



Pacific
Northwest

FOLKLORE SOCIETY

"in the tradition"

Since 1953

the NW HOOT

pnwfolklore.org

April/May, 2009

Vol. 1, No. 4

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



**Steve Gillette & Cindy Mangsen
in Seattle House Concert**

Steve Gillette and Cindy Mangsen performed to a full house in Seattle on March 7th. With beautiful voices and superb guitar playing they sang some of their original songs and ballads written in the traditional style, interspersed with humorous stories and some concertina tunes by Cindy. A wonderful respite from a snowy night in Seattle.

Folklore & Folk Music of the Northwest KCTS-TV Show, Jan. 20, 1959, Seattle

In 1959 KCTS-TV in Seattle produced a series of six programs entitled *Ballads and Books*. Five of these programs were recorded in the studio by Bob Nelson. The fifth program (Jan. 20, 1959) is particularly interesting as it features James Stevens, Ivar Haglund, and local folk singers John Ashford, Patti McLaughlin and Don Firth. Now after 50 years we can again hear Jim and Ivar talk about the folklore and folk music of the Pacific Northwest and hear some of the songs.

The show's host, Buzz Anderson, begins with a short introduction to local folk songs. Patti McLaughlin and Don Firth then sing Woody Guthrie's Northwest classic, *Roll On Columbia*. And John Ashford

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: pnwfolk@pnwfolklore.org

This Newsletter is published bimonthly by the Pacific Northwest Folklore Society (PNWFS). Article submissions to our newsletter may be made by sending a MSWord document attached to an email to pnwfolk@pnwfolklore.org. Submission should be by the 15th of the month preceding the issue.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Carry It On - page 2

Upcoming Events - page 3

Support the PNWFS - page 4

sings a Pacific Northwest variant of *Little Old Sod Shanty On My Claim*, known as *Little Old Log Cabin On My Claim*. The words may have originated with his father, Paul Ashford, perhaps in collaboration with his friend Ivar Haglund.

Buzz Anderson then introduces Jim Stevens and Ivar Haglund. Jim Stevens was a popular Northwest writer who introduced the American public to the tales of Paul Bunyan. He also wrote lyrics to many songs of the Northwest, including *The Frozen Logger*. Jim worked as a logger in Canada during his youth, and was active in promoting the logging industry in Washington State. One of his projects was the "Keep Washington Green Campaign." He talks about the songs he wrote with Ivar Haglund for this project, and Ivar sings short portions of some of the songs.

Ivar then sings his favorite Northwest song *The Old Settler*, written by Francis Henry of Pierce County, Washington, around 1874. Ivar used the words "Acres of Clams" from this song as the name of his seafood restaurant in Seattle. Ivar was a colorful raconteur, folk singer, and restaurateur in Seattle.

Jim Stevens then talks about some of the books he had written about the Northwest. And Don Firth sings Jim's iconic Northwest song, *The Frozen Logger*.

Patti McLaughlin and Don Firth conclude the program by singing an old folksong *Life Is A Toil*, which speaks about the hardships of life for women on the frontier.

You can hear portions of this program on the Pacific Northwest Folklore Society web page – pnwfolklore.org/BalladsAndBooks5.html. *Stewart Hendrickson*

CARRY IT ON

By Stewart Hendrickson

Go to any folk music concert now, and what do you see? A sea of grey-haired old folkies, myself included. This is the music we grew up with in the late '50s, '60s and even early '70s.

Back then we were young, unmarried, and had lots of time to hang out in coffeehouses and other folk venues. There was not much else to do – no computers or iPods, and TV wasn't that interesting. In the dorm rooms at college there were always guitars and you could always get a few friends together for a 'hoot.' We'd even take our songs and guitars out on the barricades to protest the war and other injustices.

Now in our graying years we don't go out as often and certainly not as late as we used to. It's more relaxing to stay at home, watch TV or a DVD, sit at the computer, maybe even listen to a CD or read a book and get to bed early.

Those of us who do like live music, perhaps even produce shows or enjoy performing, wonder "where have all the audiences gone?". The young people are not there; they have their own music, which we don't much understand. And they're not inclined to hang out with us old folks and our old music, whatever that is. And many of us are not there. That's where the audiences have gone.

At Seattle Song Circle's Rainy Camp recently we mourned the old stalwarts of our folk music scene who had passed away the previous year, and wondered who would carry on the folk music when we passed on. We were quite aware that we are an aging group of people.

We need to get more young people involved and turned on to our music to "carry on the tradition." But how can we do this? Many of our kids who grew up in the '70s had turned

to rock music, the music of their generation. A few have since rediscovered the folk music of their parents, but not enough to carry it on.

Many of the young people who grew up in the '80s and '90s have no idea what folk music is. How many know about Woody and Pete, or have even heard the song *This Land Is Your Land*? They certainly don't learn this in the schools where arts programs are first to be cut to balance the budgets.

An exception to this is the folk-rock acoustic group **The Mammals** (myspace.com/themammalsband). They represent the 2nd or 3rd generation of some of our well-known folk singers – Tao Rodriguez-Seeger, grandson of Pete Seeger; Ruth Unger, daughter of Jay Unger and Molly Mason; and others. I first heard them at Folklife a few years ago when they shared the stage with Jay and Molly for the Benefit Concert. They were well received, but afterwards I heard some old folkies grouching that they "just weren't traditional."

Well no, they weren't traditional, but they did have respect for the tradition. They just put it in their own style and sound. They took the old songs and tunes and made them their own, with respect and knowledge of what went before. I enjoyed it. But it was different.

If the tradition is to be carried on, it should also grow and be allowed to change. Isn't that the history of folk music through the years, the "folk process"? If the tradition stays static it will turn into a museum piece.

The Tallboys (thetallboys.com), a local string band of four young people have made old-time music a hot item here in Seattle. They run a monthly square dance at The Tractor Tavern and a weekly old-time jam at Conor Byrne Pub. They are very popular with the younger crowd. Did you ever think square dancing would be hip?

A local bluegrass/old-time string band is **The Loose Digits** (myspace.com/theloosedigits). Five young people who all live in the Phinney Ridge neighborhood, they play some very tight acoustic music. They will be disbanding to go their separate ways this summer, so catch them while they're still here.

Pint and Dale (pintndale.com), while not exactly young any more, have taken the traditional maritime music and put their own upbeat style into it. They certainly attract a younger group of people and at the same time maintain an integrity and respect for the tradition that we all enjoy.

Crookshank (cdbaby.com/cd/crookshank), a local folk-rock band of older musicians steeped in the tradition, has done the same thing with the traditional music of Europe, the British Isles and beyond.

We need to encourage our young people and bring them into our musical groups. We can teach them about the tradition and they can grow the tradition, and bring more young people into it. Maybe then we will find our audiences.

Yes, things will change, that is inevitable. But hopefully the changes will be gradual, not radical, and the tradition will be passed on. If this doesn't happen, the tradition may be lost by the present young generation. Then eventually, the following generation may rediscover our old traditions, but much may be lost in the intervening years.

We need to invite the younger generation to join us and have a role in growing the tradition. We should be tolerant and willing to grow with them. We should include them in leadership roles and be receptive to their new ideas. We can guide them and tell them about the traditions. We can learn from each other. In the end it will be up to them to "carry it on."

Reprinted from the Victory Review. Stewart Hendrickson

UPCOMING EVENTS

Friday, April 3rd, 2009, 7:30 pm. Seattle Folklore Society Presents THE FIDDLES OF TIERRA CALIENTE CONCERT. The duo Los Gringo Calentanós plays the music of the Michoacan and Guerrero regions of Mexico. Musicians Paul Anastasio and Tina Pilione with Mexico City's Folklorico Ballet will thrill you with music and dance. \$12; \$10 for SFS members, students, seniors; \$6 for kids. Olympic Hall, South Seattle Community College, West Seattle. southseattle.edu/campus/map.html#scc.

Saturday, April 4th, 2009, 7-10 pm. Pacific Northwest Folklore Society & Haller Lake Arts Council Sponsors A MEMORIAL HOOT FOR STAN JAMES (1935-2008) A 'hoot' (hootenanny) to commemorate the life of Stan James, a mainstay of folk music in Seattle since the early 1950s. Haller Lake Community Club, 12579 Densmore Ave N, Seattle, WA.

Friday, April 10th, 2009, 8-10 pm. Pacific Northwest Folklore Society Coffeehouse Concert. MIKE & VAL JAMES. Together 20 years on guitar and vocals – lovable jazz standards, classic folk with a flair, originals with an unexpected twist. "Songs to bring you joy and tweak your memories." Free, donations welcome, 8-10 pm, **The Wayward Coffeehouse**, 8570 Greenwood Ave N, Seattle.

Saturday, April 11th, 2009, 7 pm. Haller Lake Arts Council Presents The DOWNTOWN MOUNTAIN BOYS. Based in Seattle, Washington, it is the Pacific Northwest's most exciting and accomplished bluegrass band: Terry Enyeart (bass, lead and harmony vocals), Dave Keenan (banjo, fiddle, lead and harmony vocals), Don Share (guitar, lead and harmony vocals), Tom Moran (mandolin), and Paul Elliott (fiddle). 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

Sunday, April 19th, 2009. 2-3 pm. Pacific NW Folklore Society Presents Music in the Everett Public Library JIM PORTILLO, BILL ROSE, DOUG REYMORE. Traditional and contemporary American folk songs. Free, Everett Public Library, 2702 Hoyt Ave, Everett, WA 98203. Phone 425-257-8000.

Friday - Sunday, May 1, 2, 3, 2009. Dusty Strings Presents the 5th Annual CLAWHAMMER BANJO WEEKEND. Four outstanding clawhammer banjoists and teachers—Bob Carlin, Chris Coole, Cathy Barton Para, and Dave Para—present a weekend full of banjo workshops for all levels, opportunities for private lessons, a Saturday night concert, and jamming. At Dusty Strings, 3406 Fremont Ave N., Seattle, WA 98103. For information and registration materials, call 206-634-1662 or visit www.dustystings.com.

Friday, May 8th, 2009, 8-10 pm. Pacific Northwest Folklore Society Coffeehouse Concert. THE CANOTE BROTHERS. Greg and Jere Canote, identical twins with fiddle, banjo, ukuleles and genetically matched voices, bring wacky fun with vintage American music – including forgotten fiddle tunes, swing classics and quirky novelty songs. Longtime Seattle favorites with all ages. \$10 suggested donation, 8-10 pm, **The Wayward**

Coffeehouse, 8570 Greenwood Ave N, Seattle.

Saturday, May 9th, 2009, 7 pm. Haller Lake Arts Council Presents SIN FRONTERAS. "Without Borders" is a 4 member, Seattle-based ensemble that interprets songs from across Central & South America and the Caribbean. Founded in 2002, the group draws heavily from the Nueva Cancion song movement, with an emphasis on Andean instrumentation, three-part vocal harmony, Chilean and Argentinean composers. Committed to unity among all peoples of the Americas and beyond, their members hail from the U.S., Colombia, Mexico and Chile. 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, June 12th, 2009, 8-10 pm. Pacific Northwest Folklore Society Coffeehouse Concert. GINNY REILLY. Half of the well-known Reilly & Maloney duo, Ginny has one of the sweetest voices in folk music. She sings some delightful original songs as well as traditional ballads. Come and hear her in a unique solo concert appearance. Free, donations welcome, 8-10 pm, **The Wayward Coffeehouse**, 8570 Greenwood Ave N, Seattle.

Friday, August 21st - Sunday, August 23rd, 2009. Princeton Traditional Music Society (Canada) Presents PRINCETON TRADITIONAL MUSIC FESTIVAL. Will start with a big public dance at sunset on Friday, followed by two days of concerts, jams, workshops and presentations from 10 am to 6 pm both days. Free and supported by the town of Princeton, B.C. and the Regional District, as well as (hopefully) Heritage Canada. Email princetonfestival@telus.net



Mike & Val James

Friday, April 10th



The Canote Brothers

Friday, May 8th

Support 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 this newsletter, preparing posters and flyers, and maintaining the web site. We would appreciate your donations. 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). Complete the following form and mail it with a check to PNW Folklore Society, 11720 1st Ave NW, Seattle, WA 98177.

Name:

Address (street, city, state, zip):

Email:

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

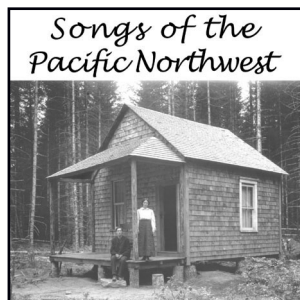
For donations of \$10 or more, would you like to receive the newsletter by regular mail?

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

House Concert, March 7th, 2009



SONGS OF THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST



**Donate \$25 or more
and receive this
complimentary CD**

This collection of songs grew out of a workshop at Rainy Camp, a weekend singing retreat of the Seattle Song Circle at Camp Don Bosco in Carnation, WA, Feb. 2005. Most of the songs were recorded live in the camp chapel, others were recorded or taken from previous recordings as indicated. Some of these songs are traditional, others are newer songs written in the traditional style. Some have never been recorded before. They all represent a part of the ongoing folklore of the Pacific Northwest.



*Pacific
Northwest*

FOLKLORE SOCIETY

"in the tradition"

Since 1953

Pacific Northwest Folklore Society
11720 1st Ave NW
Seattle, WA 98177

the NW HOOT

pnwfolklore.org