

Where have all the folk festival f

By **CHUCK GRAHAM**
Citizen Entertainment Writer

One Friday night last autumn, Ken Tucker and Gerry Glombecki were standing around in the parking lot behind the Campus Christian Center, kicking at little stones on the pavement and wondering if there were any local interest left in folk music. Both men had been an active part of Tucson's folk wave in the early 1970s, when coffeeshouses were plentiful and a good song commanded respect.

They didn't want to turn back the clock, exactly, but they just couldn't believe a city that had once loved the music so much could have forgotten so quickly. Still, all those coffeeshouses were gone, the current ones weren't filled with pickers or singers and The Cup at the Campus Christian Center — once famous for its open mike Friday nights — had lost its luster years before.

Tucker and Glombecki did talk about this dream they had, though. A weekend folk festival of nothing but acoustic music, staged outdoors and presented free of charge. Something that would get people out to sing along once again.

But would anybody care? Would anybody want to be in it? Tucker and Glombecki were members of a group called the Tucson Kitchen Musicians Association that wanted to find out.

Tucker and Glombecki found out, all right. Right now they are up to their ears and elbows in cassette tapes and paperwork, running hard to keep a step ahead of the avalanche of interest in the first Tucson Folk Festival.

A total of 65 acts, presenting 17 hours of music on two stages during two days has been lined up. So have food booths, craft stands and workshops.

The sponsoring TKMA has received \$3,000 from the Tucson/Pima Arts Council to produce the festival, has raised another \$3,000 on its own and has lined up more than 75 volunteers to help out during the festival itself.

"When we started this last year, we had six or seven people who thought it was a good idea," said Rita Hamilton, the festival's coordinator. "Now we're up to 12 major workers and about 60 volunteers."

"About 90 percent of the acts are local," Glombecki added. "Most of the out-towners are from Phoenix, though we do have people coming down from Flagstaff, and from California and Arkansas."

"Each group will have 25 minutes to play," said Hamilton. "Our goal is to have just five minutes between acts."

That's a new face, or faces, every half-hour. The two-stage setup will be similar to the arrangement for the annual Tucson Meet Yourself festival in the fall. There will be a main stage and a courtyard stage, with the larger groups funneled to the main stage while soloists will be on the smaller courtyard stage.

Hamilton, Tucker, Glombecki and Earl Edmondson (the latter three being the tal-



GETTING READY — Blitz Creek (above) will wrap things up with their show starting at 6:30 p.m. Sunday. Galaglas (below) are shown practicing their traditional Irish music. They are slated for the 5 p.m. slot Saturday.

