Date: 10/20/23

Name of Podcast: Read. Return. Repeat. A ReadICT Podcast.

Episode Title and Number: 50 Years of Flatpickin’ (Season 3, Episode 8)

Episode Summary: Sara and Daniel interview local historian Seth Bate, author of *Winfield’s Walnut Valley Festival*, as they delve into ReadICT category 6: a book about time to talk about the timelessness of music, building community through a shared passion, and why more people should play musical saws.

Guest Bio:

(Photo: Kansasleadershipcenter.org)

Seth Bate’s book, *Winfield’s Walnut Valley Festival*, has been named to the 2023 Kansas Notable Books list and received the Tihen Publication Award from the Kansas State Historical Society. Seth is a Walnut Valley Festival emcee each year and was an associate producer of *Winfield!: A Bluegrass Musical*, which debuted in 2022. Seth Bate, MA, PCC, moved to Winfield, Kansas, in 1989. His interest in local history was sparked by traveling throughout Kansas for his work at the Wichita State University Community Engagement Institute. Seth's writing has been recognized by the Kansas Association of Historians and appeared in the Kansas Leadership Center Journal.

(Source: Watermarkbooks.com)

Topic Index:

What is the Walnut Festival and why did he want to write about it? 2:16

Format of the book – cooperative essay collection versus single narrative 4:24

The most surprising thing that Seth found in his research 7:04

How folk music transcends generations 8:55

What makes Walnut Valley’s music festival unique 12:13

Seth’s first Walnut Valley Festival 16:44
The longevity of the festival 19:52
Songs that bring Seth back in time 28:18
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Instruments that Seth plays 34:21
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Recommendations for musicians wanting to get into playing folk music 40:48
Archival recordings 42:03
Plans for follow-up works on the topic 44:10
Other local history projects he’s interested in/working on 46:08

Musicians mentioned in this episode:

- **Tom Chapin**
- **Harry Chapin**
- **Billy Strings**
- **New Grass Revival**
- **John McCutcheon**
- **Alison Krauss**
- **Molly Tuttle**
- **Small Potatoes**
- **The Barefoot Movement**
- **Betse Ellis**
- **The Wilders**
- **Doc Watson**
- **Fred Penner**
- **Sharon, Lois and Bram**

Special Thanks to our reading community on Facebook and callers to our book review hotline for sharing their recommendations!
Resources & Links:

About Seth Bate

Ad Astra Coach Alliance Website Bio
Kansas Leadership Center Bio
LinkedIn profile
Twitter: @SethBate
Wichita State University Community Engagement Institute

Books by Seth Bate

Winfield’s Walnut Valley Festival (2022)

Other Resources

Walnut Valley Festival
Folk Festivals in the United States
Flatpicking
Dr. Jay Price, Wichita State University
September’s Song: 45 Years of Winfield’s Walnut Valley Festival by Bob Hamrick (2016)
Folk Music
The Folk Music Podcast
PBS American Experience: History of John Brown’s Body”
Abby the Spoon Lady and Dusty Whytis “House of the Rising Sun” cover (video)
Abby the Spoon Lady: Spoon Solo (video)
Smithsonian Institute: Hammer Dulcimer History and Playing
Kansas 1972 Podcast: Kansas Humanities Council
Tom Chapin “This Pretty Planet” (video)
New Grass Revival “You Plant Your Fields” (video)
Dulcimer.net: What is an autoharp
A Mighty Wind (2003 film)
Kerrville Folk Festival (Kerrville, TX)
The Barefoot Movement “Don’t Fear the Reaper” cover (video)

Smithsonian Folkways Recordings

Kentucky Educational Television: Sourwood Mountain Dulcimers/John Jacob Niles (video)

The Library of Congress American Folklife Center: John McCutcheon Homegrown Concert (video)

The Library of Congress American Folklife Center: Oral History with John McCutcheon (video)

David Holt’s State of Music: John McCutcheon Plays the Hammered Dulcimer (video clip)

East Tennessee State University – Archives of Appalachia

Carrie Nation

Gerald Burton Winrod

Full Transcript: http://wichitalibrary.org/BooksMore/Podcast/Pages/rrr_s3e8.aspx

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