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	3209 S. FREDONIA, NACOGDOCHES, TX 75964	

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### **CHARLES GARDNER (1931-2013) & EARL GARNER (1933-2013)**

The Texas Fiddle community has experienced a couple of major losses within the last month. For those who may not have heard by now, I regret to inform the membership on the passing of former TOTFA Board member and president, Charles Gardner, of Nacogdoches, and fiddling great Earl Garner, of Elkhart, Texas. Being a fellow East Texan, I have had the distinct pleasure of knowing these men for the better part of thirty years and they both have made a huge impact in my life both musically and personally. I could probably write a book about these men, but I will try to keep it brief, yet honor their contributions at the same time for this newsletter. I know I can speak on behalf of the membership when I say they will both be missed and we all extend our deepest sympathies to the families. Earl passed away at his home on August 14<sup>th</sup> at the age of 80. He was retired from the Texas Department of Criminal Justice (Institutional Division) as a maintenance supervisor. He was also a 32<sup>nd</sup> degree Mason. While his style of fiddling was more bluegrass than Texas style, he was a member of TOTFA for many years and was always very supportive of our contests and attended as many as possible. I always enjoyed his approach to fiddling and one thing you could never say is that he lacked tempo! He was always a willing and capable judge and was very encouraging of the young up and coming fiddlers. Through the years, I have had the honor and pleasure of sharing many stages with Earl, whether it was local bluegrass shows and festivals, fiddle contests, or jam sessions all over the East Texas area. He played fiddle in many bluegrass bands over the years, most notably with the, "Father of Bluegrass," Bill Monroe, and the legendary Jimmy Martin. He knew countless fiddle tunes and actually developed several of his own tunes. Seemingly every time we were together, he took the time to show me an old tune no one played anymore or one of his original tunes.

**Texas Old Time Fiddlers Association**  
**3209 S. Fredonia**  
**Nacogdoches, TX 75964**

He was good friends with Charles as well, and while they greatly enjoyed giving each other grief, it was all out of respect and friendship. Earl certainly leaves behind great memories with his many friends and fans alike.

Charles passed away on August 13, less than twenty-four hours before Earl, at the age of 81. He was a graduate of the University of Oklahoma, getting his BS in education in 1954 and his MA in 1958. He received his commission as a 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant in the US Army as an officer in the infantry and served as a Rifle Marksmanship Instructor at the Infantry School in Fort Benning and later at Fort Bliss he served as Company Commander. He received an Honorable Discharge in 1962 as a (permanent) 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant. He taught geography at Austin Peay State University, Southeastern State University, and Ball State University before finally retiring in 1996 after 30 years at Stephen F. Austin State University. While at SFA, he and fellow faculty members, (Abe Abernathy, Stan Alexander, and Tom Nail), created a band called the “East Texas String Ensemble,” in which Charles played fiddle and mandolin.

Continued on page 3....



## APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Street \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_  
 State/ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email \_\_\_\_\_  
 Birthday(s) \_\_\_\_\_

- \$30 Fiddler (A contest fiddler that resides in Texas.)  
 \$30 Accompanist (A contest accompanist that resides in Texas.)  
 \$30 Out-of-State Fiddler (A contest fiddler that resides outside of Texas.)  
 \$20 Associate (Any non-contest fiddler or accompanist or friends and fans of Texas fiddling.)

New Member       Renewal       Change of Address

### COST-EFFECTIVE ASSOCIATION OPTIONS

- We are a multi-membership TOTFA family and agree to receive only (1) issue of “The Texas Fiddler” each month.  
 Please save paper and postage by sending me “The Texas Fiddler” via full color instant email, rather than in Black and white via the USPS.

### MAIL APPLICATION AND CHECK TO:

Texas Old Time Fiddlers Association  
 3209 S. Fredonia, Nacogdoches, TX 75964

**Keep in mind, you can also renew online at [www.totfa.org](http://www.totfa.org)**

## 2011-2013 TOTFA BOARD OF DIRECTORS



The  
 Texas  
 Fiddler

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## SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Eischen Harkins	September 01
Olaf Riewe	September 02
Anton Ullrich	September 03
Loyce Franklin	September 03
Steve Williams	September 13
E.L. Mathews	September 14
Eric Amundson	September 18
George Griffith	September 20
Bailey Tate	September 22
Wayne Head	September 28
Dan Weaver	September 28
Melinda Stockton	September 28



If you would like your photo in the newsletter during your birthday month, please email a photo to [zirl.hopkins@gmail.com](mailto:zirl.hopkins@gmail.com) before the 20<sup>th</sup> of the prior month.

Recording a couple of albums along the way, they performed for twenty-five years. During that time, they made many appearances at the Texas Folklife Festival in San Antonio, and also made several trips to Central America entertaining on behalf of the US State Department. My first memories of Charles are from the weekly Saturday afternoon jam sessions at the Old Time String Shop in downtown Nacogdoches. My dad and I would go there very often when I first started playing guitar and I remember being amazed at his vast knowledge of not only music, but the history of the music. He could play many instruments very well but he seemed to have a particular passion for fiddle music and actually played in contests many years ago before later focusing his talents on bass as an accompanist. When I had the good fortune of meeting East Texas fiddle legend, Smokey Butler, I knew I had to introduce the two of them. They would travel together going to contests and jams all over the state of Texas and several times out of state as well. What an education and opportunity that was for me as a young man to hear all the stories from these two about the legends of the past I never had the chance to meet in person. Charles knew and played with practically all of the Texas fiddle greats and had so many great stories about them all. I will forever be grateful to him for his friendship, generosity, and his encouragement through the years. I certainly would not have had the honor of serving for the past ten years as a board member or president of TOTFA were it not for the influence of Charles Gardner.

In regards to our 2013 TOTFA Convention, we have decided to hold it at our annual contest in Glen Rose, Texas, in November. It was the best situation for us this year and we greatly appreciate the McPherson family for allowing us to use their contest as our 2013 convention. More details will be in the upcoming newsletters. We have three contests in the month of October. The contests will be held in Bowie, Seguin, and Gilmer. I hope to see large turnouts at each of these events!

## Happy Fiddlin' Bryan

## DONE GONE

### Grand Master's Fiddle Championship Nashville, TN ~ August 30-31 Country Music Hall of Fame ~ Nashville, TN

#### Traditional Division

- 1st – Tyler Andal
- 2nd – John Boulware
- 3rd – Missy Daley
- 4th – Maikaela Langley
- 5<sup>th</sup> – Brandon Godman
- 6<sup>th</sup> – Tanner Marriott
- 7<sup>th</sup> – Abby Morris
- 8<sup>th</sup> – Woody Hall
- 9<sup>th</sup> – Preston Marriott

#### Youth Championship

- 1st – Trustin Baker
- 2nd – River Lee
- 3rd – Justin Sherfey
- 4th – Ivy Phillips
- 5<sup>th</sup> – Jacob Johnson
- 6<sup>th</sup> – Allie Hagan
- 7<sup>th</sup> – Emma DeJarnette
- 8<sup>th</sup> – Alicyn Newman
- 8<sup>th</sup> – Matthew Lin
- 10<sup>th</sup> – Lauren Clardy

#### Championship

- 1st – Laura Waters
- 2nd – Jesse Maw
- 3rd – Junior Marriott
- 4th – Maddie Denton
- 5<sup>th</sup> – Katrina Nicolayeff
- 6<sup>th</sup> – Doug Fleener
- 7<sup>th</sup> – Eli Bishop
- 8<sup>th</sup> – Cody Marriott
- 9<sup>th</sup> – Bubba Hopkins
- 10<sup>th</sup> – Aria Stiles
- 11<sup>th</sup> – Justin Branum
- 12<sup>th</sup> – Harrison Schumann
- 13<sup>th</sup> – Grant Rigney
- 14<sup>th</sup> – Miya Saito-Beckman
- 15<sup>th</sup> – Aynsley Porchak
- 16<sup>th</sup> – Andrew Lin
- 17<sup>th</sup> – Joel Whittinghill
- 18<sup>th</sup> – Billy Contreras
- 19<sup>th</sup> – Karissa Nugent
- 20<sup>th</sup> – Jeff Guernsey

#### Accompanist

- 1st – Anthony Mature
- 2nd – Ray Brandin
- 3rd – Sterling Abernathy
- 4th – Jim Reina
- 5<sup>th</sup> – Ted Williams

## HERE & THERE

### Bowie Chicken & Bread Days Bowie, TX ~ October 6 Fire Department ~ Bowie, TX

<u>61+</u>	<u>0-18</u>	<u>19-40</u>
1 <sup>st</sup> - \$200	1 <sup>st</sup> - \$200	1 <sup>st</sup> - \$200
2 <sup>nd</sup> - \$150	2 <sup>nd</sup> - \$150	2 <sup>nd</sup> - \$150
3 <sup>rd</sup> - \$100	3 <sup>rd</sup> - \$100	3 <sup>rd</sup> - \$100
4 <sup>th</sup> - \$75	4 <sup>th</sup> - \$75	4 <sup>th</sup> - \$75
5 <sup>th</sup> - \$50	5 <sup>th</sup> - \$50	5 <sup>th</sup> - \$50
	6 <sup>th</sup> - \$30	
	7 <sup>th</sup> -12 <sup>th</sup> - \$15	
<u>41-60</u>	<u>Accompanist</u>	<u>Twin Fiddle</u>
1 <sup>st</sup> - \$200	1 <sup>st</sup> - \$150	1 <sup>st</sup> - \$150
2 <sup>nd</sup> - \$150	2 <sup>nd</sup> - \$125	2 <sup>nd</sup> - \$100
3 <sup>rd</sup> - \$100	3 <sup>rd</sup> - \$100	3 <sup>rd</sup> - \$50
4 <sup>th</sup> - \$75	4 <sup>th</sup> - \$75	
5 <sup>th</sup> - \$50	5 <sup>th</sup> - \$50	
	6 <sup>th</sup> - \$25	
<u>Championship</u>		
1 <sup>st</sup> - \$150	2 <sup>nd</sup> - \$100	3 <sup>rd</sup> - \$50 4 <sup>th</sup> - \$25
Registration starts at 10:00 A.M.		
Contest Begins at 11:00 A.M.		

October 12, 2013 Seguin, TX Contest

October 19, 2013 Gilmer, TX Yamboree Contest

November 9-10, 2013 TOTFA Annual Convention  
Glen Rose, TX