

The Federation

Folk Dancer

Volume I - Number 7

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By subscription only

Meet your Honey...Swing her once around...Promenade her all around.

AMERICA DANCES TOO

Like other countries, we also have our characteristic dances. America has passed the stage where our dances were copies of European dances. Now, in the twentieth century the Fox Trot, a purely American ballroom dance, is danced in every part of the world. A new dance, the so-called "Jitterbug", has been born and may be called a thoroughly American dance. But amongst grown-up children like ourselves, folks who like folk dancing, there are the popular old-time sets known to everyone in America, in fact, in every part of America, as "Squares".

The term "Square" itself strictly speaking applies to a quadrille, any dance in the form of a hollow square with one or two couples on each side. And the term "Longways" dances strictly applies to contra dances, or dances in two lines like Money Musk or the Virginia Reel. But the word "Squares" is used in a general sense by everyone and includes all American figure dances—Squares, Longways, and Rounds—most of which are called.

Some of the figures of "Squares" have been borrowed from English country dances, though some claim, and with apparent good reason, a number of the figures to be of French origin. The general figures of "Squares" are used in every part of the country. The calls, tempo, and execution differ somewhat, expressing the characteristics of the region.

"Squares," once almost exclusively used in rural sections, has now 'gone to town'. There has never been such widespread use of it by either rural or urban groups. And "Squares" represents the spirit of the country better than any other dance. It has become the common denominator of many groups which carry on distinct dances of other lands here in America. "Squares" is a type of dancing which is our own that people of all nationalities are now adopting.



Meet your Honey...Swing her once around...Promenade her all around.

Madelynnne Greene tells us that the most beautiful "Squares" she ever saw performed was the University of Denver "Pioneer Promenaders" exhibiting colorful versions of Colorado "Squares". Their dancing was done quite crisply. When the men bowed they would really bend way over, and the girls curtsied deeply, almost to the floor.



The Oxford Minuet was done with exaggeration and style. On the walking steps they held their heads high and acted very prim. Then on the polka part they yelled "Yahoo!" and really went to town.

When they ended Ladies to the Bar the girls all snapped their fingers which gave it zest.

In one of their dances the music stopped completely and the dancers went on with only the sound of feet and clapping of hands to keep rythm. At this point they did a grand right and left (elbow swing), clapping hands as they danced with each new partner. Then the caller took up the calls again and said, "Now when you meet your honey, just pat her on the head. If she doesn't like it give her corn bread." The dancers did the pantomime as he called it. This seems to be a new idea which might be used by our local groups.

"BET YOU DIDN'T KNOW" DEPARTMENT

The Oxford Minuet is of French origin and was brought to the early pioneer West. It is popular amongst almost all Western square dancers.

The Black Hawk Waltz is a product of the West. Music is by Mary R. Walsh, pioneer resident of the famous mining town of Leadville, Colorado. The dance was created in Leadville by a French dancing master around 1859.

The American folk song "Casey Jones" was composed by Ike Wentworth, a Tennessee engine wiper about 40 years ago. It is about a wreck on Illinois Central Railroad in which the brave engineer, John Luther ('Casey') Jones was killed.

The cowboys of today lift their gals 'sky-high' in the Rye Waltz. And our grandmothers tell us how the lads of their day would lift their lassies from the bridge onto the bank of the River Rye.

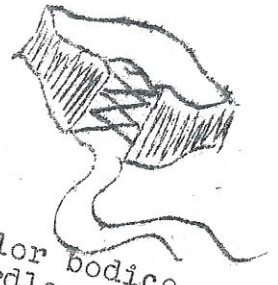
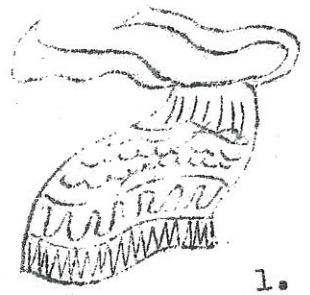
The Tip-Tap Polka (equivalent of our Cowboy Polky) and the Dollar Polka (our Heel and Toe Polka) are very popular on all Square Dance programs in Colorado.

The Heel and Toe Polka, so popular in America in the Gay Nineties, originated in Bohemia around 1840. The European version is known as La Bohémienne.

Can you recognize some of the dances Americans were doing in the nineteenth century? The Lancers, Cotillion or German, Minuet, La Pavane, Christmas Polka, Court Quadrille, Galop, and Racket were ball-room favorites.

SUGGESTIONS FOR BASIC WARDROBES

GIRLS'



1. A full peasant or drndle skirt

2. Plain color bodice or girdle

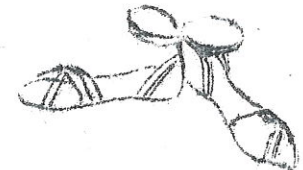
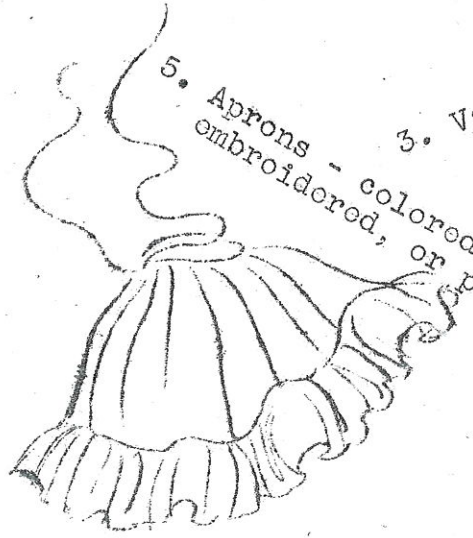
3. Various blouses

4. Head-dresses - flowered, with ribbons, or plain white caps

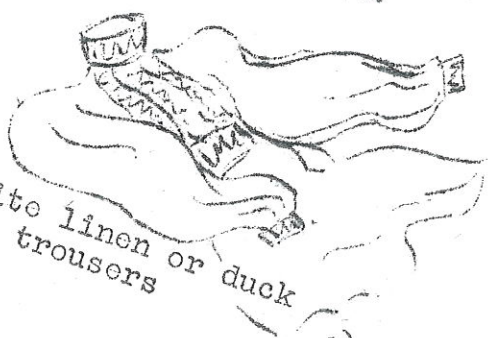
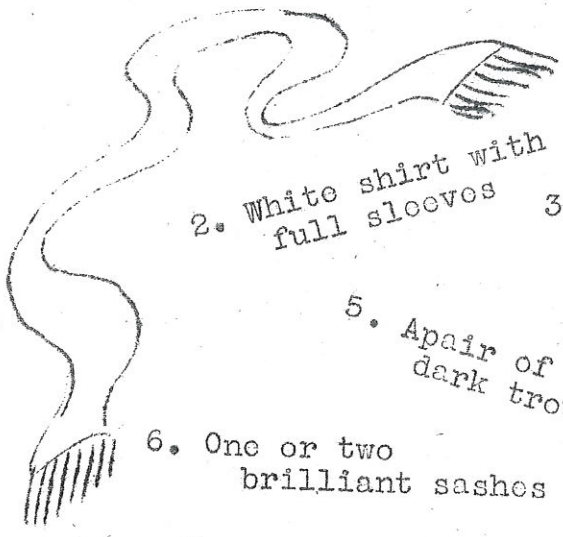
5. Aprons - colored, embroidered, or plain

6. Comfy shoes, sandals boots (or boot-tops made of auto top material.)

7. Petticoat



MENS'



2. White shirt with full sleeves

1.

White linen or duck trousers

3. Bolero

5. A pair of dark trousers

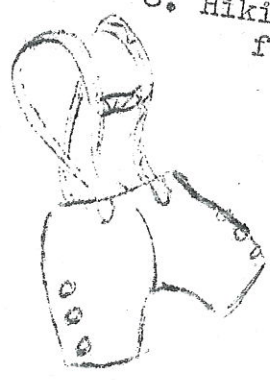
4. Russian blouse (Usu ally embroidered)

6. One or two brilliant sashes

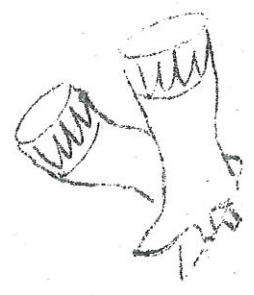
7. Tam or boany for headwear

8. Hiking togs (short pants) for hot summer days

9. Comfortable sandals or sport shoes, boots, or boot-tops

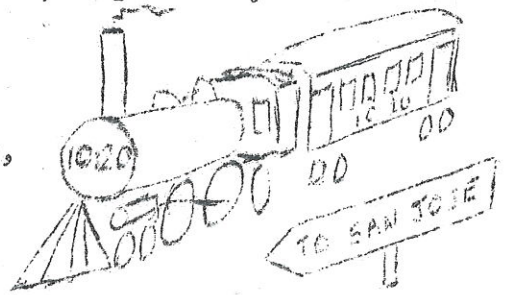


10. Neckerchief for wear or use. In either case it is handy to have.



OUR NEXT FESTIVAL

Our next Festival is to be held on Sunday, August 6th, 1944, at San Jose State College. The dancing will be on the lawn in front of the gymnasium ..(remember last year).. from 1 to 6 P.M. If you are thinking about the gas situation in order to get there, throw your problem aside by joining the gang who are going down by train. They are meeting at 3rd and Townsend in San Francisco, the S. P. Depot, in time to get the 10:20 A.M. train for San Jose. Plan to come on the train. It will be fun, especially if we all ride in the same car. When folk dancers get together there is sure to be lots doing, even in an S. P. coach, so don't miss the San Jose trip. ----- For people living in Oakland, Berkeley, or vicinity, a special bus will leave the East Bay Area for the Festival grounds. You will be able to get particulars about this from your own club.



Just a reminder. -- Those groups wishing to exhibit at this August Festival should write to the Physical Education Department of the San Francisco State College (Summer School). All arrangements should be made ahead of time.

SPECIAL NOTE: -- The Council will meet in the gymnasium at 12 noon. Important matters are to be discussed; all representatives are urged to attend.

 F--L--A--S--H!

 RECORD NEWS

There is a possibility that the Federation may present a dance recital as one of the Sigmund Stern Concerts on Sunday, August 20th. Exhibition groups, by all means save this date. Further details will be given at a later date.

The Coast Radio Company, 900 J Street, Sacramento, California, will -- upon request-- send you a list of folk dance records in their stock. They will also be happy to send records COD. Most records appear to be Scandinavian, tho they may occasionally have specials.

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Square Dancing is an art, an art of the people of the hills and plains and mining camps, and wherever people work hard and are limited in their social recreation. While it has a European background and ancestry, it is the only true American folk dance. Every nation has its own distinctive way of doing its Square dances. So have we. So don't do a Down Home American Square Dance with a European influence. Just follow the caller. He's the boss. And try to dance the set as you think the Pioneers and our forefathers would have danced it. Leave out the things you do in European dances.

There is only one step used in Square Dancing. It is a loose-jointed, loose-kneed shuffle step, the feet barely grazing the floor, body erect, elbows carried high, perfectly balanced, ready to reverse your direction, swing or turn either way as the call comes. There



should be no up and down movement of the shoulders, and keep your feet moving. You are still moving in the unceasing rhythm of the plains and the hills. Catch or jig steps thrown in when you feel the urge are all right. Buck and wing clogs also go. But never slow down a set. In circling keep your set tight. Never let the set sprawl out over the floor. Keep a slight bend in your elbows. Keep your feet on the floor. Don't walk, don't hop, and don't skip!

One more thing. Don't Clap! It throws the time off and bothers the caller, and he has a hard job at best. Give him a break and follow his calls. Don't make him follow you or wait for you. If you do these things in Square Dancing, no music will be too fast, and no caller can call too fast.

The following is a list of the most popular "Squares":

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Birdie in the Cage | Right and Left Through and |
| Two Gents Swing with the Elbow Swing | the Center Swing |
| Form a Star (Texas Star) | Shoot the Goose |
| Take a Little Peek | Right Hand Cross |
| Swing Old Adam | Six to Two |
| Lady Round the Lady, Gent so low | Zig Zag Through Three on a Side |
| Right Hand back to your Lady Left | I'll Swing your Gal, You Swing |
| Grapevine Twist | Mine |
| Lady Round Two, Gent Cut Through | Chase the Rabbit, Chase the |
| Forward Up and split the Ring | Squirrel |
| Right Hand Lady by the Right | Cast off Six |
| Sally Gooden | Eight Hands Over (Swing like |
| Forward Six and go back Six | Thunder) |
| Dive for the Oyster | Sashay Partners Half Way Round |
| Sashay Round the Lady, Sashay | Around that Couple and Swing |
| Round the Man | at the Wall |

These are all good and there are many more. How many do you know?

From a circular by Lee S. Owens
 (GM L/c USNR)
 331 Poe Street
 Palo Alto
 California

CLUB NEWS

Garfield Folk Dancers have elected officers for the third time, thereby proving to the world that their club has been in existence for a full year. Bill Edmunds succeeds Stanley Rapp as president of the club.

Founded as Garfield Round and Square Dance Club in July, 1943, the club originally stressed early American circle and couple dances. Then, in accordance with the wishes of its members, its name as well as its program were changed to include the more vigorous and varied European folk dances.

The gymnasium of the Garfield Junior High School in Berkeley has been abandoned in favor of the more appropriate Codornice Club House, 1201 Euclid Avenue, opposite the Berkeley Rose Garden. Its cozy fire place, inviting picnic grounds, handy kitchen facilities, and remarkable view of San Francisco Bay are welcome added attractions to the weekly Thursday night meetings from 8 to 10:30.

The Garfield Folk Dancers, sponsored by the Berkeley Recreation Department, cordially invite you to come and enjoy yourselves to the tune of your favorite European and American dances under the able direction of Carl Wilken.

The Gateswingers at the Y.M.C.A. in San Francisco report that... Herb Greggerson is guesting at their mike... Vera Holleuffer sets eight Squares as the record for Monday nights... the Gateswingers claim the youngest dance enthusiast—Terry Robison, aged 28 months and finds Hambo difficult... President Ken Wade has the best memory for U. S. O. dates this side of Timbuctoo... Fay Bowman has been back at the National Folk Festival reporting reporting Square Dancing and other activities...

Chang International Folk Dancers learned two versions of three Russian folk dances under the direction of Sergei Temoff, the famed teacher of ballet. One version adapted for a stage presentation of these three dances—the Russian Peasant Dance, Lezginka, and the Russian Gypsy Dance—was presented at the big Fight For Freedom Pageant given at the Civic Auditorium on June 22nd. This version will also be rendered as an exhibition at the July Festival. The second version is adapted for club use as regular folk dances following a pattern by Temoff and based on authentic folk dance steps.

The Garfield Folk Dancers rounded out their first year with a Kid's Party, held at their clubhouse on May 18th. Members turned up in diapers, short skirts, baby gowns, pig tails and freckles. Skits, contests, refreshments, and plenty of dancing were responsible for all the fun and frolic club members and their friends enjoyed.

Extremely pleased with their first party, club members plan to have another one soon.