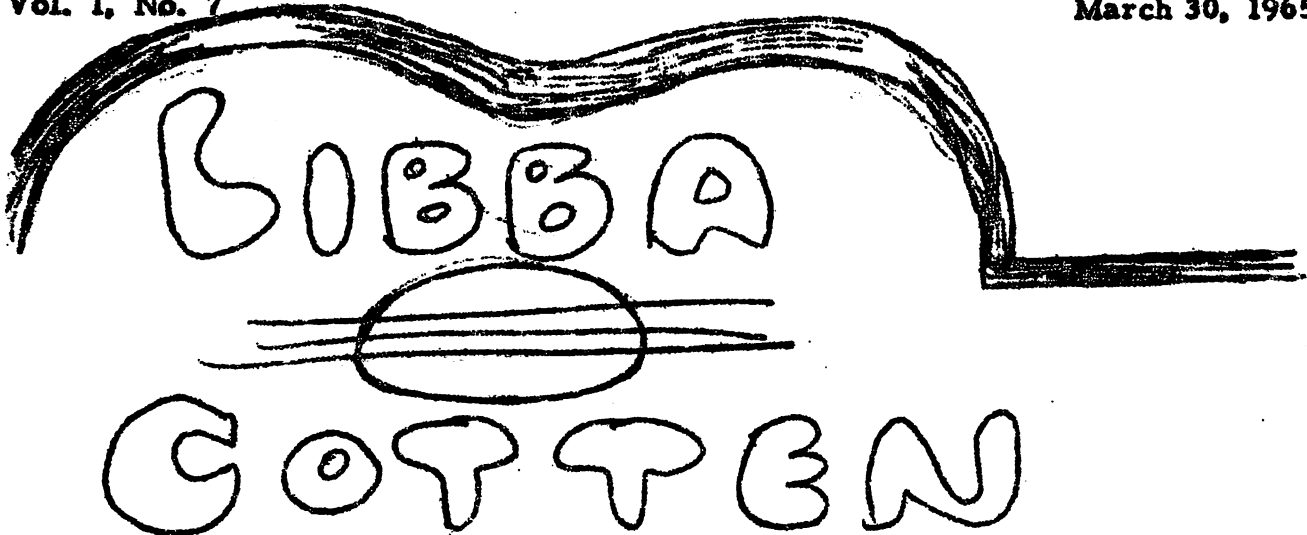


THE PENNY DREADFUL...

PUBLICATION OF THE FOLKLORE SOCIETY OF GREATER WASHINGTON

Vol. 1, No. 7

March 30, 1965



APRIL 23rd - 8:30pm - HAWTHORNE SCHOOL

ELIZABETH COTTEN HIGHLIGHTS APRIL MEETING. Say "Libba Cotten" at any gathering of folk and immediately someone will start to play or hum a few bars of her "Freight Train." She picked up the guitar at eight, but put it down, an accomplished musician and composer, when she was married. For many years, the very real considerations of rearing a family and working for a living overshadowed her talent. It was by chance that Charles and Ruth Seeger found her (and she found them) here in Washington (Peggy christened her "Libba") and by even greater chance it was Mike who handed her his guitar one day in the Seeger's Chevy Chase kitchen. What happened afterward is folk music history. Mrs. Cotten has been heralded as one of the outstanding purveyors of the folk tradition performing in America today. There are few "folk" throughout the country who are not aware of her invaluable contributions to this nation's music. Besides playing and singing at the concert, "Libba" Cotten will be talking about her life and her music, and demonstrating her guitar picking styles.

Also at this meeting, there will be a business session with nominations from the floor for next year's officers, a president's and a treasurer's report. So that is Friday, April 23rd at 8:30pm in the Hawthorne School, 6th and Eye Sts., S. W., near the Arena Stage, to see Elizabeth Cotten.

THERE ARE MANY BENEFITS to be gained from joining the Society. For example our members are offered a 50¢ reduction in the minimum at the Ontario Place for the Sunday, April 11th performance by Son House. Also, members have a standing 20% discount on purchases at Pappas' Guitar Shop on M Street, N. W. To become a member of this elite group, send a check made out to the "Folklore Society of Greater Washington" (\$5.00 for individual, \$7.50 for family membership) to Jim Lee at the newsletter address.

Folklore Society of Greater Washington, Route 1, Box 15, Oakton, Virginia 22124

Name

Phone

Address

Special interests, suggestions, etc.

Circle one: Family \$7.50

Individual \$5.00

Mailing list only

WE HATED TO SEE THE McPEAKES LEAVE. Besides being tremendously gifted musically, they are warm, charming, and guileless performers to see. The three oldest members of the family are featured in the latest issue of SING OUT. Candid snapshots of each of the McPeakes plus shots of them all on stage singing are now available. If anyone would be interested in having any of these pictures, call Carol Lee at 385-8341 or write her c/o the newsletter address. They are 50¢ each or 6 for \$2. (If you write, please specify which of the McPeake shots you want.)

WITH THE NEWSLETTER ON ITS WAY to becoming more of a journal than a letter, we want to see quite a bit of original material on its pages. If anyone has any articles, songs, poems, essays, stories, etc., that you think would interest our audience, please send them to Carol Lee (address below).

This song is by CHUCK PERDUE, FSGW Vice-President. The circumstances of its inception are expressed in the song. Please contact Chuck (273-0762) if you wish to use this piece of hate literature.

TALKIN' FOLK SLOGAN BLUES

Now if you wantta make money I'll tell you how to do it,
Just follow the trend--there ain't nothin' to it,
Jump on the wagon--go like Hell!
Why there ain't nothin' a man can't sell,
... if he's got the right word... the secret word for today...
is HOOTENANNY!

Just awhile ago I felt a hunger pain,
So I thought I'd feed it somethin' 'fore it came back again,
I went upstairs to the candy machine,
Looked through the glass and what do you think I seen?
... a HOOTENANNY candy bar! ... for your folk-singing stomach...
gather round folks for our Wednesday night folk chomp.

I stood and looked at that awful thing,
And all of a sudden my head started to ring,
It wasn't a headache, or cold, or flu,
It was just an idea tryin' to get through,
... a way to get rich... FOLK SLOGANS!... Madison Avenue, here I come!

All kinds of thoughts began to jell,
And I thought of a hundred things to sell,
Why you can sell an Eskimo a Navajo hogan,
All you gotta have is the right Folk Slogan!

Be refreshed! Think young! Never grow up!
Just mix your bourbon with Seeger-Up!
If your old pot's beginning to stg,
Use a Leadbelly Corset--hold in that bag.
... don't be half-safe... use Bass to be sure... regular or economy size.

If your hair's a mess and you wear a frown,
Use a little Van Rook to hold it down,
Wash your clothes in good John White!
Smoke Ocar Brand for the taste that's right!
... buy your kids a Bob Dylan doll... wind it up... and it protests.

If the day's been hot and you're feelin' your worst,
Have a cool Judy Collins and quench that thirst,
In the morning it's eggs and Burl Ives Bacon,
Wash it all down with a cup of Uncle Dave Macon.

If the open road calls and your feet get itchy,
Take the family for a spin in your V-8 Ritchie.
If the kids get hungry and start to howl,
Get somethin' to eat at the nearest MacColl.
... Bikel Burgers... a Belafonte milk shake... and for dessert...
Sonny Terry pie... with ice cream.

Well, I've got to go and find some jerk, Who's got enough money to make this work,
And I'll be rich when I see you again, Sure 's I wrote this song with Woody Guthrie pen!
... gotta bad case o' song writer's cramp... gonna go soak my hand
in some o' old Doc Watson's Liniment.

FESTIVALS! AND THEN SOME.

The 28th annual NATIONAL FOLK FESTIVAL will be held April 7-10 in St. Petersburg, Florida. There will be over 1000 folk performers from the U. S. and abroad coming together to sing and dance out their traditions. If you are interested in performing or attending, write the festival c/o P. O. Box 1371, St. Petersburg, Florida 33731. Sarah Gertrude Knott is the very energetic woman who has done and does an excellent job of carrying on the festival.

A NEWPORT FOLK FESTIVAL will be held this year on a 35-acre site close to Newport. There will be fewer performers and more of a "workshop" feeling, making for a more integrated festival (and answering critics of last year's show). More information will be available later. It will last for four days sometime late in July.

The Washington FOLK FESTIVAL sponsored by the D. C. Recreation Department and Washington folk dance group will be held May 7th and 8th. If you wish to participate, you can get more information from Dave Rosenberg, P. O. Box 7592, Washington 4, D. C. This annual event puts special emphasis on its international flavor and representation.

Other festivals coming up include the one in Philadelphia and one put on by the Arlington County Parks and Recreation Department. More on them later. There is an annual meeting of the American Folklore Society coming up in Denver next November. If anyone would like more on this, call Carol Lee.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE AREA:

Ontario Place--April 9-11--Son House (call 232-2606)

Foghorn (in Baltimore)--till April 10--Jim Kweskin

April 12-17--Carolyn Hester

April 18-May 1--Holy Modal Rounders (call 685-0685)

Cellar Door--beginning April 19--Bud & Travis

(Note to clubs--for inclusion in this column, send advance notices to the newsletter address.)

FSGW PLANS FOR THE FUTURE, include a "micro-festival"-all-day-picnic-learning-singing-and stompin' day to be had early in the summer. We are now looking for facilities that can stand the on-coming of a few hundred people. If you have any suggestions for a place to hold this mess, call Lani Herrmann (YE-1-LLOW).

ANY COMMENTS (and there should be many) on the choosing of a temporary head for our newsletter--the PENNY DREADFUL--address same to Carol Lee.

SOME FOLKLORE COURSES are now taught at the University of Maryland. Anyone who would like to urge like teaching being held at other locations in the area, write Mr. Walker, University College, University of Maryland, College Park, Maryland. He could also help you with information about the present offerings.

A PROPOSED AMENDMENT to the By-laws of the FSGW will be voted on soon. It would amend Section VI, paragraph B to read as follows:

The Nominating Committee shall prepare a slate of candidates for office and shall report to the Membership at the March meeting.

At that meeting, and again at the April and May meetings, additional ~~nominations~~ for any office may be made and seconded by members from the floor.

NOMINATIONS FOR NEXT YEAR'S OFFICERS OF THE FSGW are open. What follows is information on those already nominated. (Names marked with a * were put up by the nominating committee.)

PRESIDENT: CHUCK PERDUE. Presently, he is Vice-President. A native of Panthersville, Ga., Chuck is a picking and singing geologist with the U. S. Geological Survey. Both he and his wife, Nan, are popular and all too infrequent performers in the area. Through his regular travels, Chuck has built up an impressive collection of folk songs from the U. S. *

PRESIDENT: (con't) **JOHN DILDINE.** He is presently President. John has presented a radio program of folk music over WASH-FM since early in 1957. He has sponsored several folk music concerts in this area and organized numerous monthly singing gatherings in the late 1950's. He is a strong believer that folk music should stand on its own, rather than as commercial "pop" or "art" music.

VICE-PRESIDENT: **JONATHAN EBERHART.** Jonathan has quite an extensive knowledge of folk music (singing and playing). He is currently working on a collection of songs to be put on sale soon. Formerly half of the David and Jonathan performing team, he is now head of the FSGW's tape recordings committee. *

CHUCK PERDUE. (See last page.)

SECRETARY: **JUNE SILVERMAN.** During this last year, June was elected by acclamation of the board. She became interested in folk music at the U. of Chicago, learned a little guitar, and somehow got from there to being a physical science technician with the Naval Research lab. She owns a typewriter and will work like hell. *

TREASURER: **SOL SCHNEYER.** Sol, husband of folk singer Helen Sawyer Schneyer, and a clinical psychologist with the National Institutes of Health, is our present treasurer and is not planning any sudden trips to Brazil that we know of. His 25-year interest in folk music goes back to membership in the New York American Square Dance Group. *

PUBLICATIONS CHAIRMAN: **LINDA BRENNAN.** She has had 4 years experience working at a secretary and editorial assistant for the National League of Insured Savings Associations. She writes a monthly column in their magazine on elections and appointments in the savings and loan industry, and has gotten familiar with putting out a publication. *

CAROL-LEE. A writing English major who plays, sings, and researches folk music, Carol is also an avid photographer who covers especially folk music. She is presently Publications-Publicity Chairman and editor of the newsletter. In the past, she has been associate ed. of a university literary magazine, newspaper feature writer, and part-time writer for the local Unitarian newsletter.

PUBLICITY CHAIRMAN: **ED MORRIS.** Ed was program moderator for the FSGW blues and gospel concert and worked on publicity for that. His strongest interest in folk music is in traditional Negro music, especially the blues. Ed now teaches as well as studies blues, and is the Discount Record Shop's folk-music expert. *

MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN: **NAN PERDUE.** Nan, Chuck's wife and singing partner, concentrates mostly on the singing of traditional American and English songs and ballads. Her musical background holds just about everything including 7 years of violin lessons. Nan has helped on most all of the FSGW activities to date (even hosted the McPeakes) and is very familiar with the society. *

PROGRAM CHAIRMAN: **JOE HICKERSON.** He is presently filling this post. Joe's qualifications include being Reference Librarian at the Library of Congress Archive Folk Song. He is working on a Doctorate in folklore at Indiana University, and was first organizer and president for the Oberlin and Indiana Folk Song Clubs. *

SPECIAL EVENTS CHAIRMAN: **GEORGE SIMPSON.** He is now serving as same. George is a member of the American Folklore Society, and Secretary of the National Folk Festival. He has played and sung in many local halls and in local hospitals. *

PLEASE CONSIDER THESE PEOPLE and the others who will be nominated very closely. The choosing of officers is perhaps one of the most important and far-reaching responsibilities a member of an organization has. Feel free to call any of these people to ask questions.

Also nominated at the last meeting, though they both declined, were Jim Lee (for Pres. and for Membership Chrm.) who is presently Membership Chairman, and Gerry Parsons (for Publicity) who has done a very good job working to expand our present publicity effectiveness. An official thank-you to them.

A LETTERS TO THE SOCIETY column is being started. Please use the letter as a vehicle for your expression on anything pertinent to the society and its members. Send letters (indicating their use in this column) to Carol Lee (address below).

Carol Lee, editor Route 1, Box 15, Oakton, Virginia 22124