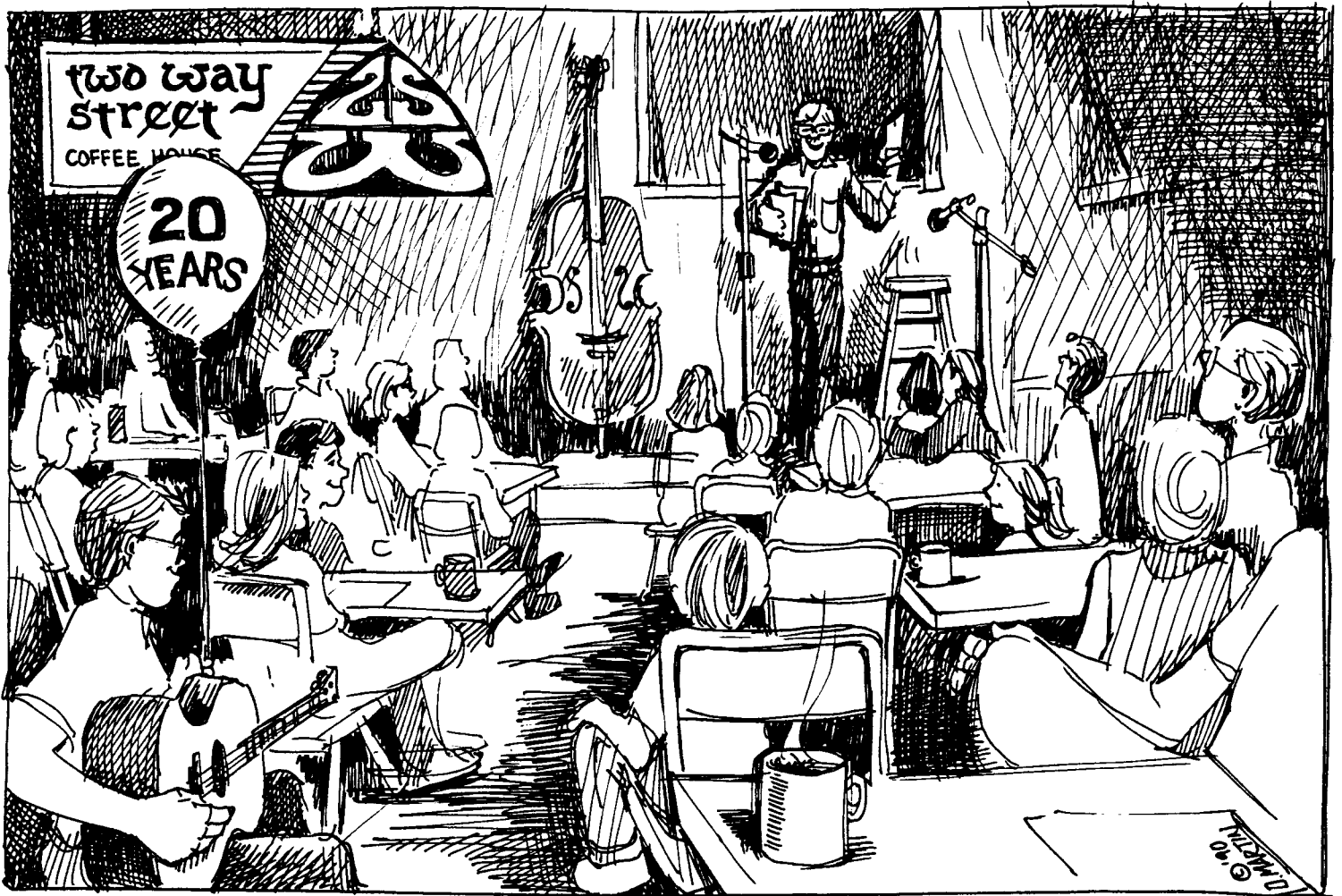




QUARTER NOTES

Published by the Plank Road Folk Music Society

FALL '90



Two Way Street 20 Year Anniversary
November 16, 1990

CONCERT UPDATE

Jim Craig, Lee Murdock, and Fred Campeau in Concert

Sat., Oct. 6th 8:00 p.m.

Three of Chicagoland's finest musicians will be presented in our first Sokol Hall concert of the season. **Jim Craig** has a repertoire that includes ragtime, blues, traditional and original songs with rich vocals. **Lee Murdock** is especially known for his polished and versatile guitar style. He is currently in the process of collecting songs and stories from the Fox Valley and Great Lakes. **Fred Campeau** is best known for his work with the midwest string band the Volo Bogtrotters. Fred is a master of the banjo and fiddle in the old-timey and Cajun styles.

As an added treat, Jim, Lee, and Fred will join up for an old-fashioned song swap at the end of the evening. Admission is \$5 for PRFMS members/\$7 general public. Sokol Hall is located at 3907 Prairie in Brookfield.

Bob Bovee and Gail Heil in Concert

Sat., Nov. 10th 8:00 pm

Bob Bovee and Gail Heil, from Minnesota, are known all through the midwest for the spirit and authenticity of their old-time music. Banjo, guitar, mandolin, dulcimer and great vocals. Opening the show will be special PRFMS guests. Concert at Sokol Hall. Admission: \$5 members/\$7 non-members.

CLOGGING WORKSHOP AND FALL BARNDANCE

The fun begins at 7:00, Saturday night, October 20, with a clogging workshop given by Linda Unger. Linda has been clogging for years, both for the enjoyment and in state wide competitions, and she's eager to share her love for this style of folk dancing with as many people as possible. Clogging encompasses a variety of dance styles, you may recognize a few steps from an Irish jig here or a polka there, but what ties it all together is a sense of fun. (Linda says, "If you're not smiling, you're not clogging.") We'll start out with some basic steps to get everyone moving around the room, and move on to circle dances and mixers toward the end of the workshop. Everything you learn can be put to good use in the barn dance at 8:00, which features the All Volunteer String Band with Cathy Jones on the fiddle and Marianne Mohrhusen as caller. Admission to the dance, at 8:00, is only \$3; workshop + the barn dance is \$4. We hope to see you there! Look for us in the big room at the Two Way Street Coffeehouse, 1047 Curtiss, Downers Grove. (Just a note--Linda suggests avoiding high heeled shoes or boots with heels if you're planning on clogging.)

Fall Events

- Sat., Sept. 15
12:00/2:00 pm Monthly Meeting and Sing-around, Two Way Street Coffeehouse, 1047 Curtiss, Downers Grove.
- Oct. 6 & 7, 1-5 pm Downers Grove Historical Society, Chautauqua 1990, Plank Road performers from 3-4 pm each day. Downers Grove Historical Museum, 831 Maple Ave., Downers Grove. (708) 963-1309
- Sat. Oct. 6, 8 pm Jim Craig, Lee Murdock, and Fred Campeau in Concert Sokol Hall, 3907 Prairie, Brookfield, \$5 members/\$7 non-members.
- Sat. Oct. 20
12:00/2 pm Monthly Meeting and Sing-around, Two Way Street Coffeehouse.
- Sat. Oct. 20
7:00/8:00 pm Clogging Workshop and Fall Barndance, Two Way Street Coffeehouse big room. Workshop & dance, \$4, dance only \$3.
- Sat. Nov. 3, 8 pm House Concert - Mark Dvorak & Marianne Mohrhusen, Jones Family Music Studio in Lombard. Call (708) 916-1356 for reservations.
- Sat. Nov. 10, 8 pm Bob Bovee and Gail Heil in Concert, Opening the show will be special PRFMS guests. Sokol Hall. \$5/\$7.

**** For information on these events, call 387-9312 or 482-8632 ****

Quarter Notes Editor
Lisa Lilly

Cover Art
Dave Martin

Special Thanks to
Dario Fagnani
Marianne Mohrhusen
Dave Reynolds

Two Way Street Celebrates 20th Anniversary

-- Lisa Lilly

On November 16, 1990, the Two Way Street Coffeehouse in Downers Grove, Illinois, will celebrate its 20th anniversary. Last week I had a chance to speak with Dave Humphreys, the coffee house's longtime director, and ask him some questions about the Two Way Street. His answers are summarized below:

Q. How did the coffeehouse begin? What was its initial purpose?

A. The Two Way Street grew out of the turbulent sixties. There was a lot of unrest at the time between kids and adults, a lot going on--Kent State, Viet Nam, the 1968 Democratic Convention. People tended to be nervous whenever they saw two or three teenagers or young adults standing around on a street corner. So a group of high school and adult leaders in the some of the people at the First Congregational Church came up with the idea of starting a coffee house, a place that would be a kind of "neutral ground" where people, both kids and adults, could talk, share their problems, listen to music, try to erase the generation gap. The church was very supportive of the idea.

Q. Was there any negative reaction in the community?

A. Some people were nervous about it, but having church backing helped that, and being on church property. The Two Way Street is now pretty much supported by the whole community of Downers Grove.

Q. Has there always been music at the Two Way Street?

A. Always. The first night we opened a local guitar player and singer named Dee Mahoney performed. We also had some poetry reading over the years, some comedy. We focused mainly on folk music because it was well suited to a small audience and small room, and because there weren't as many venues for that type of music at the time. There were a quite a few coffeehouses in the area when we first talked about opening the Two Way, but by the time we actually started up, in 1970, we were one of the only ones around.

Q. How have things changed over the years?

A. The style of music has changed some. In the early days we had more folk-rock and pop, and now we lean more toward the traditional, though not to the exclusion of other kinds of music. There are a lot more performers now, too. In the beginning we had to pretty much hunt up people to perform and now, though our pay is relatively modest, we have a lot of well known performers calling us. But we always try to keep some slots open for performers who are just starting out. I think that's an important part of what the Two Way Street is.

The make-up and size of our audience has varied, too. We've had time periods when we've been open and had only 10 or 15 people, and there's other times when we've got standing room only crowds every Friday. Originally, our audience was mainly in the 16-20 age group, but now there is quite a diversity. One of the nice things about folk music is its all ages appeal.

Q. How about prices?

- A. When we opened you could get a cup of coffee for a nickel. 10 cents for a can of pop, and 50 cents got you in the door. Now it's \$1, which is not that much more, considering it's twenty years later.

Q. Are there events at the Two Way Streets other than the Friday night concerts?

- A. In our big room, down the hall from the coffee house, we've cosponsored barn dances, and also concerts for local performers. We're also open two week nights, though there's no entertainment, and different community groups have made use of the space to have meetings or just get together. We host open mikes periodically. We also provide sort of an informal referral service for the community, you'll see a lot of notices on our bulletin board for many different support groups and so on, and sometimes we can put people with problems in touch with other people or organizations who can help them.

Q. Who are some of the musicians who have performed at the Two Way Street over the years?

- A. Some pretty well known performers had some of their first jobs at the coffee house. Bryan Daggenhart has played for us every year since we opened. The Wildwood Pickers and Andrew Calhoun performed at the coffee house at the beginning of their careers. Some other names include Lee Murdock, Mike Offut, Diane Ippel, and a lot of Plank Road people: Mark Dvorak, Paul Klowski, Marianne Morhusen, Lisa Lilly and others. We've presented somewhere around 1,000 concerts over the years, plus every year we have a stage at the Downers Grove Heritage Festival.

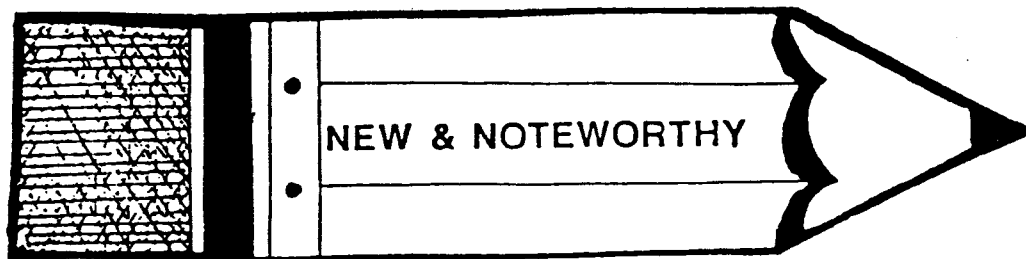
Most of our current performers are professionals, however, as I said before, we always keep in mind that beginners and newer performers also need a place to play. We don't want to lose that emphasis.

Q. You've been the director of the coffee house for the past 20 years. Are there other people who have been involved as long? What are some of the duties you and the staff members handle?

- A. Bob & Margaret Warhus, Eric Nelson, Steve Kolarich, and Midge Bruno have all been on staff as long as I have, which is since the Two Way Street began. In all we have a volunteer staff of roughly 20 people. They staff the counter, the door, set up the room, wash dishes, order supplies. I more or less oversee operations and do most of the bookings, with the advice of the staff. All of these people work very hard and we couldn't keep the coffee house going without them.

Q. What are some factors that contribute to the longevity of the Two Way Street?

- A. The atmosphere is part of it. It's a very comfortable place to perform and to listen to music. It's friendly. The audience is attentive, it's a listening room, but there's also a chance to socialize during the breaks. It's a place where people can feel comfortable showing up by themselves, and they feel free to just keep to themselves or to try to get to know some
(continued on back page)



The Plank Road board of directors: Marianne Mohrhusen president; Charlie Lewis, treasurer; Dave Humphreys, Cathy Jones, Jeff Sands, Rick Rodriguez, Paul Klonowski, directors, Dave Reynolds, director & booking.

There is an opening on the Plank Road board of directors. If you would be interested in joining the board please call Marianne at 387-9312.

Plank Road would like to say a special thank you to Dave Martin for all the beautiful covers he has drawn for the Quarter Notes in the past two years. Thanks Dave!!!

Don't forget, for complete listings of area folk music events, call the "Folk Phone" at 844-3655.

Would you like to contribute to the *Quarter Notes*? Call 447-0556, or type up and send in any items you'd like to submit to: QUARTER NOTES EDITOR, PLANK ROAD FOLK MUSIC SOCIETY, P.O. BOX 283, BROOKFIELD, IL, 60513.

"Down the Old Plank Road," Plank Road's cassette album, is available by mail. Write to PRFMS, P.O. Box 283, Brookfield, IL 60513. Include your check or money order for \$9 per tape (includes \$1 postage).

Help Wanted

Posters -

Do you have a computer? Would you like to get more involved in the Plank Road Folk Music Society? PRFMS needs someone to make up posters for our events.

Quarter Notes Editor

If you have a computer, have good organizational skills, and would like to be in charge of putting together the *Quarter Notes* each season (approximately every 3 months), PRFMS needs you!

Please call Marianne at 387-9312 if you are interested in either of the above positions.

Plank Road would also like to thank everyone who has come out to help at all our concerts, barn dances, and open mikes throughout the year. We couldn't do it without you!

A Note From the Editor

I began editing the Quarter Notes (then the Plank Road News) in the summer of 1986. In the three plus years I've been working on it I've learned a great deal, about writing articles, doing interviews, pasting up, deadlines (especially deadlines), and about working with people. Unfortunately I won't be able to continue putting together the newsletter, though I hope to keep contributing articles, due to my wish to spend more time on my own writing endeavors. I'd like to take a moment to say thanks once more to all the people whose time, support, and efforts have helped get the Quarter Notes off the press on time each season.

It's been fun!



P.S. If you would like to help out on future Quarter Notes issues, please contact Marianne at 387-9312.

KEEPING UP WITH THE JONES'

The Jones Family Music Studio in Lombard is a rich resource for the local folk community. The Jones offer private and group lessons. This fall they are also continuing their harmony singing class and have organized a folk chorus, the East Hickory Minstrels, for graduates. The Minstrels practice every Saturday afternoon and perform with the Jones Family Band. If you're interested in lessons or classes, call the Jones at (708) 916-1356.

Also, you can see the Jones Family Band and Friends performing on the following dates: **Sept. 9:** Illinois Valley Traditional Music Festival, noon to 7 pm, Gebhart Woods in Morris Illinois. See the Jones at about 3 pm. **Oct. 7:** Kline Creek Harvest Fest, hymn singing 10 am, square dance & jam session 1:30-4. Kline Creek Farm, County Farm Road between St. Charles and Geneva Roads. **Oct. 13-14:** Scarecrow Festival, 1:30-4:30. St. Charles. **Dec. 21:** Two Way Street Coffee House, 8:30 pm, Christmas Concert. **Dec. 22:** Maple Street in Lombard, 7 pm.

Call the Jones for more information on these events!

Two Way Street -- continued from page 5

of the other people there. It's inexpensive. And we have a lot of support from the music community, organizations like the Plank Road Society, and the performers themselves, and from our audience, and staff members. And, of course, from the First Congregational Church.

Q. Any thoughts on the future of the Two Way Street?

A. The future. Well, I think the challenge will be to preserve the small, intimate atmosphere. There's sometimes pressure to become more "professional," to concentrate on big name performers, to move to a larger room. But part of our purpose is to stay local, to provide the kind of atmosphere we've just been talking about. A place that's friendly and inexpensive. I hope we can keep that in mind and just hang on as the interest in this type of place and music comes and goes over the next 20 years.

Q. Any last thoughts?

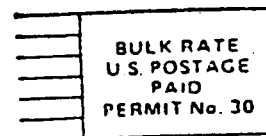
A. I'd just like to say that all of us involved in the coffee house help out because we want to give, but we get a lot back, too, and that's why we keep doing it. It really is a Two Way Street.



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Plank Road Folk Music Society