

THE HOEDOWNER

Waldport, Oregon

July 8, 1967

THE HOEDOWNER is again ready to spread the Fiddling news though out the land. The first item will be places and dates of coming events.

THERE WILL BE-----

An open Fiddling contest at Cottage Grove on Friday night July 14. This contest is always a good one so for heavens sake don't miss it.

A Potluck Dinner and Jam session for all fiddlers, and this is open to the public so bring anyone who wishes to come. It will be Sunday, July 23 and it will be at 1400 Lake Drive in the river Road recreation Hall at Eugene. Come out River Road to Horn Lane, Horn Lane to Lake Drive and follow Lake Drive to the Park. Those coming from the North will take Howard Lane to Lake Drive. This arrangement was made by L.A. Powers of Eugene.

Next is the contest at the Douglas County Fair at Roseburg, August 12. I have not yet got all of the information I need on this contest but I am sure it will be a good one and any additional information I get I will pass on to you as soon as possible.

The last date we have at this time is the Contest at the state Fair in Salem, August 29. The fair Board has offered us \$250 for prizes and judges. We can split it up to suit ourselves so lets start thinking about it.

JUST A FEW COMMENTS FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

I am a little afraid most of you don't realize the amount of work there is in going around to the different places where they have contests and help them arrange their affairs so the contest runs smooth and much time is saved. Then we have to almost beg for judges to judge for us. We spend many hours answering letters about Fiddling contests and shows. Then of course we go out to the contests and play the same as the rest do. We also do our part of the judging.

Now, lets think about the HOEDOWNER for a minute. First we have to gather up all the information of the past activities, then get the dates on what is coming up next. Put it all together and go to press. When it is printed we have to fold and tape it. When that is done I have to stamp each one with three different rubber stamps, then my wife and I have to hunt the correct names, addresses and code numbers and write them on each copy. No, that is not quite all yet. They all have to be stamped and mailed. My tongue is still sore from the last one, too much licking. When all is done, it takes about one full day to fold, tape, stamp, address, stamp and mail 200 copies.

I am not complaining. I am willing to do all I can for the Fiddlers and fiddling. Lets take a good look at ourselves and see just what all we are doing. If we could get a few people to volunteer to

address the papers we could furnish the names and addresses. Also if we had a few volunteers for judging duty. Then with a few other short cuts we could take, it would be much easier.

I have talked with several fiddlers on the subject of judging and the most popular excuse for not wanting to judge is the complaints they get from the Fiddlers. The National fiddling Association has a ruling that all complaints must go to the management and not to the Judge. If our Association would adopt such a plan it might be easier to get Judges.

Cliff Buker, President

We want to thank our good friend, Editor and Printer Pat Beardsley for good work on the HOEDOWNER. She is, thank goodness, a member of our Association.

We want to congratulate the Molalla contest Committee on managing a very successful Contest. They are all entitled to much praise, the Judges, Secretaries, Announcers, and all of the Committee.

The contest was entirely played off in a record time of four hours. In the open contest the first place went to, guess who, Harold Allen. Second place to Bill Yohey, third to Jimmie Miller, fourth to a man from California, and like our money, his name has escaped us. Fifth place went to Cliff Buker.

In the Seniors our Stanley Edwards of McMinnville took second place, and John Bruhl from Estacada took third.

OH THE LIFE OF A FIDDLER

This is the autobiography of L.A. Powers of Eugene, Oregon.

Pop Powers was born in Robert Lee, Texas February 13, 1891. He started fiddling at the ripe old age of nine. His first fiddle was made of a cigar box and the strings were thread. The bow was made from a willow stick and the hair came from the old grey mare's tail. He began playing dances with his brother and sister when he was twelve years old.

For about thirty six years he didn't play very much due to prevailing circumstances, but when he came to Eugene in 1952 he started in again.

He has played three times in the Senior division in the National Contest in Weiser and took fifth place twice. He also took third place in the State Senior Contest at Tillamook.

On August 29 this year he and his wife Irene will have their fiftieth wedding anniversary. They have four children, eleven grandchildren, and three great grandchildren. Pop is also a veteran of World War 1.

SCRAPINGS FROM THE BOTTOM OF THE FIDDLING BARREL

The other day I was visiting with our good friend, Charley Johnson, and he told me about a friend of his who wanted to get married but there were complications and Charley told him to go to one of these agencies who put out advice on such matters, and this is the letter he wrote.

Dear Madam X:

I have met a very charming girl who I want to marry, and she is willing, but she wants to know something about my family background so I have only to say, I have two sisters and two brothers. My sisters are both shoplifters and have been in jail for this offence several times but they have no other occupation and they have to support my aged father. My older brother is now doing ten years in the state prison for armed robbery and my younger brother is a Fiddler. Now, do you think I should tell her about the fiddler?

We, the Oregon Oldtime fiddlers Association, have several matters of importance to put into action and we should get together as soon as possible and decide what to do about it. First, there is a matter of a convention. Then a state Contest, and there are people asking me to get fiddlers to come and play for programs at various places. I can not give them answers unless we get together and make some decisions.

I can make decisions for myself, but not for you. I might turn down a good deal just because we don't get together more often, so let's have a short business meeting at Cottage Grove just before the contest next Friday night and maybe we can cure some of the ills of Fiddling.

Yes we went to Weiser for the National fiddling contest and if you have been there you probably know how it is. If you haven't been to a National it is about time you went to Weiser and started living.

We camped in a big park adjoining the High School where the Contest was held. The park was full of large oak trees for plenty of shade. There were people from Idaho, California, Washington, Oregon and many other states all camped in the Park together and it looked like the gypsies had come to town. I believe I met some of the best people on earth in that camp. There was fiddling, talking, visiting, laughing, singing and more fiddling all day and some at night, but nobody ever goes to Weiser to sleep.

The contest was a very well organized affair. The judging was very good and Oregon had two men in the top eight. For which we should be very proud. They were Harold Allen and Rusty Modrell. I am sure you have to play a fiddle to get in the top eight, the competition was terrific.

The Senior Championship came back to Oregon where it belongs, but it has been so long ago now I will wait until next year and tell you who lost it.

It is now way past my bedtime so I will close the office until next month. I will see you at Cottage Grove next Friday night so good night for now.

Cliff Buker, President

Oregon Oldtime Fiddlers Association