

*Phil Thomas: WHERE THE FRASER RIVER FLOWS—AND OTHER SONGS OF THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST. Skookumchuck Records: 4158 W. 10th Ave., Vancouver, B.C.*

Phil Thomas is the most important collector of British Columbia songs, and his recent book, *Songs of the Pacific Northwest* (reviewed in the *Bulletin* Vol. 2, No. 6) is a significant contribution to the literature of folk songs in Canada.

The nineteen songs on this record present a colourful panorama of B.C. history and industry, including songs of logging, fishing and prospecting, songs from the gold rushes of the Fraser River, the Cariboo and the Klondike, and songs from B.C.'s turbulent, and sometimes violent, labour history. As an example of the latter, the title song was written by the great Wobbly song writer, Joe Hill, in 1912 for striking construction workers on the Canadian Northern Pacific Railway.

British Columbia songs are not as well-known, even by students of Canadian folk music, as are songs from some other areas of the country. This record helps to fill that gap by making available an excellent sample of this material, together with well-researched notes by the collector. In addition to their historical significance, the songs are alive with drama and humour.

Accompanying Phil are Barry Hall, Stan Triggs, Michael Thomas and Bob Webb.

It is a good record, full of authentic material and enjoyable to listen to.

*Al Cox*