

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

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June, 1967

Geo. A. Simpson, Acting Editor

GRANT ROGERS, CATSKILLS FOLKSINGER & FIDDLER
AT PIERCE HALL, FRIDAY, JUNE 9

Grant Rogers, folksinger, fiddler and songwriter from the Catskill Mountain area of New York will present an informal program of songs and fiddle tunes at the Society's last monthly meeting of the season, 8:30 p.m., Friday, June 9, in Pierce Hall on Harvard Street between 15th and 16th Streets NW.

Born about 60 years ago in Walton, New York, where he now lives, Grant has been playing the fiddle since he was six and at seven stood on a chair to play for local dances. When in his teens, he sought out and learned from Sherm Yorks, a peg-legged fiddler known in most of the area's lumber camps. For a few years in the '20s, he wandered through the Eastern states and in 1926 or 1927, while working with the fire patrol in Georgia, he learned to play guitar from a Negro worker. Later he learned to read and write music. Thus far he has composed over 200 songs and numerous fiddle tunes. His "Delaware River Waltz" is popular at dances in the Catskills region.

Grant's songwriting and music are in the tradition of the community in which he was born, grew up and has spent most of his years. One of his grandmothers was an Indian, and a grandfather was of mixed blood. His father, Delbert Rogers, who also made up songs, was a railroader and quarryman. Grant has worked in masonry, construction, timber and in the sawmill, now works as a stonecutter, and lives on the West Branch of the Delaware River. This artery eventually leads to metropolises such as Philadelphia and on its banks in the days of Grant's forebears flourished lively communities tight-knit in their common occupations, lumbering, quarrying and rafting. Lore and music also flourished. Grant's home as a child often was the scene of music-making and many traditional ballads and songs are in his repertoire.

In the '40s, Grant formed the Delaware County Ramblers and played regularly over radio station WVOS in Liberty, New York. In the late '40s, he began to appear at Norman Studer's Folk Festival of the Catskills at Camp Woodland. Here he and Pete Seeger met. The latter later recorded Grant's song "When a Fellow is Out of a Job".

The songs Grant has composed are in the traditional style. For the most part, they reveal a broad sympathy for people. In "When a Fellow is Out of a Job", he sings: "Every man that's a man wants to help push the world/But he can't if he's out of a job". Some of his songs have an epical quality, portraying people powerless against great impersonal forces. In "Cannonsville Dam", he writes of the flooding of and the displacement of people living in Rock Rift, New York, close to his home and the birthplace of his wife of 30 years, Edna.

Grant has appeared at various folk festivals outside the Catskills, including those at Newport in 1966 and at Philadelphia in 1965 and 1966. He has been recorded by Sandy Paton for Folk-Legacy records.

General admission to the program will be one dollar; members of the Folklore Society of Greater Washington admitted free with membership cards. There is a free, lighted parking lot just east of 15th Street on Fuller Street, one block south of the hall.

President's Report (April, 1967):

Beginning with May, 1966, our programs, concerts, and special events for the past year were as follows:

A lecture on "American Industrial Folksongs" by Archie Green; a program of blues by Buddy Moss; a Frank Proffitt Memorial concert; the FSGW annual Pick-nik; a film program - Shadows of Long Ago and Far Away; program of ballads and songs by Sarah Cleveland; Old Time Barn Dance and Song; program by Des and Juliette of songs and poems of New Zealand; East European folksongs by the Pennywhistlers; a folk sampler featuring members of the Folklore Society; a program of Negro music and song; a film program - The Singing Street and others.

The agreement between the Folklore Society of Greater Washington and Stanley-Williams Presentations was continued this past year with concerts by: Pete Seeger, the Clancy Brothers and Tommy Makem, Judy Collins, Buffy Ste. Marie, and Tom Paxton. The same agreement will likely be continued next year.

Last September the Folklore Society had its Get-Away I - a weekend of cabin camping, singing, squaredancing, workshops, and fun at Prince William Forest Park. We had about 50 less people than we had room for. We are having Get-Away II this May 5-8 at the same place and we have about 100 more people signed up than we have room for. Word must have gotten around about the good times had by all. The Society plans to continue the Get-Away as an annual event. Probably each spring.

In the President's report last April I said that the only real problem we had was money - we still have it. If the Society continues growing at its present rate (we gained about 45 new memberships this past year), I think the money problem will slowly resolve itself. We have about 200 memberships now and, if we can increase this number to the neighborhood of 350 or 400, we can operate from a base stable enough to accomplish Society goals without teetering on the brink of financial disaster.

Chuck Perdue, President

Treasurer's Report:

Expenses:	Hall	Program	Newsletter	Advert ¹	Postage ¹	Printing ¹	Other	Total
6/66-5/67 ²	\$377	439	1106	232	66	173	160	2552
6/65-5/66	\$452	309	586	138	53	86	133	1757
Income:	Dues	Admission	Lisner ³	Other	Special Events (inc.-exp.) net		Total	Net Gain
6/66-5/67 ²	\$974	450	1000	39	(2773-2353)	419	2882	330
6/65-5/66	\$714	941	500	14	(129-57)	72	2240	483

¹For other than newsletter or special event. ²Last two weeks of fiscal year 66-67 estimated. ³Proceeds of Society sponsored series.

Note: Figures rounded-off to nearest dollar.

For the purpose of comparison last year's budget is shown immediately under that of the fiscal year just ending. Note that most expenses have increased, especially that of the newsletter, admissions have decreased by about half, and proceeds from the Lisner series have doubled. Special events in this fiscal year (two Get-Aways, a summer Pick-nik, the Frank Proffitt Memorial Concert and the Thomas Jefferson high school festival) have involved much more money than the one special event of last fiscal year (the Pick-nik).

From the Treasurer's personal viewpoint, problems of the coming year will involve cutting the loss on the newsletter and increasing receipts from admissions in order to be able to spend more money for program and performers.

Bob Silverman, Treasurer

GRANT ROGERS AT DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE JUNE 8

The National Folk Festival Association and the U.S. Department of Agriculture Welfare and Recreation Activities office will present Grant Rogers in a concert of songs and fiddle tunes from New York State at 8:30 p.m., Thursday, June 8, in the Thomas Jefferson auditorium in the South Building of the U.S.D.A., Independence Avenue between 12th and 14th Streets SW. General admission will be one dollar.

JOE GLAZER IN CONCERT JUNE 4

Renowned songwriter for the labor movement, singer and author Joe Glazer will give a benefit concert at 7:30 p.m., Sunday, June 4, for The Farm Workers and Rebels With a Cause (S.E. Neighborhood House). The concert, at Temple Sinai, 3100 Military Road NW., will include such songs as "Nikita's Lament", "John Profumo & Christine Keeler", "Lady with the Popular Front", "Ballad of Medgar Evers", "The Mill was Made of Marble", "Private Club in Washington, D.C." and "Talking U.S.I.A." and a special guest appearance by guitarist Charlie Byrd. Joe Glazer's own compositions include "Too Old to Work and Too Young to Die" and "Monkey Ward Can't Make a Monkey out of Me." He co-edited with Edith Fowke Songs of Work and Freedom. General admission will be two dollars; sponsors, five dollars; and patrons, ten dollars. Send checks, payable to "Benefit Concert Committee", to Charlotte Friedman, 1200 S. Court House Road, Arlington, Va. 22204. Information may be obtained by phoning 525-0971.

ANNUAL SOCIETY PICK-NIK AT FORT WARD JUNE 25

The annual Pick-nik will be held this year beginning at 2 p.m., Sunday, June 25, at Fort Ward, Alexandria, Virginia. There will be workshops and probably a concert. The park has a new outdoor amphitheater with lights and sound. Volunteers are needed for all phases of work: grounds crew, sale of drinks (soft), handling admissions, conducting and performing in workshops, etc. Anyone interested in working on the Pick-nik please contact Mike Rivers at home (527-6117) or at work (762-5999).

Fort Ward is near the intersection of Shirley Highway (Route 95 Interstate) and Seminary Road (State Route 716). It may be reached from the Beltway by taking Exit 4 north toward Washington on Shirley Highway, past Edsall Road and Duke Street exits, taking the exit at Seminary Road East, going past three traffic lights and turning left on North Howard Street at the new Alexandria Hospital. North Howard curves right and becomes Braddock Road. The entrance to the park is to the left just after this curve. Admission to the Pick-nik will be one dollar, fifty cents for members, with children half-price.

MANDOLIN ORCHESTRA PLAYS JUNE 12

The Takoma Mandoleers, a mandolin orchestra which has been playing weekly with time out for summers for the past 40 or so years, will give a concert at 8 p.m. Monday, June 12, at the Washington Theater Club, 1632 O Street NW. The group with mandolins, mandolas and mandocellos is under the direction of Herman von Bernewitz and represents a segment of Americana rarely available to the general public. The admission will be nominal.

1967 SOCIETY ELECTION RESULTS

The following are the new officers of the Folklore Society of Greater Washington, elected at the May meeting and to take office July 1:

President: Sol Schneyer	Vice-President: John Dildine
Treasurer: Frank Daspit	Secretary: Carol Rosen
Membership Chairman: Andy Wallace	Program Chairman: Joe Hickerson
Special Events Chairman:	Publicity Chairman:
Mike Rivers	Dick Spottswood
Publications Chairman: Geo. Simpson	Officer-at-Large: Gus Meade
Officer-at-Large: Mike Seeger	

FOLK CALENDAR

- June 4 Joe Glazer; 7:30 p.m., 3100 Military Rd. NW.
 June 8-10 American Folk Song Festival; Ashland, Kentucky.
 June 8 Grant Rogers; 8:30 p.m., U.S.D.A. South Bldg., Independence Ave. bet. 12th & 14th Sts. SW.
 June 9* Grant Rogers; 8:30 p.m., Pierce Hall, Harvard St. bet. 15th & 16th Sts. NW.
 June 9 Fiddlers Festival; Crockett, Texas.
 June 9-11 Pittsburgh Folk Festival; Civic Arena, Pittsburgh, Penna. Dances of many nations, nationality booths, food from old-world kitchens. Write: 3001 Jenkins Arcade, Pittsburgh, Penna. 15222.
 June 12 Takoma Mandoleers; 8:30 p.m., Washington Theater Club, 1632 O St. NW.
 June 15-18 18th Annual West Virginia State Folk Festival; Glenville, W. Va. Street dancing, country store, horse-traders' reunion, spelling bee, fiddlers' and square dance contest and folk crafts.
 June 16-18 Put-in-Bay Folk Festival; South Bass Island, Ohio.
 June 16-25 Madelynne Greene's Sixth Annual Folklore Camp; Mendocino Woodlands, Calif. Write: 1521 Stockton St., San Francisco, Calif. 94133.
 June 21-24 National Old Time Fiddlers Contest & Folk Music Festival; Weiser, Idaho.
 June 23-26 25th Annual County Dance Weekend; Pinewoods Camp on Long Pond, Plymouth, Mass. Write: Boston Centre, CDS, 3 Joy St., Boston, Mass. 02108.
 June 24 Fiddlers Convention; Narrows, Virginia.
 June 25* FSGW Annual Pick-nik; 2 p.m., Fort Ward, Alexandria, Virginia.
 30-July 1 Berkshire Music Festival; Williamstown, Massachusetts.
 30-July 4 Annual Folk Festival; University of California at Berkeley, Berkeley, California.
 30-July 1 Centennial Square Dance Party; Victoria, British Columbia, Canada. Write: 2544 Graham St., Victoria, B.C., Canada.
 July 1 Old Time Fiddlers Convention; Elkin, North Carolina.
 July 1-4 Festival of American Folklife; Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C.
 July 1-8 18th Annual Pennsylvania Dutch Folk Festival; Kutztown, Penna. Schnitz un Gnepp, Schmierkaese, shoo-fly pie and funnel cakes, Amish pageant, quilting contest, children's games, cider-making, soap-boiling, hex-sign painting and plain and gay Dutch arts and crafts. Write: 218 W. Main St., Kutztown, Penna.
 July 4 Ahoochai Day Ro deo; Window Rock, New Mexico.
 July 4 Flagstaff Pow-Wow; Flagstaff, Arizona. Dances and ro deo.
 July 9 Ninth Annual Big Bend Jousting Tournament; Millboro Spring, Va.
 July 10-16 Newport Folk Festival; Newport, R.I. Mon.-square and international folk dancing; Tues.-tales, jokes, instrumental music and dance; Wed.-children's day, crafts (Wed. night dark); Thurs. eve.-concert; Fri.-workshops, evening concert; Sat.-evening concert of blues, gospel and country; Sun.-religious singing, contemporary songs, evening concert w. Pete Seeger. Write: Newport Folk Foundation, 33 Riverside Dr., New York, N.Y.
 July 12-15 Ohio Hill Folk Festival; Quaker City, Ohio.
 July 14-16 Sweets Mill Folk Music Camp; near Auberry, Calif. Doc Watson. Write: Central California Folk Music Club, 3219 W. Fedora Ave., Fresno, Calif. 93705.
 23-Aug 13 Virginia Highland Arts & Crafts Festival; Abingdon, Virginia.
 July 24-28 42nd Annual Wild Pony Round-Up; Chincoteague, Virginia.
 July 28-30 Alaskan First Annual Square Dance Festival; Fairbanks, Alaska. Write: P.O. Box 973, North Pole, Alaska 99705.
 Aug 3-5 Mountain Dance & Folk Festival; Asheville, North Carolina.
 Aug 4-5 Old Time Fiddlers Convention; Pulaski, Virginia.
 Aug 5 Lenape Fiddlers Picnic; Lenape, Pennsylvania.
 Aug 5-6 International Old Time Fiddlers Contest; Lincoln, Nebraska.
 Aug 6-7 Country Music Contest; Warrenton, Virginia.
 Aug 7-13 Northwest Folk Dance Camp; Bellingham, Wash. Write: 18725 - 37th St. NE. Seattle, Washington.
 Aug 10-13 Inter-Tribal Indian Ceremonial; Gallup, New Mexico.
 Aug 11-20 Nova Scotia Summer Dance Camp; Amherst, N.S. Write: Box 260, Port Hawkesbury, N.S., Canada.
 Aug 11-12 Old Fiddlers Convention; Galax, Virginia.
 Aug 11-12 Canadian National Fiddling Contest; Shelburne, Ontario, Canada.

FOLK CALENDAR (cont.)

Aug 17-20 Fox Hollow (Beers Family Festival); Petersburg, New York.
 Aug 19 146th Annual Natural Chimneys Jousting Tournament; Mt. Solon, Virginia.
 Aug 20-27 Country Dance Society of America Folk Music Week; Plymouth, Massachusetts.
 Aug 22-27 Pennsylvania Dutch Days; Hershey, Pennsylvania.
 Aug 25-27 Philadelphia Folk Festival; Upper Salford Township, Pennsylvania.
 Sept 4 Sunset Park Fiddlers Picnic; between Oxford and West Grove, Pennsylvania.
 Sept 10 Virginia Folk Music Festival; Crewe, Va. Write: Jim Eanes, Crewe-Burkeville Journal, Crewe, Virginia 23930.

*Society function. Note: Annual Bluegrass Festival usually held Labor Day weekend at Fincastle near Roanoke, Virginia. Georgia Folk Festival usually held around Labor Day.

KICK^{ICK}ING MULE...

As I sit here sneezing my head off with hay fever I am reminded of some of the superstitions* attached to sneezing. Of course, the superstitions only apply to ordinary sneezes; not to the hay fever variety.

1. A new-born babe is in the spell of the fairies until it sneezes, after which it is safe. - Scotland.
2. No idiot child ever sneezed or ever could. - Scotland.
3. If you sneeze in the morning before breakfast you will have a present before the week is out. - East Anglia.
4. Sneeze on Monday, sneeze for danger; sneeze on Tuesday, kiss a stranger; Sneeze on Wednesday, get a letter; sneeze on Thursday, something better; sneeze on Friday, sneeze for sorrow; sneeze on Saturday, see your true love tomorrow. - General.

*From Encyclopaedia of Superstitions by E. and M.A. Radford.

Chuck Perdue

COLLECTANEA:

Stuff left over from the Get-Away: 5 raincoats; 1 dungaree jacket; 1 cap; 1 rainhat; 1 tee-shirt; 2 pairs of boots; 1 tennis shoe; 1 female type ring. Please call Chuck Perdue (273-0762) fast and claim yours. FSGW Meetings during summer: Board meetings, June 6, July 5 and August 1. Special meeting on Newsletter to cover as completely as possible all details, technical, editorial, financial and otherwise to be held June 20. Anyone who would like to work on the Newsletter next year, anyone specifically with ideas and who may be able to help finding some means to run the Newsletter off (perhaps with access to a multilith machine), anyone who may know a source of obtaining paper wholesale, call George Simpson (365-5996) and try to make the special meeting. Special meeting on FSGW budget to be held July 18. Anyone with accounting experience or with other experience in budgeting and everyone involved in Society expenditures is urged to attend. All the above Society meetings will be held at 8:30 p.m. in Suite 710, Dupont Circle Building, 1346 Connecticut Ave. NW. This will be the last Newsletter for this season. There will be no newsletters July and August. We plan to begin again in September. Please Note: the Newsletter is not forwarded! Therefore, try to keep us informed of your permanent address. If you move to a temporary address, please do not indicate a change of address, since this would necessitate making up a plate which would be good for only so long. If you do move, however, to an address somewhat permanent, please inform us as soon as possible in order that we may change our records and insure your receiving the newsletters.

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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 dues in the Folklore Society of Greater Washington.

Name: _____ Telephone: _____
 Address: _____ Zip Code: _____

COLLECTANEA (cont.)

Books and publications: Folk Songs of the World by Charles Haywood (Bibliography of American Folk Lore & Folk Song) , a collection of over 170 songs from 119 countries, from The John Day Company, New York. Arthur Palmer Hudson (Folklore Keeps the Past Alive) has completed Learning-Teaching-Writing , autobiography, bibliography and selected writings. Country Music Gazette, 29¢ a copy, from P.O. Box 2058, Roanoke, Va. 24009. Bluegrass Unlimited , \$3 per year, from P.O. Box 1611, Wheaton, Md. 20902. Northern Junket (mostly folk & square dance and Americana) , \$2.50 per year, from Ralph Page, 117 Washington St., Keene, N.H. 03431. JEMF Newsletter (country & western, hillbilly and old-time string band) , \$2.50 per 10 issues, from the John Edwards Memorial Foundation, Folklore & Mythology Center, U.C.L.A., Los Angeles, Calif. 90024.

Send information (names, background, etc.) on fiddlers, callers and seconds to 'Fiddlin' De' DeRyke, 3836 S. 16th St., Lincoln, Nebraska 68502; she is compiling a comprehensive listing. "Elizabeth Cotton - Folksinger", a series of four photographs by Gordon Harding of the Washington Evening Star , won third prize in the Picture Story category of the 24th Annual White House News Photographers Exhibit, and is on display at the Library of Congress. Late news on Mirimachi Folksong Festival to be held August 7-9 in Newcastle, New Brunswick, Canada; in honor of Canada's Centennial Year one evening will be devoted to songs 100 years old or more; for information write: P.O. Box 640, Newcastle, N.B., Canada.

Personnel: Chuck Perdue, President of the FSGW for the past two years and one of the Society's founders and most active members (with his wife Nan and four boys) is leaving to accept a four-year Ford Foundation scholarship for the doctorate in Folklore at the University of Pennsylvania. June Silverman, another active member and Secretary for almost two years, had a baby girl in April. Lani Herrmann, the Society's first Secretary and maintainer of the mailing list, has moved to New Jersey.

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