



# Newsletter of the Folklore Society

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

VOLUME IX, Number 1

SEPTEMBER 1972

Arlene Rodenbeck, Editor

## LABOR DAY SONG FEST

On Monday, September 4th, a FREE concert will again be presented at Sylvan Theatre (southeast corner of Washington Monument grounds). Cosponsors are the AFL-CIO, the Musicians Union, National Park Service, National Folk Festival Association, FSGW, and probably some other organization we've neglected to mention. The preliminaries will begin at 6:30 p.m. when a union band will play. At 7:30 the song fest itself will begin, consisting of a cross section of labor, work, and occupational songs spanning the history of our country from its founding to the present. Narrating the program will be labor folklorist Archie Green and performing will be Hazel Dickens, Jonathan Eberhart, Joe Glazer, Joe Hickerson, John Jackson, Helen Schneyer, Mike Seeger, and Andy Wallace. Sounds like a good line-up, doesn't it? So instead of risking your lives on Our Nation's Highways, how about staying in town for some good, relaxing, wholesome entertainment? In case of r-a-i-n, the concert will be held at the Interdepartmental Auditorium on Constitution Ave. between 12th and 14th Sts., all other details being the same.

## GETAWAY VII

Our seventh annual weekend-away-from-it-all will be September 29-October 2 at Prince William Forest Park, Camp 4, Dumfries, Va. There'll be singing, dancing, concerts, workshops, and lots of fun with old and new friends alike. There probably aren't any cabin spaces left (deadline was September 1) but day passes are still available. However, PRE\*REGISTRATION is required for day passes (National Park Service rules). The fee is \$2.50 a day for adults and \$1.00 for children under 12. Tent camping is available at a different site in the same park, but you must make your own arrangements for this through Prince William Forest Park. Tent campers and day commuters must provide their own food. To pre-register write to: Getaway VII, c/o Andy Wallace, P.O. Box 19303, 20th St. Station, Washington, DC 20036. Specify the number of adults and children, whether you want Saturday and/or Sunday, and make your checks payable to F.S.G.W. Getaway. The deadline for daily pass pre-registration is September 22. If you have any other questions, call Andy at 301-934-2595 (home).

## FALL SAMPLER

On Saturday, September 16th, a sampler concert will be presented at the Washington Ethical Society, 7750 16th St. NW. at Kalmia Rd., beginning at 8:30 p.m. "Samplers" are our way of introducing you to the diverse talents of some of your fellow FSGW members and friends. Our performers this time will be: The Dildine family, who combine folk songs with puppets and other interesting things; Gene Anderson, who is known for his old, sad, Mother and God type songs; Nan Goland, who does particularly blues-type songs; and Jan Hackman, who does traditional country music and also topical, contemporary songs. Introducing both halves of the program will be the Greasy Run Toad Trompers (Sam Rizzetta, Mike Rivers, and Bob Clayton). Sounds like a fun-filled evening is in store for us. FSGW members are admitted for \$1.00; non-members for \$2.00.

MONTHLY PROGRAMS--Our monthly programs will begin again on Friday, October 13. They are always the second Friday of the month at 8:30 p.m. This year, however, there will be a change in location. We're going back to the Ethical Society at 7750 16th St. and Kalmia Rd., NW. Most of us are already familiar with the Ethical Society as that warm and friendly place where we have our Open Sings and where we had our programs a couple years ago. Another change this year is that nonmembers will be charged \$1.50 at the door, while members of FSGW will of course still be admitted free. (Membership form found on page 3). Our programs are sort of the focal point of the Society, where we try to introduce our members to traditional folk performers or to people who we feel are the best interpreters of our folk traditions. We also strive to present a wide variety of types and styles of folk music, so that each program is a learning as well as an enjoying experience. Program Chairman Robin Johnson is busy lining up the schedule for this year, but there's nothing definite so we don't want to mention any names this month.

OPEN SING--This month's Open Sing will be on Friday, September 1st, beginning round about 9.p.m. at the Ethical Society, 7750 16th St., NW., Admission is \$1.00 and coffee, wine, cheese, cookies, etc., are furnished. For the uninitiated, these sings are our monthly free-for-alls where FSGW members and friends bring their instruments, songs, voices, and share a few hours of music and fun.

The FSGW Executive Board will meet this month on Tuesday, Sept. 5th, in Room 718 of the Dupont Circle Bldg., 1346 Conn. Ave. NW., at 8 p.m. Everyone's invited!

SINGING FROM THE SACRED HARP--At the August sing (yes, there was one) it was decided that since there were no offers of homes forthcoming and since we usually have a sing at the Getaway, that our September sing would be on Sunday, October 1st, at the Getaway. So remember to bring your books along. If you aren't planning to come for the whole weekend, but would like to join us for Sacred Harp singing, be sure to pre-register for Sunday, as described on page one of this Newsletter. Also, if you would like to host the regular October sing, please call Arlene Rodenbeck (337-4353) before September 15th so that she can put your name in the October newsletter.

FSGW Telephone Numbers--Here is your own personal list to help you find what you want. Call evenings and weekends please. Keep this--you're sure to want it sooner or later.

Tape archives:

Rental of circulating tapes--Roni Bowie: 522-0648  
Duplication of program tapes--Bob Clayton: 332-5050  
Exchange publications--Roni Bowie: 522-0648  
Membership questions or problems--Gene Anderson: 244-2090  
Items for Newsletter or Journal--Arlene Rodenbeck: 337-4353  
General questions--Andy Wallace: 301-934-2595

A free BLUEGRASS concert will be presented on Sunday, September 17th, at the Sylvan Theatre from 2 to 6 p.m. Sponsored by the National Park Service, the program will feature the Seldom Scene, the Strange Creek Singers, the Morgan Family, and the Shenandoah Cutups.

About the same time that you receive this Newsletter, you will also (finally) receive Volume III of the Journal of FSGW, which was ably edited by Prof. Esther Birdsall, professor of English at the University of Maryland. Our thanks to her for a job well done. If you do not receive a copy it is because you are not a member of FSGW. However, those who join before November 1 will receive the Journal, and in addition, we plan to Journals available at our programs this fall.

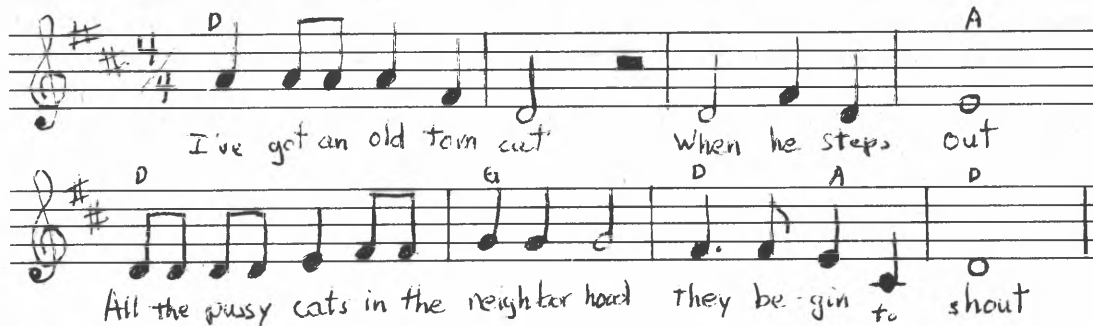
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INTERESTED IN JOINING FSGW? Membership entitles you to free admission to monthly programs, half-price at Special Events, Newsletter mailed first class, the Society Journal, access to the tape archives and exchange publications, discounts at programs cosponsored at Lisner Auditorium, and a few other things. Why not fill out the form on page three and send it in.

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TOM CAT BLUES

This month Mike Rivers has contributed a song for us. He learned it from the singing of Tom Paley, recorded on Folkways FA 2396, The New Lost City Ramblers, Vol. I (originally from the Carlisle Brothers). Mike says it goes nice accompanied on guitar tuned in open D or E tuning, DADF#AD, sometimes called Vastopol tuning (also sometimes called Spanish tuning, though probably incorrectly) and played Hawaiian style--with a bar or slide. After the first verse the words don't quite fit the notes, but you can figure that out.



I've got an old tom cat, when he steps out  
All the pussy cats in the neighborhood, they begin to shout  
Here comes Ring Tailed Tom, he's boss around the town  
And if you've got your heat turned up, you'd better turn your damper down

Ring Tailed Tom on the fence, the old pussy cat on the ground  
Ring Tailed Tom come off of that fence, and they went 'round and 'round  
Lord, he's quick on the trigger, he's a natural born crack shot  
He's got a new target every night, and he sure does practice a lot

He makes them roust their bouts, he makes them roll their eyes  
They just can't resist my Ring Tailed Tom no matter how hard they try  
You'd better watch old Ring Tailed Tom, he's running around the town  
He won't have no pussy cats come a-tom cattin' around

Ring Tailed Tom is the stuff, he's always running around  
All the pussy cats in the neighborhood can't get old Ring Tail down  
He's always running around, just can't be satisfied  
He goes out every night, with a new one by his side

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FOLKLORE SOCIETY OF GREATER WASHINGTON  
P.O. Box 19303, 20th Street Station  
Washington, DC 20036

Membership form

I (we) wish to join the Society; enclosed is \$5.00 (individual)\_\_\_\_\$7.50 (family)\_\_\_\_  
for a years membership. Renewal\_\_\_\_. Address Change\_\_\_\_.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Would you be interested in helping the Society in any way? Yes\_\_\_No\_\_\_Maybe\_\_\_

On Sunday, September 17th, beginning at 2 p.m., a free bluegrass program will also be presented at Prince William Forest Park, Dumfries, Va. It will be cosponsored by the National Park Service and the National Folk Festival Association. Performing will be the GRASS MENAGERIE.

EXCHANGE PUBLICATIONS--The exchange publications are, as you know, the newsletters, journals, and magazines that FSGW gets from other folk groups in exchange for our newsletter and journal. They are an invaluable source of information about folk music in general and about what's going on in other societies like ours. If you're interested in perusing some of them, call Roni Bowie at 522-0648 evenings and weekends and she'll let you know when she's going to be home. Among the publications we receive are several that you may be interested in subscribing to yourself--

Sing Out! is probably the best known. It's full of articles about performers (Hazel Dickens & Alice Seeger and John & Cora Jackson have been featured in recent issues), book and record reviews, regular columns by people like Michael Cooney, words and music to lots of old and new songs, and even pertinent advertising. Subscription rates are \$6.00 for 1 year and \$10.00 for 2 years. Make checks payable to SING OUT! Inc. and send to 595 Broadway, New York, NY 10012.

Bluegrass Unlimited is also full of articles, reviews, ads, etc. (about bluegrass, obviously). But in addition, it gives extensive information about what's happening--who's appearing in which group, where, when, etc. Subscription rates: \$5.00 for 1 year, \$9.00 for 2 years, and \$13.00 for 3 years. Send your check to Bluegrass Unlimited, Inc., Box 111, Burke, VA 22015.

Mugwumps' Instrument Herald is a relatively new publication put out by a fellow FSGW member, Mike Holmes. It is primarily a classified advertising medium for vintage musical instruments, but also presents articles about instruments, their history, repair, etc. For \$5.00 you get a year's subscription (6 issues) plus 3 free ads, which isn't a bad deal. Send your check to Mugwumps' Instrument Herald, 12704 Barbara Rd., Silver Spring, MD 20906.

The reference to the advertising found in these publications isn't meant facetiously. There are a lot of things that people like us are interested in that you'll never find in the Yellow Pages. Incidentally, you may also be interested in the Rounder Records people, who handle lots of folk music records under both the "big" labels--Folk Legacy, Folkways, etc.--plus lots of little labels that are hard to find in local record stores. For a copy of their catalog, write to Rounder Records, 727 Somerville Ave., Somerville, Mass. 02143.

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