

2006 Lineup Coming Together *by Bill Long*

The 2006 Festival will include many of the performers that you have most requested. The tentative line-up (and it is tentative!) includes **Ian** and **Regina Whitcomb**, as well as, **Bob Milne**. Ian and Regina will be appearing throughout the festival, while Bob will perform at one of the night concerts and do a symposium. We are proud to tell you that **Colm O'Brien** (if none of his kids get married this year) from Ireland, **John Gill** from Australia, and the **Royal Candian Saxophones** will be performing. We are negotiating to bring **Hoyle Osborne** and his long-time partner, **Jane Voss**, to the Festival.

We are really excited to announce that a trio from the Hungarian **Bohem Ragtime Jazz Band** will be performing at various events at the Festival and I know you will love them. We have had many requests to bring the whole orchestra, and while we couldn't afford the entire group this year, we are bringing three of them to Sedalia. Other ensembles include the **Skirtlifters** on Thursday, the **Creole Dixieland Jazz Band** on Friday, and **The New Red Onion Jazz Babies** on Saturday. The **TurpinTyme Ragsters** will play for the Ragtime Dance on Friday night.

Other performers slated to return include **Anne** and **Jeff Barnhart**, **Mimi Blais**, **Susan Cordell**, **Prof. Bill Edwards**, **Brian Holland**, **Nora Hulse**, **Glenn Jenks**, **Sue Keller**, **Dave Majchrzak**, **Patsy Matinger**, **Marty Mincer**, **Dan Mouyard**, **Terry Parrish**, **John Petley**, **Jim Radloff**, **Don Ryan**, **Alex Sandor**, **Mike Schwimmer**, **Steve Standiford**, **Virginia Tichenor**, **Dave Tucker**, **Adam Yarian**, **Brett Youens**, etc. etc. etc. We are really glad that some of our newest attendees from California (the **Bradfords**, **Washboard Kitty**, **Ragtimer Sue**) are returning. They were a wonderful addition to the Sedalia Ragtime "Family." Also new last year were **Paul Stewart** and **Tony Custer**, and hopefully we will see these talented individuals again. I hope I can persuade **Ethan Custer** to return and do some emceeing, and performing.

Among those presenting a symposium are **David Reffkin** (who will give us highlights of 25 years of taped interviews from the Sedalia Festival), Prof. Bill Edwards and Mimi Blais. There will be 10 symposia and 2 Master Classes over the five day festival. We included some adults in the master class last year and this proved highly successful. If you are an adult or child who wants to participate in the lessons, please let us know soon. These spots fill quickly and preference is given to children.

The best new parts of Festival 2005 were the new free venue at the Katy Depot (thanks Sedalia Chamber of Commerce) and the Cakewalk Hall as the location for dance instruction. Cakewalk Hall (despite the local busybodies and pecking hens spreading the word of impending catastrophe and doom) proved to be most excellent in every way. For the first time in Festival history, we did not hear complaints about the dance floor, the dance location, and the heat (the old dance tent was the pits and the criticisms were highly justified). Thanks to the VFW and the terrific dancers. Regina Whitcomb and **Rod Biensen** (along with his partner) will guide the activities here in 2006.

Open pianos at the Maple Leaf Antique Mall, Katy Depot, and Firm in the Faith Ministries Freedom Center Church were busy most of the time. Thanks also to them. The Ragtime Store's new "Meet and Greet" was also well received. The Swap Meet made a return to the Festival last

year, by request, and will continue on at the 2006 Festival in the Courthouse lobby (provided they are willing to let us in again!).

If you want to be scheduled to play ragtime at the 2006 Festival, you must let the office know by the end of February 2006. (Many have already contacted us) Schedules must be completed by March 15, 2006, and we want to include everyone who wants to be included. The only stipulation is that you must perform ragtime. You know how many entertainers will be there (almost 100 last year) and it is essential that you let us know when you are arriving and when you are departing so that the most accommodating schedule may be made. One deletion or one addition after the schedule is complete causes the entire schedule to change. I am getting too old and too stupid to keep it all straight over and over again--so please--let us know ASAP.

I can't wait to see you at Festival 2006. You are great fans, and we want to bring you the best fest, feasts, and fetes ever. ~ Bill Long