



FIDDLIN' AROUND

Vol. 8 No. 1

Sept-Oct, 2001

The Great Northwestern Tour Through Two Fiddlers' Eyes

By Andrea H. and Lauren S.

Day One: Pig Day

As the Fiddlers boarded the plane for rainy Seattle, the first person we encountered was our steward, a supportive fan of the Fiddlers. Although it wasn't possible for us to perform during the flight, we promised to send him signed Fiddler merchandise. Upon arrival we toured the beautiful city of Seattle, which happened to be adorned with many unique and decorative ceramic pigs! Throughout the day, we shopped, rode the tram, ate, and finished up with a great performances in the Seattle Center.

Day Two: The Crab Bake

Many people, including numerous Fiddlers, have often wondered what Mr. Phillips' older brother is like. On this day, we were fortunate enough to find out! We arrived at the Semiahmoo Resort, a four-star hotel, where we were graciously received by *the other* Mr. Phillips! We were treated to a picnic and walk on the beautiful beach, where we had a great time finding crabs! The resort was great, and we gave it two EXTRA stars for the attractive bellhops, Michael and Tyler....and the chocolate cake.

Day Three: Whale Calls

When we first boarded the whale watching boat that was kindly arranged for us by Mr. Phillips' brother, we waited and waited for the whales to appear. As lunch time rolled around, we started to see some! Mr. Phillips helped us sound



Everyone is ready for some Whale Watching

some whale calls, and they must have worked - we saw over fifty whales!

Day Four: The Accordion King

The day started with a stop in Mr. DeYoung's (our bus driver) favorite home city, Vancouver, where we stopped at



Nicole P. enjoying an evening performance

two scenic parks. Then we continued on, to a small island off of the coast named Robert's Creek. We took a ferry to the island, where we hurried off to play in a joint concert with the talented fiddle orchestra of Robert's Creek. After the concert we had a picnic with the students and

their families, and some of us even dared to swim in the freezing ocean! That evening, we stayed in host housing, where we found ourselves staying with wonderful and unique families. The father in the family that we stayed with was a man that we called the "Accordion King." We spent the evening having a jam session and learning how to play his six personal accordions - what an experience!

Day Five: Canada Day

If Canada Day won't make you appreciate Canada, we don't know what will! Canada Day was a blast. We spent the day at an outdoor festival, where we were openly welcomed despite our nationality. The Canadians loved our music and enjoyed our performance that evening. After our performance, we stayed to watch an energetic Celtic band called Kinship. We danced the night away (even on the bus!) and finished the great day with watching fireworks over Kamloops.

Day Six: King of the Mountain

We spent most of the day on the bus, but the highlight of the day was taking a tram up into the mountains, and finishing the climb by ourselves. Many of us fiddlers made it

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Northwestern Tour

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to the very top, but it wasn't easy! We battled through the cold and the lack of oxygen due to the high altitude - but in the end, it was all worth it! We made snow angels and saw the amazing view. We spent the night at the Jasper Youth Hostel.

Day Seven: Fire Drill

The Fiddlers were lucky enough to get to visit the Columbia Icefields! After taking many comical pictures in the



Glacier Sno Coach

gift shop, we rode up onto the icefields in giant vehicles called Sno Coaches. Although every fiddler fell asleep while on the huge Sno Coaches, we all thoroughly enjoyed them when we arrived. We even got the opportunity to fill up our water bottles with fresh, pure glacier water! After the icefields, we walked around town, where many fiddler girls were flattered to be noticed by attractive Canadian boys! At night, we stayed in the Banff hostel. All of the fiddlers were washing up and getting ready for bed - when the fire alarm sounded! Most of us ran outside in our pajamas with much urgency, only to find that it was a false alarm!

Day Eight: Seven in One

The day was spent traveling to Jubilee Hall, Calgary. We played for a live TV broadcast, and then met up with the



Fiddler' Sitting on Top of the World!

Calgary Fiddlers and the Ayrshire Fiddle Orchestra to play our final four concerts. They were great shows!

Day Nine: The Blustery Day

This day was planned as a "day of rest," but Mr. Phillips received notice that we were booked at the last minute to play for a huge pre-stampede party that was put on for a major



Claire D. singing "When You Say Nothing At All"

electrical company and many prominent guests. As we were setting up, storm winds picked up and threatened to destroy the entire set-up! Luckily, they quickly passed, and the party and the Fiddlers were both very successful. This was one of the most exhausting but rewarding days of tour. All together, we played seven shows in two days! The first two shows were at a pre-stampede barbecue for the TNT company. The Fiddlers were received with enthusiasm, especially by the dancing chef, Leroy!

Day Ten: Leisure Day

The Fiddlers were relieved of their exhaustion by having a chance to sleep in for a day. During the evening we went to the local theatre and saw a movie of our choice. It was very relaxing.

Day Eleven: The First Day of the Stampede

We woke up, got on the subway, and made our way to the famous Stampede Parade. The parade was great, with many remarkable floats and acts.



Mackenzie L.: Dancing her way across the Pacific Northwest!

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New Fiddlers for 2001-2002

By Barbara Radloff

Joining the Fiddlers Philharmonic is a very fun, exciting and challenging time for new members. Eleven new freshmen, sophomores, and juniors will be performing with the Fiddlers during the 2001-2002 season. These members have many things in common including their love of fiddle music, their ability to learn and perform, and their high academic achievements. We hope you enjoy getting to know these new players as they share a little bit about themselves with you. Watch for more new player profiles in the next Fiddlin' Around Newsletter.

Jessie N., who is an up and coming freshman, joined the Fiddlers because of her love of music. She has been watching and listening to the Fiddlers since their beginning. Besides playing the violin, Jessie also plays the guitar and drums. She has been a member of "Sole Full of Rhythm," a tap ensemble group. Jessie looks forward to becoming a clogger with the Fiddlers, as well as a singer. She enjoys drawing, writing, computer technology, and is interested in meteorology. Jessie's future career plans hold many possibilities including meteorology, music, art, or law. She would like to be a "tornado chaser."

Laura R. is the "oldest" new member of the Fiddlers as she will be a junior this year. When not playing the cello, Laura most likely can be found on a tennis court. Laura will be marking her third year on the SHS varsity tennis team playing the number one singles spot. Laura, who is also a ranked USTA player, won the Eastside Jr. Tennis Tournament in Grosse Pointe Woods this summer. She enjoys singing and hopes to sing with the Fiddlers. Laura is a member of Future Leaders and SADD. She plans to double major in business and French in college. She would like to play tennis in college and is looking at

Hope, Kenyon or Valparaiso as possible options.

Josh H. has been interested in becoming a Fiddler ever since his cousin Jackie became a member. Josh will be playing the viola with the Fiddlers, but also plays the piano and the trumpet. This sophomore is interested in singing a little with the group. He is an avid reader and says that he reads "All the time." Josh will be a sophomore this year, and is a member of Future Leaders, the marching band, chamber orchestra, and his church youth group. Josh is undecided on college or career plans.

Stefanie O. is a freshman cello player who joined the Fiddlers to enhance her musical skills, meet new people, travel and to just fun. She is a Girl Scout and is working toward the Silver Award. She has danced ballet and jazz for over ten years. Stefanie enjoys golf and reading, and has been a member of the middle school

track team. In addition to playing the cello, she also plays the piano and would like to try her hand at the spoons with the Fiddlers. Stef, as she is known to the Fiddlers, has many odd jobs including mowing lawns, baby sitting and pet sitting. She would like to attend either the University of Michigan or Michigan State University and major in music.

Lee C. is a sophomore violin player who joined the Fiddlers because he loves music. He also plays the guitar, bass, and mandolin. Lee is interested in clogging and playing the mandolin with the Fiddlers. Lee is into athletics; he plays hockey and soccer, and also runs track. His hockey team took first place in Hockey Town. Lee spends his free time playing cards, playing Play Station 2, or reading. He is interested in pursuing a career in music and would like to attend the University of Michigan.



Left to Right Back Row: Stefanie, Lee, and Laura.
Left to Right in front: Joshua, and Jessie

The Great Northwestern Tour

Through the Eyes of a Parent

By Deborah Hahn

Dear Fiddlers,

We all have many different and priceless memories of the 2001 Northwest Tour. I remember watching each of you get off the plane in Seattle, thinking what a great group of kids you are, and feeling so excited about what the next couple of weeks would be like for you. I remember watching Mr. Roth and Mr. Culver struggle to get all of the instruments and equipment organized, out of the rain, (that's Seattle) and into your funny green tour bus.

I remember thinking, "Good Lord, I had no idea how much work this is for Mr. Culver!" and then being completely stunned to see him climb right into the cargo area under the bus and personally load every single piece of sound equipment. (Little did I know then that he would repeat that particular exercise at every performance stop.)

Remember how great it was at the Semiahmoo Resort, with its oceanfront setting, cushy beds, spectacular



Heading out to Whale Watch!



A beautiful sight to see! A very successful whale watching day!

sunsets, and that pair of bald eagles for atmosphere? (Or do you mainly remember nights at the swimming pool?) Remember how absolutely taken the crowd was with your two-hour performance that last night there?

Remember Mr. Phillips making whale calls? How about the sound of 50 camera shutters going off simultaneously at the sight of a breaching Orca? The kindness and generosity of Mr. Phillips' brother in arranging that whale-watch cruise. Warm Canadian welcomes and home-stays in isolated, beautiful Robert's Creek. Bus stops in the middle of the road for big-horn sheep and moose sightings. Performing for that surprising Canada Day party-crowd of thousands in Kamloops. Struggling to the very top of Jasper Mountain with your friends to watch the sunset. Drink-

ing fresh glacier water! Two sold-out performances at Jubilee Hall in Calgary. That feeling of friendly, respectful competition we had sharing the stage with the Ayrshire Fiddle Orchestra and the Calgary Fiddlers. Complete exhaustion. The four-hour Calgary Stampede Parade. Losing every bet on the chuck-wagon races. The simple pleasure of wondering what makes Lake Louise so spectacular?

You are all delightful people, and you are all blessed with such incredible musical talent. I am very grateful to have shared a part of your Northwest Tour experience. You were absolutely fantastic ambassadors for Saline and Michigan! I'm sure that everyone who saw you perform must think Saline is some huge metropolis. How else to explain the large number of gifted fiddle players "all from the same high school"?

You are also very lucky to have a director whose passion for your music is contagious, and whose leadership skill keeps things professional but fun at the same time. This is no small talent, as you will increasingly appreciate throughout your adult lives.

Best of all, you now have this deeply shared experience that binds you together as a musical family. That truly is priceless!

Thanks for the memories,

Mrs. Hahn



Beautiful day by the Glacier !

November Hometown Concert

Featuring Randy Sabien

By Will Warner

After a deep breath upon return from last summer's tour of British Columbia and Alberta, Saline's Fiddlers Philharmonic undertook its annual retooling. The group comprises music students from one high school, so every season ends with nostalgic good-byes from the seniors. Preparation for the next season begins immediately with mentoring of the incoming freshman and mastery of new material. Departing soloists play their swan songs, and younger musicians step up to the microphones.

Preparation also begins for the annual Hometown Concert Series, including shows in November and February.

CONCERT INFORMATION

November 2nd & 3rd
7:30 pm, Saline High School Auditorium
7190 N. Maple Road, Saline MI

Ticket prices are \$12 for adults
\$5 for students up to grade 12.

All seating is reserved.

To book tickets, call (734) 429-7210
or at the Community Education Office

Visa and Mastercard Accepted

In November, the Fiddlers are thrilled to host one of America's greatest jazz violinists, Randy Sabien. Randy will be joined by renowned jazz bassist and composer Brian Torff, with guitarists Dean Magraw and Reuben Ristrom. They will present a program that Randy and Brian have taken on tour entitled "Playing Tribute—A Salute to Stephane Grappelli."

Randy Sabien studied with Grappelli, the legendary French jazz violinist. Brian Torff was Grappelli's bassist for a time. At Brian's suggestion, the two put together this tribute to their musical idol. The second half of their show illustrates how the artists have gone on to find their own musical voices.

Billboard calls Sabien "...a swinging and technically impeccable heir to the tradition of ... Grappelli..." *USA Today* says that Randy "... combines the classical technique and folk energy in a program that's still strictly jazz." You may have heard him on the radio shows *Austin City Limits* and *A Prairie Home Companion*.

Brian has performed with other legends as well, including Tony Bennett, George Shearing, Mel Torme and Frank Sinatra.

Both artists are also music educators. Brian is Music Program Director at Fairfield University. Randy created and chaired the jazz string department at Berklee College of Music in Boston. Randy will spend the week of the concerts working with Saline's orchestras as artist-in-residence.

As always, Saline's own fiddlin' phenoms, the Fiddlers Philharmonic will open the show with their unique program of traditional American music—bluegrass, Celtic, western swing—and dancing. You'll also hear from Saline's Fiddle Clubs, elementary and middle school students who will one day don the uniform and take the stage as Fiddlers.

The eighth annual winter Hometown Concerts will occur on February 1st and 2nd. The shows will feature a trio, *The Hot Club of Cowtown*, of Austin Texas. (The name is an allusion to Grappelli's *Quintette du Hot Club du France*). Their eclectic repertoire threads together western swing and jazz, in what one reviewer calls a cross between Bob Wills and Al Jolson.

See what we're doing next
by visiting our web site!

<http://www.salinefiddlers.com/>

Sally W., Rhythm,
ready to take stage!



Camp Phil, 2001

By Kim Lahnala

To the ears of a freshman hearing about prior Camp Phils, it sounded close to a nightmare. Nine hours of playing each day? Septic tanks over-flowing? Hot weather spent in tents? I was certain that I wasn't looking forward to Camp Phil at all.

Camp was held at a cottage belonging to the Birko family on the Canadian shore of Lake Huron. The Birkos have a small cottage with a large back yard on a cliff overlooking the lake. There is room there for lots of tents and one large meeting tent. The facilities are only designed for a family, however. So a portable facility (port-a-potty) was brought on site and washing was to take place in Lake Huron or in outdoor showers.

We arrived at the Birkos, unloaded the cars, set up our tents, ate lunch, and had our first practice. It wasn't as bad as I expected it to be! We started at a slow pace and worked up to a faster tempo with Mr. Culver teaching the violins. We swam and rehearsed again before free time. The first night we had a thunderstorm, and we all packed into the Birko's cottage while we waited it out. Two tents flooded and their occupants ended up sleeping in the large rehearsal tent, which was mostly dry.

The schedule for the second and third days was similar, but we practiced eight hours a day and the weather was not hot anymore. The weather was actually very nice — it felt good in the day and was cool for sleeping at night.

The fourth day we played through all of our songs again, packed and cleaned up, ate, and left. Altogether we practiced about twenty-two hours and worked on ten new fiddle tunes. We saw a storm come in across Lake Huron and a beautiful sunset. And we got to know each other better. Our new show is shaping up and we're excited to take it on the road. Oh, by the way, camp wasn't as bad as I thought it would be.



Bob and Pam Phillips take a moment to enjoy the gorgeous Rocky Mountains.

Northwestern Tour

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After the parade we planned to have lunch at a restaurant called "Cowboys," but we soon found a glitch in Mr. Roth's planning. "Cowboys" ended up being an "adult" restaurant! Because most of us Fiddlers were underage, we ended up making alternate plans. After eating, we all shopped in the famous western-wear stores of Calgary, where we prepared ourselves for the Stampede. That evening we went to the Grandstand Show, where Mr. Culver drooled over the stage and its sound equipment, not to mention the show itself! What a night!

Day Twelve: Cowboys and Giraffes

Since we had so much fun at the Stampede the day before, we decided to go back for one more day. After watching the rodeo and visiting the different attractions, we continued on to the Calgary Zoo. We had tons of fun with the animals, AND the waterfall!



At the Zoo. (Are they inside, or outside the cage?)

Day Thirteen: Whirlpool Day

Since we were scheduled on a very early flight out of Calgary, we decided to move to a hotel that was closer to the airport. We made sure that the hotel had a pool, and we made great use of it! The pool was full of Fiddlers that were running in one big circle to create a whirlpool effect. It worked! We finished off our tour with the infamous Mock Awards, Mr. Leutheuser's home video of the trip, and dinner at Chili's.

Day Fourteen: Home Sweet Home

While waiting to board the first flight, we found that our pockets were full of Canadian change. We decided to pool it all together and buy as many things from Tim Hortons as possible! We came up with enough to buy out the whole stand, but ended up buying enough for everyone to eat, and saving the rest for Camp Phil. The rest of the day was full of plane and bus rides, which eventually brought us back home to many happy parents.

Bob Phillips, Founder and Director
Ben Culver, Assistant Director
Pamela Phillips, Business Manager

Moving Bags

Traveling with the Fiddlers gave me a huge appreciation for the work involved in taking a show on the road. The advance planning that had been done to move the tour along smoothly was mind-boggling and so was the teamwork that kept it going from hour to hour. Every day provided a list of new examples but one that came up again and again was the efficiency in getting all the STUFF we took from one place to another.

With each change of location, and usually it was daily, Mr. Ben Culver, Dan K., and their team of helpers packed 45 suitcases into the belly of our chartered bus, in addition to the 40-something pieces of sound and stage equipment we carried with us. The bags had to be less than 70 lbs. to make the airline limit, but most of them were pushing it. Each day we all would drag our suitcases out to the bus. By the second or third day we caught on to the "one long, straight line" concept. The "Big Bang" or "Chaos" arrangement we used the first couple days wasn't helpful to Mr. Culver and his boys. By day five of this 13-day tour the loading process was almost down to a science. Took the crew about 15 minutes from start to finish.



Mr. Culver loads the bus driven by our favorite driver, Jack!

This was the first time the Fiddlers have carried their own sound system on an extended international trip. Those in the know seem to agree that bringing the system they're used to and have confidence in more than compensated for the time and effort it took to load, unload and inventory the equipment at each gig. Before the tour, Mr. Culver devised an identification system and each piece of equipment was tagged with its own ID. FPGR was the code for Fiddlers Philharmonic gig rig. FPG1 and FPG2 stood for two of the Fiddlers Philharmonic guitars. Before loading after each gig Mr. Culver inventoried each piece of equipment against his master list.

At the airports each Fiddler and chaperone was responsible for one piece of equipment besides his own suitcase. This moved us through the check-in and customs process fairly quickly, considering our number and the amount of luggage we carried.

Thanks to Mr. Culver's ID system, his crack loading team, and everyone's help in moving bags around, we managed to make it across the Canadian Rockies and, even more astounding, through the baggage quagmire back at DTW, without so much as a lost cowboy hat.

Calendar of Events

Friday, September 7:

Saline Community Fair at the Washtenaw County Fair Council Grounds - 5055 Ann Arbor Saline Road, Ann Arbor, MI. Fiddlers play two or three sets between 7:00 and 9:30 pm with breaks. Admission to Fair required.

Saturday, September 15:

Lapeer Concert Series at the Pix Theatre. 8:00 pm. For ticket info and questions, contact: Pam Wagner at: 810-664-4553.

Sunday, October 7:

Dundee Old Mill Fall Festival. Festival runs from 10:00 am to 8:00 pm. Fiddlers will be performing at 2:00 pm. Open to the public. Small entrance fee. For further info, contact the Dundee Old Mill Museum Association: 734-529-8596. 242 Toledo Street, Dundee, MI 48131.

Friday, October 12:

Battle Creek Lakeview High School sponsored by the Optimists. Fiddlers will play at 7:30 pm. Open to the public

with tickets at the door - \$5 or \$20 per family. For more info, contact Gary Gensch, 616-962-1174, ext 104.

Sunday, October 21:

Peach Lutheran Church, Jackson Rd., Dexter. This benefit concert is open to the public and will benefit the Fairy God Parents' program. Concert begins at 4:00 pm.

Friday and Saturday, October 26 and 27:

Westminster Presbyterian Church, 1500 Scio Church Road, Ann Arbor, to benefit the Church's various upcoming missions. Concert begins at 7:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Open to the public. As soon as further information becomes available, it will be posted to our web page: (www.salinefiddlers.com).

Friday and Saturday, November 3 & 4:

Saline Fiddler's Hometown Concert featuring one of America's greatest jazz violinists, Randy Sabien. 7:30 pm in the auditorium at Saline High School, 7190 N. Maple Road in Saline.

Saline Fiddlers Philharmonic Order Form

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