



Newsletter of the Folklore Society

OF GREATER WASHINGTON
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LOU KILLEN

The FSGW program meeting for December will be held on Friday, December 8, beginning at 8:30 p.m., at the Washington Ethical Society, 7750 16th St. at Kalmia Rd., NW. This month we welcome back an old friend of the Society, Lou Killen, singer of British songs and ballads, either unaccompanied or with his trusty concertina. His repertory includes mining and sailing songs as well as wenching and drinking songs, with an emphasis on authenticity. A native of Tyneside, an industrial district of northern England, Lou now lives in the United States. He makes the rounds of the summer folk festivals and, as you know, has been appearing with the Clancy Brothers for the past couple years. He first gave a program for FSGW back in 1968 and was also a guest at our 1971 Getaway.

Remember that the program is FREE to FSGW members and \$1.50 to non-members; 50¢ for children. Come early to get a good seat, though there are hardly any bad seats at the Ethical Society.

DECEMBER WORKSHOPS

Our workshop series has been popular and successful so far. In fact a couple of the workshops are repeating themselves to accommodate those who either missed the first one or who just want to find out even more about their instruments. A dulcimer workshop will be held on Saturday, December 9, beginning at 8 p.m., in Arlington. Call 892-4154 for directions. A banjo workshop will be held on Wednesday, December 13th, beginning at 8 p.m., in Bethesda. Call 656-4931 for directions. Since these get-togethers are so informal and free-form, there'll probably be a lot of things happening that didn't happen at the first one, so you might as well come again for a second dose. Also scheduled for this month is a workshop on Scots-Irish songs (vocal oriented), to be held on Saturday, December 16th, beginning at 7:30 p.m. This one will be run on a song-swap basis. Call Rich at 894-4233 to find out how to get there.

CHRISTMAS CAROLING

We are planning to take to the streets again this Christmas, but it hasn't been decided definitely where or when. If you know of a nice, friendly neighborhood that would enjoy having us, please talk to Dick Rodgers about it. Of course, a mob of people coming down the street singing folksongs, of all things, is enough to scare anyone. At any rate the location, date, and time will be announced at the December program. If you miss that, call Dick Rodgers at 323-7150 to find out what's going on.

SINGING FROM THE SACRED HARP AND POTLUCK SUPPER

Our sing this month will be on Sunday, December 17th, beginning at 4 p.m., at the home of Gill Anderson, who lives on Capitol Hill. See if you can find some suitable Christmas songs--there must be more besides "Sherburne". If you've never been to a Sacred Harp sing, why not join us this month? There's always plenty to eat and drink (at least plenty to drink). Call Gill at 543-8083 so she can give you ideas about what to bring foodwise and tell you how to find her house.

OPEN SING--This month's free-for-all will be on Friday, December 1st, somewhere around 9 p.m. As usual, it will be at the Ethical Society, 16th St & Kalmia Rd., NW. Admission is \$1.00 each with cookies, cheese, coffee, wine, etc., served. Bring your instruments, songs, voices, and interest with you. Sometimes there is a problem at open sings when people want to socialize while others are trying to sing. Now conversation is a good thing; it's almost as good a form of communication as music--so, if you feel like talking, why not go out to the entrance lobby or restrict yourself to between-song-comments? That way we'll all be happy.

The FSGW EXECUTIVE BOARD will meet on Tuesday, December 5th, beginning at 8:00 p.m., in Room 718 of the Dupont Circle Bldg. Everybody's invited to attend. Among the items discussed at the November meeting were the following: 1) A financial report on the Getaway was given. We made a profit on it. 2) It was decided to set up a committee to audit the FSGW books. We will look for an auditor who is also a FSGW member to volunteer to help us. 3) It was suggested that we charge \$1.00 a year to those who would like to be on our mailing list without becoming members. This idea was voted down. 4) A discussion arose over how to bring the work of the Executive Board closer to the consciousness of our members. One of the suggestions was that some of the items discussed at the Board meetings should be put in the Newsletter. Smile.

The Maryland Folklore Society will present a concert at 2:30 p.m, Sunday, December 3rd, in the auditorium of the Maryland Historical Society, 201 West Monument St., Baltimore, Maryland. Performers on the program will be Fields Ward from Bel Air, Helen Schneyer from Kensington, and Andy Wallace from La Plata, all of Maryland. Admission to the concert will be two dollars general and one-fifty for members of the Maryland Folklore Society and Maryland Historical Society.

JEAN REDPATH, singer of Scottish songs and ballads, will give a concert sponsored by FSGW on Saturday, January 27th, 1973, at the Natural History Museum of the Smithsonian Institution. Jean is a native of Fife, Scotland, and sings both traditional and contemporary songs, giving lots of background along the way, so that her concerts are both informative and fun. We'll have more details in January, but meanwhile don't make any plans for that evening.

HELP! FSGW needs help! Here's a list of things that we need people to help with. Most of these would not require a permanent commitment but are either a one-time thing or an occasional thing. Let us know which ones you'd like to help with by talking to a Board member or sending a post card to the FSGW mail box. We need:

1. Someone who has experience in auditing (preferably a qualified CPA) to help with an audit of the FSGW books.
2. Someone who is home during the day to make phone calls to update the publicity list.
3. Some to contact music stores, etc., about extending discounts to FSGW members.
4. Someone with an artistic bend to make posters, etc.
5. Someone to be the sales and marketing manager for the FSGW Journal.
6. Some people to help Membership Chairman Gene Anderson with processing of memberships, renewals, etc.
7. General clerical work to update records
8. Typing

DULCIMERS--Carl Gotzmer is a dulcimer maker who is offering a half-price special to FSGW members only. He makes both types of traditional dulcimers, the hour glass and teardrop shapes. At half-price you would pay \$35 and up, depending on what you want. If you are interested, write to Carl at 7900 Shirley Court, Clinton, MD 20735.

Folk Dancing cont'd--Also meeting on Saturday nights is the group described in the November newsletter. All of the groups mentioned above are different from each other so if you go to one and get turned off, try one or two others before giving it up and turning to macrame.

And speaking of dancing, those of you who enjoyed the square dance in November will be happy to hear that FSGW is planning to hold more of them in the future. Watch this space for an announcement of when and where. Meanwhile, there's this place called the Square Dance Information Center that you can phone (979-1647) to find out about square dance clubs and other opportunities in the area. One of the things they'll tell you is that most of the army posts in the area hold free square dances each week that are open to anyone who wants to come. Call the recreation office of the post nearest you to find out when they are. The Fort Myer Service Club has its square dances every Friday from 8:30 to 10:30 p.m.

Coming up in January is a concert by yours truly Joe Hickerson to be given at the Washington Ethical Society on Saturday, January 6th, at 8:30 p.m. Details next month.

Some of you are receiving the newsletter of the American Folklore Society and probably wondering why. Well, when the AFS decided to start a newsletter they asked if they could send it out to the FSGW mailing list, so we said yes and sent them our list. However, that was a while ago and we haven't sent them an updated list so if you've joined recently you probably aren't getting it.

You may be interested to know that the FSGW mailing list is guarded jealously by the FSGW Executive Board and requests to use it are handled on a case-by-case basis. Generally speaking, the Board says yes to "worthy causes" and to things that they know you wouldn't mind receiving (like the AFS Newsletter) and no to requests that are primarily commercial and/or advertising.

Remember how in last month's newsletter we told you about a series of free concerts to be given twice a month at the Interior Department auditorium? Well, there aren't going to be any in December. But in January.....

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