



Newsletter of the Folklore Society OF GREATER WASHINGTON

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

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MAY 1973

Arlene Rodenbeck, Editor

BENNY AND VALLIE CAIN AND THE COUNTRY CLAN

If that heading gives you a sense of *deja vu*, there's a reason for it. As you recall, we had invited the Cain's et al. to do our April program for us, but at the last minute a couple of the people in the group became ill and they couldn't come. They have now recovered and will be with us on Friday, May 11th, at 8:30 p.m. at the Ethical Society. Our guests perform old-fashioned, country-style bluegrass. Benny plays mandolin and guitar, Vallie plays guitar, and they are joined by Johnny Whisnant on banjo and Don Mulkey on bass. They can be heard regularly at Ruby's Restaurant on Route 1, one mile north of Woodbridge, Va. The group and Johnny Whisnant individually have been featured in a couple articles in Bluegrass Unlimited which you may want to look up. Why don't you dig out last month's Newsletter if you want a few more details. Hope we got the names spelled right this month. At any rate it should be a great program.*

ELECTIONS for next year's FSGW Executive Board will take place during the intermission at the May program. There will be printed ballots but nominations from the floor will be accepted just prior to voting time and write-ins will be permitted. You must be a FSGW member in order to vote, of course. The Nominating Committee has presented the following slate of candidates:

President--Andy Wallace (incumbent)
Vice-President--Mike Rivers
Secretary--Ginny Mallick (incumbent)
Treasurer--Rich Galloway
Membership Chairman--Janice Cole

Program Chairman--Bob Clayton
Special Events Chairman--Dick Rodgers
(incumbent)
Publicity Chairman--Bruce Hutton
Publications Chairman--Jan Hackman

Members at Large--Debbie Hutton (incumbent) and Lars Hanslin

Meanwhile, back in APRIL, by pure coincidence, MARGARET MacARTHUR happened to be in town the night of our program and she graciously agreed to pinch-hit for the Cain's. We had a good time with her, of course. Margaret did a program for us back in April of 1971, has been a guest at our Getaway, and appears at the Fox Hollow Folk Festival (and lots of other places). She sings traditional songs and ballads that she learned as a child in the Ozarks or that she later collected in Kentucky or Vermont, where she lives now. In addition to the dulcimer and guitar, Margaret plays a small harp zither that has an unusual sweet tone to it. Her record "On the Mountains High" is currently in its second printing and will soon be available from Living Folk Records, 65 Mt. Auburn St., Cambridge, Mass. 02138.

SPRING SAMPLER CONCERT

On Saturday, May 5th, we will be treated to a sampling of the diverse talents of some of our fellow FSGW members. These are people who you normally hear at Open Sings and other places who deserve to be spotlighted (at least for a $\frac{1}{4}$ of a concert). This time around we'll hear the following: Andy Wallace, current president of FSGW, who plays guitar and banjo and knows lots of old songs; Judy Hough, who is just about the best fiddler around and can usually be found keeping the Greasy Run Toad Trompers in line; Mike Holmes, who plays banjo and mandolin and likes to get other

* OOPS! Forgot to say that FSGW members are admitted free, as usual, and non-members for \$1.50; children for 50¢.

people singing (Mike is the editor of Mugwumps and is currently hosting the Monday evening sings at the Red Fox.); and, last but not least, Carly Gewirz and Merle Schlesinger, students at the University of Maryland, who play dulcimer and sing pleasant, singalongable songs.

The concert will be held on Saturday, May 5th, beginning at 8:30 p.m. at the Ethical Society, 7750 16th St. NW. at Kalmia Rd. FSGW members will be admitted for \$1.00 and non-members for \$2.00.

WORKSHOPS--There won't be any more regularly scheduled workshops until next fall, unless you have a specific interest and would like to help get one together. If that's the case or if you have random ideas about what we can do in the future, workshops-wise, call Debbie Hutton at 652-2692.

OPEN SING--Friday, May 4th, looks like the first Friday this month, which means you'll want to join your friends, old and new, at the Ethical Society for some singing and picking. The fun starts about 9 p.m., admission is \$1 each, and coffee, cookies, wine, and cheese are served.

FSGW Executive Board Meeting will be held this month on May 1st, beginning at 8 p.m. in Room 718 of the Dupont Circle Bldg., 1346 Connecticut Ave., NW. Members and friends are invited to come by and foment a revolution.

SINGING FROM THE SACRED HARP AND POTLUCK SUPPER will be held on Sunday, May 13th, beginning about 4 p.m., at the home of Ruth Huber in Hillandale, Md. Call Ruth at 445-1129 for directions and food ideas. She says this may be the last Sacred Harp Sing for her before she leaves town, but then we've heard that one before...

NORTHERN VIRGINIA FOLK FESTIVAL

May 18, 19, & 20

Kenmore Junior High School, Route 50 & Carlin Springs Road, Arlington

This year's festival is bigger and better than ever. It is sponsored by the Arlington Department of Environmental Affairs, Recreation Division, and all events are free. FSGW member Bob Clayton is music chairman (or whatever they're calling him) and he has given us a run-down on the schedule for the weekend. Not all of the performers had made commitments as of press time, so we'll be specific where we can and general where we can't. For more information on the weekend call Priscilla Urner or Lynn Mailloux at 558-2152.

FRIDAY EVENING:

- 7 p.m. Prologue--Featuring two folk music bands; a small band, Alan Kerns and the Country K's (a bluegrass group), and a large band, the Takoma Mandaleers (a mandolin orchestra).
- 7:30 p.m. Concert--About two-thirds ethnic dancing and one-third music, featuring, among others, the Song Swappers and probably a gospel group.

SATURDAY:

- Noon til ?--Crafts and food items will be displayed and sold.
- 1 p.m. Youth Concert--A concert of folk music performed by musicians teenaged or younger.
- 3 p.m. (roughly)--The Adventure Theater will do dramatizations of folk tales.
- 7 p.m. Prologue--Theme is "Old Time Music is Alive in Virginia"; featuring the Greasy Run Toad Trompers (you know them), Delmer Lester & Sons (a fiddle band), and Renee Pigeon (a banjo player).
- 7:30 p.m. Concert--Again about two-thirds dance and one-third music

SUNDAY:

- Noon til ?--Crafts and food items will be displayed and sold.
- 1 p.m. Sampler Concert--A broad view of American folk music, featuring John Jackson, Chuck & Nan Perdue, Alberto Vazquez, Gus Meade & his band with Speedy Tolliver, Dallas Keller (an old fiddler from the Blue Ridge), and maybe some others.

SUNDAY continued


- 5 p.m. Religious Music Concert--Coordinated by Gene Anderson, featuring Chuck & Nan Perdue, a group of Sacred Harp singers, a black gospel group from the Mt. Olive Baptist Church and an ethnic group (probably Jewish or Hungarian).
- 7 p.m. Prologue--Fiddle jamboree featuring several of the top fiddlers in Northern Virginia, young and old, including Gus Meade and his band with Speedy Tolliver, Dallas Keller, and others.
- 7:30 p.m. Concert--Again basically two-thirds dance and one-third music. John Jackson will be one of the performers.

On Wednesday, May 23rd, the MARYLAND FOLKLORE SOCIETY will present a free showing of two films about life on the Chesapeake Bay. The first film, Watermen of the Chesapeake, was made in 1964 by the U.S. Department of Interior. It depicts the life of one family and how they make their livelihood on the water. There is some music in it--the crew sings as it works. The other film, Just Plain Waterman, was made in 1969 by Fisher Slezas. The showing is open to the public, begins at 8:15 p.m., and will be held in the Perpetual Building Auditorium, 7401 Wisconsin Ave., Bethesda, one block south of East-West Highway.

If you have been wondering how to get the recordings of some of our recent performers, you might try the ROUNDER RECORDS folks. They carry many, many folksy labels that include specifically the following records:

Boys of the Lough, Trailer Records, \$4.00
Benny & Vallie Cain, Rebel Records, \$3.50
Larry Johnson's Fast & Funky, Blue Goose Records, \$4.00
Highwoods String Band's Fire on the Mountains, Rounder Records, \$3.50

If you send a check or money order with your request, there is no charge for postage. It's a good idea to list alternative choices in case they're out of your first choices. The address is Rounder Records, 65 Park St., Somerville, MA 02143. In any case you might as well write for their free catalog; you'll be amazed at their selection.

 Jeremy Sachs, who has been hanging around the Society for several years (and was Membership Chairman for 71-72), has left Washington for Fort Wayne, Indiana. If you're ever in the area his address is 1210 Three Rivers East, Fort Wayne IN 46802.

ATTENTION!!! Nonmembers receiving our Newsletter! Did you forget to mail in the form in last month's Newsletter? We're trying to trim our mailing list of those who are no longer interested in receiving the Newsletter (at bulk rate). If you wish to continue receiving the Newsletter FILL OUT THE FORM BELOW AND MAIL IT TO US BY MAY 15, 1973. If we do not hear from you by then, we will take your name off the list. Members and exchange publications will, of course, continue to receive our mailings, unless your dues are overdue or your address isn't current.

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Survey/Membership Form

CHECK APPROPRIATE SPACES PLEASE

I am a nonmember receiving the Newsletter and wish to continue receiving it ().
I wish to join the Society: Enclosed is \$5 (individual) (); \$7.50 (family) ().
This is a renewal (); address change ().

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ Zip: _____

WETA-FM Radio is changing the format of their daily "P.M." show (12:30 to 5 p.m.) so that it will no longer be devoted to bluegrass and folk music. They haven't as yet decided what the future is for (traditional) folk music on WETA, so perhaps you'd like to drop them a note telling them what you'd like to hear. It probably wouldn't hurt to mention your membership in FSGW. The address is WETA Radio, Arlington VA 22207. While you're at it, you might consider writing some of the other radio stations too. WAMU has good folk shows but WMAL and WHFS are two stations that could use a little nudging.

There is an IRISH DANCE GROUP that is meeting on Thursday nights at 8 p.m. at the Rodgers Heights Elementary School in Bladensburg, Md., that would like you to join them if you're interested. If there are enough interested they may have a beginners group in the summer and may possibly schedule some ceidlhs (correct plural?) in the fall. Also they are looking for an air-conditioned place to meet in the summer. If you have any questions or ideas call Rich Galloway at 894-4233.

FOLK MUSIC FESTIVALS, FIDDLERS' CONVENTIONS, ETC.--The complete list for this year's events is now available from the Archive of Folk Song, Library of Congress, Wash., D.C. 20540. Or phone 426-5510. This time around, Joe Hickerson, the compiler of the list, has included the names of sponsors and mailing addresses wherever possible. We seem to have run out of room so what follows is a list of some local events and some of the highlights of the summer schedule.

- May 3 Annual Scottish Festival, Robert E. Peary High School, Rockville, Md.
" 12 3rd Annual Friendly Senior High School Folk Festival, Friendly, Md.
June 8-10 8th Annual Culpeper Bluegrass Festival, Warrenton, Va. Lake Whippoorwill (Jim Clark, Box 186, Fairfax)
" 22-23 Middletown Folk Festival, Bodman Park, Middletown, N.J. (Richard Levine, 11 Carnegie Ct.)
" 30- Smithsonian Festival of American Folklife, Reflecting Pool/Lincoln
July 8 Memorial Greensward
July 6-8 13th Annual Mariposa Folk Festival, Toronto Centre Island Park, Toronto, Ontario (329 St. George St., Suite 4)
" 26-29 35th Annual National Folk Festival, Vienna, Va., Wolf Trap Farm Park
Aug. 2-5 Fox Hollow: The Beers Family Festival, Petersburg, N.Y. (Route 2)
" 9-11 38th Annual Old Fiddler's Convention, Galax, Va., Felts Park (Moose Lodge No. 733, Box 655)
" 24-26 12th Annual Philadelphia Folk Festival, Upper Salford, Pa. (advanced sales only) (Phila. Folk Song Society, 7113 Emlen St., Philadelphia)

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