WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA DULCIMER COLLECTIVE



1991 -- 2nd Quarter Newsletter

The Western North Carolina Dulcimer Collective is a member-supported group of players of mountain and hammered dulcimers, and those who enjoy listening to dulcimers and/or playing other traditional instruments with them. The group meets once per month to share tunes and information. Dues are \$5.00 per year payable to Carl Cochrane, 12 Pheasant Dr, Asheville, NC 28803.

The Saga of Steve's Computer

Well, you've seen this newsletter go through lots of changes. When I first joined, Joy Metcalf was doing her homey, hand-drawn newsletters. Looking back through the "archives," I see that she wasn't the first. Then, I started doing them on my PC-Jr, and from there went on to bigger and better computers/printers/programs. You can probably tell that I've done it again! Now, with a real "publishing" program, I'm able to do some neat things with the newsletter. (At least once I figure it out!) Don't expect this to be the end of it, however! I've sold the computer I used for the last few newsletters, but I'm using the same printer. If I can sell it, then the next newsletter (and music) ought to look even better! Hopefully, the content of the newsletter is to your liking, as well as the look!

Dulcimer Players News Going Up

Maddie MacNeil runs into the same problems as the rest of us when the postage rates go up. Luckily for us, the WNCDC dues haven't yet had to go up, but then again we don't put out the quantity or quality that DPN does! *Dulcimer Players News* is raising their subscription rate to \$15 per year, or \$27 for two years. Still, for what you get and the fact that you can't get it anywhere else, it's not a bad deal. It's published quarterly, with many columns including, "Fretted Dulcimer," "Hammered Dulcimer," "Technical Dulcimer," "Events," "Dulcimer Clubs," "Music Exchange," "Musical Reviews," "What's New," and others. It always includes feature articles, interviews, songs, and other items, as well. Back issues are usually available, and never go out of date! If you haven't seen it, ask around at a WNCDC meeting - you'll find plenty of people with issues they will be glad to show you. Or, of course, you can send in your subscription to: *Dulcimer Players News*, P.O. Box 2164, Winchester, VA 22601.

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This Quarter's Music

Last quarter had music from around the world, with dance instructions. Since I have usually tried to stick to traditional music of this area, I thought I'd better nmake up for that "indiscretion" by going back to "really" traditional music. So, here are three very traditional songs, with the words...

Old Joe Clark

Old Joe Clark's a fine old man, Tell you the reason why, He keeps good likker 'round his house, Good old Rock and Rye.

Chorus:

Fare ye well, Old Joe Clark, Fare ye well, I say. Fare ye well, Old Joe Clark, I'm a-goin' away.

Old Joe Clark, the preacher's son,
Preached all over the plain,
The only text he ever knew
Was "High, low jack and the game."

Old Joe Clark had a mule, His name was Morgan Brown, And every tooth in that mule's head Was sixteen inches around.

Old Joe Clark had a yellow cat,
She would neither sing or pray,
She stuck her head in the buttermilk jar
And washed her sins away.

Old Joe Clark had a house Fifteen stories high, And every story in that house Was filled with chicken pie. I went down to Old Joe's house,
He invited me to supper,
I stumped my toe on the table leg
And stuck my nose in the butter.

Now I wouldn't marry a widder,
Tell you the reason why,
She'd have so many children
They'd make those biscuits
fly.

Sixteen horses in my team,
The leaders they are blind,
And every time the sun goes
down

There's a pretty girl on my mind.

Eighteen miles of mountain road
And fifteen miles of sand,
If I ever travel this road again
I'll be a married man.

Careless Love

Love, oh, love oh careless love.
Love, oh, love oh careless love.
Love, oh, love, oh, careless love,
You see what love has done to me.

I love my mama and papa too, (3 times) I'd leave them both to go with you.

What, oh what, will mama say, (3 times) When she learns I've gone astray.

Once I wore my apron low, (3 times) I couldn't scarcely keep you from my door.

Now my apron strings don't pin, (3 times)
You pass my door and you don't come in.

Don't you marry a railroad man (2 times)
A railroad man will kill you if he can,
And he'll drink your blood, drink it like wine.

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From whence the music?

As usual for my last few newsletters, all three songs are from one source. This month, they're from *American Favorite Ballads - Tunes and Songs as Sung by Pete Seeger.* It's an Oak Publication, from Embassy Music Corporation in New York City, 1961. Our copy's priced \$1.95 - it might have changed by now!

On Top Of Old Smokey

On top of Old Smokey, all covered with snow.

I lost my true lover, from courting so slow.

Now courting is pleasure, and parting is grief

And a false-hearted lover, is worse than a thief.

Say a thief will just rob you, and take what you have, But a false-hearted lover, will lead you to the grave.

And the grave will decay you, and turn you to dust, Not one boy in a hundred, a poor girl can trust.

They'll hug you and kiss you, and tell you more lies,
Than the cross-ties on the railroad, or the stars in the skies.
So come all you young maidens, and listen to me,
Never place your affection on a green willow tree.

For the leaves they will wither and the roots they will die,
You'll all be forsaken and never know why.
On top of Old Smokey, all covered with snow I lost my true lover, from courting so slow.

Notes on the Folk Songs of the Appalachian Mountains

From "Folk Songs of North America", by Alan Lomax (Doubleday & Company, Inc, 1960), p. 153:

"Southern backwoods singing was mostly unaccompanied, rubato, highly ornamented and solo; the voice 'oriental', high-pitched and nasal, produced out of a tense body and throat. Accompaniments on stringed instruments have been introduced within the last century, altering the scales and the rhythms, but hardly affecting the singing style. The singers tend to be withdrawn and impersonal in their delivery, but intensely emotional at the same time, the male singers, as in many eastern countries, using a high, thin tone as to sound quite womanish. Unison singing is rare and poorly blended. Prior to the urban hillbilly style, harmony was seldom used except by the trained choruses of the singing schools."

From "Eighty Appalachian Folk Songs", by Cecil Sharp and Maud Karpeles (Faber and Faber, Inc. 1968), itself taken from "Folk Songs of English Origin Collected in the Appalachian Mountains" (Novello, London, 1919), pp. 8-10:

"During the forty-six weeks we spent in the mountains we never heard a bad tune, except for the occasional hymn that had strayed from one of the missionary settlements. We felt we were living in a really musical atmosphere. Yet there was no such method of singing, both in England and in America. The present custom of singing to the accompaniment of guitar or banjo, which has been adopted by some traditional singers, is fairly recent and probably due to the influence of popular and pseudo-folk music heard on the radio. This tonic-dominant form of accompaniment is in most cases quite unsuited to the structure of the melody and has the effect of ironing out its distinctive qualities. "In the hands of a skilled and sympathetic musician the songs may be transmuted into another medium which can be completely satisfying... We would, however, suggest that before having recourse to an accompaniment singers should first familiarize themselves with the song so as to avoid starting off with a preconceived harmonic conception of it."

MUSIC ON THE RADIO

Schedules have changed once again since the last time I listed area radio shows I know of which feature "traditional" music, including dulcimer music. So, here we go again!

WCQS - 88.1 Asheville / 89.7 Clyde / 91.3 Franklin / 91.5 Brevard

"A Natural Bridge," w/Jim Magill. New and traditional folk. Sat, 10am-1pm.

"Thistle and Shamrock," w/Fiona Ritchie. Traditional music of the Celtic lands. Sat, 1-2pm.

"One World." Music from around the world. Sat, 2-3pm.

"American Radio Company," w/Garrison Keillor. Sat, 6-8pm.

"Country Roots." Sun, 6-8pm.

"Airstream." A mix of jazz, acoustic and new age music. Mon-Thu, 2-4:30pm.

WNCW - 88.7 Spindale (Transmitter on Mount Mitchell.)

"Goin' Across The Mountain." Bluegrass music. Sat, 1-4pm.

"Country Music Classics," w/Joe Bussard. Sat, 4-5pm.

"Mountain Stage," w/Larry Groce. Sat, 6-8pm.

"Celtic Winds," w/Richard Beard. Traditional Celtic music. Sun, 1-3pm.

"This Old Porch." Old-time and traditional dance music. Sun, 3-5pm.

"Crossroads." A mix of ALL types of music - "Jazz, swing, blues, singer/songwriters, acoustic music from a variety of traditions, and exotic sounds from around the world.", Mon-Fri, 9am-5pm, and Mon-Thu, 8-10pm.

"Homegrown Music Hour." Traditional folk music, Mon, 10pm.

"Thistle and Shamrock," w/Fiona Ritchie. Tues, 10p.m.

"Rider's Radio Theatre." Doin' it the cowboy way. Thu, 7pm.

WFAE - 90.7 Charlotte

"American Radio Company," w/Garrison Keillor. Sat, 6-8pm, & Sun, 2-4pm.

"Thistle and Shamrock." w/Fiona Ritchie. Sat, 8-9pm.

"Nu Folk." Sat, 9-11pm.

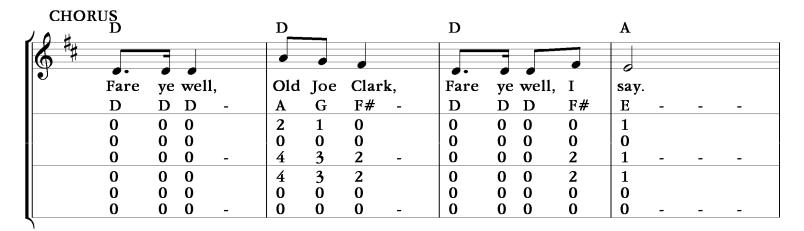
Old Joe Clark

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Arrangement: Steve Smith

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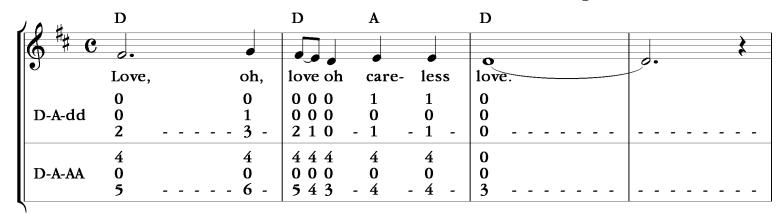


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Careless Love

Traditional American

Arrangement: Steve Smith



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On Top Of Old Smoky

Traditional American

Arrangement: Steve Smith

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MEETING HOSTS/HOSTESSES

The following people have volunteered to host the upcoming meetings. We always need volunteers - you will need to show up about 1/2 hour early to make sure everything is set up. You will also need to arrange for refreshments (but not necessarily bring them).

April 14, 1991 - Helen Maxwell May 12, 1991 - Doris Coulter June 9, 1991 - Jeanne Grundies

MEETING LOCATION/TIME

We are still meeting at Crowfield's Condominiums in Skyland. Look for the BIG sign out front - you can't miss it!

Second Sunday of each month from 2:30-5:00 at Crowfield's Condominiums Clubhouse, Hwy 25, Skyland (1st building on the left as you go in.)

Directions from the North and East: Take Highway 25 South from 1-40. 1 mile South of the Blue Ridge Parkway, Crowfield's will be on your right, across from Turtle Creek Shopping Center.

Directions from the South and West: Take I-26 to Exit#6, "Skyland". Go East to Highway 25. Turn left and go about 1-1/2 miles. Crowfield's will be on your left, across from Turtle Creek.

Western North Carolina
Dulcimer Collective
c/o Steve Smith
607 East Blue Ridge Road
East Flat Rock, NC 28726