

People Worth Knowing

BY CHARLES BLUM

I had the pleasure of meeting Carlos and Ruth Ruling several years ago at a beginner's class. Ruth was the teacher and Carlos, her assistant. The enthusiasm which they expressed in their teaching of dancing was and still is one of the hallmarks of their sincerity.

Both Carlos and Ruth not only are outstanding dancers, but have been active "workers for folk dancing" for many years. Ruth was Vice-president of The Berkeley Folk Dancers in 1945 and was Chairman of The Woodminster Pageant in 1948. She began teaching folk dancing in 1944, and has been a regular teacher at Changs' International Folk Dancers for a number of years. She has been a member of the Research Committee of the Folk Dance Federation since 1955, and last year was the Historian for the Federation.

Ruth began folk dancing in 1942, when Carlos was in the Service, and was joined in her enthusiasm for dancing by Carlos when he came home from the Navy in 1945. Carlos is now the Chairman of The San Francisco Council of Folk Dance Groups, and is also the Chairman of the Statewide Festival Committee for the festival to be held in May, 1958, in San Francisco. He was President of "Changs" for the year 1955-56 and was floor chairman for the same club the year previous.

The Rulings were members of Madelynn Greene's Festival Workshop for four years, but had to give up exhibition dancing four years ago so that Carlos could work on his Master's Degree in education and Ruth could stay at home and raise two young folk dancers, Karl and Kathleen.

Their interests are varied and their hobbies carry them beyond the usual ones connected with folk dancing. Carlos is an aircraft pilot and flew many missions for the Civil Air Patrol - he gave up this hobby for a more prosaic one - sport cars. They are both accredited teachers in the San Francisco public school system. He is active in school administration work, while she is semi-retired; working as a substitute teacher from time to time.

The help and understanding that the Rulings have given is one of the reasons that so many people now active in folk dancing have become more interested in their hobby and made it possible for them to contribute their part to the general welfare of the folk dance world.



RUTH RULING, in Ukrainian Costume
CARLOS RULING, in Mexican Costume

Photo by Henry Bloom