

District 9

## All Has Been Calm, All Has Been Bright!

Happy New Year to all! Greetings from the Palouse. Hope all your holidays and happenings including those where fiddling was on the agenda, were the best and that the New Year will find a lot of opportunities to enjoy music together. I am laughing because I just read my last report and I noted that the temperature outside was 40 degrees and that was in early October. Today is January 3<sup>rd</sup> and the temperature outside at 6:00 pm is --- you guessed it, 40 degrees. This is unreal for January. But at any rate, we are enjoying the opportunities to play and not having to fight the snow to get there.

We breezed through October with all the scheduled plays covered even though some members were still finishing up on miscellaneous vacation spots. We always want to be sure we make the senior sites as the Residents do look forward to us coming.

November found us covering the usual sites, but we also played at the Dahmen Barn in Uniontown which is an artisan site where a lot of entertainment is enjoyed. We were joined by the Jr. Jammers which is a youth group that Mabel Vogt, one of our fiddlers, has been teaching and working with for many years. The weather that night did turn out to be a very nasty snow storm which made it a bit difficult to venture through, but we had a good turn-out of players, at least, even though attendance for the event turned out to be very low from what was expected. The OTF members played some songs and then the Jr. Jammers did the same and then we combined forces and continued for several hours of enjoyment. The snow did finally quit and the roads were much better on the way home.

Then came festive December. At our practice/meeting date in November we started practice on the Christmas music and thought we were pretty ready, but our first play in December was a bit rough. We did get the kinks worked out and were ready to go for the next play. We had our yearly Christmas party potluck with ham, turkey, dressing, potatoes, gravy and a variety of salads and desserts. What a great meal and the music was really festive. We enjoyed sharing music, singing and lots of smiles. Christmas can bring out the best when it comes to music.

Tonight is our usual play date at one of the senior sites in Pullman, but unfortunately, the residents are fighting a battle with flu and all activities were cancelled for the week. So we will look forward to seeing them next month. Do miss the Christmas music, but we can look forward to those favorite old time tunes again.

I didn't mention last newsletter that we did have election of officers for 2012 and the same officers are still in place. They are Skip Frink as Chairman, Dave Bezdicek as Vice Chairman, Marge Nelson as Secretary, and Tom Schotzko as Treasurer. And we welcomed a new member, Scott Hallett, who plays the ukulele and has added an additional touch to the music.

So with that we again hope the coming year will be a great time of enjoyment and music playing. Best wishes from our district.

-- Marge Nelson