The fifth annual conference of the North American Folk Music and Dance Alliance takes place in Tucson, Arizona, February 18-21, 1993, at the Ramada Inn Downtown. "Anyone seriously involved in the folk music and dance field in North America" is urged to attend: "presenters and coffeehouses; performing artists; active members of folk societies and clubs; agents and managers; print and broadcast media; folklorists, scholars and educators; arts administrators; recording companies and merchandisers". Registration fees after January 10, 1993 (not including accommodation) range from Cdn$90/day (member) to Cdn$215 for four days (non-member), with a range of categories in between. Last year’s conference was held in Calgary and proved to be a thoroughly enjoyable time; of course, the fees will tell you that it’s not aimed at the casual fan, unless that casual fan is well-funded. But anyone with business or professional interests in folk music would benefit from attending, and have a lot of fun as well.

The Winnipeg Folk Festival, running a deficit like most arts organizations these days, has come up with an intriguing fundraising scheme. They’re selling a calendar, designed by their volunteers, which is "a fabulous representation of what the Festival has been about for the past 20 years. It contains photographs, quotes, folk trivia... it captures and illustrates the spirit of the Festival."

But this is no ordinary calendar—it’s also a lottery ticket. Only 5000 copies have been printed, and they’re all numbered. Buying a calendar gives you a chance to win daily draws for a full year, plus monthly draws for $500, plus a trip for two to New Orleans. The price is $30 plus $3 postage and handling; the address is: Winnipeg Folk Festival, 264 Taché Ave., Winnipeg, Man. R2H 1Z9.

Mary Anne Epp sent along some newspaper clippings pertaining to a series called "Bluebird Nights" which she’s been setting up in Waterloo, Ontario. It provides a showcase for local singer-songwriters, and "recall[s] days of '60s folkies". Mary Anne tells us that she’s trying to "share [the idea] with the rest of the country. You could say it’s my present to Canada, being its own 125th birthday."

Bluebird Nights take place at Phil’s Bar and Grill, 220 King St. N., in Waterloo. For information write: Bluebird Events, P.O. Box 26087, King Value Centre Postal Station, Kitchener, Ont. N2G 4V8.

Revenue Canada now has a publication called Tax Information for Professional Artists. They tell us: "The purpose of the brochure is to help professional artists understand their income tax situation. It contains two parts: Part I discusses the artists' unique working conditions and how these conditions are reflected in income tax law. Part II contains information that artists should know about their income tax situation whether they are employees, self-employed, or employers." Copies in English or French are available from any Revenue Canada District Office or Taxation Centre. Free.

Help of a different kind for artists: member Daryl Robb informs us that Evergreen Printing Consultants will work with artists who require printing, with a view to getting them the best prices for the quality of printing they require. Certainly the quote they gave us for the Bulletin was excellent! They also do creative designs and typesetting, design cassette J-cards and are working on a total cassette duplication package. The address is: 101 Caernarvon Court, Edmonton, Alta. T5X 1T5; phone (403)-487-1131; FAX (403)-487-7030.

"Seasonal roots" seems to be a concept arrived at independently by various groups. A Winter Roots Festival is being organized in Vancouver, February 25 to 28, at the WISE Hall and St. Francis School. It features musicians from Ontario, California and Ireland as well as the Vancouver area. It’s mentioned in the newsletter of the Vancouver Folk Song Society, so I presume they’re organizing it (or
at least that there's a lot of crossover). They plan to have lots of "impromptu musical collaboration, with audience participation encouraged". For details call (604)-732-1305.

As well, the Cowichan Folk Guild newsletter tells us they're putting on a Spring Roots Festival with local performers as well as people from elsewhere on Vancouver Island and from Vancouver. The dates are March 5 and 6, 1983; the location is the Cowichan Community Centre in Duncan, B.C. The number to call for tickets is (604)-748-PLAY; for information phone (604)-748-3975 or write to the Cowichan Folk Guild, Box 802, Duncan, B.C. V9L 3Y1.

Also of interest in the Cowichan Valley area is a Harper’s Circle, meeting the third Wednesday of every month. For info call (604)-743-3247.

Speaking of the Vancouver Folk Song Society, they are now meeting at new premises: The Friends Meeting House, 1090 West 70th Ave. in Vancouver. No change of meeting nights, though: they still get together the first and third Wednesdays of each month.

Lastly, a festival I'm sure we'll all plan on attending: The Nairobi International Cultural Festival will include performing arts (music and drama), an art exhibition, poetry, African fashion designs, handicrafts and cultural exhibits, and a workshop for teachers of foreign/second languages. It takes place December 1 to 11, 1993, so there's lots of time to plan for it. Details can be obtained from: The Festival Director, Nairobi International Cultural Festival, P.O. Box 49702, Nairobi, Kenya; phone 720752, FAX 330170.

Calgary Folk Directory

This directory is included in hopes that readers will take the initiative to compile similar directories for their own regions for publication in the Bulletin. Meanwhile, this directory is stored on-line, updated as information changes, and will be sent in answer to inquiries for people travelling to the Calgary area. (I get a few such requests via the Society each year.) It would be great if we could have information available for every region of Canada, and direct all requests to the appropriate region! It'd also be great if we could compile regional directories to form a national data bank! These things could happen, but only if you, the readers, make them happen...

Please send additions or corrections to: John Leeder, 224 20th Ave. NW, Calgary, Alta. T2M 1C2; (403)-233-9300 (bus.); (403)-230-0340 (res.).

BLUEGRASS
Foothills Bluegrass Society (occasional concerts open to the public, usually Sunday afternoons)
Usual location: Windsor Park Community Centre, 5704 6th St. SW

Steve Fisher, 202 Suntree Place, Okotoks, Alta T0L 1T1
(403)-938-6048

DANCE
Calgary Contra Dance Group (dance evenings open to the public approximately every six weeks, September to June)

Usual location: St. Gabriel’s Anglican Church basement, 30th Ave. & 4th St. NW

Information: Karen Pollack, 5111 33rd Ave SW, Calgary, Alta. T3E 6N9
(403)-686-1129

Calgary Folkdance Fridays (dance evenings open to the public most Friday nights, September to spring)
Usual location: Hillhurst Community School, 1418 7th Ave. NW

Information: Ann (403)-282-8849, Bob (403)-283-7367