

TUCSON FRIENDS OF TRADITIONAL MUSIC

MAY-JUNE '76
Vol 2 No 5-6

Gospel Music Festival

May 22-23 saw Payson's 2nd annual Old-Time Gospel Music Festival at the Payson Rodeo Grounds presented by the PAYSON Chamber of Commerce. Several groups were featured, including the New Life Singers, the Brashear Family, and the Pilgrims Quartet, with other singers, mostly from the Phoenix area.

The type of music which predominated was the smooth, contemporary harmony singing with piano which is most commonly heard these days. Three white groups and one black singer (complete with recorded chorus and accompaniment) were featured Saturday. The groups stay two days at Payson and perform in local churches on Sunday as well as at the festival. Devotees of Bluegrass and older Gospel styles might have been disappointed by the kind of singing at the Festival, but it was a good cross-section of the modern style one hears around the state. A bit of older music was added by the PAYSON Chamber of Commerce Quartet, with Ben Sandoval on bass, and by the excellent harmonica playing and singing of Rena and Frank Trammel of Black Canyon City. Rena has a fine, old-time voice and did an excellent job on some old Southern hymns.

Sol Rudnick and some other fiddlers helped to round out the program. The crowd was moderate in size, but friendly and food and crafts were available. As

PATAGONIA CAMPOUT

JUNE 19-20

SATURDAY - SUNDAY

It looks as though Bob Force will be with us for this month's campout. He is current Smoky Mountain Dulcimer Champion and he can really play. When he visited us in Tucson he was playing everything from Chuck Berry to Bert Jansch to Jean Ritchie. He knows the technical side of his instrument and the mechanics of construction and set-up as well as the music and tradition. He sings ballads and contemporary songs and plays in both very old modal styles and in the intricate improvisational styles that east and west coast players have dreamed up in the last few years.

We will try to arrange a car caravan to drive to the camping area. If you want to get together of need a ride or can take another rider call Matt 326-3210 or Bill 624-2815 about a week or so before the trip.

the festival grows its promoters may be able to add a wider variety of types and styles of Gospel music. Jim Griffith

FOLKLORE !!!!

It's 4th of July coming up. Who revolutionized your folk-mind and got you interested in folk-type music? We want a Bicentennial Issue for 4th of July that is chock full of 1st hand folk stuff...sayings, taunts, jump-rope chants, songs, riddles, tunes, stories about your favorite folk characters (Dave's "walking trees") who you learned from.... Such as "Mother's favorite...a cluttered room means a cluttered mind..." or (to the tune of 99 bottles) "As one blue beetle bled blood blue, the other blue beetle bled black... chorus (tune-glory, hallelujah)...they were only playing leapfrog..." (Albuquerque 1969)

Folklorist: What kind of song do you consider a folk-song, Mr. Ledbetter? Leadbelly: Well, they all are, I never heard no mule sing.

And you get the idea... send stuff to Matt, 1406 E. Adams St., Tucson and we'll fit it all in.



TUCSON FRIENDS OF TRADITIONAL MUSIC
c/o 224 E 2nd St
Tucson, Arizona 85705

FESTIVALS, FESTIVALS.....

There are hundreds of folk festivals, blue-grass festivals, old-time music festivals and assorted music happenings around the country from now til fall...too bad for us, the large majority of them are in the East and south, but here are a few west of the Mississippi.

June 17-20th(?) Weiser, Idaho (c/o Chamber of Commerce,) National Fiddle Championship There are several contests that claim to be this one, but this is the one. Lots of jamming in many styles although the contest is strictly modern adaptations of old-time. Many of us have been to this contest and had a good time...talk to Dave L. Rob Freeman, or Matt.

June/July Consecutive weekends of music at Sweets Mill Balkan, Old-Time, Bluegrass..contact Virgil Byxbe, Auberry, Ca. 93602..must register in advance.

July Gathering of the Tribes, (Rainbow Family Box 2665 Missoula, Mt. 59801) Held July 1-4 at Glacier Natl Park...lots of far-out but friendly natives with lots of music.

June 26-27 Old-Time Country Music Festival Payson, Arizona with contests for banjo, fiddle country and bluegrass bands 602-474-2595.

Sept 25-26 Ariz. State Old Time Fiddle Contest Payson, Ariz.

Payson is a small rural town 80 miles NE of Phoenix in a lovely part of conservative Arizona. You can have a great time there, but it is definitely not Woodstock.

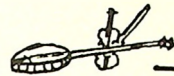
WINTER CONCERT TOUR

TFTM has been in touch with both the Austin Tex. Friends of Traditional Music and the West LA Garland Society, an LA music club, concerning the possibility of a joint tour for some of the famous traditional musicians from the East and South. This will take considerable amount of letter writing and organizing to make a reality but it can be done if several TFTM folks will put some time and effort into it. Suggested artists to tour would be such folks as Almeda Riddle, the great singer and story teller from Kentucky, Sara Cleveland, the great northeastern singer, Jean Ritchie, Lou Killen the well-known British singer and concertina player, Norman Kennedy of Aberdeen, Scotland... We think maybe about 3 of these would be a realistic number to start with. We need a place and a publicity person and some input. Who else would we like to see? Can we get enough interest to hire a band or group, that would be much more expensive, but a bigger draw perhaps. yes? no? In any case, this needs to be well under way by the start of school in August so if you have ideas, get them in shape. We can all talk about it June 19-20.

Neither Rain nor Snow...

We've been having trouble reaching everybody when we need to, so from now on the newsletter will be mailed to every member every month. This is going to cost us a bundle but you're worth it and it seems to be the only way...we will still try to use the phone system

for special short notice events...if your address changes you should let Jo Bowman know (326-3210) if you have not been getting called by the grapevine, call Renee Wallner 327-8259 so she can straighten that out.



TFTM News

TWO GOOD TIMES...the party at Norma's was relaxed and fun. Lots of musicians, with Dave Luckow, Donna Freeman, Tommy Rozum, John Ragsdale, Cy Rosenthal, Matt McConeghy, the Laings, Mike Wallner and other good friends providing music til after midnight. Highlights were Ed Smith and his Texas Fiddle Rags, Dave Day with his Northumbrian bagpipes, and Donna Anderson's chocolate chip cookies...she brought them over hot out of the oven and they didn't last long enough to get cool..yum yum!!!!

MtLemmon...Lots of good music til late at night plus exactly perfect weather= a good time. The Ritchey crowd, Rob Freeman & friends, Big Jim Griffith, Bob Sayers, John Beach, John Mattingly Betsy Rome, Vicky Orenstein and lots of other good friends played, sang and just enjoyed the full moon shining in the pines. Sounds ranged from Rosa Lee McFall bluegrass to Bob's "if you lika Ukellele lady...when everything is wicky, wacky, woo.." and Dave Laings "Pick your Nose and Pick Your Troubles Away"...Need we say more!

PURCHASING A CONCERTINA...by Bill Bowman

A few months ago we ran an article on the concertina (kinds, records, etc.). Now what can you do if you want to learn to play one, would you go to your local music store and buy it? Only if you didn't know what you wanted and didn't know what to look for.

The best thing to do is to purchase an old Lachenal or Wheatstone (there are other good old ones but these are the best known) but these are extremely hard to find, especially in the Southwest. I first purchased a old Wheatstone that needed repair--new bellows and reed work--and sent it to Stinson Bihlen in Texas, but after six months of waiting he sent it back because there's no one around who can make new bellows. If you can't find an old instrument in good condition and you want an English style you can write Oliver Heatwole in Washington, D.C. He has them for \$200 postpaid with case and instruction book. Mine took two weeks to get here- it was sent to an accordion shop in California to be checked out and then sent on to me.



ANGLO CONCERTINA

D means draw out, P means push together. Numbers are for buttons, front row first. On the left hand buttons are numbered up from the bottom, on the right hand, down from the top. A dot means left hand.

**WHISKEY BEFORE BREAKFAST
NORMAN BLAKE
Rounder 0063 (\$6.98)**

Rounder has subtitled this disc "Norman Blake's Guitar Album" and critics have subtitled it "THE Norman Blake album" or "his best yet." It is all of these. The fourteen cuts on the album include four written by Blake and five vocals. The vocals and the other tunes are traditional with five cuts, two of which are medleys, being fiddle tunes. Charlie Collins plays a fine back-up guitar on three cuts and the rest is all Norman. No mandolin, no dobro, no fiddle, no viola, no cello. Just guitar or guitar with voice.

After Doc Watson, I rate Blake as my favorite traditional guitarist. His work is straightforward and unaffected. He can embellish a tune without making it overly ornate. He is fast, but not so fast that he seems to be trying to dazzle the listener with sheer speed. Most of all, he is unbelievably clean and has an uncanny instinct for coaxing just the right tonal quality from his instrument. Norman's wife Nancy wrote the album notes, and she is very obliging in telling the world how he has his guitar set up to get that tone. It's just a simple matter of mechanics, see?

Space prohibits a detailed discussion of all the cuts. Suffice it to say that the flat-pick instrumentals are the best.

There are enough of them that, if for no other reason, the record is worth buying, but Blake's finger-style and vocals are good too.

If you're a guitarist this record will either inspire you or make you want to break your fingers. Whether you play or not it is must listening if you want to hear guitar playing at its best.

by Dave Huet

Directory??

As soon as someone volunteers we will get into the process of making up a Directory for members use only. Work involves checking individually with each member for correct address, phone, and whatever other relevant stuff we can add, then typing it up and arranging for printing. This could be real useful item for all of us to have and especially if we can add something to it besides names and addresses.

If interested in taking on the project call Jo at 624-2815 or matt 326-3210.

TUCSON MEET YOURSELF AND FRIENDS 1976

Big Jim Griffith and Loma are working out what they hope will happen at Meet Yourself this year. Time will be coming up sometime soon when you can start thinking about volunteering...Not yet, but soon...Jim is the man to talk to.

St. Patrick's Day in the ...

5 121122 343321 222216 51555 121122

343321 222216 5 1 1 4 84544 543432

LOCAL NOTES--

Hey! What's everybody up to? We know Bill and Jo Bowman are getting ready to drive back to Baltimore in their restored 1931 Model A tudor... and are working madly to get it back together since at the moment it's lying in pieces all over their house. John Beach is on his way to Colorado for the summer, plans to get rich prospecting. The Laing family is headed up there also but more permanently. We'll miss them all a lot, but come to think of it that just is a good place to go visit ...maybe our next camp-out....We've seen off some of our friends from TFTM who've headed back east to tradethe heat for humidity...Dave and Donna plan to do that for a little while with a trip up to Weiser to see the NATIONAL Fiddle Contest. After that Donna plans to be tied down for a while--she got accepted to the U of A Med School and starts next month.Wow! Mike and Matt are working hard on their theses, egged on by some close friends and others who have struggled along. Other assorted activities in recent weeks have included a trip by Jim Griffith to Payson to see the Gospel Music Festival and the completion by TFTM member Sol Rudnick of a record of Fiddle Favorites(see articles). An OREOEATING contest got everybody thinking at a little party the Wallner's gave for the Laings. Jason and Beth Ragsdale took after their artistic mom and came up with prize-winning consumption... Beth ate hers with chopsticks while Jason won a package of Di-Gel for his performance of dissolving the little yummy in

a glass of water and drinking it.First prize went to TFTMs Mike Trefull who wrapped his in a cigarette paper and smoked it. Does this cause cancer?

Our friends Dennis and Kathy are back in Tucson after spending the winter in Pena Blanca.Dennis may be working for the Chicago Store by the time we get in print.

COMING SOON...PATAGONIA CAMPOUT...NOTE THE DATE JUNE 19-20 Saturday and Sunday! not 16-17 as we told some folks.

HELP_WANTED!!!!

ARTIST...to design logos and newsletter head, we've been fiddling around with this stuff long enough...Get it together and send it in by June 21..whatever we get, that's what we'll use

Writers...ANY member can feel free anytime to write up an article for the newsletter...write whatever you want but if you want an idea, here's what we'd like most... Interviews...with Don Johnson, Ed Smith, Tom & Martha Jennings, Dusty Chaps, Chip Curry, Articles on Bluegrass, Newgrass, Old-Timey, Irish, local C&W, Singing, East and West Coast Happenings,.... Any Record Review...of a new release, or an old favorite... How-To articles....play fiddle, banjo, guitar, tablature or transcriptions, building, repairing taking care of an instrument,...buying an instrument, strings, accessories, using a capo, finding a key, playing cords for a fiddler, fiddling behind a singer..

FIDDLE FAVORITES !!

Our good friend and TFTM member Sol Rudnick has just finished cutting his first solo record. It looks from the note he sent us that it will be a good one...18 tunes including Arkansas Traveler, Sailor's Hornpipe, Leather Britches, London-Derry Hornpipe, Red Hair-ed Boy(Little Beggarman) Under the Double Eagle, Scottish Fiddle Pipes, Turkey in the Straw, Tia's Breakdown, Wildwood Flower Over the Waves Waltz, Irish Wash Woman, Dance All Night, Jessie Polka, Smash the Windows Jig, Orange Blossom Special, plus two song tunes, an Irish song and an old-timey song. Accompaniment is by Marshall Racowsky on guitar and Igor Glenn on bass, also two step dancers and two singers.

We'll tell you more about the record after we give it a good listen, but if you like you can get a copy yourself first from Sol Rudnick, 4001 McDowell Rd. 3247, Phoenix, Ariz. 85008 (\$5.00) (PS) Sol is the Arizona State Fiddle Champ for 1975-76 (He was champ last year too) so you know it'll be good...next month Sol will be up in Weiser competing for the National Championship and all of TFTM wishes him the very best of luck!!



... P D D D P D P D D D D P D P D D D P D D D D P P D D D O I D D D P ...
 3 4 5 4 4 5 5 3 4 5 4 3 4 5 4 3 4 5 4 3 2 2 2 2 5 1 1
 Meaning: