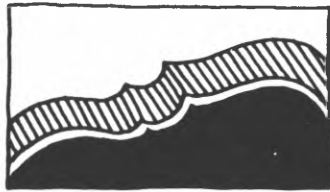


The
Folklore
Society
of Greater
Washington



Box 19303, 20th Street Station, Washington, DC 20036

NEWSLETTER

VOLUME XI, No. 4

DECEMBER, 1974

Nan Goland, Editor

THE RED CLAY RAMBLERS--PICKIN', SINGIN' AND RAVIN' FOR DECEMBER

Another country heard from. Or state, at least. Well, town. The Durham, North Carolina, old-time music scene (which a few years ago briefly lent the FSGW a fine picker and mellow friend, Bill de Turk) has been largely flavored for more than half a decade by the Fuzzy Mountain and Hollow Rock String Bands. Nowadays, the ball is carried --or bounced--by the Red Clay Ramblers, which is sort of an alumni association for the Rocks and Fuzzies. The RC's (now there's a nickname for a southern band) gather tunes from everyone from the Carter Family to Bo Carter to Fields Ward to the Georgia Yellowhammers. Fiddle tunes (old and auld), gospel music (black, white and who cares), crazies and comfortables--instrumental, unaccompanied (yay!) and all of the above. Nice double fiddle, by the way: Bill Hicks, who has nosed around the hills a lot and played with the likes of Tommy Jarrell, and Al McCanless, who blue-grassed for so long that his style goes well with Bill's more mountainy technique (Curly Ray lives!). Jim Watson plays guitar and mandolin and sings nice, as does Tommy Thompson, who also plays banjo and calls up in the middle of the night to say "Yes, we can make it! No, we can't. Wait! Yes, we can." The RC's (love it!) are also about to be part of an off-broadway something about the life of Jesse James, making music and acting along with some folks from another band. Tommy Thompson as Cole Younger? Hmm. Maybe they'll provide a sample.



-Jonathan

The December program is Friday, December 13 (!) at 8:30 PM at the Washington Ethical Society Building, 7750-16th Street, corner of Kalmia Road, in Northwest Washington. Admission is free to members, \$1.50 for non-members.

OTHER FSGW HAPPENINGS...

HOUSE CONCERT/DECEMBER 14

Dillon Bustin and Kathleen Restle, traditional musicians from Orleans, Indiana, will perform for the Society on Saturday, December 14 at 8:30 PM, at the home of Linda Ford, 5113 Wissioming Road in Glen Echo, Maryland. Dillon and Kathleen have collected many tunes, dances and ballads native to Indiana, and will sing and play their way through a variety of minstrel songs, dance tunes, work songs and spirituals from that area. Kathleen on fiddle and Dillon playing banjo and guitar make a fine two-person string band. A donation of \$1.50 is requested from members, \$2.00 from non-members. Call Linda at 320-5516 to get directions.

-Bill

OPEN SING/DECEMBER 6

The Society's monthly Open Sing will be held on Friday, December 6 at 9:00 PM at the Ethical Society, 7750-16th Street NW. The sing will be led by Al Kehs, who has chosen "Weather" as his topic. The sky's the limit! Donation of \$1.00 at the door includes refreshments inside.

-Bill

SACRED HARP SING/DECEMBER 15

Singing from the *Sacred Harp* and pot luck supper will be held at the home of Frank Daspit and Nell Hennessy in Northeast Washington on Sunday, December 15th, beginning at 4:00 PM. Call 526-0157 for directions and food ideas. There are a number of good Christmas texts in the *Sacred Harp* that would be fun to sing this month.

-Arlene

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING/DECEMBER 3

The Executive Board will meet on Tuesday, December 3, at 8:00 PM in the office of the National Folk Festival Association in the Dupont Circle Building, 1346 Connecticut Avenue NW, Suite 1118. All members of

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING, CONTINUED

the Society are welcome at these meetings, which are held the first Tuesday of each month, same time, same place.

CHRISTMAS CAROLING

During the holiday season, the Society generally sponsors a number of caroling events. What happens is this: folks gather at the home of a willing host, "warm up" for a hour or so, go out caroling in the neighborhood, then come back to the host's home for a while before heading home. It's lots of fun, and a good way for us to spread some cheer. Plan to join up with one or all of the caroling groups this year. Some of the starting points have been established, but we would like to have a few more, especially in Virginia. If you would like to host a caroling, call Bill Destler at 699-5816. He will put a list of dates and places together for distribution at the December program.

OTHER FSGW MATTERS...

JOB OPPORTUNITIES IN COMMUNICATIONS

My sincere thanks to Arlene Rodenbeck, who has been getting the Newsletter sent out to you since I became Editor. She has done this job before, though, and so have I. We both think some new talent is needed in this area. Could you give three or four hours a month to help the Society? What we need is two people who could come in to the NFFA office in the Dupont Circle Building when the Newsletters arrive there from the printer, usually about the 24th or 25th of the month, run them through the addressing machine and the postage meter. It's not such a big job when two people work together, and, just think, you'll know what the topic of the Open Sing is before all your friends do! The work can be done during the day or in the evening. If you can help, please call me at 332-0232.

-Nan

STARTING OUR SECOND DECADE IN STYLE

Over 200 members and friends of the Society helped launch our second decade in grand style at the 10th Anniversary Celebration on November 22. Our very capable Special Events Chairman, Bill Destler, organized the entire event, and rounded up the founders. John Dildine emceed the Founders Concert, and Bob Dalsimer called the very lively midnight squaredance. Bette Hamman organized the beautiful breakfast enjoyed by the energetic ones (lots of 'em!) who were able to last until three. Special thanks to all of the above for their hard work in making the event such a success. Thanks also to the band, the founders, and all the others who helped in many ways. It really was a fine celebration.

SEASON'S GREETINGS!!

Are you wondering what you can give your friends for Christmas that will be cheap and yet knock their socks off? Consider giving them memberships in the Folklore Society! An FSGW membership cannot be lost or stolen, and it gives year-round pleasure. You can use the membership form on the back of your Newsletter to give a gift membership; then tell your friends they'll start receiving their own Newsletter in January.

WHAT SOME FOLKS ARE DOING...

MARSHALL DODGE CONCERT/DECEMBER 20

Marshall Dodge, Maine downeast story teller, will appear at St. John's Church, 27th & St. Paul Streets in Baltimore on Friday, December 20 at 8:30 PM. The program is part of the Sweeney-Todd Concert Series. Admission is \$1.50.

-Mike

BLUEGRASS OPEN SING/DECEMBER 20

This month's third Friday Bluegrass Open Sing will be December 20 at 9:00 PM at the Ethical Society, 7750-16th Street NW. I just can't wait to hear those grassies picking Christmas carols! Donation of \$1.00 at the door includes coffee, wine and munchies inside, but you may bring your own beer, if you like.

-Nan

BERWYN CAFE/SATURDAY NIGHTS AT 9:30

Dec. 7 Bruce Hutton - Bruce performs mostly traditional American material, on a wide variety of stringed instruments.

Dec. 14 Sue Payne - Sue showed up for our first open sing and came up with some beautiful stuff, beautifully done. Her voice and guitar style are just pure.

Dec. 21 Gene Tilles - Gene also appeared at our open sing. He writes songs and is accompanied by friends on bass and lead guitar. The songs are what you might call earthy, the kind of humor that makes you smile from the inside on out. People were charmed.

Dec. 28 Closed for Christmas.

The cafe is on Berwyn Road, about one mile north of College Park, off Route 1. Food is available all evening. Performers are paid by the hat. Call Jeffrey at 345-2121 for more information.

-Jeffrey

FOLKIE ROOMMATE WANTED

If you might be interested in sharing a small, comfy house in Bethesda with another folkie, a piano and a few animals, call Linda Ford at 320-5516.

RED FOX INN/SUNDAY NIGHTS AT 8:00

The Red Fox Inn at 4940 Fairmont Avenue in Bethesda, the place we have our Monday night hoots, is starting a Sunday evening series of folk and near-folk performances. Cover charge will be \$2.00 in most cases, and starting time is 8 PM. Here is the schedule for December:

- Dec. 1 - Mike Seeger
- 8 - Tracy & Eloise Schwarz
- 15 - Lewis Family (country, bluegrass, gospel) Special 2:30 Afternoon Show
- 15 - Larry Sparks and The Lonesome Ramblers
- 22 - Shenandoah Cutups
- 29 - Strange Creek Singers

-Walt

OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST...

DATE SET FOR NATIONAL FOLK FESTIVAL

The 37th National Folk Festival will be held Friday through Sunday, August 1-3, at Wolf Trap Farm Park, Vienna, Virginia. This is certainly one of the best folk festivals, and you should plan to attend.

The National Folk Festival Association, which brings you these festivities, is a non-profit educational and cultural organization dedicated to the conservation and demonstration of America's heritage through folk singing, playing, dancing, story-telling and handicrafts. The NFFA's original concept of recognizing the diversity in American folk traditions through people performing for people on a non-commercial basis needs your support. You can become a member of the NFFA and receive their quarterly newsletter for as little as \$5 a year; larger amounts are, of course, welcomed. Send your check to NFFA, 1346 Connecticut Ave. NW, Suite 1118, Washington, DC, 20036.

BREAD & ROSES COMMUNITY MUSIC CENTER

Bread and Roses is a community owned and controlled record store. Their prices are among the lowest in town, because they operate on a low 12% markup. Their stock includes folk, jazz and rock, but they can order almost any record you want for you. They also sell used records on consignment at prices ranging from 25¢ to \$2. If you want to transfer a record to tape, you can buy a new album, tape it, return it within three days (in perfect condition), and be refunded 70% of your purchase price. The taped albums are then resold at a lower price. Other services include a newsletter, a musician's clearing house, and a community bulletin board. The people who run Bread and Roses are members of the Folklore Society. They are good people, and very helpful. Keep them in mind next time you're in the mood for some record shopping. The address is 1724-20th Street NW. The phone number is 387-6264.

TRADITIONAL JAPANESE MUSIC/DECEMBER 18



Musicologist Prof. William P. Malm of the University of Michigan will give a lecture-demonstration of traditional Japanese music, using color slides and instruments like the koto, samisen and shakuhachi. The program, sponsored by the Japan-America Society and the Performing Arts Division of the Smithsonian, will be Wednesday, December 18 at 8:00 PM at the Baird Auditorium of the Museum of Natural History at 10th & Constitution. Tickets are \$2.50, \$1.50 students or elders. Call 381-5395 for further information.

KITTY WELLS FAMILY SHOW/DECEMBER 8

The Smithsonian is presenting the Kitty Wells Family Show as part of the "Women in Country Music" series on Sunday, December 8 at 8 PM in the Baird Auditorium of the Museum of Natural History at 10th

KITTY WELLS FAMILY SHOW, CONTINUED

& Constitution. Along with Kitty, who recorded "It Wasn't God Who Made Honky Tonk Angels," will appear Johnny Wright, Bobby Wright, and the Tennessee Mountain Boys. Tickets are \$5.50, \$4 students and seniors.

Thanks to those who contributed to this issue:

- Walt Broderick
- Jeffrey Deitchman
- Bill Destler
- Jonathan Eberhart
- Debbie Hutton
- Mike Quitt
- Arlene Rodenbeck

--CONCISE CALENDAR OF EVENTS--

- DEC. 3 - BOARD MEETING
- 6 - OPEN SING
- 8 - KITTY WELLS SHOW
- 13 - PROGRAM-RED CLAY RAMBLERS
- 14 - HOUSE CONCERT-BUSTIN AND RESTLE
- 18 - JAPANESE MUSIC PROGRAM
- 20 - BLUEGRASS OPEN SING
- 20 - MARSHALL DODGE CONCERT
- JAN. 3 - OPEN SING
- 7 - BOARD MEETING
- 10 - PROGRAM
- SATURDAYS - BERWYN CAFE
- SUNDAYS - RED FOX INN
- MONDAYS - RED FOX OPEN STAGE

Let me encourage you to submit whatever you would like to see in the Newsletter to me. We can print songs, articles, drawings, gossip, pictures--anything (almost). Items can be given to me at Society events or mailed to me at 2853 Ontario Road NW, #504, Washington, DC, 20009.

-Nan

FSGW PHONE NUMBER: 703-920-2967

REMEMBER, YOU CAN CONTACT ANY BOARD MEMBER BY CALLING THE FSGW HOTLINE AND RECORDING YOUR NAME, PHONE NUMBER AND A BRIEF MESSAGE. THESE MESSAGES WILL BE CHECKED REGULARLY AND FORWARDED TO THE APPROPRIATE PEOPLE.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW FOR THE MINI-FEST!

An all-day event will be held on Saturday, January 25 at the Sidwell Friends School, 3825 Wisconsin Ave. NW. We'll have the use of some classrooms, an auditorium and a gym, so we can have dance workshops. If you're interested in helping, or if you have ideas about workshops and such, call Debbie Hutton at 270-2217.

COMING EVENTS TO WATCH FOR:

- Lou and Sally Killen on our January program.
- A Sampler Concert on January 18th.
- A Mini-Festival on January 25th.
- A Getaway in the spring.

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 _____

Is this a renewal? _____ Change of address? _____

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

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

RETURN REQUESTED

Andy