

## THE HOEDOWNER

August 7, 1967

Again it is time to get all of the fiddling news that I have been able to get together sent out to the fiddlers of Oregon.

### CALENDAR OR COMING EVENTS

August 12	Saturday	2:00 p.m.	State Contest	Roseburg, Oregon
20	Sunday		Potluck dinner-Jam Session	Albany, Oregon
22	Tuesday		State Fair Contest	Salem, Oregon
25	Friday		Contest Preliminaries	Baker, Oregon
26	Saturday		Contest Finals	Baker, Oregon
Sept. 21			Big Contest	Bakersfield, Ca.

ROSEBURG CONTEST. The contest starts at about two o'clock Saturday afternoon. There will be the Open and the Senior division, and no entry charge. The prizes are very good and we hope everyone will come and enter the contest August 12.

MEETING. The Meeting with a Potluck Dinner and Jam session at the Morning star Grange Hall about 5 miles N.E. of Albany. Directions to the hall – From the south you go to the Jefferson turn off on the freeway north of Albany, then go under the cloverleaf to the left and follow the road to a crossroad and turn right and stay on that road to the hall.

STATE FAIR CONTEST. Don't forget the Contest at the State Fair in Salem on August 29. This date falls on Tuesday and it is inconvenient for some fiddlers who are unfortunate enough to have to work and can't be present so lets all who can, be there and make it as good a contest as we possibly can. The prize money will go out to six places. There will be no trophies and no entry fee.

BAKERSFIELD CONTEST. The next Fiddling I have to offer is the BIG Contest at Bakersfield, California starting September 21. This contest being so far away, we of course, will not all be able to attend but we should all go that can and let the California people know that we are still friendly and also we appreciate their money.

BAKER CONTEST. There will be a very good contest, as always, at Baker, Oregon August 25 and 26. This should be a Good Show so lets all help Pete Haynes make this a contest to

remember. As we understand it the Preliminaries will be played on Friday the 25, and the Finals on Saturday the 26.

### JUDGES

ROSEBURG-Don Haynes of Forest Grove, George Jenkerson of Portland, and Cliff Buker of Waldport.

SALEM STATE FAIR- Have not all been chosen as yet.

BAKER-Dwayne Youngblood of Payette, Idaho, rusty Modrell of Terrebonne, Oregon, and Dave Frisbee of Emmett, Idaho.

### NOW IT IS TIME FOR AUTOBIOGRAPHIES!

SIG BLEXRUDE was born in Wisconsin in 1889. He was raised on a farm and when he was about 15 years old two brothers who were Fiddlers moved into the area and as Sig was interested in Fiddling they agreed to help him. The brothers names were Abraham and Isaac and Abraham was his helper.

Sig had a Strad Violin and he played for dances, weddings, and any other entertainments. In 1910 he organized a five piece dance band and they played for dances until the jitterbug days came along.

Sig worked as a carpenter and did not play the fiddle any more until he came to Oregon. Some time later he attended the Oldtime Fiddling show at Weiser, Idaho and the old fiddling Bug started squirming again.

Sig says he is doing quite a bit of playing at the golden Age clubs and other places. More power to him. He also says that all Fiddlers are welcome to stop and see him when they are in Eugene. The address is Sig Blexrude, 116 Oakleigh Lane, Eugene, Oregon 97402.

DAVID QUINLAN was born March 5, 1893 in Minnesota. He first started to play the Fiddle when he was 16 years old. He never had music lessons so he taught himself to read music. He had several Uncles who played the fiddle and somehow they all played the same tunes, the same way, and in the same key. David said he had to practice in the barn, (who didn't) and he said his mother would whistle a tune for him to take to the barn and practice. Several years ago he had an accident and his arm and hand were so damaged that he had to give up playing for a long time.

He entered the contest at the Benton County Fair in 1963 and there he met many Oldtime fiddlers and this renewed his interest in fiddling. Now he is doing quite well.

## NEWS NOTES

The far West Oldtime Fiddlers contest at Cottage Grove was a Great Success and was attended by about 800 people. Harold Allen won the Far West Trophy for the second time. This trophy is awarded each year in memory of Larry Straton who founded the Far West Oldtime Fiddlers Contest and died in a mining accident two years ago. Lloyd Wanzer came in second and also won the Specialty division. The third, fourth, and fifth places were taken by Rusty Modrell, Bill Yohey, and Jimmie Miller. We have two or three different versions of just who took what, so we will let you guess along with us.

There was plenty of Oldtime Fiddling and enjoyment at Emerald Recreation Center at Eugene, July 23, where the Oregon Oldtime Fiddlers Association had their Potluck dinner and Jam Session.

We are very happy to have our two fiddling members from Eugene back with us again. They are Sig Blexrude and Pop Powers. They were both present at the meeting. Also we had quite a large group from the golden Age Club at Eugene in attendance and they brought their orchestra to help with the entertainment. Sig Blexrude is a member of this orchestra.

Jerry White, another of our good Fiddlers from Eugene was also there and believe it or not he is back walking on two legs again. He was thrown his crutches away. He has a cast on his foot and a peg to walk on and he will soon get rid of that, we hope.

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### FIDDLING NEWS – From Marshal Jackson Gresham, Oregon

“Away out West” in Gresham, where the deer and the antelope play, and the Elks do benevolent deeds, things moved at a high speed Sunday, July 30.

The Elks Lodge asked for some fiddlers to entertain at the picnic where 723 people showed up to enjoy the hot day. George Jenkerson John Bruhl, Fred Hildebrandt, Leonard Fulwider, and Marshall Jackson provided the hoedowns. A good PA system carried the music loud and clear all over the nine-acre park. A lot of toe-tapping and hand-clapping spurred the fiddlers to do their best.

Many complimentary remarks in our favor helped to brighten our day. Many said they'd never heard such good music.

We feel that the seeds of good-will towards the Fiddlers has been planted, and that perhaps fiddling will be of interest to this community. Who knows but what some grandpa or grandma will dig the old fiddle out of the attic and start paying it again?-----

## OREGON OLDTIME FIDDLING CONTEST RULES

JUST AN IDEA for you to think about and report on!!!

First, the Oldtime Fiddler will not be classified on his age, but on his ability as a fiddler. This rating will be determined by the percentage rate he gets at the last Contest he enters.

The Fiddlers that are rated the best will play in Group No. 1.

The Fiddlers that do not rate so high will play in Group No. 2.

The Fiddlers who do not rate as high as Group No. 2 will play in Group No. 3. The Contestant must have his Entry Blank turned in, in person or by mail, at least one hour before the Contest begins. This is to give the stenographers a little time to classify the fiddlers.

The Fiddlers will be divided into three groups, for instance, if there should be only six Fiddlers, there would be only two fiddlers in each Group, but if there are thirty Fiddlers there would be ten in each group. The percentage of money given to the different groups will have to be determined by the Oregon Oldtime Fiddlers Association.

In case of a man wanting to enter the Contest who had not played in a Contest before, and has no rating, he will either have to play in Group No. 1 or be classified by the three existing Judges.

If a non-Member enters a Contest he should be charged an extra fee, enough to get his Membership card.

In regard to Judges, The man who wins 1<sup>st</sup> in Group 1, first in Group 2, and first in Group 3 will automatically be Judges for the next Contest. If a man should be unable to act as a Judge for some legitimate reason then it could be dropped on the next man below him. But if his reason was not considered just he would have to Judge a contest before he would be eligible to enter another Contest.

If anyone, any Club, city or organization wanted to have a Fiddling contest and not follow our rules they could do so without the help of our Judges, advertising, or any other help from the Association.

If any Group such as, a Club, Lodge, Chamber or Commerce, or other person, wanted to add money to any section of the contest they may do so.

If a Man is called upon to Judge a Contest and he has not won a First place in his last Contest he may be relieved from his judging duties by a Competent Judge for such time as he needs to enter and play in the Contest.

This Contest rule is only MY idea of how our Contests can be built up. As it appears to me, from what I have been told from many Members who are fiddlers, our contests are going on the rocks if something is not done about it, and SOON. This rule would eliminate quite a lot of work and that is becoming very important.

I have put in much time to think of a plan that would work and be fair to all Fiddlers and now would I be asking too much if I ask each Member of the Association to send me a post card and let me know what they think of this plan and-or how it could be changed to make it better, or if they are satisfied to go along as we are.

CLIFF BUKER, President

OREGON OLDTIME FIDDLERS ASSOCIATION

P.S. This is a delayed report. At the Contest at Cottage Grove, Jimmie Miller told me, "There will be a Contest at Banks, Oregon on Sunday August 13" and that is all I have heard about it. I have not heard a thing about time of day, prizes, judges, or anything. S, now you know as much about it as I do.

I just received a telephone call from our secretary Bill Yohey and he will not be with us at Roseburg. He has gone to Ogden, Utah to attend the funeral of his Mother, who passed away either yesterday or last night.

\*\*\*\*\*In view of this sad news and the loss of our Secretary, at the Contest I would like all Fiddlers to get together for a short session of business just before the Contest. Try and be at the Fairground about 1:00 P.M. Saturday, August 12.

CLIFF BUKER, President