

THE HOEDOWNER

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

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COMING EVENTS

FEBRUARY 1983

DISTRICT

Feb	5	Jam & Election	Green Acres Grange		5
	11 & 12	IOTFA Convention	Senior Center	Boise, Idaho	
	13	Jam & Election	MCM Grange	McMinnville	8
	13	Jam Session	Museum Club Room	Burns	1E
	13	Jam Session	Senior Center	Bend	3
	13	Jam & Election	Central Point Grange	Central Point	4
	13	Jam Session	Milwaukie Center	Clackamas Park	7
	19	Contest	Triangle Shopping Center & R A Long High School	Longview, Wash	
	20	Birthday Party & Election	Moose Lodge	Eugene	6
	20	Jam & Election	Fairgrounds	Klamath Falls	1
	26	Dance & Jam	Pleasant Valley Grange	Damascus	
Mar	13	Jam Session	American Legion Hall	Lebanon	6
	18 & 19	STATE CONVENTION	Fairgrounds	Roseburg	State
Apr	10	Jam Session		Beaverton	7
	17	STATE JAM	Senior Citizen Center	Salem	8

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

This is an invitation to all for the convention in Roseburg, Oregon on March 18th and 19th 1983.

Leroy Sims and Don Loring are Chairman and Co-Chairman for the Friday night show. Adrid Van Horn is publicity Chairman. Jim and Gynn Deaton are the caterers again and the banquet dinner will consist of Roast Beef, Ham, assorted Vegetables, rolls, salad and cake. Coffee will be served at the tables. Bring your own table service. Serving time will be 6:00 PM. Price is \$5.00 per plate. Breakfast and lunch will be available Saturday.

Each District will furnish two centerpieces for the Convention banquet. The State will furnish centerpieces for the Head Table. 1st, 2nd and 3rd prizes will be awarded for the best table decorations. There will be a free drawing again for the centerpieces and also for some record albums.

There will be a \$5.00 nightly charge this year for RV vehicles parking on Fairgrounds property. Some hookups will be available for early arrivals. This includes the parking lot across from the Community Hall that was free last year.

Minnie Bennet, Rt 1, Box 255, McMinnville, Ore, 97128, is the official Historian for the Oregon Old Time Fiddlers Association. To preserve our records and materials about fiddlers, museums and other related arts, send your contributions to her for safekeeping.

Although we call our group the Oregon Old Time Fiddlers Association, we mean "Old Time Music" and not "Old Fiddlers". Let us always encourage, teach, love and guide the youth of the association. Today, many of our well known young people in the Northwest are in an age group from 21 down to some 6 year old fiddlers. As an example the top 10 in the Men's and Championship division at Weiser averaged age 26.

The final meeting of the Board of Directors will be at 1:00 PM Saturday March 19, 1983 at the Roseburg Fairgrounds Convention in Community Hall. This will be a general membership meeting and will finalize the proposals that have been brought up during past sessions. This is important to our members, so come and vote and ballot for your new President, Vice-President and Secretary-Treasurer. District Chairman will present their nominations to the Nomination Committee Chairman, Wayne Holmes, on Saturday morning, prior to the general meeting.

The success of the Hoedowner depends upon the contribution of each District reporter's enthusiasm.

Pay your '83 dues promptly to insure your getting the Newsletter.

Thank You -- See you March 18-19.

NOTE FROM SECRETARY-TREASURER

FEBRUARY 15TH 1983 HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED AS CUT-OFF DATE FOR DUES. AT THAT TIME ALL DUES WILL BECOME DELINQUENT AND NAMES WILL BE REMOVED FROM ROSTERS AND MAILING LISTS. DUES ARE 12:00 PER FAMILY. PLEASE DO NOT SEND ME ANY MORE FOUR OR FIVE DOLLAR CHECKS AS I CAN ONLY RETURN THEM. THANK YOU.

DISTRICT 1

District 1 held their jam session on Sunday Jan 16th at the Klamath Falls Fairgrounds. We had a nice crowd of listeners and a nice group of musicians and all seemed to have a good time.. As usual we had an enormous amount of eats and goodies and all ate to their fill. The meeting was lead by our most capable and happy Chairman, Jerry Ruddock. Several places were mentioned, asking for fiddlers soon and there has been a number of activities during the past month.

We are most happy to welcome into our midst, Loyd and Karen Thomas and daughter Kim, who is a beginning fiddler, Clyde and Pat Boyer from Macdoel, Calif. Pat is a prospective fiddler. Also Terry and Teresa Parr from Lakeview. Terry is a most accomplished musician as he plays Piano, Bass, Guitar, Mandolin and Banjo. What a boost for the Lakeview bunch. I was most happy to see Rosalee's Mom out and about after surgery.

The next meeting will be at the Fairgrounds at Klamath Falls on Feb 20th and there will be election of Officers. At that time the Most Improved Fiddler, the Most Improved Accompanist and Most Enthused Associate member will be selected.

We wish to express our appreciation to those who keep coming to the events and putting effort into the work of the organization and hope to keep finding new fiddler prospects. Happy fiddling to all and may the Good Lord bless each one and keep us all looking forward to a better life.

Until next time -- Keep smiling

ANNE JOHNSON - Reporter

DISTRICT 1E

We had a good turn out for our last jam. John Murray came in from John Day and Turen Dunten from Drewsey.

Our group has been playing a lot this last month. We played at Neil's Tavern New Years Eve. We also played at Murphy's and the Palace this month

District 1E Cont'd

Our Chairman, Rusty Knight, is back from Oklahoma. He and Co-Chairman Ruel Teague met twice with the Chamber of Commerce and they gave him the go-ahead for our Fiddle Contest and set the date for June 30th through July 2nd. Registration will begin Wednesday June 29th. Top prize will be \$650.00. I should have all the categories and prizes for next month's report. It will be at the Burns High School with free parking for self contained campers and trailers. There will be parking at the Fairgrounds with full hookups from \$3.00 to \$5.00. The judges will be Benny Thomasson, Lloyd Wanzer and Jim Herd. The whole town is excited and really involved in this, so I hope it will be a big success.

Our February jam will be at the Museum Club Room on Feb 13th in Burns. The March jam will be March 13th at the Grange Hall in Burns.

I would like to thank the ladies who took over the kitchen for me at the last jam, when I had to go home sick.

JOAN KNIGHT - Reporter

DISTRICT 3

District 3 had it's monthly jam on Sunday, January 9th, there was a good turn out of fiddlers and accompanists. All of our new officers did a great job, getting the feel of their new duties.

We had a few visitors, some local, who dropped by to listen, and Mr and Mrs J. B. Steele came over from Eugene. Mrs Steele lent her hand on the guitar. We also had time to enjoy a few specials by Marge Nimmo, Tony Spatz and Ray Kroetsch.

Our next jam will be February 13, at 1:00 PM at the Bend Senior Center.

PEGGY HANSON - Reporter

DISTRICT 4

Our February Jam and Potluck will be Feb 13th at the Central Point Grange in Central Point Oregon. Doors will open at 10:00 AM, Potluck at 11:00. There will be a meeting for election of officers at 12:00 noon. Doors open to the public at 1:30 PM. BE SURE TO PLAN TO COME TO THE BUSINESS MEETING FOR ELECTION OF OFFICERS. WE HAVE TO HAVE A QUORUM. We are having a hard time varying the location for our jam sessions as Talent, Weimer, and Rogue River halls have church services on Sundays. Come with ideas of where we can meet in the future.

A big "Thank You" to all of the District 4 members who hosted the Jam Session after the State Meeting in Roseburg. Cecil Lacey, Sam Stelle, Dusty Yancey, Julia Pantel, Gene and Mary Lowe, Sheri and Ginger West, Vi and Bud Brown, were a few who braved their way through Valley Fog to attend the State Meeting. They said the fog lifted when they were out of Grants Pass.

Our Chairman, Carvil "Jiggs" Rost was hospitalized for two weeks with an unknown virus. He says he would have much rather spent the time in Tahiti. We are glad he is on the mend now.

Hugh Samples spent some time in the hospital with a scare that his leg would be amputated. Luckily this did not happen and we are looking forward to seeing Hugh back with us soon.

Dusty and Juanita Yancey extend a big "Thank You" to all of the people who helped them clean up after the Roseburg meeting. They are very appreciative.

I need news from all of you. Please send me items that would be of interest.

PATRICIA WHEELER - Reporter
Address in roster

DISTRICT 5

Greetings from the southern coast. We started off 1983 by playing for a dance at Green Acres on New Years Eve. I can't think of a better way to begin a new year-- With good food, good friends, and good music. We had them all for the evening.

Saturday, the 15th found us looking for Ada. We found it and a packed hall. The community turned out to hear the Oregon Old Time Fiddlers. It was a treat for the community and a treat for those of us who were made so welcome.

The 29th will find us at Port Orford for a first time playing for the Senior Citizens from the Gold Beach - Port Orford area. We will be playing from 8:00 to 11:00 and I hear that they are looking forward to us playing. It sounds like another good evening.

Looking at the calendar for February - our first playing date is the 5th when we will be at the Green Acres Grange. We will have a District 5 business meeting at 5:00. After the business meeting and the ELECTION OF OFFICERS for 1983, we will gather around the table for a potluck. Around 7:30 we will start playing for the dancers. Why don't you come and join us.

LEW HOLT - Reporter

DISTRICT 6

Its everyone's birthday in District Six: the district birthday party and business meeting with ELECTION OF OFFICERS will be held Sunday, February 20, at the Eugene Moose Lodge, Twelfth and Chambers. The hall will be open for warming up and jamming at 10:30. Dinner will be served at noon. The District will furnish ham, coffee, and a birthday cake (we needed an excuse for a midwinter celebration), and we'll potluck with salads, vegetables, breads, etc. After dinner we'll hold a business meeting with election of officers, followed by the usual public program at 1:00 PM.

Several of us from the district attended the state meeting and jam session at Roseburg on January 9th. All our other events happened too close to Hoedowner deadline for details, but on January 23 we met for a jam session at the Cottage Grove Elks Lodge, and on January 28 and 29 we kept things jumping at the Elmira Grange with the usual last-Friday-of-the-month dance, and a spaghetti feed on Saturday.

Don't forget the District Six meeting on March 13th at the American Legion Hall in Lebanon.

LINDA DANIELSON - Reporter

DISTRICT 7

I will start my jam report a little early for today we said Good bye to a dear friend and brother musician, Marshal Jackson. Marshal left his influence on a lot of us and a lot of pleasant memories of good times and conversations. He will be missed a great deal by all.

We had a whopper of a jam at the Gresham Center Jan 16th. We had 40 fiddlers. I believe that was a record high, at least since I've been in the association. I want to thank all the accompanists for their help and cooperation, and also the fiddlers for lining up their accompanists ahead of time. It really helps Ed and Bob run a smooth show. The fiddlers who played were Margaret Eng, Stan Gonshorowski, Clarence Davis, Penny Mead, Frank Williams, Bob Fast, Ruth Keene, Greg Baker, Mura Collins, Hollis Taylor, Jake Sweet, Sam Newman, Bill Herd, Katie Melnichuck, Susie Hill, Eileen Melnichuck, Dee Johnson, Erwin Meyers, Dee Tory, John Melnichuck, Leon Carrell, Helen Hakanson, Bill Cavasos, Clark Wheeler, Amy Lewis, Chris Nannini, Diana Brown, Rick Nannini, Travis Laxton, Jason Ewing, Jack Smith, Clara Knight, Esther Morris, Harold Shinley, Robert Buchman, Yvonne Uptmor, Gladys Braskett, Bill Wilson and Barney Alexander.

District 7 Cont'd

We have been asked to donate the proceeds of one District Jam to the State, so our April 10 Jam at Beaverton will be the one we will donate. So everyone come and bring friends so we will have a big audience.

We have heard that Wes Brunson is back in the hospital with a heart aneurism. We wish him the best and a quick recovery so he can join his family and his fiddling family again soon.

Also we have had another wedding in District 7. Esther Snyder Morris and Jim Morris were married in December. Congratulations!!

Our next jam is Feb 13th at the Milwaukie Center at the Clackamas Park. Take Rusk Road exit off Milwaukie Expressway #224. Have a good month and we will see you at Milwaukie, and BE HAPPY everybody. That is what this organization is all about.

PENNY MEAD - Reporter

P.S. I would name all the accompanists, but I do not have all their names and would not want to hurt any feelings, but thanks to them all for they are needed and appreciated very much.

Penny.

DISTRICT 8

We had a full capacity crowd for our January 16th jam at Salem Senior Center. It was good to see some of our coast fiddlers show up, Rusty and Larry Modrell. Also Dave Moffett from Astoria. We have a large district and some times we don't see our good friends from the coast as often as we would like. Dave and I would like to thank all our fiddlers, the kitchen help and the cooks, and especially the audience, because without all of you doing your part, the jam sessions could not be a success.

Our next jam session will be our ELECTION OF OFFICERS on February 13th at McMinnville Grange hall in McMinnville. Doors open at 10:00, Election Meeting will start at 11:00, potluck at noon and show for the public starts at 1:00 PM.

There will be no jam session in March as we have a convention at Roseburg. Hoping to see a big turnout for the election Feb 13th. Everyone should come with some suggestions and some ideas of who you would like to manage the district for the coming year.

District 8 will host a State Jam Session at the Senior Center in Salem, 1055 Erixon St NE on April 17th. Maybe with this much notice, the other districts can schedule around the date with minimum conflict.

JEANETTE ROBINSON - Reporter

SUFFERIN SI SAYS

Maybe we should change the rules of these fiddin contests and use the same rules as the prize fighters. Then when the punishment gets too severe the referee could stop it.

Visitor: "What do you call your dog?"

Man of the house: "Do you mean when I want him to come in, or when I want him to go out?"

The following article was found in the pocket of an old violin case and was reproduced in the April 1970 issue of the Violin and Guitar Makers Journal. It is published here for your interest and enjoyment.

MOLLENHAUER'S VIOLINS

"He who causes two blades of grass to grow where one did before is a public benefactor". This is an old proverb. Can a new proverb be made similar to the old one? He who causes a good violin to take the place of an old one is a musical benefactor; because, if so, Mr Edward Mollenhauer can claim that distinction. Mr. Mollenhauer has long been known as a violinist of the first class, an excellent composer and a good conductor; but it is only recently that he has shown, in addition, a mechanical genius. About three years ago he conceived the idea of a contrivance which should make a poor violin equal in tone to an old and valuable one.

But first a seeming paradox must be alluded to: Unlike in pianos, newness in violins is a disadvantage. While the former instruments deteriorate, violins always grow better with age. The tone becomes deep and mellow, harshness disappears, and in its place comes a smooth and velvety quality, vibratory power is increased, and the instrument greatly enhanced in value. But of course the supply of old violins is limited, and this limitation renders them exceedingly valuable. The great violinists are willing to pay fabulous sums for genuine old violins, and a true Amati or Stradivarius will command almost any amount that the owner chooses to name. Mr Mollenhauer conceived the bold and brilliant idea of rendering a new violin equal in tone to a genuine Cremona, and set his wits at work to solve this problem and after much study and experimenting, he believes that he has obtained his objective.

His improvement consists of an auxiliary sounding-board placed in the interior of the violin, midway between the belly and the back, and supported by two sound-posts one above, and the other below. The effect of this is to give double the vibratory power, and more than double the resonance. Indeed, it may truly be said that this transformation is wonderful. The harsh and rasping tone so often heard from a new violin entirely disappears, and in its place is that smooth velvety, mellow quality so prized by violin players. The power and carrying capacity of the instrument is immeasurably increased, and both depth and dignity added to the tone.

The improvement is added to violins by Messrs. C. Bruno & Son, of New York. The patent is dated August 19, 1879 and as yet it is comparatively unknown; but is bound to make a revolution in the violin trade. A recent visit to Messrs. Bruno's warerooms in company with Mr Mollenhauer, has confirmed us in the impression formed at first hearing. To truly test the invention, it has been placed in a toy violin, which was sold for fifty cents. On hearing this toy played by Mr Mollenhauer, the listener, unless he had been informed otherwise, would declare that a fine old violin was being used.

There is no doubt that this is one of the most valuable musical inventions of this century, and this article is written from a sincere sense of its merit, and unsolicited either by the inventor or the manufacturer.

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