



JOHN MOONEY, Folk Dance Federation, North,  
and his popular Square Dance Caller Wife, Ursula

Photo by Warren Carver

## *People Worth Knowing*

### MEET JOHN MOONEY

BY Robert A. Chevalier

"Say this Folk Dancing's real fun!" John Mooney was overheard remarking way back in 1952 at a Festival in Marin. John was coming off the floor from the Hopak. John and Ursula had been attending a Folk Dance class at the Fairfax pavilion up to this point and had gone to the Festival to see what it was all about.

John Mooney, the newly elected President of the Folk Dance Federation of California (North) hails from New York and has charge of the Accounting and Auditing in the Western States for the largest financial institution in the Country. It was only natural that when getting interested in Federation affairs he would go in for finances. He has a yen for figures. Once when returning from a Festival in Stockton he was heard remarking, "You know that the totals of several license plates always ends in an even number." He also commented that while training for his job he and a friend used to total up mentally telephone book page numbers.

John is the head of the Laendlers, a Marin Folk Dance group that holds forth at the Portugese Hall in Sausalito, where they host very successful parties. The Mooney's are members of the Swingsters. Ursula one year was the Mystery Caller at a Marin Festival. It was her first time out and she was an instant success.

John is well acquainted with the mechanics of the Folk Dance Federation. He served on the recent by-law committee and many of his suggestions were written into the revision. He is well acquainted with the financial aspects of the organization, as he has completed FOUR terms as Treasurer (1954-1958). In 1956, realizing the Federation funds needed bolstering from time to time, he conceived the idea of the Treasurer's Ball, which he chaired in 1956 and 1957.

We know the Federation will be in good hands, for whatever John Mooney undertakes, he does so wholeheartedly -- some times even at the expense of his personal projects, such as his housepainting, etc.

John and Ursula are the father and mother of five little Mooneys, and this month will acquire a new son-in-law. They live on a hilltop in San Anselmo, near Fairfax. When not busy with Folk Dancing they can sit before their huge picture windows and feast their eyes on a beautiful view of Mount Tamalpais and the entire Ross Valley. On occasion they can even see San Francisco 30 miles away.

All of us who have worked with John Mooney in Federation Activities wish him well as President of the Folk Dance Federation of California, North.