

February 1968

THE HOEDOWNER

McMINNVILLE, OREGON. QUIPS FROM THE SECRETARY: The convention is over and we are already looking forward to the one next year. So many thanks goes to the American Legion ladies who catered such a nice dinner; a lot of comments on their effecient way of serving our Assn. that night in Corvallis. Thanks to Charlie Johnson, Jimmy Miller, Mrs. Bryant, Ed Gorham and others who played prior to Rusty's orchestra from Redmond; and to Bessie Buker, Nell Turner, Violet Modrell, Harriet Modrell, Edna Yohey, and Shirley Allen for taking tickets at the show and dance; to Bill Jenkins, our sheriff, for setting up the P.A. system; to Don Hawes, Merv Dickerson, E. N. Skeie, Bill Durham and Mr. Rose for janitorial services they performed; to Edna Yohey and Shirley Allen for helping backstage; and to all the ladies who provided the door prizes, Nell Turner, Mrs. Leith, Agnes Hite, Violet Modrell, Mrs. Allen, Mrs. Quinlan, and Mrs. Hawes.

The Oregon Oldtime Fiddler's Assn. new theme song is now "There'll Be A Hot Time In The Old Town tonight". Charlie Johnson is putting appropriate words to this piece and we hope to have them to print in next month's Hoedowner. A suggested motto, submitted by Marshall Jackson, is "Everyone Should Fiddle A Little".

A special thanks to Cliff Buker for conducting our business meetings. Cliff has been one of the best workers in our Assn. and I know he'll continue to help us in many ways in our coming year.

Out of state members attending the convention were: Mr. and Mrs. Loyd Wanzer, National President, Caldwell, Idaho; Mr. and Mrs. Dave Frisbee, Idaho Fiddler's President, Emmett, Idaho; Mr. and Mrs. Don Gish, Washington Fiddler's President, Yakima, Washington, Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Brank, Winlock, Washington, and Mr. and Mrs. E. N. Skeie, Crescent City, California. The Assn. thanks these nice people for helping make our convention a success.

SALEM, OREGON: First let me express my most sincere thanks to the members of the Oregon Oldtime Fiddlers Assn. for their trust and confidence they have in me by electing me as President. Also a cordial welcome to all our new members.

Let me say a very big thank you to all the officers and members for doing a great job in organizing and presenting our first annual two day convention held at Corvallis Jan. 19-20. Also to the fiddlers who helped make the Friday night show a great success. I don't think it is too early to start thinking and planning for next year's convention. So let us all pull together for a bigger and better convention next year. I will have more comments on this at a later date.

At the business meeting the 20th, the newly elected officers appointed a two man committee, Ed Gorham and Mervyn Dickerson, to meet with them for the purpose of discussing the business of incorporating the Oregon Oldtime Fiddlers as a non-profit organization and forming a constitution and by-laws. This meeting was held at Ed Gorham's home at Tigard on Sunday the 28th. Merv Dickerson was absent on account of a bout with the flu. Ed Gorham was appointed a committee of one to act as a program co-ordinator, whose duties will be to take applications from you members who wish to have a pot-luck and jam session in your town or community. There are a lot of places we have not held one yet. So let me urge you members to get in touch with Ed as soon as possible, as it takes time to work out the programs so they will not conflict with other activities, such as contests, etc. His address is 6710 S. W. Pine St. 97223. This meeting ended rather abruptly as the weather was not in our favor. Some of us had some pretty slick driving going home. See you at the next jam session.

Don Leith, President

NO DUES-NO NEWS! This is the last issue of the Hoedowner that you will receive if your dues have not been paid by the time of the next issue, March 15. It was voted at the convention to charge an extra \$1.00 per year to receive the newsletter. Therefore, if your card reads July 1967-July 1968 you now owe another \$1.50, which will pay you to Jan 1, 1969. Our membership cards were changed to read from the first of the year, as other states have done. The privilege of being a member in our Assn. is now \$2.00 per year!

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Harold Allen on their new home at 730 Kings Road in Corvallis. Our ex-vice-president, formerly of Dorena, will be missed by all his friends in that area.

REDMOND, OREGON: Rusty Modrell and band furnished the music for the first time at the Convention dance Saturday night Jan. 20. Playing were Vic Brown, Leon Crouch, Bill Durham and Bill Yohey, all members of the Association.

SICK LIST: We hear Mrs. Dave Quinlan and Guy Kyler are on the ailing list...drop them a line and wish them quick recovery, won't you?

Deepest sympathy to Mrs. Guy Chamness, Redmond, Oregon. The Oregon Oldtime Fiddlers Assn. members extend their thoughts in this hour of deep sorrow. Guy was truly an old-time fiddler. Originally from Silverton, he was a prominent business man, owner and manager of a paint and glass hardware in Redmond and Bend, Oregon. A wreath of flowers was sent in the name of Oregon Oldtime Fiddlers.

COMING EVENTS: Forest Grove Fiddling Contest, February 24. Please register at Floyd's Music Center by 1:00 p.m. \$5 entry fee in Open Contest, \$2 entry fee in Senior Contest. Oregon Oldtime Fiddlers Assn. State Contest will be held at the rodeo grounds in Molalla on July 6. Preliminaries start at 1:00; finals at night. More news next month on Larry Modrell's Contest in Tillamook. On March 1st at 7:00 there will be a Steel Headers Convention featuring some of our fiddlers. This convention will be held at the Masonic Temple, 1117 S. W. Park in Portland.

AUTOBIOGRAPHY by Marshall Jackson: I was born on a farm 12 miles northeast of Regent, N.D. on Sept. 4, 1911. My parents were share-croppers, moved to Halliday, N. D. in 1919. There I grew up, attended school. Earned my way through high school by working on ranches, trapping wild fur-bearing animals. In June 1931, I started on horse-back for Wyoming to work on a Dude Ranch. 120 miles from home, my horse went lame. I had to walk most of the way home, leading my horse. This expedition earned me the title of "The Wyoming Kid". My wife, too, is from Dakota. Sarah and I will have our 30th wedding anniversary on May 20, 1968. We have one son and six daughters. We've lived in Gresham since 1942.

My first musical instrument was one I made from my mother's one-loaf tin bread pan over which I stretched a dozen rubber bands I cut from the innertube of the Model T Ford. No one liked my "music" so I gave it up. But in July, 1927, I heard a fiddle and guitar being played in the Halliday Hotel. I listened and was "hooked". Guy Sharpe, fiddle, and Ed Stockland, guitar, were playing. They were 20 and 15 years older than I. Guy is now a member of Oregon Fiddlers; lives near Everett, Washington. Ed lives in Starbuck, Minn. We've been close friends since. I persuaded my father to trade a load of prairie hay for a beat up guitar. With a 5-minute course book, I taught my fingers a few chords, how to pluck the strings. Ed and Guy allowed me to play with them and we played together 'till 1934.

I have a guitar, a mandolin, a tenor banjo. And six months ago I got the "fiddlin' fever". Now I have "obtained" two fiddles. The Strad copy I got from John Bruhl. It was found many years ago floating down the Mississippi. I got the Stainer copy from Warnie Gray of Tigard. It is about 100 years old. I can't play the banjo, guitar, or mandolin very well, so am going to become a fiddler.

I attended the Fiddler's Contest in Tillamook in April, 1966. I joined up and have been glad about that ever since. My wish is that the Oregon Fiddlers will continue to grow and prosper, as it spreads the Fiddlin' Gospel over the land. I will, to the best of my ability, play accompaniment to any Fiddler, any place, any time day or night, if he will ask me to play with him. My motto is: EVERYBODY SHOULD FIDDLE A LITTLE.

REMINDER: Please send news items for the Hoedowner to Bill Yohey, 934 N. Davis, McMinnville.

Our jam session will be in the Grange Hall at Sherwood, Oregon Feb. 18, 1968.

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