

TUCSON FRIENDS OF TRADITIONAL MUSIC

NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER, 1975
Vol I No. 4

10¢

PIMA PICKER'S 'PRECIATION PARTY

TFTM wants to welcome our new members and our other friends, so we will host a party and "mini-contest" in mid-January, sometime just after the U of A starts up spring term (probably Jan. 17). We will have some excellent traditional musicians who have already promised to come and we will give small prizes in the following categories: Best Fiddle, Best Banjo, Best Guitar, Best Wind Instrument, Best Other, Judge's Choice, Best Beginner Fiddler, Best Violinist Beginning Fiddle, Best Beginner Old-time Banjo, Best Bluegrass Banjo Beginner, Best Under 16, Best Dulcimer. Judging will be informal and will depend a lot on old time feel as well as technique. Details next month.

MARGARET MACARTHUR

Most of the crowd who jammed into the Basement Cafe had never heard of Margaret before, but lots of folks reacted the way Dave Luckow did -- "I though I'd come for part of one set, just to support the club," he said, but he stayed for three long sets and was still grinning and saying "great!" at the members' party at 12:30 AM.


When the third set ended at 11:30 more than sixty people were still at the Cafe. A great tribute to Margaret and a good job of supporting TFTM, Basement Cafe, and Mingus. Everybody can award themselves a pat on the back, but everyone who saw the concert knows what the real reward was.

JACK THORP RIDES AGAIN

TFTM got a chance to buy several copies of the 1966 reprint of the classic book, Songs of the Cowboys by Jack Thorp, commentary added by A. Fife of Utah State Univ. Three copies will go to the Tucson Public Library and others to local high schools.

WORKSHOP: FINGER-PICKING GUITAR

A free workshop for people with a knowledge of fundamentals, by Ken Tucker, at Mingus (see ad) on Dec. 13 (3:30). Ken is about as fine a ragtime, blues, and folk-style guitarist as you're likely to find. He also is well-known for his careful teaching. (He has regular students from ages 6 to 60). This should be real helpful to anyone headed in this direction musically. Don't forget your cassette.



Basement Cafe
AND FOLKLORE CENTER
HOME COOKING
Entertainment-Thurs. -Sat.
Wed. Hootnany
tues. eve. - Bluegrass
& old time jam
502 N. FREMONT 622-0942
SOUTH OF UA CAMPUS

LIVE AND LEARN DEPT.

We goofed when we included our first tab for banjo last month. Tuning should be **gCGCD**. 5th and 6th notes should be on the third string instead of the second.

TOM, MARTHA, AND SHARON JEININGS

A good crowd watched at the Basement Cafe as they did a lot of new material, alternating between songs in 3-part harmony and fiddle tunes. Martha set aside her famous guitar and played mandolin, while mandolin player Tom worked on guitar most of the evening. Tom added some fiddle towards the end, helped out by Robert Freeman. Sharon, who's been learning banjo, showed a bit of her music. No flashy high-lights, but, as always, clean, solid country harmony and tunes. How 'bout more fiddle next time, Tom?

R.F.

WHO WANTS WHAT?

We counted the first forty membership forms that were filed over at the Bowman's and found these responses checked: concerts by local folks-30; pro concerts-26; bluegrass, jamming houseconcerts and parties, work shops-23 each; old-time, fiddle 21 each; flat-pick, fingerpick, banjo, singing, ragtime, string band, unaccompanied singing, volunteering-10-20 each; other instruments mentioned included mandolin-6; concertina-4; dulcimer-4; others-4.

HOW ABOUT A MANDCLIN WORKSHOP?

Interested in a mandolin workshop? Call Bob Sayers (327-8259) and leave your name.

RECORD REVIEW

THE HUTCHINSON BROTHERS (Vetco 505)

Here is another fine release from Lou Ukelson of Vetco Records in Cincinnati. The Hutchison Bros. hale from the Appalachian region of south-eastern Ohio and their brand of bluegrass and balladry calls forth a freshness and exuberance of times past. Perhaps this is due to the fact that Cincinnati remains largely un-seduced by the 20th century. Bluegrass jam sessions in old-stained garages in the shadow of Proctor & Gamble are not an uncommon sight.

Banjo pickers (of Scruggs and Keith variety) will enjoy several tunes on this album, especially Tom and Julie Hines/Banjo Tramp, Three Thin Dimes, and Cuckoo's Nest. The John Hutchison original, Silver Tongue and Gold Plated Lies, is a good contemporary ballad on the old theme of betrayal and death. For this reviewer the sweetest side is the old George

Jones song, Seasons of My Heart sung and guitar-backed by John Hutchison. Special mention should be given to "Peach" Hampton on mandolin and Greg Dearth on fiddle. Robert "Zeke" Hutchison does the crisp banjo work on this album.

Bluegrass fans will find this one a real treat for the fall season.

R.S.

The GUITAR WORKSHOP

2313 N. Country Club Road Tucson, Arizona 85716
Phone 325-4206

Parts, Strings (best prices), Guitar maker Supplies
Used Guitars, Banjos, etc. Bought & Sold
Repairs, Refinishing, Inlay work
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Discounts to TFTM members.

HELP US FILL UP
THIS SPACE
NEXT MONTH!
JOIN TFTM

LOCAL NOTES

Looking Glass, a local news paper, has had some traditional music articles recently. Try submitting something, if you're a writer, Box 3372, Tucson, 85722. John Young wrote a nice little article on Gail Gardner the cowboy poet for the Star, and Ken Burton wrote a nice article on Leslie Keith last month. Take time to write a thank-you when you see this stuff...we should encourage our music every way we can.

Two fine traditional performers played to nearly empty houses in Tucson this past month and a benefit at the Basement Cafe was nearly as bad. Shame on us! How can this be prevented in the future?

There have been some very nice things on radio recently. Check the schedule and tune in.

Diamond Studs has been on again, off again. Looks off for good now. Well, at least we have Summerdog at home for a while.



Coming Events

There are regular jam sessions on Sundays at the Longhorn Bar, 4001 N. Romero road and Oxbow Lounge 2849 N. 1st Ave. tending to C/W and bluegrass. On Mondays Basement Cafe has games night and there is a singles Square Dance at Tucson H.S. from 8-10PM. Tuesdays is old-timey-bluegrass jam at Basement Cafe (also TFTM business meeting on 1st tuesdays) and Folkdance from 7-10PM at the women's PE bldg at the UofA, also, Barbershop Quartet for women at the Tucson Inn on W.Drachman at 8PM. Wednesday is Open Stage at Basement Cafe
Dec 4th Ken Tucker at Basement Cafe 9PM \$1 Dec 5th same Dec 6th same
Dec 7th DULCIMER WORKSHOP 2PM call 624-2815 also, Tucson Classical Guitar Society 1PM UofA Col of Music Rm 110 meeting and Recital. Dec 12th CAROLING RANDOLPH PARK, hosted by TFTM call 624-2815 also Bill Lackey and Kathy Sweeney at Basement Cafe 9PM Dec 13 same, also 3:30PM GUITAR WORKSHOP, Mingus
Dec 18-20 Gerri Glombecki Basement Cafe (75¢) 9PM Dec 21 Party for Ariz. Children's Home, Basement Cafe Dec 27th Scottish Society, Randolp Park 6PM
also, watch for special event at Basement Cafe, Dec 28 TFTM party, call 624-2815
watch for Summerdog at Oxbow Lounge and possibly another Bluegrass group

JOIN TFTM - HELP OLD TIMEY MUSIC CONQUER THE WORLD !!!

OLD-TIME BANJO

by Robert Freeman

Perhaps the most popular style of old-time mountain banjo is frailing-clawhammer. Clawhammer is really a type of frailing but some folks avoid it. Frailing the banjo involves the following picking pattern: an individual string, usually one of the melody notes of the tune, is struck with the back of the nail of the index finger, then in a downward sweep the other strings are strummed with the back of miscellaneous nails, and in the same sweep the thumb bumps off the 5th string. The strike-brush-thumb comes out as . In drop-thumb frailing this pattern is interrupted by strike-thumb, strike-thumb  with the thumb alternating between 5th and another string. In this style the thumb plays melody notes along with the index finger. When the thumb has quite a bit of the melody and doesn't alternate up to the 5th string but stays alongside the index finger, we have clawhammer.

Check TFTMers Bill Bowman, Robert Freeman, Jim Griffith, Dave Luckow or Mike Wallner for a demo of all these types.

Next Month: some well-known players and records.

715 N. Park (Outside the U of A Main Gate)

THE CUP

COFFEE HOUSE

Bluegrass, Blues, Contemporary Folk music. Open Friday and Saturday 7:30-1:00.

Coffees, teas, sandwiches.

Published by TFTM, 224 E.2nd St., Tucson Az
 Matt McConeghy, Sandy Goers, Bill Bowman, Barbara Ayers, Rob Freeman, Rick Sonder, Bob Sayers
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MINGUS GUITARS

2512 N. Campbell 795-4782

Guitars, Mandolins
 Banjos, Dulcimers
 Guitar & Dulcimer Kits
 Books & Records
 Complete Repair Dept.
 Discounts to TFTM members

FIDDLE CLASS

If you haven't tried fiddling because music lessons make you think of teacher bringing the class to a halt by pounding on the piano, screaming "F sharp, F sharp" because one person (you) hit F natural, then you're in luck. Pete Rolland's Fiddle Workshop is more like getting together with friends to jam than it is music lessons. We're not only learning songs but also getting a good background on the music.

One night was spent learning how to chord along with other instruments and back up people playing lead. Other times we'll listen to records or taped concerts or Pete play to grow familiar with the music and to learn to find the similarities (bowing patterns, strokes, rhythms) which make it easier to pick up a song by ear.

The first songs we've learned were from Pete's book 24 Fiddle Tunes. First Pete will play the song for us a couple times, then over again in slow motion. Then we students try to scratch our way through reading the music from the book (or Pete writes in tablature if someone can't read music). Next he usually has to play a phrase of the tune at a time - repeatedly - slowly - until we feel comfortable with it. So even if someone can't read music or tablature, they can pick it up by ear. After working on a song Pete plays some variations of the tune to give us an idea of how to stylize our fiddling. From there we can take the song home to find our own way of playing it.

Before the workshop is over Pete says we'll be able to go to the Cup to jam with all you folks - so beware! We may not be perfect yet but the attitude of the class builds confidence so we're loud!

Barbara Ayer

FIDDLE WORKSHOP

Well-known in town as the fiddler for Summerdog Bluegrass Experience, Pete (a TFTM member) has been the instructor for fiddle workshops at the U of A and has an excellent reputation as both a class and private instructor. From his work as a fiddle teacher, Pete has developed a nicely finished book "24 Fiddle Tunes" which includes annotated (even to the point of bowings) transcriptions of fiddle tunes played by Summerdog and other groups. A sixty minute stereo cassette is also available, which has the tunes from the book played fast with guitar and banjo (Dave Luckow and Chip Curry) and then slow with just fiddle. The book is \$4, tape is \$6 at local stores or direct from Pete, 888-5399.

JOIN TFTM

REGRESS & RELAX!

DULCIMER WORKSHOP

There was so much interest shown in the workshop at Mingus that we decided we needed a continuation. Rob and Matt McConeghy put together a quick summary of what was done and this is now available at Mingus. Jo Bowman will organize the dulcimer workshop for TFTM. First meeting will be Dec 7th at 2pm. Call Jo for details 624-2815

DIAMOND STUDS CAST COMMENTS.

by Bob Sayers

This world is full of odd dreamers and if anyone is prone to such random musing, it must be me. Around February last, I picked up one of the bluegrass fanzines that permanently sit next to the john and leafed through it until I found the article about Diamond Studs, an unusual oldtime music happening in New York City. Caught up in delicious fantasizing, I then and there decided that Diamond Studs was the single spark lacking in my otherwise scintillating existence. Well, as fate would have it, Diamond Studs came to Arizona, a part in the production was tendered my way, and I very nearly turned it down for school-related reasons. Fortunately, good sense prevailed and I wound up in the show.

In retrospect, I could dwell at length on such things as the comraderie of the actors, the receptiveness of the audience, and the directorial and managerial skills of the staff. However, I won't. Instead, let me mention a few of the highlights as I see them. First, there were the trying moments: trying to make light of the long daily trek to and from Old Tucson, trying to stay sober during the performances, trying to remember costume changes, trying NOT to fantasize about all the great-looking women in the audience, trying to keep the instruments from getting crushed in the scramble, trying to digest those terrible red-hots and frontier burgers. Yet these tribulations take nothing away from the moments that really count: Ned Sutton's "Up With People" routine, Ron Doering's outrageous hat trick, Sandy Staples' first performance as Big Jim, Big Jim's continuing performance as Big Jim, the endless inside jokes, etc., etc

seriously, I don't think old-time music will ever be the same in southern Arizona thanks to the likes of Jim Griffith, Sandy Staples, Ned Sutton, Summer Dog, Sandy Rosenthal, Old Tucson, and all the rest. We had a terrific summer.

MODERN TIMES BOOKSTORE
920 E. Speedway
623-6511

Books, Records, Bluegrass, Old-Timey, and Traditional Music.
British and Irish Imports.

10% off on music books, and records for TFTM members.

TFTM ACTION

CALL A DIRECTOR IF YOU HAVE A PROBLEM.

Bill Bowman 624-2815 membership.

Matt McConeghy 298-7965 newsletter.

Bob Sayers 327-8259, concerts, publicity.

Ann Schmitt concerts, publicity.

Rick Sonders 795-9675 business, concerts, also,

Sue Lennhoff 624-6533 or any director for COMING EVENTS.

Kathy Ragsdale 298-2163 member's Mailing List.

Rene Wallner 327-8259 telephone grapevine.

November Business-- We had two meetings. Most of the energy was directed towards Margaret MacArthur. We also agreed to hire David Page for March and are negotiating for groups for late February and beginning of April. We will have a fiddle party in January. In the next month we hope to direct a lot of energy towards memberships, incorporation, and workshops. We think we have done pretty well in a two-month period and we want to concentrate now on getting every member to be a real part of the action. (Business meetings 8 p.m., 1st Tuesday of each month, Basement Cafe, jam afterwards.)

LISTENING TO DULCIMER

Margaret MacArthur gave a great dulcimer workshop at Mingus. Sixteen (count 'em) dulcimer players plus assorted fans showed up. We have tapes of the whole thing and will make copies available to interested folks. Meanwhile, try listening to these (*=especially recommended):

Jean Ritchie Elektra EKL-125. Many concerts and records have made Jean's traditional Appalachian-style dulcimer famous. *Simple Gifts Folkways FA-2335. Basic Dulcimer, down pat, helps George and Gerry Armstrong handle a set of American tunes with love.

Howie Mitchell Folk-Legacy FSI-5., shows several nice sides of this man's music, but he became famous as THE dulcimer person for his 1965 album-book combination *The Mountain Dulcimer Folk-Legacy FSI-29 which has sensible, understandable info on building, tuning and playing.

*On the Mountains High Living Folk LFR-100 and Old Songs Philo Records 1001, both by Margaret MacArthur.

*Nonesuch for Dulcimer Trailer Records LER-3034. A Britisher, Roger Nicholson plays clean, crisp dulcimer, both traditional and with innovative, imaginative dulcimer-guitar jamming.

Folksongs of Old Eire Tradition 2075. A discount-shelf special by Judy Mayhan, liner notes are inaccurate and most of the songs are Appalachian, not Irish, but several have very nice dulcimer.

Don't forget "The Dulcimer Player's News", c/o P. Mason, Box 132, Bangor, ME, 04401 at about \$4/year.

NEXT MONTH

- Instrument Building (Dulcimer?) (Flute?)
- What? Folk Accordion?
- Mandolin
- Bluegrass vs. old-time. What's what.
- Tablature - penny whist (Fiageolet)