

THE HOEDOWNER

September 12, 1967

*****Now its time to talk about our Oregon Oldtime Fiddlers Convention. Other Fiddling Organizations have a Convention once a year, and it is quite necessary for us to do the same.

Our Convention will be a two day affair featuring a program Friday night and on Saturday an election of officers, by ballot. Then Saturday evening is the banquet and after that a BIG DANCE. There will be a charge of \$2.00 for the banquet and the dance will be free to all who have a paid up membership card.

Rusty Modrell will be program director and he is very capable of furnishing us with good entertainment. Mervin Dickerson is also busy looking for a suitable location and time for the Convention.

In your next HOEDOWNER you will see the date and location of this Convention so lets all keep it in mind and urge all Members to be there.

At this time the only ctivity in sight with a definite date is the national Fiddlers Convention and Contest at Bakersfield, California. This Contest will start Thursday September 21. This will be a Fiddling Show to remember and if you should fail to go just don't blame the HOEDOWNER for not telling you about it.

The Oregon Steelheaders Association, Portland Branch, has asked for a Contest of Fiddlers to be in Portland sometime in December and this will be taken care of at a later date. We also have a request for us to come to Gresham in the near future but we have nothing definite on that at this time. We also have requests from Florence, Oregon and Crescent City, California so we will have to talk about these engagements at a later date.

The Fiddling Show at the Redmond Potato Festival is usually sometime in September but I have not heard the date.

The State Contest at Roseburg was an outdoors affair and that is never too satisfactory but it was the best we could do in such short notice. Due to unavoidable circumstances Bill Yohey and Rusty Modrell were neither able to attend the contest and Don Haynes, George Jenkerson and cliff Buker were Judges. This took five fiddlers out of competition. Therefore, instead of the usual eighteen to twenty fiddlers to compete there were only eleven.

In the Open Jerry White took first, Harold Allen second, and Jimmie Miller third. In the Senior division Charles Johnson was first, Earl Willis of Grants Pass was second, and Russell Crites third. The State Contest at Roseburg was August 19.

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The contest at Banks was at the Banks sunset Barbecue and this is the way it come out August 20. First Harold Allen, second Jerry White, third Jimmie Miller, and fourth Cliff Buker. Cliff also won the Senior. There were nine contestants.

The Polk County Fair had their contest August 25 at Rickereall. They only had the Open and Bill Yohey took first, Rusty Modrell second, and Kenneth Brank third. There were seven contestants.

At the State Fair in Salem August 29 there were seventeen contestants which made a more interesting contest. The outcome of this Contest was Rusty Modrell first, Cliff Buker second, and Jerry White third in the Open. Seniors were Ray Mack first, Charley Wymer second, and Agnes James third.

We received a nice letter from Earl Willis at Grants Pass and he gave the story about the Fiddling Contest at the Pioneer Day Celebration at Canyonville August 26.

An old man from Grants Pass took first place and Earl couldn't remember his name. Guy Spurlock from Camas Valley second, James Rose third, Casey Jones from Yoncalla, fourth, and Jim Zumalt of Canyonville fifth.

We want to thank Earl for sending us the news, and now I think it about time for us to think about a group of us going to southern Oregon and giving them a good Show or Contest. I believe it would be in order to ask Mr. Willis to contact the Veterans, the Legion, the Chamber of Commerce, or some organization and see if he can make a deal that would be satisfactory to the fiddlers. And believe it or not Elsie Willis is learning to play the Gut Bucket.

We now have a date for the next Potluck Dinner and Jam Session. This comes from our good friend Mrs. Burrows. It will be September 24 at the Woodburn Grange Hall in Woodburn across from the school building. We urge all fiddlers, and members who can, to attend this meeting as some of us will be at the Bakersfield Contest on that date.

AUTOBIOGRAPHIES

Charles Johnson was born in Longton, Kansas April 11, 1896. His family moved to Blackfoot, Idaho in 1899 where his father was school superintendent. The family moved to North Idaho in 1907, lived in Wardner for two years then went to Coeur D'Alene in 1909 where he went he went to High School graduating in 1913.

It was about mid-term of 1911 that his father persuaded the school board to hire a music teacher. There were about fifteen of the pupils, including Charles, who took up the violin, but only two or three stayed with it.

After his graduation Charles stayed with the high school orchestra for about two years, and in this time they played for many entertainments including a Teacher Convention at

Spokane. They played some pretty heavy Overtures and made quite a hit, being just a group of kids.

He later entered the University of Idaho and registered in engineering. After a while he decided he didn't like engineering but he played first violin in the University orchestra. The next year he took public school music so he could teach, but as he didn't like teaching he just started fiddling. About 1930 he started playing for dances and for about four years he played with The Oregon Trailblazers who played over KGW. He also played at Jantzen Beach Park every Sunday afternoon for about twenty two years.

He now plays with a few amateur groups in and around Portland, and his first fiddling experience was at Weiser, Idaho in 1955. Now he is playing in about all the contests. He says he don't win much but he will stay it a while yet. Charles Johnson is now only the Senior Champion of the State of Oregon.

Now for the brighter side of life. As the hunting season is just around the corner we will quit fiddling and go hunting for a short while.

It was in northern Wisconsin, a group of heavy spenders hired a guide, who was supposed to be the best guide in all of Wisconsin, to take them Moose hunting. After three hard days hunting in the deep woods and seeing nothing the guide decided they were too far south and turned a bit north. After three more dry days they had a small conference around the evening campfire. One member of the party said to the guide, "You are supposed to be the best guide in all of Wisconsin and now I believe you are lost." This was the guide reply, "I am the best guide in all of Wisconsin and I am lost, but you see, since about noon yesterday I think we have been in Canada."

I think I had better close the office on another issue of the HOEDOWNE and I will see you all at the Woodburn Grange Hall September 24.

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Edited and Printed by

CLIFF BUKER and PAT BEARDSLEY
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Waldport, Oregon

September 16, 1967

After I had the last HOEDOWNER all printed on the stencil I received three different items that should have been included in it, and now I find that the date of our next meeting at Woodburn has been changed to October 1.

In the beginning I was opposed to the meeting on the 24th of September as it would interfere with some of us going to Bakersfield but I was over ruled. Now the date has been changed without my knowledge so it is too late for me to get ready and go to Bakersfield as I have made other plans.

I printed a plan for a set of Contest rules that I thought would eliminate a lot or work for somebody and asked for the Members to write me a card and let me know what they thought about it. I have not, as yet, had one card so I guess my plan went flat here in the Western part of Oregon. I had several letters from the Eastern Oregon Members stating they thought it would be a good plan.

This is the second time a mistake has been made on a Meeting date and it is quite a bit of expense and work to straighten a thing of this kind out. I believe anyone makes a mistake now and then but when I make the same mistake twice in a short time it makes my ears very red and I will assure you it will never happen again.

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You can consider this letter as my resignation as both the President of the Oregon Oldtime Fiddlers Association and Editor of the HOEDOWNER!

CLIFF BUKER
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Waldport, Oregon

September 21st, 1967

Dear Friend Charles,

I read your letter a short time ago and I appreciate your attitude very much, I also want you to know that I have not quit the Association, just all of the work. I think it is only fair to let the people , who have the power to set dates and change dates at will, do some of the work and also I think the people who get in on the big money at the Contests should do their share of the work.

If you will look over that set of rules that I printed a while back you will see that it was pretty well taken care of. I didn't mean you or several others who I talked with I just ment the whole group. I thought they could of a least mentioned it.

I am quite sure that I will see you before the end of the month and I can explain the whole deal to you better than I can write it.

I wrote to Earl Willis a while ago and ask him to feel around the Organizations at Grants Pass and see if they would sponsor a Show or contest and if he can make a deal we might, a few of us, arrange to hop in on the fun. I would like very much to get an Association started in Southern Oregon as well as Eastern Oregon.

I have been so busy writing letters and HOEDONERS that I couldn't answer any personal letters and now that I am out of it maybe I can catch up a little. I have to write to Marshal Jackson as I also got a very nice letter from him today.

I still have some plans that I believe can be worked out and I am going ahead with them, and maybe if somebody else has to do some of the work they wont have to lay awake nights to think up more work for me to do. Well I guess I will have to quit for now as I must get this in the mail, so I will see you in about ten days.

I had your P.A. system overhauled and there was a loose wire that had come unsoldered and now it works just fine.

With best regards,

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Cliff.
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