

Folk Dancers We Should Remember

by Larry Getchell

Genevieve Pereira

Sometimes when selecting worthy folk dancers for this column, we have been standing too close to the forest to see the trees. Because there have been so many outstanding contributors to the folk dance movement, the decision as to who we should select first has of necessity been a random choice.

One folk dancer we could have, perhaps should have, included earlier is none other than the lovely Genevieve Pereira, Office Manager for the Federation and Editor Emeritus of Let's Dance magazine. There is a lot to be said about this great friend of folk dancing but we know that as Editor she would "X" it out.

So, we will attempt to pass on to you the folk dance history of this extraordinary leader in the folk dance movement. It is with extreme regret we must inform you that due to a recent illness resulting in a short hospital stay, Genevieve now finds it necessary to turn over to others some of the heavy work load. She is continuing to assist with Let's Dance magazine and she will also continue handling the financial affairs for the next several months. It is hoped that by then the Federation will find some one to take over these duties as well.

Genevieve has provided us with a rather brief account of her introduction to folk dancing followed by a list of those things she feels important associated with her folk dance career.

After graduating from the University of California, marriage and motherhood, (around 1949) Genevieve was encouraged by a friend to attend a folk dance class. Her husband was a musician and they both found they enjoyed the music and dancing. She first attended a folk dance class during the day, taking her the two boys with her. Not long after that she discovered Millie Von Kinsky's San Leandro class. An excellent dancer, Genevieve shortly became a member of Millie's Exhibition Group. In addition to performing with them, she was Costume Director for a while.

Talented people like Genevieve soon find themselves offering their services for club duties. To this end she worked in various capacities for the Greater East Bay Folk Dance Council. After graduating from University of California she was a librarian in the Alameda Free Library, as Secretary to the Librarian. She put these skills to good use in helping put together folk dance concerts and performances at Outdoor Woodminister,

In 1974, during Ernest Drescher's Federation Administration, Genevieve was elected Recording Secretary, serving from 1974 through 1977.

Genevieve worked at Union Bank for 20 years, and she retired in 1978. At that time, Vi Dexheimer had been Secretary and Editor of Let's Dance since her appointment by President Don Spier in 1958. Vi was now retiring from these positions and moving to Napa. Genevieve agreed to take over Vi's jobs if the office could be moved to Hayward. Following some four years in Hayward, the office was moved to Genevieve's home in Alameda. Genevieve has efficiently carried these duties for a 20 year period. Finding another person as dedicated and talented as Genevieve Pereira will be no easy task. On behalf of all folk dancers, we say, "Thank you Genevieve, Thank You, Thank You, Thank You."