

# THE OREGON • OLD TIME • FIDDLERS' HOEDOWNER

Volume 29, Issue 4

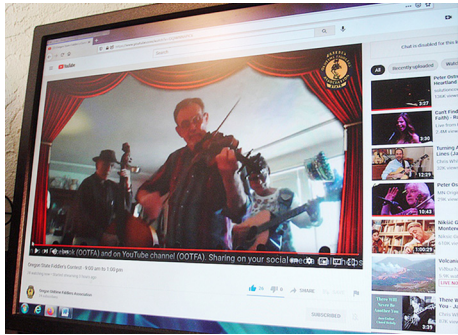
Established 1964

ootfa.org

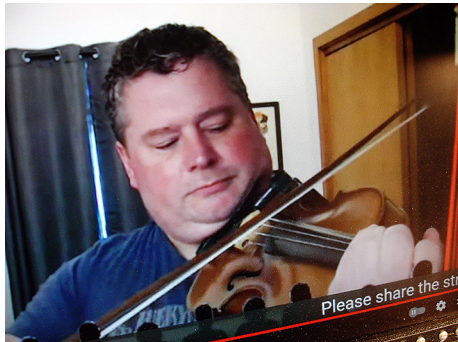
April 2021

## Technology to the Rescue!

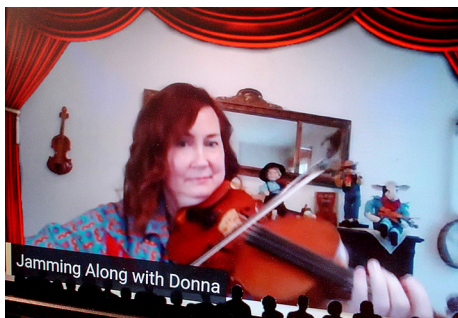
**Congratulations and thanks to the 45 fiddlers** who participated in OOTFA's virtual state fiddle contest. It was a huge success! by all accounts, and so wonderful that we didn't have to miss a state contest for the second year in a row. The contestant rankings in all eight divisions are listed on the back of this **Hoedowner** as well as the **OOTFA Facebook** page and **OOTFA.org**. Contestants will receive an emailed spreadsheet with scores when it's compiled.



This is what a virtual fiddle contest looks like. That's Jerry Parks backed by Ken Luse and Linda Parks



Gary Schuh was our tech whiz, and he competed in the contest



Jam Queen, Donna Reuter

Thanks to teachers, parents, families, and accompanists who support the fiddlers.

I'm also grateful to everyone else who had a part in making the contest a huge success.

**Linda Parks, Patti Luse, and Sharon Thompson** worked on tabulation – 45 contestants, 2 rounds, 3 tunes, lots of numbers! They have also done so much work on emailing notices & forms, developing tabulation spreadsheets, receiving membership checks and entering new members in the roster, treasurer duties, and much more – always cheerful, and ready to do even more.

Our impressive judges **Sherry McKenzie, Jeanine Orme, and Miya Saito-Beckman** did a terrific job – thanks to them for being so attentive for more than 8 hours, with only one short break.

I appreciate “**Jam Queen**” **Donna Reuter** for leading the jam – she has the largest repertoire of well known tunes of anyone I know.

**MCs Dave Altman and Erin McMullen** kept things going with great personal touches.

Thank you to those of you who were kind enough to volunteer your help if it was needed.

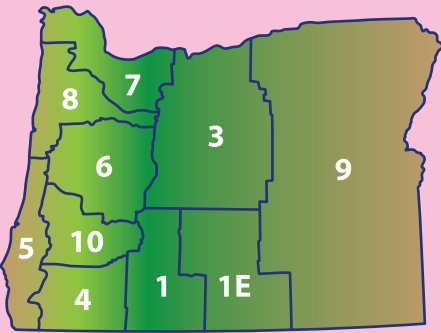
And last, but definitely not least, our amazing **Tech Whiz Gary Schuh** who made the whole thing work. I'm sure it was the first time many of us were “live streamed” and he made it easy. ~ Eileen Walter

Special Thanks to contest coordinator **Eileen Walter** of Portland! She was the driving force to keep the contest dream alive and avoid missing a state contest for the second year in a row. Her perseverance prevailed and **OOTFA's 2021 Oregon State Fiddle Contest** is in the history books!



We are sad to announce the passing of longtime OOTFA member, Fred Hardin (singing). See his story on page 9.

We are also very pleased and grateful for the donations received during the contest, which exceeded \$1000!



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I joined The Oregon Oldtime Fiddlers Association for the mu-

sic and stayed for the friendship and support. After joining I very quickly experienced the enthusiasm and dedication to **Oldtime Music**. I soon found myself exposed to some of the best musicians a person could want to play with. AND they let me join in! What an organization.

Welcoming, tolerant, family oriented, giving, understanding, friendly; all terms that describe **OOTFA**.

I look forward to the time when everyone has their shots and herd immunity develops. The state will then relax restrictions and we can all get together again and play some music. Oh, and take care of business too. See you then.

And be sure to remember our silent fiddles. ~ Scott

***p.s. Don't forget the Zoom board meeting at 10 AM on April 17, 2021.***

**2021 OOTFA ROSTER • \$3.50 MAILED • Available after April 10th**  
This year our **OOTFA Roster** is going to be printed by Patti at a copy store. In 2020, we had 65 unsold Rosters out of the 100 we ordered. Please remember that we do everything to protect the names of our members. We do NOT put them on the Website or make them public, and the names and addresses are solely for the use of OOTFA business. It will be 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](mailto:pattiluse@comcast.net) for the PDF version.

## A CHANCE TO JAM at the MCLAIN FAMILY CAMPOUT

**Thursday, April 29 thru Saturday, May 1**  
**Christmas Valley, Oregon ~ Y'all are invited!**

The **Booster Club Building** behind the post office in **Christmas Valley** will be filled with music. There will be 3 days of "**just jamming**". The only "planned" event will be a "**Hat Song**" on Saturday night - where you perform a tune while wearing a hat you have designed to illustrate your tune or song.

**Christmas Valley is in Eastern Oregon**, a little over an hour east of **LaPine**. There is very limited dry camping but a restaurant, motel and RV park are within walking distance of the Booster Club. The phone number for the **Lakeside Motel, Restaurant & RV park** is **541-576-2309** or website is [www.cvlakeside.com](http://www.cvlakeside.com). This is the closest accommodation but there is another motel and other RV parks.

No meals will be provided nor potlucks coordinated but the coffee pot will always be on. Bring your own food or eat at the several restaurants in the area.

**This is NOT AN OTTFA EVENT but a family gathering** of one of the best known fiddlin' families in OOTFA's history. **For more information, contact Terry McLain at [terry233.tm@gmail.com](mailto:terry233.tm@gmail.com).**

So...for three days of jammin' with friends you haven't seen in a while, come to the **McLain Family Campout**. See ya' there!



## District I Klamath Falls Area

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### Greetings All from District One,

**First, let me say congrats** to all who participated in the first ever **Online State Fiddle Contest**. Many thanks to **Eileen Walter** and her team for putting it altogether,...I know that must've been a huge endeavor! I'm actually writing this before the contest, but I can certainly say in this moment now, that I am very excited, thankful, and looking forward to participating very much.

This month, I wanted to write about a very sweet couple that have been members of our district for many years. They became members in 2011. **Ms. Rosa Lee McLain** was the one who introduced them to **OOTFA**, after a conversation where our lady mentioned that she always wanted to play the fiddle.

Our lady first started on the violin in the 6th-9th grade playing in Orchestra. Her father always wanted to play the fiddle and she wanted to honor her Dad by learning to play the fiddle herself. Her first fiddle tunes were "Rag and a Fiddle" as well as "Walkin' the Dog". Her fiddle teacher was/is **Irene Ruddock**, and they still get together on a regular basis for learning and fellowship.

This lady's husband doesn't play but boy has he ever been involved in many other ways! Our gentleman was our "sound man" for many years, setting up the sound system at our grange meetings/dances as well as many other venues such as Farmer's Markets and miscellaneous gigs. This gentleman, along with **Hal Weiner** from District 6, and the late **Phillip Fry** worked very hard at acquiring our new (and awesome) sound system. These three men worked very hard to make the new sound system happen and be a success for our district. Our gentleman has also been a Co-Chair as well. This wonderful couple is none other than **Del** and **Noranne Sparks!**

This duo has worked/hosted/cheered on many of the youth in our district. They have hosted many a beautiful garden party at their fabulous house in Keno, Oregon. Noranne has also been a junior fiddler teacher, co-teaching with **Irene Ruddock** and **Merv Woodard**.



**Noranne Sparks with longtime pal Merv Woodard**

Noranne's favorite thing about "fiddlin" is the escape and the outlet that the music gives her. She also said she loves all the fiddle people but especially the ones in our District. We love you guys too! Thank you for the many years of wonderful service to our District!

**April Birthdays:** Frank Ayres, Bill Bonser, and Alanna Kliewer.  
**April Anniversaries:** Frank and Karen Ayres, and Howard and Virginia Priddy.

~ Jenny Dreyer, District 1 Reporter

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**Reporters:** Nancy Yialouris & Terry McLain

**I am happy to report** I've received the first of two vaccination shots and will be fully vaccinated by the first week of April. Two weeks later, I should be able to breathe a little easier knowing I will more than likely live even if I do contract the virus. In any case, masking and social distancing is still recommended when in large groups of people. At least those of us who are vaccinated may gather without needing to wear a mask and that is a welcome change.

The McLain Family Gathering is on for April 29-May 1 in Christmas Valley. Terry rented the Booster Hall behind the post office. If you have questions or need information, please contact Terry McLain at 541-219-0896 and he will be glad to provide directions or answer other concerns. I will be there in spirit only since I have two conflicting appointments scheduled months ago in Medford but I know it will be a good time for those who can make it.

~ Nancy Yialouris, District 1E Reporter

*Nancy has some musical instruments to sell, see page 8*

## District 3 Bend, Redmond, The Dalles

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Secretary: Vacant  
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### Jack Kerr's Story in his own words

#### I was born on a hot Sunday.

It was about five minutes after noon on the 21st day of August in 1927. The place was the little town in the Ozarks of Missouri named Ava. There were already two sisters, aged two and four. Mom was 22 and Dad was 28.



Jack of Our Hearts

About the time I was six, my mother and her younger sister started teaching my sisters and I to sing. After a few simple songs and ditties they began to add three part harmony, rounds and songs where we each took a turn with a part. Being too young to read we committed all of the teaching to memory. I have continued to do that all my life.

Each school that I attended, from the first grade through high school, had music classes and instruction. Music had become a passion of mine by the time I was in fourth grade. As I progressed through school the music began to broaden in scope. In high school, Glee Club, Boys' Quartet, Ensembles, and solo were included. I still couldn't read music and never applied myself to learn.

When my 17th birthday arrived I became an enrollee in the Merchant Marine Academy. Low and behold! At the training facility on Catalina Island they had a 130 voice choir. I was accepted as a bass. What a thrill that was! We had a radio broadcast via KFI Los Angeles each Friday evening.

Participating in musical activities has been a central part of my life. You could say it has been a vital lifeline for me as I am sure it has been to most of you with whom I share this wonderful part of my life. Through the years I have added some instruments to my vocals but purely at scratch level; not an artist as so many of you who have worked so hard to become.

Joining, being with and serving with the Oregon Old-time Fiddlers' Association and all of you whom I have come to love and appreciate so much has been the keystone to my life's musical arch. Keep on fiddlin'!

## District 4 Grants Pass, Medford, Ashland

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[District 4 Website: OOTFA4.org](http://OOTFA4.org) Check Us Out!

I recently became the proud owner of a first edition of the **Hoedowner!** It was given me by my dear friend, **Dottie Birkett**. The first edition, issued on March 14, 1967, 54 years ago, was a one page issue printed on gold, 11 by 17 inch paper. The heading states, "**First Edition Hoedowner**", and on one side of this is a guy playing a bass fiddle and on the other side a lady playing a guitar. Under the heading, down the center of the page, is an illustration with the prose composition on either side. The sketch is a ranch scene at the top and a fence down the center with a horse on either side. On one side a cowboy is bowing his fiddle furiously, on the other a cowboy with a guitar is being startled by a rattlesnake at his feet while a coyote howls in the distance and two prairie dogs dance with delight. The bottom of the page declares in bold letters, **OLDTIME FIDDLERS ASSOCIATION**, and includes the officers names. I was impressed with this extraordinary report and could imagine a member receiving this in the mail and being totally receptive to the



idea of having this come to them monthly and at the same time wondering what their officers are up to now?

The article is written by **Cliff Buker**, the then President of OOTFA. and the first editor of the

**Hoedowner**. In his message he writes " I'm going to name a group of members who I want to head a committee in your area and get all the help you can get and get together now and then for a little jam session, then write to me about the activities. "That was the beginning of our **Hoedowner** which has been faithfully compiled and issued for 54 years. Seventeen editors and numerous reporters over the years have put pencil to paper or fingers to keyboards to write of the activities and accomplishments of their district and to keep the members around the state informed. If Cliff Buker could only see today what his idea has become. The little one page issue has become a multi-page publication of prose, photos, tunes of the month, news of past and future events. I'm sure he would be so pleased with what that little committee he started 54 years ago has become today.

*continued on next page*



**The Hoedowner, the West Cascades Fiddle Camp, the Oregon State Fiddle Contest, the State Convention, the Music Camp Outs, the Monthly Jam Performances** and the weekly fiddle groups; all these wonderful activities we enjoy are because through the years talented and dedicated members have given freely of their time and talents to bring their ideas to fulfillment. Hopefully this pandemic will be done soon and we can all get back to enjoying these wonderful activities. Many of our members have received their COVID19 vaccinations and some of the restrictions in the senior facilities are being relaxed.

I was able to visit my friend **Dottie Birkett** after a year, at Waterford. I had to call first and make a reservation. Remember our older members with a card or a phone call or maybe even a visit. I want to close with a quote from the first edition written by **Cliff Buker** 54 years ago, but is still appropriate today. "There is something about playing at a rest home that is different from playing anywhere else. First, you know, they are mostly people confined to the place for the rest of their lives and don't have much pleasure and then when you go to leave they tell you how much they enjoyed your music, and, I wonder if I didn't enjoy it a lit bit too." Happy Easter!! Happy Spring!! From all of us in District 4.



**Dottie Birkett**

~ Judy Lyons, District 4 Reporter

## District 5

## Southern Coast Area

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## An Incompleat Historie of Ye Olde Tyme American Musik, Part 2

### The African-American influence in Oldtime Appalachian Music

**Early in the settling of America**, the Scots-Irish immigrants were obviously the major influences on early **Oldtime Music**. The jigs, reels, and other pieces they brought with them, and hence adapted, form the base of most **Appalachian Music**.

One thing cannot be overstated: no other group made greater contributions to this most American form of music than **African-Americans**. Fiddling "was pervasive for entertainment at family and other social gatherings in many African American communities between the seventeenth and nineteenth centuries..." (4)

It has been estimated that, at the time of the Revolutionary War, over half of the fiddle players in the South were African-American (1). It has also been well-documented that these fiddlers played for European-Americans as well as other audiences.

"Among the early famous fiddlers for which there remains historical verification, is **Sy Gilliat** who was



regularly employed by the Governor's Palace in Williamsburg and was the most popular fiddler in Richmond, Virginia for almost two generations. The city's newspaper published the following notice at the time of his death in 1820: ... a man of color, very celebrated as a Fiddler, and much caressed by polished society who will long deplore the loss.... In 1856 in his book "Richmond in By-Gone Days", historian **Samuel Mordecai** describes Gilliat as... (the) most prominent member of the black aristocracy." (3)

The impact of folks like Sy was that the music became "more syncopated, improvisational, bluesy, [with more] rhythmic styles, with, ultimately a lasting impact on Appalachian fiddle playing."

For a taste of some old-time African-American fiddle music, check out the **Carolina Chocolate Drops'** "Snowden's Jig" on **YouTube**.

Next month -- a quick look at some other regional and ethnic styles of **American Oldtime Music**.

#### Sources

1. <https://uncpressblog.com/2014/11/12/doug-orr-the-profound-african-american-influence-on-appalachian-music/>
2. Richmond: The Story of a City, Virginus Dabney. University of Virginia Press. June 29, 1990.
3. The Afro-American Fiddler...Theresa Jenoure.September 2008, 1990. Hampshire College
4. The (Mis)Representation of African American Music: The Role of the Fiddle | Journal of the Society for American Music | Cambridge Core

~ Al & Nicole Pierce, District 5 Reporters

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**Along the way** I have been inviting **District 6** members to help me fill in each month with some interesting stories. So far we have been very lucky to get through this long COVID 19 year. Now we are entering into another year of healing. We are now getting some help with the COVID injections. So cross your fingers that it doesn't take too long to get back to whatever is called normal.

### A STORY ABOUT A HYMN by Melody Morrell

**Southeast of Corvallis**, at the intersection of Church and Oakville Roads, stands the old **Oakville Church**. The original congregation was formed in 1850, holding service in a log cabin. In 1860 a new church was built. Now known as **Oakville Willamette United Presbyterian Church**, it represents the oldest hymn singing congregation in the West still in existence. One can imagine 160 years of joyful weddings and sorrowful processions in the **Oakville Cemetery** just up the road.

In early May of 1995, out of the blue, an old hymn popped into my head; **"Is My Name Written There?"** I was puzzled because I didn't know where I had heard it. The song was not in the hymnal from the church of my youth, nor was it in the two older hymnals I had. But I remembered the first line of the first verse, the chorus and the entire tune.

About two weeks later I was leading a group of ladies on a **Willamalane Parks & Rec.** bicycle ride that included a stop at the Oakville Church. The door was unlocked and we entered. In the foyer stood a small table upon which rested a hymnal. Impulsively I picked it up and opened it to a page at random. I was astonished to see before me the old hymn! I looked at the piano at the front of the sanctuary and thought, "do I dare?" Yes! I went to the piano and played the hymn. I wondered if the sound would be heard at the parsonage across the parking lot and someone would come to investigate.



Melody & Friend

**Fast forward to 2017.** After deciding to endure the complexities of going north to be in the path of the totality of the solar eclipse and considering and rejecting several locations, I remembered the old Oakville Church. Bob and I passed crowds along Peoria Road and I thought if the church lot was full we could try the cemetery instead. We overshot Church Road and looped back to Oakville. I was surprised to see no one at the cemetery (no one above ground, that is). There was a small party at the parsonage.

After the celestial show our little group was approached by a parishioner who told us the church was unlocked and we were welcome to use the restrooms. I entered the sanctuary. On the front pew I saw a hymnal and sat down to look at it. A scan of the index showed that at some point the church had replaced the old hymnals with new ones. The old hymn was gone.

**Happy Note 1:** I related this story to my sister and at the next gift giving occasion she resented me with an old hymnal with a bookmark in it. The lost hymn was no longer lost.

**Happy Note 2:** To find the date of my Oakville bike ride I was faced with a file with dozens of pages of ride schedules. I opened the file at random and there was "Spring 1995" with the Oakville

Church ride.

Some stories just have to be told.

*Is my name written there, on the page bright and fair,  
In the book of God's Kingdom, is my name written there?*

**Birthday Greetings:** Alice McDowell (4/4), Carol Ede (4/12), Cheryl Horner (4/13), Chris Sytsma (4/19) Jessie Kurtz (4/28)

**Wedding Anniversaries:** Joe and Emily Moyle (4/13), Jerry and Linda Parks (4/29), Annie and Wayne Carter (4/30)

~ Shirley Humphreys, District 6 Reporter

### New OOTFA Members • April 2021

Patrick, Judy & William Connell	Portland (7)
Christina Deming	Vancouver, WA (OS)
Janet, Lee & Ruby Gunter	Vancouver, WA (OS)
Nicole, Brice, Nina and Leo Kuhl	Eugene (6)
David & Isabella Matthews & Wenlan Hu	Eugene (6)
Julia Smith & Angela Michelsen	Portland (7)
Audrey Preston	Blackfoot, ID (OS)
Lindsey, Neal, Lydia, Thomas,	
Hazel & Miles Richards	Bend (3)
Kelly, Eric & Carson Tremper	Portland (7)



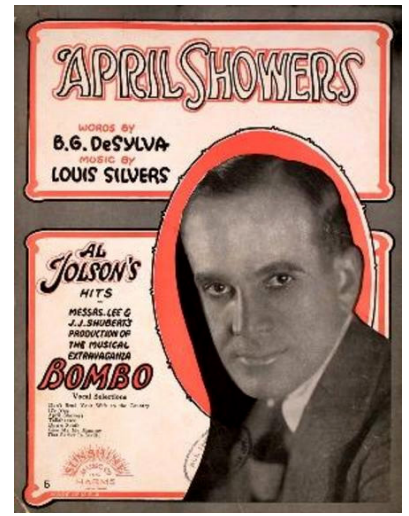
# HOEDOWNER

## Tune of the Month

Special Thanks to Karen Bennet for providing April's Tune of the Month

"April Showers" is a popular song with music written by Louis Silvers and lyrics by B. G. De Sylva. First published in 1921, it is one of many popular songs whose lyrics use a "Bluebird of happiness" as a symbol of cheer. ("So keep on looking for a bluebird, and listening for his song.") In 2014, the song was later remastered by Pierre Karana, he is also attributed to remixing the lyrics.

The song was introduced in the 1921 Broadway musical Bombo, where it was performed by Al Jolson. It became a well-known Jolson standard: the first of his several recordings of the song was on Columbia Records in October 1921. It has also been recorded by many other artists. (Wikipedia)



Louis Silvers  
& Bud DeSilva  
1921

C Treble

## April Showers

7

THO' A-PRIL SHOW - ERS MAY COME YOUR WAY, \_\_\_\_\_ THEY BRING THE FLO - WERS\_

13

— THAT BLOOM IN MAY. \_\_\_\_\_ SO IF ITS RAIN - ING \_\_\_\_\_ HAVE NO RE - GRETS. \_\_\_\_\_

18

— BE CAUSE IT IS - N'T RAIN ING RAIN YOU KNOW, IT'S RAIN ING VI - O - LETS. AND WHERE YOU

24

SEE CLOUDS \_\_\_\_\_ UP - ON THE HILLS, \_\_\_\_\_ YOU SOON WILL SEE CROWDS \_\_\_\_\_ OF DAF - FO -

29

DILS, \_\_\_\_\_ SO KEEP ON LOOK ING FOR A BLUE BIRD, AND LIST 'NING FOR HIS

SONG, WHEN EV - ER A - PRIL SHO WERS COME A - LONG.

## District 7 Portland, Northern Coast Area

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**Happy April, OOTFA members!** The first day that you will be reading this is the day my husband and I get back from our train trip to Tucson where we have been riding our bicycles for a week. (We were lucky to have had our COVID vaccinations in February.) It was great to be in warm weather for a while.

Before we left I interviewed **Gayl Ratigan**, a long time OOTFA member. I asked her when she first started playing the violin. She said that it was in 1935 when she was 5 years old. (It's hard to believe that she is already 91--congratulations, Gayl!) Gayl's mother was musical and went to a pawn shop one day to buy a violin which turned out to have been made in 1754 in Italy. (Oh, if violins could talk!) At first Gayl used a small violin but later was able to use her mother's violin when playing in high school. Later when she was raising her children she played it in various symphonies; in the **Southern Oregon Symphony** in Medford and in the **Vancouver Symphony** in Washington.

Gayl and her husband **Paul** have now lived in Oregon City for many years. It was there in the 1980s that Gayl learned about the **Oregon Oldtime Fiddlers** by attending a gathering at the **Pioneer Center**. From then on she was hooked on Fiddle Music. One time she went to the **OOTFA Fiddle Concert** in Salem and someone on stage asked if she would go up and play with them. She couldn't say no when she was given a bow and **Les Tucker** let her use his handmade #14 fiddle which had 5 strings. She so enjoyed that fiddle that she ended up buying it from Les and still has it today. Gayl has fond memories of playing with **Donna** and **Dick Foreman**, **Joyce** and **Rick Bergeron**, and other OOTFA members. I remember with fondness, her playing the "Ook Pik Waltz"! We hope to play music with her again sometime.

Gayl enjoys getting together with her family. In fact when I called, her daughter was at her home helping her bake cookies. I asked her about Paul (who almost always came with her when she went to a jam) and she said, "Oh, he is outside chopping wood which he enjoys doing." She and Paul traveled a lot in their RV over the years and often spent the winters in warm



**District 7 favorites, Gayl Ratigan and Mike Elston**

places. She would always find groups of people to play with which was great fun. She summed up her life-long love of music by saying that getting into music will open doors for the rest of your life. So true! Thanks for the words of wisdom, Gayl.

~ Elaine Schmidt, District 7 Reporter.

## HOEDOWNER Trading Post

### Nancy Yialouris is Spring Cleaning

Spring is just around the corner and I've been moved to engage in spring cleaning. As a result, I've decided to sell a couple of my instruments. I have a Mini-GS Taylor Guitar (with a pickup) in mint condition and it comes with a new set of John Pierce strings and a nice padded Taylor gig bag. I paid \$500 for it and because it is without scratches or flaws of any kind, I am selling it for exactly what I paid for it. It has a spruce top and Sapelli back and sides. I can send photos to anyone who might be interested.

Also, I have a nice Leo (Fender) resonator banjo for sale. It comes with a hard case, nice padded leather strap and a set of brand new banjo strings, and a banjo capo made by Shubb. The banjo has floral inlay on the headstock and the frets. I replaced the original plastic see-through head with a fiber head and replaced the bridge with a brand new upgrade that enhances its sound. It was made by Fender and has the original warranty along with the key that locks the case. The price is \$700. Again, I will send photos to anyone interested. Call or text Nancy at 707-227-0753



## District 8 Salem, McMinnville, Tillamook/Newport

**Chair:** Marie Bailey 503-835-7185 bambailey36@yahoo.com  
**Vice-Chair:** Johnnie Williams 503-435-2059 jwjwwSr1@aol.com  
**Sec/ Membership:** Brenda Hallgrimson 503-476-5380  
daryl-bren@juno.com 6920 S.E. Wallace Rd., Dayton, OR 97114  
**Treasurer:** Loita Colebank 971-432-9122 loitajc@gmail.com  
**Scheduler:** Ted Hunt 503-837-0446 trhunt315@gmail.com  
**Reporter & Notices:** Gayle Clarity 503-899-7485 gaylrose@gmail.com

### Opportunity to learn or review District 8 jam tunes:

**Apr 10 Martha Hughes' Zoom class 9 am**

**Apr 15 Slo-Jam at Marie Bailey's home 1-3 pm**

For the link for Zoom for Martha's class, contact **Martha Hughes** to get on her class email list. You can email Martha at [mh.hughes8@gmail.com](mailto:mh.hughes8@gmail.com) to join up, or send any inquiry.

~ Gayle Clarity, District 8 Reporter

## A Truly Beautiful Soul

**Our wonderful District 8 Lifetime Member, Fred Hardin**, passed away on February 27, 2021. He was a terrific fiddler and singer and was a very important figure at the many **OOTFA Conventions** held in Rickreall over the years, serving as **Master of Ceremonies** each year. He was born

in Broken Arrow, Oklahoma, to **Arthur and Daisy (Steidley) Hardin**, Fred was the 8th child of 9 and grew up during the depression. His elementary, junior high, and high school years were spent in Claremore, Oklahoma, where he met his future wife, **Charlotte Hill**, in the 5th grade, and they grew up together. They married right out of high school and were blissfully and happily married for over 65 years. Charlotte passed away on October 8, 2012.

Fred was a mission pastor of several Baptist Churches in Oklahoma before becoming a 5th and 6th grade teacher after attending **Tulsa University**. He and Charlotte moved to Pedee, Oregon in 1956. Later Fred received a master's degree in public school administration at Oregon College of Education. He taught several years before becoming interested in real estate, land development and home construction. He built 140 homes in Dallas and West Salem.



**Fred R. Hardin**  
August 23, 1927 -  
February 27, 2021

**Hello D-8 members.** I know we are not fully active as an organization yet, but we still need to hear from you. A memo was sent out separately to each household recently regarding our need to fill two positions. No one has responded! We need to fill our **Treasurer** and **Secretary/Membership** positions soon. June 1st is the time for new officers to take over, so please volunteer your time or let us know of other members who would be willing to take one of these soon to be vacated positions. Without you we cease to exist. Each member is vital to our functioning no matter how little you are able to participate. If you have questions I am always available to answer.

Again, please step up or help recruit someone.

**Sincerely, Marie Bailey, District 8 Chair**

*More from District 8 on next page*

Fred loved humor and infused his humorous comments into conversations whenever he could. His joy and laughter were contagious, he was devoted to his family, and committed to his education profession with selfless dedication, always concentrating on what he could do for others. He was truly a beautiful soul.

On August 20, 2016, Fred married **Lynn Ellen Gossett** on the Ritner Creek Bridge in Pedee, Oregon, and they had a wonderful life together, playing music and singing, traveling, snow birding in California, and writing their quarterly newsletters for which Fred was famous. Fred was aptly described as a wordsmith, and writing was one of his passions.



**Fred Hardin. a man of many talents, performing with District 8 musicians**

Fred was preceded in death by his parents, 8 siblings, his beloved **Charlotte**, and his son **Jimmy**. Survivors include his wife **Lynn**, daughter **Linda Hardin-Riddell**, 6 grandchildren and 9 great-grandchildren. A celebration of life is planned for June. Condolences for the family can be sent to his wife, **Lynn Hardin, at 364 SE Davis Ct, Dallas, OR 97338.**



# The Singing Cowboy - Dennis Brutke

By Joyce Orsini

**Dennis always wanted to be a cowboy.** The role models of his youth (Roy Rogers and Gene Autry) had guitars and sang. So, of course, that's what he wanted to do, too.



**Dennis Brutke picks berries as well as guitars**

As a teenager he bought a \$5 guitar and \$3 book and taught himself to play. He remembers "On Top of Old Smokey" as the first song he played. For the next 40 years he played his guitar and sang by himself for the pure joy of doing it. When picking strawberries and singing, someone remarked "Hey, you're pretty good." Others who came upon him happily singing country music began to comment, as well. He remembers at a bar, a friend urged him to sing. He was

too shy. Finally, though, as the glasses lined up on the counter, he sang a song. And people liked it.

Dennis has been a farmer all his life. He loves the challenge and fun of growing cherries. He actively works on methods to improve yield and quality of the fruit and has been on the **Oregon Sweet Cherry Commission**.

In the early 1990s Dennis was asked by the **McMinville Grange** if he could form a band to play there. He did, and it became **The Country Gents**. They've been playing Friday nights at the Grange for 25 years. Around this time, Dennis met **Lew Holt**, who suggested he join **OOTFA**. Dennis characterized himself as a country and western singer, not a fiddler. Lew told him that was exactly what they needed, and if Dennis wanted to play with the group, he'd have to become a member. So, Dennis joined OOTFA. He always looked forward to the Sunday jams and good times playing with others. He quickly became a mainstay of **District 8** and served twice as chairman.

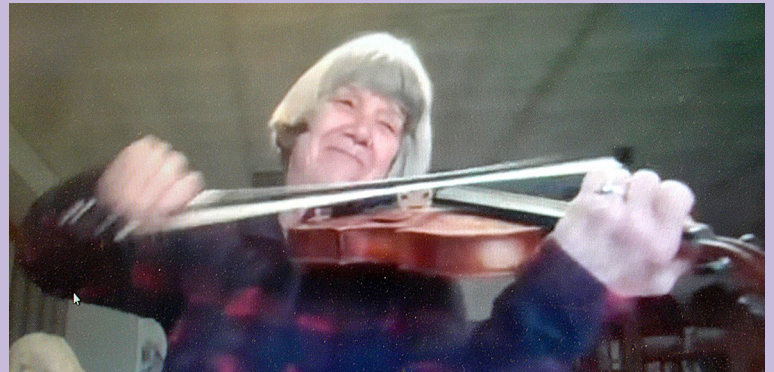
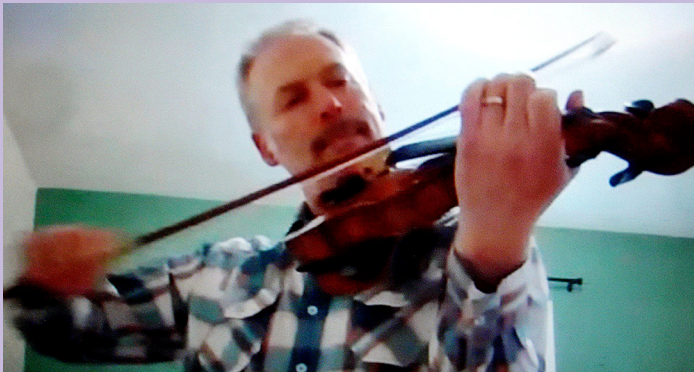
When Dennis struggled with timing, he found **Donna Oldham** and **Norm McGrew** willing and easy to learn from. **Wally Moon** also helped Dennis hone his skills and became a mentor. "Wally was an excellent musician. It made me feel like a million dollars just to get to play with him."

In the late 1990s Dennis joined a local group of musicians, **The Mavericks**, that played every Wednesday at rest homes and senior centers.

Dennis always manages to get the fiddlers involved in his music. **Marie Bailey** recalls that before she knew how to back-up or fill-in, he passed the lead to her. Apart from the surprise of it, when she faltered, he sang the melody to her and encouraged her to pick it up by ear. The audience loved it because he wouldn't let her back out easily, and the fiddler learned how the lead can pass around in a band.

Dennis has a penchant for funny, rhyming, tongue-twisting ditties that make you laugh out loud, and he loves every minute of it.

If he catches you enjoying his music, his eyes sparkle just a little bit more and he graces you with one of his country-boy smiles. Music makes him happy, and it shows. **Dennis is a cherry-picking, guitar-pickin', country-singing cowboy.**



**Andy Emert and Judy McGarvey performing for a virtual audience and judges in the 2021 Oregon State Fiddle Contest**



## District 9 Burns, John Day Area

**Chair:** Randy Gibson 541-589-1866  
outlawwoodproducts@yahoo.com  
**Vice-chair:** Joan Suther 541-573-5601  
Jsuther10@gmail.com  
**Sec/Trea/Membership:** George Sahlberg  
541-420-3583  
**Reporter:** Marianne Andrews

**We are still on a pause** on our **Friday Night Jams** due to an increase of COVID 19 in our county. Hello to everyone out there in our district. We sure miss seeing our friends.

We are thankful that **George Sahlberg** is back on the job. He has caught up the books and is still hoping to receive all your **OOTFA** memberships soon.

Hello especially to **Darlene Wingfield** and **Paul Hyland**. We miss your dancing and smiles.

Our decision about whether to host our **High Desert Music Jamboree** is still pending. We will give you a definite answer next month.

Spring seems just around the corner with new bird species arriving daily. **Janet Braymen**, **Joan Suther** and **Rick Vetter** listen to more bird songs than they do oldtime music these days, but are also learning new tunes for our later enjoyment. So, even though we haven't been meeting as a group, people are staying musically active in various ways.

~ Musically Yours, Marianne Andrews,  
District 9 Reporter

## District 10 Roseburg, Canyonville, Sutherlin Area

**Chairperson & Program Coordinator:** Jude Stensland  
541-430-2080 jude999s@gmail.com  
**Vice-Chair:** Jim Kuether 503-260-5972 j.kuether@yahoo.com  
**Secretary:** Kelly Wadsworth 541-643-7113  
queenkellybee@gmail.com  
**Treasurer:** Gynn Deaton 541-839-4501 gynnnde@gmail.com  
**Membership:** Sharon Thompson 541-430-5898  
mamabear3506@centurytel.net  
**Kitchen Mgr:** Sandy Harter 541-340-3430  
sandharter@gmail.com  
**Sound Person:** Jim Leininger 714-852-8144 leinfam@earthlink.net  
**Reporter/Publicist:** Joe Ross 541-673-9759 rossjoe@hotmail.com

**Congrats to all** who entered the virtual **Oregon State Fiddle Contest** on March 20. We certainly appreciate **Eileen Walter** and **OOTFA** for organizing and hosting a contest during this challenging year.

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**. The festival will have over 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, June 25th from 12 pm – 8 pm, Saturday, June 26th from 10 am – 8 pm, and Sunday, June 27th from 10 am – 4 pm. OOTFA members are invited to join us. Contact **Jude Stensland** to schedule at time, and bring your own chair.

I've been watching some of the fiddle videos that **Colleen Hanks** uploaded from **Ila Mae Carmickle's Fiddle Class** in Eugene. You can find them on **YouTube** by typing **her name and "fiddle class"**

If you need the music or chords for any of these tunes, they're at this **District 6** section of the **OOTFA website**. District 6 tune lists, music & videos are also found there.

Another fun project during this "down time" would be to review the **Tunes of the Month** from the **Hoedowner** since 2007.

The middle of March was the "wearing of the green." Now, we can anticipate the "sharing of the green" on April 15! This month, we only have one birthday to celebrate ... mine on April 26! An oldtime fiddler once told me, "Think old, and you'll be old. Think young, and you'll be a delusional old fart."

~ Joe Ross, District 10 Reporter



District 10 musicians at Callahan Village in Roseburg

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



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 Site

[National Fiddle Contest](#)

Weiser, Idaho

[West Cascades Fiddle Camp & Workshop](#)

Pleasant Hill

[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

[District 7 Facebook](#)

Portland, Northern Coast Area

[District 10 Facebook](#)

Roseburg, Canyonville, Sutherlin Area

[Hoedownner Archive](#)

OOTFA Newsletter Since 1967

[Join OOTFA!](#)

Registration Form to Join OOTFA

[Tune of the Month](#)

[Tune of the Month Archive](#)

We're on the Web! [www.ootfa.org](http://www.ootfa.org)

## Oregon Oldtime Fiddlers State Contest Results ~ 2021

### SMALL FRY

1	Rosie Kin	Milwaukee (7)
2	Thomas Richards	Bend (3)
3	Leo Kuhl	Eugene (6)
4	Elliot Christensen	Portland (7)
5	William Connell	Portland (7)

### JUNIOR - JUNIOR

1	Lorelei Hein	Sherwood (7)
2	Isabella Matthews	Eugene (6)
3	C.J. Callahan	Eugene (6)
4	Mary Weston	West Linn (7)
5	Nina Kuhl	Eugene (6)
6	Lydia Richards	Bend (3)
7	Sadie Melton	Happy Valley (7)
8	Lucy Bragg	Eugene (6)
9	Julia Smith	Portland (7)
10	Carson Tremper	Portland (7)
11	Elijah Darling	Sweet Home (6)

### JUNIOR

1	Ruby Gunter - OS	Vancouver, WA
2	Maya Peterson - OS	Vancouver, WA
3	Meg Preston - OS	Blackfoot, ID
4	Natalie Guptill	Keiser (8)
5	Mia Dawson	Portland (7)
6	Tatum Tanchuk - OS	Vancouver, WA
7	Clayton James Carper	Eugene (6)
8	Noah Rudolph	Keiser (8)

### YOUNG ADULT

1	Isaac Helland	Lebanon (6)
2	Christina Deming - OS	Vancouver, WA
3	Kiersten Doggett	Albany (6)

### ADULT

1	Cynthia Hamm - OS	Vancouver, WA
2	Amy Natzke	Newberg (8)
3	Jenny Dreyer	Klamath Falls (1)
4	Marcel Potvin	Prineville, (3)

### SENIOR

1	B. Starr McMullen	Corvallis (8)
2	Martha Hughes	Keiser (8)
3	Donna Reuter	Hood River (7)
4	Karen Johnson	Newport (8)
5	Bob Heinith - OS	Port Townsend, WA

### SENIOR-SENIOR

1	Evelyn Horner	Monroe (6)
2	Jerry Parks	Lebanon (6)
3	Judy McGarvey	Medford (4)
4	Sharon Sauter	Brookings (5)

### CHAMPIONSHIP

1	Aarun Carter	Portland (7)
2	Andy Emert	Portland (7)
3	Gary Schuh	Portland (7)
4	Doug Fleener	Gresham (7)
5	Kian Dye - OS	Bellingham, WA

Note: "OS" is "Out-of-State Contestant"