



Newsletter

Wild Hog in the Woods

Coffeehouse

Celebrating 35 Years! 1978-2013



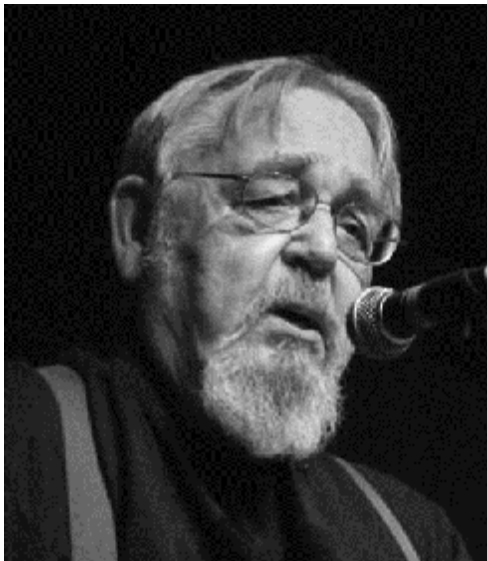
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WildHogInTheWoods.org

November/December 2014

Larry Penn Remembered . . .

By Jan Uebelherr of the Journal Sentinel – October 9, 2014



Larry Penn was once a Teamster, a ponytailed truck driver for the Ladish Co. whose love of folk music grew from playing the air guitar to a real one — at the suggestion of his wife — and writing songs. Truckloads of them.

Penn, best known for a song called "I'm a Little Cookie" — recorded by the late legendary folk singer Pete Seeger and local folk singer Claudia Schmidt, among others, died Tuesday at his Milwaukee home of complications of diabetes and heart problems. He was 87.

"He represented a lot of history that we as a people share — labor history," said his good friend, Chicago-area folk singer and songwriter Mark Dvorak, who met Penn in the late 1980s and performed and recorded with him.

"When I first met Larry, he took me around to all the spots where things had happened — the Bay View massacre, scenes of strikes. People don't always like to hear about it, but that is a part of our shared history and he wasn't afraid to bring to the stage," Dvorak said.

In the folk music heyday — especially the 1970s — Penn would work an eight- or nine-hour day driving a truck, then perform.

He caught the attention of Joe Glazer, a performer and owner of Collector Records, in 1976 — the bicentennial year — when labor was also "searching for its roots," Penn later recalled. Glazer invited him to sing at what was then the George Meany Center for Labor Studies in Silver Spring, Md. Glazer also issued Penn's first album, "Working for a Living," a collection of labor songs. And things began to take off for Penn.

At 58, Penn retired and turned his full attention to his music. Over the years, he often performed and recorded with Lil Rev and others, including singer/songwriter John Sieger of Semi-Twang.

"It was unfair to be on stage with Larry," said Sieger, who played several times with Penn at Cafe Carpe in Fort Atkinson. "The guy who followed him would always lose. Larry didn't have any clunkers."

Penn represented a vanishing breed of folk singer and songwriter, he added.

"He didn't write about himself," Sieger said. "He wrote about trains and trucks and union men and people shooting each other and people who were different."

He pointed to an anti-gun song called "The Shovel is Brother to the Gun," the title borrowed from a Carl Sandburg poem. "It's both funny and deep," Sieger said.

In a 1988 interview with the Milwaukee Sentinel, Penn had conceded that he was not your typical truck driver. He had a pony tail and beard before truck drivers did that kind of thing.

"I was never the darling of the truck driving set, that's for sure," he said.

Continued on Page 3

November Events

Tuesday, Nov. 3
7:00 - 8:30pm

Coordinators Meeting

We welcome all members of the Hog and all other interested persons to discuss hogonomics and other Hog business. Come on down to the Wil-Mar Center and we'll get more acquainted.

Friday, Nov. 7
8:00 - 10:30pm

50% Folk

Wayne, from Madison, gets together with Mark, Dean and Tanya, all from the Fox Valley, to play a lot of songs that harken back to the Folk Music Revival of the Fifties and Sixties. Their repertoire includes folk, bluegrass, gospel and old-time country, as well as a few older "oldies." Strong vocals are accompanied by guitar, banjo, mandolin, dobro, autoharp, electric bass and washtub bass. More at www.fiftypercentfolk.com.

Friday, Nov. 14
8:00 - 10:30 pm

Christine Costanzo

Christine returns for her second appearance at the Hog this year. She mostly plays original songs. Not only does she have a beautiful voice, she also writes thoughtful lyrics and accompanies herself on guitar. More at www.christinecostanzo.com.

Saturday, Nov. 15
2:00 - 4:30 pm

Hootenanny!

This semi-structured event, coordinated by Brett Johnson, features an hour of guided song sharing and an hour of sing-a-longs. Bring copies of your favorite songs and your stringed instruments. This is a FREE event, although Phill-up the Pig will be there to accept donations.

Friday, Nov. 21
8:00 - 10:30 pm

Skip Jones

Skip says he'll be "all wet" at this concert. He'll be singing about water and promoting water awareness. Skip has played at the Hog numerous times over the past 35 years. He performs original songs as well as traditional tunes, accompanying himself on guitar. He also totes a Native American flute. Past history points to a very enjoyable evening. More at www.skipjones.net.

Friday, Nov. 28
Closed

Closed for Thanksgiving

December Events

Friday, Dec. 5
8:00 - 10:30pm

High Ridge Band

Join the High Ridge Band for an evening of acoustic folk music, bluegrass, and old time gospel with solid instrumentals and tight vocal harmonies. Based right here in Madison, the band is comprised of bluegrass jam veterans brought together by a love of good acoustic music and the desire to share that music with others. See more at <http://andymorto6.wix.com/high-ridge-band>

Friday, Dec. 12
8:00 - 10:30 pm

Inna Larsen with Dark of the Moon

Dark of the Moon is a women's contra-band that plays music from the British Isles, America, Scandinavia and other countries for listening and dancing. Inna Larsen will play solos on the Norwegian Hardanger fiddle. Her repertoire includes traditional dance music from Western Norway as well as old time waltzes and schottisches that were played by Norwegian immigrants to Wisconsin.

<http://www.mad-wi.net/darkofthemoon/> and <http://jeffinnakari.weebly.com/innas-music-page.html>

Friday, Dec. 19
8:00 - 10:30 pm

Nelson Graham

Join Nelson Graham for another special December concert at the Hog. His accomplished guitar playing and smooth singing help him get across the meanings of the words and emotional underpinning of his songs. He covers traditional songs as well, including those of the winter season. It's a holiday tradition you won't want to miss!

Friday, Dec. 26
Closed

Closed for Christmas

Penn - continued from page 1

But with an undisputed blue-collar pedigree as a "working stiff," he became the darling of those who appreciated great folk music.

"Train songs — it's almost impossible to write a bad one," he said in the 1988 interview. "You can't hardly write a train song people don't like, at least to listen to." The 1988 feature story called "End of Train Device" one his finest train tunes, "a lament for the gradual replacement of the cabooses with a computer sensor."

And then there was the cookie song. It was inspired in part by a long-ago Milwaukee cookie factory, and in part by a song he and his wife, Pat, heard at a music festival. The song was about being an "illegitimate child." His wife, who worked at Penfield Children's Center, wondered why there couldn't be a song about emotionally disturbed and "damaged" children.

Penn told the tale of the cookie factory in the liner notes of his 1983 album, also called "I'm a Little Cookie":

"We had a cookie factory here in Milwaukee that used to hang up a shingle every week or so. It read, 'Broken cookies!' Then the people ... could go and buy pounds of broken cookies for \$1.25. You could take those home and just pig out, but after you got into 'em you realized that they tasted just as good as the cookies you bought in the store and got maybe eight in a package for 89 cents."

Penn explained, "Once the two ideas met, the song took about three minutes."

He recalled that Pete Seeger told him, "Any fool could have written this, but no fool did."

He added, "Actually, there's no big brainstorm about the song."

Penn is survived by his wife, Pat; daughters Genevieve Penn, Nancy Penn, Terry Penn and Sharon Monahan; seven grandchildren and one great-grandson.

Source: Journal Sentinel, October 9, 2014

<http://www.jsonline.com/news/obituaries/larry-penn-remembered-for-his-musical-provess-and-compassion-b99368124z1-278750411.html>

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Wild Hog in the Woods 2015 Membership Form

Name (please print) Email

Address City State Zip

Telephone Date

Please check here if you do not want your name given out for non-Hog folk event mailings.

The Wild Hog is a volunteer-run cooperative and all members are encouraged to volunteer. We ask working members to commit to volunteering at least three times per year. Are you interested in helping with any of the following?

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Set-up/clean-up | <input type="checkbox"/> Poster distribution | <input type="checkbox"/> Sound mixing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bulk mailing | <input type="checkbox"/> Graphics/art | <input type="checkbox"/> Concert coordinator |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter or Website (circle choice) | <input type="checkbox"/> Publicity | <input type="checkbox"/> Baking for concerts |

I am interested in performing on stage at the Coffeehouse. Please call me!

Please indicate which type of membership you prefer:

- | | |
|---|--|
| Working Member (volunteer at least 3 times a year) | Subscribing Member |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$10 Individual | <input type="checkbox"/> \$13 Individual |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$15 Family | <input type="checkbox"/> \$18 Family |
| <input type="checkbox"/> (Optional) Donation _____ | Thanks! |

Please make check payable to
"Wild Hog in the Woods"
Mail this form with check to:
Wild Hog in the Woods
953 Jenifer Street
Madison, WI 53703-3521

Bacon Bits

Thank you Volunteers

We are always looking for a helping hand. If you have an interest in the wonderful music that emanates from our stage every Friday from September through May, perhaps you would be willing to spend 2-3 hours every other month taking admissions or selling coffee and tea. If so, please contact our volunteer coordinator, Lisa Johnson at 608-442-5753.

Thanks go out to the people who are already steady volunteers and also to those in the handy hog contact list. They book the talent, gather and write a little info for each performer, schedule the volunteers, update and maintain a website, put together a newsletter, fold, label, stamp and mail the newsletters, and much more.

Finally, we are grateful for all the wonderful performers that play at our concerts. You play with gusto and enthusiasm, a full-out performance. You keep the Wild Hog the valued treasure that it is.

"THANK YOU ALL!

We couldn't have done it without you."

Handy Hog Contact List

Musician/Performer Booking:

Ramona Johannes, 608-246-0436(H), 608-244-5403(W)

Concert Coordinators: info@wildhoginthewoods.org

Kim Genich, Joanne Seckman, Ron Dennis, Warren Gordon, Ben Doran, Lisa Johnson

Volunteer Coordinator: Lisa Johnson, 608-442-5753

Membership: Johanna Fabke, 608-838-3112

Baking & Coffee Coordinator: Ben Doran 608-251-6429

Publicity:

Press Coordinator: Volunteer Needed

Web Site:

Design/Hosting:

Jamie Poindexter, jamiiep@wildhoginthewoods.org

Web Site Editor: Volunteer Needed

Newsletter:

Editor: Ramona Makos, rmak2007@new.rr.com

Mailing List: Tom Gross, 608-798-4999

Mailing: Tom Gross, 608-798-4999

Sound: info@wildhoginthewoods.org

Ron Dennis, Tom Dettinger, Kim Genich, Joe Loesch, Jamie Poindexter, Jeremy Goodman, Warren Gordon, Dave Bacholl

Officers: High Hog: Kim Genich

Vice High Hog: T.M. DeWitt, 608-446-5074

Treasurer: Tom Gross, 608-798-4999

Secretary: Kim Genich, 608-233-5687

Additional contacts at www.wildhoginthewoods.org

www.WildHogInTheWoods.org



%Wilmar Neighborhood Center
953 Jenifer St
Madison, WI 53703-3521

Metro Bus routes 3 and 4

Address label here