

People Worth Knowing

Carolyn and Bill Riedeman

by

Bill and Olga Carroll

What is it that makes "People Worth Knowing"? Sincerity, enthusiasm, ability, and willingness to help at all times are just a few of the requisites we know, and previous articles about well-known people in the folk dance movement have established these facts. Therefore, it is a privilege to be asked to write this article about Carolyn and Bill Riedeman, who have all of these qualities and more.

Carolyn first taught folk dancing as part of her regular program at City College of San Francisco, the class being a Physical Education Department offering for Adults. Her enthusiasm and enjoyment were so thoroughly infectious that they soon enveloped Bill, who brought his rich background of musical and technical knowledge into the picture. His experience in directing glee clubs and church choirs, as well as singing in the San Francisco Municipal Chorus, made him seek the best possible reproduction of music for folk dancing. He added to and improved his sound equipment until today it is one of the largest and most effective in the area. He has willingly supplied the sound for many Council and Federation festivals, including the San Francisco Statewide Festival in 1958 and the Treasurer's Ball in 1958 and 1959, because, as he explains it, "This is my way of saying, 'Thank you' for all the fun and enjoyment I have received from folk dancing."

Carolyn and Bill were charter members of The Swingsters, and for two years Bill was President of Edgewood Folk Dancers. In these groups they formed many close friendships. Then, in 1951 the Riedemans offered a Beginning Folk Dance class at City College under the auspices of the Adult Education Division of the San Francisco School Department. Today that class has become one of the largest, most closely-knit and active clubs in this area, the San Francisco Merry Mixers. This name has become synonymous with fun and happy dancing among folk dancers. Behind the Merry Mixers' success lies the guidance, co-operation, and devotion of the Riedemans.

In addition to the Merry Mixers, Carolyn teaches three classes for the San Francisco Recreation and Park Department, including the growing and enthusiastic Women's Group. She is also an active member of the East Bay Women's Dance Circle.

But folk dancing is still only their hobby. Carolyn received her M.A. Degree from the University of California, and is a full time English instructor at City College, where she co-ordinated the extensive

Communication 5 program. Bill took his degree in Business Administration at the University of Nevada, and now owns and operates "Tuggey's Hardware" in the West Portal district. It hardly seems possible that with such demanding positions they can devote so much time to folk dancing. They have two married children, young Bill Riedeman and Carol Smith. Carol has added to the Riedemans' happiness by making them grandparents of a year old grandson, Reed, and a brand new granddaughter, Tracy.

Dancers throughout the Folk Dance Federation of Northern California, and the members of the classes, can certainly vouch that Carolyn and Bill Riedeman are "People Worth Knowing".



BILL & CAROLYN RIEDEMAN