



Pacific
Northwest

FOLKLORE SOCIETY

"in the tradition"

Since 1953

the NW HOOT

pnwfolklore.org

December/January, 2008/2009

Vol. 1, No. 2

WELCOME to the Pacific Northwest Folklore Society's NW HOOT (as in hootenanny). Every two months we will announce upcoming events and include articles on folk music, folklore and the traditional music scene in the Pacific Northwest. A web edition of this newsletter is available at pnwfolklore.org



PNWFS COFFEEHOUSE CONCERTS AT THE WAYWARD COFFEEHOUSE

The first concert at our new venue was a great success with Mick Knight and Orville Murphy in an all blues night on Oct. 10th. This was followed by Paul Michel and Sally Rose playing old-time music on November 14th. Check the [Events Schedule](#) for future concerts.

An Appreciation of Stew Hendrickson by Bob Nelson

It was just over five years ago that I started hearing that there was a new guy in town I should meet, and I did meet him when Stew and Betty Hendrickson came to our annual hoot in Everett. This was the beginning of what has become a fruitful friendship

My first impressions were of a calm and pleasant person with a serious nose. He was an easy fit into our hoot, enjoying others' music and comfortably sharing his own Celtic music with fiddle, voice and guitar.

As I got to know him better, it became clear that Stew had a somewhat refreshing take on folk music. Rather than just learning new songs and performing occasionally, he also expressed a desire to encourage other musicians and to open up new venues for them. Stew and Betty began opening up their home for monthly jam sessions that soon had some of Seattle's finest musicians meeting

The Pacific Northwest Folklore Society was founded by Walt Robertson and friends in 1953 in the University District of Seattle. The Society is devoted to the understanding and development of the folklore of this area. Collection, study, preservation, publication, and performance are all aspects of the Society's activities. The people of the Pacific Northwest are heir to a rich heritage of legend, song, dance, and other forms of lore. This study greatly aids the understanding not only of ourselves, but of our forebears and the land from which they sprung.

PNWFS Directors
Stewart Hendrickson, Bob Nelson

Newsletter Editor: Stewart Hendrickson
Email: pnwfolklore@comcast.net

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each other and making music together. Next they hosted Charlie Ipcar in a house concert.

Then came an event that moved Stew to further action. Jeff Warner, a consummate folklorist and performer from New Hampshire approached the Seattle Folklore Society about doing a Seattle concert. They ignored his request. Jeff has high credentials as a folklorist and he is the son of Anne and Frank Warner. His concerts are laced with stories of being the child on the floor while his parents made field recordings. Perhaps it was that he wasn't good enough because he didn't write his own material ... the SFS had become "singer songwriter" or nothing! That was quite an astounding change from their early roots. When Stew learned of this he decided to host Jeff in a house concert.

At the same time, Stew had been having discussions with Don Firth and me about the possibility of reviving the Pacific Northwest Folklore Society. This was the pivotal group that several of us had formed in 1953. It had become dormant, but it was still legally alive. Stew rightfully reasoned that a revitalized society could lead to a shift of direction back to our more traditionally based folk music roots. And this has proved true.

Over the last two and a half years, the PNWFS has hosted seven house concerts and produced twenty public concerts in gathering places that offer a welcoming atmosphere necessary to this intimate kind of music. The PNWFS has also produced a five-concert series at the Everett Public Library.

Stew pursues these endeavors with a quiet tenacity that brings success. While he asks my opinion on matters I usually find it best to keep out of his way. His years of research and teaching stand him well when he gets an idea. I have fun watching him take on a new project.

Another whole side of Stew comes out when he picks up an instrument. He then shows that he is a consummate musician who has seriously studied music all his life. I can always tell when someone is just playing music or when, as Stew does, they present their songs with a real desire to have the listener appreciate it.

An incident happened about a year ago that is very telling of Stew. My mother played violin and I had the remains of her instrument. It had had a tortured life and was in pieces. I offered it to Stew to see if it was repairable. He thought it was and risked some serious money to have it restored. Today that violin reflects the loving care it now receives and has become one of his favorite instruments. And this is the same kind of care and attention he gives to the local folk community by sponsoring local musicians in concerts and providing new venues wherever possible. Seattle is the better for all his efforts and I am pleased to call him a friend.

Bob Nelson

PAUL ASHFORD PACIFIC NORTHWEST FOLKLORIST

On May 26, 2008 I led a workshop at NW Folklife, "55-Years Folksinging in Seattle." One of the panel members, John Ashford, talked about his father Paul, a song collector and folk singer in the '30s and '40s in Washington.

Paul worked for the WPA Writer's Project. He interviewed people around the state, "but if he saw a piano in the

room, he'd stop and spend the whole day there sharing and learning songs from people. And he came up with quite a collection of folk songs."

Ivar Haglund was a good friend and well-known folk singer who had a radio program in Seattle. They would get together and sing those songs, and make up verses to those that were just fragments.

John's father was particularly interested in prohibition songs. "He had quite a good collection of songs that came out of the prohibition era. We always had a crock of home brew going in the kitchen when I was growing up.

He loved to invite people over to the house and they'd gather around the piano, and he'd play some of those prohibition songs, and people would join in – they're great songs for singing."

About 1940 Woody Guthrie, then writing songs for the Bonneville Dam, and a 19-year-old Pete Seeger met Ivar. They all went to John's home to meet his father and sing songs. His father began a friendship with Pete.

When Pete was stationed at Fort Lawton (now Discovery Park) during the war, he would often come to the Ashford home for dinner and singing. John's father taught Pete some of his songs, which Pete later continued to sing.

You can read the full transcript of John Ashford's remarks on the Pacific NW Folklore Society web site, pnwfolklore.org, [History page](#).

Stewart Hendrickson

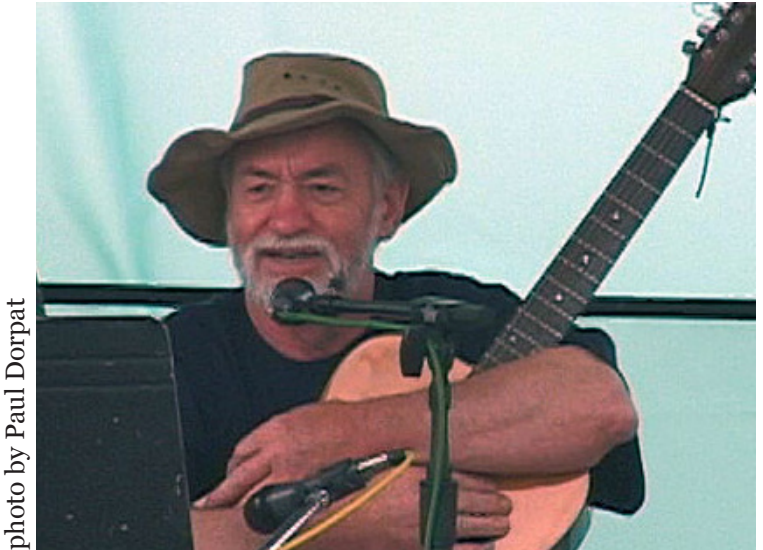


photo by Paul Dorpat

STAN JAMES: May 20, 1935 - October 31, 2008

Stan James, a Seattle folksinger from the early 1950s passed away at his cabin near Granite Falls. One of the mainstays of folk music in this area, he was one of a group of young folksingers who [sang at the UN Pavilion](#) during the 1962 Seattle World's Fair. In 1962 he bought "The Place Next Door," a coffeehouse in the Wallingford District, redecorated it and renamed it "The Corroborree." It was one of the best coffeehouse folk venues in Seattle at that time.

Stan, a ship builder, was involved in some of the early restoration of the Wawona, and lead many chantey sings at the NW Seaport on South Lake Union. He was the second president of the Seattle Folklore Society, and was active in the Seattle Song Circle. He will indeed be sorely missed!

[See Stan's page on pnwfolklore.org](#)

Stewart Hendrickson

UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday, November 22nd, 2008, 7 - 9 pm. The Flying Apron Bakery Presents THE BALLADEERS. Bob Nelson, Stewart Hendrickson and Jerry Middaugh play songs and fiddle tunes from the British Isles and America. Come to listen and eat. Special dinner menu. The Flying Apron Bakery, 3510 Fremont Ave N, Seattle. 206-442-1115.

Saturday, December 6th, 2008, 7:30 pm. Northwest Seaport Maritime Concert. THE CUTTERS & FRIENDS IN CONCERT. Featuring TheCutters, William Pint & Felicia Dale, Kat Eggleston, & Dan Maher. Come join The Cutters & Friends for an evening of Celtic and Maritime Music, original songs, and music for the Holiday Season, in their 13th Annual Christmas Show. At Immanuel Lutheran Church, 1215 Thomas, Seattle.

Friday, December 12th, 2008, 8-10 pm. Pacific Northwest Folklore Society Coffeehouse Concert. STEWART HENDRICKSON & THE WHATEVERLY BROTHERS. An evening of sea songs and chanteys, Aarr! Stewart, Seattle's fiddling maritime singer, will sing songs of the sea accompanied by guitar and interspersed with fiddle tunes. The Whateverly Brothers (Chris Glannister, Matthew Moeller and Dan Roberts) draw from the finest traditions of vocal harmony to present sea songs and chanteys. Weigh anchor! Raise the glass! Sing along! Free, 8-10 pm, **The Wayward Coffeehouse**, 8570 Greenwood Ave N, Seattle.

Saturday, December 13th, 2008, 7 pm. Haller Lake Arts Council Presents JEAN SHERRARD with special guest PAUL DORPAT. A Holiday Special of dramatic readings and stories presented by Jean Sherrard with special guest Paul Dorpat. Together, they will be presenting several Christmas-themed stories and a verse or two. These will include O'Henry's classic Gift of the Magi, and excerpts from Dickens' Christmas Carol, and Dylan Thomas's A Child's Christmas in Wales. To cap off, a reading of Jean Shepherd's classic comic tale of Christmas, "Red Ryder meets the Cleveland St. Kid" which was adapted into the film A Christmas Story. Haller Lake Community Club, 12579 Densmore Ave N, Seattle, \$12, \$2 off HLCC. Kids half price. Info/reservations: email, 367-0475, hallerlake.info/artsevents.html

Saturday, December 20th, 2008, 7:30 pm. Seattle Folklore Society Presents SOLSTICE CONCERT WITH STANLEY GREENTHAL AND GUESTS. As the longest night of 2008 draws near join Stanley and Kip Greenthal and special guests in a musical and story

celebration of the winter solstice. \$15, \$2 off for SFS & PNA members and seniors, kids half price. Phinney Neighborhood Center, 6532 Phinney Avenue N, Seattle.

Friday, January 9, 2009, 8 pm. Pacific Northwest Folklore Society Coffeehouse Concert. ALICE STUART. Winner of the Washington Blues Society's BB Award for best Solo/Duo act of 2008, Alice blazed the trail for women in Rock and Roll as one of the only females in the country to write her own music, front a male band, and play lead guitar on national and international circuits during the 1970s. She began performing professionally in Seattle in the early 60's. \$10 donation, 8-10 pm, **The Wayward Coffeehouse**, 8570 Greenwood Ave N, Seattle.

Saturday, January 10th, 2009, 7 pm. Haller Lake Arts Council Presents CROOKSHANK. Crookshank is Seattle's hottest folk-rock band. Crookshank draws from many sources for its updated versions of European traditional music: Norway, Sweden, Brittany, England, Ireland, France, Italy, the Netherlands, Bulgaria and Hungary. The band mines old musical veins and fuses them into a rich alloy, forging a sound with modern sensibilities and energy. John Peekstok, Beth Kollé, Davy Axtell, Sarah Funk, and Pete Glass. Haller Lake Community Club, 12579 Densmore Ave N, Seattle, \$12, \$2 off HLCC. Kids half price. Info/reservations: email, 367-0475, hallerlake.info/artsevents.html

Friday, February 13th, 2009. 8-10 pm. Pacific Northwest Folklore Society Coffeehouse Concert. MICHAEL GUTHRIE & ALAN ERLICH. Michael has a relaxed, folksy style that incorporates jazz and blues into the mix. A multi-instrumentalist, he sings both traditional and original songs. With influences as diverse as Merle Haggard, Cab Calloway, Tom Lehrer and Bob Wills, Alan's music incorporates, country, blues, folk, bluegrass, pop and western swing. His original songs will make you laugh and encourage you to think about what is going on in the world around you. free, 8-10 pm, **The Wayward Coffeehouse**, 8570 Greenwood Ave N, Seattle.



Become a Member and Donate to the Pacific Northwest Folklore Society

The PNWFS requires little money to operate, yet there are a few expenses that need to be covered, such as printing the newsletter NW HOOT (\$26 for 100 copies), annual fee for the web host (\$110), an ad in the Victory Review (\$66), and ink and paper for the posters and flyers. There are other contributions that require no money – time spent setting up and maintaining the web site, designing and printing posters, promoting and producing concerts, etc.

To cover these small expenses and create a feeling of ownership and belonging to the Society, we would like to ask for a voluntary donation (whatever you can afford and feel it is worth) in return for membership. If you donate \$10 or more you may receive the bimonthly newsletter by regular mail if you so request (the newsletter will continue to be free on the web).

We have no aspirations for a large organization with fancy publications, fund raising, membership drives, and numerous committees and meetings. We would like to keep it small, easy to manage, and with a shoestring budget that may just break even.

If you would like to contribute and become a member of PNWFS, complete the following form and mail it with a check to PNW Folklore Society, 11720 1st Ave NW, Seattle, WA 98177.

May 3, 2008, Reggie Miles House Concert



Name:

Address (street, city, state, zip):

Email:

Amount of donation (check payable to Pacific Northwest Folklore Society):

For donations of \$10 or more, would you like to receive the newsletter by regular mail?

Mail to PNW Folklore Society, 11720 1st Ave NW, Seattle, WA 98177



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