

THE HOEDOWNER

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE OREGON OLD TIME FIDDLERS ASSOCIATION
 DEADLINE FOR ARTICLES ISSUED 25th OF EVERY MONTH
 MAY 1978

PRESIDENT-----LEROY SIMS 1036 Main Philomath, Or. 97370
 VICE -PRESIDENT----LES TUCKER 8349 Booth Rd. Klamath Falls, Or. 97601
 SEC.TREAS.-----GYNN DEATON P.O. Box 487 Canyonville, Or. 97417
 EDITOR-----EVELYN WALTER 2735 S.E. 18th 236-0628 Portland, Or. 97202

COMING EVENTS

				DIST.
May 13	Jam Session	Bay City Hall	Bay City, Or.	7
May 13	Jam Session	Merrill Coma. Hall	Merrill, Or.	1
May 14	Jam Session	Elks Lodge	Cottage Grove, Or.	6
May 14	Jam Session	Central Point Grange	Central Point, Or.	4
May 14	Concert & Fiddle Workshop	OSU Memorial Hall	Corvallis, Or.	
May 20	State Contest	Bend High School	Bend, Or.	
May 27	Parade & Jam Session	Azalea Festival	Brookings, Or.	5
May 28	Jam Session	Lincoln City Grange	Lincoln City, Or.	8
June 4	Jam Session	Senior Cit. Center	Gresham, Or.	7
June 9 & 10	Contest	Int'l Peace Gardens	Bottineau, N. Dakota	
June 11	Cowboy Breakfast	Cherry Grove area		
June 18 - 24	National Contest		Weiser, Idaho	
July 22	Contest	North Douglas Fair Fiddle Contest	Drain, Or.	
Aug. 26	Contest	High School	Canyonville, Or.	
Aug. 27-Sept 4	Campout	Warwick Ranch	Williams, Or.	
Sept 1 - 4	3rd Annual Council Bluffs, Iowa Contest			
Sept 16	Talent Harvest Festival		Talent, Or.	4
Sept 17	State Jam Session	Mills School Aud.	Klamath Falls, Or.	1
Sept 29	Cranberry Festival		Bandon, Or.	

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

Hi everyone out in Fiddle Country. I wish to thank everyone who volunteered for Show Co-ordinator and I'm sure you all would have done a good job. I chose Jim Secor as co-ordinator and Les Tucker, our Vice-president will be helping Jim.

It is nice to see those who have vests wearing them at jams and shows.

Looks like the State Contest will be a big one this year with lots of prize money and trophies, so everyone plan to be there. Everybody ought to fiddle a liddle.

LeRoy Sims

STATE CONTEST

BEND HIGH SCHOOL

BEND, OREGON

Registration: 9:00AM - 11:00AM Registration will close at 11:00 sharp

If you can't get there on time please pre-register with Edna Yohey, 934 N. Davis, McMinnville, Or. 97128 - 472-2058.

Cost of registration: Jr-Jr - No charge Jr.- \$2.00 Seniors - \$3.00 Intermed-
 iates - \$4.00 Open - \$5.00 Accompanists - No charge. Accompanists have to
 play to register. Money will be refunded if you pre-register and cannot attend.
 Because there is a charge this year your spouse and one accompanist will be able
 to attend at no charge.

Our judges will be Bernie Rasmussen and John Sawyer from Montana, Joe Pancierzewski from Washington and Francis Anderson and Evelyn W. from California.

Chairperson for this year will be Edna Yohey, registration: Evelyn Walter, scoring: Etta Powell, door sales and Carlton Smith on door watch.

Prizes and trophies on all places as follows:

OPEN	4. \$45.00	INTERMEDIATES	SENIORS	4. 20.00	JUNIORS	ACCOM		
1. \$90.00	5. 35.00	1. \$75.00	4. 40.00	7. 10.00	1. \$50.00	5. 10.00	1. \$30.00	30.00
2. 75.00	6. 25.00	2. 60.00	5. 30.00		2. 40.00	6. 5.00	2. 20.00	20.00
3. 60.00	7. 20.00	3. 50.00	6. 20.00		3. 30.00	7. 5.00	3. 10.00	10.00

A NOTE FROM YOUR EDITOR:

Please, when sending information into the Hoedowner, give the City, the location and if possible the directions on how to get there. We have so many new people who are not familiar with the grange and community halls that call me for directions and sometimes I don't know either. Also give the time that you open, the time of potluck and time the doors are open to the general public. Thanks so much for your help.

Evelyn Walter

DISTRICT #1

District #1 will have a state jam session on Sunday, Sept. 17, 1978 at the Mills School Auditorium in Klamath Falls at 1:30 PM. Everyone please come and help make this successful.

Members played at the nursing homes again this month and also for the American Legion for about 3 hours one Sunday afternoon.

Our next meeting will be at the Merrill community Hall, May 13, potluck at 6:30PM meeting 7:30 and jam session at 8:00PM.

June Sandusky, Reporter

DISTRICT #4:

The southern Oregon fiddlers traveled to Yreka on Sun. April 16. Vic Flood did an excellent job as emcee. There were 31 fiddlers and as many seconds from Klamath Falls on the Northeast, Grants Pass on the North and Weed on the South. All areas within that radius were represented. Vic had 8 specials besides all the fiddlers. The program was smooth and held the crowd throughout. There was dancing in the rear area all during the afternoon. Many commented what a fun day they had.

Howard Jones & "Company" are to be commended for excellent planning once again for the fiddlers annual trip to Yreka.

The many engagements which our fiddlers play, keep them all busy not only weekends, but all during the week. There have been numerous house parties as well as our private jam session for fiddlers & friends, that was held on April 9 at the Talent Hall. This private Sunday afternoon party is held once a month at Talent Hall. Reports of fun are nothing but good! Call Jonas Cox for time of the next one.

The May jam session will be at the Central Point Grange Hall in Central Point on Mother's Day, May 14, 1978. Potluck at 11:30 - doors open to the public at 1pm. See you all in Central Point.

Martha Warwick, Reporter

Etta Powell sent a note saying the date has been set for the North Douglas Fair Fiddle Contest. It will be Saturday July 22 at the Drain High School. A complete outline will appear in the July Hoedowner.

DISTRICT #5:

First of all, I would like to issue a delayed "thank you" to Paul & Velma Williams and Geri Vigtue for the cooperation they have given us in getting things going.

On April 16, we went to Powers and held our first jam session. Had a real good turnout and everyone enjoyed the program. We had 9 fiddlers and plenty of accompanists. Thanks to all who helped make it a success. Have been invited back for "White Cedar Days" on July 1 and 2. Will have more in next Hoedowner.

Everything is set for the Azalea Festival, Sat. May 27 in Brookings, Or. Parade at 10:00am. Jam session from 3 to 8 pm as there is nothing scheduled during those hours. There will be camping at the V.F.W. hall and at the schoolgrounds for self-contained campers. There is to be a Seafood luncheon on Saturday, a Beef Barbacue on Sunday. Tickets for these are \$7.00 and covers both. They would like some fiddlers to play for the picnic on Monday if any of them stay over.

The Cranberry Festival is scheduled for Sept. 29, 30 and Oct. 1st this year.

Barbara McLeod, Reporter

DISTRICT #6:

Our next jam session will be at the Elks Lodge in Cottage Grove, May 14. Doors open at 11:00am, potluck at noon and music to start at 1:00pm. Please bring your own table service. From the north, take first exit, turn right at the first street beyond the Village shopping Center and from there you will see the Elks Club ahead.

This concludes my year of reporting. Thank you all for making it a very pleasant experience. Marge O'Bryant will capably take over starting June 1.

Poco Boyd

It's been a good job well done and we are sorry to lose you. Ed.

NOTE ON THE OSU JAM SESSION:

Most of our events were very successful. About 350 - 400 people showed up for the jam session on Sunday and we taped the whole show to include in a radio program we hope to broadcast nationally on National Public Radio (because of time limitations we will only add portions of the Sunday session to the final tape). I want to thank all the fiddlers who came as well as the accompanists. They did a great job.

Also, I want to include another date for the May Hoedowner for Sunday, May 14th, the University is sponsoring a concert and fiddle workshop featuring Benny Thomasson, Dick Barrett, Carol Wheeler and the Sawtooth Mountain Boys. The workshops are free and will run from 1:00pm - 5:00pm. The concert will cost \$2.00 in advance or \$3.00 at the door and goes from 7:30pm until whenever. Both events will be held in the Memorial Union Ballroom at O.S.U. in Corvallis.

Dave Altman

DISTRICT #7:

A big thank you to Marshall Jackson for arranging our April 2nd jam at the L. C. Stuhr Bldg. in Beaverton. We had around 300 people in the audience with 36 fiddlers and about 15 accompanists. We had a special guest, Grant Lamb from Canada, who played beautifully. We were sorry to hear that he went into the hospital the next day with a heart problem, but we understand he is out now and has gone back home to Canada. We hope he continues to improve.

Our next jam is at Bay City, Oregon, between Tillamook and Garibaldi, on Saturday, May 13th. Doors open at 2:00pm, Potluck at 5:00pm and open to the public at 7:00pm. Hope to see you all there.

We have a lot of new fiddlers, but we miss the old members who aren't coming; they are the ones who made this organization what it is and I'd like for them to know how much they are missed.

We are starting to plan our Fiddlers Picnic and will try for the end of July. The location has not been confirmed as yet, but will have the date and place in the next newsletter.

Penny Mead, Reporter

DISTRICT #8:

We would like to thank everyone for making a big success of our Jam session at Aurora. It was the first one and we have been asked back. We had 24 fiddlers and 9 specials and was enjoyed by all.

District 8 will have a jam session on May 28th at the Lincoln City Grange Hall. Doors open at 10:30, potluck at noon. Bring your own table service.

Jeanette Robinson, Reporter

The Lincoln City Grange is in Ocean Lake for any of you who are not familiar with this area. There are highway signs showing the turnoff for the grange hall, so please watch for them.

-FIDDLIN'-TOE-TAPPIN' ,KNEE-SLAPPIN' AT FAIRGROUNDS

by Dan Webster

They came from all over the state. From Grant's Pass, Sweet Home, Klamath Falls, Medford, Portland, Philomath, Seal Rock - even Eugene/Springfield. And they came to fiddle.

The occasion was the Oregon Oldtime Fiddler's Association's 11th Annual Oldtime Fiddling and Variety Show that was held last Friday at the Lane County Fairgrounds. A sell-out crowd of 1100 whistled, cheered and slapped their knees to the waltzes, jigs and hoedowns of some of the finest fiddlers of the Pacific Northwest.

Although the \$2.50 per head public show began at 7:45 p.m., there was music to be heard all day long as the fiddlers, guitarists, mandolin, guitar, banjo and bass players congregated to play, free of charge, for one another. And if you had been wandering around the fairground's Pioneer Building you would have seen men, dressed in string ties and cowboy hats, and women, dressed in plain print dresses, playing, singing, or simply listening to music that doesn't seem to have changed appreciably in the last 100 years.

In one corner you would have seen two fiddlers, several guitarists and a bass player joining together in a spirited rendition of "Turkey in the Straw." At the same time, across the room, another group would have been gently breaking into the "Polish Wedding Waltz," while a few steps away, still another would have been picking up the furious strains of the "Red Apple Rag."

And this, more than the public show, was what it was all about: a group of musicians taking the opportunity to gather and play their kind of music for their own enjoyment. This was why the association was originally founded.

It was in 1964 that Cliff Buker, then a young 71, and a few of his friends decided to start a club that would bring together anyone interested in playing, or simply appreciating, oldtime fiddle music.

"We figured Idaho and Washington had one, so why couldn't we," Buker said loudly over the picking of a lightening-fast banjo man. "They told us it couldn't be done, but we tried and this is the result."

The result Buker is talking about is an organization of over 1,000, only 100 of whom are fiddlers. Nearly 50 others play some kind of musical instrument, while the remainder have simply joined to listen and enjoy. The association has grown so large that it is now split into eight districts, each of which puts on it's own shows announced beforehand in a monthly newsletter available to members.

Eugeanean Wayne Holmes, 58 (who has played the fiddle for over 50 years), has been a member of the association since 1969. A mail clerk at the Eugene main post office for the last 25 years, Holmes has confined his fiddling to his spare time. And he welcomes the opportunities to play for an appreciative audience that the expanding association provides.

"Oregon is a big state," Holmes says, "so you don't want to have to go from Medford to Roseburg and back on a Saturday. So we now have districts, each with it's own chairman who sets up meetings so that sooner or later one will be held wherever you may live."

The association also arranges annual state-wide meetings, like the Variety Show. And there is a State Contest that is held in Bend every May. It is at these full association get-togethers that the finest music can be heard.

Friday night's variety show saw over 20 fiddlers, aged eight to 85, play an incredible variety of music from square dance hoedowns to hymns. Some of the highlights included:

- * Buker, with his still-nimble 85-year old fingers fiddling "My Pretty Quadroon" and "Waiting for the Robert E. Lee."
- * Current State Champion Carol Wheeler (the first woman champion in the associations history) in an extremely professional set. She began with a three-part composition that "Attempts to paint a picture," and ended with a piece called "Papa Haydn's Surprise Symphony" (a classical sounding prelude that eventually breaks into "Turkey in the Straw") that brought down the house.
- * The Sims Family (who had records for sale, on display) with young daughter Lisa singing "Snowbird," and the the whole family performing one of their hit songs, "You-You-You Stole My Heart Away."
- * Wheeler, Leroy Sims (of the Sims Family) and current association President John Melnichuk playing together in a race-horse version of the "Orange Blossom Special" to close out the show.

Above all else, what was most impressive about the show was the interaction between the crowd and the musicians. These were people who loved what they were doing, and hearing, and it showed. If you were there, you know what I mean. If you weren't, then make sure you go next year. You won't regret it.

DICK BARRETT



The great Texas fiddlers DICK BARRETT & BENNY THOMASSON will give a concert on Friday, May 19, 1978, at 8:00 PM in the Fourth Floor Concert Hall of the Neighbors of Woodcraft Building, 1410 SW Morrison Street, Portland. Advance sale tickets are \$4.00 general admission, \$2.00 for persons under 18 or over 65 years of age. Ticket prices will be 50% higher at the door. The ticket outlets are: Paul Schuback Violin Shop, 1022 SW Morrison; Pioneer Music, 735 SE Morrison, America, Vancouver WA; and Everybody's Record Co., Beaverton.

The incredible autharpist/songwriter BRYAN BOWERS will open the show. Backing Dick & Benny will be Molly Mason, bass, and David Johns, guitar.

Coming: Elizabeth Cotten, with special guests Frank Ferrel and Bertram Levy, will perform in concert on Friday, June 2, at 8:00 PM at St. Francis School, 1131 SE Oak St.; same ticket prices and outlets.