

coal and ice (BYO steak, beer and booze).

Bill lives at 10907 Thanlet Lane in Reston. Please call Bill (437-0138) or Lynn (437-7766) before July 1 so we know how many to plan for. (For insurance purposes, this is not an official event of the Reston Folk Club.)

Coming Events

- May 24 - Songwriting Workshop - Dean Blehert's House, Reston (7:30)
May 25 - Ed Weglein & Just Plain Folk at The Harmony Cafe
May 26 - Pete Kennedy, Silken Steel at The Club Acoustic (8:00)
May 29 - Doug and Willa Porter at The Reston Folk Club (\$5.00)
June 6 - Hickory Grove, "Alexandria Lunch Bunch Concert, King Street
June 8 - Eileen Joyner & Libby Dutton Smith at The Harmony Cafe
June 22 - Bill Davis at The Harmony Cafe
July 5 - Hickory Grove, Fort Ward Park Amphitheatre, Alexandria (7:30)
July 7 - Josh White, Jr, Ray Kaminski at The Club Acoustic (8:00)
July 13 - Ruth Goldberg & Ira Gitlin at The Potter's House, in D.C.
July 13 - Hickory Grove, Potomac Overlook Park Concert (7:30)

The Reston Folk Club

at The Tortilla Factory
648 Elden Street
Herndon, VA 22070
c/o David Hurd
1405 Cottage Street SW
Vienna, Virginia 22180

The Reston Folk Club

... Preserving Folk Traditions



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BOOKS OF NOTE

by Bill Davis

Did you know that you can sing Lewis Carroll's "Jabberwocky" to the Tune of "Greensleeves," or that Robert Frost's "Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening" can be sung to "Hernando's Hide-away" (and at least twelve other tunes including "Sixteen Tons" and "The Saints Go Marching In"). Poe's "The Raven" can be fitted to, "Deck the Halls" (providing you add the Fa La La's in the appropriate meter), and, in addition to the thousands of verses that were sung specifically to the tune of "Yankee Doodle" Coleridge's "Rime of the Ancient Mariner" fits nicely. Please, wait until you are home to try these, they are definitely songs to be sung in the shower and listened to from the kitchen.

All the information above comes from an insidiously irreverent book called "A Prairie Home Companion Folk Song Book" by Marcia and John Pankake. The book is a collection of 386 songs, some with music and some "Sung to the tune of...", which were taken from Garrison Kiellor's Department of Folk Song segment of "The Prairie Home Companion" radio show. Listeners to that show were invited to submit folk songs with the only requirement being that they 1) Had to have heard it from somebody else and 2) That they remembered the words - mostly.

The result of that endeavor was a collection of songs that is very familiar. Many of the songs you will recognize from the fourth grade or Scout Campfires or summer camp, and few have ever been recorded. Some you will remember singing with great gusto as a child and you will be embarrassed.

A true folk person might wonder if having these pure examples of folk culture written down might somehow sully the true folk process, and I found myself thinking at times that "Those aren't The real words." - "The Real Words" being the ones I learned, of course.

What version of "The Burning of the School" did you learn? I always "knocked her in the bean with a rotten tangerine" The book lists a variant of "Bopped her in the Bean..." which is close enough, I guess. It also lists a whole lot of other variants to this classic.

In addition to "The Burning of the School" other chapters included "Somewhere Over-indulgence" (To The Tune of "Over the Rainbow) Songs about Food, "We Sing of the Polar Bear and other Creatures" (Songs about Animals), "Songs of Misrule", "Greasy Grimy Gopher Guts", "Ain't we Crazy?", "Bringing in the Cows" and more.

Contributions came from all over and the book lists the names and hometowns of the folks who sent in the songs but not (mercifully perhaps) which song was

sent by whom. I noticed a couple of folks from Reston & Herndon among the contributors.

If you learned a song as a kid that wasn't from music class or off of a record, there's a good chance that at least some version of it is in this book. It's fascinating and fun to browse through and would be a valuable addition to your music shelf.

Okay, time for a quiz: How many songs can you think of that are sung to the tune of "The Battle Hymn of the Republic?" The PHC Folk Song Book lists 13. For extra credit how many sets of alternate lyrics can you think of to "My Bonnie Lies Over the Ocean?" The book gives five and they're listed in the next paragraph.

Actually, the fewer of these you know the better, probably, since most appear to be refugees from the fourth grade and not singable in public. ("Zekey Looked into the Gas Tank", "My Body has Tuberculosis", "Bring back my Neighbors to Me", "Yuck Cats", and "Come Up My Dinner, Come Up"). Know any others?

Anyway if you want to see the book I'll bring it by the club when this comes out. See you there - keep singing.

By the way if you have found a new venue or heard a new group or found a good book why not write a review of it for the Folk Club Newsletter. If you have a song you want to sing and have everyone sing along maybe we could print the words for everyone. Maybe we could even print the music? If you ever wanted to find someone who knew all the words to "Waltzing Matilda" or some other song why not put your request into the

newsletter. Got something else of interest to us folks? Hey, write it down and get published!!

HARMONY CAFE OPENS

The Harmony Cafe opened in Laurel Maryland on April 27th with Hickory Grove, Mack Bailey, Hazelwood, Cornucopia, and Side by Side (The house band) Despite the initial bad timing of being opposite the Club Acoustic, Schooner Fare (at the Barns) and Mary Chapin Carpenter, there were nearly 288 people on hand who were willing to sweat through the night to hear the music of these fine groups (St Nicholas Church is air conditioned but it wasn't on that first night. Still nobody left.)

Doris Justis has put together a venue that should keep people coming back, and Folk Club Folks should enjoy the Listening Club atmosphere. Personally I hope to see you there (see June 22nd)

\$5 at the door. Light refreshments. To get there you go north around the beltway and take Route 1 north through Laurel, past the town the railroad is on your right, keep Going. Eventually you will be able to turn Right at Contee Road and cross the railroad. Less than 1/2 mile to the next right turn and immediate left into St Nicholas's Parking Lot. You are there. Every other Friday or so.

Side by Side will be there every time as the house band each night as well as:

May 25 Ed Weglein & Just Plain Folk
June 8 Eileen Joyner and Libby Dutton Smith

JUNE 22 ** BILL DAVIS **, & Vicky Pratt Keating

Pete Kennedy at The Club Acoustic

On Saturday, May 26, The Club Acoustic will feature recording artist Pete Kennedy. The supporting act for Pete is the local acoustic duo, Silken Steel. The show starts at 8:00pm, tickets are \$8 (\$6 seniors/children under 12), and doors open at 7:30. The concert will be held at Herndon's Industrial Strength Theater. Reservations are suggested. For more info, call (703) 689-0444.

Pete Kennedy is a favorite of not only the listening audience but of fellow performing artists as well. Whether performing old standards, the best of the new music or his own finely crafted songs, he always satisfies his audience.

Silken Steel is a relatively new duo of Cathy Foster and Jeb Pope. They have become known for their original, folk, and country music. The Club Acoustic is pleased to present them as the support act for Pete Kennedy.

BARBECUE, CAMP-OUT AND CAMPFIRE SING- ALONG PLANNED

Friends of the Reston Folk Club are planning a camping trip on Saturday and Sunday, June 23-24, at the river-front property of Paul and Keith Hartke in Sterling. Festivities, including horseshoes, badminton, canoeing, frisbee and old time silent movies, begin at 3:00 and will end after breakfast on Sunday morning.

The highlights of the weekend will be the barbecue and the now-traditional

campfire pickin' party and sing-along.

Contribution of \$7 per person (children free) includes soft drinks, hamburgers and hot dogs (BYO steak, beer and booze, paper and plastic stuff, charcoal, ice, and (most important!) rental of a commercial portable John. (We want everyone who wants to come to do so without regard to financial situation, so a contribution under \$7 will be accepted.)

Bring a dish to share and your musical instruments. Day trippers are welcome. Ample tent and van sites are available, and there's plenty of parking. To sign up for the event and to get directions, pick up a flier at a Tuesday open mike.

For more information, call Bill Davis (437-0138) or Lynn Jordan (437-7766) before June 20. (For insurance purposes, this is not an official Reston Folk Club event.)

4th OF JULY EXTRAVAGANZA

Back by popular demand! The second Annual 4th of July Pickin' Party, Picnic and Firework Extravaganza at Bill Davis' house hosted by Bill Davis and Lynn Jordan. If you were there last year, you will remember that Bill lives "perilously" close to where the fireworks break over Lake Fairfax. An exciting time was had by all, so we decided to do it again.

Come by about 4:00 (bring your musical instruments and a dish to share). We'll provide hamburgers and hot dogs, soft drinks, paper and plastic stuff, char-