

# THE BROADSIDE

BOSTON'S FOLK MUSIC AND COFFEE HOUSE NEWS & TEN CENTS

VOLUME I, No. 24

Cambridge, Massachusetts

February 8, 1963



THIS issue's cover is an old-timey picture of Ralph Rinzler and John Herold, members of the GREENBRIER BOYS who will be performing at the Folklore Productions Concert and at Club 47 in the middle of February. Our thanks to Betsy Siggins and Byron Linardos for letting us use this picture as our cover.

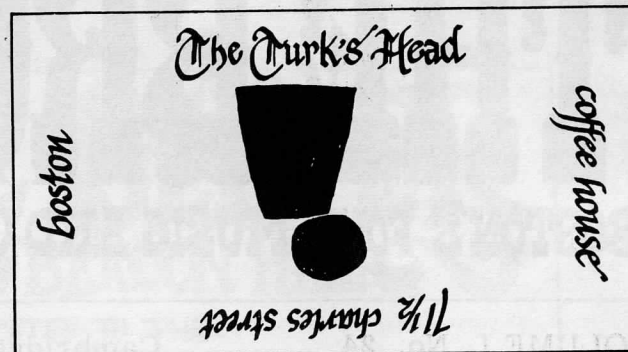
# HOOTENANNY PERFORMERS INVOLVED IN MANY PHASES OF FOLK MUSIC

Tomorrow evening, February 9th, Folklore Productions will present the 5th concert in its 1962-1963 series. In our last issue, we gave a brief paragraph on each of the performer's musical background, and now would like to mention some of the phases of folk music that they are involved in currently that our readers may not know of.

ERIC VON SCHMIDT has just returned from England where he discussed the illustrations he is doing for Dick Farina's book. While he was there, he made a record for the Folklore label with Dick, Ethan Signer and Blind Boy Grunt (the latter is an obvious pseudonym for a very fine guitarist, vocalist and harmonica player that we are sure will be recognized in several months when the record is released). Eric has just finished illustrating his children's folk song book titled Come For To Sing, which is being published by Houghton Mifflin. This book along with a Pathway of Sound record of the songs in the book (featuring well known folk singers Jackie Washington, Carolyn Hester, Jack Elliot, Rolf Cahn and Rick) will be released in the fall.

GREENBRIER BOYS consisting of John Herold, Ralph Rinzler and Bob Yellen will be singing at a "Hoot for Peace" to be held at the Loeb Center in NYC on February 18th. John Herold and Ralph Rinzler will be singing for two days only at Club 47 on the 14th and 15th of February (brought back by popular demand we are sure after their fine performance last fall). Ralph Rinzler is quite a folk lorist and has just written a very fine article in SING OUT on Bill Munroe and his Bluegrass Boys. Be sure to pick up this new issue; it's an excellent piece of writing - interesting and very informative.

DOC WATSON is becoming a very well known figure in the current Bluegrass and Old Timey "revival" which seems to be occurring all over the U.S. He also will be singing at the "Hoot for Peace" with the GBB's and will be singing in the Boston Area at Cholmondeley's February 8th, and Club 47 Mt. Auburn February 10th besides the Hootenanny.



TONY SALETAN will leave Boston at 7 AM Sunday following the Hootenanny for a month's tour of colleges and communities across the US as part of the American Folk Trio. This Trio consists of Dave Sear on banjo, Sonja Savig on langeleik (Norwegian Dulcimer) and Tony on guitar. They will be playing in New Mexico, Texas, Colorado, Minnesota, and Arkansas to name a few states. Tony will be back in March just as his "What's New" series will be shown on channel 2 in this area and other educational, non-commercial stations in New England. We will announce these in our next issue. Currently, Tony's program for children "21" Classroom" is being shown each school week on channel 2, Wednesdays at 9:45 and Thursdays at 1:45. This series of 30 programs is being shown to enrich the music curriculum of children and consists mostly of folk singing with occasional guests.

We are very impressed with the fact that Manny Greenhill has chosen such talented performers who are so actively participating in so many diversified areas of folk music. See you at the hoot!



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# BROADSIDE

VOLUME 1, NO. 24 FEBRUARY 8, 1963  
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## ROLF CAHN RETURNS TO BOSTON

In our very first issue of BROADSIDE we announced with pride that Rolf Cahn was returning to Boston. Now, almost a year later, we are just as happy to tell you that he will soon be with us again. He will appear at the Cafe Yana for 15 days at the end of February and beginning of March. He will also perform sometime in concert.

When Rolf opened his own coffee house, The Cabale, in Berkley last month, we were afraid that he wouldn't be able to make his annual visit. Evidently he has found capable hands with which to leave it, and we have heard from friends on the west coast that it is doing very well.

Newcomers to Boston who are unfamiliar with Rolf's music will be in for a special experience when they hear him for the first time. It is our belief that Rolf has had a greater influence on the folk music that has generated from Boston in the last few years than any other person.

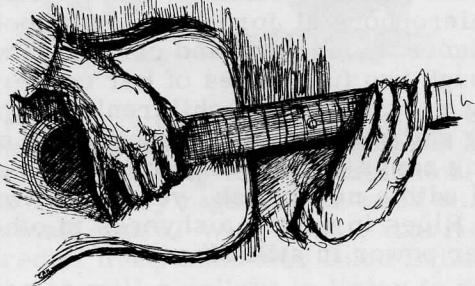
## TARRIERS CLOSING AT THE UNICORN

The Tarriers will be at the Unicorn through Sunday evening February 10th. If you haven't heard this flashiest of the folk groups, and that is your kind of folk music, you are missing the best.

LISTEN WEEKLY TO RAISN' A RUCKUS FOR A REPORT OF WHAT'S WHAT IN THE FOLK WORLD AS SEEN BY BROADSIDE'S ASSOCIATE EDITOR, MISS JILL HENDERSON

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**PRESENTS**



**TOM RUSH**

(at the request of his creditors)

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## HOARD OF NEW GUTHRY SONGS DISCOVERED

Pete Seeger, in the latest issue of SING OUT, has reported the finding of a whole cache of Guthry songs. When "So Long" became popular, a publisher asked Woody if he had any more songs and so Woody began sending in tape after tape of his songs. When the publisher got set to put out a Guthry song book last year, the tapes were nowhere to be found. Since then, some sixteen tapes have been recovered, and Pete says he was "thunderstruck" to find some sixty to seventy songs he had never seen before.

## WTBS REVISES FOLKMUSIC SCHEDULE:

The folkmusic shows heard over WTBS-FM will now be presented as follows

Sunday	5 - 6 PM	THIS IS THE BLUES
Monday	5 - 6 PM	PERLOO, STOMP & GLEE
Tuesday	7-8:45PM	RAMBLIN' ROUND
Thursday	7-8:30PM	FOLKSIDE
Friday	9 - 10 PM	RAISN' A RUCKUS

## ODETTA. A REVIEW

January 26, we were privileged to hear one of America's great vocalists Odetta came to the microphone at Jordan Hall and took her audience by the hand and carried it with her through two full halves of her concert. She sang work songs and children's songs, she sang shy songs and bold songs; she sang travelling songs and resting songs. She sang them all with a new polish, yet with a twinge of Delta Blues in some, a shyness in others, and sheer power in still others.

A concert is a performance it makes demands on a performer that other modes of communication do not. And sometimes the pressure of these demands causes certain changes that are not always welcome Odetta of her coffee house days and early recordings is no more. The emotions that made her great have been tempered and ground to cope with the pressure of several hundred people with critical eyes and ears. The songs that took each single person by the lower backbone and shook until there was no resistance now take a grip on the eyes and ears of a thousand faces

Only when the reviewer went into the lobby alone during her encore, and heard her over the faces and through the closed doors, did he feel the old heart twisting sounds that made one want to go to any heaven where such sounds are heard

R. S. Brown

## BONNIE TO OPEN NEXT WEEK

Bonnie Dobson, Prestige Recording Artist, will begin her longest performing run in Boston to date, when she opens at the Unicorn Monday, February 11th. Bonnie made her first personal appearance in this area last summer at Club 47 and then played the Ballad and Banjo in Hyannis After her appearance in a Folklore Concert last fall, she played one week at the Unicorn. She will be at the Unicorn until February 24th.

Bonnie is one of the sweetest singers we have seen and it is herself rather than her voice which wells her songs FIRST TIME, a song by Ewan McColl, has never been done anywhere, by anyone, any better than Bonnie does it, and to hear it is well worth the whole price of admission.

Bonnie was born in Canada, in fact still maintains her home there, although she has toured the states extensively, appearing in clubs and Festivals all over the country.

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## MARTHA HEYWOOD TO RETURN

Martha Heywood, who stirred an excited response to her singing and performing here in Boston last year is planning to return. Martha has been doing doctoral research in Saskatchewan for the last eight months and has just finished collecting her data. We have been told that she did quite a bit of song collecting from the area at the same time and will have a great deal of new material.

## KWESKIN-MULDAUR CONCERT. A REVIEW

The 1963 Community Church Art Center Concert Series got off to a good start artistically if not financially. A rather slim crowd was treated to "The Ragtime Blues of Jimmy Kweskin and the Bittersweet Blues of Geoff Muldaur" Geoff and Jim were aided for most of the evening by Fritz Richmond on washtub and on a couple of numbers by Gordie Edwards on harmonica.

Geoff began the evening by doing some of his open tuning country blues and spirituals. After intermission he sang more up-tempo and jazz blues proving once again to this listener that he is a fine jazz singer who happens to be singing folk music (The distinction which sets apart the jazz singer from the blues or folk singer is the assumption that the voice is a musical instrument, to be used as such)

Conversely, Jim Kweskin is a very fine folk singer, in the sense that he is a real stylist. He has immersed himself in a ragtime style of singing and his total performance and stage personality is built around this style His blend of exuberance and rhythmic drive makes him a most enjoyable performer to listen to.

The two of them combined talents on the last few numbers and brought the house down with the "Boodle-Am Shake"

J. Boyd



# ... AND COFFEE TOO



If you have walked the length of Charles St. on a winter's night such as those we have had recently with the wind blowing up from the river, you would be as thankful as we were for the strategic placing of THE LOFT and its sister, THE TURKSHEAD. A warm cup of coffee in each was enough to give us the courage to reach the end of the block and the MTA home.



If you like to chew on things, be it pipe stems or tooth picks, order hot cider with a cinnamon stick the next time you drop in to the CLUB JOLLY BEAVER. You can chew on the cinnamon stick for the rest of the evening, and cut down on smoking at the same time. (See mother, we do try to be a good influence on the young).

Whispering has it that the UNICORN is also a strong possibility for a radio show, this one to run every night of the week during the wee small hours. With Bonnie married now, we predict many saddened Beau Brummels, but she is still a delight to listen to as well as watch.

## UNICORN SCHEDULE

Feb 8 - 10 The Tarriers  
Feb 11 - 24 Bonnie Dobson



Work on the KINGS ROOK at IPSWICH has commenced and don't be startled if there is an unannounced surprise of some magnitude sprung there opening night. In the meantime, everything goes as usual at the KR in Marblehead, as usual that is as Mickey and Ray allow.

# CAFÉ

# YANA

## COFFEE HOUSE ENTERTAINMENT

MARK SPOELSTRA FEBRUARY 8-17 | ROLF CAHN FEBRUARY 22 THRU MARCH 9th

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The new serial at CLUB 47 is a Kit Carson special which we will do a synopsis on as soon as we have seen several chapters to keep you informed. This month, the club's special guests will include Doc Watson, John Herold & Ralph Rinzler and the Silverleaf Quartet. It's certainly a pleasure to see Jimmy Kweskin back on stage at 47. If you haven't heard his ragtime, be sure to stop by to hear him - his fan club is really growing.

#### CLUB 47 SCHEDULE

- 2/8 Charles River Valley Boys
- 2/9 Robert L. Jones, Mitch Greenhill and Geoff Muldaur
- 2/10 DOC WATSON
- 2/11 Film. My Darling Clementine  
Serial: Kit Carson  
Cartoon: The Oompahs
- 2/12 Jackie Washington
- 2/13 Dayle Stanley, Fred, Bob and Sally
- 2/14 JOHN HERALD AND
- 2/15 RALPH RINZLER
- 2/16 Rooney, Val and Applin
- 2/17 Hootenanny (open to all)
- 2/18 Film: Ruggles of Red Gap  
Serial. Kit Carson  
Cartoon: Geogie and the Dragon
- 2/19 Jackie Washington
- 2/20 Geoff Muldaur - Jim Kweskin
- 2/21 Rooney, Val and Applin
- 2/22 Charles River Valley Boys
- 2/23 Tom Rush - Jim Kweskin

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CAFE YANA continues to add to their decor and now have a live radio program emanating from there weekly. Mark Spoelstra will be a new talent for us to listen and right after Mark, the maestro himself, Rolf Cahn will be in for a big 15 days. As of last night, Guy Carawan was booked in for March.

#### CAFE YANA SCHEDULE

- Feb 8 - 17 MARK SPOELSTRA
- Feb 18 To be Announced
- Feb 19 Sally Schoenfeld
- Feb 20 Lonnie Bourn
- Feb 21 Bill Lyons & Don McSorely
- Feb 22 - ROLF CAHN
- Mar 9



THE LOFT  
43 Charles St.

Boston, Massachusetts

#### CONCERT PROGRAM

- March 9 HOOTENANNY at Jordan Hall with Tony Saletan, Eric Von Schmidt, Doc Watson, the Greenbriar Boys
- February 13 Folk Song Society Workshop FOLK INSTRUMENTS OF THE WORLD, 8 15 PM, Huntington Avenue YMCA.
- February 21 TOM RUSH IN CONCERT Community Church Art Center 8 PM, 565 Boylston St. Boston



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8 PM, 565 Boylston St. Boston



## THE RETURN OF SLEEPY JOHN ESTES



by Laurie Forti

## PART TWO OF TWO PARTS

That John has a background that is very formative for a bluesman is evident as he tells of his friends, Gus Cannon, Charlie Pickett, Willie Newbern, Blind Lemon Jefferson, Jim Jackson, Jab Jones, who played piano for some of John's early recordings, and the legendary Robert Johnson. John says that in order to break the neck off a bottle smoothly, the old bottle-neck guitar players tied a string around the bottle neck, soaked it in coal oil and set fire to it. Big Bill Broonzy recalled running away from home "about 1912" to work on the railroads and hearing John howling the songs that lightened the work load of the sweating, track-laying gangs.

Sleepy John Estes, like all bluesmen, sings of his life and struggle with the world. When asked why he wrote "Lawyer Clark Blues", which praises the small number of humanitarian lawyers who provide justice for the Negro, John responded with the lyrics

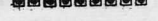
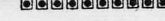
"He lawyers for the rich, he lawyers for the poor,  
He don't try to rob nobody, just brings them round to the door.  
Now once I got in trouble, you know I was goin' to take a rap,  
He didn't let it reach the co't house, he kept it on the outside.  
Now Mis' Clark is a good lawyer, he good as I have seen,  
He's the first man that proved that water runs upstream."

The "trouble", John explained, occurred while he was working as a doorman at a joint on the North side of Memphis. As doorman, John was supposed to hold the customers' knives and guns to prevent any trouble on the inside. Before the night was over, John got hungry and was picked up on the way to a restaurant for carrying concealed weapons. Evidently "Lawyer Clark" helped him out.



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In the Thirties, John was judging a blues contest with Richard M. Jones in which Memphis Minnie was trying to out-do Big Bill Broonzy for the prize, which was a bottle of gin and a bottle of whiskey. Minnie won and was being carried around on the judges' shoulders while Big Bill Broonzy was busy stealing the whiskey. Bill left her a crowd of admirers, the gin and her irate husband, a jealous blues singer named Joe McCoy.

The shellac rationing and the 1942 recording ban ended race recording, and John dropped out of public entertainment. After he lost his sight in 1950, John moved back to Brownsville and married. He has five children and was living in an abandoned sharecropper's shack until his rediscovery.



In 1950, John was living in Memphis and lost the sight of his remaining eye. This probably caused him to write his intensely personal "I've Been Well Warned":

"Now I've been well warned, I didn't  
take heed in time,  
I've lost my health and gone stone  
blind.  
Now when you lose your eyesight  
your best friend's gone,  
Sometimes your own dear people  
don't fool with you long."

Hammie Nixon is Sleepy John's harmonica and jug-playing accompanist, and has been with him on and off for some 30 years. Hammie was playing harp, as bluesmen usually call the harmonica, for John on the old Decca sides from 1934 - 1940, even though the labels incorrectly state that Hammie was on second guitar and that Noah Lewis was on harp. Hammie got started in music when his father bought him a ten-cent harmonica. He had no trouble picking up blues from his friends, Sonny Boy Williamson, Charlie Pickett, Washboard Sam, and Memphis Willie Borum. He played both harp and jug for Gus Cannon's Jug Stompers and probably for other jug bands also. With such a rich musical background, it is no wonder that Hammie is without question one of the greatest harmonica players in the world - that is, when he isn't stealing the show with his jug blowing. Hammie's recording career more or less paralleled Sleepy John's as his accompanist on Decca in the Thirties after the depression and up to



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1942. The team split up in 1942 when Hammie went with the Army to Pearl Harbor, where he lost the tip of his left thumb. The gap in their recording careers from 1942 to 1962 was caused by war-time shellac rationing, the change in public taste after the war and the retirement of Mayo Williams of Decca and Lester Melrose of Bluebird, for whom the records had been cut.

The future looks promising for John with the new LP, the concerts and more recording sessions, but, after 30 years John still sings:

"Lord, have mercy, what's  
gonna become of me,  
You know, I feel just like easin'  
back down into Tennessee." END

THE ABC'S OF FOLK MUSIC



blues, ballads,  
balalaikas,  
bongos, bamboo  
flutes... but  
that was before  
**BROADSIDE!**

## TOM RUSH IN CONCERT

Newly returned Tom Rush will be featured in 1963's second Community Church Art Center Concert. The concert will mark Tom's first scheduled local appearance since his research trip to the south.

When interviewed, Tom declined comment on the results of his research, but did say that most of it was done in Miami and its environs. It seems that there is a club called the Unicorn in Miami, so Tom felt compelled to play there for a few weeks before moving on to other gigs in Miami and Fort Lauderdale.

After many false starts of lengthy trips planned since last February when he left Harvard, Tom finally managed to get away this past November. He has returned for the purpose of re-enrolling at Harvard where he will be starting the second half of his junior year.

The concert is set for Thursday night, February 21, the night before Washington's Birthday holiday. The Community Church Art Center, for those who don't already know is located at 565 Boylston Street in Copley Square.

## 12 STRING ARTIST, MARK SPOELSTRA, OPENS AT CAFE YANA

In accordance with its policy of bringing in up and coming young talent, as well as the mainstays of folk music, Mark Spoelstra, Folkways recording artist will appear at the Cafe Yana, February 8th through the 17th.

Mark, a Californian, currently residing in New York, has just finished a two week engagement at Gerdes Folk City where he appeared with John Lee Hooker and Carolyn Hester. Mark rocked his audiences there with ragtime, especially his "Sugar Babe".

Mark handles his audiences quite well for such a young performer. His stage presence is excellent, his voice better than many of the young folk singers and is not afflicted with the nasa affectation or mumblings, a welcome change.

His repertoire ranges from funky, down home blues to syncopated ragtime intermingled with his own compositions. All are excellently played on the 12 string guitar and tastefully selected.

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## RAMBLIN' ROUND w/dave wilson

The Grandison Singers recently finished a two week engagement at the Unicorn. We spent a great deal of time with them in the course of that two weeks, and much of it, talking about their music.

Mary Grandison, the group leader, has a great deal of information at her fingertips, and in the course of our conversations pointed out emphatically that they are an act, that the gospel they do is prettied to the point where any audience will be able to accept it as music, without the benefit of previous exposure, and that this is the reason for their success.

Gospel music is a relatively new music, which grew out of Jubilee songs of the late 1800's which in their own turn had grown from the spirituals of the prior era, and Mary is quick to point out the spirituals were a musical form, rather than a religious music.

Piano player, Floyd, has a great voice, rough edged and rich. We wish only that he would use it a bit more often and a bit looser. On stage, pert whimsical Dorothy provides the center around which the act revolves and her carryings on delight the audience. Helen has a big versatile voice, which again does not get used enough in tone or range for our liking. Mary has the voice we look for most in Gospel groups. It bites, it growls, slides and catches, and her shouting is the essence of what appeal the group has for us.

But most satisfying of all is that they are lovely people.

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BOSTON

## CLASSIFIED ADS

### RAISN' A RUCKUS STARTS TONIGHT

Cafe Yana will be host to the latest Folk Music show to hit the airwaves. Raisn' a Ruckus will be heard each Friday night from 9 to 10 PM over both WTBS-FM and WTBU-AM. The show will present a feature performer each week as well as a local singer and will also attempt to give a broader scope to the idiom through special segments, such as folktales, discussions of instruments and techniques, interviews and folk news reports. BROADSIDE extends its best wishes for success and a rousing show.

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*Jim Kweskin*  
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