

Grand *Herald-Review* People

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Jammin' in

By Sally Sedgwick

Herald-Review Feature Writer

It's Sunday afternoon and the parking spaces along Main Street in Bigfork are empty...except in front of the Bigfork City Hall. There are more than a dozen cars there, and the beat of music filters through the windows.

It's the third Sunday of the month, and the Recyclables are playing.

They come from Thief River Falls and Blackduck. They come from Cohasset and Bigfork. They come from all over for an afternoon of jamming, either to play or to watch. It's open to anyone.

Today there are 10 musicians, and the sounds of tuba, harmonica, drums, concertina, accordion, piano and acoustic, lead, rhythm and bass guitar come together to play the old time songs. The players strike up "A Tear in

Your Beer." Then "It's a Grand Old Flag."

Al Anderson on rhythm guitar strikes up a song for the season, "Jingle Bells," but the lyrics are changed. "Dashing through the snow," he sings, "in a rusty Chevrolet..." The audience loves it.

It's foot tapping, sing-along music, and sometimes couples will start dancing. For a break, there are potluck snacks and coffee.

Originally there was a formal band called the "Strings and Things." But when that band broke up about eight years ago, the playing continued informally. Now up to 50 can be in the audience during the summer.

But the music continues all year except in December. Sunday afternoon jam sessions are open to everyone. The next jam session will be from 1 to about 4 p.m. on Jan. 18 at the Bigfork City Hall.

