

FOLKLORE SOCIETY OF GREATER WASHINGTON

Executive Board -- Special Meeting -- Wednesday, 18 February 1970 -- Room 710,
Dupont Circle Building

Present: Mike Rivers, Frank Goodwyn, Roni Bowie, Bob Clayton, Kathy Goldman,
Andy Wallace, Bob Banks, Michael Quitt, Joel Shimberg, Joe Hickerson,
Lynn Hickerson, John Dildine, Ginny Dildine

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 p.m. by Vice President Mike Rivers as the President had not yet arrived.

The minutes of the regular February Board Meeting (4 February) were approved as received in the mail.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT: Joe Hickerson

As of this date, total membership is 355: 193 Individual and 162 Family. The overall increase (total memberships) is up 90 from a year ago, and up 142 from a year and a half ago. The Society is interested in gaining memberships in a relaxed way.

The Membership Chairman received a letter from the faculty adviser of the Oxon Hill (Md.) High School folk music club inquiring about a club membership. We have never had this category of membership heretofore and would have to amend the By-Laws to allow for it. After discussion, a motion was made and carried that a family membership be granted the club, with a reduction of admission price at regular Society events upon presentation of proof of membership in said club. (The club will receive one copy of each publication to which members are entitled -- e.g., Newsletter, Journal. The faculty adviser will have to have his own family membership for his own family. A suggestion for the reduced admission price was 1/2 the non-member admission. The membership will be in the name of the club itself.) (Letter and reply from Joe Hickerson attached.)

PUBLICATIONS REPORT: Frank Goodwyn

The Publications Chairman expressed dissatisfaction with the duplicating service at the University of Maryland, which has been doing the Newsletter; he suggested changing to Batt Bates -- the rates are fairly comparable; furthermore, if we want a folded-over Newsletter, the University printer cannot handle it. If we reduce the General Mailing List as proposed in past meetings, 700 copies of a four-sheet folded-over newsletter would cost the same as 1700 copies of the single-sheet Newsletter we now send out.

A "Return Requested" Newsletter mailing brought 117 returned pieces -- about 1/2 of that number were new addresses, and 1/2 were address unknown and dropped from the mailing list.

In response to our free-admission offer in the Newsletter (in connection with updating the General Mailing List after April 1970), only 3-4 Newsletters were brought to the last program meeting. Our March Newsletter should note that it will be the last chance before the April cutoff to respond in some way in order to avoid being dropped from the General Mailing List.

(PUBLICATIONS REPORT - continued)

Several Board members suggested that the Newsletter include information such as the Philadelphia Folk Song Society newsletter contains, covering events in Boston, Philadelphia, New York, etc., which would be of interest to the membership (events especially coming up, but also maybe reports on events recently past, for those who may not have had them brought to their attention but are interested in what's been going on in folklore and -music).

SPECIAL EVENTS REPORT: Bob Clayton

We lost a small amount of money on the Gordon Bok concert (31 January), due to the way in which we had to collect the admission after the Smithsonian refused to allow collection at the door. (Our agreement with the Smithsonian is on a per-time basis; we submit a new application for each use of the auditorium.) The question arises again as to the feasibility of using the Smithsonian auditorium (see discussions in previous Board meetings).

The next Special Event will be a concert on Saturday, 21 March, by the Golden Ring, including George and Gerry Armstrong, Ed and Penny Trickett, Joe and Lynn Hickerson, Sara Gray, and ~~possibly~~ Ruth Meyer.* Bob will try to get the Ethical Society auditorium for this concert. (See also under "Old Business," below.) (This will not be the free-to-members special event November-makeup event, as considered a possibility at the January Board meeting: we need to make up for the money lost on the Gordon Bok concert.) *Also: John & Ginny Dildine, Howie & Ann Mitchell.

OLD BUSINESS

According to Nancy Goland, who is a member of both the Ethical Society and the FSGW, the Ethical Society would be happy to have us use their auditorium again. Apparently the raise in rent for the auditorium was not meant to apply to FSGW and we were informed of it by mistake. John Dildine suggested that if we do use that auditorium again, we go through the Golands rather than Mrs. Pineau, and that we have some responsible member of both organizations arrange for the door to be unlocked at program time, etc.

John Jackson granted permission to Biograph Records for use ^{anonymously of his accompaniment} of the tapes of a Buddy Moss concert, ~~on which John played accompaniment~~. We received a check for \$25.00 from Arnie Caplin in response to Joe Hickerson's letter (see minutes of 6 January 1970). Caplin now wants other tapes we might have, e.g., of Skip James or John Hurt (whom we never had for a program). (Correspondence attached.)

John Dildine will again contact the National Folk Festival Association concerning payment to folk performers (see minutes of previous Board meetings and memo dated September 6, 1967, to George Simpson from Charles H. Cunningham, USDA). It has been suggested that if NFFA will not or cannot meet the payment of \$99.40, FSGW do so for the sake of the performers.

NEW BUSINESS

Trash was found in the Smithsonian auditorium the morning after our Norman Kennedy concert. We do not know whether we were responsible for its being deposited there or not since we did not check to see that the auditorium was left clean after the concert. The sergeant-at-arms should make it a point to check after every event -- we are held responsible for the condition we leave the place in even if we didn't find it clean when we came in. As a matter of diplomacy, John Dildine will write a letter of apology to Mr. Silvio Bedini, Asst. Director of Museum of History and Technology, after consultation with Ralph Rinzler to see if Ralph thinks it advisable to write such a letter. John will explain (at least to Ralph) that we found trash in the auditorium upon our arrival at a later event (Gordon Bok concert), so there is some question as to whether or not the trash after the Norman Kennedy concert was actually left by FSGW.

Vice President Mike Rivers will be away from March to September 1970. The Board appointed Frank Daspit as Acting Vice President (and Acting Sgt.-at-Arms -- see above paragraph); Frank was not present to accept or decline the appointment, so he was appointed pending acceptance.

Gus Meade and John Dildine received a call from the radio department of the Smithsonian ("Radio Smithsonian") requesting permission to tape the programs we hold in the Smithsonian auditorium, for inclusion in their radio series. It may be possible for us to have them provide us with a P.A. system, tape the programs, and give us the original tape after they have used it for their radio program, subject of course to the performer's OK in writing at the time of signing for the concert. A motion carried that John Dildine investigate this with the Smithsonian and report to the Board.

Joe Hickerson received a letter from the Annapolis Fine Arts Festival concerning their "Preview '70," to be held 18-21 June 1970, inviting participation by FSGW, for a fee. A fee of \$300.00 was mentioned: if we provided six groups, that would allow \$40 per group, \$10 for arrangements, and \$50 to FSGW treasury. A motion carried that Joe represent the FSGW and reply to the letter, asking what other kinds of acts will be included.

The Board should approve John Dildine's suggestions for a Nominating Committee by the next Board meeting (4 March). The Nominating Committee's report will be due at the April meeting. Present Board members who cannot be considered for their present positions again next year are: John Dildine, Joe Hickerson, Roni-Bowie, Bob Clayton. Joe noted that some jobs considered not to be Executive Board positions are becoming rather large -- e.g., the one of Circulation ^{Editor} Manager, who handles the mailing lists; such persons might be considered for at-large positions on the Executive Board (which would not require amending the By-Laws).

Getaway V: Andy Wallace has all names on a mailing list from past Getaways and will turn the list over to the Getaway Committee recently appointed. Reservations at the Getaway have always been on a first-come-first-served basis, with members receiving priority up to the deadline date. Getaway invited guests from out of town get their transportation paid and free admission.

Mike Rivers announced a going-away-to-Japan party for the Ring Shouters at Helen Schneyers on Sunday night, 22 February.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:53 p.m. Respectfully submitted,
Kathy Goldman Kathy Goldman, Secretary

To whom it may concern:

I hereby give my permission to Arnie Caplin to issue a recording on Biography Records made from the Folklore Society of Greater Washington's recording of the Buddy Moss concert, June 1966, on which I play back up guitar for Buddy Moss' harmonica playing. My name is not to be used on, or in connection with, the Biography Recording.

Jan. 6, 1969 John Jackson

Witness: Jan 6, 1969 Charles L. Berden Jr.

January 6, 1970

Dear Joe:

Arnie Caplin has decided he would like to record the Buddy Moss harmonica pieces for the record (at least 3 of them) so I have talked to John Jackson and he is agreeable as long as his name is not involved. Therefore - the enclosed (poorly written) release is for the PSGW files. I have also sent a copy to Caplin.

Maybe the Society should consider making records of some of its tapes? Probably a hairy mess of a business to get involved in though.

Is snowing here and, no doubt, there also. We were blocked in by 8-foot drifts from Christmas evening till following Monday morning - hope we are not in for another.

Sorry you couldn't make it up. You would have enjoyed the mummer's play with drunken Jack Jackson in an unplanned starring role!

See you.

C
Chuck

January 19, 1970

Biograph Records
Arnold S. Caplin, President

Dear Arnie,

Many thanks for the check and your letter of January 9. We have received the clearance for the use of unnamed John Jackson on the Buddy Moss LP. We all look forward to the recording when released.

The FSGW never sponsored any concerts by John Hurt or Skip James, and therefore has no tapes thereof. The enclosed list of FSGW Archive tapes was published over a year ago in our Newsletter Supplement.

You will be hearing further from our Editor, Frank Goodwyn, concerning ad information.

With best wishes,

Joe Hickerson,
Membership Chairman



Biograph Records

The Folklore Society
Washington D.C.
ATT: Joe Hickerson
January 9, 1969

Pres.: Arnold S. Caplin
Tel: (212) 252-0252

Dear Joe,

Thank you for your letter. I received the Buddy Moss tapes in good condition, and will return them as soon as I am finished with them. One problem in mastering that may arise is that the tapes were recorded at a very low VU. I would suggest you have the VU between 1- and 1+ in your future recording. This is important in mastering for LP's. I have received and assume you received a clearance from John Jackson. Enclosed is a check for \$25.00 to the FSGW.

We are interested in using other tapes that the FSGW have recorded. We are especially interested in the SKIP JAMES* JOHN HURT items. If they are available and you would consider loaning them, we will try to get clearance from the parties concerned. We would welcome suggestion on other material from FSGW.

We charge \$1.50 for review copies, limit 1 each, which can definitely be resold. We are interested in advertizing in your Journal. We are planning our new releases and as soon as we have them finished I will send you an advert. Please let me know your closing dates for advertizments. Thank you very much for your concern.

Sincerely,
Arnold S. Caplin





Newsletter of the Folklore Society

OF GREATER WASHINGTON
Box 19303 20th Street Station, Washington D. C. 20036

Folklore events
in March:

PETER GOTT, Wednesday, March 4 at 4:30 p. m. in the Hall of Musical Instruments, History and Technology Museum (third floor), Constitution Avenue between 12th and 14th Streets N. W., Washington, D. C. Peter Gott lives and farms about an hour northwest of Ashville, North Carolina, in the heart of a rich area for traditional music. He sings and plays the fiddle, banjo and guitar. In collaboration with John Cohen, he has recorded Old Love Songs and Ballads from the Big Laurel for Folkways. His performance in the Hall of Musical Instruments will be free and open to the public.

PETER GOTT will PLAY AND CALL for a SQUARE DANCE Friday, March 6, beginning at 7:30 p. m. at the Burgandy Farm Country Day School. Take Exit 2 from the Beltway southward on Telegraph Road. At the first traffic light, turn right on Burgandy Road. The Burgandy Farm Country Day School is at the end of it on your right. Admission, \$1.00 per person, 50¢ per child, \$3.00 maximum for a family.

RUSSELL FAMILY PLAYERS, Friday, March 13, at 8:30 p. m. in the History and Technology Museum Auditorium, Constitution Avenue between 12th and 14th Streets, N. W., Washington, D. C. The Russell Family is from the vicinity of Galax, Virginia. ROSCOE RUSSELL, head of the family, plays the guitar and the baritone ukulele. His wife, RUTH, is a daughter of the famous dulcimer maker, JACOB MELTON. Ruth learned from her father and won the first dulcimer contest held at Galax. Their daughter, BONNIE, is also a fine dulcimer player, and their son, ROY, plays the guitar. With SCOTT ODELL as master of ceremonies, they will perform at the regular FSGW program meeting in March: free to members and nonmembers who bring their addressed copies of this newsletter*, \$1.00 to nonmembers and 50¢ to children not covered by family membership.

THE GOLDEN RING, Saturday, March 21, at 8:30 p. m. in the Ethical Society Auditorium, 7750, 16th Street (corner of 16th and Kalmia Road), N. W., Washington, D. C. This is a special FSGW event. The Golden Ring is a select set of singers and performers consisting of RUTH MEYER, GEORGE AND GERRY ARMSTRONG, ED AND PENNY TRICKETT, SARA GRAY WITH HOWIE AND ANN MITCHELL, JOHN AND GINNY DILDINE, and JOE AND LYNN HICKERSON. Admission, \$1.00 for FSGW members, \$2.00 for nonmembers.

OPEN SING, Saturday, March 28, at 8:00 p. m. in the Union Methodist Church, 814, 20th Street, N. W., Washington, D. C. Come to listen or sing. Bring voices and instruments. Free to all comers.

TWO NEW COFFEE HOUSES solicit LISTENERS AND PERFORMERS in the BALTIMORE AREA: Rt. 29, two miles south of Columbia at the Baha'i Center, open only on weekends. Another, in the "Orange Propeller" Teen Center, Oakland Mills Village Center, Columbia, Maryland, also off Rt. 29, open nightly with (hopefully) performers on weekends. Also, Laura C. Goldman (phone 839 1100) needs speakers and/or singers and performers for the Oxon Hill Senior High School, 6221, Leyte Drive, Oxon Hill, Maryland 20021.

JOSEPH HICKERSON and GERALDINE JOHNSON are leading 8 sessions on American folklore: FROM WITCHCRAFT TO JESSE JAMES: BALLADS, BLUES, TALES, LEGENDS, CUSTOMS BELIEFS, RIDDLES, JOKES. Phone: 532 5800.

*We're trying to narrow down our large general mailing list and are conducting a survey to determine who comes to meetings because of announcements in this newsletter, so we're making a SPECIAL OFFER; any nonmember who brings his addressed copy of this newsletter to the regular program meeting held in March gets free admission. For further information, call Circulation Editor Robert Banks: 439 3012. In any case, please help us by checking and filling in the form below and bringing or sending it to us. If we don't hear from you one way or another by April 1, you'll be dropped from the list.

THE FOLKLORE SOCIETY OF GREATER WASHINGTON
Box 19303, 20th Street Station, Washington, D. C. 20036

SURVEY AND/OR MEMBERSHIP FORM
Check the appropriate spaces:

I am a member of the Society and have received all the publications since I joined: _____
 I am not a member but would like to continue receiving the monthly newsletter: _____
 I am not a member and am not interested. Please discontinue all mailings to me: _____
 I wish to join the Society as an individual. Enclosed find \$5.00: _____
 My entire family wishes to enjoy membership. Enclosed find \$7.50: _____

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____ Zip Code _____

WASHINGTON DC 20009
Apt 4
1830 R ST N W
KATHY GOLDMAN

