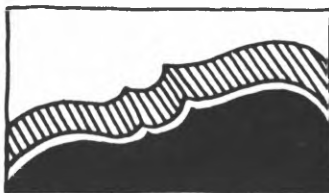


**The
Folklore
Society
of Greater
Washington**



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

NEWSLETTER

VOLUME XI, No. 7

MARCH, 1975

Nan Goland, Editor

FIELDS WARD AND DUANE THORPE TO BE FEATURED IN MARCH PROGRAM

On Friday, March 14 at 8:30 PM at the Washington Ethical Society, 7750-16th St. NW, the Society will present two guitar playing, singing performers from two very different backgrounds:

FIELDS WARD is not a folk music boom revivalist--he's the real thing. Born in 1911 in Independence, Virginia, Fields came into this world and a musical family at the same time. His father, Crockett Ward, recorded for Okeh Records in 1927. Fields, who was only sixteen at the time, played with his father's band. Since the family moved to Ballard Branch, Virginia in 1921, Fields grew up in an area rich in traditional music. In 1937 he recorded with the Bog Trotters Band (his uncle, Wade Ward, also played in this band). Fields is a man of great charm and dignity. His musical style shows the influence of Riley Puckett and Eck Dunford, but he is not a copy of anyone.

DUANE THORPE was born in 1939 in Kinsley, Kansas, and grew up in the company of a singing mother and grandmother, plus a guitar playing uncle. He makes the point that he was raised in Dodge City, but says he has difficulty persuading people that this is true. He doesn't know why, but there seems to be universal denial of the fact that (1) he was born in Dodge City or (2) that Dodge City even exists. In any event, Duane claims to have gotten interested in folk music when he was in college; after a while it struck him that he was relearning songs he'd grown up with, so he began concentrating on bringing back songs he had taken for granted--heard in his grandmother's church, from his mother, or from people in his community. He emerged a singer of folk songs which include hymns, cowboy songs, blues and railroad songs. He has sung in concert with Doc Watson, with Pete Seeger on the Clearwater, and in coffeehouses all over hither and yon.

-Helen

REGISTER NOW FOR THE SPRING GETAWAY: APRIL 4-6

Dear Friends: There'll be no sad farewells, there'll be no teardimmed eyes. Only good folk, good music, and a good time. The Spring Getaway will include several crafts such as bread baking, candy making, whittling, soap making, dying, instrument construction, hand weaving, macrame, and folk toys. If you are into any of these crafts and can contribute time and/or materials, let me know as soon as possible by phone, 589-8281, or letter, 7100 Cedar Avenue, Takoma Park, Maryland, 20012. There will also be lots of dancing, from square to contra, plus the customary music and children's workshops. We're hoping for good weather, but, realistically, it is likely to be rainy, cold, or both, so come prepared. NO PETS can be permitted in the camp. This is a park rule and cannot be broken or we stand to lose the privilege of having our Getaways in Prince William Forest Park. So, if you love us, leave them home. Registration closes on March 10, so do hurry. The price is still \$20 for adults, \$10 for children up to 16. Any child too small to require a separate bed will be admitted free. Daily registration for either Saturday or Sunday is \$2.50 for adults and \$1 for children. We're looking forward to seeing y'all!

-Dave

OTHER FSGW HAPPENINGS...

GORDON BOK CONCERT/MARCH 11

Gordon Bok, singer, sailor, storyteller, songwriter and guitarist from Camden, Maine, will give a special concert for the Society on Tuesday (sorry about that) March 11, at 8:30 PM at the Washington Ethical Society, 7750-16th St. NW.

Gordon requires little introduction to Society members. For those who have not yet had the pleasure of hearing him, Gordon sings traditional and original songs of the sea with a sensitivity born of his years as a sailor and fisherman. He is an exquisite guitarist and as fine a singer as you will ever hear. Admission is \$1.50 for Society members and \$2 for the general public.

-Bill

HOWIE BURSEN HOUSE CONCERT/MARCH 1

Howie Bursen, a fine singer and banjo player from Hammondsport, New York, will perform for the Society on Saturday, March 1, at 8:30 PM at the home of Ted and Nancy Strader, 7903 Glenbrook Road in Bethesda. Admission is \$1.50 for Society members and \$2 for non-members.

-Bill

OPEN SING/MARCH 7

The monthly Open Sing of the Society is held on the first Friday of every month at 9:00 PM at the Washington Ethical Society. Admission is \$1, and refreshments are served. This month's sing will be led by Dick Rodgers, who has chosen the theme "Dastardly Deeds."

-Bill

SACRED HARP SING/MARCH 23

The March *Sacred Harp* sing and pot-luck dinner will be held on Sunday, March 23 at 4:00 PM at the home of Louisa Spottswood in Northeast Washington. Call Louisa at 832-5472 for directions and food suggestions.

PETE SEEGER, ARLO GUTHRIE CONCERT/MARCH 25

Stanley-Williams productions and FSGW are co-sponsoring a concert by Pete Seeger and Arlo Guthrie on Tuesday, March 25 at 8:00 PM at Constitution Hall, 18th & D Sts. NW. Ticket prices for the general public are \$6.50, 5.50 and 4.50, but FSGW members can get a 25% discount on mail orders only. Those wishing to qualify should mention their FSGW membership in their order. Also include a phone number where you can be reached in case of difficulties in processing your order. Mail to Stanley-Williams Productions, 1715-37th St. NW, Washington, DC, 20007, by March 18. If the concert is not sold out in advance, tickets will be available at the door, but no discounts will be given.

-Bill

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING/MARCH 12

Due to the fact that most of the members of the Executive Board signed up for the Tuesday evening folk dance sessions, THE NEXT TWO BOARD MEETINGS WILL BE HELD ON THE SECOND WEDNESDAY rather than on the first Tuesday of the month. The March meeting will be the 12th at 8:00 PM in the office of the National Folk Festival Association, Suite 1118 of the Dupont Circle Building, 1346 Conn. Avenue NW. Board meetings are open to interested members of the Society.

PUBLICITY WORKSHOP/MARCH 13

Phil Saunders has agreed to help organize a publicity system for the Society, and has called a workshop/brainstorming session for Thursday, March 13 at 8:00 PM at the NFFA office. We need help from members who are interested in promoting the Society; no experience is necessary. If you do have some previous experience with publicity work, your ideas would be valuable. If you have questions, or if you can help but can't come to the workshop, call Phil at 891-3809 or Debbie at 270-2217.

BLUES HARP WORKSHOP/MARCH 23

A blues harp workshop for beginners and experienced players alike will be held on Sunday, March 23 at 7:30 PM at the home of Bruce and Debbie Hutton, 6 Pine Ave. in Takoma Park. Call 270-2217 if you need directions.

OTHER FSGW MATTERS...

ELECTION TIME IS COMING

A Nominating Committee has been chosen to prepare for the upcoming election of Society officers. Members of the committee are: Pat Chambers, Rich Galloway, Bob Jordan, Tom McHenry and Ted Strader. If you are considering running for a board position, make your interest known to any of the committee members.

Nominations from the floor will be accepted at the March and April programs. Ballots will be mailed to all members after the April meeting. Ballots can be returned by mail or brought to the May meeting, where votes will be tallied.

A REMINDER: Conversation in the front hall during a program or concert interferes with the enjoyment of that event by those who came to listen. Remember to keep your voices low, or go somewhere else if you want to talk while others are performing.

AN EDITORIAL NOTE TO PARENTS: FSGW was not organized as a baby-sitting service. If you bring your children to a program or event, you are responsible for their behavior. It is not fair to others to just turn them loose and hope they won't disrupt the proceedings. As far as the Ethical Society is concerned, it is fine for your kids to play in one of the Sunday School rooms downstairs while an event is in progress. This can keep them busy and out of the way. If they do, however, they (or you, if they're poorly trained) should put away the toys or whatever they used when they are finished. Now, that's not asking too much, is it?

ANY OLD HYMNALS WILL DO

Does someone know of some hymnals, say eight to twelve copies, that could be donated or sold cheaply to the Society? It would surely help at hymn sings if we had several copies of the same book. Maybe your church has some stored away, no longer in use. Please call me at 332-0232 if you know of any.

-Nan

WHAT SOME FOLKS ARE DOING...

Here's the March schedule of "Folk Festival USA" programs, produced by National Public Radio, to be aired on Mary Cliff's show on WETA-FM (90.9), Saturdays from 6 to 8:00 PM:

March 1 - The West Virginia Bluegrass Festival in Capon Bridge features nationally known recording artists playing a variety of contemporary music styles. Performers include Doug Kershaw, Vasser Clements, John Prine, Roy Acuff and John Hartford.

March 8 - On this second of three programs from the National Folk Festival at Wolf Trap Farm Park are featured Kilby Snow, Kyle Creed and Fred Cockerham, John Wright and Catherine Perrier.

March 15 - The Kerrville Bluegrass and Country Music Festival offered three days of concerts, contests and demonstrations to Texas audiences. Performers included in this program are Byron Berliner's Country Gazette, Norman Blake and Kenny Cantrell.

March 22 - June Day has for the past five years been sponsored by the Folk Music Society of Northern New Jersey. Traditional American and British music and crafts are emphasized. During this program, you can hear David Bromberg, Doris Abrahams, Roy Bookbinder and Fats Kaplin drop in on scheduled performers Rosalie Sorrels, Paul Brady, Hedy West and the Dildines.

March 29 - The Indian Springs Bluegrass Festival draws traditional and contemporary style performers from throughout the country. Ralph Stanley and the Clinch Mountain Boys, The Lewis Family, Seldom Scene and Country Store are featured in this program.

-Nan

"THOSE ARKWARD YEARS" CONCERT/MARCH 28

On Friday, March 28 at 8:30 PM, "THOSE ARKWARD YEARS" will give a concert at the Ethical Society, 7750-16th St. NW. This group of seven talented young people have among them the ability to play a wide variety of instruments and really sing up a storm. If you saw them perform on the January Sampler Concert, you already know that they are mighty entertaining. Admission will be \$2 adults and \$1 children at the door.

-Nan

AMERICAN FOLKLIFE SERIES/SATURDAYS AT 2:30

School-age children and older Society members will be interested in the American Folklife Series presented by the Oxon Hill Library Children's Department on Saturday afternoons in March at 2:30. The New England, Western, Mississippi and Appalachian regions are featured on successive weekends, in programs that blend traditional storytelling with songs and instrumentation from each area. Bruce Hutton, Alan Mackall and Gene Anderson will pick, blow and warble, as library staff tell Jack tales, Mike Fink and other stories. A wind-up on the 29th features Bill Addison calling square dances for children and adults. For more information call Richard Ashford at the library, 839-2400.

-Richard

IRISH MUSIC PARTY/MARCH 16

The Red Fox Inn at 4940 Fairmont Avenue in Bethesda will host an Irish music party on Sunday, March 16 at 8:00 PM. Featured bands will be Celtic Thunder and Blackthorn Stick. Admission will be \$2.

JOHN JACKSON CONCERT/MARCH 21

John Jackson will appear at St. John's Church at St. Paul & 27th Sts. in Baltimore on Friday, March 21 at 8:30 PM. Admission is \$1.50 at the door.

BLUEGRASS OPEN SING/MARCH 21

All pickers and gridders are invited to the third Friday Bluegrass Open Sing at the Ethical Society on March 21 at 9:00 PM. A donation of \$1 at the door covers the cost of refreshments, but you may bring your own beer, if you like.

-Nan

DR. KILMER'S MEDICINE SHOW/MARCH 22

On Saturday, March 22 at 9:00 PM, Dr. Kilmer's Medicine Show & Jug Band will appear at the American University Coffeehouse in the Student Union. Members of the jug band are also Society members: Bruce Hutton, Pete Kennedy, Tom McHenry, Dave Olive and Marv Reitz. Their material includes old and new tunes which they play on quite a variety of instruments. They sing, too!

BERWYN CAFE/SATURDAY EVENINGS AT 9:30

Here's the schedule of performers for the Berwyn Cafe, located on Berwyn Road about a mile north of College Park off Route 1.

March 1 - Harriet Yaffe & Nancy Townsend

March 8 - to be scheduled

March 15 - Dr. Kilmer's Medicine Show
& Jug Band

March 22 - Mike Quitt

March 29 - Larry Fingerhut & Stephen
Hamilton

Call Jeff Deitchman at 345-2121 if you want more information.

* * *

Thanks to those who contributed to this issue: Richard Ashford, Bill Destler, Debbie Hutton, Dave Olive and Helen Schneyer.

Deadline for the April Newsletter will be March 20. You can send items to me at 2853 Ontario Road NW, #504, Washington, DC, 20009, or give them to me at Society events.

--CONCISE CALENDAR OF EVENTS--

- MARCH 1 - HOUSE CONCERT
- 7 - OPEN SING
- 11 - GORDON BOK CONCERT
- 12 - BOARD MEETING
- 13 - PUBLICITY WORKSHOP
- 14 - PROGRAM
- 16 - IRISH MUSIC PARTY
- 21 - JOHN JACKSON CONCERT
- 21 - BLUEGRASS OPEN SING
- 23 - SACRED HARP SING
- 23 - BLUES HARP WORKSHOP
- 25 - SEEGER-GUTHRIE CONCERT
- 28 - THOSE ARKWARD YEARS

APRIL 4-6 - SPRING GETAWAY

MONDAYS - RED FOX OPEN STAGE

SATURDAYS - BERWYN CAFE

"TREASURE ISLAND" FEATURES FSGW MEMBERS

The Smithsonian Puppet Theater's production of "Treasure Island" relies on the talents of several Society members. The music was performed by Jonathan Eberhart, Mike Quitt and Andy Wallace, Jonathan's voice can be heard in the part of Long John Silver, and Susan Cahill is one of the puppeteers. The program will be presented at the Arts and Industries Bldg. through April 27, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays at 10:30 and 11:30 AM, and on weekends at 10:30, 11:30 and 1:30.

Anyone interested in a scheme (legitimate, of course) to purchase hard-to-find folklore books, possibly at a reduced price? If so, call Debbie Kodish at 654-0609.



FESTIVAL CALENDAR UNDERWAY

The National Folk Festival Association is hard at work preparing its 1975 Calendar of Folk Festival and Related Events. During the month of March they could use some help from volunteers, either daytime or evenings. The work requires attention to detail and legible handwriting, and/or accurate typing. Call Betty Braymer at 296-0068 if you can help.

Bruce and Debbie Hutton have cherry and walnut limberjacks for sale at \$6.50. Call 270-2217 or see them at programs.

AMERICAN FOLK MUSIC: FROM GUITAR TO GUTBUCKET

A series of six demonstrations and workshops about folk songs, stringed instruments and homemade jug band sounds will be taught by Miriam Dvorin at Mt. Vernon College located at 2100 Foxhall Road. Classes meet on Mondays between 7:30 and 9:30 PM beginning March 17 and ending April 21; the entire course costs \$35. If you are interested, contact the office of Continuing Education at 331-3539.

Handcrafted old-timey five-string frailing banjos for sale. Wood rims, pearl and abalone inlay. Call the Takoma Banjo Works at 270-2217 and ask for Bob or Ahmet.

APPLICATIONS FOR THE SPRING GETAWAY ARE ON PAGE 7 OF THE FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER. IF YOU NEED ONE, CALL THE SOCIETY AT 703-920-2067.

MEMBERSHIP FORM

Sign me/us up as members! Enclosed is:

_____ \$5.00 - One year, Individual	_____ \$15.00 - Three years, Individual
_____ \$7.50 - One year, Family	_____ \$22.50 - Three years, Family

NAME _____ PHONE _____

ADDRESS _____ ZIP _____

CHECK ONE: _____ New Membership _____ Renewal

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

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

Members-at-Large
Mary Cliff 536-6900
Lars Hanslin 393-1574

Past-President
Andy Wallace 362-4264

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Andy