
In Memoriam



Have you ever met one of those people who are always there, always visible, always on time and forever caring but never obvious or overbearing? A person whom everyone likes and appreciates and are able to either lead or follow as the needs of the moment dictates?

That was Vern von Konsky. He was probably the most supportive male partner of a Folk Dance Teaching couple you could imagine and still he was able to give his partner the lead at all times. Taking the lead only when it was necessary to show the intricacies of prysiadkas or plattles he was so fond of, and capable of teaching.

"Von", as he was called by all who knew him, was always known as a very fine dancer. He was always a joy to watch and learn from in the classes he and Millie taught. Together he and Millie choreographed a number of dances, many of which are done all over the nation. Hofbrauhaus Laendler and Schuhplattler Quadrille are probably the two most widely known and enjoyed. They also collaborated on a number of other dances still done in classes and parties.

During the early days of the folk dance movement, "Von" and Millie were representatives for the Folk Dance Federation of California at the World Festivals in Spain and France. They made films of these trips to the World Festivals and this became the start of the Federation Scholarship Fund. The films were shown and donations taken at the door for the fund.

"Von" and Millie were participants in all the centennial pageants and exhibitions sponsored by the Federation in the early years. In addition, they taught for more than 15 years at International House in Berkeley; for the Oakland Folk Dancers, Changs Advanced Class, and several exhibition groups and clubs. In recent years, they were active in the East Bay Council, and the Oakland Recreation Department, and conducted the Folk Dance Family Camp at Quincy on the Feather River, until two years ago.

"Von" was know for his flawless execution of Plattles and Prysiadkas, and intricate dances such as the Hopak. He had an excellent intuitive analytic capability for dance descriptions and formation relationships. Together "Von" and Millie performed for Television and many special exhibitions.

"Von" will be remembered by all folk dancers as one of the finest examples of good dancing, good teaching and excellence in performance. He will certainly be missed by the Folk Dancing community of the Bay Area, and the many people his life has touched. Our most sincere thoughts go to Millie and his family.