

THE HOE DOWNER

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

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COMING EVENTS

				<u>DIST</u>
Nov. 4	Jam & Business Mtg.	VFW Hall	Bandon, Or	5
Nov. 11	Jam Session	Merrill Comm. Hall	Merrill, Or	1
Nov. 12	Jam Session	Wimer Grange	Wimer, Or	5
Nov. 12	Jam Session	Grange Hall	Buell, Or	8
Nov. 12	Jam Session	Senior Center	Albany, Or	6
Dec. 9	Christmas Party	VFW Hall	Bandon, Or	5
Dec. 10	Christmas Party	Grange Hall	Woodburn, Or	8
Dec. 16	Christmas Party	Jerome Prairie Grange	Jerome Prairie, Or	5
Dec. 17	Christmas Party	Sunnyside Grange	Sunnyside, Or	7
Jan. 14	Jam Session	Salem Sr Citizen	Salem, Or	7

DISTRICT #1:

Outside activities other than the nursing homes were rather limited this month, however, members of our district enjoyed a dinner in a restaurant at our last meeting in Lakeview instead of their usual potluck. A good crowd enjoyed the jam session later. We had a couple of visitors from over the hill and wish to thank them for coming. There is a standing invitation to all of you outside our district to join us whenever possible.

One of our members, "Doc" Bowman has been in the hospital here and I'm sure would appreciate cards and letters. We all wish him a speedy recovery. Another member, Minnie Springer, fell at the Lakeview meeting and we all hope she is also getting along okay and won't be laid up too long.

Our next meeting will be November 11 at the Merrill Community Hall. The potluck will be "Thanksgiving" items and will be at 6:30 PM, meeting at 7 PM and jam at 8 PM.

June Sandusky, Reporter

DISTRICT #4:

Our next jam session will be at Wimer Grange on November 12. Doors open at 10:00PM Potluck at 12:00, open to the public at 1:00 PM.

Our Christmas party will be the 16th of December at Jerome Prairie Grange. There will be a \$2.00 gift exchange. Hall will be open all afternoon, dinner at 5:00 PM. We will need help for the dinner to decorate and to set the table. If you can help, please contact Stella Neathammer. Ladies, bring your fancy dishes, meat will be furnished by the district.

We had a nice jam at Central Point, not quite as many fiddlers as usual, 20 fiddlers and several seconds. Our Southern Oregon district has been very busy playing for nursing homes, etc. Our Christmas schedule is really filling up as more and more requests keep coming in for us to play for the holidays. Anyone wishing to help with the Christmas programs, please call Claire Johnson.

Dues are payable from now on. Remember there is a raise in dues this year. \$4.00 for 1 - \$5.00 for husband and wife & \$6.00 for the family. Dues are payable to the State Secretary Gynn Deaton or your district secretary.

Martha Warwick

DISTRICT #5:

The latter part of September was a busy time for the members of District #5. They played for the Social nite at the Sixes Grange on the 22nd. Had a wonderful potluck supper with meeting and dancing following. There was a real good crowd and everyone enjoyed the music and they have been invited back in the future.

Once again, everyone has helped make the Jam Session a success at the Cranberry Festival. District #5 had their float in the parade, then went to entertain at the barbecue, which all musicians were given a free ticket. This is one program during the festival that everyone seems to enjoy. Thanks to all of the 14 fiddlers and all of the wonderful accompanists who joined us again this year. Also to all of those who came just to have a good time.

There will be a business meeting of District #5 members and a jam at the V.F.W. Hall in Bandon on November 4, at 5 PM. There will be no potluck, but finger foods only.

On Saturday, December 9, District #5 will hold their Christmas Party at the V.F.W. Hall in Bandon. Dinner will be at 5 PM. There will be a gift exchange with a limit of \$2.00 each. Men bring a gift for a man, and woman for a woman. Please bring gifts for your own children with their names on them.

Hope many of you will be able to join us this year.

Barbara McLeod, Reporter

DISTRICT #6:

There will be a jam session in Albany at the Senior Center on November 12th. Doors open at 11:00 - Potluck at 12:00 - Open to the public at 1:00 PM.

The Senior Center is located at 489 N.W. Water St. in Albany.

George Stout-Chairman D#6

A box social, dance jam session was held at the Eagles Lodge at Cottage Grove Oct. 14th. A small group of fiddlers and accompanists played from 4:30 till near midnight, to a very enthusiastic crowd. Those present were; Neil Tobison, Jim Cloud, Hugh Hiatt, Stan Gonshorowski, Elsie Bostick, Paul & Deloris Lakey, Jim Bryant, Hank Napier, Uno Pullis and Jerry Kinnaman.

Oct. 28, some of the fiddlers and accompanists played from 10:30 to 1 PM for the Creswell Electric grand opening broadcasted by KNND in Cottage Grove. I thank all who helped make these sessions a success.

Jerry Kinnaman-Co-Chairman, D#6

DISTRICT #7:

Sorry folks, I was too late on my report last month. We had a nice jam at the Elsie Steur Center in Beaverton on October 1. It was not as large as our first jam session. We had 16 fiddlers and 6 accompanists.

Several fiddlers and accompanists helped Ed and I play for the Harvest Festival in Boring. I especially want to thank Gladys & Jim Braskett, Marshal Jackson, Bob Fast, Barney Alexander, and Russ Phillips. It rained very hard, but the people strung up tarps and plastic from the pine trees and we played for 3 hours and we had a beautiful barbecue. It was for the Doctors and Nurses of the Portland Sanitarium. Thankyou all for making the sunshine in the rain.

The people playing for Loaves & Fishes the last of October were Marshal Jackson, Frank & Lenore Kerwin, Bob Fast, Ed & Penny Mead. They really enjoyed it and made them happy.

Our next jam will be December 17, our Christmas jam, at the Sunnyside Grange located in Sunnyside, Or. For new members, the ladies bring their favorite desert or salad. The organization furnishes the Ham, Turkey and Gravy and coffee. If someone wants to bring a big dish of mashed potatoes that would be fine. Doors open at 10:30.

See you there. There will also be a \$2.00 gift exchange.

Reporter, Penny Mead

DISTRICT #8:

Would like to report that Shorty Allen had surgery and is home and playing his fiddle again. Also, Gus Pearson has been in the hospital, but is home now and feeling better.

We will have our next jam session November 12 at Buell Grange. Doors open at 10:00, for a short business meeting, potluck at noon, show at 1 PM for the public. Bring your own service. We got our P.A. system fixed.

There was a mistake on the December jam session and Christmas party. It is December 10th, not 12th, at the Woodburn Grange. The Woodburn Grange is located across from the Jr. High at 16788 Mtn View Lane N.E. in Woodburn, Or.

Jeanette Robinson, Reporter

FIDDLER OF THE MONTH

Merrill Richardson of Grants Pass, Oregon, is one of the few real old time fiddlers left.

He was born in John Day, Oregon on March 8th in 1898. The family moved to the State of Washington when he was in his early teens. When asked when he started to play the fiddle and why, he replied that he had always wanted to see if he could play a fiddle but never had one until 1916, when he was 18 years old. Said he had more money than he knew what to do with, so he spent \$5.00 for one and learned to play it. Shortly after that, he sold it and bought one for \$30.00. That same year he started playing for dances at his father's resort in Wenatchee, Washington, "and anywhere else he could butt in."

He married Wilma Otis in July, 1922, at Glendale, Oregon. They have two sons and two daughters and many grandchildren.

When son Bud was about 13 years old, he started playing guitar with his dad. They got a group together called 'The Bull River Wranglers', and played over the Grants Pass and Roseburg radio stations, and for western and old time dances. Merrill played for many 'house dances' in the Glendale area, including the homes of Jim Rose and Wes Hayes. Anytime music was needed, he was there with his fiddle.

He worked at gold mining and for the lumber industry until about 1950, when he went to work for California Oregon Power Co., where he worked until he retired.

Merrill is also a fiddle maker. He has made about a dozen fiddles, including several of top tone quality. He has made most of his fiddles out of Oregon Wood, Maple, Myrtle, Spruce and Cedar. He has used Manzanita, from which he fashioned finger boards, pegs and tail pieces.

Merrill had hip surgery in December so he could walk without crutches. Then he spent his 80th birthday in the hospital, having his neck artery opened up, which he said gave him a new lease on life. He said he can remember tunes now that he couldn't think of for ages.

We are hoping to be able to listen to his fiddling for a long time.