NEWSLETTER

THE JOURNAL FOR FOLK CULTURE IN SOUTHWESTERN NEW HAMPSHIRE

DEACON BRODIE'S TAVERN

THE PARTING GLASS

FOLK MUSIC RETURNS

TO RADIO PETERBOROUGH
DEACON BRODIE'S .... The Parting Glass

It was just a few weeks ago that I went over to Deacon Brodie's Tavern in Dublin, New Hampshire and joined in the celebration of their fourth anniversary. I knew at that time that the place for sale, and as I chatted with friends with whom I had shared many a pleasant evening there, and as I got caught up in the joviality and good music of the evening, I realized how special a place the Deacon's had become for so many people.

Deacon Brodies has now been sold, and while it will continue under the same name, many of the things which have made the place what it is, including the Sunday night traditional music concerts, will no longer be there.

Since it's opening, owners Steve & Frona Avery have given special attention to folk traditions. There have been annual celebrations of St. Andrews Day, Hogomany (New Year's Eve), Robert Burns Night, St. Patrick's Day, Guy Fawls Day, and Boxing Day. Every spring the Deacon's has hosted touring Morris teams.

In the true tradition of a Scottish Pub, music has always been welcome, and the Sunday evening concerts have provided a consistent flow of fine traditional musicians. Local artists such as Lily, Smith, Struthers and Terriberry, Chris Morgan, John Roberts and Tony Barrand, have appeared regularly, in addition to musicians on tour from abroad; Martin Carthy, The High Level Ranters, Ian Bain, Alex Campbell, Joe Stead, Robin Williamson, and the Boys of the Lough.

Steve Avery's involvement with folk music began in 1959 when he ran a coffeehouse in California called The Cat's Pajamas. From there he went on to be involved, on a promotional level, with the Newport Folk Festival, the TV show Hootenanny, and a number of concerts with such artists as Judy Collins, Phil Ochs, Simon & Garfunkle, Eric Anderson and Dave van Ronk.

He has spent enough time in the British Isles, from which he boasts a strong heritage, to have a good feeling for how music happens over there. A town the size of Dublin, New Hampshire, he says, would have two or three pubs, and musicians would gather freely to play and sing. A hat might be passed, or a meal provided, but the motivation comes from the love of playing. Steve is a little put off by the number of amateur musicians in this country who seem to be expecting immediate financial rewards, and he tells of more than one occasion when musicians on tour from the British Isles asked to come and play at the Deacons with no expectations. Of course, they were always rewarded with a wonderful meal (the high point of many a tour) and a modest fee. Coming into the situation with considerable experience, Steve knew how easy it would be to lose money by offering high guarantees. From the billings over the years one can see that that did not deter many fine musicians from playing there, and it kept it true to the spirit of a Scottish Pub.

Frona Avery, herself a fine musician and teacher, is especially pleased that Deacon Brodie's has been able to help out some of the newer performers. She speaks with compassion about people who make each other happy through music.

Steve will be continuing his other musical projects, such as the annual productions of Noel - Sing We Clear and To Welcome in the Spring. But the Sunday evening concerts are over. For what there was, we are grateful, and there is sadness at it's passing.

FINE CRAFTED MUSIC

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- Cindy Kallet: Working on Wings to Fly
- Stan Rogers: Northwest Passage
- The Chieftains: 10 Wings to Fly

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In the wake of the departure of Sunday night music at the Deacons, and perhaps in the still remaining ripples left by the loss of radio station WSLE two years ago, guess what? - There's going to be folk music on the Peterborough station again!

Several years ago the Peterborough radio station, then WSLE - FM, developed a rather unique and eventually nationally renown format consisting of light rock, jazz, fine acoustic contemporary, and folk music. When the station was sold in the fall of 1980, the new owner failed to realize the value of the existing format and soon, under the new name of WMDK, it became just another radio station.

The response from the public was phenomenal. Letters and phone calls flowed into the station at an unprecedented rate, the papers were filled with letters to the editor on the subject, and a petition to restore the old format drew over 2500 signatures. For months the loss of WSLE was the subject of emotional discussion, and even recently the good old days have been affectionately remembered.

Over the past few months the station has again crept into the news as it became evident that the individual who was the active owner was not fulfilling a number of obligations and had, in fact pretty much disappeared. Word finally came through that he was no longer part of the actual owning organization.

This prompted station manager Wayne Bradley (besides Fritz Wetherbee, the only other survivor from WSLE days) to initiate some changes in an attempt to redirect the format towards some of its original quality. He recently asked Mary DesRosiers if she would return to do a Sunday night folk music show. The result will be a return of "A Delicate Balance", Sunday evenings from 6:00 to midnight, beginning September 12.

Since her departure from WSLE, Mary has not been idle in the radio world. From WFCR (public radio in Amherst, Massachusetts) she produces two weekly folk music programs. Banish Misfortune, aired on Friday evenings at 7:00, (88.5 - FM) features a collection of songs and tunes usually based around a particular theme. Valley Folk, broadcasted Wednesday night at 7:00, is an hour long edited version, with commentary, of live concerts in New England. The show has featured concerts with Tom Paxton, Odetta, Silly Wizard, Stan Rogers, and many other favorites of the New England folk scene. Last year it received a grant from the Satelite Program Development Fund Which brought the show to 28 other public radio stations across the country, including two in Alaska. This fall Valley Folk will again receive national airplay through the Public Radio Co-operative.

So having Mary (who is also on the board of directors of the Monadnock Folklore Society) back on Peterborough radio again will be like welcoming home a local folk hero. We wish her well. I am particularly curious as to what her first song is going to be, but she won't reveal what she is planning, so I'll be sure to be one of the many anxiously listening on the 12th.

It will be particularly appropriate at this time to get some positive feedback to Wayne Bradley - write to WMDK, Radio Peterborough, Peterborough, NH 03458.
MFS CALENDAR

September 17 - CRANBERRY LAKE JUG BAND
One of the few real jug bands in existence today, this group will also play blues, ragtime, swing numbers and sentimental favorites.
Performing on guitar, twin fiddles, bass, autoharp, mandolin, banjo, washtub, washboard, and jug, Cranberry Lake provides lively musical entertainment in true foot-stomping, rib tickling fashion. Not to be missed -
Clark Hall, Harrisville 8:00 PM
General Admission - $5.00

September 18th - MFS Members Picnic at Barbara Fraser’s Rock Meadow Farm, Greenfield NH. If you just joined MFS and didn’t receive an invitation, call 525-4904 for details.

September 26 - WHOLE WHEAT - at Gap Mountain Breads, Troy, NH. This is our monthly coffeeshouse at the bakery, this month on the fourth instead of second Sunday to accommodate the Bakery’s vacation.

Whole Wheat is a fine bluegrass duo from Keene. Mike Nix and Rick Fisk apply their versatile talent to a wide selection of tunes in the bluegrass genre.
Music is from 7:30 - 10:00, admission $1.00. Excellent eats too!

October 7th A WINNAM HILL SHOWCASE
A very special evening with Winnam Hill recording artists Alex de Grassi, Scott Ossu, and George Winston.
Co-sponsored with Modern Productions
Recital Hall, Keene State College,
8:00 - PM * Admission $5.00

April 9, 1983 - JEAN REDPATH

BENEFIT CONCERT FOR NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT
SUNDAY, October 3, 7:30 PM
Recital Hall - Keene State College
Featuring
Fritzie Bernstein * Mike Wakefield
Monadnock Classical Guitar Duo
Purley Gates * Dick Nevell
Andy Davis & Rod Miller

Admission $3.00 Sponsored by Citizens for Peace 603/835-6583 or 352-0603

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call 525-4904 for more information.
The Monadnock Folklore Society and Modern Productions present
A WINDHAM HILL SHOWCASE
George Winston
Alex de Grassi
Scott Cossu

Thursday - October 7th - 8:00 PM
Recital Hall - Keene State College
General Admission - $5.00
Tickets - Toadstool-Peterborough
Yankee Lady Records - Keene
Pitchfork Records - Keene
Maple Leaf Music - Brattleboro
or S.A.S.E to MFS, PO Box 43
Peterborough, NH 03458

Info-603/525-4904 or 617/227-6029

Membership in the Monadnock Folklore Society brings you this newsletter every month, a discount on our concerts, and invitations to our social/cultural gatherings. It also places you among the growing number of people who are supporting and participating in the wide range of activities in the Monadnock region associated with the folk arts. Membership fees are modest, and the rewards are great. The form below is easy to fill out. You'll be glad you did.

Regular $10 []
Student or senior citizen $8 []
Couple $14 []
Dependent Children $2 []
Newsletter only $5 []

Availability for volunteer work:
Poster placement []
On site concert help []
Newsletter articles []

Name: _____________________________
Street: ____________________________
Town: _____________________________
State: ___________ Zip _____________
Phone: ____________________________

Other names included in membership:

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Mail to: Monadnock Folklore Society, P.O. Box 43, Peterborough, New Hampshire 03458
PERFORMER LISTING - SEPTEMBER

3- Tony Bird - Folkway
4- Jack Hardy
  Jeff Hardy - Folkway
  Frank Christian
10- Margaret MacArthur, Tom MacKenzie
  Sam Moffat, Bill Birmingham
  Teresa Landis & Dick Tracy
  - Welcome Table
    College St Congregational Church
    Burlington, VT 802/425-3435
10- Jim Scott - Folkway
11- Guy van Duser/Billy Novick - Folkway
11- Jean Ritchie, Leo Kretzner
  Champlain Folklore Cooperative
  College St Congregational Church
  Burlington, VT 802/425-3435
12- Micheal Cooney - Pioneer Valley Folklore
  Grace Church Parish Hall, Amherst, MA
  413/586-5285
17- Cindy Kallet - Folkway
17- CRANBERRY LAKE JUG BAND
  Monadnock Folklore Society
  Clark Hall, Harrisville 603/525-4904
18- Tannahill Weavers - Champlain Folklore
  Congo Church/Burlington
18- Barbara Bailey Hutchinson - Folkway
24- Bill Staines - Folkway
24- Paul Geremia, Martin Grosswendt
  Andy Cohen, Joan Crane
  Welcome Table/Congo Church/Burlington
25- Artie Traum - Folkway
26- WHOLE WHEAT - Gap Mountain Breads
  Troy, NH

The performer listing is a regular feature of the MFS Newsletter. Information must be received by the 12th of the month prior to the performance. MFS, PO Box 43
Peterborough, NH 03458
603/525-4904

CONTRA DANCES - SEPTEMBER

3- Northfield, MA. - Town Hall
5- Dawn Dance - Gibson Aiken Center
    Brattleboro
10- Henniker - Congo Church
11- Franestown - Town Hall
11- Brattleboro - Congo Church
17- Northfield - Town Hall
17- Ashby, MA - Unitarian Church

Weekly Dances:

Sunday - Brattleboro-Green St School
Monday - Nelson - Town Hall
  8:00-10:30 $1.50

Most contra dances start at 8:30 and go until midnight. Admission is generally $2.50 or $3.00.

To list your dance send info to MFS,
PO Box 43
Peterborough
NH 03458

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
PO Box 43
Peterborough, New Hampshire
03458