

TUCSON FRIENDS OF TRADITIONAL MUSIC

NEWSLETTER

Vol. 2, No. 1
January, 1976

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MINI CONTEST

OLD TIME MUSIC & BLUEGRASS JAMBOREE



Old Time Music and Bluegrass Jamboree and Mini-contest

Just to let everyone know what we're doing, we will have 1) a party and 2) a contest (in that order of importance) at Randolph Park in the cultural Arts Building auditorium, Alvernon at Broadway, on January 17 starting at 7 PM. Bring your instruments for jamming and plan on entering the contest to win one of our fantastic prizes.

Contest classes are as follows, prizes are LP records, some \$5 gift certificates and other such stuff.

No electric instruments may be used.

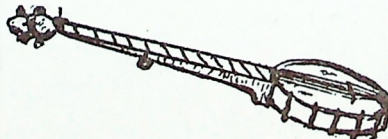
A beginner is a person with less than two years training or experience

Three contestants must be judged in a category before a prize can be awarded.

- Best Old-Time Fiddler
- Best Beginning Fiddler
- Best Violinist Learning Fiddle
- Best Old-time Banjo
- Best Beginner Old-Time Banjo
- Best bluegrass Banjo
- Best beginner bluegrass Banjo
- Best Dulcimer Player
- Best Mandolin player
- Best Other Instrument
- Best Vocals
- Best Under 16
- Best Guitar Lead
- Best Back-up Guitar

Detailed rules will be available at the sign-up desk but each contestant will be judged by judges who are musicians on the basis of three criteria.

- 1) rhythm and phrasing
- 2) tone, clarity, technique
- 3) Old-Time feeling



WANT TO JOIN TFTM?

Thinking about joining TFTM (Tucson Friends of Traditional Music)? It's easy. You pay us \$5 (family \$8) then we give you a membership card. So, then what? Then you get to come to TFTM parties, workshops, you get a discount at Min-gust Guitars, at Guitar Workshop, Modern Times Bookstore (which has a fine selection of music material) you get a newsletter, and you get to meet and play with the 100 other TFTM members, listen to jam sessions, get involved in making music happen in Tucson. That's what! If you are a musician or just a good listener, we want you. Contact Bill Bowman at 624-2815 or any of the other directors listed in the newsletter or write TFTM c/o 224 E. 2nd St., Tucson, Arizona 85705

LOCAL NOTES

Naturally, since we said last month that Diamond Studs is finished, it will appear soon for sure, sponsored by the ACT. So, if you've been wondering what we've been talking about all fall, this will be your chance. Meanwhile... Summerdog has been active playing at Papa Bears on 4th Ave. and the Oxbow. They were joined one night by Sol Rudnick, the Arizona State Fiddle Champ who had played a benefit for the Tucson Police Assn. and then had played for the Unicorn Coffee House to a crowd of TFTM people gathered at the last minute by telephone grapevine. Sol is a TFTM member, which made us all enjoy the show even more.

Kenny Tucker had a very nice workshop at Mingus, and well attended too, we hear. Dave Luckow coming up next. Oh boy!

We had a talk with John and Helen the other day. Why is the Cup deserted? Where is everybody on Friday night? Do we need to do something about getting folks together? I think we were sort of looking forward to picnics on weekends once the weather got nice, but maybe we need something now? What do you think?



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Jim Griffith is finishing his stretch as a field investigator for the Smithsonian Institute's Bicentennial Festival of American Folk-life. Jim has been looking for Southwestern singers and musicians and he says "there's gold in them thar hills." Hope to get a slightly more detailed report from Jim for a future issue.

TFTM NEWS

Win a few, lose a few. The Christmas Caroling dragged a few hardy souls out to Randolph Park, then we joined forces with the Northminster Church group and had a nice time caroling to several households of shut-ins.

The Dulcimer workshop met and got a chance to look carefully through a whole bunch of dulcimer instruction manuals borrowed from Mingus. Then listened to several dulcimer records that Rob McConeghy brought. These folks will meet again in January.

There weren't too many calls before the Dec. 28th party so Jo and Billy decided to wait until January. Couple of folks missed the change and came anyway. Our face is red, but we got them out to Jims on New Years, so that made up for it all.

January 17th all set to go. See you there!

CRAFTSMAN AT WORK, OOPS!

Santa Claus delivered a Black Mountain Instrument kit for dulcimer at my house, so I started right in crafting, never having built anything of wood before in my life. At least I had enough good sense to read the directions. No tools needed except a pocket knife, and nothing else to buy except white glue and sandpaper and varnish. Right on. About four days later, roughly 5 or 6 hours work (really!) and I had a dulcimer, and not bad looking from my point of view, although I guess Tom Jennings or Ed Smith wouldn't be too quick to own up to it. The biggest problem was the sides, i.e. what if they're warped? Naturally this isn't discussed in the assembly directions. On a guess, I steamed them a little over a kettle, which may or may not have done any good, then clamped the hell out of them. Fortunately, I had the clamps, the assembly book just asks for masking tape during the gluing. The warped sides left a little space at the end where the extension of the tailblock is supposed to meet the top of the dulcimer and the fingerboard. I filled the space, as they suggested, by making a little paste of sawdust and white glue and mashing it into the hole. It doesn't look bad. Second biggest problem I had was me...keeping my hands off the thing until it was set to play. It was all I could do to decide that it needed another coat of varnish after the first coat took a day and a half to dry. However, as usual, it was worth waiting. Best part... very cheap! \$40 to start, my TFTM members discount almost paid for my years dues.

Matt



BANJO COURSES TO BE OFFERED BY PIMA COLLEGE

The Community Services Office of Pima College will be offering two beginner and two intermediate non-credit courses on 5-string banjo for the spring semester. The courses will begin the end of January and continue for eight weeks with each class lasting 2 hours. Mike Wallner will be teaching Monday and Wednesday evenings at Amphitheater Junior High and Robert Freeman will teach Tuesday and Thursday at Flowing Wells High School.

The courses will cover Bluegrass style finger-picking as well as frailing/clawhammer technique, and will be tailored to fit the needs and interests of the students. Tape recorded examples of banjo music will be included. Pima's single banjo course of last semester drew 26 students, so a ceiling of 18 is being placed on each of the spring courses. For further information and applications, call the Community Services office at 884-6720.

Mike Wallner

PARKS & RECREATION BANJO CLASS

Once again City Parks and Recreation will be offering a free banjo class at the Randolph Park Cultural Arts bldg. beginning Wed., Jan. 7. The class will begin at 7:30 and will last 2 hours. It will cover frailing and clawhammer style only. However, there will be recorded examples of some different styles and techniques and some free hand-outs for the student. If you would like more information, please contact Bill Bowman at 624-2815.

The GUITAR WORKSHOP

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UA MUSIC & PHYSICS

Bill Bickel plays banjo and ragtime piano, but when he is at work he changes both his name and his job. Then he becomes Dr. William Bickel of the University of Arizona Dept. of Physics. In his official role at the university, Bill has initiated a course, Physics 7: Physics of Music, Acoustics. There is no pre-requisite for the course, and you don't need to be able to play an instrument. Bill says students will have a great opportunity to learn about the science of sound, test instruments, strings, compare instruments, use different microphones, sound analyzers, oscilloscopes, and other equipment. They've just received funding, so they should have some nice new equipment, and for university students, this course fills one of the Lib. Arts Lab course requirements (4 credits) (Lecture MWF at 9am and lab Thurs. 1-3:50 pm). Think it might be too technical for you? Bill says he expects the students only to "be intelligent and have a desire to learn" but you can check the final exam for last spring and what kind of answer Bill expected by looking through the Banjo Newsletter Vol. III No. 2, December, 1975, where Hub Nitchie printed it. For more information, call Dr. Bickel at 884-2524.

U OF A MUSIC CONTINUING EDUCATION

Dr. James Griffith, an anthropologist from the U of A, is better known to most of us as banjo-picker and singer Big Jim. This semester he'll combine both roles and teach a course for the U of A Continuing Education branch, Music 298a, Vernacular Music of the United States. Jim says the course will meet Tuesday evenings from 7-10 pm and is available for credit (3 hrs.). The course will be non-technical, you don't have to be able to read music or play an instrument, and the lectures will be heavily spiced with appropriate cuts from records and tapes of music from the U of A collection and Jim's own extensive music collection. Jim plans to cover American Indian Music, Afro-American music, Anglo-American music, Hispano-American music, and music of Immigrant Americans. Since Jim has good friends in nearly all these categories, we wouldn't be surprised to find some more lively classroom demonstrations than just records. The place and influence of the music within the community, as well as the music itself, will be a major part of the course. Not a learn-to-play course.

Coming Events

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>JANUARY 11</p> <p>C/W JAM SESSIONS LONGHORN BAR ROAD TO RUIN BAR</p> <p>TFTM PARTY CALL Bill</p> <p>CLASSICAL GUITAR SOCIETY COL OF MUSIC ROOM 110 1PM</p> <p>LESLIE KEITH FAMOUS BLUEGRASS FIDDLER BASEMENT CAFE</p>	<p>12</p> <p>CLASSICAL GUITAR SOCIETY MEETING SOMETIME THIS MONTH, CALL BRUCE FULTON 516 E. MABEL</p> <p>19</p> <p>SINGLES SQUARE DANCE TUCSON HIGH 8-10</p>	<p>15</p> <p>OLD-TIMEY JAM SESSIONS BASEMENT CAFE</p> <p>Folkdances UofA Women's PE BLDG</p> <p>20</p> <p>BARBERSHOP QUARTET FOR WOMEN TUCSON INN 8 PM</p> <p>PIMA COLLEGE BANJO LESSONS</p>	<p>14</p> <p>RANDOLPH PARK BANJO LESSONS 2:30PM</p> <p>21</p> <p>OPEN STAGE BASEMENT CAFE</p>	<p>15</p> <p>PIMA COLLEGE BANJO CLASS</p> <p>22</p> <p>TFTM DULCIMER WORKSHOP THIS WEDNESDAY 6:25-2:05</p> <p>BASEMENT CAFE FEATURES THU FRI SAT</p>	<p>16</p> <p>CUP COFFEE HOUSE OPEN STAGE</p> <p>SQUARE DANCE CONVENTION</p> <p>17</p> <p>TFTM OLD TIME MUSIC JAMBOREE 7PM RANDOLPH PARK</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Bill Bowman OLD TIME BANJO AT BASEMENT CAFE</p> <p>24</p> <p>DAVE LUCKOW FLAT PICKING WORKSHOP MINGUS 1 PM</p> <p>23</p> <p>DAVE LUCKOW FLAT PICKING WORKSHOP MINGUS 1 PM</p> <p>31</p> <p>SATURDAYS 12:05 KUAT-FM 90.5 ETHNIC & FOLK MUSIC SCOTTISH SOCIETY RANDOLPH PARK</p>
<p>25</p> <p>RADIO NOON: KUAT-AM 1550 GREAT OLD-TIME SHOWS</p> <p>BLUEGRASS AT THE OXBCW?</p> <p>FEBRUARY 1</p> <p>(check radio schedule for Feb)</p> <p>FEB 14 - JOINT MEETING OR CONCERT WITH ARIZONA OLD-TIME FIDDLERS ASSN (TENTATIVE)</p>	<p>26</p> <p>27</p> <p>SUMMERDOG AT THE OXBCW SOME TUESDAYS 622-6092 OXBCW</p>	<p>28</p> <p>SUMMERDOG BLUEGRASS !! BASEMENT CAFE</p>	<p>29</p> <p>SUMMERDOG BLUEGRASS !! BASEMENT CAFE</p>	<p>30</p> <p>ROBT. FREEMAN BASEMENT CAFE BANJO VIRTUOSO + OLD TIME MUSIC</p>	<p>31</p> <p>SATURDAYS 12:05 KUAT-FM 90.5 ETHNIC & FOLK MUSIC SCOTTISH SOCIETY RANDOLPH PARK</p>	
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coming events - SUE LENNHOFF 624-6533

BLUEGRASS AT MINGUS GUITAR

Dave Luckow's workshop on bluegrass flatpicking guitar will be becoming at Mingus on Jan. 24 from 1-2:30. This will be the third in a continuing series of workshops and we expect it to be every bit as good as the last two. Dave is not only the hottest flatpicker around, but also a great guy. TFTM asked him what he had in mind. He said:

"I plan to work on 3 or maybe 4 tunes -- 1 fairly easy song-tune (i.e., Jimmy Brown, Wildwood Flower), 1 fiddle tune (i.e., Salt Creek, Old Soldier, Big Sandy), and 1 rag time tune (i.e., Beaumont Rag, Dill Pickle Rag, Cotton Patch). I also plan to spend some

time on back-up for bluegrass and old-time string band music. I hope to have the tunes written out in standard tablature and look forward to a picking session afterwards."

RADIO

- Some fine shows coming up.
- KUAT AM 1550 will have (noon Sundays):
 - Feb. 1 - Mid-Tennessee Fiddle and Old-Time Music Convention
 - Feb. 8 - Carter Family
 - Feb. 15, 22 - National Guitar Flat-Picking Contest, Winfield, Kansas
 - March 1 - Smithsonian Festival of American Folk Life highlights
 - KUAT FM 90.5, Saturdays 12:05pm
 - Feb. 7 - Canadian Music
 - Feb. 28 - Songs about Crime

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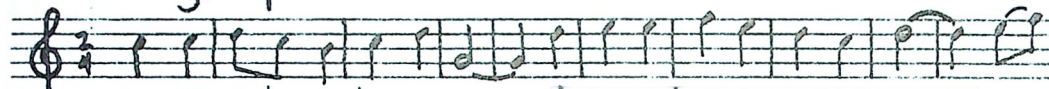
The Laing family are good friends to lots of us TFM folks. After hearing some of David's songs at parties around town we asked him for one to print. We hope this won't be the last.

Great Basin Desert
Nevada 1969

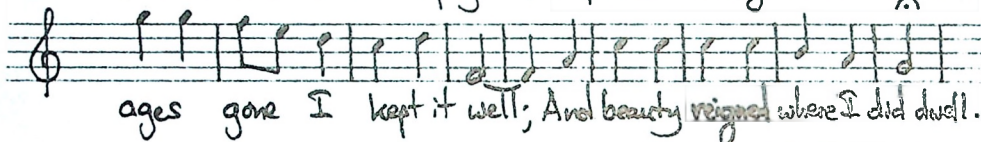
3 House of Green

A short history of civilization

Slower, a capello



Once I had a house of green; A fairer house you've never seen; In



ages gone I kept it well; And beauty reigned where I did dwell.

2. And then I built a house of stone;
I thought it would be more my own;
A proud defence against the wind;
A dwelling worthy of my mind.

3. I made a fool and when I could,
I made myself a house of wood;
The mighty forests I cut down,
To build myself a pretty town.

4. And then I built a house of steel;
And cities stood in every field;
No beauty there could then be seen,
Where once I'd had my house of green.

5. And when I saw what I had done,
I burned my cities, every one,
And beauty evermore shall reign,
For now my house is green again.

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SQUARE DANCE NEWS

For any potential Square Dancers out there, The Old Pueblo Square Dance Center will host a massive Square Dance Convention at the Center on Delano Road (Thursday, Jan. 15) and at the Tucson Community Center (Fri. & Sat., Jan. 16 & 17). Last year over 100 squares of 8 dancers each took part in this festival. Tickets for dancers are about \$17/couple for the whole package, but a few spectator tickets are available at Jim Click Ford free of charge. The festival will feature imported callers and exhibitions of square and round dance. Folks who are interested in this style of dance can qualify to attend dances by

first completing a course of 26 weeks of instruction at the Square Dance Center. Classes start periodically every couple of months throughout the year. Cost to attend a class or dance is about \$2.50/couple each night. These dancers used recorded music and calls and movements which are standardized by a national group. For more information, call Marilyn Kroeger at 298-4078 and she will put you on the right track to get dancing.

JUDGES PICKED FOR FIDDLE JAMBOREE JAN 17

A special effort has been made to get good judges for the fiddle and Old-Time Music Jamboree at Randolph Park. The three judges for the fid-

dle contest are not members of TFM but they are experts in traditional music. Clarence Langen is well known to Tucson fans of fiddling. Jay Belt of Phoenix is a great fiddler and the president of the Arizona Old-time Fiddler's association. Don Johnson is a former South-west U.S. Champion and has been a judge at the national championship.

Other judges include Chip Curry of the local Summerdog Band and Dave Luckow. Also, Mike Wallner, Pima College Banjo instructor, and Bob Sayers of the Diamond Studs cast.