



# THE FEDERATION FOLK DANCER

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## BIG OAKS FROM LITTLE ACORNS GROW

You have all seen the acorn. the January issue of the FOLK DANCER. our first paper! Well, from now on our paper is going to grow and grow. We'll have an oak tree we'll be proud of. Of course it just doesn't grow by itself. It will take a lot of effort on the part of all the member groups. We need material. Send us all the articles you can of folk dance interest. such as club news, interesting anecdotes, origins of dances, Festival news, news about other groups throughout the country, humor, cartoons, and anythingelse of interest. The deadline is two weeks before each Festival.

So far, a nucleus staff has been organized. Bret van Kriedt is the Editor, and all material should be addressed to him at 2152 Broderick St., S.F.(15), Fillmore 9028. Madelynn Greene and Ruth Prager will specialize in dance and costume research, and Eleanor Bates will do the art work. There is plenty of room for others. All you people with special abilities and just a little spare time get in touch with us! We need you! We especially need Publication, Publicity, and Circulation managers! Let's make the FOLK DANCER the best paper of its kind in the country!!

### OUR LAST FESTIVAL

The rain didn't dampen our spirits in the least, and our last Festival at Oakland High School on January 23rd was a great success!

Some Scottish dances and songs were presented. Everyone participated in a demonstration of the Fireman's dance and the Estonian Spinning dance. Anyone interested in the Estonian number may use any Swedish waltz or Hambo of medium tempo. The two short Danish dances were Vester Popolsk and the Half Chain.

The Norwegian singing dance song is an old folk song that probably dates back to the Middle Ages. The melody has a striking resemblance to that of the English folk song, Baa, Baa, Black Sheep, have you any wool.

### NATIONAL FOLK FESTIVAL

We have been invited to send a group of dancers to the 11th annual National Folk Festival at Philadelphia on May 10 to 13, 1944. The program will consist of folk dances, music, plays, legends, lore, and handicrafts. It looks like something worthwhile. So let's think it over seriously! Some of you lucky lucky people with vacations might be able to combine fun with pleasure and take this in for us.

### FESTIVAL COUNCIL MEETINGS

We've got to have at least ONE MEMBER from each group sit in on the monthly meetings. No special credentials are required and the meetings will be as short and snappy as possible. So let's have 100% membership!

## THE FEBRUARY 12th FESTIVAL

There will be some exhibitions of special interest. The Berkeley Group will present two Swedish dances: the FJÄLNAS POLSKA and the FRIKSDALS POLSKA. The Scandinavian 'Polska' is derived from the Polonaise and Mazurka. The Hambo is the best known Polska.

The Festival Workshop will present the KOLOMIJKAS, a dance named after a town in the Carpathian Mountains near the Slovakian and Ukrainian border. There are many versions and patterns, and the spirit is generally extemporaneous with a caller naming the steps. Some of the steps are reminiscent of the Hopak.



Chang's International Folk Dancers will present the SEVILLANAS.

## THE SEVILLANAS

By Madelynn Greene



When you are in Andalusia you will hear plenty about the Sevillanas, unless you are in Sevilla where the same dances are called Seguidillas. It applies to a form of verse, a musical composition, and a form of dance of three or more stanzas or Coplas, each of which is a standard length. The music may be repeated but steps are varied each time. Different provinces and even vicinities have special Seguidillas. The Latin American versions have degenerated from their Spanish models

The Sevillanas is the most Spanish dance. The essence of the dance is its traditional style, gracious, stately, and proud in execution, plus an increased tempo and originality during each successive copla.

## SELECTED CORN OF THE MONTH

This month we have chosen the BUNNY HUG as the Dance of the Month. The main step is the Wacky Wabbit Hop. To get a good idea how this is done, watch an egg beater in medium tempo. When you can't think of anything else, you can always revert back to this basic mangler. If you have a lot of red points or spare beef, the Meat Grinder Roll is always very showy. The music is simple. Any old corny ragtime, vintage of 1918 will suffice. The one called 'I met her in a Revolving Door and now we go around together' is especially good (and corny).



Then you heard about the folk dancer with such big feet he rented them out to stamp out grass fires.

With March 15th just around the corner we'd like to recommend that old favorite 'I ordered nails but in come tax' as the hit of the month

SHE: My but this dance floor is slippery.

HE: Slippery hell! I just got a shoe shine!

## THE 'BET YOU DIDN'T KNOW' DEPT.

The Waltz is 150 years old. It was introduced in Paris in 1795. It was inspired by the Laendler which dates back to the discovery of America.

There are no claps in the Scandinavian Polka. Furthermore there are several Scandinavian Polkas. The one we all do is an imitation of the Pariser Polka based on the Parisian Polka first presented in Paris in 1830.

There are no turns in the first part of the authentic Hambo Polska.

## SPECIAL NOTES

Clarice Dechent, 2739 Geary Blvd., S.F.(18), says that material for the SCRAP BOOK is coming in slowly. Please send anything of interest