

Wild Hog in the Woods

April 2, 1979

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THE WILD HOG IN THE WOODS
'COFFEEHOUSE

is open weekdays Monday through Friday
from 1 pm to 5 pm

at 604 University Avenue in Madison
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The Wild Hog in the Woods
Coffeehouse
P. O. Box 1004
Madison, WI 53701
Editor: Agnes Bennett



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Peter Houser
2562 Hoard St.
Madison, WI 53704

APRIL 1979
CALENDAR
OF EVENTS

Thursday	Friday
5 Chris Powers Folk and Bluegrass	6 Barn Dance AT THE FREE DOM HOUSE
12 Liberty Prairie	13 Robbie Clement
19 T.B.A.	20 T.B.A.
26 T.B.A.	27 Pittz Valley Bluegrass Band

DICK THEIS INTERVIEWS The Irish Brigade.....

Peach Donleavy, penny whistle; Barb Tennis, fiddle; Charles Moore, guitar, bouzouski and banjo; Gage Averill, guitar and concertina; Bob Newton, mandolin & bodharn; Sean' George McDonald, bodharn.

First of all, I want to say that interviewing the Irish Brigade was an enjoyable experience forme. I talked with three of the members, Barb, Peach, and Charles during a Wild Hog in the Woods concert on a Friday night downstairs in one of the dimly-lit dungeon rooms.

I first wanted to find out how they came together, and what is the central feeling behind the direction of the group. The initial coming together was to give the members a forum to express their individual and collective feelings about music and politics. My impression before I talked with the group was that they were strictly political in how they wanted to present themselves. I discovered that, although politics is very important in the direction of the Irish Brigade, the playing of the music itself is also important. Indeed it is evident when you hear the Irish Brigade play that there is a general love for music coming out. They like to play music. An important point to remember, as Barb emphasized, is that the group is not just interested in Irish



political music, but in political music from around the world.

Still, Ireland is a main focusing point in the group; and an important interest lies in understanding the background of Irish music and culture. Indeed, as Peach explained, "regular runs" are made to Ireland every year or two. They want to find out first hand what the war scene in Northern Ireland is like and keep in touch with contacts in the "concentration camps." They also want to meet new friends and musicians, contact old friends, and find new songs.

They feel it is important to stay in touch with individual motivations concerning the group and its music; that is, recognizing that there are ups and downs with each member as to how "into the music" he or she is at a particular time. I appreciated this openness and the feeling that, although the

group is important, they all have other areas of interest in their lives.

All of the Irish Brigade are involved in community activities of one sort or another. In support of their general philosophy, about fifty percent of their concerts are benefits for community groups and, occasionally, for political prisoners in Ireland. They feel that, along with raising money, the benefits serve to raise the spirit in the group as well as, hopefully, raising the awareness and consciousness of the audience.

As a final note, what is missing from this article is their sense of humor and, true to my word, I will not add anything resembling gossip....except that I'm still wondering about Peach's activity of sleeping with six gerbils?

At your next opportunity go listen to the Irish Brigade play. Peace, Dick Theis