



booze or the asparagus which influences this most original performance.

Pete Hill's note-book comes into use again for the penultimate set of tunes, and, via tunes—courtesy of C. Sharp esq. and John Mason, Green Willow conclude the set with their own version of 'Haste to the Wedding'.

It is always exciting to discover something on one's own door step. Discovering the art of 'Buff-Blowing', in Charlton Kings, must have been particularly exciting for Green Willow. This new year rite is followed by a version of the 'Gloucestershire Wassail' or Way-calling.

Overall I feel that Green Willow are to be congratulated on their first LP. It gives a well balanced programme and a strong flavour of Cotswold Folk.

"Here then, is a selection of Cotswold songs and tunes, most of which you probably haven't heard before. Captured for posterity and presented on this record for your delectation. I hope you enjoy listening to Green Willow's first album!"—I most certainly did!

Dave Brown



OBITUARIES

KATHLEEN BARTLETT

Folk Dancers throughout the South-west will be saddened by the death of Mrs. Kathleen Bartlett, known by everyone as "Barty".

She was a much loved member and Treasurer of the Bidford Folk Dance Club, which she had attended regularly for many years. Her great love however was "Playford", and rarely did she miss the regular meetings of the Devon District Playford Club.

We who were privileged to have known Barty count ourselves fortunate, and will miss her sometime caustic wit and tremendous sense of fun.

Pat Kenworthy
Secretary, Bidford Folk Dance Club

FRANK TANNER of Bampton

For many generations prior to the second war, the Tanner family of Weald, Bampton, was one of the mainstays of the morris side of that town. According to his grandson, Thomas Tanner (born around 1770) was a member of the morris team, while his son Charles (1818) was "head morris dancer in his younger years". His son, Charles 'Cocky' Tanner, one of Alfred Williams' chief singers, was first a dancer then ragman for the team for about forty years, until the first war brought about the demise of the Bampton dancing for the first time in recorded history. (He died, aged 77 years old, in 1922). His cousin, Thomas 'Buscot' Tanner, born 1850, was "head

dancer" from the 1880's until the first war. When Clive Carey visited Bampton on Whit Monday, 1913, the team had five members of the family dancing—'Cocky' and his sons Jesse (born 1888) and Percy; and 'Buscot' and his son John (1873). Following the war, 'Buscot's' other sons, Reg ('Scudgel') and Victor ('Butler') maintained the Tanner involvement with the tradition, both dancing well into the 1930's.

The youngest son of 'Buscot' Tanner, Frank ('Perky'), died at his home in Colville Close, Bampton, aged 85, on November 10th, 1980. Having emigrated to Australia prior to the first war, he did not join the morris team with his brothers, although his father had instilled the steps into all his children from an early age. Frank fought with an Australian regiment and was so badly wounded that he was listed among the fatalities. The Red Cross nursed him and he recommenced working on the sheep station. When he returned to England in the early twenties, the team said to him, "come on, we want you to dance". Despite protestations, he danced in the side for several years during the middle part of the decade. In 1926 it was again literally a "Tanner team", with Frank, Reg, Victor and their brother-in-law, Billy Flux, making four of the six dancers. Shortly after this, Frank's wound forced him to give up the morris; although he often had a "shake-up" in divvies on a Whit Monday well into his sixties.

One of his favourite stories concerned the 'Bacca Pipes' jig. This he learned on the bridges down the Weald by dancing over a cross drawn in the dust with a finger—"One Sunday night I was up 'til after twelve o'clock 'cause I had to dance it on the Monday. And me and Butler danced it nearly all the time." Once the side went to dance in Oxford—"worst job as I ever had." Some undergraduates came out and asked them if they could dance over the warden's pipes, and if so they would give ten shillings to the dancers. "I reckon we can," says Frank; so they fetched out some long churchwarden's pipes and he and his brother Butler performed the jig. The students were so impressed that they said it was the best dancing they had ever seen, and gave them the promised money. "They thought that we should break them, but we got close in—heel and toe. Ten shillings was a lot of money in those days. That went in the tin, of course." (Another of the older dancers, Ted Lay, also recalls the incident well.)

With his wife Ada, he contributed much towards the maintenance of the garland tradition which accompanies the other festivities on Whit Monday in Bampton, by giving aid to children in the construction of the garlands. He had a vast store of local knowledge and had broadcasted on country life on Radio Oxford. He is survived by his widow, two daughters and many grand and great-grandchildren; and as the last dancer of a long line of a venerable dancing family, his passing is of historic importance to all devotees of the morris.

Keith Chandler

