

The Folklore Society

O F G R E A T E R W A S H I N G T O N

P. O. Box 19174 • 20th Street Station • Washington D. C. 20036

VOL. 2, NO. 10

June, 1966

Linda Brennan, Editor

FSGW TO PRESENT FRANK PROFFITT MEMORIAL CONCERT

The Folklore Society of Greater Washington will present a concert at 8:30 p.m. Friday June 17th in Pierce Hall, 15th and Harvard Streets, N.W., as a memorial to North Carolina folksinger Frank Proffitt, who died last November.

The concert will feature the singing of Chuck and Nan Perdue and John Dildine. The Perdus have sung at folk festivals and on programs along the east coast. John Dildine has produced and presented a weekly folk music show over local radio since 1957 and has also performed on folk music programs.

Also on the program will be singing from "The Sacred Harp" -- a book of religious songs used for more than a hundred years in Southern communities and characterized by using arrangements in which three or four distinct melodies interweave with each other. The Sacred Harp singers will include John Shortridge, Howie Mitchell and Joe Hickerson.

Frank Proffitt, all his life a farmer in Watauga County, embodied the lore and heritage of his people. His home, built with his own hands, was always open to folklorists and singers who availed themselves of his hospitality and who would often learn versions of old English and Scottish ballads rarely heard in America. It was through Frank Proffitt and his family that the century-old song "Tom Dooley" was saved. He made his own musical instruments -- dulcimers and fretless banjos, and in recent years played and sang for large audiences at folk festivals where he won affection and respect for his candid wit and rustic wisdom.

Tickets at two dollars for general admission and one dollar for members of the Folklore Society are available at Dale Music Company, 8240 Georgia Ave., Silver Spring, or may be ordered by sending a check and self-addressed stamped envelope to: The Folklore Society of Greater Washington, P. O. Box 19174, 20th Street Station, Washington, D. C. 20036.

All proceeds from the concert will go to the Proffitt family.

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The Folklore Society elected its officers for 1966-67 at the May 13th meeting. The following were elected: Chuck Perdue, President; Joe Hickerson, Vice President; Bob Silverman, Treasurer; Jo Peterson, Secretary; Membership Chairman, George Simpson; Program Chairman, John Dildine; Special Events, Mike Rivers; Publicity Chairman, Andy Wallace; Publications Chairman, Linda Brennan. Sol Schneyer will serve on the Executive Board as Past Treasurer.

BLUES SINGER BUDDY MOSS, from Atlanta, Georgia, will be the featured performer at the June 10 meeting of the Folklore Society of Greater Washington. The program will begin at 8:30 p. m. on Friday, June 10, and will be held at the Washington Gaslight Company Auditorium, 11th and H Streets, N. W.

Buddy Moss is the latest and one of the most important of the recently rediscovered Negro blues performers and recording artists of the 1920's and 1930's to come to the Washington area for a concert, and his appearance here will undoubtedly to be exciting as previous ones by Skip James, Mississippi John Hurt, and Son House.

At various times an associate of Blind Willie McTell, Blind Boy Fuller, Brownie McGhee, Sonny Terry, and Josh White, Buddy Moss was one of the most popular singers and guitarists along the East Coast. Between 1933 and 1935, he made nearly 200 records on various American Record Company labels, including Banner, Melotone, Oriole, Perfect, Vocalion and Conqueror, and in 1941 he recorded several sides for Columbia and Okeh. Washington area residents who collected race or blues records in the 30's, or who have recently begun to collect these very rare recordings, will surely count several Buddy Moss discs among their favorites. Moss's guitar playing and singing have, if anything, improved over the years. A new recording of his work was made on May 4 of this year in Nashville for release by Columbia Records. John Hammond, directing Buddy's session for Columbia called him "the last of the great old-time East Coast blues guitarists." Following his June 10 appearance in Washington, Buddy Moss will perform for the Philadelphia Folk Song Society on June 12, and will appear at both the Newport Jazz Festival and Newport Folk Festival in July.

Admission for this unique program will be 50 cents for FSGW members (memberships available at the door) and \$1.50 for non-members. Student non-members will be admitted for \$1.00.

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The Smithsonian Institution is planning a special exhibit for July 1 through December 30 of this year around the theme, "Music Making American Style". Included in the exhibit will be cases with a string bank grouping; a minstrel show grouping; an early New Orleans jazz band grouping; paintings of early minstrel groups; and recorded examples of the various types of music that these groups made. Also planned is a lecture by Archie Green on string band music with illustrations of examples by the New Lost City Ramblers and (somewhat tentatively) a program by a New Orleans style jazz band. Check with the Smithsonian after July 1 for program dates. The exhibit will be on the first floor of the Museum of History and Technology.

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A COMMITTEE has been established to review the Folklore Society BY-LAWS and to recommend any changes that might be needed. If you have any ideas or amendments you would like to suggest, call one of the following people at the numbers given:
Sol Schneyer: 949-4552 Joe Hickerson: 283-2735 Chuck Perdue: 273-0762

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THE KICKIN' MULE...

I was born and raised in the country at Panthersville, Georgia, as most of you have no doubt figured out by now, and some of my memories of country life are not too pleasant. Hoeing corn all day in a broiling hot Georgia sun or grubbing out sweet potatoes until your hands are so sticky from the milk that oozes out that you hardly open them is not my idea of time well spent! On the other hand there are some pleasant memories, too. I can still conjure up the sights and smells that accompany hog-killing time when the first good cold spell of winter hit.

1936... The fire under the wash pot is going good and we stand in front of the barn. My father has a 38 pistol in one hand and a butcher knife in the other. He opens the barn door. "Soo... eee, here piggy, piggy; come on piggy." Blam! One dead hog! Have to stick him fast with the knife so he'll bleed right. Ruin the meat is you don't. We drag him to the pot of water--pour the water in a barrel, add lye, add hog, and pretty soon the bristles are ready to scrape off. A singletree with each end hooked under a tendon of a hind leg--hoist him up--cut him up, and before the day is over you're eating... fresh boiled heart, liver, and kidney; head cheese and cracklin corn bread! Salt the rest down for later. Save the jowl to go with black-eyed peas on New Year's Day. Bad luck all year if you don't.

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More and more folk-sayings... There wasn't a whole lot of money around when I was a kid during the Depression. I guess that's why there were lots of sayings about being poor but none about being rich.

Poor as church mice - Poor as a snake - Poor as Job's turkey - Skinny as a rail - Thin as a broom handle.

Chuck Perdue

JOHN DILDINE'S FOLK MUSIC PROGRAM SCHEDULE FOR JUNE, 1966, WAMU-FM Fridays, 9:00 p.m.

- June 3 Bird Symbolism in Folksong
- June 10 An interview with Helen Schneyer, singer and collector of folksongs.
- June 17 Songs of the American West
- June 24 Folksong--with and without instruments

Additions to Last Month's List of Festivals...

Second Annual Bluegrass Festival, Labor Day weekend. 12 miles North of Roanoke, Va. on Highway 248. Cantrell's Horse Farm, Tinker Mountain. Beauforte County.

Mariposa Folk Festival, Orillia, Ontario, August 5-7, 1966.

Ohio Hill Folk Festival, Quaker City, July 13-16, 1966.

Georgia Festival of Folk Music, Unicoi State Park, Helen, September 16-18. Sponsored by the Atlanta Folk Music Society. For more information write: P.O. Box 7813, Atlanta, Ga. 30309.

OPEN SINGS WILL NOT BE HELD during the months of June, July, August, and September. They will resume beginning the last Saturday in October. There will be three events during the summer which will, more or less, take the place of the sings. These events (we have no name for them) will take place at the following places:

- June 25 - at Sol and Helen Schneyer's house - phone: 949-4552
- July 30 - at Chuck and Nan Perdue's house - phone: 273-0762
- August 27 - at John and Cora Jackson's house - phone: 278-8325

Food will be pot-luck--each person bringing a dish (with food on it) and we'll sit around in the backyard and sing and eat and sing and eat and... For details regarding any of these events call the person involved at the numbers listed above.

This Newsletter, for June, 1966, will be the last until the September issue. Many people take vacations during the summer and the Folklore Society slows down a bit. As part of this slow-down, the Executive Board will meet only once a month during June, July, and August. Meeting time - 8:30 p.m. on the first Wednesday of these three months at the usual place - Suite 700, 1200 - 17th St., N. W.

Speaking of Newsletters--the "folk" community seems to be rather mobile. We had 83 Newsletters returned this past month because people had moved and had not sent us a change of address. The Newsletters are not forwardable, so if you are moving and wish to continue receiving the Newsletter, please send us a change of address and mail to: FSGW, P. O. Box 19174, 20th Street Station, Wash., D. C. 20036.

TO JOIN the FSGW, fill out the form below. Checks should be made out to:
Folklore Society of Greater Washington
P. O. Box 19174, 20th Street Station
Washington, D. C. 20036

Name _____ Check here _____ if you wish to
 Address _____ make a donation.
 Phone _____

Circle one: family \$7.50 single \$5.00 mailing list only

The Newsletter is becoming costly to produce and we're calling for anyone connected with the printing business--such as a typesetter or engraver--paper supplier, etc. Ideally, what we really need is someone who has access to a multilith machine and who could run the newsletter off. We also need anyone who could donate paper or who could sell us paper at real discount rates. At present we are restricting newsletter growth because of lack of funds. Please contact Linda Brennan at 422-1137 if you are able to help us.

The Folklore Society

OF GREATER WASHINGTON

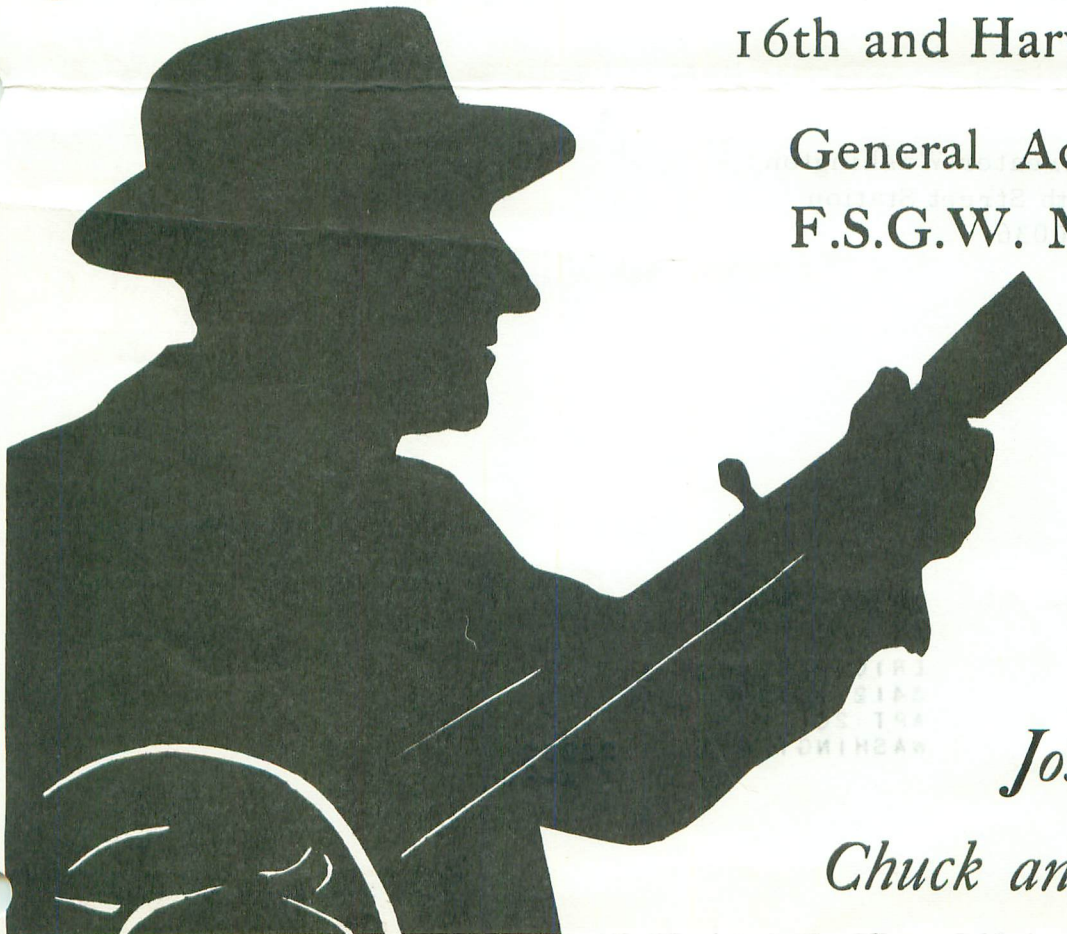
presents a

FRANK PROFFITT MEMORIAL CONCERT

JUNE 17, 1966 8:30 P.M. PIERCE HALL
16th and Harvard Sts., N.W.

General Admission \$2.00

F.S.G.W. Members \$1.00



John Dildine

Joseph Hickerson

Chuck and Nan Perdue

Folklore Society of Greater Washington
P. O. Box 19174 - 20th Street Station
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NON-PROFIT ORG.
AD'L 1/4¢ PD.



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