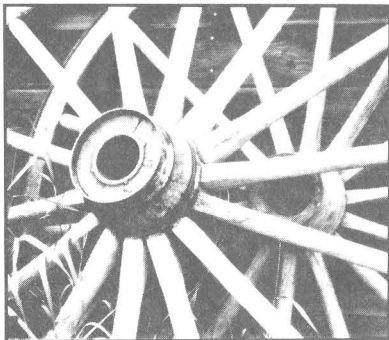


# REGIONAL REPORTS

photo by Rod Wilson



## B.C. REGION

Who runs coffeehouses in B.C., who would be willing to share their ways of organizing them? The thing I found hardest in organizing a coffeehouse was how to begin! I would be interested in hearing from organizers as to how they set up their coffeehouses, and any local problems they may have in getting and keeping coffeehouses alive.

I heard from Debby Maguire of the Nanaimo Folklore Society. Thanks so much for the information, Debby! I pass it on to all our readers: "Our coffeehouse here in Nanaimo takes place at the Boy Scout Hall every second Sunday from 8 p.m. till whenever, depending upon who shows up. We have always had the problem of getting a good hall in which to hold our coffeehouses. The Boy Scout Hall is okay for now, but we are still looking for a better place. We have an Open Mike—first come, first served. Our M.C. is Norman Smith, and we have Pat Harbor from our local Community Cablevision station to look after the sound system. The coffeehouse has been going for quite a few years, but we just became registered as a Society last year.

The setup of the Shuswap Coffeehouse is like that of Nanaimo, but is somewhat more elaborate (I quote from their February newsletter): "We combine our business meetings with a pot luck supper before every coffeehouse. The decisions are made and work is done by a small group of those members most interested in the coffeehouse. At the last meeting we decided to become a registered, non-profit society. Benefits will include eligibility for grants and increased ability to make use of community services." The Coffeehouse usually has an open mike, but often they try to get a feature act as well (such as their Stringband concert on March 11).

Two Vancouver coffeehouses have very different approaches to organization. The Vancouver Folk Song Society runs its coffeehouse, the Green Cove, with a committee, who hear tapes, choose performers, and take care of the week to week functioning of the coffeehouse. The Skoocum Coffeehouse (which has ceased operations for the time being) was run by one person who chose acts and delegated responsibility for the other functions of the coffeehouse.

If you have opinions or thoughts on the subject of coffeehouse organization, or if you'd like to share with us the functioning of your coffeehouse, *please* write to me. I like getting letters and I do write back too! I would love to hear from you.

**Tidbits:** Greetings to a new coffeehouse in Victoria (see News directory for details). According to Paul Finkelman, the founder and organizer, there should be some really good music there Thursdays through Saturdays. Good luck Paul! If you are a folkie planning to "hit" Vancouver Island, try to do it in the summer. There are various surprise festivals held up and down this beautiful island all summer, including a Bluegrass festival at Coombs, near Courtenay. I hope to hear from the organizers of these happenings. I am told these events are really fun to go to and am sure many CFB readers would want to know the 'wheres'

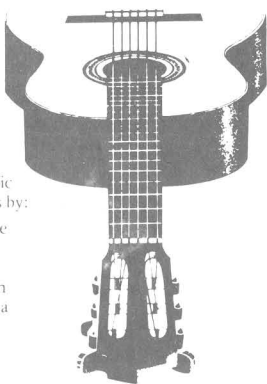
and 'whens'. Shuswap Coffeehouse Group are planning to hold a local music festival July 5, 6, and 7, in conjunction with Salmon Arm's 75th Birthday celebration, and they are looking for all the local musical talent they can find. The Vancouver Folk Music Festival is alive and well. They've had a successful concert series this year, and this year's festival will be held at Jericho Beach (like last year) on July 18, 19 and 20. The Pacific Northwest Regional Folklife Festival takes over the Seattle Centre on Memorial Day weekend (May 23-26). This is an event well worth taking in. For information, write to them at: 305 Harrison St., Seattle, Wa., 98109. We'll be there.

*Sue Unia*

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