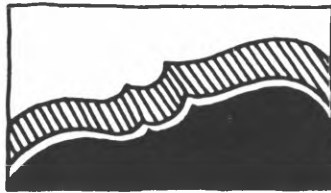


The
Folklore
Society
of Greater
Washington



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

NEWSLETTER

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MARCH 1976

Nan Goland, Editor

MARCH PROGRAM FEATURES GREAT LADY OF THE BLUES:

EDITH WILSON

One of the real giants of the jazz era, EDITH WILSON, will be joined by jazz pianist TERRY WALDO in presenting our March program on Friday, March 12 at 8:30 p.m. at the Washington Ethical Society, 7750-16th Street N.W. (near the intersection of Kalmia Road). The program is free to members, \$2 for non-members.

Edith Wilson was born with a song in her heart. By age 2 she was making up tunes and humming them to herself. She was 13 when, one day, she visited a friend, and overheard a trio practicing inside the house. She began imitating them. A man appeared in the doorway and asked her to come inside and sing for him. That same night she was singing "Oh, You Georgia Rose" and "The International Blues" on stage with the Clark Brothers at a theater in downtown Louisville.

In Chicago, she met and married piano player Danny Wilson, one of the finest things that happened to her, she says. She has been a professional singer now for over 50 years. Some of her engagements include: co-starring with Florence Mills in the show *Dover Street to Dixie* in London in 1926, a European tour with Sam Wooding's Orchestra, appearing in the New York hit show *Hot Chocolate* in a trio with Fats Waller and Louis Armstrong (it was for this show that Waller wrote "What Did I Do to be so Black and Blue?" for Edith), appearing with the Duke Ellington Orchestra at Harlem's Cotton Club, plus appearances with the orchestras of Jimmy Lunceford, Noble Sissle, and most of the great names in jazz.

In 1947, Edith was selected by the folks at Quaker Oats to portray Aunt Jemima in radio (later TV) commercials and public appearances--a role she filled for 18 years. As the "pancake queen" she helped raise over \$3,000,000 for various childrens' charities.

Her recording career started early; she was one of the first black women to be recorded by a major label. Her 18 sides for Columbia in 1922 included Perry Bradford's "Nervous Blues". Since then, she's recorded on several labels, and has a new record due out in March. Hopefully, it will be available at the program.

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MARCH PROGRAM, continued

More recently, she's done a show for French TV, appeared with Eubie Blake at Carnegie Hall, sung at the Chicago Folk Festival, and you may remember hearing her sing "He May be Your Man, But He Comes to See Me Sometimes" at the National Folk Festival at Wolf Trap in 1974.

Accompanying Edith at the March program will be TERRY WALDO, a pianist who was Eubie Blake's protege for a number of years and whose playing career of over 20 years has taken him to all parts of the country. He has done a radio series, "This is Ragtime", for National Public Radio and has written a book, *Ragtime*, published by Hawthorne Books and scheduled to be released this fall. Currently he's working on a Broadway musical directed by Tom O'Horgan of *Jesus Christ Superstar* fame. He and his band, Terry Waldo's Gut Bucket Syncopaters, have a record on the Blackbird label (C-6002, which includes two songs by Edith) and have even appeared on the TV quiz show "Jeopardy", and one of the contestants even knew who they were!

Don't miss this dynamite program on Friday, March 12 at the Ethical Society. It's partly made possible by a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts, and we are grateful to them for that. See you there!

-Dave

OTHER FSGW HAPPENINGS...

OPEN SING/MARCH 5

On the first Friday of each month, the Folklore Society and the Ethical Society co-sponsor an Open Sing at the Ethical Society building, 7750-16th Street N.W., beginning at 9:00 p.m. and lasting into the wee small hours. This month the M.C. is Casey King, whose topic is "Boozing, Bloody Well Boozing". Bring your instruments, voices, ears, needlepoint, whatever else you might need, and plan on having a relaxed, sociable evening. A donation of \$1 at the door includes coffee, wine, or punch inside.

-Alan

MARK GILSTON HOUSE CONCERT/MARCH 6

Those who've been to the last few Getaways have undoubtedly heard bits and snatches from the unusual repertoire of MARK GILSTON. On Saturday, March 6 at 8:30 p.m., your Society presents a full evening of songs and tunes by this gifted and versatile performer. Mark sings songs and ballads from all over the English speaking world, with emphasis on preserving the various regional singing styles, accompanying himself when appropriate on concertina, dulcimer, banjo, autoharp, or what-have-you. For some years now, Mark has also been a serious student of Eastern European music, singing in several Balkan languages, and playing the engaging, rhythmically quirky dance music of that area on the Bulgarian bagpipes and various Slavic whistles. (He also does some other outrageous things on that set of pipes--but that you'll have to hear for yourselves.) It all happens at Don and Dolores Nichols's house in Vienna, Virginia. Admission is \$1.50 for members, \$2.50 for non-members. Call 938-4564 for information and directions.

-Alan

BILL STEELE CONCERT/MARCH 20

If you've gone to many festivals in the past five years or so, you've probably been exposed to the talents of BILL STEELE, and have almost certainly heard his popular song, "Garbage" (see *Sing Out!* Vol. 20, No. 1). Washingtonians last had a taste of his music several years ago when he was here with the San Francisco Portable Folk Festival. Now living in Ithaca, New York, this gifted singer-songwriter has also appeared at Fox Hollow, Philadelphia, Middletown, and Mariposa, among other festivals, and comes to us on the "home stretch" of a long, nationwide concert tour. His songs are a mixture of gentle love songs, not-so-gentle protest, and traditional material. Bill has been recorded by Bay records. For an entertaining and thought-provoking evening, join us at the Ethical Society auditorium on Saturday, March 20 at 8:30 p.m. Admission is \$1.50 for members, \$3 for non-members.

-Alan

SOAPMAKING WORKSHOP/MARCH 21

Caroline Hoover will teach how to mold, scent, and color soap in a workshop on Sunday, March 21 at 2:00 p.m. It's easy as making fudge, and twice as much fun! The workshop will be held in the Kensington area, and will be limited to ten people. Bring \$1 to cover the cost of materials. Call Caroline at 656-7634 for details and directions.

-Caroline

SACRED HARP SING/MARCH 28

Singing from the *Sacred Harp* and pot-luck dinner will be held on Sunday, March 28, starting at 4:00 p.m., at the home of Terry Batt in Bethesda. Call her at 654-3054 for directions and to coordinate food. All are welcome.

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING/MARCH 2

Board meetings are held at 8:00 p.m. on the first Tuesday of every month at the office of the National Folk Festival Association, Suite 1118 of the Dupont Circle Building, 1346 Connecticut Avenue N.W. All interested members of the Society are welcome. Next meeting: Tuesday, March 2.

OTHER FSGW MATTERS...

ELECTION OF NEW OFFICERS COMING SOON

A Nominations and Election Committee has been appointed by the President to prepare for the upcoming election of Society officers for the 1976-77 year. Members of the committee are: Pat Chambers, Rich Galloway, Caroline Hoover, Debbie Hutton, and Casey King. If you are considering running for a board position, make your interest known to one of these people, as they will prepare a slate to be presented at the March program. Nominations from the floor will be accepted at both the March and April programs. Ballots will be mailed to all members after the April meeting. They can be returned by mail or brought to the May meeting, where votes will be tallied.

WHAT SOME FOLKS ARE DOING...

COUNTRY GENTLEMEN & FFV/MARCH 7

On Sunday, March 7 between 3 and 7:00 p.m., the Country Gentlemen and the Fast Flying Vestibule will appear at a concert/party at St. Stephen and the Incarnation Church at 16th & Newton Streets N.W. This is a fund-raiser for Fred Harris's campaign; a donation of \$5 at the door includes free beer! Call me at 332-0232 if you want more information, or if you want advance tickets.

-Nan

MONDAYS AT THE RED FOX

As many of you know, the Red Fox Inn at 4940 Fairmont Avenue in Bethesda has an open stage for traditional folk music every Monday evening, starting at 8:30 p.m. A new feature of these evenings is a guest set, about twice a month, from 9:30 to 10:30. A cover of \$1, which goes to the performer, will be taken at the door until the guest set is over. There will still be open stage before and after the guest set, and there's still no cover on other nights. On March 1, Barbara Carns, already well known to those who've attended Getaways and National Folk Festivals, will sing blues, shanties and songs of the sea--as should one who has lived in New Bedford and now resides on Cape Cod. On March 15, John Jackson, who lives closerby in Virginia, will bring his fine blues singing and picking to the Fox. John is well known to Washington area folkies, but he's also appeared in countless festivals and performances in the U.S. and Europe. No number of appearances by John would be too many.

-Bruce

BLUEGRASS OPEN SING/MARCH 19

The Ethical Society sponsors a Bluegrass Open Sing on the third Friday of every month, starting at 9:00 p.m. All pickers, singers, and listeners are welcome. Bring your own beer, if you like. A donation of \$1 at the door includes refreshments.

-Nan

MARYLAND FOLKLORE SOCIETY MEETING/MARCH 27

The Maryland Folklore Society will hold its annual meeting at 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, March 27 in the Taliaferro Building, Dept. of English, University of Maryland in College Park. The program will include ethnographic films on Maryland's folk culture, including a film on the Amish. There is no admission charge, and light refreshments will be served. Everyone is invited. Call George Simpson, if you'd like more information, at 530-0973.

-George

GUITAR SHOP OPENS NEAR DUPONT CIRCLE

David Perry's Guitar and Lute Shop, newly opened at 1604-20th Street N.W. near Dupont Circle, will offer some unique special services. For example, a "lead-sheet" service: if you have a song in your head but can't get it on paper, the shop will set it down for you to meet copyrighting requirements. Of course, they'll carry instruments, strings, accessories, music, records, and give guitar lessons to individuals and groups of friends. They are also planning a series of Sunday afternoon workshops covering the various facets of guitar playing--everything from composing music to building and repairing your own guitar. Workshops are scheduled to start in March; a nominal fee will be charged. Call 387-2826 for more information, and to check on the workshop schedule.

MACKEY & TREVOR CONCERT/MARCH 20

Jeanne Mackey and Mary Trevor will give a concert on Saturday, March 20 at 8:00 p.m. at All Soul's Church, 16th and Harvard Streets N.W. Jeanne and Mary are two Washington area musicians who, since their first public appearance together last June, have played their own blend of songs of struggle and celebration, folk and blues, labor songs, and women's music at universities, coffeehouses, political benefits and conferences locally and across the Midwest. Tickets are \$2.50 in advance and \$3 at the door, and are available at Bread and Roses Community Music Center at 1724-20th Street N.W. (they are sponsoring the concert) or at Lammass Handicrafts, 321-7th Street S.E. For more information, call 387-6264.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY OFFERS GUITAR CLASSES

Classes in beginning folk guitar will be taught by Jo Zukav through the Montgomery County Department of Recreation at Wheaton Community Recreation Center (Georgia Avenue & Parker) at 1:00 p.m. Fridays starting March 26, and at Arcola Towers (West University Blvd. & Arcola) at 7:00 p.m. Thursdays starting April 1. Basic chords, strums, a little theory, bass runs, and fingerpicking will be taught. Classes for levels two, three, and four are also being offered at various locations in Montgomery County. For further information, call Jo at 460-4383.

-Jo

SATURDAY EVENINGS AT THE BERWYN CAFE

The Berwyn Cafe at 5010 Berwyn Road in College Park features live entertainment every Saturday evening at 9:30. There is no admission, but the hat is passed for performers. Call Jeff Deitchman at 345-2121 for more information. The March schedule is:

6th - Magpie - An assortment of traditional Irish, contemporary, folk, and country music. Just three musicians, but they play guitar, banjo, harmonica, dulcimer, and concertina, and all sing real good. They've been together a long while so they're, to use the vernacular, tight.

13th - Sweetwater String Band - This group of five musicians won first place in the vocal division and second place in the band division at last summer's Deer Creek Festival. They add banjo, guitar, fiddle, mandolin, bass, autoharp, and flute to the aforementioned vocals.

20th - Harvey Reid - This guy's one of the niftiest guitarists I've come across and he's got some not-to-be-scoffed-at tricks on the autoharp, too. Mostly traditional, but you never know.

27th - Open Sing - If it's anything like the last one I really will cry for joy.

-Jeff



DR. KILMER'S CONCERT/MARCH 27

Come to the Ethical Society on Saturday, March 27 at 8:30 p.m. for an entertaining evening of good-time music by DR. KILMER'S MEDICINE SHOW AND JUG BAND. Members of the band are Bruce Hutton, Tom McHenry, Dave McKelway, Dave Olive, and Marv Reitz. They play and sing a variety of traditional and not-so-traditional material on an assortment of instruments. Admission to the concert, sponsored by the Ethical Society, will be \$2 adults and \$1 children. Hear them. Your aches and pains will disappear!

-Nan



RECORD REVIEW by Peter R. Hoover

HI-BALL FIDDLE by Joe Pancerzewski--The Fiddling Engineer (VRLP 315-S) available from Voyageur Recordings, 424-35th Street, Seattle, Washington 98122

For fans of Northwestern fiddling, this second record of Joe Pancerzewski's (see also Voyageur VRLP 306-S) may be a treat. It will not, I suspect, be a surprise. About a third of the tunes fall within an Easterner's narrow definition of "square dance tunes". In addition to breakdowns (two), hornpipes (three), and reels (three), the record includes two polkas, two jigs, a clog and nine waltzes. Your reviewer has never previously heard or heard of any of the tunes, though some are reminiscent of traditional material. This is not surprising, as most are purportedly of Joe's own composition.

No performances stand out, although all are capable. The noting and intonation on the fiddle are unsteady, but the backing (Dick Marvin, Vivian and Phil Williams, on guitar, piano, and bass, respectively) is as solid as any fiddler could wish for. Recording fidelity is good, but for me cannot overcome the overall effect of soupiness (admittedly a regional prejudice) brought on by the mass of waltzes, and the inaccurate fingering which is emphasized in the context of this relatively precise regional fiddling style.

--CONCISE CALENDAR OF EVENTS--

- MARCH 2 - BOARD MEETING
- 5 - OPEN SING
- 6 - MARK GILSTON HOUSE CONCERT
- 7 - COUNTRY GENTS & FFV
- 12 - PROGRAM - EDITH WILSON
- 19 - BLUEGRASS OPEN SING
- 20 - BILL STEELE CONCERT
- 20 - MACKEY & TREVOR CONCERT
- 21 - SOAPMAKING WORKSHOP
- 27 - DR. KILMER'S CONCERT
- 27 - MARYLAND FOLKLORE SOCIETY
- 28 - SACRED HARP SING
- APRIL 2 - OPEN SING
- 6 - BOARD MEETING
- 9 - PROGRAM
- MONDAYS - RED FOX INN
- SATURDAYS - BERWYN CAFE

Thanks to those who contributed to this issue: Jeff Deitchman, Caroline Hoover, Bruce Hutton, Alan Mackall, Jeanne Mackey, Connie McKenna, Dave Olive, Arlene Rodenbeck, George Simpson, Mary Trevor, and Jo Zukav.

Deadline for the April Newsletter will be Wednesday, March 17. You may give items to me at Society events or mail them to me at 2853 Ontario Road N.W., Washington, D.C., 20009.

-Nan

FSGW PHONE NUMBER: (703) 920-2067

This Newsletter is published by the Folklore Society of Greater Washington, a non-profit, educational organization dedicated to preserving and promoting traditional folk arts in the greater Washington, DC area. Membership in the Society is open to all who wish to help pursue these goals. Membership benefits include free admission to programs, reduced admission to special events, the Newsletter by first class mail, plus workshops, sings, and more. To join, fill out the form below, enclose your check and send to the Folklore Society, PO Box 19303, 20th Street Station, Washington, DC, 20036.

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I/we want to join! Enclosed is:

_____ \$6 - One year, Individual _____ \$18 - Three year, Individual
_____ \$9 - One year, Family _____ \$27 - Three year, Family

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

CHECK ONE: New Membership _____ Renewal _____ Is this a change of address? _____

Are you interested in helping the Society in some way? _____

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