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THE NORTHEAST FOLKLORE SOCIETY

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Newsletter # 15
July 7, 1978

Florence E. Ireland
Editor

Alone Again

What with house-finishing and garden-starting, Jill could not help out this time. So I'm soloing again. There are four upcoming events I'd like to call your attention to, and a past one that deserves mention (not that others do not -- I just happened to be there). Onward then, with the was and four will-be's, plus some other worthy stuff.

Was

The East Benton Music Show, on Sunday, June 25th, was enhanced by sunny skies and fresh mown hay. Held in a field in East Benton, and an expansion of last year's East Benton Fiddle Contest, it boasted a roster of talent which included the Northern Valley Boys, Edie Boughty, Bill Bonyun, the mime group Streets, Wild Mountain Thyme, and more but I had to leave for a dinner engagement and so missed the rest. There were perhaps 1000 people in attendance, most there for the chance to meet old and new friends as much as for the music. Refreshment were of the healthy type, and the usual pre-show jamming by performers and friends seemed unusually organized, and thoroughly delightful. I was told that a barn dance was to follow later that evening, which must have turned out well judging from the exuberance of audience and performers alike. 'Twas a lovely afternoon and I wish I could have stayed for the whole thing.

Will-be

The Maine Festival, held again at Bowdoin College in Brunswick, will run from July 28th through July 30th, beginning at noon each day. Some modifications have been made in physical layout and scheduling, based on last year's observations, with apparently no sacrifice of quality or variety. Happily, all exhibits will remain open until 8:00 p.m., to accomodate evening ticket-holders.

Exhibits this year, to mention only a few, will feature Russian Fireplace Building, glass blowing, Shaker herb drying and uses, Shaker spinning and weaving, chain saw sculpture, tatting, rughooking, a craft show, and the actual building of a Cornerstones house right on the grounds!

There will again be a Children's Area, with Clown Al, Streets, the Shoestring Puppets, and dancing by a group of Passamaquoddy Indian children, to highlight some.

Storytellers Don Taverner, Nettie Mitchell, John Carney, Marshall Dodge, Kendall Morse, and Jud Strunk will be there. Three types of Indian basketmaking will be demonstrated: sweetgrass, porcupine quill, and mountain ash. Sipsis, the Penobscot poetess whose powerful creations portray her experiences as a Native American, will be a special

feature. There will be a Shaker vesper service, a demonstration by the S.A.L.T. group, boatbuilding, furtrapping, sawfiling, crooked knife craftsmanship, cello and guitar building, a clown's convention, fiddlers' convention, opera, Morris dancing, bluegrass, a rock dance, David Ingraham, readings by Richard Sewall, the Argyle Highlanders, jazz -- the list continues. Go. I guarentee you will be neither bored nor disappointed.

By the way, our fearless leader, Sandy Ives, will be singing lumbermen's songs from 2:00-3:00 on Saturday, the 29th, and later that afternoon and evening will come Bill Bonyun, Edie Doughty, Chuck Krueger and his band, Wild Mountain Thyme, Kendall Morse, and David Mallett.

The Search Is On

Sue Ostroff, this year's Folklife Director for the Maine Festival, is looking for someone who can do old-time whittling, such as results in gumboxes, chain and ball, and fans. Also, she needs mouth organ players and stepdancers. Anyone knowing of or being any of these, please contact her at the Maine State Museum, Augusta, Maine 04333. She will be eternally grateful.

Will-be #2

The Folksong Festival, successor to Orono's Folksongs in February, will be held at Wesleyan College, Middletown, Connecticut, August 4, 5, and 6. There will be free daily workshops, a free Pub Concert from 6-7 p.m. on the 5th, and at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, a free Children's Concert with Carolyn and Sandy Paton, Sparky Rucker, and Jim Douglas. All evening concerts will be given twice to allow for maximum attendance. Here's a run down of the performers in each concert:

Concert A

Sandy Ives
Margaret Christl
Gale Huntington
Sparky Rucker
Debbie McClatohy
Wendy Gross
Joe Hickerson
Vaughn and George
Ward

Concert B

Peter Bellamy
Margaret MacArthur
Norman Kennedy
Helen Schneyer
Grannie Riddle
Jeff Warner
Jeff Davis
Bill Shute
Lisa Null

Concert C

Carolyn and Sandy
Paton
David Jones
Joan Sprung
Dan Smith
Roy Berkely
Tim Woodbridge
Mick Maloney
Rosalie Sorrels
Seamus Ennis

Tickets are \$5.00 each concert or all three for \$12.00. Students and senior citizens will be charged \$2.50 each or three for \$6.00. Information and tickets can be obtained from: Folksong Festival, Wesleyan University, Middletown, Connecticut 06457. Ticket orders will be accepted up to July 26th. Otherwise, you'll have to take your chances at the door.

Will-be #3

The Catskill Folk Festival, celebrating the folklore of the various peoples of the Catskill region, will be held August 12 and 13 at the Catskill Ski Center in Andes, New York. Much of the folk music at this year's festival will be material collected from George Edwards, a Catskill Mountain ballad singer. Although George Edwards died in the

late 1940's, his songs remain alive in the voices of young campers who learned from him at Camp Woodland.

Pete Seeger will sing at the festival. He attended one of the first of Camp Woodland's festivals and holds a warm spot in his heart for Catskill folklore.

The weekend will begin with Folk Forums concerning Catskill lore, such as anti-rent folklore, folk music and dance. There will be a forum on the life and music of George Edwards as well as tapes of his singing available for listening. Traditional Catskill food will be offered throughout the weekend. Story telling and jam sessions are expected to spring up in the inspiring atmosphere. Children's games and entertainment will be part of the festival, too. There will be an afternoon folk music concert and a square dance in the evening. An old time hymn sing is planned for Sunday morning to be followed by a potluck picnic. Potlucks are a traditional part of group meetings in the Catskills. Sunday afternoon will be filled with entertainment and education.

Again this year the Delaware County Scottish Society will be at the festival with a group of bagpipers. There will also be a demonstration of the weaving of tartans, and other ethnic areas of Catskill culture will be included as well.

The School of Country living will show displays and demonstrations of traditional jobs done in the Catskill Mountains. There will be an exhibit of Catskill Folk Art emphasizing Catskill carvers in wood and stone. Paintings of Nellie Bly Ballard of Roxbury will also be shown. A fiddlers' hoedown will feature many traditional old time fiddlers.

The Catskill Ski Center has facilities for carrying on the Festival in any weather. There is space for tent and trailer camping on the premises, but arrangements must be made in advance. Food will be sold on the grounds during the entire Festival.

Will-be #4

The Common Ground Country Fair will return this year on September 22, 23, and 24 at the Fairgrounds in Litchfield, Maine. Successful last year beyond all anticipation, this no nonsense, leisurely, living-oriented event brought together homesteaders, established farmers, city folk with country ideas, and others in an environment of peaceful learning and sharing, greatly enhanced by the enormous variety of wholesome food, the aromas of which insured steady lines in the eating area.

This year there will be demonstrations in tinsmithing, spinning angora wool, solar greenhouses, plant dyes, chair caning, using seaweed, to name just a few. Featured speakers will be Wendell Berry, Jeff Cox, and the Nearings. There will be at least 11 different animal displays, including a chicken flying contest! There will be booths representing small farm machinery, alternative energy sources, shelter, and social action. Entertainment will include Marshall Dodge, Noel Stookey, the Danville Junction Boys, Wild Mountain Thyme, the Pine Hill String Band, Joe Perham, and more.

Children's Day, September 22nd, will feature a petting farm, children's theatre, puppets, clowns, storytellers, jugglers, magicians, games, music and a Pumpkin Growing Contest, seeds having already been distributed to local school children. (Adam's seeds all came up and the plants are healthy, but his cousin Geoffrey planted his in the compost pile -- humph!)

Tickets are only \$2.00 per day, \$1.00 on Children's Day, and the Fairbook can be obtained in advance by sending 50¢ to Common Ground Country Fairbook, Box 188, Hallowell, Maine 04347 after August 1st.

Treasure Hunt News

From Edie Doughty, here's the latest on this vibrant group: Thanks to all of you who contributed to the Gene Bonyun Memorial Treasure Hunt Fund. Part of the monies were used as a matching fund for a grant from the Maine State Commission on Arts and Humanities for an exciting pilot project headed by Bill Bonyun. Bill spent hours interviewing and photographing George Richardson, a lobsterman on Westport Island, and his family about their experiences as a fishing family. Bill honed these hours and hours of tape and multitude of pictures taken by Nick Dean down to a three section presentation. The sixth grade students of Richmond and Woolwich were the lucky receivers of these presentations. The first day Bill went into the classroom and showed slides of George and his family and played them a series of interviews. The next day George himself went into the classroom and brought in live lobsters, crabs, nets, traps and more slides. In Richmond the scheduled hour stretched into a two and a half hour session with students opting not to go out for recess! The third day George's son Gary went in with George and they taught the class how to build a lobster trap. Bill at this very moment is pulling together his report for the Maine State Commission, and looking forward to their reaction and suggestions. If all goes well, this is the beginning of a series of such projects coordinated by various Treasure Hunt staff people.

Speaking of Treasure Hunt, besides having the offerings of workshops in classrooms such as basket weaving, puppetry, Indian lore, and more, we have some new artists that have grouped together with two of us old standbys and formed a Traveling Treasure Hunt Festival. The "Traveling Festival" consist of that old-timey music group The Grey Goose made up by Bob Childs, Danny Clifford and Jeff McKeen, and the mime troupe Streets which is Tony Owen and Richard Green, Bill Bonyun, and yours truly. We opened June 1 under the joint auspices of the Commission of Arts and Humanities and the Parent Teachers Club of Topsham at the Mount Ararat High School. It was a great evening hosted by Marshall Dodge. All of us did our own acts in the first half and then in the second half brought our acts together for a high energy combining of forms. We opened the second half with the song "The Cat Came Back" sung by all including the audience and with Tony and Richard being very winsome cats. We then switched into a water theme with such variations as Bill Bonyun leading the crew in sea shanties, Streets doing their amazing dowsing routines which some of you saw at our Celebration for Gene, and all of us ending the segment by singing "Water-bound" which had a surprise ending when Marshall dumped a glass of water on my head! The "Traveling Treasure Hunt Festival" is doing some festivals and recreation departments this summer and will be doing workshops and performances this fall all around Maine. If you'd like us to come to your area, please write to me at Westport Island 04578 and I'll send you information. Have a good summer.

Edie Doughty
Westport Island

Help Build A Gundalow

A what?

A gundalow, which is, although I probably don't have to tell you, a river vessel which carried goods. The people at Strawberry Banke are going to build one, over a two-year period, using traditional methods, and under the guidance of a local boat builder named Bud McIntosh. After launching, the vessel will visit communities on the Piscataqua River, providing a mobile exhibit and educational program. It is the goal of this project to build a gundalow which will serve as the focal point of the river's once vital role in the lives of its people..

The gundalow will be based on the lines of the Fannie M., the last working gundalow on the Piscataqua. The Fannie M. was built in 1886 at Adams' Point, Durham, by Capt. Edward H. Adams. The gundalow, 69 feet in length with a beam of 19 feet, will be fitted with the traditional sailing rig unique to the Piscataqua River gundalow. It will have no engine.

They need financial support to make this project a reality. Information can be obtained by writing: Strawberry Banke/Gundalow Project, P.O. Box 1303, Portsmouth, New Hampshire 03801.

"SUTHIN'"

We hope your copy of "Suthin'" (Northeast Folklore XVIII:1977) arrived safely, we also hoped you are enjoying it. We're rather pleased with it, in spite of the goofed-up pages 10 and 11. It's always good news when we get an issue out. Unfortunately our pleasure has been marred by the bad news we must pass on: Grover Morrison died Sunday, June 18, just three days after we delivered the completed book to him. He and his wife spent may of his last hours reading the book through together. He was delighted with it. He went on his way very quietly, a little over a month into his eighty-seventh year.

DAVID INGRAHAM'S RECORD

It's finally happened. Dave has put out an album containing his songs. Title: "Back in Maine Again." Cost: \$5.95 + .30 Maine sales tax if applicable. (Make your check out to Dave, by the way, and mail it to him at the Time Out, 451 S. Main St., Brewer, Maine 04412.) For your money you'll get such old favorites as "Dr. Ganong" and some new ones like "The Hairpiece that Belonged to Mayor Broutas." It's good fun, this album.

All For Now

This is the greenest, most fragrant summer I can remember -- or maybe I've just gotten better at noticing it. In any case, the garden, the pigs, and Adam are all growing, and Jill gave me a wonderful surprise last month: an antique birdbath! Back in the fall.

