

THE HOEDOWNER

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE OREGON OLD TIME FIDDLERS ASSOCIATION
 DEADLINE FOR ARTICLES ISSUED 25th OF EVERY MONTH.
 APRIL 1976

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COMING EVENTS

Apr. 8-9-10	Northwest Regional Contest		Spokane, Wn.
Apr. 11	Jam Session	Lincoln City Grange	Lincoln City, Or.
Apr. 25	Jam Session	Winema Hall Fairground	Yreka, Calif.
Apr. 30	Contest	Vert Auditorium	Pendleton, Or.
May 8	OOTFA State Contest	High School	Bend, Or.
May 16	Jam & Potluck	Canyonville School	Canyonville, Or.
May 22-23	BiCentennial Celebration	Grants Pass Fairgrounds	
May 22	Show 2:00 & 7:00 PM	Details Below	Mabton, Wn.
May 29	Contest		Coquille, Or.
May 30	Jam Session	Fairgrounds Mall	Yreka, Calif.
June 8-9-10	INTERNATIONAL OLD TIME FIDDLE CONTEST	see below	Bottineau, N. Dak.
June 18-20	Rogue Community College	see below	Roseburg, Or.
June 22-26	National Old Time Fiddle Contest		Weiser, Idaho
July 3	Contest	Clatskanie Grade Sch.	Clatskanie, Or.
July 4	Show	Fairgrounds	Bend, Or.
July 24	2 Hour Show	Logging Festival	Estacada, Or.
July 31	Contest	High School	Drain, Or.
Aug. 28	Contest	High School Gym	Canyonville, Or.
Aug. 29-Sept. 6	Campout	Warwick Ranch	Williams, Or.
District #1	Second Saturday	Each month Merrill Rec	Merrill, Or.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I want to thank all of you nice people for all of the work and talent that went in to making our convention and show a high success. It is this kind of work and effort that makes any group into a successful organization and I will say again I think this is a fine group. I am proud and humble to have been elected your President for a second time, especially since I am not a fiddler. I will sure do all that I can to justify your confidence. Thankyou all very much.

Be sure and plan on the State Contest at Bend Senior High School, May 8th. I will try and arrange parking for campers and trailers. We will be contacting some of you to help with the contest or if anyone has any particular job they enjoy, please contact Dulcie Fast, 3707 S.E. Clinton, Portland, Or 97202 or call 232-4444.

Jim Secor

OUR NEWLY ELECTED OFFICERS FOR 1976:

Jim Secor, Pres. John Melnichuk, Vice Pres. Edna Yohey, Sec'y-Treas.

DIST.	CHAIRMAN	CO-CHAIRMAN	SEC 'Y-TREAS.	REPORTER
#1	Homer McLain	Lester Tucker	Keith Wells	Lee Eddy
#4	Fred Samples	Vic Flood	Dorene Winkleman	Martha Warwick
#5	Paul Williams	Leslie McLeod	Barbara McLeod	Geroldine Virtue
#6	Jim O'Bryant	George Stout	Marjorie O'Bryant	Dave & Poco Boyd
#7	Bob Fast	Wayne Walter	Penny Mead	Fred Hildebrandt
#8	Carlton Smith	Gus Pearson	Edna Yohey	Bertha Smith
Editor & Coordinator - Evelyn Walter				

Following is the list of judges for our State Contest:

Connie Bonar and James Calvert from Washington, Loyd Wanzer and Lyle Powell from Idaho, Roy Bredy from Creston, B.C. Canada.

Wayne Walter will emcee if all is well by then.

Registration will be at 9:00 AM with preliminaries beginning at 11:00 AM.

Evening show will start at 7:30 PM. Weiser rules will prevail with a fiddler being allowed to enter one category only. Divisions will be Open, Intermediate, Seniors and Juniors. Oregon residents only.

To my Fiddlin' Friends,

The Fiddlin Contest at Forest Grove, in my opinion, was one of the best I have had the honor of being affiliated with. We had 42 fiddlers, 9 of them being juniors, which really made my day. I hope you all return to Balladtown next year for the 10th annual Balladtown Fiddlers Contest.

My special thanks to the Sims Family for their entertainment during intermission and to all others who helped make this contest a success.

Respectfully, Floyd Parson, Chairman
Balladtown Fiddlers Contest & BPOE #2440

WINNERS AT FOREST GROVE BALLADTOWN FIDDLERS CONTEST WERE:

- OPEN DIVISION
1. John Melnichuk
 2. Anna Hanson
 3. Barbara Lamb
 4. David Moffitt
 5. Tom Curry

- SENIOR DIVISION
- Eddie Johnson
 - Dave Quinlan
 - Lyman Rogers

- JUNIOR DIVISION
- Loretta Brank
 - Mike McClelland
 - Jim Braskett

We did not receive any information on the Pendleton contest so this is quoted from the Rosin Dust News, Blue Mountain Oldtime Fiddlers Assn paper.

This year's old time fiddling contest in Pendleton, the sixth annual, will be April 30th and May 1st according to information sent to us by Chairman Buford Kinnison. He said the contest, offering prize money of \$1,150.00 will be sponsored this year by the Pendleton Elks Lodge. This contest will attract contestants from Oregon, Washington, Idaho and other states and is the 2nd biggest in the Northwest. Any proceeds from this contest will be donated to 3 month old Brandon Stever to help with the cost of having both kidneys removed, as he was born with cysts on both kidneys.

We called Mr. Kinnison as we needed more information as to time and class for our Hoedowner. The Friday show is for the Juniors and Seniors. Registration time for them will be between 3:00 and 5:00 PM with the preliminaries and play offs being Friday night starting at 7:00 PM. Saturday will be the 1st open, 2nd open and intermediates with registration being from 8:00 to 10:30 AM. Preliminaries will be Saturday afternoon, finals Saturday night starting at 7:00 PM.

One division only can be entered. Senior-65 and over. Juniors-18 and under.

Order of play: 1. Waltz 2. Hoedowner 3. Tune of choice other than waltz or hoedown.

We would like to have some of the Oregon fiddlers come to Mabton, Wn. and help us put on 2 fiddle shows. On May 22, 1976 the Mabton Park and Recreation Board is having two Old Time fiddle shows in conjunction with Mabton Community Days. We will have one in the afternoon(2pm)and will be primarily for the senior citizens from up and down the valley and then in the evening, at 7pm,we will have another show. This is recorded as one of our Bi-centennial events and the proceeds will go to our new Bi-Centennial Park which we hope to have ready for dedication July 4, 1976.

In between the shows we will have a dinner for all the fiddlers, accompanists and their wives. Therefore, I would like to know in advance, if possible, how many plan to attend. We would like to invite everyone to come Friday evening. There will be places to park their campers on the east side of the Mabton High School. We would like to have everyone ride in our parade which will be Saturday morning at 10 am. Also, for those who do not have campers if they will let me know that they are coming and will need sleeping facilities, I will try to find them a home in Mabton to stay. The

closest motels that we have are seven miles away and we would like to have everyone close so we can have lots of fun.

Elmer works at the school so all facilities will be open! Most of the time. Mabton is located on hiway 22 about midway between the Tri-Cities and Yakima. Thankyou Elmer & Thelma Satterfield.

We received a note from John Ullman announcing a show that will be at Portland State University in the Smith Center Ballroom on April 7(Wed.)at 8:00pm Cost not shown. It is listed as an old time music festival. Lum Guffin with John & James Mitchell will play Afro-American cane fife and drum music. Lily May Ledford with Mike Seeger plays the banjo. She played with the Coon Creek Girls an all woman string band of the 30's, on radio shows such as Chicago's WIS Barn Dance and at fairs and schools. Also the Balfa Brothers with Marc Savoy and Allie Young who play the French-American or "Cajun" traditional music. Marc Dewey and Rodney Balfa utilize the archaic sound of two fiddles and triangle or guitar. Allie Young will round out the group with his French accordian. They will perform the older waltzes, breakdowns and lonesome lyric songs as well as the more modern Cajun music. Marc Savoy has been playing fiddle and Cajun accordian since age eleven, and is one of the most active in keeping the older songs and styles of music alive. Marc records on the Crazy Cajun Label.

Sounds like a good show so let's turn out and see it.

INTERNATIONAL OLDTIME FIDDLERS CONTEST - JUNE 8, 9 and 10, 1976

International Peace Garden on the border between North Dakota and Manitoba in Bottineau, North Dakota.

Entries have to be returned by May 1, 1976. Costs are Open division \$20.00; Seniors and Ladies \$15.00 and Juniors \$10.00. Judges will be Bill Long, Billings, Montana; Laurier Birginal, Omaha, Neb. and Lloyd Wanzer, Caldwell, Idaho. Only one division may be entered. For additional information contact: Dr. Merton Utgaard, Director; International Music Camp, Bottineau, No. Dakota 58318 - We have a brochure on this if anyone would like to see it. Ed.

CONVENTION

EXPENSE		INCOME	
Rent	\$275.00	Door Receipts	\$1,230.24
Posters	10.95	Banquet Tickets	253.00
Programs	41.50	Kitchen	237.35
Kitchen-groceries and supplies	157.15		<u>\$1,720.59</u>
Groceries	75.00	Profit	\$303.51
Coca Cola Bottling	70.80		
Plaques	67.38		
Table Centerpieces	135.80		
McKenzie River Boys	75.00		
Accompanists-Dance	250.00		
Convention Dinners	258.50		
	<u>\$1,417.08</u>		

Doc Maulsby, Washington Old Time Fiddlers Assoc. President, will be moving to Oregon sometime in May. He has had heart surgery and is still recuperating. We wish him a speedy recovery. He will be moving to Umatilla where they bought a small farm. If anyone is in the area we are sure he would appreciate hearing some fiddle music. As soon as we have an address we will let you know.

DISTRICT #1

District #1 had their election of officers on March 13 and business meeting. Homer McLain of Lakeview was elected chairman. Les Tucker of Klamath Falls Co-chairman. Keith Wells, K Falls, Sec-Treas. Lee Eddy, K Falls, reporter.

A well-deserved vote of thanks was given to L.D. Daniel for a job well done the past year as chairman. District #1's activity has picked up the past year. We have

been quite active fiddling for rest homes, lodges and any place people ask us to play. We have some new talent coming along. Good to hear new people play and have a good time with us. We also invite people from other districts to join us the 2nd Saturday of each month at the Merrill Rec Hall, Merrill, Oregon at 7:00pm. Next meeting and get-together, April 10 at 7:00pm. Ladies bring pie of your choice.

Lee Eddy, Reporter.

DISTRICT #4

The southern fiddlers have been busy as per usual this month. Not only did dist. #4 have a nice potluck and jam session at Wymer in March, but many of our fiddlers and families traveled to other districts. We usually have about 30 fiddlers on our programs each month now.

In April our fiddlers have been invited to Merrill (by Klamath Falls) for their jam session. The K Falls fiddlers have provided a campground there for far away fiddlers to camp. Sounds like lots of fun District #1.

On the 25th Dist. #4 holds their monthly jam session in Yreka at the Winema Hall at the fairground there. Each year we go there, seems to get better if possible. There will be the usual potluck at 11:30. Mr. Howard Jones and his helpers will be our hosts. Contact him for further details in Yreka area.

As always we have received cards and letters already from those who want to set their vacation for the last week in August thru Sept. 6th. This will be campout week this year.

Canyonville contest will be August 28th. Campout - Aug 29 thru Sept. 6.

May has several important dates for District #4.

State Contest May 8, 1976 Bend, Oregon. On Friday night before the contest there will be a jam session at Rusty Modrell's house in Terre Bonne.

Jam session and potluck, May 16 at Canyonville school. Bi-centennial celebration at Grants Pass fairgrounds May 22 & 23. More in May issue on this.

June 18 at 8:00pm Rogue Community College and June 20 at 1:00pm same place in the gym. This is a jam session with Jim Wilson as emcee.

We all want to thank Gynn and Jim Deaton and Clemmie McCasland for the tremendous job they did in the kitchen at the convention. Martha Warwick, Reporter.

Our annual jam session will be held on Sunday, April 25 in Winema Hall at the fairgrounds in Yreka. Doors will open at 10:00am and a potluck at 11:30. There will be no kitchen privileges so bring your own table service. Coffee will be served. Coming up on Sunday, May 30 a jam session on the mall at the Yreka fairgrounds in the afternoon and play for dancing after the jam session. The occasion is Yreka's celebration of Bi-centennial days. Details will be published in the May issue of the Hoedowner.

For those with self-contained campers and trailers who want to stay overnight, free parking is available at Wright Way Mobile Homes, 1330 Fairlane Road, Yreka. Water and sewage disposal is available but no rest room facilities.

Hope all of you can make it.

Howard Jones.

DISTRICT #5

There will be a contest in Coquille, Oregon on May 29th. Judges will be Jim Hoots, Bud Ryan and Fred Virtue. More details in the May issue.

Geroldine Virtue, Reporter

DISTRICT #7

Fred and his group played at Edgefield Manor on March 7, 1976. Fred Hildebrandt, Jim & Gladys Braskett with Dale Anderson played for the Ridgefield, Washington Masonic Lodge on Mar 22nd.

On Sunday, March 28 District #7 with a lot of help of other districts played at the breakfast feed at Warner Grange. We had 28 fiddlers, several accompanists but we did miss our bass player. Ray Scisson and Fred Hildebrandt emceed the show. John Molnichuk was here from Lobanon. There were several specials during the day and finished with dancing by request.

A good time was enjoyed by all. The grange made a profit of \$175.00 to further their project and we all enjoyed a free breakfast.

Fred Hildebrandt, Reporter

A fireside entertainment at the "Half-Way" house in Molalla for the Historical Museum Society brought some of us fiddlers together on March 13, Frank Williams emceed, Wal Hardy and visiting George White from The Dalles provided guitar backup. Erle Beckett, Frank and the undersigned just fiddled away. We furnished the evening jamming at Walt and Marie Hardys' house.
Mona Luczyeki

DISTRICT #8

The convention was lots of fun. An excellent show Friday night, did miss Wayne as M.C. though. District #8 will have a jam session April 11 at Lincoln City Grange. Ten blocks south of D River. Hall opens at 10:00am, potluck dinner at 12:00 and program at 1:00 pm.
Bea Smith, Reporter

I would like to thank all my friends for the cards, flowers, phone calls and visits that I received while in the hospital and since I've returned home. I am recuperating nicely and expect to be back with you in a few weeks.

Wayne Walter

TONY DESCOMBAZ - FIDDLER OF THE MONTH

Tony's folks settled in South Dakota in 1880. His father built an 18' by 12' sod house with a dirt floor. It was here that Tony was born in 1891. He can still remember his father plowing in the field with a team of oxen hitched to a walking plow.

Tony still has his first fiddle, in good condition, which he received when he was 8 years old.

Like most old-time fiddlers, Tony was taught by an older "old-timer" and plays by ear. His first tunes were "Home Sweet Home" and "Red Wing".

At age 14 he started playing for house dances where 30 or 40 young people would get together on Sunday afternoons or evenings, move the furniture out of the living rooms, roll up the carpets and dance till daylight. Tony says, "Them were the days, we really had fun!"

Later Tony played with a 3-piece band for barn dances in South Dakota, North Dakota and Minnesota. They also played over radio stations in Yankton and Watertown, South Dakota, a year in each place. Tony's son played accordian and another fellow played guitar.

Tony moved to Oregon in 1953. He quit playing the fiddle for 10 years, then in 1964 he heard about an old-time fiddle contest here. He started to play again and the first contest he entered was as Forest Grove. Later he entered another at Tillamook, where he won second place in the senior division.

Tony has won many honors during his long musical career, some of which are as follows; in South Dakota 1st place. in Gettesburg, 2nd place in Watertown and 1st in Yanktown.

Besides cash prizes, he has won six beautiful trophies; three are second place and three are third place prizes.

Tony started repairing violins in 1964. So far he has made four violins; one from a glass bottle and one from a piece of bamboo. He also has made three mandolins; one from a solid block of driftwood he found on the beach. He has also made an 8-stringed violin out of a regular one. He says he can tune them all up to regular pitch and that they sound beautiful.

Tony is 84 years of age and fiddles every day. He entered and played in the last contest held at Forest Grove March 6, 1976. He had a lot of competition in his senior group and even though he didn't win a place, his selections were well played and his music was certainly enjoyed and appreciated by every one of his large audience.

Minnie Bennett
Historian