

Bluegrass leaves behind fond memories

KARL KATZKE
Staff Writer

The lilt of the fiddle's high pitched voice and the plucky twang of the banjo echoed over the square in front of the Community Center on August 21. The occasion? The Sixth Annual Bluegrass on the Green festival.

Approximately 750 people visited Clackamas Community College on Aug. 22 to listen to a group of seven bluegrass and folk bands perform.

The Bluegrass on the Green festival has been held by the Oregon City Rotary Foundation since 1992. At first, it was held outdoors at what is now the site of the Oregon Trail Interpretive Center. When the center was built,

the group moved to Clackamette Park, and this year, to Clackamas Community College.

Roger Whittaker, of Willamette Falls Pension and Insurance Services, organizes the event with the support of The Oregon City Rotary Foundation. "I have a dream that this [CCC] will be to bluegrass what Mt. Hood is to Jazz."

This is the first time that the festival has been held at Clackamas Community College. Next year, Bluegrass on the Green will again be held at the College, on Aug. 28, 1999.

This is not Clackamas's only connection with the festival, though. Several years ago, a program was started in the music department called "Cabin Fever" to teach the Bluegrass style. Steve

Bond, a member of "Great Northern Planes," was a part of this program. According to Bond, many of the acts that played at Bluegrass on the Green started in "Cabin Fever."

The Rotary Foundation estimates that they made about \$6500 from the festival. From that, 25% will go to the Rotary Foundation itself, 25% will go to the Clackamas Historical Society, which runs the Oregon Trail Interpretive Center, and 25% will go to the Young Women's Opportunities Program. The rest of the money is split between different charities, scholarships, and need organizations.

Roger Whittaker also added that although "Dr. Keyser and the CCC staff have been great," he would like to see more student involvement.



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The fiddle player from the band Misty River performs next to a cardboard cut-out of a cow (above).

The Cellist and guitarist from the Misty River band play their instruments. Music was just one of the many activities during the festival (left).



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