellowship we had on the drive over and back. I would also like to thank **Larry McLain** for playing guitar back-up, as well as Terry on guitar, and **Mike Borelli** on bass. I'd like to also thank the online viewers who cheered me on from a distance and reached out to me via phone, text and email to encourage me, it was very appreciated and meant a **lot** to me, so thank you, my **Fiddle Family** near and far! It was such a fun day, and I encourage anyone who can play the fiddle (no matter your skill level) to consider entering next year's contest because it really teaches you a lot and challenges you...which is a **good thing**. My favorite fiddlers of the contest were **Martha Hughes, Marcel Potvin, and Karen Johnson**. I cheered you guys on from the McLain living room and was on the edge of my seat for Martha's division.

I would also like to send out an early congratulations to all the graduating high school seniors throughout OOTFA. I know that you have not had a normal senior year. You have missed out on so much. Life can throw some lemons your way (your lemon has been the size of a watermelon), and for that I say "I'm sorry" and I wish you all the best in the future going forward.

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Happy Mothers' day to all the Moms out there! By the time you get this news **Christmas Valley Jam** will be long gone, some of us will still be sleeping. The last few **Hoedowner** reports have talked about sharing our music and how much fun it is getting to know other folks along the way. There are a lot of great people in **OOTFA**, always out to help to improve your talents.



Jenny Dreyer with Sheila Fry and Terry McLain to her right

I leave you with two of my favorite quotes..."Adversity can be a friend or a foe", and "Music washes away from the soul the dust of everyday life." May COVID end soon, and may we all see each other again soon, too... Keep Fiddling!

May Birthdays: Ms. Sheila Fry, Lena Dreyer, Gracie Kliewer, Lucinda Kliewer, Mary Knapp-Mitts, Rinda Scott, Jake Swartwood.

May Anniversaries: Bill and Teresa Hazen.

~ Jenny Dreyer, District 1 Reporter

Dad (Homer McLain) would always try to play a few tunes with everyone, especially the young folks. He loved people. I remember walking down the street with Dad and someone would come by and he would always say "Hi, how are you today?" He said he liked to see their reaction. One time in Red Bluff at the Western Opens he said "Hi" to an older gent and it was a little over an hour before we got going again, so if someone says "Hi" and you don't know them, you might before the day is over,

We have been having some nice jams at **Rosa Lee's** place. Bass player **Mike** keeps us on our toes, the newlyweds **Mike and Ann Stover** are coming along at every jam.

~ Terry McLain, District 1E Reporter

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District 3 Website: centraloregonfiddlers.com

Things are pretty quiet in District 3. Recently, Deschutes County, our most populous area, was elevated to High Risk for COVID. Crook and Jefferson Counties are at Low Risk, so we may have a few non-OOTFA events pop up in the outlying areas.

We are excited about the **McLain Family** event in Christmas Valley (a non-OOTFA event) April 29-May 1. Also, we are keeping our fingers crossed for the **High Desert Fiddlers** event in June.

This week I will be initiating planning for the **Country Music Gathering at Crook County Fairgrounds** in September.

Take care all ~ George Bretz, District 3 Chairman

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District 4 Website: OOTFA4.org Check Us Out!

Due to the COVID pandemic there was no OOTFA State Fiddle Contest in 2020. This year the annual contest was a virtual production held online. My friend, **Judy McGarvey**, agreed to let me come to her home to observe her as she competed in the Senior-Senior division on the contest. When I arrived, **Bruce McGarvey**, Judy's husband, had their laptop setup in their family room where there was ample natural light. He was on the phone with **Patti Luse** who was helping him adjust a minor glitch in their reception. Judy and **Carol Ferrara**, who was her guitar backup, were practicing Judy's tunes for the contest and they sounded great.

When the contest began **Dave Altman**, the MC, appeared on the screen and announced the division and the first contestant and who was to be the following contestant. Then he would disappear and the

contestants came on and began playing their tunes. On the left corner of the screen was a picture of the next contestant who was on stand by or as they called it, "back stage". When the contestant finished Dave appeared again and he announced the next contestant from the "back stage" position. We watched as the contest continued and I was so impressed how smoothly and professionally the program was flowing. Judy's turn came and she and Carol performed perfectly. We watched more contestants perform and after Judy had finished both her rounds I left and went to Carol and Lenny's home where Lenny was also watching the contest. I got there just in time to get my fiddle out and Lenny and I played along with Donna Reuter in the online jam she was leading during the short break in the contest. It was so much fun and almost like being at a real jam. Seeing other members as they competed or played backup was the closest I've been in a year to being at an OOTFA gathering.



Judy McGarvey and Carol Ferrara on guitar back up waiting for Judy's turn to compete in the virtual O.O.T.F.A. State fiddle contest. Judy's husband, Bruce is there for "Tech Support". Judy won a third place in the Senior-Senior division.

Eileen Walter, from District 7, is the contest coordinator. When I talked with her she said back during the summer she thought about doing a virtual contest because she didn't want to go another year without a State Fiddle Contest. When she discussed this with fellow member, **Gary Schuh**, who is a professional "Tech Guy", he stepped up and volunteered to do the job himself. Eileen says she couldn't have done it without him and the wonderful help from **Linda Parks, Patti Luse and Sharon Thompson.**

continued on next page

District 4 continued

When I talked with **Jeanine Orme**, who was one of the judges, I asked her what were the challenges of judging an online contest. She said that since they were each in their own home, she in Beaverton, **Miya Saito-Beckman** in Bend and **Sherry Mackenzie** in Texas, they had to text each other to confer but it worked out fine. She said all the praise for the wonderful quality performance goes to Eileen and Gary and I agree. My thoughts as a member of the audience are that it was an enjoyable day of wonderful fiddle music.

Happy Memorial day from all of us in District 4.

~ Judy Lyons, District 4 Reporter

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An Incompleat Historie of Ye Olde Tyme American Musik, Part the Third

This month we are going to take a quick, and very incomplete, look at oldtime fiddling among Native Americans.

The earliest **Native American fiddling** can be traced back a long time, certainly to the late 1500's, when the conquistadors introduced the European fiddle. Some historians believe that the instrument commonly known as the "**Apache Fiddle**", a bowed, single or two-stringed instrument, traditionally made from the agave plant, predates European contact, perhaps by centuries. The **Apache** call it the tsii' edo'a'tl, which translates into "wood that sings."

Besides the Apache, the **Metis** (of Northern US and Canada), as well as the **Athabaskan** (of Alaskan and Western Canada), the **Cherokee**, and others, have been playing the fiddle for a long time.

By the early 1800's fur traders had introduced the fiddle to the Great Lakes area and the Rocky Mountains (Metis), and, by the middle of the century to western Canada and Alaska (Athabaskan).



Man with an Apache Fiddle



Ron Bolstad with Jim Winslow (deceased) and Neil Jones at Eagle Point's Vintage Faire a few years back

Metis fiddling is more percussive than most traditional Appalachian music, both from the bowing and the addition of percussion from clogging, wooden spoons, and tin drums. One will hear the influence of Irish and Scots music in the playing, but the music is distinct from that of Appalachia. Canadian fiddle music has had a significant impact on today's fiddlers. Most of us are familiar with "Saint Anne's Reel," as well as "Whiskey Before Breakfast," both Canadian songs. You may also be familiar with the song "Grey Owl." This is a traditional Metis song, here played by Molly Tuttle with Joe K. Walsh & John Mailander:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aBD1yOj9Gxo>

Athabaskan fiddling began when the fiddle was introduced to Alaska by Metis and French-Canadian fur traders and settlers, and, like Metis music, shows influence of Scots-Irish origins. Musicologists classify it into two separate types: "Upriver" (Yukon) and "Downriver" (Klondike) music. "Upriver" is the old tradition, dating to the 1850's. "Downriver" dates from some fifty years later, and coincides with the Klondike gold rush. "Downriver" fiddling included country and western songs, along with polkas and square-dance music. It was also at

this time that guitars became common. The Upriver dance music tends to be faster than the more leisurely Downriver dances. Look on YouTube for **Eagle Island Blues: Athabaskan Love Song – Bill Stevens, Frances Williams, and Lisa Jaeger**

~ Al & Nicole Pierce, District 5 Reporters

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Peggy Mulder is in it for the Long Haul

We each have a different journey to our place in OOTFA. This is mine: by Peggy Mulder

I am currently a bass player in OOTFA District 6, but my path to this status began over a hundred years ago. My grandfather played the alto horn in the town band of Westwood in Northern California in the early 1900's. I never met my grandpa, but when it was time for me to learn a band instrument (around 1953), I inherited his alto horn. That wonderful horn and a succession of french horns were my companions through college and well beyond. I taught music (bands, choir and orchestra) in Salinas, California for many years and played french horn in several performing groups.

Jump forward many years. My husband, Addison, and I drove long haul big trucks across America for 16 years. I'll bet we were the only trucking team in the nation to carry both a guitar and a French horn in their sleeper cab. It's kinda hard, but not impossible, to practice French horn in a moving truck.

We retired back to Eugene about 10 years ago. Addison had a strong background in oldtime music performance in North Carolina, and soon we started to attend OOTFA District 6 jams. French horns were, of course, not allowed, but I loved listening to the music and socializing. I started taking my camera to the jams and gigs, hoping to prove myself useful in some capacity.

Then Addison offered to let me learn to play his upright bass which was then in storage. Admittedly, I wasn't very enthusiastic, but I was nice about it as he brought his bass into our home. It took up a lot of room.



Peggy Mulder and her bass

We attended the OOTFA State Convention that year (2011) in Rickreall. Two things happened here. First, Ken Luse, District 6 bass player, handed me a video to borrow about learning to play bass. Second, Lew Holt asked me to please send him the photographs I took at the gathering. That I did, and very quickly I received a thank you gift from Lew. It was a DVD of all of the evening performances that year at Rickreall, literally hours and hours of wonderful oldtime music!

I can be slow, but a light bulb finally went off in my brain and I put two and two together. I unpacked the bass and began to study the instruction video Ken Luse had loaned me. I then proceeded to begin playing along with the Rickreall concert DVDs. I played those videos again- and again. Before I knew it I had learned LOT of oldtime tunes, and I loved it! Thank you to Ken and Lew and to all of you who supported my early efforts!

Now, after nine years of happy bass playing for OOTFA (jams, gigs, and fiddle class) and one year of unhappy social distancing, I'm ready to leave this pandemic in the dust. I've missed everyone and I can hardly wait to play music with all of you again!

Birthday Greetings: Gabi Ford ((5/30), Annie Carter (5/5), Brian Sorrells (5/5), Evelyn Horner (5/22), Melody Morrell (5/28), Donna Wynn (5/30)

Wedding Anniversaries: Gary And Lynne Baren (5/17), Ken And Patty Luse (5/24)

~ Shirley Humphreys, District 6 Reporter

New OOTFA Members • May 2021

Kian Dye	Bellingham, WA (OS)
Ron & Dorene Estep	Hines (9)
Melani "Mel" Fuller	Salem (8)
Rosie & Matthew Kin	Milwaukee (7)
Sadie & Astrid Melton	Happy Valley (7)
Nina, Kevin, Marian & Maya Peterson	Vancouver, WA (OS)
Juliette, Toby & Mary Weston	West Linn (7)

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Greetings to OOTFA members. I hope that you all are doing well and enjoying some beautiful weather about the time you are reading this article. I am writing this on a day where the blooming trees and flowers in our neighborhood are simply gorgeous! Yeah for Spring.

This month I interviewed District 7 member **Donna Reuter** about her musical background. She lives in Hood River now but when she was young she started her musical life in Spokane, Washington. She was 10 years old when she started to play on a 3/4 Violin and took lessons for two years. She

came from a musical family. Her dad, her grandfather, and her cousin all were excellent fiddlers. Her cousin, **John Francis**, was the **National Junior Fiddle Champion** in 1971. He taught her a lot of music that she later played in the contests in Washington State and Weiser, Idaho. She also started to teach herself tunes by buying every fiddle book she could find!

In 1972 at age 12 she entered her first contest at **Weiser** and played "Soldier's Joy" and "Shenandoah Waltz". She was practicing on her 3/4 violin and her Grandfather told her it sounded like she was playing on an "old dead pumpkin". She was then given a violin by her grandfather and was told, "Here is what a real fiddle sounds like!" She played on it for many years until it was damaged and she then bought a better sounding one from **Andy Emert**. (Her grandfather's violin was put in a safe place.) I asked her if she was nervous playing on the big stage at Weiser and she said, "No, it was fine". But after playing in her first contest she began to understand what it would take to become a champion--a lot of hard work.



Donna performs with backing from Rod Anderson, Andy Emert & Jeff Walter

She was playing in her junior high school orchestra in Spokane and began to recruit some friends in the orchestra to play in a fiddle group with her called the **Junior Hoedowners**. She wanted to get more practice and wanted her friends to play in the fiddle contests with her. They played lots of music with the **Washington Oldtime Fiddlers** in Nursing Homes and other places one or two nights a week, and in 1976 she won the **Washington State Junior Champion** at age 16. Now she was nervous because being in the top spot meant that others wanted to work harder and try to beat her!

Donna enjoyed playing in contests but also enjoyed teaching the fiddle at the **Katy Glassman Fiddle School** and other community education centers. In 1989 she moved to Hood River and has enjoyed becoming involved with **Oregon Oldtime Fiddlers**. This year she was in charge of leading the Jam at the **Oregon State Fiddle Contest** and she also entered the contest at the Senior Level. Eileen Walter called her the **Jam**

Queen and said that, "she has the largest repertoire of well known tunes of anyone I know." When I mentioned this to Donna she said that she probably has 400 tunes in her head. What a great memory! Thanks for the fun interview, Donna.

Marie Bailey, Chair for District 8, is inviting members from District 7 to come to Salem on Saturday, May 8th and play with them at their annual **"Sheep to Shawl"** event at the **Willamette Heritage Center**, 1313 Mill Street, SE Salem. The event will be from 1:30-3:30 and will be held in the **Town Hall** area in the grassy section in front of the house. There will be two tents and chairs set up (socially distanced) for District 7 and 8 members. Musicians are asked to wear masks if at all possible. This is a "drive through" event. People who attend will drive past all the exhibits including the fiddlers. If you would like to play please just show up. Marie Bailey has details. 503-835-7185.

~ Elaine Schmidt, District 7 Reporter.

David Altman, A Friend of the Family

My family has a long history of music covering many genres and styles. One European branch traces back 12 generations to the first permanent settlement in North America before any colonists arrived in what became America, and of course we are a mixture of various other ancestries. My musical journey began when my grandfather, **Armand Koll**, who lived his life in New Orleans, told a gathering of all his grandchildren that any of us who could learn to play a tune on the family fiddle could have it from him. **Pawpi** played in a street jazz band until the loss of one and a half fingers from his job on the railroad. Our family fiddle has **Odile Koll** (née Armand), Pawpi's Cajun mother's name, scratched on the back.

I happened to be the lucky one (at age 10) when we'd just moved to Oregon. The first 10 years of my life was spent on military bases before we came here because my father (who played clarinet and oboe and grew up in Memphis trying to be like Benny Goodman) left the Navy to work as a surgeon at Bess Kaiser in Portland. My parents figured I needed a teacher, so I took lessons from the husband of my Portland elementary school teacher. My violin teacher, **Boris Sirpo**, was somewhat famous in classical music circles at the time and was establishing the orchestra program at Lewis and Clark College. After a few years, Mr. Sirpo told me I was good enough to play in the college orchestra, but I was only in 7th grade! Mr. Sirpo asked me to just stay in the back and make do.

I continued playing violin and was first recorded in 1964 (on an actual record) when I made the **Portland All City Elementary Orchestra**. I gave up violin briefly before graduating from Wilson High School, but found a fiddle while enrolled in a French university, **Université d'Aix-Marseille**, in 1970 in a second-hand store and rediscovered music. Getting back to Portland a year later, I started playing fiddle with **OOTFA**. Most fiddlers were very generous to teach me tunes, particularly **Fred Hildebrandt**, **Penny Mead**, and **Marshall Jackson**. Marshall sparked my interest in the mandolin, including teaching me "Chinese Breakdown" among others.

In 1974 my wife **Kathleen** and I joined the Peace Corps, and we were sent to Tunisia in a small rural hamlet not far from the Sahara Desert region. I didn't pack much, except the fiddle, mandolin, guitar, and dulcimer. We didn't have written music, but whenever there was spare time, I practiced everything from memory that came from OOTFA contests and jams. Returning to Oregon where I became a teacher in McMinnville, some of us formed a band, **Patchwork**. One of my music students, **Joey McKenzie**, who was attending McMinnville Junior High also played with us for various gigs. Moving to Corvallis for more university degrees, we formed another band, **Friends of the Family**, and the attached promotional photo in 1977 shows the regular configuration of me, **Linda Danielson**, **Doug Church**, and **Paul Mooney**. Our



David Altman, Linda Danielson, Doug Church, & Paul Mooney
"Friends of the Family"

regular gigs would include other irregulars including **Merle Korn**, **Ted Tom**, and various guests from local bands who probably don't want to be identified. I also started hanging out with the many square dancers and callers who frequented the grange halls.

About 1978, I was asked by the **National Endowment for the Arts** to work for them full-time here in Oregon, but turned it down. I was putting on concerts for the **Traditional Arts Booking Service** around Oregon, but was fortunate to play a few tunes with

folks such as **Kenny Hall**, **Louis Boudreault**, **Queen Ida**, **Mike Seeger**, **Bill Monroe**, the **Balfas**, and others as a side benefit. In 1980, Kathleen, our growing family, and I moved to Minnesota (for more degrees), but in my spare time I worked as a music teacher at the **West Bank School of Music** with various artists including the regular band on a radio show, **Prairie Home Companion**. Although I then had a career as a university professor (Texas A&M and Cornell), we also spent 10 years in Nashville before returning to Oregon about 20 years ago. Throughout the travels, I still played with OOTFA jams and performances from time to time. Kathleen and I will celebrate our 49th wedding anniversary this year and enjoy seeing our 2 granddaughters playing music as well as our son **Devin Altman**. Who knows --- maybe the music will keep coming out of the family fiddle for a few more generations!

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Loita Colebank's Musical Journey

Born in northeast Washington State, Loita Colebank came from a family that always sang and harmonized. Her earliest memories are filled with songs from the 1920's and 1930's that her parents sang.

Her first solo performance was "Oh, Little Town of Bethlehem" in a school program at 4 years of age. At age 5, she began taking piano lessons, altogether for about 6 years. She played for family, then church events, and even conventions. She liked playing music that people danced to. She was active in school chorus from 7th grade through high school, including a sextette group as well as a trio in her final year before graduation.



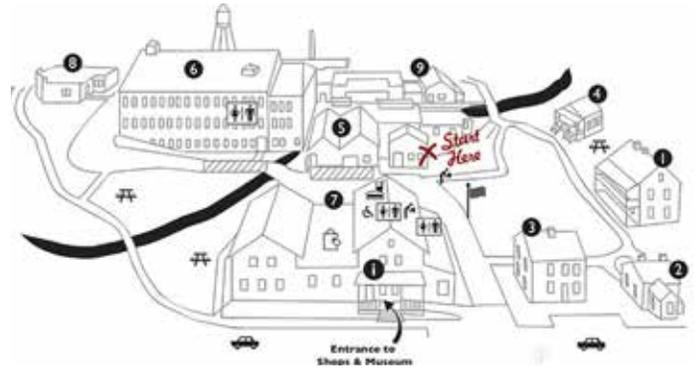
Loita and Dale Colbank

Loita plays a mean Swing and Latin rhythm on that Bass, as well!

As she grew up, music coming out of the 2nd World War had a profound effect on her. A particular favorite from this period is "There'll Be Blue Birds Over the White Cliffs of Dover" and her parent's favorite "Let the Rest of the World Go By."

In 1951 she married a multi-talented Oregon musician who also taught music, **Dale Colebank**, and moved to Oregon where their family was born and

The picnic\potluck jam, June 5th, is open to all OOTFA musicians who might be in the area. Just give me a heads up if you can come. The time is 11 am to 4pm. You may need to bring a chair if we get a good turn out.



Willamette Heritage Center

May 8th at the Willamette Heritage Center. We can use all the players willing to come in or out of District. Our playing spot is between the houses numbered 1-3 and the flag pole pictured on the map in the grassy area. We will use a circle jam style so bring your list. Mic available for lead player and singers. They are using a drive through to view the exhibits so we anticipate few strollers. Chairs provided as well as shade tarps.

You may call **503-835-7185** or e-mail **Marie** if you have questions on either one of these events. **Let's go play!**

they were very active with their Christian congregation. After returning to Washington, with their 5 children, they struggled a little economically so they formed a dance band of family members.

One day Dale came home and said, "We need a bass player and I have a job set up in two weeks, so I rented this bass for you to learn." Up until then, she was a pianist and singer. That was her start as a bassist and, of course, that was on electric bass. They played gigs together at several grange dances, class reunions, lodge events and once as the band for the local fair. They discontinued the band upon moving back to Oregon in 1974 and Loita went back to school and obtained her RN Licensing. She was also able to fulfill a long time dream of establishing a Grade A goat dairy with her well known breeding stock.

After their retirement, it was Dale who got her to join OOTFA, and they enjoyed playing with the group.

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Loita Colebank continued

Although their address put them in District 7, the enrollment listed them by street address which was in District 8, so they just took part in both but worked mostly with District 8 where she currently serves as Treasurer. OOTFA is where Loita learned to play “by the seat of her pants” as up until Dale handed her the big stand up bass, she had always played by sheet music.

Loita’s bass playing keeps the District 8 musicians on tempo, providing a rhythmic foundation that brings all the other instruments together.

And when she croons “There’s a Gold Mine in The Sky” while playing the bass, it’s so easy to be transported to a fancy nightclub with couples swirling to the music. Absolutely beautiful.

~ Gayle Clarity, District 8 Reporter

District 9 Burns, John Day Area

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Vice-chair: Joan Suther 541-573-5601
Jsuther10@gmail.com

Sec/Trea/Membership: George Sahlberg
541-420-3583

Reporter: Marianne Andrews

We welcome John Borelli back to Oregon, and he is anxious to play. We are starting back with small group jams on Friday night. Call **Joan Suther** if you have questions.

A very well-known member of our community, truly a local icon, **Helen McCart** passed away at the wonderful age of 100. Although we have not seen her actively participate recently, Helen was a life time member of OOTFA. We celebrate her life and her wonderful spirit.

We’d like to say a shout out to some of our life members, **Rose Johnson, Julia Milleson, Anna Slone, Robin Gadbury and Don Williams.**

~ Musically Yours, Marianne Andrews,
District 9 Reporter

District 10 Roseburg, Canyonville, Sutherlin Area

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We are finding ways to stay connected with our fiddle family. **Jude Stensland** is hosting outdoor jams in her driveway from 2-5 pm on Mondays and Fridays. This may be subject to change based on the weather and other factors so keep an eye on your **District 10 Googlegroup** e-mails and [District 10’s Facebook](#) page for updated info.

Jude says we’ll also be having a District 10 meeting in May along with a monthly Jam. She’ll let the **Senior Citizens** in Sutherlin know that we need the hall at 11 am on Saturday, May 22.

Several are planning to attend the gathering in Burns on June 17-19. Jude and others will represent District 10 at the state membership meeting on June 19. Contact her if you need more info.

Our district will host a three-day membership drive and jam at the **Umpqua Valley Arts Association’s Summer Arts Festival** on June 25-27 in Roseburg’s **Fir Grove Park**. There will be 100 artists with hand-crafted works, kids’ zone, community art project, art demos, music, dance, and more on two stages, food court, beer and wine garden. Booth hours are Friday 25 June from 12 pm – 8 pm, Saturday 26 June from 10 am – 8 pm, and Sunday 27 June from 10 am – 4 pm. OOTFA members are invited to join us. Contact Jude to schedule at time, and bring your own chair. Wear your blue OOTFA polo shirt or red vest if you have one.

On May 11, **Hal** and **Sharon Thompson** will celebrate their 25th Anniversary. Congratulations! Upcoming birthdays include **Kathy Ross** (May 19) and **Beverly Tors** (May 23). Happy Birthday Kathy and Beverly!

Looking for some Fiddle T-shirts, tune books, digital downloads or CDs? **Montana State Old-Time Fiddlers** have some great deals. Google for “[Montana State Old-Time Fiddlers Association](#)”.

~ Joe Ross, District 10 Reporter

Oregon Oldtime
Fiddlers' Association
979 Ascot Drive
Eugene, OR 97401



May 2021
Patti Luse, Membership Chair

A Nonprofit Organization
Article II:

Purpose - To promote,
preserve and perpetuate
Oldtime Fiddling and
Oldtime Music.

To encourage everyone,
especially young people,
to play the fiddle and
appreciate Oldtime Fiddling
and Oldtime Music.

To Provide regular times
and places to meet and play
this kind of music.

Web Index

Online Resources for Oregon Oldtime Fiddlers

[Oregon Oldtime Fiddlers' Association](#)

Official Website for State

[OOTFA Facebook](#)

Facebook Page

[National Fiddle Contest](#)

Weiser, Idaho

[West Cascades Fiddle Camp & Workshop](#)

TBA

[District 3 Website](#)

Central Oregon, Bend, Redmond, The Dalles

[District 4 Website](#)

Grants Pass, Medford, Ashland

[District 6 Fiddle Tunes](#)

Alphabetical listing of Fiddle Tune Sheet Music

[District 6 Instructional Videos](#)

YouTube Videos

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We're on the Web! www.ootfa.org



District 10 Driveway Jam



Youth Fiddlers at Harney County Campout



District 1E Newlyweds, Ann & Mike Stover



Brenda Rose



The 2021 Harney County Campout is ON!

Some of these pics are from previous Campouts. Above are Hal Thompson, Patti Luse and Joyce Furlong. On the left is Nancy Yialouris.