

# THE HOEDOWNER

FEBRUARY 1974

OREGON OLD TIME FIDDLERS NEWS

## OREGON OLD TIME FIDDLERS ASSOCIATION

PRESIDENT . . . . . Don Gish, Rt. 1, Box 701-B, Chemult, Ore.  
 VICE-PRESIDENT . . . . . L.D. Daniel, 2903 Patterson St., Klamath Falls, Ore.  
 SEC-TRES . . . . . Evelyn Walter, 890 N.W. Division, Gresham, Ore.

## FROM THE EDITORIAL STAFF

Taking on the editorship of a publication always seems to bring with it the impulse to experiment and innovate. We've got some ideas about features we want to try for the HOEDOWNER, of course; and we assume you may have some ideas about what you want from the Association's newsletter. So let us know: let us have your comments on the ideas discussed below. And when we try out a new feature, tell us what you thought of it. Tell us about your ideas . . . all the ones we didn't get around to thinking up ourselves. . . about news coverage, features, policy — it's your newsletter. Reader response does produce effects. Martha Warwick suggested that a map of districts would be useful, and there one is, right on Page 3 of this issue.

Meanwhile, let me tell you about a few of the new ideas we've been contemplating, so you can think about them and talk them over with us. Every now and then somebody writes a letter to the HOEDOWNER that sparks some interesting dialogue — Marshall Jackson and Kenny Brank, I recall especially, have started such letter exchange-discussions. So we're thinking of trying to promote some issue-oriented discussions in the HOEDOWNER pages, using some combination of reprinted complete letters from readers and compiled articles which survey and quote opinions/ideas which you might send us in response to a question or problem posed by the editorial staff or any reader, for that matter. So if you want to see a discussion of, or have an idea about, say old-timeness and Texas-style fiddling, contest judging, etc. let us know.

We may run some personality sketches — both in the OOTFA and across the country there are lots of people whose lives and music-making would interest other people — and goodness knows it's hard enough to find out about all the worthwhile people, just in the state association.

Lots of people in the association have special knowledge that might be useful to other people, which they would be willing to share. For instance, does anyone know a sure-fire method of fitting fiddle bridges? Would somebody who understands the new law governing the tape recording of records be willing to explain it? If we know about anyone's special knowledge, we might invite them to do an article. But we don't know everybody all that well, so don't wait around — volunteer.

It looks as though the HOEDOWNER might get more technically sophisticated in the near future, so that we could print tunes. If we did, what do you think — should we limit tune-printing to the preservation of old tunes, or should we also print new tunes? Of course, it's a question whether old-time fiddlers should have anything to do with printed tunes in the first place. But in defense of printing tunes: a printed tune is sort of like a collected butterfly — it's dead, but seeing it sure helps you recognize the next live specimen you run into, and a dead butterfly will stay still long enough that you can examine how it's put together.

(Continued On Page 2)

## COMING EVENTS: The Hectic Season's Here

FEB 10	Dist. 8 Jam Session, McMinnville Grange	McMinnville
FEB 10	Dist. 4 Hosts State Jam Session, Jerome Prairie Grange	Grants Pass
FEB 16	Dist. 1 Jam Session, Equitable S & L	Klamath Falls
FEB 17	Dist. 7 Jam Session, 82nd & Cornwall, Kendall Grange	Portland
FEB 23	Contest, Balladtown	Forest Grove
FEB 24	Dist. 6 Jam Session Convention Meeting Whiteaker School	Eugene
MAR 3	Dist. 6 Jam Session (State) Fairmount Grange	Albany
MAR 17	Dist. 4 Jam Session, Community Center	Grants Pass
MAR 22-23	Annual State Convention, Fairgrounds	Eugene
APR 7	Dist. 1 Hosts State Jam Session	Klamath Falls
APR 24	Dist. 4 Jam Session	Yreka, Cal.
MAY ?	State Contest, date unsure, but keep it in mind.	
MAY 19	Dist. 4 Jam Session	Canyonville
JUNE 18-22	National Contest	Weiser Idaho
JULY ?	Far West Fiddle Contest	Cottage Grove
AUGUST 25		
-SEPT 2	Campout	Warwick Ranch, Williams

## District 6, Eugene HOSTS JAM SESSION-CONVENTION MEETING

FEB 24 - Convention chairman George Stout has called for a meeting of all convention workers at 10 AM at Whiteaker School, 21 N. Grand, Eugene. At 11 AM, there will be a District 6 Business Meeting for purposes of electing 1974 officers. Potluck at Noon. Program at 1 PM. All planning to attend should bring sweaters for personal comfort and a muffler for your fiddle, because the school district cuts the heat COMPLETELY on week-ends due to the energy crisis. However there will be heat, Permission has been granted to heat the place ourselves with whatever system and fuel we can figure out. Anybody have suggestions? The Date Again — FEB 24th.

## FOREST GROVE ELKS TO SPONSOR FEB 23 CONTEST

Balladtown's Eighth Annual Old-Time Fiddlers' contest will open at 1:30 PM, Saturday, FEB 23, at Forest Grove, Oregon — temporarily Balladtown, U.S.A.

According to Floyd Parsons, spokesman for Forest Grove Elks Lodge No. 2440 prizes will run as follows: General fiddling first place — \$75 and trophy; second place — \$100 and trophy; third place — \$75 and trophy; fourth place — \$50 and trophy; fifth place — \$25 and trophy.

The senior division, open to fiddlers 65 and over, will carry the following prizes: First place — \$50 and trophy; second place — \$30 and trophy; third place — \$25 and trophy. Junior division fiddlers will receive trophies for the first three places.

There's a lot of good information available that the HOEDOWNER could help disseminate — like where to find great but little-known records, what events are happening out of state but nearby, etc. We also plan to set up exchanges with other fiddling papers, both to provide broader ranges of information and because lots of feature material from other parts of the country would be of interest to Oregon fiddlers.

If you have positive or negative feelings about what's happening in the HOEDOWNER, let us know; if you have specific ideas for a feature, how's about volunteering to write it up? As they say on Texas border radio, "Keep them cards and letters comin'," and we'll do our best.

- Linda Danielson

AT CROSSORADS . . . The condition of our mimeograph forces us to face one or more decisions in the near future. This machine was made during World War II of metals inferior to designers specifications. The immediate repair and service cost is stated in writing at a minimum of \$75 plus parts. However, parts for this machine have not been manufactured for ten years, and a search by the A.B. Dick people for used parts in Portland and Eugene has been fruitless. What to do?

Before going into other decisions, let me digress long enough to give credit where credit is due. In view of the condition of this mimeo, it's operator and our past Editor, Ron Gimm certainly must have experienced some bad times in his efforts to produce our newsletter. Thank you Ron, For a job well done.

Since we must decide on whether to buy another mimeo, or contract the printing, or go to offset or the newer chemical printers, we should first direct our attention to HOEDOWNER information content. In the past the HOEDOWNER has listed coming events with directions to get there, and has covered fiddle contests, jam sessions, and other events nicely with other news items and business. As it is, we have a good adequate newsletter. At this time, we ask the membership if more is wanted, and if so, what do we want? Lind Danielson's article in this issue presents to us several kinds of material we might consider. The material content of the newsletter must be known before a decision can be made as to production process. Your letters will tell us what you want.

As for myself, I'd like occasional pictures of the camp-out, annual convention, etc. Others want tunes printed in notation and tablature. This capability is ours for an additional net total cost of near \$5 per month printed one side (Two sides, net total cost - \$10). Do we need these things? Do we want to spend the money. If you will write and tell us what you want, we can have eight pages instead of the usual four pages for only the cost of stencils and ink. Your editorial staff will be happy to do twice as much work . . . if members wish more in the HOEDOWNER. This would require a better mimeograph for printing both sides.

Someone suggested an occasional special issue to be handed out at Jam Sessions to save postage. Special issues about what? Theories of judging? Reprints of studies in regional styles of fiddling? Reprints from newsletters from all over fiddleland USA? Reprints and reviews of books, booklets, records? What information do you need?

Your editors will print the information you need. They are: Trish Hodge, Wayne Holmes, Linda Danielson, Owen Hodge and Ray Walker. We have given you our ideas; send yours to:

Ray Walker, Editor  
360 Howard Avenue  
Eugene, Oregon 97404

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JUST IN CASE . . . you haven't paid your dues yet, rates are \$3 for a single person, \$4 for a married couple, \$6 for a family. You may pay them at any jam session or send them to:

Evelyn Walter, Sec-Treas OOTFA  
2735 SE 18th  
Portland, Oregon 97202

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The Oregon Old Time Fiddlers would like to thank Welcome Publications of Eugene for the use of their IBM Composer in preparing this issue of the HOEDOWNER. We would also like to thank Johnny Print Shop for technical advice. THANK YOU.

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Entry Fees are \$5 for General Division and \$2 for Senior Division. Fees must be paid by contest starting time, 1:30 PM. Entry blanks, sandwiches, coffee, and a place to get together for jamming will be available at Floyd's Music Center, 2010 Pacific Avenue.

The contest is held in connection with the 28th Annual Original All-Northwest Barber Shop Ballad Contest and Gay 90's Festival.

OUR PRESIDENT, DON GISH, didn't write a long message for this issue but did request the HOEDOWNER to announce two items:

1. Wayne Holmes is designated "Summer Show Co-ordinator" whose function will be that of negotiating dates, fees, type of show, etc. If your County Fair or other organization wishes a Fiddle Show, they can be referred to Wayne Holmes.

2. With the annual election of officers less than two months away, it is time to activate a nominating committee. This committee is composed of the following named District Chairmen:

Ivan McCaniels	Fred Virtue	Rusty Modrell
Wayne Walter	Bill Yohey	Wayne Holmes
Jonas Cox	Irven Johnson	

### ABOUT THE JUDGING SEMINAR . . .

We ran this notice last month, but in case anyone missed it, here it is again. The judging seminar held at Whiteaker School Nov. 18, 1972 is being taped, transcribed, and edited for deposit in the Library of Congress. We want to include the names and addresses of everyone who spoke during the seminar session. The seminar was in its way an historic event, so we want names and addresses to complete the most accurate possible record of the event. However, we realize that someone may wish to remain anonymous. If you wish not to be identified, write to Ray Walker and your identity will be protected. Actually, having your name attached to an event documented in the Library of Congress is sort of an honor. It won't bring you any fame or fortune, but something important to old-time music was happening, and you were part of it. So we'll assume it's okay to publish names and addresses, unless we hear from you by convention time.

- Ray Walker and Linda Danielson

### FROM ROSEBURG

Thanks to everyone who provided such an enjoyable afternoon for us here in Roseburg January 13. On Saturday, January 12, a group played for the Boots and Calico Square Dance Club at Winston. Square dancers love live music and many came to the jamboree Sunday. This is an excellent place to promote old-time fiddling and many clubs around the state would welcome visits anytime from a small group. Fred Virtue, Marion Enlow, Floyd Walker and Al Tester played Saturday night — fiddle, banjo, guitar and bass.

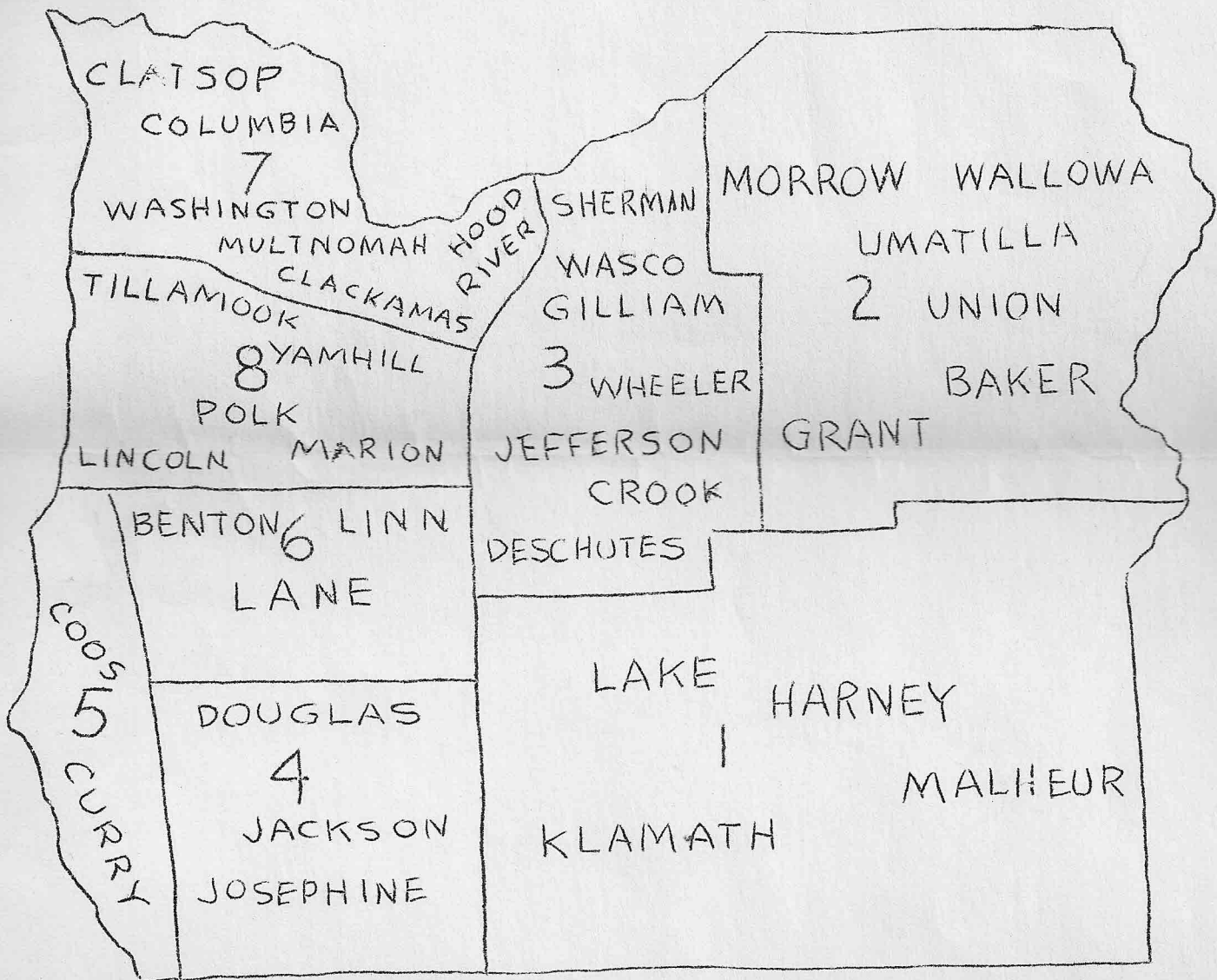
I would like to say that Jim Rose is home from the hospital and seems to be doing fine. I know he thanks all who stopped by for a visit and the flowers and cards.

- Mary Petheram

### ACCOMMODATIONS FOR THE CONVENTION

For those with self-contained campers, space is available as usual and free on the fairgrounds. There are electrical hookups available, and the restrooms will be open all night. For anyone needing motel rooms, there are several good ones at a variety of prices just a few blocks from the fairgrounds. The sample rates are for two people; addresses are included in case you want to write for reservations:

Bon House, 1190 W. 6th	(\$14.50)
Downtown, 361 W. 7th	(\$11.00)
Texan, 750 W. 7th	(\$9.50)
Mills, 568 W. 7th	(\$8.50)



In the June, 1973 HOEDOWNER there was a description of the eight districts of the Oregon Oldtime Fiddlers Association. Here is a repeat of that, along with the above map. These are the counties comprising each district:

- DISTRICT 1 - Malheur, Harney, Klamath and Lake
- 2. Grant, Baker, Wallowa, Union, Umatilla & Morrow.
- 3. Deschutes, Crook, Jefferson, Wheeler, Gilliam, Sherman & Wasco.
- 4. Jackson, Josephine and Douglas (less coast area)
- 5. Curry, Coos, Douglas Coast Area, Lane Coast area.
- 6. Lane, less coast area; Linn and Benton.
- 7. Hood River, Clatsop, Columbia, Multnomah, Clackamas and Washington.
- 8. Yamhill, Polk, Marion, Tillamook and Lincoln.

#### DISTRICT 4 REPORTS

District 4 hosts the state jam session FEB 10 at Jerome Prairie Grange. Doors will open about 10 AM with potluck for members at noon and a short meeting to follow. The jam session, open to the public, will begin at 1 PM.

The January Jam Session was held at the fairgrounds in Roseburg, Sunday, 1/13/74. We had a "standing room only" crowd and lots of fun was had by all. After the fried chicken dinner potluck we held our regular monthly meeting. Everyone was reminded of the upcoming election of district officers at the next meeting. Jim Rose had made arrangements for the Roseburg jam session, but due to his recent operation he was not able to attend. (We missed you, Jim and Myra.) He did, however, arrange for the Petherams to be the hosts for the day. They and all of the wonderful helpers we have in our organization did a wonderful job. Thank you all.

The following fiddlers played: Jonas Cox, Phil Simmons, L.D. Daniel, Jim Hobbs, Fred Virtue, Ralph Houston, John Melnichuk, Claire Johnson, Jack McCasland, Buck Aulman, Linda Danielson, Floyd Harmon, and Wayne Holmes. Seconds were Marion Enlow and Dave Winkelman on banjo, Jake McCullough, Jim Hoots, Jack McCasland, Phil Simmons, Dusty Yancy, Wayne Holmes, Eldon Powell, and John Melnichuk. (I tried not to miss anyone; hopefully I didn't.)

Linda Danielson and Wayne Holmes played soem beautiful twin fiddle for us. One of the tunes they played, by request, was Wayne's beautiful Oregon Waltz. Could we request of Governor McCall that this tune be designated the official Oregon song? Someone said we don't have a state song. I don't know myself. Would be a nice plug for fiddling if we could do this.

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## LANIE COUNTY FIDDLERS

You have been asking for it, and now you can have it. A monthly jam session in Eugene, beginning on March 1st at Whiteaker School, 21 N. Grand Ave., at 6:30 PM. This is Whiteaker School's own Jam Session, Owen Hodge in charge, but is for OOTFA members as well as for the school neighborhood. Those who do not perform may wish to help and join in the work of getting out the Hoedowner, such as assembling, stapling, folding, inserting into envelopes, sealing, etc. This is more than a jam session, it's a work session too. All willing hands appreciated; all fiddlers and accompanists welcome.

1st Jam Session — Friday, March 1st, 6:30 PM  
2nd Jam Session — Friday March 29th, 6:30 PM  
3rd Jam Session — Friday, May 3rd, 6:30 PM  
4th Jam Session — Friday, May 31st, 6:30 PM

The Hoedowner should be ready for mailing by the time the Jam Session is over. This will provide delivery of our newsletter anywhere in Oregon, on the first Monday of EACH MONTH.

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### DIST. 4, Cont. from Page 3

We had some other fine entertainment along with our fiddling. Carla Cox sang for us, accompanied by Jim Hoots on the guitar and John Melnichuk on the fiddle. Carla was called back for an encore later in the program.

For those who are interested, the campground is still there. The water raced through the barn like a river and went over to the big apple trees. For awhile it was about a foot and a half deep where the campfire was. One of the big poles where the loudspeakers were hung went down. The bandstand washed up against that stump and held there. Water was over the middle of the bridge. There is lots of debris on the campground. Wayne Walter, your little terrace is all washed up! I took pictures at the height of the flood so all can see at the campout.

District 1 is having a workshop in Klamath Falls on Feb. 16, and they have invited us all to come. Let's make an effort to attend this meeting; we may want to continue having workshops.

- Martha Warwick

### WHITEAKER SCHOOL JAM SESSION

The first Whiteaker neighborhood jam session took place at Whiteaker School in Eugene Friday, February 1 at 6:30 PM.

We had several guitar players, two banjo players, bass, and four fiddlers. It was a relaxed and friendly group. After a little preliminary shuffling around, all the musicians wound up sitting in a circle. Whoever wanted to call the tune or play the lead did so, the rest filling in. It's an especially good format for learning new tunes.

We particularly enjoyed the North Dakota style fiddle playing of Stan Gonshorowski — fast waltzes, polkas and schottishes — all in a good danceable style.

These jam sessions are mainly for musicians. Listeners are surely welcome, but there is no real attempt to provide a show. Everybody who comes gets to play as much as he wants.

DIST. 8 - On Sunday, February 10th, District 8 will meet at the Mc-Minnville Grange Hall. Business Meeting at 10 AM, potluck at noon, Jam Session at 1 PM.

DIST. 7 - will have a Jam Session in the Kendal Grange Hall at 82nd & Cornwall, on Sunday, Feb. 17th. Business meeting at 10:30 AM, lunch at Noon, Jam Session at 1 PM. Everyone Welcome!

DIST. 6 - The March State Jam Session will be hosted by District 6 in Albany on March 3rd at the Fairmount Grange Hall, just North of Albany off Highway 20. From downtown Albany — cross bridge on Hiway 20 (toward Corvallis). Go to 2nd traffic light, turn right and go about 1/2 mile. The Grange Hall is on the right just before the railroad tracks. Early morning meeting cancelled by George Stout. Potluck at noon, jam session at 1:00.

NOTICE - District secretaries are requested to send new memberships to Evelyn Walter, State Secretary, who will in turn advise the HOEDOWNER of additions to the Mailing list.

REMINDER - All districts should elect new officers prior to the Convention in March.

### HELP WANTED

Avolunteer to make table decorations for the convention banquet March 23. Contact: Peggy Stratton, Disston Rt., Box 14, Culp Creek, Ore., 97427 or phone 946-1647.

In case any friends complain of not receiving a Hoedowner you might suggest dues are past due. LIKE . . . NO DUES, NO NEWS!

### HELP WANTED

Set director or decorator to take full charge of hall and stage props and decorations etc., for fiddle show March 22. Whoever is hired will have as his first two jobs the following decisions: 1 - Decide if we really need decorations, and 2 - Decide whether we made a mistake in hiring someone to fill this position.

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Did anyone watch or hear KOAC, Corvallis, on Sunday evening, Jan. 27th? It has been reported that the finals of the National Fiddle Contest were broadcast on that date. We will request of that Broadcasting Station that we be furnished advance notice in the future so that our members will be informed of any upcoming Fiddle Programs.

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REMINDER: All districts should elect new officers prior to the Convention in March. District 6 will hold elections on February 24th at the Jam Session in Eugene at Whiteaker School.

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### DISTRICT 1 REPORTS . . .

There will be a district meeting Feb. 16 at 7:30 PM at the Equitable Savings and Loan building in the basement at the corner of 7th and Main in Klamath Falls, for election of officers. A practice workshop will be held after the meeting. All members are urged to attend.

Homer McLain reports lots of fiddling activity out Lakeview way. December 8 Homer, along with Terry and Larry, his twin sons, and Clyde Lynch, played at Thomas Creek Grange for a Christmas party and dance until 1 AM with about 50 people attending for an evening of fun. December 9 Homer and his two boys played for a Christmas party at Valley Falls Grange, for about 25 people.

December 14 they decided to have a Lake County get-together to see how many musicians they could draw out. It was held at New Pine Creek Grange Hall and advertised by word of mouth. About fifty people turned out to listen and dance. There were seven guitar players and three fiddlers.

Three guitar players were in one band together, two guitar players and one fiddler were in another. The fiddler is a member of the Association. The McLains - Homer, Terry and Larry - and Clyde Lynch also played. Then the whole group played together most of the evening until midnight. It went over big — people want to do it more often. It might even get some new guitar players and fiddlers out, at least they talked that way.

December 15 Clyde Lynch and the McLains played at West Side Grange for a Christmas party. About two hundred people danced until 2:30 AM. Had lots of fun. At least one older man wants to start playing again, and it will be fun to get him going. Also, there's a guitar player who used to play by music and by ear, who wants to start again, a woman who wants to play the guitar, and a young boy and a man about 25 who want to learn to play the fiddle.

Those of us around Klamath Falls and Merrill have been playing at homes and we have gained a bass player, Mrs. Richard Anderson, out Keno way. Our New Year's Eve party was a huge success, with the hall packed with listeners and dancers. Charlie Sandusky, Bill Noble, L.D. Daniel, Don Gish, Irvn Johnson, Ted Walker, Homer McLain, Terry McLain and Pat Reed were the fiddlers. Pat and Terry are young boys just learning and doing a good job. Carl Novotny played his accordian, and Lina Hathaway, Clyde Lynch, Pat Cronin, young son Mike Cronin, Larry Burton, Doris Calrk, Gary Cronin, Larry McLain, Cliff Tunnell, Bill Noble, Lee Wells and Marjie Sax were accompanists. If I have missed anyone I'm sorry. Guests from Dist. 4 were Mr. and Mrs. Keith Owen and Mr. and Mrs. Ted Sax.

Best Wishes for the New Year to everyone.

- Anne Johnson

### IN MEMORIAM

One of our members, Elmo Hardeback died on Jan. 5. He was a lifelong resident of Gaston, where he farmed and sold real estate. He had been in failing health for several years. Mrs. Veta Hardeback survives him, at Rt. 1, Box 67, Gaston, Oregon 97119.

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