

THE HOE DOWNER

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE OREGON OLD TIME FIDDLERS ASSOCIATION
 DEADLINE FOR ARTICLES ISSUED 25th OF EVERY MONTH
 APRIL 1977

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COMING EVENTS

				<u>DIST.</u>
Apr. 8 & 9	Northwest Regional Contest	Trent Grade School	Spokane, Wn.	
Apr. 9	Jam Session	Community Building	Reedsport, Or.	5
Apr. 17	Jam Session	Grange Hall	Talent, Or.	4
Apr. 17	Jam Session	Elks Lodge	Sweet Home, Or.	6
Apr. 23	State Jam Session	Henley High School	Klamath Falls, Or.	1
Apr. 24	Jam Session	Lincoln City Grange	Ocean Lake, Or.	7
Apr. 24	Jam Session	Wynema Hall	Yreka, Calif.	4
May 1	Jam Session	Elmira Grange	Elmira, Or.	6
May 6 & 7	Contest	Vert Auditorium	Pendleton, Or.	
May 8	Jam Session	Grange Hall	Talent, Or.	4
May 14	Jam Session		Bay City, Or.	7
May 22	Jam Session		Gold Beach, Or.	5
May 28	State Contest	High School	Bend, Or.	
June 14-18	National Contest	High School	Weiser, Idaho	

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to all of the membership for their confidence and consideration in electing me president for 1977.

I am looking forward to an active and interesting year. There are many activities and challenges ahead of us this year, and with your help we will address and meet them successfully.

As many of you know, I have recently moved to Medford and Eileen and I are looking forward to meeting and enjoying the folks in that area.

Those of you who attended the State Convention will agree that it was a success again this year. Everyone I am sure had a great time. We owe a special thanks to our convention chairman, Wayne Holmes and the many others who helped put it together and made it work.

Again, thank you, and feel free to call or drop me a note relative to your views, concerns or ideas regarding any and all matters affecting our organization. We will need your input and will certainly appreciate your help in continuing to expand and strengthen our association.

John Melnichuk

NOTE FROM OUR VICE-PRESIDENT

I am thanking everyone again for your vote of confidence. As vice-president of OOTFA I'm hoping I'll be able to get some activity going in the near future. Wasn't that a wonderful convention? Also I found a man's glove up by my PA system, anyone losing it let me know and I'll send it to you. Thank you,

LeRoy Sims 929-5784

OUR SECRETARY SAYS THANK YOU

I would like to thank all of the people who were so willing to help me at our convention. Without all of these workers we wouldn't have much of an organization. At our business meeting, it was decided to purchase some property after we make a thorough legal check. Wayne Walter is to head a committee composed of the District Chairmen to do the investigating.

We are dropping our affiliation with the National Fiddlers. You may join as an in-

dividual by sending \$3.00 to Arlene Graham, Box 202, Winchester, Idaho 83555. For those who have sent me money for the National newsletter, I will try to return it in your May Hoedowner.

Contest rules and our summer shows received quite a bit of discussion. We will have a Junior-Junior Division at our State Contest. The president will be show Chairman and the chairman for the district that the show will be in will be in charge of that particular event. Being sure there will be enough fiddlers to put on a good show, as our organization derives most of it's revenue from the shows. Without these our dues would have to be raised.

I don't have all of the figures yet but it looks like we spent more than we took in at the convention but I'm sure everyone who attended considers it money well spent.

Edna Yohey

CONTEST NEWS

RESULTS FROM THE FOREST GROVE CONTEST

<u>Open</u>	<u>Juniors</u>	<u>Seniors</u>
1. Paul Anastasia	James Mason	Clarence Norberg
2. Barbara Lamb	Jamie Maxwell	Fred Hildebrandt
3. Carol Wheeler	Joey Hanson	George Jenkerson
4. Bill Yohey		
5. Jonny McDonald		

PENDLETON CONTEST: May 6 & 7

There will be a champion division paying 5 places, total money \$500. Open division 5 places, total money \$200. Intermediate division, 5 places, total money \$150. Junior and Senior division 5 places, total monies \$150. It is not known at this time if there will be trophies or not. Juniors and Seniors will play Friday night, Champions, open and intermediates will play off Saturday afternoon with the finals being Saturday night. Blue Mountain rules will preside. Any questions call Buford Kinnison, 276-6220, Pendleton, Or.

NORTHWEST REGIONAL: April 8 & 9

Trent Grade School. Junior-juniors, seniors and ladies will play on Friday, starting with the junior-juniors at 8:00 AM. Saturday beginning at 9:00 AM will be the Gen. Div.

DISTRICT #1

Our monthly meeting and potluck dinner, March 12, was a great success. There was a very good turnout and many out of towners present. We discussed the State Jam Session. It will be held April 23 at the Henley High School. Space for overnight camping is available for self-contained campers only as there will be no rest room facilities after the jam session. Doors will be open at 2:00, Saturday afternoon for those who wish to practice together, potluck dinner at 5:00. Jam session starts at 7 PM and is open to the public. Bring own table service for potluck.

March 5th, a few of the fiddlers and accompanists entertained at the County Nursing Home. March 13, a group entertained at 2 other nursing homes. I think that is great.

Our next jam session and meeting will be held at the Lorella Community Hall, Lorella, Ore. April 9. It is about 10 miles S.E. of Bonanza, Or. There will be a potluck dinner. Bring own table service and main dish with a dessert or salad and dessert. Thanks to all past officers for the great job they did.

Irene Ruddock, Reporter. 8046 Hwy. 140, Klamath Falls, Or 97601
862-6418

DISTRICT #4

The Siskiyou Fiddlers are having their annual jam session April 24th at Wynema Hall in the Fairgrounds at Yreka. Potluck at 11:00 music starts at 1 PM with Marvin Wright as MC. As always we need your help and look forward to seeing you all there. The Fairgrounds are at the 3rd Yreka-Fort Jones interchange on the east side.

Ralph Dias

DISTRICT #5

There will be a jam session Saturday, April 9 at the Reedsport Community Building. Doors will open at 10:00 AM, potluck at 11:30 and show to begin at 1pm. Show will be

Show will be open to the public.

Geri Virtue, Reporter

DISTRICT #6

Just a few items from the District 6 meeting at the convention. As you know, Chairman is George Stout, Co-chairman David Boyd, Sec. Treas. Mary Holmes, Reporter Poco Boyd & Alice and Wesley Beemer will be kitchen chairmen. Other items of interest will come from Poco Boyd, relative to any activities planned or whatever.

The jam session planned for Sweet Home, Elks Lodge, is set for April 17. Doors open at 10:30 AM, potluck at 12 noon, show at 1 PM. Directional signs will be posted as usual. Some changes in directions may be necessary, due to the fact that some highway construction will be going on.

Greg Stout, Chairman

The jam session at Cottage Grove Moose Hall, March 6th was very well attended, with 28 fiddlers and 10 accompanists attending and an overflow audience donated generously. I do believe the OOTFA is getting bigger and better all the time.

David Boyd, ex-reporter

There will be a potluck and jam session at the Elmira Grange, Elmira, Or. Hall is at 88764 Sprague. Potluck at noon, jam session begins at 1. Everyone is invited. This jam session is being held to honor some of our special members.

Marjorie O'Bryant

DISTRICT #7

A group of us were asked to play at the Earl Kellys Restaurant on 82nd for the Kiwanis Club. We had a very nice lunch and several called and told us how much they enjoyed the program. Thankyou all who helped Ed and I put it on. Penny Mead, Reporter.

My Dear Friends,

I would like to thank each and every one of you for your cards and phone calls to my home and hospital. Your concern was very comforting. I am home now and with care and time Penny and I will be back with you. Thanks so very much. Ed Mead.

We would like to invite all the Oregon Fiddlers to our next jam session here in Vancouver. Del Anderson informed me that all material put in the Hoedowner should be written and sent to you, as I have been chosen to do so you will probably be receiving a note from me each month. Our next jam will be held on April 16, to be at the Minnehaha Grange. Potluck is at 6 PM and music at 8 PM. ~~Take the 39th St. exit, go east to St. John's, turn left and continue on.~~ It is on the right hand side of St. John's Rd. next to the "Polar King" ice cream store. Looking forward to seeing you all there.

Mary VanAndel

This is the Washington members of our district 7 so lets all get out there and give them a hand. They really have a good turnout from the local people who come to listen and dance, so lets go make music for them.

The Rebel Radio Club has asked our fiddlers to play for their spaghetti feed April 23rd. All fiddlers and accompanists who want to play, come with their spouses for a spaghetti dinner around 4 PM and then we will play for their club. Hope to see you there. Location is Warner Grange near Canby, Or.

Penny Mead has been appointed reporter, so any news that you have and wish to get it in the Hoedowner be sure and send it to her.

Dulcie Fast.

This is just a reminder to all fiddlers and accompanists. On Monday, April 11, 7 PM Woodburn High School gym we have been asked to play for 15 minutes and stay for the entire program if you like and again on May 6, 7:30 PM at the Armory, Salem Fairgrounds. Proceeds of both concerts go towards charity. Will see you there. Information on the Bay City Jam Session in the May Hoedowner. Mona Luczycki, Sec. Dist. #7

DISTRICT #8

Our convention has come and gone again. I'm sure everyone had a fantastic time. Great to see so many old friends from the Southern districts. We had 23 attending from our dist., hope I counted them all. The Friday evening potluck was really enjoyable and the Banquet dinner was delicious Sat. night. The friday night show was outstanding as usual. The table decorations were lovely, made by Joyce Grissom. I had my fingers crossed but didn't win one. The dance started about 8 PM and was still going on when we went back to our trailer about 1:15. My feet still hurt! Worth it though, thanks to all the musicians who played. Welcome to all our new officers.

Dist. 8 will have a jam session at Lincoln City Grange Hall April 24. Hall opens at 10 AM, potluck at noon for members. Show at 1, see you there. Bea Smith, Reporter
The Officers of Dist. 8 wish to thank the membership for the vote of confidence for another year. Carlton Smith, Gus Pearson and Edna Yohey.

ITEMS OF INTEREST

The 17th annual TOPANGA BANJO FIDDLE CONTEST will be held at Corsair Field, Santa Monica College, Sun. May 29. This conflicts with our state contest but anyone wishing further info contact me and I'll send what I have.

Jim and Jesse, stars of the Grand Ole Opry will appear at the Euphoria, 315 SE 3rd starting at 9:30 PM. Also appearing with them will be fiddler Joe Meadows.

The 1977 American Old Time Music Festival will be Fri. April 15 at 8:30 PM, Portland State University, Smith Center Ballroom. There is a workshop Thurs. April 14 beginning at noon, Viking Lounge, PSU. Appalachian traditions are emphasized this year. The touring company, assembled by Mike Seeger, will perform a variety of musical styles which are found in the southeastern states and have strong roots going back to both Elizabethan and African music. Appearing will be Louis Boudreault, The Ola Belle Reed String Bank, Leonard Emanuel, Mike Seeger and Alice Gerrard. This is supported in part by the Seattle Folklore Society and the National endowment for the Arts. Arranged by Mike Seeger and John Ullman. There will be a charge for these show.

We have for sale at cost, name badges in the shape of Oregon State. They will be blue on white with a fiddle on the left hand side. Cost of the badge is \$2.35 and will have your first & last name and town in which you live. Bars can be purchased for an additional .65 each. You may have anything you like printed on them, the type of instrument you play, fiddler, listener, booster, accompanist or whatever office you hold or a bar with your district no. on it. Additional bars after the initial order will be .75 to cover the cost of postage. If we can get the order in it will be ready for the contest and will be distributed there. Anyone wishing to order please send check to me, Evelyn Walter, 2735 S.E. 18th Ave., Portland, Or. 97202 by the 20th of April so we can have them ready. The illustrated picture is approximately how they will look.

NEWS FROM ASTORIA AND LONGBEACH WASHINGTON AREA

We've been enjoying our beginning fiddle class at Clatsop Community College these last 10 weeks. Our friend and instructor is Margaret Lenker.

The class was invited to play March 23rd for the American Association of Retired Persons. There were eight fiddlers present, one young lady on guitar, and Margaret on the piano. All of us were a little nervous at first but our half hour went whizzing by as we had such an enthusiastic audience.

Now we are anxious to meet for another 9 weeks and learn more tunes together. Hopefully we can generate more interest in Old Time Fiddle music, as one of the members of AARP was overheard saying "that's real music."

Sincerely
Lyle Reed



FIDDLER OF THE MONTH

PENNY DEE MEAD

Penny was born in Geraldine, Montana in 1923. She was a member of a large family, 5 brothers and 2 sisters. They moved to Oregon when she was 11 and settled at Rock Creek, near Sunnyside. Penny's father loved to dance and sing. Her mother was a guitar player. They would throw a house party about once a month to get the kids to work hard. In so doing they met up with a lot of fiddlers and guitar players who had migrated there during the depression.

It was during this time that Penny met a fellow named Earl Cramer who took an interest in her love for the fiddle. He was a barber up on 45th and S.E. Woodstock and also a good friend of George Jenkerson. This man helped Penny get her first fiddle when she was 12 years old. She said she had to "work like a beaver" to earn the \$12.00 to pay for it. Mr. Cramer also took a deep interest in all her sisters and brothers who wanted to play.

Penny later played for dances and, with her sister, sang and played with the Tiny Dumant Band for 3 years.

When Penny met and married Ed Mead, she put her music aside and got to work rearing her children. One day in 1974 she and Ed heard about an old-time fiddle session to be held at Sunnyside. They decided to go just to listen. Penny said, "They had a beautiful program featuring our own Bill Yohey." "I had not heard anyone so great as he, so I joined up as a bass player." Penny enjoys taking part in the music and has learned to really love all the people. She hopes it never ends.

Penny's bass playing comes from a 12 year old boy who played for her on the "Stars of Tomorrow" show. She asked him how to play. He told her, "just put your hand up there and turn it loose." So, according to her, that's just what she does.

Penny is a very attractive, sensitive person; She puts her heart into her music and is one who has the rare ability to add an extra touch of grace and beauty to the tones of her fiddle. Her contribution is always one of the high points of any musical program.

Minnie Bennett, Historian