



Newsletter of the Folklore Society

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

Volume VIII, Number 6

FEBRUARY 1972

Arlene Rodenbeck, Editor

BILL WILLIAMS

This month we are fortunate enough to know what our program will be in advance. It will be on Friday, February 11th, at 8:30 p.m. in the Smithsonian Institution Natural History Museum, which is on Constitution Ave. at 10th St., NW. The program is cosponsored by FSGW and the Division of Performing Arts, Smithsonian Institution. And as usual FSGW members are admitted free; non-members pay \$1.00, children 50¢.

Some of you may have heard Bill Williams last summer at the Smithsonian's Festival of American Folklife. He is a blues guitarist and singer from Kentucky whose style is similar to John Jackson's, according to Program Chairman Mike Rivers. As a youngster Bill played the banjo, but there were so many banjo players around at that time that he decided to take up the guitar, which he has been playing ever since. His style was heavily influenced by Blind Blake, whom he accompanied in and around Tennessee in the 1920's. Bill was a fan of Mississippi John Hurt and plays some of his songs. Also, he was acquainted with Merle Travis and they played together some. In fact, some collectors think that Travis' style was influenced some by Williams.

Bill Williams worked on the C & O Railroad for many years, doing whatever railroad people do. He currently lives in Greenup, Kentucky. Incidentally, he has been named a Kentucky Colonel and is very proud of that fact, so if you get to meet him, ask him about it. He has an album out on Blue Goose records.

By the way, as long as we're talking about monthly programs, you may be interested to know what last month's surprise program was, in case you didn't get to it. We had Pete Hoover on banjo and Alan Jabbour on fiddle, playing lots of old favorites which we all enjoyed very much. There was a full house that night and some of our members and friends had to be turned away. We're really sorry about, but it probably won't happen again because the rest of this season's programs will be in the Natural History Museum auditorium, which is larger and more interesting architecturally, so if you come early to get a good seat, you can pass the time by staring at the ceiling. That is, after you tire of looking around to see who else is there.

FOLKSONGS AND BALLADS OF ABE LINCOLN AND THE CIVIL WAR

On Sunday, February 6, 1972, a program on the oral traditions and popular sentiments surrounding the events at midpoint in our nation's history will be presented at Ford's Theatre, located at 511 10th St., NW., Washington, D.C. It begins at 7:30 p.m. and guess what--it's FREE!! The program is cosponsored by FSGW, the National Park Service, and the National Folk Festival Association. Performers include: Gene Anderson, Bob Clayton, Hazel Dickens, Joe Hickerson, John Jackson, Reed Martin, Helen Schneyer, Joel Shimberg, Kathy Goldman, and Andy Wallace--names familiar to us all. Featured will be songs Lincoln loved, banjo and fiddle tunes, sentimental songs of the period, Southern Negro folk songs, folk ballads describing the little-known events of the Civil War and Lincoln's death, and later recollections of that tragic era. Narrated by Joe Hickerson.

OPEN SING

This month's Open Sing will be Friday, February 4, at the Ethical Society, 7750 16th St., NW., at Kalmia Road. It begins at 9 p.m. and runs until 12 plus. \$1.00 admission is requested and refreshments--coffee, wine, cheese & crackers, etc.--are furnished. It's very informal; everyone sits around on what must be the most comfortable floor in Washington, and there are low tables and candles and even some games to keep children (and some adults) occupied when their minds begin to wander from the music. By Open Sing we mean wide open--anybody can sing or play. It's an opportunity to try yourself out in public, and judging by the talent that was displayed at last month's sing, there are lots of people in the Society who deserve being heard outside their own living rooms.

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SINGING FROM THE SACRED HARP AND POTLUCK SUPPER, Sunday, February 20th, 4:00 p.m.

Wayne Shirley has invited us to his Capitol Hill home for this month's get-together. At the risk of being sacrilegious, perhaps we can do some songs about LOVE to celebrate Valentines Day. Call Wayne at 543-5469 to find out where he lives and what you should bring.

BOARD MEETING

What better way to start off the month than to attend the FSGW Executive Board meeting ! That's Tuesday, February 1st, at 8:00 p.m. in Room 718 of the Dupont Circle Bldg., 1346 Connecticut Ave., NW. Everyone's invited.

BY LAWS

The amendment to the by laws whereby the Society could keep its extra funds in accounts at savings and loan institutions (you get higher interest that way) was passed unanimously at the January program meeting, amazingly enough. Who'd ever think you'd find so many money-hungry little capitalists in the Folklore Society?

COMING UP--

- March 10th--Our program meeting will feature John Wilcox doing modern stuff and a lot of his own material. 8:30 p.m., Natural History Museum.
- April 7th-- Spring sampler concert at the Natural History Museum. We'll have details on performers in later Newsletters.

FOLK AND FIDDLERS FESTIVALS

Here are some for February and a little bit of March. For more information write or call Joe Hickerson at the Archive of Folk Song in the Library of Congress, Washington, DC 20540. Phone 202-426-5510.

- February 3-5 Kent State University Folk Festival, Kent, Ohio
- " 4-6 12th Annual University of Chicago Folk Festival (Correction of date given in January Newsletter)
- " 10-12 3rd Annual Folk and Blues Festival, Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, Mich. (Tentative dates)
- " 18-20 Knoxville Folk Music Fair, Epworth Space, Knoxville, Tenn.
- " 19-20 Gordon Putnam Memorial Fiddlers Contest, Ilwaco, Wash. State
- " 20 Fiddlers Contest, Armory Bandshell, Tuscon, Ariz. (sic)
- March 3-4 Fiddlers Contest, Granada, Washington State
- " 4 Ballad Town Old Timme Fiddler's Contest, Forest Grove, Oregon

SPECIAL THANKS are due to the following people for help on the membership committee this month: Mary Fairbank (we used her pad), Barbara Sealey, and Jennifer Jones. Next membership committee meeting is Thursday, February 3rd at 8 p.m. Location to be determined. Thanks for your help, folks!
--Jeremy Sachs,
Membership Chairman

TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Here it is--your own personal list of phone numbers to help you find whatever it is you're looking for in the Folklore Society of Greater Washington. These are all evenings and weekends type numbers.

Tape Archives:

Rental of circulating tapes: 522-0648
Duplication of tapes: 524-5061
Exchange publications: 522-0648
Membership questions or problems: 244-2090
Items for Newsletter or Journal: 337-4353
General questions: 283-2735 or 483-6146

MEMBERSHIP

The Folklore Society of Greater Washington invites you to consider the advantages of investing a small amount in return for a year's worth of good things: Free admission to our monthly programs, half-price at special events, Newsletter mailed first class, the Society Journal, priority registration for the annual Getaway, discounts at programs sponsored at Lisner, access to the tape archives and the exchange publications, and so forth.

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Membership Form

Enclosed is my/our check in the amount of \$5.00 (individual)____/ \$7.50 (family)____
for a year's membership in the Folklore Society of Greater Washington.

Name: _____ Phone _____

Address: _____ Zip _____

Would you be willing to help the Society in any way? Yes ___ No ___ Maybe _____

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