

newsletter of *The Folklore Society*

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

VOL. 2, NO. 3

November, 1965

Linda Brennan, Editor

THE FSGW PRESENTS THIS MONTH...

NOVEMBER 12 -- Folk music on commercial "Race" and "Hillbilly" records of 1920-1940: presented, with original recordings, by Guthrie T. Meade and Richard K. Spottswood, 8:30 p.m. at Pierce Hall (All Souls Unitarian Church), 15th & Harvard Sts., N. W., Wash. Members free; non-members, \$1.00 (applicable to membership dues within 30 days).

Several years before the beginning of widespread field recording and archiving of folk music in the United States, a number of record companies began to record the White and Negro folk music of the Southern, Appalachian, and Mid-western states for specifically local radio use and sales. Through their efforts, a wealth of authentic American folk music was "preserved" and issued on shellac 78 rpm discs, well over 100,000 different recordings in all.

Long out-of-print, these Columbia, Victor, Okeh, Bluebird, Brunswick, Gennet, Paramount, etc. recordings of the '20's and '30's are now extremely rare, and only through the efforts of devoted collectors and discographers have many of them been brought to light. Two such collectors, Richard K. Spottswood and Guthrie T. Meade, both living in the Washington area, will discuss and present a number of these rare items, drawing from their own personal collections of more than 10,000 recordings.

Such currently well-known performers (some long dead) as Mississippi John Hurt, Skip James, Uncle Dave Macon, The Carter Family, The Monroe Brothers, Blind Lemon Jefferson, Blind Willie McTell, Gid Tanner and his Skillet Lickers, and Josh White, will be heard on their original recordings of 40 years ago.

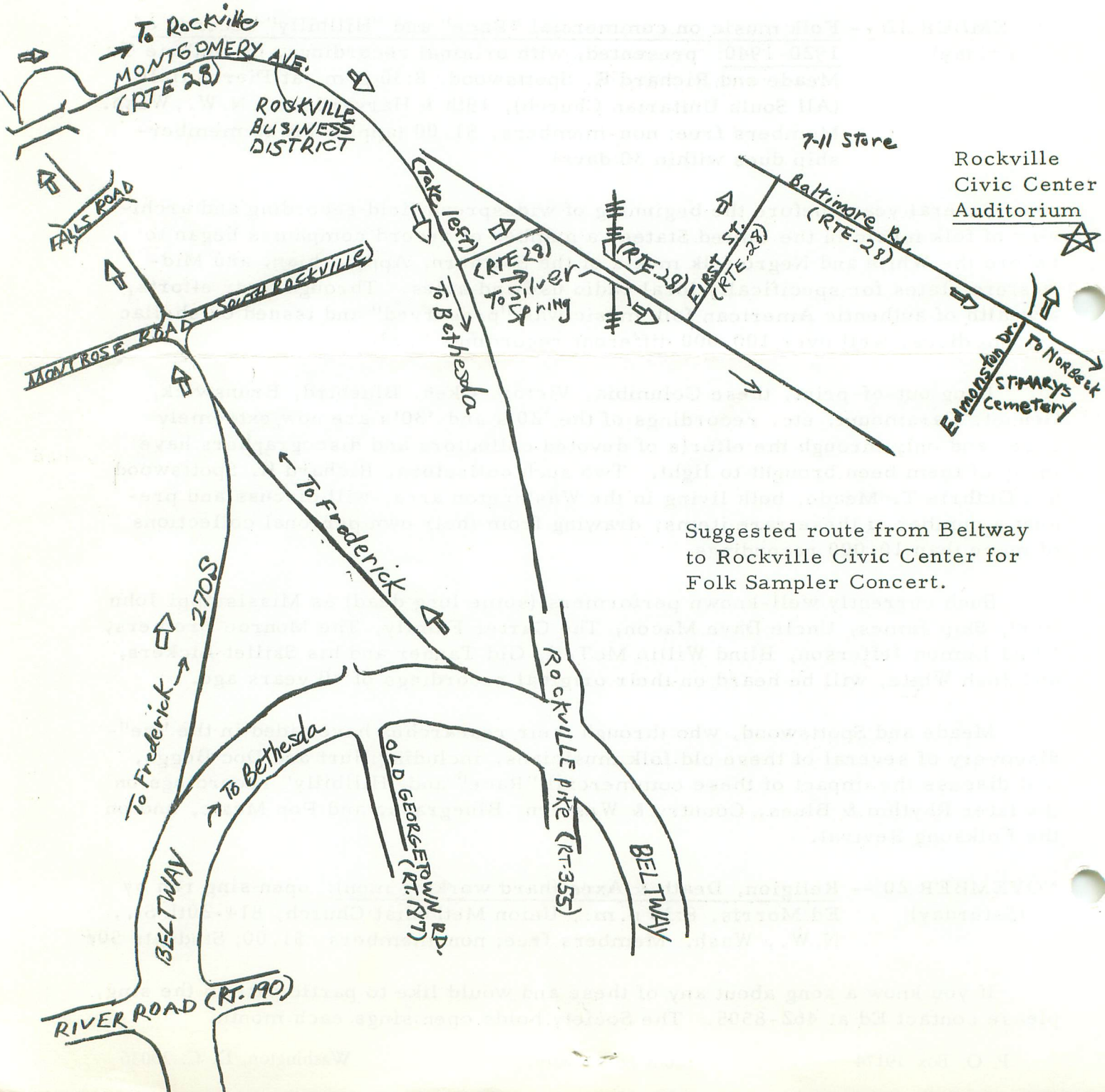
Meade and Spottswood, who through their researches have aided in the "re"-discovery of several of these old folk musicians, including Hurt and Doc Boggs, will discuss the impact of these commercial "Race" and "Hillbilly" recordings on the later Rhythm & Blues, Country & Western, Bluegrass, and Pop Music, and on the Folksong Revival.

NOVEMBER 20 -- Religion, Death & Axes (hard working men): open sing run by Ed Morris, 8:30 p.m., Union Methodist Church, 814-20th St., N. W., Wash. Members free; non-members, \$1.00; Students 50¢

If you know a song about any of these and would like to participate in the sing, please contact Ed at 462-8505. The Society holds open sings each month.

NOVEMBER 27 -- Folk Sampler Concert: a cross-section of American folk music, which will include ballads, blues, work songs and spirituals, 8:30 p.m. in the Civic Center auditorium, Baltimore and Edmonston Roads, Rockville, Maryland. Member admission is \$1.00; non-member admission, \$1.50.

The program is being planned to show how similar material is treated in different traditions of folk music. Performers will include Chuck and Nan Perdue, Sol and Helen Schneyer, Ed Morris, Jon Eberhart, Mike Rivers, and Andy Wallace.



Suggested route from Beltway to Rockville Civic Center for Folk Sampler Concert.

● ● THE FIRST CONCERT OF THE FOLKLORE SOCIETY OF GREATER WASHINGTON'S 1965-1966 season was presented September 24th at Pierce Hall in Washington. Donald Leace opened the evening with songs, patter and a style that has distinguished him among Washington singers of folksong. Donald, who represents an urban tradition of folksong, included in his act the ballad "Silkie of Sule Skerry" and the Spiritual "Gimme That Ole Time Religion".

Second on the program was John Jackson, son of a Virginia sharecropper, who learned most of his songs from Hillbilly and Race records in the late '20's and early '30's, and part of his guitar style from a chain gang water boy, who after serving his time, stayed for a while with the Jackson family. John's selection of songs for the evening was limited to blues and included "Matchbox Blues" and "Cross the River".

Bluegrass music concluded the concert. Hazel Dickens and Alice Foster were featured, backed up by Pete Roberts and Carl Chadsky. Their material included songs written in the bluegrass idiom after World War II. Older numbers on their program included The Carter Family's "Coal Miner's Blues" and an instrumental version of Dave Macon's "Buddy, Won't You Roll Down the Line," the latter featuring Pete Roberts' banjo.

All the performers were from the greater Washington area. Donald Leace has recorded for Franc and Gateway records. Chris Strachwitz has recorded John Jackson for Arhoolie. And Hazel Dickens and Alice Foster have recorded for Verve-Folkways.

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● ● THE GREATER WASHINGTON CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN MUSICOLOGICAL SOCIETY AND THE WASHINGTON-BALTIMORE CHAPTER OF THE MUSIC LIBRARY ASSOCIATION are meeting jointly at Catholic University on Saturday, December 4, 1965, at 2:00 p.m. The following papers will be given: Predecessors of the Gospel Song, Allen M. Garret, Catholic University; "The Unconstant Lover": Some Relationships Between Folk Music and Its Adulators, Joseph C. Hickerson, Library of Congress; Progress on the Dictionary of American Hymnology, Leonard W. Ellinwood, Library of Congress. The meeting is open to the public and there is no admission fee.

TO JOIN the Society, 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 _____	If you are on our mailing list,	
Address _____	but <u>do not</u> wish to remain on	
Phone _____	it, <u>please</u> check here _____.	
Circle one: family \$7.50	single \$5.00	mailing list only

CALENDAR OF COMING FSGW EVENTS

- December 10 Jewish folksongs and some Anglo-American counterparts. Tossi
(Friday) and Lee Aaron, Prestige recording artists, from Philadelphia.
Pierce Hall behind All Soul's Unitarian Church, 16th and Harvard
Rd., N. W., Washington, 8:30 p.m. Membership meeting held
after intermission.
- January 14 Reports on folklore research by students in the "Introduction to
(Friday) Folklore" course at the University of Maryland, along with their
professors, Esther K. Birdsall and Douglas J. McMillan. Pierce
Hall behind All Soul's Unitarian Church, 16th and Harvard Rd.,
N. W., Washington. Membership meeting held after intermission.
Program starts at 8:30 p.m.
- January 29 Open Sing - Union Methodist Church (basement), 814 - 20th St.,
(Saturday) N. W., Washington at 8:30 p.m.

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