The Vancouver Folk Song Society runs the Folk Song Circle twice a month, workshops on 5th Wednesdays of the month and publishes a monthly newsletter. The Skookum Coffeehouse operated weekly in Vancouver until October. It was run by Barry Hall and Sheila Baker who have also been active singing BC logging songs throughout the province. The Victoria Folk Music Society is thriving with regular coffeehouses and concerts. There is a weekly song circle in North Vancouver as well as coffeehouses and "folk bars" in other parts of the province. There are also fiddle contests throughout B.C., the finals of which took place at a big fiddle festival/concert in Abbotsford in late summer. The Vancouver Folk Music Festival had a large attendance in July. A lot of the music was what may be called commercial folk music; with the exception of two or three singers, including the bilingual Lyn McGown and myself, Canadian folk music was very poorly represented. The Festival runs a concert series in Vancouver and also books performers at the Soft Rock Cafe. "Songs and Stories of Canada", the sixteen-part educational radio series on Canadian folk music, produced by Jon Bartlett, Rika Ruebsaat and Gary Marcuse, is being re-broadcast in B.C. and in Manitoba and the complete teachers' guide for the series is now available to teachers in those provinces. Phil Thomas has produced a record of B.C. songs, "Where the Fraser River Flows and Other Songs of the Pacific Northwest" (SR 7001) which contains nineteen of the songs from his book Songs of the Pacific Northwest and is available from him. Jon Bartlett and Rika Ruebsaat have just produced a record called "The Green Fields of Canada" which features songs from across the country and is available from them. They have also been giving workshops in schools as well as working with teachers in B.C. and Alberta on the use of Canadian folk songs in the classroom. In the summer of 1981 they will be giving a Music Education 400 course at UBC on the use of Canadian folk songs in the classroom.

- Phil Thomas

Bulletin 7