

# THE HOEDOWNER

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE OREGON OLD TIME FIDDLERS ASSOCIATION  
DEADLINE FOR ARTICLES ISSUED 25th OF EVERY MONTH.  
OCTOBER 1975

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## COMING EVENTS

Oct. 12	Jam Session	Woodburn Grange	Woodburn, Oregon
Oct. 12	Jam Session	Central Point Grange	Central Point, Oregon
Oct. 19	Pancake Feed & Jam	Warner Grange	Canby, Oregon
Oct. 26	Jam Session	Wickiup Grange	Svenson, Oregon
Nov. 9	Jam Session	City Hall	Talent, Oregon
Dec. 20	Christmas Party	OOTFA Only	Jerome Prairie, Oregon
Dec. 21	Christmas Party	Sunnyside Grange	Sunnyside, Oregon
Jan. 16	Jam Session	Roseburg Fairgrounds	Roseburg, Oregon

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

We were invited to the Harvest Festival at Talent, Oregon on Sept. 13th and had a very enjoyable time with a lot of nice people. The hospitality extended us by the McCaslands and the Coxes' and all of the people in District 4 was very heartwarming. We sure have a lot of nice down to earth people in our entire organization. I should like to see a big turn out at the jam session at Svenson, Ore. on Oct. 26th. This is our first in the Astoria area - so let's make it a big success.

Jim Secor

## DOINGS IN DISTRICT #1

The Eagles Lodge asked the Fiddlers and Accompanists to play at their Muscular Distrophy Variety Show held Sept. 12th. Those playing were L.D. Daniel, Irven Johnson, Cliff Tunnell, Anne Johnson and Doris Clark. District #1 was well represented at the contest at the Butte Valley Fair at Tulolake, Sept. 7th. Prizes won by Rocky Dudley, best fiddler, Pat Reed, youngest fiddler and Doc Bowman, oldest fiddler. Judging was done by the audience. A great time was had by all.

Doris Clark, Reporter

## DISTRICT #4 NEWS AND COMING EVENTS

We had a great turnout at Bandon, Oregon. Practically all districts were represented. Carlton Smith did a nice job as MC and Nell Turner almost wore off all of her fingers. She was on the piano all day and did a beautiful job. The McLeod's were great hosts. They had a nice jam on Saturday night for us where refreshments were served later in the evening. Sunday we played for a full house with people standing in the aisles and outside the doors listening. We had 20 fiddlers, with Billy, Jim Hoots and Bud Ryan doing a few specials. Billy closed the show with the Orange Blossom Special.

There will be a Jam at Talent, Oregon on November 9th and our Christmas Party on December 20th at the Jerome Prairie Grange. This is for the Fiddlers and their friends only. There will be no jam session, just our dinner, exchange of gifts and fiddlin for fun.

Martha Warwick, Reporter

FIDDLERS: NORTH, EAST, SOUTH & WEST!!!!

Come to the Halloween Jam Session October 26th at Drain, Oregon. It will be at

Sunnydale Grange Hall, 5 miles west of Drain on Highway 38 (Coastal Highway). We will have signs in front of the building, plenty of parking area. Pot luck at noon, doors open at 10:00 am.

Jim Rose has been in the hospital and is now at home doing very well. I am at home now and also doing very well.

Delores Lakey, Coordinator

DISTRICT #5

Our sincere apologies to Fred Virtue who won second not third in the open division in the Canyonville contest.

DISTRICT #7 NEWS AND COMING EVENTS

Clarence Davis was asked to furnish music for the Barnes Hospital in Vancouver, Wa. on Sept. 7th. Those participating in the entertainment were: Bill Weber, Jim and Gladys Braskett, Valdemar Nelson, Clarence Davis, George Jenkerson and Cynthia Bartlett.

At the Sunnyside Grange, Sunday Sept. 14th, we had one fantastic turnout at our jam session. There were so many participating--fiddlers, guitar players, banjo pickers and harmonica players--that I can't remember all their names. I'm sure everyone was greatly appreciated. It was a very nice program. Hope to see all of you at our next jam session. On Friday night, Sept. 19th, some of the Oldtime Fiddlers participated in the entertainment of the Fountain Village Association, which is composed of the merchants from Old Town.

On Saturday night, Sept. 20th, Clarence and Viola Davis hosted a surprise Birthday party for Valdemar Nelson. They celebrated his 80th birthday. Congratulations and Happy Birthday from all of us, Valdemar.

Please send me your news.

Bob Fast, Reporter

We will hold the Jam Session on Oct. 26th at the Wickiup Grange Hall at Svenson, Oregon. The Grange Hall is located just off US 30 to the south and in plain view of the Highway. Svenson is located 12 miles east of Astoria, Oregon and 8 1/4 miles west of Portland. I will put up a sign with an arrow pointing to the Grange Hall on the Svenson turnoff sign and one on the Grange Hall that can be seen from the highway. Doors will be open at 10:00 am, potluck at noon, program at 1:00pm.

I really appreciate that you people will take the time and effort to come so far and do this for us, we are looking forward to meeting everyone.

Iyle J. Reed

The jam session at Svensen, Oregon on Oct. 26th is really the opening of a whole new area. Let's show the people what a good time we have with our fiddlin and food. Signs will be out to show you where it is. Let's all turn out - maybe we can find people who have been looking for us.

Warner Grange is not a jam session, it is a pancake feed benefit for the Grange. Breakfast will be served to those who play and their spouses. All others will be charged. Everyone can come and listen for free as the fiddlers will play all day starting about 10:00 am. It is the same as last year.

Wayne Walter, Chairman

DISTRICT #8 SENDS THANKS

We the members of District 8 who attended the jam session at Bandon, wish to sincerely thank our wonderful hosts, Barbara and Les McLeod for a great week-end of fiddlin and eating. The jam session was a complete success with a capacity crowd and lots of fiddlers. We are looking forward to going again.

Nell Turner      Jeanette & Dave Robinson  
Martin Voeller   Gus & Stella Pearson  
Carlton & Bea Smith

There will be a jam session at Woodburn Grange on Oct. 20th. Doors open at 10:00am Potluck at noon, program at 1:00 pm. Hope to see you then. 12

Guy Kyler, Chairman

1976 MEMBERSHIP DUES

I am ready to receive your 1976 membership dues. Be an early, early bird! You can send them directly to me or give them to your district secretary. They remain the same this year--\$3.00 for one, \$4.00 for a couple, \$5.00 for a family or \$2.00 if you don't want to become a member and yet want to receive the Hoedowner. For a new member wanting to join now it will be \$1.00 plus their regular dues.

Dulcie Fast, Secretary

CANYONVILLE CONTEST SUCCESSFUL

Canyonville's ninth annual Pioneer Days Contest was the best yet. I so appreciated the great turnout of musicians. We had a total of twenty-nine fiddlers with many accompanists and vocalists. Several new faces this year - new to Canyonville, I mean. The special entertainment between divisions was very much enjoyed by the enthusiastic audience. We had more people attending the Preliminaries than ever before and over 300 paid admissions were received at the Finals.

There are so many people responsible for making this year's program such a success that space is not available to name them all. You know who you are so "Thank you" to each and every one of you who participated either on stage or behind the scenes.

I do want to pinpoint Wayne Holmes for a special "Thanks", however, because without Wayne's help and encouragement these past several years, the 1975 contest just would not have happened... Wayne came across with the necessary guidance five years ago when I was struggling to learn how to put on a contest. With his help and the continued support of the Association membership, our contest has grown bigger and better each year.

Another "Special Thanks" goes to all you fiddlers who made the show run smoothly by always being on time when it was your turn to go on stage. You probably noticed I did very little "running" this year.

After expenses, we have \$75.00 left. Last year we donated the profit to the Warwick Campout and we will again if it is needed. Donations were taken from all the campers so that the cost of the campout may be covered. After the accounting is completed, we'll see. If it is not needed there, we will hold the \$75.00 over to start next year's contest with, so that the prizes can be increased. Either way, I feel that in this way all the people who made the contest such a success will benefit.

Thanks again. As Jonas Cox would say, "I'm proud of every one of you."

Gynn Deaton

BILL WEBER

OUR FIDDLER FOR THE MONTH OF OCTOBER 1975

Bill was born Sept. 24, 1893 in Vernon County, Wisconsin. He was the oldest in a family of six boys and one girl. He grew up on a farm where he was kept busy with corn and tobacco planting, cultivating, harvest, stock raising and attending the old country school.

Bill's grandfather was an old German Fiddler and as Bill watched him play and listened to his music he hankered to follow in his footsteps. Bill's dad offered him the first crop from an acre of virgin ground if he would clear and plant it. He worked hard at it and in 1907, with the earnings from his crop of spuds and a small loan from his grandfather he purchased his first fiddle, the copy of Stradivarius which he still owns.

Bill's practicing wasn't exactly music to his mother's ears, who felt that the strings he played on should have been left in the cat, so he spent most of his evenings in the barn after the chores were done, sawing on the fiddle and learning his grandfather's old tunes.

Bill later married and purchased his own farm, also in Vernon County, Wisconsin, and continued in stock raising and diversified farming. He raised three children, all of whom were musicians in their own right - but no fiddlers. His son Wayne took up the Guitar, daughter Doris played accordion, guitar and piano; and with daughter Margaret singing and also helping out on the piano, their evenings were mostly spent in music. They also played at corn husking bees and community gatherings. Dancing was enjoyed in the old Norwegian settlement where they lived so he also played for dances on Saturday nights.

Bill visited the Pacific Northwest in 1942, fell in love with Portland, Oregon and decided to make it his home, having found employment at the union stockyards. Bill met Verneda at an oldtime dance and married her in 1960. He still plays at Jam Sessions and social functions around the country and his toe-tapping oldtime music is enjoyed by all.

Minnie Bennett, Historian

MIKE WALTER  
OUR ACCOMPANIST FOR THE MONTH OF OCTOBER

Mike was born October 22, 1918 in a frame house in Traverse County, Minnesota, two and one-half miles from the tiny village of Johnson, Minnesota. He moved with his family at a very tender age to Burt County, Nebraska, then in 1952 to Oregon; residing in or adjacent to Portland ever since.

The first instrument Mike could call his own was given to him by his older brother Levi in early 1936. Prior to that he had plunked about on his brother Wayne's ukulele, a neighbor boy's tenor banjo and the old family pump organ. (Mike's father and uncles were all fiddlers of local renown in eastern Nebraska. One uncle was a champion many times over in those earlier days.)

The guitar is Mike's only instrument and like most oldtime players, he has had no formal training. A Sears Roebuck instruction book autographed by Carson Robinson was his source of knowledge besides his own ingenuity and watching other men play.

Mike played at house and barn dances and at school functions as a teenager. At the dances he accompanied his father, his uncles or older brother for pay. World War II brought a halt to virtually all of his playing until 1972.

Mike's brother Wayne, who had been visiting with their 84 year old dad and heard him play a few "old goodies" on an old Schwitzer, voiced a desire to take up the fiddle again after many years. They both attended a Forest Grove Ballad Town celebration, met and became friends with some of the best old time fiddlers there.

Mike joined the Old Time Fiddlers Association in 1972 and became a very active member. He is valued highly as an accompanist at jam sessions and contests also at the fiddle shows at fairs and senior citizen homes.

Minnie Bennett, Historian

Brother Wayne's note: Mike not only plunked on his ukulele, he sat on it and broke it.

Come on you reporters, get your news in so we can hear what is going on in all parts of our state. We would enjoy getting a newsletter from the Blue Mountain Fiddlers so we know what is going on in Eastern Oregon.

TOO LATE FOR COMING EVENTS

There will be a jam session in Yreka, Calif. the 19th of October at 1 pm in the Siskiyou Performing Arts Building 315 Yreka St.

Come south on Main St. turn right between the Safeway & Value Giant, the hall is on the left across from the library.

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