

LOVE SONGS FROM A NATIVE SON

Ex-Eugenean sings of home, heart, friends

by PAUL DENISON
Of The Register-Guard

JINX DAVIS describes his life as "sort of a dichotomy."

In one sense, he's right. On the job as a nurse, he is an operating room coordinator and trouble-shooter at Kaiser Sunnyside Medical Center in Portland. Away from work, he is an active musician, singer and songwriter.

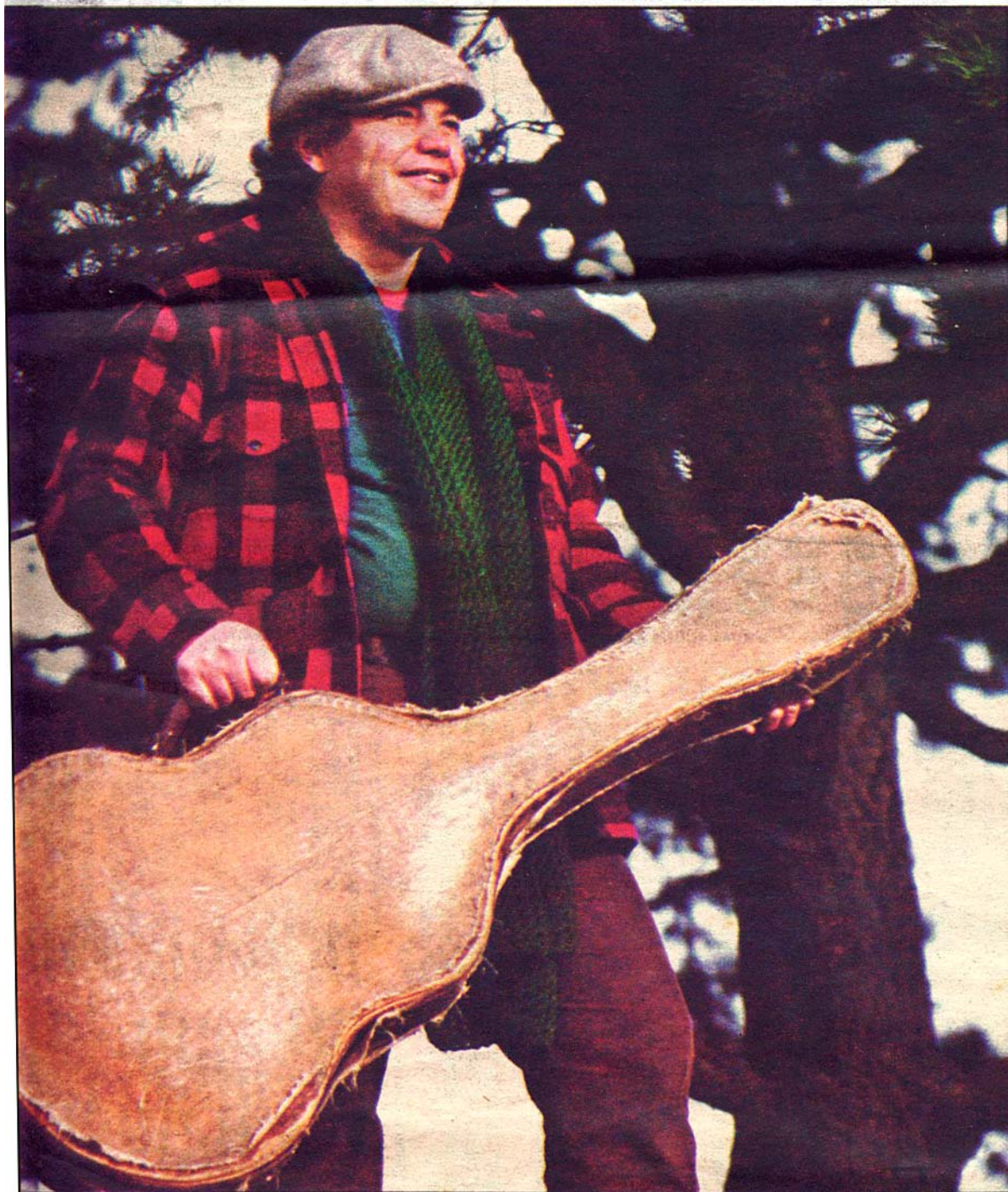
Splitting his time between medical and musical worlds has not, however, made this former Eugene resident a split personality. In person and on tape, Davis comes across as a singularly "together" person who cares wholeheartedly about people, music and his native state.

This shows most clearly in his first-ever recording effort, a cassette called "Oregon Country" on which he sings his own songs with a five-member group called the Sophisticado Swing Band.

Six of the songs were inspired by Oregon. The others do not mention Oregon but are laced with the sly colloquial wit and sentiments of a young man coming of age on cherished home ground.

"I'm trying to get people excited about this place and the beauty that's here," Davis says. "I'm trying to write songs about being here, but I'm trying to keep a perspective on it. All the stereotypes are here. I hope the humor comes through, too. I hope it's not oppressive."

Oppressive is hardly the word to describe "Oregon Country," a high-spirited, down-home, sometimes twang-in-cheek production by good musicians wielding familiar axes: steel guitar, dobro, banjo, fiddle, bass, clari-



staff photo by Lori Borgman

Former Eugenean Jinx Davis' 'Oregon Country' lightly celebrates the natural world and the people of his native state

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