

# THE BROADSIDE

VOLUME I, No. 8

Boston, Massachusetts

June 15, 1962

## SPOTLIGHTING

### GUITAR NUBBIT



He sings:

"They call me Guitar Nubbit, but my real name is Al  
My six string guitar is my only pal"  
But the guitar came into his life only  
in the last few years; he grew to it,  
not with it.

"I was conceived in Jamaica, and born  
in Ft. Lauderdale. That's where I lost  
my mother in the storm".

When he was three years old, a storm  
swept up the East Coast of Florida,  
tearing up the shorelands, ripping homes  
shops, and the rows of crops; it was the  
Hurricane of 1926. Alvin Hankerson, age  
3, lost his home and his mother. He also  
lost the tip of his right thumb. When his  
father heard of the storm, he came and  
found Al, already being called Nub, and  
took him to Georgia.

Nub spent his youth in Georgia. He went  
to school, picked cotton, peaches and  
apples. He hoed the ground, he pulled  
weeds. He did all the things boys do  
growing.

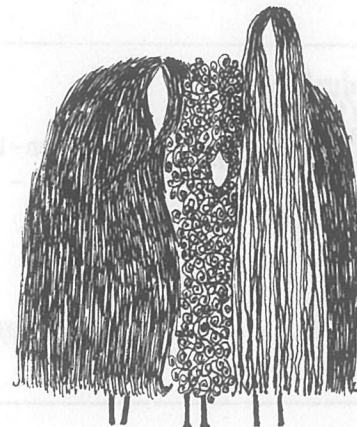
When he was 21, Nub left Georgia and  
came to Massachusetts.

He was walking down a street in Roxbury  
in 1948: "women trouble bothering me,  
just walking feeling blue when I saw this  
guitar in the pawnshop window and some-  
thing told me, you won't believe me, I

know, but I swear it's true, something  
just told me that if I would go and get  
that guitar, all my troubles would be  
over. I only had twelve dollars, and  
I would have paid it all, but he only  
asked seven. I just took it home, and  
walked right by my wife and into the  
back room and started banging it."

## FOLK MUSIC AT MARBLEHEAD

Friday June 6th, the first in a series  
of Folk Music Concerts was held in  
the high school auditorium in Marble-  
head. Sylvia Mars started off the even-  
ing, and in her inimitable way gave a  
fine performance of blues, spirituals,  
gospel and rythmn and blues numbers.  
The Charles River Valley Boys finished  
up the first half of the concert with an  
abrupt change in tempo and left the audi-  
ence very excited and anxious to hear the  
second half of the concert. Robert L.  
Jones, in what we believe was his first  
concert appearance, charmed the audi-  
ence with his quiet natural way of pre-  
sented Woodie Guthrie and other typi-  
cal American ballads with the same ease  
he uses with his coffee house audiences.  
The Charles River Valley boys came  
bouncing back to end up the evening with  
their usual skill and fun. The audience  
was comprised of many people who had  
never heard folk music, and from the  
comments we heard, we know that the  
rest of the series will be even greater  
successes than this first one. Everyone  
seemed to enjoy themselves immensely  
and for those of you who had the mis-  
fortune of missing these fine Boston  
Folksingers, WTBS will be playing por-  
tions of the concert this Fall. (88.1)



SPOTLIGHT cont.



Nub had no knowledge of the guitar or music either. No one could get him to learn chords, he didn't have the patience to practice that way. He'd just sit alone in his back room and fool around with the guitar, trying to get something out of it that would sound right to him. He gave it up a year later.

What motivated him to pick it up again later, he didn't know, but pick it up he did and things began to work a little better for him. Sam Tano, of the Berklee School of Music convinced Nub that he should go to school. "For two months I practiced chords, and scales, and every day I'd ask him to show me some blues, show me something I can play, and he kept saying not yet, not yet. Well one day I just decided that I wasn't doing no good there and I walked out. But he was right, he was teaching me the right way, but I couldn't see it" That was in 1954.

"I don't know why I am a head hunter", he grins when he tries to explain how he began his trade as a Barber. "I had an accident happen to my back, and couldn't do no heavy work. It was that evil woman who told me to be a hair-cutter". Nub went to the Mass. School

of Barbering and learned the trade. He now cuts hair at Britts Barber-shop, 1804 Washington Street in Roxbury.

It's indeed unfortunate  
OLD MAN that you  
were unable to hang  
on for ACCENT ON FOLK MUSIC  
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A few months ago. things began to happen all of a sudden. "I was walking down the street with this evil woman, the same one that wanted me to be a headhunter, and she says she wants to buy some blues records, so I didn't say nothing and we go into this record shop. While she was looking through these records, I was looking too, and I saw all those country blues. So I went up to the fellow behind the counter and I asks him if these are real. He says yes, they're real and so I asked him if people bought them, and he says yes, they buy them. So I said that I did that sort of thing, and he didn't seem overly interested, but he asked me to bring down some of the tapes I had and he'd listen to them. Course this evil woman was giving me funny looks cause she didn't know anything about it. Well I brought down the tapes and they listened to them and asked me if I had done them and I said yes and they told me to go home and get my guitar. See, they didn't believe it was me. So they asked me about the songs and whether I had written them and then had me sing them. And that's how I happened to make that record, "Evil Woman".

Nub dropped into a Lightnin Hopkins Concert and after talking to Lightnin and Manny Greenhill, he agreed to drop in at a Club 47 on a Hoot night. He is now being featured there on Tuesday nights. He had never realised before that there was an audience for his music, and at first he approached them with hesitation. Now that he knows they are digging him he has loosened up and is all the better for it.

"Man", he says, when he watches some of the younger folk singers doing their blues, "where do they learn those things?" And smiling we think, "from people like you, Nub..."

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250 Newbury Street  
Boston, Massachusetts

|                      |                  |
|----------------------|------------------|
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## FROM THE PUBLISHER:

We have often thought of printing some sort of editorial policy so our readers might know just what to expect. Recently we spotted the same in Good News, a West Coast Folk magazine which we tell you about elsewhere in this issue. Stealing freely from their's because they say it so nicely, here is the BROADSIDE Editorial Policy:

1. All policies and content will be determined by the Staff and not by the advertisers.
2. Material will be obtained from the most informed sources available.
3. News will be printed as news stories without editorial comment.
4. We will report on Boston and New England Folk Music, but the emphasis will remain on the Boston Area.
5. Articles of Opinion received from the readers will not necessarily reflect the views of the Staff but will be published in order to stimulate more opinion and comment.

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## GOOD NEWS

Another Folk Publication, this one from the West Coast, which we feel has a lot to offer is titled GOOD NEWS, and is the official organ of the Los Angeles Folk Music Society. Besides covering the area for concert news and the coffee house schedules as we do, they print articles and news for comments, controversy and interest of all folk enthusiasts. We would like to add that they have the finest covers of any folk publication we have yet to see. Those interested may address their inquiries to GOOD NEWS, Village P. O. Box 24272, Los Angeles, California.



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## CONCERT PROGRAM

June 27th: Boston Arena; Tarriers will appear with Bobby Darin and Count Basie Band

July 4th: Independence Day  
Large Stage - Boston Arts  
Festival featuring Clancy  
Boys and Tommy Makem



AND COFFEE TOO!!!

Phil Rhodes is well on his way to Turkey by now and Ruth Ellen is going to be performing both Friday and Saturday nights for a while. For those of you who don't get a chance to get to the LOFT on the weekends and so haven't had a chance to get to hear Ruth Ellen yet, she will be there every night during the Arts Festival.

The LOFT Schedule:

|              |               |
|--------------|---------------|
| Tues - Thurs | Recorded Jazz |
| Fri - Sat    | Ruth Ellen    |

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The KINGS ROOK remains one of the few places anyone can walk into with an instrument and entertain themselves and anyone else who cares to listen. Some of the most pleasant informal music we have yet to hear in a coffee house has happened there recently.

With the sign returned to the JOLLY BEAVER, Ralph is smiling a little more and as to how it got back, all the way from Stoneham, we will leave it to him to explain at your request.

## VEGA

GUITARS BANJOS

as used by  
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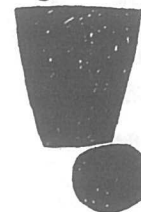
INQUIRE AT YOUR LOCAL DEALER

We are very pleased with the policy that the UNICORN will be pursuing for the next few weeks. They are introducing a larger number of Hoots while elsewhere they are being diminished. Hootenannies are the best way we can think of to give newcomers a chance to express themselves, gain experience in stage presence and to introduce the range of folk music to new audiences. The UNICORN Schedule also includes some local people of very high caliber.

Schedule for June at Unicorn:

|        |                            |
|--------|----------------------------|
| Sun.   | TO BE ANNOUNCED            |
| Mon.   | Open Hoot and auditions    |
| Tues.  | Open Hoot and auditions    |
| Wed.   | Naomi Ware and Guest       |
| Thurs. | Villagers and Guest        |
| Fri.   | TO BE ANNOUNCED            |
| Sat.   | Hoot of invited performers |

## The Turk's Head



boston

coffee house

7 1/2 charles street





Club 47 members and their guests will be happy to know that the Charles River Valley Boys have recorded an LP which will be released in mid-August of this year. You can get full details at the Club. There is still room for volunteers who would like to work in the Gallery at the Club this summer. Those interested in this opportunity may contact Betsy Siggins at the Club for further details. Latest Report has it that Jack Parmley also will be teaching guitar and banjo at the Club this summer. Here is the schedule at 47 for the next two weeks:

- 6-15 Eric Von Schmidt
- 6-16 Charles River Valley Boys and Dayle Stanley
- 6-17 Dayle Stanley and Jeff Muldar
- 6-18 Jackie Washington and Sylvia Mars
- 6-19 Guitar Nubbitt and Paul Arnoldi
- 6-20 Jackie Washington
- 6-21 Bill Keith and Jim Rooney & Friends
- 6-22 Eric Von Schmidt
- 6-23 Charles River Valley Boys
- 6-24 Dayle Stanley and Jeff Muldar
- 6-25 Jackie Washington and Sylvia Mars
- 6-26 Guitar Nubbitt and Paul Arnoldi
- 6-27 Jackie Washington
- 6-28 Bill Keith and Jim Rooney & Friends
- 6-29 Eric Von Schmidt
- 6-30 Charles River Valley Boys

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The YANA crouching under the shadow of a soon to be Freeway (we have heard some people spell it graftway) is nevertheless holding forth for as long as it may. First it was the Old Howard they wanted to tear down for progress and now the Yana. Is progress worth it? But for now you can still hear some mighty fine music coming out of there. It would be worth your while to step in and sample some.

|           |                 |
|-----------|-----------------|
| Monday    | Jeff Gerber     |
| Tuesday   | Hootenany       |
| Wednesday | Greg Hildebrand |
| Thursday  | Ruth Ellen      |
| Friday    | Bill Lyons      |
| Saturday  | Greg Hildebrand |



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### NEEDED: MORE INFORMATION

If any of our readers have information or knowledge about coffee house or establishments which will be featuring folk music this summer, anywhere in New England, we would appreciate them letting us know. The more news we receive, the more we can pass on to you.

## TOMMY MAKEM &amp; THE CLANCY BOYS

The only Folk Music at the Boston Arts Festival this year will be a concert by Tommy Makem and the Clancy Boys which will be followed by of all things but a fireworks display. Our only observation is that after listening to the Clancy Boys who needs fireworks? We are unhappy to announce that there will be a great deal less folk music at the Arts Festival this year than there was last year. It is difficult for us to understand why when we have heard that last year's folk music performances were the only ones to break even or show a profit.

Open Hoot  
Tuesday



**CAFE  
yana**

778 Beacon Street

## APOLOGIES FROM BROADSIDE

We hope that our subscribers will accept our apologies for our tardiness with the last two issues. Due to other obligations our circulation and subscription manager has temporarily left us and we have had to struggle to get our mailing list filled and out. We promise that you will receive much closer attention after this. We are now working on a method to get each issue to you on the same day it is distributed.

## SUMMER WARDROBES GAL!

Janie Lewitus will make dresses or alterations for those interested in mumu and other type "authentic and ethnic styles" which have moved from the folk world onto the front pages of the foremost fashion magazines. She has had dressmaking experience from Cambridge to Berkley California and may be reached at AS 7-3221.

**47**

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