

TEACHER OF THE MONTH

OMEGA GRAHAM

By . . Verlyn Smith

Omega Graham has been asked many times if she is of Italian, French, Spanish or Greek descent. She was born Omega Hamilton in Madill, Oklahoma of Irish, English and American Indian parents.

Dancing has always been Omega's first love. She started her folk dancing career in 1948 in Yuba City when she became a charter member of the Twin City Twirlers. In 1950 she was asked to start a beginner's group in Wheatland. She soon was teaching classes in Nicholas, Marysville and Pleasant Grove. In 1952 Omega was asked to teach the Twin City Twirlers. The same year she organized and taught the Olivehurst Tangoetts, and served as their teacher and leader until she moved to the Sacramento area. Both groups will be remembered for their exhibitions.

Bob Graham was born in Garnett, Kansas, and is of Scottish, Irish and English descent. He told me he had not danced a step in his life before he met Omega in 1952. The Grahams were married in 1954. They moved to the Sacramento area the following year when Bob was transferred by the United States Army Corp of Engineers. The Grahams bought a lovely home in Carmichael, and in 1957, little Robert Bruce Graham made his arrival. This darling little fellow, now three and one half years old has accompanied his dancing parents to many dance folk affairs, and not only inherited his mother and dad's good looks, but their friendly personalities as well.

Since 1957, Omega has taught several groups, including the Highlanders of North Highlands, and also taught at Teacher's Institutes and Sacramento Council Recreation Classes. Omega is at present teaching Los Amigos, an intermediate-advanced group, a newly organized young adult group, known as the Dionysians, and her latest venture, a women's group.

Bob and Omega were also members of the Castanets, a Sacramento Exhibition Group.

For the past few years Omega has been developing classes for elementary grades and teen groups, and is at present teaching a group of Sixth Grade children at the Peter Lassen School in Sacramento. This group, known as the Buttons and Bows have appeared in many exhibitions, including the Camellia Pageant and at the Harvest 'Teen Festivals, on TV, and at the California State Fair.

In addition to her teaching, Omega has been on the Research Committee of the Federation since 1954. She has also attended Folk Dance Camp at the College of the Pacific almost continuously since 1950.

Omega also designs and makes all of their lovely costumes. This is one of the many hobbies that she shares with her husband, Bob. Besides designing original, authentic costumes, they enjoy gardening and collect-

early American antiques, especially glass and bottles. The last count Bob told me they had over 250 antique bottles in their collection. Bob also enjoys refinishing furniture and the beautiful antique mantle in their home is an example of his talent in this field.

The Grahams are a charming, handsome, interesting couple, and indeed "People Worth Knowing".

. . . Verlyn Smith, Los Amigos



THE GRAHAMS