

THE HOEDOWNER

Waldport, Oregon

April 1967

This is the third copy of the HOEDOWNER and I am very happy with the correspondence and help I have received in the last month.

I have at hand a nice letter from Pete Haynes and he states, there will be a fiddling Contest at Baker this year. The date is not set yet but as soon as it is established we will put it in the HOEDOWNER so we will all know when to come. We are with you Pete, all the way, with a little help and a lot of advice.

I have a letter from Rod Davis that came just a little too late to put in our last HOEDOWNER on January 28th. They had a jam session at Zebb Hillords home in Canyon City, and the Merrymakers there were Zebb Hillord, Ray Sherwood, Barney Vaughn, clay Cotton, Jim Baker and Rod Davis. Rod said, "They had Fiddling to hear and Turkey to eat, O what a Life."

I notice a few foreign names on this list of Fiddlers and when we go to Canyon City we must do something about this.

We are very glad to note that Nell Turner is back in circulation again after quite a long illness and she has recently been playing for some Parties and Dances. We are also glad to hear that Martha Brinkley and Guy Chamness are both recovering from their recent illness.

Some time back I had a letter from either Dave Hite or Harold Allen and it weems, they had a Jam Session at the Hite home at Cottage Grove and I guess they had a evening of Fiddling, Banjo picking, arguments and insults, as only they know how, but now all is well for they have been at Cottage Grove entertaining the Ladies of the Moose at their 20th Anniversary celebration. Harold Allen fiddle, Dave Hite-banjo, and cliff bell-guitar. A great combination.

On March 19th we had our Potluck Dinner and Jam Session at Silverton and it was a great success. We had about 200 people attending, including Association members, accompanists, fiddlers and friends. There were about 25 fiddlers present and nearly all of us played a few numbers during the day and they also danced a short while later in the day. Also we had a meeting with Mollala Chamber of Commerce to arrange for a fiddling Contest in conjunction with the Mollala Buckaroo Shaw on July 1st.

Our Fiddling show at the Moose hall in Waldport was a great success as always. We had plenty of food, plenty of music and lots of fun for all comers.

On Monday, April 3rd, Bill Yohey and I went to Mollala to help the chamber of Commerce line up a Fiddling contest for July 1st. On behalf of the Fiddlers we have agreed to furnish them three Suitable Judges and now we want Volunteers and if you don't offer your services you may be drafted. We have asked in the past for Members to Volunteer their service

as Judge and up until now we have just had one offer. Now lots get together for as you will find out, this is a chore that has to be done by someone and we should all be willing to take our turn.

We want to remember that we should have a Fiddlers convention some time this summer and now is the time for you to suggest a time and place to have it. We want you to make suggestions and not make your officers do all of your arranging for you.

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

Anyone that has loft dishes, cutlery, or clothing at any of our meetings may recover their goods by writing to Bill Yohey or to me, Cliff Buker. A few things have been gathered up after the meetings.

“THE ART OF BEING A GOOD ACCOMPANIST” by Bill Yohey

When I was a small boy 12 years old, I started to chord on guitar and mandolin to my Dad’s fiddling. As I grew up, accompanying my folks and other musicians, I soon learned that most every one plays a piece of music differently. This we must watch for and endeavor to make the right changes as they play it and not the way the last performer did it. Accompanists like bill Durham and Vic Brown can do this very well. I have a lot of respect for the piano players and men like Dave Hite and Rusty Modrell who are willing to accompany anyone who asks them.

Some accompany the fiddler to loudly and unintentionally take the pay away from him. Some fiddlers often break time because they can’t hear their accompanists. You have to find a happy medium here and it takes a little concentration. Time doesn’t permit us to practice much at our Jam sessions. I think it is very important when choosing someone to help us, that we quickly tell them what we will play and what key we do it in. Most accompanists appreciate being asked to play. We take advantage of some, but that’s the price of being a popular one. Do you think these three items are important?

1. Having your instrument in tune.
2. Willing to accompany anyone.
3. Respect of other’s ability.

Hats off to all accompanists. Without them we wouldn’t sound so good. After all we are not soloists you know. Bill Yohey

CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

First, we are, some of us, going to Roseburg on Sunday April 16th to entertain the patients at the Veterans Hospital and I think this is a very worthy cause. Just remember, they fought for us in the years past and now I am willing to spend at least one Sunday each year to entertain those who are less fortunate and have done so much for us in the past.

I would like to see as many fiddlers and accompanists as can conveniently come, and their appreciation for this service will make you feel well paid for coming. I know, I have been there before.

Next, is the Celebration at Paradise California, April 20, 21, and 22. As I understand it the fiddling contest will start April 21 but don't depend too much on that. There will be quite a few Oregon fiddlers at the contest and one Oregon Judge, but I won't brag about that at this time.

On April 30 there will be a potluck dinner and Jam session at Banks, Oregon. Just a short distance from Forest Grove. This should be a great event for fiddlers and good eaters. Bring your friends, some food and your own table service. This meeting is open to the public so tell your friends.

On May 21 there is a Jam session and Potluck in the making and if there is any change just read your HOEDOWNER and you will be notified to good time. This meeting will be at the Mount Scott Park in Portland.

I just got a letter from Rod Davis of Ontario and he states that there will be a Fiddling Contest at Canyon City on June 9 and 10. This Contest will be the same as last year. Also they are having a Jam session at Payette, Idaho on April 15th.

Don't forget to go to Weiser, it is going to be the Biggest Show on Earth, June 21, 22, 23, and 24.

REDMOND, OREGON

April 2, 1967

The National Guard Armory was the scene of central Oregon's Spring flock Dance on April 1. Approximately 1,000 people listened and danced to Terrebonne's own Rusty Modrell and his All-Star Band. This orchestra is again contracted for next year featuring the west's most popular fiddler, Rusty Modrell. (Rusty, who made those billboards?)

MCMINNVILLE, OREGON

April 10, 1967

From Bill Yohey

Hello Cliff,

My contribution this month, Mr. Editor, is the short biographies of three of our fine fiddling members. My I continue to send these in? The second item is a short article about the art of being a good accompanist. Next month I would like to put in the words of a real old time song. Welcome to our new members and a "Howdy" to Jim and Bonnie Baker up in Seneca, Oregon.

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BIOGRAPHIES

NELL TURNER----

This lady, daughter of S.L. and Grace Stewart, was born on a farm near McCoy, Oregon on January 24, 1895. Her first musical experience was on a reed organ. Later, in 1905, a fiddler came to work for her parents on the farm and taught her the chords on the piano. Around 1917 she decided she would like to play the fiddle and has been playing since.

After World War 1 she taught school in Malheur County, then returned to the vicinity of McCoy near Amity, Oregon. She was married in 1920 and has lived on the same farm since that date. Nell is also a fine accompanist and attends the fiddler jam sessions when able.

STAN EDWARDS----

Stan was born in Tootle, Washington 82 years ago and has been playing the fiddle for 65 years. Prior to 1930 he played in several Circus bans through the northwest and often played with the well-known Jessie Crawford of piano and organ fame. His father taught music in Tootle, Washington. In 1930 he moved to McMinnville and was in the shoe repair business until he retired in 1940. Stan is truly an old time fiddler. He and Mrs. Edwards reside at 1040 Ford St., McMinnville, Oregon.

RUSTY MODRELL----

Idaho loss was surely Oregon's gain when this young man's parents moved to Yachats, Oregon. His father was a farmer and fiddler how later moved to Pendleton and Redmond Oregon. Rusty has been playing and entertaining nice people all over the state for 35 years. He owned and operated an upholstery shop in Redmond for 12 years and now is a salesman at Timbersteel Engineering Corporation, Redmond, Oregon

Rusty was born at Filer, Idaho September 25, 1916. He and his wife Violet, live on a small ranch at Terrebonne, Oregon. Rusty is the current State Old Time Fiddling Champion.

COMING EVENTS CONTINUED-----

The Mollala Buckaroos always have a gigantic Celebration early in July. This year they are kicking off there Celebration with a fiddling Contest and I am very proud that they asked us to be a part of their show. We have a duty to perform and lets get together and do something about it. Lets get a group of prospective Fiddlers to a Meeting and iron out some judging rules

and regulations. We have about 180 members in our Association at the present time and we are growing fast, and we will have a convention a little later on. We want you to keep this Convention in mind and if you are willing to be a Judge at the Contests just let your President or Secretary know. In order to have a satisfactory Fiddling contest you must have rules to abide by and both the Fiddler and the Judge must know the rules and abide by them.

COMMENTS BY THE EDITOR

Now I am speaking between red ears, because I forgot to tell you that bill Yohey was also a member of the All-Star Band that played for the dance at Redmond on April 1.

I also want to express our thanks and appreciation from all the fiddlers, to C. N. Charlie Johnson of Portland for the fine P. A. System he presented to us at the fiddling Show at Waldport on March 25.

Anyone wanting pictures taken at the Dorena Grange hall at our Jam Session can get them from the Cottage Grove sentinel. Those pictures are 5 X 7 and will cost \$1.00 each.

Don't forget the contest at Cottage Grove July 14 and there will be a later announcement of a contest at Roseburg at the Douglas County Fair. The date and details will be announced later.

Our thanks to Pat Beardsley for her help on the HOEDOWNER, without her help the HOEDOWNER would not be the same, but don't let her find out how important she is to us.

Well I guess I will have to close up for tonight and remember if I have overlooked anything of importance don't be afraid to write and tell me about it. While you are looking up mistakes misspelled words and things I have forgotten, you might notice a few things I didn't forget.

Cliff Bukor, Editor

Pat Beardsley, Printer and Able Helper

