

In Memoriam

HELEN SAUNDERS



and one of her favorite hobbies - folk dancing and its aspects.

Originally from Oregon, Helen studied nursing there and in California, earning her degree in Public Health Nursing. Helen took time to devote her services to her country by serving in the Waves also. While studying at the University of California at Berkeley, she was introduced to folk dancing through a class instructed by our past president of the Folk Dance Federation, Inc., Lucille Czarnowski, and really became deeply interested and enthusiastic. With a great sense of costuming and research she was a perfectionist in the areas of costumes, customs, and dance authenticity.

Her work brought her to the Merced County Health Department, so she naturally kept her folk interest and established the Romy Ring Club which she taught for a number of years, even after moving to work in the Fresno City Schools. Her folk dancing activities enlarged extensively, as she was very active in the exhibition groups of the Fiesta Dancers, Fresno Council Workshop and the Square Rounders.

She traveled several times to Mexico because of her deep interest in its folk lore. Her extensive knowledge was of great value in planning exhibitions in groups here.

Her ability was also acknowledged by her serving at length on the Research Committee for the Folk Dance Federation of California, Inc. She was most active and interested in all aspects of folk lore and particularly in the ethnic quality.

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Another work change returned her to San Francisco and the Bay area where she worked in the Homemaker Service and most actively in the Public Health Section of the California Nurses Association in San Francisco.

Unfortunately a heart problem developed, necessitating surgery in 1964, and again in March, 1967, at which time it was not successful.

We are happy to recall her gracious, warm and clever hospitality, the many fun times as well as the serious, and the many pleasures in our love for folk dancing. Her warmth and enthusiasm for life will never be forgotten. We shall miss her, but won't forget having shared her friendship.

Marjorie Widman Smalridge

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