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### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Janus was a deity held in high esteem by the Romans. He was represented with two heads, one being that of a youth, to indicate "beginning," the other that of an old man, to indicate "the end." The first day of January, a month named after him was the occasion of a celebration. He was invoked at the beginning of every month and at the beginning of every day. Janus opened and closed all things.

This period in our folk dance year might well be dedicated to Janus if we wished to recognize one of the old myths. Looking backward over the third year of the Folk Dance Federation of California we are made aware of a marked growth within the Federation as well as an expansion outward. Much has been achieved and this in large measure to the untiring work of its officers. Clarice in her retiring president's message told us of the splendid work done by all of the officers with one exception--she did not mention the president. Her gracious and capable leadership was an inspiration to all of us. Let us salute Clarice Dechent and offer our warmest thanks for a big job well done.

Building upon what has been achieved we can all look forward to a very active, rewarding year of folk dancing. Our six purposes for existing as stated in our By-Laws can be generalized to form two primary aims: to increase our enjoyment of folk dancing and its related arts, and to charge that enjoyment with others. As Janus opens the new year I see our enjoyment of folk dancing being enhanced by the inclusion in our repertoire of dances, many new exciting ones just waiting to be learned; I see more folk instruments and folk dance orchestras being used at club meetings and festivals, and perhaps if we so desire, special occasions for the showing of films dealing with folk dancing. One observer in the audience at a recent festival remarked, "Mighty pretty sight it is, mighty pretty sight." Yes, we can all agree with him. Folk costumes have reached a high point in our festivals and we are speeding along very fast in that direction.

In our second aim we can look forward to continued progress. New clubs are continually joining the Federation and new and old folk dancers are seeking membership in the clubs. Folk dance demonstrations will continue to introduce the joys of folk dancing to uninitiated neighbors and after the war is over let us look forward to State and even National festivals.

Lucile K. Czarnowski

### FOLK DANCING IN BLACK AND WHITE

By  
"Buzz" Glass

Because folk dancing in its greater meaning encompasses such a vast field of related arts, we can fruitfully reach to one of its facets, that of the printed page, for much that is enjoyable and cultural.

The fecundity of the dancer's quest is well illustrated by an old Eastern legend. This legend describes how a dancer came before the court of the Prince of Birkasha. The prince questioned the maiden as to the source of her art and how she could command all the elements of rhythms and rhymes. Humbly the dancer replied, "The philosopher's soul dwells in his head; the poet's soul in his ear; the singer's soul lingers about his throat; but the soul of a dancer abides in all of her body."

Thus the many attributes of folk dancing bring us in the field of literature, narrative, biography, epic, folk tale, and such varied subjects as ethnology and anthropology. In view of this wide range of material, one can only delineate in a superficial way the richness of subject matter. Thus there is the vein of dance history to expand ones appreciation of the dance arts. One will discover the following to be good reading: 1. The Dance of Life--Havelock Ellis; 2. A History of the Classical Dance--Lincoln Kirstein; 3. Dance As An Art Form--Russell W. Hughes; 4. The Dance--Its Place in Art and Life--Troy Kinney; 5. Gods Who Dance--Ted Shawn; 6. World History of the Dance--Curt Sachs.



Folk stories and folk tales come so early in our lives that we fail to realize the joy inherent in a re-examination of our world folk lore. Whether it's of American, Czech, Scandinavian, or Russian background a realm of imaginary meandering waits your pleasure. We suggest you try telling folk stories at some of your outings or parties. B.A. Botkin's "A Treasury of American Folklore," with its legends, ballads and stories should be on the folk dancer's book shelf. Read Richard Burton's "The Arabian Nights" and enjoy its magical qualities and pageantry. For the South American way, there is the Pan American Union's "Folk Songs and Stories of the Americas."

One day when you find yourself doing a Mexican folk dance you may be inquisitive as to its background. This may lead you to a study of the Mayan and Aztec civilizations, and perchance you'll be interested in the Spanish explorations. Hernan Cortes by Salvador de Madariaga will leave you breathless in its description of the civilization of the Aztecs as well as its account of the exploits of Cortes.

To know a country's literature makes one more conversant with a particular National group. Sholem Asch has long been an outstanding writer of the Jewish people of Southeastern Europe. Among his books are "The Mother" and "Three Cities." Mikhail Sholokhov, one of the modern Russian writers, sings lustily in his books of the Don Cossacks. Franz Werfel's "Forty Days on Musa Dagh" will give you an exciting narrative that will make you ask for more. The so called John Steinbeck of Sweden, Wilhelm Moberg, has written a moving trilogy "The Earth is Ours." In rambling over favorite books with an international setting we recall with pleasure Adamic's, "The Native's Return;" and "My Native Land." Also, Hamsun's, "Hunger;" and Lin Yutang's, "Moments in Peking." The latter book is delightful in its reflection of Chinese life and philosophy.

Coming close to home you'll discover a spitting contest, as described in Best's, "Young'un," of unique flavor. Stuart's "Taps for Private Tussie" is an enchanting story of Kentucky mountain folk. Richard Wright's "Black Boy" is down to earth and will cause you to reflect on our American scene. To realize the makeup of a Sicilian American, one will discover many laughs in store in reading Mangione's "Mount Allegro." For the folk dancer who likes to leave his own back yard and see how the Chinese Americans live, we recommend Carl Glick's "Three Times I Bow," and Pardee Lowe's "Father and Glorious Descendant."

For the individual who is ambitious Friedrich Hertz has a great deal that is thought provoking in his book on Race and Civilization.

The literary world is indeed full of a number of things. For pleasure or for expansion of interests, knowledge, and appreciation, we suggest following the paths of folk dancing through black and white.

## JUNE FESTIVAL

by  
Grace Perryman

The June festival of the Folk Dance Federation of California was held in San Francisco on June 3 with Chang's International Folk Dancers as hosts. The festival honoring the delegates of the World Security Conference was originally planned for Golden Gate Park, but due to wet and foggy weather was moved at the last possible minute to the Gate Swingers Y.M.C.A. 5th floor gym. The poor "Y" gym was bulging at the seams by the time those who did come squeezed in. The delegates who were there saw an authentic demonstration of what good times we have at our festivals. They also saw some fine exhibitions from the following groups: Redwood City Docey-Doe Club, Redwood City Junior Docey-Doe Club, the Gate Swingers, Garfield Folk Dancers, and the Square Steppers who were led in exhibition squares by Mrs. Mildred Buhler. For other excellent exhibitions we wish to thank the Berkeley Folk Dancers, the Palomanians, the Festival Workshop, and the Scandinavian Folk Dancers. We also feel very grateful and appreciative of the work of the various committees led by these chairmen: Public relations and contact with Conference officials, Walter Grothe; Publicity, Grace Perryman; Arrangements, Marvin Hartfield; Programs, Lois Malkason and Cliff Rather; Refreshments, Alfred Kretschmer; Master of Ceremonies for the day, Cliff Rather and Madelyne Greene. Of course, we also thank all of you who came (in spite of the weather) and participated, and we want you to know that Chang's will have a picnic sometime (when the weather is beautiful) in Golden Gate Park and you are all invited.

## JULY FESTIVAL

The July festival is scheduled for the 22nd, to be held in Washington Park, located on Central Avenue (near old Neptune Park) in Alameda. The Oakland Folk Dancers will be the host group. Dancing will be from 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. with the Council Meeting scheduled for 12:30 p.m. Come early and enjoy swimming in the bay or at the Cottage Baths. Barbecue pits and tables are available and cokes and hot dogs may be purchased from concessions at the Park. The host group will serve free punch.

## COMING FESTIVALS

August--Tamalpais Int. Folk Dancing Society, hosts  
Sept. --Palomanians, hosts  
Oct. --Fun Club Folk Dancers, hosts  
Nov. --Scandinavian Folk Dancers, hosts  
Exact dates and details of these festivals will be announced--watch for them.



### NEW CLUBS IN THE FEDERATION

We are happy to welcome the following clubs into membership in the Folk Dance Federation of California. Some have been members for several months but due to lack of space were not listed. The Petaluma International Folk Dancing Club, Hoedowners, Pasadena Folk Dance Group, San Jose Polkateers, Cragmont School, Shindigers, Sacramento Folk Dancers, and Turnabees. We hope the reporters of these groups will keep us informed of club activities. As of June 1 we had 39 active clubs in the Federation.

### DISCONTINUED CLUBS

We have been notified that the following clubs have been discontinued: Golden Gate Folk Dancers, Hi Neighbor Club, and Stanford Folk Dancers.

### WEDDING BELLS FOR CLARICE

It should be wedding bells before the end of the year for Clarice Dechent of the Stanford Folk Dancers. Clarice has decided to precede her Ph.D. degree with a MRS. to be conferred upon her by Paul Hartman of the U.S. Navy, as soon as Navy orders will allow. Clarice announced her engagement to Paul recently at a tea at Stanford University. No, he's not a folk dancer--yet.

### WEDDING BELLS FOR BEATRICE

At a ceremony in San Francisco recently, Beatrice Cook became Mrs. Benjamin Culver. The Culvers are now residing in Redwood City. (Docey Doe Club note!)

### OAK KNOLL NAVAL HOSPITAL EXHIBITION

On Sunday, June 17, one of the hottest days of the year, about 110 folk dancers donned their best costumes and took part in a program at the Oak Knoll Hospital, under the sponsorship of the Red Cross. From four to six couples from each of the following clubs took part: Oakland Folk Dancers, Castle Promenaders, Berkeley Folk Dancers, Festival Workshop, Gate Swingers, Scandinavian Folk Dancers, Chang's Int. Folk Dancers (2 groups), and the Palomanians. The clubs furnished their own record and sound equipment and over a two hour period each group visited four wards. The dancers were enthusiastically received and some of the men who were able joined in the dances. All felt it was a day well spent and are anxious to return again to Oak Knoll.

### VOLUME I

Volume I of dance descriptions to be published by the Folk Dance Federation of California will have 19 dances with an introductory section of steps, figures, and positions. Included is a fairly comprehensive list of folk dance material. The volume will have a paper cover with a stapled binding. Dances will be printed on one side so dances may be filed if desired. Extension revisions are being made in the form of the dances from past experience in the individual issues. The work has been deliberately slow to follow a well established plan.

The Research Committee hopes to publish the volume in July or August. Please be patient--we'll let you know exactly when Volume I is ready, how much it will cost, and where and how you should place your order.

### UNCLE SAM'S MAILBAG

Dear Mrs. Biel:

I have just received the February issue of "Let's Dance," and had previously received the January issue. I don't know who secured the subscription for me, but I appreciate it, and enjoy the paper very much. I have been a member of the Co-op Fun Club in San Francisco and have attended and enjoyed several of the Federation festivals. Now I am in an engineer unit (Engineer Boat and Shore Regiment) and am stationed on the island of Mindanao in the Philippines. The news from the various folk dance clubs interested me very much, and I am certainly glad to see that the number of clubs is growing. It is really gratifying to see that, in spite of the fact that so many young men are in the service, still the folk dance movement is going ahead. I am looking forward to folk dancing, not only as a very enjoyable type of recreation, but also as one means of understanding and appreciating the cultures of other nationalities, eliminating prejudices, and having a better feeling of world brotherhood and peace. The dance description pages are very good, too, and I hope to be able to get a copy of Volume I when I return to the U.S. Best wishes for the continued success of the Federation.

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The Gate Swingers report Pvt. Arthur Moran has sent in some new calls via the South Pacific.

We notice an amusing note in regard to a welcome extended to some American air-men by some Russians. An Am. Colonel was momentarily embarrassed when asked by the Russian commander to dance. After some hesitation the Colonel performed admirably. Recovering from his surprise the American learned that the Russian soldiers often dance together.

G.M. i/c Lee Owens is a frequent correspondent from Okinawa. Distance does not dampen his enthusiasm for squares, and he feels the Federation should do more squares and develop more good callers, and dig deeper into the dances of America.



## YOUR CLUB AND MINE

### REDWOOD CITY DOCEY DOE CLUB by Lela Scales

Twenty-two Redwood City Docey Doe Club members were guests at the San Carlos Eastern Star's Colonial party recently. The dances demonstrated, including squares, were enthusiastically received with the hostesses joining in to "learn a few." Forty-six Docey Doe Club members highlighted an "Allied Nations Dance" given recently by the Lincoln School P.T.A. by demonstrating folk dances of different nations. This club also gave a square dance exhibition at the San Mateo Horsemen's Association on June 26. The Junior Docey Doe Club put on a program of folk dances at the San Mateo Park Grammar School at their annual "Father and Daughter" banquet. They were also the main attraction of the "Children's Spring Folk Dancing Festival" given at the Sequoia High School and sponsored by the Redwood City Recreation Dept.

### GARFIELD FOLK DANCERS by Elizabeth Ann Howard

The Garfield Folk Dancers announce that a new series for beginners will start on Thursday, July 5, 8:15 to 11:00 p.m. with the group previously meeting on Thursday advancing to Tuesday nights. The first Thursday of each month is party night. The new officers for the club are: President, Mel Hoff; Vice-president, Freeman Bovard; Secretary, Rosemary Grube; Tuesday night treasurer, Carolyn Reid; Thursday night treasurer, Shirley Houlding; Publicity and Federation representative, Elizabeth Ann Howard.

### VALLEJO FOLK DANCERS by Sue Lemmon

The Vallejo Folk Dancers elected the following officers: President, Fred Nettleman; Vice president, Lloyd Nass; Secretary-treasurer, Miriam Robinson. Three members of this group, Jim Mavor, Herb Hagg, and Toby Henry all of the Navy, were called to sea duty. Mary Sivia left the group to make her home in Illinois. A combined wienie roast and swimming party was held recently at Oak Lake Park in Napa, with all attending reporting a wonderful time.

### CHANG'S INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCERS by Jack Kaufman

Hobby Show preparations are in full swing with Angelo Sotosanti as chairman of general decoration of the booths. The Scandinavian booth will serve refreshments under the direction of Ruth Howard. A Portuguese booth is being considered by Madelynn Greene. This event is scheduled for the first week in October, so if you have a hobby to exhibit there is no time to lose. Perhaps you raise flowers? Or pedigreed dogs or cats, pictures of which would make an exhibit? The variety of acceptable hobbies is practically limitless. Contact Madelynn Greene for details.

Sergei Temoff has been conducting a class in advanced dancing for four Monday evenings, June 11 to July 2, for the purpose of reviewing the Russian Peasant Dance, learned some time ago, and adding new figures to complete the dance. Members of Chang's presented two dances on June 10 in Alameda for a Flag Day program before an audience of 10,000.

### BERKELEY FOLK DANCERS

The Berkeley Folk Dancers will give their fourth birthday party on Saturday night, July 14, 7:00 p.m. to midnight in the Brazilian Room, Tilden Park. A buffet supper will be served at \$1.50 per person. The theme of the party will be the "Gay 90'S" and will be limited to the first 100 Berkeley Folk Dancers purchasing tickets.

### LODI FOLK DANCERS by Isabel Reynolds

Mrs. Isabel Reynolds was elected to head the Lodi Folk Dancers for the ensuing year with Mrs. Mary Bergantz as vice-president and Miss Ema Ruth Gillette as secretary-treasurer. During the summer the group will continue their USO work in Stockton the first and third Tuesday of the month, but will discontinue the regular club dances until September.

### GATE SWINGERS by Patricia French

The Gate Swingers report that at the Central YMCA's 11th annual achievement dinner, two members of their square and folk dance group, Kay Holmes and Ken Wade were the winners of the 1945 Special Award for outstanding service during the past year. Miss Holmes is now serving as membership committee chairman of the Gate Swingers and Ken Wade is the president. Aileen Wade, instructor of the Thursday Night Dance Class and Ed Searing of the group won the award for last year, and Vera Holleuffer, Gate Swinger Leader, won it for 1943.

The Gate Swinger's grand July party (July 7) is the note of the month, with party games, dances, and refreshments, and the theme will be a kid's party with jeans for the boys and pig-tails for the girls. The Holleuffer's stole the bouquets last May 27 when they announced the birth of a daughter, Carol. The baby carriage that she'll be seeing the town in was a gift of the Gate Swingers.

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