

WHO'S WHO

EDITH CUTHBERT



Have you ever met a "walking library" of folklore, costumes, dances and, most of all, records?? I have, and it can be most interesting.

November is traditionally Kolo Festival month in San Francisco, and I am honoring in this article a person who, like many of our leaders, has been on the folk dance scene, doing her own thing, for quite a while. Edith Cuthbert (Junior, if you please (mother is also Edith)) has danced since first grade - no, we won't say when! She attended her first festival in Alameda with brother John and joined the Alameda Island Turners. Her mother and sister Vera have also been active in dancing, and Edith, Sr., is now secretary of the Greater East Bay Folk Dance Council. Vera held this position several years ago. Sister Lois is the only "maverick" in the family! Her first experience at a folk dance camp was at Mill College in 1952. She has been with several exhibition groups--among them, Mr. "J"'s "Petite Ensemble", and has attended various folk dance camps for a number of years. She is on the

staff of Madelynne Greene's Mendocino Camp and also the University of the Pacific Camp at Stockton. Each year for those two weeks Edith is the "after-party" hostess, playing her records far into the wee hours of the morning, and then getting up to attend classes each day. This is a vacation??

Lest you think that folk dancing is her only interest, Edith states that she "likes to learn about anything that I don't know about yet." And here is some of what she didn't know, but does now -- embroidering, crocheting (100 dolls in crocheted dresses in her collection), making Polish paper cut-outs, gardening, sewing, dyeing Easter eggs Ukrainian style (if you've ever attended her sessions on this art, you know how beautiful it can be), and polishing her VW! She has had dramatic lessons, and

lessons in various musical instruments -- piano, flute, guitar, and music theory and harmony. Greek, Roman and Norse mythology are among her reading interests and she has read parts in plays on Radio Station KLX.

All this activity is, of course, crowded into evenings and weekends -- five days a week finds Edith working at Brill Electronics, in Oakland, in the capacity of Inventory Clerk.

Edith serves on the Kolo Festival Committee, and will be found hard at work during this event later this month.

She is also something of a collector and boasts the entire LET'S DANCE collection back to February, 1950, along with many issues of VILTIS and NORTHERN JUNKET. She has forty-two costumes, ten of them imported, and is currently awaiting the arrival of two more.

Her biggest collection is her records, numbering over a thousand. If she doesn't have it, it probably isn't being cut.

Although she is of Dutch-English-Scottish-Irish descent, she has a deep interest in things Balkan. So we chose November to tell you a bit about Edith.

Remember the forty-two costumes, the thousand records, etc.? Each year Edith manages to take large portions of all this to Stockton and Mendocino Camps, "just in case" anyone needs anything. How does she do it? Well, she takes equal parts of each, mixes them gently with one red Volkswagen, and

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