



Fiddler's Rag

Vol. 42, Number 7
Celebrating 41 years

Santa Clara Valley Fiddlers Association
www.scvfa.org or www.fiddlers.org

July 2014
Next Jam: July 6

President's Note



Grace Clark and Lisa Burns put on a superb performance at our June jam. Our appreciative audience was treated to cowgirl songs, many of which were written by Grace. Thank you both for a great job.

Rob Jaworski deserves a big thanks for helping transport our PA and supplies to and from our storage locker. Thank you Rob!

Bob Palasek led a huge Beginners' Circle (slow jam). He must have chosen the right tunes and have the right chemistry. Great job Bob!

Rose Garden Park

Our July and August jams will be in the Rose Garden Park just down the street from Hoover Middle School. Come early to help reserve tables in the shade.

Reunion of the Overlook Mt. Boys and Lone Prairie

Our October 5 jam will be truly historic. Our Featured Performer is actually a reunion of two bands with Jack Sadler: The Overlook Mountain Boys and Lone Prairie. We're hoping all the band alumni participate. Jack is a co-founder of the CBA and an SCVFA charter member.

Increasing Community Awareness

How can we increase community awareness about our jams and share the fun we all have? This is important for our continued success and it is part of our mission.

Donate CDs for our Door Prize

Donate your CDs for us to give away for our door prize if you no longer need them.

Share Your Photos

Share your photos and we will include your name if they are used in the Rag. Email your photos to our editor at newsletter at fiddlers.org.

Amazon Buyers

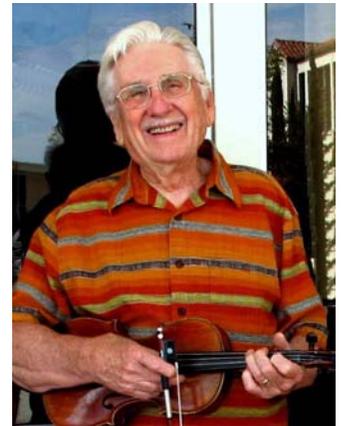
On the lower left side of our www.fiddlers.org website we have a link to Amazon. If you click on it to go to Amazon, we get a small commission if you make a purchase. It costs you nothing and it really helps us.

- Richard Brooks

Jack Sadler - Member Spotlight (Part 1 of 2)

By Richard J. Brooks

When the SCVFA was formed by Bill Wein in March 1973, Jack Sadler was member #5 with the distinction of being a charter member. Music has always been an important part of his life. He is also one of the three founders of the California Bluegrass Association (CBA). He was a bluegrass banjo player in the Overlook Mountain Boys and a fiddler and vocalist with the western music group Lone Prairie, which recorded two CDs.



Jack's story is about a teenage cotton picker and lumber mill worker who became a successful dentist, musician, song writer, recording artist, yodeling champion, bow maker, airplane builder, squadron flyer, and a husband and father of three children.

Family History

Jackie Lee Sadler (his real name), the second oldest child of Roy and Winnie Sadler, was born on December 15, 1929 into a family with British, Scottish, and Cherokee heritage. He was surrounded by music from an early age. His mother enjoyed singing to her children, and his grandfather taught the Solfege method of music (the do, re, mi, fa, so, la, ti scale).

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The Fiddler's Rag is published monthly by the Santa Clara Valley Fiddlers Association and is provided to members of the Association. The Santa Clara Valley Fiddlers Association (SCVFA), founded in 1973 in San Jose, California, is a nonprofit, volunteer-operated organization dedicated to the preservation, teaching, and enjoyment of traditional music. The first membership in a household includes the Fiddler's Rag; additional members sharing the newsletter are steeply discounted. To join, sign up at the jam or see www.fiddlers.org/join.

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Since 1982 the Northern California Bluegrass Society has promoted bluegrass and old time music in the San Francisco Bay and Monterey Bay areas. This highly active club has nurtured the development of bands and venues. The NCBS hosts the Good Old Fashioned Bluegrass Festival each August, an event that solely features California bands. We sponsor festivals, concerts and jams all over the area. Members receive the Bluegrass By the Bay magazine each quarter. Please join us!

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Richard Brooks photo

Michael Buszek, Dave Williams, Amanda Griffith, Mike Bell and Jerry Friedman entertain at the June jam,

SCVFA Happenings

See You at the Rose Garden

The **July 6 SCVFA jam** will be the first of two at the park next to the San Jose Municipal Rose Garden. The park is two blocks down Naglee Avenue from Hoover Middle School; see the map on the back page.

The jam will start at 1:00 PM as usual. Though the jam nominally ends at 5:00, the park stays open until sunset or so.

As in past years we plan to assemble on the end nearest Naglee Ave., assuming some of us get there early enough to hold a few tables. (The park is a popular spot for picnics and barbecues, so we're usually not alone there. But that's turned out to be good: several new members have found us that way.)

No PA or open mike, and the only seating is the benches attached to the picnic tables. So bring your instruments, a hat, a chair if you want one, some suntan lotion, and maybe a picnic lunch to enjoy before the jam. And be ready for a fine time.

The August jam will also be held at the park, and then in September we return to Hoover.



Other Upcoming Events

Redwood Dulcimer Days includes a film Friday evening, mountain dulcimer workshops on Saturday, and a concert Saturday evening featuring the workshop instructors. This year it will be **August 8, 9 and 10** at St. Philip's Episcopal Church, 5271 Scotts Valley Dr., Scotts Valley.

See www.communitymusicsschool.org/dulcimer_day/, or phone the Community Music School at (831) 426-9155. The film is \$10 and the workshops are \$60 in advance or \$70 at the door.

The 37th Annual Sawplayers' Festival is the same weekend, **August 9-10**: Saturday afternoon jam at 1:00 pm at the Scribner Statue in Santa Cruz; Saturday evening jam and potluck at 6pm at Roaring Camp in Felton. On Sunday from 10:00 am to 5:30 pm, also at Roaring Camp, there's a contest (at 11), a concert, and a workshop at 4:25; all free. See www.sawplayers.org/festinfo.html.

Scottish Fiddle Concert: Alasdair Frasier and the students from the Valley of the Moon Scottish Fiddle Camp will perform **Friday, August 29, 2014** at 8:00PM at the Santa Cruz Civic Auditorium, 307 Church Street, Santa Cruz. Many others will be featured, including fiddlers Caoimhín Ó Raghallaigh, Jeremy Kittel, and Catherine Mackintosh, singer Laura Cortese, dancer Nic Gareiss, and cellist Natalie Haas.

Tickets are available at www.SantaCruzTickets.com, at the Civic Box Office, or by phone (831) 420-5260. Advance sales \$20 adults; \$17 students and seniors; children 8 and under are free.

Lisa Burns and Grace Clark: Featured Performers at the June Jam



Richard Brooks photos

Lisa Burns (L) and **Grace Clark** performed "cowgirl" tunes as the Featured Performers at the June 2014 jam.

(Jack Sadler – Member Spotlight, continued)

Jack's parents, born to sharecroppers, were living in Castle, Oklahoma when they heard that California was full of riches with streets paved with gold. So in 1936 his family left Castle and drove their 1928 Plymouth down Route 66 to Tranquillity, CA, about 30 miles west of Fresno, where cotton was a major industry. Because of breakdowns and flat tires, it was a very unpleasant eleven day journey for Jack and his parents, two brothers and sister.

Many Californians resented farmers migrating from Oklahoma and Arkansas. Jack believes that the "generous" people who helped the family along their trip during their breakdowns and flat tires really wanted to make sure they didn't settle down in their towns but kept moving on.

A Better Way to Make a Living

In Tranquillity, CA, Jack's father worked at a cotton gin while Jack, his brother and his mother picked cotton. When the cotton picking season was over he picked peaches in Modesto. It was a hot and sweaty job that paid almost nothing. Jack felt there must be a better way to make a living.

During those early years in California, Jack dabbled with guitar and mandolin. At 13, he bought his first fiddle. In 1943 his family moved to Ceres, where he attended high school and joined the marching band playing mostly the baritone horn, a brass instrument that looks like a small tuba. He also played French horn and trumpet.

He enjoyed listening to country music on the radio. Hank Williams was his favorite. He was especially fond of the harmonies sung by the Sons of the Pioneers and bluegrass bands.

Jack joined the Navy but was discharged six weeks later when they discovered he was only 17 (under age), and that he had forged his parent's signature. Jack graduated from high school in 1947 and on turning 18, he struck out on his own and moved to Chester to work at the Collins Pines Lumber Mill.

Love at First Sight

Lumber mill workers would often hit the pool halls and bars after work. On one memorable day, Jack left the pool hall and saw the prettiest girl he'd ever seen walking across the street. It was love at first sight. Janet Abildgaard just happened to be visiting her sister's family. Three weeks later, Jack and Janet eloped and were married on June 11, 1950. They've been married for 64 years and have two sons, a daughter, and grandchildren!



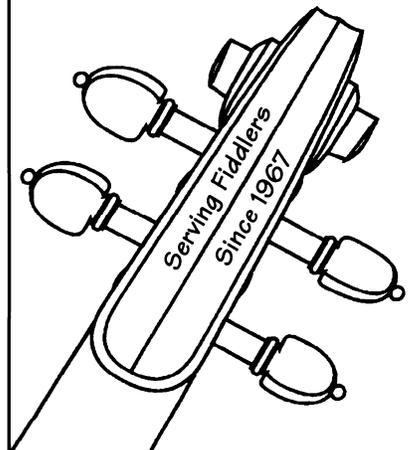
Jack and Janet's 50th wedding anniversary

Dental School

Janet's brother was a physician and her brother-in-law was a dentist – the only one in Chester. Her family wasn't too thrilled about her marrying a lumber mill worker. After they married, they moved to San Jose, where her family lived, and Jack tried working at a few jobs in her father's family business. But Jack didn't enjoy any of them. Inspired by Janet's brother-in-law's profession, he decided to become a dentist.

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(Jack Sadler – Member Spotlight, continued)

Jack and Janet lived in San Francisco while he attended dental school at the University of California School of Dentistry. During those years, he played guitar and sang to his young children. In 1959, he graduated with a Doctor of Dental Surgery (DDS) degree and they moved back to San Jose where he started his dental practice. After 31 years as a successful dentist, Jack retired in 1990.



Dr. Jackie Lee Sadler

Overlook Mountain Boys

The start of Jack's dental practice coincided with the start of the folk music boom of the 1960s. It inspired him to learn the 5-string banjo and fiddle. In the early 1970s, he and Ron White formed the Overlook Mountain Boys, a bluegrass group named after the road he and Janet live on in Los Gatos.



L to R: Joe Weed, Ron White, Jack Sadler, Dave Carlson, John Lytle

The original OMB band included Jack (5-string banjo), Ron White (Dobro), John Lytle (guitar), Dave Carlson (bass), and Arthur Kee (fiddle). When Arthur left the band, Jack Tuttle became the fiddler, followed by Joe Weed on fiddle and mandolin. Other performers at various times included Dale Johnson (mandolin), Tom Baker (mandolin), and Joe Kimbro (mandolin and guitar). Jack also became close friends with fiddler Ray Park, who was in the famous Vern and Ray bluegrass band.

The OMB played at festivals, private parties, fiddle contests, and other casual events. They were featured at the California Bluegrass Association's Grass Valley Bluegrass Festival and a festival in Mackenzie, British

Columbia. The OMB continued to perform until the mid-1990s.

Chicken 'n' Pickin' Parties

In the early 1970s, Jack was famous for hosting his legendary Chicken 'n' Pickin' parties. They were the biggest music jams in the area at that time and lasted for three or four years. Their popularity grew by word of mouth. They became too big, with the last having over 400 people. They ended when sheriff's deputies ordered everyone to move their cars off the rural Overlook Mt. Road.

Jack and Jake Quesenberry had been discussing the formation of a bluegrass association for some time when in 1974 Jake met Carl Pagter, who was also interested in forming an association. It was at Jack's last Chicken 'n' Pickin' Party where their plans led to the California Bluegrass Association (CBA). Carl, Jake, and Jack are CBA member numbers 1, 2, and 3 respectively and were honored with lifetime CBA memberships. In 2008, Jack and Carl were also honored with lifetime achievement awards by the Northern California Bluegrass Society.

Founding of the SCVFA

Jack was at the very first meeting held by Bill Wein (pronounced "wine"), SCVFA's founder. In early 1973, Bill was transferred to San Jose from Vermont by his employer General Electric. Bill loved fiddling and he missed his former fiddle club so much that he decided to start one in his new home town. He wrote an article for the San Jose Mercury News, and the response was so great that Bill's house was full from its very first meeting in March 1973. Jack became charter member #5.



Arthur Kee and Jack Sadler

Even though Jack suggested to Bill that it would be easier to join the California State Old-Time Fiddlers Association than to start one of his own, Bill wanted his own independent organization. Jack said, "Bill wanted to run it with his own vision."

In April 1973, the jam moved to John Muir Middle School, and in June 2001 it moved to Hoover Middle School. That last jam at John Muir on May 6, 2001 was video taped by Howard and Jeanette Jackson. It is available on DVD.

(To be continued – Plane builder and pilot, western swing Lone Prairie band, bow maker, and more!)

Photos



Richard Brooks photo

Sam Morocco, Jean Avram and Charley Oveland on stage at the June jam.



Richard Brooks photo

Sam Morocco, Bill Boiko, Ralph Stark, Mike Bell, Clark Akatiff and Peter Forrest at the June jam



Richard Brooks photo

Bob Palasek (seated on bench) led a popular and enthusiastic Beginners' Circle at the June jam, assisted by **Steve Goldfield** (banjo; seated on chair).

Molly O'Donnell's

♩ = 110

by Pete Showman 2007

The musical score is written in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a time signature of 6/8. It consists of two main sections, A and B, separated by a repeat sign. Section A starts at measure 1 and ends at measure 16. Section B starts at measure 17 and ends at measure 32. The score includes various guitar chords such as Bm, A, G, F#m, D, E, and A7. A repeat sign is placed at the end of measure 32, with the instruction '(D.S. to repeat)' below it.

For my youngest sister, Molly Showman O'Donnell pss 8/31/07 (rev. 2 9/20/13)

(D.S. to repeat)

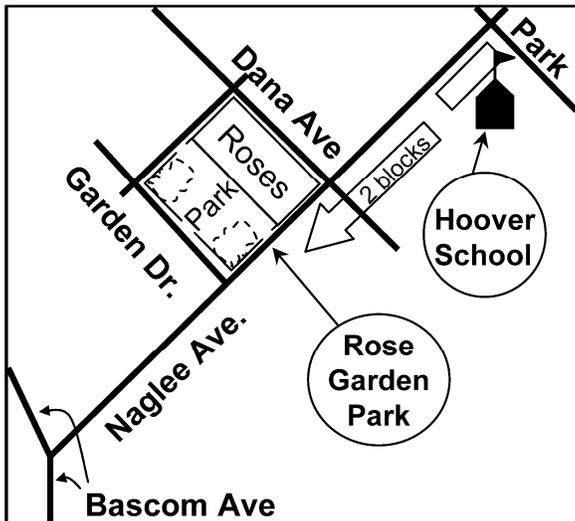
Since Molly is visiting this week I thought I'd run her tune in this issue of the *Fiddler's Rag*.

-- Pete Showman, June 2014

Santa Clara Valley Fiddlers Association
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Cupertino, CA 95015-2666

**Rose Garden Park
July & August
2014**

**Next Jam: Sunday July 6 at 1 pm
Rose Garden Park (see map)
Look for us under the trees!**



Damaged or Missing Issue? Call us,
or email to: newsletter at scvfa.org



Richard Brooks photo

Mike Bell, Gary Breitbard, Jerry Friedman and Larry Joba
play some old-time music at the June 2014 jam.