

TAILGATE

RAMBLINGS



JULY 1974

TAILGATE RAMBLINGS, VOL. 4, NO. 5

July 1974

Editor - Dick Baker

Art Work - Fraser Battey
Tom Niemann

TAILGATE RAMBLINGS is published for members of the Potomac River Jazz Club, a nonprofit organization dedicated to the preservation and encouragement of traditional jazz in the Greater Washington, D.C. and Baltimore areas. Signed articles appearing in TR represent the views of the author alone and in no way reflect official club policy or opinion.

Articles, letters to the Editor and ad copy (for which there is no charge to members) should be mailed to:

Dick Baker, Editor
TAILGATE RAMBLINGS
2300 S. 25th St., Apt. 101
Arlington, VA 22206

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At the last PRJC BOARD OF DIRECTORS meeting, a decision was made which reverses previous club policy. That is to sell advertising in TAILGATE RAMBLINGS. TR reaches nearly 800 people each month and should be an ideal vehicle for anyone merchandizing records or other material of interest to traditional jazz musicians and fans.

We haven't as yet set a rate schedule, but we will be in line with other publications of this type. As a rough estimate for those who want to plan ads, a full page should end up costing approximately \$40-50, with smaller sections scaled accordingly. There will be a discount for PRJC members.

I hasten to remind our readers that personal, noncommercial "want ads," such as an instrument wanted or for sale, are still free for club members.

ASSOCIATE EDITOR SOUGHT

Polly Wagner has had to relinquish her post as Associate Editor, leaving me in search of help. What I specifically need is someone with access, at home or office during non-working hours, to an IBM Selectric typewriter and an assortment of type faces. Would ask you for several hours of work one day a month. If you can help me, call 521-4597.

WANTED: PRJC RECORD SALES MANAGER(S)

More recruitment: the Board of Directors feels we could provide a great service to our members and bring in revenue for the club by setting up a record sales counter at our special events. Therefore, we are asking for a volunteer or volunteers to manage the project. What we have in mind is pretty extensive, something on the order of a station wagon-full of inventory which would be maintained in the member's home and brought several times a year for our specials. Volunteers should contact PRJC President Fred Wahler, 894-6370.

A reminder that the PRJC Musicians Directory is available for \$1 per copy from Polly Wagner, 432 E. Columbia St, Fall Church 22046. If you joined the club recently and didn't make it in the Directory, or if the information about you needs updating (for example, you've learned to play the sackbut and want to jam), send me your information.

COMING SOON--PRJC bumper stickers, decals and a fresh supply of buttons, this time with improved clasps. The decals will have the same "second line" parasol which adorns our buttons, and will be about 4" in diameter. Each item will sell for 50¢, three for a dollar, any match.

The Potomac River Jazz Club



** WINDJAMMER **

For recorded info -

DIAL (301) 630-PRJC

JULY 7 FREE STATE JAZZ BAND
14 SOUTHERN COMFORT
21 BULL RUN BLUES BLOWERS
28 ANACOSTIA RIVER RAMBLERS
AUGUST 4 ORIGINAL WASHINGTON MONUMENTAL JB

REGULAR GIGS

Please Note: All gigs are tentative -- always check 630-PRJC

Sunday PRJC weekly session in the Windjammer Room, Marriott Twin Bridges Motor Hotel, at Virginia end of 14th Street Bridge. 7:30-11:30 p.m. \$2 cover. Open to public.
ANACOSTIA RIVER RAMBLERS, Lighthouse Restaurant, Falls Church, Va. 7-11 p.m. Sit-ins welcome.

Monday ED FISHEL'S NEW BAND (see p. 6), Bratwursthau, 708 N. Randolph St., Arlington, Va. 8:30-midnight.

Wednesday ASPEN HILL GANG, D'Angelo's Restaurant, 4064 Aspen Hill Rd., Wheaton, Md. 8:30-11:30 p.m.

Thursday
(beginning
July 11) GOOD TIME SIX, Bratwursthau, Arlington.

Friday BAY CITY SEVEN, Steak & Ale Restaurant, Timonium, Md.
RED LION JAZZ BAND, Surrey Restaurant, Wilmington, Delaware.
First Friday of month only. Reservations suggested.

COMING UP

Thu., July 11 ... COUNT BASIE, Wolf Trap Farm Park, 8:30 p.m.
Tue., July 16
Wed., July 17 ... PRESERVATION HALL JAZZ BAND, Wolf Trap, 8:30 p.m.
Thu., August 1 ... PRJC jam session, everyone invited--see article, p. 5.
Sat., August 24 .. Another PRJC Jazz Boat Ride--see p. 4.

BOAT RIDE A BIG HIT

The verdict is in on the PRJC's second annual jazz riverboat ride, held June 15. Everyone polled agrees that it was an unqualified success. It was, of course, the product of hard work, great musicianship and some luck.

President Fred Wahler did a heroic job in handling ticket sales, especially in the last couple of weeks, when he spent long hours on the phone trying to round up the few odd tickets which became available and get them in the hands of those who came after the "sold out" sign went up. As it was, dozens of people had to be turned away. Don Angell spent most of the last two days before the ride twisting arms down at the boathouse to get us a decent piano. And Johnson McRee flew back from Europe to loan us his sound system.

Then, of course, came the music. It was a terrific effort on the part of a truly "all-star" group, including some musicians who had never even met. They feverishly worked up arrangements before the job and between sets, keeping the time between tunes amazingly short for a pick-up group. Tex Wyndham came down from Wilmington, Delaware, where he leads the Red Lion Jazz Band, to play piano for us. Tex sang, played rags and jazz, and was instrumental in picking tunes for the band. Another man who, like Tex, knows the words to a zillion obscure old tunes, is Phil Cartwright, banjo and leader of the Tarnished Six of State College, Pennsylvania. Phil's band delighted us with their appearance in the Windjammer Room a while back.

The rest of the players were gentlemen we know to be stars from hearing them right here in Washington. On trumpet was John Thomas, mainstay of the local horn corps. Area jazz fans are rapidly running out of opportunities to hear John's fine playing, for he is threatening to move to Florida soon. On clarinet was John Skillman, who saved the day by having his own mikes when one of ours went sour. Rounding out the band were Jerry Nichols, trombone, John Roulet, drums, and Tom Gray, bass. A job well done, men, and we're all very grateful.

The musical icing on the cake was an appearance by the loveliest of the out-of-town musicians (sorry, Tex), Miss Jean

Kittrel, of Edwardsville, Illinois. Jean has a delightful repertoire of jazz, blues and novelty songs, and is an accomplished ragtime pianist.

The Man upstairs was looking out for us, too. He gave us perfect weather right up until midnight, when He sent down a refreshing shower for those driving home after several trips to the beer line.

All in all, a wonderful evening, which is why we're not going to wait until next year to repeat it. We have chartered the same boat, the M.V. Diplomat, for Saturday, August 24. As before, tickets are \$7 and can be ordered from Fred Wahler, 3903 Buck Creek Road, Temple Hills, MD 20031. The band on the next trip will be another all-star group culled from the rich ranks of PRJC musicianship. See you there!

JAZZ PICNIC IN NEW JERSEY

The New Jersey Jazz Society is a young, very active and rapidly growing jazz club. On June 23 they held their second annual jazz picnic, on the campus of Fairleigh Dickenson University, in Madison, NJ. Music was provided by two of the very best jazz bands on the East Coast: Bill Barnes' Southampton Dixie, Racing, and Clambake Society Jazz Band, and the Red Onion Jazz Band, featuring Natalie Lamb. PRJC'ers will recognize these groups from past Manassas fests. They were, as always, magnificent. Worthy of note in the Red Onion group was superb cornetist Lew Green, long of the Salty Dogs (Chicago), now living in New York.

The event was scheduled for the outdoors, as is our annual picnic, but rain forced it into the school gymnasium, which proved to be a mixed blessing acoustically. The walls held the sound in for the 900 or so in attendance, who would never have been able to hear as well outdoors, but the high ceiling provided a booming reverberation which was a little annoying.

All in all, though, it was a great show, and the PRJC delegation met a lot of fine, warmhearted jazz brethren. Many of them plan to attend our next boat ride and/or picnic; I'll try to keep you informed of their club's activities in these pages.

AUGUST 1 - BRING YOUR AX!

The purpose of the PRJC is to promote traditional jazz and the Board of Directors is constantly alert for ways to do this. However, it is not always easy for the Board to make judgements as to what sort of activities will produce a really solid turnout of club members without depleting our treasury to the panic level. Attendance at even the most promising "special events" sponsored by the club has often been disappointing, with the notable exceptions of the boat rides and the annual picnic.

The boat rides have their own special appeal to members. Perhaps one of the attractions of the picnic is the high degree of participation by playing members with consequent variety in jazz styles and continuity of action on the stand.

It has occurred to our good friend, Ed Fishel, that such participation and constant action could provide a basis for indoor special events with wide appeal; the Board thinks his idea is worth a try.

On Thursday, August 1, club members and their guests are invited to an open session of the PRJC at the Cinders Steak House, 1500 S. Joyce St., in Arlington in the River House apartment complex near the Pentagon. Admission is free and there will be a cash bar. If we run into any unexpected expenses (such as bartender fee), we will simply pass the hat and hope.

All playing members are urged to bring their horns and be ready to sit in. There is no intention of allowing this to develop into a "cutting" session; it is intended as a get-together for players who may not ordinarily cross paths, but who would like to meet other musicians. A group of half a dozen players has promised to start things off at 8:30 p.m., but this is merely an ice-breaking operation and they will be ready to turn over the bandstand as soon as replacements are available.

One of the Board members will be on hand near the door to get names and instruments of sit-ins so that action does not lag and as many players as possible are fitted into the scene. Ed Fishel is preparing lead sheets for readers who haven't committed every jazz tune to memory.

Here is a chance for unattached musicians to make contacts that may lead to more playing opportunities and a chance for the

general membership to show that their participation is not limited to reading Tailgate Ramblings. If the first affair goes well and reaction is favorable, we can arrange for a regular session on the first Thursday of each month. OK - see you August 1 - and bring your ax!

Scotty Lawrence
Vice-President

BRIDGING MUSICAL GAPS

Royal, PRJC member and host of the jazz radio show "I thought I heard Buddy Bolden say..." (WGTV-FM), has long been endeavoring to bridge "musical gaps" by exposing a diversified audience to different styles of music that have some common antecedents. He and his colleagues at WGTV are sponsoring a concert-party to expose folks at one sitting to Rhythm & Blues, Blue Grass and Traditional Jazz. Performing will be Chief Ellis (piano & vocal), the R&B man, Fast Flying Vestibule, blue grass and old time country music, and none other than our own Original Washington Monumental Jazz Band.

This will all take place in the "Pub," in the basement of the Healy Bldg at Georgetown University, on Sunday, July 14, from 1-5 p.m. Admission is FREE and beer will sell for 50¢ a mug. The whole affair will be broadcast live over WGTV-FM (90.1 MHz).

Here's a fine chance for the young folks over at Georgetown to hear our music, and for us to hear something different. The Monumentals, as well as the other musicians on the program, are donating their time free of charge.

Be the life of the party! Impress your friends! Alienate your neighbors! Buy a genuine, hand-crafted gut bucket bass from crafty Tom Niemann. \$25 for the luxury model, murals extra. 684-7729.

MARTIN WILLIAMS LECTURES

Earlier this year, Mr. Martin Williams, noted authority on jazz, gave a series of lectures for the PRJC. Liz McRee took notes at the lectures and later submitted them to Mr. Williams for his approval. Last month we printed notes from the first lecture, March 21. Below are Liz' notes from the lecture on March 28.

JAZZ is an expression of human survival; paradoxical; not just "happy music," which is important to keep in mind when concentrating seriously on jazz music.

BLUES: 12-measure musical form; Afro-American; pervades all of our music; original; major contribution; first line, second line, repeat first line is structure. Illustrated by playing St. Phillip Street Breakdown by George Lewis (c. 1944) compared with Gone with 'What' Wind by Benny Goodman. "What Wind" swings, although contains same riffs by Charlie Christian as St. Phillip Street Breakdown.

BUNK JOHNSON is the second-oldest-style trumpet player to be recorded; he played with Buddy Bolden; Freddie Keppard was first to be recorded.

FREDDIE KEPPARD had more musical polish and made fewer mistakes than Bolden; his staccato-style of playing closer to ragtime.

ALL THE GREAT PLAYERS could make up new melodies on chord changes (progressions) alone, totally original, out of their heads without anything assumed except bare skeleton, known as "harmonic variations" in European musical parlance.

COMPOSITION OF NEW ORLEANS BAND:

1. *Lea melody*: CORNET/TRUMPET (direct).
2. *Second melody*: CLARINET (florid). Improvises around lead melody--counter-melody.
3. *Saxophone* often in early bands and records.
4. *Bass*: TROMBONE (simplest).
5. *Accompanying instruments*: PIANO (possibly), GUITAR in earliest, BANJO, BASS FIDDLE, usually not TUBA, which was used in early swing

bands, DRUMS.

JELLY ROLL MORTON added his "Spanish tinge" and loosened up the rhythm; listen to MAMANITA, a three-theme rag.

JOHNNY DODDS' Perdido Street Blues is a perfect work of art in Martin's opinion.

SIDNEY BECHET's Blues in Thirds:

a. Structure: Hines (theme); Hines (improvisation); Bechet (theme-paraphrase); Bechet (improvisation), invention on blues chord progression; finally Bechet (improvisation)/Hines (theme in paraphrase)--equalling counterpoint.

b. Bechet's rank as an artist: of major stature, genuine, plays trumpet and clarinet parts on soprano saxophone.

CEDAR LANE SINGLES AT WINDJAMMER ROOM

On June 9 the Cedar Lane Singles Club made their regular Sunday get-together a trip to the Windjammer Room. Their group had a great time and a lot of people whom we might otherwise never have contacted were exposed to our music. Credit goes to PRJC member Mark Taylor, who convinced his singles group to join us. How many more of us are members of various social groups which might very much enjoy getting together "at our house" some Sunday evening? Give it a thought--it's a good way to promote jazz and make you a hit in your own sewing circle!

MORE JAZZ AT THE BRATWURSTHAUS

Beginning July 11, the Good Time Six will play every Thursday evening in the Bratwursthau in Arlington.

Monday night action will continue at the B-haus with Ed Fishel's New Band (they are open to suggestions for a name). In addition to Ed on piano are Scotty Lawrence (cornet), Jack Gurin (trombone), Dick Tubbs (tenor sax) and Tom Martin (drums). The guys hope to specialize in lesser-known ballads and show tunes of the early jazz years, with lots of vocals.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION, POTOMAC RIVER JAZZ CLUB

(Please print or type)

NAME _____

STREET _____

CITY _____

STATE & ZIP _____

PHONE NO. _____

OCCUPATION _____

RECORD COLLECTOR?

YES ()

NO ()

MUSICIAN? (What Instruments?) _____



MEMBER OF ORGANIZED BAND? _____

INTERESTED IN ORGANIZING OR JOINING ONE? _____

INTERESTED IN JAMMING OCCASIONALLY? _____

READ MUSIC?

YES ()

NO ()

DESCRIBE YOUR JAZZ INTERESTS BRIEFLY (What styles interest you, etc.)

ANY OTHER COMMENTS, REMARKS OR SUGGESTIONS IN REGARD TO FUTURE P.R.J.C. ACTIVITIES?

WOULD YOU BE INTERESTED IN CONTRIBUTING SHORT ESSAYS OR ARTICLES TO THE P.R.J.C. QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER? YES ()
PLEASE DESCRIBE _____

I enclose check for \$7.00 initiation fee and first year membership dues:

Signature _____

Mail to: Dolores Wilkinson- Secretary-Treasurer
2122 Massachusetts Ave., N. W. Apt. 813
Washington, D. C. 20008

PRJC

HOORAY FOR DIXIELAND JAZZ



FIRST CLASS MAIL



Dick Baker, Editor
TAILGATE RAMBLINGS
2300 S. 25th St., Apt. 101
Arlington, Va 22206

WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS!

Susan Tufts
Arlington, Va

Arthur F. Low
Falls Church, Va

John A. Edelman
Alexandria, Va

Ralph M. Kennedy
Falls Church, Va

Bill Morrison
Zebulon, N.C.

William A. Watkins
Vienna, Va

Lee Olson
Washington, D.C.

Ruth Sherman
Bethesda, Md

Carmen Goldthwaite
Washington, D.C.

James M. Mitro
Alexandria, Va

George "Scotty" Rogers
Harwood, Md