

• Let's Dance

SEPTEMBER 1998 • \$1.50



THE MAGAZINE OF INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCING



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ON OUR COVER:

The first four Presidents of the Federation pictured in 1945. From left: Lucile Czarnowski (1945-46), Clarice Dechent (1944-45), Ed Kremers (1943-44) and Henry "Buzz" Glass (1942-43). See article inside this issue for more about Ed Kremers.

NEW INFORMATION:

SUBMISSION DEADLINE:
Submission deadline for each issue is the 25th of 2 months previous (i.e., March deadline would be the 25th of January).



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President's Message

July and August saw the progression of one great year at Stockton Folk Dance Camp. There were many experienced Stockton campers, and many others-such as myself-who made 1998 their first year at camp. In fact there were a few people who had never folk danced before, period. At the end of the week one of them said-"Folk dancing? I'm hooked!" That's the kind of experience it was, with something for everyone-including live music, afternoon seminars, excellent and engaging teachers, late-night parties and as much dancing as our feet could stand. In fact, it was so much fun that I regretted not rearranging my schedule to go for two weeks! However, then Let's Dance would be late to your doorstep.

The Camp committee surmounted many obstacles-not the least of which was the 49ers snapping up facilities for their training camp. Another blow was the death of Bee Mitchell, who was instrumental in so many parts of the Camp's operations. She was missed. We also missed Ed Kremers who passed away shortly before Camp. He was the only person who had attended all 50 years last year.

As a consequence of the 49er-driven facilities shifts, we were fortunate enough to be grouped together in one dorm with the cafeteria and the afterparty in the same building. I especially enjoyed learning about the countries and villages the dances came from, as well as being taught the styling and background by the people who had actually researched the dance themselves in the original villages.

All the talk about villages made me reflect on how the International Folk Dance community has created a global village for itself. It lies dormant as we go about our jobs and chores, but when times of celebration or need arise, the villagers gather together to share a love of dance. Stockton Folk Dance Camp was a two-week assembly of that village. What a precious thing!

The only way I could bring myself to leave was by looking forward to seeing some of the people at festivals throughout the year, at Statewide and then at Stockton Camp next year and as I dance in the years to come.

I'll be seeing you on the dance floor.

Barbara

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**WELCOME
TO THE
FIESTA DE SONOMA**

WES TAKARA

Welcome to the Fiesta!

Come and enjoy an afternoon of Folk Dancing with us! Fiesta de Sonoma is Sunday, September 13, 1998. There will be a Council Presidents' Meeting at 11:00 am, followed by an Assembly Meeting at 11:15, General Folk Dancing from 1:30 to 5:30 p.m. and Exhibitions at 3:00. All events will take place at the Veterans Memorial Building, 126 First St. West, Sonoma. Come join your friends for dancing and an evening on the town.

Elsa Bacher

FOLK DANCE SCENE



for current ethnic events and folk dance activities, current research on ethnic culture and dance, and other important folk dance topics.

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THE REWOOD COUNCIL OF FOLK DANCE CLUBS

WELCOMES YOU TO THE



**NAPA VALLEY
NOVATO
PETALUMA
SANTA ROSA**

Fiesta de Sonoma

Folk Dance Festival



Sunday, September 13
Veterans Memorial Building
126 1st St. West, Sonoma



11:00 a.m.
Council President's Meeting

11:15 a.m.
Assembly Meeting

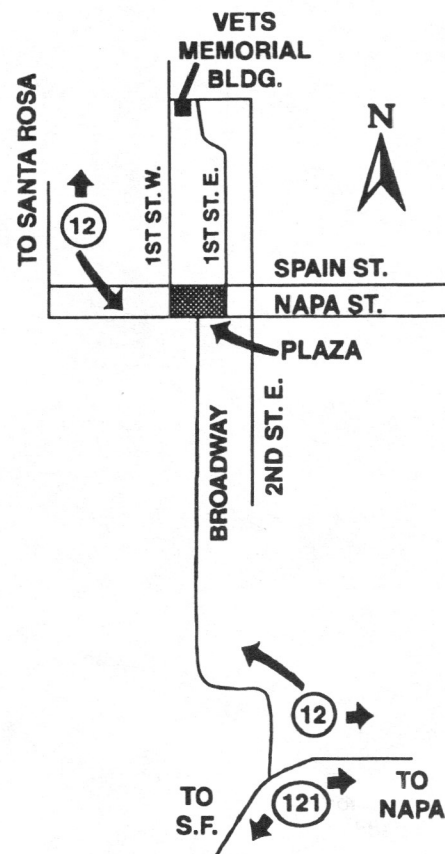
1:30 to 5:30
General Folk Dancing

3:00 – Exhibitions

Donation – \$5

Sponsored by:
Folk Dance Federation of California

Presented by
Redwood Council of Folk Dance Clubs



Fiesta de Sonoma

Program of Dances

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1 Tzadik Katamar | 27 Pinewoods Two Step (P) |
| 2 Corrido | 28 Dundee Whaler |
| 3 Bal in da Straat (P) | 29 Zillertaler Landler |
| 4 Alexandrovskia | 30 Grand Square |
| 5 Numero Cinco | 31 Macedonka Kolo |
| 6 Square | 32 Vrtielka |
| 7 Rumelaj | 33 Mona's Festvals (P) |
| 8 Double Sixsome | 34 Let's Have a Ceilidh |
| 9 Bluebell Waltz (P) | 35 Lights of Vienna |
| 10 Sauerlander Quadrille | 36 Caballito Blanco |
| 11 Bohemian National Polka | 37 Baztan Dantza |
| 12 Contra | 38 Ada's Kujawiak #1 |
| 13 Joc batranesc din Niculitel | 39 Japanese Soft Shoe |
| 14 Hambo | 40 La Bastringue (P) |
| 15 Tango Poquito (P) | 41 Windmill Quadrille |
| 16 Polharrow Burn | 42 St. Bernard Waltz |
| 17 La Cachucha | 43 Kvar Acharay Chatzot |
| 18 Square | 44 Posties Jig |
| 19 Maitli Schottisch | 45 Oslo Waltz (P) |
| 20 Elizabeth Quadrille | 46 Ranchera |
| 21 Skt. Gilgen Figurentanz (P) | 47 Prince William |
| 22 La Encantada Tango | 48 Somewhere My Love |
| 23 Frenchy Brown | 49 Tino Mori |
| 24 Contra | 50 Milondita Tango |
| EXHIBITIONS - 3:00 p.m. | 51 Trip to Bavaria |
| 25 Bapardess | 52 Couple Hasapiko |
| 26 Maple Leaf Rag | 53 Lesnoto |
| | 54 Blue Pacific Waltz |

COUNCIL CLIPS

REDWOOD COUNCIL – We are looking forward to seeing you in Sonoma on Sunday, September 13, for Fiesta de Sonoma. Dance with us from 1:30 to 5:30 PM. Enjoy the beginning of grape harvest season in beautiful Sonoma wine country. Exhibitions at 3:00 PM feature International Folkdancers Estelita. The Federation Assembly Meeting will have discussion of the Bylaws. Do come!

SACRAMENTO COUNCIL – We are starting September with a bang by dancing at the California State Fair (remember when we danced there in past years?) Yes, we are going to be front and center on September 6, from 10:00 AM to noon, Cal-Expo Center Stage. We invite all folk dancers to come and dance with us. You will be admitted free IF YOU ARE WEARING FOLK DANCE CLOTHING!

We are working on the 1999 Sunday Camellia Festival, which we hope all know will be held in the Sacramento Memorial Auditorium. The Committee is really excited about doing this and we feel our Sacramento dancers are really supportive of this effort. We are receiving donations to help us with the high cost of renting the Auditorium. So, mark the dates on your calendar: March 6 & 7, 1999, with Sunday, March 7, in the Auditorium. Remember that springy floor?

We have many outstanding clubs in our Council and each month we will attempt to highlight one of them. This month we would like to mention Vienna Rhythm, one of our newer clubs. This group is always busy performing and to see them is a treat for the eyes. The ladies are outfitted in handmade dresses designed after the 18th century style and the gentlemen have the military look of the 18th century Kaiser Franz Joseph. Of course, the music of Johann Strauss transports us to the romance of that era. This group is always active performing in events all through the year, as are many of our other clubs.

SAN FRANCISCO COUNCIL – Changs International Folk Dancers will be closed on September 4 which is part of the Labor Day Weekend. We will have general dancing with requests for the other three Fridays (September 11, 18 and 25). September 18 is also our Party Night for which our members bring "finger food." We would like to have

you come and join us on any of these nights.

BERKELEY FOLK DANCERS – Don't forget. Berkeley Folk Dancers will start their annual new Beginners' class on September 9 at 7.45-9:45 PM at Live Oak Park, Shattuck at Berryman. Please tell your non-dancing friends that the class will be led by our energetic Claire and Al George. Tell them to save their Wednesdays for a great time, good exercise and wonderful social evenings. All this for \$20.00 for an eight week session. For more information call the Georges at (510) 841-1205.

Our other class schedule is as follows: Mondays, Intermediate continuing with our fab four. Tuesdays, advance intermediate with Lone Coleman and Mark Anderson. Thursdays, Advanced with Louise and Bill Lidicker. Fridays are all request nights.

BFD will be at the Solano Stroll, Sunday, September 13. Look for us on Solano Avenue in Berkeley and join us. Then Saturday, September 19, BFD will host a Fun Night Party at Live Oak Park from 7:30-10 PM. Members \$4; non-members \$6.

Send information for Council Clips to – Nadine Mitchell, 1941 Davers Way, Sacramento, CA 95832.



Mr. Folk Dancer

by Jeanie Kermoian

Many years ago, in the early days of folk dancing around the Bay Area, Ed Kremers was known as "Mr. Folk Dancer." Sam and I belonged to the Gateswingers where Ed was a "mover and shaker." Then we lost track of all our friends and acquaintances when we left folk dancing for family and job responsibilities.

After retiring, Sam asked me, "How would you like to folk dance?" I saw RED after being deprived of one of my favorite activities all those years, "Where?" I asked. Sam knew just what to do. He called Ed—still a mover and shaker on the folk dance scene. We were on our way! I often told Ed. "Thanks for bringing all of this joy back into my life".

I guess everybody knew Ed as a dancer, teacher, square dance caller, and friend. His record shop served the Bay Area for many, many years. (As a young teacher in the school department Sam bought folk dance records from Ed, after being encouraged to include dancing in his physical education schedule by Uarda Shultz, P.E. supervisor and a Gateswinger).

Ed took an active role in the Folk Dance Federation and he danced with and supported all the local clubs with dedication and enthusiasm. Toward the end of his life, Ed continued to foster an interest in folk dancing, concentrating on simplifying dance steps for seniors at various centers around the city.

There is hardly a dancer anywhere who wasn't touched by Ed Kremers. With all of his experience on earth, I am sure that he is now organizing a club in the great beyond. If Ed had one message to leave us, it would be —KEEP DANCING, We'll miss you, Ed, but we remember you and thank you for all you gave in the name of folk dancing.

Ed Kremers passed away on July 23 at 8:20 a.m. He will be sorely missed by all of us who knew him.

Reprinted with permission from Changs International Folk Dancers' Bulletin.



Dancing on the Internet

by Barbara Bruxvoort (bbrux@wco.com)
Federation Website: www.folkdance.com

I chose to concentrate on the Balkans at Stockton Folk Dance Camp, so with that momentum, I stayed up late jumping from link to related link on the Web. Here are the results of my search. The amount of sound clips in the collection really surprised me and is a nice bonus to this tour. Hope you enjoy it as I did.

Common Bulgarian Folkdance Rhythms <http://www.io.com/~hbp/folkdance/rhythms.txt> How to tell the difference between a Pajdushko and a Rachenitsa. There's also an encyclopedia style information sheet on Bulgaria at <http://www.io.com/~hbp/folkdance/bulgaria.desc>

Balkanarama <http://www.troutdream.com/balkanarama/slovenia.htm> This site is a labyrinth of resources, links and information on Balkan dance and folk music. You could get lost in here—and maybe you could find your way out if only you could get an exit visa (you'll see what I mean when you look it up). If you only visit one site from this month's Dancing on the Internet, take a look at this one.

Romanian Photo Collection <http://www.teleport.com/~freedom/cd.shtml> Includes some nice costume pictures.

Lado Folk Dance Ensemble <http://www.tel.hr/ador/lado/index.html> Photos of colorful costumes and promotional material for this Croatian national group.

Balkan Folk Music <http://www.geocities.com/Vienna/3651/> Links to music sites and dance events.

Teka Ensemble <http://w3.datanet.hu/~teka/teka.htm> Great dance pictures and audio clips of Hungarian dance tunes.

Research Notes from Bulgaria <http://www.inch.com/~mmilgram/> Costumes and dances at a festival in Pirin, music clips from the Delchev Region.

The Book of Home—Macedonian song lyrics, audio clips and culture resources. <http://yurope.com/people/sen/The.Book.Of.Home/starogradske/index.html> There are over 40 audio and song files, plus lyrics here!

Article on the Renaissance in Bulgarian Folk Music <http://www4.pgh.net/~jdv/tamb/iliev1.htm> A discussion of the changes in Bulgarian Music, the styles of different regions and more by Peter Ilyev. Also an FAQ on the traditional musical instruments of Bulgaria.

The Doina Page <http://hypatia.ss.uci.edu/doina/doina1.html> Information on the Romanian folk song type known as doina.

South Slavic & Balkan Folk Songs and Singing <http://www4.pgh.net/~jdv/tamb/sing.htm> Books, audio files, lyrics, technique, classes.

Szarocz (Poland)

Szarocz (SHAH-rohtch) is a set dance for four couples from the Cieszyn region of southern Poland (Silesia, near the Czech border). The music is composed of three melodies (A,B,C), each with 16 measures done twice. Jacek and Bozena Marek taught this dance at the 1997 University of the Pacific Stockton Folk Dance Camp, and at a workshop sponsored by the Berkeley Folk Dancers in October 1997.

Music: CD Dance Poland 1997 (band 12) 2/4 meter

Formation: Longway sets of four couples (ptrs facing) with lines about 8 ft. apart (cpl 1 is at the top of the set and cpl 4 is at the bottom). W hold skirts or may have L hand on hip; M have back of R hand on back of R hip, and L hand down at side.

Steps and Styling: All steps are slow runs, two steps per measure, usually beg M L, W R.

Do-Sa-Do: ptrs pass each other by R shldr and, without turning, back into place passing ptr by L shldr.

Measures	2/4 meter	PATTERN
----------	-----------	---------

4 meas. INTRODUCTION No action. On last 2 meas, nod to ptr.

I. DO-SA-DO, LEAD DOWN, AND CIRCLE

- A 1-2 With four running steps, lines meet in the ctr. M can bend L arm and move it gracefully across in front.
- 3-4 Lines back into orig pos with 4 running steps. M swing L arm back to side.
- 5-8 With 8 steps ptrs do a R shldr do-sa-do. Again M can gesture with L arm.
- 9-12 Taking inside hands, Cpl 1 move down the center of the set with 8 running steps.
- 13-16 Cpl 1 join both hands (arms rounded) and circle L (CW) with 8 steps. At end, release M L and W R hands and face W line.

II. LINES KNEEL

This figure moves smoothly, and the following arrangement by measures indicates only approximately the position of Cpl 1.

- A 1-4 Cpls 2, 3, 4 all kneel (R knee) in place and clap on ct. 1 of each meas. With W1 on the outside and M1 on the inside, Cpl 1 run with about 8 steps to the top of the set, joined inside hands passing over the heads of W4, 3, 2.
- 5-8 Repeat meas. 1-4 with Cpl 1 passing over the heads of M2, 3, 4, W1 still on outside, ending up back at the bottom of the set.
- 9-10 M1 lead W1 in 1/2 CCW circle to end facing up the set with 4 running steps.
- 11-14 Cpl 1 run up the inside of the set for 8 running steps. The other cpls continue clapping and stand up at the end of meas. 14.
- 15-16 Cpl 1 back into orig pos with 4 steps.

Figures III, IV, V, and VI are danced by Cpls 1 and 4 only; Cpls 2 and 3 are inactive. There is the possibility in these figures for some individual variations, and traditionally M4 is required to mimic the embellishments of M1.

III. CIRCLE WITH TWO-HANDS

- B 1-8 M1 and W4 run twd each other with 4 running steps, join both hands and turn CW twice with 8 steps. Instead of the second turn, M may turn W under with either hand. Run bkwd to original places with 4 running steps (total of 16 steps).
- 9-16 M4 and W1 repeat meas. 1-8.

IV. CIRCLE WITH RIGHT ELBOWS

- B 1-8 M1 and W4 run twd each other as in Fig. III. M can clap on ct 1 of meas. 1. With R elbows hooked, turn CW twice (M's L arm is held high diag up, elbow and wrist straight, fingers together). Run bkwd to original places with 4 running steps.
- 9-16 M4 and W1 repeat meas. 1-8.

V. DO-SA-DO

- C 1-8 M1 and W4 run twd each other with 4 running steps, and with arms folded and held out in front they do-sa-do (R shldr) for 8 steps. Run bkwd to original places with 4 running steps. Individual turns can be done during the do-sa-do and/or while backing into place.
- 9-16 M4 and W1 repeat meas. 1-8.

VI. MEN KNEEL

- C 1-8 M1 and W4 run twd each other with 4 steps. On first ct of meas. 3 M1 kneel (R knee) taking W's L hand in his R (M can leap into kneeling pos with sweeping gesture with L arm as well). W circle M in CCW direction with 8 running steps. Both run bkwd to original places with 4 running steps.

9-16 M4 and W1 repeat meas. 1-8.

VII. CAST OFF AND LEAD UP

B 1-10 Cpl 1 cast off and lead respective lines down the outside of the set meeting at the foot of the set and joining inside hands (about 20 steps in all). Cpls 2, 3, 4 follow to the top of the set before casting and running to the bottom.

11-14 With about 8 more running steps cpls (led by Cpl 1) move up toward the top of the set; Cpl 4 only finish the cast around and join inside hands by the end of meas. 14.

15-16 Cpls separate and back into original lines with 4 running steps.

VIII. LEAD DOWN AND UP, CPLS DO-SA-DO

B 1-8 Cpl 1 move down the inside of set with 8 running steps, inside hands joined. At the bottom, Cpl 1 turn alone (1/2) twd ptr, join inside hands and run back to the top of the set with 8 more steps, where they face each other with both hands joined. As soon as Cpl 1 passes them, Cpls 4, 3, 2 move twd ptr and join both hands.

9-16 Cpl 1 does Do-Sa-Do with Cpl 2, and Cpl 3 with Cpl 4. M1 and M3 move fwd and in front of other cpl for 4 steps, W1 and W3 go bkwd; M2 and M4 initially move bkwd with W2 and W4 going forward. Complete the Do-Sa-Do with about 4 more steps. With 8 more steps dance an incomplete Do-Sa-Do. Cpl 1 end up in position 2 and cpl 2 in position 1, and similarly Cpls 3 and 4 exchange positions.

At this point the music starts over. With the 4 introductory meas. each person backs away from ptr to form original lines (8 ft apart), and is ready to begin Fig. 1. Nod to ptr on last 2 meas. In this repeat of the dance the original Cpls 2 and 4 are in positions 1 and 3.

1998 Sacramento Folk Dance Classes and Parties

SPECIAL NOTATION: VIENNA RHYTHM. Viennese Waltz Troupe.
No Published Dance Time & Location.
Contact: Stan & Popi Dunn: 916-395-8791

MONDAY

BEGINNERS INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE.

7:00 - 9:00 PM, Howe Avenue Park, 2201 Cottage Way, Sacramento, CA.

Contact: Fulton-El Camino Park District: 916-927-3802

SCANDIMANIANS. Scandinavian Couple, Beginning to Intermediate, 7:30 - 9:00 PM, Arcade Creek Park, 4855 Hamilton St., Sacramento, CA., Contact: Sallie Odom: (home) 916-789-0987; (work) 916-774-5236.

TUESDAY

DAVIS INTERNATIONAL FOLKDANCERS. Balkan, Israeli, Line & Circle, 7:15 - 9:00 PM, Stonegate Clubhouse, 919 Lake Blvd., Davis, CA. Contact: Barbara Linderholm: (916) 758-0863.

EL DORADO INTERNATIONAL DANCE ASSOCIATION. Beg. & Inter. Couple & Line, 7:00 - 11:00 PM, I.O.O.F. Hall, 467 Main St., Placerville, CA., Contact: Joan Rogers: 916 644-1198; Flossy Duchart: 916-622-7301.

RECREATIONAL DANCE. Ethnic Dance, Country Western, Couple Dances., 1:00 - 3:00 PM, (Beg. & Int.), 3:00 - 3:30 PM (Int. & Adv.) Non Partner, Arcade Creek Park, 4855 Hamilton St., Sacramento, CA., Contact: Bruce Mitchell: 916-988-7920; Barbara Bevan: 916-923-1555.

RENO FOLK DANCE CO-OP. Internat'l Non-Partner, Begin. & Inter., 8:00 - 10:00 PM, 1st Congreg. Church, 627 Sunnyside Dr., Reno, NV, Contact: Vera Barr: 702-829-9553.

WEDNESDAY

CALICO FOLK DANCERS. Internat'l, Line & Couple, Begin. & Inter., 4:00 - 4:30 PM, Mission Oaks Center, 4701 Gibbons Drive, Carmichael, CA., Contact: Ruth Weidenman: 916-487-0413.

KOLO KOALITION. Mostly Balkan, Intermediate, Non-Partner. 7:30 - 10:30 PM., YLI Hall, corner 27th & N Sts., Sacramento, CA. Contact: Laura Leonelli: (hm.) 916-739-6014; (wk.) 916-424-0864.

SUTTER'S STOMPERS. Clogging, Beginning, Intermediate & Advanced, 6:15 - 9:15 PM, Mitchell Jr. High School, 2100 Zinfandel Dr., Rancho Cordova, CA. Contact: Myrla Vanassen: 916-367-2630.

THE VINTAGE DANCERS OF SACRAMENTO. Late 1800's & early 1900's dances, 7:30 - 9:30 PM, Arcade Creek Park, 4855 Hamilton St., Sacramento, CA., Contact: Bruce Mitchell, 916-988-7920.

THURSDAY

ALPENTANZER SCHUHPLATTLER - SACRAMENTO. Bavarian & Austrian, 7:30 PM, Casa Roble High School, Orangevale, CA., Contact: Gary Schultz: 916-988-6266.

FOOTHILL FOLKDANCERS. International Folk Dancing, 7:30 PM - ?PM, Cultural Center, 111 Cole St., Sutter Creek, CA. Contact: Dale Martin: 209-267-5052.

PAIRS & SPARES. International, Rounds, Squares, Contras, Beg. & Inter., 8:00 - 10:00 PM, Babcock School, 2400 Cormorant Way, Sacramento, CA., Contact: Chuck Paulsen: 916-428-6992.

1998 Sacramento Folk Dance Classes and Parties

FRIDAY

CAMTIA DANCE ENSEMBLE. German Exhibition Group. Selective Fridays: 7:00 - 9:30 PM, Turn Verein Hall, 3349 J St., Sacramento, CA., Contact: Bruce Mitchell: 916-988-7920.

EL DORADO INTERNATIONAL DANCE ASSOCIATION. Advanced Couple & Line, 7:30 - 10:30 PM, Dance Barn, 3100 Ponderosa Road, Shingle Springs, CA., Contact: Al & Teddy Wolterbeck: 916-677-1134.

EL DORADO INTERNATIONAL DANCE ASSOCIATION. Beginner & Intermediate, 7:00 - 9:00 PM, Marshall Grange, 4940 Marshall Grade, Garden Valley, CA., Contact: Bonnie Battaglia: 916-622-6470; Sally Shapiro: 916-333-1272.

NEVADA COUNTY FOLK DANCERS. Balkan, International, Beginner & Intermediate. Alternate Fridays (except summer), 8:00 - ? PM, Methodist Church, 433 Broad St., Nevada City, CA. Contact: David Unterman: 916-272-2149.

ROYAL SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE SOCIETY - SACRAMENTO BRANCH. 6:30 - 8:00 PM. (Beg.); 7:30 - 9:30 PM (Adv.); YLI Hall, 27th & N St., Sacramento, CA. Contact: Patsy Corrigan: 916-635-3477.

SATURDAY

BALLIAMO. Italian Folk Dances for Public Performance. Selective Saturdays: 1:00 PM, as needed. Sierra Two Comm. Center/Italian Cultural Soc., 24th & 4th Ave., Rm. 13, Sacramento, CA., Contact: Doria Beckert: 916-482-8674.

BBKM. PARTY. Third Saturday Monthly (exc. Jul. & Aug.). Non-Partner. Request: 8:00 - 9:00 PM (Easier dances); 9:00 - ?? PM (Easier-harder). Contact: Barbara Bevan: 916-923-1555.

EL DORADO SCANDINAVIAN DANCERS. Scandinavian Couple. First Sat., Monthly (Sept. through June): (Usually) Afternoon Dance Workshop, Evening Party. 3100 Ponderosa Rd., Shingle Springs, CA. Contact: Gerry & Donna Herman: 916-972-2926.

FIRST & LAST DANCERS. Country. Western, Couples & Line. LAST Sat. Monthly: 8:00 PM - 12:00 midnight, Valley Oaks Grange, 5th & D Streets, Galt, CA. Contact: Eda Scheuffele: 916-682-2638.

KOLO KOALITION. Mostly Balkan, Begin. to Intermed., Line & Circle. First Saturday, Monthly: PARTY: Non-Partner, Request Program. 8:00 - 10:30 PM, YLI Hall, corner 27th & N Sts., Sacramento, CA. Contact: Laura Leonelli: (hm.) 916-739-6014; (k.) 916-424-0864.

PAIRS & SPARES. International, Rounds, Squares, Contras, Beginning & Intermediate, Second Saturday Monthly (except March, July, Aug.). PARTY: Couple & Non-Partner. 8:00 - 11:00 PM, Babcock School, 2400 Cormorant Way, Sacramento, CA. Contact: Chuck Paulsen: 916-428-6992.

ROYAL SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE SOCIETY. MONTHLY PARTY. Second Saturday Monthly: 7:30 PM; YLI Hall, 27th & N St., Sacramento. Contact: Patsy Corrigan: 916-635-3477.

ROYAL SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE SOCIETY - YOUTH CLASS (8 - 18 yrs.), 9:00 - 10:15 AM. (8-12 yr. olds); 10:30 AM - 12 Noon (12-18 yr. olds). (Both Classes:) YLI Hall, corner 27th & N Sts., Sacramento, CA. Contact: Dorothy Carr: 916-9351.

CALENDAR of EVENTS

Craig Blackstone, 207 Monterey Road #1, Pacifica, CA 94044, 650-359-7486

Deadline for October issue is August 18, 1998

- | | | |
|--------------|---------------|---|
| Sep 5, Sat | SACRAMENTO | Kolo Koalition, 8:00-10:30 p.m., YLI Hall, corner 27th & N Streets, Leona, 916-739-6014 H, 916-424-0864 W |
| Sep 6, Sun | SACRAMENTO | California State Fair, Center Stage, Cal-Expo Blvd., off Capitol City Freeway, 10:00 AM to Noon. Sacramento Council will perform for fairgoers. Folk Dancers from other areas are welcome to dance with us. Please dress in folk dance costumes for FREE ADMISSION! |
| Sep 9, Wed | BERKELEY | New Beginners Class, Live Oak Park, Shattuck at Berryman, 7:45-9:45 p.m. Claire & Al, 510-841-1205 |
| Sep 11, Fri | SAN JOSE | Santa Clara Valley FD, 1st Christian Church, 80 S 5th St. Maxine, 408-739-0500, Denise, 408-249-6104 |
| Sep 12, Fri | PETALUMA | Hermann Sons Hall, 8-11:30 p.m. Elsa/Frank, 707-546-8877 |
| Sep 12, Sat | SACRAMENTO | Pairs & Spares, 8:00-11:00 p.m., Babcock School, 2400 Cormorant Way Chuck, 916-428-6992 |
| Sep 12, Sat | SACRAMENTO | Royal Scottish Country Dance Soc., 7:30 p.m., YLI Hall, corner 27th & N Sts. Patsy, 916-635-3477 |
| Sep 13, Sun | SONOMA | FIESTA DE SONOMA, 1:30-5:30 pm. Veterans Hall, 126 First St. West, Sonoma Elsa/Frank, 707-546-8877 |
| Sep 16, Wed | SANTA ROSA | Veterans Bldg., Santa Rosa, 2-4 p.m. Elsa/Frank, 707-546-8877 |
| Sep 18, Fri | SAN FRANCISCO | Changs, 7th Ave. Presbyterian Church Social Hall, 1329 7th Avenue Ruth, 415-333-2210 |
| Sep 19, Sat | MENLO PARK | Menlo Park FD, Menlo Park Rec. Center, 700 Alma at Mielke Marcel, 650-327-0759 |
| Sep 19, Sat | SACRAMENTO | BBKM Party, 8:00-?? Barbara, 916-923-1555 |
| Sep 19, Sat | BERKELEY | Berkeley Folk Dancers Fun Night Party, Live Oak Park Shattuck at Berryman, 7:30-10 pm. Claire & Al, 510-841-1205 |
| Sep 25,26,27 | SACRAMENTO | Pairs & Spares Annual Campout, Casini Ranch, Russian River, 22855 Moscow Road, Duncan Mills, CA. Saturday night dance party, Clubhouse/upstairs room, 8 - 10:30 PM, Greg & Nadine 916-392-7357 |
| Sep 26, Sat | GALT | First & Last Dancers, Country Western, 8:00-midnight Valley Oaks Grange, 5th & D Sts. Eda, 916-682-2638 |
| Sep 26, Sat | SAN CARLOS | Docey Doe FD, Community United Church, Arroyo at Elm Bruce, 650-368-7834 |
| Sep 27, Sun | SACRAMENTO | Scandimanians, 1:30-5:00 p.m., YLI Hall, corner 27th & N Sts. Sallie, 916-7987 (H), 916-774-5236 (W) |
| Sep 27, Sun | SUNNYVALE | Sunnyvale Rec. Ensemble Intl., Sunnyvale Com. Ctr. 550 E. Remington Ned/Marian, 408-395-8026 |
| Sep 26, Sat | NAPA | Grandview Mobile Home Park, 1-5 p.m. Charlie, 707-258-0519 |

Folk Dancers We Should Remember

Elmer Riba

by Larry Getche

When selecting folk dancers for our Let's Dance column, FOLK DANCERS WE SHOULD REMEMBER, they have been mostly chosen from metropolitan areas. It's like the time a notorious robber was asked why he robbed banks. His reply was, "Because that is where the money is". For a similar reason that is where most folk dance activity takes place but not altogether. There are rural sections of California where folk dancing has continued down through the years. For this you can credit some very dedicated leaders. Two such leaders who have made their presence known in the folk dance world where they live are Elmer and Milli Riba. It is Elmer who we have chosen for this month's column. At the same time we should remember his lovely wife Milli. She has been his partner in events and dancing as well as his life.

This writer is very familiar with "Riba" country generally referred to as the Mother Lode, the gold country. I was born in the mining town of Sheep Ranch some 35 miles from Jackson but much closer as the crow flies. Being a visitor in my home town of San Andreas, Calaveras County for a high school reunion on Saturday June 13, I wasted little time accepting the Riba invitation to attend their "End of the year teaching party" the following day, Sunday June 14, over in Jackson. Jackson is one of the largest remaining—and certainly one of the most modern—of the Southern Mines towns that dot the Mother Lode along Highway 49. I can well remember when, during the early years of the 20th Century, Jackson was given the names "Sin City" as well as "Little Reno" and it deserved them both. For a city the size of today's Jackson it was a surprise to discover they support a very modern Senior Center with a sizeable recreation area and dance room which is available to the folk dancers free of charge.

However the June 14th gathering started not at the Senior Center in Jackson where folk dancers from anywhere and everywhere were invited to attend the "End of the year teaching party". It actually started at the home of Elmer and Milli Riba where some 20 of us gathered to enjoy a delicious potluck dinner. Joining us for both the dinner and dance later was Federation Recording Secretary, Lila Messer and her husband Sidney.

While the Riba address is Pine Grove, a small community some eight miles from Jackson along Highway 88 leading to Tahoe, their actual home is nestled in the Sierra pines some two miles beyond Pine Grove on a road leading off Highway 88.

Elmer Riba has a hobby—no, we would regard it as a woodworking talent with a technique known as marquetry. Elmer has put his talent to use liberally in beautifying their home. On the entrance gate you

are greeted by the word, "Willkommen", that in the German tongue means "Welcome". On the inside of the gate one sees when leaving are the words, "Auf Wiederschen," or, "Hoping to see you again." Just above the doors of the adjacent garage in large letters are two proverbs reading:

COUNT YOUR LIFE IN SMILES, NOT TEARS
COUNT YOUR AGE BY FRIENDS, NOT YEARS

We could go on and on about the Riba home but must stop as the focus of this article is intended to be about the interesting life of Elmer Riba and his many contribution to the folk dance world.

Back in 1945 there was a war going on. Elmer Riba was serving in the Air Force while Milli was an army nurse. Circumstances brought them together and a marriage resulted. When the war was over they settled into a normal life and discovered—what else?—folk dancing. Their initial introduction came in 1962, dancing in the park at Sonoma. Soon after they took in the folk dancing program at the California State Fair in Sacramento. Here there was an invitation for beginners to meet at Clunie Club House in Sacramento. At the time they were living in Vacaville and had to drive 35 miles to class.

When Elmer retired in 1966 they moved to the Sierra Foothills and started teaching. They say that although their expertise was not all that great, there was a need and request for someone to teach and they were the best qualified. Now wasn't that lucky for the Sierra Foothill folk.

As time rolled on they not only made their presence known locally but Elmer took time out to first serve as Treasurer of the Federation, later its Vice President and the elected President of the Folk Dance Federation of California for two terms, 1970-1972. Since then Elmer has served on numerous committees, the most recent one being the bylaws committee.

During their teaching years the Ribas had the feeling dances such as the tango and waltz were being neglected by folk dancers. So, they put together a series of dances which they referred to as "Waltz-Tango Cotillion". For the past ten years they have held such a party in Jackson. This apparently influenced Max Horn and Elmer Riba to organize the "International President's Grand Ball," an elegant dress up affair that includes both elaborate folk and formal ballroom attire. It is now held semiannually.

While the Ribas do scale back their summer dance schedule they still manage to keep active. There is of course the annual Statewide which they usually attend. They dance once a month at three local rest homes and this year there is an exhibition at the Farmer's Market in Jackson.

Elmer and Milli's folk dance schedule has been a busy one the past four decades and the Good Lord willing they plan to be at it well into the next century.

Dance & Costume in Thailand and Laos—Part 2: Dance

by Barbara Lynch

The costumes you see in the National Geographic pictures are still being worn but only for special occasions or shows for tourists. Men, women and children wear shorts or trousers, jeans or khakis) with T-shirts and flip-flops for every day. Some of the women, especially in hot, humid lowlands, still wear the "phasin" (sarong wrap skirt) and a blouse, T-shirt or short, loose cotton jacket.

In Bangkok or Vientiane, middle and upper class men and women wear Western suits or dresses. The local tailoring is excellent and you can still get a made-to-order suit or dress almost overnight—if you have the money. Both Thai and Laos are trying to preserve their rich historical culture. Results are understandably mixed after almost 50 years of continuous warfare. Our study group saw the full textile process for both cotton and silk. Hemp is also used for work clothing, but we didn't see it in preparation.

Cotton is still grown locally and is ginned by running the soft boll through a wringer that spits the seeds out backwards. The opened nut-like shell that protects the cotton is removed by hand before the gin process. Next the cotton is fluffed up by beating it in a basket with a bow—as in bow and arrow. This process does not align the fibers in one direction as carding does for linen or wool. But the cotton can then be twisted by hand and spun on

a ghandi-type hand-crank wheel. There are factory machines that can do these jobs, but in the cottage industries, historic fabrics are still using the hand processes.

For silk, we did not see the boiling of the cocoons and the first reeling steps. We came in at the preparing the warp step and the preparation for ikat dyeing. Threads for warp or weft ikat dyeing are prepared the same way. The threads are on a circular reel or niddy-noddy, and a woman counts over and up to begin tying the plastic or fiber ties at various places. To help her concentrate there is a pattern on a paper at her workstation or there are notches in the table where she works. The threads are then dyed, the ties unwrapped and new ties put on if there is an overdyed pattern going on. This is the kind of tedious, perfectionist job that would drive me crazy in about five minutes.

The weaving is done on multi-harness looms with punch-cards (Jacquard) to help control the pattern. But what we saw mostly was inserted swords (sticks) that are moved as the pattern emerges—another exacting job. Some of the weaving is also done on backstrap looms which have no harnesses but use the bamboo sticks to control pattern. Often the looms are in the under-croft of the house. The houses are

on stilts, and the family lives upstairs. But the weaving is done at street level, in the open, which is much more sociable and easier to keep an eye on the children playing. In Thailand we saw mostly costumes of the Akha and Hmong tribes, but in Laos we saw most of the tribal costumes and also the Long-neck Karen gids from Myanmar (Burma.) The stretching of the girls' necks by layering up round metal necklaces is outlawed, but continues because of custom and income gained by posing for photos.

In Chiang Mai at the University there is an excellent museum of the Hill Tribes. Here one can see the costumes in natural settings, well crafted. I cannot recommend the national museum in Bangkok—poorly displayed and poorly conserved, but one does see Thai costume in a historical sequence—royalty primarily. Traveling to the villages and dye works is worth the effort. The upscale fashion factories and shops are open for tours also. This whole tour was a feast for the eyes and mind. But if you can't go, I recommend three books still in print:

Lewis, Paul & Elaine. *Peoples of the Golden Triangle*. N.Y.; Thames & Hudson, 1984

Cheesman, Patricia (Naenna) *Lao Textiles*. Bangkok; White Lotus, 1988.

Conway, Susan. *Thai Textiles*. London: British Museum Press, 1992. \$35.00



FOLK DANCE NEWS

Dancing Down on the Farm – EVERY FRIDAY evening during the summer: 6:00 to 10:00 p.m. Pot luck Barbecue. LABOR DAY Picnic, September 7: 10:00 am until Dark. Coffee and cinnamon buns from 10:00, Pot Luck Barbecue at 1:00. All request dancing and the best from the camps. If you enjoyed the Picnic down on the Farm (see photos this issue), you'll love these events. Bring the entire family, there's something for everyone. See an old farm, just as it was (some repairs). See horses, goats, chickens, ducks, geese, etc. See the Schaal doll and costume collections. Enjoy the casual farm atmosphere. Dance until you drop! Max and June Horn; 6200 Alhambra Avenue; Martinez, CA 94553; Call 925-228-8598.

Dancing in the Street – The Solano Stroll Parade at the top of Solano Avenue in Berkeley takes place on Sunday, Sept. 13 1998 at 11 a.m. (Walk in entries accepted at 10 a.m.) There will also be performances and music. For more information call the Solano Avenue Association: 510-527-5358

Fresno Autumn Harvest Folk Dance Festival – 50th Anniversary October 17 & 18 California State University, Fresno Featuring Instructor Mihai David teaching Romanian Dances on the 17th. Join us for a fun weekend of dancing! For more information call Michael Norris, 209-255-4508.

Kolo Festival – Don't forget to reserve Thanksgiving Weekend for the Kolo Festival!

Historian(s) Wanted – Do you like to take pictures and keep traditions going? If so, we need you for the Folk Dance Federation—we're looking for a historian to serve the 1998/99 year term. You would attend, or appoint a representative to attend the festivals throughout the year, and put together a small history exhibit for Statewide 99 in San Diego. And if you really enjoy the job—just think! You could help us connect the past to the future as we polka into the next millennium! If you're interested, phone Barbara at 650-359-9609 or e-mail bbrux@wco.com.

Sun! Dance! San Diego! – It's not too early to start making plans to attend the 1999 Folk Dance Federation of California, South Statewide Festival. The event will be held Memorial Day Weekend, May 28-31, 1999 in Balboa Park. Most dancing will be in the large, wood-floor, air-conditioned Balboa Park Club. For more information, phone Janis Vanderford (619) 422-4065, e-mail susanodori@aol.com. Statewide website can be found at <http://users.abac.com/flkdance/statew> or via the link at the Federation's website <http://www.folkdance.com>.

CLASSIFIED ADS

MILLIE VON KONSKY DAY CLASSES - Mondays: Beginning Ballroom, Civic Park Community Center, 1375 Civic Dr., Walnut Creek (free: 1-1:30, class, 1:30-3); Wednesdays: On-going Country Western Line, Dublin Senior Center, 7437 Larkdale Ave., 11:30-1:00 (Beginner, Intermediate, Advanced), 1:30-3, Intermediate Ballroom; Thursdays: On-going Country Western Line, Danville Community Center, 420 Front Street, 10-11 (Intermediate, Advanced), 11-12 (Beginner); Fridays: On-going Country Western Line, Civic Park Community Center, 1:30-2 (Free), 2-3:30 (class Beginner, Intermediate, Advanced). Private lessons available. For more information, call 925-828-5976, Streets, San Leandro.

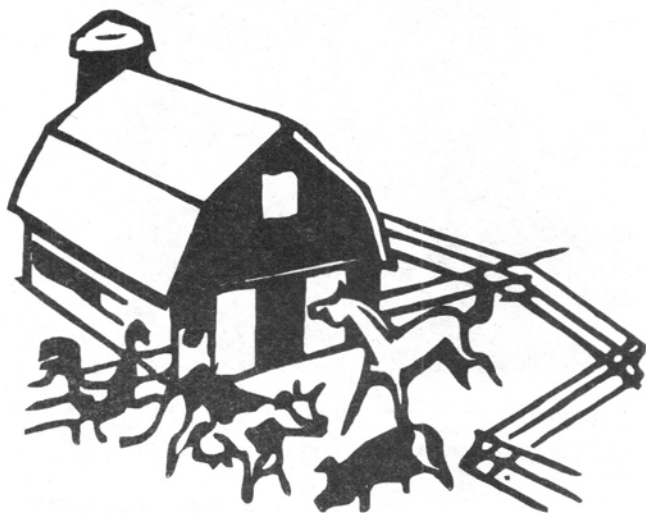
OUR OLD BARN

At the Rancho Viejo de Las Juntas
Max & June Horn's Farm

By June Horn

It stood in a field of dry grass,
A sentinel, a reminder of days long past,
Dilapidated and old, with boards of reddish hue,
Sagging doors, rusty hinges, with a squeak or two.

From high in the loft a rope still hangs,
Used for hay and a swing for a child to play,
Stalls long empty, where cows once stood,
For milking, eating and chewing their cud.



The rustle of tiny animal feet,
Opossum, fox, skunk or mouse,
Looking for forgotten grain to eat,
A warm corner for a nest or house.

Human feet come and go,
As they did many years ago,
No horses to harness, no cows to milk,
But joy and care, of a barn so old,
A sentinel, a reminder of days long ago.



A team of matched horses I'm told,
Were housed in this great barn of old,
When hitched to a wagon, hauled produce
To market, spring, summer and fall.

When work was done at close of day,
Bedded down with a manger of hay,
Or turned up the lane, to wander and rest,
Until once again they were called to harness,
To do their best, plowing, harrowing and raking,
A garden to plant; an orchard to tend.

Still stands this barn of old
With its boards of reddish hue,
Now proud and tall, with horses again in each stall,
The smell of hay, pungent and true.





After the Westwind Concert, we had dance instruction for beginners in the Dance Studio with Drew Herzig.

Statewide 1998

*See you
next year for
Statewide 1999:
Sun! Dance! San Diego!*



Max Horn serves up the BBQ at the Farm in Martinez.



*Federation North officers at the Installation Brunch:
(from left) Barbara Bruxvoort, President; Laila Messer, Secretary; Page Masson, Treasurer; Craig Blackstone, Vice-President; Nadine Mitchell, Publications; Greg Mitchell, Membership; Michael Norris, Public Relations.*

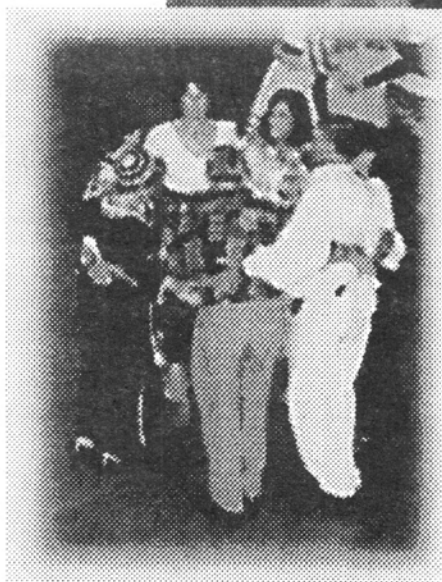




The sun was out, the breeze was up, and nearly 70 people came to dance and have lunch at Max and June Horn's farm in Martinez, and don't forget the alpenhorn!



Ned and Marian Gault. Institutes were presented by the Gaults and Loui Tucker. (See last month's Let's Dance for information on the NewTrio Project).



The floors at the Russian Center were great for those Alunelul stamps!



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(CITY TOUR); PASSAU (CITY TOUR); MELK (TOUR of MELK ABBEY)
DURNSTEIN (WALKING TOUR); VIENNA OVERNIGHT (CITY TOUR);
& LASTLY VISIT, OVERNIGHT IN BUDAPEST (CITY TOUR)

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