

THE BROADSIDE

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SOMETHING NEW FROM OSCAR BRAND

The Ballad Mongers

by Oscar Brand

Publishers: Funk and Wagnalls

Price: \$4.50

After a stilted forward by Agnes de Mille, Oscar Brand's new book, **THE BALLAD MONGERS**, makes a commendable effort at covering the history, goods, evils, and enigmas of recent folk music in the United States. Brand notes that an amazing variety of controversies have evolved from the popular recognition of folk music, which began more than 25 years ago. Examples (concrete variety): How have certain singers influenced the urban folk scene? Who gets the royalties from traditional material? Examples (abstract variety): What is a folk singer? What is a folk song?.

One of the Author's major contentions is that any song with "the simple sound usually associated with traditional music" can be called a folk song. Scholars and purists may disagree violently, but in an environment where songs are spread by mass communications, concerts by professional performers of folk music can occur anywhere, and music publishers ask for "songs that everybody thinks he's heard before" such a loose and admittedly subjective definition can not be brusquely brushed aside. No doubt this definition is the result of Brand's many years as a folk entertainer with large and varied audiences. But it is true that songs "that say something" are quickly transmitted. Songs that sound traditional may well be someday. And traditional songs are constantly being translated into contemporary terms. *cont. page 2...*

HEDY WEST IN BOSTON

Two local Coffee houses will present Hedy West to their patrons this weekend. Hedy will appear at the CAFE YANA on Friday and Saturday night, October 19th and 20th and at CLUB 47 on Sunday and Monday the 21st and 22nd. She has been highly praised by both the Little Sandy Review (rather uncommon), and by the New York Times.

SLEEPY JOHN ESTES TO OPEN MUSIC OF AMERICA SEASON

ELIOT House of Harvard has announced that their fine series of musical programs will resume this month with one of America's most famous and most important performers, SLEEPY JOHN ESTES, accompanied on the harmonica by HAMMY NIXON. Long thought to be either dead or too old to play by most blues researchers, Sleepy John was rediscovered early this year by Bob Koester and is in finer form now than ever before.

The significance of the artistry of Sleepy John lies in his style. He provided an approach to blues singing which influenced the whole idiom and the modern country blues which we are so familiar with owe a great deal to him.

Noted folklorist, Archie Green, has stated of Sleepy John "He is a John Faulkner, telling of the everyday life of a small Southern Community" in describing John's ability to write exceptional songs about the people and places of his Brownsville, Tennessee home.

Hammy Nixon, who will accompany Sleepy John is perhaps the finest recorded blues harmonica player and will do things with his instrument that will leave you open-mouthed in wonder.

This is a concert not to be missed.

TONY SALETAN JOINS JAMES BALDWIN AT MIT "CORE" MEETING

On Thursday, October 25th at 8:00 PM, the MIT Civil Rights Committee will sponsor a program for CORE, the Committee on Racial Equality with James Baldwin, well known author as lecturer and Tony Saletan, Boston's internationally known folk singer. The meeting will be held in Building 26, Room 100 (Physics lecture hall) and is open to the public.

