

THE HOEDOWNER

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE OREGON OLD TIME FIDDLERS ASSOCIATION
DEADLINE FOR ARTICLES ISSUED 25th OF EVERY MONTH
NOVEMBER 1977

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COMING EVENTS

				Dist.#
Nov. 6	Jam Session	Senior Citizens Center	Gresham, Ore.	7
Nov. 6	Jam Session	Grange Hall	Thurston, Ore.	6
Nov. 12	Jam Session	Merrill Grange	Merrill, Ore.	1
Nov. 13	Jam Session	Weimer Grange	Weimer, Ore.	4
Nov. 13	Jam Session	Buell Grange	Buell, Ore.	8
Nov. 24	Turkey Day	Have a nice Thanksgiving		
Dec. 3	Christmas Party	VFW Hall	Bandon, Ore.	5
Dec. 4	Christmas Party	Jerome Prairie Hall	Jerome Prairie, Ore.	4
Dec. 11	Jam Session	Salmon River Grange	Rose Lodge, Ore.	8
Dec. 18	Christmas Party	Sunnyside Grange	Sunnyside, Ore.	7 & 8
Jan. 15	State Jam Session	Douglas County Fairgrounds	Roseburg, Ore.	

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT:

If the fiddlin activity around District 4 during the month of October was any example, then there must have been a whole lot of fiddlin going on around the state! Our district chairmen and their committee people deserve a real big pat on the back for the hard work and effort being put into all our activities.

I would like to remind all interested parties to get their ideas and bylaw changes in to Les Tucker as soon as possible. As you know Les is our Bylaws Revision Chairman, and he is anxious to get your thoughts and ideas.

As Thanksgiving approaches, Eileen and I would like to wish you and yours a safe, Happy Thanksgiving.

John Melnichuk

SECRETARIES MESSAGE:

Your 1978 membership cards will be mailed with your January Hoedowner, so please be careful and not throw them away. This happened last year and we had to remail several additional cards.

Edna Yohey

NEWS & REVIEWS:

The Portland Folklore Society is having a benefit show on Nov. 4 at 8:30 PM at the Neighbors of Woodcraft Hall - 4th floor. 1410 S.W. Morrison, Portland. General admission \$5.00. Tickets are available from Pioneer Music, The Banjo & Fiddle Shop, Artichoke Music and Long Hair Music. Appearing will be Ralph Stanley and the Clinch Mountain Boys. The Stanley band is noted for it's tight harmonies complimented by Ralph Stanley's distinctive banjo picking and Curly Ray Cline's fiddling. The complex lead guitar work of Keith Whitley adds to their unique sound. The Red Clay Ramblers, a dynamic old-time string band from Durham, N. Carolina will accompany the Stanley group on the tour. The Ramblers perform a wide range of the music which has evolved in the SW USA. Their experience includes rural hoedowns, festivals and a stint with the off-Broadway hit Musical 'Diamond Studs.' They will also appear in Ashland, Oct. 29 - Eugene, Oct. 30 - Corvallis, Nov. 3 and Seattle, Nov. 5th.

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The last few months have been very sad for many of us and the news that many of our dear fiddlin friends have been ill and some have passed on to their reward. Ed Mead has been in the hospital again, but is home now feeling much better. Vernetta Weber had a heart attack, but is recovering nicely and is at home now. Wes Brunson has been quite ill, but is now home and on the mend. Valdemar Nelson passed away in September, Al DeLorme, from our southern district, in July; John Hoerster in August and Phil Simmons in September. We are very much saddened by this and our hearts go out to their families.

THANK YOUS:

I wish to extend my sincere and grateful appreciation to the Old Time Fiddlers and all of Valdemar Nelson's very close friends for the lovely flowers in time of sympathy.
Thank You, Caroline Sies

I would like to thank all the fiddlers and/or their wives & husbands who visited me during my stay at Barnes Veterans Hospital in Vancouver. A visit from friends can really shorten a long, dull day.
Wes Brunson

DISTRICT 1:

Our next regular meeting will be held at the Merrill Community Hall in Merrill, Or. The meeting will start at 6:30, the potluck at 7:00. Bring your own table service, jam session starts at 8:00. The public is invited. The date is Nov. 12th.

We played for the regular nursing homes, a wedding reception, the Association of Retired People and the Merrill Potato Festival.

Hope to see all of you Nov. 12th in Morrill.

Irene Ruddock, Reporter

News from Lakeview:

It seems we've been forgotten by our district as far as news goes, but we played in the Labor Day Parade in Lakeview and won the Band Trophy, which we are very proud of. Several from K Falls came over to help us. Rose Lee McLain had a very nice potluck dinner for the whole group following the parade.

We also played for the OMSI Fly-in on Sept. 21st. The 15th of Oct. Clyde Lynch, Bob Hinch of Medford and myself played for a benefit to help pay for an artificial arm for an amputee. We also played at the Eagles Lodge.

Homer McLain

DISTRICT 4:

There will be a State jam at Roseburg on Sunday, January 15th. Roselle Kinman and I have engaged the Floral building at the Douglas County Fairgrounds. We have permission for camping on the fairgrounds and we will arrange for a place to play the evening before the jam. We would like all districts to turn out for this, so please don't plan any jams for that weekend. More details will be in the December Hoedowner.

We have been playing at the Old Folks Home and the Veterans Hospital once a month and then the local bunch from Drain, Elkton and Roseburg get together in our homes often.

Dorothy O. Houston

The hearts in District 4 are saddened for the 3rd time in 4 months. July we said farewell to Al DeLorme, August we gathered again to say goodbye to John Hoerster; and today we all joined Phil Simmons family to bid Phil adieu. The music they most loved rang out to their memory. Their friends played as only fiddlers can do.

Al DeLorme picked up his fiddle about 5 years ago when he happened to attend a jam session. I first met Al at the Domicillary in White City. He could not believe the fiddling he had loved was back in style. With the inspiration of our jam sessions, Al went on to become one of our State Champions in the Open division.

John Hoerster leaves behind many tokens of his abilities. Not only was John a fine fiddler, but he repaired many, many instruments for fiddlers. John had another talent which will keep his memory indefinite - making beautiful fiddles, mandolins, etc. Those who were lucky enough to own one of John's instruments have a real keepsake.

During the last Worlds' Fair, John was invited several times to demonstrate his fiddle-making for the world. How proud we of Oregon can be!

Phil Simmons was past chairman of District 4. Phil and his fine base playing will be sorely missed by all. As a young man, Phil had his own little band. He was very versatile, doubling off on fiddle and other instruments. Many times Phil has told me stories of places he had played, fun times he and his band had and also of the wonderful times he and family members had when they all gathered for their family dinners, etc. Phil was a warm, friendly person always willing to help wherever and whenever he could. Many times during this last year when Phil really felt pretty low, he picked up the "big" fiddle and his little fiddle and came along to help keep the rythm for his fellow fiddlers. Thanks Phil!

District 4 sends it's love to all the families of these men. We shall keep their wives close in our fiddle family.

Linda Danielson has received many compliments on her fine project, but I would like to add one more thank you. The fine pictures and stories about these men shall be even more valued now in their special displays.

At our jam session on Oct. 16th there was a special tribute played for these fine past members. The fiddlers were all subdued, but the show went on as Al, Phil and John would have wanted.

Our next jam session will be Nov. 13 at Wimer Hall in Wimer. Potluck at 11:30, open to public at 1:00. Laura Hoerster will be hostess. There will be a business meeting before the jam. Dec. 10th will be our Christmas Party at Jerome Prairie Hall. We extend a warm invitation to all to attend. Ladies bring a ladies gift and men bring a mans gift for the gift exchange. There will be overnight camping. Don't forget your bacon and eggs for breakfast.

Bring your own table service and your best holiday specialties (we dieters are exempt at this party.)

DISTRICT 5:

We had a good turnout at the Cranberry Festival the 25th of Sept. Al Lively MC'd, 16 fiddlers and 16 accompanists put on a real nice show and we want to thank every one who came to help. Many people from other districts came to help and was very much appreciated. Les and Barbara McLeod gets a big thankyou for all the work they did. Without them we never could have done it.

Dec. 3rd will be our next jam session at the VFW Hall in Bandon, Or. This is our Christmas Party. Potluck at 3 PM \$2.00 gift exchange will be later, so you ladies bring a ladies gift and men a mans gift. This is for members and their guest only. Doors will be open to the public at 7 PM. We are asking everyone to bring a cake or pie to sell to the public during the evening. A to M please bring a pie and N thru Z bring a cake. The money made from this will help defray the expense of the hall.

Geri Virtue, Reporter

DISTRICT 6:

The District 6 jam session at the Sweet Home Elks Lodge, was a great success. We had 18 fiddlers and 10 accompanists and 8 specials & and good jam and dance after the show.

One "New Fiddler", a young man from the Springfield-Eugene area and his wife (on guitar) were an inspiration. People from as far away as Skagway, Alaska, El Cajon and San Diego, CA were present.

Next jam session, Nov. 6 at the Thurston Grange Hall, will be from 1 to 4 PM. NO POTLUCK!!!!!!! Refreshments will be offered by the ladies of the Grange at a nominal fee.

This is a "Good-Bye" for Helen and I, as we intend to leave for the "South-land" for 2 - 3 or more months. So; GOOD FIDDLING, we hope to do some while we are gone.

George Stout for vacationing Poco Boyd,

Reporter

DISTRICT 7:

Our district jam session at Sunnyside, Oct. 2nd was a nice one. We had 19 fiddlers and 8 accompanists and a surprise guest act put on by Carol Anns children, Tiffany & Grant Wheeler, also Dave Moffit and friend played and sang a couple of country-western. I was honored to be asked to play bass for them. Ed Mead MC'd for a very friendly jam.

District 7 next jam will be Nov. 6th at the Gresham Senior Citizens Center, a couple of door prizes will be given to members only, drawing will be at lunch time.

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Our Christmas Party will be held on Dec. 18th at Sunnyside Grange, along with District 8 who is sharing it with us as we always do. There will be a gift exchange for anyone wishing to participate, women bring a womens gift and a man a mans gift.

Our Vancouver area group, the Washington Columbian Musical Strings will be having their next jam at the Fern Prairie Grange, Nov. 11th. Doors open to the public at 8pm.

DISTRICT 8:

District 8 was deeply saddened by the passing away of Valdemar Nelson, we'll all miss his special "Shicken Reel."

Oct. 14th our local group played for the Salmon River Grange booster night, Lee Jones, Gus Pearson, Allen Smith, Carlton Smith, Nell Turner, Bea Smith and Deffie Chase. They seemed to enjoy the music very much and we have arranged to have a jam session there Dec. 11th. The hall is just east of the Rose Lodge Store and beside the Blarney Castle Restaurant on Hwy 18 - 3 miles past the State Park. Don't forget the jam session Nov. 13th at Buell Grange. See you at both places, I hope.

Bea Smith, Reporter

Our Fiddler For the Month of November

ERLE BECKETTE

Erle Beckette was born at Sibley, Iowa, October 23, 1897. When he was about 5 years old, the family moved to South Dakota where they bought land and started a wheat and cattle ranch. Erle started playing the fiddle at about the age of 13. He played with his mother, an uncle and some cousins.

After his father's death in 1918, the family sold the ranch and Erle started traveling around the country. Finally in Brainerd, Minnesota, he met Clara and they were married on June 10, 1929. Erle and Clara made their home in Brainerd, where Erle played for dances and kept busy with his fiddle playing until April 1942 when they sold out and came to Canby, Oregon.

Erle worked in the ship yards during the war and later worked in construction, building houses. After he retired from the construction in 1961, he had a blueberry farm until 1976 when they again sold out and moved to Aurora where they now live in a mobile home.

Since he retired, Erle has more time for fiddling, which he enjoys very much. He and Clara attend most of the jam sessions around the country where he takes part. He also plays for many local functions.

Like most old time fiddlers, Erle is always willing and eager to help out wherever he is needed.

May you have many more years of good fiddling, Erle!

Minnie Bennett, Historian