THE ARIZONA FIDDLER

WINTER 1980

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION of the ARIZONA OLD TIME FIDDLERS ASSN.

FIDDLER OF THE MONTH

Hayden Boyett

THE ARIZONA FIDDLER is a non-profit publication published by The Arizona Old Time Fiddlers Association. Membership is $5.00-single, $6.00 per family. Included is a subscription to the ARIZONA FIDDLER magazine plus the monthly newsletter. Correspondence should be addressed to LOUISE McCLOUD, 2520 N. 51st LANE, PHOENIX, AZ 85035. (602) 272-0081. Dues are due January 1st annually.

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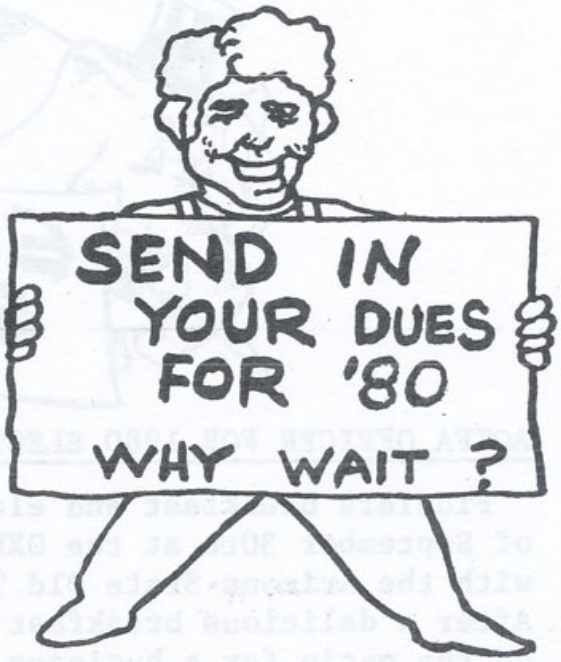
FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Welcome new officers, board members, and all new members. Here we are at the start of another year which we hope will be good to all. Our association is growing by leaps and bounds, both with members and events. You are kept informed about events through the monthly newsletter published by Sol Rudnick, who was re-elected to the editor's post. You can involve yourself as much or as little as you desire by attending the scheduled pot lucks and events posted in the newsletter. It's up to you. We, of course, hope you will participate as much as possible, after all, active participation determines the success or failure of any organization. You are urged to become involved!!

No word yet about the A.O.T.F.A. sponsored fiddle contest scheduled for spring, its still in the talking stages.We'll let you know as soon as possible. We'd also like to hear from you about any item you feel is newsworthy. Send it to me...I'll probably use it in the upcoming issue. One final reminder ...membership dues are due Jan. 1st,

$5.00 single, $6.00 family. Info on where to send it is in this issue. Dues not received by Feb. 1st will cancel your membership. Don't put it off!

Happy reading,
Your Editor



TRAMMELL' HOST CAMP-OUT

November 3 & 4 was a fun time week-end for some of the AOT Fiddlers and members and guest. A pot luck supper (super food) was enjoyed by MacMcCloud, Hyrum Breakfield, Everett and Ruth Helman, the Boyett family, Brian, Roberta, Katrina and Hayden, Pete Cauchey from Colorado. The guests from Black Canyon City were Nick and Shari Portonova, Clint and Barbara Jones, Norman and Betty Andress, Margie Daugherty, Judge, Sue and Bret Buckner, Camile Gordon and Vineta and Doran Emery.

A fun night of jamming and dancing at the Cross-Y Ranch was enjoyed by more than 100 people. It was hosted by George Berryhill.

Sunday 8 A.M. a pancake breakfast including scrambled eggs, bacon, sausage and coffee was absorbed by 14 hungry people.

Come noontime, back to the Cross-Y Ranch for the most delicious pit bar-b-q you ever tempted your taste buds with. For the entertainment ...our own Gene Privett and Ron Privett joined us for a delightful and crowd-pleasing afternoon of that good ole A.O.T.F.A. kind of music. Some 5 to 6 hundred people enjoyed the bar-b-q and entertainment. A great time was had by all and the weather was great for the outing.

United Way Drive Is On

Five Valley United Ways have joined hands in a campaign to raise $6,470,000 to help meet the growing service needs of the Valley of the Sun. A total of 60 agencies, including our own, will share in funds to provide Family Strengthening Services, Health Services, Day Care for Children, and Social Development needs. The United Way contributes needed community support and dollars to help maintain our community's voluntary sector. Give generously to your local campaign. United Way dollars support our services.

3.jpg

AOTFA OFFICER FOR 1980 ELECTED

Fiddlers breakfast and election of officers took place the morning of September 30th at the OXBOW INN in Payson. The election coincides with the Arizona State Old Time Fiddlers Contest held that weekend. After a delicious breakfast the 64 members present adjourned outside on the patio for a business meeting and the nominations and election of officers. A motion was made and passed to amend the by-laws to allow officers to hold office for an unlimited number of terms. The old by-law set a 2 term limit on the duration of office. As a result, the incumbent MAC McCLOUD retained the presidency for a 3 rd term. Vice President went to IRV PHILLIPS with membership secretary and recording secretary being retained by LOUISE McCLOUD & EVIE MOORE, respectively. Our new treasurer is SUE DUPEE and MARSHALL RACOWSKY will continue as editor of our official magazine, "THE ARIZONA FIDDLER".

Our monthly newsletter will be ably produced by SOL RUDNICK. The 7 board members are DEE JOHNSON, SOL RUDNICK, KEN HICKS, GENE PRIVETT, BRIAN BOYETT, RENA TRAMMELLAND HYRUM BRAKEFIELD.

Best wishes to all officers and board members in the coming year. Let's all get behind them and support them and the association to make us the best organization of this type in the U.S.

HOSPITAL STAY:

Frank Trammell had a 10-day stay in the V.A. Hospital in late October. His problem was a kidney infection. He is happy to be home, but possibility of entering the V.A. Hospital in Prescott for further diagnosis on his condition. Thanks to the A.O.T.F.A. for the nice planter which he received.

Frank & Rena Trammell

Sign up for security.
Take stock in America.
Buy U.S. Savings Bonds.

FIDDLER OF THE MONTH

HAYDEN BOYETT

By Katrina, Roberta, and Brian Boyett

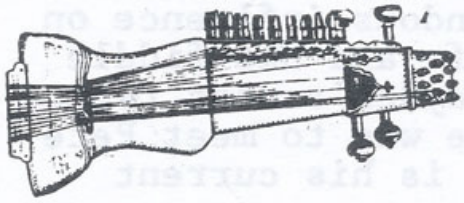
Hayden Boyett is a 12 year old, third generation native Arizonan. (Mother's side). He was born into a musical family (Father's side). His father is from a Texas country music background. The day his parents chose his name they also decided that he should play the fiddle.

During Hayden's very young years the only fiddle player his parents could find played at a local restaurant in Scottsdale. The family went there as often as they could afford it. When he was about 8 years old the family went to see Doug Kershaw at the Arizona State Fair. From that day on Hayden has had a burning desire to play the fiddle.

Since no fiddle teacher could be found, Katrina's piano teacher, Betty Schmuck, was "persuaded" to brush up on her abandonded violin talents and teach Hayden to play the violin.

In May of 1976 Roberta spotted an article in a local paper announcing that the Arizona Old Time Fiddlers would perform at Scottsdale Fashion Square. The Boyett Family was OVERWHELMED by the number of fiddle players, the good music and how friendly the fiddlers were.

Following the performance, Sol Rudnick invited the family to a jam session at his home where Sue Widemark was suggested as a fiddle teacher. Sue had decided to discontinue giving fiddle lessons but Roberta persuaded her to take Hayden for a short time.



Con't

Through the A.O.T.F.A. the family learned of the Payson fiddle contest and at Brian's urging the Payson Chamber of Commerce added an under 12 year old Junior-Junior category. Sue Widemark dedicated herself to teaching Hayden 3 tunes by contest time and through concentrated practice Hayden was ready. Several Junior-Junior fiddlers entered and the category was a huge success.

The A.O.T.F.A. turned out to be exactly the kind of good, clean, family fun and friends the Boyett Family wanted to be a part of. Many accomplished fiddlers seemed to just go out of their way to encourage and assist Hayden. Lyman Keeling was the first fiddler to give Hayden real encouragement. Soon afterwards, Mac McCloud, Hyram Brakefield, and Ned Bean became special friends and helped him become friends with many of the other fiddlers.

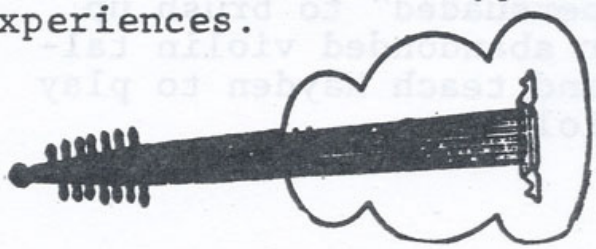
A real break came for Hayden when Russ Burris took him under his wing and started spending time helping him. Thru Russ, Hayden met Hyram Posey. Hyram and Mollie invited him to spend a week with them at Bisbee last summer. Both Russ and Hyram have had a tremendous influence on Hayden's life and his fiddle playing. Hayden's most recent good fortune was to meet Pete Rolland who is his current instructor.

Many people in the AOTFA besides fiddle players have been an influence on Hayden and his family. In addition to helping Hayden, Marshall Racowsky has worked diligently to try to teach Brian the chords necessary to accompany Hayden's contest songs and constantl y chides that Hayden may be looking for another guitar player if Brian doesn't progress.

The thrill of being able to "make" and feel music with friends like Gene Privett and Frank and Rena Trammell has provided a unique type of friendship that can only be found through the mutual experience of music.

The"show business"--like thrill of participating in a stage show directed by a first class producer like Irv Phillips is a priceless experience.

The excitement of combining the Trammell and Boyett families to form the "Shirtail Relatives Band" is a memory that will last a lifetime. The Boyett family feels very fortunate to have friends like the Old Time Fiddlers and to be able to share these types of experiences.



This winter Hayden is concentrating on learning family-type and gospel songs. Roberta began playing mandolin about a year ago and now the entire family can perform as a group.

Other than getting together at AOTFA gatherings almost all available time will be spent performing at churches, hospitals, and rest homes. Then hopefully, next spring fiddle contest fever will be in the air again. □

The Boyett family-Hayden, Katrina, Brian, & Roberta.

A WORD FROM THE MOTHER OF TWO MUSICIANS

by Roberta Boyett

So many time we've questioned our motives as parents in the development of Katrina's and Hayden's musical talents. Practice in the first 3 months is fun and exciting. From there on the next few years it's pretty much down hill most times. But once our children chose to take lessons it became a way of life and family commitment the same as going to work each day and church Sunday morning. "It's not always what we feel like doing but what's best for the family.

Thirty minutes before school and 30 minutes after are the order of the day.--- No questions asked!

7.jpg

At times friends and the "Dear Abby" column have made us re-evaluate this rule but we remind ourselves and stand firm in that we each have an obligation to our family circle and unless there is something of better value, the children's part is to practice one hour a day.

Already, in such a short time, we are earning dividends on the investment. Last Christmas our special gifts from Katrina and Hayden were "Music Box Dancer" and "Orange Blossom Special". Mother's Day my request for "Gardenia Waltz" was granted. This Christmas I've requested,"Listen To The Mocking bird" from Hayden and "Daddy Sang Bass" from Katrina.

As a Mother, I feel very, very blessed! ★

It's thumbs down for bluegrass

United Press International

TELLURIDE, Colo. — Jazz music is fine in this southwestern Colorado mountain town but, after six years, bluegrass music is definitely out.

The towns' residents voted 199-168 in a special referendum Tuesday against any further bluegrass music festivals, after six years of them. At the same time, they voted to retain a jazz festival every year.

"A lot of people felt the people coming in here for the bluegrass weren't the most top-notch. I guess they felt they were not spending enough money when they came and presented the potential for trouble," said town attorney Dick Unruh.

Unruh said he expected the Town Council to carry out the wishes of the voters and refuse to issue any future permits for bluegrass festivals. ☆

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fiddle contests

ARIZONA STATE FIDDLE CHAMPIONSHIP

For the 9th straight year the Payson Chamber of Commerce has hosted the Arizona Old Time Fiddle Contest to determine the champion fiddler of the state. The contest was held the weekend of Sept. 29th and 30th with a Sunday crowd estimated at over 7000 to witness the finals. Entertainment was provided for the 3rd straight year by LYMAN KEELING and his Bluegrass Boys consisting of GENE PRIVETT on guitar, BILL BECKNER on 5 string banjo and BEN SANDOVAL on bass. Judges were CHUCK GRIFFIN of Olympia, Wash., PETER ROLLAND of Mesa, and AOTFA President MAC McCLOUD of Phoenix. The fiddler's fiddler award which is voted on by the contestants was awarded to HYRUM BRAKEFIELD of Phoenix. Following is a list of winners:

ARIZONA CONTEST

JR.-JR. DIVISION (0-12)

1. David Egen-Tucson-$50 & plaque
2. Hayden Boyett-Tempe $35 & ribbon
3. Amy Purl-Phoenix-$25 & ribbon
4. Andrea Boltz-?-$15 & ribbon
5. Heidi Rolland-?-$10 & ribbon

JUNIOR DIVISION (13-18)

1. Lucky Lee Blackwell-Phoenix-$100 & plaque
2. Danny Johnson-Phoenix-$75 & ribbon

DISCOVER AMERICA

YOUNG ADULT DIVISION (19-39)

1. Russel Burris-Mesa-$100 & plaque
2. Hyram Posey-Bisbee-$75 & ribbon
3. Ron Privett-Phoenix-$50 & ribbon
4. Tawna Flake-?-$35 & ribbon
5. Larry Rubin-Tucson-$25 & ribbon

ADULT DIVISION (40-64)

1. John Carney-?- $100 & plaque
2. Sol Rudnick-Phoenix-$75 & ribbon
3. Milton Hooker-?- $50 & ribbon
4. Clinton Reid-Payson-$35 & ribbon
5. Dale Pauley-Tucson-$25 & ribbon

SENIOR DIVISION (65 & OLDER)

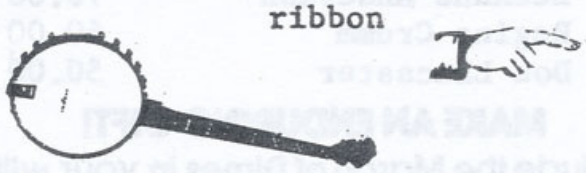
1. Githon Reid-Payson-$100 & plaque
2. Hyrum Brakefield-Phoenix-$75 & ribbon
3. Dudley Whitlock-Young-$50 & ribbon
4. Jack Martin-?-$35 & ribbon
5. Ned Bean-Prescott-$25 & ribbon

OUT OF STATE DIVISION (ALL AGES)

1. Junior Daugherty-Mesilla Park, NM - $150 & plaque
2. Wes Nivens-T. or C. N.M., $100 & ribbon
3. Johnny Mitchum-Batesville, Ark. $50 & ribbon

TRICK & FANCY DIVISION

1. Junior Daugherty-Mesilla Park, NM - $50 & ribbon
2. Danny Johnson-Phoenix-$35 & ribbon
3. Ron Privett-Phoenix-$25 & ribbon



ARIZONA CHAMPION DIVISION

1. Hyram Posey-Bisbee $250, plaque, and bolo tie
2. Russell Burris-Mesa-$125 & ribbon
3. Milton Hooker-?- $100 & ribbon
4. Lucky Lee Blackwell-Mesa-$75 & ribbon
5. Ron Privett-Mesa-$50 & ribbon

BEST ACCOMPANIST AWARD

1. Marshall Racowsky-Tempe - $75 & plaque
2. Sarah McUmber-Tucson-$50 & ribbon

NEW MEXICO FIDDLE CHAMPIONSHIP

Following are the winners of the New Mexico Championship Fiddle Contest held Oct. 13 & 14 at the convention center in Truth Or Consequences, N.M. A big thank you to AOTFA member WES NIVENS of Williamsburg, N.M. for taking the time to send us these results.

0-14

1st Marilyn Lindley	$30.00
2nd Donna Lindley	20.00
3rd J.L. McDonald	10.00
4th Galon Milligan	5.00
5th Claude Gobbell	trophy
6th Paula Benham	trophy

15-40

1st Gretchen Van Houten	100.00
2nd David Anderson	90.00
3rd Shawnie Pettus	80.00
4th LeeAnne Anderson	70.00
5th Regina Crumm	60.00
6th Don Lancaster	50.00

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LADIES

1st Tammie Dougherty	100.00
2nd Cheryl Lindley	90.00
3rd Robin Fox	80.00
4th Lois Bucher	70.00
5th Theresa Clark	60.00
6th Cindy Pierson	50.00

41-64

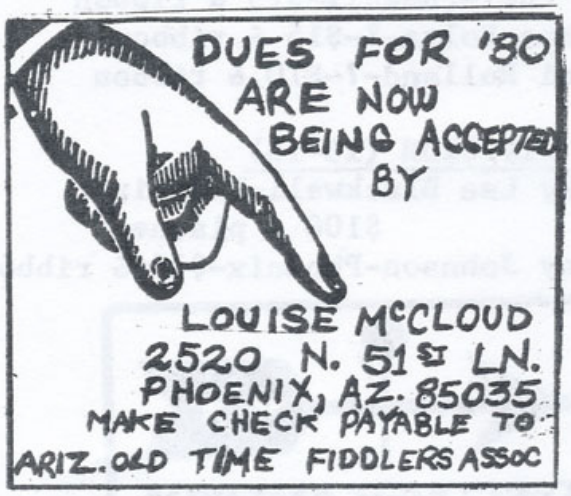
1st Junior Daugherty	100.00
2nd Wes Nivens	90.00
3rd Cecil Cast	80.00
4th Glenn Morehouse	70.00
5th Dan Boatright	60.00
6th Al Crowson	50.00

65 AND OVER

1st Martin Smith	100.00
2nd Ocie Stirman	90.00
3rd Albert Milligan	80.00
4th Jack Mitchell	70.00
5th George Coupland	60.00
6th John Ferguson	50.00

CHAMPIONSHIP DIVISION

1st Junior Daugherty	175.00
2nd Olan James	150.00
3rd Cheryl Lindley	125.00
4th Tammie Daugherty	100.00
5th Marilyn Lindley	75.00
6th Wes Nivens	50.00



Thanks once again to HARRIS BROWN of Bloomfield, N.M. for the following results of the Farmington, N.M. fiddle contest held Sept. 7th and 8th.

DIV. I 0-10 years
1. Travis Pearson
2. Alison Cooper
3. Vashti Becktell
4. Heather Ewing
5. Harod Becktell

DIV. II 11-16 years
1. Marilyn Lindley
2. Donna Lindley
3. Michelle Choute

DIV. III 17-35 years
1. Cheryl Lindley
2. Pam Ash
3. Cindy Pearson
4. Morris McGee

DIV. IV 36-55 years
1. Harris Brown
2. Judy Haggerman
3. Tom Givon
4. Pat Brannin

DIV. V 56 years & over
1. Bill King
2. James Bright

CHAMPION DIVISION
1. Cheryl Lindley
2. Bill King
3. Harris Brown
4. Judy Haggerman
5. Tom Givon
6. James Bright

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Wes Nivens
H.L. Hayes
Cecil Cast

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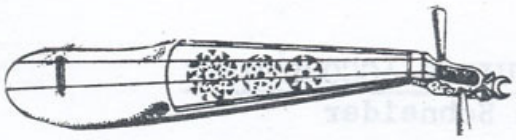
Anyone interested in the banjo, whether it be lessons or just banjo news, contact HAROLD STREETER about a subscription to Banjo Newsletter. Harold writes a monthly column called "Arrangement Development". His address is LE WALT PUBLISHING, P.O. BOX 1865, SEDONA, AZ 86336.



In looking back over some past issues of TAF I came upon this article writen by JO CROWSON which appeared in the March 1976 issue. The fiddler of the month then was Horace Crandall. The article was entitled "America the Great" and was dedicated to the bicentennial year of America's independence. Jo wrote this 4 years ago, look how time flies. The meaning is still the same in 1980.....

REFLECTIONS on the Bicentennial year
from Jo Crowson

TO AMERICA THE GREAT:

200 years have passed since we became an independent nation.

We have prospered and risen to the highest standards known to man.

Our transportation has passed from Pony Express to rockets that put man on the moon...which before had only been known to God. But is all this what we want? We are still striving to go back in time and recapture a few cherished things our ancestors created for us...old time fiddle music, folk dances, frocks worn in that day and many other things that were of their time.

We are still striving to preserve some of the heritage of our ancestors to make this 1976 a great bicentennial year.

THANKS JO...AND ANOTHER thank you for all the work you've done helping get this news letter out. ...Ed.

YUMA J.C. FIDDLE CONTEST

The Yuma J.C.'s are putting on a fiddle contest Jan. 26th & 27th at the J.C. Clubhouse, 1798 Arizona Ave. There will be 3 age divisions with prizes totaling $1100 & trophies and ribbons. The divisions are Junior division-17 years & younger, intermediate--18 thru 40, and senior--41 and over. Prize money for Junior is $60, 50, 40,30, & 20. For both intermediate and senior divisions prize money is $150, 100, 75, 50 & 25. Also, 3 prizes for accompanists, $60, 40 & 20. Registration is Jan. 26 from 10:00 to 11:45 A.M. The contest starts at noon. Finals are Sunday at 1:00 P.M. ★

12.jpg

Arizona musicians fiddle around in the White Mountains

By Laura Roberts
Staff Writer

PINETOP—Fingers fly across the strings, the bow whips back and forth and the spectators' toes began their tapping.

It's fiddling music, folks, and can be either a kick-back easy tune or a fast-stepping, toe-tapping dance song. That's the fun of fiddling, according to members of the Arizona Old-Time Fiddlers Association (AOTFA).

Spectators had an earful of the fiddlers' music as members of the group entertained at a free three-hour show at Sports Village last Saturday.

The entertainers were three family groups, two couple, four singles and a novelty act. They weren't all fiddlers—some played the guitar or bass and others sang, but all had a love for fiddling music.

The group was started five years ago when Jay Belt, the California state fiddling champion moved to Arizona, according to Gene Privitt of Scottsdale. He couldn't believe there wasn't a fiddlers' association in the state and so he started one.

Privitt emcees the show for the traveling group and joins in several acts by singing and playing his guitar. "We'll fiddle until the last fiddler falls," he told the Pinetop audience as he invited them to join in an after-show jam session.

"The members just enjoy music. They get together once a month for a potluck and to play," he said.

Families and singles both get involved in the AOTFA, Privitt said. Sometimes the parents get the children interested and sometimes it's the other way around.

Hayden Boyett and his family are one of the latter category. The 12-year-old became interested in fiddle music after seeing a well-known musician play. According to other members of the AOTFA, Hayden was the one who got his family involved in the association.

His father and older sister both play the guitar for the family group. Many various string instruments from guitars and basses to mandolins are popular with the fiddlers' group.

Hayden has been playing the fiddle for three and a half years, he said as he carefully packed his two fiddles, one a five-string, into the case.

"I saw Doug Kershaw (a Cajun fiddler) play and got encourged to play the fiddle," Hayden said. "I want to continue playing but it's just for fun."

His five-string provides a bit more of a challenge than the regular four-string. "The strings are closer together and the fifth-string is the high string off the viola," he said.

The Pinetop entertainer included other perfomers such as Mac McCloud from Phoenix, the group's president and winner of a national fiddlers' contest in Weiser, Idaho. The Jennings family, of Tom, Martha and Sharon, came up from Thatcher to play, too.

An unusual act travels with the group and belongs to the association, although they aren't fiddlers. Frank and Rena Trammell add a novelty act to the show as the 85-year-old Frank relates his cowboy stories to the audience.

The Trammels are from Black Canyon City and just enjoy being with the fiddlers and cowboy atmosphere.

Some of the fiddlers have worked professionally, but most are just in the association for the fun of it, they said. Several belong to bluegrass bands or square dance groups and a few play solo at various Valley nightclubs.

Most of the musicians can't read music, but play only by ear. "Most fiddlers just sort of pick it (the fiddle) up and start playing," said Pete Rolland, another AOTFA member. "People play the fiddle for entertainment where a violin is played for skill and the performance."

The Rolland family of Pete, his wife Gail and daughter, Heidi, has a little more professional background than most. Pete Rolland has played the fiddle for 11 years and learned on the violin when he was a child. His wife is a music teacher in the Mesa School District.

The violin and the fiddle are only the same in the original build, any fiddler will tell you. From there the difference is the same as the difference between a country western singer and an opera vocalist, Rolland said.

A fiddler usually uses steel strings instead of the usual violin's gut strings. The steel strings respond faster to the fiddler's bow, he said. The bow strokes are also shorter and faster when played by a fiddler.

Various sounds can be produced by the fiddler through the adjustment of the bridge under the strings. "A fiddler's tone is flatter. The bridge is adjusted so that the height of the strings is lower," Rolland said. "The fiddle is easier to play."

The entire technique between the two differs in the rhythm and music. "The fiddlers work with rhythm in a different way. They bring out more beat — the music is usually for dance and has a good, strong beat, Rolland said.

"It's a lot harder for the fiddler to play classical music than it is for the violinist to play fiddler's music," he said. "For the most part fiddling is an amatuer activity and most play it strictly for enjoyment."

To distinguish the difference in music and technique is one thing, but Rolland goes one step farther. "There's music education and there's fiddling — here it's a part of life."

FIDDLING FINGERS — Pete Rolland makes his fiddle sing like bagpipes as his bow whips across the strings. Rolland was one of the entertainers from the Arizona Old-Time Fiddlers Association at Sports Village last Saturday. The fiddlers played for three hours, performing a variety of easy music and dancing tunes.

(Staff photo by Laura Roberts)

CLOGGING:

Foot-Stomping Dance More Fun Than Jogging

By PEGGY BRYANT

It's enough to wear you out just watching when Nashville's Tennessee Travelers do it. And, say its firmest advocates, clogging is more fun than jogging — and does you just as much good in the physical fitness department.

What is it?

It's a vigorous, foot-stomping, hand-clapping kind of dance most folks associate with square dancing.

But square dancing it isn't, though it incorporates some square dance movements and often features callers. That's according to Tempean Dean Brown, who will team up with his partner Sharon to instruct a class in beginning clogging as one of this fall's Tempe Union High School District Evening School special interest classes.

"There is as much difference between square dancing and clogging," says Brown, "as the difference between ballroom dancing or the two-step and disco dancing or jitterbug . . . Clogging is much more vigourous physical activity."

Clogging is believed to have originated in the Appalachian Mountains among early 18th century pioneers who, isolated from the influence and customs of other Americans, developed their own dance and music forms.

Brown says the major influences in the development of the dance included the Irish jig, Scottish Highland and Cherokee Indian dance steps.

The dance form came close to dying in the 1940s and '50s, because of drastic changes in the American lifestyle during and after World War II, said Brown. Since interest began to grow again in the '60s, he adds, "clogging has been growing rapidly throughout the United States, particularly in the Appalachians, the southeastern United States and in California."

"Early clogging was a lot of foot-stomping and hand-clapping and had no real dance pattern," points out Brown. "This style passed down through the generations and became part of the Big Circle Mountain dancing of the Appalachians."

With the revival of interest in the old-time dancing, there have come changes in clogging styles.

And now, says Brown, though "it still has a strong flavor of early American heritage and tends to instill a desire in the onlooker to join in with the hand-clapping, foot-stomping and occasional yelling," it is "a little more sophisticated."

"Clogging today is performed either by individuals, in a style sometimes known as buck clogging or free style clogging; or as couples or a group of people of almost any size in pre-defined routines," Brown states. It may, he adds, incorprate Big Circle Mountain dancing, modern square dance or even modern dance movements; and while country-western music most often provides the tempo for the dancers, it's just as apt today to be performed to more popular music. Dean and Sharon, for instance, are working on clog routines for "Music Box Dancer" and the "Star Wars" theme, and have done routines to "Fifth of Beethoven."

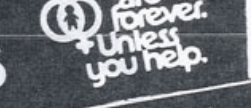
Clogging actually "Merely defines the footwork" for the dancing, says Dean. There are eight basic clog steps "and you make it look difficult by combining them in different combinations."

Winners of 1978 Old Time Fiddler's Contest

1st Place	Dick Barrett	9th Place	Roscoe White
2nd Place	Dale Morris	10th Place	Mike Jacka
3rd Place	Russell Burris •	11th Place	Louisa Johnson
4th Place	Arnold Buss	12th Place	Ollice Tripp
5th Place	Lisa Rhodes	13th Place	Clifton Taylor
6th Place	Pete Roland	14th Place	Will Irwin
7th Place	Sol Rudnick	15th Place	Ron Privett
8th Place	Carl Freeman		

• Also Arizona State Champion

1980 MARCH OF DIMES
Against Birth Defects



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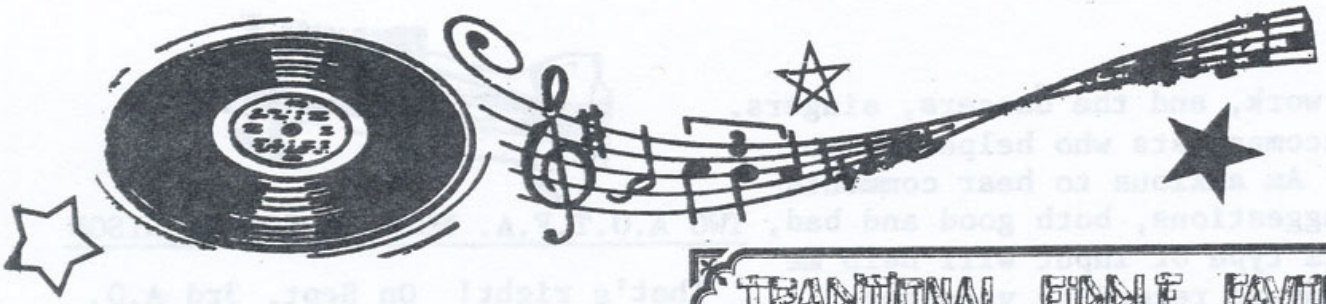

RECORD RELEASES

DONE GONE

The title of HYRAM POSEY's latest fiddle album, also in 8-track, is now available by writing HYRAM POSEY, P.O. BOX 5642, BISBEE, ARIZ. 85603. Albums $6.00, tapes $7.00 add $1.00 for postage & handling. Hyram, you may recall, is the current Arizona State Fiddling champ, having won the contest in Payson last September. His new recording is a real treat for all.★

TRADITIONAL FIDDLE FAVORITES

Sol Rudnick's second fiddle album has been recently released and we understand it is doing exceptionally well. The following are some thoughts from Sol about his latest album.....ed.

"I'm very pleased with the results of my second record album. Although it's a long way from the technical perfection that I strive for, it comes closer than my 1st album in achieving what I preach old time fiddling should be. That is the lilting music that can make the most apathetic audience respond and participate. This album closely follows the foremost of my first album. I tried to portray a broad variety of traditional fiddling styles and included Irish, Scottish and Cajon styles as well. To round out the album, I've included a square dance tune complete with caller, two Irish step dancers with their intricate footwork, two vocalists, and even a twin-fiddle tune. I have also included an insert of descriptive notes on each of the tunes on the album. My utmost thanks and appreciation goes out to all those who participated and supported me in the production of the album. Special thanks to MARSHALL RACOWSKY whose guitar work is an integral part of the album's success, also to MAC McCLOUD, KEN BROWN for his fine

banjo work, and the dancers, singers, and accompanists who helped me so much. Am anxious to hear comments and suggestions, both good and bad, as this type of input will help me with future recording ventures."

Happy Listening...

"Fiddlin' Sol"

Albums can be obtained from Sol by sending a check for $6.00 for each album to PURIST RECORDS, P.O. BOX 21742, PHOENIX, AZ 85036, or if large quantities are desired, call him at (602) 959-6911. □□

UNITED STATES OLYMPIC COMMITTEE

WIN IN 1980

★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★

September 10, 1979
8215 S. Central
Phoenix, AZ 85040

Dear Marshall,

We, the South Mountain Bluegrass and Gospel Band, are playing on KASA Radio, 1540 on the dial, every Saturday from 2:30 to 3:00 Saturday afternoon. This is on a cassette tape that we put together. That way we can go to other events on weekends.

Thought you might want to put this in your newsletter.

Thank you,
Earl Jacobs

TWO A.O.T.F.A. MEMBERS GO TO PRISON

That's right! On Sept. 3rd A.O.T.F.A. members PETER ROLLAND & MARSHALL RACOWSKY, spent the afternoon at the Arizona State Prison in Florence demonstrating old time music to prison inmates as part of a program to introduce a folk music teaching program for the prisoners.

The program was designed to acquaint inmates with folk music and allow them to take an active role in forming a musical folk group band.

Peter currently teaches a course in folk orchestra at ASU besides giving private lessons in fiddle, mandolin, bass and guitar. If there is enough interest among the inmates to form such a group, Peter will travel to the prison weekly to give lessons. Instruments are needed by Peter to get the program rolling. Anyone wishing to donate an unused fiddle, guitar or mandolin or make a loan or even rent such instruments, contact Peter at 969-9744. We will keep you informed on the success, or failure, of the program in the next TAF issue.

Editor's Note: Since then we have learned that Peter is teaching classes at the prison once a week in the evening and the program appears to be successful. According to Peter the inmates involved in the program are enthusiastic and eager to learn. □

Rudnick dedicated to old-time fiddle playing

By JAY COLEMAN

The auditorium crowd fell silent as the public address announcer introduced the next competitor at the National Old Time Fiddler's contest in Weiser, Idaho.

Suddenly the music started — bagpipe music, you'd swear — and a costumed Scottish step dancer pranced on stage. She preceeded a bearded man in a Scottish kilt playing a plaid-covered fiddle. A special bow that played all four strings simultaneously produced a bagpipe drone, and a pipe attached to the end of the fiddle made the instrument resemble the ancient Scottish musical tool.

Fiddlin' Sol Rudnick was a landslide winner in the fanciest dress category.

Four years later, the 43-year-old Rudnick best symbolizes Arizona's mushrooming interest in old-time fiddle playing. But his musical roots date back 31 years to his childhood in Syracuse, N.Y., when he started taking classical violin lessons.

"I had been taking lessons for less than a year when I heard a fiddler at a barn dance," Rudnick says. "It excited me. I decided then it was the type of music I wanted to play."

His parents' reaction was mixed. His mother encouraged him, but Rudnick's father, a classical violinist, was taken aback. As Rudnick's interest in fiddle increased, so did his parents'.

"I respect the skill of classical violinists," Rudnick says, "because they can do some things I can't. They can take a piece of music they've never seen and whip right through it because they read music so well.

"But traditional old-time fiddlers have a skill they don't. We're better at improvising and playing by ear. A good musician can do both — read music and play by ear.

"A classical violinist from the symphony played with us once at a jam session, but he couldn't play anything by ear and had trouble improvising. It's just a difference of abilities."

Rudnick, a tool designer for AiResearch, has played competitively since 1967, and won the state Old Time Fiddler's Contest in Payson in 1974 and '75. In the last four years he has finished second and fifth, and sees a noticeable rise in fiddling interest.

"The first time I played in Payson there were about eight fiddlers and 65 or 70 spectators," he says. Now the contest draws about 40 fiddlers and about 5,000 spectators.

"But who wins doesn't necessarily determine ability. You have to gauge ability on the audience's response. Do they feel the action of the music? Is the audience inspired? Are they smiling, tapping their feet, dancing or singing along? A good fiddler can get an apathetic audience to do those things."

Rudnick is practicing daily for the ninth annual Payson contest Sept. 29-30, but he's not as concerned about placing as he is about preserving the ancient art of step dancing and its relation to fiddlin'.

Rudnick used the rhythmic dancing on his first album, "Fiddle Favorites," and on his upcoming album, "Traditional Fiddle Favorites," for which he designed the cover illustration. The albums, released by Purist Records, cover the cost of trips to contests, and aren't intended to be high-profit ventures, he says.

"If I played or recorded for a living," Rudnick says, "I'd have to cater to the popular demands of modern-tempo music. I don't want to become commercial; I'm dedicated to preserving the art of old-time fiddle playing."

Con't

Rudnick was the first president of the Arizona Pickers and Grinners club in 1972, and helped form the Arizona Old Time Fiddler's Association in 1974. His collection of fiddle tunes is believed to be more complete than the Library of Congress, and he plans to compile a book of tunes with commentary and a separate section for guitar accompaniment.

He composes occasional tunes, but says he has to be in the right mood, such as the feeling he gets at fiddling jam sessions.

"Playing spontaneously when a group of musicians gets together is what old-time fiddling is all about," Rudnick says. "Each one comes up with a tune, then more and more tunes come to mind. There is an inexhaustible supply. You become more creative because you're improvising on tunes you may be only vaguely familiar with.

"I can't remember playing for an audience that didn't like fiddle music. Their response helps me get into the music more, too, when I sing. I'm a little timid by nature, but I turn into a different person on stage; I ham it up. I start singing in a hillbilly accent, but for the life of me I can't talk like that."

His fiddle is another matter. Rudnick's bowing skills transform the fiddle into a bagpipe, barking dog, train whistle, bee, chicken or mockingbird. His instrument becomes a portable sound effects studio.

To find his east Phoenix apartment a visitor need only follow the music of songs like *The Woodchopper's Reel.*

"My neighbors are really nice unless I practice past midnight," Rudnick said with a smile. "The only complaint I've gotten was from the person in the apartment below me. I have a habit of stomping my foot when I play and sometimes I get carried away."

Con't on p.19

SHALOM

Goldust LPS-177

After his first album released in 1972, Hyram Posey waited for seven long years to do the next one. After you hear this one I'm sure you will agree that it should not be seven more before his next. Hyram is now ready to get down to some serious fiddlin' and will be a force to deal with at many contests around the southwest. Goldust Records is proud to be a part of his past and future.

Emmit Brooks

DONE GONE

SIDE 1	SIDE 2
1. DONE GONE (Hyram Posey) Enchantment Music Company, BMI	1. ORANGE BLOSSOM SPECIAL
2. JACK O'DIAMONDS	2. OOK PICK
3. MOLLY ROSE WALTZ (Hyram Posey) Enchantment Music Company, BMI	3. IDA RED
4. FLORIDA BLUES	4. GARDENIA WALTZ (Johnny Gimble) BMI
5. A MAIDEN'S PRAYER (Bob Wills) BMI	5. BARNSTORM (Hyram Posey) Enchantment Music Company, BMI
6. BLACK & WHITE RAG	6. FESTIVAL WALTZ
7. I DON'T LOVE NOBODY	7. BACK UP AND PUSH

HYRAM POSEY Goldust LPS-177

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_____	8-Track @ 7.00	_____
	Postage & Handling, per order, add	$1.00
	Total	_____

NM Residents Add 4% Sales Tax

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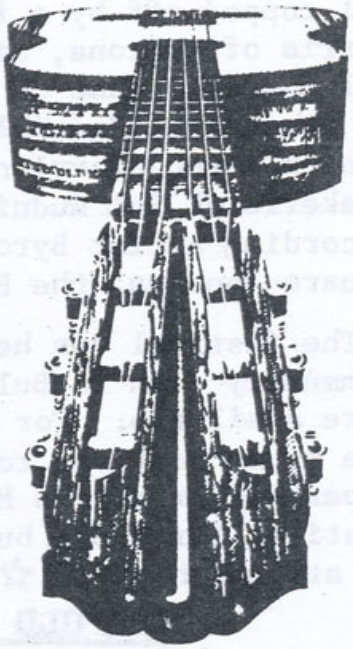
Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Mail order to:

Hyram Posey
P.O. Box 5642
Bisbee, Arizona 85603



"I'm a little timid by nature, but I turn into a different person on stage; I ham it up."
— Sol Rudnick

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TRI-STATE MUSIC FESTIVAL

Anyone who attended the 1st Annual TRI-STATE MUSIC FESTIVAL held at Bullhead City on Oct. 12, 13 & 14 witnessed one of the largest round-up of top name entertainers ever assembled in one location. The 3 day festival was packed with numerous bluegrass groups, gospel singers, square dance cloggers, workshops, fiddlers, and special guest artists all topped off by a fiddle contest between 3 state champions, Russell Burris of Arizona, Jim Jones of Nevada, and Dwayne Youngblood of California. Some of the bluegrass groups who performed were Tradition-al Bluegrass, Special Delivery, Sagegrass, Pacific-ly Bluegrass, High Window Boys, Gloryland and Done Gone. Featured fiddlers were Hyrum Brakefield, Sol Rudnick, Jay Belt, Hal Southern and Nationally-known recording artist Byron Berline. Also performing were the well-known square dancers, the Foggy Mountain Cloggers.

The festival was held near the banks of the Colorado River at the community park in Bullhead City where camping, boating and fishing were available. For the more adventuresome, a fast boatride across the river took you to several gambling casinos on the Nevada side. Hopefully promoters MAC McCLOUD and JAY BELT will plan a 2nd annual festival for 1980, but if you missed this one be sure to make plans to attend the next.☆

THE OLD FIDDLER

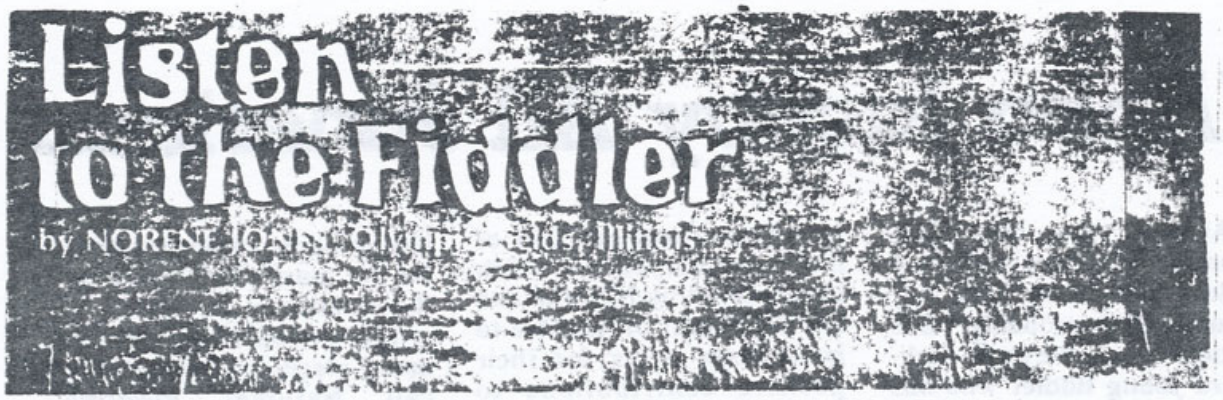
A frail, thin figure, slightly bent,
With long white hair and beard unkept;
Soft blue eyes that had seen their share
Of love and promise -- joy and care.

He looked beyond the noisy throng,
And what he saw, he told in song:
A story of love of long ago,
Sweetly sung with fiddle and bow.

When the Old Fiddler had begun,
The crowd grew quiet, one by one.
And as he played, they, too, could see
Unfold before them, History.

At the song's end, he stood erect,
A man that had the crowd's respect.
He'd shared his age with us; somehow
The Old Fiddler was younger now.

Anonymous



NEXT TIME YOU MIGHT JUST WELCOME A DETOUR.

Some time ago, while driving through the South, a detour took us from our fast, planned route. Annoyed at the time we were losing, my husband and I barely noticed the beauty of the rural countryside we were driving through.

It was a long detour. The country road climbed soft hills and wound through tiny towns where children and adults often stared openly at the stream of cars bearing out-of-state license plates.

The sun was quickly dipping behind the trees when my husband conceded that we'd have to stop for gas at the next station. "But I guess we'll just have to wait for dinner until we hit the highway again," he said.

About a mile down the road, an ancient, solitary gas pump suddenly appeared in a small clearing that housed two weathered buildings. On one a sign said GAS; the other simply stated FOOD.

The proprietor kept up a friendly conversation, filling our gas tank while we got out to stretch. The aroma wafting from the lunchroom was more than I could bear. "How's the food?" I asked hesitantly. The answer came back full of pride and confidence. "Mary's the best cook in these parts."

"I can vouch for that," came still another voice, and I turned to see an old gentleman sitting back on a tilted chair in the shadow of a lean-to. He held a penknife and a piece of wood in his hand. "Mary's got country ham today. You wouldn't want to miss that, would you?"

I hesitated, looking at my husband. "We're in a hurry and have already lost time through this detour."

The old man chuckled and shifted in his seat. "You traveling folks are always in a hurry," he said. "I can't see what's more important on a fine evening like this than to set down to a slab of country ham. Unless it'd be to listen to the fiddler."

"The fiddler?" I asked.

"Dance tonight," he said, and pointed a half-finished whistle toward the road we'd just left. "Best fiddler in the country is comin'. You ought to stop awhile and listen to the fiddler."

I looked at the peaceful countryside. The gas-station man was obviously in no hurry, his wife inside was dishing up buttermilk biscuits and baked ham. An old man was enjoying the evening air while only a few yards away the unheeding travelers were rushing past.

So we stayed that evening and stuffed ourselves on Mary's country food. Later we all walked comfortably down the country road to the barn dance. There, people merrily danced to the fiddler's gay music, and later, even my husband and I joined them on the dance floor.

How long had it been since I ambled down a road, stopped to watch the moon on its climb to the top of pines and listened to cicadas and crickets in the night? How many other things was I missing in my hurried life?

Our scheduled vacation was shortened that year by seven hours because of the detour. Seven hours that changed my life. Now when I find myself hurrying too much and repeating, "I just don't have time," I've only to stop and think back to the little clearing and an old man to bring my life back into perspective.

"You really ought to stop," he's saying, "and listen to the fiddler." ◀

J'Anna Jacoby All American

Anyone who has been around the Annual Old Time Fiddle contest the past four years would probably have noticed a dark-eyed, dark-haird young fiddler who has spent her share of time in the winner's circle. J'Anna Jacoby came to her first contest when she was 11 years old and had only been fiddling for six months. She didn't place too high that year but she kept her eyes and ears open and came back the next year to become the 1976 Junior-Junior Champion. Evidentally what she learned at the Weiser contest planted some good seeds because she has held many titles since that time. Along with California State Junior champion for three years, she was also last year's Junior Division champion here in Weiser.

Of course, the biggest news came last year when she arrived with the news that she had just won the 1978 Grand Master's Championship in Nashville. As a result of her winning ways with the fiddle, J'Anna's name was entered in the All American Girl of the Year competition which is sponsored by Noxema and the Girl Scouts of America to honor teen agers for their positive contributions to society. Chosen from over 2,500 entries, J'Anna's award was announced during a five-day trip to New York which was provided by the contest. She appeared on the cover of American Girl in May. She has appeared of "Good Morning America". She is to appear on "Hee Haw" and the "Porter Waggoner show." J'Anna has played backup to singer Tony Bennett and with Glen Campbell.

Her father, Bill, is a former studio musician in Los Angeles and her mother also plays, as does her younger brother, Jayson. Her father now has a music store. J'Anna first heard about fiddling from a friend of the family, Jana Jae, one of Mr. Jacoby' former students.

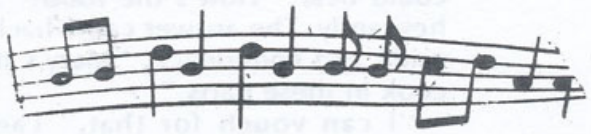
Since she has taken up fiddling her family has been making trips around the country each summer, hitting fiddle contests, partly for the music and partly for the vacation.

You wouldn't believe how many places run what they call National Fiddling contests. Mostly it just means they're open to anyone in the United States. A lot of them are pretty local. But the one we go to in Weiser, Idaho, every year is the granddaddy of them all," J'Anna, says. ★

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

FEB. 2, Ajo, Big fiddle contest at Moose Hall. Starts at 10 AM, BBQ dinner to follow. ☆

MARCH 16, Steak fry & pot luck, AOTFA will supply the steaks. Location-- Black Canyon City comm. center, only for paid up members. You must RSVP by Jan. 31. Details in Dec. & Jan. issues of the monthly newsletter. ☆



HELP-HELP-HELP

We need you for the Annual Benefit Jamboree for Huntingtons Disease! Sunday - Feb. 3rd - 2:00 - 4:00. FARNSWORTH HALL, Dreamland Villa, East University in Mesa near 73rd.

★ Payson Chamber of Commerce ★

☆ *1980 Calender of Events* ☆

Drawer A

Payson, Az. 85541

474-2595 or 474-2994

MAY 3
CHALLENGE DISCOVERY
5,000 & 15,000 meter race

MAY 17-18
OLD TIME GOSPEL
MUSIC FESTIVAL

JUNE 7
SPANKY SPANGLER
HOLLYWOOD STUNT SHOW

JUNE 14
INDIAN AND ANTIQUE
FESTIVAL

JUNE 21-22
OLD TIME COUNTRY
MUSIC FESTIVAL

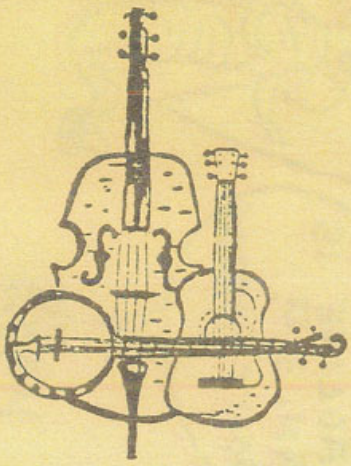
JULY 12-13
JUNIOR RODEO

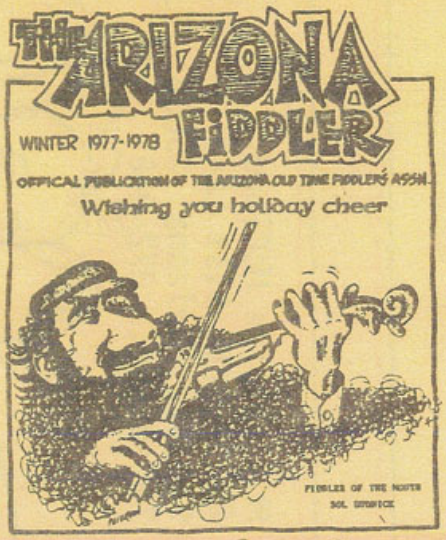
JULY 26-27
PAYSON GOLF COURSE
ANNUAL two-man best ball
tournament

JULY 26-27
SAWDUST FESTIVAL

AUGUST 23-24
WORLD'S OLDEST
CONTINUOUS RODEO

September 27-28
ARIZONA OLD TIME
FIDDLER'S CONTEST and
FESTIVAL





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... JUST RENEW YOUR DUES! SEE BACK PAGE

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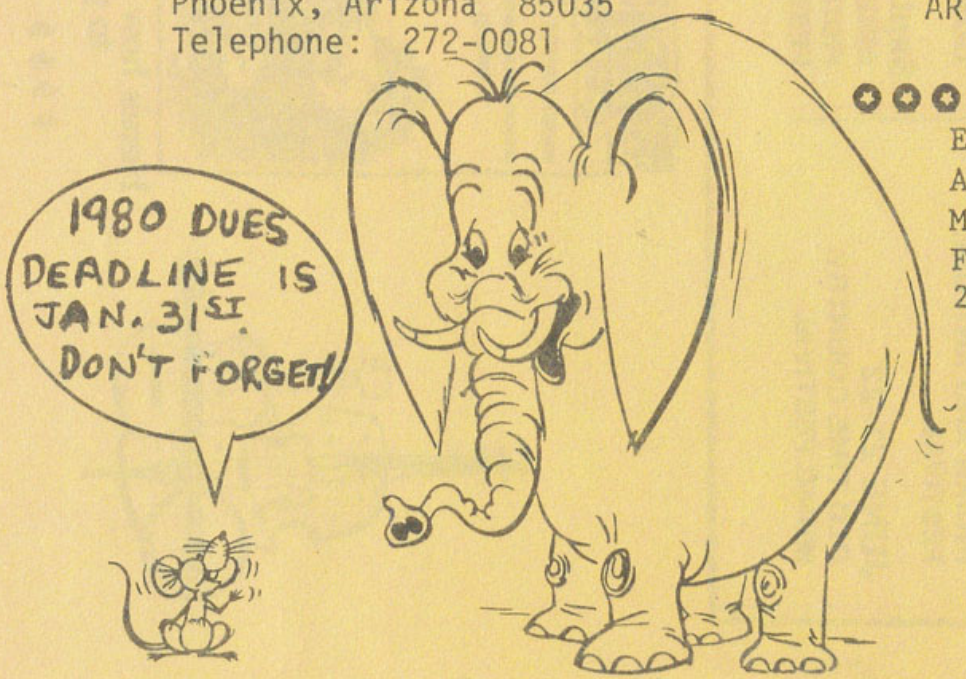
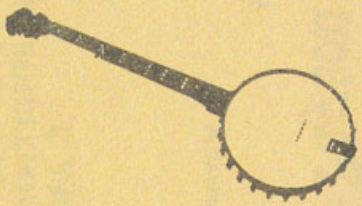


EXISTING MEMBERS RETURN TOP HALF OF BILL ATTACHED TO DECEMBER MONTHLY NEWSLETTER. MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO ARIZ. OLD TIME FIDDLERS ASSOC. SEND TO LOUISE McCLOUD 2520 N. 51st. LN. PHOENIX, AZ. 85035



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