HAIL TO THE BIG CHIEF!

Because the fabled Getaway falls on the weekend when the FSGW would otherwise have its October program, we're going to have a September program this year, on Friday the 13th. (Yeah, I know, but the performer doesn't mind—why should you?) And what a program it will be!

BIG CHIEF ELLIS is a big, hulking piano player, rooted in barrelhouse, blues and boogie-woogie. Born in Birmingham, Alabama, in 1914, he has played with Sonny Terry and Brownie McGhee, Louisiana Red, Tarheel Slim, LeRoy Dallas and others. If you were at the remarkable National Folk Festival out at Wolf Trap, maybe you were lucky enough to hear him play. Crowds of people came loping down the hill to listen as he was pounding it out at the piano styles workshop. He has recorded for a variety of record companies (Atlantic, Savoy, Victor, etc.), but, unfortunately for all the people who might have been turned on to him if they had known who he was, it was always either anonymously or under a pseudonym. When he first began playing, so the story goes, no one, not even his parents, knew that he was doing it. He used to go over to his aunt's house on pretexts such as mowing the lawn, just to get his hands on a piano. The discovery that he could play came as a complete surprise to his parents, and later on, to Sonny and Brownie, who knew him only as a friend and drinking buddy. For the FSGW program, he'll be playing the first half by himself, and then will be joined by Washington blues collector and picker Ed Morris on guitar and Barry Foley on bass. Chief makes his home in Washington also, and you never knew it, right? Well, you're gonna find out! (You might ask him to play a great tune of his own, called "Dices, Oh Dices, Please Don't Crap On Me.")

–Jonathan

NOTE: Programs will be held at the Washington Ethical Society, 7750-16th St. NW, on the second Friday of each month (except October this year) at 8:30 p.m.
OTHER FSGW HAPPENINGS...

MARTIN CARTHY HOUSE CONCERT/AUGUST 30

Martin Carthy, one of the most influential traditional singers in England and a founder of the group "Steeleye Span," is currently on a short visit to the States. He has agreed to perform for the Society on Friday, August 30, at 8:00 p.m. at the home of our president, Helen Schneyer, 3908 Prospect Street, in Kensington, Maryland.

Almost a living legend in England, Martin has recorded many albums of traditional music and has worked extensively with such notables as Dave Swarbrick of Fairport Convention fame. If the weather is suitable, we will hold the concert in Helen's yard, so bring a sweater and a blanket. A donation of $1.50 is requested for members, and $2.00 for non-members.

-Bill

LABOR DAY SONGFEST/SEPTEMBER 2

The fourth annual Labor Day Songfest, co-sponsored by the Folklore Society, the AFL-CIO Labor Studies Center, the American Federation of Musicians, and the National Park Service will be held on Monday, September 2, at the Sylvan Theater on the Washington Monument Grounds at 7:00 p.m. Admission is Free, and already scheduled to appear are Joe Glazer, Helen Schneyer, John Jackson, Joe Hickerson, Jonathan Eberhart, and Michael Quitt. The program will be hosted by Archie Green, and will include a variety of new and old occupational and union songs.

-Bill

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING/SEPTEMBER 3

The September meeting of the Executive Board will be Tuesday, September 3, at 8:00 p.m. in the office of the National Folk Festival Association, 1346 Conn. Ave. NW, Suite 1118. The meeting is open to members of the Society. We are grateful to the NFFA for letting us use their office for our meetings.

FIRST FRIDAY OPEN SING/SEPTEMBER 6

The September Open Sing will be held once again on the first Friday of the month at the Ethical Society, 7750-16th St. NW. This month's sing will be led by Ted Strader, and his theme will be "Hardships and Good Times." A donation of $1.00 at the door covers the cost of wine and other refreshments. The evening begins at 9:00 p.m. Everyone welcome!

ALISTAIR ANDERSON HOUSE CONCERTINA/SEPTEMBER 17

Also on a brief visit to the U.S. is Alistair Anderson, without significant doubt the finest English Concertina player in the world. Alistair will give a combination workshop-concert for the Society on Tuesday, September 17, at the home of Ted Strader, 7903 Glenbrook Road, Bethesda, Maryland, at 8:00 p.m. The evening will start with a brief discussion of the history of the English Concertina and its continuing role in English traditional music, to be followed by a concert during which Alistair will play a wide variety of traditional tunes. Those who saw him at Fox Hollow already know the treat in store for us. Once again, a donation of $1.50 is requested for members, and $2.00 for non-members.

-Bill

SACRED HARP SING/???

Singing from the Sacred Harp and potluck supper will probably be held either Sept. 15 or 22, depending on the desires of the potential host. If you would like to have the sing at your house, or want to know when and where it's going to be, call Arlene Rodenbeck at 337-4353.

For these events, we gather at someone's home and sing songs from The Original Sacred Harp and the Christian Harmony, two shape-note hymn books that are collections of hymns and gospel tunes arranged in four-part harmony. These and other books like them are part of a Southern tradition that still flourishes today, primarily in Georgia, Alabama, and Mississippi.
SACRED HARP, CONTINUED

We start singing about 4:00 p.m., and break at 6:00 for a usually scrumptious supper (everyone brings something for others to share). Then we resume singing until about 9:00, or whenever voices give out. If you enjoy singing, here's your opportunity. It isn't really necessary to be able to read music, and you certainly don't need to have a "good voice," whatever that is.

-Arlene

WHAT SOME FOLKS ARE DOING...

HELEN'S RECORD IS OUT!

At long last, Helen Schneyer's record, "Ballads, Broadsides and Hymns," has been released by Folk-Legacy Records. Included are eleven of Helen's favorites, plus her own notes about the songs and the singing of them. The cost is $5.00, and if you buy it from Helen, she gets the commission!

BRUCE HUTTON CONCERT/SEPT. 27

Bruce Hutton is fast becoming one of Washington's well known performers of folk music, and the Ethical Society is pleased to present Bruce in concert on Friday, September 27 at 8:30 p.m. Admission will be $2.

Bruce plays mostly traditional American folk music, specializing in blues and old-time tunes. He accompanies himself on guitar, banjo, mandolin, autoharp and dulcimer. His Doc Watson style picking will amaze you! Most people know Bruce as the MC at the Red Fox on Monday evenings, but he also performs at many clubs and coffeehouses in the area. Hear him now, before he becomes famous and leaves town!

-Arlene

FSGW MEMBERS WIN PRIZES AT FESTIVALS!

Congratulations go to the following people who won prizes at some of this past season's contests: at the Mountain Heritage Fiddle & Banjo Contest held in Keyser, West Virginia on April 27, DAVE MC KELWAY won first prize in the fiddle contest and REED MARTIN won first prize in the old time banjo contest (for the second year in a row). At Pioneer Days, held in Marlinton, West Virginia on July 13 and 14, GENE ANDERSON placed fourth in the "miscellaneous" division of the contest held there. He came in right behind Maggie Hammons of the Hammons family. And, on July 27, MIKE RIVERS won first prize in the banjo contest at the Brandywine Mountain Music Convention, Concordville, Pennsylvania. Who have we missed? Let us know, and we'll give you the credit you deserve.

-Arlene

ANY VOLUNTEERS?

Bruce Hutton is co-chairman of the Music Docent Program of the Smithsonian Institution this year. Volunteers are needed to demonstrate folk instruments in the elementary schools in the area. You do not need a great deal of skill for this job--interest and enthusiasm are more important. If you can give one or two mornings a month to share some music with some children, call Bruce at 270-2217.

A REMINDER: Last season the Executive Board voted to prohibit smoking in the auditorium of any building used by the Folklore Society during a concert or a program. We ask your cooperation in this matter, for the benefit of the audience as well as the performers.

The Washington Ethical Society will sponsor a Craft Show & Sale on October 26 and 27. If you'd like to show/sell some of your own work, please contact Lynne Schocke at 387-3305.

-Nan
RALPH LEE SMITH TO TEACH DULCIMER CLASS

A course on the Appalachian dulcimer, taught by Ralph Lee Smith, is being offered by the Arlington County Recreation Division, under a grant from the Virginia Council on the Arts. It will be held one evening a week, for one hour, for ten weeks beginning September 24th and running through November 25th. The location is Lee Center, 5722 Lee Highway (corner of Lee & Lexington), Arlington, Virginia. At present, one beginning class is scheduled, from 8:00 to 9:00 p.m., and an intermediate class from 9:00 to 10:00 p.m. Registration for the entire course, for Arlington County residents, is $20; for persons not residing in Arlington County, $30. Those wishing to join the class should call Lynn Mailloux of the Arlington County Recreation Division, 558-2152.

- R.L.S.

BLUEGRASS AND SUCH...

FOLK AND BLUEGRASS AT GLEN ECHO

Free concerts every Sunday evening from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. are being presented at Glen Echo Park by the National Folk Festival Association in cooperation with the National Park Service. Here is the schedule for the rest of the season:

2 - Liz Meyer & Friends
8 - The Bluegrass Association
15 - Irish Ceilidh with Mickey Maloney & Eugene O'Donnell
22 - Steel Unlimited
29 - Tracy and Eloise Schwartz

Oct. 6 - Takoma Mandoleers

Glen Echo Park is located on MacArthur Boulevard, just below Goldsboro Road.

 BLUEGRASS OPEN SING/SEPTEMBER 20

The Ethical Society sponsors a Bluegrass Open Sing on the third Friday of every month, starting at 9:00 p.m., similar to the first Friday Open Sing, but with more emphasis on group picking. There are several classrooms downstairs which can be used as well as the large meeting room upstairs. Wine, cheese, and other refreshments are served in exchange for a donation of $1.00 at the door. Come join in the pickin' and grinnin'!

FIDDLE CONTEST/SEPTEMBER 7

A fiddle contest will be held at the Minnie Howard School, 3801 West Backdock Road (at King Street) in Alexandria, Virginia, on Saturday, September 7, at 1:00 p.m. The contest is part of the Colonial Arts & Crafts Festival, sponsored by the Alexandria Kiwanis. First prize is $150, and there are other prizes. There's no entry fee for fiddlers, but there is a $2.00 admission charge for non-fiddlers. Interested? Contact Henry Clark at 683-0148.

- Mike

BLUEGRASS BENEFIT CONCERT/SEPTEMBER 22

On Sunday, September 22, at 2:00 p.m., radio station WAMU-FM will present a bluegrass concert in the New Lecture Hall on the American University campus. Appearing on the program will be Seldom Scene, Grass Menagerie, Gross National Product, None Of The Above, and Destination Bluegrass. All proceeds from the concert will go to support WAMU-FM, a non-profit station, at 88.5 on your FM dial, where you can hear Gary Henderson's Bluegrass Show on Saturday morning from 8:00 till noon, and, on Sunday mornings, "Stained Glass Blue Grass" from 9:00 till 11:00. Tickets to the concert are $5.00 at the door, but are only $4.00 if ordered in advance from WAMU-FM, American University, Washington, D.C., 20016.
OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST...

HERE ARE THE WORDS' TO "DICES, OH DICES," BY BIG CHIEF ELLIS, WHO WILL PERFORM FOR US ON SEPT. 13:

Dices, oh dices, please don't crap on me.
You can throw seven or eleven,
but please don't throw no three.

I bet my last nickel, and I caught a point like nine,
That four come running and that three come like it was blind.

Run and tell my baby to send me some more spending change,
Because I have lost all my money in that rolling game.

I do love to drink and gamble,
but I stay broke all the time.
And the money I have to gamble with, it all be friend of mine.

Copyright 1/18/49 Chief Ellis

THE RED FOX IS STILL RUNNING

The Red Fox Inn at 4940 Fairmont Avenue in Bethesda, Maryland, has an open stage every Monday evening between 8:00 and midnight. Each performer sings two songs, and the emphasis is on traditional folk music. If you would like to perform, check in with Bruce Hutton, the MC, when you arrive. There's no admission, and it's lots of fun, so come on out next Monday.

During the rest of the week, the Red Fox is host to bluegrass groups, a different one each evening. For more information about who is playing, and how much the cover is, call the Fox at 652-4429.

Here's a list of your 1974-75 Executive Board, and their phone numbers:

President
Helen Schneyer .... 949-4552

Vice President
Debbie Hutton .... 270-2217

Treasurer
Rich Galloway .... 864-0723

Secretary
Pat Chambers .... 337-0960

Program
Jonathan Eberhart .... 667-0778

Special Events
Bill Destler .... 699-5816

Membership
Don Nichols .... 751-3162

Publications
Nan Goland .... 332-0232

Publicity
Bette Hamman .... 933-3295

Members-at-large
Mary Cliff .... 536-6900
Lars Hanslin .... 543-0956

Thanks to those who contributed to this issue:

Bill Destler
Jonathan Eberhart
Mike Rivers
Arlene Rodenbeck
Ralph Lee Smith

Got some news? Put it in writing! Deadline for the October issue is September 15. Items can either be given to me at Society events, or mailed to me at 2853 Ontario Road NW, #504, Washington, DC, 20009.
DATE SET FOR GETAWAY IX!!

The Folklore Society's annual Getaway weekend will be held October 11 through 14 at Prince William Forest Park near Dumfries, Virginia

As always, the Getaway will consist of an overdose of picking, grinning, singing, eating, socializing, concerts and workshops. Monday, October 14 is a holiday, and you're invited to stay over Sunday night if you want, though no special activities are planned for Monday. (If you have ideas for workshops, pass them on to Dave at 270-2217, or Linda at 320-5516.)

The campsite provides cabins and cots, you bring your own sleeping bag or bedding. Be sure to bring warm clothes, too, as it is likely to be chilly that weekend. Also, better be psychologically prepared for cold water only in the community johns. We are limited as to the number of cabin spaces available, so do get your registration in early. (We really are limited to the cabins this year--no bunking in the lodges.) The deadline for registration is September 14. Cabin assignments will be made on a first-come first-served basis, with preference to FSGW members. The earliest postmark will have preference in case of conflict. Payment must be included with your registration form, and no refunds can be made after September 14. Cabin assignments and maps will be mailed at a later date.

Costs for the entire weekend are $20 for adults, $10 for children under 16. This price includes all meals on Saturday and Sunday. Babies and toddlers who don't eat much or require bunk space will be admitted free.

If you'd like to camp nearby, or drive down for either Saturday and/or Sunday, costs for daily registration are $2.50 per day for adults, $1 per day for children under 16. Plan to bring your own food if you camp or come for the day, since no food will be sold at the camp. Camping may be arranged by contacting Prince William Forest Park, Dumfries, Virginia, 22026. You may register for the day until October 5, but it is important to register and pay in advance, since no money can be collected at the park.

All weekend registrants will be expected to help with chores at some point during the weekend, and all registrants will be expected to abide by the park regulations. This means NO PETS! We run the risk of not being allowed to use the park again for our Getaway if we do not cooperate. Therefore, NO PETS will be allowed in the camp AT ALL! No exceptions.

Want to come anyway? Then get out your pen and checkbook, fill out the registration, include your total payment with it, and send it, right away, to: FSGW Getaway, P.O. Box 19303, 20th Street Station, Washington, D.C., 20036.
# WEEKEND REGISTRATION

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**ARE YOU A MEMBER?**

**TOTAL**

**WOULD YOU LIKE TO SHARE A CABIN WITH SOMEONE IN PARTICULAR?**

**WHO MIGHT THAT BE?**

**ARE YOU AVAILABLE TO HELP ON FRIDAY?**

**MONDAY?**

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# DAILY REGISTRATION

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**ARE YOU A MEMBER?**

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MEMBERSHIP FORM

I/we want to join! Enclosed is:

____ $5.00 - One year, individual
____ $15.00 - Three year, individual
____ $7.50 - One year, family
____ $22.50 - Three year, family

NAME ___________________________ PHONE ___________________________

ADDRESS ____________________________________________________________

ZIP ___________________________

Would you be interested in helping the Society in any way? ________________

Is this a renewal? _______________ Change of address? _______________

LAST MINUTE BULLETINS FROM SOUTH AMERICA report that the tour group of North American musicians organized by the National Folk Festival Association and sponsored by the State Department is being very enthusiastically received! Those who attended Sunday night's concert at the National Folk Festival knew they would be. Members of the group who are giving concerts and workshops in at least nine countries in six weeks are Jim Griffith, our own ex-prez Andy Wallace, Luis Catala and Ernestina Reyes, Martin, Bogan & Armstrong, Highwoods String Band, the Bannerman Family clog dancers, and the Louisiana Aces.

Folklore Society of Greater Washington
P.O. BOX 19303, 20th Street Station
Washington, D.C. 20036