



ALI'S CORNER

“Odds and Sods” is perhaps a better title for this issue’s column, for it’s a real ragbag of bits and pieces of information and gossip.

The Stop Press and assorted apologies department steps up to the microphone first: there have been a couple of changes in festival set-up since the last deadline (which I missed anyway). The **Home Country Folk Festival** (London, July 18-20) is feeling flush enough to scrap its ticket indoor concert on the Sunday night. Consequently, the entire weekend’s music and crafts will be free in Victoria Park, although contributions to show appreciation for the music and to help defray expenses will be welcome. Many around here feel that the loss of the concert is not a bad thing. Last year’s concerts were not well attended, partly because it is hard to get people to pay for music that they have been getting free all weekend anyway, and partly because the concerts seemed somehow divorced from the festival itself. My own feeling is that if a fund-raising

concert is needed, then why not have it in January or February, when it is really appreciated, rather than slap-bang in the middle of the festival?

In the last issue I mentioned that the **Toronto Folk Festival** (July 25-27) had arranged a late ferry service, to allow night concerts. No sir! I should have known that Toronto Parks Authority would not allow themselves to be swayed by logic that easily. Since a late ferry service ranks up there with parting the waters of Toronto harbour in terms of miracles, and even Mitch Podolak can’t arrange to have all 10,000 or so audience walk back across the water at 1 a.m., the evening concerts will be held on the mainland, at **Bathurst Quay**, while the daytime activities will be on **Olympic Island**, a few hundred yards away.

An interesting typo crept into the last article. Owen Sound Artistic Director **Ross Gibbons** assured me that their program will *not* include movies. That should have read “morris”, and in 3-D, too!

Chicago-based **Emily Friedman** has long supported Canadian folk music, singers and festivals through the magazine she edits, **Come For To Sing**. In my opinion, CFTS is one of the best (CFB excepted) journals around. A recent letter from Emily brings the news that the magazine has ended its long association with the **Old Town School of Folk Music** in Chicago. This new editorial freedom has also liberated them from the generous subsidy that the School used to give them. *Bulletin* readers interested in a southern view of folk music might care to subscribe to this journal. Regular features include columns by **Art Thieme** on traditional music, **Tony Barrant** on British and Celtic music, **Fred Holstein** philosophising, **Bob Koester** on blues, a folk music resources column, and book and record reviews. Their annual supplement on folk music resources, while aimed primarily at the Chicago area, is one of the most comprehensive I have ever seen. A year’s subscription (four issues) costs \$9 (US). Write to:

Come For to Sing
917 W. Wolfram,
Chicago, Ill., U.S.A.
80857

Hard luck stories seem to be thick on the ground this month. A flyer from **Club Sandwich** in Windsor informs us that they are having "bread" problems. Due to a highly unsuccessful bout at the University of Windsor, their finances barely exist. Accordingly, they are having a benefit concert on July 31. The concert will be at **Donlon Hall**, with a barbecue for performers at 4:30 p.m. For info, call **Phil Romaine** (519) 256-5794 or **Chuck Brewett** 256-6795.

Readers in the Kitchener area might be interested in a course being offered there by **Merrick Jarrett** at the **University of Waterloo**, on traditional folk music of the English-speaking world, an introduction to the folk music of the British Isles, North America and Australasia. Course content breaks down into a number of well-defined areas: the definitions of traditional folk music, oral process, modes, etc.; collectors, musicologists and ethnomusicologists; instruments; the folk boom of the 50's and 60's; ballad study of "The Unfortunate Rake"; Child ballads; analysis of traditional music by Herzog, Lomax, etc.; and the influence of traditional music on contemporary songwriters. Although this is designated a 2nd Year course, it is primarily an introduction, and there is no prerequisite. You can write to Merrick at

22 Ahrens St. W.,
Kitchener, Ont.
N2H 4B7

A couple of London men, **Wally Fydenchuk** and **Karl MacNaughton**, have been doing a considerable amount of research into the history of old-time fiddling and old-time bands in south western Ontario. They have already compiled a lot of information and recordings of Ontario fiddler **Ward Allen**, and are now engaged in putting together a book on local old-time country bands and fiddlers with tunes, stories, and some really interesting photographs. In

particular they are interested in radio station CKNX in Wingham, which did a lot to promote country music in the 40's and 50's, and in fact had its own touring band, the **Barn Dance Boys**. They would like to hear from others interested in their project, or who might have information. Write to

Maple Music
P.O. Box 1808, Stn. A.,
London, Ont.
N6A 5H9

Not surprisingly, Karl is a fiddler himself, and has just released a record, "Fiddlin' for Steppers", obtainable for \$7.50 incl. through

Black Donnelly Music
Box 376,
Lucan, Ont.
N0M 2J0

For those of you who suffer from the perennial folkies' complaint—where to buy records—here are a few places to contact for catalogues (mention the *Bulletin* when you write):

- Canadian Spaces**, 350 Queen St. W., Toronto, Ont. M5V 2A2. Specializes (surprise, surprise) in Canadian records and tapes, as well as books.
- Hand Picked Music**, R.R. 1, Pointe Aux Pins, Sault Ste. Marie, Ont. P6A 5K6.

A new one on me, this company has an impressive catalogue covering the range from jazz and fiddling to traditional ballads, and even sells English concertinas (before you break a leg, it's the new kind, not the old kind).

In the States, I've had tried and trusted service from:

- Andy's Front Hall**, RD 1, Wormer Rd., Voorheesville, N.Y. 12186. A marvellous selection of books and records, with labels such as Topic, Free Reed, Folk Legacy and Philo. They also carry items you can't get anywhere else.
- Elderly Instruments**, 541 E. Grand River, East Lansing, Mich. 48823. A fantastic selection, and the most colourful catalogue this side of Eaton's.

Alistair Brown