



Newsletter of the Folklore Society

OF GREATER WASHINGTON
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STEVE WINTERS, EDITOR

Jim Gaskin / June 12

ANOTHER PROGRAM OF COUNTRY music is on tap Friday, June 12 when Jim Gaskin and Asa Martin perform at the society's last regular program meeting of the 1969-70 year. The concert will start promptly at 8:30 p.m. in the Smithsonian's History and Technology Building, Constitution Avenue at 12th Street, N.W.

HAILING FROM IRVINE, KY., Jim Gaskin began singing at age 3, made his first public appearance at 5, and began playing the fiddle at 8 en route to a varied career in music, stage, song writing, radio broadcasting and station ownership. Currently the head of WIRV in Irvine, Jim has written all types of music, including serious concert works, but the down-to-earth, natural kind of country music he was raised on keeps cropping up. "Most of my songs come from real life," he says, "my life or that of someone I know."

ASA MARTIN, ALL-TIME country music great, will accompany Jim. Now retired, Asa was an early inspiration to Jim and also resides in Irvine.

Picnic / June 27

THE FSGW WILL TAKE TO the woods Saturday, June 27th for a spring picnic and outdoor concert as the last special event of the year. The picnic-concert will begin at 2 p.m. at Lake Accotink, Springfield, Va. Members should bring their own food; there will be fireplaces for cooking. The cost, obviously, will be free to members. Because of the picnic there will be no open sing in June.

THE PROGRAM WILL TAKE place rain-or-shine for the Fairfax County park includes a shelter. Eats and informal singing, and gatherings will start at 2 p.m. and a regular, more formal concert will be presented at 5 p.m. featuring some out-of-town guests and new faces to the society's concerts.

TO GET TO LAKE ACCOTINK (from Washington): Take I-95, Shirley Duke Highway, to the Springfield exit which is the first exit south of the beltway interchange. . .after exiting, turn right at the first, immediate light you come upon. . .this will put you on Backlick Road which should be followed through the town of Springfield to Highland Avenue. . .turn left onto Highland Avenue and follow it to the park entrance on the right just past an iron works. Picnic chairman Bob Clayton plans to post FSGW signs and markers at the turns and the park, so watch for them.

Sacred Harp / June 28

SACRED HARP SING AND POT LUCK SUPPER--Sunday, June 28th at 4 p.m. in the home of Truman and Mary Price, Glen Echo Heights, Md. Phone 229-2043 for directions and what to bring.

Notes / Dates

UNFORTUNATELY, ONLY 14 society members (there are more than 375 memberships including families) turned out to vote at the May 8th academic and elections meeting. For those of you not there the program was interesting and informative. Elected were all the officers, headed by Joe Hickerson, as president, listed in last month's newsletter. Officers-at-large selected from a field of five, were Joel Shimberg and Steve Winters.

THE SMITHSONIAN FILM THEATRE for June dedicates itself to several aspects of American folklife and art including scenes of the 1968 Smithsonian Folklife Festival. The films will be shown Wednesdays at 2 p.m. and Thursdays at noon and 1:30 p.m. in the Museum of History and Technology auditorium, Constitution Avenue at 12th Street, N.W. and on Wednesday evenings at 8 p.m. in the Museum of Natural History auditorium, Constitution Avenue at 10th Street, N.W.

"FESTIVAL IN WASHINGTON," scenes of the folklife festival, will be shown June 24 and 25, accompanied by "Pottery Production of North Georgia" and "End of an Old Song," about a Carolina ballad singer. Other films include:

June 10-11, "The Cooper's Craft" and "Potters of the U.S.A."

June 17-18, "Gunsmith of Williamsburg."

SUMMER VACATION LEAVE you free with time? The Archive of Folk Song at the Library of Congress is open to the public all summer weekdays 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., Room G-152A. They have a full collection of folklore books, folksong collections, instrument instruction books, recordings and magazines. AND DON'T FORGET the FSGW's own collection of exchange publications at the Maryland Folklore Archives, Room 26, Taliaferro Hall, University of Maryland (College Park). The Archives are open from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Mondays through Fridays and on weekends by appointment only. Phone Dr. George Carey, 362-2971.

THE ACCOKEEK, MD. AMPHITHEATRE has planned two folksong programs in their summer series. Located on Bryan's Point Road, the theatre will present on Saturday, June 13, John and Ginny Dildine and Joe and Lynn Hickerson in concert and on Friday, July 10, Ed and Penny Trickett and Friends. Both programs start at 8 p.m. and those interested can call 283-3136 for information.

LOOSE THREADS: A bill has been introduced by Congressman Roman Pucinski and others in the U.S. House of Representatives to establish Ethnic Heritage Studies Centers throughout the country. The bill, H.R. 14910, concentrates on the elementary and secondary school levels and calls for expenditure of \$30 million by July, 1970. It was referred to the Committee on Education and Labor. . . THE FIRST BOOK on the folk culture of Maryland since 1925 when the American Folklore Society published as volume eighteen in its memoir series Whitney and Bullock's Folk-Lore of Maryland will soon be published. The book is by Dr. George Carey of the University of Maryland and treats genres of folk culture found throughout the state. . . Dr. LEO H. BERMAN (17 Otter Trail, Westport, Conn. 06880) is interested in a tape exchange of folk music with any society member. He has a large collection of folk music, especially that taped from radio broadcasts. He can exchange any size reel and the usual speeds of either full track, half track, monaural or quarter track stereo. . . . AT LEAST ONE PROGRAM for next season's society gatherings has been tentatively set. The executive board voted to invite Aly Bayn, a fiddler from the Shetland Islands, accompanied by Mike Whellands on guitar, baron, and mouth-harp, for a concert in November. Sara Gray is bringing them to the United States.

Festivals

FOLK MUSIC WILL FILL THE AIR again this summer as the season's festivals, minus Newport, place their stakes into the earth and their message of good music into the hearts of many. Here is a rundown of a few of the popular festivals. A more complete list will be found in the spring-summer issue of the FSGW journal.

THE FESTIVAL OF AMERICAN FOLKLIFE, sponsored by the Smithsonian Institution, will take place July 1-5 on the mall with all events free. This year's focus is on Arkansas but the Festival promises everything from country blues to Cajun bands, skin tanning to grassroots cooking.

The 14th annual INSTITUTE OF PENNSYLVANIA LIFE & CULTURE, June 23-26, at the Pennsylvania Farm Museum, Lancaster, Pa., will feature a session on past and present powwowing in the state. Other subjects will include sectarian cultures, farm architecture, folk art, and tools and technology. Registration fee will be \$35. For information write: Landis Valley Associates, P.O. Box 1026, Harrisburg, Pa. 17108.

Of course, The FOX HOLLOW (BEERS FAMILY) FESTIVAL, Aug 6-9, at Petersburg, N.Y., including several FSGW members as performers.

The PHILADELPHIA FOLK FESTIVAL, Aug 28-30, will be the largest folk festival on the east coast this year. Back again at the Old Pool Farm, Upper Salford, Schwenksville, Pa., three days of concerts and workshops are planned.

June 14 American Folk Song Festival, Carter Caves State Park, Ky.
 June 18-21 Bill Monroe Bluegrass Festival, Bean Blossom, Indiana.
 July 4 Old Fiddlers Convention, Memorial Park, Elkin, N.C.
 July 24-26 Mariposa Folk Festival, Toronto, Ontario, Canada.
 Aug 6-8 Old Fiddlers Convention, Galax, Va.
 Aug 7-9 Ann Arbor Blues Festival, Ann Arbor, Mich.

Join!

WHY NOT JOIN the FSGW? Membership includes free admission to monthly programs and discounts at special events and random programs sponsored at the Lisner Auditorium; monthly newsletter mailed first class; the society journal; priority registration at the annual Getaway; discounts at the Alexandria Folklore Center, Guitar Shop, etc; access to the society's tape archives of past programs and library of exchange publications; and voting privileges. Membership is open to all interested in research, performance, and/or enjoyment of folklore, folk life, folk music and dance.

FILL OUT THIS FORM (to join or renew) and have a whole year ahead of you----

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Enclosed find my check in the amount of \$5 (individual membership) or \$7.50 (family membership). Memberships run for one year from the month of joining.

Name _____ Telephone _____

Address _____ Zip Code _____

I am interested in helping the FSGW with _____

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