

TAILGATE RAMBLINGS



AUGUST 1974

"C'MON, YOU GUYS, PLAY SOMETHING WE KNOW!"

TAILGATE RAMBLINGS, VOL. 4, NO. 6

August 1974

Editor - Dick Baker

Art Work - Tom Niemann
Fraser Battey

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 (no charge for members' personal ads) should be mailed to:

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

* * * * *

THE PREZ SEZ:

To all who attended our June Dixieland boat cruise, I want to thank you for your support. I thought this was one of our most successful specials. The band was just great (they really were ALL STARS); the rain held off until docking; and by selling fewer tickets, the MV Diplomat was not as crowded as last year. A special thanks to our guest, Jean Kittrell from St. Louis, who wowed the crowd with her piano and vocals. Some of our members deserve special mention for their contributions: Eleanor Johnson and Rod Clarke for the seating arrangements; Dick Baker for operating Johnson McRee's sound system; Ray West for transporting the sound system and helping at the gate; and Don Angell, who probably saved the Prez from having a stroke, by arranging to have a good, tuned piano on the boat.

From time to time, some members have asked to become more active in PRJC activities. We have reached that time. If anyone would be interested in selling Dixieland records for the PRJC, please contact me at

(301) 894-6370.

To those who missed the boat cruise, you will get another chance on August 24. Let's make this trip as successful as the last one.

Fred Wahler
President

AND THE EDITOR ADDZ:

The stack of non-timely material I inherited from the previous editor of TR is nearly used up; therefore, I would like to again encourage any would-be jazz journalists in our ranks to put their ideas on paper. Any sort of material is welcome: critical commentary such as that of Icon O'Clast; reminiscences a la Scotty Lawrence; tongue-in-cheek analyses like Ed Fishel's; reports on the jazz scene you found while visiting other parts of the country (or world). And I especially solicit your reports on or reviews of PRJC events, such as this issue's report by Rod Clarke on the Father's Day party for Slide Harris. I can't make everything myself, and in any case a variety of points of view would be refreshing. I would like to ask any potential writer of a *timely* item to let me know what he or she is writing about and when I can expect the piece. We had the unfortunate circumstance last month of my not being completely sure about some articles; as a result, three of them are being published this month, slightly out of date, and one had to be thrown out entirely (my regrets to Mark Taylor). My deadline is usually about the 21st of each month.

I remind any potential commercial advertisers that a recent decision by the PRJC Board of Directors makes it possible for me to accept paid advertising for TR.

There are still a handful of members who have not renewed their memberships. Don't get caught next month without a TAILGATE; send your renewal to Dolores Wilkinson this month.

I again urge our bandleaders to use this publication and 630-PRJC to publicize their jobs. Let me know about any changes in regular gigs or about any one-time gigs open to the public in this area. Call me at 521-4597, or drop me a card.

The Potomac River Jazz Club



** WINDJAMMER **

AUGUST 4 ORIGINAL WASHINGTON MONUMENTAL JB
11 ANACOSTIA RIVER RAMBLERS
18 WORLD'S 3RD GREATEST JAZZ BAND
25 BAY CITY SEVEN
SEPTEMBER 1 DIXIE FIVE-0

For recorded info -

DIAL (301) 630-PRJC

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, 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 GOOD TIME SIX, Bratwursthau, Arlington.

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

COMING UP

Sat., August 24 .. Another PRJC Jazz Boat Ride--see p. 5.

Sat., September 14 PRJC Annual Jazz Picnic--details next month.

Open Jam Session on August 1: don't forget the PRJC open jam session on Thursday, August 1, in the Cinders Steak House, 1500 S. Joyce St., Arlington. It's open to all PRJC musicians and jazz fans, although aimed primarily at the unattached musicians who don't get to play and meet their brethren as often as they would like. See p. 5 of last month's TR for article by Scotty Lawrence giving details.

ST. LOUIS RAGTIME FESTIVAL: HOT!

As usual, the PRJC was well represented at the annual St. Louis Ragtime Festival (July 9-13), having approximately 40 members in attendance. We were by far the largest out-of-town delegation.

The nucleus of the PRJC crowd, led by President Fred & Anna Wahler, flew out Tuesday afternoon. The pilot of the TWA flight welcomed us over the intercom upon arrival in St. Louis. Among those on the plane were newlyweds Shannon & Judy Clark, who had gotten married the evening before with Pres. Fred as best man. Upon arriving at the hotel where most of us stayed, we were greeted by St. Louis Jazz Club stalwart Jeff Leopold. We just can't say enough about the SLJC's hospitality--they treat us as their own and really make us feel at home.

The Festival began Tuesday evening aboard the Goldenrod Showboat, moored on the Mississippi under the famous Jefferson (McDonald's?) Memorial Arch. Original plans called for a second boat to be in use, but a local legal battle put that ship in mothballs, and led to terrific overcrowding on the Goldenrod. That, plus the wilting heat and high humidity, ran the discomfort needle off the dial, but with jazz like we heard, who cares?

Performing that night were Turk Murphy's San Francisco Jazz Band, the St. Louis Ragtimers and the St. Louis Saints. There's nothing I can say about Murphy's band that any jazz fan doesn't already know--let's just say he was magnificent, as usual. The St. Louis Ragtimers are the regular hosts aboard the Goldenrod; they feature piano picker Trebor Jay Tichenor. The Saints, a local group, played very well together, exhibiting whole bunches of stagemanship.

Playing solo sets throughout the festival were a host of fine ragtime piano players, including Dick Wellstood, Terry Waldo, Dave Jasen, Knocky Parker, Butch Thompson, Bobby Wright and many others.

On Wednesday the Saints were replaced by the Tiger Rag Forever JB, another fine local group. Other performers and bands stayed the same.

Thursday saw the arrival of another pair of PRJC newlyweds, Dick and Emile Stimson. TRFJB was replaced by Dan Havens and his Mississippi Mudcats, featuring our beloved Jean Kittrell on piano. This group played for the rest of the festival to nothing but SRO crowds.

A quote worth quoting by Turk Murphy: "'The Sting' did a lot for ragtime music, but ragtime music did a lot for 'The Sting.'"

Five members of the Tarnished Six band (PRJC'ers from State College, Pa) were in St. Louis, mourning the loss of their sixth musician: the cymbal-playing monkey.

In addition to the SRO crowds in all three rooms on the boat, there was a wild scene on the front deck, where there was a bar, a piano around which a floating jam session was in continuous progress, and a record sales display run by PRJC member Al Mothershead, president of Dirty Shame Records.

Friday night saw the arrival of another truly outstanding jazz band, the Original Salty Dogs, of Chicago. They alternated with Turk Murphy in the main theater of the boat.

On Saturday afternoon came another of the high points of this particular festival, a garden party hosted by university professor, band leader, super cornet player and PRJC member Dan Havens. Boogie woogie stars Ben Conroy and Charlie Booty kicked the music off, after which Dan put together a band centered around his Mudcats for a fine jam session. Then back to town, sunburned and happy, for the last evening session on the riverboat.

After the Goldenrod closed at 1 a.m. each night, a jam session was organized, either on the levee near the boat or at the SLJC clubhouse just a few blocks away. Most of the paid players in the festival and many fine visiting musicians sat in at these sessions, which often went until dawn. (cont.)

There were conflicting attractions Sunday afternoon. There was a final session on the Goldenrod, plus the St. Louis Jazz Club's picnic at a beautiful municipal park on the edge of town. Featured were the St. Louis Saints and a host of sit-in musicians, running from early afternoon until late evening.

All in all, it was a terrific week of fine jazz and ragtime. One could only hope that it would be held earlier or later in the summer, when it's not so hot in St. Louis, and so that it wouldn't conflict with all the other jazz activity taking place in July. Look for reports next month on the Sedalia Joplin Festival and the (Davenport) Bix Beiderbecke Memorial Jazz Festival, both of which take place the last weekend in July. - DB.



2nd PRJC Boat Ride Set for August 24

Since the PRJC riverboat ride on June 15 was such a resounding success, and since so many people had to be turned away after the 250 tickets were sold out, we have scheduled another excursion for August 24, this time with a different line-up of fine PRJC musicians.

As before, we will sail at 8 p.m. sharp and be out until midnight on the Wilson Line's MV Diplomat. There is plenty of parking near the Wilson Line docks at 6th and Water Streets S.W. There will be a bar on board which also serves light snacks, or you can bring your own.

Tickets are \$7 each and can be ordered from PRJC President Fred Wahler, 3903 Buck Creek Road, Temple Hills, Md 23001.

The band for the August 24 outing will be:

John Thomas, trumpet
Al Brogdon, trombone
Charlie Brown, clarinet
Tom Niemann, piano
Jim Riley, banjo
Mike Pengra, bass
Tom Martin, drums

KITTRELL KOMES HERE AND KONQUERS

Dr. Jean Kittrell, Assistant Professor of English at the University of Southern Illinois, an academic lioness of great esteem, was in our town for a couple of weeks recently, and she tore the place apart with her happy, raunchy, low-down blues singing and piano playing.

Jean doesn't sing a song, she attacks it, driving, driving, driving all the time. And she can handle material that would paralyze audiences in other hands. She says, "People ask me if I know any dirty songs, and I tell 'em 'No, but I know a lot of realistic ones.'" In her joyous, moving manner, "Empty Bed Blues" is blues, not blue. That's nice. So is Jean.

To those of us who met her for the first time, she became an instant friend. She is a compelling personality as well as a compelling musician. And she took both her music and personality on the Dixieland Jazz Grand Tour during her stay--from the Windjammer to the Lighthouse, Bratwursthaus, D'Angelo's and the Steak & Ale.

Her stamina can only be matched, I'm certain, by that of Fred and Anna Wahler. Club members who tried to make all the dates with her were looking pretty green around the gills early in the second week of her stay.

If you missed Jean, you missed delightful renditions of "Shorty," "Hard-hearted Hannah," "Frankie and Johnnie" and many more.

Dr. Jean Kittrell. Dynamite! And she can teach too.

Jim Giltmier



GATHERATION FOR "SLIDE"

The band struck up with one of his favorite tunes, "Struttin' with Some Barbecue," as Daddy passed through the gate of a fenced backyard in suburban Lanham, Maryland. It was Sunday, June 16, and Father's Day in more ways than one for the Guest of Honor, Walter "Slide" Harris. It was Slide's first public appearance since his stroke on the bandstand at the Windjammer in May.

Among those gathered to welcome Slide were his several children, many more grandchildren (including one of his two great grandchildren), and a host of jazz lovers from the PRJC, who consider him to be the Big Daddy of the local Dixieland scene.

Clearly, Slide was surprised and moved by the Gathertation. He and his wife settled into chairs on the lawn in front of the patio where the band was playing. As relatives and admirers presented him with gifts and congratulations, Slide visibly demonstrated his enjoyment by clapping to the music.

The idea for the celebration came from Barbara Brooks, Slide's oldest daughter. She and her sisters planned the affair and prepared the food and libations. Ed Fishel was the principal link with the PRJC and he responded on exceptionally short notice with flyers and maps to key members who helped spread the word.

Among the musicians present and playing were John Thomas, who had just brought his trumpet back from a gig at the Big Horn in Underground Atlanta, Bob Harris on cornet, Slide's protege Glen Sullivan on trombone, Tommy Gwaltney on soprano sax, Jimmy Hamilton and Mason "Country" Thomas on clarinet, John Skillman and Jerry Addicott on banjo, and Tom Martin and Ken Underwood alternating on drums. Johnson McRee, just back from Europe, held down the Kazoo corner. With that aggregation blowing, you just know Slide couldn't contain himself. After only a few numbers he called for his ax, telling his wife, "I want my 'bone," and joined the group.

It was a great climax to a happy occasion and exceptionally pleasant news to those who had hoped to hear Slide again in person. Of course, Big Daddy still has a way to go toward regaining his full health and it will be a while before he is playing regular gigs, but the Gathertation did let

Slide know how much we all want him back as soon as possible.

Rod Clarke



LOCAL BOYS MAKE GOOD

The New Sunshine Jazz Band, founded here in Washington in 1965 by Dave Burns, and under the artistic leadership of trumpet-playing jazz historian Tony Hagert, has made a record entitled "Old Rags" for Flying Dutchman Records, an affiliate of RCA. FDR went all out for the NSJB (all local men and PRJC members), publishing the disc in a classy four-sided jacket, three of which are covered with pictures and incredibly detailed liner notes by Tony Hagert. RCA is distributing the record internationally.

Liz McRee's notes on the last of the series of lectures by Martin Williams, scheduled for publication in this issue, will be saved for a later issue due to lack of space. - Ed.

FOR SALE: Gut-Buckets. Guaranteed to rival a bass fiddle in tone and volume. Finished in attractive gold. Electronic adaptation also available at extra cost. Allow one week order time. Cost is \$22.50. Or build your own: detailed plans and instructions for playing for \$2.50. Tom Niemann, 684-7729.

WANTED: Musical instruments for wall decorations, need not be operable. Particularly want cornet, trombone, sop. sax. Ray West, 370-5605 (res.)/325-0931 (off.).

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?

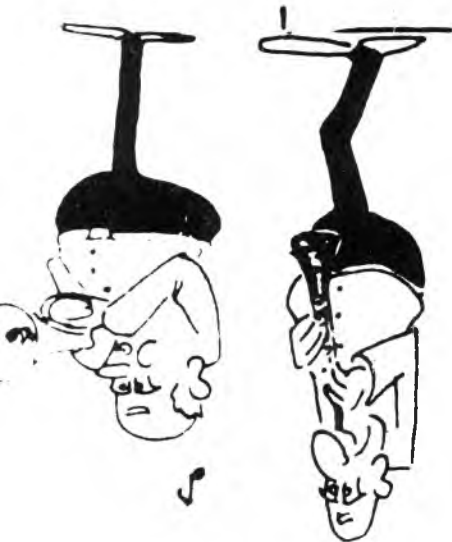
WOULD YOU BE INTERESTED IN CONTRIBUTING SHORT ESSAYS OR ARTICLES TO THE P.R.J.C. QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER? YES ()
PLEASE DESCRIBE

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

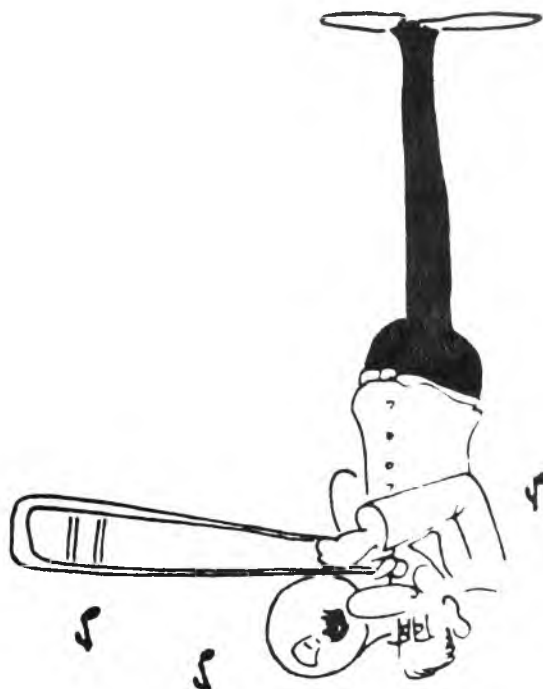
Signature _____

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

JAZZ FOR DIXIELAND HOORAY



FIRST CLASS MAIL



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

WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS!

Bill German
Arlington, Va

Robert Loveless
Bethesda, Md

Vivienne Blackwell
Brookeville, Md

Ernest C. Lawson, Jr.
Upper Marlboro, Md

Lee M. Dade
Alexandria, Va

Jean Kittrell
Edwardsville, Ill

Richard L. Harris
Tacoma Park, Md

Victorian Jazz Club
Melbourne, Victoria,
AUSTRALIA

Bill Diesing
Beltsville, Md

Josephine Lovejoy
Alexandria, Va

Linda Cohen
Annandale, Va

Robert Henson
Washington, D.C.

Gerald Lynch
Washington, D.C.

Wilma Navazio
Alexandria, Va

Esther Suher
Silver Spring, Md

Robert C. Johnson &
Juliana Johnson
Moline, Ill