

THE HOEDOWNER

June 1968

President: Don Leith
Vice Pres: Bob Hawes
Sec-Treas: Bill Yohey

Co-Editors:
Bill Yohey
Shirley Allen

SALEM: Despite the heavy rain, we had a turnout of 112 at Scio on May 19th. And thanks to all who helped make the day very enjoyable. On account of so many activities going on, we have decided to forgo our regular Sunday Jam Session for the month of June. Instead, we are putting on a fiddling show from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the 81st annual Linn Co. Pioneer Picnic Days celebration at Brownsville, Saturday June 15th. Let me urge all of our members and fiddlers to bring a picnic lunch and spend the afternoon. They have some interesting goings on, they tell us. Coffee, hamburgers, and cold drinks are served on the grounds. They also have a very good Historical Museum at Brownsville, well worth visiting.

A word to Jimmy Miller and Shorty Allen, who were recently hospitalized for surgeryhurry up and get well, boys, we need you!

See you all at Brownsville.

Donald Leith, President

McMINNVILLE: Quips from our Secretary: Again it's off for Weiser, Idaho, and the National Contest June 19-22. A partial list of Association members planning on going include Bill Weber, Clarence Greenlund, Charlie Johnson, Cliff Buker, Marshall Jackson, Don Leith, Jimmy Miller, Pop Powers, Dave Hite, Harold Allen, Rusty Modrell, and myself. Others who plan to attend should get reservations. Judges at Weiser this year include Dwight Lamb of Iowa, Delbert McGrath of California, and Don Gish of Washington...all fine fiddlers in their respective states. The first meeting of the National Convention this year will be Monday afternoon at the Washington Hotel, Weiser, Idaho. This has nothing to do with the Fiddling Contest which starts Wednesday. All fiddlers are invited to this special meeting. Loyd Wanzer is Chairman.

A telephone conversation with Loyd Wanzer, Caldwell, Idaho, saying his two albums are made and hoping to have them ready for sale by National Contest time. Also permission was given this correspondent to announce a new recording company named the American Heritage Music Company. Officers are: President, Loyd Wanzer; Vice-Pres, Bill Yoley; Sec.-Treas. Allen Rice. The other members of the company are: Dave Frisbee, Don Gish, Grant Rader, Harold Allen, Don Soderstrom, and Rusty Modrell. A brochure with all details of the company will be mailed along with your next Hoedowner.

Bill Yohey

WALDPOR: On May 18th a fiddlin' show was presented at the Moose Hall in Waldport, with the following fiddlers taking part: Cliff Buker, Harold Allen, Dave Hite, George Jenker-son, Dave Murray, Charlie Johnson, and Marshall Jackson. Larry Modrell was M.C. for the evening's entertainment. Everyone enjoyed the warm Buker hospitality, which includes Bessie's famous clam chowder!

Shirley Allen

SCIO: The monthly pot-luck jamboree of the Oregon State Oldtime Fiddlers Association was held at the IOOF Hall, with entertainment by the following fiddlers after the dinner: M. L. Dickerson, Cliff Buker, "Pop" Powers, "Shorty" Allen, Dallas Hilton, a newcomer from Lebanon, Walter Larsen, Ray Mack, Bill Weber, Agnes James, Guy Kyler, Fred Hilderbrandt, Walt Whitsun, Gordon Neufeld, Larry Modrell, and Gilbert Rutledge. Larry Modrell also acted as M. C. and did a fine job. Those acting as accompanists were:

"Shorty" Allen, piano, Marshall Jackson, guitar; Ed Gorham, bass; Agnes James, piano; Bessie Buker, piano; and Bea Burroughs, piano. An accordian duet was given by "Shorty" Allen and Danny Wiley during intermission period. After the entertainment, chairs were pushed back and the floor was cleared for a period of dancing for which some of the fiddlers played. Ed Turner played the accordian during the dancing, but did not play for the jamboree. A good time was had by all.

Mrs. Don Hawes

AURORA: The Jeans and Calico Club is having their dances at the Legion Hall every 2nd and 4th Saturday of each month. Potluck lunch at intermission. Live music is furnished by Beatrice Burroughs, Allen Campbell, and Ronald Stevens. Everyone interested in old-time dances and making friends are welcome.

WOODBURN: The Woodburn Grange is having oldtime dances at the Woodburn Grange Hall every 1st and 3rd Saturdays of each month. Potluck lunch at intermission. Live music is furnished by Beatrice Burroughs, Allen Campbell, and Ronald Stevens. The public is invited to enjoy country music with friendly country people at Woodburn Grange.

The two news items above were sent to us by one of our newest members, Ronald W. Stevens of Molalla. Many thanks.

Cliff Buker played for a Senior Citizens meeting at the Fairgrounds in Eugene May 25th, and the following paragraphs appeared in the Eugene Register-Guard. "One of the sweetest-toned, mellowest violins we've ever heard was played by Clifford Buker, 75, of Waldport, who appeared as a soloist, his wife playing his accompaniment. He is the Senior National Fiddling Champion, an honor won, and successfully defended, in fiddling contests in Weiser, Idaho.

The instrument, a Steiner and made prior to 1760, came into his possession just four years ago but he recalls having heard it played by the former owner, James Tyler, now deceased. Buker was just a boy, he says, when he used to pass Tyler's home and would let his feet lag as he listened to the music of a violin.

Buker has played the violin himself since about 1905; played professionally, as a teacher and on radio. Playing now is his avocation, but he also repairs instruments occasionally.

The Tyler violin has been in storage for years, with members of the family, until it was brought to Buker for restoration. He put it into good shape, and learning that it was for sale, promptly bought it. Not until after the purchase did he learn that this was the same violin which he had listened to when a boy! "

Our thanks to Agnes Hite of Cottage Grove, who spotted the above news item and forwarded it to us for the Hoedowner.

Congratulations to Gordon and Lynda Neufeld on the birth of their baby daughter, Audra Lynn, on May 22.

GRANTS PASS: Earl and Elsie Willis get together with a group of musicians almost every week-end for a Jam Session. There are a lot of musicians in and around Grants Pass and we would like to see the Fiddler's Association come in here and get thme organized. On Saturday, May 18, the Willises and friends played for the Grand Opening of Williams Electronics here in Grants Pass. Earl Willis and Van Southwood played fiddles. Alvin Cary played rythym guitar, and his son, Owen Cary the steel. Yours Truly played the "Gut Bucket".

Elsie Willis

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NEWS FROM IDAHO: Results of the Regional Contest held in Emmett, Idaho, on May 25th are: Winner, Dwayne Youngblood; 2nd, Dave Frisbee; 3rd, Rue Frisbee.

NEWS FROM CALIFORNIA: On May 4th, the California Fiddlers State Championship Contest was held in Oroville. Jay Belt of Fresno was first in the Regular and Earl Jennings of Susanville was 2nd. Frank Knight of Paradise won first place as State Senior Champion. Then in Fiddletown on May 12th at an open contest, Ronald Hughey of Fowler won first place in the Regular and Frank Knight won top spot in the Seniors. On May 26th at an open contest in Fair Oaks, Frank Gunn of Sacramento won first in the Regular and Delbert McGrath of Sacramento was 2nd. And for the third time in a month Knight won the first in the seniors. A very enjoyable time was had at all three contests.

Frank Knight

BIOGRAPHY: I have been asked by a number of fiddlers if I ever studied music. Yes, I did. I started taking private lessons at the age of four in my home town of York, Nebraska. At that time, my Grandpa was an oldtime barn-dance fiddler in the nearby community of McCool Jct., Nebraska. It was then that I picked up a few of the old fiddle tunes played by my Grandpa. Since my parents wanted me to become a violinist, I proceeded to study.

When moving to Salem, Oregon, in 1950 I studied with Victor Palmason, now a member of the Portland Symphony. After being with him for a period of four years, I went to John Wallace Graham in Salem for further advanced studies. In 1954-1956, I was chosen to play in the Salem Jr. Symphony under the direction of Dr. Wm. Sweatman.

In 1964, I went to Leo J. Skipton, associate concertmaster of the Portland Symphony, for technical and scientific studies.

In 1965 and 66, I went to Seattle to study technical and teaching methods with the noted Mr. Phillip Boltin, Librarian for the Seattle Symphony Association.

I don't regret the over 20 years of violin study, but have much more fun playing good old jigs and reels and tunes that are familiar to everyone. Even with all the musical background, I have a hard time competing with the fiddlers because of their style of bowing. There is a distinct difference between drawing a bow across the strings and "scratchin' hair".

Gordon Neufeld

A few of our fiddlers will be taking part in a "Country and Western" program for the Tillamook County Fair on August 10. The show starts at 8:00, so let's plan to attend and enjoy some good old "pickin' and singin'".

BEND: The contest was held May 19th with a good crowd in attendance, even in the rain. A total of 10 fiddlers took part with these results - 1st, Rusty Modrell; 2nd, Bob Hawes; 3rd, Jimmy Baker; 4th, John Murray; 5th, Tom Buckle.

Vi Modrell

CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

- June 7-8 Canyon City, Oregon Fiddlin' Contest
 7:00 p.m. June 7 - Intermediate & Eastern Oregon Contests
 1:00 p.m. June 8 - Preliminaries of Open Contest
 5:00 p.m. June 8 - Dinner
 7:00 p.m. June 8 - Junior contest & Open Contest Finals
- June 15 Brownsville, Oregon Fiddlin' Show Pioneer Days Picnic
 Contact Don Leith, 4285 Batting St. N. E. Salem, Oregon
- June 19-22 Weiser, Idaho National Contest
- July 4 Condon, Oregon Fiddlin' Contest
- July 6 Molalla, Oregon Oregon State Fiddlers Contest
 Judges: Vivian Williams, Monte Stephens, Kenneth Brank
 Vivian Williams and Tall Timber Boys will entertain
- July 19 Cottage Grove, Oregon Far West Fiddlers Contest
 Cottage Grove High School Auditorium
 Prizes in both Regular and Senior Divisions
 Bill Jenkins of Redmond will act as M.C.
 Judges: Kenneth Brank, "Pop" Powers, and Cy Widener
- August 10 Tillamook County Fair Country and Western Show

Bill and I want to thank everyone who took the time to send us items for the Hoedowner. Your co-operation is what makes it possible for us to edit this newsletter every month. Summertime and the "fiddlin' season" is upon us now and so we should have a nice fat newsletter each edition. Be sure to send your news items to Bill Yohey at 934 N. Davis, McMinnville, or to me at 730 Kings Road, Corvallis. I do wish everyone could go to Weiser (you have to see it to believe it!), but let's all try to take in as many of the fiddlin' shows and contests as we possibly can. See you all in Canyon City.

Shirley Allen