

**THE STORY  
OF THE  
OREGON OLD  
TIME  
FIDDLERS  
ASSOCIATION**

1967 - 2000

# Oregon Old Time Fiddlers Association

President Fred Hardin

I want to take this opportunity to extend our thanks from all the members of the Oregon Old Time Fiddlers Association to Roger Germundson and Lew Holt for making the history of the Oregon Old Time Fiddlers Association available for us to read and enjoy. It all started with a thought that Roger had that we should welcome the year 2000 with the history of our association. With many phone calls, letters, interviews, twisting of arms, reading old documents and many, many hours of typing, it has become a reality. It now serves as the early history of our association and the foundation for our history that follows.

Fred Hardin, President  
OOTFA  
1999 - 2000

Copy number \_\_\_\_\_ of 300

First printing  
OOTFA History  
1999  
MAC Computer using OFFICE 98  
by Lew Holt

“A man would do nothing if he waited until he could do it so well that no one could find fault.” (John Henry Cardinal Newman)

## Preface

Many important long remembered happenings occurred during this century. For Jackie and me personally, something “happened” to us that we never anticipated, nor did we ever dream of doing. In fact, we weren’t even aware of the organization we were about to join, when we were invited to the Oregon Old Time Fiddlers Association annual convention. Wow! I’ll never forget that weekend. We were only at Roseburg for an hour or two and I knew this was an organization I wanted to join. We were a couple of years from retirement and were looking forward to some traveling. Many of you know the “rest of the story.” We did indeed join and were immediately put to work straightening out our nonprofit status with the I.R.S. and that was followed by two years as President of the organization.

Well, our lives were definitely changed. Here we are now actually playing fiddle music and loving every minute of it and traveling all over the country to do it.

The Oregon Old Time Fiddlers Association is one of the best old time fiddle and old time music groups in the United States. We have in our midst some of the top fiddlers in the U. S.

Now how did this organization get started? Who were the people who started it? Was it always a statewide organization? We had all these questions and many more. We had heard bits and pieces of the history, but thought that the turn of the century would be a wonderful time to pull our history experiences together and put them in written form. What a better way to celebrate the new century than to memorialize the old with the history of our wonderful fiddle association.

So here we are folks. I talked to Lew Holt and he thought it was a good idea (as did the general membership) and agreed to be the editor, and to compile our history in written form. Lew has compiled a great human interest type history of the Oregon Old Time Fiddlers Association. We know you are going to thoroughly enjoy our interesting history as he has prepared it for you.

Roger Germundson  
President Oregon Old Time Fiddlers Association  
1997 - 1998, 1998 - 1999

# THE STORY OF THE OREGON OLD TIME FIDDLERS ASSOCIATION

As told by issues of the Hoedowner from 1967 - 1999, by many members who have shared their memories and by those who left their history for us.

## Introduction

In 1998 Roger Germundson, who was then president of the Oregon Old Time Fiddlers Association could see the year 2000 approaching and proposed that a history of the Oregon Old Time Fiddlers Association should be compiled by that time. The membership agreed and authorized him to proceed with the project. How does one write the history of our association? Each district and all members were invited to contribute to the history of their district as well as some of their early memories of the association.

Individuals responded with their memories of the formation of their district and with stories. We should recognize that most people did not keep records, so turned to their memories and memories of others for their information. One person may remember something a little differently than someone else does. Dates may actually be different from the memories of people. It was difficult to arrive at some correct spellings. Was it Charley or Charlie? It was spelled differently from time to time. Is it "oldtime" or is it "old time?" The history of our association is its people. We are very thankful for their willingness to share their memories. The history has now been written as remembered by those who contributed to this document.

Without the back issues of the Hoedowners, the history could not have been written in detail. We are thankful to Ruth Loring and Donna Oldham for supplying sets of old Hoedowners starting with the first issue and up to the present. There are, also, "minutes of the state meetings" starting in 1980 to the present which furnished more information.

We are indebted to Linda Danielson for giving us permission to use her very fine articles. They tell the story of "old time fiddlers in Oregon." We are fortunate that she did the research and writings back in the 70s and later. Many of the fiddlers she quotes are no longer with us except in her writings and our memories.

Some readers may feel that there is too much emphasis on those that are no longer with us. Maybe so, but it is done to both show that they were a part of our "fiddle family" and that we must remember those who have contributed so much to our organization. Not every passing was recognized. Some of your favorite people may have been left out.

Any written project of this nature will no doubt have the bias of the writer and of those who contributed to its writing. I recognize this and admit to it. Other times it may seem repetitious to list those who were at the early jams. This was done in writing this history to show who the active fiddlers were in those early days. They were the ones who helped get our association off the ground and contributed to its development into the fine organization that we have and enjoy today. You will recognize many of the names. Others are forgotten, so it is important that they be listed and their names become a part of our history.

As I write to other fiddlers across the U.S. by e-mail, I find out that none can compare to our association. The founders of the Oregon Old Time Fiddlers Association left us with a model for many of our activities which we follow to this day. We are a close knit group of fiddlers who can get on a stage and play together as if we had practiced all week. We are not an association of “stars” but rather a group sharing the same interests.

We are making history today for those that follow us . . . . our jam last week or the one next month will someday be “our history” for members to read about in the their time.

Lew Holt

---

## History of The Oregon Old Time Fiddlers Association

*(From the archives)* The story of the Oregon Old Time Fiddlers Association is typical of fiddling organizations in the United States. During the decade of the 60’s there was an awakening of interest in old time fiddling, motivated by a desire to preserve this important part of our heritage before it was gone past the point of re-capturing. Most of the state fiddling associations in the U.S., including Oregon’s, were formed during this period.

A group of fiddlers met in Waldport to perform for a show in 1964. Cliff Buker, an old time fiddler of Waldport suggested that an association of fiddlers be formed. Later that year in Hillsboro, the Oregon Old Time fiddlers Association was created, with Cliff Buker as President. The purpose of the organization, stated in the by-laws, was to “preserve, encourage, and promote old time fiddling.”

The Association grew rapidly. It became necessary to begin a newsletter to keep members advised of fiddling activities. Cliff Buker, founder and first president, became the editor of a monthly newsletter. He called it “The Hoedowner,” and began publishing news of interest to fiddlers and their fans. Since its inception in 1965, “The Hoedowner” has regularly supplied news of jam sessions, fiddle shows and old time fiddling contests.

The Association has continued to grow, both in numbers and vitality. Today, ten years after its birth, it is one of the largest organizations of its kind in the nation. In 1973 the State Association was divided into eight districts with complete control of its affairs remaining part of the State Association. This has made it easier for people in each district to meet for the kind of informal fun and music-making that is typical of old time fiddling get-togethers.

It is not necessary to be a musician to belong to the Association. Anyone is welcome who wants to keep old time fiddling a living, vital part of our lives.

Wayne Holmes (circa 1974)

---

Found on a scrap of paper in the archives:

“This is a copy of the charter members. Interesting to note \$1.00 was paid by each. We are often asked who the charter members were.”

Allen Rice, Cliff Buker, Dave Hilen, Harold Allen, Fred Hildebrandt, George Jenkerson, Bill Durham, Bill Yohey, Larry Modrell, Jimmy Miller, Loyd Wanzer, Ray Mack, Merv Whitmore, Dave Quinlan, Ken Brank, Verna Blaine, Agnes James, Dave Murray, L. A. “Pop” Powers, Henry Shanan, Floyd Beck, Rusty Modrell

(Editor’s note: It is unknown who wrote this information on on the back of a scrap of paper. It was written, no doubt at the meeting in Hillsboro when the fiddle association was formed.)

---

FIDDLELING In Varieties of Hope by Linda Danielson An Anthology of Oregon Prose, edited by Gordon B. Dobbs, OSU Press, 1993

“Soldier’s Joy,” “Turkey in the Straw,” “The Girl I Left behind Me,” “Git Outa the Way Federals,” “The Last of Callahan,” “Redwing,” “Peek-a-Boo Waltz” -- these and countless other old tunes still pour from the fingers and bows of Oregon fiddlers. Some of the tunes were popular on the radio in the 1920s and 30s; other can be traced back to the fiddlers’ ancestors of Civil War Days; and still others must have come over with colonists as far back as the 1700s.

The fiddlers are quick to tell you that their music is not violin music – make no mistake, it is fiddle music. (One fiddler says that you can tell which is which because a violin is carried in a case, and a fiddle in a gunny sack. He’s kidding now, but a generation ago it was often true.) It depends on how you play the instrument. Violin music is played according to written score, with a firm conception of details dictated by that score. In other words, there is a right way to play the tune. Fiddle music is generally learned by ear, played by memory and improvisation, and tunes vary quite a lot from one fiddler to another. You could listen to a whole group of fiddlers play off their versions of “Ragtime Annie,” and you’d hear that they were playing the same tune, yet each fiddler would have his own way with the tune – his own set of details -- there are many right ways to fiddle the tune.

On almost any Sunday afternoon fiddlers gather to play old tunes at public jam sessions somewhere in Oregon. When summer starts, you can find them at county fairs, ready to provide an afternoon’s entertainment, or at occasional fiddling contests in such places as Forest Grove, Pendleton, Canyonville and Drain. Fiddling is still a lively art here in Oregon. True, there aren’t as many fiddles as there once were, and the average age of fiddlers goes up all the time. But some children and young people are becoming interested and learning the old art. An educated guess is that there are four hundred fiddlers scattered around the state. So fiddling certainly hasn’t died out here – in fact , besides New England, the South Atlantic states and the Ozarks, Texas and the Pacific Northwest are probably the hottest spots in the country for fiddling.

It's hard to tell why this should be so, but maybe the reasons go something like this: most of the people who play the fiddle and live in Oregon came here from somewhere else (a quick spot check among area fiddlers shows the score running about twenty-six non-natives to four native Oregonians). When people emigrate, the culture and the memory of the old home sometimes becomes extra-important – and maybe that's why some people cling to the old ways. Then, too, in lots of places fiddling was until very recently the only available dance music – just as it was for past generations. It really hasn't been that long since Oregon was frontier, and in the 1960s, at least fiddlers were still playing square dances in school houses and grange halls in isolated parts of eastern Oregon. Besides, fiddling is just plain good music – it's fun to play, to hear, and to dance to.

There was a time when it seemed like fiddling was about to be forgotten, though, right after World War II, in the wake of the Big Band sound and Rock 'n' Roll. Then in about 1960 people began to notice fiddling again, perhaps under the influence of the folk music revival. Contests brought fiddlers together; many an ex-fiddler went home after going to a contest "just to listen" and hauled out the old fiddle case. Bows were reaired, broken stings replaced, and the ex-fiddler started playing again.

In 1965 the Oregon Old Time Fiddlers Association was founded by a dozen people on a Sunday afternoon in Waldport, and it's been growing ever since. Oregon fiddling has been changing too. It used to be that fiddles played mostly for dancing – now, more often the fiddlers' audience is there to listen. At the old-time dances fiddlers had to play hard and loud to be heard, with no amplification – so sometimes the sound was harsh. Now fiddlers strive for a sweeter sound since they have the help of amplification to make themselves heard. In times and places when many folks lived on land and their parents or grandparents had farmed, each region had its distinctive fiddling style and characteristic stock of tunes. Now, most Oregon fiddlers actually started playing somewhere else and then moved here, bringing with them developed styles from other parts of the country. Too, fiddlers travel to distant contests, tape record each other's playing, and buy records of fiddlers from the other end of the country. Their playing becomes technically better, more sophisticated, more cosmopolitan.

In fact, many young people who are taking up fiddling don't even learn from the local old-timers anymore. Many of them prefer to learn the style of their favorite fiddler from some other part of the country. These days that is often Texas. Texas has produced a particularly elaborate and sophisticated, sweet, bluesy style of fiddling that is currently a good bet for winning the regional and national contests. So there is a kind of generation gap among the fiddlers. On one side are the older fiddlers who learned from grandfathers, mothers, or neighbors, then never passed the art on to their children (who were listening to Glen Miller, and later to Elvis Presley). On the other are the crop of new young fiddlers, mostly under thirty, who learn their fiddling from a variety of sources and regions. They are generating new, homogenized blends of fiddling that have ties to Texas fancy contest style, western swing, jazz, bluegrass and Canadian prime-time television show-style fiddling.

Because most older fiddlers are emigrants to Oregon, it appears that we don't really have an Oregon style of fiddling. That's true, but we do have a characteristic cluster of styles, brought from homes in other states by those older fiddlers. Probably the greater number of Oregon fiddlers come from the upper plains states: North Dakota, South Dakota, Minnesota, Nebraska. Another group comes from the Arkansas-Missouri-Oklahoma region. Still others come from Canada and from nearby states – Washington and Idaho. Most of the tunes are from the British Isles – English, Scottish, or Irish. But the North Plains also give us a stock of tunes from Scandinavia, Bohemia, and Germany. The fiddlers of British background often prefer to play hoedowns – the fast moving square dance tunes, with lots of action and rhythm from the bow. By contrast, the European-descended fiddlers play a smoother, sweeter style, and prefer the polkas, waltzes, and schottisches. These ethnic, regional, and individual styles never completely blend, but the movers and travelers who are now Oregon fiddlers do grow to appreciate each other's diversity, and pick up a tune here and there from each other.

*Postscript 1992.* Since this essay was written fifteen years ago, many of those older fiddlers who brought developed styles and repertoires from other places have stopped fiddling or died. With them have gone unique tunes and distinctive stylistic features. Meanwhile, the rest of us have gotten

older. Now Oregon, and perhaps the whole Pacific Northwest, seems to be developing a kind of a common denominator style. Today we play fewer hoedowns as a rule, and more of the older popular songs. More of Oregon's currently active fiddlers have learned to play here, both young people and retirement-age beginners, so we sound more like each other, although a two-caste system does seem to be developing as contest and "strictly old-time" fiddlers seem more and more distinct from each other. Nowadays, most of Oregon's champion fiddlers are young people who play the nationally influential Texas style. Fewer small contest can be found today than in 1977, but many grange halls are opening their facilities to Association members, who once again are playing for dances in rural communities. The traditional art of fiddling is simply finding new ways to fit into a contemporary Oregon life.

(Thanks to Linda Danielson for permission to use this article.)

---

### Oregon Fiddling: "Where'd you come from; where'd you go?"

*They came from all over; Germans and Ukrainians and Poles and Scandinavians from Minnesota and Wisconsin, others from the South, some from Canada. They assembled in Oregon – an Oregon Trail story set to music.* By Linda L. Danielson ([Lane County Historian](#), Summer 1996 p. 34 – 39)

Fiddlers always seem to represent a link between past and present, history and contemporary life, modern technology, and pioneer ingenuity. For instance, there's the story Hugh Samples of Central Point, Oregon, used to tell, from back in the 1930s, when he lived in Kinzua, "ten miles from Fossil over the hill."

We got a hold of a Packard-Bell record player and a radio, and we got an outfit that went with it, that you could broadcast for about, oh, eight or ten miles. And every Sunday a bunch of these musicians there – there was quite a few around there – would come home and we'd have a regular jamboree up there and we'd broadcast this stuff. And we started getting all kinds of people writing in, for us to play this and play that and we'd get a stack of letters six inches high every Saturday for our Sunday program. Some of 'em'd sing, some of 'em played a banjo, some of 'em played a guitar, some of 'em fiddled and some of 'em played a steel guitar, and, oh, we had a variety, you know. And we put on quite a show there. It was a lot of fun.

Or there's Al Delorme of Medford, who used to tell about a World War II scene involving a solution to a shortage of women dance partners, the same custom documented in more than one pioneer journal:

We were in the barracks in the evening, and they were all blacked out, you know, and there was not air conditioning or anything in there. And it was might, mighty hot in there. But anyhow I had a fiddle and there was somebody else with a banjo. . . . I just started to play the fiddle; pretty soon the banjo player come over and then somebody come over with a guitar, and we started to play these old hoedowns, one thing and another, and there comes a great big guy and he starts calling: pretty soon we had a square dance going. . . . (Some of the guys) tied handkerchiefs around their arms and they were women. . . . We had quite a few sets going. Pushed all the beds out on one side. . . . and we had the whole floor, and boy, some of those guys could really (square dance).

Some of the stories link both time and places, as when Earl Willis, in the midst of playing for the grand opening of a Springfield neighbor's restaurant in the mid-70s,

began reminiscing about the time in 1929 when he played for the unveiling of the new six-cylinder Chevrolet back in Boone County, Missouri:

The mayor of the town had the Chevrolet dealership there. And I was raised with him. . . . he was the mayor, and he had the Ford agency, then he had the Chevrolet agency. And 'course, when he got ready to have this big deal (to) unveil this new car, he wanted me to play it. Which I was happy to do, got paid for it, whatever pay was then; you know, in '29 things (were) pretty tough.

These and other stories from Oregon's old-time fiddlers come from the Oregon Old Time Fiddling Project which I directed in the mid 1970s. With the help of several sound engineers and in collaboration with photographer John Bauguess, I recorded interviews and music with 30 old time fiddlers in Lane, Douglas, and Jackson Counties. The project was supported by the National Endowment for the Arts, Library of Congress, Oregon Arts Commission, Oregon Old Time Fiddlers Association, and by the historical museums of the three counties involved.

At the conclusion of the collection phase, the interviews were transcribed, edited, and retyped. (Among those who helped were a number of Lane County Historical Museum volunteers.) Copies of the whole collection, tapes and transcripts, are now in the Library of Congress and in LCHM. Douglas and Jackson Counties also received copies of in-county material.

In collaboration with Visual Arts Resources, we mounted an exhibit of photos, text, audiotape and artifacts, which toured for several years. Thirteen of John's photos were recently exhibited in New York's Grand Central Station; I have published several articles and essays based on the material.

In the course of the interviews I confirmed my belief that most then-active Oregon fiddlers had moved to the state as adults, in the wake of either economic hard times during the Great Depression, or prosperity during the World War II years; with these fiddlers came styles, repertoires, and social contexts forged in earlier times and other places. They had begun to encounter each other during the 1960s revival of interest in traditional music. The arena of this encounter was the Oregon Oldtime Fiddlers Association, founded in 1965. Here was a time and setting during which mutual influence, creativity, and adaptation might potentially lead to the development of a new regional style. This was a special moment that needed to be documented.

During the fieldwork with 30 fiddlers, a large majority of those then active in the three counties, I found six native Oregonians. The fieldwork with the 24 non-native fiddlers suggested that four main cultural and style regions have contributed to Oregon's current fiddling community.

From the Dakotas, Minnesota, and Wisconsin came Scandinavians, Germans, Poles, and Ukrainians. In Oregon, Midwesterners from these ethnic cultures have tended to identify with each other's tunes as "music from back home." A case in point is my Dad's *Polish Wedding Waltz*, which I learned from Stan Gonshorowski, a Lane County fiddler of Polish ancestry from the North Dakota/Minnesota border. The

waltz started life as an urban popular tune in Scandinavia. Probably, then, Stan's father learned it at rural community hall dances in the early years of this century, where overlapping neighborhoods of Swedes, Bohemians, and Poles occasionally congregated. Perhaps the tune would then be played at a granary dance, as Stan describes it:

You know what a granary is? Where they keep the grain? Clean one of those up, that's where all the weddings were held on a farm. You never rented a dance hall. . . . the wedding was held at the bride's place, home. There was a granary – or hayloft. Played lots of hayloft dances.

In the last 25 years, Stan has taught the tune to many beginning fiddlers in Lane County.

Some tunes that fiddlers have brought to Oregon are regionally unique; others are more universally known. Like the widely known tunes, certain stories resonate in the experience of fiddlers from many parts of the country. These commonalities of experience have helped Oregon's diverse fiddlers to find connections with one another. Stan's story of getting a fiddle of his own exemplifies one such theme. Like many other young fiddlers, he began by surreptitiously borrowing his father's instrument:

My dad found out that I was using his fiddle. He said, "Well, you might break it." Which, the way I treated it, I could see. . . . We were in Grand Forks, North Dakota, one time and we went to a little hock shop next to a bridge and I got a fiddle for a dollar seventy-five cents. . . . No strings, nothin', so I made strings out of package string. . . . I made a bow. I was the only one in the neighborhood who had black bow hair, 'cause we had black horses.

Later, Stan said, to earn money for a better fiddle, he sold salve and neckties, then hunted gophers and saved the tails for the bounty money. Finally the stink of gopher tails in the smokehouse convinced his long-suffering mother, who said, "Why don't I just buy you a fiddle and be done with it?"

From Nebraska and south Dakota, Anglo-American descendants of New England fiddlers brought plain-spoken versions of Celtic and English-descended tunes, and home-grown tunes that revealed traces of their Anglo-Celtic ancestry. But the stories of the tunes are stories about what the fiddlers made of the tunes. Delores Lakey, of Drain, used to tell about her Aunt Lila from back in the Rapid City area of south Dakota in the 1930s. Aunt Lila must have been a natural entertainer:

Well, Aunt Lila used to play one called *The Turkey's Tail*. And don't ask me where she got it, where it came from, or what it is because – well – it was kind of a funny song. . . . And us kids would just go into hysterics every time she would play it, because she'd go into the biggest antics – she was a clown. And I remember her sitting on this wood box that was up against the side of the house and . . . she'd sit there and play the fiddle and she'd start on this *Turkey Tail* and she'd have us absolutely in stitches. We couldn't do dishes or anything else (because) of all the antics that she'd go into with that fiddle and bouncing around on that wood box. . . My aunt could sing and play the fiddle at the same time.

In that region, as in rural Oregon of the 1930s, one could attend small local fiddle contests all summer. Judges would be picked out of the crowd. One time Delores's Aunt Lila won a big white goose as a prize: "I never will forget that goose. It chased us kids all over the yard."

A third source of Oregon's immigrant fiddlers centers in the Ozarks region of Missouri and Arkansas, but on account of tastes, commonalities of repertory and approach to playing that I observed among Oregon immigrants, I think of fiddlers from Oklahoma, Northern Texas, and Southern Illinois as also belonging with this group. The approach to bowing from this region often involves syncopating so as to imitate the banjo and fancy bow lick that Earl Willis called a "Missouri whipped bow." The use of ornamental slides testifies to the influence from African-American fiddlers – mentioned frequently by Oregon Immigrants from the area.

From the Ozarks as from other regions of the country come stories of playing for dances – the thrill of the first time, the sheer labor of playing for hours with no sound system, the temptation of the jug of "white lightning" hidden by a fence post, and the frequently heroic adventure of getting there at all. Guy Kinman of Roseburg described the particular challenges of dance playing in Texas panhandle country in the early 1930s?

I remember my brother and me, we'd take that old banjo and play for dances, and it would get damp and we'd hold it over the lamp to dry it out so it would be louder, and a lot of times only way we had to getting to the dance – it was so sandy. . .so you couldn't hardly get out in the car. So we put a tongue in a old two-wheel trailer with rubber tires and hooked a team of mules to it, and, man, we'd go all over the country in the sandy hills with those mules, playing for those country dances.

With an equally ingenious mode of transportation in a difficult landscape, Wally Bloom's story of getting to dances represents a fourth major thread of tradition in Oregon fiddling – Canada. Wally recalls traveling to dances in Saskatchewan, just about at the north edge of settlement:

Uncle Henry had a team of oxen, and he had a four by four . . . little house, or caboose, we called it, built on the front of a bob sled, and we carried the feed in the back end, and the wood, and there was a little stove. . . . so we were nice and warm in there, and the lines came through the caboose, so we drove in behind these oxen. It took us three hours, I think.

Besides meeting fiddlers who moved from Canada, other new Oregonians heard Canadian broadcasts of fiddling shows on radio and television. In the 1950s and 1960s, fiddlers occupied the same position of popularity there that Lawrence Welk did here.

In the 1990s, we cannot yet speak of an "Oregon Style." But Oregon fiddlers have formed a community. Distinctive elements of regional style have weathered away as many of the fiddlers who came here with developed styles have become inactive or

died. Many unique tunes have disappeared. But a larger proportion of tunes played seem to be known by everyone. The community seems now to include two large groups: *contest* or *progressive* fiddlers, and *old time* fiddlers, general designation that now spans widely differing regional and geographical backgrounds.

One of the themes expressed in contemporary Oregon fiddling culture, a theme again common to the various regions from which they came, and a value that has helped blend this assorted lot of people into a community, is the idea of responsibility for providing entertainment – service to the community. In the 1990s members of the Fiddlers Association devote many hours to providing entertainment for community events and for nursing home patients. “Slim” Schaefer’s account of a dance he played in Prineville, Oregon in 1924 illustrates a similar sense of responsibility for community entertainment, as well as a familiar self-deprecating modesty about his own achievement:

I came down to buy a ton of hay for my saddle horse – had him up there in a canyon up at Grizzly Butte, so I was just about ready to leave, and I noticed that hacks and wagons and horses were comin’ from all directions; some of ‘em had been comin’ for a hundred miles. It was Saturday night. So I said to Ed Raglin, the foreman, I said, “Ed, what’s goin’ on around here, anyway?”. . . .”Oh,” he said, “there’s gonna be a shindig here tonight, Slim,” he said, “but I guess we can’t have it. The fiddler never showed up.”. . . . “Well,” I said, “I used to fiddle for a few backwoods shindigs up in the woods of Michigan,” I said. “Maybe I could help you out if you can find a fiddle; is there any fiddle around the neighborhood?”

So sure enough, he sent one of the cowboys, and he jumped on his horse and pretty soon he came back with a fiddle. So I put my horse back in the barn, and by jinks we got in there and – there was this Texas cowboy, Frank Oliver. . . . Frank said, “I can play chords on the organ, Slim. . . . and I can even fiddle a tune or two.” I don’t hear such old-timers’ stories much anymore. But the stock of shared tunes and values crossed time and space to form the basis of an ongoing traditional musical community blended, like much of the rest of Oregon’s story, from stories that began elsewhere.

(Again our thanks to Linda Danielson for allowing us to use her two articles.)

---

## History and stories of the districts as told by those who remember.

The following is the history of the districts as told by people who remember and from the archives of the old Hoedowners. Some districts will have descriptive and complete early histories whereas others will be brief with less specific detail. This is not to discredit any district. Many of the members who formed the early districts are no longer with us to tell us of their history and no written record was kept at the time. Some of the districts formed later have people who remember the formation of their districts and can give more detail. Our thanks go out to all of those who stepped forward to volunteer information.

---

### District 1

From Homer McLain

I read in the Hoedowner you wanted news about how districts got started. I visited with Irven Johnson during Labor Day weekend. He said he went to the contest in Weiser in 1963. If that is the case, here's how District 1 started.

It must have been 1964 or 65 Tulelake, California Fair had a fiddle contest judged by the crowd's applauding response. Whoever got the biggest hand, won and whoever got lesser hand, 2<sup>nd</sup> and so on.

Charlie Thurmon, an older man then 70 or so was the only contestant signed up to play. Rosa Lee and I and our 5 boys went to listen. Rosa Lee said, "Homer, go borrow the fellow's fiddle and play against him." I didn't even take my fiddle, not expecting to play. So not ever meeting Charlie before that day -- I did go ask him and he let me with gladness play his fiddle, I also borrowed his guitar player who didn't know "Rag Time Annie," a hoedown. So, he hummed it and I played "Boil the Cabbage, Tennessee Waltz and Marching Through Georgia." They were about the only songs I could play. Well, when we finished, L.D. Daniels and his 15 year old daughter, Lenna, who was learning to play the guitar, came on stage and L.D. would tell her the chords to play as he fiddled. They were the winners.

L.D. was a left handed fiddler, also, so after the contest we all met together behind the "stage doors." Along came Irven and Anne Johnson of Merrill, Oregon. L.D., Lenna and Charlie were from Klamath Falls, Oregon area. My family lived in between Merrill and Tulelake, California at that time. Cliff Tunnell, a fiddler and guitar player came and we all visited and agreed to get together at our home - I think the following week end.

In the meantime, Irven gave me a tape of the Weiser Contest which I still have. Irven also got a fiddle from his brother in law of Weiser, Idaho and I and some of the

others helped him get started playing it. His wife, Annie, told him if he was going to fiddle, she wanted a guitar to learn to play with him.

So we all met as intended and had a fun music evening. Cliff Tunnell being knowledgeable both on fiddle and guitar led us all on to be a group. As time moved on and as more people joined us, (by now Richard and Marie Jameson, Elmer and Gussie Early, Ray Rath, Charles "Sandy" and June Sandusky) we named ourselves the "Klamath Basin Strings."

Irven, L.D. and Cliff found out about the 'Oregon Old Time Fiddlers Association' in 1970 or 1971. When we joined in 1971 Wayne Holmes was president. Ron Gimm - Vice president - Earlene Gimm - Sec/Treasurer. Ron Gimm was also the Hoedowner editor.

Our Klamath Falls group was known as "District 1." Don Gish, a fine fiddler and wife, Nellie and daughter, Alice, moved to Beaver Marsh south of Chemult, Oregon. Don and family, Rusty Modrell and Vi came from Terrebonne, Oregon between Bend and Redmond, Oregon. They would come to Merrill where we met in the Community Center for our jams. Boy what a thrill having 2 expert fiddlers with us. Don taught a lot of us many songs. He is a fine person as well.

Some of our group got to go to Eugene to the yearly convention and a few years later, my family had the privilege of going to the Eugene Fairgrounds to a convention. We arrived early - the only 2 people there were Wayne Holmes and Linda Danielson. They both encouraged me to get my fiddle out and join them. Now I felt I was playing with Royalty.

Wayne took me in tow and introduced me and my family to others as they came in and encouraged me to play with wonderful musicians as June Secor "piano," Dave Boyd "bass," Barney Alexander, "guitar," I knew some old band songs and swing tunes so here came Don Gish and Rusty and helped me out. Wayne asked me to be on TV to help advertise the convention - beings I kind of hold the fiddle funny. So I obliged him and was scared to death.

Later he asked me to help play for the dance on Saturday evening so I did - with June, Dave, Barney backing me, I couldn't go wrong.

While I was playing, here came a string of men up past the stage and wanted to see how I played, some shook their heads. So I wondered if I was playing OK or not so good. But, others were dancing so I figured it must be OK so I played my allotted time. And then danced to Bill Yohey, Cliff Buker, Rusty Modrell, Ron Gimm sang and played guitar. His favorite was "Froggy Went a Courtin'." Wayne Holmes, Linda Danielson, L.D. Daniels, Wayne Walter, Bob Fast, Fred Virtue, Hugh Samples, Harold Allen, Bob Hawes, Jonas Cox, Jack McCasland . These are some I remember. They all made me welcome, especially Wayne Holmes and Don Gish.

Many have passed on to a greater eternity and new members keep fiddlin'. So keep up the music. Friend, Homer McLain.

---

Now let's look at the history of District 1 as written by others – thanks to Cherie Lane.

“Memories of District 1 – OOTFA Beginnings”

In contacting the few remaining living members of District 1, we have come up with some interesting variations of the first years. Sandy Sandusky says his son, Terry Sandusky, (a guitar player, himself (beginning fiddler), Doris Clark (banjo), Richard Jamison (guitar and harmonica), his wife Marie (tenor guitar), were gathering in each other's homes, playing for their own enjoyment. This was approximately 1965 to 1967. The first gig they did for the public, a microphone stand was needed. So Terry welded a pipe to a hubcap so there would be a base and stand. They figured out a way to attach a microphone to the top of the pipe and they were all set.

Then at the Tulelake, California fair, the group met L.D. Daniels (fiddle and guitar) and his daughter, Lenna. She was just learning to play guitar and her dad would tell her the chords to play as he fiddled. They were playing in a small contest that day where they also met Homer McLain, who at that time lived near Merrill, Oregon. All of these folks continued meeting in each other's homes for potlucks and music playing. While going to a jam in one of the homes, they were bringing food for a potluck. It was winter with snow and ice everywhere. Sandy was carrying a pan of biscuits, he made a wrong step as his feet hit the porch. Woops – the biscuits went into the air, Sandy and his fiddle another way. The ladies picked up the biscuits, dusted them off and dinner was served. ( guess Sandy picked himself and fiddle up.) The party went on and all had a fun evening.

Gradually the group met more people who joined them. They decided to call themselves “Basin Strings.” This was around 1969. Then about 1971 L.D. Daniels and wife, Delberta, went over to the Willamette Valley and heard of a group called “Oregon Old Time Fiddlers, that played on stage and would perform 3 tunes each. Shortly afterwards “Basin Strings’ became District 1 of OOTFA. Don Gish played an important part in helping organize and start District 1. At this time, District 1 encompassed quite an area -- from Medford on the west, to Lakeview and Burns to the east. Gradually the district has been narrowed more to the Klamath Basin and north to Diamond Lake Junction/Gilcrest area.

As is remembered by the Sanduskys, McLains, Irven Johnson and Delberta Daniels, the earliest members were: Sandy Sandusky, fiddle, and his wife, June; Doris Clark, banjo and her husband, Homer; Gussie Earlie, piano; Richard Jamison, guitar and harmonica and his wife, Marie, tenor guitar; L. D. Daniels, fiddle and guitar and his wife Delberta, their daughter Lenna, guitar; Homer McLain, fiddle and guitar and his wife Rosa Lee , bass and voice; Cliff Tunnell, fiddle and guitar; Irven Johnson, fiddle, and his wife Ann, guitar; Doc Bowman, fiddle and his wife Ann; Jack Pollick, fiddle, and his wife Louise; Charlie Thurman, fiddle. Sometime after 1972 Bill Noble, fiddler, joined. Rocky Dudley, fiddle, and his wife Lu; their daughter Pat Cronin and Larry Burton were also

early members of the group. Over time many more have joined, meeting at one another's homes and public buildings for jams or functions.

Delberta Daniels added to our information that in 1973 a State Contest was held in Klamath Falls. She thought Wayne Holmes was State President then. Delberta's husband, L. D., won a trophy for "Best Sportsmanship" and another that year for "Best all around." Then at the Canyonville contest in 1975 he won "First Intermediate." L.D. and Delberta went to the Weiser, Idaho contest and to play for fun several times in these early years.

Our next information is from Irven Johnson. Irven was just learning to play fiddle when he was appointed as District 1's first chairman by State President, Don Gish. Irven served as chairman the rest of that year, then was elected to serve the next year, also. Co-chairman for District 1 was L.D. Daniels. The two men switched offices the following year. Irven appointed Homer McLain chairman of the Lakeview, Oregon area. By then Homer and family had moved to Lakeview. Lakeview remained part of District 1 several years, finally dividing and becoming District 1E.

Irven also said they didn't have many formal meetings those first years. One year just one meeting was held. Mostly they all still jammed at one another's homes or played at public functions. Many times the home jams were held at the Johnson's, Daniel's, or at Doc Bowman's.

On a trip to Weiser, Idaho contest, Irven, Ann, and Doris Clark stopped at Burns, Oregon to hold a jam. It was to be at 1:00 p.m. but had been wrongly advertised for 11:00 a.m. They walked into the school gym to find 25 or more people there waiting for them and the program to start. He and Ann as beginners at playing were a little stumped as "what to do." The people asked "if they could just sit and visit and wait 'till 1:00?"

So after 2 hours of waiting, the program got underway doing the best they could to entertain - a while later Don Gish came. He got things going better by moving chairs against the wall making room to dance. Soon Homer McLain and family arrived. The jam was lively, the audience happy and 29 new members were signed up.

Irven appointed Scotty Withers as chairman of the Burns area and a lady was appointed chairperson of Canyon City. Although that didn't work out for long, the people didn't all agree and some dropped away. Irven says Scotty Withers, Ruel Teague and Susie were the main ones who kept working to keep the Burns group together from the beginning.

When the group from District 1 went on to Weiser, Idaho from Burns, Irven played his fiddle in the Weiser contest, Ann was his back up on guitar. Doris Clark played her banjo for him and he came out as #93 on the program.

Cheri adds - My husband Ray and I joined OOTFA in 1976, by then quite a few others were already members and some still are. Too bad we didn't get more facts saved earlier. Cheri Lane

---

Recollections of some of the Klamath Falls area musicians. . . .

My first association with the “Oregon Old Time Fiddlers” began In 1967 while attending school in the Portland area. I enjoyed the weekend gatherings and needless to say, it was always a special occasion when fiddle players like Vivian Williams from Washington and Loyd Wanzer from Idaho would come and demonstrate their wonderful style of music.

Early in 1968 I moved to Klamath Falls to work the aerial crop spraying season. The first old time fiddle player I met up with was at the local airport – Mr. Cliff Tunnell and through him I gradually became acquainted with other fiddle players and guitar pickers, etc., in the area.

Some of these people are listed below and sadly the ravages of time has taken its toll with some of them but memories of their music and legacy will never be forgotten.

Although I have no musical ability, I like attending the fiddle and other music sessions and feel lucky I am still able to see and hear and immensely enjoy the wonderful talent demonstrated by the Klamath Falls area musicians. Sincerely, Roy Rath

\* Indicates original members: \*L. D. Daniel, \* Merlin Ford, \* Irven Johnson, \* Anne Johnson, Russ Baxter, Lee Eddy, Homer McLain, Bill Noble, Leo Matney, Charlie Thurman, Jerry and Irene Ruddock, Les Tucker and family, Lu Wells, Albert Nelson, \*Sandy Sandusky, Bill Cunningham, Evert Barker, and \*Don Gish.

---

District 1E

9-8-99

Dear Lew,

I think in 1972 my family moved from Merrill, Oregon to Lakeview, Oregon. I took management of a ranch. I had an old friend I knew while growing up in New Pine Creek, Oregon and she and I met and said she was married to Clyde Lynch, a fine guitar player and singer. His wife , Donna Lynch, invited Rosa Lee, our boys and me in for some music. That was the beginning of a wonderful friendship and lots of songs.

Clyde played in many bands and knew hundreds of songs and taught me a lot of them. And I'd hear a song off a cassette tape or phonograph and learn it and we would get together and work on it till we both knew it. Larry and Terry, my twin sons, when 9 years old both played (Larry on the guitar and Terry on the fiddle). Perry Forga – fiddle, Ray Johnson – accordion, Ken Egnotovich – drums, Sam Watts – guitar, Roger Albertson – guitar and some young ladies who sang. There are a few I can't remember.

We rented halls and put advertising out and had crowds of 100 or so. Eventually we put names the crowd thought up into a hat and had a drawing and got a name called "Country Fiddlers and Friends.

We played 3 or 4 years and all but Clyde Lynch amplified and it got so loud we didn't have much fun and bad ears.

So some quit and then some wanted to go back to acoustic only. So we joined District 1 as OOTFA members, maybe 1978. Clyde and Donna, Rosa Lee and I would drive 100 miles over and 100 miles back home to District 1 jams. Some wanted to become a Lakeview district. We didn't have enough members so I gave fiddle lessons and charged a membership into OOTFA. Mary Anne McLain, my daughter-in-law was our first Chairperson and did an excellent job. (*See 1-E 1994 - Hoedowner*)

I had 16 students that year so that gave us enough people to form a district in 1994. It has been my policy to charge membership into OOTFA and we keep up our membership. We have had quite a few others who like to listen join in. Last year my son, Larry, was Chairman and started a campout in Silver Lake, Oregon and we gained 4 or 5 new members. Bill Myers is our 1999 chairman and in August we had a campout in Silver Lake and gained a few more new members.

We are grateful to all who contributed -- be it food, listeners, or musicians or vocalists; all are necessary to be a working group. Thanks to OOTFA, we have wonderful friends and times.

Your friend, Homer McLain Lakeview, Oregon

---

## District 2

September 1991 Hoedowner

District 2: We realize that we are not official. We have very few members and no officers at all. But we're hoping to begin changing all that. We are planning a jam/organizational meeting in late September or early October. Zelma Foote and Lew and Alice Holt have given us lots of help and support and we would welcome hints and/or encouragement from others as well.

Many fiddlers in northeastern Oregon are members of the Blue Mountain Old Time Fiddlers Association, a wonderful organization which reaches into Washington and Idaho as well. We are hoping, by activating District 2 of the OOTFA, to strengthen our ties with the rest of Oregon, also, and thus have the best of two worlds. Peg Willis - reporter

September 1991 Hoedowner

District 2: Hello again from Dist. 2! We are still alive and well - and still unofficial. Our organizational meeting will be on Oct. 12 at the Salvation Army community Center in Pendleton. We are looking forward to some good jamming, some good refreshments and a productive meeting.

October 1991

District 2: Congratulations are in order!! We did it! We had a great time jamming, and our organizational meeting was productive in that we now have real live officers and several new families in our membership. Our offices are; Chairman – Don Haley; co-chairman – Pam Wachter and Sec/Treas – Beth Hansen

---

District 3

JUST FOR THE RECORD

Iris Buckle, January, 1981

The first meeting of our Central Oregon – Bend, Redmond, Powell Butte, LaPine – area, later to become District 3 of the Oregon Old Time Fiddlers Association, was held December 5, 1979 at the Senior Citizens Center in Bend. Don and Bernie Hanson, who had been members of an Old Time Fiddlers club in California, were instrumental in getting things started. At the first meeting, Don outlined to those present the particulars regarding forming a district – club, part of the Oregon Old Time Fiddlers Association, and expressed hope there would be sufficient interest and participation to make this possible. He outlined general rules, regulations, conditions governing jam sessions, dues, officers, the association with the state.

For the first several meetings, refreshments of coffee, tea and cookies were furnished by the Hansons, as well as costs of stationery, duplicating copies of information mailed, telephone calls, postage and other miscellaneous expenses. They made arrangements with the Senior Citizens for use of their hall. State President, Les Tucker appointed Don as District (3) Chairman; Don, in turn, appointed Iris Buckle to serve as Secretary-Treasurer and Karen Sterkamp reporter. They received support from other family members, friends, and old time music lovers. A bank account was established at First National Bank. Within the first two or three months, enough members had paid dues to officially meet the criteria to become a bona-fide district – 25 or more.

In March, Les and Lois tucker, state president and editor of the HOEDOWNER, respectively, came to attend our jam session and stayed afterwards for a meeting. They gave us a lot of information, hints and suggestions on how to make our club remain active, and to qualify as a bona-fide district.

In April, no meeting was held, since the regularly scheduled meeting day fell on Easter Sunday. There was also no meeting in July – several members drove to Fort Rock to attend their meeting, in lieu of holding one in Bend.

At the first several meetings, members and guests were encouraged to donate to the Senior Citizens fund to offset costs for fuel and electricity. This, however, proved to be “undependable” – we therefore began writing a check for \$5.00 each month – for use of the hall. The “coffee kitty” has supported this, and these donations have paid for the supplies for refreshments as well as to add to our bank account. A total of \$89.82 has been added to that account as of January 1, 1981. Also, two events for which members of the club played – brought money in for the

club: High Desert Plainsmen paid \$30.00 for playing for their camp out in July. Crook County Fair paid \$125.00 in August.

Senior Citizens who enjoy old time fiddle music comprise a good share of our audience – on the first Sunday of every month; “word of mouth” has created more interest. Jane Thompson and other members of the Tuesday Nighters have been the nucleus of the group. We have two very promising young fiddlers who are regulars: Brian Hanson, 11 years old and Tony Spatz who is four. Bob Hawes, resident of Bend and a life time senior member of the state organization since its inception, has also helped all of this become a reality.

At this point, the end of the first year, it looks very promising that Central Oregon indeed finally has an Old Time Fiddlers Club.

Iris Buckle January, 1981

*Iris Buckle was sister-in-law of Don Hanson. Both Don Hanson and Iris Buckle are deceased.*

---

#### District 4

Martha Warwick writes: Old Time Fiddling came alive in Southern Oregon about 1969. In 1964 Bill Yohey and a few Northern Oregon Fiddlers organized “The Oregon Old Time Fiddlers.” I had met Bill Yohey in Weiser, Idaho in the late 1960s. Since we had an up and coming young fiddler, Willie Warwick, I was anxious to keep his interest alive as a fiddler. I asked Bill Yohey to help me organize Southern Oregon.

Our first monthly jam session was held in Central Point, Oregon in 1970. Bill Yohey and several fiddlers from the northern part of the state came down and the Southern Oregon fiddlers were born. From then on for eleven years I set up the monthly jam sessions, did the emcee work, acted as reporter and secretary – treasurer.

One by one our fiddlers pulled their fiddles out of their closets and became some of our best fiddlers. Our fiddlers traveled to Klamath Falls where people like L. D. Daniel, Isom Patterson and many others there picked up the ball and there was another expansion. After that we traveled to Lakeview and there found Homer and Rosa Lee McLain (Good workers). We traveled to Roseburg, Coquille, North Bend, Canyonville, and continued to hold monthly jam sessions all around Southern Oregon.

During the eleven years I continued to help organize and work contests all over the state. We always participated in the state conventions.

After being affiliated with the old time fiddlers for thirty some years, the activities I am still very active in are the “Warwick Campout” for 28 years and the “Canyonville Fiddle Contest” run by Jim and Gynn Deaton. It has been my pleasure to see the continued growth and the perpetuation of “Old Time Fiddling.”

Martha Warwick

---

### Martha Warwick's Campout

Martha Warwick writes: I joined the Oregon Old Time Fiddlers when Charlie Johnson was president. I talked to Bill Yohey in Weiser in 1969 and he was most interested in getting us organized down here. He offered to help me. He was very generous with his time and traveling money. (We all traveled a lot in those days. We were driven by our love of fiddling.)

We had a music party here at our house. Don Gish and Bill Yohey were here. They looked down in the field and said it sure would be nice to have a campout here. So we did and the first guests were Bill Yohey, Don Gish, Rusty Modrell, Don and Ruth Loring, Cliff and Bessie Buker and several others. Van Southwood was very active in helping down here. He helped mow the field, brought our first tables, Red tacked together our first stage, Jim Hoots built our first outhouse, also brought the first water heater for the shower, Jonas Cox dug the hole for the outhouse, and he mixed cement to bolster the bridge and Willie wheeled it and poured it. So all in all many people have been involved. We even had a state meeting here once. Over the years Red made nice picnic tables as the old ones went. Dave up at the mill has always made sure we had plenty of wood for our campfires. The first few years we were able to get fresh produce from a local rancher. He loved to have the fiddlers play at his produce stand so he sent pickup loads of corn, tomatoes, squash, etc., back to camp. After that ended Beaver has produced some corn and tomatoes and squash. We had our "peach" man, Jack Lester who brought peaches for many years until his death and other visitors who brought and still bring fruit and vegetables. During August the wild berries are plentiful along the road so the fiddlers pick them and we make cobbles - yum! The early apples are in during August so we make cobbles which we serve around the campfire at night during our regular programs.

The campout has grown from a long weekend to a week - to two weeks and since my retirement, to most of August. It is the highlight of our year and also to most of the guests.

During the winter of 1997 there was quite a flood on the campground and the old stage went down. Unbelievably the fiddlers built a new wonderful stage.

We meet people in our travels who have either been here or want to come. It is hard to believe it has lasted all these years and is still exciting to so many people. At first we used to wonder if anyone would come. Now we get phone calls all year from lifetime friends.

Lew, it is such a pleasure for me to see people like you and Alice keeping this wonderful organization going. Please don't quit. I've had to cut back but am still very much interested. Your friend, Martha Warwick

P.S. If you want something other than this please, ask me. I'll help with anything I can. Willie and I attended contests, jams, and conventions all over the state during all of his growing up years. We have many happy memories.

---

### District 5

Betty Lively writes: In 1973 District 5 was re-organized by Paul Williams, Les and Barbara McLeod, Fred and Geraldine Virtue, Roy and Grace Ziegler and Al and Betty Lively. This was done at the Coquille Community Building where there was also a potluck dinner and others came to the dinner on this day. Paul Williams was elected Chairman, Les McLeod Co-Chairman and Barbara McLeod was elected Secretary – Treasurer. Paul Williams bought and paid for the first PA system.

Clell and Gladys Mason joined the new district 5 soon after it was re-organized, as well as many others. Some of the chairmen were: Gene Lowe, Roy Ziegler, Les McLeod, Al Lively, Lew Holt, Russell Hall, Claude Whaley, Pat Kraemer, Elwood Serfass and Fred Grove.

Some of the Co-Chairman were: Ivon Cowdry, Al Lively, Lew Holt, Keith Shaffar, Roy Ziegler and three more. I do not recall who they were, but maybe you will remember.

Some of the Secretaries - Treasurers were: Barbara McLeod, Ruth Whaley, Mary Ann Burns, Helen Weber, Mrs. Carlton Smith, Lew Holt.

We used to play for dances, at cranberry festivals, lodge meetings, Azalea Festival, McKinnley Grange, Sixes Grange, many Senior Centers and nursing homes --as well as our usual jams and fun times.

---

Ella Savery writes her early memories of becoming a member of OOTFA and District 5. She writes that she was “low” when she first joined -- having just gone through several unpleasant experiences in her life. She found out about District 5 and went to a jam at Greenacres where she discovered the fun that everybody was having. She joined in with her guitar, harmonica, accordion and vocals. Now she wants to share her appreciation and recognize those people who helped her get started in music again after the tragedies in her life. She says that she still thinks of these people almost everyday because they gave her a chance: John and Dorothy Settle, Lew and Alice Holt, Carl Dean, Don Mattax, Carlton Smith, Bill Emmett, Dale Alley, Fred Virtue, Keith and Abbie Shaffar, Murrel Walton, Dan Pullis, Joe Graham, Bob Shaffar, Bob Bridgman, Fred Groves, Al and Betty Lively and Gene Gosney. Yes, there were others she says but these are the ones that stand out in her memory.

---

## District 6

The history of District 6 has been a little difficult to put together – to give it a proper beginning that it deserves. Piecing together bits from here and there --

The June 1973 Hoedowner reports that Wayne Holmes was appointed temporary chairman of District 6 by the state president.

And then the November, 1973 Hoedowner reports: New officers for District 6 are as follows: chairman, Wayne Holmes; vice-chairman Ray Walker; and sec. Treas. Owen Hodge. . . .

The June, 1974 Hoedowner reports the following: District 6 held its April jam on the 28<sup>th</sup> at the Lebanon High School. The fiddlers were: Shorty Allen, Dave Quinlan, Merv Dickerson, Donald Toom, Bill Yohey, John Melnichuk, Charlie Francis, Valdimar Nelson, Linda Danielson, Everett Tipsword, Leroy Sims, George Stout and Walt Whitman. Dist. 6 Chairman, Don Loring.

Don and Ruth Loring's daughter writes: Mom and Dad think it was 1974. . . . It was at a State jam held at Fairmount Grange in Albany. Dad was elected Chairman and Merv Dickerson was elected co-chairman. Possibly Alice Beemer of Lebanon was Sec/Treas., don't remember for sure. Some of the people present were: Bob and Dulcie Fast, Bill and Edna Yohey, Don Gish, who was President of the Association at the time, Rusty Modrell, Kenny Brank, LeRoy and Shirley Sims, George and Helen Stout, Ron and Erlene Gimm, Don Hawes and wife, Agnes James, Peggy and Merv Dickerson, Wayne Holmes, Shorty Allen and wife, and Blue and Evelyn Moss.

District 6 has always been an active district. In the early 70s the fiddlers from District 6 played at many places. The Lorings list the following: Antique car show in Sweet Home, Mint Festival in Jefferson, Fat Lamb Show in Scio, Albany Timber Carnival in Albany, Fall Festival in Tangent, VFW in Albany, Benton Co. Fairgrounds in Corvallis, and many other places.

---

District 7  
*From the pen of Dulcie Fast*

Don Gish, state president, held a meeting on Sunday morning following the State Contest at Klamath Falls on May 26, 1973. At this time 8 districts were selected and he appointed a temporary chairman for each district. Wayne Walters was the appointed chairman for District 7. District 7 consisted of Hood River, Clatsop, Columbia, Multnomah, Clackamas and Washington Counties.

The first meeting was held July 8, 1973 at Kenton Grange, near Progress with 42 members attending. Wayne Walter was unanimously declared chairman. Dulcie Fast was unanimously declared sec-treas and Fred Hildebrandt was appointed co-chairman and Marshall Jackson was appointed reporter.

Fiddling fun was held in the shade of the trees and several snapshots were taken. Coffee and cookies were served.

The first P.A. System was bought in March 1974. Bob Fast and Fred Hildebrandt bought it from a church in Sheridan or Willamina. It had 2 heavy speakers that were 6 ft. high.

District 7 and 8 held their first Christmas dinner together in 1974. This was repeated for several years.

At first there was a jam held each month. Then, to accommodate the many interested people of Southern Oregon, a Southern district was formed. This was probably in 1971 under Wayne Holmes, presidency. Don Loring was a coordinator who tried to oversee the jams to try keep them on different dates so there wouldn't be conflicts.

-----  
District 8

Quotes from the minutes kept by District 8 secretaries over the years.

The first entry reads: District 8 of the Oregon Old Time Fiddlers Association held their first meeting in the McMinnville Grange Hall June 9, 1973. The meeting was called into session by Bill Yohey for the purpose of organization and election of officers.

Mr. Yohey explained that the state association had divided the group into eight districts; number 8 consisting of the following counties: Polk, Lincoln, Marion, Tillamook and Yamhill. . . . After more than an hour's delay, hoping more members would show up, since so few were present, Mr. Yohey called the meeting to order.

The following officers were elected by unanimous vote:

Bill Yohey - Chairman; Jim Secor - Co-chairman; Minnie Bennett - Sec-treas.; June Secor - reporter. Mr. Yohey explained the purpose of dividing the state into

districts and stressed the importance of keeping each district active. He also discussed future fiddle shows, meetings and methods of raising money.

A collection was taken and \$10.00 was contributed to pay the hall rent. . . . .  
Minnie Bennett, Sec.

April 7, 1974: Carlton Smith, chairman of Dist. 8 called a meeting into session for the purpose of discussing the purchase of a P.A. System. Carlton explained that Dist. 7 had very graciously invited our group to buy into partnership with them since the two districts always attended jam sessions together.

Feb. 22, 1976. . . . there had been a suggestion that since the two districts 7 and 8 customarily held their jam sessions together that Dist 8 might be interested in joining the two districts as one group. After some discussion. . . . the motion lost by a large majority.

April 23, 1978 . . . . The chairman announced that Dist. 5 had approached him about holding a jam session jointly with them at Waldport in honor of Cliff Buker. . . . . after some discussion it was decided to make some kind of gift for him. Mrs. Allen Smith (Joy) was assigned to make the gift.

Dec. 9, 1979 . . . . The chairman brought up the fact Dist. 7 was holding jams in Dist. 8 territory. Motion was made and carried, that the matter be brought up before the state executive committee.

Nov. 14, 1982. . . . Minnie Bennett complimented Lee Jones on his excellence in editing the Old Time Fiddlers "Hoedowner." Lee was applauded.

Feb. 13, 1983 . . . . State president, Bill Yohey, presented tentative plans for a State "Cookout" near Vernonia, Or. in July.

---

### District 9

History of the Oregon Old Time Fiddlers in the Burns area January 9, 2000  
submitted by Janet Braymen, Reporter District 9

District 9 officially came into existence at the State Convention, March 19, 1983. The boundary lines included all of Harney and Malheur Counties and on a line from Hereford, Oregon following the John Day River to where it enters District 2. Jiggs Rast motioned to accept the boundary lines for District 9, second by Jerry Ruddock and carried unanimously.

How District 9 arrived to this point is somewhat unclear. In the mid- 70's a group met somewhat regularly to play fiddles at the home of Esther Race. Susie Anderson doesn't recollect this group had any association with OOTFA. Karen Hamlington recalls they called themselves Old Time Fiddlers and they were playing together in 1976-77. Karen says Scotty Withers was one who came from Grant County to play.

Homer McLain recalls a jam was scheduled on the way to Weiser one time. Irven, Ann and Doris Clark along with Don Gish and Homer McLain and family played at the

school gym and signed up 29 members. Irven appointed Scotty Withers chairman of the Burns area and a lady was appointed chairperson of Canyon City. It didn't work out for long, as the people didn't all agree and some dropped away. Irven says Scotty Withers, Ruel Teague and Susie Smith were the main ones to keep the Burns group together from the beginning. Ruel Teague says he wasn't involved with the group at this time and didn't join until later.

The record becomes less muddled in 1982 as a written record is documented in the Hoedowner. Rusty and Joan Knight moved to Burns from Gresham in late 1981. It was early in the year of 1982 when Rusty was visiting with his neighbor from across the street and mentioned he'd been involved in the Oregon Oldtime Fiddlers before he moved to Burns. The neighbor, Marie Hardin, said there were lots of fiddlers in the area and proceeded to name them off to Rusty. Rusty wrote down all the names, went in the house and started calling people and had a jam at his home the very next evening. Rusty recalls 7 fiddlers attended the first jam session including Della Myrtle Dunten, Turen Dunten, Ruel Teague, and Susie Smith. Others who may have been present or attended other jams shortly thereafter include Brick Callaway, Pat and Benny Scott, Harry Blair, and Helen Sargeant from Harney County and John and Eva Murray and Millard and Christine Adams from Grant County.

Rusty, a member since around 1966 and a previous chairman of District 7, knew his way around the OOTFA. He contacted the state officers who suggested he contact the District 1 chairman, Jerry Ruddock, about forming a new district in the area. In February, 1982 Jerry Ruddock appointed Rusty Knight co-chairman of the Burns area. Rusty arranged for a jam at the Harney County Senior Center on February 14th. Fiddlers were Susie Smith, Lance Barker, Homer McLain, Bill Noble, Irene and Jerry Ruddock, Rusty Knight, Ruel Teague, Della Myrtle Dunten, and Turen Dunten. About 150 people attended the show. By September of 1982 thirty-three members had been recruited. At the August 8th jam acting officers were elected: Rusty Knight, Chairman, Ruel Teague, Co-chairman, Pat Scott, Secretary/treasurer, and Joan Knight, reporter.

Even before the lines were officially drawn for the new district it became an integral part of the community. The Harney County Chamber of Commerce contacted Rusty Knight with the idea of a fiddle contest (or perhaps it was the other way around). At any rate the small district took on the project and set the dates of June 30th through July 2nd to follow the National Contest in Weiser. In February of 1983 plans were underway for a Fiddle Contest with Rusty Knight and Ruel Teague at the helm. Bill Yohey was particularly helpful and supportive with assistance to get the contest off the ground. The OOTFA organization was supportive of the idea, too. However some reservations were heard. The state organization did not want any financial liability for a first time fiddle contest by a fledgling district. The members of the brand new district 9 formed a second group, the High Desert Fiddlers and applied for non-profit status as a community organization.

The first High Desert Fiddlers Contest came off as planned the weekend following Weiser in 1983 but not without some turmoil. After a falling out, Rusty Knight walked away from the contest in April or May. Ruel & Margaret Teague and Susie Smith kept the group together and continued with plans for the contest even though none had any experience with such an event. They all credit Bill and Edna Yohey for advice given to pull off the contest. The many OOTFA members who supported the contest with their presence is what made it a success. The funds for the contest were raised by hitting the streets for sponsors and playing at every chance for donations along with seed money from the Chamber of Commerce. Sixty-four entries vied for prize money in five categories. First place winners were Champion- Tony Ludiker, Senior- Henry L. McVeigh, Intermediate- Susie Smith, Junior- Randy Pollard, and Accompanist - Terry Ludiker. Judges were James B. Herd, Loyd Wanzer and Bill Yohey.

The High Desert Fiddlers Contest continued to be held annually through 1989. The dates were changed to precede the National Contest in Weiser. In 1990 the High Desert Fiddlers cried uncle and changed the format to a jamboree. The contest proved to be too much for the handful of folks who did all the work. The jamboree was held on main street, outdoors and was non-competitive. Since 1990 it has changed location and format but still survives as the Country Music Jamboree. Held annually at the Harney County Fairgrounds in Burns, Oregon and sponsored by the High Desert Fiddlers, it is among the OOTFA's favorite functions. Over 300 folks attended in 1999.

District 9 also continues to thrive. Jams are currently held the 1st Sunday of the month October through May. The nursing home and the Aspens Assisted Living Center receive monthly visits. Many members have come and gone over the years and still some faces remain the same. From the early days among those who have passed on are Benny Scott, Turen Dunten, Harry Blair, Brick Callaway, and John Murray. Those who have moved away include Susie (Smith) Anderson, Helen Sargeant, Katie Tracey, Pat Scott, Stacey Reynolds, and Darlene Austin. Those who still remain include Ruel and Margaret Teague, Lloyd Louie, Janet (Burgess) Braymen, Rose Robirts, Ellen Callaway, Don and LaWanda Williams, Joe Enneberg and Walt Cooper.

Those who came later and became one of the family include Julia Milleson, Joan Suther, Darryl Smith, Carl Cross, Chris & Helen (King) O'Clair, Roy Reed, Edie & Tracey Koenig, George & Hilda Sahlberg, Hugh Galliher, Gordon Black, Thad Geer, Rose Modey, and Patty Leahy.

District 9 covers a large area of real estate. Most activities are centered in Burns for convenience but other fiddle friends are always welcome. Ike Marler was an active OOTFA member for many years even though Ontario was much closer to Idaho than District 9 activities. Members from Grant County came along every now and then. Efforts to establish a monthly jam in John Day in the mid '90's folded after less than a year of trying.

District 9 is held together by a love of old time music and a love of playing music together. Associate members, spouses, children, parents, fiddlers, accompanists, and friends are all an important part of the organization. On nearly any Friday night year round you'll find some of these folks gathered in a living room or cafe doing what they enjoy most.....playing music and loving every minute of it!

---

District 10

January 1992

Notes from your toe tappin' president: To be presented at the Quarterly Meeting will be a request by OOTFA members in the northern part of District 4 to form a new district. They have notified members in then area of their intent and have held a meeting to discuss the forming of a new district. To date they have the required number of signatures. They have followed the by-laws and Standing Rules, as well as suggestions from the officers. Many excellent musicians and workers are in this area and it appears the forming of a new district would enhance our organization. If approved at the January 11, 1992 meeting, OOTFA Quarterly Meeting, they have set Jan. 18, 1992 Sutherlin Grange Hall as an organizational meeting to elect officers.

February 1992

Notes from your toe tappin' president: Welcome District 10. At the OOTFA Quarterly Meeting in Coburg Jan 11, 1992, the Executive Board unanimously approved the request that the northern part of Dist. 4 be a new district. Saturday, Jan. 18, 1992, at Sutherlin around 60 voting members of District 10 elected officers. Let us welcome Chairman Larry Johnson, Co-chairman Guy Kinman, and Secretary/Treasurer Robert Joiner.

---

District 10: Our meeting began about 10:30 Am at Sutherlin Grange, on the 18<sup>th</sup> of January. Zelma Foote, our state president, brought the meeting to order and opened nominations for officers. Linda Carver, state sec/treas. Took the minutes for this meeting. . . . District 4 gave us a \$100 donation to help start our district. Roseburg Folklore Society. . . . gave us a \$50 donation. Robert Ellenwood donated a 96-cup coffee maker. . . .

---

The “Devil’s Box” they called it – religious zealots of the early 19<sup>th</sup> Century – and they truly believed in the intrinsic evil of the fiddle. But now, almost 200 years later, the fiddle is as alive and well as the fallen angel for who it was named.

The music played upon the box is to some folks the sweetest sound on earth. To others, it is worse than a prolonged squawk. Some insist it includes only tunes originating prior to 1900. Others say “old time” is a style, not an age. But none will deny that all old time music, no matter its age, is music for dancing.

Fiddling has been called an exact art (with emphasis on *art*) that remains, in one form or another, one of the most vital folk music traditions in America today. Like other folk arts, fiddling is not *taught*, but rather *passed on*, generation to generation, mostly by ear and instinct, allowing for tunes to be played *as one remembers*.

Like the devil’s boxes themselves, the tunes played upon them came to America mainly with immigrants from the British Isles, though many a fine, danceable waltz can be traced to Scandinavia. The reels, hornpipes and breakdowns are primarily of British origin. Bagpipe melodies are strong forebears of American fiddle tunes. Puritans frowned on all secular music, but fiddling flourished in the early years despite their objections.

Small and lightweight, fiddles took up minimum room in wagons on their way West, and they appeared at the very-moving edges of the Frontier, often

carefully encased in a pillow slip tied around the neck.

The social importance of the role of the fiddler in times past was major. In some locales, he was revered and

respected equally with the country parson.

Contests – one of the primary occasions for present-day fiddling – were not uncommon in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Centuries, but they were only one context of fiddle performances. More common were square dances, box suppers, ice cream socials and play parties.

Like the tunes themselves, their names have been transmitted largely by ear, and the same tune may appear at different points in geography and history by different titles.

Most tunes consist of two or three distinct and repeatable sections. Thus, what sounds to be quite a lengthy tune can in fact be written in the space of one or two lines of music.

Old time fiddle music has in fact been written down despite strong objections from legions of fiddlers that capturing it on paper saps the soul of fiddling.

The fact is that more and more fiddlers are playing by both ear and note. Further, a growing number of fiddlers, especially those born after 1940, also play, or did play, the instrument as a classical violin.

Most fiddlers, even those who admit to reading music, not only tune by ear, they play their tunes “from inside the head” as well. Unwritten repertoires may include hundreds of tunes, all learned, one way or another, from other fiddlers.

Learning is a continuous process. At times, -- especially at contests where large numbers of fiddlers gather – it may appear as a frenzied compulsion.

Local and regional contests abound, particularly in the summer and

early fall months. The annual National Old Time Fiddling contest is held each June in the little agricultural town of Weiser, Idaho, on the Oregon border.

*The above notes on old time fiddling are from an Article called the “THE DEVIL’S BOX” by Sally-Jo Moan, a Eugene, Oregon journalist and a non-fiddling member of the Oregon Old Time Fiddlers Association.*

---

## HISTORY OF CANYONVILLE PIONEER DAYS FIDDLE CONTEST

By Gynn O. Deaton

Canyonville's annual celebration to honor its pioneers began in 1966; thus, 1999 marks the 33rd Canyonville Pioneer Days. An old time fiddle contest has been a part of Pioneer Days since the beginning. I was a member of the audience for that first contest in 1966. There were three contestants, all local long time residents of the Canyonville area.

In 1968, I was asked to be a judge of the contest. My only qualifications were that I loved the music and had attended the national contest in Weiser, Idaho!

In 1969, the Pioneer Days Committee asked me to take charge of the fiddle contest and with great trepidation, I agreed to try although I knew nothing about it. What I did know

was that if it was to continue to be a Pioneer Days event, it needed to be upgraded and organized better.

I had heard of the existence of the Oregon Old time Fiddlers Association and decided that these people would be my best resource on what it takes to run a successful fiddle contest. I found out they were holding a convention in Rickreall so I gathered my courage and just walked in and began talking to people. Bill Yohey was President and when I told him what I was about, he directed me to Wayne Holmes. I have to give Wayne full credit for the Canyonville Contest because if he had not been willing to give me extensive and detailed help, I would never have been able to do it. Wayne served as emcee for many of the early years and as judge later on. Martha Warwick is another one who helped me from the beginning and is still at it today. Etta Powell was a faithful helper until eye problems prevented her from continuing. Vic and Neva Flood promoted and helped

with this contest from the beginning. Jack Walker, Shorty Dow, and Lew Holt continue to do everything they can to help insure a successful contest. The list goes on and on. The first thing we did was move the contest from the outdoor stage at Pioneer Park to the indoors. Successive principals at the Canyonville School have allowed us to hold the contest in the gymnasium and to park RV's on the grounds so fiddlers can stay the entire four days of the Pioneer Days celebration if they wish.

The contest built up slowly through the years as more and more fiddlers began participating. Newer categories were added such as "Pee Wee" and "Senior--Senior". As many as 48 fiddlers have participated but the average for the past few years has been 35. The prizes are not large but fiddlers always say it is a "fun" contest. Not much pressure and they enjoy coming early so they can jam on Thursdays and Fridays and enjoy other Pioneer Days activities in the park just a few blocks away.

They also enjoy playing for the folks at the nearby retirement home and perform on the park stage Friday evening before the contest on Saturday.

When I took the job as director, I never dreamed I would still be at it these thirty years later. I pretty much know the ropes now but it is still a considerable amount of work. If it were not for the

support of OOTFA, who declared Canyonville's contest as one of its activities to be covered by its insurance policy, the school would not have continued to allow us the use of its premises. If it were not for the physical labor of many, many OOTFA members each year, it would not be possible for me to continue to be responsible for the contest. And, the financial help of District #4 and individuals such as Bob and LoRay Hannah, of Albany, who faithfully donate a good sum every year, must be mentioned. Most of my Canyonville business sponsors gave donations from the beginning and are continuing the help today. It truly takes many many people to keep a little contest going.

Little did I know the ramifications my trips to Weiser would have to my little town of Canyonville and to me personally. My husband, Jim, and I have had the privilege to become involved in an organization promoting the much-loved music from our childhood. OOTFA has brought us some of our best friends. Because of OOTFA, Canyonville has an annual fiddle contest, which is a credit to the community. I'm proud to have been a part of it for thirty years and hope it will continue to be a successful part of Pioneer Days for all the years to come.

---

# Walking with Ghosts of the Past Down Memory Lane Reminiscing through back issues of the Hoedowner

---

1967

The first Hoedowner. . . .

Waldport, Oregon  
February 14, 1967  
The Hoedowner

This will be known as the first volume of the Hoedowner, Published by the Oregon Old Time Fiddlers Association and arranged by the Officers of the Association.

Since our last get-together last September things have been quite slack in the fiddling business, altho we had a wonderful time at the Dorena Grange Hall on January 22<sup>nd</sup>. I think that was about the best party we have ever had. Our potluck dinner was great and our many friends that joined us at lunch was a great pickup for the fiddlers and when we started the show and saw the crowd of spectators that came out to enjoy the day with us, we really felt glad to be entertainers even if we did have to play an old fiddle. We want to say thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Harold Allen, Mr. and Mrs. Dave Hite, and Mr. and Mrs. Ivan Hoyer. The Allens, Hites and Hoyers all live in the Cottage grove area. We also want to thank Peggy Stratton and all the girls who helped in the kitchen or program and all of the people who came out to make the day so complete.

I had a letter from our secretary, Bill Yohey, a short time ago and he had just returned from Lewiston, Idaho where he and Rusty Modrell had attended the Idaho Fiddler's meeting. Bill reports they had a wonderful time and may go back again sometime. He also reports that he signed up several new members in the Oregon Old Time Fiddlers Association and this includes all of the officers of the Idaho Fiddlers Association so I guess I will have to join the Idaho Fiddlers to get even.

Some time ago I asked the fiddlers to write me about their fiddling activities so I could include it in the Hoedowner and so far the only response has been from Bill Yohey and Charley Johnson of Portland and I want to say that Charley has been a busy boy. He is connected with several different groups of musicians and plays all types of music -- in theaters, rest homes and some dances.

I have been busy part of the time lately. My wife and I have played a few dances at Silverton and we also have entertained the old people at the rest home for some time in the past. I have been for some time connected with a group call the Merrymakers. They are at Lincoln City and every second Sunday of the month they go around and entertain at rest homes in North Lincoln County and I try to go as often as I can. There is something about playing at rest homes that is different from playing almost anywhere else. First, you know, they are mostly people who are confined to the place for the rest of their lives, and don't have much pleasure and nothing to look forward to, and then when you get ready to leave and they tell how much they enjoyed your music, I often wonder if they are the only ones that enjoy it or if you didn't enjoy it a little bit too.

I am going to name a group of members who I want to head a committee in your area and get all the help you can and get together now and then for a little jam session, then write to me about the activities in your area. The men I have chosen are Jim Allen, Pete Haynes, Rusty Modrell, Harold Allen, Dave Hite, George Jenkerson, Bill Yohey, Jimmie Miller and Larry Modrell.

I want you each to write to me to be sure you understand what this is all about and if you want a list of members in your area, just write to me and I will send it to you. Signed Cliff Buker

---

March 11, 1967  
THE HOEDOWNER

This will be known as the Second issue of the HOEDOWNER, and it is made up of information the Officers receive from the Fiddlers. When the news is all in it is put together by Cliff Buker and mimeographed by one of our newest members, Pat Beardsley, a very kind lady.

THOUGHTS FROM YOUR OFFICERS

We should have a Fiddlers Convention here in Oregon some time this coming summer so think about it, also a date and place. We also should be incorporated. We need a P.A. system of our own, we also want the members that are able and willing to serve as judges to write to us and let us know how you stand.

---

THE HOEDOWNER  
Waldport, Oregon  
April 11, 1967

On Monday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>, Bill Yohey and I went to Molalla to help the Chamber of commerce line up a Fiddling Contest for July 1<sup>st</sup>. On behalf of the Fiddlers we have agreed to furnish them three suitable judges and now we want volunteers and if you don't offer your services, you may be drafted.

---

“THE ART OF BEING A GOOD ACCOMPANIST”

By Bill Yohey

When I was a small boy 12 years old, I started to chord on the guitar and mandolin to my dad's fiddling. As I grew up, accompanying my folks and other musicians, I soon learned that most every one plays a piece of music differently. This we must watch for and endeavor to make the right changes as they play it and not the way the last performer did it. Accompanists like Bill Durham and Vic Brown can do this very well. I have a lot of respect for the piano players and men like Dave Hite and Rusty Modrell who are willing to accompany anyone who asks them.

Some accompany the fiddler too loudly and unintentionally take the play away from him. Some fiddlers often break time because they can't hear their accompanists. You have to find a happy medium here, and it takes a little concentration. Time doesn't permit us to practice much at our jam sessions. I think it is very important when choosing someone to help us, that we quickly tell them what we will play and what key we do it in. Most accompanists appreciate being asked to play. We take advantage of some, but that's the price of being a popular one. Do you think these three items are important?

1. Having your instrument in tune.
2. Willing to accompany anyone.
3. Respect of other's ability.

Hats off to all accompanists. Without them we wouldn't sound so good. After all we are not soloists, you know.

---

---

 Rusty Modrell

Idaho's loss was surely Oregon's gain when this young man's parents moved to Yachats, Oregon. His father was a farmer and fiddler who later moved to Pendleton and Redmond, Oregon. Rusty has been playing and entertaining people all over the state for 35 years. He owned and operated an upholstery shop in Redmond, Oregon.

Rusty was born in Filer, Idaho September 25, 1916. He and his wife, Violet, live on a small ranch at Terrebonne, Oregon. Rusty is the current State Old Time Fiddling Champion.

---

 Nell Turner

This lady, daughter of S. L. and Grace Stewart, was born on a farm near McCoy, Oregon on January 24, 1895. Her first musical experience was on a reed organ. Later, in 1905, a fiddler came to work for her parents on the farm and taught her the chords on the piano. Around 1917 she decided she would like to play the fiddle and has been playing since.

After World War I she taught school in Malheur County, then returned to the vicinity of McCoy near Amity, Oregon. She was married in 1920 and has lived on the same farm since that date.

Nell is also a fine accompanist and attends the fiddler jam sessions when able.

---

 Stan Edwards

Stan was born in Tootle, Washington 82 years ago and has been playing the fiddle for 65 years. Prior to 1930 he played in several Circus bands through the northwest and often played with the well-known Jessie Crawford of piano and organ fame. His father taught music in Tootle, Washington. In 1930 he moved to McMinnville and was in the shoe repair business until he retired in 1940. Stan is truly an old time fiddler.

---

 The Hoedowner

May 11, 1967

Cliff Buker writes:

In this case I have no biographies to write about and no accompanists to mention. I will give you my impression of a fiddler. First, I will say that when you can play good enough to enter contests and play before the public, you are then a fiddler, and no matter how bad you play, there are some people who are musically dumb enough to appreciate it.

My troubles didn't start until I was quite a boy, big enough to play ball and run with the other youngsters and at this time I had a serious injury that confined me to my home for several months and at this time I was given my father's fiddle to play with. Believe it or not the neighbors complained for about three blocks around.

After about four months of confinement in my room with my fiddle I finally got out in circulation again; and soon the fiddlers all came around to hear that kid play the fiddle. I think it was about two years later that I started to play in public places.

My playing has been quite varied, and I believe if you leave out practice time I have played on the job more hours than most people I know.

When you hang out your shingle as a fiddler you must go when you are called, regardless how you feel. You might be ill, full of sorrow, mad, or just plain tired, but you have to play just the same.

My playing days are all past, now I am just fooling around. In the past I have played for dances, shows, carnivals, steamboats and churches, but recently I hit the jackpot. When I came home from Paradise, California, I had a terrible cold, the kind of cold commonly called the flu and for about three weeks I was more dead than alive, but during this time I was called out to play three times. During this time I didn't feel like playing; I felt more like crawling back under my rock and **dying** in peace.

Did you ever play for anyone who for the sake of politeness would clap their hands, but really would rather bite you? I guess that about finishes it for now and I am glad I lived after all.

---

Waldport, Oregon

July 8, 1967

Now, let's think about the HOEDOWNER for a minute. First we have to gather up all the information on 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.

---

L.A. Powers

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 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 for 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 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 wife, Irene, will have their fiftieth wedding anniversary. They have 4 children, 11 grandchildren, and 3 great-grandchildren. Pop is a veteran of World War I.

---

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 those 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?

---

### Sig Blexrude

Eugene, Oregon

Sig Blexrude was born in Wisconsin in 1889. He was raised on a farm and when he was about 15 years old, his two brothers, who were fiddlers moved into the area. Sig was interested in fiddling so they agreed to help him. The brothers names were Abraham and Isaac.

Sig had a Strad Violin and he played for dances, weddings and any other entertainment. In 1910 he organized a five piece dance band and they played for dances until the jitterbug days came along.

Sig worked as a carpenter and did not play the fiddle any more until he came to Oregon. Some time later he attended the Old Time Fiddling Show at Weiser, Idaho and the old Fiddling Bug started squirming again.

Sig says he is doing quite a bit of playing at the Golden Age Clubs and other places. More power to him. He also says that all fiddlers are welcome to stop and see him when they are in Eugene.

---

### David Quinlan

David Quinlan was born March 5, 1893 in Minnesota. He first started to play the fiddle when he was 16 years old. He never had music lessons so he taught himself to read music.

He had several uncles who played the fiddle and somehow they all played the same tunes, the same way, and in the same key.

David said that he had to practice in the barn, (who didn't) and he said his mother would whistle a tune for him to take to the barn and practice.

Several years ago he had an accident and his arm and hand were so damaged that he had to give up playing for a long time.

He entered the contest at the Benton County Fair in 1963 and there he met many old time fiddlers and this renewed his interest in fiddling. Now he is doing quite well.

---

### September 12, 1967

The State Contest at Roseburg was an outdoors affair, and that is never too satisfactory, but it was the best we could do on such short notice. Due to unavoidable circumstances Bill Yohey and Rusty Modrell were neither able to attend the contest and Don Haynes, George Jenkerson and Cliff Buker were judges. This took five fiddlers out of competition. Therefore, instead of the usual eighteen to twenty fiddlers to compete there were only eleven.

---

We received a nice letter from Earl Willis of Grants Pass and he gave the story about the Fiddle Contest at the Pioneer Day Celebration at Canyonville, August 26. An old man from Grants pass took first place and Earl couldn't remember his name. Guy Spurlock from Camas Valley second, James Rose Third, Casey Jones from Yoncalla fourth and Jim Tumalt of Canyonville fifth.

---

September 16, 1967

You can consider this letter as my resignation as both the president of the Oregon Old Time Fiddlers Association and Editor of the HOEDOWNER. Cliff Buker (Letters indicate Cliff was peeved because a date had been set for a meeting which conflicted with a contest date in California. Because he was an officer in Oregon, he cancelled his trip to the contest but then found out that the date in Oregon had been changed and it was too late for him to go to California. Previously some dates had been changed and he wasn't notified in time to get them into the Hoedowner. No written evidence can be found of him returning but there are many references to him in future issues. The editorship of the Hoedowner was taken over by others.)

---

Charles Johnson

Charles Johnson was born in Longton, Kansas April 11, 1896. His family moved to Blackfoot, Idaho in 1899 where his father was school superintendent. The family moved to North Idaho in 1907, lived in Wardner for two years then went to Coeur D'Alene in 1909 where he went to High School graduating in 1913.

It was about mid-term of 1911 that his father persuaded the school board to hire a music teacher. There were about fifteen of the pupils, including Charles, who took up the violin, but only two or three stayed with it.

After his graduation Charles stayed with the high school orchestra for about two years, and in this time they played for many entertainments including a teachers' convention at Spokane. They played some pretty heavy overtures and made quite a hit, being just a group of kids.

He later entered the University of Idaho and registered in engineering. After a while he decided he didn't like engineering, but he played first violin in the University orchestra. The next year he took public school music so he could teach, but as he didn't like teaching he just started fiddling. About 1930 he started playing for dances and for about four years he played with The Oregonblazers who played over KGW. He also played at Jantzen Beach Park every Sunday afternoon for about twenty-two years.

He now plays with a few amateur groups in and around Portland, and his first fiddling experience was at Weiser, Idaho in 1955. Now he is playing in about all the Contests. He says he don't win much but he will stay with it a while yet.

---

1968

January 1968

Don Haynes -- Forest Grove

Don Haynes - born James D. Haynes Nov. 18, 1915 near Laurel, Oregon. Son of Tom and Etta Haynes. Granddad and Grandma Haynes came to Oregon in the early 1850's by wagon train. They were married in McMinnville Oregon. She was the daughter of Martin Shuck. They settled in the Buck Heaven district of the Washington-Yamhill Co. line north of Newberg. The final papers on their land claim was signed in 1863.

Tom Haynes was a banjo and fiddle player, so it seems that some of the old tunes were part of the memories of home. I played banjo and guitar until 4 years ago when I put them down for the fiddle. Now, I can't play them OR the fiddle!

Life started for me in the sawmill and woods, back In the horse logging days. As this occupation too closely resembled work, I endeavored to learn the electrical trade, which I've followed since.

As most of you know, I'm a brother to Pete Haynes, who is chairman of the Baker contest and to Jake Haynes of the Molalla contest. Having done nothing of distinction myself, I'm sure you'll forgive the mention of the ones in the family who have. In 1939 I bought a log cabin and shortly after, married my wife, Thelma, who makes a very good cup of coffee and has an Irish temper that really is a thing of

beauty! Sometimes she doesn't speak to me for days below a shout. Fortunately, we have a large house so we get along. We live in Forest Grove.

---

### February 1968

SALEM, Oregon: First let me express my most sincere thanks for the members of the Oregon Old Time Fiddlers Association for their trust and confidence they have in me by electing me as President. Let me say a very big thank you to all the officers and members for doing a great job in organizing and presenting our first annual two day convention held at Corvallis Jan. 19-20. . . . .

At the business meeting on the 20<sup>th</sup>, the newly elected officers appointed a two man committee, Ed Gorham and Mervin Dickerson, to meet with them for the purpose of discussing the business of incorporating the Oregon Old Time Fiddlers as a non-profit organization and forming a constitution and by-laws. The meeting ended rather abruptly as the weather was not in our favor. Some of us had some pretty slick driving going home. Don Leith, President

---

### Marshall Jackson --Gresham, Oregon

I was born on a farm 12 miles northeast of Regent, N.D. on Sept. 4, 1911. My parents were share-croppers. They moved to Halliday, N.D. in 1919. There I grew up, and attended school. Earned my way through high school by working on ranches, trapping wild fur-bearing animals. In June 1931, I started on horse back for Wyoming to work on a Dude ranch. 120 miles from home, my horse went lame. I had to walk most of the way home, leading my horse. This expedition earned me the title of "The Wyoming kid." My wife, too, is from Dakota. Sarah and I will have our 30<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on May 20, 1968. We have one son and six daughters. We've lived in Gresham since 1942.

My first musical instrument was one I made from my mother's one-loaf tin bread pan over which I stretched a dozen rubber bands I cut from the innertube of the Model T Ford. No one liked my "music" so I gave it up. But in July, 1927, I heard a fiddle and guitar being played in the Halliday hotel. I listened and was "hooked." Guy Sharpe, fiddle, and Ed Stockland, guitar were playing. They were 20 and 15 years older than I. Guy is now a member of Oregon Fiddlers; lives near Everett, Washington. Ed lives in Starbuck, Minn. We've been close friends since. I persuaded my father to trade a load of prairie hay for a beat up guitar. With a 5-minute course book, I taught my fingers a few chords, how to pluck the strings. Ed and Guy allowed me to play with them and we played together 'till 1934.

I have a guitar, a mandolin, a tenor banjo. And six months ago I got the "fiddlin' fever." Now I have "obtained" two fiddles. The Strad copy I got from John Bruhl. It was found many years ago floating down the Mississippi. I got the Stainer copy from Warnie Gray of Tigard. It is about 100 years old. I can't play the banjo, guitar, or mandolin very well, so am going to become a fiddler.

I attended the Fiddler's Contest in Tillamook in April, 1966. I joined up and have been glad about that ever since. My wish is that Oregon Fiddlers will continue to grow and prosper, as it spreads the Fiddlin' Gospel over the land. I will, to the best of my ability, play accompaniment to any fiddler, any place, any time day or night, if he will ask me to play with him. My motto is: EVERYBODY SHOULD FIDDLE A LIDDLE.

(More from the Nov. 1975 Hoedowner) Marshall and his wife, Sarah, are the parents of seven children. He has worked at various trades during his life and until he lost his sight in 1963, was a Tektronix supervisor in Portland. He is very much in demand as an accompanist especially by the champion fiddlers who depend upon the strong pure chords of guitar to back them up at a contest. Many other accompanists in the Old Time Fiddlers Association are very grateful to Marshall for his patience and help in getting them started. He especially enjoys working with young children.

---

 Feb. 1968

The Oregon Old Time Fiddler's Assn. new theme song is now "There'll Be A Hot Time In The Old Town Tonight." Charlie Johnson is putting appropriate words to his piece and we hope to have them to print in next month's Hoedowner. A suggested motto, submitted by Marshall Jackson, is "Everyone Should Fiddle A Liddle."

---

The Oregon Old Time Fiddlers Association is now registered with the Corporation Division of the Department of commerce of the State of Oregon as a non-profit organization, registered Feb. 8, 1968.

---

Sherwood: Following the monthly potluck dinner . . . on Feb. 18, 1968, a jamboree was held. . . . The following fiddlers were introduced and rendered their favorite numbers: Ray Mack, "Pop" Powers, Bill Weber, Charlie Johnson, Rusty Knight, Fred Hildebrandt, Bill Wilson, Ray Abbey, S.G. Blakkolb, Warren Gray, George Berge, Jimmy Miller.

---

McMinnville: Mr. and Mrs. Bill Yohey entertained a group of "fiddlin" friends at their home on Feb 24, 1968. Those attending were Loyd Wanzer, Dave Frisbee, and Allen Rice from Idaho. Mr. and Mrs. Don Gish and Mr. and Mrs. Jim Thomas from Washington, Mr. and Mrs. Harold Allen, Mr. and Mrs. Roy School, Mr. and Mrs. Cliff Buker, Mr. and Mrs. Bob Church, Rusty Modrell, and Rusty Knight. All enjoyed Edna's turkey dinner and Bessie Buker's now famous crab salad was a special treat.

---

 Jimmy Baker -- Seneca, Oregon

Jimmy, at 30, is a relatively newcomer to the fiddlin' world, but no doubt he has enjoyed this music field to the fullest measure. With more time than money, (isn't that the way of the world?) he started to play an old "dollar-two-ninety-eight" fiddle his aunt had given him. Three months passed and he felt it was time to do a little trading for a good fiddle.

Not long afterwards, Ray Sherwood moved into the logging community we were living in and it wasn't long until Ray and Louise almost had a permanent house guest. Ray played the fiddle like he was a real believer that "everyone should fiddle a little." Many a winter evening Jim and Ray passed, by Ray showing Jim a pretty old waltz or some catchy hoedown.

In 1964 with declaration, "You gotta start someplace," Jimmy entered his first contest at Canyon City. He placed 5<sup>th</sup>, followed by 3<sup>rd</sup> place in 1965, and 2<sup>nd</sup> place in 1966. In June of 1967 he brought pleasure to his wife Bonnie and two little daughters, Celeste and Renee, by placing 1<sup>st</sup> at Canyon City. . . . Jim is so busy having a good time and visiting with friends at the contests that he nearly forgets the competitive part. We have to stay close to home in winter because Seneca takes the word "winter" to heart. But spring finds us anxiously looking forward to the Fiddlin' Season and a chance to renew friendships among the friendliest family of all. . . the oldtime fiddlers.

---

 April 1968

Co-editors: Bill Yohey Shirley Allen

Our jam session at Rickreall March 17<sup>th</sup>. . . . Mr. Steve Anderson, the Salem attorney who donated his services in helping us become an incorporated, no-profit organization, paid us a visit with his wife and mother-in-law. He got a big round of applause when your President introduced him; and he in turn introduced his mother-in-law, who is visiting Salem from Norway.

The executive board, Bob Hawes, Bill Yohey, Mervin Dickerson, Ed Gorham, and myself (Don Leith), held a business meeting the 18<sup>th</sup> at the Leith home to further discuss the forming of our by-laws. Cliff Buker and myself called on the chairman of the State Fair Board March 21<sup>st</sup> to discuss putting on the Fiddler's Contest at the State Fair this year.. . . .

---

Warren Gray

I was born May 1, 1903, at Fonda, Iowa. In 1906 I moved with my parents to a homestead 22 miles south of Gladstone, north Dakota. While living there, Marshall Jackson's father and I were schoolmates, and I have known Marshall practically all his life, although we have made music together only the last few years. I became a fiddler in 1910, when I broke eight acres of prairie sod with a walking plow and four-horse team, for a neighbor, in payment for the Stainer violin which I still use. I never had any music lessons but learned the hard way by ear, practicing whenever I had any spare time. I soon was playing with my uncle for dances.

In 1915 (*Editors note: that would make him 12 years old. I think someone typed the wrong date, don't you! Maybe it should be 1925.*) I met and married Allene DeFord, also from Iowa, who lived on her homestead and taught school in the adjoining township. We have two boys, Glen of Beaverton, Vern of Hillsboro, and a girl, Mrs. A. B. Jackson of Kennewick, Wash. We moved up into Teddy Roosevelt country in the Bad Lands, and there played for dances in ranch homes and schoolhouses almost every Saturday night in winter, accompanied by a cowboy, George Argus, on guitar. Sometimes, because of unimproved roads, we went horseback. I carried the baby and my wife carried the fiddle. Such was social life in North Dakota pioneer days. The years rolled by and 1943 found us in Oregon with me ship fitting in Portland, the old fiddle having a long rest until my grand-daughter Tanya, Glen's youngest girl, began violin lessons at the age of six. She loved to hear me play "Sauerkraut." Occasionally I fiddle a tune for the Over-Fifty Cub at Beaverton, and Marshall and I have a jam session now and then, but a part time job prevents me from attending most of the meetings of the Association. I hope to correct that before long. I do enjoy the "Hoedowner."

---

May 1968

Tillamook: The Pacific Northwest Fiddler's Contest was held in Tillamook on April 26<sup>th</sup>, 1968, with the following results: Winner – Rusty Modrell, 2<sup>nd</sup> – Harold Allen, 3<sup>rd</sup> – Jimmy Miller, 4<sup>th</sup> – Cliff Buker, 5<sup>th</sup> – Gordon Neufeld. In the Senior Division: Winner – Cliff Buker, 2<sup>nd</sup> – Charlie Johnson, 3<sup>rd</sup> – Bill Weber. Larry Modrell was M.C. for the contest and judges were: Frank Knight, George Jenkerson, and "Pop" Powers. Highest fiddlin' score for the contest was made by Bill Yohey, but he disqualified himself when he repeated a tune in the finals that he had played in the preliminaries. (*Editor notes: Some one wrote in the old Hoedowner "This is wrong! He didn't play the tune he was supposed to play."*)

---

June 1968

Cliff Buker played for a Senior Citizens meeting at the Fairgrounds in Eugene May 25<sup>th</sup>, and the following paragraphs appeared in the Eugene Register-Guard:

“One of the sweetest-toned, mellowest violins we’ve ever heard was played by Clifford Buker, 75, of Waldport, who appeared as a soloist, his wife playing his accompaniment. He is the Senior National Fiddling Champion, an honor won, and successfully defended, in fiddling contests in Weiser, Idaho.

The instrument, a Stainer and made prior to 1760, came into his possession just four years ago but he recalls having heard it played by the former owner, James Tyler, now deceased. Buker was just a boy, he says, when he used to pass Tyler’s home and would let his feet lag as he listened to the music of a violin.

The Tyler violin has been in storage for years, with members of the family, until it was brought to Buker for restoration. He put it into good shape, and learning that it was for sale, promptly bought it. Not until after the purchase did he learn that this was the same violin which he had listened to when a boy!”

GRANTS PASS: Earl and Elsie Willis get together with a group of musicians . . . . there are a lot of musicians in and around Grants Pass and we would like to see the Fiddler’s Association come in here and get them organized. . . . Earl Willis and Van Southwood played their fiddles . . . . .

---

Gordon Neufeld

I have been asked by a number of fiddlers if I ever studied music. Yes, I did. I started taking private lessons at the age of four in my home town of York, Nebraska. At that time, my Grandpa was an old time barn-dance fiddler in the nearby community of McCool Jct., Nebraska. It was then that I picked up a few of the old fiddle tunes played by my Grandpa. Since my parents wanted me to become a violinist, I proceeded to study.

When moving to Salem, Oregon, in 1950 I studied with Victor Palmason, now a member of the Portland symphony. After being with him for a period of four years, I went to John Wallace Graham in Salem for further advanced studies. In 1954-1956, I was chosen to play in the Salem Jr. Symphony under the direction of Dr. Wm. Sweatman.

In 1964, I went to Leo J. Skipton, associate concertmaster of the Portland Symphony, for technical and scientific studies.

In 1965 and ‘66, I went to Seattle to study technical and teaching methods with the noted Mr. Phillip Boltin, Librarian for the Seattle Symphony Association.

I don’t regret the over 20 years of violin study, but have much more fun playing good old jigs and reels and tunes that are familiar to everyone. Even with all the musical background, I have a hard time competing with the fiddlers because of their style of bowing. There is a distinct difference between drawing a bow across the strings and “scratchin’ hair.”

---

July- August 1968

Molalla: On July 6<sup>th</sup> the Oregon State Championship was held at Molalla. It was a fine show, with Vivian Williams and the Tall Timber Boys providing special entertainment. All the fiddlers would like to thank Jake Haynes and his lovely wife for their warm hospitality, which extended “over and above the call of duty!” Winners were:

Regular Contest

1<sup>st</sup> – Harold Allen

2<sup>nd</sup> – Jimmy Miller

3<sup>rd</sup> – Bill Yohey

4<sup>th</sup> – Rusty Modrell

5<sup>th</sup> – Pete Haynes

Senior Contest

1<sup>st</sup> – Charlie Johnson

2<sup>nd</sup> – Tony Descombez

3<sup>rd</sup> – Bill Weber

Nell Turner: In a nice letter from Nell Turner of Amity tells us why she has been among the missing at all our jam sessions and doings recently. In her own words “On the night of May 18, I got a little too tired, wrecked my car, a light pole, a house, and a few other things, and ended up in the hospital.” Nell says she just wants everyone to know she hasn’t quit us and hopes to get on the ball again soon and play accompaniment for some of the fiddlers.

JAM SESSION: August 11, at the Willamette Valley Grange Hall south of Corvallis . . . the monthly jamboree of the Oregon State Old Time Fiddlers. . . . the following entertained: Charlie Johnson, senior champion, Shorty Allen, Mervin Dickerson, Walt Whitsun, Bill Weber, Ray Mack, Carl Van Hooser, Dave Hite, Ludwig Gimm, Marshal Jackson, and the sole lady fiddler, Agnes James. Nell Turner played the piano for the dancing which was held following the jamboree.

In spite of the inclement weather, the Pioneer’s Day Contest at Canyonville was held on schedule, August 25<sup>th</sup>. Trophies were awarded as follows: 1<sup>st</sup> – Jerry White of Eugene, 2<sup>nd</sup> – Guy Spurlock of Camas Valley, and 3<sup>rd</sup> – Earl Willis of Grants Pass.

Perhaps some of you fiddlin’ fans who were at the contests at Molalla, Cottage Grove, and Rickreall noticed that Harold Allen has a new accompanist. She is Ruth Loring of Albany. Ruth is a sister of Lyle Powell of Mt. Home, Idaho, who accompanies so many of the Idaho fiddlers. Anyway, the following conversation was overheard at one of the contests, and this reporter thought it was so funny it should be passed on to the rest of you Hoedowner readers:

“Say, who is that woman with the guitar following Harold Allen?”

“Why, that is his new accompanist!”

“Well, I’ll say this, she sure looks prettier on the stage with Harold than Bill Durham!”

The Yoheys and the Allens were dinner guests at the Loring home in Albany on Oct. 26<sup>th</sup>. The birthdays of Don Loring, Ruth Loring, and Harold Allen were the cause of the celebration, and the evening was spent making music (naturally!).

---

January 1969

---

January 15, 1969

Salem: Well, we have come to the end of this year, and I want to thank all you fellows who have helped me struggle through it. Without your co-operation our jam sessions would not have been the success they were. A special thanks to our officers. . . Vice – President Bob Hawes, who came across the mountains from Bend to attend the majority of our jam sessions; our sec./treas. Bill Yohey. To Bill, Edna, and Shirley Allen for editing and mailing The Hoedowner. Don Leith, President

---

The convention business meeting was held Saturday at 1:00. The following officers were elected: Charles Johnson, Pres., Bob Hawes, VP, Ron Gimm Sec./Treas. . . . the weather did not cooperate the least bit. It started snowing lightly Friday evening and really cut loose in earnest Saturday night. Sunday morning I dug around the drifts until I located our car and we left Corvallis about noon for home. . . . in spite of the bad weather, the spirit of the whole event was tops. Everyone seemed to be having fun and I hope we always keep up that kind of spirit among the Old Time Fiddlers. The real purpose of this whole movement is to have fun, so let's all whoop her up! ! -- Your neophyte president, Charles Johnson *(Editor's note: I attended a meeting in Portland that week end , stopped in Dallas Friday night and attended a meeting Saturday in Springfield. I was snow bound in Eugene with 36 inches of snow and did not make it to North Bend until 3 days later. Lew Holt)*

---

Edna Yohey reflects on the January, 1969 convention. If I remember right, it was held in the Moose Lodge in Corvallis. Harold Allen, a charter member, lived in Corvallis at the time and he and Bill made the arrangements. I don't remember much about the meeting but there was a dance. It had started to snow that evening, but we didn't expect it to amount to much. By the time we got out of the dance there were several inches of snow and it was coming down hard. A group of us had arranged to stay at the Allens and the next morning there were about 30 inches of snow on the ground. Loyd and Wanda Wanzer had come over from Idaho and Don and Nellie Gish, who lived in Yakima, were there so we all ended up staying an extra day, waiting for the roads to be plowed. That was a record snowfall and hit all over the state. When it melted, there were quite a few floods. I think we changed the date after that.

Donald was born August 1, 1902, at Armour, South Dakota, the eldest son of Robert and Hattie Leith, in a family of ten children. His family moved to Motley, Minn. While he was a small boy, where he grew to young manhood. In 1926 he moved to Cheyenne, Wyoming, where he farmed for 18 years before coming to Salem.

Not very many people know that he plays the fiddle. He very modestly says he doesn't play well enough to play with you fiddlers. (Personally, I think he does!) In trying to find a good fiddle for his son, he became interested in and has collected some forty fiddles and it has become a rather profitable hobby. He has read many books on the subject of making and repairing violins, and can do a good job repairing and tuning up an old fiddle. We spent many happy hours having friends drop in to see his collection and have a small jam session. Just give us a ring he is always happy to show his violins.

-- Leona Leith for Don Leith

---

Those of you who were at the Dec. Jam session will remember that Bill Yohey had lost his prized mandolin the night before. He had left the mandolin on the step of his camper when he loaded his other instruments in the camper, and drove off with the mandolin riding on the step. Bill offered a reward and advertised in the papers and on the radio. The instrument was found on a street in Corvallis Bob DeSpain, a student at OSU. He contacted Bill at his home in McMinnville. Bill got his mandolin back, Mr. DeSpain received the \$100 reward, and that made two happy fellows!

---

April 1969

The jamboree at Independence was O.K. . . . some were disappointed because they wouldn't let us dance. . . .

---

Bill Yohey McMinnville, Oregon

My contribution to the Hoedowner this month is my autobiography. I was born at Mount Clair, Nebraska, Dec. 6, 1919, to George and Lilly Yohey, a fiddling bricklayer and one of the better piano players of that day. If I become something in the musical world, I'll owe this to my talented mother's teachings.

My first paying job was in Casper, Wyoming, playing banjo at the Country Club Golf Course. Square dancing was again becoming popular and my job was accompanying a local fiddler and his wife on piano. This job lasted longer than expected and the following week found employment in a restaurant and lounge singing and playing rhythm guitar with a western group. After observing the patrons quickly eat and finish their cocktails, the management asked me to refrain from singing and just play the guitar.

About this time war clouds were gathering in the far east and the government asked me to join other friends of mine who were leaving with the Wyoming National Guard. We arrived in Fort Lewis, Washington on February 14, 1941. December 8, 1942 found my regiment, the 115 Mech. Cavalry, at Corvallis, Oregon. 'Twas there I met my first wife while she was attending Oregon State College. She followed me to several outposts throughout the northwest, and I finally consented to marry this lady Sept. 18, 1942, at the chapel in fort Lewis, Washington. Louisiana, California, Oregon, Washington, Maryland, and Kentucky saw our 1938 Chev coupe with the essentials of a traveling soldier and a pretty wife. I was sent overseas in July 1945 to Tacloban, Leyte, and later to Fusan and Seoul, Korea. Greeting me on my return 6 months later was Edna and the first -born. . . a son, Patrick, now 23 years old. Later came a daughter, Jeannie, who just turned 21.

Discharged in 1946, I returned to McMinnville Oregon, and went to work at the only trade I know. . . bricklaying. Of course my hobby is music. I've strived to learn something of the business and

so become a better musician every day. Many facets of entertainment have entered in the main stream of my playing career. On stage I've followed several dog acts, junior baton twirlers, rock and roll bands, wrestling and dancing bears, pantomime acts, choirs and champion banjo and fiddle players. I've played my instruments at super market openings, fairs, rodeos, banquets, funerals, weddings, various clubs and cocktail lounges, open air dance halls, granges, barn dances, volunteer Fire Departments, and others I'd like to forget! My favorite instruments are tenor guitar, banjo, mandolin, and fiddle. I have made the stereo album called "Twenty Country Strings."

I asked Edna how one ends an autobiography and she says just quit. . . so I will. See you at the next jam session and show.

---

Pleasant Valley Grange, April 20, 1969. After the dinner, all who were on the program drew numbers. Cliff Buker was sure he was going to draw No. 1. Said he always did, but he was not number one. No one was. Cliff was number 24.

"Pop" Powers, having drawn No. 2, was the first man on the fiddle. Carl Van Hooser, Tony Descombez, Mel Yaden, Ray Abbey, Rusty Knight, Charley Johnson, John Bruhel, Bill Weber, Marshall Jackson, Nell Turner, and George Cieloah, Katy Warner, George Jenkerson, Pete Hayes, (Haines?) Frank Paddock. Fred Hilderbrand and Katy Warner, played a duet. . . . Mrs. Don Loring and Marshall Jackson on the guitar and mandolin, respectively also gave a special number.

SO LONG Oregon. . . HELLO, GEORGIA: This is what the Harold Allens are saying these days. Harold left April 8 for Atlanta, Georgia, where he has accepted employment on a power line construction operation there. . . .so, this will be my last issue The Hoedowner to edit for you.

---

June 1969

Bethel, Oregon May 11, 1969 . . . . another newcomer was Mr. Harvey Schuebel, who played the drums. . . .

Editor's notes - Isn't that interesting. Our current by-laws definitely say "no drums or amplified instruments." There was a comment in the January 1982 Hoedowner that "amplified instruments" would not be allowed at the convention show because they took too long to set up. There must be a story someplace in our history about the elimination of drums and amplified instruments. Was the need to do away with them based on one person being too loud, or because they were bulky and took time, or was it to play a more "pure old time music?" Lew Holt

---

State Fiddle Contest: Results of the Molalla State Champion fiddling contest held May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1969:  
 Senior division: 1<sup>st</sup> - Cliff Buker, 2<sup>nd</sup> - Chas. Johnson, 3<sup>rd</sup> - Bill Weber.  
 Open division: 1<sup>st</sup> - Bill Yohey, 2<sup>nd</sup> - Rusty Modrell, 3<sup>rd</sup> - Jimmy Miller, 4<sup>th</sup> - George Jenkerson, 5<sup>th</sup> - Cliff Buker. Junior division: 1<sup>st</sup> - Kathy Warner. Out of state judges were: Ken Brank - Winlock, Wash.; Don Gish - Yakima, Wash., and Loyd Wanzer - Caldwell, Idaho.

---

June 1969

The contest at Cottage Grove was well attended. . . . an unfortunate thing happened. A new contestant, Russell E. Baxter from Klamath Falls, being unfamiliar with our rules, made the mistake of using pizzicato (string picking) in his hoedown. There was quite a little argument about what to do about it until Mr. Baxter voluntarily withdrew from the contest; thereby showing the finest kind of sportsmanship. He turned out to be an extra fine fiddler and if it hadn't have been for this little mistake, might certainly have been close to if not at the top of the list. We hope he was not discouraged and will come again.

---

### September 1969

The annual fiddler's contest at Canyonville on August 23<sup>rd</sup> was a very successful event. There were fiddlers from 13 to 85 years of age. Billy Warwick of Williams, Oregon, formerly of Santa Rosa, California is only 13. He has been playing the fiddle since last Easter and placed No. 7. Billy plays a real fine fiddle and his place on the winning list will be much higher before too long. Jim Breeding of Wolf Creek, Oregon was honored as the oldest fiddler, age 85. 1<sup>st</sup> – Jim Estes of Yreka, Calif., followed by Earl Willis and Guy Spurlock.

---

### October 1969

Yesterday we received the sad news that one of our members, Bob Brumbaugh of North Bend is in the McAuley Hospital in Coos Bay so we stopped in to see him. As you no doubt know, Bob is a fiddler and he also plays the guitar and repairs musical instruments. (*Ed. Note: Bob lived just down the hill from us in North Bend. I heard about him in 1976 and walked down to visit him. He had a tater back mandolin he offered me for \$50. I sent my son home to get the check book. It was an exciting step into old time music for me. Lew Holt*)

---

### November 1969

On Oct. 16<sup>th</sup>, the monthly meeting pot luck and "jam" session of the Oregon State Old Time Fiddlers Association met at the Aloha Grange Hall at Aloha, Oregon. The following fiddlers entertained:

Jim Miller	Bill Weber
Wayne Holmes	Fred Hildebrandt
Al Williams	Fred Moore
Clarence Greenlund	Tony Descombaz
Ludwig Gimm	Marshall Jackson
Ben Higgins	Charles Johnson
Bill Wilson	Cliff Buker
Pete Kline	Larry Modrell and emcee

(*Editors note: Believe this is the first time that Wayne Holmes's name has appeared in the Hoedowner.*)

---

### January 1970

. . . . Potluck and Jamboree on Jan. 18<sup>th</sup> in Taft. . . . now, it so happens, that this is also Bessie and Cliff Buker's 55<sup>th</sup> anniversary so let's really turn out and make it a real nice party for them. Without the Bukers, I doubt that there would be an Oregon Old Time Fiddlers Association in existence today. They have certainly been amongst our most faithful members so let's really give them a resounding send off. Charles Johnson, Pres.

---

February 1970

The convention will be held next month, March 21<sup>st</sup>, Monmouth, Oregon in the Blue Garden.

---

We want to thank the Oregon Old Time Fiddlers Association. . . .for a wonderful day . . . one of the best days of our lives. Everybody at the meeting seemed to be congratulating my wife and telling me what a wonderful wife I had to stay with me for so many years and I started feeling pretty low, but finally, late in the day, a kind lady came to me and said, "You must be a good man to stay with a woman for so many years. And from then on I enjoyed the day very much. I was sure I had one friend in the group. . . also want to thank the association and members for the cake, cards and presents that we received. By Bessie and Cliff Buker.

---

OREGON STATE CONVENTION: The convention was held at the Blue Garden in Monmouth on March 21. Among things covered during the business meeting were vests. Oregon is the host state at Weiser this year and it was felt we should have something to identify us. New officers for next year: President Bill Yohey, Vice -pres. Marshall Jackson, Sec./Treas. Earlene Gimm, and editor will be Edna Yohey. The state contest was turned over to the Eastern Oregon Fiddlers Association this year. After an excellent dinner, the show was held. Larry Modrell was M.C. and the fiddlers were: Ken and Loretta Brank, Rusty Modrell, Wayne Holmes, Cliff Buker, Bob Hawes, Bill Weber, Bob Booth and Larry Modrell.

From the actual minutes: March 21, 1970 Minutes of the OOTFA meeting . . . .

The meeting was called to order by the president, Charlie Johnson, at 1:30 P.M. Rusty Modrell opened the meeting with a hoedown. . . . Wayne Holmes made a motion to recommend to the National that fiddlers be allowed four minutes total playing time each appearance. Second by Larry Modrell. No discussion, motion carried.

. . . . Ed Gorham made a motion that we adopt blue and gold colored vests for the organization. Second by Fred Hildebrandt. Motion carried.

---

April 1970

. . . . Now for some news about our fiddler's vests. I have checked into them a little more thoroughly and the information I have is as follows: Mr. Bob Theda. . . has assured me that he will have a vest completed for all of you to see at the jam session in April. Also, if we can guarantee him at least 50 vests, we can buy them for one or two dollars less. As of the convention, the price stood at \$7.00 or \$8.00. . . . Nearly everyone I have talked to feels that each of our members should have one, especially if they attend most contests. These vests would help promote our organization and if you are interested, just contact me and I'll be glad to take your order. Earlene Gimm, Sec.

---

May 1970

Now, some news about the fiddlers' vest. They have been ordered for those of you who placed your order. They should be ready for the May jam session. . . .

. . . . new names. . . . Portland April 6. Chester Haven accompanied by Mrs. Haven . . . . played for the 93<sup>rd</sup> birthday of Mrs. York. Coquille, April 10. Fred and Robert Virtue and Bud and Wilma Ryan entertained at the Community Nursing Home.

---

June 1970

Of interest to the fiddlers is the system used in Canada. The MC announcing the contestant's name, number of appearance, and the three tunes to be played. Then the fiddler plays without interruption, one tune after the other. Marshall Jackson

---

Ron Gimm

Ron was born Dec. 22, 1934 in Chicago, Ill. to the Ludwig Gimms. While a small boy, his father started teaching him violin, but he didn't stick with it. He started his singing in grade school and is still at it. At the age of 13 they moved to Sherwood where he graduated from high school, then on to Covena, Calif. Where he served his apprenticeship as a tool and die maker. On Oct. 1<sup>st</sup> 1954, Ron and Earlene were married and they now have four daughters . . . . Then at the age of 25, he started taking guitar lessons and eventually formed a combo called "The Mountaineers." A member of the Sherwood Jaycees, Ron has served them in every office. He was our capable Sec-treas. last year. (In 1971 he was elected vice-president of O. O. T. A. . He also served as Hoedowner editor in 1970, 71, and 72. He both played the fiddle and was a vocalist.)

---

June 1970

Oregon State Contest Canyon City, Oregon June 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>

Senior Division: 1<sup>st</sup> – Bill Weber, 2<sup>nd</sup> – Charlie Johnson, 3<sup>rd</sup> – Earl Potts. Open Division: 1<sup>st</sup> – Bill Yohey, 2<sup>nd</sup> – Rusty Modrell, 3<sup>rd</sup> – Pete Haynes, 4<sup>th</sup> – Edna Jones, 5<sup>th</sup> – Wayne Holmes

---

### September 1970

Canyonville, Oregon August 22 Contest Results are: 1<sup>st</sup> – Doyle young, 2<sup>nd</sup> – Bud Ryan, 3<sup>rd</sup> – Wayne Holmes, 4<sup>th</sup> – Guy Spurlock. The judges were Stan Whitney, Nora Fuller, and Ira Poole. We played on a covered outdoor stage. The audience was not so lucky as they had to sit out in the sun and it was between 90 and 100 degrees. Despite the fact that Canyonville is rather small, they put on a very good show. . . .

The editor writes: You will notice your newsletter is in an envelope this month. It seems the Post office doesn't treat mail as first class when it is sent unsealed. Last month, we mailed them on the first and some didn't get them until the 22<sup>nd</sup>. (*Editors note: Things haven't changed a bit.*)

---

1971

February 1971

Here is some important news about our convention. I met with Polk County Planning commission and we have the use of their facilities on March 12 and 13. In return, we will put on a fiddling show at the Polk Co. Fair in August. Bill Yohey.

The Kenneth Brank Family enjoyed the holidays with brother Leon and friends in sunny Killeen, Texas. Kenneth's father, Thomas, at age 81 is in fine health and still gets many a tune out of the fiddle. Kenneth Brank

Coquille, Oregon Robert Virtue left in January for Lackland Air Force Base in Texas. Before he left, Robert and Fred Virtue along with Wilma Ryan played at the local rest home where music was really enjoyed. Geraldine Virtue

---

April 1971

The president's message: It is a real honor to have been elected president of our fine group. Thanks for your confidence in me. . . . our convention was top-notch in every respect. The facilities were good, the business meeting smooth, the banquet superb, the dance a lot of fun. . . and the fiddle show Friday night was just about the best ever. Most of the credit for our fine convention is due to the work of Bill Yohey. Speaking for all our members, I thank you, Bill. Wayne Holmes

“Dirty Work” Does anyone know the names of our clean up crew? They are Mr. and Mrs. Fred Virtue, Mr. and Mrs. Don Loring, and Mr. and Mrs. Bud Ryan. These lucky folks happened to have their campers on the Polk County Fair grounds and upon their awakening Sunday morning, after a long night on the town and convention, they were greeted by the janitor . . . with a friendly quest, “Who's going to clean up the building

from your Fiddler's convention?" Nothing had been said during the convention about cleaning up. So as good members should, they did the "Dirty work."

---

Roseburg: After a very enjoyable potluck dinner, 16 fiddlers entertained an enthusiastic crowd at the April 18 Jamboree in Roseburg. Fiddles: Cliff Buker, Bill Yohey, Carl Van Hooser, Bob Hawes, Billy Warwick, Guy Spurlock, Bud Ryan, Edwin Skeie, Fred Virtue, James Rose, Willie Fish, Jim Morris, Hjalmer Edwards, O.L. St. Clair, Russ Hall and Wayne Holmes. Accompanists: Don Loring, Ruth Loring, Jack Ivy, Clem Spurlock, Wilma Ryan, Steven Hall, Bessie Buker, Jane Thompson, Mrs. Hjalmer Edwards, Bill Christian, Marion Enlow, Beaver Warwick.

---

It was interesting to note that about May 1971, the following names appeared as new members: Walter Beers, Jim Morris, Russell Hall, Bill Petheram. All but Jim Morris are still members.

---

### June 1971

Grants Pass, May 9, 1971 . . . . Mother's Day, 16 fiddlers converged upon the Jerome Prairie Grange Hall. The fiddlers were: Guy Spurlock, Fred Virtue, Hjalmer Edwards, Ivan Shuck, Billy Warwick, Van Southwood, Bob Hawes, Ed Forsha, John Hoerster, Danny Warwick, Bill Yohey, Jim Rose, Ralph Dias, Jim Morris, M.A. Richardson, and Wayne Holmes.. Accompanists: Mrs. Ed Forsha, Mrs. Hjalmer Edwards, Marion Enlow, Bill Christian, Dave Winkelman, Don Loring, Ruth Loring, Jack Ivy, Jim Bevel, Linda Ivy.

---

Gresham: Our State fiddle contest was held in Gresham on June 12<sup>th</sup>.

Ladies Division: 1<sup>st</sup> – Katie Warner, 2<sup>nd</sup> – Eva Caldwell, 3<sup>rd</sup> – Nell Turner.

Junior Division: 1<sup>st</sup> – Bill Warwick, 2<sup>nd</sup> – Susan Walker, 3<sup>rd</sup> – Dan Warwick.

Senior Division: 1<sup>st</sup> – Charlie Johnson, 2<sup>nd</sup> – Bill Weber, 3<sup>rd</sup> – Tony Descombaz, 4<sup>th</sup> – Cliff Buker.

Open Division: 1<sup>st</sup> – Bill Yohey, 2<sup>nd</sup> – Jerry White, 3<sup>rd</sup> – Eddie Johnson, 4<sup>th</sup> – Wayne Holmes – 5<sup>th</sup> – George Jenkerson.

Judges: Monty Stephens – Winchester, Idaho, Les Rattrey – Maple Ridge, B. C., Neil Johnston – Tenino, Wash.

---

### July 1971

(This is a typical schedule for the OOTFA back in 1971 – before districts. Fiddlers drove many miles to participate in jams and contests across the state.)

Coming Events:

July 10<sup>th</sup> . . . . . Contest . . . . . The Dalles

July 11<sup>th</sup> . . . . . Jam Session . . . . . Woodburn

July 17 . . . . . Contest . . . . . Cottage Grove

July 24<sup>th</sup> . . . . . Contest . . . . . Enterprise

Aug. 20<sup>th</sup> . . . . . Fiddle Show . . . . . Rickreall

Aug. 28<sup>th</sup> . . . . . Contest . . . . . Canyonville

Aug. 29<sup>th</sup> . . . . . Jam Session . . . . . Coquille

---

### August 1971

Verneda Weber, who has a real talent for writing, has agreed to accept the responsibility of writing and assembling the history of the Oregon Old Time Fiddlers Association. (*Editors note: Sure wish I could get my hands on this document.*)

---

The Dave Hite Memorial: Wilma Ryan became the first to be awarded the Dave Hite Memorial Trophy. This trophy will be given each year to the “most popular second,” and honors the memory of Dave Hite who was a well known, well liked accompanist for many years, and who died just two weeks before last year’s contest. (*The “most popular” must have meant the accompanist who backed up the most fiddlers at the contest.*)

---

This is an open letter of THANKS to all you fiddlers who participated in the Canyonville, Pioneer Days Contest held Aug. 28<sup>th</sup>. I especially want to thank Wayne Holmes and Martha Warwick for their help. Cliff Buker, Don Haynes and Robert Hawes who served as our judges. Thanks to Billy Warwick and Loretta Brank for their special numbers. Gynn Deaton

---

CANYONVILLE CONTEST: Junior Division: 1<sup>st</sup> – Billy Warwick, 2<sup>nd</sup> – Loretta Brank, 3<sup>rd</sup> – Sue Walker. Open Division: 1<sup>st</sup> – Don Gish, 2<sup>nd</sup> – Wayne Holmes – 3<sup>rd</sup> – Bud Ryan, 4<sup>th</sup> – Doyle Young, 5<sup>th</sup> – Kenny Brank, 6<sup>th</sup> – Guy Spurlock. The accompanists were: Don and Ruth Loring, Wilma Ryan, Marion Enlow, Bill Young and Clem Spurlock. The M.C. was Christine Deaton. The judges were Cliff Buker, Bob Hawes and Don Haynes. The score keepers were Martha Warwick and Gynn Deaton.

---

October 1971

More thanks: We want to thank everyone for making the Jam Session at Coquille the success that it was. I think Wayne Holmes should have a big THANK YOU for all the time and work he has been doing for the association. Fred and Geraldine Virtue

---

Central Point: This report is being written the night after our first very successful jam session of the newly formed Southern Division of the Oregon Old Time Fiddlers. It was held in the American Legion Hall in Central Point Sunday, Nov. 14, 1971. Bud Ryan was M.C. for 22 acts. They were: Jim Morris, Jim Hoots, Ivan Shuck, Bill Hefner, Van Southwood, Hjalmer Edwards, Dick Thierolf, Bud Ryan, Bill Warwick, Dave Pinkerton, Joe Nelson, Don Gish, Bill Yohey, John Hoerster, Ed Skeie, Ralph Dias, Jim Rose, Fred Virtue, Jeff Pinkham, Glen Oppie and Bob Burton. Back up: Spencer Bohren, Jim Brewer, Lloyd Parshall, Phil Veling, Tom Barkley, Col. Decie Willis, Owen Carey, Lew Parder, Dave Winkelman, Phil Simmons, Wilma Ryan, Ed Skeie, Don and Ruth Loring, Pick Woods. . .

(Here is part of a letter I wrote to my mother. It was Alice's and my first exposure to the Oregon Old Time Fiddlers. Our young son was bored and Alice wasn't too excited - how times have changed. Thought maybe you might enjoy reading it.)

North Bend, Ore.

Sunday Dec. 10 -71

Dear Mom,

An interesting time to write a letter - nice music, a fire in the fireplace, and the Christmas tree. All of it is real - except the tree. We have succumbed to the world of plastics and bought an artificial Christmas tree. We really have not succumbed - only weakened a bit and allowed ourselves this one failure. But it will not dry out on the rug. Pat is starting to accept it - she says.

. . . . This afternoon was extremely interesting and I wish you could have been with us. Last week I heard on the radio that there was going to be a fiddle jamboree in town so Alice, Tim, and I spent from 1:00 until 4:00 listening to old time fiddlers and guitars. People had come from all over Oregon to play together. They played until 3:00 and moved back chairs and danced for an hour to the old time music.

There must have been 15 fiddle players and they each played 3 tunes. There were some special numbers - guitar and mandolins, etc. The gal that played the piano really bounced.

We left at 4:00 - Tim had sat real patiently for 3 hours - and we needed to get home to put up the Christmas lights. Anyway - I really enjoyed listening to the music and watching people dance - as they did at Bridgeport.

Today was a beautiful day - chilly - but bright - and no rain. It frustrated us in that we wanted to enjoy ourselves listening to the fiddle music but at the same time we knew it was the prettiest day in a month or more and we would like to have been at the beach enjoying the bright sunshine.

Love, Lewis, Alice, Steve, Patty, Timmy

The next news from Jan. 1972 tells the story as Martha Warwick wrote for the Hoedowner about the jam Alice and I attended in North Bend.

---

1972  
January 1972

SOUTHERN DIVISION REPORTS First the jam session in North Bend. It was another big success. We had fifteen fiddlers; Cliff Buker, Dick Frankland, Sue Walker, Mary Walker, Jim Rose, Jim Morris, Russ Hall, Billy Warwick, Carl Van Hooser, Sherman Wilson, Fred Virtue, Buck Aulman, Cecil Davidson, Bud Ryan and Don Gish. As back-ups we had: Bessie Buker, piano; Earl Aulman, Wilma Ryan, Steve Hall, Ken Ryan, Pete Oden, Jim Clark, Billy Warwick, and Jim Morris all on guitar. As extra solos we had George Cabal and Pete Oden on their mandolins. The I.W.A. Local 3-261, donated their beautiful new hall for our jam session. Russ Hall and his wife were responsible for all the wonderful help we had. We want to thank all of those that helped to make this another successful Jam Session. I hope I have mentioned all those who helped.  
Martha Warwick.

---

## June 1972

## STATE FIDDLE CONTEST PENDLETON MAY 1972

Junior Division 1<sup>st</sup> – Billy Warwick, 2<sup>nd</sup> – Gary Hamlin, 3<sup>rd</sup> – Gary Claughton  
Senior Division 1<sup>st</sup> – Cliff Buker, 2<sup>nd</sup> – Bill Weber, 3<sup>rd</sup> – Valdemar Nelson, 4<sup>th</sup> – Earl Cramer, 5<sup>th</sup> – Charlie Johnson  
Intermediate Division 1<sup>st</sup> – Ivan McDaniel, 2<sup>nd</sup> – Jim Morris, 3<sup>rd</sup> – Charlie Trump, 4<sup>th</sup> – Clay Claughton, 5<sup>th</sup> – Elmo Dutrick  
Open Division 1<sup>st</sup> – Bill Yohey, 2<sup>nd</sup> – Don Gish, 3<sup>rd</sup> – Rusty Modrell, 4<sup>th</sup> – Carolyn Lindsey and 5<sup>th</sup> – Wayne Holmes  
The judges were Joe Pancerzewski of Enumclaw, Wash.; Dwayne Stephens of Winchester, Idaho; and Boyce Stuckey of Bremerton, Wash. M.C. was Buford Kinnison. . . . age spread in our fiddlers, from Earl Cramer who was 86 down to Doug Thomas was 8.

---

 1973

## February 1973

Astoria contest results  
 Open Division: Vivian Williams, Frank Farrell, Harry Johnson, Don Poindexter, Neil Johnston, Boyce Stuckey, and Fred Hildebrandt.  
 Intermediate: Clarence Norbert, Dale Johnson, Jim Morris, Henry Mitchell, Wayne Walter, Christian Foster, Lyman Rodgers and Chet Haven.  
 Seniors: Jim Calvert, Cliff Buker, Charlie Johnson, Bill Weber, and Valdimar Nelson.  
 Juniors: Lorretta Brank, Barbara Lamb, Charlie Burry, David Boatsman, and Larry Stuckey.  
 Judges were Bill Yohey, Rusty Modrell and Joe Pancerzewski. I would like to thank all of the fiddlers, accompanists and their families who attended the contest in Astoria. . . . Dale Johnson

---

 April 1973

STATE CONVENTION REPORT: . . . . . and several by-law changes were voted on and accepted. The new officers for the year of 1973 are: Don Gish – Pres. , L.D. Daniel – VP, Erlene Gimm – Sec. Treas. Another by-law changes has made the office of the state editor to be appointed by the president.

---

6<sup>th</sup> Annual convention Show  
Lane County Fairgrounds Auditorium  
Eugene, Oregon 8:00 p.m. March 23, 1973

The Oregon Old Time Fiddler's Association was envisioned back in the spring of 1964 by Mr. Cliff Buker, an old time fiddler of Waldport, Oregon. Further inspired by 12 other fiddlers who were gathered together to perform at a country music show in Waldport, the association became a reality in August of the same year, at a meeting in Hillsboro, Oregon.

The membership began to grow at a rapid pace. It soon became evident to Mr. Buker that some means had to be devised to keep the members informed of the association's many activities. So, in the late summer of 1965, the first association newsletter "The Hoedowner" was published. (2-14-67 to be exact)

From that original nucleus of 13 members and a couple dozen "Hoedowners," the Oregon Old Time Fiddler's Association has grown to be more than 500 members strong with more than 300 newsletters being mailed monthly.

The association is now incorporated with five elected officers.

President - Wayne Holmes (Eugene)

Vice Pres - Earl Aulman (Eastside)

Treasurer - Earlene Gimm (Sherwood)

Secretary - Geraldine Virtue (Coquille)

Editor ---- Ron Gimm (Sherwood)

We would like to welcome you to the Sixth Annual Oregon Old Time Fiddler's Association Convention Show.

Memberships in the association are open to fiddlers, other string musicians, family members, and fans who are interested in receiving the "Hoedowner" and promoting the heritage of old time fiddling.

THE PARADE OF CHAMPIONS  
PROGRAM

MASTER OF CEREMONIES: LARRY MODRELL

Fiddlers Parade and Introductions

ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT: WAYNE HOLMES

Official Welcome

---- performers in order of appearance----

CLIFF Buker	(Waldport)	ASSOCIATION'S FOUNDER
RAY MACK	(Salem)	
LORETTA BRANK	(Winlock, Washington)	
BOB HAWES	(Bend)	
JERRY WHITE	(Eugene)	
JIM MILLER	(Hillsboro)	
FRED VIRTUE	(Coquille)	
BILL WEBER	(Portland)	
JOE PANCERZEWSKI	(Enumclaw, Wash.)	
RUSTY MODRELL	(Terrebonne)	
SPECIAL TALENT PRESENTATION		

-INTERMISSION-

refreshments in the rear of the building

## SPECIAL TALENT PRESENTATION

WAYNE HOLMES (Eugene)  
 BILLY WARWICK (Williams)  
 KATIE WARNER MAY (Travis A.F.B., Calif)  
 GEORGE JENKERSON (Portland)  
 FRED HILDEBRANDT (Portland)  
 KEN BRANK (Winlock, Wash.)  
 CHARLIE JOHNSON (Portland)  
 JAY BELT (San Diego, Calif.)  
 DON GISH (Williams)  
 BILL Yohey (McMinnville)

## SPECIAL GROUP NUMBERS

## SPECIALTY ALTERNATES

RON GIMM (Sherwood)  
 LOYD WANZER (Caldwell, Ida.)  
 YOUR SHOW COMMITTEE  
 GEORGE STOUT (Sweet Home)  
 RON GIMM (Sherwood)  
 JIM STOUT (Salem)

---

 June 1973

At our meeting Sunday morning (May 27, 1973) we selected 8 districts in the state of Oregon and I appointed a temporary chairman for each District.

District 1 Irven Johnson  
 District 2 Ivan McDaniel  
 District 3 Rusty Modrell  
 District 4 Martha Warwick  
 District 5 Fred Virtue  
 District 6 Wayne Holmes  
 District 7 Wayne Walter  
 District 8 Bill Yohey

Jim Hoots, Vic Flood, and Jack McCasland played for the Kiwanis breakfast in Ashland on Easter Sunday. These fellows and many others tell me they can't fill all the requests they get to play around the area. Martha Warwick

---

 KLAMATH FALLS STATE CONTEST RESULTS

Junior Division Billy Warwick, Steve Bennett and Terry McLain  
Senior Division George Jenkerson, Bob Hawes and Bill Weber  
Open Division Jim Hoots, Fred Hildebrandt, Jess Hall, Ivan McDanials, L.D. Daniel, LeRoy Sims, Mura Collins, and Wayne Walter  
Champion Division Don Gish, Bill Yohey, Rusty Modrell, Wayne Holmes and Jim Hoots  
Best liked fiddler Tied L. D. Daniel and Rusty Modrell. L.D. won the trophy by the flip of a coin.  
Best like accompanists Arlene Lommen from Roseville, Calif.

---

 July 1973

Bill Yohey was elected president of the National Old Time fiddlers Organization for the next two years.

---

District 7: District 7 will have a meeting for the purpose of electing officers on July 8, 1973 at the Kinton Grange Hall near Progress. . . . Wayne Walter, Acting chairman

District 8: A business meeting was held in McMinnville, Oreg. June 9<sup>th</sup>, electing officers. . . . Bill Yohey – Chairman, Jim Secor – Co-chairman, Mrs. Minnie Bennett – Sec.Treas.

---

#### August 1973

District 1 reports: Recent election results: Irven Johnson – Chairman, Homer McLain – Co-chairman, Barbara Gooing – Sec. – treas.

---

District 7 . . . held their first meeting on July 8<sup>th</sup>. . . . election of officers was first order of business. Wayne Walter was unanimously declared chairman. Dulcie Fast was unanimously declared sec. – treas., Fred Hildebrandt was appointed co-chairman and Marshall Jackson – reporter.

---

#### September 1973

Lakeview -- There will be a jam session and potluck dinner at the Memorial Hall on Sept. 30, 1973. . . . arrangements were made by Homer McLain

Canyonville Results: Juniors: Loretta Brank, Billy Warwick and Steve Bennett. Seniors: George Jenkerson, Jack McCasland, Charles Wymer.

Intermediate: Kenny Brank, Jim Morris, LeRoy Sims, Marshall Jackson, Wayne Walter.

Open: Rusty Modrell, Don Gish, Jim Hoots. Wayne Holmes M.C.

District 4 reports: August 10<sup>th</sup>. . . . election of new officers – Jonas Cox – Chairman, Jim Hoots - vice chairman and Martha Warwick – sec. - treas.

District 6 meeting Sep. 23 There will be a dist. 6 meeting which includes Lane, Linn and Benton Co on Sep. 23. . . . Wayne Holmes, acting chairman district 6

---

#### October 1973

District 1 reports: Since we only had two days with the fiddler people at Warwick's campout, I can't speak for the whole affair but for the time we were there, it was a most enjoyable time the food and the fellowship were great and our hats are off to Martha, Red, Bill and Beaver for the hospitable way in which they make people welcome. Thanks Martha and Red. Anne Johnson Dist. 1 reporter

---

Fretted all week because I had to work and couldn't get out to Warwick's Ranch until Sat. morning. All that good music floating up to the hills and me not there to hear it. Darn.

At last here's their road and they've done some work on it. Slow down for the bridge and creep past the picnic tables. They're still there by the creek where Bud and I cut black berry vines and placed them Sunday. It was so nice to sit there in the shade and watch the young'uns cavorting in the 'ol swimmin' hole. (wish it wasn't so cold or I was 20 years younger)

Look, there's a bunch sitting in the new bandstand already and it isn't even noon. What does that sign on the new "JOHN" say? "RESERVED" for our NATIONAL PRESIDENT." Wow, does he ever rate.

"Hurry up, let's set up camp and then go listen to the music." I can't carry a tune or play a note but I can sure clap my hands and let those who do know how much I appreciate them.

"Sugar Bear" was still greeting newcomers. She's just got to be the friendliest dog in the west. Glad I brought those loll-pups to treat her when she makes the rounds for tidbits and smiling her pleasure.

Saturday night – this is perfect – good music by the campfire under those beautiful stars, hills all around, the creek making music of its own, good hot coffee and wonderful new friends. Who could ask for anything more?

Potluck Sunday dinner – come on everybody you've never seen such food, forget the diets, fill up those plates there is plenty for everybody. Hey, save some of Clemie's cornbread for me, they'll go good with those baked beans. Taco Salad. That sounds good. Look at all those apple pies and cakes. Calories here I come.

Just gotta take a nap. How can those musicians play until the wee small hours and then get up and play all day? Overheard Marshall say he'd come to play and would sleep when he got home. I'll swear I heard music at 7 A.M., this is living – with music morning, noon and night.

Another night around the campfire with everybody taking turns playing. Please, Billy and Don would you play "Orange Blossom Special" for my friends from Bonanza? They want to tape it so they can enjoy it all year.

Wayne Holmes makes fiddling looks so easy, look how relaxed he is and a swell M.C., too. Martha, you've run up and down that hill a jillion times. Well, there is good in all evil they say – look at all the good exercise you're getting.

Monday afternoon and people starting to pull out – hate to think about going home and back to the old grind after this week end in Warwick's little corner of PARADISE. Thanks, Warwicks, for sharing with all of us. Vi Brown.

---

### November 1973

District 1 reports: The jam session at Lakeview on Sep. 30 was a real success thanks to the fiddlers from Klamath County. . . . and Charles Sandusky played and also did a good job as M.C. for us.

---

District 6 reports: New officers are as follows: Chairman – Wayne Holmes, Vice – chairman – Ray Walker and sec. Treas. – Owen Hodge.

---

### December 1973

District 7 reports: On Sunday, Nov. 25, 1973, Bob Fast and his "Coon Hunters" played for the Vet's hospital in Vancouver and enjoyed the refreshments and reception by the Vets.

District 8 reports: Our program opened at 1:00 P.M. A pot luck dinner was served at 5:00 after dinner we danced and played and had lots of fun .

To the Hoedowner: . . . . they danced to live music. . . . some of the younger ones had never even seen a fiddle before. The band consisted of Fred Virtue (fiddle), Marion Enlow (banjo), Bill Petheram (piano), and Al Tester (Bass).

---

1974

January 1974

District 7 Reports: I heard there has been some wild fiddling going on in District 7 the past month. Eve Caldwell, Charlie Johnson and Marshall Jackson played at a Convention in the Portland Coliseum in Portland, on the 14<sup>th</sup> at noon, then went to the Goodwill and played for a Christmas program there. That night Bob Fast and Marshall played for a Traveler's Club in Gresham. On Dec. 6<sup>th</sup> Les and Lena Rattray from Hanie, BC visited overnight at the Jackson's house. We all went to Bob Fast's house for a night of fiddling. Les can really make the old fiddle play.  
Marshall Jackson

---

April 1974

From the editorial staff: With regret I announce that it will no longer be possible for me to work on the newsletter . . . . .perhaps there are others who have more time than we do. Ray Walker

---

May 1974

Report District 8 Sunday, April 7. . . . McMinnville Grange . . . . many fiddlers turned out to entertain. Ray Mack, Cliff Buker, Erle Beckett, Fred Hildebrandt, Shorty Allen, Penny Mead, Marshall Jackson, Leonard Maahs, Wes Brunson, Joe Hamm, George Jenkerson, Bob Fast, Carl Van Hooser, Valdemar Nelson, Dave Quinlan, Bob Hawes, Clarence Greenlund, Art Mosgrove. . . .

District 5 reports: (*Editors note: This is the first contribution from District 5*) . . . . King of the Fiddle was Bud Ryan, after being on crutches for a month, he leaned back on the small table, the old tunes just rolled out real easy like. When he played "Dill Pickle Rag," the pickle juice, jar and lid just burst out, Umm – good. I had never heard it played so well. Mandolin King, Dave Pinkerton did a splendid job of picking, the Guitar Queen, none other than pretty Wilma Ryan, Dave and Bud swapped instruments and played several tunes. Dave's tune "Up Jumped the Devil" was really super. Admirer, Jim Wilson

District 7 reports: A benefit show was played by the fiddlers for the Booster's Club of Woodburn. . . . our fiddlers were Gladys Braskett, Erle Beckett, Hilbert Lardy, Danny Legore, Frank Williams, Clarence Davis, Wes Brunson, Fred Hildebrandt, Shorty Allen, Penny Mead, Valdemar Nelson, Bob Fast, Bill Wilson, George Jenkerson, Marshall Jackson, Bill Weber, Leonard Maahs, Clarence Greenlund, Chet Haven and Bill Yohey.

---

June 1974

Contest results: May 11, 1974 The winners at the State Contest in Roseburg were: Champion Division: 1. John Melnichuk, 2. Don Gish, 3 Wayne Holmes, 4 Billy Warwick, 5. Bill Yohey, 6. Rusty Modrell, 7. Jim Hoots, 8. Bud Ryan  
Open Division: 1. Al DeLorme, 2. Leonard Maahs, 3. Tiger Bell, 4. Ray Giles, 5. Phil Braumbough, 6. Jack McCasland, 7. Ralph Dias. Senior Division: 1. George Jenkerson, 2. Fred Hildebrandt, 3. Hugh Samples, 4. Roy Summers, 5. Clarence Greenlund. Junior Division: Jesse Cooper, 2. Steve Bennett, 3. Pat Reed.

District 1 reports: We are going to miss Don Gish who rode so many miles to play when we needed him. We never miss the water till the well runs dry. Thanks Don. (Transferred to Medford.)

District 7 reports: Sunnyside Grange Jam Session was held May 19, 1974. Mr. Ed Mead was the M.C. Thank you for a fine job.

News item: It was inadvertently announced at the Oregon State Contest at Roseburg that the fiddle designed quilt was given to Mrs. Bill Yohey by the Oregon Old Time Fiddlers Association, when actually it was a gift from her husband.

Special report: There will be a fiddle show and Jamboree sponsored by District 1 at Burns, Oregon on June 9<sup>th</sup> at the High School Auditorium. . . . we urge everyone to come and help put on a good fiddle show as this is the first one for this area. No potluck facilities, coffee will be available. See you there.

District 6 reports: . . . . Whiteaker School in Eugene, May 19, 1974. . . .fiddlers were: Steve Bennett, Ben Moore, Floyd Harmon, Wayne Holmes, Linda Danielson, Les Neuschwander and Stan Gonshorowski. Don Loring District 6 Chairman

---

July 1974

District 1 reports: The fiddle show at Burns, Oregon put on by District 1 was a pleasant experience. . . . large crowd there to enjoy the fiddlers. . . . fiddlers were Homer McLain, Irven Johnson and Susan Smith. . . .

District 4 reports: On May 26<sup>th</sup> we traveled to Canyonville for our monthly jam session which was arranged by Gynn and Jim Deaton. We had a good turnout of fiddlers and seconds, excellent food, a fine responsive audience, nice weather and lots of fun.

---

## Oregon OLD TIME FIDDLERS ASSOCIATION

Presents

AN EVENING OF OLD TIME FIDDLING  
WASHINGTON PARK

August 18, 1974 – 8:30 p.m.

Wayne Holmes, Director

## PROGRAM

*All fiddlers and accompanists will play "Ragtime Annie,"  
"Won't You Come Home, Bill Bailey?" & "Red Wing"*Wayne Walter . . . . . Portland  
"Dubuque's Hornpipe"  
"Nights of St. Cyrill"L. D. Daniels . . . . . Klamath Falls  
"Snow Deer"  
"Arkansas Traveler"Leonard Maahs . . . . . McMinnville  
\*"Willanna Waltz"  
\*"Oregon Hop"Gladys Braskett . . . . . Vancouver  
"Bonaparte's Retreat"  
"California Breakdown"Bill Weber . . . . . Portland  
"Minnesota Waltz"  
"Grandpa's Whiskers"John Melnichuk . . . . . Lebanon`  
"Huckleberry Breakdown"  
"Grey Eagle"Bill Yohey . . . . . McMinnville  
*Banjo special*  
"Sweet Georgia Brown"  
"Glow Worm"Sims Family . . . . . Philomath  
LeRoy, *fiddle*; Shirley, *banjo*  
Steve, *guitar*; Lisa, *tambourine*  
"Boil That Cabbage Down"  
"This Little Light of Mine"Wayne Holmes . . . . . Eugene  
"London Hornpipe"  
"Smash the Windows"Valdemar Nelson . . . . . Portland  
"Neptune's Favorite Schottische"  
"Farmer's Waltz"Charlie Johnson . . . . . Portland  
"Cuckoo Waltz"  
"Red Rose Waltz"Bill Yohey . . . . . McMinnville  
"Fisher's Hornpipe"  
"My Little Home In West Virginia"George Jenkerson . . . . . Portland  
"Woodchopper's Reel"  
"Irish Washerwoman"Linda Danielson . . . . . Eugene  
"Blackberry Blossom"  
"Rolling Hills"

Mura Collins . . . . . Portland  
 "Soldier's Joy"  
 "Mississippi Sawyer"

Fred Hildebrandt . . . . . Portland  
 "Crooked Stovepipe"  
 "Chinese Breakdown"

Jess Cooper . . . . . Hermiston  
 "Maiden's Prayer"  
 "Sopping The Gravy"

Steve Bennett . . . . . Eugene  
 "Dixon county Blues"  
 "Cajun Fiddle"

Marshall Jackson . . . . . Gresham  
*mandolin specialty*

Wayne Holmes . . . . . Eugene  
 Linda Danielson . . . . . Eugene  
 "Swedish Wedding Waltz"  
*unaccompanied*

Chet Haven . . . . . Portland  
 "Sleeping Giant Two Step"  
 "Waverly Two Step"

"Happy Acres Two Step"

Bob Fast . . . . . Portland  
 "Boffman's Reel"  
 \* "Autumn Waltz"

Fred Hildebrandt & Gladys Braskett  
 "Westphalia Waltz"  
 "Jenny Lind Polka"

\* performer's own composition  
 If time permits, requests will be played.

### ACCOMPANISTS

*piano*

Shorty Allen, Minnie Bennett  
 Bessie Buker, June Secor, Nell Turner

*bass*

Charlie Francis

*banjo*

Shirley Sims, Lloyd Smith

*guitar*

Everett Bennett, Jim Braskett, Bob Hughes  
 Marshall Jackson, Don Loring, Ruth Loring

Ray Scissons, Steve Sims, Mike Walter, Frank Warner, Don Wood

*mandolin*

Marshall Jackson

---

September 1974

Hoedowner News From Burns, Oregon: The Burns chapter of District 1 is getting off the ground with 19 paid members. We have had two meetings. . . . Every effort is being made to create interest in this type of music in this area. We are advertising on local radio and in local papers for more local talent. . . . Reporter Hazel Fields

District 1: Our Chairman of District 1 felt our District was spread over such a large area, approximately 300 miles, that we need a co-chairman for Lake County and one for Harney county. He appointed Homer McLain, co-chairman for Lakeview some time ago, and in July after our fiddle show at Burns, Oregon, he appointed Esther Race as co-chairman for Harney county and she appointed Haze Fields as reporter. Irven Johnson

Winners at Canyonville's 8<sup>th</sup> annual contest: OPEN – Loretta Brank, Don Gish, Bill Yohey, John Melnichuk. Intermediate – LeRoy Sims, Bud Ryan, Kenny Brank, Jim Morris, Dave Pinkerton. Seniors – George Jenkerson, Jack McCasland, Fred Hildebrandt. Juniors – Steve Bennett, Alice Gish, Kathy Calvert

October 1974

District 4 reports: The Warwick Ranch at Williams, Ore. Was the setting for another week of fun, food and music. The weather co-operated. We had many moonlight nights around the campfire as we played music, ate apple cobbler and visited. A program was worked out every evening for the audience. Good crowds attended every evening. Saturday night being the largest, approximately 300 people. . . .The fiddlers played at the Messingers produce Stand and were given all the fresh produce we could eat. It did taste so good – corn, peppers, watermelon, squash and tomatoes. We enjoyed pot luck dinners in the evenings and to round out the week, we had a chicken barbecue. . . . of course, we all want to express our thanks to that great family, the Warwicks, who made all this possible. About 52 campers and trailers came. . . .

November 1974

September 29th, a large crowd attended the Jam Session at the Annual Bandon Cranberry Festival. Mr. And Mrs. McLeod and other people that did the work and made the arrangements for the school gym and advertising deserve much credit for the success of the Jam Session.

A beautiful Autumn day, 23 fiddlers, 15 accompanists, and an enthusiastic audience and a scrumptious dinner combined to make a very enjoyable Jam Session at Buell, Oregon on October 13th.

Les and Barbara McLeod who hosted a Jam Session September 29, wish to thank all those who participated in making their program in District 5 a very good one.

District 4 reports: Since District 4 had their jam session on Oct. 27<sup>th</sup> at the Wimer Grange Hall, we have only to report that there have been numerous house parties and that several of our fiddlers have traveled to other districts. Bill Warwick, along with Aaron Lowe and Jim Ropp has gone to Truth or Consequences, New Mexico.

---

#### December 1974

An article as appeared in the Gresham newspaper, "The Citizen."

Oregon Old Time Fiddlers Share a Piece of History. It's a foot stompin', get-down kind of music, somewhere between bluegrass and folk music, and it's alive and well in Clackamas County. "We try to preserve the old way of fiddling" said Wayne Walter, President of the Oregon Old Time Fiddlers at an Old Time Fiddlers jam Sunday at the Sunnyside Grange.

Old Time fiddling started in Virginia, Kentucky and Tennessee, Walter explained. "The style was brought along with the pioneers," he said. "On a wagon train, the fiddler was often the only kind of entertainment a person had. And there was usually a fiddler on a wagon Train." These days, there's usually a piano or guitar accompaniment, but the Old Time Fiddlers don't allow any kind of electrical instruments. "That's not authentic," Walter said. "That's more like folk music." Whereas folk lyrics deal with social issues or social protests, the songs the Old Time Fiddlers play tell the story of the pioneers, and the simple, pleasures of country life. "We play at county fairs, hospitals and for different kinds of clubs," Walter said. Then once a year, there's a national contest. In between the national contest, the fiddlers come together once a month and "just fiddle for fun."

This month we're going to start mailing out the Hoedowner without using envelopes. We believe this will be just as good and save the expense of buying envelopes. . . . Dulcie Fast, Secretary

---

#### 1975

#### January 1975

NEWS: During the last few months Mr. Ray Mack and myself have been invited to play for several different homes here in Salem. Ray is one of our very fine Senior Fiddlers and they are really enjoying his music and trick fiddling. We are very happy to be invited in the hope that we may brighten their days for the little time we spend. Editor, June Secor.

---

#### April 75

District 7 reports: Several members enjoyed jamming with Levi Walter at the home of his brother, Wayne, also a brother of Mike. He was visiting here from Branson, Missouri. What a jam session! Bob Fast, reporter

STATE CONVENTION 1975: Our State Officers that were elected are as follows: Jim Secor, Pres.; Hugh Samples, VP; and Dulcie Fast, Sec/Treas. Evelyn Walter has been appointed as our new Editor.

District 5 reports: There will be a contest sponsored by the Coquille Chamber of Commerce May 31<sup>st</sup>.

We had a very nice thank you from Homer McLain, co-chairman in District 1. He said that he and his family were very grateful to get to go the 1975 convention. When they arrived Friday night at the fairgrounds, they were greeted by Wayne Holmes, Linda Danielson and asked to bring their instruments to jam it up for awhile. It made them feel right at home. They said it's very nice to be among friendly folk and they think the Old Time Fiddlers have some of the friendliest people they have seen anywhere. Homer said it was a pleasure to hear such good fiddling and the excellent accompanists that were there. He enjoyed playing with June Secor on piano, Don and Ruth Loring on guitars and Jack McCasland on bass. He considered it a great privilege to play with such good musicians. The show was of the best quality. Wayne Walter did a very fine job of emceeing it. Since he went home, he has gotten together with their group at a couple of different homes and have plans to play for 3 different benefits this next month. While at the Fiddle Convention, he learned several songs that they are now playing. He wanted everyone to know how much it meant to them as that was their first convention. Homer hopes for another terrific convention next year and said the with Jim Secor leading the band, sure it will be one of the best yet.

---

June 1975

STATE CONTEST RESULTS: Roseburg, Oregon May 10, 1975

	<u>SENIORS</u>		<u>JUNIORS</u>
1 <sup>st</sup>	Eddie Johnson	1 <sup>st</sup>	Jess Cooper
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Fred Hildebrandt	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Steve Bennett
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Hugh Samples	3 <sup>rd</sup>	Grant Wheeler
4 <sup>th</sup>	Walter Langlitz	4 <sup>th</sup>	Pat Reed
	<u>OPEN</u>		<u>INTERMEDIATES</u>
1 <sup>st</sup>	John Melnichuk	1 <sup>st</sup>	Carol Wheeler
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Don Gish	2 <sup>nd</sup>	G. L. Moore
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Bill Warwick	3 <sup>rd</sup>	Dave Moffitt
4 <sup>th</sup>	Wayne Holmes	4 <sup>th</sup>	Linda Danielson
5 <sup>th</sup>	Al DeLorme	5 <sup>th</sup>	Jim Morris
6 <sup>th</sup>	Fred Virtue	6 <sup>th</sup>	LeRoy Sims
		7 <sup>th</sup>	Bob Fast
	<u>ACCOMPANISTS</u>		
1 <sup>st</sup>	Fred Samples		
2 <sup>nd</sup>	George Cooper		
3 <sup>rd</sup>	June Secor		

---

DISTRICT 8 reports: Lincoln City, May 18<sup>th</sup>. . . . How good it was to hear the deep bass voice of Cliff Buker who, clip-board in hand, announced the fiddlers and accompanists as the program proceeded. His many friends honored him as the "Father of the Old-time Fiddlers Association" by giving him a standing ovation.

---

Beginning this issue, Minnie Bennett is going to write a history each month about people in our organization, fiddlers and accompanists alike. This has been done in the past when Edna Yohey was doing the paper and we thought it would be nice to revive it. We are going to start this out with a biography of Cliff Buker, one of the founders of this great organization.. . . .

---

CLIFFORD BUKER – FIDDLER OF THE MONTH

Cliff was born in Alpine, Utah, March 22, 1893. He came to Oregon at the age of one year and has lived here ever since. At the age of 12 Cliff started playing fiddle and at 15 began playing for dances. He chorded on piano, played fiddle and also played cornet in the local band.

After his retirement from Georgia Pacific where he was construction foreman, Cliff played for dances until the Oregon Old Time Fiddlers Association was organized. He has since continued entertaining at Veteran's organizations, nursing homes, etc. Always ably accompanied on piano by his wife, Bessie.

Cliff has twice won Senior Championship in national competition at Weiser, Idaho, first in 1965 and again in 1967. In 1972, at Pendleton, he won State Senior Championship. He also has won many trophies from other contests in Washington and Oregon.

Cliff and Bessie are the parents of 10 children: 3 sons and 7 daughters. They have lived in their present home at Waldport, Oregon over 45 years and are still active in attending jam sessions and contests over the state. Minnie Bennett

---

July 1975

Wally Bloom is now home from his vacation in Canada. He and his parents spent about a month visiting friends and family.

Gay 90s contest the Gay 90s contest at Coquille, May 31 proved to be a very nice contest. The Sawdust Theater was packed and our fiddlers and seconds put on a fine show. Our judges, Don Gish, Rusty Modrell, and Bill Yohey were kept very busy. Besides judging, they did lots of very nice specials and our audience really appreciated this. Bud Ryan was our capable M.C. and Candy Church oversaw the contest. Winners of the intermediate were; Jack McCasland, 1<sup>st</sup>; Bob fast, 2<sup>nd</sup>; Cathy Calvert, 3<sup>rd</sup>; Julius Christiani, 4<sup>th</sup>; and Clarence Greenlund, 5<sup>th</sup>. In the Open, Jim Morris was 1<sup>st</sup>; Bud Ryan 2<sup>nd</sup>; Fred Virtue 3<sup>rd</sup>; Fred Hildebrandt 4<sup>th</sup> and Leonard Maahs, 5<sup>th</sup>. Dulcie Fast

---

August 1975

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 Old Time Fiddlers Contest on May 2, 1953 in Guymon, Oklahoma, playing mandolin. (*This is what the old Hoedowner said!*) 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 old Time 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 old time fiddling music are greatly appreciated by all. Minnie Bennett, Historian

---

#### 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 Sycopates. 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 22 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.

---

#### September 1975

#### FIDDLER OF THE MONTH

Ray Mack better know as "Mack", was born in Carthage, South Dakota, June 17, 1893. He became interested in playing the fiddle at about 8 years of age, probably because his Uncle Edward was an old time fiddler, also because his neighbor lady, Mrs. Hann, played and got him started by letting him play her fiddle every time he came over.

After he learned to play a tune on Mrs. Hann's fiddle, Ray's folks bought him one. He said it wasn't an expensive fiddle, but was indeed better than the ones he had made out of corn husks. Mack has never taken lessons, so like most of the truly "old time" fiddlers, he cannot read notes, is completely self-taught and has a style and method all his own.

He was about 15 when he started playing for dances and social functions around his community. Later he entered several contests in South Dakota and surrounding states, his big start coming when he won first over 43 entries in a big contest on Station WNAX in Yankton, South Dakota.

After that, Mack began playing over small radio stations to advertise his dances. In 1932 he got his first radio job at KMMJ Clay Center, Nebraska, where he played for several years. Later he went to work for other radio stations in Lincoln and Omaha, Nebraska and in Topeka and Kansas City, Kansas. In those days it was called a radio circuit and he played where the wages were the highest.

Mack and his family moved to Salem, Oregon in 1948. Since then he has won several contests in Oregon and some other states. He also won first in trick fiddling at the National Contest at Weiser, Idaho. He joined the Old Time Fiddlers Association the first year it started and attends as many of its functions as his busy schedule allows.

Although Mac celebrated his 82<sup>nd</sup> birthday in June, he is still very much in demand as a fiddler. Besides playing for dances every Friday and Saturday nights, he also plays for nursing homes, senior citizen meetings and other social functions.

Mack built a home at Lincoln City where he and his wife Lillian spend much of their time and where he still enjoys his fishing.

The many friends and relatives of Ray and Lillian Mack helped them celebrate their fiftieth Wedding Anniversary at a reception given by their children in Salem on August 17. Minnie Bennett, Historian

---

## October 1975

BILL WEBER

### OUR FIDDLER FOR THE MONTH OF OCTOBER 1975

Bill was born Sept. 24, 1893 in Vernon County, Wisconsin. He was the oldest in the family of six boys and one girl. He grew up on a farm where he was kept busy with corn and tobacco planting, cultivating, harvest, stock raising and attending the old country school.

Bill's grandfather was an old German fiddler and as Bill watched him play and listened to his music he hankered to follow in his footsteps. Bill's dad offered him the first crop from an acre of virgin ground if he would clear and plant it. He worked hard at it and in 1907, with the earnings from his crop of spuds and a small loan from his grandfather he purchased his first fiddle, the copy of Stradivarius which he still owns.

Bill's practicing wasn't exactly music to his mother's ears, who felt that the strings he played on should have been left in the cat, so he spent most of his evenings in the barn after the chores were done, sawing on the fiddle and learning his grandfather's old tunes.

Bill later married and purchased his own farm, also in Vernon County, Wisconsin, and continued in stock raising and diversified farming. He raised three children, all of whom were musicians in their own right - but no fiddlers. His son Wayne took up the guitar, daughter Doris played accordion, guitar and piano and with daughter Margaret singing and also helping out on the piano, their evenings were mostly spent in music. They also played at corn husking bees and community gatherings. Dancing was enjoyed in the old Norwegian settlement where they lived as he also played for dances on Saturday nights.

Bill visited the Pacific Northwest in 1942, fell in love with Portland, Oregon and decided to make it his home, having found employment at the union stockyards. Bill met Verneda at an old time dance and married her in 1960. He still plays at jam sessions and social functions around the country and his toe-tapping old time music is enjoyed by all. Minnie Bennett, Historian

---

## November 1975

District 5 reports: . . . . Barbara McLeod said they have signed up several new members so that they may have enough now to elect their own officers for their district. That is the best news of all and congratulations to District 5.

MARSHALL JACKSON

Our fiddler and accompanist for the month of November 1975  
(See February 1968)

---

## December 1975

NELL STEWART TURNER

Fiddler and accompanist for the month of December 1975

(See also April 1967)

Nell was born on a farm near McCoy, Oregon, Jan. 24, 1895. She has lived in Oregon all her life.

Nell's father bought a reed organ for the family about 1900 and in 1902 she started taking some lessons during summer vacations. She got a piano in 1910 and took lessons from Wm. Caldwell, Professor of Music at the old Dallas College. Later she studied for one year under the tutelage of Winifred Elliott.

In 1914 and 1915 Nell took violin lessons from Roy Miller and practiced on her brother's violin. In 1917 she worked on the farm and gave piano lessons to earn the money to buy the violin she now plays.

Nell started playing in public when she was about 19 years old. An old time fiddler taught her how to play chords on the old organ. Since and during high school days she has been accompanist for soloists and choruses and played on Sundays for church and Sunday School.

Nell has had many and varied experiences as a musician. She has been state musician many times for different fraternal orders. She played violin for "Mitchell's Old Timers" of Salem for over eighteen years. She has played either piano or violin in different orchestras all over the Willamette Valley from Hillsboro to Roseburg, sometimes in her own group, sometimes in other groups. In the 1930s she was instrumental in organizing a ladies' dance band which became quite popular and much in demand around the area at that time. Nell played violin and Minnie Bennett played trombone with the group.

Nell joined in with the "Old Time fiddlers" before they were really organized. She had not played for a time and wanted to get going again. She still is very active playing violin or piano at social functions, jam sessions, nursing homes and at informal home gatherings when her health permits. Nell loves music and is always a welcome participant where ever she goes.

The welcome mat is always out at Nell's house and her old-fashioned hospitality is not to be forgotten by the many friends and acquaintances who stop by to visit. Minnie Bennett, Historian

## 1976

February 1976

District 5 Organizes Feb. 22<sup>nd</sup> will be our first election of officers for our district. We have enough members now to have our own chairman, co-chairman, sec-treas and reporter. Let's everyone turn out to make this a huge success. The meeting and jam session will be hold at the community center in Coquille, Oregon.

## February

Fiddler of the month – Valdemar Gottlrid Nelson

Valdemar was born in Sweden, Sept. 18, 1895. While living with his family in Sweden and at the age of 12 he became interested in the fiddle and started learning to play it. Later at age 19 he added the accordion to his interests and became accomplished on both instruments. He came to the United States in 1921.

As misfortune would have it, an accident at age of 29 left his right arm badly disabled. It has never fully recovered but after he regained his strength he found that he could still play the accordion. Consequently he established an accordion repair shop of which he is still proprietor. He was maintained the business for more than 46 years and estimates he has repaired 55,000 accordions.

About 13 years ago, Valdemar decided to combine his expertise in carpentry, a trade he had learned in Sweden, with his knowledge of music, to build a fiddle. His first fiddle turned out so well he

decided to build more and has turned out more than a dozen beautiful instruments. He was convinced that his crippled arm was unable to use the bow correctly so he never attempted to play, until about 6 years ago when a friend took him to a fiddling contest. He immediately became enthusiastic about playing again and has won several trophies. He always plays his own fiddle.

Valdmar's 80 years do not hinder him from living a full interesting life. Besides building fiddles and repairing accordions, he maintains a big house and yard. He also attends jam sessions around the country and no one seems to get more enjoyment out of them than he does. He participates in the programs with his usual friendly smile and his lively music is greatly enjoyed by everyone. Minnie Bennett, Historian

---

### March 1976

District 5: Feb. 22<sup>nd</sup> was a beautiful day and perfect to organize District 5. Officers elected are – Chairman, Paul Williams; co-chairman, Les McLeod; Sec-Trea, Barbara McLeod. Our MC, Dorothy Houston, did a very fine job. Fiddlers; Les McLeod, Reba Houston, Fred Samples, Ralph Houston, Alta Bance, Dave Pinkerton, Guy Kinman, Jim Hoots, Fred Virtue, Ivan Shuck, Bernard Charlebois, Bud Ryan, Clem Spurlock, John Hoerster, Ruth Loring and Floyd Harman.

---

### Robert V. Hawes – Fiddler for March 1976

Bob was born in Fergus Falls, Minn. In June 1899. In 1906 his father moved the family from the city to a homestead near Minot, North Dakota.

For a Christmas present, Bob's older brother bought their father a violin to replace the one they had dropped a bag of hazelnuts on and broken. During the long winter months in the old farm shack, his four older brothers and he took turns trying to learn to play the one instrument. Bob thinks it must have been rather hectic for his father to have to listen to all the sawing away and noise. Sometimes their father would tell them to please put the fiddle away for a while as it sounded like they were "trying to play in the key of Q or Z."

When he was nine years old, Bob had learned to play "The Old Gray Goose" and several simple numbers with a lot of help from his father. At twelve years of age he would play three or four pieces at the house dances in the area. At about this time the family acquired an old reed organ. His younger sister learned to play a few chords which helped Bob's fiddle playing a lot. All went well with Bob's music until 1917 when he went into the armed service for eighteen months. World War I. Soon after his return, his sister got married, which ended his music for a time.

Bob was married in 1925, moved to Oregon in 1927 and brought his fiddle along with him. For many years he worked in the lumber mills and would tune the fiddle up only about twice a year.

Upon his retirement in 1964, he decided to start fiddling again; joined the Oregon Old Time Fiddlers in 1966 and proceeded to practice on some of the old time pieces of music at his home.

Bob feels very much honored that the State Fiddlers' Assn. at their convention, elected him vice-president and re-elected him for a second term. Bob has won a few first place trophies and has appeared on the program at the Oregon State Fair. At present, he is playing for the Golden Age dances in Bend, Oregon. Minnie Bennett, Historian

---

## April 1976

OUR NEWLY ELECTED OFFICERS FOR 1976: Jim Secor, Pres. John Melnichuk, VP. Edna Yohey, Sec'y – Treas.

<u>DIST.</u>	<u>CHAIRMAN</u>	<u>CO-CHAIRMAN</u>	<u>SEC'Y – TREAS.</u>	<u>REPORTER</u>
#1	Homer McLain	Lester Tucker	Keith Wells	Lee Eddy
#4	Fred Samples	Vic Flood	Dorene Winkleman	Martha Warwick
#5	Paul Williams	Leslie McLeod	Barbara McLeod	Geraldine Virtue
#6	Jim O'Bryant	George Stout	Marjorie O'Bryant	Dave & Poco Boyd
#7	Bob Fast	Wayne Walter	Penny Mead	Fred Hildebrandt
#8	Carlton Smith	Gus Pearson	Edna Yohey	Bertha Smith

---

### TONY DESCOMBAZ – FIDDLER OF THE MONTH

Tony's folks settled in South Dakota in 1880. His father built an 18' X 12' sod house with a dirt floor. It was here that Tony was born in 1891. He can still remember his father plowing in the field with a team of oxen hitched to a walking plow.

Tony still has his first fiddle, in good condition, which he received when he was 8 years old.

Like most old-time fiddlers, Tony was taught by an older "old-timer" and plays by ear. His first tunes were "Home Sweet Home" and "Red Wing."

Age 14 he started playing for house dances where 30 or 40 young people would get together on Sunday afternoons or evenings, move the furniture out of the living rooms, roll up the carpets and dance till daylight. Tony says, "Those were the days, we really had fun!"

Later Tony played with a 3-piece band for barn dances in South Dakota, North Dakota and Minnesota. They also played over radio stations in Yankton and Watertown, South Dakota, a year in each place. Tony's son played accordion and another fellow played guitar.

Tony moved to Oregon in 1953. He quit playing the fiddle for 10 years, then in 1964 he heard about an old-time fiddle contest here. He started to play again and the first contest he entered was at Forest Grove. Later he entered another at Tillamook, where he won second place in the senior division.

Tony has won many honors during his long musical career, some of which are as follows: in South Dakota 1<sup>st</sup> place in Gettesburg, 2<sup>nd</sup> place in Watertown and 1<sup>st</sup> in Yankton.

Besides cash prizes, he has won six beautiful trophies: three are second place and three are third place prizes.

Tony started repairing violins in 1964. So far he has made four violins; one from a glass bottle and one from a piece of bamboo. He also has made three mandolins; one from a solid block of driftwood he found on the beach. He has also made an 8-stringed violin out of a regular one. He says he can tune them all up to regular pitch and that they sound beautiful.

Tony is 84 years of age and fiddles every day. He entered and played in the last contest held at Forest Grove March 6, 1976. He had a lot of competition in his senior group and even though he didn't win a place, his selections were well played and his music was certainly enjoyed and appreciated by every one of his large audience. Minnie Bennett, Historian

---

### May 1976

Fiddler of the month

Chet Haven

Chet was born in Gettysburg, Montana in 1915. He has lived in Oregon 36 years. Chet's brother bought a fiddle from Sears Roebuck & Co while they were back on the farm. He was unable to learn to play it so he gave the fiddle to Chet. A 6<sup>th</sup> grade teacher showed him how to play "Red Wing" but since there was no one to encourage him or play with him, Chet put the instrument away and never touched it again till 1969. He had attended a contest at Forest Grove that year, and was so inspired he got the old fiddle down and determined to learn to play it.

Chet says he can “knock out” a few tunes on the harmonica and the mandolin, also can chord a little on the guitar, but the fiddle is his pride and joy.

Chet joined the Old Time Fiddlers in 1970 because he fell in love with old time fiddle music and decided to make it a hobby in his declining years. He enjoys his many new friends and greatly enjoys getting together with them to play at senior citizens homes, at music parties and at jam sessions.

Chet says that his musical accomplishments are few and honors none, but he feels that, at his age and being a diesel truck mechanic with his fingers beat up, bursitis in his right shoulder from pulling on 6 ft long wrenches and swinging a heavy sledge hammer, he thinks he can't expect too much. They say that you can't teach an old dog new tricks, but Chet has set out to prove that it all depends on the “dog.” He says his greatest accomplishment is that his “screeching and scraping” on the fiddle has forced his wife to learn to second on the guitar and now they spend many happy hours in front of the fireplace trying to get “Bill Bailey’ to please come home and “Bile” that cabbage down.

Chet has come a long way in the few short years he has been playing fiddle. His success is an inspiration to many of the rest of us. He certainly is to be commended on how very well he plays.  
Minnie Bennett, Historian

---

### June 1976

We had a very fine contest in Bend. . . . Wayne Holmes did a fine job as emcee and our President Jim Secor did not sit down for a minute. . . . and a young lady from Waldport named Johny McDonald who is a newcomer to our organization is our Intermediate winner. This little gal is really showing promise. Cliff Buker has been working with her and had done an excellent job.

<u>JUNIORS</u>	<u>SENIORS</u>	<u>INTERMEDIATES</u>	<u>OPEN</u>
1. Jess Cooper	George Jenkerson	Johny McDonald	Bill Yohey
2. Steve Bennett	Ed Johnson	Jim Morris	John Melnichuk
3. Phillip Francis	Van Southwood	LeRoy Sims	Jim Hoots
4.	Robert Hawes	Jack McCasland	Carol Wheeler
5.	Leonard Green	Dale Johnson	Linda Danielson
6.		Wayne Walter	Rusty Modrell
7.		Penny Mead	Al DeLorme

---

### Fiddler of the month

JAMES J. ROSE

About 200 friends and relatives gathered near Roseburg recently to celebrate the 78<sup>th</sup> birthday of James Rose. We celebrated a few days early as Jim was losing strength fast. His birthday was May 1<sup>st</sup> and on May 8, he left us, but we have some wonderful memories he left behind.

Over the past several years there was a standing invitation to come and jam with Jim and Myra on Friday nights. We often got together on Sunday afternoons at some one's home in the area also.

Jim was born at Days Creek, Oregon in 1898. His father and grandfather were fiddlers and Jim took up fiddling at a very early age. He played for his first dance at age 15. The fiddle we have heard him play for many years at jams and dances was given to him by his step-father, Captain Teiderman, a sea captain on a passenger ship who doubled as a musician in the ship's orchestra.

Jim lived around Douglas County most of his life except for a few years as a young man when he worked in Canada. While in Canada, he picked up some of that Canadian style in his fiddling.

Ralph Dias, a fiddler at Yreka, Tells us that he heard James Rose play over the Voice of the Prairie, a Canadian radio station, when he (Ralph) was a boy in Montana.

In 1923, in Roseburg, he married Myra Wagoner, Myra's family were pioneers of Drain, Oregon. Jim's uncle, Aaron Roe, was the founder of Roseburg.

The Roses raised two daughters, Virginia and Dorene and a son, Charles Robert. Jim was a logger, he farmed, worked in a saw mill, worked for the railroad and the highway department over the years. Often he played for dances in the evenings. Sometimes the dances lasted till nearly time to go back to work in the morning, but he loved to fiddle.

He taught Myra to chord on the piano so he'd have an accompanist at home. He played for weddings, parties, picnics, parades and anywhere people wanted to hear his music. Dave Winkleman, a banjo player and fiddler in District 4 remembers hearing his dad and Jim playing together around the Glendale and Azalea area when he was a boy attending school with the Rose children. Geraldine Virtue grew up in Southern Douglas County and Jim was about the first fiddler she ever heard.

Jim was always active as a fiddler and when he heard of the organizing of the Oregon fiddlers, there was no one happier about it. If there is anything a fiddler likes better than fiddling, it's getting together with other musicians to fiddle and talk about fiddling.

Our music is very worthwhile. Jim thought so and he loved the idea that it was being passed on to future fiddlers through our organization. He was happy to see youngsters taking up the fiddle.

Last year at a jam in Grants pass about midway through the show, it was Jim's turn to play. The liveliness and spirit of his playing caught the crowd and they began to clap to the music. When he finished his third tune, everybody stood up and shouted for more. Jim said later, "When they all stood up, I thought maybe I had better start running. But when they yelled for more, I was amazed."

A lot of us will never hear lively old tunes like "Leather Britches:" and "Shamus O'Brien" without thinking of Jim Rose. Dorthy O. Houston.

---

Contests coming up: Clatskanie Contest July 3, 1976. Drain Contest – Saturday July 31st

---

COQUILLE CONTEST RESULTS:

	<u>OPEN</u>	<u>INTERMEDIATE</u>	Judges were:
1.	Johny McDonald	Dave Pinkerton	Jim Hoots
2.	Guy Kinman	Bob Fast	Bud Ryan
3.	Bill Yohey	Jack Smith	Fred Virtue
4.	Jim Herd	Earl Willis	
5.	Jim Morris	Van Southwood	by Dulcie Fast

---

OUR FIDDLER FOR THE MONTH OF JULY 1976

JIM MORRIS

Jim was born in Casper, Wyoming on July 25, 1918. His wife Elaine (recently deceased) was born in Roseburg, Oregon. Both lost their previous mates. They have nine children, all married, and 40 grand children.

In Denver, Colo., 1932, Jim's father brought home a Stainer fiddle. It was all in pieces so they got some glue and put it together. He had paid \$1.50 for it but, as Jim says, "A dollar and half was a lot of money for us in those days." Jim's father played mandolin and would sit for hours playing, mostly old Irish tunes. He had friends who also played, so they would go from house to house for jam sessions. That is how Jim first learned to play the fiddle. He also plays guitar and mandolin.

After Jim's father died in 1935, he laid the fiddle aside and seldom played it, he was too busy making a living. The war then came along and that put a complete stop to all his music for quite some time.

After moving to Montana, Jim worked as a heavy equipment operator for the Flour Corporation, one the largest contractors in the world. He also worked as a carpenter for about 25 years.

Jim moved to Oregon in 1964. In 1971 while working in Roseburg, he was injured and hasn't been able to work since.

Jim really didn't get interested in playing the fiddle again until he and Elaine heard about the Oregon Old Time Fiddlers. They attended a jam session in Roseburg and joined the organization in 1971. Since then he has played at a lot of jam sessions, rest homes, senior citizen halls, various lodges and churches and has "enjoyed every moment of it."

Jim says he "lucked out at a few contests" and has won a dozen trophies. He is very proud of those trophies because when he looks at them, they bring back the fond memories of the many good fiddlers he has heard and the many good friends he has met since he joined the organization.

Jim says, "I thank the Lord for my fiddle, for my good wife's encouragement in picking it up again and for all the great people we met as a result." Jim is a very fine fiddler with a true old-time style. As a fiddler he ranks high in the organization and is a welcome participant wherever he goes. Minnie Bennett, Historian.

---

### August 1976

Oregon OLD TIME FIDDLING PROJECT (Linda Danielson) The first phase of the Oregon Old Time Fiddling Project is now underway, thanks to some organizations like the National Endowment for the Arts, the Library of Congress, the American Revolutionary Bicentennial Commission, the Oregon Arts Commission and the Oregon Old Time Fiddlers Association. The project, designed to collect and preserve fiddling music and interviews with fiddlers in Oregon (currently I am working on Lane, Douglas and Jackson Counties) has received support from these and other groups and agencies.

Back in March, at the annual OOTFA convention, the organization voted to contribute \$750 to the project. We are now recording interviews and music and taking photographs of many - hopefully, we will eventually make that most - of the fiddlers in the three - county area. This is a long process, but by now OOTFA members who are listed as fiddlers living in the three-county area on either the 1974 or 1975 membership rosters should have received letters about the project. Also, I have found a number of fiddlers who are not association members. By the way, if you are a resident of Lane, Douglas or Jackson counties and have not received such a letter, please get in touch with. . . . this project was designed to take in as many of the area's fiddlers as possible, including people I don't know about or might have over looked.

Working with me on the project are Gary Neustadter, sound engineer; John Bauguess, photographer and Karen Sieradski, transcriber and field assistant. Eventually we will produce material that will be added to the collections of the Lane County pioneer Museum, Douglas County Museum, Jacksonville Museum and Library of Congress; a touring photographic exhibit to be accompanied by a sound tape; radio shows and fiddling shows sponsored by the museums. Already the project has been getting newspaper and television coverage throughout the state.

A lot more people are going to hear about fiddling, thanks to the support of the Old Time Fiddlers Association. Linda Danielson

---

### SMITHSONIAN FOLKLIFE FESTIVAL DELEGATION RETURNS FROM WASHINGTON, D.C.

One of the big challenges for a reporter is writing about an event the likes of which they've never attended, before the event happens. I was going to try to fake it, but that's no use. By the time the Hoedowner comes out, we'll all be back, but right now I can only guess what's coming next week when fifteen fiddlers and accompanists plus several family members from Washington and Oregon fly to Washington, D.C., to participate in the bicentennial edition of the Festival of American Folklife, sponsored by the Smithsonian Institution and the National Parks Service.

The Festival has invited the musicians to participate in a five-day section of the event devoted to the Pacific Northwest and its traditional culture. They will present Sunday-jam-session-style entertainment on the Festival grounds each day from July 28 through August 1. Invited as Festival participants from Oregon were Steve Bennett, Stan Gonshorowski, Jim Hoots, Marshall Jackson, Rusty Modrell, Hugh Samples, Earl Willis and Bill Yohey. John and Laura Hoerster will attend to demonstrate

fiddle building. From Washington are Chuck and Pauline Griffin, Harry Johnson and Joe Pancerzewski. Everett Bennett and Addie Gonshorowski are attending as volunteer accompanists and a number of other family members will attend as guests. I'll be there as a sort of combination M.C. and "mother hen" – what a flock to keep up with!

Other guests from the Pacific northwest will be performers for a timber carnival, horse loggers, old-time fence and boat builders, Latvian dancers and a koekle player (it's a sort of zither), singers from Woodburn's Russian community, basket makers, etc. Linda Danielson

---

### September 1976

#### DRAIN CONTEST RESULTS

<u>Juniors</u>	<u>Intermediates</u>	<u>Intermediates</u>	<u>Open</u>
1. Grant Wheeler	Clarence Greenlund	Leroy Sims	Loretta Brank
2. Tiffany Wheeler	Van Southwood	Warren Baker	Guy Kinman
3.	Clarence Davis	Bob Fast	Johny McDonald
4.	Julian Christiani	Kenneth Brank	Carol Wheeler

---

We received a note from Minnie Bennett, our Historian saying she was sorry that another month had gotten by without a biography, but she is running out of stories. Everyone has been urged to send her their life story. We hope all of you will cooperate and get your history in to her, we would like a story here next month.

---

### October 1976

This year, as usual, the campout at the Warwick ranch was a huge success; thanks to our gracious hosts, the super weather and the beautiful clean, green campground. A bright moon, a warm crackling bonfire and the background music from the softly gurgling creek, all combined to inspire the happy musicians to their very best efforts every night.

Just one fly in this beautiful "ointment!" a breakdown in the plumbing system at the bath house! And what a catastrophe.

Fiddlers are an ingenious bunch, besides being clean. A garden hose was thrust through a hole in the wall, but only one fiddler mustered the courage to brave the rigors of the icy shower. As a result, the cost of a new tank was willingly and quickly contributed by the campers, and a brand new system was hauled into place.

Everyone breathed a sigh of relief and settled back to await the glad moment. Fiddlers are also a resourceful group. Among the crowd, there's always some generous fellow with "know-how;" so with a willing one young lad and host of sidewalk superintendents, the task was finished. The new hot-water tank was ready for business!

I'm wondering if any of remembered to give proper expressions of appreciation and thanks to CARLTON SMITH??? Minnie Bennett

---

## Our fiddler for the month of October, 1976

L.D. Daniel

L.D. (Lloyd Denzil) Daniel was born in Siloam Springs, Arkansas, Sept. 8, 1929. He, with his four brothers and four sisters were brought up on a little farm in Hice Township, five miles south of Siloam. L.D., as he is familiarly known, was fortunate to have been the son of an old-time fiddler, Ben Daniel, and can remember sitting in the corner, as a child, listening as his father played for square dancing.

The urge to play fiddle like his father began to take hold of L D when he was about 10 years old, so while his dad was at work, he would sneak the old fiddle out from under the bed and try to play it. It was very discouraging and he didn't make much headway, but the longing to play did not leave him. In 1946 L D came to Oregon. While on his way, in Kingman, Arizona, he bought a fiddle. He tried for a year to learn to play it but became discouraged and gave it up. When his father died, his mother gave him the old fiddle and he again tried to learn to play it. He worked for about two years until he became too involved in raising his family and making a living to bother with fiddling.

In 1967 L D attended the annual Potato Festival in Redmond, Ore. And had the good fortune to listen to the fine fiddling of Bill Yohey, Don Gish and Rusty Modrell. He was so impressed with their music he went back the next two years just to hear the fiddlers play. The urge took hold of him again and he decided to do something about it. In 1970 he joined the Oregon Old Time Fiddlers at Central Point, Oregon and has been playing every since. According to him, he has never had such fun and enjoyment.

L D has since won quite a fine degree of success with his "South-Paw" fiddling. He has attended contests over the state and won several trophies and prizes. Added to his fiddling ability, he has also become quite proficient as a guitar accompanist.

L D is a good-natured, friendly person with a very engaging, happy smile. He is always heartily welcomed by his many friends, where ever he goes. Minnie Bennett, Historian

---

## November 1976

DISTRICT 7 . . . . A masked, overcoated fiddler, about five feet tall, walked to the microphone and played a fine tune. Then the unmasking came and revealed not one, but two fiddlers under the coat. It was Tiffany Wheeler, age six, sitting astride the neck of her 8 yr. Old brother, Grant. Tiffany did the fiddling while Grant balanced her on his head and he did the toe tapping also. The act was a scream and was entirely thought up and arranged by those two fine young children of Carol and Jim Wheeler of Scholls. Bet you can't fool us again, Kids.

---

## FIDDLER FOR THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER

JONAS COX

Jonas Cox was born in Clovis, New Mexico in 1909. His birthplace was a "one-half dugout." He has two brothers and two sisters. He was married in 1930 and his wife, Margie, was a bookkeeper and secretary. They have one son, three grandsons and three granddaughters.

Jonas worked in the Texas oil fields and from there moved to Arizona. He spent two years in Alaska and two in Seattle. He also worked in the shipyards at Swan Island during the 2<sup>nd</sup> world war. He and Margie now live in Talent, Oregon, where they have resided for thirty years. He says he is a jack of all trades, but spends his time mostly doing cement finishing.

Jonas started playing fiddle when he was about 5 years old. His two uncles played fiddle and he still has the one his father's twin brother gave him. Jonas learned to play by himself. He would go to the square dances and call them while he danced. He learned the tunes he heard, then go home and

practice playing them till late in the night after the dance was over. His wife, Margie, said she married him so her folks and his could get some rest.

Jonas joined the Old Time Fiddlers Assoc. about 4 years ago and really has had fun fiddling. He says that all the other fiddlers seem like relatives he loves them so much. He has been State Vice-president and chairman of District 4 for two years. He says he has 15 trophies “including one great grandchild.”

Jonas and Margie Cox are super, friendly, outgoing people with hearts of gold. They believe in having a good time and proceed to have one where ever they go. Minnie Bennett, Historian

---

## December 1976

### Our Fiddler for the month of December

Jack McCasland

Jack was born in Morrilton, Conway County, Arkansas, May 26, 1912. He was a member of a musical family consisting of one brother and three sisters. He is a third generation fiddler, his grandfather George, being a champion of his time.

Jack's father traded an Elgin watch for a fiddle, which he kept hidden under his bed. When he was 18 months old, Jack would crawl under and paw on it. Later, when he was old enough to learn to play, his grandfather took him in hand. He used to make Jack sit sideways in an old ladder-back chair, hook his elbow over the back and practice bowing. When he was 12 years old, Jack's father bought him a bass fiddle. He wasn't tall enough to reach the strings so he had to stand on a box to play it. Jack's mother played an old pump organ, his father the fiddle and all but the youngest in the family were good musicians. They played as a family group, listened to the "Grand Ole Opry" on the radio and broadcast their own music to their friends and neighbors over the telephone. Jack worked 3 days pulling a cross-cut saw for a Sears Roebuck guitar.

During the 1930s and 40s Jack played bass in a western band of his own, at that time they lived in the San Joaquin Valley, Cal. Also during that time, in 1935, Jack was married. He and his wife Clemmie have 3 children and 8 grandchildren.

They joined the Old Time Fiddlers in 1971 when the association was first organized in southern Oregon by Martha Warwick.

Jack has become quite an accomplished fiddler. He won 4<sup>th</sup> place in the intermediate group, in state competition this year. He plays at jam sessions, dance parties and rest homes, where ever and whenever he can.

Jack is a friendly, out-going person with an engaging personality. Whenever he joins in with a group of musicians his presence stands out like his big bass fiddle. Minnie Bennett, Historian

---

## 1977

### January 1977

**DISTRICT 8:** District 8 is very saddened by the passing of Ray Mack. He will be missed very much by all his friends. Our heartfelt sympathy goes out to his wife Lillian.

#### A TRIBUTE TO RAY MACK

By Minnie Bennett

The Oregon Old Time Fiddlers Association has lost another one of its few remaining genuine old-time fiddlers. Ray Mack, of Salem passed away December 14, 1976 at the age of 83.

Ray will be greatly missed by his many friends, among which are the hundreds of invalids and aged in rest homes and especially by the musicians who played with him regularly every week.

An instrument of wood, bone and horse-hair has reverted to its elements. A fiddle once vibrant with life in the skilled hands of its owner, now lies silent in its case. Silver strings, that for so many

years brought joy and gladness into the hearts of multitudes, lie silent because the talented fingers that moved them have no further use for them.

What a priceless gift! Were it possible for the fortunate heir who is given the fiddle, to be given also, the great talent, the skill, the love for music and the sheer joy of making it, that was once so vitally a part of its owner.

Ray was generous with his talents, always willing to play his fiddle any time and any where he could. He spent much of his time doing just that.

His fiddle is now silent, but its music will live on in the hearts of all who listened and danced to its melodies.

---

### Our fiddler for the month of February 1977

WILLIS "SHORTY" ALLEN

Willis was born at Bandon, Oregon on June 4, 1910. His family moved to the Monmouth area when he was 3 months old and there he has lived for 65 years.

Willis, better know as "Shorty," helped his father on the farm, also worked in the timber and sawmill, but for the last 27 years, until retirement, he has worked for the Southern Pacific Railroad. Shorty was born into a musical family and most of his musical training came from his father who was a fiddler. At a very early age Shorty used to "play" with his father with two sticks, pretending they were his fiddle. Seeing how interested he was and as soon as he was old enough, his father let him use his fiddle, and in a very short time Shorty was able to play a few tunes by ear. Later, Shorty's father bought a piano and taught him to play chords on it. He played accompaniment to his father and uncle at dances and other entertainment in the area.

After Shorty and Virgie were married, he decided he wanted to play an accordion. He sent for one and taught himself to play it. He joined Ray Mack's Pioneers and played his accordion for dances every Saturday night. Since Ray passed away in December, Shorty has kept the group together and they are playing regularly every week in Salem. The Allens still live in the Monmouth area. They joined the Oregon Old Time fiddlers shortly after it was organized. They had attended a Jamboree in Corvallis and enjoyed it so much they joined the association that day. Shorty is a very friendly person with a ready smile. He loves to play music and is very generous with his talents. He plays piano, organ and fiddle besides his accordion, and is a very welcome addition to any program. Minnie Bennett, Historian

---

### Our fiddler of the month for March 1977

FRED HILDEBRANDT

Fred Hildebrandt was born on October 1, 1908 in Rosalia, Washington, which is a little south of Spokane. Fred started violin lessons at the age of 7 in Spokane and played in the grade school orchestra. Fred moved to Portland at the age of 12 where he continued with his music playing in the high school orchestra and with different groups at dances and other types of entertainment. He continued playing after he got out of school.

Fred married Ellen on September 27, 1928 in Vancouver, Washington. They lived in Portland a few years, then moved to Olympia, Washington, where he worked in a veneer plant. The depression came and he came back to Portland where he worked as a blacksmith for Union Pacific for 10 years and then for Multnomah County for 25 years until his retirement in 1973. He and Ellen have two daughters, Maxine, who lives in Portland and Norene who lives in Washington, D.C.

Fred took up fiddling when he attended his first jam session back in 1966 or 1967. The first jam session he can remember attending was at the old Lents Grange hall, where he and Bill Wilson signed up. Since he has been an active member, he has played for several senior citizens groups, the veterans hospital, retired citizens homes and for anyone that will ask his "Fred's Fiddlin Gang." Fred is the proud owner of several trophies which he has won in contests in and around the state. He has

placed 5<sup>th</sup> in the Senior Division at Weiser and 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Oregon State contest. Fred enjoys fiddling and will do so whenever asked. Minnie Bennett, Historian

---

April 1977

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 45<sup>th</sup> and S.W. 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 Dumont 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.

---

October fiddler of the month

ALTA BANCE

Alta Bance of Medford, Oregon was born in Missouri, April 28, 1898. She was the daughter of a fiddler, John W. Calhoun, and a member of a family of nine children. Their home was in a farm area near a summer resort where the father played for dances and other entertainment.

Alta was one of the five children who were interested in playing the fiddle. She started sawing on her father's when she was about nine years old. At about that time, an older sister sent for a mandolin that had a chart on the fingerboard. By using that, she learned the positions which later came in handy when she started playing the fiddle.

In 1911, Alta's brother taught her the music notes. Later she took five or six lessons on the mandolin from Bernard Wendt, arranger for the Shakespearean plays. She also took a few lessons from a music teacher and in 1971, she joined a Senior Citizen orchestra with whom she still plays.

In 1972 Alta joined the Oregon Old Time Fiddle Assn. She decided she'd better play fiddle if she were going to be a good member. In 1973 she was mentioned in the "Hoedowner" as playing with Ivan Shuck's group.

Alta had played fiddle only about three years when she played before a audience of between five and six thousand at Lithea park. She received a standing ovation for playing "Chinese Breakdown." She later went to Yreka and signed up for a contest. She won second in general fiddling which came as a great surprise to her.

Alta is a pert little bright-eyed lady with white hair. She loves music and plays her mandolin and fiddle with great enthusiasm. Her music is lively and full of pep, and she always is rewarded by great appreciation from her audiences. Minnie Bennett, Historian

---

### November 1977

District 4: The hearts in District 4 are saddened for the 3<sup>rd</sup> time in 4 months. In July we said farewell to Al DeLorme, in August we gathered again to say goodbye to John Hoerster; and today we all joined Phil Simmons family to bid Phil adieu. The music they most loved rang out to their memory. Their friends played as only fiddlers can do.

Al DeLorme picked up his fiddle about 5 years ago when he happened to attend a jam session. . . . He could not believe the fiddling he had loved was back in style.

John Hoerster leaves behind many tokens of his abilities. Not only was John a fine fiddler, but he repaired many, many instruments for fiddlers. John had another talent which will keep his memory indefinite – making beautiful fiddles, mandolins, etc. During the last World's Fair, John was invited several times to demonstrate his fiddle making for the world. How proud we of Oregon can be!

Phil Simmons was past chairman of District 4. Phil and his fine bass playing will be sorely missed by all. As a young man, Phil had his own little band. He was very versatile, doubling off on fiddle and other instruments. Many times Phil has told me stories of places he had played, fun times he and his band had and also of the wonderful times he and family members had when they all gathered for their family dinners, etc. Phil was a warm, friendly person always willing to help where ever and whenever he could. Many times during this last year when Phil really felt pretty low, he picked up the “big” fiddle and his little fiddle and came along to help keep the rhythm for his fellow fiddlers. Thanks Phil!

---

### Our fiddler for the month of November

#### ERLE BECKETTE

Erle Bequette was born at Sibley, Iowa, October 23, 1897. When he was about 5 years old, the family moved to South Dakota where they bought land and started a wheat and cattle ranch. Erle started playing the fiddle at about the age of 13. He played with his mother, an uncle and some cousins.

After his father's death in 1918, the family sold the ranch and Erle started traveling around the country. Finally in Brainerd, Minnesota, he met Clara and they were married on June 10, 1929. Erle and Clara made their home in Brainerd, where Erle played for dances and kept busy with his fiddle playing until April 1942 when they sold out and came to Canby, Oregon.

Erle worked in the ship yards during the war and later worked in construction, building houses. After he retired from the construction in 1961, he had a blueberry farm until 1976 when they again sold out and moved to Aurora where they now live in a mobile home.

Since he retired, Erle has more time for fiddling, which he enjoys very much. He and Clara attend most of the jam sessions around the country where he takes part. He also plays for many local functions.

Like most old time fiddlers, Erle is always willing and eager to help out where ever he is needed. May you have many more years of good fiddling, Erle! Minnie Bennett, Historian

---

## The Hoedowner 1978

Fiddler of the month of February 1978

WESLEY BRUNSON

Wesley Brunson was born in Miles City, Montana, August 4, 1902. Wes's grandfather served in the 7<sup>th</sup> Cavalry of the U.S. Army. After he was mustered out, he homesteaded at Calbar, about 20 miles west of Miles City. The family was living there during the Indian wars, and the grandfather and an uncle helped bury General Custer and his men. It was here that Wes's parents were married.

The Brunson family moved to Oregon where Wes's father homesteaded in Columbia County. They moved to Newberg when Wes was quite young.

Wesley learned to play on his father's fiddle and played his first tune, an old church hymn, when he was 7 years old.

Wes possesses a fine natural musical talent and has learned to play several instruments. Besides fiddle, he plays guitar, mandolin, banjo and accordion. His favorites are fiddle and guitar. He joined the O.O.T.F.A. in March 1967.

Wes Brunson is a quiet, unassuming person with a keen sense of humor. Like all musicians, he loves to play, and is always willing to lend his talents to any occasion or group. His beautiful guitar harmonies add greatly to any musical rendition.

His many friends are looking forward to a rapid improvement in his health so that he can again take part in all the things he enjoys so much. **Minnie Bennett, Historian**

---

## May 1978

FIDDLIN'- TOE-TAPPIN', KNEE-SLAPPIN' AT FAIRGROUNDS by Dan Webster

They came from all over the state. From Grants Pass, Sweet Home, Klamath Falls, Medford, Portland, Philomath, Seal Rock – even Eugene, Springfield. And they came to fiddle. The occasion was the Oregon Old Time Fiddlers Association's 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Old-time Fiddling and Variety Show that was held last Friday at the Lane County Fairgrounds. A sell-out crowd of 1100 whistled, cheered and slapped their knees to the waltzes, jigs and hoedowns of some of the finest fiddlers of the Pacific Northwest.

. . . . In one corner you would have seen two fiddlers, several guitarists and a bass player joining together in a spirited rendition of "Turkey in the Straw." At the same time, across the room another group would have been gently breaking into the "Polish Wedding Waltz," while a few steps away, still another would have been picking up the furious strains of the "Red Apple Rag."

And this, more than the public show, was what it was all about: a group of musicians taking the opportunity to gather and play their kind of music for their own enjoyment. This was why the association was originally founded.

It was in 1964 that Cliff Buker, then a young 71, and a few of his friends decided to start a club that would bring together anyone interested in playing, or simply appreciating, old-time fiddle music.

"We figured Idaho and Washington had one, so why couldn't we," Buker said loudly over the picking of a lightening-fast banjo man. "They told us it couldn't be done, but we tried and this is the result."

The result Buker is talking about is an organization of over 1,000, only 100 of whom are fiddlers. Nearly 50 others play some kind of musical instrument, while the remainder have simply joined to listen and enjoy. The association has grown so large that it is now split into eight districts, each of which puts on its own shows announced beforehand in a monthly newsletter available to members.

Eugeanean Wayne Holmes, 58 (who has played the fiddle for over 50 years), has been a member of the association since 1969. A mail clerk at the Eugene main post office for the last 25 years, Holmes has confined his fiddling to his spare time. And he welcomes the opportunities to play for an appreciative audience that the expanding association provides.

“Oregon is a big state,” Holmes says. “so you don’t want to have to go from Portland to Medford and back on a Saturday. So we now have districts, each with its own chairman who sets up meetings so that sooner or later one will be held where ever you may live.

The association also arranges annual state-wide meetings, like the Variety Show. And there is a State Contest that is held in Bend every May. It is at these full association get-togethers that the finest music can be heard.

Friday night’s variety show saw over 20 fiddlers, aged eight to 85, play an incredible variety of music from square dance hoedowns to hymns. Some of the highlights include:

\* Buker, with his still-nimble 85 year old fingers fiddling “My Pretty Quadroon” and “Waiting for the Robert E. Lee.”

\* Current State Champion Carol Wheeler (the first woman champion in the association’s history) in an extremely professional set. She began with a three-part composition that “Attempts to paint a picture,” and ended with a piece called “Papa Haydn’s Surprise Symphony” (a classical sounding prelude that eventually breaks into “Turkey in the Straw”) that brought down the house.

\* The Sims family (who had records for sale, on display) with young daughter Lisa singing “Snowbird,” and the whole family performing one of their hit songs, “You-You-You Stole My Heart Away.”

\* Wheeler, LeRoy Sims (of the Sims Family) and current association President John Melnichuk playing together in a race-horse version of the “Orange Blossom Special” to close out the show.

Above all else, what was most impressive about the show was the interaction between the crowd and the musicians. These were people who loved what they were doing, and hearing, and it showed. If you were there, you know what I mean. If you weren’t, then make sure you go next year. You won’t regret it.

---

## June 1978

### 1978 STATE CONTEST RESULTS

<u>JR-JRS</u>	<u>JUNIORS</u>	<u>SENIORS</u>	<u>INTERMEDIATE</u>
1. Grant Wheeler	Jess Cooper	Ed Johnson	Ray Krogstad
2. Scott Ranes	Valerie Jeffers	George Jenkerson	Nancy Berg
3. Pat Fitzgerald		Fred Hildebrandt	LeRoy Sims
4. Mike Dukart		Jonas Cox	Jim Morris
5. Jimmy Brown		Walter Langlitz	Penny Mead
6. Tiffany Wheeler		Bill Noble	Les Tucker
7. Bonnie Griffin		Jack McCasland	Steve Bennett

<u>STATE CHAMPION DIVISION</u>
1. Carol Ann Wheeler
2. John Melnichuk
3. William “Billy” Warwick
4. Johny McDonald
5. Jim Hoots
6. Gary Moore
7. Guy Kinman

<u>ACCOMPANISTS</u>
Lee Eddy
David Boyd
Bruce Tomlin

---

August 1978

MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY: It has been brought to the attention of the board that perhaps the election of officers and the date they take office should be changed. Reasoning behind the suggestion is that when the officers take over immediately after election in March, there is the State Contest to take care of in May. It might be better to have the retiring officers who have made preliminary arrangements for the contest to follow through. Also, right after the convention is a difficult time to turn the books over to the new secretary. Also, a little training time for the new officers would be another benefit. Please consider the following and check according to your feelings and return to me. . . . Gynn O. Deaton, Secretary

---

Fiddler of the month for November 1978

MERRILL RICHARDSON

Merrill Richardson of Grants Pass, Oregon, is one of the few real old time fiddlers left. He was born in John Day, Oregon on March 8<sup>th</sup> in 1898. The family moved to the State of Washington when he was in his early teens. When asked when he started to play the fiddle and why, he replied that he had always wanted to see if he could play a fiddle but never had one until 1916, when he was 18 years old. Said he had more money than he knew what to do with, so he spent \$5.00 for one and learned to play it. Shortly after that, he sold it and bought one for \$30.00. That same year he started playing for dances at his father's resort in Wenatchee, Washington, "and anywhere else he could butt in."

He married Wilma Otis in July, 1922, at Glendale, Oregon. They have two sons and two daughters and many grandchildren.

When son Bud was about 13 years old, he started playing guitar with his dad. They got a group together called "The Bull River Wranglers," and played over the Grants Pass and Roseburg radio stations, and for western and old time dances. Merrill played for many "house dances" in the Glendale area, including the homes of Jim Rose and Wes Hayes. Anytime music was needed, he was there with his fiddle.

He worked at gold mining and for the lumber industry until about 1950, when he went to work for California Oregon Power Co., where he worked until he retired.

Merrill is also a fiddle maker. He has made about a dozen fiddles, including several of top tone quality. He has made most of his fiddles out of Oregon wood, Maple, Myrtle, Spruce and Cedar. He has used Manzanita, from which he fashioned finger boards, pegs and tail pieces.

Merrill had hip surgery in December so he could walk without crutches. Then he spent his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday in the hospital, having his neck artery opened up, which he said gave him a new lease on life. He said he can remember tunes now that he couldn't think of for ages.

We are hoping to be able to listen to his fiddling for a long time.

---

Fiddler of the month for December 1978

BOB FAST

Bob Fast was born October 30, 1918 near Kirksville, Missouri. He was one of nine children and music was very much a part of all their lives. His dad was a well-known fiddler in N.E. Missouri, who won a few contests and played for many dances.

Bob seconded for his father on the banjo, when he was very small. Sometimes he'd get so sleepy he'd start to nod; his dad would reach over and, with fiddle bow, crack him over the head to wake him up.

Bob took very few lessons on the fiddle and played some when he was a teenager, then, like so many others, forgot it for years.

While camping in Eastern Oregon one Saturday night in June, he heard the Weiser Contest on his radio. He thought it was so great to hear such good old-time fiddling. After that he began watching for contests and joined the Old Time Fiddlers around 1970. Since then he has really enjoyed the music and his association with the other fiddlers.

Bob and Dulcie have been married 37 years. They have two children and three grandchildren. Bob is a sheet metal worker, and next to fiddling likes to fish and enjoys the outdoors.

Bob is a fine fiddler and like so many others, has composed some real fine fiddle tunes. He has a style that is distinctively his very own. As he plays, his finger action and his fiddle tunes closely resemble the beauty and fluidity of a flute.

Bob has a friendly, sensitive personality that has endeared him to all his many friends. Minnie Bennett, Historian

---

## The Hoedowner 1979

---

February 1979

District 1: Members from Klamath Falls and Lakeview fought ice and snowy roads to get to the meeting and jam session in Merrill this month. There also were a lot of visitors who just came to listen. A newspaper reporter came and took pictures and then gave us a wonderful write-up in the local paper. It was really quite a spread and very good publicity for the Old Time Fiddlers. June Sandusky reporter

---

## Fiddler for March 1979

BILL WEBER

Bill Weber, age 85, passed away in Portland on January 25, 1979. He had suffered a stroke in October 1977 and had been confined to a rest home ever since that time.

Bill was one of Oregon's real old-time fiddlers, having learned to play fiddle from his grandfather in Wisconsin at an early age. Bill will be remembered by us fiddlers as a big man with a lot of good tunes such as, "Grandpa's Whiskers," "London Hornpipe," "Coming Down From Denver," "Little Ole's Schottische," "Scan Waltz," and his own "Mississippi River Boat."

When Bill knocked on the door of THE GOLD FIDDLE ROOM on January 25<sup>th</sup>, the OLD TIMER who keeps the keys to the Gold Fiddle Room asked, "What do you have with you, Bill?"

Bill replied, "just my fiddle and golf socks, you know, the pair with a hole-in-one."

We miss you here on Earth Bill, but we know you are happy up there with the fiddlers. Tell them to keep practicing because there are a lot more fiddlers who will be coming along to join you, and then some, (one) of these days.

---

EDITORS NOTE: Oh, Boy! Will this be fun! This is a new experience for me and with your help and co-operation I think it will be an exciting experience and a lot of fun. Thank you Evelyn Walter for a very big job well done for the number of years you have been MRS. HOEDOWNER. Lois Tucker

---

Thought for the Month: "A good fiddler is one with the ability to play first fiddle and a willingness to play second."

---

### June 1979

#### OREGON STATE CONTEST – BEND 1979

##### Jr. Jr. Division

1. Scott Raney
2. Grant Wheeler
3. Tiffany Wheeler
4. Mike Dukart
5. Teresa Drew
6. Steven Dukart
7. Shaileen Higgins

##### Seniors

- Al Swigert
- Leonard Maahs
- Herman Classen
- Robert Hawes
- Van Southwood
- Jonas Cox
- Willard Noble

##### Intermediate

- LeRoy Sims
- Penny Mead
- Gene Lowe
- Steve Bennett
- Paul Stark
- Ralph Dias
- Bob Fast

##### Open

- Loretta Brank
- John Melnichuk
- Nancy Berg
- Bill Warwick
- Jim Hoots
- Vern Keithly
- Don Hanson

##### Juniors

1. Jess Cooper
2. Pat Fitzgerald
3. Raymond Deaton

##### Accompanists

- Jim Hoots
- Eldon Powell
- Penny Mead

---

### July 1979

#### WEISER RESULTS (Oregon Contestants)

##### LADIES

1. Carol Ann Wheeler
- ACCOMPANIST 2. Jim Hoots

##### MEN

2. Jim Hoots

##### JUNIORS

2. Jess Cooper

##### JR JR

4. Bonnie Griffen

---

### September 1979

SYMPATHIES. . . . Donald Leith past president of the OOTFA was stricken with a heart attack February 1<sup>st</sup> and passed away Feb. 12<sup>th</sup>. Mrs. Leith wishes to extend her “thanks” to all those that extended their sympathies to her, especially to Willis “Shorty” Allen and Leonard Maahs who played twin fiddles for his funeral. . . . We were told at the Canyonville Contest that George Jenkerson passed away the previous Monday.

ON THE MENDING SIDE: Irven Johnson from Klamath Falls had heart surgery and is doing fine. He wishes to thank everyone for cards, visits, flowers and prayers for his recovery.

CONGRATULATIONS CAROL ANN WHEELER NATIONAL LADIES CHAMPION. A big special thanks to Carol Ann for acting as hostess and coordinating events on top of her already heavy load. Les Tucker

---

Casual report of Executive Board meeting at Myrtle Creek, July 15, 1979:

1. The Board is recommending that boundaries between District 4 and District 5 be changed, so that Douglas County will be in District 5 in place of District 4. This action was initiated by the people of District 4 and agreeable to District 5, mostly because of geography and distance. This will be brought on the floor and voted on at the annual meeting.

---

1980  
January 1980

District 3: District 3 held their first Old Time Fiddlers, Get Acquainted, Jam session December 2, 1979. It was held at the Senior citizens Center, on fifth St, in Bend. . . . Don Hanson, Chairman, announced that jam sessions will continue to be held at the Senior Citizens Center on the first Sunday of each month. Karen Stenkamp, reporter

---

February 1980

THUMBNAIL RECAP OF QUARTERLY BUSINESS MEETING JAN. 20, 1980

1. . . . . districts indicate majority want 5 judges for contest . . . .
2. . . . . majority reporting back prefer fall Convention instead of March
3. . . . . recommended striking the number or word EIGHT to read “the State will be divided into Districts.”

EDITOR’S THOT: “Two things are bad for the heart – running up stairs and running down people.”

---

April 1980

District 3: Sunday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>, our “first Sunday of the month” meeting/jam session was held at the Senior Citizens Center in Bend. Even though we are small in number, everyone who comes to perform, participate or just listen, seems to enjoy it a lot. This time was special for us; 1) we learned that if all of those in our district who were members last year continue – plus our new members, we can be considered an “official” district.

---

June 1980

Oregon State Contest Results:

<u>Jr. Jrs</u>	<u>Juniors</u>	<u>Open</u>
1. Grant Wheeler	Jess Cooper	John Melnichuk
2. Bronnie Griffin	Joey McKenzie	Nancy Berg
3. Scott Ranes	Pat Fitzgerald	Bill Warwick
4. Tiffany Wheeler	Teresa Drew	Carol Ann Wheeler
5. George Rau	Kyra Smith	LeRoy Sims
6. Shauleen Higgins		Wayne Holmes
7.		Floyd Beck
<u>Intermediates</u>	<u>Seniors</u>	<u>Accompanists</u>
1. Dave Moffett	Barney Alexander	June Secor
2. Bob Fast	Mura Collins	David Boyd
3. Penny Mead	Leonard Maahs	Joey McKenzie
4. Kathy Eads	Walt Langlitz	
5. Gene Lowe	Van Southwood	
6. Carol Larson	Frank Williams	
7. Chris Reed	Herman Classen	

---

 August 1980

## New list of officers: State level

Les Tucker, President District 1	David Boyd, Vice –president	Etta Powell, Sec/Treas.
John Lewis, Chairman District 3	Clyde Lynch, Co-chairman	Dennis Tucker, Sec/Treas
Don Hanson, Chairman District 4	Harley Nimmo, Co-Chairman	Iris Buckle, Sec/Treas
Dusty Yancy, Chairman District 5	Sam Stelle, Co-chairman Guy Kinman Co-chairman (North)	Vi Brown, Sec/Treas
Roy Zeigler, Chairman District 6	Al Lively, Co-chairman	Barbara McLeod, Sec/Treas
Jerry Kinnaman, Chairman District 7	Don Loring, Co-chairman	Adella Stewart, Sec/Treas
Rusty Knight, Chairman District 8	Robert Strelow, Co-chairman	Helen Hakanson, Sec/Treas
Minnie Bennett, Chairman	Dave Robinson, Co-chairman	Joyce Crump, Sec/Treas

---

 December 1980

District 3: Little Tony Spatz “4 year old” entertained us on his fiddle.

. . . and a comment from the results of the Canyonville contest, “Little Tony Spatz stole the show, I do believe. He is only 4 years old. Tony you are going to be some fiddler when you grow up!”

---

 1981

## May 1981

District 7: The April jam at Astoria was a great one--plenty of musicians to give a good show. We had a large, enthusiastic audience to play to. Thanks go for a lot of effort in arranging this jam to Lyle and Chris Reed. Helen Hakanson, Reporting

---

 June 1981

## Oregon State Contest Winners

<u>Junior Juniors</u>	<u>Juniors</u>	<u>Seniors</u>	<u>Intermediate</u>
1. Grant Wheeler	Joey McKenzie	Leonard MaahsBob Fast	
2. Tiffany Wheeler	Scott Ranes	Walter Langwiltz	Gene Lowe
3. George Rau	Pat Fitzgerald	Edwin Hjelseth	Kathy Eades
4. Brian Hanson	Kyra Smith	Barney Alexander	Penny Mead
5. Shaileen Higgins	Kym Gloy	Fred Hildebrandt	Chris Reed
6. Vawn Smith	Brad Hall	Audrey Reynolds	Ron Windsor
7.	Steve Lundgren	Herman Classen	Lee Jones
<u>Open</u>	<u>Accompanists</u>		
1. John Melnichuk	June Secor		
2. Carol Ann Wheeler	Joe Ross		
3. Bill Yohey	Dave Boyd		
4. Dave Moffitt			
5. Ray Krogstad			
6. LeRoy Sims			
7. Don Hanson			

---

 July 1981

District 1: We all want to give Zelma and Walter Foote a big “thank you” for having us over Saturday night for the use of their yard for camping. Betty Bruneau reporter

---

 September 1981

District 3: Don and Ruth Loring visited us from Albany; Fred Virtue, District 5 from Coquille, Fred Hardin, District 8 from Salem.

---

 1982

January 1982

Agenda for annual business meeting: SHOW: In order to expedite the show and cut down confusion we will allow no amplified instruments on stage. . . .

---

 February 1982

THIS ISSUE IS DEDICATED TO THE MEMORY OF

Cliff Buker

1893 - 1982

We surely will miss Cliff as he was the founder of the Oregon Old Time Fiddlers Association. Our deepest sympathy goes out to his wife, Bessie and family. Cliff passed away on the 18<sup>th</sup> January and Funeral service the 21<sup>st</sup>. Cliff and Bessie celebrated their 67<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary and he would have been 89 years young in March.

---

District 1: Our district is growing in the North East (From K. F.) and I am going to refer to it as 1East, so we may keep our areas straight in reporting. I am referring to Burns area. Jerry Ruddock of District 1 has appointed Rusty Knight as Co-chairman of that area. Rusty has set a jam session for February 14<sup>th</sup> at the Senior Citizens Center for the first jam. Potluck will be at noon and doors open to the public at 1 PM. Rusty didn't say and I forgot to ask him about bringing your own table service, but for now I would suggest that you should. Congratulations Rusty for the hard work you have put in getting this together and have lots of fun. Lois (Tucker) for Rusty

Dorothy Houston's note: We have the use of the Convention Hall on Thursday night before the Convention. It will be open from 7:00 PM for informal jamming for members who come a day early. District 1E: Our Valentines jam was a great success. There were about 150 people for the show. Special thanks goes to Homer and Rosalee McLain from Lakeview, Jerry and Irene Ruddock from Klamath Falls and Bill Noble from Bonanza for helping with the show.

Susie Smith and Ruel Teague of Burns were instrumental in making our first show a success. Fiddlers were Susie Smith, Lance Barker, Homer McLain, Bill Noble, Irene Ruddock, Jerry Ruddock, Rusty Knight, Ruel Teague and a bunch of Duntens from Drewsey – Dall and Turen who was accompanied by his son Alfred Dunten.

Our next jam is March 14 at the Senior Center in Burns. We will be having them the second Sunday of each month. Joan Knight, reporter.

---

So long, Cliff Buker!  
Loved husband, father, grandfather and friend!  
We miss you!  
Your kindly ways, your deep concern, the hours you'd spend,  
With the rest of us.

So long, Old Friend!  
On top of the hill, where you dwelled so long,  
We looked up to you!  
The lingering charm of your music and song,  
Will stay with us.

So long for a while!  
A silver stringed band with golden harps,  
Have welcomed you!  
While memories sweet stay warm in our hearts,  
Of all of us.

So long, Loved Friend!  
We miss you!

By Minnie Bennett

---

### June 1982

Oregon State Contest Winners May 15<sup>th</sup>, 1982

JUNIOR - JUNIORS

- 1 . Tiffany Wheeler
- 2 . George Rau
- 3 . Jennifer Huckins
- 4 . Andy Emert
- 5 . Michael Williams
- 6 . Brian Hanson
- 7 . Vawn Smith

JUNIORS

Heather Bennett  
Grant Wheeler  
Scott Ranes  
Lisa McMasters  
Dan Emert  
Kim Gloy  
Sheri West

SENIORS

Eddie Johnson  
Edwin Hjelseth  
Barney Alexander  
Chet Haven  
Leonard Maahs  
Shorty Allen  
Van Southwood

CHAMPION Hollis Taylor

Last page of Hoedowner missing.

---

## July 1982

Facts and figures from the new president: (Bill Yohey) My second time around as President finds me with great desire to continue to make this organization one of the very best of all the fiddling associations. Oregon State Old Time Fiddlers is looked up to by many other fiddling groups.

Don Gish, Edna Yohey and Evelyn Walter were responsible for dividing Oregon into the present boundaries of our districts. That idea proved to be the most successful in running the jam sessions and other State business.

In the years of 1982 and 1983, it could be a possibility through an appointed committee to form new districts. Our membership in some districts is getting quite large. This will be discussed at the July or August Board Director's meeting.

Larry Modrell Garibaldi, Oregon conducted the first official meeting of the Oregon fiddlers. This took place at Jimmy Miller's home in Hillsboro, Oregon. Cliff Buker was elected President, Harold Allen Vice President and yours truly Secretary-Treasurer. Of the original charter members, six are now in fiddler's heaven. We will soon be entering our 20<sup>th</sup> year as an association. Ray Mack was the first State Champion. Lee Jones is the new editor of the Hoedowner. . . . Our loss in revenue for awarding lifetime membership to 100 members on the roster is around \$1200 a year.

. . . . we especially thank Lois Tucker for the service and fine job done as State Editor, we'll miss you Lois.

---

## July 29, 1982 Quarterly Meeting Scio Grange Hall Maxine Benson secretary

. . . . A new idea was introduced by Bill Yohey about locating property for a Northern Camp-out such as the one at Williams. This was – is one of the benefits of our dues. There was a favorable discussion and it was suggested a committee be appointed in future to work on this.

Reflecting in 1999 – Penny Mead tells me that Bill Yohey asked her to find a place for a northern campout for the Oregon Old Time Fiddlers. During a conversation with Carol Anne Wheeler's father, Bob Ledbetter, he mentioned that a group of ham radio operators had gathered recently at Harold Maiken's place out of Vernonia and that he would recommend it for a campout.

It was a great place for the fiddlers to camp – except for the first year. For years the story was told about the rain that trapped the motor homes and trailers. Many bogged down in the mud and had to be pulled out. It was difficult to live this brief rain storm down but the years that followed produced many fine campouts. Lew Holt, editor.

---

## August 1982

Just a note about dancing by Leonard Maahs, Vice-president

Dancing is a source of fun and also good exercise and can be enjoyed by both young and old. It brings friends and neighbors together for a few hours of relaxation away from the problems of the world. . . . They not only came from the surrounding area, but from Portland, Cornelius, Forest Grove, Beaverton, Salem and the Coast Area. So, if you are longing for nice clean fun and healthy exercise, try a little dancing to live music. I'm sure you'll enjoy it as much as we enjoy playing for you.

---

## Fiddler of the month

Hollis Taylor

-- Oregon State Champion 1982 --

Hollis Taylor is a native Oregonian, growing up mostly in West Linn, Ore., but also living in Grants pass, Coquille, Portland and Cottage Grove. She began to study the piano at age six, and at nine added the violin. She learned from her Grandmother, Stella Cox, who taught violin and piano in Ontario, Oregon for over fifty years. Mrs. Cox is now 100 years old and lives in Oregon City. She no longer plays her violin, but still plays the piano beautifully. Her eyesight started to fail in her late 70s so she taught Hollis by ear, but also made sure she learned to read music.

Hollis was raised to love all kinds of music – her father’s favorite is Hank Williams – but she never heard any real fiddling until 1980 when she lived briefly in Jackson Hole, Wyoming. She went to the Teton County Fiddle Contest where the judges were Junior Daugherty, Shelley Clark, and Bill Long. She bought one of each of their albums. Dick Barrett won the contest, and Joe Sites was runner-up. Hollis was excited about the high quality of playing of the judges and contestants. Also, Shelley Clark had a radio program in Jackson every evening and she played a lot of Kenny Baker, Byron Berline, and Bobby Hicks intermixed with country and western music. Hollis had never heard anything like what these people did on the fiddle. She became hooked on listening, but still could not play fiddle tunes like she wanted.

About six months later, back in Oregon, she met Helen Hakanson who invited her to her first jam. She met Penny and Ed Mead. She heard something special in Penny’s playing. She and Penny started playing together one night a week, and Penny showed her a lot about the “old-timey” sound. They became close friends as they felt the same way about music – that what’s important is not how fast you move your fingers and your bow, but the special qualities and subtleties that make music a personal expression that touches others.

Ending this with a quote, Hollis says, “Penny and June Secor accompanied me at the State Contest this year, and although I won, I still do not think of myself as a contest player. I am excited by all the beautiful tunes, and all the clever tunes, and have so much I want to learn. I hate to start mentioning names for fear of leaving someone out, but I love listening to all the champions we have here in Oregon. They all bring a part of themselves to this wonderful old-time music.”

---

District 5 reports: Fiddlers in District 5 have been on the go playing at a variety of different places and events. Fourth, fifth and sixth graders at Hillcrest Elementary School in North Bend, have a better understanding of and appreciation for old time fiddling after Les McLeod played for each grade level – along with Al and Betty Lively and Murrel Walton as back up. The attitude of the young people was expressed when the fiddlers played at an open house each day for a week at the Coos County Historical Museum in North Bend recently. On two occasions, young boys were heard to say, “Hey, that’s the fiddler we heard at school – let’s go hear him again!” And, “That’s the fellow that everybody liked so much.” Lew Holt, reporter (*and just happened to be principal of Hillcrest.*)

National Contest at Weiser – Oregon's winners:

Jr-Jr 1 -- Tiffany Wheeler Junior; 4 -- Heather Bennett; Senior 5 -- Ray Krogstad; Men's 4 -- Joey McKenzie; Adults Certified Contest, Best Dressed Lady -- Carol Ann Wheeler

---

 September 1982

President's message: After finally finding the Grange Hall at Scio, Oregon, board of directors meeting was held on July 31, followed by a nice show which was MC'd by Dave Robinson. Here are some of the highlights of the meeting:

1. The forming of another district in Eastern Oregon. At this writing, Rusty Knight of Burns has signed enough members to legally form another district in that area. Boundaries will be affixed and the district legally established at the next state meeting.
2. A proposal to have another campout in the Northern section of the state was discussed.
3. There was a discussion in favor of changing the by-laws regarding the presence of both Chairman and Co-chairman at Board of Directors meetings.

District 1E reports: District 1E now has enough members to become a district. At last count we had 33 members and plan to keep recruiting. At our August 8<sup>th</sup> Jam we held elections Those elected were: Chairman - Rusty Knight, Co-Chairman - Ruel Teague, Sec-Treas - Pat Scott, Reporter - Joan Knight (President's note) *Above officers will be as acting officers until such time as the district is formally established.*  
Joan Knight, reporter

District 4 reports: Notes from the Talent, Oregon Jam Session held Aug. 15<sup>th</sup> include welcoming back Hugh Samples who was recently hospitalized. . . . Six year old Tony Spatz from Alfalfa, Oregon (near Bend) won the hearts of all the old timers. Dorothy Cory and Bill Chaney from Fort Dix, Calif. Were also visitors.

Our fiddler, 13 year old Sheri West of Central point was recently featured in the Medford Mail Tribune. Tommy Grissom plays guitar for her and she is making quite a name for herself already. She recently won third place in Carson City. She is hoping for Grand Ole Opry in Nashville or Hee Haw. Keep up the good work, Sheri. . . . We're all rooting for you . . . . Patricia Wheeler - reporter.

District 5: The only bad part of the month was on the 10<sup>th</sup> when Murrel and Daveda Walton lost their motor home in which they lived. Murrel lost his fine 12 string guitar, his fiddle, his mandolin, and all of those things that come about over the years of marriage and the raising of a family. Lew Holt – reporter

---

October 1982

District 1: Members of District 1 are a busy bunch most of the time with their own affairs and the fiddle business, too. There are small groups fiddling at cafes, nursing homes, retirement homes and at their own homes, whenever the fancy strikes. We have the same fine people all over the state as we find when attending the campouts and fairs. It's wonderful to meet and visit with other fiddlers and musicians, as Irvan and I have found out from going to the campout at Warwicks. It's a most fun time when we play with all kinds of fiddlers and sit and eat with them. I personally get so fond of all of them that it's like leaving your family when we depart. I especially enjoyed playing with Sheri West, she definitely is on her way to the big time, somewhere. It's a joy to listen and watch little ones like John and Eileen Melnichuk's smallest one, and little Tony Spatz!! And the fellowship is just grand at the evening get-togethers. Thank you again, Red and Martha and God bless you both. Anne Johnson - reporter.

District 5: I must add a note of tragedy. Carl and Minnie Dean were in a bad automobile accident yesterday (Sep. 19). I visited Minnie this afternoon for a few minutes. We had a brief but fine conversation. I was unable to visit Carl, and was told that he was in intensive care. His condition is serious. We don't know yet what this means. Our hearts go out to Carl and Minnie.

P.S. (*Received by telephone, Sept. 24<sup>th</sup>*) Since writing and mailing my report, I was able to visit Carl in the hospital and he was able to sit up and was playing a little on his mandolin. So looks as if he is going to be OK.

District 4: Our condolences to the family of our Fiddler, Ivan C Shuck. His sudden passing has stunned us all! An avid musician, Ivan played in several local bands . . . . Ivan loved to play jigs and fast numbers. He was always so friendly and full of encouragement to others. Patricia Wheeler - reporter

Canyonville contest: (*It is difficult to pass by the Canyonville Contest results in the old Hoedowners because the results show who some of the active "contest fiddlers" were in "those days." There are names of many who are no longer active - names that we should not forget.*)

<u>Jr.- Jr.</u>	<u>Intermediate</u>	<u>Junior</u>
1. Tiffany Wheeler	Gene Lowe	Grant Wheeler
2. Natalie Ohle	Susan Smith	Sheri West
3. Andy Emert	Rob Hakanson	Jim Braskett
4. Tony Spatz	Bob Crump	Danny Emert
5. Sue Hill	Les Tucker	Mike McMullan
<u>Open</u>	<u>Senior</u>	<u>Judges</u>
1. Carol Ann Wheeler	Ray Krogstad	Fred Virtue
2. Bill Yohey	Leonard Maahs	Homer McLain
3. Jim Hoots	Hugh Samples	Barney Alexander
4. John Melnichuk	Van Southwood	
5. Bill Warwick	Walt Westberry	

---

October 10, 1982 Quarterly Meeting Lowell Grange Hall, Lowell, Oregon

. . . . Under new business Rusty Knight reported on the probable forming of a new district 9. There was a discussion about possible boundary lines that would take in a little of District 2. He said they really need to have John Day in their district. He was encouraged to keep working between now and March Convention time, then bring it up at our State Meeting March 19<sup>th</sup>, 83. This would require a change in the By-Laws. . . . Edna Yohey reported the State Contest will be held in Lebanon May 14, 1983 at the school. There will be a limited number of seats so it is advisable to get one as early as possible. Only Contestants will get one extra pass. All other seats will be sold. Discussion followed about accompanists receiving extra passes. Edna Yohey will look into this matter.

---

November 1982

The president's message by Leonard Maahs Vice-Pres.

The Oregon Old Time Fiddlers Association held their state meeting at the Lowell Grange Hall on October 10<sup>th</sup>. President Bill Yohey could not be present, so the meeting was called to order by VP Leonard Maahs. . . . The forming of a new district was discussed. If formed, it would take part of the area of Districts 1 and 2 and would be known as District 9. Rusty Knight is acting chairman of the area at this time and it is known as 1E. They will continue to operate as a temporary district until our convention and . . . . at which time it will be voted on. It would take in all of Harney and Malheur Counties, with Highway 26 as the North boundary, which would take a small part of District 2, now inactive.

December 1982

The Fiddler's Story

From the interviews of the Oregon Old Time Fiddling Project

Estille Bingham

Estille, a native Kentuckian, now from Riddle, Oregon, recalls a story that went with one of his father's old tunes: "I learnt one I never have heard played, nowhere only amongst a few old fiddlers there – was called 'Callahan.' My dad played it and there's a story goes with it. They had this man Callahan up to be hung, and he had his casket made and brought there to the scaffold where they was aimin' to hang him, and they asked him if he wanted any request, any last request – he was a fiddler, so he said he'd like to play one more tune. So they give him his fiddle and he set on the end of his casket and played that tune. And he said, 'If they's anybody can play that tune any better'n I can, I'll give 'em my fiddle.' The story goes that nobody tried, and he busted his fiddle over the end of the casket." Linda Danielson

---

1983

January 1983

January 9, 1983 Quarterly Meeting Douglas Co. Fairgrounds Roseburg, Oregon

. . . . Also, the proposed new district name, now known as District 1E, will be changed to District # 9 and the boundary lines, approved by Rusty Knight and his group, are to be all of Harney and Malheur Counties and on a line from Hereford, Oregon, following the John Day River, to where it enters District #2.

. . . . the Deatons report. . . the steam tables and their electrical hook ups were gone. A stove and part of the refrigeration were missing. . . . it was a board decision to have several bring electric roasters from home to keep the food hot. Walt Benson volunteered to supply necessary equipment to cook hams and to prepare them also . . . everyone is to bring their own table service.

---

March 19, 1983 State Meeting Roseburg, Oregon

. . . A motion was made by Jiggs Rast to accept the boundary lines for the new District # 9 as described. Motion seconded by Jerry Ruddock, Carried unanimously.

---

Fiddler of the month

March 1983

Bill Warwick

On George Washington's birthday in 1956, Bill Warwick was born to Red and Martha Warwick. At a very tender age Bill exhibited a love for music and rhythm. At the age of five he asked for and received drums, at seven an accordion and at nine a trumpet which he played in the band, alternating with a French horn, all through school.

When he was eleven, Bill met Kelley Kirksey and Nan Maheras who introduced him to the mandolin, fiddle and guitar. In October of his eleventh year, Nan got him started on the mandolin. His ear was tuned, however, to the fiddle and Kelley helped him to start a good bowing practice.

On his twelfth birthday, he met George Vernon, a fiddle maker. George was so impressed with Bill's progress and fiddling ability that he gave him one of his fiddles. Bill treasures that fiddle to this day.

Bill's Mom took him to many fiddle contests and programs so that he could hear all types of fiddling. She made many tapes for him to listen and learn. Many nights Bill fell asleep with his fiddle on his chest for Mom to remove on her nightly rounds. From this dedication, he developed a fine style of fiddling.

Since 1966, Bill has only missed one or two years at the National Old Time Fiddlers Contest at Weiser, Idaho. He has placed in the top twenty there and has been in the top five at the Oregon State Contest every year since he became of age. Because of his love of fiddling, he has entered in many contests in other states, usually taking a top prize. He never seems to tire of old time fiddling. He will play any time and any place when he gets with other fiddlers. Many times he just sits alone and fiddles. He has taught several young people to fiddle, this doing his part to perpetuate old time fiddling.

As an adult, Bill has worked the past 5 or 6 years in a mill, just as many of our fiddlers have done. This never deters him from his music. There are nights and week ends to fiddle. He has become very versatile with his playing, so many people can enjoy his music.

There has never been a time that Bill has not expressed his thanks to the many fine fiddlers who have helped him over the years.

---

 May 1983

Fiddler of the month

Stan Gonshorowski

“Happy Birthday May 6”

Stan Gonshorowski of Eugene, was born in northern Minnesota, and as many of our fiddlers have, grew up in a musical family with fiddle music all around him, so it was only natural for him to be playing right along with his father and uncles at an early age. By the time he was in his teens he was playing for dances where ever and whenever he had a chance.

When he was about fourteen, he heard that there was to be an amateur hour on the local radio station. He wanted to attend but his mother objected, finally consenting only if he left his fiddle at home. When he arrived, someone asked him if he would like to play and rounded up a fiddle for him. Needless to say, his mother found out about it immediately.

Stan served in the Army during World War II. He carried his fiddle with him all over the Pacific and carved a map on the back of all the places he had been. He sold the fiddle in the late 50's and now wishes he could find it again and buy it back.

Soon after joining the OOTFA in the early 70's he met Linda Danielson. She was interested in his style of playing and through her efforts, he was one of the fiddlers from the Northwest chosen to play in the Bi-Centennial Folklore Festival in Washington, D.C.

Stan is very active in fiddling and loves to play for dances. He makes up many of his own tunes, some of which are old tunes, based on remembered parts of tunes played by his father and uncles when he was young. He also repairs fiddles, many times buying old broken up instruments and putting them back together. Many of these have turned out to be of excellent quality.

Stan retired from the City of Eugene, where he lives with his wife Addie. They have two daughters and three grandchildren. However, he is not completely retired as he is currently teaching fiddle classes at Lane Community College.

Because of his musical talent and amiable disposition, Stan is very popular at convention shows and in jam sessions. He takes some kidding from announcers and others about his name, but says that his name isn't at all unusual in Minnesota. But he does have unusual talent which is evident when he plays “Ragtime Annie” in a tempo that would “soothe the savage beast.”

---

 June 1983

President's Message by Bill Yohey: Congratulations to all the winners in the State Contest. And a very special thanks to all those nice people who served on Don Loring's contest committee. They were Lee Jones, Linda Danielson, George Stout, Bonnie Powell, Dulcie Fast, Edna Yohey, Faythe Maahs, Marie Church, Alice Beemer, Geroldine Virtue and Martha Warwick. Maxine Benson, our capable Secretary was in charge of registration this year and helping her were Grace Fox, Hazel Milligan and Lee Jones. Jim Secor was our MC and was assisted by Jim Wheeler. Both did a fine job. Bob Church and Kenny Brank served as accompanist judges and serving finger foods and coffee in the cafeteria were two nice people – Joe and Stella Barta. LeRoy Sims, your sound system was excellent. No problems and very good coverage in the auditorium.

## Results of OOTFA Contest 1983

<u>Pee Wee</u>	<u>Juniors</u>	<u>Intermediate</u>
1. Tony Spatz	Grant Wheeler	Nolan Murray
2. Katie Melnichuk	Scott Raney	Susan Smith
3. Dale Williams	Dan Emert	Gene Lowe
4.	Susie Hill	Margaret Eng
5.	Lisa McMasters	Bud Beck
6.	Sheri West	Penny Mead
7.	Gretchen Pietzold	Dee Johnson
<u>Jr - Jr</u>	<u>Seniors</u>	<u>Championship</u>
1. Tiffany Wheeler	Edwin Hjelseth	John Melnichuk
2. Andy Emert	Howard Milligan	Joey McKenzie
3. Jennifer Huckins	Leonard Maahs	Heather Bennett
4. Jason Ewing	Eddie Johnson	Carol Ann Wheeler
5. Michael Williams	Guy Kinman	Hollis Taylor
6. Scotty Alexander	Van Southwood	LeRoy Sims
7. David Williams	Chet Haven	Bob Fast

---

District 9: At our May 1<sup>st</sup> jam we elected new officers. The officers are: Chairman – Ruel Teague, Co-chairman – Brick Calloway and Sec.-Treas., Pat Scott. Everything is ready for the High Desert Fiddle Contest.

---

Sufferin Si Sez: Never ask a fiddler where he is from. If he is from Oregon, he will tell you, if he is not, he is probably ashamed of it.

---

In 1982 Maxine Benson was elected secretary-treasure of the OOTFA. Bill Yohey, president wanted a campout in the northern part of the state. A beautiful spot at the Maiken Ranch out of Vernonia was chosen. Maxine had prepared a presentation “This is your life” for her minister and thought it would be a great idea to do the same thing for Bill Yohey. With many phone calls, letters, interviews, family cooperation, etc., she came up with a wonderful story and scrapbook. The campers surprised Bill at the Vernonia campout. This is some of the story out of the scrapbook that was presented to Bill.

Maxine writes. . . . much has happened in our organization. Dave Boyd was president in 1980-81 and at our convention in Roseburg that year, he asked all the past presidents to come forward and we were honored to have our very first president, Cliff Buker and Bessie Buker. It was close to his birthday so we all sang Happy Birthday to him. That was his last fiddle convention and fiddle show but I’m sure he is still fiddlin’ and teaching the Angels how. Others have left us in these few years in the 1980s. I can remember Marshall Jackson, Nell Turner and Doris Lakey off hand.

Bill Yohey was elected president of the OOTFA in 1981 and Leonard Maahs, vice-president. Maxine Benson replaced Etta Powell but only because her 2 year service was over. This was Bill’s second hitch as president.

He's been a good president and Edna once again has been beside him all the way. Many nice reports have come in about Bill's year! Some not so nice too, but people are not perfect.

We had a very nice convention with record attendance at the well-planned show. This is because of the hard work of LeRoy and Shirley Sims. The dinner was delicious as usual and well prepared under the careful direction of Jim and Gynn Deaton. The dance was fun. All the fiddlers there took turns playing. I don't think anyone can beat fiddlers for dance music.

Then the state contest in Lebanon sponsored by the Moose Lodge and American Legion was a huge success. They want to do it again next year.

And finally, thanks to Bill and his committee, we are going to be enjoying a 5 day campout at Vernonia for the first time. Some of the districts put on special shows to finance the campout. Even though Bill is out of office now, this is still his baby and he'll do a good job. Many people are helping him and looking forward to attending it July 20-24 for more reasons than one!

-----  
 During the campout Bill was called to the stage and was presented "The story of his life." All of his trophies were on display. There were pictures, newspaper clippings, scrapbooks, etc. Many, many of his friends from across the state were there to share the event and to share their memories about Bill. Bill was presented with a very nice scrapbook of pictures and letters. Edna still has it.

---

### August 1983

President's Message: The Vernonia Campout was a big success. Thanks again to the Maikens, Bill and Edna Yohey, Bob and Dulcie Fast, Wayne Holmes, The Emerts, Maxine and Walt Benson and many others. . . . Oh, Yes! And not to forget Jim Oldham and his towing service. The rain the first couple of days was a little discouraging, but it sure didn't dampen the spirit of the people. Then the sunshine made it so beautiful. A big thanks to those who helped put together the "This is your life - Bill Yohey" show, a climax to the Saturday night show. This is probably the first time the organization has pulled off anything that Bill did not know about or suspect. You have to be sharp to do that - right Bill?? OOTFA Members, you are a great group of people, and let's not forget to thank the Lord for the great time we had at the campout. Your president - Leonard Maahs

---

District 9: The High Desert Fiddle Contest in Burns last month was a great success. We are starting plans for next year and with the support of the community, hope to continue the contest annually. Janet Burgess - reporter

---

The fiddle story  
From the interviews of the Oregon old time Fiddling project  
Delores Lakey -d. 1982

Delores and I were talking about fiddling contests of the Mid 1930's:

Delores: My Aunt Lila won couple of contests down around Hay Springs and Rushville, Nebraska. As a woman fiddler.

Linda: Was it a special women's division, or was she competing with everybody?

Delores: She was competing with everybody. It was one of those old-fashioned picnics out underneath the trees, you know, and they decided to hold a contest, and anybody that wanted to, joined.

Linda: Do you happen to remember how they chose the judges?

Delores: No, I think they just – "would you be a judge, would you be a judge?"

Linda: What kind of prizes did they usually give?

Delores: Well, I remember one time my aunt got a great big white goose. I never will forget that goose. Chased us kids all over the yard! Linda Danielson

---

September 1983

President's report: We are all very sorry and shocked to hear of the sudden passing of Geroldine Virtue. We wish to extend our heartfelt sympathy to Fred Virtue, our vice president, and his family. Your president, Leonard Maahs

---

District 4: Our group was very saddened to hear about the passing of Geroldine Virtue. Bill Noble and Hugh Samples dedicated two songs to her memory. They played Amazing Grace and Sweet Bye and Bye while the audience stood in silent prayer. Dorene Winkelman played Mansion on the Hill Top in Geroldine's memory. Dorene and Geroldine were grade school chums. Dave and Dorene Winkelman have known Fred and Geroldine for many years.

---

Thank you, thank you, thank you – what else can I say to so many who contributed to the success of the Vernonia Campout. First, the "This is your life" episode was a total surprise to me, secondly, now you know more about me than I do myself.

I'll remember Charter Members, Bessie Buker, Larry and Harriet Modrell, Rusty Modrell, Jimmy and Mildred Miller, and Bud Beck for bringing back many memories of the Association.

Thanks to the ex-presidents, Wayne Holmes, Jim Secor, LeRoy Sims, Dave Boyd, John Melnichuk and their families for sharing some good times with us. And Slim and Fern Schultz, June Secor, Joey McKenzie, Matt Hartz, Lee Jones, Fred Virtue, Ruth and Don Loring, Martha and Red Warwick, Leonard Maahs and again Dave Boyd for helping on the bandstand during the program.

It was good to see many of our out of state members. Mr. and Mrs. Les Tucker, Mr. and Mrs. Monte Berg, Mr and Mrs. Lyle Cleavens and Bill and Dorothy Cory.

Mr. Sommers, it was very nice of you to furnish the trailer for our band stand and thanks to Bill Heard for the covering you let us use.

Phil Emert, you are a champion barbecue chicken preparer. Walt Benson – be ready next year to do those delicious hams again. Thank you Rusty and Vi Modrell for helping with breakfasts everyone enjoyed. Thank you Penny Mead for all the nice articles you wrote concerning the campout. Bob and Dulcie Fast – these two fine people worked 12 hours a day all week. How could you keep going that long and survive?

Thanks to Tommy Grissom Mr. McCoy and Jim Oldham for the use of their four wheel drive vehicles. It was very nice of the Rau family from Mist for taking care of the refuse problem after the campout. I thank the districts who sent a gift or two to Mrs. Yohey and me.

Mr. and Mrs. Harold Maiken made our group welcome at all times. They are most delightful and intelligent people and we look forward to seeing them again.

And you – Maxine Benson, what ever possessed you to do my life story? All I can say is if you care that much about an individual, may you be our secretary forever in the OOTFA.

I may have forgotten a few, but I'll be around for those to remind me. I represented all while I was president. Sincerely – Bill and Edna Yohey

---

### The Fiddler's Story

From the interviews of the Oregon Old Time Fiddling Project

John Hoerster—d 1977

John was a maker as well as a player of fiddles. But back before he began making instruments, he didn't even own a fiddle, but borrowed one when he needed it. Then, around 1930 in Portland: "The boys found out that I could play the fiddle pretty good, so they decided they would get a band together, and that was it. And then my fiddle that I borrowed wouldn't play loud enough and they'd say 'play louder, play harder.' And I couldn't. so I said, 'I'll make one.' That tickled them, they thought that was a big joke. And that's it up there on the mantle. I still have it, and that satisfied all of them; there was no more borrrin' and no more hagglin' about playing. I played it all the time."

"When it was new, it didn't sound – it was kinda queaky. So we'd take that sound out by pouring water in it. Hot water. We'd pour it full of water, slosh it around, and dump it out. Why, it'd play nice, deep, beautiful tones, and when it got around eleven, twelve o'clock, they'd begin to holler, 'Get the teakettle! Get the teakettle!' I'd wonder what's the matter. Said, 'John's fiddle's squeakin' " Linda Danielson

---

## December 1983

Entertainer of the Month

John Melnichuk

John Melnichuk was born in Canada and grew up in Vernon, B.C. His family consists of his wife, Eileen, and daughters Tanya and Katie. He is the current Oregon State Fiddle Champion. He has worked in various capacities for Pacific Power and Light Company for the past twenty years and recently acquired the office and title of Vice President of Engineering.

John's entire family is involved in music, starting as young boys, taught by their mother. John frequently joins his brother, Steve, with his band, as does another brother, George. Another brother, Mike, in Canada is also a musician. John started playing the fiddle at the age of 6.

John has been Montana State champion and has been Oregon State Champion five times. He was Best Old-Time Fiddler in the certified contest at Weiser, Idaho in 1974. He has placed high at Weiser several times, including 11<sup>th</sup> place in the Grand Nationals twice.

Not only is he known for perpetuating Old Time fiddling, but is highly sought after as a fine guitar accompanist. He is very involved in passing on old time fiddling to many younger fiddlers, including his own daughter, Katie. His good nature, sense of humor and warm audience rapport always add to the jam, and shows of the Oregon Old Time Fiddlers. He served a term as President of the Oregon Old Time Fiddlers Association and is usually available for assignment to committees, etc., in helping the organization to function.

1984

January 1984

## The Fiddler's Story

From the Interview of the Oregon Old Time Fiddling Project: Earl Willis of Springfield was born in Mineola, Missouri, a small town near a mineral spring discovered by Daniel Boone. Earl's mother's people were Boones, and to him, being part of the Boone family meant that you learned to play the fiddle:

"My grandmother, my mother's mother, was Delia Boone. And her father was Alanzo Boone. And – well, I don't know just how far it goes back, but you see, Squire Boone was Daniel's father. And there was a whole bunch of those children of Squire Boone's. There was George Boone. My people came from George Boone. I'm the fifth generation from George. And the Boones, my mother's uncles, were all fiddlers. Just old-time fiddlers, you know, couldn't read a note of music; they didn't have time back in them woods. One of them was a very fine fiddler; and he had a boy who's living there now. He's just a little bit younger than I am, Nolan Boone, and he was the state champion of Missouri."

Earl remembers hearing the fiddlers at the dances in his early years: "I'd hear these guys play and I just wanted to play so bad, and I'd be out in the cornfield workin', maybe ridin' the disc cultivator, and I'd be a-thinkin' all the time, 'how do you get that bow to work?'" Linda Danielson (Editor's note – This is the last of the series of interviews from the Oregon Old Time Fiddling Project which was conducted by Linda Danielson and furnished by her for publication for your enlightenment and enjoyment. I hope you have enjoyed them as I have, and I hope you show her your appreciation. Lee Jones, Hoedowner Editor)

1984

April 1984

Entertainer of the Month

Joey McKenzie

Joey McKenzie was born 20 years ago in McMinnville and still makes his home there with his parents Joe and Helen, when he is not on the road doing a show or entering a contest. His father is a collector of musical instruments and always has a house full. When Joey was eleven he decided he wanted to play an instrument and of course he had plenty to choose from. He started on the guitar, banjo and mandolin all at the same time. When he was in the seventh grade he met David Altman, who taught in the Jr High School and played a mandolin. He was also a fiddler and belonged to the Oregon Old Time Fiddlers and was a member of a Bluegrass Band called "Patchwork" in Portland. He was going to teach Joey to read notes, but Joey wasn't interested. He would listen to the tune and watch David's hand, then pretend that he was reading the music, so never did learn to read music. He feels that if he ever needs to learn, then he can do so, but playing by ear serves his purpose at present very well. He joined the Patchwork Band before he was twelve, and after 6 weeks on the mandolin, came in 2<sup>nd</sup> at a Eugene Bluegrass Festival. David took him to his first OTF jam when he was 12. He has always been grateful to the Old Time Fiddlers for giving him a stage to play on and friendly people always helping him with his music.

He started to play the guitar more in high school, and played bass with the Twi-lighters Jazz singing group. His director would sit down with him and help him with the notes and Joey would just listen to the music and play it. This group won the World Jazz Festival in Reno that year.

Joey is in great demand as an accompanist, especially at contests. Two years ago he accompanied 69 fiddlers at Weiser and won a trophy for 2<sup>nd</sup> place. Four years ago he decided to learn the fiddle which he says is the hardest of all the instruments. So he bought more tapes and records and was off again. He plays 33 different stringed instruments and most of them are at his parent's house.

He has made soundtracks for numerous TV commercials and for three movie films, one of which won the Golden Eagle Award, the highest award a non-theatrical film can achieve.

Joey currently holds these titles; National Men's Fiddle Champion, Best Old Time Fiddler in the Certified contest at Weiser, (Dual Champ at Weiser). Golden Spike International General Division, Northwest Regional Men's Champion for two years. He is the Northwest Regional flat pick guitar Champ. He came in 2<sup>nd</sup> at the National Mandolin Contest at Winfield, Kansas, and in March of this year, came in 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Championship Division in the U. S. Open at Dillon, Montana.

He has tried hard to devote his time for the betterment of Old Time music, with emphasis on the fiddle. He is always willing to help anyone, particularly children, as he has had a lot of help along the way. If Joey has a motto, it's Practice, Practice, Practice, and master a new song every week if you are capable.

---

## June 1984

## Results of Oregon Old Time Fiddlers State Contest May 11 &amp; 12, 1984

<u>Pee Wee Division</u>	<u>Jr.-Jr. Division</u>	<u>Junior Division</u>
1. Katie Melnichuk	Laura Weber	Grant Wheeler
2. Richard Pietzold	David Kohl	Tiffany Wheeler
3.	Bill Sprunger	Scott Ranes
4.	Jason Ewing	Dan Emert
5.	Jessica Bartlett	Andy Emert
6.		Jennifer Huckins
7.		Susie Hill
<u>Intermediate Division</u>	<u>Senior Division</u>	<u>Championship Division</u>
1. Susan Smith	Ray Krogstad	Carol Ann Wheeler
2. Floyd (Bud) Beck	Buck Milligan	Joey McKenzie
3. Chris O'Keefe	Edwin Hjelseth	Hollis Taylor
4. Penny Mead	Bob Fast	John Melnichuk
5. Mike Grace	Leonard Maahs	Nolan Murray
6. Bob Crump	Shorty Allen	Tony Spatz
7. Dee Johnson	Walt Westberry	LeRoy Sims

Accompanists Awards

1. David Boyd 2. Joey McKenzie 3. June Secor

---

**Entertainer of the Month**

Walter "Slim" Schultz

Walter "Slim" Schultz was born Oct. 13, 1912 at Freeport, Illinois. He learned to play harmonica about the 7<sup>th</sup> grade. He moved to Rockford, Illinois, 1929, where he learned a few chords on a ukulele, acquired a 'tiple' (size like a tenor ukulele, 10 steel strings, ukulele tuning), then traded it and a WW1 mess kit for an "El Kroydon" Gibson guitar with loud parrots painted on the front.

Slim met his Waterloo (1930) when he moved across the street from Fern, to whom he shortly after tossed a rose from his motorcycle. He wooed her singing "The Prisoner's Song" from his front porch and, after a quarrel, sang, "I've Got No Use For The Women."

During those years, Slim was learning the steel heat treating trade at Ingersoll Milling Machine Co., and also teamed up with a neighbor, Don Lake, messing around singing with guitars. Then during the year previous to their 1933 marriage, Slim and Fern sang on WROK, Rockford, as "Fern and Freddie." About this time, Slim's friend, Don, bought a Montgomery-Wards accordion and, along with Red Bicknell (guitar), and Slim with a borrowed three-string bass fiddle, they formed the "Blackhawk Valley Boys." Slim was called "Sleepy" then.

Their first job was a "roadhouse" - 50 cents a night, plenty of beer and a fish-fry after closing. The Blackhawks, after adding Pete Fall (tenor guitar),. And playing gratis a little over a year, once a week on WROK, were hired as "sustaining" staff musicians (1935-38), 4 programs per day 5 days per week. They joined the musicians' union. There was also WROK's "Rock River Barn Dance" at the Palace Theater on Wednesday nights.

The last half of 1938 included Spanish style night club work at Corpus Christi, Texas, and an aborted job starting opening day on KXOX, St. Louis. The Blackhawks mixed pop with country and were dropped at union request.

The group was hired through a Chicago booker Jan. 1939 at WOWO, Ft. Wayne, Indiana, where Slim quit the business in May 1941, and headed for Los Angeles where he plied his heat treating trade in aircraft and shipyard. In 1945, Slim and family went to Bonners Ferry, Idaho, where he met and worked, farming, for Leonard Maahs.

Slim worked his trade again from 1951 thru 1974 at the Boeing co., Seattle – he had no musical instrument all that time, He finally bought a guitar that last Christmas week and retired with Fern at Sweet Home, Oregon, and has been active in the Oregon Old Time Fiddlers Association since joining at the Buell Grange about 1975 or 76. He is now Secretary-Treasurer of District 8.

He is now playing with the Leonard Maahs Mavericks Dance Band at McMinnville Grange every Friday night. Also, at several Rest Homes in McMinnville, Newberg and Salem. He is a very fine musician and plays accompaniment on guitar, bass, and also sings beautifully. Anyone is always welcome at their house for a round of music.

---

### August 1984

Presidents message: Weiser. Boy!! . . . now I am going to mention one name, and that is Bob Crump. Most of you know Oregon was host to the National Old Time Fiddle Contest this year. There has to be someone to organize all this and see that it goes well. So Bob took on the job of Director and really did it up right. Between Bob and our president, Leonard Maahs, it really went great.. . . Buck Milligan

New Editor's Message: I took a good look at Lee Jones' boots and I think his shoes will be a real job for me to fit, but, with all the wonderful help from all over the state, I'll do my best. . . . now, when I get used to this new-fangled typewriter, and teach it to spell right, I'll get the hang of things. I really feel just like a mosquito in a nudist colony. . . I know what to do but I don't know just where to start! Thelma Shephard

District 3: George Terrill, who passed away suddenly in late June, was really missed. He has added so much to the fiddlers and given enjoyment with his fiddle and mandolin for many years to so many people. We will continue to play your old favorites, George, and will always think of you when we play them.

District 4-North: I have been asked by Sam Stelle to report some of the happenings of North district 4. . . . The big event, for me, was the big party they had for Jessie and me for our Fiftieth Wedding Anniversary, where the Oregon Old Time Fiddlers played for us. . . . Ed Doolittle has just finished making two fine fiddles, which is no small accomplishment. Glen A. Brown, reporting.

District 7: Greg Baker wanted me to pass this on: "Well, it sure has been fun being Chairman this year. I'd like to thank everyone who helped me out, especially Helen Hakanson, Bob and Dulcie Fast and Ed and Penny Mead. Gary Evans, reporter

---

### September 1984

Wedding Bells: Greg Baker and his new bride.

. . . . Jim Hoots won first place in the Senior Division at Weiser this year. The "Fanciest Fiddler was Carol Ann Wheeler.

---

December 1984

District 5: . . . . there was to be a state meeting in Bend so, Friday Alice and I took off for a drive east of the mountains. To make a long story short – by bed time there were several inches of snow on the ground. There were heavy snow warnings for the mountain passes that night. The next morning we went to the meeting place and met a wonderful group of local musicians. They invited us into the circle and we had a great couple of hours of music. The snow had prevented the others from coming over the passes. At noon Alice and I made the decision to head for home instead of waiting until after the jam. Nature was kind to us and we had good 250 miles drive home. We want to thank the Bend gang for their friendship and for sharing their music. Lew Holt - reporter

---

Thank you from Canyonville School: The School District has asked me to extend an appreciative “Thank you’ to District no. 1 and the State Oregon Old Time Fiddlers. The \$500 from the state and \$150 from District 1 will make it possible to install a vent fan in the Canyonville gym which is so badly needed. Gynn Deaton

---

1985

January 1985

District 5: We want to welcome John and Dorothy Settle to District 5 from California. They now live in Port Orford. John plays the fiddle and Dorothy plays the banjo. Lew Holt – reporter.

---

District 6: Golden Wedding Bells. Purl Fox and Grace Moore were married one snowy cold night, Jan 26, 1935. They are going to celebrate their 59<sup>th</sup> anniversary on Feb. 23, 1985. All are welcome to come help them celebrate those many happy years together. Linda Danielson - reporter

---

District 3: Stacy Reynolds pleasantly surprised us by singing two songs, as well as doing a great job on her fiddle. She is really a talented young lady.

---

April 1985

Oregon’s Oldest Member Attends State Convention in Roseburg: Born in White Earth, Minnesota, in 1893, the first old time fiddlers Dave Quinlan heard were two uncles who played for dances. His first fiddle came from a Sears Roebuck catalog and he started playing for dances at age 15 and played for 75 years. He came to Corvallis, Oregon in 1959 and is a Charter Member of the Oregon Old Time Fiddlers Association and has 4 fiddling trophies .

---

Annual meeting March 16, 1985 – Roseburg, Oregon A letter of “Thanks” from South Umpqua School District was read. This was in appreciation of the \$500 grant given in order to install a ventilation system at the Canyonville Junior High Gym where the Canyonville Contest is held annually in August.

---

May 1985

District 6: . . . . Thelma Shephard, who took her mandolin into the hospital with her and had a Chaplain and nurse (among others) dancing in her room one day. . .  
.Linda Danielson - reporter

---

June 1985

Letter to the OOTFA friends: I have many times imagined myself winning the intermediate Division and I always planned to say a few words, but I was so shocked I just stood there, so I want to say it here. It took me 12 years and now I’m glad it did, because something you work hard for and waited for is just that much more rewarding. I really felt the love and support of all my dear friends and my wonderful accompanists, Billy Yohey and Joey McKenzie. I can’t thank them enough. Your friend, Penny Mead

---

Oregon State Fiddle Contest Winners, Lebanon, Ore May 10-11, 1985

Pee Wee Division

1. Stacey Reynolds
2. Rebekah Elliott
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.

Jr. – Jr. Division

- Bill Sprunger
- Tony Spatz
- Kristin Moore

Junior Division

- Dan Emert
- Laura Weber
- Grant Wheeler
- Tiffany Wheeler
- Andy Emert
- David Kohl
- Jennifer Huckins
- Susie Hill

Senior Division

1. Wayne Holmes
2. Howard Milligan
3. Eddie Johnson
4. Ed Hjelseth
5. Ray Krogstad
6. Shorty Allen
7. Leonard Maahs

Intermediate Division

- Penny Mead
- Dee Johnson
- Carol Larson
- Bud Beck
- Don Hanna
- Tom Givon

Championship Division

- Joey McKenzie
- David Moffitt
- Carol Wheeler
- Suzie Smith
- Gary Evans
- LeRoy Sims
- Bob Crump

Accompanists 1. Joey McKenzie; 2. Bill Yohey; 3. Bob Huffman-Fred Anderson (tie)

---

---

 July 1985

From your outgoing president: . . . winners from Oregon at Weiser were; Jr-Jr Division - Bill Sprunger - 3<sup>rd</sup>, Tony Spatz - 5<sup>th</sup>; Junior Division - Grant Wheeler - 3<sup>rd</sup>, Dan Emert - 4<sup>th</sup>, Laura Weber - 5<sup>th</sup>; Senior Division - Bill Yohey - 1<sup>st</sup>, Ed Hjelseth in top 10; Championship Division - Joey McKenzie - 2<sup>nd</sup>, Carol Ann Wheeler - 10<sup>th</sup>. Buck Milligan, President

---

District 5: District 5 was saddened with the passing of Les McLeod on June 22<sup>nd</sup>. Les was the heart of fiddling for many years in Dist. 5. He served the organization as an officer and as a faithful participant. His jolly twinkle and laugh and his fiddle tunes will be missed. We all want to extend our sympathy to Barbara. Lew Holt - reporter.

---

District 1: Sunday, Faye and Isom Patterson's nice back yard was the scene of a great jam and get-together. There were 50 people there to enjoy the delicious barbecued hamburgers and potluck. There was lots of good music and visiting.

---

 September 1985

District 4 North: . . . is still alive and moving right along as usual. We are playing at three different nursing homes, the Veteran's Hospital, and for a Senior Citizen's Dance. . . . Glen A. Brown - reporter.

---

Editors note: Highlight of the afternoon performance at the Fair at Rickreall was Walt Westberry's "friend" who went up on the stage with him every time Walt played. She didn't sing or play a note, but she was the most faithful little dog you ever saw, and kept Walt company all afternoon, as she usually does. Give her a "pat" for me, Walt. Thelma Shephard - editor

---

 October 1985

To the Hoedowner: "I wish to thank Dist. 8 members for the beautiful basket of flowers they brought. It was so thoughtful. The memorial service for Jim was truly nice. I do so thank Guy Kinman for playing 'Whispering Hope' on Jim's fiddle. Also, Dennis Allen on the guitar. . . . thank you all for coming; nice to have lovely friends at a time like this. Bea Morris (wife of Jim Morris).

---

November 1985

A word from your vice-president: Alice and I are having a great time. We spent two weeks in Vermont enjoying the fall color. . . . we went to a banjo contest in Vermont and fiddle contests in New Brunswick, Canada and in Maine. This week we had a jam session with a hammered dulcimer player in Massachusetts. We have been on the road 66 days and have driven 11,121 miles. Tomorrow we will go to Pennsylvania and then Maryland, West Va., Virginia, N. and S. Carolina, Georgia, Florida and then head for home. We should be home by mid-November. Love, Lew and Alice Holt

---

December 1985

A postcard from Wayne and Mary Holmes found them in early November viewing castles in Europe. They have been to Paris, London, Munich, the Palace of Versailles, Vienna, Rome, Florence, Venice, and Pisa, where Wayne climbed the famous leaning tower. He thinks he probably stood right where Galileo did hundreds of years ago. . . .

---

1986

February 1986

Letter from Hollis Taylor: I know all the fiddlers join me in feeling a real loss over the passing of Ed Mead. Ed contributed to the fiddlers in so many ways: he was a very organized and dedicated past Chairman of our district, he had a great voice for emceeing our jams and shows, he and Penny were responsible for bringing many new members into the fiddlers (myself included), he always encouraged excellence, he always made you laugh, and he was a good fiddle repairman. Ed was a real blessing to me and all of us fiddlers. Hollis Taylor

---

March 1986

District 4N: Hello, to all you fiddlers out there, from the north end of District 4. We had a real good turnout for the first time ever jam in the school at Yoncalla. While Maxine Benson was signing up new members, Wayne Holmes was doing a fine job of emceeing, and keeping the fiddlers and specials lined out. . . .

Did you know that: District 5 designed our bumper stickers that we still use today?

---

April 1986

District 6: We wish to thank Wally Bloom and his able helpers who held two days of fiddle workshops at the Crow and Lorane Schools. They were well received at both schools and students showed a lot of interest.

---

Winners 1986

## State certified contest, Lebanon Oregon

Pee Wee Division

1. Stacey Reynolds
2. Rachel Dorfman
3. Andrea Curtis
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.

Jr. – Jr. Division

- Tony Spatz
- Molly Dober
- Richard Pietzold
- Jakob Curtis

Junior Division

- Laura Weber
- Dan Emert
- Andy Emert
- Sheri West
- Julianne Planner
- Rudi Booher
- Janine Naftzer

Intermediate Division

1. Dee Johnson
2. Eileen Whitler
3. Bud Beck
4. Russ Phillips
5. Bob Bridgman
6. Willie Carter
7. Carol Lockard

Senior Division

- Wayne Holmes
- Buck Milligan
- Ed Hjelseth
- Leonard Maahs
- Eddie Johnson
- Barney Alexander
- Shorty Allen

Open Division

- Joey McKenzie
- Carol Ann Wheeler
- David Moffitt
- Susan Smith
- LeRoy Sims
- Gary Evans
- Wally Bloom

Accompanists: 1 – Joey McKenzie; 2 – Dave Boyd; 3 – Penny Mead; 4 – Bob Huffman; 5 – Fred Anderson. Youngest fiddler -- Andrea Curtis. Oldest fiddler – Jack Smith

---

 June 1986

Workshops: Buck Milligan and a group of fiddlers and backup entertained about 65 students at the upper Culp Creek Elementary School for about 45 minutes. The students asked some very good questions and really got into the spirit of the music.

---

 August 1986

Vernonia Campout: A great bunch of people gathered at the Vernonia campout during the third week in July to make it a “fiddling good time.” I registered close to 110 people during the week. There were members there from districts 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8 and Washington. The weather early in the week may have damped the grass but it certainly didn’t dampen our spirits. As campers came to join in, so did the sunshine and we finished with perfect camping weather.

The many groups jamming, the stage shows at night, the potlucks, the wiener roasts, the “smores,” the quilt raffle, the “Modrell” breakfasts, the jigsaw puzzles, Walt’s campfires, the Cope’s rug for the stage, the gals cooking eggs, Walt’s hams, the Booher brothers playing harmony, the companionship of friends talking and playing together – all combine for a perfect fiddle campout.

. . . . Mr. Maiken was unable to join us this year but Mrs. Maiken did come down for awhile one evening.

. . . .The church service led by Russell Philliips, followed by the Sunday potluck, left us with beautiful thoughts of the campout. Lew Holt

January 1987

To old Time Fiddlers and Friends: Many thanks to all who attended our 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary party Dec. 13 . . . . We were so pleased with the music provided by the old time fiddlers. Many thanks to Jim Miller for the use of the P.A. set and his music, to Rusty Modrell, Tab Allen, Loyd Coffman, Ted Miller, Art Kehn and Lee Jones. We were pleased to have Bessie Buker and her daughter Evelyn attend. Bessie is considered one of our most honored members. Harriet and Larry Modrell

---

May 1987

District 6: Our district is saddened by the loss of Fred Anderson, who passed away during April. Fiddlers played and sang at a memorial service for Fred, and offer their heartfelt sympathy to his wife, Virginia and family.

---

June 1987

1987 Oregon Fiddle Contest

Pee Wee

1. Erin McMullen
2. Sarah Fox
3. Andrea Curtis
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.

Jr.-Jr.

- Tony Spatz
- Stacey Reynolds
- Andrew Burt
- Jakob Curtis
- Richard Petzold

Juniors

- Laura Weber
- Rudi Booher
- Andy Emert
- Julianne Planer
- Joshua Bjornstedt

Intermediate

- Sheri West
- Eileen Witler
- Starr McMullen
- Bob Bridgman
- Don Hanna
- Bob Heinith
- Donna Foreman
- James Carter
- Gary Evans
- Elyse Benson

Seniors

1. Wayne Holmes
2. Leonard Maahs
3. Edwin Hjelseth
4. Bob Fast
5. Guy Kinman
6. Buck Milligan
7. Barney Alexander
8. Shorty Allen
9. Bob Kaiser
10. Walt Westberry

Open Winners

- Joey McKenzie
  - Carol Ann Wheeler
  - Dan Emert
  - Susan Smith
  - Dave Moffitt
  - Wally Bloom
  - Dee Johnson
- Youngest fiddler – Curtis, 8 yrs old  
 Oldest fiddler – Jack Smith – 79 yrs old

Accompanists

- Joey McKenzie
- Dan Emert
- Penny Mead
- Chris Booher
- Bob Huffman
- Dennis Allen
- Cactus Finley (tied)
- Vic Flood

Twin Fiddles

1. Joey McKenzie – Laura Weber
2. Carol Ann Wheeler – Linda Danielson
3. Rudi Booher – Tony Spatz

---

July 1987

From your "old" editor: As you see, above, you will have a new editor beginning in July and she will do a fine job for you. . . . I have enjoyed serving you for these past three years. . . . thanks for your support. Thelma Shephard

Lew sez: I would like to introduce our new Hoedowner editor, Mrs. Dolores Booher from Yoncalla. I am excited about Dolores being our new editor and I know that she and the family will do a good job. Lew Holt

VERNONIA CAMPOUT 1987

PAPER CUPS	4 PKGS	ALUMINUM FOIL	1
MARGARINE	9 TUBS	PAPER TOWELS	2
COFFEE	9 LBS	MASKING TAPE	1
TOILET TISSUE	12 ROLLS	FELT TIP PEN	1
COFFEE CREAMER	2	SUGAR CUBES	3 LBS
TRASH BAGS	1 BOX	COOKING OIL	1 QT AND 1 PT
SYRUP	9 36 OZ	EGGS	30 DOZ
PANCAKE FLOUR	4 7 LB BAGS	LIME	
		SALT AND PEPPER	

---

2611 Liberty St.  
North Bend, Or 97459  
June 27, 1988

Dear Harold and Beulah,

Another fine camp out at Maikens is over for this year but we will be talking about it for a long time. Everything went so well - good friends - good weather - good food - and an excellent location. We want to thank you again for sharing your pasture with us. It means so much to all of us. It is such a beautiful location. . . .Happy fiddling, Lew Holt

---

August 1987

Weiser Contest results (OOTFA only)

Championship – 2<sup>nd</sup> – Joey McKenzie. Senior – 2<sup>nd</sup> – Bill Yohey, 3<sup>rd</sup> – Jim Hoots, 9<sup>th</sup> – Bob Kaiser, 8<sup>th</sup> – Buck Milligan, 11<sup>th</sup> – Wayne Holmes. Men's – 5<sup>th</sup> – Dan Emert. Ladies' 5<sup>th</sup> – Carol Ann Wheeler. Junior – 3<sup>rd</sup> – Laura Weber, 4<sup>th</sup> – Rudi Booher. Jr. – Jr. – 3<sup>rd</sup> – Tony Spatz

---

September 1987

The Booher family would like to express their sincere gratitude to Lowell Coffee for presenting his family fiddle, handed down from his great-grandfather to 6 year old Brendan Booher. Lowell watched with much emotion as Jack Walker, who emceed the dance, gave the fiddle to Brendan. It had been played by Lowell's great-grandfather, grandfather, and father. He had never learned to play it and wanted to give it to someone would make good use of it. . . .

---

October 1987

District 4: Zelma Foote our new chairman, says to tell all she appreciates all the cooperation from everyone.

---

1988

March 1988

Silent Fiddle: Jim Miller, husband of Mildred, Charter and Life member of the OOTFA suffered a heart attack and died Feb. 9<sup>th</sup>.

Annual meeting March 26, 1988 – Roseburg, Oregon . . . . Martha Warwick announced that, contrary to rumor, they are not selling their place and the campout will be as usual. . . .

---

June 1988

1988 winners of the Oregon state old time fiddle contest  
Lebanon, Oregon

<u>Pee Wee Division</u>	<u>Jr. –Jr. Division</u>	<u>Junior Division</u>	<u>Intermediate Div.</u>
1. Brendan Booher	Tony Spatz	Rudi Booher	Starr McMullen
2. Justin Hajek	Casey Willis	Andy Emert	Bob Heinith
3. Gabriel Booher	Andy Burt	Justin Booher	Ila Mae Weber
4. Michael Fox	Stacey Reynolds	Josh Bjornstedt	Bob Bridgman
5.	Richard Pietzold		Don Hanna
6.	Erin McMullen		Donna Oldham
7.	Darren Reitan		Jeff Graham
8.	Meriwyn Booher		Willie Carter
9.	Sarah Fox		Ray Hanson
10.	Benjamin Booher		Michael Webster
11.	Dawna Samp		
<u>Senior Division</u>	<u>Championship Division</u>	<u>Accompanist Division</u>	
1. Wayne Holmes	Joey McKenzie	Chris Booher	
2. Ed Hjelseth	Laura Weber	Joey McKenzie	
3. Buck Milligan	Carol Ann Wheeler	Russ Phillips	
4. Bob Fast	Dan Emert	Dan Emert (tie)	
5. Leonard Maahs	Dave Moffitt	Rudi Booher (tie)	
6. Bob Kaiser	Dee Johnson	Bob Huffman	
7. Russ Phillips	Tom Given	Ned Booher	
8. Guy Kinman			
9. Shorty Allen			
10. Marjorie Apperson			
<u>Twin Fiddle Division</u>			
1. Joey McKenzie – Laura Weber			
2. Carol Ann Wheeler – Linda Danielson			
3. Bob Kaiser – Ila Mae Weber			
4. Tony Spatz – Rudi Booher			
5. Leonard Maahs – Donna Oldham			

---

July 1988

. . . . an invitation to us from the Strawberry Festival in Lebanon which is held the first week end in June each year. . . . our by-laws state that we are to hold our contest in May. I am proposing that we be allowed to pursue the proposal from the Strawberry Festival and that if the proposal is beneficial to the holding of a successful contest that we be allowed to suspend that part of the by-laws for 1989. . . . Lew Holt

---

August 1988

Silent Fiddlers: Alta Bance, “Sweetheart of District 6”, has passed away at the age of 90. Formerly of Medford, and lately a resident of Eugene. Alta was a life time member of the OOTFA and charmed many with her happy outlook and sweet fiddling.

---

October 1988

Lew sez: I am happy to share with you that the district officers approved my request to suspend the by-laws that dealt with the state contest being held in May and voted to accept the Strawberry Fair’s invitation to hold our state fiddle contest during the Strawberry Festival the first week end in June, 1989. . . . A couple of weeks ago I received a call . . . it went something like this, “We would like for your state fiddlers association to put on a fiddle contest for our Elks Lodge and we will donate \$1500.” The board of directors at our quarterly meeting said, “Go for it.”

---

December 1988

District 5: Our chairman, Roy Zeigler, born in Esbon, Kansas, Nov. 13, 1919, started his musical career at age 11 when his father bought a guitar and 10 lessons for \$10.00. Roy’s father was a fiddler and in those days people got together in homes for dances. “The fiddlers taught me I had to keep time.” When he was 16, the family moved to Langlois where they played for home dances a lot.

Roy traveled to Colorado in 1940 where the old “Uncle Sam” caught up with him. Moving back to Langlois in ’45, Roy had an old recording “King” guitar that he played at dances, backing up the singers. He also sang then.

Roy and Grace were married in ’46 and settled at McKinley where they raised their family and played music. Roy met Fred Virtue that summer and started a group they called the “The Deep Blue River Boys” which played on Coquille radio every Saturday night and Sunday. The band consisted of Bud Clinton on fiddle, Bud Ryan on banjo, Fred Virtue on mandolin and Roy Zeigler on the guitar.

Roy joined the OOTFA in 1971 at a time when the state was not divided into districts. The musicians traveled the state for many contests. To quote Roy today, “There are many new faces now, but always good music.” Linda Carver - reporter

---

Silent Fiddles: Warren Baker passed away Nov. 9<sup>th</sup>. Heartfelt sympathy goes to his wife Sherry and the family. We will all miss him and his sweet and wonderful fiddling. We are also sorry to hear of the passing of Jonas Cox, one of our real old time fiddlers, a past vice-president of OOTFA and a great showman.

---

### January 1989

District 5: Fiddler of the month for District 5 – Lew Holt, 1987-88 OOTFA president was born April 11, 1929 near Vernonia, Oregon. Lew's earliest memory of music was being put down to sleep behind a piano on the stage of a dance hall in Vernonia. Lew says this was before baby sitters were invented. He had 3 months of piano lessons and studied the steel guitar during the war years. After he married and the babies were born, he put the steel guitar away and has completely forgotten what he learned.

In 1976 Lew's mother gave him his grandfather's fiddle, along with the story that his grandfather had worked all summer in 1884 as a 13 year-old and was given the fiddle as wages.

Lew met and asked John Hoerster to restore the fiddle. It was at John's that Lew met Les McLeod from Bandon, which eventually led to Alice and him joining the OOTFA. Lew said the fiddle has been difficult for him but everyone has been patient and kind.

To quote Lew, "Alice and I have come to know many people through fiddling and have had many rewarding experiences." Lew is retired now and dedicates his time to the OOTFA as its president – fiddling, visiting, traveling, make new friends and allowing Alice to teach him what he forgot. Linda Carver - reporter

---

### February 1989

District 5: Fiddler of the month – Dave Pinkerton. To quote Dave, "I had picked a guitar most of my life, but around 1972 Bud Ryan, who was a fiddler of long standing, decided I should learn to fiddle. For several months I haunted Bud and Wilma until I had learned a few tunes. I have always enjoyed music, and although I never progressed beyond the standing of "scratcher," I enjoy the fiddle very much." Dave is so modest but he is a very accomplished musician, playing several other instruments. If he's a scratcher, I'll never have a chance! Linda Carver - reporter

---

### March 1989

District 5: Fiddler of the month – Gene Gosney. Born in Gentry, Arkansas, on Dec. 29, 1911, Gene started playing the fiddle at age 9. His father was one of the best fiddlers in the area. Gene entered a fiddle contest at age 18 but didn't have a fiddle, so he found an oak board from an old barn and made himself one. His prize was second place.

Gene moved to California and married at age 24. He stopped playing to raise his family. Upon moving to Oregon in 1941, he returned to the fiddle and organized a small band called the "The Blue Ridge Mountaineers," which consisted of Gene on fiddle, Earl Kinchoff on guitar, Guy Kyler on bass and Gene's daughter on piano. They played on KOOS radio on Saturdays as well as entertaining around the area. He put the fiddle away again but got it out when he joined the OOTFA 10 years ago. Gene seems like a quiet person, but can he ever express himself on the fiddle!

Accompanist – Murrel Walton. Murrel came from a musical family. His father played fiddle and his mother played piano and organ. Murrel started playing the old flat top guitar at age 8. At age 13 he started playing Spanish style with the family band, as they made their living in Missouri playing for dances. Murrel has been playing the fiddle for 3 years. He also plays the mandolin and 12 string guitar. His children and grandchildren all play various instruments. A truly musical family. Linda Carver - reporter

---

Silent Fiddle: Heartfelt sympathy from all of us goes out to the family and friends of Carlton Smith of Dist. 5, who played the accordion so well.

---

### May 1989

Special thanks: To first aid crew Jim Lockard and Audrey Cope for their help Sunday afternoon at the Oceanlake Elks Lodge in Lincoln City in saving the life of Alex Steinmetz of Portland (District 7). Alex had a heart attack. The last report is that he is in CCU in the hospital at Lincoln City. We hope that he is home now and doing much better.

---

Oceanlake Elks Lodge, Lincoln City contest. One division – 40 contestants

1 – Susie Smith, 2 – Penny Walter, 3 – Buck Milligan/Bill Yohey (tie), 4 – Ila Mae Weber, 5 – Mike Booher, 6 – Bud Beck, 7 – Gary Evans, 8 – Elnora Jorren, 9 – Brendan Booher, 10 – Alice Holt

---

June 1989

---

Lew sez: Just a while back I was handed a note which said: *We had a great time at the Lincoln City jam in April – from playing fiddle and piano in the contest to dancing all afternoon and into the night. It was wonderful to see the crowds of local enthusiasts that came to enjoy the music. Everyone was so friendly and we felt right at home with them. Our thanks to the Elks Lodge for all they did to make our organization feel welcome. And a big thanks to all who put in many hours of time or donated items to make it a big success. We hope it will be an annual doings.* Signed: Jo Barnes and Paul Lakey They expressed the attitude and the feelings of so many of us.

---

Election: At the state convention in Roseburg, Mark Carmickle from Eugene was elected to be the president. Also elected as vice-president was Zelma Foote from Central Point. She is currently chairman of District 4. Lee Jones from Sheridan was re-elected as sec/treas.

---

Quarterly meeting Shorty's Campout – Bandon, Oregon June 11, 1989 . . . .  
Lew read a letter of appreciation from the Weiser contest committee for our \$500 contribution to the Air Conditioning Project at Weiser.

Mark Carmickle came up and Lew passed him the figurative gavel as the next president. Mark accepted and stated his motto for the next year was, "If it ain't broke, don't fix it." Mark also invited everyone to his wedding July 29<sup>th</sup>.

---

Lew sez: Last fall I went to Shorty Dow to ask him what he thought about holding our last quarterly meeting at a camp out at Timbuctu in June. He said, "Let's go for it." All winter and spring I fussed and worried if it would go over. What if it rained? What if nobody came? My concern was for nothing. . . . weather was good as can be expected a mile from the ocean. . . . we had good facilities and 103 people attended. The potlucks, the breakfasts, the music, and the friendship around the campfire were all beyond belief. The outdoor meeting Sunday morning went quite well. Our thanks go to Shorty and Charlotte Dow for all they provided. . . to Abbie and Keith Shaffar for their excellent breakfasts. . . . What a great way to end the year.

---

Results of Oregon State Fiddle Contest, Lebanon, Or. June 10-11, 1989:

<u>Pee Wee Division</u>	<u>Jr. - Jr. Division</u>	<u>Junior Division</u>	
1. Brendan Booher	Darren Reitan	Tony Spatz	
2. Montie Reynolds	Andy Burt	Julianne Planner	
3. Gabriel Booher	Stacy Reynolds	Justin Booher	
4.	Benjamin Booher	Matt Karchesky	
5.	Meriwyn Booher	Mary Wachter	
6.	Leah Grace		
7.	Karen DePorter		
<u>Intermediate Division</u>	<u>Senior Division</u>	<u>Open Division</u>	<u>Twin Fiddle</u>
1. Eileen Witle	Bill Yohey	Rudi Booher	Rudi Booher - Laura Weber
2. Mike Booher	Leonard Maahs	Susie Smith	Wayne Holmes-Bunky McFee
3. Carol Larson	Penny Walter	Laura Weber	Darren Reitan-Alma Reitan
4. Carol Lockard	Bob Kaiser	Jeanine Orme	Will Noble - Bill Noble
5. Rob Caldwell	Wayne Holmes	Andy Emert	Stan and Addie Gonshorowski
6. Clyde Pugh	Russ Phillips	Dan Emert	
7. Don Hanna	C. F. Bruneau	Barney Alexander	
8. Glynn Echo Leahy			

---

### September 1989

Dear Friends, A special thank you to all who came to share in our wedding and jam and also to those who sent cards and best wishes. We love and appreciate you.  
Mark and Ila Mae Carmickle

Things have been rather quiet lately so it gave me a chance to dig back into my files and find the following which I would like to share with you. I have rather an extensive collection of good books but only once have I been able to find reference to the following bit of information. Many have tried to change and improve upon the old masters. So that we can better understand the old masters of the past, the scientific approach to the present and plan for the future, I will forever be indebted to my friend for sharing this information with me as you will be with me for sharing it with you. . . .

I wrote to a friend recently that I was making a scroll for a five string fiddle (for another friend) and he wrote back: (Thought I would share it with you - since you know of my interest in old violins.)

"Your mention of starting a scroll reminds me of a bit of musical trivia.

Gerhard Folkstein was a Bavarian violin maker in the 16th century. Early in his career he produced many violins, all of indifferent quality. Although his violins were mediocre, he had the gift of designing the most marvelous scrolls; ornate, original and truly beautiful - the work of a master. Violin makers all over Europe began to buy his scrolls for their products, and the ownership of a Folkstein scrolled violin became a valuable asset. They did have one flaw, however. No matter how he made them, violins with his scrolls made middle C sound flat. That one note did not resonate, but all the other notes did. As long as the artist stayed off middle C, songs he played transcended the majesty of the original music. Because of the flaw that was built into his scrolls, Folkstein became known as the originator of the Dead C Scrolls." Lew Holt

---

## October 1989

From the editor: I am very happy (I think) to be entrusted with this big job. Many thanks to our former editor, Dolores Booher, for a fantastic job, for everyone who has offered me their best wishes (and condolences). . . . Thank you very much.  
Barbara Garcia

---

 Canyonville Contest August 1989

<u>Jr. Jr.</u>	<u>Junior</u>	<u>Senior</u>
1. Jennifer Heacock	Justin Booher	Guy Kinman
2. Darren Reitan		Bob Kaiser
3. Brendan Booher		Leonard Maahs
4. Meriwyn Booher		Bob Fast
5. Hanneke Cassel		Bill Christian

<u>Intermediate</u>	<u>Open</u>	<u>Accompanist</u>
1. Kathleen Towers	Rudi Booher	Ned Booher
2. Mike Booher	Tony Spatz	Dennis Allen
3. Clyde Pugh	Eileen Witler	Bob Huffman
4. Dorothy Cory	Starr McMullen	Vic Flood
5. Fran Thiesen	Tom Dillon	Rudi Booher
6.	Homer McLain	

We hope everyone had fun. We enjoyed putting it together one more year and hope we have many more years ahead of us to keep the contests going. Jim and Gynn Deaton

---

 1990

## January 1990

District 3: Don Luker and Merle Pasley have completed fixing a two-wheeled trailer to haul our musical equipment. Trial run was on Dec. 3 to our Christmas party. Don was well pleased that it towed so well and was so convenient.

Silent fiddles: We are saddened by the loss of our good friend, Barney Alexander, who passed away Jan. 30. We extend our deepest sympathy to Norma and her family. We will miss him. District 5 reports that Barbara McLeod passed away recently (wife of Les McLeod who preceded her in death).

Quarterly meeting, March 31, 1990 Roseburg, Oregon Ruel Teague announced that there will be no contest in Burns this year but there will be a "Country Music Jamboree" in Burns Friday and Saturday night before the beginning of the Weiser Contest.

---

---

 April 1990

I would like to thank District 5 for inviting me down to play with them for a dance. A benefit dance in memory of Barbara McLeod and Carlton Smith. They took up a collection of \$187.50 and gave it to me for the scholar ship fund. For once in my life I was just about speechless. Boy, what a great bunch of people down there. . . . We think you are terrific. Buck Milligan

---

 June 1990

Vernonia Campout: It will soon be campout time for the OOTFA. So if you like to camp, visit old friends, eat hotcakes and fiddle, come to the Vernonia campout July 17-22. We're gonna have fun. The campout is held on the Harold Maiken farm located northwest of Vernonia about 5 miles on the Rock Creek -Keasey Road. Carl Helgerson, District 7

Lincoln City 1990: This was the second year that the fiddlers have gathered at Oceanlake Elks Lodge #1866.. . . . the RV parking filled the lot and spilled over to adjacent parking areas. . . . Over 200 members of the OOTFA and their guests signed in. Our thanks to Wayne Holmes, Bob McKee and Rusty Modrell for serving as judges and to Lee Jones for being the emcee. Thanks to the crew at the tally table: John and Lucille Childers, Wayne and Helen Tracy and Ila Mae Carmickle. Lew Holt Chairman

---

 July 1990

Mark's Remarks: At this time I want to express my deep appreciation for the cooperation and help of our retiring Secretary-Treasurer, Lee Jones. We will miss his smiling face and sage advice. However, I expect he will be around with his two bits worth when he is needed.

---

 July 1990

Oregon State Fiddle Contest Results Lebanon, Oregon June 1 - 2, 1990

<u>Pee Wee</u>	<u>Jr. - Jr.</u>	<u>Junior</u>	<u>Intermediate</u>
1. Gabriel Booher	Brendan Booher	Tony Spatz	Mike Booher
2. Jennifer Jaseau	Hanneke Cassel	Justin Booher	Bob Bridgman
3.	Sarah Fox	Casey Willis	Don Hanna
4.	Leah Grace	Stacey Reynolds	Fran Thiesen
5.	Benjamin Booher	Darren Reitan	Michael Webster
<u>Senior</u>	<u>Open</u>	<u>Twin Fiddle</u>	
1. Bill Yohey	Rudi Booher	Linda Danielson-Carol Ann Wheeler	
2. Bob Kaiser	Carol Ann Wheeler	Chris Booher - Rudi Booher	
3. Penny Walter	Jeanine Orme	Tony Spatz - Justin Booher	
4. Leonard Maahs	Starr McMullen	Mike Booher - Brendan Booher	
5. Russ Phillips		Leonard Maahs - Donna Oldham	

---

August 1990

Mark's remarks: We all should be very proud of our own Rudi Booher and his big win at Weiser this year. He is certainly a credit to our organization.

---

District 4N: A group of happy fiddlers spent a fun evening at Buzzard Gulch (a ghost town out of Roseburg) entertaining Senior Citizens. There was a tour of the town given by owner , Dr. Smith. He loves to show off the dentist office, general store, post office and school. . . . Jo Barnes - reporter

---

Congratulations to Shorty Dow who recently made his first hole-in-one. (Wow, it really will be difficult to live with him now.)

September 1990

Silent fiddle: Last month Ernest Allen of Reedsport passed away. He is survived by John, one of our young fiddle players. "Ernie" loved to play his bass at our jams and was a fiddle follower for years. He was also the winner of the fiddle given away at the Convention a couple of years ago. A group of fiddlers and back-up played for the services. Just a week before he had requested us to play "My Pretty Quadroon." It was one of his favorites so we played it for him "one more time."

---

April 1, 1997  
Greetings,

There has been a thread recently about changing a violin to a fiddle. I know that it is not typical of me, but I have refrained from sharing my experience and knowledge. Now I know that not everybody will agree with me. Regional traditions and differences are strong and sometimes the "only way" but I find there are several basic things that the new owner of the violin can do that actually don't require much time and certainly no huge "in shop" expense. . . . . and after doing these things, he or she will own a "fiddle" and be a "fiddler."

These are not in order of preference or priority.

1. Take the violin out of the case and put it in a flour sack. (Tote sack, again that regional thing.)
2. Put on four fine tuners (that will cost a few dollars). If you put them on yourself, do one string at a time so the sound post won't fall over. (Any good fiddle book will tell you what a sound post is.)
3. Hold the bow at least six inches above the frog while playing.
4. Sometimes hold the violin (now a fiddle) down on your left arm when playing it. (This should not be tried by everybody - difficult for beginners.)
5. Collapse the left wrist until the neck of the fiddle is flat on the palm of the hand.
6. Do not clean the rosin off the fiddle (never, unless you are trying to sell it).
7. Rosin the bow every time you play. (The barbs on the hair may have worn off.)
8. Lean the bridge towards the finger board. (Not too much, maybe just an 1/8th of an inch.) This will eventually cause a curve in the bridge and give the violin that "old time fiddle appearance."
9. Be sure when buying the violin from a pawn shop that it has a "genuine" label that says: Stradivarius anno 1725 . (Any of the early 1700's violins are good ones.) To be authentic the label must say that the fiddle was made in Czechoslovakia. Do not buy a lesser quality violin.
10. Don't pay over \$65.00. The price isn't that important. It is the fiddler that brings out the qualities in the instrument. (You can always say that you paid \$1200 for it to impress your new fiddler friends. After all, it is a Strad.)
11. Oh, yes, be sure to put some white chalk on the tuning pegs so they won't slip.
12. Buy a metronome and put it on the shelf to use "someday."
13. If you are so inclined, buy a video "How to play the fiddle," a mute and an electric pickup (in case you get good).

14. Maybe by now you are ready to buy an amp, two mikes and stands, a monitor, and a recording mike.
15. You will need both a pocket calendar and a wall calendar to keep track of your opportunities to jam.
16. If the violin was tuned at the factory, you probably won't have to buy a tuner. They are nice but double the cost of your new violin. Most fiddles are tuned the same as a violin. (Some times one string or two might be a little higher or lower depending on the region you are from or the preference/experience of the individual fiddler.)
17. Now you are ready to be a fiddler. The first tune should have some minor chords to confuse the back up. Then it is their fault not yours if things don't go well.
18. Shortly you will need a WEB sit so you can share your new hobby. (Actually it will become an addiction.)
19. A beginner should attend a Mark O'Connor concert to observe and listen to some of the "basic" fiddle movements. Or if you can not attend one of his concerts, ask someone who use to play for Bob Wills. There are usually one or two with in a fifty mile range.
20. Change the gut strings to steel strings to get the true fiddle tone.  
I hope I have been of some help. Lots of luck. (Did you loosen the hair on your bow the last time you played?) Lew Holt

---

### December 1990

District 1: A great time was had by all who attended the Merrill Potato Festival and the Patterson campout. I don't think they could have gotten another rig in their yard, but, knowing Isom, he would make room. Some even went out to the fields and gathered potatoes. Sunday morning they invaded one of the local restaurants for a buffet breakfast. The owners asked them to play but not for their breakfast.

Silent Fiddle: I'm sorry to report that we lost one of our dear fiddlers Oct. 28. Alex Paladujczuk passed on. . . . Stan and Addie Gonshorowski, Jim Powell, Bob Kaiser, Dale McCoy, and Walt Orr played at graveside services. Helen Tracy - reporter

---

### 1991

#### April 1991

Silent Fiddles: Our deepest sympathy to the Krogstad family for the recent death of Ray, who was one of our best fiddlers. Also our sympathy goes to Jim Hoots, for the recent death of his beloved wife, Louise. Harold Maiken, our Vernonia Camp host passed away March 6<sup>th</sup> but Beulah has still invited the fiddlers out to the ranch anytime we wish to go.

---

#### May 1991

Marks' remarks: Dear fiddle friends: We are all saddened by the death of charter member Bill Yohey. He was one of a kind and will be missed very much.

District 6: . . . . I want to thank Shorty Dow for asking that the minutes be read and the treasurer's report be given in full in Bill Yohey's honor. As you know by now, Bill passed away April 4 and we all send our love and deepest sympathy to Edna and thc family – what a superb musician – thanks for the memories, Bill. Helen Tracy

---

### June 1991

Mark's remarks: I am pleased to report that the OOTFA executive board voted to establish the "Bill Yohey Memorial Trophy." The first presentation will be at the Friday night show at the 1991 Oregon State Fiddle Contest, May 31<sup>st</sup>. The criteria for selecting the recipient is dedication and service to OOTFA as an accompanist.

---

Bill Yohey

To His Memory

Bill came to this world a wee babe in arms,  
Delighting his family with his wily charms.

On down life's path he spread his wings,  
Nurturing his talents of music and things.

His music he shared with young and old,  
Making sure your youngsters fitted into his mold.

The "O.O.T.F.A." sprang from his mind,  
Along with some others leaving a charter they signed.

He headed our group several times in his life,  
Backing him always was his lovely wife.

You've left us with much to remember you by,  
We'll love you always as we say "Good-by."

By a fiddle follower friend.

---

July 1991

Mark's remarks: The "Bill Yohey Memorial" . . . . was beautiful and I was pleased to present the first "Bill Yohey Memorial Trophy" to Don and Ruth Loring.

When you read this your new president, Zelma Foote, will be in charge. . . I have enjoyed the last two years very much. . . .

---

District 4: The Oregon State Fiddle Contest was well-attended, fun for all. Contestants provided fine music, weather was perfect and the strawberry shortcake was delicious. We were able to surprise Zelma and Walter Foote on Saturday night at the end of the contest. It was their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary and the OOTFA provided a lovely cake, punch, coffee, music and gift of a tree rose.

---

District 4N: I remember my grandfather used to take me to town for the big celebration in Ava, MO. He said we are going to celebrate your birthday (July 4, 1923). I was real excited about it and thought I had a great day, but later found it was the birthday of our independence. . . . Lanora Waggoner – reporter

Don and I would like to let all of you know how surprised and thrilled we were to receive the "Bill Yohey" Memorial award. It was a wonderful experience and we would like to thank everyone connected with the presentation. Ruth and Don Loring

---

Oregon State Contest – May 31 – June 2 - Lebanon, Oregon

<u>Pee Wee Division</u>	<u>Jr. Jr. Division</u>	<u>Junior Division</u>
1. Gabriel Booher	Jessie Hitchborn	Justin Booher
2. Melanie Brauner	Brendan Booher	Meriwyn Booher
3. Tyson Samples	Leila Cassel	Casey Willis
4. Jodie Thiel	Nathaniel Hitchborn	Hanneke Cassel
5. Jamie Thiel	Jason Barlow	Stacey Reynolds

<u>Intermediate Division</u>	<u>Senior Division</u>	<u>Sr. Sr. Division</u>	<u>Open Division</u>
1. Bob Heinith	Wayne Holmes	Ed Hjelseth	Rudi Booher
2. Tammy Snelling	Bob Kaiser	Leonard Maahs	Dan Emert
3. Glynn Echo Leahy	Guy Kinman	Buck Milligan	Andy Emert
4. Bob Bridgman	Russ Phillips	Jack Smith	Jeanine Orme
5. Carol Lockard	Olive Davis	Shorty Allen	Eileen Witler
6. Don Hanna			

Twin Fiddle Division 1 - Rudi and Justin Booher, 2 – Brendan and Mike Booher, 3 – Jessie and Nathaniel Hitchborn, 4 – Jeanine Orme and Eileen Witler, 5 – Leonard Maahs and Lew Standiford  
 Oldest Fiddler(s) Twin brothers: Bill and Willard Noble

---

August 1991

District 5: We were all saddened by the death of John Settle who was one of our fine “old time fiddlers.” John will be remembered as the owner of the fiddle with the inlay on the back and the carved head for a scroll. He judged for us at Canyonville one year, another year at Lincoln City and several contests in California. We’ll miss the chats with him and his fine fiddle music. Our love goes out to Dorothy and the family. Lew Holt – reporter

---

District 7: Herman Classen passed away on July 7. He was not only a fine fiddler, but he made some fine fiddles, too. We will all greatly miss him. Jason and Cheryl Barlow – reporters

---

District 8: A bit of information for you who remember Nell Turner. It was reported in the Weiser newspaper that she was the first woman to play in the Senior Division at the contest there. That was 10 years ago. Ruth Jones – reporter

---

Special recognition: Faye Patterson – Dist. 1, Billie kitchens – Dist. 3, Doris Barkley – Dist. 4, Helen Weber – Dist. 5, Lucille Childers – Dist. 6, Myrtle Arnold – Dist. 7, Faythe Maahs – Dist. 8, Pat Scott and Margaret Teague – Dist. 9 by Linda Carver state sec/treas.

---

September 1991

Notes from your toe tappin' president: It is said "one never stands so tall as when one stoops to help a child." Buck Milligan has certainly stood tall by helping so many young fiddlers this summer. Thanks Buck. Zelma Foote

---

District 1: A man by the name of Garne Beckham from Tigard, OR was in the audience. He asked if he could join in at the lodge the night the musicians were playing. He told us he and his instrument were on the ship "St. Louis" when it was bombed at Pearl Harbor. He had it renovated and says it's better now than when it was new. Jo Harris – reporter

---

District 2: We realize that we are not official. We have very few members and no offices at all. But we're hoping to begin changing all that. We are planning a jam/organizational meeting in late September or early October. Zelma Foote and Lew and Alice Holt have given us lots of help and support and we would welcome hints and/or encouragement from others as well.

Fiddling news: Some of us played at an "open mike" show . . . in Pendleton on July 26. Casey Willis was the featured performer for the evening. A group of teenagers (The Roundup Fiddlers) played at the Umatilla County Fair on Aug. 10. They will also perform during Roundup and at the Wild West Festival in Vancouver. If any of you are in Pendleton during the Round Up, be sure to contact us. We'd love to get up an impromptu jam!! Peg Willis – reporter

---

Red's report: Well, the Vernonia Campout is now history and what a great campout it was. Everyone had a great time playing and talking with old friends and making new friends. We had a delicious potluck Friday evening with all kinds of food. That creek looked mighty tempting the day it reached nearly 100 degrees. The little kids and a couple of "the larger kids" found it mighty refreshing. There were over 40 camper units during the week. We had motor homes, travelers, campers, vans, a tent and one brave soul even slept on the stage in a sleeping bag.

Everyone really enjoyed the campout except for a couple of incidents we will not discuss! (*It can be revealed ten years later for this history project that there were a couple of "outhouse" problems. The floor caved in – both in the women's and the men's but Lee Jones and Lew Holt were assigned the task of fixing the problem.*) Otherwise it went great. Anyone who didn't get all the playing they wanted must have worn their fiddle out the first couple of days. There was plenty of playing at all levels all day and half the night. I would like to thank all of the people who handled the campout for all their advice and helpful input. I hope to see and fiddle with all you great people again some time. Your fiddlin' friend, Red Arnold.

Radio Amateurs and Fiddlers Make Music. Every August a large group of ham radio operators get together for a campout much as fiddlers do. An added pleasure is that several of the "Hams" are also fiddlers, guitar players and dancers. So it only natural that there should some fiddle music. Saturday evening, Aug. 17. Rob Ellenwood

(W7BWO) and Ruth from Dist. 4, Lew Holt (W7AAI) and Alice from District 5, Lee Jones (W7BKU) and Ruth from Dist. 8, Frank Williams (W7GVD), and Bob Ledbetter (K6RH and Irene, Dist. 7, and Rudy Englebrecht (WB7NHT and Bea (WB7NHU) Dist. 4 – all members of OOTFA and Hams – entertained until late into the evening. Lee Jones

---

### September 1991

District 2: Hello again from Dist. 2! We are still alive and well – and still unofficial. Our organizational meeting will be on Oct. 12. . . . We are looking forward to some good jamming, some good refreshments and a productive meeting. Peg Willis - reporter

---

### October 1991

District 2: Congratulations are in order!! We did it! We had a great time jamming, and our organizational meeting was productive in that we now have real live officers and several new families in our membership. Our offices are; Chairman – Don Haley; co-chairman – Pam Wachter and Sec/Treas – Beth Hansen

(To Bessie Buker on her ninety-third birthday from Robin Slocum, Washougal, Wa.)

“Happy Birthday Forever”

I never knew Grandma at forty – three,  
But some things I know with a certainty:  
She had ten children; the world was at war.  
She'd stretch every penny and wish there was more!  
I wonder what future she could see  
When Grandma was forty-three.

I sure knew Grandma at fifty-three. She'd already spent  
two years keeping me.  
The house also held Grandpa, Lola, and Joyce,  
Norman and Mom. We had lots of noise!  
We were very busy with our family –  
Grandma and me, when she was fifty-three.

I forgot to look when she was sixty-three.  
Right then I was all wrapped up in me.  
I'd come for a visit, but never be there  
Unless in the bathroom fixing my hair.  
Why didn't I care? How shallow of me!  
When Grandma was sixty-three.

How much I enjoyed her at seventy-three!

I'd finally grown up enough to see  
That grandparents are precious, especially mine,  
And I cherished their visits every time.  
Grandpa was fiddling and Grandma was free  
To travel with him at seventy-three.

Just yesterday she was eighty-three,  
And still working circles all around me.  
My kids got to know her and treasured the time  
They could spend with this grandmother of theirs  
and mine.  
The generation gap was a myth, you see,  
In our family, when Grandma was eighty-three.

How did she now get to be ninety-three?  
Those last ten years slipped right by me.  
Now I look back and understand her ways,  
For I've seen forty-three and a few more days.  
Measure up to this example for me?  
Not if I live to be ninety-three.

One twenty-three?  
Why not? It could be!  
God gave us my Grandma to teach us and guide us.  
For ninety-three years He's left her beside us.  
It's plain to see her warranty,  
Is good at least for eternity.

---

### December 1991

District 2: Winter must be on its way! We had our first snow (about 2”) in the Pendleton area on Oct. 29, breaking a 30-year record for the first snowfall of the

winter (or autumn, as the case may be ). Unfortunately, in the minds of our children and teenagers, the whole event was a dead loss, as the local school officials chose not to close school for the day. One of life's great disappointment to be sure. Peg Willis - reporter

---

1992

January 1992

Notes from your toe tappin' president: To be presented at the Quarterly Meeting will be a request by OOTFA members in the northern part of District 4 to form a new district. They have notified members in the area of their intent and have held a meeting to discuss the forming of a new district. To date they have the required number of signatures. They have followed the by-laws and Standing Rules, as well as suggestions from the officers. Many excellent musicians and workers are in this area and it appears the forming of a new distinct would enhance our organization. If approved at the January 11, 1992 meeting, OOTFA Quarterly Meeting, they have set Jan. 18, 1992 Sutherlin Grange Hall as an organizational meeting to elect officers.

---

District 6: on Dec. 2 Dale McCoy age 86 passed away. He had a lovely service conducted by Bob Kaiser with a group of his friends providing special entertainment. We will miss Dale, he was such a dedicated member of District 6.

---

District 7: Alex Steinmetz passed away on Dec. 21. Our sympathy to his family. (*Alex is the man who had a heart attack at the jam at Lincoln City almost four years ago. His life was extended these four years by quick work of Jim Lockard and others at that time.*)

---

February 1992

Notes from your toe tappin' president: Welcome District 10. At the OOTFA Quarterly Meeting in Coburg Jan 11, 1992, the Executive Board unanimously approved the request that the northern part of Dist. 4 be a new district. Saturday, Jan. 18, 1992, at Sutherlin around 60 voting members of District 10 elected officers. Let us welcome Chairman Larry Johnson, Co-chairman Guy Kinman, and Secretary/Treasurer Robert Joiner.

---

District 10: Our meeting began about 10:30 A.M. at Sutherlin Grange, on the 18<sup>th</sup> of January. Zelma Foote, our state president, brought the meeting to order and opened nominations for officers. Linda Carver, state sec/treas. Took the minutes for this meeting. . . . District 4 gave us a \$100 donation to help start our district. Roseburg Folklore Society. . . . gave us a \$50 donation. Robert Ellenwood donated a 96-cup coffee maker. . . .

---

## March 1992

District 4: . . . . Joe Levine appointed Pauline Winslow to fill the unexpired term of Jo Barnes as Co-chairman. Jo resigned due to the forming of District 10. She no longer lives in our district. . . .

---

District 8: A great lady went to be with her maker and husband last month. Mrs. Buker will be greatly missed and her absence will be felt when we have jams in Waldport. She had always managed to play the piano some. We extend our sympathies to her family.

---

District 10: On Jan. 25 we held our first meeting since the formation of Dist. 10. Marlene Shepherd will be our new reporter , taking the place of Gayla Curtis. Louise Trimble donated \$50 to help start our new district. . . .

---

Annual Meeting, March 21, 1992 Roseburg, Oregon The “Vernonia Campout” will be held at the Lee Jones residence the July 4<sup>th</sup> weekend.

---

## April 1992

The Spatz write: Hello Dear Fiddling Friends, Think of everyone so often but never seem to get pen on pad in time for the Hoedowner deadline. Tony continues to get exposure around here. . . . He’s done real well in some of the talent contests. . . . He did real well in all the 1991 fiddle contests. There are quite a few in Missouri. . . . Bill and I are still enjoying all the wonders of Branson and would love hearing from you or if you get to Branson, give us a holler. Can you believe Tony is 16 now and driving. “The Spatz” Bill, Winona and Tony.

---

## June 1992

May 15 - 17, 1992 Oregon State Fiddle Championship Lebanon, Oregon

<u>Pee Wee Division</u>	<u>Jr - Jr Division</u>	<u>Junior Division</u>	<u>Intermediate</u>
1. Sean McKinney	Jessie Hitchborn	Meriwyn Booher	Ila Mae Carmickle
2. Angela Thomas	Amy Thomas	Stacey Reynolds	LeRoy Sims
3. Tyson Samples	Linh Renken	Darren Reitan	Tammy Snelling
<u>Senior Division</u>	<u>Sr - Sr Division</u>	<u>Open Division</u>	
1. Wayne Holmes	Leonard Maahs	Justin Booher	
2. Bud Beck	Buck Milligan	Carol Ann Wheeler	
3. Bob Kaiser	Frank Williams	Andrew Emert	

Twin Fiddle Division 1. Justin and Rudi Booher, 2. Starr McMullen and Andrew Emert, 3. Linh Renken and Brendan Booher

My musical friends: This is you special invitation to come to our 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary party and campout. Everyone is welcome.. . . There will be breakfast Wednesday through Saturday. You will be welcome to come anytime from Monday

through July 5. There will be no collections, except for the breakfast. Your music and your presence will be our greatest gift. Lee Jones

---

July 1992

District 2: We are still alive and well even though you haven't heard from us in awhile. . . . Blue mountain Old Time Fiddlers who are also active in this area have had a number of jams recently in nearby towns, so we have cancelled our jams rather than conflict with them. Several of us have attended and/or played in their shows and have had a lot of fun. They are a great group of people. We will change our jams to Friday. This should solve the problem of conflicting dates with BMOTFA. Peg Willis – reporter

---

Howard and Lois Gabel: We are associate members and have belonged to the Old Time Fiddlers Association for about two years. We live in Dist. 6 where the State Fiddle Contest has been held, so we decided we should help if we could. We called our area chairman last year and offered to help at the contest and we were contacted and given a time to be at the school to help register contestants. We were a little nervous, as we didn't know anyone in the association at this time. We met some nice people and enjoyed helping out and listening to the good music.

This year we offered to help with the contest again and met many more nice people but the sad thing that we noticed was that nearly the same people were there doing the work. I know by looking at the roster that there are a lot of associate members in the organization but there were musicians helping with the various things that had to be done. The musicians are busy with the stage program and practicing with their accompanists and really don't have time with the registration, timing, running, etc.

Associate members out there, you are missing out on a lot of fun and the opportunity to meet a lot of nice people if you don't offer to help at the various contests and events that the fiddlers put on in the state. After all, we all joined this organization for the same reason – “for the love of old time music.” So please come to the events, stick your hand out and say “Hi” and you will be surprised at how many nice people you will meet. Thank you for letting us express our thoughts. Howard and Lois Gabel (*And Howard and Lois are still helping in the year 2000. They are a fine examples of being “volunteers” in the Oregon Old Time Fiddlers Association.*)

---

September 1992

The other day Alice and I received a letter from one of our OOTFA members telling how much she and her husband had enjoyed old time fiddle music over the years. The person enclosed a check for \$500.00 to be used towards expenses and wished to be anonymous. To respect the donor's wish, no name will be mentioned but all of us want to thank the donor from the bottom of our hearts. (Lew Holt)

---

October 1992

Flash! Congratulations to Hanneke Cassel for taking first place in the junior division of the National Scottish Fiddle contest in New Hampshire. Oregon is proud of you.

---

Quarterly Meeting, September 26, 1992 Reedsport, Oregon Mark Carmickle has been looking into Thousand Trails in the Bend area as a possibility for the 1993 quarterly meeting. They have RV spaces. . . . motion made by Jack Kerr and seconded by Red Arnold to have our state meeting in Bend around the 25<sup>th</sup> of September, 1993.

---

December 1992

District 4: . . . .Jim Hoots started off our program. You may not know that he is a National Grand Champion, winning many trophies. His favorite might be placing 1<sup>st</sup> at Weiser over a field of 81 fiddlers.

---

District 10: Linda Carver had a jam on the center line of Hwy 42 near Bridge when a truck wrecked and blocked the highway for nearly two hours. She started playing her mandolin and people started gathering around. One truck driver said he played guitar, so Linda said that she had a guitar. He played it while a couple of women started singing along. Good way to kill time. Perhaps one of the strangest places to have a jam. Lanora Waggoner - reporter

---

1993

Lee Jones

I was born in Jay, Oklahoma, Aug 28, 1919 into a family of six boys and three girls. I was the youngest boy, with two younger sisters. I was the first in my family to go to High School. I graduated from Jay High School in 1938.

My father could sing from "shaped notes", so we sang a lot at home. My two oldest brothers played the fiddle and guitar, but they were both married before I can remember. I had one brother who was totally tone deaf, but he loved to hear music. Not being able to sing, he became interested in repairing musical instruments. One time, when I was about twelve, he brought home a fiddle in pieces and a guitar with a broken neck. He "pieced" the fiddle together, making some of the parts, and painted it bright red. He made a neck for the guitar, but it came out crooked, but playable. I learned to play "Buffalo Girls and Red Wing" on it. There were two Cherokee boys, Claude Wright and Tom Nicks, who came by frequently to play, and I learned a lot from them. I later learned that Bud Beck, one of our best fiddlers, also learned from Claude, although I didn't know Bud then. By the way, I can also truthfully say I DID play with Bob Wills. The catch was, he didn't know it. He was playing on KVOO in Tulsa, and I was listening on a neighbors radio, and I played right along with him.

In High School, I played guitar and mandolin in a School band. I also joined a group called "Blackjack Ramblers" to play at a dancehall called "The Bloody Bucket" in Jay. So named because of the frequent fights there. I sometimes played tenor banjo, which also became my weapon of defense, when necessary. If the gate was good, we received \$1.00 and a hamburger for pay. But I could buy gas for 15¢ per gallon or 6 gallon for 75¢, leaving me with 25¢ for two hamburgers and a coke to split with my date.

After High School, I bummed around the country, working on farms and ranches, doing whatever was necessary, from driving trucks, to breaking horses, baling hay, driving tractors from Colorado to

Arizona.. In 1940 I joined the CCC in Arizona and in 1941 was drafted. I spent 25 years in the Military Service, retiring from the Air Force in 1965. By that time, jet engines had destroyed the upper range of my hearing, leaving me with a tone deficiency no hearing aid can correct.. so the fiddle didn't get much use until I had heart surgery in 1976 and had to sit around the house for 16 months. With time on my hands, I got out an old fiddle I bought at a Military Surplus Sale in Japan, and tuned it up. Carlton Smith told me about a fiddle jamboree at Buell Grange, so I went to hear it and signed up.

I have really enjoyed my time in the OOTFA. But realizing that I do not have the musical talent to contribute as much as I would like, I have tried to help in other ways. I have held District Offices several times, Hoedowner Editor two years, and State Sec/Treasurer two years. I have MC'd both State and District whenever asked. I played one time on the Friday night show at convention, an honor for which I am eternally grateful. I was nominated for State President several times, but had to decline because of my heart. However, the HIGH POINT of my OOTFA life, was the celebration of my 50th Anniversary in 1992. Since I can think of nothing to top that event, I will close with that.

---

### March 1993

We are deeply saddened to hear that one of our Life Members from District 5, Paul Williams, passed away on Feb. 21. We will miss him.

---

From the editor: Most of you know by now that I am retiring after about 3 1/2 years as the "Hoedowner" editor. I have enjoyed it and had a lot of fun with it, now it's someone else's turn. I want to thank all those who supported and encouraged me and told me what a good job I was doing and let me know they appreciated it. It has meant a lot to me. And I appreciate all the new friends I have made since becoming a member of OOTFA. Barbara Garcia

---

### April 1993

There was just a brief mention last month that Paul Williams passed away. Paul was 83 and was well known across the state for his bass playing and the snap and "Sooie" at the end of a tune. Earlier in his life Paul had been a fiddle player but when he lost part of his left hand in an accident, he turned to the bass. He had been a member in Dist. 5 from the beginning and was a hard worker as well as "a friendly guy." We'll all miss him. Frankie wants to pass along her thanks for all of your many, many cards and letters. Each one was appreciated.

---

Quarterly Meeting, March 20, 1993 . . . . motion made and seconded to eliminate prize money at the state contest. Approved. . . . . motion made and seconded to give medallions for prizes at the State Contest. Approved.

---

Annual Meeting, March 2, 1993 . . . . to change standing rule #1 by deleting the words "from jams and contests." It shall read "Each district shall pay to the State Association 20% of all net monies taken in by the districts." . . . . annual dues increased to \$15.00. . . . . motion to change Standing Rule XIV A to 9 divisions by deleting "intermediate division " and add young adult and adult. . . . . moved any

contestant who wins the Oregon State Junior Division for three consecutive years must play in the OPEN division for one year before competing in their age division. . . . amended “for two consecutive years.” Passed. . . . motions made and passed – to read Young Adult 18 thru 36; Adult 37 – 59; Senior 60 thru 69; Senior Division 70 through 74. . . . Senior – Senior 75 and over.

---

May 1993

Notes from your toe tappin’ president: Beginning this month our monthly paper “The Hoedowner” will have a new editor and a new publisher. The new editor is Joy Halliwell. (*This is the first month that the map of Oregon with the districts was put on the front of the Hoedowner.*)

District 4: Travis Warwick, 16 mos. old, son of Billy and Becky (grandson of Martha Warwick) stole the show at the jam. He delighted the audience with his on stage dancing and interest in music.

---

June 1993

OOTFA Certified Contest Winners

Twin Fiddles: 1 Meriwyn Booher and Any Thomas, 2 Brendan Booher and Mike Booher

	First Place	Second Place
Champion	Rudi Booher	Roger Berggren
Pee Wee	Angela Thomas	Gregg Dowdy
Jr – Jr	Brendan Booher	Linh Renken
Junior	Casey Willis	Meriwyn Booher
Young Adult	Wayne Wagner	Jeanine Orme
Adult	Carol Ann Wheeler	Chad Terrusa
Senior	LeRoy Sims	Lew Standiford
Sr – Sr	Bob Kaiser	Leonard Maahs

---

July 1993

Lew Sez: I never thought that I would be back writing “Lew Sez” in the Hoedowner but here I am. . . . Welcome to the new officers: Joe Levine – Co-chairman, Margaret Teague – Sec/treas., and Joy Halliwell - Hoedowner editor. . . . My philosophy is: 1) We officers are elected to serve the members for the good of the organization, 2) If we will all remember to “compliment in public and condemn in private,” we will have a great year.

---

September 1993

Lew Sez: We were all saddened by the death of Walter Foote and we extend our sympathy and love to Zelma. The service was in many ways one of the most beautiful ones that I have ever attended. We both laughed and cried as Walter was remembered.

---

Dear Fiddlin' Friends: On behalf of my Mother, whom you all know as Zelma, and my sister, Carol, I want to take just a moment to let you know how much your support of our Father, Walter, has meant to us. My memories of Dad playing the banjo and violin (excuse me. ..the fiddle) go back to living in Redmond and Bend. There, he would entertain us every once in a while. What I remember most was going with him to practice sessions and square dances. Music meant a great deal to Dad. What I learned, however, is that it was the friendship and fellowship of the fellow musicians that meant the most to him. . . . . Your sharing music and friendship with Dad was a real source of inspiration and support for him during these past years. I know that he was able to endure and remain vital because of friends like you. . . . . As ever, David L. Foote

---

October 1993

Lew Sez: . . . . we will have had a state meeting at 1000 Trails between Bend and LaPine. What a beautiful place it is – thanks Mark for setting it up for us.

---

Silent Fiddles: Pauline Winslow and Ray Hanson from District 4

---

December 1993

Personality Spotlight: John Waddingham, Life Member OOTFA

My father and mother were great musicians. Dad enlisted as a band boy at 14 in Queen Victoria's reign. Later becoming a bandmaster in India where he met my mother, a fine pianist.

My two sisters and I were expected to play whatever instrument was needed for the school orchestra or town band and without lessons because Dad was too busy teaching other people's kids for one dollar a lesson.

During the depression, Dad and Mum played in the orchestra pit for the silent cinema.

I took my turn at trumpet, trombone, French horn, violin and mainly percussion in many a band and orchestra as a boy.

Later, I tried to emulate Gene Krupa as I played drums in clubs and for dances. I was in Clan Macleay Bagpipe Band for 30 years. I gave up the fiddle for many years, except for "Silent Night" once a year.

Several years ago I started lessons with Carol Ann Wheeler, who has been an inspiration to me both as an entertainer and a teacher.

Some of you may know that I am a professional artist and teach drawing and painting.

I have been thrilled to be a part of OOTFA and have met many fine people in that great organization, Keep Fiddlin' John Waddingham

January 1994

District 1: We played at the funeral service for our oldest fiddler, Minnie Springer, 97 years old. She passed away on Nov 30<sup>th</sup> at the Greshman Care Center.  
Jo Harris – reporter

District 1E: Hello Everyone. We are the brand new District 1E. We had our first meeting December 18. Isom and Faye Patterson from Merrill were kind enough to drive over and give us moral support. We had people from Adel, Plush, New Pine Creek and Lakeview. Several families and quite a few couples joined us.

District 7: Our Nov. 21<sup>st</sup> jam at Elsie Stuhr Center was well attended despite the fact that we all stood out in the freezing cold for 2 hours waiting for the hall to open. Chad Terrusa - reporter

February 1994

Lew Sez: It was exciting to be able to report at our quarterly meeting in Springfield about District 1E. Homer, Rosa Lee and the gang over at Lakeview are on the ball. We all wish them well and will be watching as they organize and have their jams. They'll report to us at the state convention. I reported that they called last September and asked if they could form their own district in Lake Co. I talked to Faye Patterson, chairman of District 1 and she gave her support, so I called Rosa Lee back and suggested that they go ahead and work under the title of 1E, much as 4N did for a while and come to us at the state convention for approval.

District 9: . . . . Just wait till you hear my new toy . . . . can't play it much yet but it sure is fun. Janet Burgess – reporter

Silent Fiddles: Bud Bishop of District 10.

March 1994

*Editor's note: The Lakeview gang wanted to "test the water" so they went on their own for a period of time as District 1E but still officially a part of District 1. I was president when they had enough members to become a district on their own. I drew a new map, assigning them as "District 11" and presented their proposal at a state quarterly meeting. Their chairperson, Mary Anne McLain, said, "We don't want to be district 11, we want to continue being district 1E. We have T-shirts with 1E on them." So to this day, they are district 1E. ( Lew Holt)*

District 1E: Chairman – Mary Ann McLain, Co-chairman – Carla Gannon, Co/sec/treas – Donna Lynch and Lorena McLain.

Quarterly Meeting, March 19, 1994 Roseburg, Oregon 1E has complied with all the requirements to become a district. The motion was made by Mark Carmickle and seconded by Zelma Foote to accept them as District 1E. Motion carried.

---

Annual Meeting, March 19, 1994 Roseburg, Oregon

Mark Carmickle made the motion that all members be admitted to the state contest without paying by showing their membership card. Motion seconded and carried.

Mary Ann McLain from Lakeview requested that they be District 1E instead of District 11. District 1 has given their approval. District 1E has met all the qualifications. They had been accepted at the quarterly meeting by the district officers.

---

May 1994

Lew Sez: At the state convention, it was voted by the membership to admit all members of the OOTFA free into the contest in Lebanon. It was felt that we admit members free into our big show at the convention, so why not try it with the contest. There are two ramifications – it will help fill the auditorium and the other is that we will lose the revenue from members who would have paid to attend. . . . We'll be serving the membership better. It is also a way of thanking all of the districts who contribute money to the financial support of the contest.

District 1E: Hello from 1E. Yes, that is our name. We are now official. What a wonderful bunch of people at Roseburg. Thanks for all the support and help getting our group together. Thanks to Districts 3 and 5 for your donations. Deanie Sheridan – reporter

---

Lincoln City Contest Results: 1<sup>st</sup> Linh Renken, 2<sup>nd</sup> Starr McMullen, 3<sup>rd</sup> Penny Mead, 4<sup>th</sup> Jason Barlow, 5<sup>th</sup> Guy Kinman, 6<sup>th</sup> Clara Murphy, 7<sup>th</sup> Scott Stevens, 8<sup>th</sup> Wayne Holmes, 9<sup>th</sup> Peg Connelly, 10<sup>th</sup> Willie Carter.

---

District 9: The Old Time Country Music Jamboree sponsored by the High Desert Fiddlers is set for June 17-18. The Jamboree will be held at the Desert Community Theater. RV parking is available within walking distance.

---

August 1994

District 7: The campout at Chad's place is history now, but we who were there have a lot of pleasant memories. Chad and Joni were the perfect hosts and we all enjoyed their camp grounds and shade trees. The weather man cooperated 100%. There was one little incident, however; Chad had the pest exterminator control out one day but it didn't work, not one fiddler left HA! Thanks Red, Myrtle and all who made it a successful campout. Dulcie Fast – reporter.

## Oregon Old Time Fiddlers Contest Lebanon, OR

May 13 – 14, 1994

Pee Wee Division

1. Mary Julia Wilson
2. Amberly Rosen
3. Christine Orme
4. Alicia Bunde
5. Kendra Titensor
- 6.
- 7.

Adult Division

1. Starr McMullen
2. Eileen Witle
3. Mike Booher
4. Chad Terrusa
5. Bob Bridgman
6. Peg Willis
7. Alice Holt
- 8.
- 9.

Jr – Jr Division

- Brendan Booher
- Sean McKinney
- Angela Thomas
- Chase Titensor
- Joy O'Renck
- Ariana Rosen
- Leslie Bunde

Senior Division

- Lew Standiford
- Don Hanna
- Willie Carter
- Dorothy Cory

Junior Division

- Hanneke Cassel
- Amy Thomas
- Linh Renken
- Beth Hansen
- Carolyn Grezik
- Holly Johnson
- Joe Grezik

Sr – Sr Division

- Leonard Maahs
- Casey Willis
- Bob Fast
- Guy Kinman
- Russ Phillips
- Shorty Allen
- Joe Hamm
- Donald Simons
- Jack Smith
- Van Southwood

Young Adult Division

- Jeanine Orme
- Donna Reuter
- Tammy Snelling
- Michelle Murillo
- Andria Grezil

Open Division

- Meriwyn Booher
- Justin Booher
- Bunky McFee

Twin Fiddle Division: 1 Amy Thomas – Justin Booher, 2 Starr McMullen – Casey Willis, 3 Lew Standiford – Leonard Maahs, 4 Willie Carter – Ruel Teague, 5 Leslie Bunde – Angela Thomas

Judges: Wayne Holmes, Buck Milligan, Peter Martin, Mabel Vogt, Gary Lee Moore.

Youngest boy: Sean McKinney Youngest girl: Alicia Bunde Oldest fiddler: Jack Smith

---

 October 1994

Lew Sez: 1000 Trails Campout. I want to thank Mark Carmickle, Jim Lockard, Zelma Foote, LeRoy Sims and all the gang from District 3 who did so much to make this a fun week end.

---

 December 1994

Lew Sez: . . . I would like to share a couple of human interest stories. . . one of our older members called me to ask who a certain fiddler was at the contest. I made an audio tape of his favorite player and called him to tell him that it was ready. He said that he would be over in a few days. . . Alice read his obituary in the paper. A sad ending. Recently the widow of one of our charter members called to asked if I would rehair a bow so her granddaughter could play Grandpa's fiddle. She called back very sad to tell me that she had closed the car door on the bow and had broken it. I asked her to bring it over – I restored it for her.

. . . Recently I received a check from a donation of \$120 to our State Fiddle Contest from Norman Fiock for Montague, California. Norm and his wife May come to our contest every year. . . I called Norman to ask him if I could use his name in the Hoedowner as a contributor. He told me to go ahead if it would help the cause. (*Norman and May have continued to be a supporter of our contest every year since.*)

---

1995

January 1995

Workshop: A very fine workshop was planned by Chad Terrusa and taught by Penny Mead at Chad's place the last week-end in November. It was two days of concentrated instruction through a series of tunes in the "Penny Mead" swing style. A week later Rudi and Justin Booher taught a work shop near Albany. Another great workshop.

---

District 4: Our Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup> jam turned out to be "Zelma Foote's" day. As you all know by now that she's leaving us and moving to Washington. Our district presented her with a silver bud vase, a rose and a very appropriate card "For a very special person." . . . . I dedicated "Till we Meet Again" to Zelma. She received a standing ovation, which is much deserved. . . . . We had the drawing for Tex Looper's mandolin which we sold tickets for. And guess who won? ZELMA ! it will be much appreciated by her musical grandson who will receive it for Christmas. Isn't that great! Dorene Winkelman - reporter

---

 March 1995

District 7: We want to thank Chad and Joni Terrusa for hosting another workshop at their place. Chad says it was just a spectacular workshop and Jeanine Orme did a superb job conducting it. There were 21 participants and they all enjoyed the whole thing - from 9 am to 9 pm. Dulcie Fast - reporter

---

District 8: We are saddened to hear that Marvin Standiford died on Feb. 13<sup>th</sup>. He had fought a long battle with cancer. He was one of Lew Standiford's "fiddling" brothers. Marvin wrote "Sierra Swing," a wonderful tune that many of us love to play. Alice Holt - reporter

---

Silent Fiddles: Carl Dean in District 5. Virgie Allen District 8 passed away on April 9.

---

 June 1995

District 4: Tom Barkley was injured when his fifth wheel fell, he ended up with 6 broken rigs and a punctured lung. . . . as this was going to press, we learned of Tom's death on Monday, the 15<sup>th</sup>. Tom and Doris have been faithful members of OOTFA. Our condolences to his family. We will miss him. Dorene Winkelman - reporter

---

District 8: We lost another fiddler. Bud Beck died on April 25<sup>th</sup>. He was a Charter member of OOTFA. Penny Mead backed up by Donna Oldham and Norm McGrew played several of Bud's favorite tunes at the funeral service. Lee Jones led the VFW part of the service. Alice Holt - reporter

Top ten at Lincoln City: Penny mead 1<sup>st</sup>, Linh Renken 2<sup>nd</sup>, Guy Kinman 3<sup>rd</sup>, Leonard Maahs 4<sup>th</sup>, Willie Carter 5<sup>th</sup>, Wayne Holmes 6<sup>th</sup>, Peg Connelly 7<sup>th</sup>, Don Hanna 8<sup>th</sup>, Elnora Jorren 9<sup>th</sup> and Beth Youngblood 10<sup>th</sup>.

### Oregon Old Time Fiddlers Contest Lebanon, OR

May 19 – 21, 1995

#### Pee Wee Division

1. Amberly Rosen
2. Alicia Bunde
3. Nick Faulkner
4. Bern Youngblood
- 5.
- 6.

#### Jr – Jr Division

- Sean McKinney
- Mary Julia Wilson
- Angela Thomas
- Ariana Rosen
- Beth Youngblood
- Kristin Knudson

#### Junior Division

- Hanneke Cassel
- Linh Renken (tie)
- Brendan Booher (tie)
- Amy Thomas
- Jason Barlow
- Erin McMullen

#### Young Adult Division

- Steve Kenyon
- Michelle Murillo

#### Adult Division

1. Chad Terrusa
2. Bob Heinith
3. Clyde Pugh
4. Norman Nash
5. Douglas Orton
- 6.

#### Senior Division

- Leroy Sims
- Willie Carter
- Don Hanna
- Alice Holt

#### Sr – Sr Division

- Lew Standiford
- Bob Fast
- Guy Kinman
- Chuck Hasty
- Chet Haven
- Edwin Hjelseth

#### Open Division

- Casey Willis
- Meriwyn Booher
- Justin Booher
- Starr McMullen

Twin Fiddle Division: 1 Meriwyn Booher – Amy Thomas, 2 Janeal Wilkinson – Justin Booher, 3 Brendan Booher – Angela Thomas, 4 Starr McMullen – Chad Terrusa, 5 Lew Standiford – Willie Carter, 6 Amberly Rosen – Ariana Rosen, 7 Joan Lomax – Connie King.

Youngest boy: Bern Youngblood Youngest girl: Alicia Bunde Oldest Fiddler: Jack Smith

Quarterly Meeting, May 21, 1995 Lebanon, Oregon Lew and Chad have been scouting around for another place to hold our State Contest. LaSells Stuart Center on the OSU campus in Corvallis was the choice.

July 1995

Lew Sez: this is my last “Lew Sez” . . . . I have enjoyed writing to you the last two years just as I have enjoyed being your president. . . . I am richer for having worked with you and for your tremendous support.. . . Now I turn my energy to my hobbies, maybe learn a new tune, the grandkids and to working with many fine people here in District 8. Please make welcome your new president Chad Terrusa.

---

 August 1995

District 8: We are saddened at the death of Rusty Modrell. Rusty was one of the Charter Members of OOTFA. His music will always be remembered by those who ever heard him play. Remember "Lady be Good," "Sweet Georgia Brown" and his other good tunes? His memorial was held Sep. 9<sup>th</sup> at the Garibaldi city hall. It was a happy/sad time as fiddlers celebrated his life. Dave Robinson passed away on July 18<sup>th</sup>. Dave and his wife Jeanette have been very active in our association over the years.

---

 September 1995

Chad's Chatter: Thanks to Willie Carter for a great workshop featuring hoedowns in the traditional old time style. I especially enjoyed the extra day on Monday when Willie shared so many wonderful tunes and we jammed for hours.

---

 October 1995

District 3: Our hearts go out to Billie Kitchens in the loss of our Bobby. We are very sad that he has departed us and we miss him greatly as we are sure all of you do, too. Sally Jordan - reporter

---

 November 1995

Chad's Chatter: The Judges Workshop was an informative and interesting experience for the 18 that attended. Wayne Holmes did an excellent job. Thank you. His book "How to Judge a Fiddle Contest" is well written, informative and worth reading.

---

 December 1995

Chad's Chatter: Zelma Foote, after a courageous struggle with pancreatic cancer died on Oct. 23, 1995. I spoke to her two days before her death. She expressed that she was being kept free of pain and that she accepted that the end was near and even welcomed it. She never complained to me but rather expressed a positive attitude. Zelma Foote was a very fine lady and I will miss her dearly.

District 7: The sad news that Charlie Jensen was killed while out walking gives us food for thought. We never know when our time will be. Our sympathy to his family. Ida Colby - reporter

District 8: We were all shocked to hear of the sudden death of Charlie Jensen of Monmouth. He was struck by a car Nov. 7<sup>th</sup> while taking his morning walk. Charlie and Vi were members of OOTFA for many years and both were active musicians. Charlie was one of our regular guitar players. He also sang and often played his fiddle. Alice Holt - reporter

---

1996

January 1996

District 10: We lost a faithful member, Glen Brown, on Dec. 2. Our sympathy to his wife, Jessie and family. Glen was a very faithful member, willing to play and to do his share.

Glen Brown was a special friend. His friendly smile and “Hi Professor” always greeted me when we met. I would retort, “Glen Brown, man of renown.” We always enjoyed getting in the shade at Warwick’s campout and playing our tunes together. The best time we ever had was playing “twin pianos” at the Shaffars in Bandon. We both knew the same tunes and had the luxury of Abby’s two pianos side by side. We’ll all miss Glen but will remember the many good times that we had together. Lew Holt

---

Monday night Good evening fiddling friends,

“Fiddle music.” What does that mean to you? We are all like the blind men and the elephant. We see and hear fiddle music from our own perspective. Just depends where we are standing and what we happen to touch.

Tonight I was “touching my part of the elephant” probably much differently than many, many of you do. As a small group of us played tonight nobody wondered if we were playing Appalachian style, or Texas style, or Missouri style or New England, or Celtic or Scottish, or Cape Breton, or Irish or . . . or wondered where our ancestors came from. And we didn’t ask each other how much our fiddle cost or the pedigree of our bow. We came to play together and to have a good time. We were playing for an audience that wanted to hear “fiddle music.”

Alice and I were invited yesterday to play with this group tonight to entertain members of an American Legion and their families as they celebrated the 80th anniversary of the foundation of the Legion. We drove in a hard rain 30 miles out towards the coast, over the hills, and down a country road, past a grain elevator, slowed up for the railroad tracks and on into Sheridan - population 1881 people. We crossed over the river that goes through the middle of the town, stopped at the only traffic light and then went two buildings down the street to the old American Legion Building. We turned around and stopped to remind an old fellow walking with a cane that he had left his car lights on.

After following the old man into the hall, we greeted our friends with the customary hand shakes and hugs and then sat down at a folding table with its white table cloth and were served our choice of soup. This was an important bowl of soup because it was our pay for playing.

After eating we went into the next room to play. The fiddlers and their spouses almost outnumbered the members of the American Legion. They are men in their 70’s and 80’s - getting to be fewer and fewer all the time.

Allen was on the left - an old time fiddler that holds his fiddle down on his arm when he plays, holds his bow a third of the way up and who probably can’t read a note. Then came Leonard who must be nearly 80 and who has been playing since he was a boy. (With time out to raise a family and to run a dairy farm.) A talented player with his own unique style - having played for many hundreds of dances and who has been state Senior and Senior-Senior champion numerous times, top ten at Weiser, etc. Next to him was Alice who didn’t start fiddling until she was in her mid-forty’s and pardon the expression, “she does read notes to learn some tunes” but can and most often does play by ear. And as a courtesy, they let me play along with them because they wanted me to be the emcee (they told me when I got there)

and because Alice wouldn't be able to be there unless I drove her. For back up we had Lee on the guitar, Bob on the bass and Donna on the mandolin.

We are not a band - just a group of friends and when I walked in, they asked me to call out the tunes that we would play. With no list (they had no idea which tunes I would select) we started off with snappy tunes such as Rag Time Annie, Maggie, Down Yonder, Boil them Cabbages, Bill Bailey, Golden Slippers, Old Spinning Wheel, Wabash Cannon Ball, Rubber Dolly, Just Because, Liberty, etc. and inserted some of the old favorite slower tunes such as Tennessee Waltz, Mocking Bird Hill, Amazing Grace, Missouri Waltz, In the Garden and a series of "patriotic tunes" (which we should have rehearsed) and our favorite medley of Coming 'round the Mountain, Red River Valley and You Are My Sunshine. I chose these tunes because most all of the audience could sing along a part of each tune or could relate to the tunes in some way. Hands clapped and toes tapped as we played the old favorites.

Some of you may wonder, "Was that really old time fiddling?" (Or was that the old "scratchy stuff" that people call old time fiddling?) I won't say but it was real fiddle music to our audience tonight. The common comment that we hear after we play and we heard it tonight is, "Oh, that took me back to South Dakota when I was growing up and we use to go to country dances." I don't know if people from the mid-west migrated east during the dust bowl days or not but many of them did come west to the Pacific Coast and they carried with them the memories of "the days back on the farm." When I asked for requests, we heard probably the most frequently ask for tune "Red River Valley." (Even though we had played it earlier.) Most all 70 year olds can remember hearing it when they were young. When I again ask for requests, the response was, "Anything, just keep playing."

Tonight we played for fun - for the enjoyment of a small group of old men who many years ago served their country and for their wives and a few grand children. We brought back many musical memories of years ago and gave them something to enjoy tonight. I hope your musical experiences are as rewarding as mine and that you are as fortunate as I am. Lew Holt

---

#### February 1996

District 1: We lost another member, Don Fleming passed away in Dec. Don and Helen became interested in music in the mid 80s during a workshop that Greg Baker held in Klamath Falls, they immediately bought fiddles and were active members. After Helen passed away, Don's health failed. I am sure they are both playing beautiful music again - together.

---

#### May 1996

Elk's Lodge: For many years we have enjoyed being at the Elk's Lodge in Lincoln City. This year seemed to be the best of all. Too often good things have to come to an end. The Elks let us know that we will not be returning next year. We have enjoyed ourselves over the years and it has become so popular that we actually have outgrown the facilities. Let us be thankful for the many good times we have had.  
Lew Holt and Lee Jones, Chairmen

---

June 1996

Chad's Chatter: . . . this is my last Hoedowner message as your president. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you for your support. I know you will join me in extending support to your new state president, Louie Roy.

District 8: We are all saddened by Bunky McFee's death on May 13<sup>th</sup>. Travis Leo, known as Bunky, was one of a kind. His music was unique and special. Watching him play was as much fun as listening to him. He loved to enter fiddle contests; not only our OOTFA contest, but Weiser, and contests in California, Texas and other states. We'll miss him. Our love and support go to Tillie and their children and grandchildren.

---

July 1996

District 3: Now for the sad part: This month we say Goodbye to our dear friends and fellow musicians. Bern and Beth our youngest fiddle players who will be departing to LaGrande. Susan Youngblood has been our Sec/Treas for a long time and did an outstanding job! Bern and Beth were such joy catchers and everyone who saw Dist. 3 perform always fell in love with them when they would play.

---

Oregon Old Time Fiddlers Contest  
LaSells Stewart Center, OSU, Corvallis  
May 17-18, 1996

Pee Wee Division

1. Bern Youngblood
2. Kendra Titensor
3. Zach Konowalchuk

Adult Division

1. Starr McMullen
2. Eileen Witler
3. Laura Brophy

Jr - Jr Division

- Sean McKinney  
Ariana Rosen  
Mary Julie Wilson

Senior Division

- Don Hanna  
LeRoy Sims  
Willie Carter

Junior Division

- Amy Thomas  
Linh Renken  
Jessica Hitchborn

Sr - Sr Division

- Guy Kinman  
Lew Standiford  
Bob Fast

Young Adult Division

- Janine Orme  
Donna Reuter

Open Division

- Hanneke Cassel  
Andy Emert  
Roger Berggren

Twin Fiddle Division: 1<sup>st</sup> Starr McMullen - Andy Emert, 2<sup>nd</sup> Eileen Witler - Clara Murphy, 3<sup>rd</sup> Angela Thomas - Amy Thomas Youngest girl fiddler - Alicia Bunde 7, Youngest boy fiddler - Zach Konowalchuk 7, Oldest fiddler - Ida Johnson - 91.

The Oregon Old Time Fiddlers Association held it's state contest on May 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>. The contest was held in the LaSells Stewart Center on the Oregon State University campus in co-sponsorship with the OSU Music Department and the Corvallis Folklore Society. The nice facilities and a supportive community brought out large crowds.

---

Silent Fiddle: Dave Pinkerton from District 5

---

Notes from your editor: Congratulations to our OOTFA president and his wife, Lewis and Frances Roy, on the occasion of their fiftieth anniversary of their wedding.

---

October 1996

The Prez Sez: On Sep. 8<sup>th</sup> I was at Springfield for a Dist. 6 meeting, potluck and jam and again the friendship, hospitality and respect shown me was rewarding and appreciated and makes the job as your president an honor. Lewis Roy

---

November 1996

District 4: The last hot two weeks of summer were not without mishap though! Frank and I now belong to the elite "Some Critter Died Under Our House club." A ghastly week searching in and under our house and another week mending insulation and siding. The culprit was a huge, ripe possum! Yuck!! Merry Mary Armstrong (*I had to work Merry Mary in here some way to share her "unique" reporting.*)

---

Goodbye to Shorty Allen

I would like to share the following letter with you. It is about saying "Good-bye" to a good old time fiddler here in Oregon, Shorty Allen. Willis Oscar "Shorty" Allen lived in Suver, Oregon in the heart of the Willamette Valley most of his life. Suver may not be on your map - just a couple houses and a grain elevator along the railroad tracks. Music was an important part of his life - from early years to just a few days before he died.

Last spring I worked on a fiddle for Shorty. His daughter-in-law, Mary, wanted to pay me and when I declined, she asked me if I would take vegetables from her garden later on. Early in November she called to tell me that she had some vegetables for us. While Alice and I were at her place, we walked across the field to Shorty's house for a visit. It was across the highway from the railroad tracks where he had worked for so many years. His health was failing so we wanted to visit with him and play some music - maybe for the last time.

The stove was full of wood and the room temperature was in the 90's but we took down a fiddle off the wall. Alice and I took turns playing the fiddle with him and turns on the keyboard. The tunes came out very softly and uncertain but there was the smile that we had known for so many years. I am sure we were his "vitamins" for the day.

A couple of days later Shorty was admitted to the hospital for surgery and several days later he had a massive heart attack and died.

His grave side services were held Saturday morning, November 9, in a little country graveyard at the top of a hill. It was a foggy, chilly morning. Shorty's fiddle friends were invited to play for his service so we tuned up in the cold fog and gathered around by the grave. After a few words the minister nodded his head and we played "Just a Closer Walk with Thee." Then towards the end another nod and we played "Amazing Grace." There were the customary wiping away of tears, hand shakes and hugs - we told our fiddle friend "Good by." We put our fiddles and guitars back into their cases and walked in the damp fog back to our cars.

We drove the country roads in the valley fog to the near by community church for a potluck prepared by the ladies of the church. After eating, the fiddlers gathered in front of the hall and started playing many of the old tunes that Shorty loved to play. After 45 minutes or so we paused to remember Shorty - each our own way. I remembered him for the many pictures that he had in the newspapers across the state. He was short, was a good fiddle player but most of all he had two front teeth missing and a big smile. Photographers loved to take pictures of him. A tall bass player remembered him because he was short, she always got a kiss from him on her neck. Others remembered him because he and his wife (who had died a year earlier) were such a loving couple.

We played for another 45 minutes. Alice and I were asked by the family to play a tune just especially for Shorty. We played "Blue Mountain Waltz." Then I asked the family if we all could play "Home Sweet Home" if it wasn't too sad. (We had been instructed to keep the music happy.) Mary said it would be fine so all the fiddlers gathered and we played "Home Sweet Home" for Shorty. We told him good-bye again but he will always be in our minds and hearts.

You won't read about Shorty or see a video of him in the Smithsonian Archives but he will truly be remembered by those of us who knew him - who liked him and who enjoyed his music. With his death, a style and a library of fiddle music died with him. It will take many of us to try fill the gap that Shorty has left.

---

District 3: (*Couldn't resist. This competes with "Merry Mary." If you have read this far, you deserve a break from fiddling news.*) Last month I went to the grocery store in search of a pumpkin for Thanksgiving freshly baked treats. You've seen those pumpkin patches, there are hundreds of them Well, after tugging, lifting and pushing, I finally found the right size, then lost my balance. That pumpkin falls, didn't crack, but rolled and rolled and rolled. Here I am in 4 inch heels chasing this pumpkin and wishing that the darn thing would stop or at least hit a bump - anything! Needless to say, it stopped and I was worn out and the pumpkin, still without a bruise of scratch. People looked at me as though I was nuts, especially when I yelled, "Stop that pumpkin!" I, of course, buy the darn thing. It's got to be special after that ordeal. Mom will cook it up and bake pies. After all, I had the hard chore of catching the pumpkin this year. Signing off. . . your reporter Ernie Slay.

Reporters: This would be good place to recognize the work and contribution of the many district reporters over the years. Without them, there would not be a Hoedowner. Without them, most of this history could not have been writtten. Our "hats off" and "thanks" to all past, present and future district reporters!

---

This is shared with you to show what a typical jam looks like in OOTFA:

McMinnville Senior Center

McMinnville, Oregon November 17, 1996

Pre-show jam (Limited today because we had many people sign up.)

Amazing Grace for Shorty Allen

Rag Time Annie

When You and I Were Young Maggie

Over the Waves

Minnesota Waltz

1. Doug Orton - fiddler - Corvallis

Faded Love & Tennessee Waltz

2. Alan Ede - banjo-mandolin - guitar - vocal

Corvallis. Stone's Rag & Maggie

3. Wayne Holmes - fiddle - Portland.

Finseth Schottische & Blue Valley Waltz

4. John Clark - vocal - Creswell.

A Daisy a Day & Della and the Dealer.

5. Chuck Williams - fiddle - banjo - Vancouver, Wa. Fraulein & Westphalia

6. Esther Snider - fiddle - Portland.

Little Green Valley & Nidelven Vals

7. Bill Fenton - fiddle - Gaston.

Johnson Rag & Missouri Waltz

8. Stu Henshaw - banjo - Corvallis.

Old Joe Clark & Turkey in the Straw

9. Lorraine Kilburn - harmonica - Salem.

I Love You Because & Battle Hymn of the Republic

10. Bob Church - vocal - guitar -

Green Green Grass of Home & Who's Sorry Now?

11. Allen Smith - fiddle - Sheridan.

Love Letters in the Sand & Fraulein

12. Marie Bailey - fiddle - vocal - Amity.

Katy Kline & Ashokan Farewell

13. Johnny Leigh - accordion - McMinnville. Tick

Tock Polka & Never on Sunday

14. Ernie Leffler - fiddle - Newberg.  
Country Waltz & Whispering

15. Lee Jones - fiddle - guitar - Sheridan.  
Hot Foot Rag - Kentucky Waltz

16. Donna Oldham - mandolin - Sheridan &  
Thelma Shepherd - mandolin - Veneta.  
Honolulu Mood & A Way Out There

17. Tillie McFee - fiddle - Woodburn.  
Rubber Dolly & Old Joe Clark - first time  
fiddler.

18. Don Simons - fiddler - Dallas.  
Love Letters in the Sand/Won't You Ride in  
my Little Red Wagon & Chinese Breakdown

19. Bob Bailey - fiddle - vocal - guitar.  
Craw Dad Song & Wabash Cannon Ball

20. Lorraine Chase - vocal - McMinnville  
In Times Like This & Where Should I go but to  
the Lord (& Anniversary Waltz by Wayne and  
Leonard.)

21. Bob Strelow - fiddle - Portland.  
Beaumont Rag & Midnight Waltz

22. Lew Standiford - fiddle - vocal.  
Roll on Buddy Roll On & Sierra Swing

23. Norm McGrew - guitar - vocal - Newberg.  
Adobe Hacienda & I'll Walk Right Back

24. Leonard Pfohl - viola - Newberg.  
Cattle Call & ? Scottish Schottische

25. Dennis Brutke - vocal - guitar - Amity.  
Room Full of Roses & Letters Have No Arms

26. Leonard Maahs - fiddle - McMinnville.  
Leonard's Tune & I'll be all Smiles Tonight

27. Ed Priebe - guitar - vocal - Newberg.  
Marine's Hymn

28. Alice Holt - fiddle - Salem.  
Milk Cow Blues

29. Lew Holt - emcee - fiddle - Salem.  
Dark Town Strutter's Ball & Home Sweet  
Home

---

1997

January 1997

From the Editor: In District 6, Allison Roberts spearheaded a group that gathers small gifts (new and used) for residents in nursing homes who have no family to look after them. She gathers cards and gifts all year long for this project. At the November meeting, many people gather to wrap presents and sign cards. Approximately 94 gifts were wrapped for 3 rest homes. There were many people involved. Thank you all. You have all done a superb job.

---

Fiddle Friends,

On April 20th, 1956 I was attending a high school track meet in North Bend, Oregon. Mr. Hartley, the superintendent, walked up to me and asked if I would like to be at Glasgow on Monday morning as the new principal. I was just finishing my 3rd year of teaching. I was young, ambitious and had a young family to feed so I accepted. Sunday afternoon I went to my classroom, packed up my personal things and left a good bye note for my 29 students and went to the new school. I spent the next 28 years as an elementary principal in North Bend -- until I retired almost 14 years ago. It was a great life.

Mr. Hartley, who now lives 17 miles from Salem, called recently and asked if Alice and I would play for his senior retirement center. We were honored that the man who had enough confidence in me to invite me to be an administrator those many years ago would want to hear us play our fiddles. He is 92 years old, sharp and told stories "from years ago." He also invited Ora who was an elementary principal in another building and Dick who was the high school principal. None of them had ever heard us play. They all had retired and moved away before I took up the fiddle at 50 so it was especially fun to play for them -- and for the many others in the dining room.

Bob Church and Lee Jones with their guitars, George Tavev with his bass and Alice and I with our fiddles arrived at 11:00. We visited until 11:30 and then played until 12:00 - playing tunes they would recognize - finishing with "Auld Lang Syne" and a big HAPPY NEW YEAR. There were many smiles, people singing along and clapping with the beat.

Another one of the times when it is great "to be an old time fiddler." Lew Holt

---

March 1997

From the Editor: This is my final Hoedowner to put together. It has been a delight to meet so many wonderful people and good friends. This has been the highlight of OOTFA for me. Playing is exciting and I love to do it but what would it be without the rest of the organization? Thank you so much for putting up with me for so long. I've had a grand time doing it. AJoy Halliwell

---

April 1997

The Prez Sez: A new Hoedowner editor, Lew Holt, has been appointed and he will be editing the April issue (*and many nice words I can't put in about my self! Thanks Louie.*). At the convention Homer McLain got a group together and they played throughout the Douglas Hall for the co-op venders and the general public. They were well received and I got a phone call from the manager of the Douglas County Coop thanking us. Thanks Homer.

---

The members of the Oregon Old Time Fiddlers Association want to take this opportunity to publicly thank Joy Halliwell for the years she has served as editor of the Hoedowner. We wish her well in her retirement and hope that "all is well in the new fifth wheel" as she and Ken travel. The best to you Joy and "Thanks again."

Congratulations to president Louis Roy for a fine 1997 state OOTFA convention. The weather was very fine which set the tone for the convention. Wednesday in the Floral Building went well. Thursday was a busy day with a show for

ourselves that evening. Friday we had workshops and an excellent show that evening with the chairs full!! Saturday morning we held the quarterly meeting with the state meeting that afternoon. Then a banquet and dance that evening. . . . want to note that Ace Wehus donated a mandolin and walking fiddle. During the banquet they brought in \$572 in contributions for the contest. . . .

---

### June 1997

Oregon Old Time Fiddlers Contest  
LaSells Stewart Center, OSU, Corvallis  
May 15 - 17, 1997

<u>Pee Wee Division</u>	<u>Jr - Jr Division</u>	<u>Junior Division</u>	<u>Young Adult Division</u>
1. Zack Konowalchuk	Beth Youngblood	Amy Thomas	Stacey Lange
2. Jacob French	Stephanie Nelson	Jacie Penner	Carla Arnold
3. Elisa Eiguren	Elias Eiguren	Eve Laurence	Steven Kenyon
4. Daniel Prentice	Angie Thomas	Ariana Rosen	Erin McMullen
5. Merlin Ebert	Amberly Rosen	Andy Shelton	Carolyn Grezik
6. Jacque Mellow			
<u>Adult Division</u>	<u>Senior Division</u>	<u>Sr - Sr Division</u>	<u>Open Division</u>
1. Chad Terrusa	Dorothy Cory	Papa Spain	Rudi Booher
2. Eileen Witler	Don Hanna	Willie Carter	Andy Emert
3. Peg Willis	Gene Williams	Faye Patterson	Dan Emert
4. Norm Nash	Ruel Teague	Donald Lindsey	Hanneke Cassel
5. Martha Norman	Alice Holt	Jack Smith	Starr McMullen

Twin Fiddle Division: 1<sup>st</sup> Donna Reuter - Justin Vance, 2<sup>nd</sup> Andy Emert - Starr McMullen, 3<sup>rd</sup> Rudi - Carla Booher, 4<sup>th</sup> Eileen Witler - Tyler Vance, 5<sup>th</sup> Beth Youngblood - Eve Laurance  
Youngest girl fiddler - Elisa Eiguren, Youngest boy fiddler - Jacob French, Oldest fiddler - Jack Smith. Judges: Matt and Danita Hartz, Jay Dean Ludiker, Sam Sloan and LeRoy Sims.  
Comparative participation for this year and last year.

	1996	1997
Twin	8	16
Pee Wee	6	6
Jr - Jr	11	9
Junior	5	10
Young Adult	2	7
Adult	12	11
Senior	7	7
Sr - Sr	16	10
Open	4	7

---

In a message dated 6/1/97 4:56:19 PM, you wrote:

>Even these days, when I get melancholy, I try to remember to pick up my fiddle, and play a tune for dad...

Sadelle,

I usually thank people off line but I want to acknowledge your nice letter with your touching story about your father. Music can make us both sad and it can help us deal with our sadness. Probably the tune "Will the Circle be Unbroken?" touches me most as I remember my mother who loved fiddling so much (her father was an old time fiddler in Kansas many years ago - whose fiddle I inherited which got me started). "Undertaker, Undertaker, Undertaker, please drive slow - for that body you are carrying . . . . ."

Years ago Alice and I were asked to play "One Day at a Time" for a friend's funeral. (Barbara) Barbara was the widow of Les who had been one our most respected fiddlers in the area and a grand fellow. It was to have been a grave side service - on the edge of the sand dunes, a mile or so from the ocean in southern Oregon. When we arrived at the graveyard, it started to rain so the services were changed to a little country church near by.

At the church we were asked to play both before the service and during the service. Alice and I looked at each other. We weren't prepared to play "funeral tunes" so I announced that Barbara was always with Les at our jams so we would play Les's tunes. We played lively tunes like Red Wing, Just Because, Snow Deer, Blue Mtn Waltz, I'll be all Smiles Tonight, Golden Slippers, Mocking Bird Hill, etc. As we played, tears flowed unshamefully from Les and Barbara's many friends. After the service they came to us to tell us how much they enjoyed our choice of tunes and how sad they made them feel - tunes they could relate with Les and Barbara - tunes that made them sad because of remembering "old times" with Les but at the same time, tunes that brought back many happy memories. Their tears came both from being sad and from the joy of the music.

Each of us on the list experience fiddle music in our own way. I lack the skills of a good player but if my simple little tunes bring happiness to others, then I am happy. Lew Holt

---

August 1997

Roger's Rambles: by now the word must be out that Louie Roy resigned as President of OOTFA and according to the Articles of Incorporation, I will be your new president for 97/98. The Articles also provide that the president has the power to appoint an officer for a vacancy with the approval of the Executive Board. In that light, I have appointed Sally Jordan from District 3 as the new Vice-President of OOTFA.

---

It's great to be a fiddler. . . .

Many beautiful things happen in our lives but we often don't take the time to make note of them. I would like to share the following with you.

This morning 7 of us fiddlers, a bass and a piano played at a senior meals program in a near by city. People came early to hear the fiddlers and to visit until it was time to eat. An older couple sat at the table just in front of the stage. The wife sat in her wheel chair enjoying every tune. Her eyes danced as we played. While we played her husband would lean over her shoulder and they would talk. Later she requested "Wednesday Night Waltz" - saying that her father used to play it on the fiddle.

Towards the end we played "Home", a big smile came on the lady's face.. The husband walked around to the front of his wife's wheel chair and put out his arms. With his help the wife carefully stood up. He held her close so she wouldn't fall. They started dancing. She danced with the glee of an "18 year old." They slowly danced back and forth in front of the stage until the end of the tune. They returned to her wheel chair and he carefully sat her down. I thought of the country tune "Could I Have this Dance for the Rest of My Life?" . . . .and a tear came to my eye.

After we had eaten, she came to every one of us and thanked us for the music. What a wonderful day to be an " old time fiddler here in Oregon." Lew Holt

---

### August 1997

Note from Stan and Addie Gonshorowski: We wish to thank all our friends for helping us celebrate our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary on July 6<sup>th</sup> and for the many beautiful cards.

A special thank you to Joy Costello for a wonderful job in the kitchen and Mark Carmickle for the great job of organizing the program. . . . We really appreciate what all of you have done for us. It was a wonderful day and will be remembered forever.  
Stan and Addie

---

### September 1997

Roger's Rambles: Starr McMullen and Lew Holt have made arrangements at Chemeketa Community College in Salem for our 1998 contest.. . . it should be ideal for a contest.

---

### Coming home from Newport

On the way home Alice and I stopped by the "old home place" near Falls City where my family moved to in 1940. When we approached the front porch we saw two women visiting with my brother . . . "neighbor girls" we knew 55 years ago. Their father had been an "old time fiddler" so Alice and I were invited to "play a few tunes." We played a couple of tunes that their father might have played. My brother asked for Missouri Waltz which was the favorite of our mother and father and we ended with Amazing Grace. There wasn't a dry eye in that little group sitting on the porch. It only serves to remind me that you don't have to play in Carnegie Hall or in Nashville to bring pleasure to people. I just imagine as the ladies return to California and Montana this week that this story will be told again and again "about the fiddle music just like Dad and Howard use to play." Sometimes just playing our fiddles on a warm afternoon on the front porch for three people brings back many memories and adds to the joy of the moment. Lew Holt

---

## October 1997

Canyonville Contest: (*Thought it was about time to announce the winners again. The contest has been every summer in August – thanks to Gynn and Jim Deaton.*)

Pee Wee: Chelsea Ashcraft. Jr – Jr: Teresa Plybon. Intermediate: Norman Nash, Virgil Schmoe, Homer McLain, Brett Smith, Dorry Eldon, Connie King. Senior: Gene Williams, Alice Holt, Dennis Pickett, Lew Standiford, Tom Shepherd, Don Lindsay, Lee Cushman. Sr – Sr: Dennis Allen, Fred Virtue, Chuck Hasty, Jack Smith, Van Southwood. Open: Johnny McDonald, Eileen Witler, Darren Reitan, Willie Carter. Jack Smith at 89 was our oldest fiddler with Van Southwood not far behind at 88. The youngest was Chelsea Ashcraft who is 8 years old. The judges were; Starr McMullen, Lew Holt, Bob McKee.

---

Roger's Rambles: Lew Holt, Jackie and I went to Newport to finalize our agreement with the Lincoln County Fairgrounds. . . . the RV parking is graveled. . . the facilities are very good. Now we look forward to an April Fiddle Festival in Newport.

## November 1997

District 6: We are saddened at the sudden death of Stan Gonshorowski, one of our leading fiddlers, who died October 12<sup>th</sup> of an aneurysm. Our condolences to his family. Thelma Shephard - reporter

---

Stan Gonshorowski: If you don't mind, I would like to share another story with you - a story of a fiddler. Stan Gonshorowski was a fiddler and also a great friend. Monday I thought of him several times during the morning as I worked on a plumbing project in the basement and decided that I would give him a call after lunch when he would be home from the Monday morning jam that he attended for so many years in Springfield. We hadn't talked since Alice and I stopped at Addie's and his 50th wedding anniversary party in July.

Just before lunch the phone rang. Alice answered it upstairs - then came down to the basement to tell me that Allison had called to say Stan had died that morning from a brain aneurysm. It hurt . . . . badly. I thought of the things I was going to tell him on the phone - about the small fiddles I had bought recently, about the Hardanger fiddle I bought since I last saw him, about the fiddle I am working on and to kid him about the several things we so often joked about. That evening Stan's wife, Addie, called to tell us and late that night Jim called.

Today we met Lee and he rode with Alice and me the 65 miles to Eugene to Stan's funeral. It was in the Catholic church in downtown Eugene. As we were parking, we saw many of our fiddle friends from over the state. Smiles were hard to come by but there were many hugs . . . . longer than usual, more sincere and more loving.

In the church two hundred or more people sat in silence and sorrow. Up front in the corner Curly, Mark, Ila Mae, Gary, Slim, Frank, Vivian, Carl, Harry and Arlo gathered with their fiddles, harmonica, bass, guitars, banjo and mandolin to play. They played "In the Sweet By and By," "Near the Cross," and "Mansion on the Hill." During the remainder of the service they played "Whispering Hope," "Amazing Grace," "What a Friend we Have in Jesus," and "Sweet Hour of Prayer." No words could express our feelings for Stan as did their music. The beauty of the fiddles, the plunk of the banjo, the mournful wailing of the harmonica, the sharp notes of the mandolin and the thump of the bass and guitars all blended together to help us remember Stan and celebrate his life. Tears came shamelessly.

After the service, we gathered in the social hall for a lunch. It was only natural that there would be fiddle music so after we ate, out came the instruments and we had a jam. I don't believe there was

a dry eye when Addie took out her fiddle and played, "Have I Told You Lately That I Love You?" for her husband.

Stan was born in a Polish family of musicians in 1919 in Minnesota. He lived in Minnesota and North Dakota while growing up and took up the fiddle around 7 years of age. He loved his family and he loved his fiddle. He and I would joke about who had the most fiddles and tell each other what we were doing. He was the kind of friend that might have a fiddle for sale for \$200 and he would come up to me and whisper, "Lew, if you want it, you can have it for \$100." He wanted me to have that fiddle. He was also a faithful worker - setting up the sound for me for several years at the state convention and at the state contest. We were a team and enjoyed working together. He often said in what I considered to be his mid-western Polish accent, "You're a good buddy, . . . you know that, don't cha."

Not only was he a unique fiddler, he gave of it to others. Every Monday for years a group gathered in the senior center to practice. Many beginning fiddler got his or her start at those Monday morning sessions in Springfield. When they finally got up enough nerve to go on stage, Stan was always back of them to give them security and to encourage them. He was proud of his students.

Having grown up in the mid-west, Stan always considered himself a farm boy. Today for the funeral he wore his suit for the family but after the service his suit was changed to his red shirt and bib overalls. That was the way Stan felt most comfortable and the way he wanted to be remembered. That is the way he will be cremated.

You can't buy a tape or CD of Stan's music or read about him at the Smithsonian but he left his mark on many of us in Oregon. His fame is with in the hearts of those of us who knew him and who enjoyed his fiddle playing. Not only was he a friend, a fiddler, a husband and a father but he was a library of music. . . . today he closed the book and took the library with him. Many new fiddlers will come along but none will take Stan's place. . . there will never be another friend and fiddler like Stan. . . he was one of kind. Lew Holt

---

Broken bows: All across the state we were saddened to hear of the traffic automobile accident which took the life of Alice Lopez. Many of us first became acquainted with Alice when she would bring her husband, Alex, to the jams and although he was ill, they would dance many times while the fiddlers played. From the newspapers "Three people died after their car collided with a van on a rain-slick stretch of Blackwell Road on Monday night. Lopez, 75. . . ." "Alice Lopez was doing what she loved best when she was killed. . . . going to a fiddlers jam." Will Fehely, also a member of OOTFA was killed in the same accident.

Word was received Saturday morning that Dave Winkelman died early that morning - Nov. 22. We extend our love and sympathy to Dorene and to those in District 4 who knew him so well.

---

1998

January 1998

Roger's Rambles: . . . . we were incorporated in 1968 so this will make 30 years since our incorporation.

The Deatons will not be serving our meals and banquet at the state convention this year. I know that I speak for the whole membership when I send to them our warmest thanks and appreciation for their hard work over the years. We will always be grateful and have a warm spot in our hearts for their dedication to OOTFA.

---

It's great to be a fiddler.

I have become very interested in the story of the Hellands and their violins. Being able to play one last Saturday for an audience made up mostly of people of Norwegian descent was one of the greatest thrills of my playing over the years. To add to my pleasure, 81 year old Marvin sat there glowing with happiness and pride. He was thinking, I am sure, of his father who he never knew. His father, Knute, died in 1919 when Marvin was 2 years old. I visited with Marvin this afternoon. He is still excited and pleased to have seen and heard his father's violins played. His father's work is now real and has "come to life." No longer are they just violins in the closet. Now a part of his heritage has come alive.

To add to my interest - a couple of years ago I acquired an Olav Helland Hardanger fiddle. Olav was Knute's and Gunnar's brother. Olav and the another brother John stayed in Norway. Never did I imagine that a nephew would be living two miles from me and would become my good friend. Often the history of a fiddle stays a secret locked away for us to never know but for me to get to know the story of the builders and their families through a box of old pictures, pamphlets, brochures, letters, and other memorabilia from the early 1900s and to get to play their "violins" is a great thrill and brought much pleasure for Alice and me. But to bring the silent violins alive for an 81 year old man, is even a greater reward. I hope "fiddling" is as rewarding for you. Lew Holt

---

Notes from the editor: I received the following nice tribute to Dave Winkelman: Dave Winkelman died Nov. 22 after a short stay in the Rogue Valley Medical Center. He had been fighting a bad heart and leukemia with 28 transfusions, all in 1997, but attended most of the jams. He played for several hours at the October jam. He played the plectrum banjo, fiddle, guitar and viola. His banjo style was his own. He joined the OOTFA in 1972 and was Dist. 4 chairman for two terms - 1984 - 1987, participated in all the nursing homes, senior lunches and most other activities including the conventions, Lincoln City and Thousand Trails. It will be a silent banjo.

---

Notes from the editor: (Lew Holt) I would like to take you on a little walk down memory lane for a bit of nostalgia. The other evening, I was listening to a 1980 audio tape from the Cranberry Festival in Bandon. The first fiddler was Gene Gosney, the next was Bud Bishop, then Carl Dean, remember Jessie Elbert, she sang "Crawdada Song, next was Nel Turner on the piano. Later there were more - Les McLeod, Swede Johnson, Dave Robinson, Frank Macalandro and If I could find the other tape, there would be other familiar names of people who are no longer with us. (Elmer Benson, Maxine Scheiman, Charlie Jensen, Shorty Allen, to name a few - all regulars at the Cranberry festival for many years.) Doesn't that make our friends, our jams, the time that we have and the music we have together even more valuable to all of us! Let's smile, shake a hand, give a hug, say something nice about some one. . . . .

---

District 4: God sent memories which allow us to recall cherished moments, the scent of pine boughs, candles, cookies baking, festive music and laughter - Christmas. . . . and so it was with Dave Winkelman. Memories of his inimitable "plunkity plunk" on his banjo, undaunted by a missing finger or numbness in his hands. "Don't go

home yet, Dave, we're up soon," I would plead. He would smile "OK." All heart, he gave me that special zip when I sang. Too soon, Dave did go "Home," but now any banjo sound will bring Dave happily to mind. Love, Mary Armstrong

---

March 1998

District 3: Our last jam was totally AWESOME! We had over 300 in attendance. Our next jam at the Deschutes county Fairgrounds in the Howard Mayfield Bldg will be on March 15. We look forward to seeing you all there. Ernie Slay - reporter

---

Flash - Calvin Boyles from District 6 has donated one of his fine guitars that he builds as a raffle prize for the contest. All proceeds will go to the contest fund. One of you will be the lucky winner at the convention.

---

From the editor: I like to slip in some gossip now and then. Especially if it is about a dedicated musician such as Thelma Shepard. Recently Thelma went to the Eugene Country Club to play for the seniors "or somebody" but there was a mix-up and they already had someone else so she was asked to stay for lunch. Later the truth came out when she was honored and received a gift certificate, flowers and a framed certificate as the favorite entertainer at all the nursing homes and care centers in Lane Co. Thelma, we all are proud of you and thank you for the music you share with us. Lew Holt Editor

---

June 1998

Roger's Rambles: Just a short time before we were in Newport, the home of Gene and Lola Williams was practically destroyed by a fire. Their loss touched us all. Saturday morning a container was put out for contributions for the Williams. That evening we were able to give the Williams just a few dollars short of a thousand dollars. It all came from the hearts and generosity of the fiddle family. . . . Isn't it great to be a member of this "fiddle family."

---

Notes from the editor: Just before we gathered at Newport Gene and his wife who live in southern Oregon left their home and went to a meeting eight miles away. Somebody ran into the meeting to get an emergency worker saying that a log cabin was burning up on "Skookum Lane." Yes, that was Gene and Lola's. They hurried home and could see flames shooting from the upstairs windows. Gene went into the burning cabin in spite of the firemen and saved one fiddle and some guns. This tragedy touched us and Saturday night our state president presented right at \$1000 to Gene and Lola to use as they see fit as they rebuild their log cabin and lives. There wasn't a dry eye in the house. We had set out a plastic milk jug that morning and the money poured into it all day. After we are able to tell others about their loss, we want

to give other members across the state an opportunity to contribute. It shows how strong our “fiddle family” is here in Oregon.

One more little story. Saturday night after the “on stage jam” and just before the dance bands started, Alice Holt and Norm Nash twin fiddled “The Star Spangled Banner” as we so often play before we start our shows. Not only did they do well but by the time they got to the middle of the tune, 200 voices were singing along as they played. What a beautiful experience it was in a far off little corner of America to hear the beauty of the fiddles and to hear people express themselves with the words of this great tune. . . . from their hearts.

---

Oregon Old Time Fiddle Contest Winners 1998  
Chemeketa Community College Salem, Oregon  
May 15 –16, 1998

<u>Pee Wee Division</u>	<u>Jr – Jr Division</u>	<u>Junior Division</u>	<u>Young Adult Division</u>
1. Jacob French	Mary Julia Wilson	Steff Nelson	Jeanine Orme
2. Sophie Wilson	Amberly Rosen	Jacie Penner	Erin McMullen
3. Logan Merriam	Bern Youngblood`	Eve Laurance	Steve Kenyon
4. Jacque Mellow	Zach Konowalchuk	Beth Youngblood	Peter Willis
5. Robbie Armer	Ruthie Laurance	Andy Shelton	Carla Booher
6.	Johnny Bullock		
<u>Adult Division</u>	<u>Senior Division</u>	<u>Sr – Sr Division</u>	<u>Open Division</u>
1. Donna Reuter	Ila Mae Carmickle	PaPa Spain	Meriwyn Booher
2. Eileen Witle	Donna Foreman	Gene Williams	Andy Emert
3. Bob Heinith	Lew Holt	Wayne Holmes	Amy Thomas
4. Chad Terrusa	Alice Holt	John Waddingham	Dan Emert
5. Clyde Pugh	Irene Ruddock	Ruel Teague	Starr McMullen

Twin Fiddle Division: 1<sup>st</sup> Meriwyn Booher – Amy Thomas, 2<sup>nd</sup> Starr McMullen – Andy Emert, 3<sup>rd</sup> Eileen Witle – Donna Reuter, 4<sup>th</sup> Beth Youngblood - Eve Laurence , 5<sup>th</sup> Andy Shelton – Jessica Slothower

Accompanists: Frank Moore, Peter Willis, Andy Emert, Dan Emert, Ben Booher

Oldest fiddler : Buck Milligan 85. Youngest girl fiddler: Sophie Wilson 7. Youngest boy fiddler: Jacob French 8

---

Dear Fiddle Family, We would like to thank you for the loving kindness and generosity you extended to us after our home burned. Thanks to each and every one. Our love to you all. Gene and Lola Williams

---

August 1998

District 7: Players and listeners had a great weekend at Mt. Hood Village where district 7 hosted a new state-wide jam on July 9 –12. The setting was wonderful. Be sure to plan on attending next year! It’s like another “1000 Trails” event! The grounds, jam room and eating facilities were all exceptional! There is an indoor pool, workout room and hiking trails. Everything was very clean and the employees were happy to have us filling the place with sweet tunes. Roger Germundson worked extremely hard to put together a great weekend. . . . Pat Gates – reporter

---

Notes from the editor: Summer brings a whirlwind of activities. Many people, RVs, dogs and loads of musical instruments converged on Burns the middle of June. There was never a moment to be bored. If nothing else, you could fight off the mosquitoes. I didn't think too much about them until I saw a man chasing one with a 2X4. All the good people in the Burns area are to be thanked and congratulated for the wonderful time. It is kind of like family re-union. Lew Holt - Editor

---

### September 1998

Roger's Rambles: We have tried to have workshops at every gathering and starting with Burns, we've had "Tunes at Two" where someone has taught a tune of choice to any fiddler wanting to learn it. These have been well attended and seemed to be welcomed and lots of fun. We will continue these in the coming months (*and years*).

---

### Willamette Valley Fiddle Contest

The first annual Willamette Valley Fiddle Contest was held on Saturday, August 1, 1998 at the Benton County Fair. It was a beautiful day and fiddlers had a great time jamming and enjoying the other fair activities. There was an enthusiastic audience, many of whom expressed the desire to have this become an annual affair at the fair.

Accompanists: Pete Willis, Frank Moore, Harv Harvey. Novice 12 and under: Jeffery Moenke, Gina Hoppe, Jamie Frey, Chris Rorrer, Julie Rorrer. Novice - 13 and up: Megumi Joy Stohs, Joan Extrom, Steven Sohyou, Dasey Marks-Fife. 12 and under: Alex Duncan, Amberly Rosen, Martin Stevens, 4. Zak Konowalchuk, Louis Prahl. Junior: Steff Nelson, Tyler Vance, Ariana Rosen, Justin Vance, Chad Marks-Fife, Andy Shelton, Miles Johnson, Paul Briskey. Senior: Willie Carter, Alice Holt, Lew Holt, Bill Fenton, Winston Grant. Adult: Jacie Penner, Norma Wilson, Bob Heinith, Doug Orton, Dory Eldon, Connie King. Championship: Rudi Booher, Amy Thomas, Donna Reuter, Erin McMullen. Judges: Starr McMullen, Carol Anne Wheeler, Eileen Witler

---

Notes from the editor: This last month was a sad one. Fred and Vera Virtue both passed away - just 9 days apart. Many old timers across the state and especially those in District 5 are saddened by their deaths.

UMPQUA FREE PRESS, in Myrtle Creek (Quote) FRED VIRTUE WILL BE MISSED, The fiddling blacksmith by Gynn O. Deaton

This 32<sup>nd</sup> annual Canyonville Pioneer Days Fiddling Contest won't be the same without our fiddling blacksmith, Fred Virtue. Fred lived near Coquille and passed away on Friday, Aug. 21 of congestive heart failure at the age of 85.

Fred had been in ill health for several years but almost always made it to the Canyonville contest. He missed 1996 but surprised me by showing up in 1997. And, he took a strong second place!

Fred was a retired blacksmith. It always amazed me that those large, work-worn hands could coax such delicate waltzes from his beloved fiddle. He, also, played the banjo well.

I have a beautiful clock in the shape of a banjo that Fred made. Every time I look at it, I think of the paradox of the man who made it. Fred could be ornery, stubborn and opinionated. But he was also loyal and caring.

I talked to him two days before he died. He called from his sick bed to apologize for not being able to come to the contest. Can you imagine that? He also told me that, except for a few to go to his children, he was giving me his trophies to recycle for a future Canyonville contest. He was a good friend and will be missed.

. . . . this 32<sup>nd</sup> contest is dedicated the fiddling blacksmith of Coquille, Fred Virtue. He loved the music and did his best to keep it going. We can do no less. Gynn O. Deaton

---

Calvin Boyles: As it is always sad about every passing, it was especially sad when we were told at 1000 Trails that Calvin Boyles had died on Tuesday. Those of us who knew Calvin remember him, each in our own way. Calvin cared enough about our association and contest to donate one of the fine guitars that he had built to the contest committee. It was raffled off at the state convention. His music and his happy smile will be missed at the District 6 jams.

---

### Canyonville Contest Results

Pee Wee: Amanda Kobel, Travis Warwick. Junior – Junior: Zach Konowalchuk, Jeffery Moenck, Gina Hoppe, Jessie Brinkerhoff. Junior: Teresa Plybon. Senior: Ila Mae Carmickle, Gene Williams, Willie Carter, Alice Holt, Alma Reitan, Kenny Brank. Senior-Senior: Lew Standiford, Buck Milligan, Dennis Allen, Clyde Ellis, Chuck Hasty, Pat Manion. Intermediate: Faye Patterson, Larry Edwards, Joan Lomax, Britt Smith, Judy McGarvey, Eric Werner. Open: Donna Rueter, Johnny McDonald, Margaret Brank, Eileen Witler, Willie Warwick, Darren Reitan. Accompanists: Bob Hanson, Dennis Allen, Larry Edwards, Vic Flood, Bob Huffman. Judges: Wayne Holmes, Esther Snider, Lew Holt

---

T'is me again . . . .

The other day I wrote about playing at the Capital Manor - senior retirement apartments (the letter about Dr. Postl).

Today I received a "thank you " letter from the program director. It reads, in part:

Dear Lew,

Many residents have told me how much they enjoyed your program. It is hard to believe that you don't practice regularly.

*(I had told the audience that we put out our monthly newsletter and that I am surprised who shows up -- and that we were not a "band." People had come from up and down the valley.)*

She continues . . . . . A resident brought her husband from the health care in a wheel chair. She said that he used to play in a similar group several years ago and as he listened, tears trickled from his eyes down his cheeks. You know that he loved your music.

Many, many thanks!

Edith

I guess that I am touched and proud of the note from Edith. Typically we get the customary "thank you" note but this one was special.

There was a thread a while back about "hokey" tunes - kind of a "put down" I thought. Most of us who played Tuesday night played "hokey" tunes . . . . and the people enjoyed them. They sang along with Coming 'Round the Mtn, Seeing Nellie Home, Mocking Bird Hill and such "hokey" tunes. No, they didn't sing out loud but we could see their lips moving with the familiar tunes. The "familiar tunes" are what so often causes an audience to appreciate and enjoy an hour of fiddle music. They are the tunes that bring people up front to talk to us after the show. We had not discussed which tunes we were going to play -- so they didn't know which tune we were going to play next until I announced it to the audience. They also allow 14 of us to come together and play the tunes as if we had been practicing for a "concert." Lew Holt

---

November 1, 1998

District 1: We have a “silent fiddle” in our group. We are saddened to have lost our good friend, Wilford, “Bill” Noble on Sep. 30, 1998. He was almost 92 years young. He was our special “Old Time Fiddler.” His twin brother, Will, of Hermiston is still quite active and played a few tunes with our group for Bill’s service. The minister asked for tunes to be played interspersed between his sermon. Then they played during the meal time at the church, as well as at the graveside service. The day was calm sunny and warm. In all it was a beautiful way to honor Bill’s life for his family and many friends. Cheri Lane – reporter

Notes from the editor: Reading about Bill Noble’s passing reminds me that in the fall of 1984 Alice and I went to the Potato Festival in Merrill as the guests of Isom and Faye Patterson. It was one of those experiences that we can never forget. After several days of fun we left their place and headed for Lakeview for a jam the next week end with Homer McLain and the group (then a part of district 1). We told our friends that we were going to drive around Langel Valley (it was described in a book that we had). We were advised that the Langel Valley was where Bill Noble lived and that we should stop to see him. When we got near the valley we stopped at a church to ask if we could park in the parking lot that night. We were given permission. We stopped at the end of the valley at a little store and asked directions to Bill Noble’s place. The clerk took us to the porch and pointed down the valley to Bill’s place.

We stopped in “for a few minutes” at Bill’s to talk fiddling. It wasn’t long until Naomi drove up. She had stopped at the store and was told that “Bill had company.” To make a long story short, we ended up going to Naomi’s house for a nice dinner with her grandson, Bill and her. I still have a tape I made that evening of Bill playing. Naturally, we didn’t go back to the church. We parked our camper at Naomi’s house for the night. Friendly, friendly people.

What a great evening we had. The next morning we bid our good byes and drove around the valley as directed in a book about “tours in Oregon.” A beautiful place. It was fall. The geese were restless as they were flying up and down the valley that morning looking for a place to land. The Hereford cattle grazed in the lush green fields. There was a feeling of fall in the air.

We drove on to Lakeview and had an equally good time there but that is another story. Lew Holt - Editor

---

December 1998

District 9: November’s jam turned into a going on a new adventure, moving across the country, wishing you well party for Carl Cross. Carl is moving to New Hampshire. We’ll sure miss having him around to tease and sing those wonderful songs. It always amazes me when Carl cuts loose with one of the tunes which shows off his range like “An Irish Lullaby.” Good luck to you Carl.

---

Notes from the editor: Last month I wrote about Alice and my meanderings 10 or 15 years ago. Here’s the rest of the story: We drove on to Lakeview from Langel Valley and Bill Noble’s to Lakeview and had an equally good time there. We jammed at Homer’s place, we jammed at the fairgrounds and we jammed at the jam on Sunday (still have a tape of it) and we visited the fire hall and police station where Homer worked. Then Monday morning Homer loaded us into his pick up and took us 100 miles to the southeast, down into Nevada where we saw hot springs coming up out of the ground and the wild burros grazing in the sage brush. The part I remember the most is that on the way back, it was getting closer and closer to the time for Homer to be back at work. I remember going “full speed ahead” down

this highway which clung to the side of the mountain with the bottom of the canyon many hundreds of feet below and Homer telling us about his heart attack several years earlier. Luck was with us (well, maybe it was Homer's skill). We made it back to town in time and Homer went back to work.

The next day Alice and I drove out to Adel where I went into the store to buy a snack. They could tell I was a "city slicker" – certainly not from around there. There was a "stranger" in town!! Then we drove on to take a peak at the Hart Mountains. We drove on – stopping at a little place on the Nevada/Oregon border where we did some of our Christmas shopping. We bought some beautiful pink wine made from mountain plums which only grow above 8000 feet or something like that. Then on down through the back roads to Redding to the Western Open Contest that week end. Besides the good fiddle music, I enjoyed watching the big salmon spawning in the river which went by the parking lot. After the contest we went out to the coast and home to North Bend. We were gone ten days. What a wonderful time we had – all because of fiddling and friends.

---

1999

January 1999

District 8: On December 11<sup>th</sup> several of us (Alice, Lew and Lee) went to Tillamook to the funeral of Larry Modrell. Larry was a charter member of our association. Some of us can relate to Larry where we met him at the Vernonia camp out. He was up early every morning to prepare and cook the pancakes that we stood in line to get. He was a story teller and had many to tell. We always enjoyed having Larry and Harriet at a district 8 jam when their daughter, Joy, would bring them.

---

"Old time music: It's better than it sounds." Author unknown

The three most common lies: 1. I sure like your fiddle, 2. I use to play for Bob Wills, and 3. The check is in the mail.

---

Notes from the editor: Recently I heard on the radio that half of the people in the U.S. were not born yet when Pres. Kennedy was assassinated 35 years earlier. It holds true for many of our members who were not born yet or who were not even thinking about fiddles when the Oregon Old Time Fiddlers Association came to be in 1965. I am including the obituary of Larry Modrell who was one of our charter members. He and others like him saw the advantage and the need for a state association of "old time fiddlers." Thanks to Larry's daughter, Joy, for faxing me his obituary.

Larry Modrell was born in Twin Falls, Idaho on Dec. 16, 1914 to Willis and Mildred Patrick Modrell, the eldest of three boys. He was raised in the Northwest and, at 20 years old, joined the CCCs. The next year he met and married Harriet Rhoda Hayden, on Dec. 12, 1936. (They would have been married 62 years.)

They resided in the Timber area. . . . moved to the Wilson River area in Tillamook and eventually to Garibaldi in 1942. He first continued logging and then went to work for Sause Bro. Towing.

In 1947 Larry lost his eye sight but in 1953 he became the first person to regain his sight after having a cornea transplant and cataract removal at the same time. . . . .

Mr. Modrell was also instrumental in bringing television to Tillamook Co. via the Mt. Hebo translator. He also operated a snow cone booth at the Washington county Fair for 30 years.

. . . . Mr. Modrell was a charter member of the Oregon Old Time Fiddlers Association . . . .

---

### February 1999

Roger's Rambles: Yes, we finally did get out of town. It is 72° here in Quartzite. We have many OOTFA members here and we see them on a regular basis to visit and play. I know I'm prejudiced but down here what these people call music and the music our group plays are worlds apart. Where ever an OOTF member plays, it is usually the best number played at that occasion.

---

District 6: We are saddened by the recent loss of Walt Benson. We will remember his singing and guitar playing. Many old timers will remember him for the hams he baked at the Vernonia campout and the corn pudding that he would bring to potlucks. Our love and condolences to Maxine. Thelma Drayer – reporter.

---

District 8: We were saddened to learn that Vi Jensen passed away in late February. At Vi's request there were no services. She was very special to many of us for her great fiddling. She and Charlie, who preceded her in death, were long time, active members of OOTFA. Alice Holt – reporter.

From the Editor: Today (5/29/97) was another one of those special days that I have written about several times in the past. But first, let me go back in time. A year and a half ago one of our special guitar players went for a walk before daylight on a November Fall morning - which he did almost every morning. It is in a small safe little town here in the valley. In the darkness of the morning, Charlie stepped off the curb into the path of a turning car. Some one called an ambulance. He was rushed to a hospital 15 miles away where he died. Nobody knew who he was. Charlie had not carried any identification.

His wife got up as usual at daylight and made coffee to have ready for him when he returned - as she did every morning. When he was late returning, she called the police station but the person who answered couldn't help her. Charlie hadn't returned by 10:00 and Vi was at her wit's end. In her panic she decided to go looking for him. She saw a group of her neighbors talking to a policeman who had a photograph of an accident victim. The neighbors had recognized him. When Vi went over to them, the policeman told her that Charlie had been killed.

Vi is in her mid to upper 80's and after the funeral, she completely withdrew - refusing any visitors and not wanting to "ever play her fiddle again." Many of us called her and offered to visit but she always turned us down. Finally we quit calling.

Yesterday she called here at the house and said that she was sorry for not being able to visit with us and that she would like to see Alice and me again. What a tremendous phone call. I told her

that we would be over tomorrow. Today we went over to visit her. Vi was sitting in the front room by the big window watching for us to drive up.

After a brief visit, she asked us to play her fiddles which she had brought out before we arrived. We played several of the old familiar tunes that Vi had played for so many years. We watched to see what her reaction would be. She left and went into the bedroom. Alice and I looked at each other. Shortly she returned with her favorite fiddle. She didn't think she could remember any tunes but when we started playing one of her favorites, she raised the fiddle to her shoulder and started playing along with us. Finally she asked us to play "Diggy Diggy Li" with her. She had remembered one of her favorite tunes. We played for perhaps 45 minutes. She smiled and laughed along with us - enjoying the tunes that she had missed for a year and a half. Alice and I felt like a million dollars.

She spoke of how lonely she has been. We asked her if we could come back and bring others to play, too, and she smiled and said that we could. We must and will do that soon.

She served us each a dish of ice-cream and just before we left, she paid her dues for the Oregon Old Time Fiddlers Association and bought a roster of the members. She wants to read about the fiddlers again. We gave her our hugs and words of encouragement and bid her good by.

Hopefully through fiddle music, we have opened the door for opportunities of happiness for Vi. We are going to try anyway.

Thanks for listening. Lew Holt

I received this letter back from the Fiddle List on the computer: I don't know Vi and she doesn't know me, but please tell her that a fiddler in Ohio is awfully glad she started to play again. Keep telling us those stories, Lew. Carolyn

Another person writes: Lew, Thanks for the moving story. It is a special gift to share music by playing it. Dennis

Another reply: Thanks again, Lew, for another great story. Helps me remember why I love this music so much in the first place. Paul

One more: Thanks for your story about Vi (and for all of your posts). I have printed out that story Vi and a lot of your others. I keep them with my other fiddle stuff and consider them to be a great inspiration: they always remind me what music is supposed to be about (I'd tell you what that is, but its obvious you already know).

I'm signing off the fiddle list for a while (I'm moving and will have to a new email address). Your post is a good one to go out on. I hope I don't miss any while I am away! Chris

Readers – I share these letters with you to show the purpose of our music, the power that it plays in the lives of people and the joy that others get from our music.

Notes from this editor: A year ago last May (1996) I bought an old fiddle at the auction in Seattle. It intrigued me. It was old -- that was easy to tell, kind of "beat up" and the best part was that it has a medieval village inlaid on the back. The description said that it was an old German violin. Also, a nice one piece back and one piece top. No, it is not one of those "great expensive fiddles" that you often see in pictures - just nice. I had to have it so I bid the price.

Recently took the old fiddle down from the hanger and started to restore it. It came

apart into several pieces that are all in place on the work bench.

Inside I read, " Repaired by E. M. Wescott, Hampton, Iowa, 1884. Made by Eugene M. Wescott, Sumner, Iowa, 1876. Age 19 yrs. Born in Crawfords Co., Pa 1857" Wow!

I was pleased to discover the notes because they tell the information that I wanted about the maker and the fiddle. No, it isn't the oldest fiddle around but nevertheless, it is fun to sit there at the work bench and try to speculate about the young

builder who was born before the Civil War, what motivated him, where did he get his skills, and -- who else might have owned the fiddle over the years, what tunes it has played, what barns it has played in, or whose living rooms or what stages. Whose closet has it been tucked away in or whose bed has it been under. The silent old fiddle holds its secrets and will only let me speculate.

Now it is up to me to restore the old fiddle and add another chapter to its story. Hopefully I will enjoy playing it and that it will again bring joy to me and others. My handwritten note will be tucked away inside the end of the fiddle for someone else to read someday --



maybe a hundred years from now and for them to speculate as I have done.

---

The picture is of Eugene M. Wescott and his violin that he is proud of. This picture was probably taken in 1876 or shortly thereafter

---

-- a proud young man and his violin. The story goes that a German violin player and builder came to the little town in Iowa. Eugene was fascinated by the violin and wanted to build one like it. His tools, the story goes, were just a pocket knife and broken glass.

The violin was in the family until the late 1930s when, supposedly, it was sold after the widow lost the farm because of the depression. Another story goes that Uncle Roy was a collector of Civil War antiques, grew old and decided to sell them. He put an ad in the paper and a man came to look at them. Uncle Roy left the room for a moment and when he returned the Civil War antiques, the violin and the man were gone.

The actual story is left to our imagination.

---

LATER: After much research I located a grandson in Fairbanks, Alaska. I asked him for a picture of his grandfather -- the builder of the violin. He sent me a fine old photo of his grandfather holding the violin that I owned. I have great pleasure in owning this fine old violin.

ANOTHER CHAPTER: In the summer of 1999 I thought a lot about where the fiddle should be. I enjoyed it but when I am gone, would those that follow enjoy it as much. Was I being selfish in keeping it. I wrote to the 66 year old grandson and asked him if he would like to have his grandfather's fiddle back in the family again. He wrote that he would. When I closed the lid on the shipping box, it was as if I were closing the lid to the casket of a friend . . . I was telling a friend good by. But the letter that followed in a few days telling about the pleasure and excitement of having the violin back in the family, was worth it.

Every fiddle has a story but fiddles are well known for keeping their story a secret. Many fiddles are most often older than the fiddler. Often, it seems, that many fiddles are tucked away in a closet for many years and never played. They were once played by “Dad” or “Grandpa” but now nobody plays or is interested. The original owner may pass on or the fiddle is in the way so it is sold. Maybe it is sold again and the story is lost.

If the fiddle could tell its story, it would be fascinating. Many a good old tune has been played or it has played for many dances, or in church services or it might even have been scratched on by a beginner and been delegated to the barn. Its history is as only as good as our imagination.

It is exciting to open a fiddle case and find a newspaper account of an owner long ago or a scribbled handwritten note telling about the fiddle. Would there be a lesson in this for all of us. What seems unimportant for us today would be interesting reading for those in the future. Yes, even your story which is a chapter in the life of the fiddle.

---

May 1999

Sally writes: I would like to thank folks for helping out with the big event in April in Florence. I don't want to forget to thank Phil Fry for hauling the PA system up from Coos Bay and Fred Grove for helping.. . . and everybody else who did so much. Everybody had a good time and the Elks enjoyed having us. Now we are looking forward to next year.

---

Don Loring

My start in music began in Burley, Idaho in the early 1930s when my father saw an ad in a magazine for getting a guitar for selling the right amount of “Cloverine Salve.” I gave it a try and got my first guitar, learning my basic chords from the book that came with it.

Soon after, I went to Gooding, Idaho where my mother and two of my uncles lived. My uncles both played the fiddle and we played together for house dances.

In 1935 I went into the C.C.C. Camp in Riggins, Idaho. I played the guitar quite a lot at that time, in the barracks and entertaining the rest of the guys.

From there it was to Boise, Idaho, where I took a few lessons on the guitar and played and sang with a group. Soon after, I met Ruth. Ruth and her father, who was a fiddler, played together and I played with them some. In 1939 we were married, and that led to having a family.

We moved a lot through the years, but ended up in Albany, Oregon. Since we were busy raising four children, our music got pushed to the back until they were nearly raised. In 1964 we went to Weiser, Idaho to the National Fiddlin' contest and that gave us the bug to start playing again, so we started seeking out jams here in Oregon. Soon after we joined the Oregon Old Time Fiddlers Association and that was the beginning of many years of being involved. I was the first Chairman of District 6, along with Merv Dickerson as the Co-chairman. I also judged several contests throughout the years. After retiring in 1981 we began traveling and have been in 49 of the 50 states. Always searching out fiddlin' events along the way, we have met and played with many wonderful and talented people.

Along with our 4 children, Ruth and I have 13 grandchildren and 21 great grandchildren.

---

Ruth Loring

Music has always been a part of my family and as my two brothers and one sister were growing up, music became a way of life for all of us. It was said that my Great Grandfather on my mother's side, was quite a good musician, playing violin, horn and accordion. Coming from the highlands of Northern England, he enjoyed his music as much as the neighboring Scots.

Both my father and his parents were musicians. An uncle taught my father in Kansas City, Mo., to be a violinist at the age of twelve, but somehow I think my father already knew how to be a fiddler. That just came natural. He kept up his fiddling and he became one of the best dance fiddlers around after he moved from Missouri to Nebraska where I was born.

I learned chords on the organ when I was very young and played the piano for our Royal Neighbors Juvenile Lodge, while practicing marching drills.

My father wanted one of us four kids to learn the fiddle. To keep from helping with the dishes, I agreed, so he sat me down after supper several nights a week. I guess it paid off, for I won third place in an adult contest at a County Fair and my father won first.

I took up tenor guitar soon after and finally Dad got me a six string guitar at age twelve, causing me to neglect my fiddle.

My family moved from Nebraska to Idaho in 1937. In 1938 my father, my sister, one brother and I were hired by Co-op Oil company to play five nights a week over radio station KFXD in Nampa and Caldwell and KIDO in Boise. I met my husband, Don, because of this program. He heard us on the radio and came to call at my home. Don and I just seemed to click and we were married May 31, 1939.

We moved to Oregon in the spring of 1941, after having our first child. Three more children came later, so as you can guess, our music was neglected while raising a family.

In 1963 we went to Weiser, Idaho to the national contest and joined the Oregon Old Time Fiddlers soon after. We have attended every convention since, being the only couple that has never missed one. In the many years of playing and being involved in the fiddling association, I have a shelf full of trophies and awards that I have won as an accompanist. Ruth Loring

---

June 1999

Roger's Rambles: . . . we've had the best contest I have been involved with since joining the old time fiddlers. Chemeketa Community College is an ideal place to

hold the contest . . . We received word that Edith Thompson our designated MC was ill. . . we talked it over and persuaded president elect, Fred Hardin, to give it a whirl. Fred jumped in there and by the time Saturday night rolled around, he was an old pro.

---

District 2: We want the state to know that we are proud of our contestants at the State Contest held in Salem on May 14 -15. They brought home many trophies, checks and rosettes. We want to recognize Kate Kendrick, Brynna Rust, Eric Jepsen, Lauren Anne Harshman, Seth Morgan, Hillary Harshman, Bern Youngblood, Johnny Bullock, Steff Nelson, Beth Youngblood, Lacy Wilson, Morgan Mattesen, Carla Arnold, Jaclyn Penner, Peter Willis and Dan Emert. Congratulations to Steff Nelson for winning first place in the Junior division and Peter Willis for accompanying 53 contestants on stage.

---

Notes from the Editor: Seventy seven contestants competed during the contest. This does not count the twin fiddle division. This is the greatest participation we have had in many years. It speaks well for the fiddle teachers that we have spread out across the state. A great bunch of contestants came from Pendleton, Heppner, Echo, LaGrande and that area. Over half of the 11 Pee Wees came from this area. Over the years we typically have 2 or 3 Pee Wee fiddlers so it was a great compliment to have 11. People often come to the contest to hear the "little kids." This year was special.

When I was on the campus of Chemeketa Community College following the contest, I was told that the maintenance supervisor had been by that morning and had said, "We wouldn't mind renting to the fiddlers every week end. They left everything perfect." What a great compliment for all of you. Saturday night there were 22 RVs parked outside the contest - this doesn't count the few that were at nearby campgrounds. What a great turn out. We saw many of our members in the audience.  
Lew Holt Editor

---

### Contest results

May 14 and 15, 1999 Chemeketa Community College Salem, Oregon

	<u>Pee Wee Division</u>	<u>Jr. Jr. Division</u>	<u>Junior Division</u>	<u>Young Adult</u>
1	Alex Hargreaves	Amberly Rosen	Steff Nelson	Erin McMullen
2	Michael McMahan	Bern Youngblood	Andy Shelton	Alan Smoke
3	Kate Kendrick	Zach Konowalchuk	Mary Julie Wilson	Carla Booher
4	Sophie Wilson	Jacob French	Ariana Rosen	
5	Clara Baker	Johnny Bullock	Beth Youngblood	
6	Brynna Rust			
7	Eric Jepsen			
8	Lauren Anne Harshman			
9	Seth Morgan			
10	Hillary Harshman			
11	Brigid McMahan			

	<u>Adult Division</u>	<u>Senior Division</u>	<u>Sr - Sr Division</u>	<u>Open</u>
1	Starr McMullen	Ila Mae Carmickle	Bus Boyk	Rudi Booher
2	Donna Reuter	Dorothy Cory	Ruel Teague	Gary Schuh
3	Eileen Witler	Alice Holt	Chuck Hasty	Andy Emert
4	Greg Baker	Loren Osborne	Gene Williams	Jacie Penner
5	Bob Heinith	Judy McGarvey	Faye Patterson	Amy Thomas

	<u>Accompanists</u>	<u>Twin Fiddle</u>			
1	Peter Willis	Ariana Rosen - Amberly Rosen	Oldest Fiddler	Earl Knudsen	87
2	Frank Moore	Eileen Witler - Donna Reuter	Youngest Girl-Lauren Ann Harshman		5
3	Andy Emert	Andy Emert - Starr McMullen	Youngest Boy-Alex Hargreaves		5
4	Dan Emert	Ruel Teague - Willie Carter			
5	Dennis Allen	Angie Thomas - Amy Thomas			

Judges: Dick Barrett, Lisa Barrett, John Francis, Roberta Rast and Gayla Tanaka

---

July 1999

Recently Alice and I received a letter that Norma Allen had died. She was 94 and had lived all her life near Bandon down on the southern Oregon Coast. Not many of you knew Norma and had never heard her play the fiddle. . . . she had drive and enthusiasm that wouldn't end.

Alice and I remember the first time we met Norma. It was in 1979 and we were just getting started fiddling. We had been to Fiddle Tunes at Port Townsend and when we got back home, we heard that there was a group meeting in Bandon to teach fiddling. We walked into the "Dew Valley Community Hall" and Norma met us. She called for the attention of everybody and in her "teacher voice," yelled out, "Hey, everybody here are the Holts from North Bend." That was the beginning of many good friendships and many years of fiddling.

Many Saturday nights Alice and I would drive the 35 miles down to Norma's. Her sister, Max, lived next door and would come over. We spent many hours learning and playing together. It was from Max's and Norma's dedication to fiddling that gave Alice and me the foundation and motivation that we needed.

Norma's nickname came to be "one more time Norma." After a tune was played, she would often yell out, "One more time" and we would play it again. She invited others to play at her house on Saturday nights. Some were local friends and others were visitors from out of town. Les McLeod, Clell Mason, Bud Bishop, Elmer Benson, Shorty Allen, Charlie and Vi Jensen and her sister Max -- they all went before Norma.

No, Norma wasn't what you would say "the best fiddler" but she has left her contribution. We "old timers" remember her well. Those who came along later have missed much by not knowing her. Perhaps she and Max have joined "those who went before" her. Norma has "organized them" that's for sure. She is either playing her fiddle or backing them up on the piano and they are playing a tune "one more time."

Lew Holt

---

District 4: Sad news is that we have lost two of our members recently. Edith Thompson died in Portland in May. Her exuberance and wonderful smile will be greatly missed. Jim Stevens, who played harmonica, died at his home in Grants Pass on June 5. His friendliness and willingness to share all his cheerful and beautiful music will make his absence felt by us all.

---

Notes from this editor: When Alice and I returned home after being in Seattle over Memorial Day, we were saddened to have two phone messages that dealt with the death of friends. Just a few weeks earlier we had been to Thor and Martha Pederson's 60<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary party. After the party Alice, Pat Gates and I played some fiddle music for them. Thor really enjoyed fiddle music. It is special now that we had that opportunity. The other message was about the passing of Edith Thompson. I first met Edith back in the middle 80s when I was a runner at the Crescent City Contest for 5 years. She was the emcee. After one of the contests she visited the Coos Bay area and we showed her District 5 hospitality. And then we have had her as our emcee at the state contest for several years and she was scheduled to be the emcee again this year. She was always amazed how we Oregon fiddlers could all get up on the stage and jam together – everybody working together – and no "stars." Lew Holt Editor

---

Fred Sed: Having just returned from a 12-day trip through Burns, Oregon to attend High Desert Country Music Jamboree, spending eight wonderful days at Weiser National Contest, and stopping back at Redmond to jam with District 3 and attend ribbon cutting ceremonies for Deschutes County Fairgrounds, Charlotte and I are ready to pause momentarily before making preparations to go again. Thanks to Janet Burgess, Julia Milleson, Ruel and Margaret Teague, Walt Cooper, Hugh Galliher, Carol Hamilton and the many others for putting together a memorable event in Burns, and having our quarterly meeting there proved to be a whopping success. Thanks a lot!!!

---

September 1999

Diamond Lake Campout: Thank you for all who came and made the Diamond Lake campout a great success. And an extra special thanks for all who pitched in and helped. The music was great and Jerry and I really enjoyed all of the music and visiting with the people. Thanks again!!!! Jerry and Irene Ruddock

---

Notes from this editor: Remember last winter (see February 1999) when I wrote about the fiddle that when I opened it that I found the name of the builder, where he lived and where he was born? It was built in 1876 and was in the family for 60 + years but it was sold or lost during the depression and has been out of the family for over 60 years. The story has a happy ending. I wrote to the grandson in Fairbanks, Alaska and asked him if he would like to have his grandfather's violin. He wrote that he would. So now the grandfather's violin is back in the family. It is a very happy family. Recently I found out who consigned the fiddle to the auction in Seattle in 1996. The man told me that he inherited the violin from his grandfather who died in 1980. He had been a violin dealer in Chicago before he moved to California where he died.

---

The Willamette Valley Fiddle Contest was started in 1998, the first year that the Oregon State Contest moved from Corvallis to Salem. There was strong community support for fiddling and the Benton County Fair had long been interested in a fiddle contest to cap off the week at the fair. This contest has the usual three required tunes, but the audience is allowed to applaud and respond between tunes. It is held on an outside stage and the overall atmosphere is less formal than most contests --- the idea is for both spectators and participants to have fun!

The contest has attracted some of the Northwest's top fiddlers with the Championship being won in 1998 by Oregon's Rudi Booher and in 1999 by Idaho's Danita Hartz --- both former National Championship winners. In 1999 there were contestants from Oregon, Idaho, Washington, and California. In addition to Pee Wee (8 and under), Junior-Junior (9-12), Junior (13-17), Adult (18-59), Senior (60+), and Championship Divisions, the contest also has a novice division where players new to contest playing can "break the ice".

The Willamette Valley Contest has quickly become a favorite at the fair. The 1999 finals, held under a tarp in the pouring rain, attracted almost 200 spectators --- more than showed up for the main stage concert that evening! In addition to the fiddle contest, there are lots of other fun activities to keep people busy at the fair between rounds.

---

## Willamette Valley Fiddle Contest winners, August 7, 1999

Pee Wee Division (8 and Under) 1. Alex Hargreaves, 2. Hayden von Duncan, 3. Clara Baker, 4. Chris Rorrer, 5. Julie Rorrer, Junior-Junior Division (12 and under) 1. Alex Duncan, 2. Brian Dearing, 3. Marshall Baker, 4. Louis Prah, 5. Jamie Frey-Frankenfield Junior Division (13-17) 1. Andy Shelton, 2. Ariana Rosen, 3. Angie Thomas, 4. Paul Briskey, 5. Stephanie Anderson, Adult (18-59) 1. Josh Ford, 2. Jaclyn Penner, 3. Steven Kenyon, 4. Margaret Brank, 5. Eileen Witler, 6. Greg Baker, 7. Dorry Eldon, 8. Doug Orton, 9. Connie King, 10. Nathan Dearing Senior (60+) 1. Ila Mae Carmickle, 2. Les Tucker, 3. Dale Johnson, 4. Alice Holt, 5. Willie Carter, 6. Lew Holt, 7. Kenneth Brank, 8. Bill Fenton, 9. Barbara Bartholomew, Championship (anyone) 1. Danita Hartz, 2. Megan Fleming, 3. Jessica Ford, 4. Amy Thomas, 5. Andy Emert Novice (first contest ever) 1. Roy Rowland, 2. Dale Duncan Accompanist 1. Andy Emert, 2. Frank Moore, 3. Fred Ford

---

## October 1999

District 3: Today was our jam and there are not enough thank yous in the world to thank everybody who came to see our new location, participate in our jam and help out. It was something, and we enjoyed it tremendously. The jam opened with Alice Holt and Faye Patterson playing twin fiddle The National Anthem.

Each district performed as a district and they selected their own MC who introduced their musicians to play. It was wonderful to have such variety and everybody had their turn. Each district has such wonderful talent and when that talent comes together like it did today and at Thousand Trails, it is absolutely awesome. Not only was the music outstanding, but also was being able to see and renew friendships and good times with the people we haven't seen in quite awhile. The only way to top today's jam would be if all of you come back. It was certainly a treat for District 3 to hear the other districts play. We were well entertained. Our own Jack Kerr closed out the jam with "Closer Walk With Thee". WOW. Every note was spirit filled. A perfect ending to a perfect beginning.

---

Grandma Booher: "We don't get around much anymore" but we are enjoying our Hoedowner more than ever! Wanted to share with all of you a very special day we enjoyed at "Virtue's Rendezvous." Arriving way back in the hills near Coquille in the early morning, we found Abbie doing her famous hot cakes on the grill. (recipes from the Web, no less), Phil Fry at the grill (appropriately) frying eggs and all that good stuff. Ate at a table in the sunshine and then, Music!

We danced to "Coquette," listened to Scandinavian classics on an accordion, songs just like our daughter Melody and Stan Gonshorowski used to play, saw a bass on wheels, (great idea!) and a simply beautiful fiddle, hand-made by Bob Shaffar under the tutelage of Philip Fry (300 hours). Now Bob is teaching Phil the tunes he learned from other fiddles just as our grandchildren learned them from Paul Lakey and others.

We drove away, reluctantly, to the strains of "Country Waltz" thinking how happy Fred Virtue and his wife would have been to know "old time fiddlin' is alive and well at "Virtue's Rendezvous." Dorothy and Chuck Booher "Grandma and Grandpa"

---

Notes from the editor: I was especially saddened to hear of the death of Bill Fenton. He came to almost every jam in District 8 as he did most other jams he could get to. He would often take the "scenic route." He was a quiet, little man who really loved fiddle music. He would set up his video camera in the corner and video the jam. He must have had quite a collection. Just recently he shared with me the new guitar that he bought. He was very proud of it. We'll all miss Bill. Lew Holt Editor

---

### Canyonville Contest Results

August 28, 1999

PEE WEE DIVISION: 1st. Daniel Steward, 2nd. Travis Warwick JR/JR DIVISION: 1st. Zach Konowalchuk, 2nd. Darin Hasley, 3rd. Amanda Kobel, 4th. Alex Gardner JUNIOR DIVISION: 1st. Jeff Moenck, 2nd. Teresa Plybon SENIOR DIVISION: 1st. Homer McLain, 2nd. Papa Spain, 3rd. Lew Standiford, 4th. Les Tucker, 5th. Alice Holt, SR/SR DIVISION: 1st. Faye Patterson, 2nd. Dennis Allen, 3rd. Chuck Hasty, 4th. Pat Manion, 5th. Earl Knudson INTERMEDIATE DIVISION: 1st. Willie Carter, 2nd. Britt Smith, 3rd. Nickie Carlisle, 4th. Alan Smoke, 5th. Sally Jordan OPEN DIVISION: 1st. Johny McDonald, 2nd. Margaret Brank, 2nd. Darren Reitan, 4th. Eileen Witley, 5th. Willie Warwick ACCOMPANISTS: 1st. Dennis Allen, 2nd. Dick Todd, 3rd. Britt Smith, 4th. Vic Flood, 5th. Louie Roy  
Judges: Norman Nash, Carol Larson, and Jerry Ruddock

I appreciate each and every one of you who participate by playing or listening, and/or helping both financially and physically. I'm sorry it can't be a free OOTFA event but it does take money to come up with the cash prizes and take care of the normal contest expenses. Many comments are that Canyonville is a "fun" contest. Let's keep it that way and have another fun time in the year 2000.

Gynn Deaton



Bill Yohey

## BILL YOHEY MEMORIAL TROPHY ESTABLISHED

It was reported in the June 1991 Hoedowner:

Mark's remarks: I am pleased to report that the OOTFA executive board voted to establish the "Bill Yohey Memorial Trophy." The first presentation will be at the Friday night show at the 1991 Oregon State Fiddle Contest, may 31<sup>st</sup>. The criteria for selecting the recipient is dedication and service to OOTFA as an accompanist.

Bill Yohey Memorial trophy winners:		
1.	Don and Ruth Loring	1991
2.	Dennis and Thelma Allen	1992
3.	Ruel Teague	1993
4.	Penny Mead	1994
5.	Bob Huffman	1995
6.	Bob Church	1996
7.	Frank Moore	1997
8.	Cactus Finley	1998
9.	Ruth Montgomery	1999

After the death of Bill Yohey Mark Carmickle thought there should be some way to memorialize Bill Yohey. Bill was a great fiddler and was also well known for his skill as an accompanist. The award was created to recognize the accompanists that fiddlers appreciate. Although there is only one selection each year, the person(s) represent all accompanists. We take this opportunity to thank them for their contribution.



Bill Yohey was well known for his fiddle, banjo and tenor guitar. His pride in his tenor guitar is shown in this picture.

The photographs of Bill were copied from the scrapbook that was made by Maxine Benson. The scrapbook was presented to Bill at the campout at Vernonia during "This is your life, Bill."



Wayne Holmes

Bill Yohey

---

Helen Tracy

When we sign up a new member, we never know how that person will contribute to our association. Some will soon be performing on the stage – joining in our music. Some will attend the jams and enjoy the fiddle music. Others will help in the kitchen or set up chairs. Then others will go beyond the ordinary and contribute much to the success of the OOTFA. One such person is Helen Tracy. On June 6, 1993 she took on the task of selling name tags. The tags were well accepted and 200 had been sold up to that time. Since that date, Helen has set up her display at hundreds of jams and has sold over 1000 name tags. At the same time she has sold many rosters, audio tapes, fiddle patches, decals, pins, etc. We owe a great debt to Helen for her contribution to our association. Of course, without her husband, Wayne, she would not be able to do what she has done. Thanks to you, too, Wayne.

---

Linda Danielson

I grew up in Alamosa and Grand Junction, Colorado. Once in awhile as a child I could persuade Dad to pull out his old violin and play a slightly shaky version of "Home, Sweet Home." But I was enchanted, and I don't recall much discussion about the matter, but I got a three-quarter-size violin at age ten and the next week was stumbling over a third violin part--all open strings--in the grade school orchestra. I was concert mistress of the high school orchestra and played in orchestras through college. Somewhere into graduate school I lost interest in the violin and began singing folksongs and playing mandolin and Appalachian dulcimer. Finally, someone said, "Why don't you ever play that fiddle you have in your closet?" I started improvising backup for a folksinger. Then one day shortly after I moved to a new house, I heard the sound of fiddle music. I dropped what I was doing, walked out and followed the sound, catty-corner across the street, where I found Lawrence "Pop" Powers sitting in his carport with a banjo player. He was pretty challenging to get acquainted with and didn't have any patience with violinists. But he soon figured out that I was trying to learn something about his way, and then he was generous with his time. I played improvised twin fiddle parts with him, and Jake McCullough accompanied us on guitar. Lots of other old-time musicians passed through his living room, but I've lost most of the other names. When Pop was well into his seventies, he'd call me up and say, "Hey, Linda, ya wanta go play for them old folks in the rest home?" and we'd do that.

About the same time--maybe 1970-72--I discovered the Oregon Oldtime Fiddlers Association. I remember a contest in Cottage Grove. Among the top placers were Rusty Modrell, Jerry White, and Bill Yohey, wearing his lucky sweater, Pepto-Bismol pink. About the same time Wayne Holmes offered a fiddle class, and I took that, thus meeting another of my early teachers.

I was beginning to branch out. About this same time, I fiddled for an all-women bluegrass band, Pickin' Delight. Then at the Weiser contest, about 2 a.m.--a reasonable bedtime for Weiser--I'd just crawled into my tent, when I heard a haunting tune in a minor key--it definitely wasn't Texas fiddling. I got back out of my sleeping bag and followed the sound. There were some guys from Seattle, sitting at the foot of a big tree on the school ground, playing this music the like of which I'd never heard. Irish music, they said it was. I fell in love all over again, and that fondness has stayed with me.

In 1985 I was having dinner with a friend, when her phone rang. When she hung up the phone, she said, "Our fiddler just quit. How would you feel about joining a Scottish dance band and playing a ball in two weeks?" I did, and again the rest is history. I have taught for I think about eight years at Alasdair Fraser's Valley of the Moon School of Scottish Fiddling and played for numerous balls and dance events throughout the West Coast.

About that same time Carol Ann Wheeler proposed that since we'd been enjoying twin fiddling together when we occasionally got together at jams or at Martha and Red Warwick's camp, we might as well get serious and do a recording. We made "The Joy of Twin Fiddlin'" in probably 1989, and won first place in the Oregon State Contest, Twin Fiddle Division, in 1990--the only contest I ever enjoyed playing in, contesting just not being my style. Carol Ann and I played a lot of shows and had good times over the next several years.

About two years ago I retired after thirty-three years teaching English, the last twenty-five of those years at Lane Community College, where my folklore classes sometime provided a venue for some of the music I'd learned from Oregon fiddlers. For a good many years I've been teaching private fiddle lessons and occasional workshops. I also play contra dances, Irish Ceili dances, Scottish country dances, and perform a Chautauqua program with Dianne Dugaw for the Oregon Council for the Humanities. This program takes us to mostly small towns all over Oregon to talk about what happens when traditional music and musicians migrate. In the program I tell some stories of Oregon fiddlers and play some tunes I learned from them: Earl Willis, Edna Meadows, Stan Gonshorowski, Wally Bloom. My major time commitment these days is to Encore Theatre, a group of retired senior volunteers who

develop a script based on their own life stories and memories, including song and dance, and perform for schools. I'm of course fiddling as well as telling stories. Linda

To steal ideas from one person is plagiarism; to steal from many is research.

### Oregon Champions – Champion Division/Open Division

1961	Ray Mack	Salem-deceased	1981	John Melnichuk	Vancouver, Wa
1962	Bill Yohey	McMinnville -deceased	1982	Hollis Taylor	New York City
1963	Rusty Modrell	Rockaway - deceased	1983	John Melnichuk	Vancouver, Wa
1964	Jerry White		1984	Carol Ann Wheeler	Sherwood, Or
1965	Rusty Modrell	Rockaway - deceased	1985	Joey McKenzie	Texas
1966	Rusty Modrell	Rockaway - deceased	1986	Joey McKenzie	Texas
1967	Jerry White		1987	Joey McKenzie	Texas
1968	Harold Allen		1988	Joey McKenzie	Texas
1969	Bill Yohey	McMinnville -deceased	1989	Rudi Booher	Sisters, Or
1970	Bill Yohey	McMinnville -deceased	1990	Rudi Booher	Sisters, Or
1971	Bill Yohey	McMinnville -deceased	1991	Rudi Booher	Sisters, Or
1972	Bill Yohey	McMinnville -deceased	1992	Justin Booher	Colorado
1973	Don Gish		1993	Rudi Booher	Sisters, Or
1974	John Melnichuk	Vancouver, Wa	1994	Casey Willis	Tennessee
1975	John Melnichuk	Vancouver, Wa	1995	Casey Willis	Tennessee
1976	Bill Yohey	McMinnville -deceased	1996	Hanneke Cassel	Port Orford, Or
1977	Carol Ann Wheeler	Sherwood, Or	1997	Rudi Booher	Sisters, Or
1978	Carol Ann Wheeler	Sherwood, Or	1998	Meriwyn Booher	Yoncalla, Or
1979	Loretta Brank	Tennessee	1999	Rudi Booher	Sisters, Or
1980	John Melnichuk	Vancouver. Wa	2000		

The source for this list was taken from a traveling trophy that was established for the Oregon Champion (date of origin not known), from back issues of the Hoedowner and from records save in later years. Each year the Champion Fiddler is given the trophy to keep for one year. His or her name is engraved on a plate designated for that year. The plates on the first trophy have been filled and the trophy is now in the Oregon Old Time Fiddlers Historical Archives. A new trophy is in circulation.

The early issues of the Hoedowner started listing the winners of the State Contest. It is not known who recorded the 1961 champions and the years that followed (before the Oregon Old Time Fiddlers Association was organized). Nor is it known when the trophy was first started.

Hollis Taylor, 1982 winner, writes in Jan. 2000 I am in Brooklyn, New York, where I am spending the year, when I'm not shoveling snow, writing a violin concerto for Monica Huggett, the British baroque violinist. She comes to Portland several times a year to direct the Portland Baroque Orchestra. The concerto will find itself somewhere between baroque and jazz and who knows what else, and will be premiered in April 2001. Plus I am writing string quartet arrangements of the late Jim Pepper's music, which was a cross of Indian, pop, and jazz. I am also continuing my performances in jazz and fiddling and my articles for Fiddler and Strings magazines.

It's fabulous to be in New York City, hearing all the greatest music in the world as it comes through. I send my best to my friends in the OOTFA and my former students and fellow musicians, all of whom taught me lessons that I continue to recycle into my music and my life. If anyone wants to keep track of my work, check out my website: [www.HollisTaylor.com](http://www.HollisTaylor.com)

We might think of history as being something that happened “a long time ago.” The people in the early history of the OOTFA did not think of themselves at that time as “making history.” They had a vision of an organization that would give structure, purpose, enjoyment and many opportunities to “perpetuate old time music.” From the simple beginning has evolved an organization that they might not have foreseen. Much of the purpose of our early leaders has not changed. Early in the Hoedowners, what we now call a “jam” was sometimes called a “jamboree.” There are still the jams on Sunday afternoon. Fiddlers still play in nursing homes, at granges, in senior centers, at picnics, at weddings, at funerals, at contests – almost any place they are invited to play. Those of us who are members at the time of this writing are making history for future members to look back at when they are writing our history. We hope that we will leave a history that we can be proud of and that when future generations look back, they be proud with what we have done.

---

When Ace Wehus was working on the video project in 1998 and 1999, he asked a number of players who were on the videos to send him their autobiographies. They are people we know but they, too, will be a part of our “history” someday. Various editors of the Hoedowner over the years have asked members for their autobiographies. If you want yours in the history archives of our association, please send it to the editor and he will type it and have it for the archives and future publication. Nobody should feel “left out.”

---

Gene Williams

Birth date 2/29-28 in Menlo Park, California. Education – completed 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Lessons age 11 for 1 year. Played with school Orchestra and solos for clubs and lodges. Had own band at age 15 – 17. In 1945 joined the navy. Did not pick up fiddle for couple of years – then fiddled for a couple of years and put it away until about 1994 when he joined the Old Time Fiddlers and has been playing ever since. He was a logger and also worked for the U. S. Forest Service.

After retiring he bought a one man sawmill which he still operates as a hobby. Also for a hobby, he writes songs.

---

Irene Ruddock

I was born Irene Elsie Rau on Dec. 10, 1929 in Brainerd, Minnesota and lived on a farm. My mother could play the violin and piano so she started me playing. She also taught me how to read music. My father had a violin and he always wanted to play but said his fingers were too large. As soon as I could hold a full sized violin, he gave his to me. I have always loved violin music and learned a little on the piano, too. Finances prohibited me from ever taking lessons plus my mother didn't drive. The little country school I went to had no music classes so I attended none until I was in the sixth grade. I had a few months of orchestra when we moved into a city but moved again and no more music for two years.

I moved out west to Carlsbad, California when I was in the eighth grade. The next year as a freshman, I joined the school orchestra in Oceanside, California. The next year we moved to El Cajon, California where I was lucky enough to go the Grossmont Union High as a sophomore. It had a great orchestra so I played in it for one year and we were off again to Brookings, Oregon where there was no orchestra. I graduated there and we moved on to Philo, California.

There I met Jerry Ruddock whom I married on December 18, 1949. He was into music but I put my violin up to raise a family. In 1960 we moved to Klamath Falls, Oregon. After living there a few years, in 1970, we heard about a group called the "Oregon Old Time Fiddlers." We went to a few get-togethers and decided this was really great for us. I had a terrible time learning any of the tunes because I had not played by ear and it was a totally different type of music. However, I have stayed with it and keep trying because to me, it is a happy, carefree style of music. We started our own business in 1972 so it left little time to practice. Now I am semi-retired so I am really putting a little more effort in learning the old time fiddle music. I would really like to get the hang of the good fiddling style.

I believe good music is very soothing to listen to and so is playing it. If I could have had the opportunity to have been around this kind of music when I first started to learn to play the violin, I would be a better player today. I would encourage young people to start playing music while they are young.

---

#### Arthur Lane

Arthur J. Lane born June 28, 1927 in Choteau, Oklahoma. Education – B.A. and M.A. in elementary Education, principal's certificate + 45 semester hours. Music appreciation courses included.

Employment history – 3 years US Navy, 5 years elementary teacher, 15 years Jr. Hi vice principal, 12 years Jr. Hi math teacher.

Became interested in country music at 14 years of age when I started to learn to play the guitar. I found out "I can do this!" Singing came later after I started teaching. Started entertaining people at age of 54. Started to write my own songs about 62 years of age. Started to play around with a fiddle at age 70.

Music is a universal language. It can help you get over shyness, stage fright and feeling down. Just hide behind the mike and guitar and under a hat, then "let-er-rip!"

---

#### Steven Fedorko

I was born in Cresson, Pennsylvania in the year 1929. I grew up in Pennsylvania listening to country and fiddle music. As I got older, in my teens, I decided I wanted to learn to read music, so I took music lessons on the guitar. I later took music lessons on the accordion. After learning to read the music on the guitar and the accordion, I taught myself to read the music for the fiddle, mandolin, banjo and the Russian Balalaika.

I graduated from high school in 1947 in Cairnbrook, Pennsylvania.

In my early working years I did various jobs then in 1955 I started to work for American Airlines. I retired from American Airlines after 30 years.

I have always enjoyed music. I think playing is a great way to relax. I think music is good for the mind and body. Sometimes when I'm sort of feeling blue or worried, I just pick up the fiddle or guitar and my troubles are gone.

---

#### Donna Reuter

Donna Johnson Reuter, a third generation fiddler, was born in Spokane, Washington on January 27, 1960. The fiddle that she has proudly played since 1972 belonged to her grandfather, Daniel B. Johnson. Dan Johnson played for barn dances in Colorado almost every Saturday night. Harley "Bud" Johnson was the first of Dan's 13 children to learn to play the fiddle so it was passed down to him and then later to Donna.

Donna started violin lessons in the Spokane Public Schools system in the fourth grade. Unfortunately, the school system only offered two years of lessons and since her parents could not afford private lessons they got the idea of taking Donna to her cousin, John Francis, who was the National Junior Fiddle Champion at that time. Cousin John taught Donna her first six fiddle tunes (enough for two rounds of a fiddle contest) and so she started competing in fiddle contests in 1972.

Her first major title was won in 1976 when she became the Washington State Junior Champion. Other major titles were the 1979 and 1981 Northwest Regional Ladies Champion, 1981 International Open Champion, 1985 Washington State Ladies Champion, 1990 Pend Oreille International Open Champion, 1995/96 Washington State Adult Twin Fiddle Champion, 1997 Oregon State Twin Fiddle Champion and 1998 Oregon State Adult Fiddle Champion. In addition, Donna is a very qualified fiddle contest judge and had the prestigious honor of judging at the National Fiddle Contest in Weiser, Idaho three times, as well as numerous state and regional contests throughout the Northwest.

Donna has been teaching fiddling to others since she was 14 years old and recruited members of her junior high school orchestra to come to her house after school to learn fiddle tunes. She has been teaching private fiddle lessons since 1979 and has had two of her private fiddle students win the honor of National Junior-Junior Champion, as well as numerous state and region titles. In 1982 she taught a beginning fiddle class for adults at Spokane Falls Community College and in 1989 she taught an adult beginning fiddle class through the Community Education program in Hood River, Oregon.

Donna recorded her first album entitled "I Am A Fiddler" in 1976 and here is the poem that she wrote for the cover:

I am a Fiddler	I am a Fiddler	I am a Fiddler
And I am Proud,	Just listen to me	And I play my part
I don't play my songs perfectly,	My hoedowns are snappy	I don't need to read music
But I play them loud!	And my waltzes flow free.	'Cause it comes from my heart!

---

#### Wayne William Holmes

Date of birth: August 18, 1919 in Eugene, Oregon. Education: Eugene, Oregon schools through high school. Attended the University of Chicago for one term. Reason for departure: Met Mary Horkovich and married her on November 21, 1945, in Hammond, Ind. I have no courses in music appreciation.

Employment history: I had various odd jobs prior to being inducted into Federal Service in 1941. I was in the U.S. Army 5 1/2 years, including 3 years overseas, in Australia and New Guinea. After my discharge from the Army I returned to Oregon, and operated my one-man sawmill for a year. I spent two years working for Weyerhaeuser Lumber Company in their huge mill near Springfield, Oregon, eventually working my way up to becoming a lumber grader. I was the only grader employed by Weyerhaeuser authorized to grade every item they produced: timbers, flooring, dimension lumber and siding and other finish types of lumber. In 1952 I moved to California and worked in several lumber yards, preparing orders for delivery to building sites.

Finding that work in that business was seasonal, I took the exam for postal clerk, passed it, and was subsequently employed at the San Jose, California post office. Later I transferred to the Eugene, Oregon post office and worked there until retiring in 1979. Being given credit for my time served in the U.S. Army, I was able to retire with 30 years service after having actually worked as a postal clerk for 25 years.

Other: My uncle Issac (Ike) Holmes taught me the half dozen or so tunes he knew on the fiddle, when I was 8 years old. I had a "good ear" and could learn most tunes quickly; sometimes after hearing them only once. Consequently, I found myself playing on the first radio station in Eugene on a program called "AT YOUR COMMAND." This was in the days before tape, when all of the programs were "live." People would phone in a request, and, if I knew it, I'd play it. If not, the other member of the duo, a man named Michaels, would play it. This continued for several years. My mother finally decided that I would learn to play the violin. So, after playing the fiddle for several years "by ear," as they say, I started taking violin lessons. One result of this was that I learned to read music. Because I could read music, I played in school orchestras throughout my school years.

I would like to emphasize, though, that I feel quite strongly that a fiddler is far better off NOT reading music. Perhaps I should re-state it this way: It may be good to be able to read music, but I prefer not to. Here's why: It is my firm belief that one has a far better grasp of the tune and retains it better if

one does NOT depend on the written music. I believe that it is too easy to depend upon and refer to the music as it is written down. If a person has the music firmly in mind, one does not need to refer to the written down notes.

---

Don Lindsey

My name is Donald N. Lindsey. I was born October 14, 1922 in Fort Smith, Arkansas. My family moved to Falun, Alberta, Canada when I was about 1 year old.

We lived in a sparsely settled rural community. I received my elementary education in a one room country school.

We were a family of seven boys and two girls, myself being the youngest. Most of the boys played music while my mother and two sisters sang. We had many jam sessions at our house with my older brothers and several neighbors. It was at one such session that my oldest brother Glen and his friend, who was a saxophone player, composed the song that I played for our tape; "The Battle River Waltz." At one time we had a band made up completely of members from our family, a fiddler, guitarist, banjo player and drummer. When I was old enough to join in with my brothers, Glen switched to playing the clarinet in order to make room for me to play the fiddle. We played for dances and parties, usually in local school houses.

In 1939 Canada went to war with Germany. That interrupted our music. I joined the Royal Canadian Air Force, served in England till 1945. After I was discharged from the Air Force I returned to the U. S. I came to Oregon in 1946 and pursued the trade of Sheet Metal Worker and Stainless Steel Fabricator.

In the early 1960's I again became interested in music, mainly fiddle music. This was about the time the O.O.T.F.A. was formed. I remember and was impressed by old timers like Merve Witmore, Rusty and Larry Modrell, Bill Yohey, Loyd Wanzer, John Melnichuk, Harold Allen, Everett Lee, Jimmie Miller, Charlie Johnson and the younger ladies Penny Mead and Carol Ann Wheeler and so many others that played in Tillamook and Forest Grove during that time.

I bought a fiddle from violin maker Roy Fry in Garden Home and have been working with it ever since. Of course I didn't have much time to practice until I retired on December 31, 1984. While I may never be an accomplished musician I do love to play. Music brings me much pleasure and has been and always will be a big part of my life.

Donald N. Lindsey

---

Faye Patterson

I'm not much of a musician but I play from the heart and soul. I hope it shows. I was born in McDonald County Missouri in 1923. My dad played fiddle all of my young life. He bought me a uke. When I was probably 8 years old, I learned to play it as my first instrument. Later he bought me a guitar which I still have. I chorded for my Dad - only knowing 3 chords. I had no desire to play the fiddle. That was for older people, I thought.

I went to the mandolin which I still play. I never learned to read music as no music was taught in school.

In 1939 I married and we came to Oregon. My husband, Isom, played guitar for his Dad, also. After coming to Oregon we got together occasionally with 3 or 4 other musicians and had home parties.

In 1944 my father passed away and Dad's fiddle was taken to Illinois by his half-brother where it was hung on the wall and never used. In 1983 my brother made a trip to Illinois and brought Dad's fiddle back to Oregon. After much work was done on it, it was playable once more! My brother and I started fooling around with the fiddle and could play a tune. We both bought fiddles and we were off on another fun experience.

Isom and I joined the O.O.T.F.A. in 1983 – what a pleasure. Yes, it takes away the stress and worries for awhile. I've had many music highs over the years and the many friends we met there have made it extra special. The music is wonderful.

---

Chuck Hasty

I was born in 1917 and raised in the hills of Kentucky. My father was a share-cropper and our greatest enjoyment was music. My grandfather gave me my first fiddle and harmonica at around age of eight. It wasn't long before I was joining my friends and neighbors in playing at square dances, in homes, schools, etc. I never took music lessons in school. All of my playing is country style and by ear.

I left home on a freight train at age 16, taking my fiddle with me. (I still have that fiddle.) I soon got lost in the fast world outside the Kentucky hills but never lost the feeling, fact or sense of where I came from.

It would be great to get more young people involved to carry on the old traditional style of music, after us old timers have moved on.

As you know, I'm one of the Oregon Old time fiddlers and very, very proud of it.

---

Dorothy Wehus

I was born March 11, 1925 in Thief River, Minnesota. I graduated from Lincoln High School in 1942. My only music was singing songs before school started from 1<sup>st</sup> grade through 8<sup>th</sup> grade.

My music came from a wind up phonograph and visiting my cousins that played music and listening to the radio when I was 9 years old. My grandfather was a widower and lived 1/4 of a mile from us. I would go over and wash his dishes, sweep his floor and cook his meals and he would sometimes give me twenty cents, and once in a while twenty five cents.

I saved this money until I had five dollars. Then I asked my mother to send for the guitar I had picked out in the Wards catalog. That's how I got my first guitar, at 11 years of age. My girl friend showed me how to play the key of D and the key of G. Then I sent for song books. I played my guitar in the evening when I had finished my chores. I would play for my younger sisters and brothers and they would give me a word and I would sing them a song I made up about the word they gave me. I grew up on a farm where there was a lot of work to be done. When I graduated, I went to work at a produce plant with my mother and I helped with the farm work, too. There were five children in my family younger than myself.

I left for San Francisco when I was 22 years old and found employment there with my sister who had left with me.

Many years later I went to Clackamas Community College and there I took a Country Music class of Country and Gospel Folk Music. I got 2 credits for that as I needed to be a full time student. That's what got me into a small band called the "Fiddle Sticks." We played at nursing homes and Senior Centers in the surrounding area from Woodburn to Oregon City and Molalla. It was at this time a mutual friend signed us up in the Oregon Old Time Fiddlers, about 1985 if I recall correctly.

---

Alan Ede

I was born in 1933, or so they tell me. In 1938 I started to play the piano, a toy one like Shroeder has in the funnies. Soon my parents got a real one, and I played the piano off and on through high school. From 1951 to 1955 I went to Worcester Polytechnic Institute, and when I wasn't studying, which was more of the time than it should have been, I took up the guitar, the mandolin, and the lap steel.

From 1955 to 1960, I worked at Raytheon in Waltham and Burlington in Massachusetts. Still resided in Worcester, got into square dancing, met Carol at one, and we were married in 1957. Musically, I had to dump country-western, largely because of the influence of the puerile rock music that had reared its ugly head during the 50's. Instead, I called and played square dances, quite successfully. From 1966 to

1968, I went to OSU for my advanced degree, received in August 1968. Although most of my time was spent hitting the books, I did partake of the hoots in the MU Ballroom. These were not hootenannies, however, but an open-mike performance-oriented kind of thing.

Back to Maine in 1968. The folk music craze was over, so I went back to calling and running dances. In 1971, with Carol's support, I kicked over my now tenured position at UMO to come back to Oregon to stay. We bought a house in Corvallis, and a corner of the garage became the home of DIRIGO Electronics Engineering. From 1971 to 1998, I manufactured electrofishing equipment for fisheries research, which I developed from the prototype I designed in 1964 at UMO. There turned out to be a good opportunity for teaching folks to play, however, largely to those who enjoyed the folk music of the 1960's but hadn't had the chance to learn to play then. I taught classes in banjo, mandolin, and guitar, mostly through the Corvallis Parks and Recreation Dep't. In the meantime I got a couple of mandolin-banjos. These have a banjo body and a mandolin neck, and are played like a mandolin. One sounded much better than the other, and much experimentation followed. I began to collect them, and I began going to garage sales, buying bicycles, reconditioning them, and reselling them, largely to finance my new hobby.

I joined the Oregon Old time Fiddlers, and have enjoyed the association a good deal. Especially enjoyable is the weekly jam at Guthrie Park Community Center near Dallas.

In 1997, I sold DIRIGO, and retired. In my spare time I am taking up the fiddle and the piano accordion. The fiddle is fingered the same as a mandolin, and I am making good progress, in spite of the fact that I am not practicing very much. Since I already play the piano, I am finding the accordion quite easy to learn, again in spite of my lack of practice.

I am ready to jam anytime with anyone who will put up with me. Alan Ede

This is not a very good picture but there was a blank spot on this page so it will take up some space. Who do you think it might be? 1. Fred Hardin, 2. Bob Fast, 3. Bill Yohey. 4. Or none of the above.



"If you find mistakes in this publication, please consider that they are there for a purpose. We try to publish something for everyone, and some people are always looking for mistakes."

## Ace Wehus

I have been exposed to old time fiddling music from the time I was born – in Minnesota, 22 March, 1922. My dad was an old time Norwegian fiddler. He started playing at the age of 5 and at the age of 6 was playing for dances. Late in the evening after he came in from work, us kids would be in bed and we would hear him play his fiddle. Then again before we got out of bed, he would start playing his fiddle again about 4 A.M. He would play about an hour before going about the business of running a farm.

I can remember many the Saturday nights of going to bed amongst the overshoes and coats in the closet of the Modern Woodman Building where dances were held. He played for years on the radio sponsored by the REA program.

When it comes to music exposure via Music Appreciation, I fondly look back to the time of my first and second grade teacher. We were all in one room. The first period of every school day just after the pledge of allegiance, she would wind up her wind up record player and we would have to join hands with a girl and march around the room keeping time to the music.

After graduating from high school I left home to seek my fortune out west. After aircraft schooling I went to work for North American Aviation then later going into the Army Air Force during the war and retiring from the Air Force after over twenty years of service for service connected disabilities.

The instrument I play is a violin-uke that I got from my father-in-law for fixing up an old fiddle for him. I often play it a fiddle jams. But mostly to occupy myself at the jams, after realizing we were losing the old time flavor and much of the old time music, I decided on making videos to help perpetuate the old style music as played in the “Oregon way.” Dorothy and I traveled over the state obtaining original fiddling music and songs as originated by members and /or former members of the Oregon Old Time Fiddlers Association.



This drawing of the Oregon Fiddle Family was drawn by Karen Farness Holt, daughter-in-law of Lew and Alice Holt. She lives in Woodinville, Washington.

## The officers of the Oregon Old Time Fiddlers Association

Although the officers are an important part of the history of our association, the general membership is equally as important but listing the members would be a book by itself. The following list is dedicated to the officers who have served this association each year – starting in 1967.

<u>YEARS</u>	<u>PRESIDENT</u>	<u>VICE-PRESIDENT</u>	<u>SEC.- TREASURER</u>	<u>HOEDOWNER EDITOR</u>
1967-68	Cliff Buker	Harold Allen	Bill Yohey	Cliff Buker
1968-69	Don Leith	Bob Hawes	Bill Yohey	Leona Leith
1969-70	C. Johnson	Bob Hawes	Ron Gimm	Charles Johnson
1970-71	Bill Yohey	Marshall Jackson	Earlene Gimm	Ron Gimm
1971-72	Wayne Holmes	Ron Gimm	Earlene Gimm	Ron Gimm
1972-73	Wayne Holmes	Earl Aulman	Geraldine Virtue-sec. Earlene Gimm-Treas.	Ron Gimm
1973-74	Don Gish	L. D. Daniel	Evelyn Walter	Roy Walker
1974-75	Wayne Walter	Jonas Cox	Dulcie Fast	June Secor
1975-76	Jim Secor	Hugh Samples	Dulcie Fast	Evelyn Walter
1976-77	Jim Secor	John Melnichuk	Edna Yohey	Evelyn Walter
1977-78	J. Melnichuk	LeRoy Sims	Edna Yohey	Evelyn Walter
1978-79	LeRoy Sims	Les Tucker	Gynn Deaton	Evelyn Walter
1979-80	Les Tucker	David Boyd	Gynn Deaton	Lois Tucker
1980-81	Les Tucker	David Boyd	Etta Powell	Lois Tucker
1981-82	David Boyd	Jim Deaton	Etta Powell	Lois Tucker
1982-83	Bill Yohey	Leonard Maahs	Maxine Benson	Lee Jones
1983-84	Leonard Maahs	Fred Virtue	Maxine Benson	Lee Jones
1984-85	Buck Milligan	Maxine Benson	Gynn Deaton	Thelma Shephard
1985-86	Maxine Benson	Lew Holt	Gynn Deaton	Thelma Shephard
1986-87	Maxine Benson	Lew Holt	Gynn Deaton	Thelma Shephard
1987-88	Lew Holt	Bob Fast	Gynn Deaton	Dolores Booher
1988-89	Lew Holt	Shorty Dow	Lee Jones	Dolores Booher
1989-90	Mark Carmickle	Zelma Foote	Lee Jones	Barbara Garcia
1990-91	Mark Carmickle	Zelma Foote	Linda Carver	Barbara Garcia
1991-92	Zelma Foote	Jim Lockard	Linda Carver	Barbara Garcia
1992-93	Zelma Foote	Jim Lockard	Linda Carver	Barbara Garcia
1993-94	Lew Holt	Joe Levine	Margaret Teague	Joy Halliwell
1994-95	Lew Holt	Chad Terrusa	Margaret Teague	Joy Halliwell
1995-96	Chad Terrusa	Jack Kerr	Myrtle Arnold	Joy Halliwell
1996-97	Louis Roy	Roger Germundson	Myrtle Arnold	Joy Halliwell
1997-98	R. Germundson	Sally Jordan	Myrtle Arnold	Lew Holt
1998-99	R. Germundson	Sally Jordan	Myrtle Arnold	Lew Holt
1999-00	Fred Hardin	Roger Germundson	Myrtle Arnold	Lew Holt

Statistics: Pages 178 -- Words 87,011 -- Characters (no space) 400,800 -- Characters (with spaces) 488,570 -- Paragraphs 3,230 -- Lines 8,259 (Thought you would want to know that.)

This represents the history of the OOTFA from 1967 to the year 2000. I hope that you, the reader, enjoyed it and find it of value. I have enjoyed compiling it for you.

Lew Holt