



A DIFFERENT STRUMMER

BECOME A FOLK SINGING LEGEND AT STATE AND COUNTY FAIRS!

Article by Bill Cohen



That's right. Twice during the next month, we all have a chance to do our strumming, picking, and singing at 2 high-profile events --- the Franklin County Fair and the Ohio State Fair. They will be great opportunities to spread the word and spread the joy about the Columbus Folk Music

Society --- simply by doing what we already love to do: jam !

You never know who we'll meet and who we'll inspire with our music. "Last year, one of the Franklin County Fair Board members sat down and played a few songs with us," says jam

organizer Tom Nagel. "And at the Ohio State Fair, we were joined by a fellow from Trinidad who plays steel drum."

Cathy Sheets is a two-year veteran of the jam at the State Fair, and she loves the way it attracts an impromptu audience that feels comfortable interacting with the jammers. "It's great to see folks hanging over the fence and asking if someone can play one of their

See Local Fairs- page 2

NEW OFFICERS CFMS

Election of the new officers and trustees for the *Columbus Folk Music Society* took place on June 30, 2013. Unfortunately the results didn't make the deadline for the July newsletter, but you can find them on the website at:

www.columbusfolkmusicsociety.org/leadership.html



A big thank you to outgoing members who have served and a "welcome" to the newly elected persons!



A BRIEF HISTORY OF KEEPING TIME -- THE WASHBOARD AS A MUSICAL INSTRUMENT & HOW TO MAKE YOUR OWN!

By Tom H. Nagel, with Credit to Wikipedia

A washboard is a tool designed for hand washing clothing. With mechanized cleaning of clothing becoming more common by the end of the 20th century, the washboard has become better known for its originally subsidiary use as a musical instrument.

The only remaining washboard manufacturer in the United States is the Columbus Washboard Co.,

which has been making washboards since 1895. Despite their name, the Columbus Washboard Company is located in Logan, Ohio, where they perpetrate an annual Washboard Festival on Father's Day Weekend. That festival is a good place to visit to learn about how people play washboard music.

People use washboards today for decorative purposes, crafts, furniture and musical instruments. Of course some people -- including campers, historical re-enactors and members of the Amish community -- continue to use washboards for laundry.

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WHAT'S INSIDE:

COLUMBUS FOLK MUSIC SOCIETY MEMBER

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favorite old time tunes.," she says. "They do seem to enjoy it. The time flies by. And you're at the Fair!"

And you're at both fairs with free passes and convenient parking, Tom stresses, so it's easy and cheap to participate.

Both venues have character, Tom says. The county fair site is what he calls "a nice roomy gazebo, far from all the noisier attractions." And the county fair organizers liked the CFMS jam so much last year that, this time around, "they have booked acts there all through the fair" to draw even bigger audiences to that area.

Meanwhile, the jam at the state fair is near a log cabin in the leafy natural resources area of the fairgrounds. Cathy recalls that, since there are trees and shade there, the temperatures are usually 10 degrees cooler than in the often boiling heat elsewhere at the fairgrounds.

Sunday, July 14 from 2:00 to 4:30 p.m. is when the county fair jam will take place. The jam at the state fair takes place Sunday, August 4 from 10 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. [See details on page 5].

If the prospect of having musical fun and attracting new folks to our group isn't enough of an incentive to join the jams at the fairs, then consider this extra perk that Tom stresses: "You can always wander off and buy a deep fried Twinkie whenever you want."



THE CFMS PICNIC ON JULY 28, FROM 1 P.M. ON . . .

. . . will be at the home of Hal Pepinsky and Jill Bystydzienski, 519 Evergreen Circle, Worthington. Evergreen Circle is the first street to the right on East South Street after crossing Morning Street, two blocks east of High Street.

Please bring a dish with a little extra to share, and drinks for yourselves, if convenient.

Hal and Jill will provide munchies, some wine, beer and assorted drinks, and a few dishes of their own, and have paper/plastic plates, cups and utensils for those who do not bring their own dinnerware. *Bring chairs or blankets for outdoors.*

The picnic is timed to coincide with the annual meeting of Ohio State's university school, and residents and guests of Rush Creek Village [where the event takes place] are also invited. There should be plenty of extra food and drink to go around, especially for out-of-town visitors. There are plenty of places for small groups of singers and players to do your thing. Welcome!

So come on out and enjoy the food, the music and the camaraderie with all these good folks! You need not be a member of the Columbus Folk Music Society to attend!

**COLUMBUS FOLK MUSIC SOCIETY
MEMBER HIGHLIGHT: BILL COHEN**

COMMENTARY BY JOE HALLETT, SENIOR EDITOR AT THE DISPATCH, THE COLUMBUS DISPATCH, SUNDAY, MAY 5, 2013

Article reprinted with permission of The Columbus Dispatch; www.dispatch.com. Photos by Randi Cohen and are additions of CFMS's "A Different Strummer."

Among the denizens who dwell by day within the limestone walls of the Statehouse, the absence of one in particular will be noticed and lamented tomorrow.

Bill Cohen, a **true** man of the people, will be gone (but not forgotten) for the first time in 37 years. The curly-haired and twinkle-eyed Ohio Public Radio

"IT IS ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE TO IMAGINE THE STATEHOUSE WITHOUT BILL. HE HAS BEEN INCREDIBLY PROFESSIONAL, INCREDIBLY FAIR AND VERY THOROUGH FOR A VERY LONG TIME." - Curt Steiner

Statehouse bureau chief has retired, silencing a trusted voice that brought the news to thousands of Ohioans and countless more over National

Public Radio during a 42-year radio career.

"They sent me my Medicare card in early March and that confirmed for me that my decision to retire is a good one," said Cohen, who turned 65 on March 24 but looks nary a day older than the green but eager Northwestern University journalism grad who in 1970 jumped at WOSU's offer of a part-time job to edit wire copy.

Five years later, WOSU assigned Cohen to the Capitol, and in 1980 he started the still-thriving Statehouse bureau to

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THE "WASHBOARD" - BASICS & TIPS

Washboard - from page 1

The traditional washboard is usually constructed with a rectangular wooden frame in which are mounted a series of ridges or corrugations for the clothing to be rubbed upon. For 19th century washboards, the ridges were often of wood; by the 20th century, ridges of metal were more common. A "fluted" metal washboard was patented in the United States in 1833. Zinc washboards were manufactured in the United States from the middle of the 19th century. In the late 20th century and early 21st century, ridges of galvanized steel are most common, but some modern boards are made of glass. Washboards with brass ridges are still made, and some who use washboards as musical instruments prefer the sound of the somewhat more expensive brass boards. One of the few musical instruments invented entirely in the United States is the Zydeco Frottoir (Zydeco Rubboard), a distillation of the washboard into essential



elements (percussive surface with shoulder straps) designed by Clifton Chenier and built by Willie Landry in 1946.

The washboard & frottoir (from Cajun French "frotter", to rub) are used as a percussion instrument, employing the ribbed metal surface of the cleaning device as a rhythm instrument. As traditionally used in jazz, zydeco, skiffle, jug band, & old time music, the washboard

remained in its wooden frame and is played primarily by tapping, but also scraping the washboard with thimbles. Often the washboard has additional traps, such as a wood block, a cowbell, and even small cymbals.

Conversely, the frottoir dispenses with the frame and consists simply of the metal ribbing hung around the neck. The frottoir or vest frottoir is played as a stroked percussion instrument, often in a band with a drummer, while the washboard generally is a replacement for drums. In Zydeco bands, the frottoir is usually played with bottle openers, to make a louder sound. It tends to play counter-rhythms to the drummer. In a jug band, the washboard can also be stroked with a single whisk broom and functions as the drums for the band, playing only on the back-beat for most songs, a substitute for a snare drum. In a four-beat measure, the washboard will stroke on the 2-beat and the 4-beat. Its best sound is achieved using a single steel-wire snare-brush or whisk broom.

Making your own washboard is not as hard as you might think

Your faithful author learned soon after joining the jam session known as the Original Long Duration Free Association Recreational Therapy Society (OLDFARTS) that some music just is not suitable for banjo. He decided to do some percussion. He also got tired of scrambling around on the floor for lost thimbles as he switched back and forth between banjo and washboard. Thus the three-legged washboard

played with percussion brushes was born.

Alleged friends began to donate items to be added to the Washboard Trap Set. These included a big plastic tambourine, a small carnival toy tambourine, a bicycle horn and a siren whistle which some kid has since walked off with. The drink holder was Jackie LaMuth's idea.



Forty-percent of an old leather glove was tacked onto the frame as a convenient way to hold the percussion brushes. (They kept rolling off the music stand.)

The Washboard Trap Set Mark II was built by myself and misguided neighbor David Browning. We used brass hinges to link two (2!!) washboards together in an A-Frame, with locking braces left over from an old discarded desk. It is much more stable than Mark I, and doesn't need any extra legs.

Assembling your own washboard trap set

Go out and find a **washboard**. Junk shops, antique stores, flea markets, old-time hardware stores and your grandma's basement are likely places to look. I bought mine new at Roush Hardware at 609 S. State Street in Westerville, OH. They still stock them, if you can believe their website. (How about that for a concept? Buying 19th Century appliances online.) You can also buy new washboards from the

See Washboard- page 7

Folk Music that Helped Change the Nation: The Songs of the Early Civil Rights Movement

**PUT FRIDAY AUGUST 23 ON
YOUR CALENDAR.**

That's when the Columbus Folk Music Society will co-sponsor a unique concert that shows the link between history and folk music.

Paisha Thomas and Bill Cohen will sing songs that emboldened and energized civil rights demonstrators, as they faced beatings, bites from police dogs, jail, and even death.

Plus, we'll watch vintage film



footage of key triumphs and tragedies the movement faced between 1960 and 1965, when whites and blacks joined hands to work for human rights for all.

WHERE: The Unitarian Church at 93 W. Weisheimer Rd.

WHEN: August 23 from 7:30 to 9 p.m.

Proceeds from suggested \$10 per person donations at the door will go to the Clintonville Community Resource Center.

Cohen - from page 2

serve all of Ohio's public radio stations. Cohen has become a legend in the realm of Ohio journalism, as evident by the video tributes to him by Ohio's last five governors -- all of whom he covered -- at a retirement party on Wednesday in the Statehouse Atrium, where the press corps dean was honored by dozens of admirers.

"He is, in all the good ways, a fixture at the Statehouse," said Curt Steiner, who got to know Cohen while working at WOUB in Athens, only later to be covered by Cohen during stints as chief of staff to former Gov. George V. Voinovich and to Speaker Jo Ann Davidson.

"It is almost impossible to imagine the Statehouse without Bill. He has been incredibly professional, incredibly fair and

very thorough for a very long time. People around the state have relied on his news coverage for decades and in some cases, it's the only coverage they get from the Statehouse."



Raised with a brother and sister in Bexley by a dad who was a radiologist and mom who was a homemaker, Cohen had little interest in government and politics, but began down a path of social awareness when he picked up a guitar at age 14 and soon was crooning the music of Simon

& Garfunkel, Bob Dylan and Peter, Paul and Mary.

Over the years, Cohen developed a must-see solo show that pays tribute to the 1960s civil rights and anti-war era, performing it at schools, synagogues and churches, while always on the prowl to sing and strum at festivals.

Given that background, one might assume Cohen is a liberal, but if that is true, it was never evident in his reporting.

"He's a folk singer and probably a grown-up hippy, but none of us really knows what his politics are," said Steiner.

That's because Cohen was unfailingly fair and objective in his reporting. And he was hands-down the best questioner at press conferences, always cutting to the chase in a respectful manner.

See Cohen - page 7

JULY HAPPENINGS, SO SAVE THE DATE . . .

☀ The **Saturday Music Jam** at the **Worthington Farmers' Market 9:30 - 11:30 a.m.** The southeast quad on Worthington Square. All are welcome to come play. Every Saturday through Fall Festival in October. It's good to bring a chair.

☀ **Sunday, July 14th from 2 - 4:30 p.m.** CFMS members play music on the Gazebo stage at the **Franklin County Fair** in Hilliard. This is the same location as last year. Will be electric this year. Come on out and join the fun! Contact Tom

Nagel at: tomnagel@iwaynet.net for car pooling and pass information.

☀ **Thursday, July 18th from 8 - 11 a.m.** CFMS members are invited to play at the **White Castle Healthy Slider Event** at White Castle Headquarters: 555 W. Goodale Street Columbus. Coordinator: Tom Nagel at: tomnagel@iwaynet.net

☀ **Sunday, August 4 from: 10 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.** CFMS members play music at the log cabin in the Natural Resources Park area at the **Ohio State Fair**. Come on out!

Contact Diane at: dboston2@columbus.rr.com for car pooling or pass information.

☀ **Sunday, July 28 1:00 p.m., Summer CFMS picnic.** Held at the home of Hal Pepinsky and Jill Bystydzienski, 519 Evergreen Circle, Worthington. Evergreen Circle is the first street to the right on East South Street after crossing Morning Street, two blocks east of High Street. Please bring a dish with a little extra to share. Bring chairs or blankets for outdoors. All are welcome!

Bulletins

If you are a member of the Columbus Folk Music Society and would like your gigs included in our Following Our Own calendar, please email: newsletter@columbusfolkmusicsociety.org

Remember to check out our new website address at: www.columbusfolkmusicsociety.org

FOLLOWING OUR OWN. . .

Tuesday, July 2, 2013: The Hardtackers -- *Pub Polaris*, Evening informal sing: **around 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.** (East side of Mall)

Friday, July 5, 2013: Grassahol -- *Byrne's Pub* -- 1248 West 3rd Ave., Columbus, OH. **7 to 9 P.M.** Free.

Saturday, July 6, 2013: Loosely Strung -- *North Market*, Vine St., Cols. **10:00 am - Noon.**

Saturday, July 6, 2013: Halfway Home -- *Somerset Community Celebration 2* - **3:30 P.M.** Somerset Memorial Park, Somerset, OH.

Sat., July 6, 2013: Grassahol -- *Trek Theatre, Hocking Hills* (beside Hocking Hills Visitor Center): SR 664, just west of SR 33 near Logan, OH. **6:30 - 8:30 p.m.**

NOTE: Trek Theatre presents live blue grass and Shawnee storytelling every Sat. evening thru August 31. A family entertainment venue located in a rustic, natural amphitheater; a very unique outdoor performance experience. Bring folding chairs, blankets or just lean against a tree. Tickets: Adults \$12, kids 17 & under \$7. 10% discount for advance reservations. Check website for times & other performers: [Trek Theatre](http://TrekTheatre.com)

Saturday, July 13, 2013: Avalon Nine -- *Westerville Music & Arts Festival* -- **5:00 - 6:00 p.m.** Heritage Park and Everal Barn, 60 N. Cleveland Ave., Westerville, 43081

Sunday, July 14, 2013: Joanie Calem -- *Intergenerational Sing Along* at the Senior Residence, 120 Morse Rd., behind church. If you

love singing & dancing & building community come out & join us. **2nd Sun. of every month. 4 - 5 p.m.**

Friday, July 19, 2013: Grassahol -- *India Oak Bar & Grill* -- 590 Oakland Park, Cols. **8:00 p.m. - Mid.** Free

Sunday, July 21, 2013: Loosely Strung -- *Gosnell Old Fashion Gas Station Gathering* -- **11 - Noon & 1 - 3:30 p.m.**; 10383 Taylor Road, Reynoldsburg

Saturday, July 27, 2013: Loosely Strung -- *Ohio State Fair* -- **11:30 a.m. & 4 p.m.** Natural Resources Area; **1:30-3 p.m.** Cox Bldg. Art Gallery

Sunday, July 28, 2013: Loosely Strung -- *Harmony in the Park Music Series* -- **7 - 8 p.m.** Bicentennial Park at corner of Liberty St. and Park Ave. Delaware, OH

NOT A MEMBER? WANT TO BE? THERE IS A HANDY MEMBERSHIP FORM RIGHT HERE IN THIS NEWSLETTER.

BENEFITS INCLUDE: CAMARADERIE WITH THE FOLKIES IN TOWN, DISCOUNTS ON CERTAIN ADMISSIONS, THIS MONTHLY NEWSLETTER AND THE COMFORT OF KNOWING THAT ALL EVENTS ARE FAMILY FRIENDLY!

GOLDEN RULES FOR ENSEMBLE PLAYING

by J. W. Seung

1. Everyone should play the same piece.
2. Stop at every repeat sign and discuss in detail whether to take the repeat or not. The audience will love this a lot!
3. If you play a wrong note, give a nasty look to one of your partners.
4. Keep your fingering chart handy. You can always catch up with the others.
5. Carefully tune your instrument before playing. That way you can play out of tune all night with a clear conscience.
6. Take your time turning pages.
7. The right note at the wrong time is a wrong note (and vice-versa).
8. If everyone gets lost except you, follow those who get lost.
9. Strive to get the maximum NPS (note per second). That way you gain the admiration of the incompetent.
10. Markings for slurs, dynamics and ornaments should not be observed. They are only there to embellish the score.
11. If a passage is difficult, slow down. If it's easy, speed it up. Everything will work itself out in the end.
12. If you are completely lost, stop everyone and say, "I think we should tune."
13. Happy are those who have not perfect pitch, for the kingdom of music is theirs.
14. If the ensemble has to stop because of you, explain in detail why you got lost. Everyone will be very interested.
15. A true interpretation is realized when there remains not one note of the original.
16. When everyone else has finished playing, you should not play any notes you have left.
17. A wrong note played timidly is a wrong note. A wrong note played with authority is an interpretation.



JULY - "NAME THAT PHOTO"

Hint: The CFMS member is the one on the left. Answer and history in August newsletter.

"THAT'S THE GREAT THING ABOUT COMMUNITY. EVERYBODY GETS TO SERVE ACCORDING TO WHO THEY REALLY ARE...WHEN YOU THINK ABOUT IT THAT WAY, FOLK MUSIC'S NEEDINESS IS ONE OF ITS CHIEF VIRTUES, ISN'T IT? WHATEVER YOU HAVE TO OFFER IS WELCOME AND HELPFUL. AND THAT'S HOW COMMUNITY IS SUPPOSED TO WORK." From "Revival: A Folk Music Novel" by Scott Alarik

ANSWER TO JUNE'S - "NAME THAT PHOTO":



You've probably guessed it by now but the mystery photo is of Carl Yaffey. He was playing a concert with the Roadside Singers at the Colley Theatre in Norfolk, VA. They were playing on stage before the showing of the movie "Hootenanny Hoot" and yes, there was an audience. Carl relays, "looking back, the whole thing was funny. The movie was extremely corny." The songs that Carl was playing at this point in his life? . . . typical folk songs of the folk revival of the 60s. Tunes that were being played by the Kingston Trio, Peter, Paul and Mary, etc. And "yep" he was in a band!

WELCOME TO OUR NEW AND RETURNING MEMBERS:

Jackie LaMuth
Mariaa Clover
Carl Yaffey family



THE COLUMBUS FOLK MUSIC SOCIETY OFFICERS AND TRUSTEES

OFFICERS

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Webmaster: Carl Yaffey webmaster@columbusfolkmusicsociety.org

Washboard - from page 3

old company, Columbus Washboard Co., at 14 Gallagher Ave, Logan, OH 43138, phone number 740-380-3828. Or check out their website: <http://www.columbuswashboard.com>. Finally, if you drive through Amish Country, stop in one of their stores.



I added a light “third leg” to make my rig stand up by itself. It is best to cut that leg to length AFTER you add the heavier accoutrements

like the cymbal, wood block and drink holder. I used Gorilla Glue to secure rubber crutch tips to the three legs.

The cymbal: this might be the most expensive part of the rig, unless you can catch a rock drummer wandering away from his set-up. I went into the Columbus Percussion Center on North High Street across from Graceland Shopping Center and told the clerk that I was looking for a beat-up old piece of crap cymbal, preferably one having been run over by a truck. His eyes lit up and he said he had “just the thing.” The cymbal on Dave Browning’s rig is much nicer.

I found a long threaded bolt at the hardware store, the same diameter as the hole in the cymbal. I used a washer on top of the cymbal, and a couple of nuts on the threaded bolt hold the cymbal at the top.

I screwed and glued a piece of wood to the front of the washboard frame – the same end as the one with the third leg. I drilled a hole vertically down that piece of wood so that the big bolt holding the cymbal was close to vertical when the washboard was standing on its own three legs.

Finally, I drilled three or four holes in the cymbal, about 3/4 of the distance out from the center hole to the edge. In my hardware junk box I found short bolts that fit loosely through those holes and I used Crazy Glue to lock nuts on those bolts. The loose bolts buzz when you hit the cymbal – a home made “sizzle cymbal.”

Percussion Brushes: Again check out the Columbus Percussion Center or Music-Go-Round. Both places have a helpful staff and a wide selection of percussion brushes and other accessories like wood blocks, non-wood blocks, cow bells, and more cow bells. You know a good music store when you tell them you are building a washboard trap set & the clerk does not go screaming down the aisle.

Traditionally percussion brushes were made of bunches of light steel wire and were retractable. I thought the heavier plastic brushes sounded better. They were cheaper, too. Experiment at the music store and see what you like.

Other Accessories: The drink holder came from K-Mart. This is a real collector’s item. Most cars now have more built in drink holders than seats for passengers.

I added a dangling glasses case to hold kazoos and stuff. The tin cans were added before I had a good cow bell. A percussion cow bell sounds better than a real cow bell, and there is less chance of being stepped on while you are getting it. The desk bell is from Staples, and it is the most difficult accessory to play, especially if you have been drinking, because it requires a precise hit.

Possibly the most important accessory is the carrying handle located right behind the cymbal mount. This essential accessory allows you to pick up the whole rig in one hand and run when necessary. Don’t say I didn’t warn you.

Cohen - from page 4

"I think the job of a reporter is to ask tough questions of officials, let news consumers hear all sides of the arguments and to stay clear of becoming an advocate for any party, cause or bill," Cohen said.

“COHEN WAS UNFAILINGLY FAIR AND OBJECTIVE IN HIS REPORTING. AND HE WAS HANDS-DOWN THE BEST QUESTIONER AT PRESS CONFERENCES.” - J.Hallett

Cohen said he relished "covering strong, passionate debates over public policy," and he lamented that "the partisan political bickering has gotten more bitter and more ideologically charged" in recent times. "I especially love when just average citizens come down to the Statehouse and give legislators a piece of their minds."

He covered an endless parade of colorful politicians and most appreciated those who, so to speak, could talk in quotes, such as former Democratic Sen. Harry Meshel of Youngstown.

"I always remember when he said we taxed everything but flatulence and indigestion. When you're a radio reported, you know that's good stuff to put on the air."

For Cohen, the time has come to leave the Statehouse and its characters behind and attend to his passions -- Clippers baseball games, yard sales, traveling and camping with his wife, Randi, and their daughter Hannah, writing and singing songs.



Bill Cohen has signed off on the radio and signed on to retirement. Good for him, bad for us.

The Columbus Folk Music Society

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Next Issue in August

We're on the web!
www.cfms-inc.org

BECOME A MEMBER OF THE COLUMBUS FOLK MUSIC SOCIETY

Date _____ I am new to this I'm back for more

MEMBERSHIP LEVEL (all memberships renew on September 30th. Feel free to pro-rate if you wish):

Individual \$20 Household \$25 Good Friend \$50 Sponsor \$100

Patron \$200 Silver \$250 Gold (lifetime)\$500

Name(s) of member(s): _____

Address: _____ city _____ state _____ zip _____

Phone: (day) _____ (eve) _____ (cell) _____

Email address: _____

Yes! Please contact me regarding volunteer opportunities within the organization

In an effort to be both fiscally and environmentally responsible, we will send a full-color, interactive newsletter via email in pdf format unless you request a hard copy to be mailed to you.

Please send completed form and payment to:
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P.O. Box 20735, Columbus, OH 43220

I enjoy the annual Central Ohio Folk Festival (early May):
Lots 5 4 3 2 1 Not (please circle one)