

People Worth Knowing

MEET FRANK and MIRIAM KANE

By Robert Chevalier

Frank and Miriam Kane's Folk Dance careers date back to their membership in the High Flyers, a group of Sunday aviators. They needed more excitement than flying, so decided to take up Folk Dancing. Vilma Machette was their first instructor. The class kept going till all the wives became pregnant.

Meanwhile the Kanes moved to Marin. One Fourth of July they happened upon the folk dancing at the Art and Garden Center in Ross. Learning of classes at the College of Marin being taught by Charlie Bassett at that time they decided to take up where they left off. The class decided to stick together and form a club now known as the "Hardly Ables". They danced for a year at the Sunnyhill's Hall, at Frank and Miriam's home and at the Carpenter's Hall in San Rafael.

The Name "Hardly Ables" came into being when they were deciding upon what to call themselves. They decided they were hardly able to dance, let alone have a fancy name. Someone nominated the name, thus the "Hardly Ables" came into being.

My first glimpse of Frank was at a party at the Carpenter's Hall, where there was a fellow painting away at a canvas, at least ten feet high, which was part of the party theme. The next meeting took place when I received a helping hand from him with some photo apparatus at a Festival at the San Francisco Armory. I believe that Armory Festival was the turning point in Frank's Federation career. He had been invited by Leonard Murphy, then President, to do some sketching of the meeting for "Let's Dance". Next he volunteered to help with the art work in the magazine. Shortly afterward I appointed him it's Art Director. With the Nationality issues and the cover designs, Frank came into full bloom.

Frank later became Business Manager of "Let's Dance", Vice President and finally President of the Federation, in 1956.

Behind the scenes of this bundle of energy, talented artist and respected Folk Dancer, is Miriam Kane. Miriam, a former kindergarten teacher from Terra Haute, Indiana, came to California with the Navy to teach our Navy's pilots their basic ground school techniques. Frank was in the Army, serving in the Air Corps in India. He came to California from Delaware, on an Art Commission, later moving to the Bay Area. It was their love of flying that brought them together and to take their places with their three daughters, as California citizens and residents of San Rafael.

Frank is a graduate of the New York Art Institute, owns his own Commercial Advertising Art Service. Everyone of us pick up his work everyday when we look at our telephone directories; it is his art work on the cover. Many Folk Dancers have pastel drawings of themselves which Frank has done at Festivals, and the proceeds have gone to the Scholarship Fund. Many young Folk Dancers have Frank to thank for Folk Dance Camp experiences.



MIRIAM AND FRANK KANE AND CHILDREN
Christy, Kathy and Carol. The Dog's name is Mischka
Montage by Bob Chevalier