



Junior Hoedownner

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Eileen Walter writes: Oregon was well represented last month at the Western Open Fiddle Championships in Red Bluff, California - I counted at least 18 fiddlers from Oregon. All of them played exceptionally well and many took home winners medals. I was especially proud of the fantastic young fiddlers I've worked with - Melissa Whitaker, Bryce Hanson, Summer Hanson, Matthew McCravey, Gabriel Baltzell, Isaaiah Baltzell, Tabby Gholi, and Kian Dye. I think they would all agree with me that this contest is a lot of fun. In addition to the regular fiddle divisions, there's a twin fiddle division, a picking contest for guitar, mandolin, and banjo, and a jukebox division where musicians can dress up in costumes to fit their tune. Tabby Gholi won first place for her "dicey" rendition of the Texas Crapshooter Rag, Kian Dye played Skeleton Ridge (the Halloween version of Jerusalem Ridge), Matthew McCravey played the Bull Frog Blues (I've never seen so many frogs in one place in my life!), Gabriel Baltzell played Wizard Walk (he was able to wave his magic wand at the guitar player in order to get the correct chords), and Isaaiah Baltzell prepared Going Places with her horse costume and her map of Nashville. When everyone practices their tunes, they can really have fun when they put on a great show -- so it's worth the hard work!!

Half of the contestants in the Junior Jukebox division were my students -- it was terrific fun. There was quite a lot of jamming going on at the contest -- this is normal for this contest because the weather is usually really nice and people can jam outside. The kids also had a great time playing touch tag together -- at one time there was a large bunch of them playing together on the grass (Kiarra, Isaaiah, Bryce, Summer, Gabriel, Kian, Matthew, Melissa Copenhaver's daughters Alisha and Abigail, and others). It was nice to see these young fiddlers forming friendships with their fellow fiddlers. Red Bluff is a long drive from here, but I'd encourage

people to put this contest on their calendars -- it's one of the better ones and well worth the time.

Gabriel Baltzell age 8

My name is Gabriel, it was my first time going to Red Bluff this year. We stayed at a motel next door to the contest, I enjoyed the motel room. In the morning we would go over and listen to some of the other fiddlers play and run around with our friends. I was a little nervous about playing on stage, we practiced a lot in the practice rooms for the first round. When I went on stage I kept my eyes on my violin, so I wouldn't get nervous. I played, Leather Britches, Debbie's Waltz and Satan takes a Holiday....I walked off stage feeling proud of myself.

Isaaiah Baltzell age 7

When I first went on stage, I'd never been up there before, the lights were bright ...I wasn't very nervous. I played Honey Boy, Kentucky Waltz, and I Don't Love Nobody. After I went off stage my Mom said "Good Job!" I was happy when I came off stage. At Fiddle contests we usually play freeze tag with our friends; Summer and Brice, Kian, Matthew, Vance, Kiarra, and I made some new friends this year. The next day was Twin Fiddle, we practiced East Tennessee Blues and Black Velvet Waltz. On stage, Gabriel started East Tennessee Blues extra fast, but I kept up. Gabriel is the melody and I was the harmony. I wasn't as nervous for twin fiddle. Afterwards I felt happy and proud of my self. For my jukebox I was ready to play Going Places, when it was almost my turn we went into the back room...but, it was really late so I was really tired and decided not to play. During the rewards ceremony (for the Pee Wee division), I got a 6th place medal, I loved the medal! When we go to Red Bluff

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from
page 1)

next year, I hope I get to play *Going Places*.

Tabby Gholi

I had a great time at the Western Open. My favorite part of the competition was the Jr. Jukebox Division. The tune I played was Texas Crapshooter Rag. I dressed up like a Cowgirl Gambler and adorned all of my backup with giant dice. I won first place! The Twin Fiddle Competition was also a lot of fun. We played *Gypsy Basso* for the first round and *Black and White Rag* for the 2nd round. My partner Kian Dye and I placed 2nd. The Jr. Division proved to be very stiff competition. The first round of tunes were *Hotsprings*, *Rock-a-bye Moon*, *Sixteen Days to Georgia*. The second round was *Trafalger Hornpipe*, *Gypsy Waltz*, *Rat Cheese*. My back up was Jeff Walter, Rod Anderson, and Charles Gardner. I placed 4th. Overall I had a great time meeting new people from California and Texas. We also had a good time with our friends from Oregon.

Our fiddle trip to Red Bluff By Melissa and Trevor Whitaker

Beep-beep, beep-beep, beep-beep, our alarms go off at nearly the same moment. Neither of us had slept much that night. Today was the day we leave for Red Bluff, California, for the Western Open Regional Fiddle Contest!

All of our bags had been packed the night before, so all we had to do was throw our stuff in the car (and hopefully not forget anything) and leave. As usual we left later than planned but thankfully not too late. We then drove to our friend Tatiana's house, who was riding with us to Red Bluff. In our mom's little car we loaded: four fiddles, one mandolin, a banjo, a tenor guitar, four suitcases and five people! This must be what people mean when they say, "where there's a will, there's a way." So with a heavy car, we set off for Red Bluff.

At Redding, we stopped to tour the Glass Bridge, with its colossal sundial and lighted deck. Every year on June 6th its shadow falls on the rocks marked 1:00, 2:00, 3:00, etc.

We stayed at a motel in Red Bluff that was only 5 minutes from the contest site. In the mornings, we

would go down to the

lobby and eat waffles and cinnamon rolls along with some other fiddlers who were staying at the motel (the Voetbergs, the Bailey's, Will, Griffin, and others).

The next day, the contest started. We met up with the rest of our "Fiddle Family" and caught up on the latest news. We played football, tag, rugby, told jokes and, oh yeah, played our fiddles. There were a lot of good fiddlers at the contest; many who we knew from Weiser. We were also glad to see a lot of accompanists there like Jeff Lincoln, Rod Anderson, Jeff Walter, and Les Tucker.

After the contest we had a "freeze off" in the ice-cold pool at the motel with the Voetbergs and Baileys, seeing who could stay in the longest.

We had a lot of fun going to the contest, seeing our friends again, and having a good time. Can't wait until Gaston....

Ash Grove

The musical score for "Ash Grove" is written in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 3/4 time signature. The piece consists of two staves of music. The first staff begins with a dynamic marking of *v* (forte) and contains the following notes: quarter note D4, quarter note E4, quarter note F#4, quarter note G4, quarter note A4, quarter note B4, quarter note C5, quarter note B4, quarter note A4, quarter note G4, quarter note F#4, quarter note E4, quarter note D4. The second staff contains the following notes: quarter note D4, quarter note E4, quarter note F#4, quarter note G4, quarter note A4, quarter note B4, quarter note C5, quarter note B4, quarter note A4, quarter note G4, quarter note F#4, quarter note E4, quarter note D4. The piece concludes with a double bar line.