

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.

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