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	DESCRIBE YOUR JAZZ INTERESTS BRIEFLY (What styles interest you, etc.)
	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
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TAILGATE RAMBLINGS, Vol. 5, No. 2

February 1975

Editor - Dick Baker This Month's Cover - 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 do not necessarily 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 Street, Apt. 101 Arlington, VA 22206

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NEW YORK'S GROVE STREET STOMPERS IN PRJC FEBRUARY SPECIAL; MARRIOTT MAKES IT A MARDI GRAS "ESCAPE WEEKEND"

Bill Dunham's Grove Street Stompers, the group which has played every Monday night in Arthur's Tavern in New York for 11 years (!), will play at the PRJC's special event for February. The Stompers played at a packed PRJC house in May, 1973 and were very well received. With them again will be clarinetist Nick Sassone, one of the featured performers at the recent Manassas Jazz Festival.

The concert-dance will take place Saturday, February 22, from 9 p.m. until 1 a.m., in the Persian Room of the Marriott Twin Bridges. As in past PRJC special events at the Marriott, admission will be \$3 for members, \$4 for non-members; Marriott will run a cash bar.

For those who want to make it a really special weekend of jazz, the Marriott folks have declared a Mardi Gras "Escape Weekend": check into the hotel Saturday afternoon and enjoy a swim in their new indoor pool or a sauna or both. Have dinner at your leisure in the new Sirloin & Saddle Livestock Co. Restaurant, which has excellent roast beef and steaks. Enjoy the Grove Street Stompers that evening. Sleep late, but not past 10 a.m., for at that time the Free State Jazz Band fires up in the Windjammer Room for a Dixieland brunch replete with Bloody Marys and other liquid goodies. Sober up with another swim and check out late. All this goes as a package for just \$54.90 per couple. (The Sunday brunch alone is \$4 plus drinks.) This is an especially fine opportunity for some of the many PRJC members who live outside the Washington area (see Ed Fishel's article elsewhere in this issue) to come to town for a weekend of jazz.

For Marriott reservations write: Marriott Twin Bridges Motor Hotel, 333 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, VA 20001, or call (703) 628-4200. Mention that you're with the PRJC and ask for rooms adjacent to other jazz fans.

Note that you can come Friday and check out the Downtown Jass Factory in nearby Columbia, Maryland (see my article elsewhere in this issue), and/or stay over for Sunday evening, when another fine PRJC band, Southern Comfort, will play at the club's regular weekly jazz session right there in that same Marriott Hotel. We especially expect to see some of our New Jersey friends that weekend, since many of us will be going up there the previous weekend for the Pee Wee Russell Memorial Stomp.

If this weekend goes over well for the Marriott people, they want to experiment with other jazz-oriented events, which could be very much to our advantage, so let's give this one all our support. Invite your friends in from out of town and put them up at the Marriott.

(A reminder that our special event for March will be our annual Bix Beiderbecke Birthday Blowout, featuring the Bix Beiderbecke Memorial Jazz Band, from New Jersey. It will take place on Saturday, March 15, also at the Marriott.)

At the December Board of Directors meeting, President Ed Fishel assigned the following specific responsibilities to board members:

Scotty Lawrence - Music Director Johnson McRee - Promotion Chairman (cont. on p.8)

HELLO, OTHER JAZZ CLUBS -

LET'S GET TOGETHER!

by Ed Fishel

One of the reasons the PRJC's second president, Shannon Clark, is the club's arranger of "special events" is that he knows jazz bands all around the country. And one of the reasons he has such a wide acquaintance is that for a good long tour of duty he was personal pilot to a fourstar general who traveled a lot.

For years Col. (then Maj., or Capt.) Clark boasted that wherever he took his boss, or his boss took him, he could find a Dixieland band working. He even found one one night in Toledo, Ohio, when he and his airplane couldn't make it to Detroit.

Then one day the General said, "Today we're flying to Mesa." Mesa (Ariz.) is, or was, not a very big town, and is not known for having any Culchah save Pueblo Indian, and is not near to Detroit or Toledo or any other Dixieland center. Shannon was sure that this time he'd spoil his record.

But that night he found a Dixieland band working in Mesa.

That's Col. Clark's favorite story of the pervasiveness of Dixieland. I have my favorite--about the jazz pianist from the upper peninsula of Michigan, which I thought had a total population of about 75, who writes to me about Dixieland action up in that Far North country. Or maybe my favorite story is that there are now three organized Dixieland bands, and a quarterly minifestival, in Northeastern Ohio where there were only swing bands when I made the scene out there in the 1930's.

All of us can tell a couple of stories on this pervasiveness theme. We're slightly astonished to find the music alive and well in places we never heard of. But we needn't be.

What is worth being astonished about is that a purely local jazz club, namely the PRJC, at a time when it had 597 members, had 104 of those members (see the tally in the next column) living in distant places --as far away as Australia and Hawaii.

More than a sixth of our members live too far away to participate in our activities except once in a long while, if ever. PRJC Membership (October 1974)

Why do they join up?

I'll agree that they find TAILGATE RAMBLINGS a delightfully elevating publication (*Hear*, *hear*! - *Ed*), but I won't agree that getting a subscription to TR is their reason for joining.

They join because of an urge to associate with people who share their love for this music.

It's a fair bet that all the other *local* jazz clubs (and Shannon Clark knows over 30 of them) have about the same proportion of distant members that we do.

That ought to tell us something. Namely, that there ought to be a national--yea, an international--organization of jazz clubs.

An ambitious undertaking, to be sure. And we're already talking about a jazz radio station in Washington, an undertaking ambitious enough to absorb our energies for a number of years.

But we're going to make a start toward an association of jazz clubs anyway. This issue of TR is going to all the other jazz clubs whose addresses we have, with a proposal that we exchange newsletters with them.

To the extent that our invitation is accepted, we'll quickly develop a national (or international) directory of jazz clubs, so that PRJC people visiting faraway places can immediately locate compatriots and find the jazz scene.

But that's only a byproduct, albeit a useful one. The main idea is to get these many clubs into communication with each other. Once that happens, an association of local clubs will become a practicable goal.

AN ALL-JAZZ RADIO STATION? WELL, MAYBE

It is now two months since TAILGATE RAMBLINGS announced, with a lack of caution that we did not fail to acknowledge, that Washington should have an all-jazz radio station. Since that time we have had our innings with the FCC. Inquiry by President Ed Fishel revealed that there aren't any FM or AM channels around here that are looking for occupants. But the FCC had scheduled a hearing for members of the public to register their complaints and suggestions about local broadcasting. Ed attended, and the Commission happily accepted his statement, which follows.

I am here to call attention to the fact that although jazz is the favorite music, or a favorite music, of a very large sector of the population, it occupies only a tiny fraction of the time given to music on Washington-area radio stations. It is mainly confined to a very few obscure stations, at non-prime hours; finding it on the air requires effort and research.

I am acquainted with the popularity of jazz through being a member of one of the longest-established jazz bands in this area. We play for a large variety of audiences -- in night clubs, country clubs, lodge halls, hotels, schools, amusement parks, and so on. Wherever we appear we are greeted with enthusiasm and almost always with expressions of regret that our kind of music is so hard to find. The other local jazz bands experience the same welcome from their audiences, and the same expressions of musical starvation. For it is no exaggeration to say that thousands of local people are starved for this music.

Our local jazz club--which, incidentally, is widely known as one of the most active in the nation--would have the resources, in program material and operating personnel (including volunteers), to put a nonprofit, all-jazz radio station on the air. But we understand no channels are available; so we have not even undertaken to look for the necessary funding, although we believe that if we had the promise of a channel we could get the money from foundations or public sources. We realize of course that the FCC cannot "order" existing stations to program more jazz. The most we can ask is that the Commission be alert to this problem and perhaps help us identify some local station that would give a substantial amount of air time to programs that we would package, consisting of recordings by local bands and individual artists, and selections from the record libraries of the many local collectors who would be willing to contribute to such broadcasts.

As the only native American art form, jazz is entitled to a much more prominent amount of broadcast time than it now receives. Perhaps the reason the broadcasting industry mainly ignores this fact is that it does not have the program resources or the personnel to put more jazz on the air. If that is the case, the Potomac River Jazz Club stands ready to help out.

So there you have it. We can go on the air when somebody vacates a channel (or the FM or AM spectrum is extended). That may be as good as it is bad, for under the most favorable conditions it would take us quite a while to organize enough program material. In the meantime we can be collecting names and ideas for the project and generally keeping our powder dry.

ALONG these same lines, here is a list of some of the area radio programs likely to be of interest to our members:

M-F 5:30 am (Sat & Sun 6 am) - Jazz Anthology, by George Mercer (one of the PRJC's five founding fathers), WAMU, 88.5.

Sat 9 am-12 noon - "I though I heard Buddy Bolden say..." hosted by Royal, WGTB, 90.1.

Sat 8 pm-1 am - Jazz Plus, hosted by Yale Lewis, WETA, 90.9.

Sat 5:30 pm - "This Is Ragtime," a continuing series by Terry Waldo, WAMU, 88.5.

Tue 2-2:45 pm - Replay of music recorded at the Pub on the previous Sunday evening, WGTB, 90.1.

Sat 5 pm - Jazz Revisited, with Hazen Schumacher, WAMU, 88.5.

OPEN JAM SESSION MOVES TO SECOND WEDNESDAY

The PRJC's open jam session has been moved to the second Wednesday of each month to take it out of conflict with other activities at the Cinders Steak House.

Lou Weinberg (trumpet), who is now serving as musical director of the monthly sessions, reports that the January meeting was a terrific success, musically and socially.

One of the stars of the evening was pianist Ramon Ballve. Ramon usually performs as a solist or with a small combo (he was the weeknight entertainer in the Windjammer Room for some time), but he has sat in with PRJC bands on occasion and has always knocked us out. Also on piano were Del Beyer, leader of the Anacostia River Ramblers, and Howard Watermeier, a superb tickler who began playing professionally in New Orleans in the 1930's.

Another treat was a performance of Joplin rags and jazz tunes by a trio consisting of Charlie LaBarbera (banjo), Bill Osborne (piano) and John Wood (bass). Charlie and Bill can be heard every Thursday night at Shakey's in Annandale, where they eschew the standard Shakey's sing-along fare in favor of rags and jazz. The trio was later joined by George Norris on drums, who deserves a lot of thanks: each month George brings his drum set and graciously puts it at the disposal of all the drummers present. Other drummers on this particular evening were Bill Jones and Chuck Morelli.

Joe Shepherd did yeoman's duty on trumpet, since a hurting lip kept Lou Weinberg out of action most of the evening. Another stalwart was Hal Farmer on trombone, who blew every set.

Don Andre, one week out of the hospital, was impressive with his fine banjo work, as were other banjoists Maury Hoard, Jerry Fain and the above-mentioned Charlie LaBarbera.

The reed section was especially rich in talent, being composed at various times of Steve Duda, Mac McGown, Jim Hamilton, Coleman Hankin, and Country Thomas, who added the unique sound of his bass sax.

And last, but certainly not least, was Dick Ruppert on washboard. Having recently moved to our area from the midwest, Dick has added a lot to the rhythm section at these sessions, which are frequently without a bass player.

The next Cinders jam session is on February 12 and promises to be a fine session, since everybody came away so enthused over the January event. These sessions are open to all area jazz musicians and fans alike; there is no admission, but a hat is passed to pay the bartender. Come on out!

THINK JAZZ, BUY PRJC!

Members are reminded that the club has for sale a number of items designed to display your PRJC affiliation or to call attention to our existence. The first is our lapel buttons, which make fine souvenirs and are highly envied by other jazz clubs. Next are decals about 3" in diameter showing the same "second line" parasol as the lapel buttons. Finally, our long-lasting vinyl bumper stickers say "Potomac River Jazz Club - Think Jazz - 630-7752." These items are 50¢ each or any combination of 3/\$1. Order them from Anna Wahler, 3903 Buck Creek Rd, Temple Hills, MD 20031.

Also, we have professionally recorded and packaged stereo cassette tapes of the 1974 PRJC Jazz Picnic, which contain one tune by each of the 13 bands that played that day. They are \$4 each, order from TR.

And for musicians, band leaders, and anybody else who wants to be able to locate musician-members of the PRJC, there is our Musicians Directory, listing every musician by each instrument he plays, along with his own comments about stylistic preferences, ability to read, etc. \$1 each from Polly Wagner, 302 Timber Lane, Falls Church, VA 22046.

BEANTOWN JAM SESSIONS

Our area was visited recently by Boston jazz fan and boogie-woogie piano player Sam Benichasa, who twice a month runs an open jam session somewhat like the PRJC's. Sam's sessions take place on the first and third Fridays of each month and everybody's invited. Sam left us a stack of flyers describing the sessions, with maps and phone numbers. Any PRJC musician headed for Boston who would like to sit in with the folks up there can request one of the flyers from TR.

NEW JAZZ ACTION IN COLUMBIA, MARYLAND

Last month's TR bemoaned the fact that with the cancellation of jazz at D'Angelo's Restaurant in Wheaton, there was no longer any jazz being played in the Maryland suburbs. Right after press time we got the happy word that this has changed. The Downtown Jass Factory is now playing every Friday evening at Mrs. Z's Restaurant, on Cedar Lane in Columbia.

The Downtown Jass Factory was previously called the Mount Vernon Stompers, having originally played at Peabody's Book Store in the Mt. Vernon section of Baltimore. They're led by pianist John True, with: Bob Thulman, clarinet; John Wessner, trombone; Harry Roland, cornet; Chris Henderson, banjo; Frank Wiedefeld, tuba; and John Goldburn, drums. As you can see, there is some overlapping of personnel with another Baltimore area band, the Bay City 7, and the DJF does in fact sound a lot like the BC7--which is to say they sound darned good, playing basically San Francisco style jazz. There are already a couple dozen PRJC regulars there every Friday. The leader, Dr. John True, is a research psychologist at Johns Hopkins by day; at night he plays jazz to get his own head straight!

Mrs. Z's serves a limited menu of delicious food, but has no liquor license (it's across the street from an elementary school--evidently the kids up that way are real lushes and have to be kept away from the sauce), so everyone is cordially invited to bring their own bottles of whatever helps them through the night. The band is still experimenting with ways to make the job pay; after passing the hat the first few nights, they are going try some sort of cover charge in February.

THE GRINCH LIVES -- IN THE CRESCENT CITY

Latest news from New Orleans is that the City Council is soon to pass an ordinance which will require musicians to get a \$25 permit if they want to play in the street. Seems the French Quarter shopkeepers have complained that crowds attracted to street bands block the entrances to their stores, and that the bands play so loud they interfere with business in the stores. Say it ain't so, Joe. "Yes, Virginia, New Year's Eve Was On December 31"

Now that the PRJC has invented New Year's Eve, New Year's No. 2 is already in the planning machinery. Ten musicians and 75 other faithful kept the Odd Fellows Hall in Falls Church heated up until 1975 was two hours old. The band at various times resembled the Randolph Street Gang, the Good Time Six, the Free State JB, and even the club's teenage band.

The expectation that musicians wishing to avoid the New Year's Eve get-richquick hassle would overpopulate the party was not borne out, but next year the cats will have more time to coordinate their wives into attending.

The party was pronounced a gas by so many that the question of whether to do it again was answered on the spot. The committee consisted of Polly Wagner, who booked the hall, decorated it, imported a fine catered breakfast, and collected enough at the gate to keep the treasurer happy.

HAYAKAWA JAZZ LECTURES AT D.C. LIBRARY

S. I. Hayakawa's Seminar on the History of Jazz, a taped series originally prepared for radio broadcast, will be played at the Martin Luther King Memorial Library, 901 G Street NW, every Thursday at noon from February 6 through April 10. Free coffee will be served. For more information call the Library's Music Department at 727-1285.

The HAPPY JAZZ BAND of San Antonio, Texas, one of the country's most successful professional traditional jazz bands, will play Thursday, February 13, at the Holiday Inn at Tyson's Corner. Admission is \$5.

Potential advertisers are reminded that TR is now able to accept commercial advertising. Rates are (discount for PRJC members):

full page = \$40 (20%)
 1/2 page = \$20 (10%)
 1/4 page = \$10 (not discounted)
 TAILGATE RAMBLINGS goes out to nearly
800 jazz fans each month and gets passed
to many more.

DIXIELAND AT THE KENNEDY CENTER

The PRJC's brand of traditional jazz finally broke the cultural barrier on December 30, when a group of PRJC musicians, playing as "The Hot Mustard Ragtime Band," performed before a packed house of enthusiastic listeners in the Grand Foyer of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.

The concert was one of a whole series of musical events over the holidays sponsored by the Mobil Oil Company. Organizer/leader Dave Burns assembled some of the finest musicians in the PRJC and put together a program of tunes designed to trace the history of traditional jazz from early New Orleans marches and ragtime through the beginning of the Swing Era. Playing were:

Dave Burns, trombone Mel Greennagel, tuba Charlie LaBarbera, banjo & guitar John Skillman, clarinet Al Stevens, trumpet Ken Underwood, drums Tex Wyndham, piano

Local songstress Gail Dixon sang two tunes, St. Louis Blues and Mood Indigo, and everybody in the band was featured in a solo role in one or more tunes. It should be noted that Tex Wyndham Amtraked all the way down from Mendenhall, Pennsylvania for the gig, and was featured on piano plus rhythm in Maple Leaf Rag. And your humble editor acted as MC.

The National Park Service estimated the crowd at 800 people, making it (unless someone can correct me on this) the largest audience ever for a PRJC jazz band.

PRJC members who missed the Manassas Jazz Festival are unaware that Trombonist Emeritus Slide Harris--to whom the 1974 Festival was dedicated--made two microphone appearances there, but without trombone. Slide has made a good recovery from his stroke, sustained on the Windjammer Room bandstand last May, but his trombone has had to remain in its case until certain dental problems are resolved. Slide heard from scores of his friends while in the hospital; anyone who would like to pass on his greetings now can write Slide at 114 46th Place NE, Washington, D.C. 20019.

(cont. from p. 3) Polly Wagner - Social Chairman Eleanor Johnson - Awards Chairman Rod Clarke - Budget Officer Dick Stimson - Band Scheduling Bob Harris - On-Location Publicity Ken Underwood - Media Publicity Ray West - Membership & Recruitment Chairman Shannon Clark - Special Events Chairman Dick Baker - Editor of TAILGATE RAMBLINGS & Voice of 630-PRJC Doris Stone - Recording Secretary Since the last elections to the Board of Directors in November, three members of the board have resigned: Dolores Wilkinson and Fred & Anna Wahler. At the January meeting Doris Stone was elected by the board to fill one of these slots; the other two will be filled at the February meeting. Pres. Ed has also enlisted the services of the following non-Board members for the tasks indicated: Esther West - Secretary-Treasurer Anna Wahler - PRJC Archivist Fred Wahler - Liaison with other jazz clubs

FOR SALE: string bass--Kay, blond, needs work. \$80. Call Rick, 871-6266.

WANTED: Kid Bastien's Camelia Jazz Band played in the Ramada Inn in Lanham on the day after the 1972 PRJC Picnic. Can someone lend me a tape of that performance? Harry Friedman, 362-0238.

PRJC member Ralph Grugel (Cleveland, Ohio) made the December cover of The Mississippi Rag. Ralph, leader of the Eagle Jazz Band, and his wife Tannis travel to jazz festivals all over the country in their camper, which is sumptuously equipped with tape-playing equipment and Ralph's trombone. The Mississippi Rag, by the way, is an excellent publication devoted to traditional jazz and ragtime, and I recommend it without reservation. Subscriptions are \$5 per year: P.O. Box 19068, Minneapolis, MN 55419.

The Potomac River Jazz Club



DIAL (30I) 630-PRJC

For recorded info -

** WINDJAMMER ROOM **

February 2 BAY CITY 7 9 GOOD TIME SIX 16 NEW SUNSHINE JAZZ BAND 23 SOUTHERN COMFORT March 2 RANDOLPH STREET GANG 9 ORIGINAL WASHINGTON MONUMENTAL JAZZ BAND

REGULAR GIGS

Please note: all gigs are tentative--check 630-PRJC

Sunday PRJC weekly jazz session in the Windjammer Room of the Marriott Twin Bridges Motor Hotel, located at Virginia end of the 14th Street Bridge. 7:30-11:30 p.m. No cover, two-drink min. Open to public.

> ANACOSTIA RIVER RAMBLERS, Lighthouse Restaurant, on Rt. 50 in Falls Church, Va. 7-11 p.m. Sit-ins welcome.

- 2/9 Swing!
- 2/16 Barnstorming JB
- 2/23 Original Washington Monumental JB
- 3/2 Fat Cat's Manassas Festival Jazzers
- 3/9 closed
- Monday RANDOLPH STREET GANG, Bratwursthaus, 708 N. Randolph St., Arlington, Va. 8:30-11:30 p.m., then sit-ins.
- Wednesday PRJC OPEN JAM SESSION, second Wednesday of each month. 8:30-midnight. Cinders Steak House, 1500 S. Joyce St., Arlington. See story p.6.
- Thursday GOOD TIME SIX, Bratwursthaus, Arlington. 8:30-11:30 p.m., then sit-ins.

Friday DOWNTOWN JASS FACTORY, Mrs. Z's Restaurant, Cedar Lane, Columbia, Md. 8:30-midnight. See story p.7.

> TEX WYNDHAM'S RED LION JAZZ BAND, Surrey Restaurant, Wilmington, Del. First Friday of month only. Reservations suggested.

COMING UP

Thu, Feb. 13 HAPPY JAZZ BAND, 9 p.m.-l a.m., Holiday Inn, Tyson's Corner, Va. \$5.

Sat, Feb. 22 GROVE STREET STOMPERS (NY) at PRJC February Special Event. Persian Room, Marriott Bridges. See p. 3 for details.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!!!

Jean S. Zupan Arlington, Va

Robert D. Thulman Ellicott City, Md

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Neil T. Coakley Silver Spring, Md

Joseph G. Kardian Highland Springs, Va

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