

QUARTER NOTES

Winter '89~'90



Mon., Dec. 18 Christmas Caroling

This year's caroling party will begin at 7 p.m at the Two Way Street Coffee House in Downers Grove. Christmas songbooks will be provided by the Jones Family Music Studio, and refreshments will be available afterward at the coffee house. Dress warm, bring a flashlight, and enjoy an evening of music, good friends, and holiday cheer!

CONCERT UPDATE

Doug & Bonnie Issacson-Miller & Shinobu Sato

Sat., Jan. 13*

Doug & Bonnie Issacson-Miller perform old-time songs with rare authenticity. Rock solid vocal harmonies and delightful guitar, banjo, and autoharp accompaniments. Traditional songs and songs from groups like the Carter Family, gospel songs and traditional music of Illinois that they have collected from the central and southern parts of the state. Doug is the director of the Libertyville School of Folk and Old Time Music.

Sharing the bill with Doug & Bonnie: Shinobu will be performing songs from his recently released album "Red Dragonfly." His sophisticated fingerpicking and rich warm arrangements of a wide variety of tunes will make this a night to remember. The tunes range from traditional Irish pieces to folk, ragtime, classical, and traditional Japanese tunes. Bring a friend and share with them a well rounded and entertaining evening of acoustic music.

The Volo Bogtrotters

Sat., Feb. 10

"The Volos" are one of the finest string bands in the midwest, and little wonder since they get plenty of practice playing barndances several times a week! (They are regular performers for Chicago Barn Dance Co. dances). The old-time great string bands probably didn't work as much as these guys, and the practice has paid off. This is old-time music at its finest and they'll even throw in a few Cajun and novelty songs, then play you a waltz when it's time to go.

Liz Carroll & Jim Dewan

Sat., March 10

Liz Carroll is one of the best known Irish fiddlers in the country, and we are lucky to have her right here in Chicago. Liz has won the All Ireland Fiddle Championship twice, has 3 albums to her credit, and works with many of the finest Irish performers on concert and recording work. This weekend she will be playing with Jim Dewan (of Ripe for the Pickin' and solo performing fame), who is known far and near for his blazing guitar work.

The Hapless Creatures of Quiet Desperation will open the show featuring traditional and contemporary music of the U.S. and the British Isles, with concertina, fiddle, mandolin, guitar, and bass.

*All concerts at Sokol Hall in Brookfield at 8 pm. Doors open at 7:30, admission is \$5 for members, \$7 non-members. Refreshments available. 387-9312 for more information on Plank Road Events.

Plank Road Barn Dance

Come out and join the fun at our winter barn dance on Feb. 24. Music will be provided by the ever-popular All Volunteer String Band (bring your instrument if you'd like to play). Our caller will be Plank Road's own Marianne Mohrhussen, and she'll take us through the dances step-by-step, so don't worry about knowing how to dance before you get there. Admission is \$3, kids under 12 free, and the doors open at 8 p.m. Come to the Two Way Street big room. Hope to see you there!

PLANK ROAD MEETING/SINGAROUND SCHEDULE

Sat., Dec. 16 at 2 pm Plank Road singaround \$1 donation	Jones Family Music Studio 36 E. Hickory, Lombard (916-1356)
Mon., Dec. 18 at 7 pm Christmas Caroling	Two Way Street Coffee House (969-9720)
Sat., Jan. 20 at 1 pm Annual Membership Meeting at 1:00 with storyteller at 2 pm --singaround to follow!	Two Way Street Coffee House
Sat., Feb. 17 at noon/2 pm Plank Road meeting/singaround \$1 for singaround	Two Way Street Coffee House
Sat., Feb. 24 at 8 pm Barn Dance \$3 adults, kids under 12 free	Two Way Street Coffee House (in large room)
Sat., March 17 at 2 pm Plank Road singaround \$1 donation	Two Way Street Coffee House
Sat. April 21st at noon/2 pm Plank Road meeting/singaround \$1 for singaround	Two Way Street Coffee House

Thanks again to Dave Martin for the beautiful cover art for this Quarter Notes issue!

Folk Traditions -- Doug & Bonnie Issacson-Miller

Folk music, Doug Miller says, is an approach to playing music, a process, a way of doing things which includes an understanding of folk traditions. He and his wife, Bonnie Issacson-Miller, will be performing at Sokol Hall on January 13. They have been playing music together for fifteen years, and they have tried to instill a sense of tradition in all of their performances.

Both Doug and Bonnie started playing instruments at the age of 9 or 10, and became especially interested in folk music during the revival of it in the sixties. Since then they have dedicated much of their time to performing, researching, and presenting folk and old time music. Doug sites his family background as part of the reason for his love of this kind of music. His grandfather, like Doug, was a fiddler, and also performed in a shape-note singing quartet around the turn of the century. Bonnie, too, has memories of music that her grandparents played.

The duo's harmony singing is one of the highlights of their concerts, however, they are both talented instrumentalists, performing with the guitar, banjo, autoharp, and fiddle. The majority of the songs in their repertoire

are over 50 years old, and they try to share some of the history behind them with their audiences. They also perform original songs, written by Doug, which deal with the details and experiences of small town and farming life and which Doug tries to instill with an old-time feel. One of his songs, Fertile Ground, was recorded by Midwest performer Lee Murdock, also a Plank Road favorite.

The Issacson-Millers perform most often at historical societies and museums, places where they can share some of the country's heritage along with their music. In 1984 the Illinois Tourist Bureau sent them to the World's Fair in New Orleans, where they presented a program of folk music in Illinois. The element of regionalism is an important one to Doug, who says that originally folk music was handed down within a community, and musicians performed material drawn from their specific geographic region. Today, however, with the wide-spread availability of information on all cultures and the relative ease of travel, musicians and performers can draw from many communities, bringing together songs from all over the world.

While folk music is no longer restricted to a

certain area for each performer, Doug and Bonnie both feel that a musician must keep a sense of each song's background, must understand the spirit of the music and the way of life it comes from, not just learn the notes and sing the words, but believe in them.


In addition to playing music, Doug is the director of the Libertyville School of Folk and Old Time Music, which he and Bonnie started fifteen years ago. The school is dedicated to presenting and perpetuating music, and presents concerts, barn dances, and open stages, and is part of the David Adler Cultural Center, which also exhibits visual arts and fine arts. As part of his position as director Doug also does field work and documentation, collecting songs from different ethnic communities and presenting musicians from ethnic traditions in an attempt to enrich the folk music community. His efforts toward this end also extend to the Illinois Folk Music Conference, which he has organized and run for the past several years.

The conference, held at the Dixon Mounds, brings together musicians and presenters of folk music for a two-day gathering where they can pool information and share songs. Its goals are to recognize Illinois traditions in music and to share experiences, so

that folk communities can learn from each other's successes and mistakes, and discuss ways of supporting folk music and presenting it to the public.

Doug and Bonnie live in Spring Grove, Illinois, about 20 miles from the Libertyville school, and have three children ages 5, 7, and 10.

--Lisa Lilly




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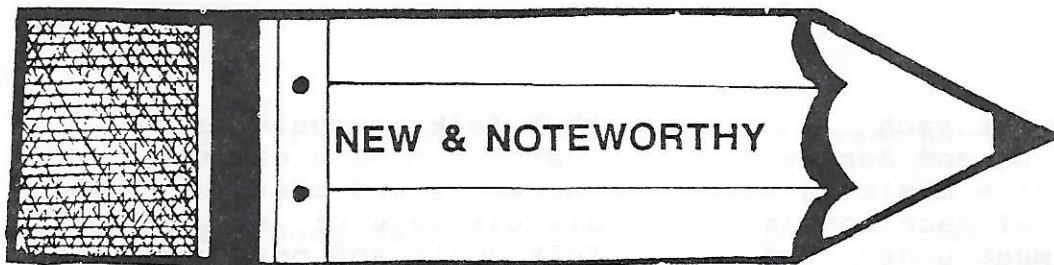
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Plank Road is looking for a volunteer to lead our monthly singarounds. If you think you might be interested please contact Marianne at 387-9312.

Congratulations to our just married friends Benny & Cathy and Marcia Heminger & Paul Michals. We'd also like to congratulate Paul & Molly and Jeff & Marilyn on their engagements, and Maurice & Kim Smeets on their new baby boy, Joe!

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, 60513-0283. We do our best to include any material sent to us, space permitting. You can also sent any comments or

suggestions about the *Quarter Notes* to this address.

Ad space in the *Quarter Notes* is available. Call 447-0556 for details, or write to the P.O. Box. We now have 300 members who are waiting to hear about you or your business!

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

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

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

Rosalie Sorrels will be appearing at the College of DuPage on the 18th and 19th of January. Call the college for de-tails.



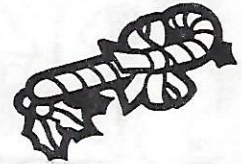
"UP HERE EVERY THING IS PERFECT. YOUR GUITAR NEVER NEEDS TUNING"

Maple Street Chapel Christmas Concert

The Jones Family and Friends will present an evening of Christmas music at 7 pm at the Maple Street Chapel (Maple & Main in Lombard). The concert will be on Dec. 16, and there is no set admission fee, instead there will be a free will offering. For more information call 916-1356.

The Jones' will also be presenting a Christmas concert at the Two Way Street on Dec. 22 (see Two Way schedule for more information) and are planning several house concerts after the holidays. In late January they will feature Rural Post Bluegrass Band, and also hope to present an open mike and a songwriters' workshop and/or concert. If you think you might be interested in participating in or performing at this last, please contact Tom Jones at 916-1356.

And don't forget, at the Jones Family Music Studio classes are offered in almost every stringed instrument available, as are private lessons.



Puzzle It Out

Can you solve these puzzles? Some of them have to do with music and songs, others with day to day life. There's even a few Christmas ones thrown in. Just follow the example below. The answers appear on page ____.

Puzzle: 12 = M. in the Y.
Answer: 12 = months in the year

- 1) 24 = H. in a D.
- 2) 88 = K. on a P.
- 3) 5 = S. on a F.S.B.
- 4) 12 = D. of C.
- 5) 5 = D. in a Z.C.
- 6) 8 = N. in an O.
- 7) 32 = D.F. at which W.F.
- 8) 3 = W.M. followed the N.S.
- 9) 5 = G.R.
- 10) 3 = B.M. (S.H.T.R.)

1) 24 hours in a day; 2) 88 keys on a piano; 3) 5 strings on a five string banjo; 4) 12 days of Christmas; 5) 5 digits in a zip code; 6) 8 notes in an octave; 7) 32 degrees Fahrenheit at which water freezes; 8) 3 wise men followed the North Star; 9) 5 gold rings; 10) 3 blind mice (see how they run)

Coming Up This Spring!!

Sat., April 28

Josh White, Jr.

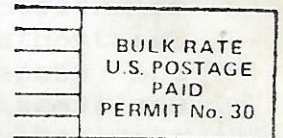
Josh White, Jr. has appeared at some of the finest concert halls throughout the U.S. and at virtually every important folk and jazz festival in Europe and North America. Join us for this very special event!



Happy Holidays !!



*P.O. Box 283
Brookfield, Illinois
60513*



Plank Road Folk Music Society



Dave Humphreys Two Way Street
1047 Curtiss
Downers Grove IL 60515



Two Way Street Coffee House
 1047 CURTISS STREET • 708-969-9720
 DOWNERS GROVE, ILLINOIS 60515
 (Across from the Public Library)

OUR 20TH YEAR!

ENTERTAINMENT SCHEDULE

- Friday December 1 **KAREN JORDAN** -- Karen returns presenting warm and refreshing originals and contemporary folk with a country and blues flavor. With mountain dulcimer, mandolin and guitar.
- Friday December 8  **** OPEN MIKE **** Another of our popular sessions where anyone is welcome to perform, and we always have a great variety of excellent performers. If YOU would like to try our stage on for size, call Dave (968-5526 or 573-7586) or just show up!
- Friday December 15 **PRIVATEER** -- Tom and Chris Kastle feature traditional and original maritime songs of the Great Lakes. Vocals with guitar, mandolin, bazouki, concertina, tin whistle and more!
- Friday December 22  **CHRISTMAS SHOW WITH THE JONES FAMILY** -- Enrich your Christmas season with a wonderful evening featuring Anne, Tom, Cathy and their guest musicians. Be ready to sing along!
- Friday December 29 **JOHN KLONOWSKI** -- John (yes, he's Paul's brother!) comes to us from Durham, NC, and presents old blues and ragtime ala Gary Davis and John Hurt. Excellent guitar work. Vocals too!
- Friday January 5 **PETE NORMAN'S 5TH ANNUAL POST-CHRISTMAS BLUES FEST!** It's a tradition! Great blues, folk and fun songs accented by some great guitar rags. Fiddle too!
- Friday January 12 **KATHY FOLKERT** -- New to our stage, Kathy has a clear-voiced, simple acoustic style, presenting an eclectic mix of folk and gospel ranging from Irish ballads to bluegrass. Guitar.
- Friday January 19 **THE HAPLESS CREATURES OF QUIET DESPERATION** -- Great new group featuring traditional and contemporary music of the US and the British Isles, with concertina, fiddle, mandolin, guitar and bass. A great name, and an even greater sound!
- Friday January 26 **RANDY HARVEY** -- Heard recently on our open mike, Randy now offers his own show of mellow blues and folk styles, including many original songs. Vocals with guitar.
- Friday February 2 **COMPASS ROSE** -- Cliff Long and Ed McHugh present traditional music and stories of Britain, Ireland and early America with guitar, mandolin, concertina, hurdy-gurdy, bagpipes & more!
- Friday February 9 **RON HINES** -- Heard recently at our Open Mike, Ron is a singer-songwriter featuring contemporary folk, country and original songs. Serious, satirical and fun songs with guitar.
- Friday February 16 **LARRY PENN** -- An outstanding songwriter, his songs have been recorded by Pete Seeger, Claudia Schmidt and others. Having spent 30 years as a truck driver, he writes from experience of truckers, railroaders, hoboes and more with wit and class.
- Friday February 23 **CHRIS GAYLORD & FRIENDS** -- A unique set titled "An Alaskan Log Cabin Night" features songs and readings of mining, fishing and logging; and a set of traditional and contemporary folk.
- Friday March 2 **MICHAEL MILES** -- Ass't Director of the Old Town School, Mike's music ranges from fingerstyle jazz guitar to terrific banjo. Pete Seeger says of his new album: "Beautiful -- it's enough to make me want to learn to play the banjo all over again!"
-
- Saturdays December 16* **MONTHLY SING-AROUNDS** -- Our popular song circles where
 January 20 beginners and experienced musicians can learn and/or share
 February 17 songs. Listeners and singers welcome too! \$2:00 PM \$1.00
- *Dec. 16 Sing-Around will be held at the Jones Family Music Studio, 36 E. Hickory, Lombard. 916-1356
-
- Monday December 18 **CHRISTMAS CAROLING** -- Join us at 7:00 to go caroling, then return for refreshments and fellowship. (Bring flashlights)
-
- Saturday February 24 **BARN DANCE!!** Kick up your heels to the old-time music of our
 \$3.00 All-Volunteer String Band. Fun for the whole family!
 Caller provided and dances taught. Or just listen! 8:00 PM

Watch From the Two Way Street Coffee House on DGTV,
 Downers Grove Cable Television Channel 29, Mondays at 7:30 PM.

The Two Way Street Coffee House is a not-for-profit community project of the First Congregational Church of Downers Grove, and is open to the public every Monday, Tuesday and Friday night at 8:00. Live entertainment is featured each Friday beginning at 8:45. \$1.00 donation requested Fridays. Refreshments available. Member: Plank Road Folk Music Society, Fox Valley Folklore Society and Aural Tradition.

Call FolkPhone at TGI-FOLK (708-844-3655) for complete Chicago-area folk music listings.

*A special Merry Christmas
to our Plank Road Friends:*

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Group Lessons: 3 or more people, one hour lessons, 6 weeks, \$40.

Special discount coupon for Plank Road Members.

If we receive your check by January 1, this coupon is worth \$5⁰⁰ off the regular price

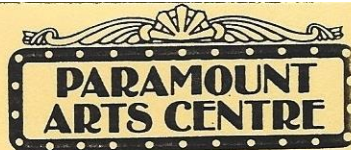
Name: _____
Address: _____
Phone: _____

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- I would like to register for lessons in: _____ (specify instrument).
 I would like to start Harmony Singing Class Sat., Jan. 13, 1 PM.



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