



Thursday August 3, 2006

News Sections

Home
Local
Villages
Sports
Lifestyles
Obituaries
Hurricane Info

Advertising

Classifieds
Service Directory

Links

The Villages
VNN
WVLG
Movie Times
thevillages.net
Yellow Pages

Daily Sun

About Us
Awards
Contact Us
Subscribe

Special Publications

Magazine Cover
Magazine Feature 1
Magazine Feature 2
Recreation News
Activities Schedules

Current Weather



Market Quote

Market Watch

Lifestyles

Folk group ushers in renaissance of acoustic sounds

By MICHAEL FORTUNA, DAILY SUN

THE VILLAGES — For a year and a half, the Village Folk Revival has been bringing to life the sounds of folk music.

"It was something we really liked (years ago)," Ron Hite said. "We're probably the only group with the guts to stand up here (on stage) and do it. We're trying to revive the era."

But don't expect them to be a mirror image of a group like the Kingston Trio.

"We don't want to be a Peter, Paul and Mary knockoff," Hite said. "We like to tear (the songs) down and bring them back again. We do a wide variety of songs. We can fake most anything."

Making up this musical group of residents are Richard Burchell on upright bass; Hite on acoustic guitar and five-string banjo; Norm Soule on acoustic guitar and mandolin; acoustic guitar. Hite, Soule and Lloyd contribute vocally, with an occasional tune from Burchell.

"Our vocal harmonies are pretty darn good," Lloyd said.

Lloyd, Hite and Soule were originally a part of what is now the Goodrich Folk Singers.

"Norm and I decided to take it to another level," Hite said.

After splitting with that group to form their own band, they then placed an advertisement in the newspaper for a bass player. Burchell answered the call, but there was one minor quibble that was easily handled.

"He never played this kind of music before," Hite said.

As for the group members' introductions to music, Burchell, who lives in the Village of La Zamora, picked high school. The students could choose what instrument they wanted to play, but Burchell found himself

"Everything else was taken," he said. "There was a bassoon, but I took the bass. I'm glad I did."

Through the years, Burchell always kept his bass handy in various swing bands, including during his stint

"Music was always as a sideline," Burchell said.

Back in the 1960s, Hite started learning the classical guitar, followed by the banjo.

"Everybody wants to have a banjo player," Hite, a Village of Woodbury resident, said.

Lloyd, who teaches history at South Lake High School, started off playing jazz guitar, but "I realized that me any girls." His parents aided in his quest for the guitar by paying for lessons.

"(The school band instructors) wanted me to play the clarinet, but given my size it looks ridiculous," said Sonoma Villas. "And I can't carry a piano around."

Soule, a resident of the Village Summerhill, always listened to the Grand Ole Opry and loved what he heard on speakers. One time, a man came to Soule's neighborhood selling accordion and guitar lessons; Soule cho



From left, Tom Lloyds, Ron Hite, Norm Soule, members of The Village Folk Revival, perform at the Mallory Square Social Lites Club meeting. Katie Derksen / Daily Sun



Index	Last Trade	Change
NASDAQ	2070.81	-8.00 ▼
SP 500	1274.66	-3.89 ▼
Russ 2000	693.60	-3.21 ▼
AMEX	1989.10	-11.29 ▼
NYSE	8224.94	-34.97 ▼
30 YR BOND	50.58	0.07 ▲

Aug 3, 2006 12:22 PM ET
 ComStock 20 min. delayed



The Kingston Trio piqued Soule's interest in folk music for a while, but Soule soon turned to country music upon arriving in The Villages.

Michael Fortuna is a reporter with the Daily Sun. He can be reached at 753-1119, ext. 9234, or michael.fortuna@thevillagesmedia.com.

 [printable version](#)

 [e-mail this story](#)

 [search archives](#)

Copyright © 2006 All Rights Reserved: The Villages Daily Sun