

THE HOEDOWNER

April

1969

President Charlie Johnson
Vice-President Bob Hawes
Secretary-Treasurer... Ron Gimm

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Corvallis, Oregon 97330

JOTTINGS FROM JOHNSON

The jamboree at Independence was O.K. There were a few difficulties, but all in all, everything went along pretty good. It was well attended. About 20 fiddlers and 165 people, unless you consider fiddlers the same as people. Some were disappointed because they wouldn't let us dance, but I think everybody got their money's worth anyway.

The dates that I know of for April are: Spokane contest the 10th, 11th, 12th. The jamboree near Portland at the Grange Hall on Foster Road near 175th. And the contest at Tillamook the 26th. I am supposed to make a tape to be broadcast on Channel 2 on the 17th about Tillamook, but I don't know what the hour is.

A bunch of us including Fred Hildebrandt, Katy Warner and her Pop, George Cieloha, Ed Gorham, Eva Caldwell, some others and myself entertained the old folks and Edgefield Hospital Sunday, March 30th, and the same bunch will go out to Damasch Hospital Monday, April 7th. I hope we can get different groups to do more of this sort of thing. There are a lot of "shut-ins" in these various hospitals and homes and they sure do appreciate our little concerts.

This seems to be all I can think of just now. Yours for more and more fiddlin'.

... Charlie Johnson

LOST AND FOUND DEPT.

In regard to the Forest Grove contest ... I left my hat in Floyd's Music Shop and some of the fiddlers walked away with my hat. It's a small black hat. It's a \$16.50 hat and I wish the party that took it would kindly return it. I'm sure the party that took it did it by mistake, and will know that it belongs to someone else. Would you please put this in the Newsletter and maybe I'll get my hat back. Thank you.

Tony Descombaz

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SILETZ

On March 15, Cliff Buker, Harold Allen, Bill Yohey, Jim and Tom Miller, and Larry Modrell played for a benefit for the Siletz Volunteer Fire Department.

GARIBALDI

On March 22, Garibaldi was the scene for a fiddlin' show. Larry Modrell was M.C. for the show. Others taking part were Don Gish and Jim Thomas from Yakima, Washington; Bill Yohey, Rusty Modrell, Harold Allen, Ron Gimm, Jimmy Miller, and a beautiful girl named Carol, whose last name I can't recall. Sorry. It's a poor reporter, isn't it, who doesn't get the names right?

INDEPENDENCE

The City Hall at Independence was the designated spot, time and place for the March meeting of the Oregon Association for the Old Time Fiddlers. A large crowd of members, visitors, and friends enjoyed a pot-luck dinner and the jam session following it. The following fiddlers performed with Cliff Buker acting as Master of Ceremonies: Cliff Buker, Fred Hildebrandt, Clarence Greenlund, "Pop" Powers, Rusty Knight, Bob Hawes, Ray Mack, Katie Warner, Ray Abbey, "Shorty" Allen, Charlie Johnson, Stan Edwards, Rusty Modrell, Harold Allen, George Cieloah, Fred Virtue, Marshall Jackson, Walt Whitsun, Bill Weber--whose wife accompanied him on the accordion--Walt Larson, Ed Johnson, and a duet by Bill Putnam and Ray Abbey.

Accompanists were: Ed Gorham, bass viol; Marshall Jackson, guitar; Ruth Loring, guitar; Rusty Modrell, guitar; Ron Gimm, guitar; Pop Powers, guitar; Al Shannon, guitar; as well as Dave Warner.

Special numbers were rendered by Bill Yohey on the banjo, with Harold Allen on the mandolin and Mrs. Loring and Ed Gorham on their usual instrument.

A newcomer to the group was Dean England, who was the champion fiddler of Arkansas a few years ago.

During intermission G. T. Hunter played on his musical saw, accompanied by Peggy Krenelk on the accordion. Mr. Hunter is another newcomer. Katie Warner and Fred Hildebrandt, accompanied by Dave Warner on the guitar, also gave a special number during intermission.

My special thanks go to Don Leith last month for writing up the jam session and sending it in to Shirley. I was sorry I had to miss the fun. This month was another one I missed, but my husband very kindly went in my place and very carefully wrote everyone's name down for me. So, I thank him this month. See you all next month, I hope!

--Mrs. Don Hawes

Bill Yohey and Harold Allen now have some 45's available for sale at \$1 each. These are tunes taken from their LP stereo albums. Bill's had "Mandolin Chimes" and "Banjo Boogie." Harold's tunes are "Red Apple Rag" and "Cornflower Waltz."

SO LONG, OREGON ... HELLO, GEORGIA: That is what the Harold Allen's are saying these days. Harold left April 8 for Atlanta, Georgia, where he has accepted employment on a power line construction operation there. I will follow as soon as we can make a sale of our home here. So, this will be my last issue of The Hoedowner to edit for you. I have certainly enjoyed doing it. We will miss all our fiddlin' friends here in Oregon, but are looking forward to meeting new ones down south and hearing lots of new fiddle tunes in that area. And, we'll be back to visit you, you can count on that.

--Shirley Allen

AUTOBIOGRAPHY

I was born in Fergus Falls, Minnesota, in June 1899. When I was seven years old, my father moved his family from the city to a homestead near Minot, North Dakota. The year, 1906.

For a Christmas present, my older brothers got my father a violin to replace the one they had dropped a bag of hazelnuts on and broken. During the long winter months in the claim shack, my four older brothers and myself took turns trying to learn to play the one violin. It must have been rather hectic for father, listening to all the sawing away and noise. Sometimes father would tell us to put the violin away, as it sounded like we were trying to play in the key of Q or Z.

When nine years of age, I had learned to play "The Old Grey Goose" and several simple numbers, with a lot of help from father. And at twelve years of age, I would play three or four dance pieces at the house dances in the area. At about this time my mother bought a used pedal reed organ for my baby sister, nine years old. She learned three chords . . . D, G, C, and started taking music lessons from a neighbor lady. This helped my violin playing a lot.

All went well with my music until 1917. I went into the armed service for 18 months. World War I.

Soon after my return from the service, my sister married and that ended my music for some time.

I got married in 1925, moved to Oregon in 1927, brought the fiddle along with me and then for many years I worked in the lumber mills; I would tune the fiddle up about twice a year.

Upon my retirement in 1964, I decided to start fiddling again. Joined the Oregon Oldtime Fiddlers three years back. At present I am practicing on about two hundred old tunes or pieces of music here at home.

I feel very much honored that the membership at our convention in Corvallis in January re-elected me their vice-president.

-- Bob Hawes

CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

April 20

Pot-luck dinner and jam session; Grange Hall on Foster Road near 175th (same place as before).

April 26

Pacific Northwest Contest, Elks Lodge, Tillamook, Oregon.
Preliminaries start at 1:30 p. m. - Finals at 8:00 p. m.

May 3

Oregon State Contest, Molalla, Oregon.
Preliminaries will start at 1:00 p. m. Three-categories: Junior, Senior, and Regular. Cash, plaques, and merchandize prices.
Judges: Loyd Wanzer, Idaho; Don Gish and Kenneth Brank, Washington.