



THE FEDERATION

Folk Dancer

Volume I - Number 5

May - 1944

By subscription only

A BIRD IN THE HAND

You know the old saying—that a bird in the hand gathers no moss. Well there's no reason why we should be a bunch of birds in the hand. There's plenty of moss available. Every month interesting and vital material is published in your interest. This material comes in the form of the FOLK DANCER and two or more DANCE DESCRIPTIONS every month. You are reading the FOLK DANCER now and you can see what it is. Every month we do our darndest to get you the latest and hottest information on records, dances, costumes, and other items of universal folk dance appeal. As for the DANCE DESCRIPTIONS, here are some toothsome samples of dance proteins forthcoming in the next few months: Tarantella (Sicilian), Polka Mazurka, Hopak, Pad Espan, Vengerka, Triple Schottisch, the Little Blacksmith (Kalvelis), Kohanochka, etc. The subscription rates are as follows:

June to December (7 months)	\$1.10
July to December (6 months)	1.00
August to December (5 months)	.80

You cannot afford to miss all this fine material. Within a very short time you will be able to get these ONLY by SUBSCRIPTION. They will no longer be on sale at the monthly festivals. GET YOUR SUBSCRIPTION IN NOW!!

OUR LAST FESTIVAL

We are deeply indebted to the Castle Promenaders under the excellent tutelage of M.C. Buzz Glass for the grand Festival on April 16th at Castlemont High School in Oakland. The decorations were made by the high school students of Castlemont. There were only two exhibitions this time. However, the Berkeley Folk Dancers' rendition of the Czechoslovakian national dance, the BESEDA, was the equivalent of several beautiful exhibitions, the finest we've seen in a long time. The Scandinavian Folk Dancers offered a demonstration of a charming Norwegian dance, the Attetur.



Published by the Folk Dance Federation of California. Address FOLK DANCER communications to 2152 Broderick Street, San Francisco (15). Bret van Kriedt, Chief Editor; Margarette Horvath and Bea Cook, Associate Editors; Eleanor Bates, Art Editor; Madelynne Greene, Dance and Costume Research. Send subscriptions to Clarice Dechent, 2739 Geary Blvd., S.F. 18.

This month we have the distinction of being invited to share in the YMCA's Centennial Celebration. Sunday, May 28th, from 1 to 6 o'clock, in the main Gym (fifth floor) of the San Francisco YMCA, 220 Golden Gate Avenue, the Gate Swingers will be our hosts for an afternoon of Folk Dancing. Let's show them how really colorful we can be. Wear your gayest costumes. All information regarding exhibitions should be sent to Vera Holleuffer who is in charge of arrangements. Call Delaware 7067.

COUNCIL MEETING-----ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The Council Meeting will be called to order at 12 o'clock sharp, in the Council Room on the ground floor of the Y. This month -- Election of Officers for the coming year. Each member club is entitled to cast two ballots. If you can't have two of your own members present, written authorization may be given to Federation members from some other club to vote for you by proxy. (If you are out of town) BE SURE AND LET YOUR REPRESENTATIVE KNOW YOUR CHOICE OF CANDIDATES!!! HE'LL NEED YOUR HELP IN VOTING!!!

In addition to five candidates selected by your nominating committee, listed below, all of whom will be present at the meeting, nominations will be invited from the floor. We suggest all potential candidates be asked to attend this meeting.

PRESIDENT:	CLARICE DECHENT KEN WADE
VICE PRESIDENT:	JOHN BILTMAN PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE NOT ELECTED
SECRETARY-TREASURER:	RUBY BIEL BEA COOK

Perhaps the brief sketches below will help you place these fellow Folk Dancers:

CLARICE, dance instructor, and member of San Francisco State College Faculty, leader in the American Youth Hostel Association, member of Chang's and the Festival Workshop has already proved her worth to our Federation as present Secretary-Treasurer, member of the Dance Pattern Research Committee and Guardian of the Federation Scrapbook.

KEN, now your Vice President, is Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Gate-swingers, member of the CO-Op Fun Club, has spent many years in Y work and is now Northern California supervisor for the UGC Mobile Unit. And now he can call squares!

JOHN, Berkeley Folk Dancer's representative to the Council, heads many committees. He is one of our most talented exhibition dancers as well as an excellent instructor.

RUBY, formerly of Chang's is now Editor of the Do-Si-Do paper, "The Call", and secretary-treasurer of our brand new member Club, the "Castlemont Promenaders".

BEA, last year's President of the Berkeley Folk Dancers, member of the Festival Workshop and Do-Si-Do Club, Associate Editor of the "Federation Folk Dancer" spends the time she is not busy at her job of recruiting for Red Cross overseas assignments, teaching Folkdancing occasionally in Oakland and Berkeley.

JUNE FESTIVAL

We are taking this opportunity to announce next month's Festival. It follows the May Festival by only two weeks. Let's see you all June 11th between 1 and 6, at the beautiful Frost Memorial Amphitheatre on the Stanford Campus. Take a bus or train to Palo Alto. Transfer to the Stanford bus at the St Depot. Get off at the Memorial Auditorium Corner. All requests for exhibitions must be sent to Allen Davis, Box 21 08, Stanford, as soon as possible, and before June 1st at the latest.

THE COSTUMER

A HUNGARIAN COSTUME

Red, White, and Green, the national colors of Hungary, are thematic of the colorful peasant costumes of this highly spirited land. The following is a resumé of useful hints in constructing a valuable addition to your wardrobe.

The Girl's Choice



The typical SKIRT is very full, comfortably long below the knee. Its material may be printed or plain - of bright colors or black. Woolen spun is suggested. The plain materials are often heavily embroidered at the bottom; the waist being shirred or pleated. PETTICOATS are important musts. Three or four should be worn to give that plump, rounded look. They do not have to be frilly, but the prettier they are - the better. An APRON is always worn. It is quite small. May be white, colored silk, or lace edged in ribbon or embroidered with silk thread.

The BODICE may be velvet or satin-red, bright green, or some color that goes well with the skirt. It should be tightly fitted, long enough to overlap the top of the skirt, and may be laced or hooked up the front. A white blouse may be worn underneath the bodice, or the bodice itself may have puffed sleeves and a ruffled neck. Gold braid designs are on the front and back of the bodice similar to the man's vest.

The HEADDRESS is quite elaborate. It is made of the same material as the bodice, and usually shaped as a crown. Stiffening or belting material makes it stand high. The trimming may be a variety of flowers, or patterns of beads and sequins. A large red bow and streamers are in the back. If a headdress of this sort is not worn, fresh flowers may be substituted.

The true FOOTWEAR consist of boots. They are preferably red, although black or white are accepted. (If you have no boots, boot-tops are known to do very well.)

The Boy's Choice

The principal effect of the Hungarian peasant costume is looseness. The PANTS are wide, almost giving the effect of a skirt. They are draw in or pleated at the waist, with fringe around the bottom. The color is white. Indian Head or broadcloth may be used of which about five yards would be necessary.

The SHIRT may be an ordinary white shirt of which the sleeves are cut out and characteristic wide sleeves substituted. These may be fringed or embroidered. A high-necked, scalloped collar is preferred. The collar is embroidered in flower and leaf patterns. The chest of the shirt may continue this pattern.

The VEST is of satin or velvet that is worn rather loosely. It usually is edged with gold braid or cord, and brass buttons together with gold or black grosgrain finish the trim.

A characteristic feature is the long apron, usually black with red or green corded trim. On special occasions such as a Festival or a wedding a three-cornered green sash is worn over the left hip.

Red or black BOOTS (or a reasonable facsimile thereof) are the proper footwear.

The item completing the outfit is the HAT. It may be a black fedora with a bright band around it. Colorful flowers or cereal stalks at the side give it just the right touch.



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HERE'S NEWS!

Folk Dance Records like bourbon are something to be coveted and whispered about. And a nice private stock IS news these days. At the Spanish Book and Music Store, 658 Broadway, San Francisco, you will be able to select from a nice variety of Scandinavian, Russian, Polish, Hungarian, Jugo-Slav, and Turkish records. That is, of course, if you rummage through the shelves yourself. Señor and Señora Sanchez, the proprietors, don't like to be bothered with such seeming trifles as folk dancers' whims. They'll tell you to just go and help yourself.

Here are some sample records in their stock:

Chiapaneca - the most exciting in circulation
(Peerless 2021)

En Glad Sjel - Novel Scandinavian Polka V-15055-A

Värmlandshambo - A peachy hambo V-20069-B



"BET YOU DIDN'T KNOW"
DEPARTMENT

"JOTA" in Spanish means the letter of the alphabet "J". The dance was so-named because the Jota dancers resembled a "J" in certain characteristic postures of the dance.

The IRISH JIG is the grandfather of all clog and tap dances.

Have you wondered what the initials meant on the upper right-hand corner of the DANCE DESCRIPTIONS? They are the Research Committee member's initials who did the research on the particular dance. And the members are: Lucile Czarnowski (LC), Alice Jameyson (AJ), Clarice Dechent (CD), Henry Glass (HG), and Harmer Davis (HD).

CLUB NEWS

There have been so many nice parties lately that we believe there should be a rule: we want more parties like the three following ones:

- (1) The Gate Swingers started it all on Saturday, April 22, with hill-billy motives in costumes, dances, and songs.
- (2) We had no sooner recovered from this when a grand Art Show was offered the next day, Sunday, April 23, at Chang's International Folk Dancers, 1630 Stockton Street, S.F. This art show was really something. We must pay homage to the gifted people at Chang's. A folk dance topped off a fine program of entertainment.
- (3) The Scandinavian Folk Dancers offered their Spring Party, Wednesday night, April 26. Anybody who tosses up an invitation to attend any party given by this enterprising group is really tossing up something worth while. We unanimously vote this party as tops. And that was some cake too, Judy.

Though ill Harmer Davis appeared at the April Festival to dance his part of the "BESEDA". George Moncharsch flew to Washington, D.C., on business immediately after presenting the "BESEDA". By the way, George did it again. He presented every girl in the "BESEDA" with a pair of false eyelashes. So the gals could BAT their eyelids. Batty, eh what?

Famous sayings of B.F.D.: Phil Aldrich "Now in the next step, the lady places her hips on the man's shoulders." Walter Grothe "Can I wear my ski costume?"

After a pot-luck dinner at the Park-Presidio YMCA, Saturday evening, April 22, the Coop-Fun Club held its annual election of officers. Coop's new president is Dan McDonald. Coop discontinues its Monday evening classes. The club will meet on the second and fourth Saturdays of the month at the Park-Presidio YMCA.

Ed Kremers is now stationed in Denver, Colorado, for the duration.

The University of California Folk and Square Dancers have lost twelve people to the Service. A program of early court dances was offered during the last week in April at the University by Orchisis, an honorary dance fraternity. The dances offered were the Minuet, Gavotte, Bourree, Courante, and Passepiéd.

WATCH FOR NEWS FROM THE NATIONAL CONVENTION!

Read the FOLK DANCER!!!

Wherever you see Hungarians enjoying themselves, you will see the Csárdás, a dance as characteristically Hungarian as paprika and tokay wine. Just as the Hungarians as a people are unique in race and language, so the Csárdás is unique in style. There is no other dance like it, lest it be gypsy dancing whence certain features of the Csárdás originated.

Comparing the Csárdás with the Tango offers striking similarities. While the two dances are as different from each other as the countries they represent, they are both dances of improvisation and style. There is no set pattern as there is in English and Scandinavian dances. The couples are free to choose their own steps and perform with their own particular style.

Of course there are limitations. There are characteristic positions and gestures. And one must always revert to the three basic steps of the Csárdás: the two-step, the one-step (when the music has increased in tempo), and the whirl or 'buzz' step. Beyond this, one is free to use any one of many steps. Virtuosity has free play when the tempo has increased. The best dancers may get in the center of the floor. As the dance gets faster and madder, whoops and appels liven the mood of those watching.

This type of the Csárdás is suggestive of the 'fris' or fast Csárdás danced by the peasants. It compares with the Kolomejkas and the Hopak in the spirit of festivity and free play that goes with it. The urbane 'city' version of the Csárdás relies mostly on the dignified two-step and the elegant slow or fast whirls or buzz steps.

The Csárdás is almost impossible to describe. Like wine it is something that must get into your blood. Listen to a good Csárdás and see if it doesn't make you feel like dancing. In another section of this issue you are informed of a good source of phonograph records. In this same store you may be able to purchase a good Csárdás called 'Nem Forog a Dorozsmai Szelmalom Verbungos' (The Windmill at Dorozsma is not turning—Victor V-11080-B). This gypsy orchestra rendition with its tinkling cymbalum and plaintive violins certainly makes the blood tingle. Try it and see what it does for you!

CHOO CHOO BABY!

As this issue rolls through the mimeo drums, Madelynne Greene is rolling back to Philadelphia to attend the Eleventh Annual National Folk Festival, May 10 to 15, sponsored by the National Folk Festival Association. Madelynne is the special representative of the Federation and as such represents you and I and everybody. She will return with loads of new material in the form of new dances and ideas. Her trip is definitely a milestone in the career of the Federation. Keep posted with the FOLK DANCER for special correspondence from our Madelynne.

