



The *IDAHO FIDDLER*

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District 8

A Good Winter Afternoon to All,

We've been wondering for a long time now about the coming of snow and winter. It arrived last night and while it is a chilly sunny day today allowing for some melt off on the streets, we are finally into the winter season.

November was a great month for our group. We kept busy with our usual plays around town and were happy to have Janet Richardson and Laura Alderdyce back with us following recent health issues. They help fill up our group now that our snowbirds have headed south for the winter.

The highlight of the month was a two-day workshop session featuring instruction from our friends Mike and Tari Conroy from Conner, Montana. We had one hour teaching sessions each day with Mike and Tari on fiddle, guitar, bass, mandolin, banjo and dobro; and, we even threw in a few minutes on the mountain dulcimer.

It is so good to get instruction from these two talented professionals to help with many aspects of old time fiddle music. We are hopeful this can become an annual event for our group each year to help us with all sorts of things to make our music sound even

better. We also enjoyed Mike and Tari joining us for a play a Parkwood Assisted Living Center the evening of the 17th. The addition of those mandolin runs really made the evening a big hit for everyone.

We've launched the month of December with our regular monthly play schedule and are anticipating lots of fun spreading some Christmas cheer about town.

In the meantime we extend the best of Christmas wishes to everyone anticipating you will enjoy the season with family and loved ones wherever they may be.

Merry Christmas and
Happy New Year,

Dave Smith reporting.

Tribute to a great fiddler
friend.

At this Christmas Season
District 8 would like to
salute a very special
member of our group,
97-year-old Inga Tyler
who we believe to be the
oldest active Old Time
Fiddler around these
parts. She certainly
holds that distinction

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here in District 8.

Inga continues to participate in as many of our events as possible. She even has a new case for her guitar which she says is much nicer than the old case which had snap locks on it that seemed to always “snap” open rather than remain closed for moving from place to place with her guitar.

Inga is one of the most interesting persons you could ever know. She has lived a long productive life full of extraordinary experiences and has contributed much to her community, church and family.

She has been a life long musician taking up the piano at an early age and bridging her piano experience into playing the organ where she served for many years playing at many of her church meetings. Sometime after her marriage to Fenton Tyler in 1977 (her first husband Clayton DaBell passed away in 1975) she took her son Verlyn’s questionable guitar into Chesbro Music in Idaho Falls to see if could be fixed up. As she puts it, “I came out with a new guitar.” That same year she attended Education Week at BYU in Provo and took five guitar lessons in five days. “Tender fingers” was her reaction to this experience but soon thereafter her next instructor, Jerry Cotterell, got her involved with the Idaho Old Time Fiddlers who made her feel warm and welcome.

Inga has traveled the world including visits to Egypt, Jerusalem, Russia, Hawaii, and several other LDS Church History tours. In 2009, at age 89, she visited all of her children, driving solo to Las Vegas, Nevada; Bremerton, Washington; and Omaha, Nebraska.

She now tells us her three sons gave her a zero turn lawn mower “which is great for keeping the acreage in good shape. I have it good,” she remarks.

So a big year-end Christmas salute to our great friend and true Old Time Fiddler, Inga Tyler. We hope you have many more years allowing us to enjoy your music and your great legacy of a truly grand pioneer lady. Thanks Inga for everything and best wishes for a very Merry Christmas and another great New Year.

District 8

Idaho Old Time Fiddlers