

HARPINS

#13

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Current availability is to Filk Foundation members, contributors-of-news, and on Editorial Whim.

UNDERSTANDING YOUR MAILING LABEL

Besides the basic address-lines, there are two code-marks; one alphabetic and the other numeric. The A or C indicates why you are getting this issue. A=active member, C=contributor. (If neither appears, you may assume Editorial Whim). The numeric code is YY/MM/DD for your expiration date. DD is always the last date in any month, so of YY/MM falls between 30 days before and 60 days after the postmark date on this issue, you need to renew NOW to be sure of getting the next issue. Foundation membership remains \$15 per year.

FILK FROM THE HEARTLANDS

ONLY IN TEMPORARY CARDIAC ARREST
from Ernie Clarke

[First note the change of address.] I'm finally in The Real World, employed, presumably with my MCS degree (I've done everything and turned everything in and am waiting on the bureaucracy to mail either a diploma or an oops! notice). Now working in Chicago NW suburbs at colossal salary as minor cog in software portion of military-industrial complex. I could afford conventions now, if I had any vacation time yet. (Wait til Worldcon).

Midwesterkilk (semi-officially Filk From the Heartland) has been in near-total paralysis the last half-year as I rushed in a frenzy to finish my degree. Now I'm starting to re-search my field tapes for overlooked gems.

Major hold-up now is getting a new computer system to use the music-processor that was my thesis project. (Patience, patience -- I think I have a line on a halfprice MacII w/laserprinter). If all this ever gets working I'll be able to crank out music books the way people can crank out newsletters. ((How about a Kaypro Professional

Computer + a Panasonic KX-P10911? I find that sheetmusic calligraphy is impossible to do with a 3-year-old helping one. I'd be interested to test-drive your system if it is intelligible to a person only about knee-deep in computermania.))

Now for the Plea: what songs do folks remember as being sung by someone else than who wrote them? Any "successful" song in FFTH will by definition encourage some buyers to do just that with it, and songs which are already circulating have proved themselves at least once.

ESCAPE FROM MUNDANIA

A Shameless Plug

from Sally Childs-Helton

We are pleased to announce the availability of our new tape and songbook, both titled Escape from Mundania!. The tape was recorded and mixed at Hit City Records in Indianapolis; it is on high-bias tape, Dolby stereo, and duplicated in real-time for improved sound quality.

We play 16 of our favorite tunes, including "Mundania", "Stairway to Fandom", "Frankie and Igor", "Lady Snowstar Supernova", "Going Down the Cosmic Drain", and "Flying Island Farewell".

The songbook includes complete guitar chords, lead sheets, lyrics, performance notes, and Barry's cartoons to fill up the empty spots. Also included are chord charts showing you exactly where to put your fingers for all of those weird chords Barry tends to play.

Tapes are \$9.00, songbooks are \$6.00; please include \$1 per item for mailing. Order from Barry & Sally Childs-Helton, 5141 Norwaldo Ave., Indianapolis IN 46205. (They'll also be glad to sell them to you at a con, or check with your local filk dealer.)

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT: A few of you bought the tape at OVFF and did not leave your address with us so we could send you a color cover. If you do not have a color cover yet, please drop us a line and ask for yours. Also, some of the tapes still have the 'record' lugs in them -- PLEASE check your tape and knock out the lugs so you don't accidentally record over the tape!

((At this point, Sally's letter had a "footnote" about "Escape from Mundania" being scheduled to run on Dr. Demento sometime in January. Tim Ryan phoned me right after New Years to say it had run on the New Years weekend.)) Dr. D. has been aware of filk for the past 3 or 4 years and is starting to play more of it. Some of Frank Hayes' tunes ((naturally!)) have also showed up on the good Doctor's show.

NO REAL NEWS

By Marie Schneider

I have been learning to play a bodhran -- I found someone at the Old Town School of Folk Music who plays one, but she says a 15-minute session is all I need to "learn" it -- the rest is "practice". Lots of it. But as soon as I start playing along with a Chieftains tape, I drown it out...! I've gotta learn better muting. Or better listening.

I think one of the better things in filkdom is the acceptance of so many different styles. What with a-capella harmonizing (a-la Technical Difficulties & L.A. Filkharmonics), lap-harps, Sally Childs-Helton's drums, various synthesizer and keyboard players (I noticed at OVFF that an electronic keyboard got abandoned when the fellow discovered we had a Real Piano in the room), the annual Chambanacon Irish Jam, 60's songs at 3 in the morning -- how can anyone get bored? I'm waiting for a rock band to get organized. ((Catch a WisCon sometime and look for a hirsute person named Christopher Fisher [a.k.a. Baron Niall Morbius])) The arguments about "It isn't real filk" remind me of the arguments about amplifying acoustic folk accompaniment. And now we're lucky if we get to hear any folk at all. Or we're filkers, and we sing it ourselves.

I would rather hear seventeen different styles of music than drive people away (some even before they join in) because what they do isn't "real" filk.

OUTRAGEOUS VOLUME OF FILK FRENZIES

By Buck Coulson

((Buck actually sent me a 2.5 page conreport, which I have excerpted here)) Lessee. We left for the con fairly early on Friday Oct. 30, but then we killed an hour by stopping in Portland IN, to talk to bookstore owner Mrs. Cheeseman. Authors like to keep on good terms with bookstore owners, especially the ones who specialize in mysteries and stf. We eventually arrived in Delaware OH, in the early afternoon. The hotel was harder to find than the town, partly because the entrance was well-hidden. The hotel sign could be seen easily from the Interstate, but we didn't come in that way, and finding the entrance from any direction was a job for an Indian tracker.

We got acquainted with Jane Robinson and Kristoph Klover, who with Melissa Mar were the Off-Centaur reps at the con, while we and they were setting up. Jane was the star of the convention. We were among the very few fans who had heard her tape "Dr. Jane's Science Notes" before the con, but after she performed a few songs from the tape, everyone wanted a copy. Not only did we sell out, but Off-Centaur did as well, and presumably they'd brought a lot more than the 10 copies we had. Jane is also a very pleasant personality, a trait which doesn't always go with musical talent.

It was discovered the hard way that the hotel, a relatively small Holiday Inn, had assured the concom that there was no live

entertainment in its lounge; and then promptly changed management and brought in a live combo. The lounge, of course, was almost directly across the hall from the filk room. There was some talk of acquiring amps of our own and blasting them back, but nothing came of it. Saturday's program was hastily shuffled, to put the panels at night, opposite the combo, and the singing in the afternoon, when most mundanes stay at home where they belong. I hope that Wail Songs got enough usable material for a tape; Bob Laurent was working under extremely adverse conditions.

As usual, I didn't go to the panels, and can't report on them. I was too busy huckstering and partying.

The wedding of Bill Sutton and Brenda Craven happened Saturday evening. It had been planned as a genuine wedding, but then Brenda's divorce papers didn't come through in time, so it had to be, technically, a display of intentions. There was a lot of music, suitable for a filk wedding. At the finale, Bill and Brenda jumped over a guitar, in lieu of the traditional broomstick. Interestingly, the wedding went out over one of the computer networks as it happened.

Saturday night lasted a long time, with filking again, despite the competition from the lounge, and more partying. At about 1:00 AM. Moonwolf said he'd talked Misty Lackey's brother (old buddy of Wolfie's) into buying a copy of "Rifles and Rhythms", but he had to leave at 5:00 AM to catch his plane. Someone said the back door of the huckster room was probably open, and it was, and we went in and I sold a couple of tapes. Then I told Sally Smith about the open room and she looked horrified and saw to getting it locked. Fortunately, most filkers are honest, and filk tapes aren't in much demand by hotel employees.

I spent the rest of the night in a room party with Jordin Kare, Mitchell Clapp, and TJ Burnside, plus a few listeners like me. Jordin and Mitch were seeing how many old MIT and CalTech songs they could remember when I arrived, but went on to other things. Mitch said he'd been turned in to Air Force Security for performing a mildly anti-Russian song (Air Force officers aren't allowed to engage in politics) but that Security listened to the song, said "That's not so bad" and ignored the complaint. This led to a discussion of what songs might be dangerous in which communities, which was capped by TJ, who said she can't perform Stan Rogers' "House of Orange" in Boston. Well, nobody said the Irish-Americans are liberal and openminded.

On Sunday, the noon checkout time for the hotel coincided with the scheduled opening of the huckster room. Our handtruck was in the huckster room and we needed it to move our luggage behind our huckster table before checkout time. I asked Emily Vasquez if I could get into the room to get it, and she asked Kathy Hamilton, who was co-chairman, and Kathy simply opened the room at 10:00 instead of noon. People came in immediately, and we did a fairly rousing

business. Barry came down at noon, and said rather bemusedly that the program book said this was the time the room opened. (I explained to him that since I was sleeping with 3 of the 10 committee members, was the father-in-law of a fourth, and had performed the marriage of a fifth, I had a certain amount of pull with the committee, and had gotten in early).

Mitch came in briefly to announce that he'd been transferred to Edwards AFB, so this was his last midwest filk for the foreseeable future. Look for California to go Australian next year.

Eventually we had to pack up our remaining tapes, load the car, and head for home, making plans for Windycon along the way. Incidentally, our gross income at OVFF, with 150 attendees, was a good \$150 more than our gross at Windycon the next week, and Windycon had at least 1800 people. That was sort of the icing on the cake for us, but we'd have enjoyed OVFF if we hadn't made a nickel.

CHAMBANACON REPORT (OF SORTS)

Juanita Coulson
Chambana was great as always. Great filking. But the hotel is "upgrading", has installed those "credit card" keys, which I dislike, and revamped the heating and cooling system so the main controls -- and noisy blower -- for the con floor function areas are in the filk room. We were doing fine, but the smokers and non-filkers down in the elevator lobby area and consuite were dying, and we had to allow the blower to be turned on intermittently, out of the generosity of our hearts. As Wulfie said, there's a reason why it wasn't unbearably smoky in our room, and why didn't the chimneys go and do likewise? But... We may be in a different filking room next year. Our choice, Marsha Brim hinted.

NEW & CORRECTED ADDRESS SINCE LASTISH

Gary and Janet Anderson, 3216 Villa Knolls Dr,
Pasadena CA 91107
Ernie Clarke, 1485 Winslow Dr. #201, Palatine,
IL 60067
Laurence Gray, 1207 W. Scenic Dr. Apt. S-14,
North Little Rock, AR 72118
Hilary Hertzoff, 42 S. Dawson, Baxley OH,
43209
Michael Stein prefers to get mail at PO Box
10420, Arlington, VA 22210 instead of the
residence address quoted here previously.
Diane (Crockett) Warfield, 512 E. Stoughton
#207, Champaign IL 61820

FILK CONS AND OTHERS

BAYFILK 4 (FilkCon 10.1)
March 4-6, Bay Area.
GoH Murray & Sharon Porath (singer/composer),
Carol Siegling (listener) Reg \$25 advance, \$35
at-door. Info Off-Centaur Publications, PO Box
424, El Cerrito CA 94530.

MILLENICON (minus)13
March 4-6, Dayton OH.
Guests Juanita Coulson (pro), George (Lan)
Laskowski (fan). Info PO Box 636, Dayton OH
45405

MIDSOUTHCON VII
March 18-20, 1988 NOTE CHANGE OF DATE
Memphis, TN
Guests Larry Niven, Jerry Pournelle (writers),
Mitch Foust (artist), Margaret Middleton
(filk), Darrell Richardson (fan), Julius
Schwartz (tm), Paul Darrow & Michael Keating
(media, barring professional commitments).
Marriott Hotel, Thousand Oaks @ American Way,
Memphis TN, \$50 flat room rate. The con flyer
has a find-it map on the back. Reg \$25 til
March 1, \$20 thereafter. Info MSC 7, 1229
Pallwood Rd, Memphis TN 38122, by phone
(901)682-2003 or (901)274-7355.

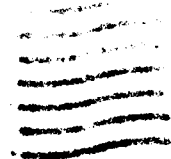
STAR BASE INDY
March 25-27, Indianapolis IN
Basically a Star Trek con, but Barry & Sally
Childs-Helton are filk guests. Info PO Box
304, Carmel IN 46032-0304

MARCON XXIII
Apr. 29-May 1, Columbus OH
Guests David Brin (writer), Michael Whelen
(artist), Bob & Pat Beese (fans), Bill Sutton
(tm). Radisson Columbus hotel, \$55 1-4 bodies.
Reg \$18 til April 1, \$20 thereafter. Info PO
Box 211101, Columbus OH 43221.

ROC*KON 12
May 6-8, Hot Springs, AR.
Guests: Algis Budrys (writer), Guy Lillian III
(fan), Darla Tagrin (artist). Royale Vista
Inn, Hot Springs AR. Preregistration \$14. til
April 15, \$18 at door, \$10 singleday at door.
Info PO Box 45122, Little Rock, AR 72204

OKON '88
July 7-9, Tulsa OK.
Guests: Janet Morris (writer), Mike McQuay
(TM) Vincent diFate (artist), Leslie Fish
(filk), Matt Fertig (fan). Info PO Box 4229,
Tulsa OK 74109 or leave a message on the
answerphone at (918)622-2225. For quick info,
phone (918)622-2090 ask for Tom or Mary
Wallbank.

TRIANGULUM
Sept. 23-25, Milwaukee WI.
Guests: Randle and Cornett (pro), Juanita
Coulson (filk), Buck Coulson (reviewer). Filk
info Barb Riedel, 2836 N. 38th, Milwaukee WI
53210. Gen info PO Box 94256, Milwaukee WI
53202.





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