

## MEET THE OSERS . . . RUTH AND JESSE



Among Southern California's most active and popular folk dancing couples one must invariably list Ruth and Jesse Oser, sparkplugs of the Hollywood Peasants and various Federation undertakings.

Ruth and Jesse started in organized folk dancing about seven years ago, joining the Hollywood Peasants about one year later. Jesse recently set a precedent in that group by finishing his second consecutive term as its president. He is credited with starting many innovations at the Peasants, thus substantially increasing interest in the group and enlarging its attendance and membership. He organized a council to govern the club, and was instrumental in arranging the still-remembered party for the entire Inbalim troupe when they came here from Israel about a year ago. Jesse is currently the Hollywood Peasant's delegate to the Federation and is on the Institute Committee with his wife, Hans Zander and Chairman Josephine Civello.

Ruth, who taught High School in the East, came West on a sabbatical leave, liked California so much that she has been here ever since. Ruth has made folk dancing more than just a hobby — for her its an avocation. She has taught, almost without interruption and with Jesse's help, at Berendo for the past two years. She has attended the folk dance camp at Santa Barbara every year since its inception, returning again this year as the recipient of a scholarship. An excellent instructor and a charming person,

Ruth's classes have been a happy blend of skill and love of dancing and are tremendously successful. Besides Berendo and the Hollywood Peasants, many other Los Angeles area groups have benefited from the Oser's teaching.

Ruth and Jesse are active in several exhibition groups, lately specializing in exhibitions of Israel Dances. Among their recent appearances was the exhibition with six other couples in the Pilgrimage Theater under the auspices of Anta, and their exhibition at the June festival hosted by the Westwood Co-op.

Early in 1961 Ruth was appointed to be on the committee which is formulating plans for the coming Teacher Training Institutes.

Ruth and Jesse are the parents of two grown daughters. One is a drama student at the University of Michigan, the other a professional dancer in New York.

This is a rough sketch of two very nice people — to really enjoy their delightful sense of humor and see them dance in their lovely costumes, visit the Hollywood Peasants, or Berendo or any Federation festival and meet Ruth and Jesse Oser in the person, for they are certainly two people worth knowing.

. . . Liesl Barnett



Bandltanz (Streamer Dance)

Photo: Courtesy of Austrian State Tourist Department  
Pacific Southwest Office