

Quarter Notes

Volume 22 Issue 3

Summer 2004

Plank Road's

Regular Events:

- <u>SING-A-ROUND</u> 1st & 3rd Saturdays. June 19, July 3 & 17, August 7 & 21. September 4 & 18
- DANCE BAND PRACTICE
 2nd Saturdays. Resumes September 11
- <u>BLUEGRASS JAM</u> 4th Saturdays. June 26 cancelled due to Heritage Festival– resumes July 24, August 28 and September 25
- LAST THURSDAY: "It's Our <u>Turn!"</u> Last Thursdays. June 24, August 26, September 23
- Music By The Yard: June 27, July 31, August 21, September (open-needs a host)
- Go to www.plankroad.org for full details!

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Help us celebrate over 20 years of Folk, Traditional and Acoustic music in the Western Suburbs!!

<u>PRMS, Two Way Street and Downers Grove Sponsors</u> Heritage Festival's Folk Music Festival June 26

The 21st annual Heritage Festival Folk Music Festival is set for Saturday June 26, from 10:00 am until 5:00 pm in Fishel Park - just behind the coffee house. Here's the lineup:

10am & 1:20pm BOB PATNAUDE Energetic folk/pop & originals (with Rob Anderlik)
10:20am & 1:00pm AMY LOWE & DAVE KATZMAN Dramatic original songs & guitar
10:40am & 2:40pm JONES FAMILY Our first family of folk
11:00am & 1:40pm MURIEL ANDERSON with THOM BRESH Acclaimed guitarists
11:20am & 2:20pm MICHAEL MCNEVIN Fun songs of interesting people
11:40am & 3:40pm COOPER, NELSON & EARLY Strong old music & bad jokes
12:00pm & 3:20pm DENNIS WARNER Top notch songwriting, crafty wit
12:20pm & 3:00pm SWING BLVD Cool songs of the 20's, 30's, 40's
12:40pm & 4:00pm GREG KLYMA Upbeat songs about important stuff
2:00pm & 4:20pm CALICO Great guitars, vocals, songwriting
4:40pm to 4:50pm Closing Sing-a-long

Most of these artists have played at the Two Way Street, and it promises to be an exciting and fun-filled day of great music! The event is free. Plank Road will be operating a CD sales and information tent, so plan on taking some of this music home with you! Heritage Festival is a popular three-day street fair featuring seven entertainment stages (rock, classical, jazz, blues, country, cajun, swing, Latin and other great music), amusements and 70 food booths! Something for everyone!

See the information on the back of the enclosed Two Way Street flyer for additional information, including Tom & Steve Chapin's Tribute to Harry Chapin! For more information, call 630-434-5555, or visit the Heritage Festival Webpage at http://visitor.vil. downers grove.il.us/fest/.

<u>The Website</u>

Yup, Changed Again– Bigger & Better

What is turning rapidly into a second job for your webmaster is slowly turning into a wonderful resource for the PRFMS community, we hope! Art Thieme, Steve Moss, Skip Landt, Mark Dvorak and Dave Reynolds (in his guise as your President) are all publishing regular "web columns" for your enjoyment. We've added a member's only area for want-ads, for sale, need someone to play with sort of ads. Our links are up for grabs and we'd like your help– you're surfing anyway, need not know a thing about HTML and need only spend an hour or two a month sharing links with your PRFMS brothers and sisters on a topic of interest or passion! We're thinking about putting renewals and new memberships up in cyberspace and we always appreciate your comments and suggestions. Point your browser to http://www.plankroad.org!





Goin' Down The Old Plank Road

Greetings to All,

We welcome you to the first stage of a major revision to our web site (www.plankroad.org). The new design and content marks the beginning of an exciting and ambitious project we hope you will use and support.

The new content includes columns by some of our favorite musicians including Art Thieme, Mark Dvorak, Skip Landt and Steve Moss. We will be setting up areas for specific musical interests such as bluegrass, Irish, and Old Time. We are looking for volunteers to contribute ideas, content and links for these areas. Contact Scot Witt at scotwitt@wideopenwest.com or (630) 717-8226 if you're interested in giving us a hand.

We are also creating areas for short reviews of concerts and recordings from PRFMS members and a members-only bulletin board. We want our web site to provide a gateway for you and others who have an interest in the world of acoustic music. We encourage you to tell friends and neighbors about the web site . We would especially like to encourage you and your friends to be a part of our community by joining the Plank Road Folk Music Society and our efforts to preserve and enhance acoustic music.

I leave you with an excerpt from an interview with Robin & Linda Williams from the Summer 2004 issue of *Sing Out!* I think Linda captures the thoughts of many of us.

"You know. We've been doing this (playing music) for over 30 years, you'd think we'd understand it by now. But this music is such a wealth, we'll never know it all. So you just chip away, follow where you're led. We're feeling like we're just starting to understand how it works, just figuring out how to sing, how to work a song, just now having the little light bulbs go on. But the mystery never goes away. It's a deep, deep well."

See you down the Old Plank Road, —Dave Reynolds

Wolftrap? Nyaah- Wolf Road!

Plank Roaders', listen up! August 14th and 15th we're all invited to jam under the official PRFMS canopy and enjoy Arts On The Prairie! Hours are 10 am to 4 pm both days. Grab your instruments, tune up your voice, grab a bottle of water and jam, visit and enjoy!

We'll have plenty of time to enjoy everyone's favorite tunes along with arts & crafts, plants, tours and 'other stuff.' Bring a chair and your music!

The PRFM tent will be located on the Prairie's North end — first left off Wolf Road, North of 31st Street in Westchester.

PLANK ROAD MEMBERSHIP & ORDER FORM			
Cut out the order form and send to address below. Please make checks payable to the Plank Road Folk Music Society Post Office Box 386, Downers Grove, IL 60515		*Please include \$1.50 shipping/handling for t-shirt	
		Total Order: \$	
Memberships l'	m interested in helping with:		
_	_	Total Postage*: \$	
\$10 for 1 year/Individual	Events (ticket sales, concessions, set- up, take down, hosting, etc)	Traditional to the	
\$20 for 1 year/Family	Workshops, Community Appearances, Sing A Rounds	Total Enclosed: \$	
Other:	Nitty Gritty: Promotion, Publicity, Finance, Archive		
PRFMS T-shirt: \$12 each	PRFMS T-shirt: \$12 each	Name	
(Yellow/Orange Logo)	(Blue/Purple Logo)	Address	
M Yellow/Orange	M Blue/Purple		
L Yellow/Orange	L Blue/Purple		
XL Yellow/Orange	XL Blue/Purple		
	-	Email	
I would like my Quarter Notes sent to me:	By regular mail	Phone	
Don't bother, I'll take it off the website	Email and regular mail		
·	By e-mail		

OUARTER NOTES

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What's Playin'?

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Summertime is here and the windows are open so I can serenade my neighbors with the sounds of my CD collection. So what's my neighborhood listening to?

Doc Watson & David Holt, Legacy

A Grammy award winning recording for the best traditional folk recording. Three CDs of newly recorded conversation and song, as well as a 72-page companion book filled with historical photos, stories and interviews from Doc Watson and his longtime friend and collaborator, David Holt. The next best thing to having Doc in my living room

John Doyle, Evening Comes Early

John is an former member of the Irish group Solas and an extraordinary guitar player. This recording includes John singing accompanied by Chicago musicians Liz Carroll and John Williams. A good companion to pint of Guinness.

John Cephas & Phil Wiggins, Flip, Flop & Fly

A 1992 recording of Piedmont bluesmen from Washington, D.C. You'll feel like you're in a New Orleans jam session. A good quote from John Cephas: "The only difference between gospel and blues is the subject matter- the music and progressions are the same."

What are your favorites? We would like to post mini reviews on our web site and include some of them in future *Quarter Notes* issues. You can send them via the web site at www.plankroad.org or through snail mail at PRFMS, PO Box 386, Downers Grove, IL 60515.

—Dave Reynolds



Mark Dvorak's Regular Practice

If you haven't been up to the PRFMS webpage in the last few weeks, and you want to learn how to play guitar from an expert at your own pace, you're missing out! Recording Artist, Folksinger and one of the PRFMS' founders, Mark Dvorak, is providing on-line lessons! FREE!!! Just to share the music and a few things he's picked up along the way. Mark's got an entire series of tips, techniques, lessons, and pointers set up for you! And, he's only a quick e-mail away for questions! It doesn't get any better than this! Head up to www.plankroad.org, click the Columns button and Mark's smilin' face to get started!



<u>Art Thieme-Master Folk Artist</u> The Unreconstructed Folksinger

(Editor's Note: Art originally wrote this column for Come For To Sing in July 1982 (Vol. 8 #3). Art says he's changed it some and we've condensed it a bit to encourage you to read the whole thing on-line at www.plankroad.org as well accessing the link that will allow you to see the world Art lives in– through photographs.)

Nostalgia, art, the creative process, photography, folk music---Here are a few thoughts from a windy night.

Sometimes I think that 90% of all art must be inspired by nostalgia. Time, change, the wrecker's ball, and the urban planners architectural dreams all conspire to rip our most treasured people and places from our grasp. Life is a series of events, a succession of happenings that we lock into our minds the way a camera freezes an instant in time. Some of these instances are quite important to us, and we both dread and savor the bitter sweetness of their eventual decay. We watch the leaves bloom and fall. We watch our own faces change in the mirror. We snap photos and write songs that hold onto those special times in our lives We paint pictures, we write plays, we sculpt, we write poetry and novels.

We set it all down so others might see the "truth" of those things we hold to be important. (It never seems to work out quite that way, does it?) We all feel we know the "true" point of view, and I suspect we'll all come on pretty strong when defending these concepts, because those are the attitudes we know best. Our passions will rule us, and, in the heat of the moment, with the best of intentions, we'll push so very hard that, miraculously, we turn our convictions into art. Amazing!

Lately, photography has become increasingly important to me. I have found great satisfaction in composing a photo, aiming my camera, and coming away with a small piece of the beauty of this world. I limit myself usually to a relatively small 35-mm camera and slide film. That way I must compose the picture on the spot--right in the viewfinder of the camera. What you see is what you get. There is no possibility of cropping out what you don't like later in the dark-room. The art of the thing is done the instant you click the shutter. (AN ASIDE: Photoshop, digital cameras, and compu-photography is still 25 years in the future.)

Music By The Yard

June 27th:

First session at Scot & Peggy Witt's house in North Naperville on June 27th, which is much nicer and easier to find than Reynolds' place near Back Of The Yards in DG. (630) 717-8226 or scotwitt@ wideopenwest.com for reservations. We're buying USDA inspected meat, beer and soft drink brands you'll recognize. We're not offering cheese whiz or popsicles like our Downers brethren's sleazy attempts at popularity. Additions to the buffet table are welcome. We're also gonna keep it simple- great friends, good music and great fun!

July 31rst:

5:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m at the home of Dave and Barb Reynolds—Reservations: 630-964-0305 or email plankroad@ameritech.net

- We'll provide hotdogs and cheese quesadillas, please bring something along for a potluck table, salads, munchies, etc.
- "Seedy Box". Bring an acoustic CD you no longer want wrapped in an old newspaper. We'll throw it into our "seedy box" and you can pick out a different one.
- "Cicada Songwriting Contest". We encourage you to write a song about these wonderful creatures and perform for us in this timely event. We won't be doing this again for 17 years. There will be an exciting prize for the best song.
- "Make Your Own Sundae". We'll provide the fixin's for a great dessert including the ever-popular "Cicada Crunch" topping.
- Sing-around & Jam. It's going to be a full moon and the night wouldn't be complete without the dulcet tones of guitars, banjos, fiddles, mandolins, whistles, harmonicas and howling at the moon.



<u>Steve Moss' New Column</u> Song Writing: Yes, You Can!

Do you wish you could write your own songs? Well, you can. It's not hard once you get started. If you can sing and play a few chords on a guitar or other instrument, you can learn to write songs.

Heck, you don't even need the instrument.

Afraid you're not creative enough? Creativity is not a magic power that only some are born with. It's a muscle that is undeveloped in most people because they don't know they have it. You're not uncreative. You're merely out of shape. I don't mean songwriting is as easy as tying shoes. You'll need to learn about chords, scales, and other songwriting tools. If you don't know these things, I'll show you.

Still with me? Great! As we begin please consider four guidelines which have served me well:

Believe in yourself. You don't need to write songs to be a songwriter. You need to be a songwriter to write songs. Are you a golfer when you arrive on the green with club in hand, or only after you've played a game or two? Say this to yourself: "I am a songwriter." Say it often throughout each day. You don't need a license. You just need to believe.

Give yourself permission to fail. "This Land is Your Land" took a few drafts to get right. Don't be afraid to write a bad song. If you berate yourself for doing lousy work or censor your ideas too quickly, you will stop getting ideas.

Write with your audience in mind. All songs are written to be shared. Think of your audience while you're writing. Do your lyrics make sense? If you find yourself constantly having to explain them, you need to work harder at communicating.

Learn the rules before you break them. Artists break rules, but they know what rules they are breaking. Learn the fundamentals. Break rules only when you have outgrown them.

We Folk Music lovers are do-it-yourselfers. We learn to sing and play our own instruments. We can learn to write our own songs as well. Stick around. I'll show you how.

<u>Editor's Note:</u> Steve will show you how to write songs in condensed columns here in the Quarter Notes as well as in his more regular and expanded web column at www.plankroad.org. Steve also gave us permission to access his songwriting newsletter archives which we'll also post to the website when we get a chance!

2004-2005 OId Time Dance Party Dates Set

The 2004-2005 Old Time Dance Party dates are set! They are:

November 6, 2004

January 29, 2005 March 12, 2005

Mark your calendars because we'd like to see you, your family and several neighbors at each one!



Kindlin' Wood

Join Skip Landt every month or so at www.plankroad.org. Skip teaches harmonica at the Old Town School of Folk and seminars throughout the region. This month, Skip remembers Fred Holstein and (like all of our columnists) we keep the back issues on a click or two away! Skip plays mouth harp and guitar and is constantly on the search for additions to his huge list of folk music resources. This is a column you'll want to keep on eye on! Skip Landt, <u>only</u> at www. plankroad.org!



Post Office Box 386 Downers Grove, IL 60515

PRFMS Contacts:

General Questions: Cathy Jones, (630) 889-9121 e-mail: cathy@jonesfamilymusic.com

Quarter Notes/www.plankroad.org Questions: Scot Witt, (630) 717-8226 e-mail at scotwitt@wideopenwest.com

Plank Road Folk Music Society

Dave Reynolds, President Cathy Jones, Immediate Past President Troy LeValley, Vice President Scot Witt, Secretary, publicity, website Carol Sommer, Treasurer Jeanne Halama, Board Member Dave Humphreys, Board Member Charles Lewis, Board Member Marianne Mohrhusen, Board Member Jennifer Shilt, Board Member Denise Davis, Volunteer Coordinator George Mattson, Singarounds Paul Vander Woude, Bluegrass Jams

Information on Local Folk Organizations



Plank Road Folk Music Society, PO Box 386, Downers Grove, IL 60515. (630)889-9121 or (708) 442-0823 Web: www.plankroad.org

Two Way Street Coffee House 1047 Curtiss St., Downers Grove, IL 60515. (630)969-9720 Website: www.twowaystreet.org

Jones Family Music Studio, Lombard. (630)916-1356. Web: www.jonesfamilymusic.com

Maple Street Chapel, Main & Maple, Lombard, 60148. (630)629-2630 or (630)964-4871 Web: www.tccafe.com/msc Acoustic Renaissance Concerts Unitarian Church of Hinsdale. (708) 802-0236 Web: www.acousticren.com

Folk Lore Center & Acorn Coffee Bar, 29W140 Butterfield Rd, POB 762, Warrenville, IL 60555. (630)393-1247 Website: www.

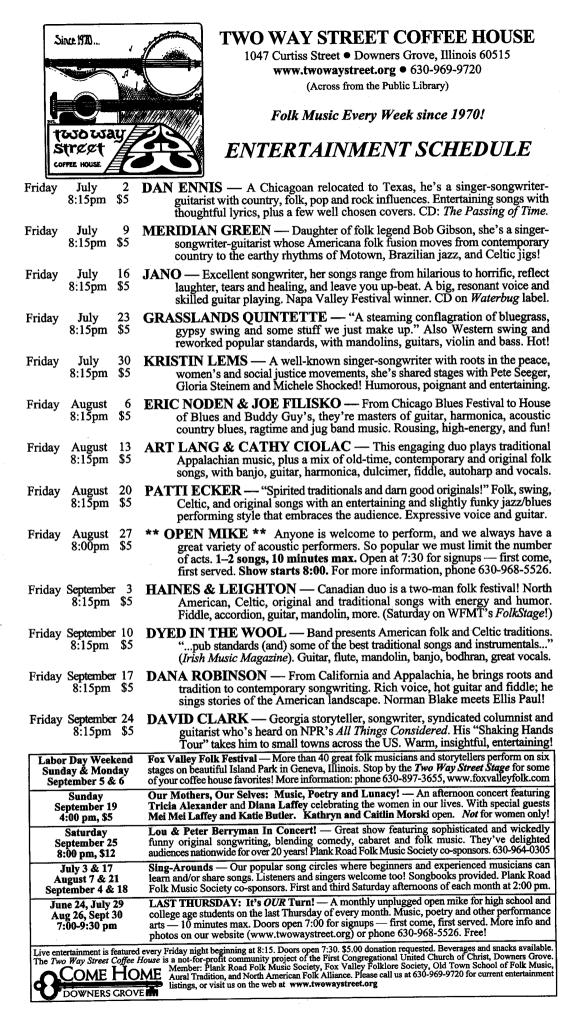
Woodstock Folk Music/Festival (815)338-4245 Website: www.woodstockfolkmusic.com

Fox Valley Folklore Society, 755 N Evanslawn Ave, Aurora, IL 60506 (630)897-3655. Web: www.FoxValleyFolk. com

Warrenville Folk Music Society, POB 248, Warrenville IL 60555 (630)717-8495 e-mail: Warrenvillefolk@aol.com Lake County Folk Club, Box 847, Mundelein, IL 60060, (847)949-5355

HANDS (Hammers & Noters Dulcimer Society), Box 181, Morris, IL 60450(708)331-6875 Web: www.gwdf.org South Suburban Dulcimer & Folk Music Society, P.O. Box 455, Park Forest, IL 60466. (708)756-3857

Tune in to "Folk Festival" with George Brown Tuesdays 7 to 9 PM and "Strictly Bluegrass" with Larry Robinson Wednesdays 7 to 9 PM on **WDCB**, **Public Radio from College of DuPage**. WDCB presents many other fine folk programs, as well as jazz, classical, reggae, opera, and news and information. For a program guide, call (630) 942-4200.





SATURDAY, JUNE 26 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM Fishel Park (Curtiss Street, behind coffee house) Muriel Anderson & Thom Bresh • Calico Cooper, Nelson & Early • The Jones Family • Greg Klyma Amy Lowe & Dave Katzman • Michael McNevin Bob Patnaude • Swing Blvd • Dennis Warner

> FRIDAY, JUNE 25 4:30 - 6:00 PM South Stage (Main Street, South of Maple) Dennis Stroughmatt & Creole Stomp

SUNDAY, JUNE 27 8:30 - 10:00 PM Fishel Park Band Shell Tom & Steve Chapin: A Tribute to Harry Chapin

All events are free and take place in downtown Downers Grove In case of rain, Saturday's Fishel Park Folk Stage moves into the coffee house — 1047 Curtiss Presented by the Two Way Street Coffee House, Plank Road Folk Music Society and Heritage Festival

Don't miss these additional Heritage Festival shows: Midwest Ballet Theatre presents Peter Pan — Friday, Saturday, Sunday, 1:30 pm, Tivoli Theatre West End Jazz Band — Friday, 7:00 pm, Tivoli Theatre • The Chenille Sisters — Saturday, 7:00 pm, Tivoli Theatre Mojo and the Bayou Gypsies — Saturday, 9:00 pm, South Stage • DuPage Symphony Orchestra — Sunday, 12:30 pm, Fishel Park Three Men in Kilts — Sunday, 12:30 pm, Beer Garden Stage • Orquesta Ranura — Sunday, 5:00 pm, South Stage and many other great performers on six stages — something for everyone!