

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. 6

February, 1966

Linda Brennan, Editor

THE BEERS FAMILY--Bob, Evelyne and Marty--will present a concert for the Folklore Society of Greater Washington at 3 p.m. on Sunday, February 13th, in Pierce Hall. The program will consist primarily of Irish-American music with accompaniment on the psaltery, plucked dulcimer, fiddle, fiddlesticks and limberjacks.

Part of the music to be heard will be that of Bob's grandfather George Sullivan, who was born of Irish parents in 1853 in Pennsylvania and whose songs and airs Bob and Evelyne have learned and taught to their daughter Marty. Other music which the Beers perform has been learned from traditional sources such as May Kennedy McCord of Springfield, Missouri.

For more than 15 years the Beers have sung and played at folk festivals. Recently they have appeared at large folk clubs such as Gerde's Folk City in New York. Their festival appearances include those at the National Folk Festival, Newport Folk Festival, Philadelphia Folk Festival, Indian Neck Folk Festival, and the First New York Folk Festival. They have appeared a number of times on the Johnny Carson Show on television and have given concerts at Carnegie Hall in Lincoln Center in New York.

They have recorded for Folkways, Columbia, and Prestige. Their awards have been many. At the age of 12, Bob placed in a tie at an old time fiddlers' contest in North Freedom, Wisconsin, where he spent summers with his grandfather. In 1960, TV Radio Mirror magazine awarded a gold medal to the Beers' television program "On Strings of Song" as the "best TV music program in the western states." In 1964, they won the annual Burl Ives award for "an outstanding contribution in preserving traditional music."

Bob Beers is a professionally educated and trained musician, having served as a concert master and performed as a concert violinist. But, when it comes to old-time fiddling, to quote George Armstrong, "He is a master. He fiddles just as he learned from his grandfather."

The psaltery, on which Bob accompanies Evelyne's songs, is a very rare instrument and seldom heard. It is the earliest ancestor of the piano. The strings are plucked directly with the bare fingers. The fiddlesticks and limberjacks have to be seen to be appreciated.

Tickets will be available at the door. General admission is \$2; members, \$1; and children (under 12), 50¢. Pierce Hall is behind All Souls' Unitarian Church, 16th and Harvard Sts., N.W. A private parking lot is east of 15th & Fuller.

P. O. Box 19174

20th Street Station

Washington, D. C. 20036

THE FSGW PRESENTS--THE CLANCY BROTHERS AND TOMMY MAKEM

"Oh, it was a day in Waterford and there were wine and pipes on the table; there was the full of the house of women and meself drinking their health."

Thus begins one of the spirited Gaelic songs of the Clancy Brothers and Tommy Makem, who will appear under sponsorship of the Folklore Society of Greater Washington at 8: 30 p. m., Friday, February 11, in Lisner Auditorium.

The Clancy's--Pat, Tom, and Liam, from County Tipperary in Southern Ireland--and Orangeman, Tommy Makem, from County Armagh--present an evening of Irish music and poetry, accompanied by the guitar, banjo and penny whistle. Their songs are sad and humorous. They usually quote from Irish poets and sing and recite rhymes of Irish children. Some of their favorite songs are "Johnny I Hardly Knew You", "Rising of the Moon", "Young Roddy McCorley", and "Whiskey in the Jar".

Beginning with the appearance of Pat Clancy and Tommy Makem in 1956 at the first folk festival in Newport, and of the full group there in 1960, the Irishmen have performed all over America. And they have performed on television, including the "Today Show", and the now defunct "P.M. East and P.M. West" (last month the "Today Show" devoted an entire program to Irish music).

They have recorded for Columbia, given numerous concerts, and in 1964 toured Ireland, where their records account for 30 per cent of total record sales. Their LP's alone outsell singles of the Beatles.

They come from folk-singing families. Among those recorded are Tommy's mother--Mrs. Sarah Makem, and Mrs. Joan Clancy, Joan Clancy Butler, and Peg Clancy Power.

Tommy Makem has recorded a solo album for Tradition. Liam has a recent solo release on Vanguard.

"The Clancy Brothers and Tommy Makem Songbook" has been published by Tiparm Music Publishers, New York City.

*Ticket prices are \$4.00, \$3.50, \$3.00, \$2.50, and \$2.00. Folklore Society members receive a 25% discount and prices are as follows: \$3.00, \$2.60, \$2.25, \$1.85, and \$1.50. If you wish to write for reserve seats, send your check along with a self-addressed stamped envelope to: "Clancy Brothers Concert", 1756 - 37th St., N.W., Washington, D. C. 20007. Make all checks payable to Stanley-Williams Presentations. Members can receive the discount either by writing for tickets or by showing their membership card at the door.

*Lisner Auditorium is located at 21st and H Streets, N. W. The Clancy Brothers Concert is the first in a series of concerts to be presented at the Lisner Auditorium. Judy Collins and Buffy Sainte Marie are under consideration for upcoming concerts.

FEBRUARY 26--Open sing headed by Jonathan Eberhart--8:30 p.m., Union methodist Church, 814-20th St., N.W., Wash., D.C. Members free; non-members, \$1.00; students 50¢.

Praying and Crying with Mother and God--Songs of salvation, sorrow, saccharinity, and occasional foot stomping. All welcome, especially singing. If you want to participate in the Sing, call Jonathan Eberhart during the day at NO. 7-2255.

MARCH 11--nominations of FSGW officers/ discussion meeting/ two films to be shown. 8:30 p.m., Pierce Hall.

MARCH 26--open sing run by Mike Rivers.

APRIL 8--more nominations/ musical program. 8:30 p.m., Pierce Hall.

APRIL 30--open sing

MAY 13--election of officers/ speaker to be announced. 8:30 p.m., Pierce Hall.

JUNE 10--musical program to be announced. 8:30 p.m., Pierce Hall.

MEMBERS! PLEASE present your membership cards at the door when you attend any of the Folklore Society functions.

CLUBS IN THE WASHINGTON AREA FEATURING FOLK MUSIC

THE BRIDGE, 2027 Nichols Avenue, S.E., phone 581-8155 (run by Neighbors, Inc.) occasional folk music, although not primarily a folk music club--also other art forms.

THE REAL DIRT--Hillandale area in Silver Spring--Friday nights only--folk music and poetry. Anyone interested, call Jo Feldman JU. 7-9163.

THE GATE TO--Church-operated coffee house, open on Friday and Saturday nights from 10 p.m. until 1 a.m. 16th and Newton, N.W.

THROUGH THE GATE--Capitol Hill Presbyterian Church, 4th and Independence, SW. Phone LI. 7-8676. Performers invited.

SEVENTH SON--1782 Florida Avenue, N.W. Phone 462-9480. Open every night from 8 p.m. to 4 a.m. Performers invited. Paid entertainment with cover charge Friday and Saturday nights. Recently featured have been Flora Molton, Ed Morris, and Rusti Clark.

CELLAR DOOR--M Street in Georgetown--gradually working out of their folk music--now including more non-folk performers. Phone 337-3390.

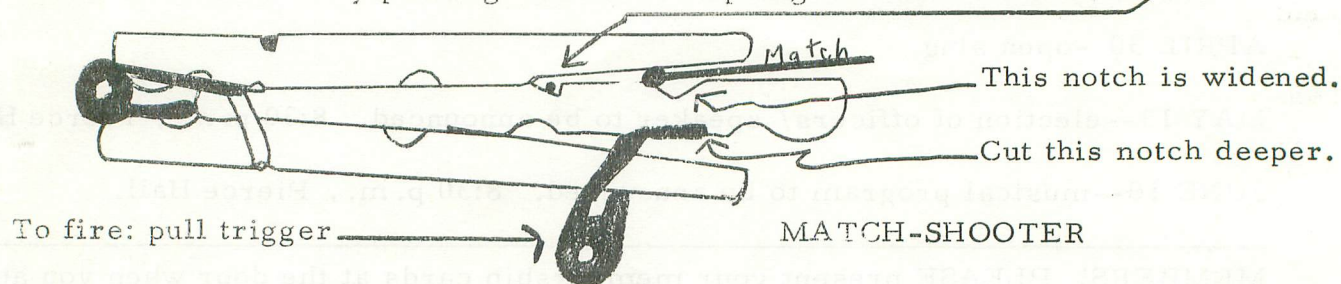
***Hardly any folk music is heard now at the Lute and Lyre at 10th & K, N.W. The Carapan and the Second Act are added to the list of clubs who have gone out of business, along with the Shadows, Endor Inn, Ontario Place, and the Unicorn.

THE KICKIN' MULE...

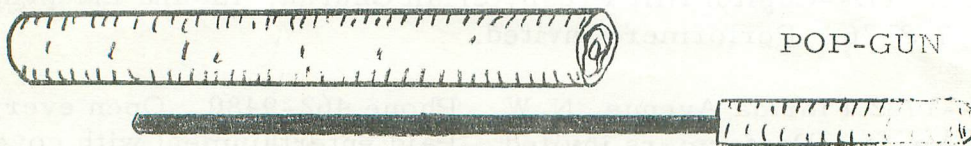
Folk-Toys: I know that anyone under 15 years of age will find this hard to believe, but once upon a time... long, long ago there were no television sets to watch; there were no giant mechanical men, no hula hoops, and no store-bought skate boards. There were, however, lots of things to do and nobody ever really died of boredom. Some activities were seasonal. Stealing watermelons, smoking rabbit tobacco or catalpa beans (indian cigars), or swimming in the creek could only be done at certain times of the year, but there were a lot of toys that could be made year 'round and almost every kid in my neighborhood could make them.

Match-Shooters - all you need to make these are two spring clothespins, a pocket knife, and an endless supply of kitchen matches. This harmless little toy can fire a lighted match for about 30 feet. It would probably be smart to keep a bucket of water handy when you play with this.

Gun is cocked by pushing end of wire spring into new notch cut here.



Pop-Guns - a properly constructed pop-gun is a joy to shoot (and a menace to mankind). When I was a kid we used these, along with rocks, rotten plums, and other assorted missiles in the mock (?) battles that we fought. To make: cut a section of elderberry bush, or comparable substitute, between two joints and push out the pithy interior with a metal rod. The best size elderberry is about a foot long and an inch in outside diameter. The interior diameter is not critical, but the closer the fit between the interior and the mop-handle shaft, the higher the muzzle velocity of the projectile. Most anything that will fit rather tightly in the end of the gun can be used as ammunition, but I have found that a thoroughly chewed wad of newspaper is the best. To fire: stick the wad in the end of the gun and ram the shaft into the other end; the shaft should be about 1/8 inch longer than the gun. The air pressure that builds up ahead of the moving shaft ejects the wad with a good deal of force--don't point this at anyone you like.



Parachutes - tie four one-foot lengths of string to the four corners of a large handkerchief; put the loose ends of the strings together and tie them to a small weight--a 1-inch steel nut or a small rock will do nicely. Now you have a parachute you can toss up and try to shoot down with your pop-gun.

CHUCK PERDUE
President

Schedule for John Dildin's Folk Music Radio Program, Station WAMU-FM 88.5 mc
Fridays, 8:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.

- Feb. 4 - Child Ballads in England and America.
- Feb. 11 - Music by the Beers Family. Fiddle, Psaltery, Dulcimer and Singing
by an American family with a tradition of music making.
- Feb. 18 - Recordings from the Archive of Folksong of the Library of Congress.
- Feb. 25 - Interview and singing of Chuck and Nan Perdue.
- Mar. 4 - Folk Culture of 1920's and 1930's on records.
An interview with Richard Spottswood, local collector of old Jazz,
Blues, and Hillbilly recordings and producer of records.
- Mar. 11 - "The City Billies" ... Neo Country Music.
Music made by young city people patterned after older country music
string bands.
- Mar. 18 - "Bluesmen-Then and Now" -- rediscovered blues singers as they
sounded on their original recordings and as they sound now.
- Mar. 25 - "The Right Way" -- a survey of several folk songs and their different
versions showing how different the same basic song can appear.

**John Dildine, Publicity Chairman for the FSGW, has recently been named to
the Board of Directors of the National Folk Festival Association, Inc.

The local chapters of the American Musicological Society and Music Library
Association will meet at 2 p.m. on Saturday, February 12th at the Smithsonian
Institution, Museum of History and Technology (auditorium). Papers to be given
are "A Group of Masses by Joseph Eybler 1764-1846", "Definition and Stylistic
Uses of the Violone 1500-1700", and "Toward Musical Information Retrieval."

*****PLEASE HELP US PUBLICIZE THE BEERS FAMILY CONCERT ON
FEBRUARY 13TH BY POSTING THE POSTER, ENCLOSED WITH THIS
NEWSLETTER, ON A BULLETIN BOARD.

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 _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Circle one: family \$7.50

single \$5.00

mailing list only

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Washington, D. C. 20036

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