

# THE HOEDOWNER

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE OREGON OLD TIME FIDDLERS ASSOCIATION  
DEADLINE FOR ARTICLES ISSUED 25th OF EVERY MONTH.  
AUGUST 1975

PRESIDENT-----	JIM SECOR	852 Ivy Way N.E.	Salem, Oregon
VICE-PRESIDENT----	HUGH SAMPLES	460 N. 3rd	Central Point, Oregon
SEC. TREAS.-----	DULCIE FAST	3707 S.E. Clinton	Portland, Oregon
EDITOR-----	EVELYN WALTER	2735 S.E. 18th	Portland, Oregon 236-0628

## COMING EVENTS

Aug. 2	Saturday Afternoon	Eugene Mall	Eugene, Oregon
Aug. 8 & 9	Fair	Benton County Fair	Corvallis, Oregon
Aug. 15	Fair	Clackamas Fairgrounds	Canby, Oregon
Aug. 16	Fair	Polk County Fair	Rickreall, Oregon
Aug. 20	6:30 - 7:45	Main Mall - Lloyd Center	Portland, Oregon
Aug. 23	Contest	High School	Canyonville, Oregon
Aug. 24-Sept. 4	Campout	Warwick Ranch	Williams, Oregon
Aug. 24	Jamboree & Dance	Modoc County Fair	Cedarville, Calif.
Aug. 31	Contest	Big Foot Days	Happy Camp, Calif.
Sept 21	Jam Session	Ocean Crest Grade School	Bandon, Oregon
Oct. 19	Pancake Feed & Jam	Warner Grange	Canby, Oregon

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It will soon be Fair time again and I hope that all Fiddlers and Accompanists that are able to, will be there to play. Wayne Holmes does a good job of arranging this every year and he should have 100% cooperation. Wayne will not be active in the organization after this year. He will be missed. He has worked faithfully and will be hard to replace. We owe him a big vote of thanks.

My apologies to Minnie Bennett for failing to mention that she was Official Hostess at the Hospitality House at Weiser for Oregon. She is also a loyal member. Thanks Minnie.

Jim Secor

## DISTRICT I EVENTS

District 1, with the help of Don Gish, Dusty Yancey and Jack McCassland played for the Midland Community Reunion, Saturday night, July 19th. Several of us then went to the Fiddler's Picnic at Mary's Indian Park on Sunday. Other activities we fiddled for were the Picnic and Bar-B-Que Saturday evening July 26th at the Morman Church and also at the Bonanza Gig Springs Park. We have been asked to play for a Jamboree and Dance at the Modoc County Fair in Cedarville, Cal. Sunday evening, August 24th, beginning at 8:00 PM. We need all the help we can get. \$100.00 of the proceeds is earmarked for the Warwick Campout. Come one, Come all.

Delberta Daniel for Doris Clark,  
Reporter.

## DISTRICT 4 HAPPENINGS AND COMING EVENTS

Ralph Dias sent the following and would like all you fiddlers that can come down and help to put on a great contest.

Happy Camp is having a Fiddler's contest, August 31st, Sunday at 2:30 PM.

Judging will be by applause. This is for Big Foot Days, so the trophy will have a big foot on it. 1st place will be the trophy. 2nd and 3rd places will be Rosettes with a big foot on them. They are having a parade at 11:00 AM and would like as many fiddlers as can to participate in it. Anyone who can make it, please write to me, Ralph Dias, Rt. 1 Box 532, Yreka, Cal 96097 Phone: Area Code 916-842-3112. Directions to Happy Camp, Cal coming from the North on 1-5 take the Klamath River Road to Collier Rest Stop and follow signs. (We looked on the California map and this should be Hwy 96. Ed) This is something new so all of you that can come please do. I know everyone will appreciate it. Thankyou.

Ralph Dias

On July 4th our southern Fiddlers with several guests from near and far played at Ashland, Rogue River, Yreka and several other functions. The requests for fiddlers are many this summer but so many people are going on vacation that it is hard to organize any real entertainment. The Fiddlers did play for the Oklahoma Picnic in Grants Pass City Park on July 13th, after which they all went to Stella Neathammer's to help her celebrate her birthday. We all had lots of fun and a delicious potluck. On July 19th several families of Fiddlers camped by Indian Mary Park. A fine Jam Session was enjoyed that evening. On July 20th, the Bobell's hosted a picnic at Indian Mary Park on the Rogue. Hope everyone had their tummys full of watermelon.

August 2nd and 3rd will be clean-up campout weekend. We will be potlucking the whole weekend. Probably will have a pancake breakfast at least once.

The Fiddlers have been asked to play at the Josephine County Fair on August 14th for the senior citizens. They have asked us to wear old fashioned costumes. We will be playing from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM at the dance pavillion. See Martha Warwick for gate tickets for the fiddlers, their wives, accompanists and their wives.

The Campout will start on August 24th this year. We'll all probably caravan down from Canyonville. See you all in Canyonville first.

Martha Warwick

#### DISTRICT 6 NEWS

District 6 reporter forgot us this month. Hope they do better in August. We like to hear what is going on in Central Oregon.

Earl and Elsie Willis sent us the following:

To all of those who sent cards and extended their good wishes, also those who visited Earl during his recent stay in the hospital for major surgery. Our heartfelt thanks to each and everyone of you.

#### DISTRICT 7 COMINGS AND GOINGS

Don't forget our County Fairs. Friday, Aug. 15th at Clackamas County Fair in Canby at 2:00 PM and again Friday evening at 7:00 PM. Saturday Aug. 16th we play at Rick-reall Fairgrounds for the evening show. Exact time has not been given but try to come early. We also have another big night at Lloyd Center on Aug. 20th beginning at 6:30 PM.

"YOU ALL COME, HEAR" See you then.

Wayne Walter

Several of the Fiddlers and Guitar players of this area played for the Canby Historical Society at their annual picnic held in the Fairgrounds at Canby on July 13th. They were Mona Luczycki, Ray Scissons, Bob Hughes, Earl Bequette, Archie Erickson, Walter Hardy, Frank Williams and a visitor from Morgantown, West Virginia, John Lozier.

Frank Williams

Several Fiddlers and accompanists had the pleasure of jamming and visiting with a fellow fiddler, John Lozier and his wife from Morgantown, W.V. on two different occasions. One evening at Penny and Ed Meads and one evening at Wayne Walters' home.

It was most interesting as he played some tunes we didn't know and a tune or two I hadn't heard since childhood. We have met at several homes and enjoyed playing together. Also some of our fiddlers have been busy playing for senior citizen centers dances, etc.

Jim and Gladys Braskett called for help to play at a small fair at Orchards, Wa. Several fiddlers and accompanists showed up to help them and later enjoyed jamming at their home.

Bob Fast, Reporter.

### DISTRICT 8 COASTAL NEWS

You folk who failed to show up at the Yachats smelt feed and jam really missed out on a lot of fun. The food was delicious and an enthusiastic audience filled the school auditorium to capacity.

The program began at 1:00 PM with a short patriotic speech by Chill Wills, the TV and movie actor. It then proceeded in the usual manner with the following fiddlers each playing three numbers; Jim Morris, Don Gish, Rusty Modrell, Jim Sutton, Harm Baker, Dave Murray, Floyd Harmon, Charlie Johnson, Gus Pearson, Vi Jensen, Carl Van Hooser, Valdemar Nelson, Les McLeod, Morris Mitchell, Everett Lychworth, Mrs. David Boyd and Fiddler Sue with her group.

Specials were played by Carleton Smith and twin fiddle numbers by Cliff Buker and Jim Morris also by Don Gish and Rusty Modrell.

The accompanists were not listed but as always were very much appreciated. Many thanks to Cliff Buker who made the arrangements for the Jam and who, along with Don Gish, presided as M.C.

Minnie Bennett, Reporter

### OUR ACCOMPANIST and FIDDLER FOR AUGUST

#### "CHARLEY FRANCIS"

Charley was born in Plainview, Texas, July 15, 1929. His early years were spent in western Oklahoma and the Texas Panhandle area. His grandfather was an old time fiddler and his father played the small button accordion, harmonica and fiddle.

Charley started playing the tenor banjo at the age of nine. Later he took up the mandolin which became his main instrument. At that time the Francis family had their own orchestra and played over several radio stations in the area and many other functions and occasions. Charley spent two years in the Korean conflict, playing mandolin and guitar every chance he had. He won his first Oldtime Fiddlers Contest on May 2, 1953 in Guymon, Oklahoma, playing mandolin. In 1967, Charley bought a bass fiddle, rebuilt it, then started playing the bass for square dancing in Phoenix, Arizona. It was here he became interested in the fiddle and started playing, repairing, and making them. After moving to Oregon in 1970 he heard about the Oregon Oldtime Fiddlers Association and joined them at the first opportunity.

Big Charley, with his big bass fiddle, is always a welcome addition to any musical occasion. He is always willing and ready to accompany any fiddler from the best to the poorest and his contributions to oldtime fiddling music are greatly appreciated by all.

Minnie Bennett, Historian

### CONTEST - CANYONVILLE - August 23rd:

Contest Site: Canyonville Junior High Gym  
Registration: 10:00 A.M. to 12:00 Noon. Draw for Place.  
M.C. Wayne Holmes

Judges: Bill Yohey, Wayne Walter, George Jenkerson

Preliminaries: 1:30 P.M.

Finals: 7:00 P.M.

JUNIOR CONTEST

Entry fee: \$2.00

18 years old and younger.

1st Prize - \$15.00

2nd Prize - \$10.00

3rd Prize - \$ 5.00

OPEN CONTEST

Entry fee: \$5.00

No age restriction.

Any fiddler may enter.

1st Prize - \$50.00

2nd Prize - \$40.00

3rd Prize - \$30.00

4th Prize - \$20.00

SENIOR CONTEST

Entry fee: \$3.00

60 years old and older.

1st Prize - \$25.00

2nd Prize - \$20.00

3rd Prize - \$15.00

INTERMEDIATE CONTEST

Entry fee: \$4.00

No age restriction.

Any fiddler who has not placed in the top twenty at Weiser and who has not placed in the top five of any State or Regional Contest.

1st Prize - \$30.00

2nd Prize - \$25.00

3rd Prize - \$20.00

4th Prize - \$15.00

5th Prize - \$10.00

6th Prize - \$ 5.00

Trophies will be awarded in each place in addition to the prize money. Only one division may be entered.

Volunteers for Special Entertainment during the contest are greatly appreciated. Please write, call, or let me know at the registration desk on August 23rd if you are willing to help. This contest is the ninth annual Pioneer Days Contest. See you there.

Gynn Deaton  
P.O. Box 487  
Canyonville, Oregon 97417  
Phone: 839-4501

RESULTS OF THE DRAIN CONTEST

- Open
1. Don Gish
  2. John Melnichuk
  3. Loretta Brank
  4. Garry Moore
  5. LeRoy Sim

- Intermediate
1. Warren Baker
  2. Jack McCasland
  3. Penny Mead
  4. Sue Rosenberg

- Seniors
1. George Stout
  2. Jonas Cox
  3. Neils Tobiason

Junior: Steve Bennett

A big thanks this year again to the Powells whose hospitality always makes our trip to Drain so enjoyable.

THE FIDDLER.

The music from his fiddle doth flow,  
Across the strings he draws his bow,  
A song of beauty for all to hear,  
A waltz recalled from yesteryear.

Steady the cadence of one, two, three,  
Notes played on in harmony,  
Dancers swaying love to hear,  
The waltz recalled from yesteryear.

Hark! Now the tempo ~~he~~ increases,  
Flying fingers quickly releases,  
Notes of hoy for all to hear,  
A hoedown played from yesteryear.

A jig, a polka learned by heart,  
Tapping feet soon will start,  
With ~~rhythm~~ steady and tones clear,  
He'll play a song from yesteryear.

Those songs he plays are a treasure,  
The richness of joy, love and pleasure,  
Though to some may provoke a tear,  
For a time recalled from yesteryear.

His reward as he plays the while,  
Is the melody of a fervent smile,  
To some sad life he has brought cheer,  
With beautiful melodies of yesteryear.

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CHARLEY JOHNSON

Charley was born in Longton, Kansas in 1896. In 1899 he moved with his family to Blackfoot, Idaho where his father became superintendent of schools.

In his second year of high school Charley started to play the fiddle at his father's request. He continued playing through high school and two years at the University of Idaho. At Colfax, Washington he joined the Colfax Danceland Sycopaters. At Portland he played with the original Trailblazers over radio station KGW.

Charley is a machinist by profession and worked for W.P.A. and in the shipyards, playing for dances all the time to augment his salary. He played at Jantzen Beach for twenty-two years and even taught school for a year.

The last few years Charley has belonged to and played with the Marylhurst Orchestra, two other small orchestras and plays four times a week.

Charley joined the Old Time Fiddlers Association in 1965. Since then he has won one fifth and three third places in the National competition of Seniors at Weiser. He also has won in State and Regional contests over the state and northwest. He has approximately twenty trophies which attest to his excellence as a fiddler.

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P.S.

There will be a State Jam Session at the Sunnyside Grange.  
East of 82nd on Sunnyside Road on Sept. 14 - Doors open 10 AM.  
Potluck at noon.