

Bluegrass Music

# Union Grove Hosts Fiddlers

By Jane Cross and Beth Hunter

Union Grove, a cross-roads community located between New Hope and Harmony, was the scene of the 45th Annual Old Time Fiddlers' Convention.

The annual Union Grove Old Time Fiddlers' Convention was organized back in 1924 by Mr. H. P. Van Hoy, a school teacher and champion old time fiddler. It was proposed that a fiddlin' contest would be good entertainment and proceeds would go to the benefit of Union Grove School. It was everything expected and more, and since has been held at the same time each year, Easter weekend. The old auditorium where it all began 45 years ago now stands as an abandoned landmark on the school campus.

The Old Time Fiddlers' Convention has always been a non-profit enterprise with the school sharing the net gate receipts on a 50-50 basis with the musicians. The administrators and townspeople both agree that the proceeds from the annual gathering have been a tremendous help and supplement to the school program for the youth of the community.

The convention grew from a meager 75 in 1924 to an overwhelm-

ing 14,000 in 1968. Its growth is possibly due to a growing reputation which draws performers and spectators from all over the United States. For there is a curiosity, or a genuine love of the old time country and bluegrass sounds. Due to the large crowds, the convention has outgrown the schoolgrounds. The Van Hoy brothers have plans to develop an elaborate campsite on 44 acres of their land for what they term will be "the most up-to-date country music park in the world." When completed the campground will hold 10,000 people, and will have bathhouses, trailer sites with electric outlet and water connections. It could be used year-round and gives rise to the possibility of a fall festival.

Though the weather was foggy and wet, a few stronghearts ventured into the community on Thursday night, but by the weekend, despite bad weather, enthusiastic hordes of people had poured into the town. They set up camp around the Volunteer Fire Department, and later when that area was filled, they began pitching tents in the trailer park across the road from the schoolgrounds. Mostly hippies and college students camped out. It

was an incongruous gathering, with an equally divided representation of the camps of George Wallace and Eugene McCarthy. Bound together by music, everyone seemed to get along just fine. The hippies, farmers, city folk, bluegrass musicians, even college professors (including Clauss and Thompson) circled around the huge green and yellow circus tent or gathered in small knots or, like Gibson, wandered around the scattered groups of bluegrass musicians.

Saturday morning started off with a makeshift parade of old cars, horses and riders in Western regalia, a wooden cart drawn by a huge pair of oxen weighing over 3000 pounds each, an old truck with hound dogs yelping at a treed coon; bringing up the rear were the "Original Jokers" and the "Tasmanian Devils," both motor gangs.

Competition began in the gym at 1:30 p.m., and continued with the main competition in the circus tent until the wee hours of the morning. The curiosity seekers left with an appreciation of the blue grass sound. Union Grove is a tradition secure in its growing reputation. Non-believers need only visit Union Grove, North Carolina, on any Easter weekend to be transported backwards into history.



Fiddler at Convention plays . . .

# Music Depicts Hairy Generation

By Jane Cross

Lord Byron once wrote:

There's music in the sighing of a reed;  
There's music in the speaking of a rill;  
There's music in all things if man had ears;  
The earth is but the music of the spheres.

Perhaps this is what two actors, Jerome Ragni and James Rade had in mind when they and Galt MacDermot, Staten Island composer, got together to combine their talents in what may well be the greatest theatrical event of this decade.

*Hair* is really a heterogeneous happening, a protest against social conventions, a scandal, a strand of graffiti, a masterpiece. A listener to the soundtrack of this Broadway tribal love-rock musical is struck by many feelings. One minute he feels the dismay of shock; the next, fun, admiration, or even envy of the actors for their candid freedom in their pro-love, anti-establishment world. There is music in man's hair; his skin color, his dreams; his successes, his failures; yes, even in his weaknesses.

On the musical side, MacDermot uses *Hair* as a melting pot for varied sounds and rhythms reflected in electronic, rock, swing, country and western, and Oriental types of music. The music pulsates with the sounds of today. The lyrics reflect curiosity, tongue-in-cheek humor, innocence, candor, and the restlessness of today's youth.

Highlights from the album *Hair* include the following:

"Aquarius" is a tribute to the Age of Aquarius, the water-bearer, which began in 1924. It is characterized by "harmony and understanding peace and love . . . describing a mystical, wonderful age where everyone can live together in harmony. It contains a haunting melody and visionary lyrics. It is one of the most popular on the album.

"Donna," a rock tune about a sixteen-year-old virgin, asks the poignant question, "Is the missing Donna my madonna?"

"Hashish" is a turned-on sound

which gives the tribe's answer to what they consider as society's curse—alcohol.

"Colored Spade" is described as "an ethnic experience" dedicated to all the world's "Uncle Toms" . . . Step 'n Fetchit, Aunt Jemima, Amos and Andy.

"I'm Black" and "Ain't Got No" are both powerful uncensored lists of some of the things denied to a man because of his skin color. "Initials" exhibits sheer fun with letters.

"Hair," the main theme of the musical, hails today's phenomenon of the mind's liberation, symbolized by the display of hair.

From Side Two:

"Be-In" is a raga-rock which might be appropriate for a tribal love-in.

"Where Do I Go," a lovely song which brings home the message of the perennial quest of youth, has poignant lyrics.

"Black Boys" is a hilarious tune dedicated to George Wallace. It's my favorite.

"Walking In Space" is a beautiful selection, yet difficult to describe . . . about the tribe's attempt to explain their use of mind-expanding drugs.

"Three-Five-Zero-Zero" is filled with weird sounds—it's an almost surrealistic anti-war song.

"What a Piece of Work in Man" utilizes lyrics by Shakespeare.

"Good Morning Starshine" and the "Flesh Failures" (Let the Sunshine In) are both stirring poems which glow, shimmer, and shine . . . Both usher in the happiness which is predicted by the Age of Aquarius.

*Hair* is full of musical richness

and is highly entertaining. Though, in my opinion, the voices of the cast do not sound as professional as the *Fifth Dimension* singing a medley of the show's songs, or the *Cowbills* singing the main theme, I find that listening to the sound track is a real experience and gives an indication of the honesty and fun which characterize *Hair's* cast and amuse its audience.

The Salemite wishes to express its most genuine appreciation to Miss Nellie Jo Lee, United States Student Press Association Field Representative, for her constructive criticisms, helpful suggestions and enthusiastic encouragement concerning *The Salemite* and its new staff.

## Gramley Answers

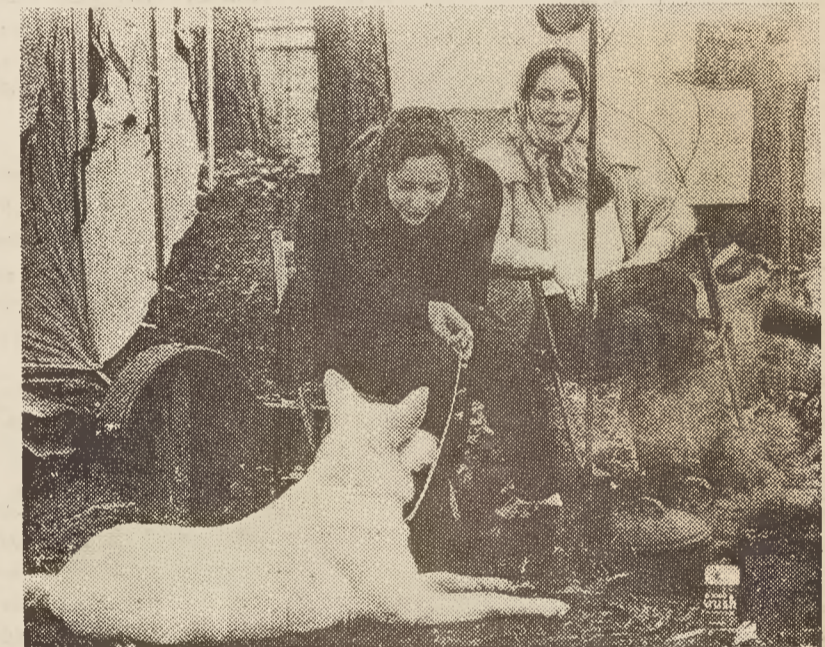
# Salem College Finances Herself

(Editor's note: See related letter to the Editor on page 2)

In response to students' recent questions and complaints concerning Salem's policy on accepting federal aid, Dr. Gramley has commented on what this policy is, and why Salem pursues it.

Dr. Gramley pointed out that Salem's financial status at present is very good. We have no debts to any bank or creditor. Our new Fine Arts Center is entirely paid for, as are all the other buildings on campus.

He stated that since 1958 the college has received National Defense Student Loan money, and funds for



while others take time to rest.

the purchase of books for the library. A similar application for aid will be made this year. Other than these funds, and federal aid which a chemistry professor received for a private research project some years ago, Salem has received no federal funds.

There are several reasons for this. First of all, most federal aid programs are adapted to large, research-oriented universities, rather than a small undergraduate-teaching college such as Salem. If anyone would then ask "Why don't we apply for State aid?" it is due to the fact that state aid to private schools is non-existent. The state is facing difficulties just keeping state-supported institutions running.

Government grants, money which is interest free, for classroom buildings or libraries pay only a fraction of the total costs of these buildings; the rest of the money must be raised by the college before any federal aid whatsoever can be obtained. This is often very difficult to do. Even assuming that federal aid is obtained, all the money must be used for the exact purpose for which it was originally intended. In short, there can be no redistribu-

tion of funds if the need arises. The government carefully audits all accounts. Also, before two years ago, government grants could only be obtained for income-producing buildings, such as dormitories or student unions. It is interesting to note that Salem's proposed indoor swimming pool does not qualify for federal aid under present regulations.

Government loans at low interest rates may also be obtained for constructing new buildings, but these loans have the stigma of a forty year mortgage attached. Dr. Gramley says that it is preferable to raise gift money to construct a building (as was done with Gramley dormitory) rather than to burden the students of the next forty years with paying it off.

Finally, Dr. Gramley commented on the rising cost of tuition at Salem each year. He said that this is merely another reflection of the inflation that is affecting every portion of our economy. Even with this galloping inflation, he is proud that Salem is able to pay most of its maintenance help higher than the required minimum wage, and has been able to raise professors' salaries too.

# Salemmites Spend Spring Break At Charlotte, Atlanta Meetings

Salem's recent spring recess began and ended with conventions for several students interested in teaching. First, the Student North Carolina Education Association convened in Charlotte, March 21-22. One week later, March 28-29, the Southeastern Regional Conference of the Student National Education

Association met in Atlanta. Salemites attending in Charlotte were Pat Carter, Carol Carter, Jane Horton, and faculty representatives, Dr. Lucia Karnes and Mrs. Harriett Garrett of the Education Department. One representative, Jane Horton, participated in the Atlanta meeting.

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