

# 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 1984		DISTRICT	
Feb	11	Jam & ELECTION	VFW Hall	Bandon Or	5
	12	Jam & ELECTION	Senior Center	Burns Or	9
	12	Jam & ELECTION	Talent Community Hall	Talent Or	4
	12	Jam & ELECTION	American Legion Hall	Lebanon Or	6
	12	Jam Session	Senior Center	Bend Or	3
	12	Jam & ELECTION	Clackamas Community College	Oregon City Or	7
	18	CONTEST	Triangle Shopping Center & Columbia Theatre	Longview WA	WOTFA
	19	Jam & ELECTION	McMinnville Grange Hall	McMinnville Or	8
	19	Jam Session	Fairgrounds	Klamath Falls	1
Mar	4	Jam Session	Centro Cultural Bldg	Cornelius Or	7
15,16 & 17		CONVENTION	Douglas Cty Fairgrounds	Roseburg Or	OOTFA
22,23 & 24		CONTEST	NW Regional,	Spokane Falls Wa	
	24	Annual Mtg & Show,	Methodist Ch	Union Or.	BMOTFA
	25	Jam Session		Stayton Or	8
Apr 6 & 7		CONTEST	Hermiston HS	Hermiston Or	BMOTFA
May 11 & 12		STATE CONTEST	Lebanon HS	Lebanon Or	OOTFA

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Our State Meeting, held at Roseburg Fairgrounds January 15, was well attended by Representatives and Chairman of most all Districts. I personally want to thank the Districts for sending your Chairmen or Representative. This is one thing that makes a meeting a qualified meeting. One of the main topics discussed, was our annual meeting and banquet, coming up this March 15, 16 & 17th. Our next State Board meeting will be held at 1:45 to 12:00 o'clock March 17th at the Roseburg Fairgrounds, prior to the annual meeting the same day. I'll try to give you a brief outline of what will be taking place at our annual convention. First of all, we need each and every member to be there that possibly can be. We feel this will be one of the best, biggest and fun convention ever. Something for everyone, from the youngest to the oldest. It starts Thursday night 7:00 to 11:00 PM, jamming, dancing, singing. Just come and do your thing. Each family is asked to bring some finger foods for the jam. Over night camping is \$5.00 per rig. Some hook-ups on first-come basis. Motels in area, but might be wise to make reservations. Friday, Mar 15, the hall will be open early and one may purchase breakfast on Friday and Saturday mornings. Sandwiches will be available through the day at the convention stand. Members will be asked to register and names will be entered in drawings to be held all day. If anyone has something they would like to donate for drawing, contact the State Secretary. So far we have some crocheted items and afghans and a fiddle. (We may sell tickets on some of these items.) Also some paintings. This should add to the fun for the day. Tickets for the banquet will be \$5.00, sold on Friday until they are all gone. So get them early. The price will be less for small children. Bring table service for each one in the family. We are also hoping to have work-

shops Friday and Saturday on Fiddle, Guitar, Banjo, Mandolin and Bass. There will also be a workshop on secretarial work. Saturday Jamming will be reduced during workshops. Greg Baker will be conducting the workshop for fiddle and we hope to have Joey McKenzie on Guitar, Banjo and Mandolin. Friday night show will begin at 7:45 PM. Members holding OOTFA cards prior to convention time will be admitted free. Tickets to the public will be \$3.00, with children under 12 \$1.00.

Anyone wanting to play on the program, contact Les Tucker, 8349 Booth Road, Klamath Falls, Oregon 97603, Phone 882-5049. Do this soon, so he can plan the Friday night program. He would like Group numbers as much as possible, so more can participate in the program. There may be some who won't make it, but it will be because of time, not because of talent. The best way to go would be group performances, and be there Friday so Les can fit your group. If you know in advance, how much time your performance will take, it would help Les plan the program. Wayne Holmes is Convention Chairman, and Maxine Benson, Jeanette Robinson, and Faythe Maahs are the Committee for Banquet Decorations. Each District is asked to bring two centerpiece decorations for the tables using the OOTFA theme. There will be no prizes for these this year. They will be used in drawing at the banquet again. Jim and Gynn Deaton will cater the banquet again, and run the concession stand during days same as last year. Dorothy Huston will be doing publicity in the Roseburg area and Wayne Holmes and Dave Boyd in the Eugene area. The Annual Dance will be the final event of the convention with fiddlers and accompanists taking turns providing the music. There will be other details, clean-up, chair placement etc, where extra help will be needed and everyone and anyone can help. The success of the overall convention depends on the efforts of each and everyone. I know YOU will do your best to help whenever you can.

There will be a more complete convention program schedule in the March Hoedowner. If you need more information, contact your District Chairman, or the individual Committee Chairman named above. See you all at the Convention.

LEONARD MAAHS - President.

#### DISTRICT 1

Feb 2 -- Practice Session at Shasta Grange ... 6:30 PM to 9:00 PM  
Feb 19 - Regular Monthly Jam, Fairgrounds .... Meeting 1:00PM  
Feb 24 - Play at the Apartments.....7:00 PM  
Feb 26 - Nursing homes 2:00 PM

Charlie Sendusky led the meeting in the absence of Chuck Bruneau who went to the State Jam and Meeting at Roseburg. We had thirteen fiddlers who played, including a new fiddler, Bernie Dusenberry, whom we welcome wholeheartedly and hope he comes again. John Lewis was there for a bit, but had to leave as Irene was awfully sick. Paul King was sick and didn't make it, and we missed all these good friends and those who have been playing, but didn't make the program. We really didn't have a very large crowd, but we are thankful for those who did come.

The practice session on the first Thursday of the month seems to be a good thing for those who want to play with others they don't usually play with. I know I appreciate getting to practice with those I don't usually play with and we hope to be able to help each other out when we need it.

There were several things mentioned that were coming up that seemed to be planned for. Thank you's were expressed for the workers at the Christmas Party and the Nominating Committee was to be chosen.

No further business so I end with this message: May the Dear Lord grant us all peace, patience, understanding and love with one another in this New Year.

ANNE JOHNSON - Reporter

### DISTRICT 3

Feb 12 -- Regular Jam Session at the Bend Senior Center, Time 1:30 PM. Every one is invited to join in the fun.

A good time was had at the January Jam and a lot of beautiful music was made by fiddlers George Terrill, Orlo Flock, Bob Hawes, Don Hanson, Brian Hanson, Danny Hanson, Harley and Marge Nimmo, who were backed up by Guitars and Mandolins by Don Hanson, Vollie Chisholm, Jane Thompson, Tom O'Neal and Harley Nimmo. Some fiddlers combined talents and played some very pretty duets.

It was good to have Don Hanna back at the Jam Session. He is out of the hospital again and is doing well at this writing. He really played up a storm on his mandolin. It's so nice to have you up and around again, Don.

The lively audience enjoyed the music and several of them danced, and they really helped to make the jam fun for everyone.

MARGE NIMMO - Reporter

### DISTRICT 4

Feb 12 -- ELECTION & Jam, Potluck, Talent Community Hall, Talent Oregon.

The State Jam was well attended with 26 fiddlers and 13 specials. It was good to see so many Roseburg folks out. Sam Stelle, M.C., wants to thank all of the performers for their cooperation. He knows of nine fiddlers and one special who did not get a chance to play. Hope we can do better next time. Sam & Virginia also want to thank Maxine & Walter Benson and their helpers for their help in setting up chairs. Thanks also to District 4 members and others for cleaning up after the Jam.

We are sorry to report that Cecil Lacey suffered a light stroke; Mae Baldwin had surgery and is in the hospital; Udele Blair is still under doctors care after slipping and falling at the Christmas Party. We pray for a speedy recovery for all of you. We are happy to see Ray Hanson back again.

PAT WHEELER - Reporter

### DISTRICT 5

Feb 4 -- Greenacres Grange Dance

Feb 11 - Bandon VFW Hall Potluck, Business meeting and dance.

Feb 25 - Port Orford Senior Center 8:00

We hope that all of you survived the cold weather and ice and that it did not restrict your travel and fiddling too much. It was great to see and hear many of you at the State Meeting and District 4 Jam in Roseburg.

Meanwhile, back in District 5, we had quality and not quantity this month. January 7th was an exceptionally fine evening at the Greenacres Grange where we met to eat hamburgers and to fiddle. There was a good turn out of fiddlers, back-up and dancers. And a few good friends who just came to listen.

Les McLeod, Alice Holt, Norma Allen, Catherine Hall, Carl Dean, Fred Virtue, Gene Gosney, and I represented the fiddlers. Roy Zeigler, Dale Alley, Murrel Walton, Dan Pullis, Don Mattix, George Ferguson, Paul Williams, Al Lively and Betty Lively all took turns, one way or another, as back up.

We are looking forward to February for three good fiddle playing nights. On the first Saturday we will gather again at Greenacres for their dance. You are invited to order from the menu prepared and cooked by the grangers. The next Saturday, on the 11th, we will go down to Bandon to the VFW Hall for a potluck about

## Dist 5 Cont'd

6:30 and then our business meeting about 7:15. We will discuss items from the State Business meeting and elect out next year's Officers. After the meeting we will get out our fiddles for an evening of dancing. We have been invited down to Port Orford for the 25th at the Senior Center. This evening will begin at 8:00 so there is no potluck. (I'll be glad to recommend a good place to eat in Port Orford)

LEW HOLT - Reporter

## DISTRICT 6

Feb 12 -- Jam, Meeting, ELECTION, American Legion Hall, Lebanon

District Six will meet February 12, at the American Legion Hall, Lebanon. Be sure to attend the 11 AM Business meeting and election of Officers; the nominating committee's slate will include Jack Walker, Chairman, Charlie Sanford, Co-Chairman, and Phillip Walker, secretary-treasurer. Other nominations will be accepted from the floor at the time of the meeting.

At noon the Legion will serve lunch to musicians, spouses, and senior citizens. From the freeway, the hall is on the main road through town, at the North end of the business district.

The January 8 session at Cottage Grove got pretty lively, with about thirty-six events on the program as far as I can figure out. We were pleased to welcome so many guests from out of the district. District four performers included Paul Lakey, Marie Gates, Warren Baker, Van Garrett, Mike Booher and family, and Eddie Britton. Dave Pinkerton and Ella Savery represented District 5. From District 7 was Bob Huffman and from District 8 was Shorty Allen and our State President Leonard Maahs. Thanks for joining us, folks.

Jack Walker tells me that a group called the Country Cousins have been playing at a good many retirement and nursing homes in the area. Some of the group are members, some are not, but the names are familiar. Besides Jack, there's Vivian Steele, Carol and Larry Larsen, Jack Salley, Jim O'Bryant, and Ruth Montgomery. What a good thing to be doing with some free evenings.

LINDA DANIELSON - Reporter

## DISTRICT 7

Feb 12 -- Jam & ELECTION, Clackamas Community College, Oregon City, Or.

Greetings from District No 7. We had a fine show in Beaverton last month with 32 fiddlers participating. The wide selection of desserts at our potluck reminded me of a feature centerfold in Family Circle Magazine. The Casserole selection was less splendid; the main dishes consisted of baked beans, three bean salad and a half dozen meat balls. Next time you plan to attend our potluck, please consider bring a casserole. (Ed Note. I predict that you will have 900 casseroles at the next potluck and nothing else. Ha)

New item... Our sympathy goes out to Mrs Davis. Clarence Davis recently passed away and we will miss him. Gladys Brasket lost a fiddle bow at our November jam at Clackamas Community College. If you happened to accidentally acquire an extra bow at that time, please contact Greg Baker, 657-7125. Carl Helgerson has applied for a life-time membership in the Organization. Good Luck Carl! Anyone wishing to apply for a life-time membership should get a card from Maxine Benson, which must be signed by me.

Our next jam is scheduled for February 12th at Clackamas Community College in Oregon City. I'm asking all the members to attend this jam and special meeting

Dist 7 Cont'd

(11:15) for the election of officers.

Our March 4 jam will be held in the town of Cornelius (near Hillsboro) at the Centro Cultural (the newest building in town.) We are Sunday's featured performance as part of the town's annual Sadie Hawkins Day Celebration.

GREG BAKER - Reporter

DISTRICT 8

Feb 19 -- Jam & ELECTION, McMinnville Grange Hall, McMinnville  
Mar 25 -- Jam Session, Stayton Oregon, (More details next month.)

Our next Jam Session will be at McMinnville Grange Hall, Feb 19th, also Election of Officers for District 8. Potluck, doors open 10:00 AM. Business meeting and Election of Officers at 11:00 Sharp, Lunch at 12:00 and open to the public at 1:00. Come early with pencil in hand to vote.

JEANETTE ROBINSON - Reporter

District 8 added

Had a good jam session with over 300 present at the Salem Senior Center. We enjoyed a very fine program, thanks to all entertainers. Faythe wants to thank all the dear ladies who help serve the potluck. 35 numbers made up the program, MC'd by Dave Robertson. Thanks Dave for the good job. Well Done!!.

LEONARD MAAHS - Reporter.

DISTRICT 9

Feb 12 -- Jam and potluck, Burns Senior Center 1:00 PM  
Feb 19 -- Pioneer Pizza, 2-4 and 6-8

Howdy! I sure hope it's warm wherever you may be, because we are freezing over here. The cold weather hasn't slowed us down any and seems to draw big crowds to the jams. The January 8th jam was enjoyed by all and we even had trouble slowing down the oldtimers to go home. January 24th we are scheduled for an appearance at the nursing home, while on the 29th we will kick off the first of three appearances at the local pizza parlour. We will be playing at Pioneer Pizza from 2-4 and 6-8 on the 29th of January, the 19th of February and the 25th of March.

Our February Jam will be at the Burns Senior Center with a potluck lunch beginning at 1 PM and music to follow on the 12th. The March jam will be on the 11th with a business meeting at 11 AM to elect officers, a potluck at 1 pm and music following. The elected officers will take office July 1st.

Put June 28, 29, and 30 on your calendar for a trip to the High Desert Fiddle Contest. Plans are for bigger and better and we hope to see you all there. More information will be forthcoming over the next few months. As a special favor this year, we've asked the powers that be, to hold the rain!

JANET BURGESS - Reporter

\*\*\*\*\*  
 \* SILENT FIDDLES \*  
 \* We deeply regret having to report the passing, in Texas, of the greatest \*  
 \* of fiddlers, BENNY THOMASON, late of Washington State. He passed away on \*  
 \* January 23, 1984. Benny at one time held the World Championship for fiddling, \*  
 \* also the National Championship at Weiser, and the Senior National Championship.\*  
 \* I am sure he held many more championships. He was the first to bring the Texas\*  
 \* Style of fiddling to the NorthWest. He will be remembered by all as one of the\*  
 \* best of all fiddlers. \*  
 \*\*\*\*\*

Editor's note: I normally don't have this much space to spare for Silent Fiddles, but for Benny Thomason, I would have made room anyway. And for those of you who sent me extra information for Clarence Davis, I appreciate it very much, but have already published the information I had. The additional information I asked for was for future cases. Thanks anyway. Keep up the good work.

NEGATIVE VIEWS ON SOUND POST TINKERING

By Jack Batts

Of all the evils which have beset the makers of violins, that of sound post tinkering is the most foul. This malady is to be found most prevalent among the beginners in the profession, especially among those who are unfortunate in lacking background in the business.

Not only is this disease a waste of time of the individual, that might be better applied to a higher level of learning, but in many cases valuable violins have been practically destroyed by this obsession.

When a post is properly set in any reasonably well built violin, the violin itself, within a short time will adjust to the post. And if one is not capable of determining the proper post length and position the instrument should be put in the hands of a capable repairman.

Any slight change in humidity, barometric pressure, or temperature will have some bearing on the sound and feel of the violin. And he who believes that every evident change in the output of the instrument calls for a mad rush for the sound post setter, is in for a frustrating existence and his violin is in for a trip to the junk yard.

I have known good violinists who carried a sound post setter in their cases and worried the poor fiddle for hours before a concert, trying time after time, concert after concert, to bring the instrument up to peak performance to parallel with weather conditions. I have taken these same violins after the concert was played and found upon examination that the post touched only at one point, top and bottom, and with neither rhyme nor reason in its location or length.

When working at the bench with the aid of mirrors and lights, sometimes as much as an hour to make a post grow to top and bottom, neither too long nor too short, I am dumbfounded that an otherwise intelligent person could imagine that he could jerk a post haphazardly and retain a fit or improve upon the tonal production acquired by my hours experienced labor.

I have not forgotten that one can bask in a world of fantasy and have learned over a period of years that the uninitiated pursuer of violin magic, can nearly always be listed among the world's nicest people. For some reason, the individual who believes and takes part in this merry chase has the innocence and lovable qualities which makes him akin to the humanness of the violin itself. And far be it for me to discourage the chase or deny him the entertainment of sound post tinkering. Do permit me however to plead with him to apply this tinkering to a violin of little value, and with study and time, hope that he may learn to set the post and leave it.

Copied from Violin & Guitar Makers Assn article dtd Jan 1965

Another Editor's Note - Please DO NOT send your write-ups or recommendations for entertainer of the month directly to the Editor. The President makes the selections and must see them before I can publish them, so Please send them direct to the President. Thank you.

## ENTERTAINER OF THE MONTH

### BARNEY ELLIS ALEXANDER

Barney Ellis Alexander was born in Stoutland, Missouri, May 28, 1913. He had no formal music training, but was always interested in music from an early age. When he was eight years old he received his first guitar and learned several tunes. He had a black friend by the name of Washington Vernon, who took him along to barn dances. When he was twelve, he borrowed his cousin's fiddle and learned to play it. It took him a week to learn one square dance. He played on the Springfield, Missouri Radio station KWTO and Joplin WMBH. He played dance halls for as little as \$2.00 a night. After coming to Oregon, he still played in bands and dance halls. Among them was Springers in Gresham, Terry Dumont's, Arky & Jolly Cowboys, Symphoners, Pals of the Golden West, as well as several Gospel Music Groups and several records. He has played with, backed-up or played for such notables as Spade Cooley, Tex Ritter, Tex Tyler, Smiley Burnette (Frog), Bob Wills, Billy Jack Wills, Willie Nelson and Sons of the Pioneers. Among some of the trophies and awards he has won are, Oregon State Champion, Senior Division, 1980, Judge at NOTFA contest at Weiser, 1982, 1st Place Tehama District 6, Senior. 3rd Place, Oregon State Seniors 1982, 2nd Place Seniors at Canyonville. 5th Place Seniors NOTFA Weiser 1981, 2nd Place Senior Drain 1978. 3rd Place Sr Canyonville 1981 and 4th Place Oregon State Senior 1981.

Tall, slim, affable and good natured, Barney was a barber by trade but has been retired for some time. Always friendly, he is always ready to help someone and show them the intricacies. His "Cow crossing the Road" and "Tennessee Wagoner" are a real treat at any time. Those are just two of the hundreds of tunes he knows and plays in real championship style.



Address correction requested

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Oregon Old-Time Fiddlers Association

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Once in a while  
there's a friendship

that is wonderful right from the start,

Once in a while there's a friendship

that brings special joy to the heart--

Once in a while a friendship is made

that will last a lifetime through--

And I'm so thankful

a friendship like that

is the kind I am sharing with you.

*Happy Valentine's Day*

