



Brothers Four
John Paine, Dick Foley, Mike Kirkland, Bob Flick.

Old Folk Songs Hobby, Career

By DICK KLEINER
Newspaper Enterprise Assn.



NEW YORK (NEA)—If you like folk music, you'll be happy to learn that the number of unrecorded old folk songs appears unlimited.

That's the cheerful word from The Brothers Four, the latest folk group to become hot favorites. It was their Columbia record of "Greenfields" that started them and they've been rolling since.

"Greenfields" was but one old song they found in their research. "The supply seems endless," says Brother Bob Flick. "It's amazing."

They find, in looking through libraries and talking to everyone with a finger in the folk song pie, fragments of songs, and whole songs, which have never been recorded. They make new arrangements and have a new old song.

The four, as you undoubtedly know, are college fraternity brothers (Phi Gamma Delta at the University of Washington), not blood brothers. They had all sung separately as amateurs and had all gone to college to pursue courses far removed from music.

Dick Foley was majoring in electrical engineering, Bob Flick in radio-TV production, John Paine Far Eastern history and the Russian language and Mike Kirkland was a premed student.

When a quartet was needed for a Rush Week ceremony, they volunteered. Soon their extracurricular demands were so heavy they quit college to fulfill them.

"We've only quit temporarily," says Foley. "We all plan to go back and get our degrees."

Whether that ever happens, they can only guess at this point. They know they're having the times of their lives in show business and are putting off that big decision as long as possible.

For an Opera Singer, one of the prime requisites is to sing Italian properly—with the correct phrasing, pronunciation and vowel structure. Many American singers never reach the top because of their inability to sing Italian just so.

Robert Merrill is one who does it perfectly. And he had a pretty good teacher—the late Ezio Pinza.

Bob says he paid nothing for his lessons, either. He and Pinza

worked out a sort of lend-language program. Pinza taught Merrill how to sing Italian and, in exchange, Bob taught Ezio to sing English for his role in "South Pacific."

Dick's Picks—The Brothers Four strike again with "Beautiful Brown Eyes" on Columbia. Others: "For You" (Billy Williams, Coral); "Out of This World" (Sarah Vaughan, Mercury); "Ballad of the Alamo" (The Easy Riders, Kapp); "Big Bad Betsy" (Inez Johnston, Brunswick); "To Each His Own" (The Platters, Mercury); "Spartacus Love Theme" (Dick Jacobs, Coral); "The Face From Outer Space" (Jeff Barry, RCA); "A Thousand Miles Away" (The Day Brothers, Chancellor).

Comedy records continue to flood the market. Here are the best of the recent releases: On Angel, English Comedian Peter Sellers has a witty one in "The Best of Sellers"; on Riverside, Louis Nye does his advertising routines on "Heigh-Ho Madison Avenue!"; on Libraphone, Prof. C. Northcote Parkinson talks some of the theories he's written about on "Parkinson Explains Parkinson's Law"; on Grand Award, another ex-Steve Allen comic tries recorded humor as Dayton Allen discourses on "Why Not?"

In the lighter classical vein, there are two easy-listening new releases for those who like their long-hair short. On Dot, Willis Page and the Nashville Symphony Orchestra play "Themes From the Great Symphonies," using melodic strains of works by Brahms, Schubert, Tchaikovsky and Beethoven. On RCA, Robert Russell Bennett and the RCA Victor Symphony Orchestra and Symphonic Band play the conductor's "Armed Forces Suite," a symphonic treatment of military themes.

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POLLY HAYNES of Tulelake was crowned queen of the 1951 Potato Festival by Professor John M. Swarthout of Oregon State College. She is shown here, immediately after the crowning with her court. Members of her court were Wilma Paulk, Merrill; Leah Dye, Bonanza; Velma Reese, Dorris; Betty Lou Gober, Henley and Barbara Salvers, Malin.



MARTHA BEASLEY of Merrill presided over the celebration for 1952. She was crowned by Gov. Doug McKay, and is shown here with her two junior princesses, Janis Hodges, left, and Mara Fox, right. Her court includes Betty Deidrich, Dorris; Shirley Johnston, Henley; Helen Kelleher, Tulelake; Anita Weber, Malin, and Janie Dixon, Bonanza.

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