

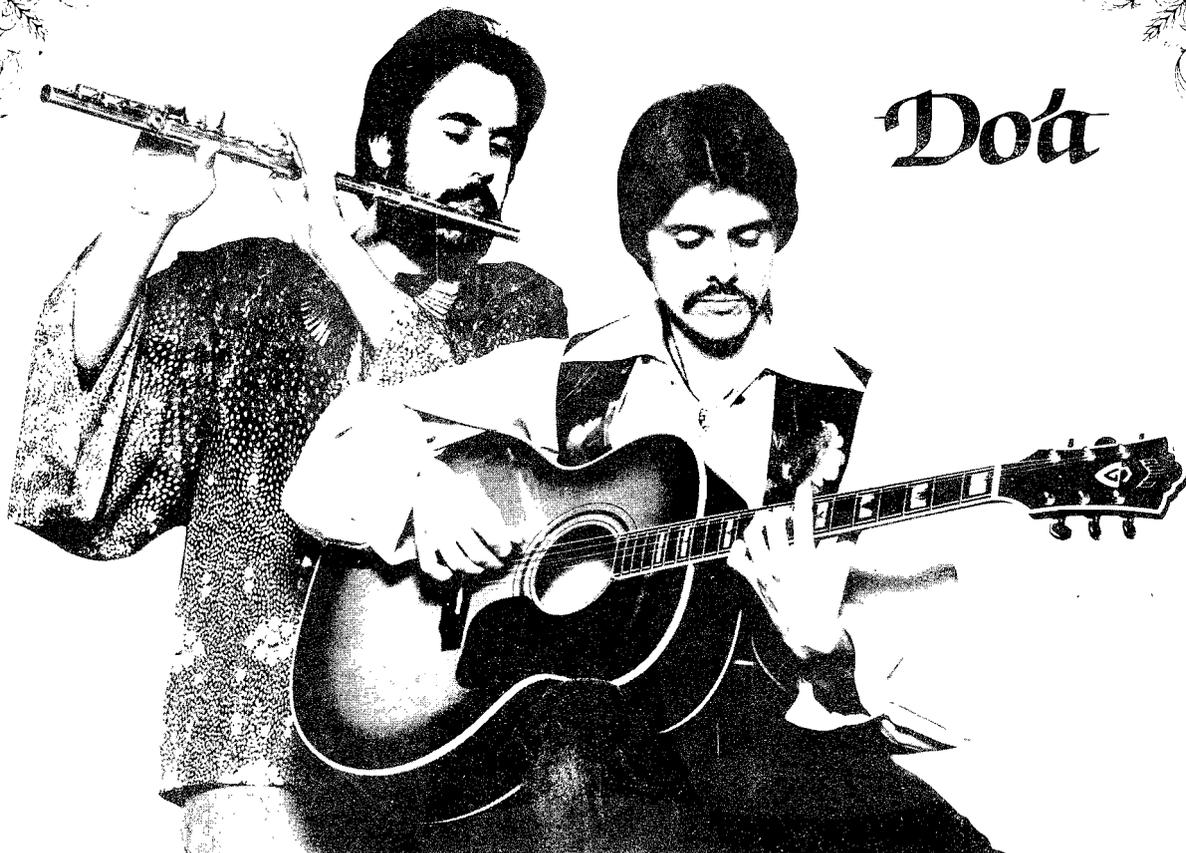
MONADNOCK FOLKLORE SOCIETY

November
1982

NEWSLETTER

Volume 2
Number 11

THE JOURNAL FOR FOLK CULTURE IN SOUTHWESTERN NEW HAMPSHIRE



Doa

Saturday, November 13 at 8:00 PM

Dublin Community Church
Dublin, New Hampshire

For More Information Please Call 603 525 4904

Tickets \$5.00

Available—Toadstool, Peterborough
Yankee Lady Records—Keene
Maple Leaf Music—Brattleboro

A Production Of The Monadnock Folklore Society

It was just a year ago that we published the first issue of the Monadnock Folklore Society Newsletter, Volume 1, #1, November/December 1981.

It has been an encouraging year, during which there have been many discouraging moments. The newsletter has varied in size, sometimes because there was not much to print, and other times because there was not the money to print more than a couple of pages. Nevertheless we've been able to become more consistent in style and general format, and the coming year looks very promising.

While the Monadnock Folklore Society is not yet really thriving economically, we have had a successful first year overall, and I look forward to continued growth of the Newsletter as part of the development of the Society.

The purpose of the Newsletter is twofold: it serves as an information bulletin for folk related activities in central New England. To this end we've recently expanded our performer listings to include the Burlington and Brattleboro areas of Vermont, and the Pioneer Valley area of Massachusetts. I'd like to include the coastal and mountain regions of New Hampshire - if your club, organization, or you as an individual are sponsoring anything that would be of interest to our readers, please let us know as much in advance as possible - no later than the middle of the month prior to the event.

The second purpose of the newsletter is to provide articles which serve to expand our general awareness of folk culture. In essence, this is all culture, but seen from different perspective - perhaps looking up through rather than down from.

We've enjoyed (and can continue to look forward to) articles from novelist and Celtic scholar Morgan Llywelyn. Future issues will have articles by musician/folklorist Nancy McDowell, and I will be continuing to do profiles of local musicians.

If I have had a disappointment with the Newsletter, it has been that we have not given much attention to local folklore. This month we introduce what will become a regular column by Alouette Iselin which I hope will fill some of this void. Alouette, as many of you know, is a fine folksinger from Nelson, New Hampshire. She has a strong appreciation for this region - its heritage and resources.

Over the coming year there will probably be a modest increase in the size of the Newsletter. Rather than increase the actual bulk (which would add significantly to our mailing costs), we will probably reduce our type size to get more words per page. This will be done by a photo-reduction process since the text is not typeset. Our text is accumulated on an Apple II microcomputer that is equipped with UCSD Pascal. The text is written in the edit mode of Pascal and printed out on a Diablo 630 Daisy Wheel printer. The printout software is The Report Generator available from North American Technology in Peterborough.

I am thankful to the many people who have given support, both financial and verbal, to the newsletter. Your encouragement has suggested that the effort is really worthwhile. Elsewhere in the newsletter there is a survey which I hope many of you will take the time to respond to. Your input is vital if this newsletter is going to truly serve the interests of its readers.



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Cloth of Many Colors

JOSEPH'S COAT
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Our 1982 concert series will conclude with a performance by DO'A on Friday, November 13, at 8:00 PM in the Dublin Community Church.

The music of Do'a (Ken LaRoche and Randy Armstrong) draws its inspiration from cultures all over the world. Playing a tremendous variety of instruments, they capture the spirit of global unity in a style that merges the most ancient of musical forms with modern folk, classical and jazz influences. Their musical integrity is uncompromising, and their spirit is refreshing.

On Saturday, November 20th, we'll be having a contra dance in the Greenfield Meetinghouse in Greenfield, New Hampshire. Preceding the dance will be a pot luck supper starting at 6:00, and a beginners dance workshop at 8:00. The regular dance will start at 8:30. Calling will be Ken Wilson and Mary DesRosiers, with April Limber on fiddle and yours truly on piano. Admission is \$3.00.

Since December is such a busy time for everyone, we've decided not to schedule a concert for that month. However we will be having a Christmas Party and Dance in the Nelson Town Hall on Saturday, December 18th. There will be several musicians comprising the orchestra - details in next months newsletter.

It has been frequently suggested that our appreciation for anything permanent (or even just long lasting) has been diminished because we live in a time where there is a constant threat of global destruction. Our values, both material and spiritual, have been jaded by the notion that it all could end tomorrow, so why think beyond today. In this situation, the apocalyptic consciousness is the cause, and the diminished relevance of long term values is the effect. I recently overheard a friend of mine (who is very devoted to long term values) advise someone on a project. "Don't ask someone who does it for a living" he said. "They'll just tell you the cheapest way to do it. Ask one of the old timers - they'll tell you how to do it right."

While that is certainly a generalization to which there are valid exceptions, it is true that the old ways, while lacking the seeming efficiencies of modern technology, were based on the idea that what was done was going to be around for awhile.

What happens if we try to reverse the role of cause and effect? If we are able to recapture the spirit of long term values, to develop a desire for permanence in our culture, this becomes the cause, and the effect can be a belief in the future - so strong a belief that the world can begin to move into a safer, more caring state of being.

Lest these observations seem rather Utopian and simplistic, I'm not really suggesting that with the sense of permanence that emerges through folk music and lore that we can save the world. But perhaps we can begin to get a better idea of why we're here, and why we should stay here.

It is with this in mind that this newsletter moves into its second year of publication.

GREENFIELD - NEW HAMPSHIRE

Gordon Peery

POT LUCK SUPPER

&

CONTRA DANCE

Saturday, November 20

Supper 6:00

Beginners Workshop 8:00

Dance 8:30

Admission \$3.00

In the GREENFIELD MEETING HOUSE

KEN WILSON & MARY DESROSIERS

Callers

APRIL LIMBER & GORDON PEERY

Musicians



Now October's growing thin and November's coming home and the Farmer's Almanac predicts the coldest winter ever is on its way. Of course, they may be wrong, but it's an invigorating thought.

I'm reminded of a children's fable concerning a community of mice getting ready for a long winter: they gathered nuts and seeds for food and bits of straw for warmth and trundled all these things into their nests and put them away. But one spaced-out mouse wandered around gazing at the autumn leaves, dozing in the still-warm sunshine, listening to the singing of the birds who were getting ready to fly south. Most of her fellow mice ignored her, some complained of her sloth, but she continued to meander here and there, looking and listening. When the deep cold and snow came, the mice were warm inside their hiding place. But winter was very long that year. Their food supply ran low and they began to be hungry. They were tired of being cooped up in a burrow and grew restless and fretful. It was then that the mouse who had seemed so idle in the fall brought forth her store of colors and pictures and music to nourish the whole community until spring should finally come.

We are lucky that the community which is reached by this newsletter has stored up a great deal of this sort of wealth, and we may all need an extra bit of it this winter. The members of the Monadnock Folklore Society comprise a wide range of talent, styles and levels of expertise. If, as I hope, this column becomes a regular feature of this newsletter, I would like to see it have as one of its functions a way for all of us to share with each other. This is, after all the Monadnock Folklore Society, and while it enables us to hear music from all over the country and from other countries, hopefully it will also draw us together to listen to the voice of our own region.

I would like to have your thoughts on listening to music, playing it, creating it, performing it. I would like to incorporate your thoughts and feelings into this column, as well as your music. You can communicate with me either through MFS, or directly by writing to me in Nelson, 03457, or calling 603/847-3227.

THE FOLKWAY



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MFS NEWSLETTER - Reader Survey

Your feedback is important for the direction of this newsletter. Please take the time to let us know what you think.

Are you a member of MFS?
How many MFS concerts have you been to?
Do you feel that the newsletter gives adequate coverage of events in this area?

What could we do to improve coverage?

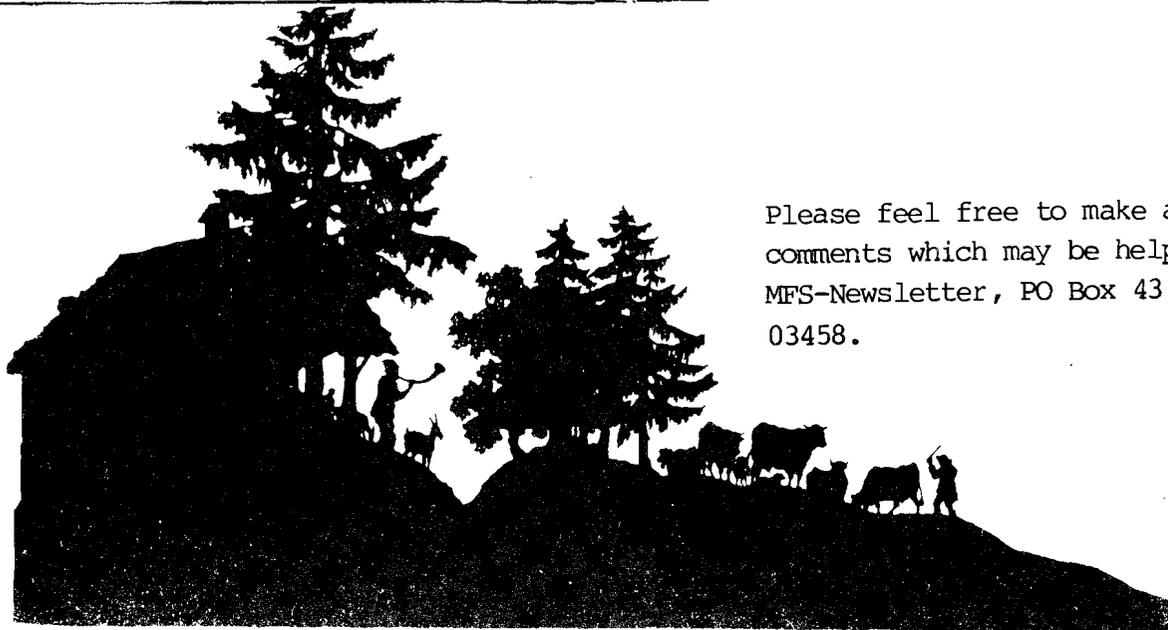
Would you like to see more articles on local folklore?
What in particular?

What percentage of our advertisers do you do business with?

Is there anything you dislike about the newsletter?

What is your favorite or most useful part of the newsletter?

Please feel free to make any additional comments which may be helpful to us. Send to MFS-Newsletter, PO Box 43, Peterborough NH 03458.



PERFORMER LISTING - November

- 2-Jonathan Eberhardt, Bob Zentz
Iron Horse
- 5-Allan Block & Sid Blum - Welcome Table
- 5-Martin Carthy and the Watsons
Paine Hall, Harvard University
617/646-3513
- 5,6-Gemini - Folkway
- 7-Martin Carthy and the Watsons
Iron Horse
- 7-Utah Phillips - Calvin Theatre
Northampton, MA PVS 413/586-5285
- 10-Patty Larkin - Iron Horse
- 11-Johnny Cunningham - Folkway
(call to confirm)
- 12-Johnny Cunningham - Welcome Table
- 12-Phillipe Bruneau - Shriner s Hall
Brattleboro 603/835-2906
- 12,13-Greg Brown - Folkway
- 13-DO'A - MFS
Dublin Community Church
- 11-Woody Harris - Iron Horse
- 13-Dakota Dave Hull & Sean Blackburn
Iron Horse
- 13-Phillipe Bruneau & Billy McComisky
Champlain Folklore Cooperative
- 15-Mario Angeletti - Iron Horse
- 16-Joe Stead - Iron Horse
- 17-Greg Brown - Iron Horse
- 19,20-Lui Collins - Folkway
- 20-Peter Bellamy - Iron Horse
- 23-Tommy Elder - Iron Horse
- 26-Dave van Ronk
Champlain Folklore Cooperative
- 26,27-Bill Staines - Folkway
- 28-Utah Phillips & Dick McCormack
Champlain Folklore Cooperative
- 28-Bill Staines & Priscilla Herdman
Iron Horse
- 30-Michael Horley - Iron Horse

CONTRA DANCES - November

- 5-Northfield, MA - Town Hall
- 13-Francestown - Town Hall
- 19-Ashby, MA - Unitarian Church
- 19-Northfield, MA - Town Hall
- 20-Greenfield, NH - Meeting House

Weekly Dances

Monday - Nelson Town Hall 8:00 - 10:30
Admission \$1.50

Sunday- Brattleboro - Green St. School

Most dances start at 8:30 and run til
midnight. Admission is \$2.50 or \$3.00.

We have received a number of inquiries
about the Peterborough dance. Todd
Whittemore says that it will definitely be
starting again, but does not know when.
We'll let you know as soon as a decision has
been reached.

Folkway - 85 Grove St, Peterborough, NH
603/924-7484

Welcome Table - Concerts at the
College St. Congregational Church
Burlington, VT 802/425-3435

Muskeg Music -603/448-2950

Champlain Folklore

Coop-802/425-3435

Iron Horse-20 Center St, Northampton, MA
423/584-0610

*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 member-
ship, or may be obtained separately for \$5.00 annually.*

