Fifteen Years Ago
Bulletin 17.2 (April 1983). The keynote of this issue was "Folk Festivals: The Second Instalment"; editor Tim Rogers assembled a number of articles on the topic. Some dealt with specific festivals (Summerfolk, Regina, Home County, Calgary, Canmore and an overview of a number of events); other authors wrote of festivals in general and their points of view on them. Authors of the latter sort were Lanie Melamed, Grit and Judith Laskin, Janet McNaughton and Ian Robb. (It's interesting to see how many of the same comments can be made today!) Don Freed's song "On the Trail of the Festival" was included. Items reviewed included books Sea Songs and Ballads from 19th Century Nova Scotia and Catalogue de la chanson folklorique française, Tome III, and Émile Benoit's fiddle record Ça vient du tchoeur.

Ten Years Ago
Bulletin 22.2-4 was published in December 1988; I'll conveniently defer writing about it to a future issue.

Five Years Ago
Bulletin 27.2 (June 1993). As this issue was a Festival Directory issue (it came out only once a year, back then), we left the "newsletter" style (which economics had begun to dictate) for a booklet format with a cover, much as the magazine appears today. In addition to the Directory, the issue contained Allan Thrasher's article "The Society's Name and its Membership," which explained reasons for the change away from "Canadian Folk Music Society" which had recently taken place, as well as "Learning About Folk" by Vic Bell, who was then artistic director of the Calgary festival. Musical items for this issue were Norm Walker's song "The Prairie Pagans" and George Lyon's tune "Mr. & Mrs. Jamieson" (which included a memoir about the couple for whom it was written). Reviews of recordings On Wings of Song (a compilation of Yiddish songs), Brendan Nolan's Across the Great Divide and storyteller Mary Eileen McClear's O Canada were included. [JL]

News, Views, & Stuff

We've been noticing lately a fair bit of mail arriving with our PO box number incorrect—and not the same error as was printed in the Stan Rogers bio a couple of years back. So somewhere out there, another bit of misinformation is circulating. Luckily, the folks at the post office are accommodating, and put our mail in the right box instead of sending it back. But it'd be nice to track down the source and put them right. If anyone notices our address printed somewhere with a box number other than 4232, please let us know so we can follow up.

Damn

Early in May, while returning to Calgary, Alberta, from a tour of Ontario and Upper New York State, The Johnny V Trio were in a serious road accident. Johnny veered the van to avoid hitting a moose [we told you he's a Canadian blues singer!], and the van rolled. Bassist Rob Vause was badly hurt, underwent reconstructive surgery, and at the date of writing, was still in intensive care in Calgary. Luckily, drummer Andrzej Ryszka was only shaken up and bruised; however, he remains very emotionally stressed. Johnny was concussed, and they removed a large quantity of glass shards from his head. Following the accident, he returned home after dealing with insurance company business and having a shipping crate built in Wawa so all the band's equipment could be put in it and shipped out to Calgary by transport truck. Xrays of his back show no signs of damage to the spine or discs. All the muscles surrounding the spine and his neck were stretched and pulled due to the force of the van's roof collapsing on his head during the rollover. He is being treated twice a week for these injuries.

Johnny V is one of Canada's legendary blues singers/songwriters and guitarists. He was born and brought up in Toronto's east end and later moved out west to Calgary, Alberta. Over the years, he has been nominated for many awards. In 1997 he was voted Canadian Breakout Blues Artist of The Year, at the Motor City Blues Awards, in Detroit. Johnny has been a Real Blues awards winner for Best Slide Guitarist, and Best Live Blues Band. Johnny's 1997 CD If My Daddy Could See Me Now, on Blow Your Top Productions, was nominated for a Juno in the Blues category. Johnny V has played with the likes of international recording artists and bluesmen, Eddy Clearwater, Sonny Rhodes and King Ernest. He has backed up many established Canadian blues musicians such as King Biscuit Boy and Dutch Mason.

Johnny V has always been very supportive of the Canadian Blues scene, and now it's time for all of us in the Blues community to support one of our own. Donations can be sent to

The Johnny V Trio Trust Fund
C/O Mark Johnson
Calgary Musician's Association (A.F.M. Local 547)
Suite 804
825 8th Ave. SW
Calgary, Alberta
T2P 2T3

If you would like to send a get well card or words of a condolatory nature, write to

The Johnny V Trio
1294 Ranchlands Road NW
Calgary, Alberta
T3G 1S3