

Let's Dance

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WORLD BROTHERHOOD

World Brotherhood "Week" closed in February for some folks, but for folk dancers it is a continuing theme. Folk dancers have the opportunity not only to evince the desirability of brotherhood but also to carry on its concrete manifestations in their weekly activities. Though our emphasis is primarily recreational and social, we must realize our unique importance in bringing the message of tolerance and understanding to our friends and acquaintances.

The past and present activities of organized individuals and groups whose narrow appreciation of Americanism causes them to indulge in a campaign of intolerance and animosity is not a story from the books. It is as real as Mary, Petro, Nathan, and Peder.

It is because we as folk dancers have glimpsed the scheme of things that we have been in a prominent position to carry on a program of tolerance in the larger meaning of the word. Yes, fellow folk dancer, in our contacts, our festivals, our papers, our mingling with our fellow men we are showing the way. Let us keep up the good work mindful that our dancing activities inadvertently are building an understanding America and a better world.
Henry Glass, Editor

OUR MEXICAN NEIGHBORS

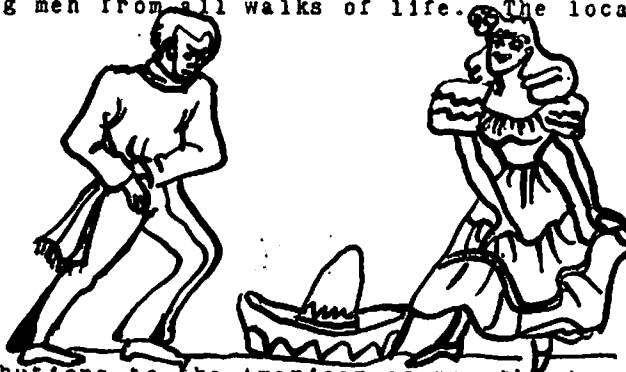
by
Mrs. Helen H. Iverson*

For years the Mexican Colony in Oakland has considered the New Century Community Center as their headquarters. Some of the neighbors who first helped organize the programs are still active and interested in the Center. Small string orchestras made up of proud fathers, brothers who played while their sisters and wives danced the folk dances, were the originators of what has turned out to be a permanent and a very important group at the Center. Some of the original musicians are still playing at many of the festivals.

In 1937 Angel Guzman (certified to teach dancing by the University of Mexico) started classes in Mexican Folk Dancing and it is through the interest that he created that Abby Schmits (now in the Spars) continued teaching the Mexican Folk Dances when Mr. Guzman returned to Mexico. These classes for Mexican adults and children were conducted in authentic Mexican style. During Abby Schmits absence, the classes have been carried on by Avis Landis, an outstanding dancer and teacher of Mexican dances. The presence of the Mexican Nationals during the war period enriched and enlarged the activities of the Center. Appearing in their own native costumes, the group participated in many programs at the Center as well as many civic affairs where they always made a colorful appearance.

The Nationals came here in large numbers to relieve the labor situation, and as a whole they were outstanding young men from all walks of life. The local Mexican Colony opened their homes to them and expressed the desire to become citizens. many of the boys have return to America and

Through the Oakland Recreation Dept. Association, an American-Committee was formed and during the war period. proved to be very popular, affairs being given on wonderful Mexican food was has created a very Oakland and therefore possible, are planning



cooperation of the and the Pan-American Mexican Recreation sponsored weekly affairs Dances and game nights with several elaborate special occasions when served. All of this friendly feeling for the men, as many as to return.

Because of the contributions to the American scene, the departure of the Nationals meant a great loss to the community. However, the local citizens are enthusiastic and active in planning future programs. We are hoping to have a gala celebrations on May 6 which marks one of the Mexican national holidays.

*Mrs. Helen E. Iverson, Resident Director, New Century Community Center, is a truly remarkable recreation leader who actively directs a community center that is a real picture of the American melting pot. Located in the heart of the Mexican colony, Mrs. Iverson has achieved outstanding results in services to her community and country. If you want to enjoy an interesting evening, attend one of the Saturday night dances sponsored at the community house on Peralta Street, Oakland.

THE RESEARCH COMMITTEE AND THE FEDERATION

Lucile K. Czarnowski, President of the Federation, Chairman of Research Committee

The Research Committee of the Federation has been following two main objectives-- to put into workable descriptive form dances which are popular with the different clubs and to provide new material which will widen the Federation repertoire of dances.

The Research Committee would like closer contact with the different organizations so that descriptions of the same version of the dances which are demonstrated at the festivals can be published and so both description and demonstration can be presented the same month. If the Weggis Dance demonstrated at a recent festival and the description published by the Research Committee had been the same version, how much better it would have been for all concerned. The Committee spent a great deal of time and effort in comparing all the available written versions of the Weggis Dance and wrote letters to leaders who taught versions of the dance which had not been published and finally decided to publish the one described because it seemed the most interesting dance and had been taught to some of the folk dancers in this region. In this case the demonstration group and the Research Committee were not mutually aware of their mutual activities. In the future wouldn't it be possible for the demonstration groups to collaborate with the Research Committee so Federation efforts can be unified.

The Research Committee wishes to publish dances which the member groups are eager to have. Let your wishes be known and work with the Committee. The Committee members are extremely busy people who frequently give their only free time to spend many hours to serve you fellow dancers. They want their time and effort to bear fruit.

ON THE PRINTED PAGE

The Days of Ofelia by Gertrude Diamant, Houghton Mifflin, 1942, is a book about Mexico that cuts through the surface and shows you the living people. It is vivid, completely real and delightful reading. For folk dancers, it gives a picture of the background for Sandunga as it was danced at a wedding in Tehuantepec. Further, Ofelia takes you to the poverty stricken country of the Indians and gives the reader a sympathetic understanding of the many problems confronting Mexico today. (Reviewed by L. Czarnowski)

Promenade, published monthly by the American Square Dance Society, 550 Riverside Drive, \$1.00 per year. This is a newsy folk dance bulletin with items of interest for the folk dancer. We suggest that you add this to your personal or club file.

UNDERCOVER by John Carlson. While this book was published early in the war period, its revealing of individuals and groups organized in promoting racial intolerance should bring home to folk dancers the need for promoting a positive program of understanding and tolerance.

The Dove Brings Peace, by Richard Hagopian, is a simple yet chatty narrative on the Armenian emigres from the old country who find the ways of Americans puzzling, particularly as it effects their growing children. Its commentary on Armenians, their feelings and their ways of living will make you want to know about these people and their background.

FEBRUARY FESTIVAL

The Swiss Snow Festival, presented Sunday, February, 24, by the Garfield Folk Dancers at the Berkeley High School, Berkeley, Calif., with a multitude of decorations in the Swiss theme, the demonstration of the Weggis Dance in Swiss costumes, and the large gathering of dancers as well as audience, made the occasion, a success from the beginning.



An outstanding event of the program was the presence of real live music that added real zest to the dances. From other folk dancers who are musicians we understand that it is no easy task to get orchestrations and to present them in an enjoyable manner. To leader, Al Toft, and to the Garfield festival committee we voice a loud yodel echoing our thanks. The colorful groups of balloons placed among the other Alpine decorations showed that the colorful results included a great deal of planning and work. Unfortunately the large crowd and the acoustics offered minor handicaps, but the enthusiasm of the dancers resulted in an enjoyable festival. Noticeable among the dancers were many newcomers to folk dancing who had a great time at their first Federation festival.

MARCH FESTIVAL

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The March Federation festival will be held in Albany on Saturday evening, March 16 at 8:00 p.m. in the Albany High School Gym, under the sponsorship of the Albany Folk Dancers. The school is located at Pomona and Solano Streets. The business meeting is scheduled for 7:00 p.m. Bring your "Kathleen" and join the Murphys and the Kellys in the spirit of St. Patrick's.

APRIL FESTIVAL

The April Federation Festival will be held Sunday, April 14, from 1 to 6 p.m. in the Oakland Civic Auditorium with the Castle Promenaders and the Oakland Folk Dancers as Co-hosts. A feature of this occasion will be real live music with a 25 piece orchestra under the direction of Dean Swindell. Further information will be sent your club.

FOLK DANCE CALENDAR

March 8	San Francisco Museum of Art Demonstrations, 8:00 to 9:30 p.m. Free
March 15	San Francisco Museum of Art Demonstrations, 8:00 to 9:30 p.m. Free
March 16	March festival, Albany High School, 8 to 12 p.m. Albany Folk Dancers.
March 22	San Francisco Museum of Art Folk Dance Demonstrations.
March 29	San Francisco Museum of Art Folk Dance Demonstrations.
April 14	April festival, Oakland Civic Auditorium, co-hosts Castle Promenaders and Oakland Folk Dancers.
May 11	State-wide folk dance festival, Ojai, Calif., Saturday evening, 5 to 11 p.m.
May 19	May festival, Hayward High School football field, Federation hosts.
June 2	June festival, Univ. of Calif. Men's Gym (or outside), Univ. of Calif. Folk and Square Dancers, hosts.

ALL-CALIFORNIA FOLK DANCE FESTIVAL

A great deal of enthusiasm is being shown here for the All-California State-wide festival to be held in Ojai, California on Saturday evening May 11 from 5 to 11 p.m. Mildred Buhler mentioned the possibility of chartering busses from Redwood City, and Dave Boyce reports that it will be possible to get an S. P. train leaving at 6:05 p.m. Friday and arriving in Ventura at 6:05 a.m. Saturday morning. There is a choice of two trains returning Sunday. (Fare round trip \$13.00) If you have the car and tires, plus a change of drivers, we suggest you make up a caravan of cars from your group to cut down expenses. Applications for accommodations, ranging from free hospitality to hotels, must be made by April 10. Send all applications to David Young, Ojai, Calif. No one can afford to miss this first All-California festival, and we are certainly glad to see so many from the Bay Area planning to attend. Be sure your club returns the questionnaire to David Young as soon as possible.

THE FEDERATION COUNCIL REPORTS

At the February Council meeting Henry Koopmann displayed the new scrapbook showing the attention and work put forth by our historian. Henry has a lot of ideas for our scrapbook and invites your contribution of pictures and other material.

The Federation welcomed two new member groups--the Polkadots, Y.M.C.A. group from Stockton with Lawton Harris as director, and the Folk Arts Group, San Francisco, with Grace Perryman, director.

The San Carlos-Belmont Folk Dancers have changed their name to The Peasants. They meet the 1st and 4th Saturdays of the month.

Mildred Buhler is taking a group of her dancers to Santa Maria to aid the cause of folk dancing. Mildred is meeting with local teachers there to teach them dances in our repertoire. The affair is sponsored by the Santa Maria Recreation Department and will be held on April 5-6.

Moving pictures of folk dances are receiving attention as well as the planning of an Institute Session with leading folk dancers from all parts of the country taking part. Watch for details on this institute session.

Plans for the Ojai festival were discussed and a great deal of enthusiasm is evident for this important occasion.

BY THE WAY

by
BUZZ GLASS

Many a folk enthusiast enjoys the movies with the color of folk dances but at the same time abhors the liberal spread of Hollywood splashes. This leads us to the point of telling you about the Hollywood Square Dance Society who can as they state, "Duck the Oysters and pass the ham" with the best of them. It seems that a regular group of movie stars meet at Plummer Park to participate in squares and rounds. Who knows, you may have Greg Peck as your partner in a square--he is supposed to outshine them all. Regular members include Sullivan, Eddie Bracken, Marjorie Reynolds, and others.

BY THE WAY (CON'T.)

4.

We like Senator Fulbright's idea of using the profits from the sale of surplus war goods overseas to finance an exchange of U. S. and foreign students. Interestingly, correspondents to Time, Letters to the Editor, state the positive results of being in personal contact with foreign groups. Some day we hope that our Federation treasury will be rich enough to help establish a scholarship for a foreign student. It's just an idea.

Our Bulgarian friend Nedeleff pointed out that the flowers he gave us for our garden hail from the mountainous regions of his country. Called health flowers, and having a spicy fragrance and the "zdravets" are worn by the girls in Bulgaria when they are engaged. A string of red thread around the corsage is the tie that binds.

Folk dancer Michael Sweeney who worked for the U. S. Government in Canada during the war tells us about the unusual checker games held in Stanley Park, Vancouver, B. C. It seems that the players use not the prosaic table checkers, but huge concrete slabs on which they push huge concrete checkers with poles. Large galleries surround the players as grandstand quarterbacks.

In Berkeley recently, a GI returnee droppdd in at the International House in the Ethel Moore Memorial Building with a linguistic problem. He wanted to know how to write "Will you marry me?" in Hungarian. He stated that he met the one and only in Hungary and wanted to write his proposal in English and when he had finished his missive, they had it translated into Hungarian and sent on its way.

Have you heard the Sod-Buster Ballads, General Records, of the Almanac Singers? We like the hearty robust singing of the "State of Arkansaw" and the lilting drawl of "I Ride an Old Paint." Records for folk dances are still scarce, though many of the popular records are increasing in number. You can now get the record for Las Altenitas, Mexican, described in this issue of "Let's Dance." The California Music Shop on Calif. between Polk and Larkin, S. F. has it. Michael Herman in a recent issue of "The Folk Dancer" lists two Kolos by the Sonart Co. --Malo and Zikino. Also listed are Jigs and Reels by the International Records, D119-126. Surma, 11 East 7th St., N. Y. 3, N. Y. has records of the Slavic Nations.

Roger Knox, formerly of the Berkeley Folk Dancers, and at present in Oak Ridge, Tennessee, says the real mountain squares or running sets once performed in this region have "atomized" into rat races done f, r and by tourists. Roger is leading two small but enthusiastic groups and lists favorite dances as the Tarantella, Hambo, and Squares. Roger hopes to eventually reach the real wilderness and find something to write home about.

The Federation in action. Wilma Young of Sausalito reports that her group before their November festival numbered some handful of dancers. Now following the Federation festival, they have an attendance of 25 to 35 and are able to really expand their program.

YOUR CLUB AND MINE

SAN JOSE POLKATEERS by Dorothy Frost

The Polkateers have completed the task of revising their by-laws and electing officers to lead the club during its second year. With Dorothy Frost as president, the other officers include Eleanor Johnson, dance instructor, Lucy Chaney, secretary-treasurer, and Don Woods treasurer. The floor chairman will be chosen each month to serve with the executive committee. Many new members are attending dance classes at the San Jose Adult Center so that club meetings can be more social. Lucy Chaney of the Polkateers is now instructing the advanced class of dancers at the Center.

CASTLE PROMENADERS by Muriel Simpson

The Castle Promenaders continues to expand with an increasing membership and lately can boast of having extra men. We were sorry to lose Sandy and Bert Tepfer who have left the Army and west coast for the east, but we will long remember Sandy's calling of the Southern Appalachian squares. The first Saturday of the month party at Durant Park was a whooping success with many guests present from other clubs. The dance "Espan" newly introduced to the group was the delight of the evening, along with the interesting routine of the "Skater's Waltz." Refreshments of hot dogs and coffee closed an evening of good fellowship and fun.

FUN CLUB by Arnold McMurray

Everyone has fun at the Fun Club. Though we meet but two Saturdays a month, the high spirits of our newcomers plus the guiding hand of the old timers gives all a full evening's activity. Our membership continues to grow and we take this as a token of success. The hour of 8 to 9 p.m. is used for instruction and we hope to soon show the results of our ambitions. Come and visit us sometime--you'll have fun and frolic.

PALOMANIANS by Annemarie Steinbiss

The Palomanians served art and culture by appearing in the Museum of Art series on January 16, performing the early California Contra Dance, and are now working on the Museum program to be presented in March. The monthly Saturday night party which fell on January 19 had a Sadie Hawkins theme and the Little Abner's didn't run away.

PALOMANIANS (CON'T).

5.

All agreed that the bidding for dances by the girls was different and many a fine was collected from the forgetful fellow who asked a girl to dance. Roy and Jane Zellick have begun teaching Mr. del Oro's version of the Hungarian Czardas to the group. The Palomanians now meet Wednesdays instead of Mondays at the Community Center in Palo Alto.

OAKLAND FOLK DANCERS by Betty Pearson

All the members and their guests agree that the monthly parties on Wednesday nights are a successful venture. With Walter Osche as chairman, the next party is being eagerly anticipated with costumes, prizes, and refreshments in the offing. The Oakland Folk Dancers presented Las Espuelas at the Glenn Park festival, following a period of instruction by Avis Landis, well known teacher of Mexican dances. Recently Miss Landis delighted the local group by performing Mexican dances in authentic costume at a recent party. Oakland is proud of their newest folk dancer, who appeared in an authentic Mexican costume for the above exhibition (age 4 1/2 he is getting an early start--dancer Russell Pearson). Violet Stewart, new treasurer of the club has just welcomed her husband back from overseas. Likewise, June Schutte's husband has returned from the service and they have moved into a new home in Sacramento.

SAN FRANCISCO FOLK ARTS by Grace Perryman

Though just initiated into the Federation, this new club hopes to offer something new and of value to folk dancers. Taught by Grace Perryman, folk dance classes will be held as follows: Wednesday evenings, 321 Divisadero Street, S. F., beginners 8:00 p.m.; advanced 9:15 p.m. The charge is 35 cents for one or both classes. Of special interest to folk dancers is the sewing class in which expert help and advice is given in making and sewing costumes. Sewing machines are available. Research and handicraft classes will start soon. For further information write Grace at 7 Fielding Place, at the rear of 1933 Stockton St., S. F.

SAUSALITO FOLK DANCERS by Wilma Young

Sausalito has adopted a new policy of holding a party night, one night a month. On these occasions, groups from other clubs are welcome to join in the festivities and to bring new dances to the group. The last Friday of each month is being designated as party night to welcome outside groups. On February 22 a group of visitors were present from San Francisco and Grace Perryman taught the Windmill Dance.

SCANDINAVIAN FOLK DANCERS by Dan McDonald

Our new instructor is our regular accordionist who is doing a grand job of teaching some new Scandinavian dances. All agree that Vera Linstrom is outstanding in her new capacity. We are working on the Norwegian Spring Dance to be shown at the next festival on March 16 and to be repeated at the Museum of Art March 22. Mr. and Mrs. Nick Renzetti announce the birth of a daughter February 26. Mrs. Renzetti is the former Judy Olsen, former director of the Scandinavian Folk Dancers.

GATE SWINGERS by Milly Rossbach

Weddings and love affairs seem to be one of the main events of the Gate Swingers. Bernice Eastman is now Mrs. Jim Kohl, and there are more to come, so it is whispered. Skiing has become a new diversion with our group and we apply the same vim and vigor as we do with our dancing. Our annual election was held Saturday, February 9 and coincided with a delightful valentine party. We're sorry to lose many of our servicemen, but are happy to know that they will be missionaries at their home stamping grounds.

THE TURNOBBES by Paul O'Bryne

Meeting Monday evenings at the Oakland Jewish Community Center, we have a lot of fun, particularly on the last Monday of the month when we give a birthday party for all members having a birthday during that month. Of interest to our club members is our monthly bulletin which is growing in size and interest. Tuesday, February 19 we danced for the Oakland B'Nai B'rith--a full evening's dancing that was well appreciated.

FESTIVAL WORKSHOP by Walter Grothe

Some of our members under the direction of Madelynn Greene went to Vallejo and enjoyed an evening with the Vallejo group. We taught them several dances and think that our visit helped the extension of folk dancing. The group also exhibited several dances at the Hungarian Singing Society and joined the Society later in an evening of ballroom dancing.

You may still obtain copies of Volume I, "Folk Dances From Near and Far" by sending a check to Mrs. Frances Glass, 3732 Buell Street, Oakland 2, Calif. The price is \$1.50 to subscribers of "Let's Dance," and \$2.00 to non-subscribers.

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