

Ali's Corner

by Alistair Brown



First of all, here is a grab bag of news about events in this area in the next few months.

Actually, by the time you read this, Mariposa's Spring Tune Up will be history. This event, the second, happens on April 8th & 9th, and is sponsored by the Mariposa Folk Foundation, the Ontario Folk Dance Association, O.F.D. Teachers Association, Fiddler's Green Folk Club, Comhaltas Ceoltoiri Eireann, The Millwheel, 101 Friday Nights of Storytelling, Fat Albert's, Smoky Joe's, the Jailhouse, and the Ontario Crafts Council. This indoor event is a pleasant mixture of song, dance, stories, games, and crafts, and works very well if last year's is anything to go by, even without any high powered "acts." The notable thing for me, is the broad community base of the sponsorship. It's been my experience that too often, folky organizations work in isolation from each other, even though their activities frequently overlap. This

group's cooperation is to be applauded. An event like this shows the evening class folky that the club may have something for him too, and vice versa. A difference in organizational set up should not be divisive, but unfortunately, often is. Hats off to Mariposa et. al., and good luck.

Speaking of Mariposa, Bill Russell writes that he is setting up a house concert network mainly in the Toronto area. Mariposa, which receives bios all the time, will refer performers to people who are interested in having a small concert in their homes, creating many more possibilities for venues. Bill has a new children's album out soon. It is an album of French songs, especially for children learning the language. It is called Zing Zang Zo! on Attic Records.

On May 14th & 15th, The Peterborough English Dancers are having their third annual Spring Weekend Workshop. This involves classes for all levels on Saturday morning and afternoon, a dinner and dance party on Saturday night, and dancing on the village green at Lang Century Village on Sunday afternoon. The cost is \$15 all inclusive, and accommodation can be arranged in local homes. Write to DAVID and CATHARINE GALLOP, 1595 ROCKLAND RD., PETERBOROUGH, ONTARIO, K9J 6R8. Still on dancing, the umpteenth annual London morris Ale takes place on June 10, 11, & 12. This is by invitation, and about 150 dancers from various parts of Canada and the U.S. will tour London and environs for the weekend, inflicting themselves on innocent passersby. This year, the organizers, representatives of London's

Five morris teams (!) are renting a campsite on the outskirts of town, where the after hours jollity will take place. The various tours have proven very popular with townspeople in the past, and quite a tradition has grown up now, with various streets making preparation for the arrival of the morris dancers, (no Tim, not by boarding up their windows, and going to Florida). There has been a lot of collective finger-crossing, however, that another morris Ale tradition, that of depressingly predictable rain, will die this year. This has become such a feature of past ales, that last year the official title was the "1982 London Ale and Deluge."

London's Home County Folk Festival, one of the few freebies left, takes place in Victoria Park in the centre of town on July 22, 23, & 24. This is the festival's 10th anniversary, and plans are underway to celebrate in a number of ways. At this stage in the game, many of them are still plans, but watch this space.

Lastly, readers may be interested in a new book, the Native American Director, published by the National Native American Cooperative, P.O. Box 5000 San Carlos, Arizona 85550-0301. This directory includes a quick reference for locating Native organizations, events, media, tribal offices, reserves and corporations throughout Canada, Alaska, and the United States. In addition, there is a listing of museums and cultural centres, pow wows, celebrations and rodeos. This is a very handy book for those wanting to contact indian performers or craftspeople, or wanting to attend any of the many events that take place around the country each year.