



Wilbur Foss of Scotland will be among those inducted into the South Dakota Country Music Hall of Fame this Sunday during ceremonies at Oacoma. The 90-year-old Foss lost several fingers as a child, but then took up the fiddle at age 55. He is one of the driving forces behind the Old Time Fiddlers, whose annual Old Time Fiddle Contest and Jamboree is set for Yankton Sept. 16-18.

Foss Fiddles Way To Fame

... As In The S.D. Country Music Hall Of Fame, Which The Scotland Musician Will Enter Sunday

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF
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SCOTLAND — When he was 3 years old, Wilbur Foss lost 3 1/2 fingers when his father accidentally ran over the boy's left hand with a grain binder.

"My father felt so awful about it, that we never talked about it," Foss said of the accident.

Because of the loss of his fingers, Foss never attempted to play the fiddle even though he had a passion for the instrument.

"I never tried to play, because I was right-handed," Foss said. "I needed my left hand for pressing the fiddle against me so I could play the strings."

Then, at age 55, Foss underwent a life-changing moment when he saw a one-armed fiddler from Missouri.

"The man put the bow between his knees and then straightened up and moved the fiddle over the bow," Foss said. "I thought, if he can do that, I can learn to play with my left hand. I played with my left hand and held the fiddle in my right hand."

Despite his late start, Foss quickly became legendary for his fiddle-playing ability and for organizing the South Dakota Old Time Fiddlers about 40 years ago. He has been inducted into several halls of fame.

Now, at age 90, the Scotland man has added another honor to that list. He will be inducted Sunday into the South Dakota Country Music Hall of Fame.

"This is really exciting," he said. "It's kind of nice when you get to be 90 years old."

The annual induction ceremony will be held at Cedar Shore resort on the banks of the Missouri River at Oacoma/Chamberlain. The festivities begin at 2 p.m. The doors open at noon with a "meet and greet" along with an autograph and photo session prior to the show.

"I will be given about 15 minutes to perform," Foss said. "That should give me time to do about five numbers."

I have composed about three or four fiddle tunes and one country song. Donnie Miller from Watertown will be my back-up."

Besides Foss and Miller, the other inductees are Dick Linneman, John Grosz, Brian Winter, Bill Chrastil, Clover Potter, Ira Callies, Janice Gilbert, Kenny Miller, and Williams and Ree.

The inductees are all nominated by their peers or friends/family members. The inductees are selected based on their accomplishments in entertainment and the promotion of country music in South Dakota.

The Hall of Fame's work is done by volunteers and by using South Dakota merchants. The hall seeks to promote the state as well as honor its musicians. In addition, the hall contributes a donation to an elementary school for use in their music program. A school is nominated by each inductee.

"It's nice to be selected by your peers, but I had never played with this (South Dakota Country Music Hall of Fame)," Foss said. "I didn't know much about them except what I read in the papers. They didn't know much about me except what they had read and what they heard from one or two of their members."

But the two parties soon became one when the newly-elected Foss joined the Hall of Fame members for their monthly jam session near Baltic on a recent Sunday afternoon.

"(The Hall of Fame members) had been together for years, and here I was just joining them," Foss said. "They play more modern country than the fiddlers. We probably play with guitar and piano and bass, and they have got drums, a strong bass sound, and their music is probably more slanted toward dancing."

For the jam session, Donnie Miller of Watertown

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Delmont Set To Host A Festival Of Festivals This Weekend

BY ELIZABETH "SAM" GROSZ
P&D Correspondent

DELMONT — A pan of kuchen, a chance to experience a South Dakota Air National Guard Fly-Over, a big parade, and a chance to see some old-style farming are just a few of the many things available this weekend in Delmont.

Months of hard work by various committees working with the 125th Anniversary, Kuchen Festival and Old Time Harvest Festival will be coming together for a grand celebration.

The addition of the 125th Anniversary to the 15th annual Kuchen Festival and the eighth annual Old Time Harvest Festival has created more events and more excitement. Downtown businesses have jumped on the bandwagon and evening entertainment is planned for both tonight (Friday) and Saturday night. The No Place is having a DJ both evenings, Flippy Cup Competition tonight and the Jackie Berry Benefit Memorial Poker Run Saturday afternoon.

The Delmont Steakhouse & Lounge is offering karaoke tonight, and owner John Connor is carrying the entertainment out into the street for a street dance on Saturday night.

The 125th Anniversary parade on Saturday morning, with a flyover by the Air National Guard to

kick it off, promises to be a one of the largest events of the weekend. Lexine Goehring and Nola Redd have been working overtime to encourage classes, families, businesses and organizations to enter floats and vehicles in the parade that begins at 10:30 a.m.

"At least 50 floats have registered already," said Redd, noting there are many more entries besides the floats. Several bands have indicated they would be attending also.

Grand Marshals Agnes Williams and Frieda Baier, joined by Parade Marshal Norb Wenzel, will be joined by other notables in the parade. Miss Teen South Dakota International, Alana Bertsch, also is planning to be in the parade.

At 8 a.m. Saturday, a 5K Run and Fun Walk will have the athletically inclined out in force. Mike Williams ran with the idea and now has Sally Harrington and Scott Redd also helping with the event.

Scott Andersh reports he is hoping for at least 20 vehicles to stop off after the parade at the Car Show planned for 1 p.m. at the Zion Lutheran Church parking lot.

Earla Strid, president of the Historical Society of Delmont, said there are more crafters than space for them at the Legion Hall this year where the Kuchen

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