

newsletter of *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. 3, No. 7

April, 1967

Geo. A. Simpson, Acting Editor

BUFFY SAINTE-MARIE APRIL 7, TOM PAXTON APRIL 29 IN CONCERT

Opening the month on April 1 with a concert by the Clancy Brothers and Tommy Makem, the Folklore Society of Greater Washington and Stanley-Williams Presentations this month also will present two of the country's most popular young folksingers and composers of topical song -- Buffy Sainte-Marie on Friday, April 7, and Tom Paxton on Saturday, April 29. Both concerts are scheduled for 8:30 p.m. in Lisner auditorium, 21st and H Streets NW.

BUFFY SAINTE-MARIE, a Cree Indian, has carried her mouth-bow, guitar and songs before television cameras and concert, festival and folk club audiences in the United States, Canada and Great Britain. In 1965, Billboard magazine's annual disc jockey poll named her number one new female folk vocalist in the country.

A graduate of the University of Massachusetts with a major in education and oriental philosophy, she did not begin singing in public until her last year in college, although, as a child in Maine, she had begun writing her now more than 200 songs. Among her songs more often-heard are "Universal Soldier", "Now That the Buffalo's Gone", "Cod'ine" and "It's My Way". A number of her compositions have been recorded by other leading folk artists. She records for Vanguard.

"I love to sing, love the way it feels, the sensual feeling of song in my throat..." is the way she described herself to the late Peter La Farge, as quoted in SING OUT! Author-critic Nat Hentoff has written: "She is, there is no one else like her. It is the fullness of life in Buffy Sainte-Marie's music that has converted me into one of her admirers."

TOM PAXTON is the composer of many often-heard songs -- "Ramblin' Boy", "The Marvelous Toy", "I'm the Man That Built the Bridges", "I Just Can't Help but Wonder Where I'm Bound", "That was the Last Thing on My Mind", "Bottle of Wine", "Cindy's Cryin'", "The Willing Conscript", "What Did You Learn in School Today" and many more.

Born in Chicago, Tom at the age of ten moved to Bristow, Oklahoma (26 miles from Okemah). He majored in drama at the University of Oklahoma and after graduation joined a summer stock company. He had played guitar and written a few songs in college and, when in 1960 on duty with the U.S. Army he was sent to New York, he gravitated to the Gaslight and its regulars, Dave Van Ronk, Jack Elliott, Len Chandler and Bob Dylan. As he sang his songs others picked them up. On hearing "Ramblin' Boy", Pete Seeger added it and many of Tom's other songs to his repertoire.

Tom's first record was cut by the Gaslight in 1962. Since then Electra has produced his lp's. He has appeared throughout the country at festivals, in folk clubs and in concert, and written columns for Boston Broadside and SING OUT! Oak Publications has printed Ramblin' Boy and Other Songs by Tom Paxton.

Tickets may be obtained by sending a stamped, self-addressed envelope to Stanley-Williams Presentations, 1715 - 37th Street NW., Washington, D.C. 20007. General admission is \$2.50, \$3.00, \$3.50 and \$4.00. Admission for members of the Folklore Society of Greater Washington is \$1.85, \$2.25, \$2.60 and \$3.00.

Stanley-Williams Presentations, 1715 - 37th St. NW., Washington, D.C.

ORDER FORM

Enclosed is stamped, self-addressed envelope and check or money order in amount of _____ for tickets to the designated concerts.

Buffy Sainte-Marie, April 7:

_____ tickets at _____ = _____
_____ tickets at _____ = _____

Tom Paxton, April 29:

_____ tickets at _____ = _____
_____ tickets at _____ = _____

NEGRO MUSIC AT DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE APRIL 13

Local Negro singers will give a program of folkmusic at 8:30 p.m., Thursday, April 13, in the Thomas Jefferson auditorium, South Building of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Independence Avenue between 12th and 14th Streets SW. The singers will be Amos Barnes, Lawrence Ferguson, Willie Mae Stanley and John Jackson. The program, moderated by Helen Schneyer, will consist of blues and spirituals. Admission will be one dollar.

Also scheduled in the same series are "A Programme of Old Time Barn Dance Music and Song", Thursday, May 11, and "Grant Rogers -- Songs and Fiddle Tunes from New York State", Thursday, June 8.

DISCUSSION MEETING AT PIERCE HALL APRIL 14

Discussion of the Folklore Society's activities and goals, nominations for next year's officers and films on folklore will be featured at the Society's monthly meeting 8:30 p.m., Friday, April 14, in Pierce Hall, Harvard Street between 15th and 16th Streets NW. Admission is free and the public is invited.

BILL MONROE HEADS UP CARTER STANLEY BENEFIT APRIL 9

Bill Monroe and his Bluegrass Boys will headline a benefit for the family of Carter Stanley, who died last December after a long stay in the hospital. The show, also featuring The Country Gentlemen, Bill Emerson and Buzz Busby and Don Stover, will be held at 2 p.m., Sunday, April 9, in the Ritchie Coliseum on U.S. Route No. 1 at the University of Maryland. Sponsors are the University of Maryland Campus Chest and Bluegrass Unlimited. Tickets at \$3.00 each may be obtained from the latter at Box 1611, Wheaton, Md. 20902. For further information call 942-1492. All proceeds will go to the Carter Stanley family.

FOLK CALENDAR

- Apr 14-16 Arkansas Folk Festival; Mountain View, Arkansas.
Apr 16 Nationality Evening; Host Groups - Matusz Polish Dance Circle, Estonian Folklore Group, Italian Folklore Group of Montclair, N.J., Ukraine Dancers - Jr. Ukraine Dancers; Ukrainian National Home, 140 Second Ave., New York City, 7:30 p.m.
Apr 19-22 Hubert Hayes Mountain Youth Jamboree; Asheville City auditorium, Asheville, N.C.
Apr 20-23 American Festival of Music; Boston, Massachusetts.
Apr 21-23 New England Folk Festival; Natick, Massachusetts.
Apr 22 Open Folk Sing; Union Methodist Church, 814 - 20th St. NW., D.C. General admission 50¢, members 25¢.
Apr 27-29 Bowling Green Folk Festival; Bowling Green, Ohio.
Apr 29-30 Indian Neck Folk Festival; in the New Haven-Brantford, Connecticut, area.
May 5-8 FSGW Get-Away II; Prince William Forest Park, Triangle, Virginia. Cabin camping spaces are full. Plan to tent camp or drive down. Prices for daily events are: Daily workshops (Saturday or Sunday) - \$1.00. Evening program (Saturday square dance or Sunday concert) - \$1.50. Daily workshops plus evening event (Saturday or Sunday) - \$2.00. Note: The last newsletter stated these prices were for all ages. Not so. It's half-price for children under 16.
May 12 Papers on folklore topics, moderated by Joe Hickerson, at Pierce Hall, 8:30 p.m. Election of next year's officers. Admission \$1.00, members free.
May 12-14 Pittsburgh Folk Festival; Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.
May 19-20 Metropolitan Folk Dance Festival; Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

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MEMBERSHIP FORM

Enclosed find my check or money order in the amount of (\$5.00 individual) or (\$7.50 family)*for annual dues in the Folklore Society of Greater Washington.

Name: _____ Telephone: _____

Address: _____

*Please line through the inappropriate figure.

(Please include Zip code)

KICKING MULE...

One hot summer day in 1936 my old man and I went to an auction up on Flat Shoals Road across from Clay's Dairy (DeKalb County, Georgia) and two things happened that day that stuck in my mind. We wandered around looking at the farm equipment and other stuff that was up for sale and, as we wandered, there was an oldman with a fiddle who wandered around too and entertained the prospective customers. My dad said he was called "Fiddlin' John Carson". He seemed to be as good a fiddle player as anyone else I had heard. Late in the afternoon we got hungry and bought an R.C. Cola and a Moon Pie. I somehow managed to lose my Moon Pie. I saw Fiddlin' John many times after that at other auctions and in the State Capitol where he worked. I never saw him or thought of him though that I didn't recall that Moon Pie and wonder who ate it.

Smoking...I was sitting here at the typewriter smoking a cigar and looking for words when I got to thinking about the godawful stuff we used to smoke as kids in rural Georgia. The first thing I tried, when I was about ten years old, was "rabbit tobacco", a weed with a thin, narrow leaf that you strip from the stem when it is dry in the fall of the year. It is then wrapped in some appropriate paper (we usually used toilet paper). It tasted horrible and smelled worse, but we were smoking by God! Manhood had arrived! After rabbit tobacco we tried Indian Cigars (dry beans from catalpa trees). It usually took a whole box of kitchen matches to get through one, and your tongue felt as though you had applied the matches directly! In late fall we made corn cob pipes and stuffed them with dried corn silk, coffee grounds, rabbit tobacco or snuff. Blahh! Dried grape vines worked too. If you think we were crazy... Lewis and Clark, on their trip west in the early 1800s, found Indians smoking tree bark! Just as we were getting ready to graduate to real cigarettes World War II came along and all we could get were Wings and Spuds -- we went back to rabbit tobacco!

Chuck Perdue

SOME NOTES IN THE PROPOSED COFFEE HOUSE DISCUSSION...

For a couple of months now several of us of the Folklore Society of Greater Washington have been discussing the idea of the Society's establishing a "ceildhe" house for the performance of folk music (ceildhe is a term used in Ireland and Scotland for musical, primarily folk, gatherings). Washington, due primarily to its north-south position is uniquely open to, and in need of such an establishment which would serve our very live folk music community, as well as the larger community, with educative and entertaining folk music programs on a non-profit basis. It would be run informally four to seven nights a week with different performers or programs every couple of nights. Eventually out of town performers would be used but the focus would be the presentation of the numerous folk oriented artists of our area to the larger Washington community as well as to ourselves. In addition, it would be a gathering place - a home for the FSGW.

Business and organization-wise the house (or whatever it's to be called) would be run by an incorporated, non-profit subcommittee of the FSGW and would have at the outset only a part-time manager and several sidekicks on minimal wages. It would have to depend on a fair amount of volunteer labor (and performers too) until well underway. There should be a membership system (e.g. \$3.00 to become a member with \$1.00 admission with a straight \$1.50 for non-members) and minimal self-serve food such as a coffee, a tea, a couple of sandwiches, MILK, and so forth.

The primary problem in getting started will be finding a capable manager, a good location, and a small amount of starting capital. For a manager we will have to search for a stable person with fair business sense to be responsible for overall operation. The location will be a larger problem and at present the economically least risky idea seems to be utilising the facilities of an existing church coffee-house, or church community building. Private store facilities could be used; they would involve greater cost but would provide greater freedom. The seating capacity should be 150-200, with some tables, and the location should be convenient for parking. The capital to start such a project would be at least \$1,000.00 and could be raised through loans within the Society, a couple of angels, or perhaps from some other organization interested in folk music activities. It is quite possible that several leading performers would donate a night or two's performance.

I hope this brief outline will make it possible for us to discuss this fully at our annual business meeting on Friday night, April 14 - Pierce Hall. If we decide to go ahead with it we can form a "steering" subcommittee and get into operation by the fall.

Mike Seeger

BRIEFLY...

The Pennsylvania "Ethnic Culture Survey" and the Pennsylvania Folklore Society are sponsoring a meeting for all interested in the folk culture of the Keystone state and its neighbors on Saturday, April 15, at the William Penn Memorial Museum and Archives building in Harrisburg. The morning session will begin at 9:30 a.m. and consist of an open meeting designed to assist in the coordination of folklife collecting and indexing, analysis, publication and education within the middle states region. The meeting will include a banquet and traditional entertainment. For information write: Henry Glassie, Folklorist, Ethnic Culture Survey, Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, William Penn Memorial Museum Building, Box 232, Harrisburg, Pa. 17108. The Purdue Conference on American Culture will be held April 21-22 at Purdue University. Among participants will be Richard M. Dorson and Arthur Mizener. For information write: Division of Conferences and Continuation Services, 116 Memorial Center, Purdue University, Lafayette, Ind. 47907.

Dover Publications Inc. (180 Varick St. New York 14, N.Y.), which has already printed in five volumes paperback Francis James Child's The English and Scottish Popular Ballads, has now published in three volumes paperback Thomas Percy's Reliques of Ancient English Poetry. Also available from Folklore Associates, Hatboro, Pa., is Loose and Humorous Songs from Bishop Percy's Folio Mss. with a new introduction by John Greenway. The last is in hard cover.

Executive Board Meetings, 8:30 p.m., first and third Tuesdays, Suite 710, Dupont Circle Building, 1346 Connecticut Ave. NW. Ellen Kleinmann (949-7282) is interested in getting together a group of couples who want to meet informally for songswapping. Richard Spottswood is preparing a show on country music called "Bluegrass Unlimited" for educational station WAMU.

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