

Frank Fowke Remembered

Few of us live to see our 100th year, but such a person was Frank Fowke, husband of the late Edith Fowke. Frank died on June 1, 2003 at the age of 99 ½. He was born on January 25, 1904 in Mecunoma, Ontario, but spent many of his growing up years in Neville, Saskatchewan. Frank began studies in engineering at the University of Saskatchewan where he met Edith Fulton. He finished his degree at the University of Manitoba and, after graduation in 1937, moved to Toronto to find employment. Edith followed shortly after and they were married. They bought their house at 5 Notley Place where they lived until Edith's death in 1996.

Frank was always interested in Edith's folk song collecting and in the early years Frank went with her to carry the tape recorder as it was too heavy for Edith to handle. Frank was a great raconteur and had many stories to tell of these trips. After Edith's death, Frank moved into an apartment at the St. Clair-O'Connor Community Centre where he enjoyed many hours playing the piano and receiving visitors. Music was always important to Frank. He enjoyed classical music, sang in choirs, played instruments and encouraged others to do so as well.

Although his sight had failed, he was a joy to those around him with his sharp mind and keen sense of humour. A Service of Remembrance and Celebration was held on June 16, 2003 at the St. Clair-O'Connor Community Centre.

Jeanette Panagapka

Treasures from Our Archives

Fifteen Years Ago

Bulletin 22.2-4 (December 1988). A response to "hard times" was a triple issue -- not, unfortunately, with triple content, but with a respectable batch of articles. There was soul-searching in Bill Sarjeant's "Folk Music Today: A Problem of Definition" and Murray Shoolbraid's "The Meaning of 'Traditional'"; George Lyon gave us "Folk Music in NFB Films" and David W. Watts contributed "Folk Music in Children's Music Education in the English-Speaking World"; "Two More Railroad Songs from Alberta" came from Tim Rogers. In addition to the railroad songs, Bill Gallahe's "The Newfoundland Sealers" and "The Skookumchuck

Camp Song" (also from Tim Rogers) saw print. Donald Deschênes reviewed a number of LPs of Quebec instrumental music on Folkways; also reviewed were recordings *André Alain: Violoneux de St-Basile de Portneuf*, Anne Lederman's compilation *Old Native and Métis Fiddling in Manitoba* and Barry & Lyn Luft's *Flower in the Snow*, as well as the book *Bruce Cockburn: All the Diamonds*.

Ten Years Ago

Bulletin 27.4 (December 1993). This issue was mistakenly identified as 27.3 on its cover. It was sort of a theme issue, including "Jewish Languages, Jewish Songs" by Nomi Kaston, "Mir Zenen Do: Montreal Memories" by Rona Altrows, "Klezmer in Canada, East and West" by George Lyon, and "Two Shtetl Folksongs: 'Die Soch' and 'Der Mail Lied'" from Ghitta Sternberg. There was also an EthnoFolk Letter from Judith Cohen, an Ottawa (and Area) Folk Directory, and reviews of books "*Ribbons, Bells and Squeaking Fiddles*": *The Social History of Morris Dancing in the English South Midlands* (Keith Chandler) and *Whistling Jigs to the Moon: Tales of Irish and Scottish Pipers* (Joanne Asala) and recordings *Close to the Floor: Newfoundland Dance Music* and *Six Mile Bridge*.

Five Years Ago

Bulletin 32.4 (December 1998). The issue showcased an interview with Max Ferguson entitled "Music is a very subjective thing....", with Barry Luft and Jim Dauncey posing the questions, as well as two articles on folk music's therapeutic uses: "A Journey in Song with Recovering Alcoholics" (Dr. Wilfred Gallant) and "The Potential of Music to Help Patients with Dyspnea and Anxiety" (Dr. Leslie Hall). Two songs by Dr. Gallant, "The Wet, Dark, Dusty Seam" and "Back Home Again", accompanied his article. A traditional song from Northern Ontario, "L'Ivrogne et les puces", was also included. Judith Cohen contributed an EthnoFolk Letter entitled "Revival and Tradition", and columns "Over the Waves" (radio) and "The Centrefold" (magazines) also appeared. Numerous recordings from French Canada were reviewed, as well as the Lunenburg Folk Harbour Festival, Ken Hamm's CD *Galvanized!* and Chris McKhool's *Earth Seas and Air*. There were four short editorials as well as the usual news and other ongoing features.

These issues (and all back issues, either in original form or as photocopies) are available from CSTM Back Issues, 224 20th Ave. NW, Calgary, Alta. T2M 1C2. See the Mail Order Service catalogue or the website (www.yorku.ca/cstm) and follow the links) for pricing.