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THE JOURNAL FOR FOLK CULTURE IN SOUTHWESTERN NEW HAMPSHIRE

Leo Kretzner

IN CONCERT

THE COMMON ROOM
FITZWILLIAM INN
FITZWILLIAM, NH

THURSDAY, JULY 29 7:30 PM
Admission $3.50

Celtic Holidays
Profile: Smith, Struthers
Terriberry & Wozmak
Festival Listings
Famed dulcimer player and folksinger Leo Kretzner will be appearing in a concert sponsored by the Monadnock Folklore Society, held in the Common Room at the Fitzwilliam Inn, in Fitzwilliam, NH on Thursday, July 29, from 7:30 to 10:00 PM.

Kretzner has toured extensively throughout the United States, and has become known as one of the finest dulcimer players in the country. He has two albums to his credit: Dulcimer Fair, and Pigtown Fling.

In addition to his fine work on the dulcimer, Kretzner accompanies himself on guitar, singing a wide range of both traditional tunes, sing alongs, and some of his own compositions. And if the music stops for just a while, it is only to tell a story.

Admission to the concert is $3.50. For more information call 603/827-3054.

As many of you know, the Dublin Town Hall is one of the nicest halls in the world to dance in. It is also, like an increasing number of halls, not able to be used for dances, or many other functions, because it does not live up to current safety standards.

A committee, called THE FRIENDS OF THE DUBLIN TOWN HALL, has been formed to raise the necessary $85,000 for renovations. A special July 4th party will commence the fund raising drive. Festivities will take place behind the hall. Commencing with "tunes" at 12:00, the activities will include a barbeque put on by the Dublin Fire Department, games, country music, balloons, buttons, bumper stickers, etc.

The Town Hall was built 100 years ago, for the grand sum of $5,263. It is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Thanks to the efforts of THE FRIENDS, and the anticipated support from the community, the hall may soon once again serve its various functions.

Whole Wheat will be playing:
JULY - 7, 14, 21, 28
August - 3, 11, 25
September 3
NEW ENGLAND MUSIC FESTIVALS

There's plenty of music going on this summer. This is what we've gathered so far. There's sure to be more and we'll update in the August issue.

New England Salty Dog Bluegrass Festival
RFD 1, Box 548, Cambridge, ME 04923
207/277-3679
July 2 - 4

Big Fourth Festival - Springfield, MA
MOCCA, 1618 Main St. Springfield, MA
413/737-6098
July 2 - 4

Round Hill Highland Scottish Games
Catholic High School, Norwalk CT
PO Box 271, Greenwich, CT
July 4

Haddam Neck Bluegrass Festival
Haddam Neck Fairgrounds
CT Bluegrass Society, PO Box 106, Hebron, CT
06248  203/643-5108
July 9 - 11

Rockport Folk Festival-Rockport Opera House
Rockport, ME
Cindy LaRock, 461 College St, Lewiston, ME
04240  207/782-0386
July 9 - 11

Celebration Northeast - Dartmouth College
Hopkins Center Box Office 603/646-2422
July 16 - 17

Silver City Bluegrass Festival - Falcon Field, Westfield Rd. Meriden Ct
Willie Phillips, 313 Spring St Meriden CT
06450  203/238-4968
July 17 - 18

8th Annual Burke Old-Time Fiddlers Contest
Mid-Burke Lodge, East Burke, VT
802/467-3460
July 25

2nd Beaverbrook Bluegrass Festival
Harvard Sportsmans Club
Boxborough, MA  617/263-3352
August 7 - 8

Connecticut Family Folk Festival
Elizabeth Park, Hartford
Len Domler, 290 Middletown Ave
Weathersfield, Ct 06109
August 13 - 14

St Andrews Society Scottish Festival
Lincoln Academy, Newcastle, ME
August 21

Joseph's Coat workshops shop in Peterborough is offering a number of workshops during the summer. The subject matters are listed here. Most of them are one-session workshops lasting about three hours, however some are two or three sessions. For dates and details stop by at 26 Main Street in Peterborough, or call 603/924-6683.

Young people's sewing * Smocking
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Quilted Bonnets * Quick Quilts
Folded Star & Album Covers * Trapunto
Celtic Applique * Hawaiian Quilting
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Playtent making * The Afghani Dress
Patchwork vests * Patchwork Jackets
Fitting Clinic * Porcelain Doll Workshop

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A guide to 38 hand picked Bluegrass & Old-Timey Country Music Shows here in New England and further south is now available from the Boston Area Friends of Bluegrass & Old-Time Country Music.

The '82 Festival Guide lists only the finer, family style traditional music events and includes dates, locations, talent line-up, camping information and costs where available. Phone numbers for more information on each festival are also included.

For a free copy write or call:
The Boston Area Friends of Bluegrass
Box #127
No Cambridge
MA 02140

phone: 617/492-0415
The dead past is not as dead as many people think. It has a tenacious hold on the present, with echoes reaching us from ages lost in time. Our holidays are a case in point. Very few of them are of recent origin; more often, they are holdovers from as far back as the Bronze Age, with names changed like a new layer of cosmetics on an old face.

The four major feasts of the Celtic year in pre-Christian Europe were Imbolg, Beltain, Lugnasad and Samhain. Imbolg, on approximately our February 1st, was a feast of propitiation to the Great Mother, and was heralded by the lactation of the ewes, a very important event for stockmen. Next came May Eve and Beltain, marking a turn of the seasons so important that May Day is still celebrated in most lands and many ways, from the tanks rumbling through Red Square in Moscow to the Morris Dancers of Britain, whirling and leaping in remembered patterns for forgotten reasons.

Beltain, like other major festivals, was celebrated by the building of a huge fire on the high ground, an early expression of man's joy in nature, a welcoming light to salute the returning summer sun. Cattle were driven to summer pasture on Beltain, and the holiday was marked with both reverence and revelry.

August 1st, Lugnasad, or Lughansa, was the feast of light, sacred to the God Lugh, and passed into folk history as Lammas, or Loaf Day, a day traditionally celebrated by baking bread in honor of the first fruits of harvest. Again, man was underscoring his appreciation for and dependence on nature, acknowledging the powers to which he owed his survival.

But life has two faces, a fact that the Celts recognized without resentment. As Imbolg marked the excitement of the coming birth, so the fourth festival of the Celtic year represented the release of death; the end of life which made the beginning possible. The Celts did not consider death an end to anything of importance, or even a permanent condition. It was merely a period of transition between lives, or forms of existence, an experience for the immortal spirit to undergo cyclically, as all things in nature are cyclical.

So the festival of Samhain marked the turning of the symbolic wheel of seasons and the passing of the old year. Samhain; we still celebrate it as Halloween, its frightening aspect retained but its more important hope forgotten. The Celtic concept of rebirth, of triumph over death, has been moved to a new season but given an old name, scarcely altered: Oestre, goddess of spring, has loaned her lovely name to Easter.

At Samhain the barriers between this world and the worlds of the spirits were at their lowest, weakened by the dying of the year, and it was believed the dead could move freely among the living men. The Samhain fire was extinguished with the setting of the sun, so a new fire could be kindled for the new year; a ritual scrupulously observed by Celtic householders. How well these complicated people understood beginnings and endings! Always balanced between the Darkness and the Light, they were a passionate, poetic people attuned to the rhythms of nature.

Gerhard Herm, in his landmark book, THE CELTS, describes the ancient foundation stock of most modern Europe as "Poets, headhunters, and entrepreneurs". In three words he gives a taste of a culture as complicated, as civilized and as savage as our own, but this was a culture that knew something we may have forgotten. Separated from them by the overlay of a technological society, dependent on our machines and distant bureaucracies, frightened of death, the future, and each other – we would do well to take a long look backward at such people, and try to relearn something of their wisdom.
MFS CALENDAR

July 11 - David Lord - Gap Mountain

July 29 - Leo Kretzner - Fitzwilliam Inn

August 5 - A Dance & Concert with Susie Crate and Fred & Jenny Armstrong-Park, from Swannanoa, North Carolina. Mabel Brown Room, Keene State College

August 8th - David Colburn & Deborah Stuart at the Gap Mountain Coffeehouse. Coming down from Ashland NH with a warm variety of songs.

September 12 - Bluegrass with Whole Wheat, at the Gap Mountain Coffeehouse.

September 17 - The Cranberry Lake Jugband, from Cazenovia, NY. Location to be announced.

October 10 - Folksinger, songwriter, Carl Jacobs, at the Gap Mountain Coffeehouse.

JUST PUBLISHED

BRONZE AGE AMERICA

by Barry Fell

The sequel to America BC
Bronze Age Norsemen in America thousands of years before Columbus?

THE TOADSTOOL BOOKSHOP

3 MAIN STREET
PETERBOROUGH, N. H. 03458

DAVID LORD at GAP MOUNTAIN BREADS

Sunday, July 11th 7:30 PM

Our coffeehouses at the Gap Mountain Bakery continue to be fine evenings full of warmth and good music. This month we will be hearing David Lord, from Harrisville.

Lord describes his music as "a group of unsung heroes" of folk, blues, and country music, as well as originals, sung and played on six and twelve string guitar (one at a time), with a few tales about their origins.

As ever, the refreshments promise to be excellent, and the company the finest.

Admission is a donation of $1.00. The Bakery is right of the Common in Troy, NH.

DUBLIN

by Connie Vial

We dance downstairs
In Dublin Church,
Bob McQuillen thunders
on the upright piano --
a man who makes hearty
seem a vague and hatless name --
Roars out a joke
we all groan
He grins, pushes his cap
back on his white hair
plays that piano
paper daffodils hang waist high
you can almost hear the clatter
of blunt school scissors
April plays the fiddle

Drive up to Dublin
pull up at the church
looks dark,
is anyone dancing tonight?
peak in the windows
dancers are milling about
"The musicians aren't here,"
we wisely surmise
A rustle, a roar from the bushes
"Don't tell me the musicians
aren't here!
What they're doin'
is another thing,
but they're here!"
McQuillen, accordion in hand
from out behind his truck
music's here
find a partner

Connie is an enthusiastic member of MFS. We thank her for permission to print this poem.

SUMMER DANCES - DUBLIN CHURCH

WEDNESDAY EVENINGS

Mary DesRosiers is the caller, with
musicians Bob McQuillen, Jack Perron, and
Bill Thomas, for a Wednesday evening series of
dances through the summer. The dances
will be held in the downstairs of the Dublin
Community Church, from 8:30 to 12:00, and
admission is $3.00.
I drove out past Tolman Pond in Nelson, following the directions I had received over the phone. The road seemed to go further and further from civilization (such as it is in Nelson) and I was beginning to think I had missed my destination, when I finally spotted the cabin, and the landmark red van which had been described.

The cabin was like many I've seen in these parts - high grass around it, a small garden and various odds and ends lying about. Stepping inside I found a small room with a sleeping loft. The insulation between the rafters was blanketet with burlap, and the full bookshelves indicated that the inhabitant, while enjoying the backwoods lifestyle, was also well read.

The cabin is the home of Jonathan Smith, and this particular night the loft ladder had been set up out of the way, and the furniture packed down at the end of the room close to the dormant Ashley. This was one of two nights that happens every week when one of this areas most serious and promising folk groups gets together for practice. Tuesday and Thursday nights - "religiously", they say, and it shows.

Jonathan Smith has been playing music for twenty three years, first guitar, and later adding the banjo. He has a lifelong familiarity with the Monadnock region, and moved here full time about ten years ago. For several years he played with a group called Cabin Fever.

About two years ago he teamed up with guitarist and singer Al Struthers, and they began to get a bit of a name for themselves. And just when the name had developed a familiar ring to it, there came Scott Terriberry on mandolin and guitar. The group continued to develop, playing The Folkway, Passim, The Iron Horse, Deacon Brodies, The Stone Church - to name a few.

The most recent member of the group is David Wozmak, playing electric bass. David has a background in just about every kind of music, and while this is evident in his playing, there is nothing that distracts from what the group has been doing all along. In fact, the sound feels very complete.

All of the members of the group are fine musicians. No one seems to outshine the others, though each certainly has their forte. And while the instrumentation is skillful, it is not spectacular in such a way that it draws attention from the whole of the music. This makes it quite pleasurable to listen to.

If one is to simply label the musical style of Smith, Struthers, Terriberry and Wozmak, it can safely be called folk music. This allows for the obvious influences of bluegrass and uptempo country music. And it keeps it out of the category of rock, or straight country, or pure bluegrass, which it is not. Their repertoire is varied enough to hold the attention of an audience, but it is more than an interesting selection of songs well played that makes this group special.

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**DISARMAMENT FESTIVAL**

AUGUST 8TH * 12:00-6:00 PM * ANOTHER PLACE
GREENVILLE, NH

Featuring the "good things" which might be lost in the event of a nuclear war: a 3 Mile Run (a foot race, not an arms race), music and speakers, a suitcase "art show", a film, contra dance, and a sunset service. Expressive attire encouraged.

Info - 603/878-3429.

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**THE FOLKWAY**

Restaurant Garden Café Craft Shop

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85 Grove Street • 924-7484 • Peterborough
Primarily through the resources of Smith and Struthers, the group is able to present a performance which is at least 50%, and often 60% original material. These are songs about life, and often specifically about life in New Hampshire with familiar landmarks or situations. Like most songs about regions, many of the images could be about somewhere else, but the overall effect is one that generates a picture, and a feeling, for New Hampshire. In part this may be because of the specific vocabulary that is used, but more so I think it is because the members of the group, both as songwriters and as musicians, draw their inspiration from living here. To them, this is the center of the universe. They admire, even emulate, the lifestyle which is part of the New Hampshire heritage. Backwoods cabins, winter, firewood, mud, mosquitoes ... these are the ingredients that have bred a particular way of life, a way of life that is both the source and the subject of their material.

Says Terriberry: "One of the things that I noticed when I joined the band was that the songs were about the area. I've been here ten years, but everyone that I've ever played with was singing songs about California or Colorado or the mountains, and then you hear Chesham Road and you say 'Hey, I know that road ... I've been stuck there too.'"

Chesham Road is a Struthers tune inspired by the inevitable last snowstorm which comes after the firsts hints of spring have deceived us into thinking that winter is really over. With both a musical and lyric style reminiscent of Stan Rogers, they sing:

Ride steady now boys, she's a tricky one still
That'll take your heavy load.
They'll find us stiff in a six foot drift,
Way down the Chesham Road.

The group does not hesitate to name Rogers as their primary inspiration at this point. New Hampshire singer/songwriter Bill Morrissey is also high on the list of musical influences. But there is no question that their material is ultimately quite original, and very good.

All four members of this group work very hard at their music. And while they are beginning to get a name for themselves, it will still be a while before their efforts meet with due economic rewards. I asked why they did what they did, what gave them the strength and inspiration to work so hard.

Jonathan Smith said: "I think why we do what we do is an interesting question, but I can't think of an answer. I think it becomes individual". And though he couldn't think of an answer, the look in his eyes told me that the answer was right there, in the backwoods of Nelson, New Hampshire.

I left the cabin as the group was getting on with the second half of their practice session. As I faded away from the music, I felt good, knowing that a lot of the feelings I have about where I live were also felt by these individuals, who are expressing those feelings in their music.

Gordon Peery

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Stan Rogers: Northwest Passage
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7 Main St. #11 Keene, N.H. 03431

The Monadnock Folklore Society is a non-profit organization for the coordination and promotion of folk arts. The board of Directors are Ken Wilson, Jennifer Price, Gary Heald, Mary DesRosiers and Gordon Peery.
New England Craft Fairs

This summer is full of countless activities, and here's a little more to add to your agenda. The list is far from complete, but in spite of that there's almost never a day that you can't find a craft fair in New England.

Prescott Park Art Festival: Fine Arts, Performances
PO Box 1134, Portsmouth, NH 03801
July 1 - August 7

Annual Woodstock Craftmen's Fair
On The Green
Pentangle, PO Box 172, Woodstock, VT 05091
July 3 - 4

20th Annual Arts & Crafts Festival
Proctor Academy Arts Building
Crafts, Fine Arts, Performances
The Creative Arts Assoc. of Andover
PO Box 71, Andover, NH 03126
July 3 - 4

Antique & Unique Festival
Craftsbury Common
Vermont Children's Aid Society
72 Hungerford Terrace
Burlington, VT 05401
July 7 - 10

Guildford Handcraft Expo on the Green
Box 221, Rt 77, Guilford, CT 06437
July 15 - 17

Keene Street Fair
Crafts, performances
12 Gilbo Ave, Keene, NH 03431
July 15 - 17

Amherst Craft Fair
Bangs Community Center, Rm 309
Bolton Walk
Amherst, MA 01002
July 17

Annual Regional Craftsman Fair
Canaan NH
Box 137, Grafton, NH 03240
July 23 - 25

Cracker Barrel Bazaar
Box 36, Newbury, VT
July 30 - 31

The Maine Festival, Bowdin College Crafts, performances
PO Box 192, Brunswick, ME 04011
August 6 - 8

Southern Vermont Craft Fair
Manchester, VT
North Hill, Readsboro, VT 05350
August 6 - 8

Art on the Mountain-Haystack Mountain
PO Box 275, Wilmington, VT 05363
August 6 - 15

The Waunbeck Center 3rd Annual Craft Fair
Crafts, fine arts, performances
PO Box 38, Jefferson, NH 03583
August 15

The Monadnock Folklore Society Newsletter is dependent on you for information. If you know of events or performers who should be listed with us please tell us. We also welcome articles of any length which are appropriate for our format. The subject of local New Hampshire folklore (both before and after the Europeans settled here) is of particular interest, and we would like to publish more about it. Our address is PO Box 43, Peterborough, NH 03458
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C. Stoney, RFD Box 91A, Greenville, NH 03048.

ARE YOU A MEMBER?

The Monadnock Folklore Society, a non-profit organization, has successfully endeavored to enrich the lives of people in the Monadnock area, through concerts, coffeehouses, workshops, school programs, and this newsletter. Public response has been heartening, especially in the current economy. In order for us to continue we need to broaden our base of support. You can help us by becoming a member. If you are a member already, tell your friends about MFS. Members receive the newsletter every month, as well as discounts on our concerts, and there’s a special contra-dance and party in the spring especially for you.

What’s more important, you’ll be participating in an organization that is becoming a focal point for folk-related activities in the Monadnock Area. We can keep you in touch with what’s going on, and we can share resources which we are gradually accumulating.

Won’t you join us? Simply cut out the form below, fill it out, and send it along with a check to:

MFS, PO Box 43, Peterborough, NH 03458

We’ll look forward to having you with us.

Sincerely,

Gordon Peery
Chairperson

NAME:__________________________
STREET:________________________
TOWN:________________________
STATE:________________________ Zip________
PHONE:________________________

Mail to: Monadnock Folklore Society, P.O. Box 43, Peterborough, New Hampshire 03458
Performers Listing - JULY

2-Smith, Struthers Terriberry & Vozmak - Folkway
3-Paul Geremia - Folkway
4-Margaret McArthur - Deacon Brodies
9-Jack Hardy - Folkway
10-Chris Morgan & Marya Danihel - Folkway
11-Sassafrass Bluegrass - Deacons
11-David Lord - Gap Mountain
16-Jane Voss & Hoyle Osborne - Folkway
17-Frankie Armstrong - Folkway
18-Purly Gates - Deacons
20-Bryan Bowers - Folkway
23-Eric Bogle with John Munro - Folkway
24-Kendell Kardt - Folkway
25-Peter & Mary Alice Amidon - Deacons
29-Leo Kretzner - Fitzwilliam Inn
29-David Maloney - Folkway
30, 31-Bill Staines - Folkway

The Performer Listing is a regular feature of the MFS Newsletter. It is open to all New Hampshire Performances, and exceptional out of state performances. Information must be received by the 12th of the previous month.

Weekly Dances

Monday - Nelson
Wednesday - Dublin
Saturday - Fitzwilliam
Sunday - Brattleboro

The Monadnock Folklore Society Newsletter is published monthly. We welcome submissions of articles or information pertinent to our cause. We reserve the right to determine the appropriateness of the material.

Subscription to the newsletter is included as part of membership, or may be obtained separately for $5.00 annually.

Monadnock Folklore Society
P.O. Box 43
Peterborough, New Hampshire 03458

HELP WANTED
Selling ad space and pasting up this newsletter. If you can give us two - eight hours a month, we can barter concert admissions, memberships, and gratitude.