

# QUARTER NOTES

NEWSLETTER OF THE PLANK ROAD FOLK MUSIC SOCIETY/SPRING 1991

IN CONCERT at SOKOL HALL  
3907 Prairie, Brookfield

## THE BERRYMAN'S



SATURDAY, APRIL 13 8 PM

"These two are funny, and the satire carries the bite of truth as well. Whether they're taking on socio-politics of technological progress, their whimsical, off-the-wall observations touch just the right chord. This is fun stuff."

--St. Paul Pioneer Press

"Their insights are more keen, their images more powerful, their topics more interesting, their music more musical and their humor more funny than anyone I've seen in a long time. They are a delight to watch!"

--Michael Cooney, Sing Out!

"Listening to them is like having your tummy tickled by your Uncle Fred!"--Philadelphia Inquirer.

"We can't wait!"

--Plank Road Folk Music Society

Tickets: \$7 general public/\$5 members (become a member at the door and receive discount!). 708/387-9312.



### MORE EVENTS:

Saturday, March 23, 4pm--MODEL RAILROAD SHOW. LT High School, North Campus, 100 S. Brainard, LaGrange, IL. Plank Road performers to include: ANN FARNHAM, PLANK ROAD STRING BAND, many more.

Friday, March 29, 8:30 pm--THE JONES FAMILY Reunion at Old Town School of Folk Music (see inside)

Monday, April 15, 8 pm--PLANK ROAD BOARD MEETING at Two Way St. Coffeehouse

Saturday, April 20, 2 pm--SING-A-ROUND at Two Way St. Coffeehouse

Saturday, May 11, 7 pm--Clogging Workshop w/ LINDA UNGER at Two Way Street

Saturday, May 11, 8 pm--BARNDANCE at the Two Way St. w/All Volunteer String Band

Saturday, May 18, 2 pm--SING-A-ROUND at the Two Way Street Coffeehouse

Monday, May 20, 8 pm--PLANK ROAD BOARD MEETING at Two Way Street

INFO HOTLINE 708/387-9312

## WELCOME ABOARD

A round of applause for the new Plank Road officers named at January's Genral meeting! Congrats go out to PAUL KLONOWSKI, president, CATHY JONES, secretary and CHARLES LEWIS, treasurer. We're looking forward to another great year of singing, music and freindship along the Plank Road.

## A JONES FAMILY REUNION

The JONES FAMILY will appear at the Old Town School of Folk Music as featured guests at the March 29 "Mr. Coffeehouse" presentation. Ann, Tom & Cathy Jones have been teaching & performing folk, old-time, bluegrass and gospel music from their home studio in the Chicago suburbs (these days in Lombard) for the past 25 years. Ann & Tom were once students at the Old Town School, where they first learned guitar & banjo music & fell in love with the traditions of North American Folk Music.

Also performing will be TED & MARSHA JOHNSON. Ted is perhaps the most distinguished instructor at the Old Town School; having taught classes continuously since the school's inception in 1957, and (you guessed it!) had both Tom and Ann as his pupils in the early 60's. Ted & Marsha are terrific singers! Their repertoire is vast; including chanties, spirituals, shape note pieces and of course, Old Town favorites! Other guests will perform.

Don't miss a very special Plank Road evening at the Old Town School of Folk Music, 909 W. Armitage, Chicago, 312/525-7793 or 708/387-9312. 8:30 show. \$4.

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

It's not too soon to begin thinking about summer festival season:

\* The Downers Grove/Two Way Street Heritagefest Folk Festival will take place on Sat. June 29 (special Two Way St. concert Fri., June 28). Phone 708/969-9720 for details.

\* The 3rd Annual Warrenville Folk Festival will take place in Cerny Park, Warrenville on Sun., July 7; phone 708/717-8495.

\* The Fox Valley Folk Festival returns on Sun. & Mon., Sept. 1 & 2 on Island Park, Geneva (Rt. 38 & Fox River). This is the grand-daddy of midwest folk festivals. Don't miss it! Phone 708/897-3655 for more information.

## ART THIEME TRUST FUND

One of folk music's most beloved balladeers has been doing some hard travelling lately. Recent back surgury and further testing has taken our friend AR THIEME off the road for quite some time. The last February's benefit concert at the Blackstone Theater was highly successful, Art needs our help to cover mopunting medical expenses & lost wages. Please consider making a generous donation to: THE ART THIEME TRUST FUND, c/o ST. PAUL EPISCOPAL CHURCH, 914 E. KNAPP, MILWAUKEE, WI 53202.

## PICKY, PICKY, PICKIN'

by Catherine Signorelli

Pickin'. A significant word with many meanings. It means plucking, and pulling, fingering and choosing. It also means abusing. Folk musicians use it as a common word. Slaves also used it as a common word. Of course, in the mesh of these meanings there is a harmony.

It is this very harmony that may be disturbed in one version of the folk lullaby "All the Pretty Little Horses." Tradition has it that the song was sung by a black woman lullabying her masters child while her own babe lie unattended. The version that has the "birds" and "butterflies" that "flutter about" the eyes of a poor baby cryin' "mama," may be more aesthetic than the version that has "bees" and butterflies "pickin'" on the eyes of a poor littl[e] thing cryin' "Mammy," but it hits some discord, because the pain has been picked out. Birds flutter in joy. Bees sting like cotton when it's picked from the shrub.

Picky as all this may seem, one of the strengths of folk music is that there are different versions of each song that the singer can pick and choose. Changing, omitting, and adding words is part of the folklore process but it ought to be done carefully so that the images of the root are preserved. I can not think of a word that brings me closer to the image of a slave than the word pickin'. To change this word to conjure a sweet image leaves us out of tune with the past. We lose this meaning and the truth and in doing so, we lose a significant element of the folk tradition.

"Hush-a-by, don't you cry,  
Go to sleep-y little baby  
When you wake, you shall have  
All the pretty little horses  
Blacks and bays, dapples and grays  
Coach and six-little horses

Down in the meadow, lies a poor little lamb-y  
Go to sleep-y little baby  
Bees and butterflies, pickin' on its eyes  
Poor little thing is cryin' Mammy  
Blacks and bays, dapples and grays  
Coach and six-little horses

--Catherine Signorelli is a children's  
writer based in Chicago.

**\*SUPPORT FOLK MUSIC—  
MEMBERSHIP INFO IS ON  
THE NEXT PAGE\***

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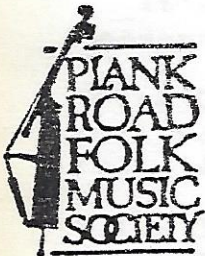
COME ON IN THE WATER'S FINE

If you would like to become a member of the PLANK ROAD FOLK MUSIC SOCIETY, just fill out the handy form below and mail it with your check or money order to: PRFMS, P.O. BOX 283, BROOKFIELD, IL 60513.

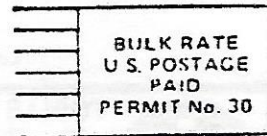
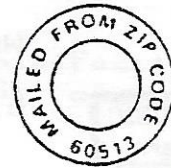
Your membership entitles you to receive the QUARTER NOTES four times a year by mail, and you'll enjoy discounts to exciting Plank Road events! T-shirts are also available to members at a discount.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_  
ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP:  
INDIVIDUAL \_\_ \$5  
FAMILY \_\_ \$9 (includes couples)  
CONTRIBUTING \_\_ \$25 or more  
(free T-shirt incl.)



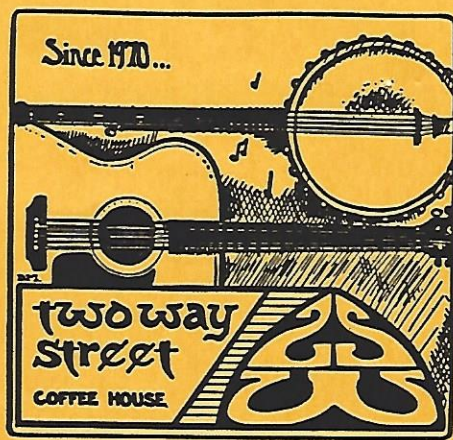
P.O. Box 283  
Brookfield, Illinois  
60513



Plank Road Folk Music Society

D. Humphreys c/o 2 Way St.  
1047 Curtiss  
Downers Grove IL 60515

75  
40  
25



**TWO WAY STREET  
COFFEE HOUSE**  
1047 CURTISS STREET 708-969-9720  
DOWNERS GROVE, ILLINOIS 60515  
(Across from the Public Library)

## ENTERTAINMENT SCHEDULE

- |           |                      |                |   |
|-----------|----------------------|----------------|---|
| Friday    | March                | 29             | <b>DAN ZAHN</b> -- Dan returns with a varied mix of folk, country, blues, jazz, swing, and a "dash" of originals. An eclectic blend of his experience for the last 20 years. With guitar.   |
| Friday    | April                | 5              | <b>RON HINES</b> -- Ron is a singer and songwriter who features contemporary folk, country and original songs with guitar. Some serious, some satirical, and some fun songs too!  |
| Friday    | April                | 12             | <b>LISA LILLY</b> with special guest <b>MARIANNE MOHRHUSEN</b> -- A wonderful evening of traditional and contemporary folksongs and Lisa's engaging originals. With guitar and banjo.   |
| Friday    | April                | 19             | <b>KIM KNOX HUGHES</b> -- A snowstorm cancelled her January show, so we rescheduled this delightful singer of Scottish songs. She has performed at the Highland Games and many other festivals.   |
| Friday    | April                | 26             | <b>CHRIS VALLILLO</b> -- Chris returns with excellent traditional and modern fingerpicking, blues, country and original songs. He is also a collector of Illinois folksongs. Vocals, guitar.  |
| Friday    | May                  | 3              | <b>DAN HART</b> -- Dan has sung and played his way across the country presenting his contemporary songs in clubs and coffeehouses, and was a winner in Kerrville's "New Folk" category. Guitar.   |
| Friday    | May                  | 10             | <b>LARRY PENN</b> -- An outstanding songwriter, he sings of truckers, railroaders, hoboes and more with wit and class. His songs have been recorded by Pete Seeger, Claudia Schmidt & others.   |
| Friday    | May                  | 17             | <b>SUSAN URBAN</b> -- Susan is an excellent Chicago singer-songwriter who sings about social issues, human interest, and more. Six and twelve-string guitar, and some a cappella songs.   |
| Friday    | May                  | 24             | <b>MICHAEL MILES</b> -- A master of the clawhammer banjo, Mike is also an excellent singer and fingerstyle guitarist. He's also the new president of the North American Folk Alliance!  |
| Friday    | May                  | 31             | <b>CATHERINE HALL</b> -- A fine singer with a crystal-clear voice, she returns with originals, traditional folk and Irish music with guitar, dulcimer, wooden flute, tin whistle and more!  |
| Friday    | June                 | 7              | <b>JAMES McCANDLESS</b> and <b>JULIANNE MACARUS</b> -- Two great performers return with guitars and fiddle. Their songs range from topical and gritty to romantic and poignant. Engaging!   |
| Friday    | June                 | 14             | <b>STEVE ASKINS</b> -- We really liked Steve's first show here last year, so he returns with jazz, old standards and swing songs, featuring great guitar solos as well as vocals.   |
| Friday    | June                 | 21             | <b>** OPEN MIKE **</b> Anyone is welcome to perform, and we always have a great variety of acoustic performers. These sessions have become so popular that we MAY have to limit the number. Call 968-5526 or 573-7586 for info. Open 7:45 for sign-ups. |
| Saturday  | May                  | 11             | <b>BARN DANCE &amp; CLOGGING WORKSHOP</b> -- Kick up your heels to the music of our All-Volunteer String Band. Fun for the whole family! Workshop 7:00, Dance 8:00. \$4.00. (Dance only, \$3)   |
| Saturday  | June                 | 15             | <b>LEE MURDOCK RECORDING RELEASE CONCERT</b> -- Lee and friends will present music from his newest CD album. In our big room. Show begins 8:00 PM. Tickets in advance \$5.00, at door, \$6.00   |
| Saturdays | April<br>May<br>June | 20<br>18<br>15 | <b>MONTHLY SING-AROUNDS</b> -- Our popular song circles where beginners and experienced musicians can learn and/or share songs. Listeners and singers welcome too! 2:00 PM \$1.00   |
| Fri & Sat | June                 | 28-29          | <b>HERITAGE FESTIVAL FOLK MUSIC FEST</b> -- (More to come!)   |

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. (Closed Tuesdays June, July, August.) 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, Old Town School of Folk Music, Aural Tradition, and North American Folk Alliance.

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