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THE FIDDLERS' CONVENTION

Season's Rarest Treat Announced for Tuesday Evening Next

TUESDAY evening next, March 25, is the Date, Carolina Music Hall the Place, and the annual Convention of Native Fiddlers and Banjo Pickers the Event; the rarest treat of all the year. ¶ From good old Scotland the custom has been handed down, and as redolent with the spirit of the Highlands it is today as it was in distant 1700.

In this connection interesting historical facts concerning the people and the section and the convention itself were read by Mr. Leonard Tufts last year, which are especially apropos in this advance announcement. ¶ The battle of Culloden in Scotland, in 1746, was the decisive battle in the long struggle between the reigning House of Hanover and the House of Stuart, and in this battle the Scotch who fought for Prince Charles Stuart were completely routed and large numbers of them emigrated to this country. King George II of England was anxious to capture Prince Charles Stuart, but Flora McDonald, a young Scotch woman, disguised him as her servant, and embarked with him to France. Afterward she returned to Scotland, was arrested and placed in the tower of London. On being asked by his majesty why she aided his enemy, she replied, "I did for him, sire, no more than I would do for you, if you needed my help." His majesty was so pleased that he liberated her, and soon she married Allen McDonald and they joined their Highland friends who had settled in this section.

The different sections of North Carolina were settled by emigrants from different countries, and the boundaries of these are nearly as distinct today as they were one hundred years ago. The people of this section were and are almost entirely Scotch, and the customs they brought from their native country have been handed down from father to son. As they did not travel, and as they fought every outsider who tried to settle here, the customs have changed but little, and it is said that one can get a better idea of what Scotland was in 1750 here than by visiting Scotland. Gaelic is still spoken by a few old men in this section, and only fifty years ago the service was preached in Gaelic. The hand loom and spinning wheel are still used and some of the old people still adhere to the quaint customs of the Highlands.

One of the customs that was brought over is the Fiddlers' Convention, which is a contest to see which is the best fiddler of the section. The method of holding the instrument is the same as was used in Scotland by the men who fiddled for reels. And when you consider that it is necessary to make the music loud enough to be heard above the noise of thirty or forty heavy boots executing a reel, and that these continued for hours, you can readily understand that the method of holding the instrument, we are familiar with, would take the strength and endurance of a Sandow. The airs are mostly music used for dancing the old Scotch reels, and many of them are unquestionably the same as were played in the Highlands of Scotland in 1700. Each generation has taught the next and very few of the airs have ever been written, and probably none of the players can read music written for a violin.

It is customary to open the Convention by all playing the same air, "The Mississippi Sawyer," and then each player in turn plays a piece and is judged as to his ability. The name of each contestant and the piece he selects will be announced by the judges before each number. Each contestant will be limited to five minutes, and the judges will be allowed to call on each as many times as they desire. While the judges are making their decisions some of the fiddlers have volunteered to play duets and dance. Each player will be paid one dollar and there will be three prizes for the fiddlers of five dollars, three dollars and two dollars, and two for the banjo pickers of three dollars and two dollars. Arrangements have been made for several banjo players which is a more modern instrument and is now usually introduced into a Fiddlers' Convention. The object of the collection to be taken is to aid the Public School, which is doing such good work among the children.

IN HONOR OF ST. PATRICK

(Concluded from page one)

dler; Frank Courtney, Hod Carrier; Gerald Sylvester, "Coon"; James Austin, Mexican Gentleman; G. W. Scott, Tin Whistle Golfer; Wm. Jordan, Parcels Post.

The list of prize winners included the following: FIRSTS—William Jordan, Andrew Amazeen, Luella Smith, May Kelleher, Mabel Hutchinson, Goldie Davis, Catherine Murphy, Elizabeth Murray, Beatrice Joyce, May Hopkins, Catherine McAnney, Margaret Folger, Alice Bland, Belle Breslin, Carl Nelson, George Scott, Charles Morrissey.

SECONDS—James Austin, John Gilligan, Mary Breslin, Mary Gaughan, Celia Walsh, Inez Stewart, Lizzie Carter, Annie Rollins, H. J. Fiske, Catherine Kennedy, Lewis Warren, Nellie Aldrich, Maude Mullen, Mae Burke, Lillian McAnney, Marjorie McAnney, Henry Piper, John Moylan, Henry Ruell, Gladys Gardyne, Annie Devine, Loretta Watters.

THIRDS—Edna Gardyne, Eliza Hutchinson, Delia Burke, Mary Murphy, Madge Smith, Anna Hildreth, Dora Crull, Katherine Kelley, William Moylan, William Downing, Frank Courtney, Carrie Egan, Delia Conroy, Laura Williamson, Mary Walsh, Beatrice Reynolds, Katherine Elvin, Katherine McDonald, Annie Wright and Edith Marsh.

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