



A Salute to Dorothy & George Tamburini

Dorothy and George Tamburini danced all their married lives. But they seriously began folk dancing in 1941 when George, returning from the city by train, noticed an announcement of a folk dance class at the Church of the Good Shepherd in Belmont. George said, "Why don't we go dancing?" Dorothy and George had danced old-fashioned dance and ballroom dance for many years, but had not seriously thought about trying this thing called 'folk dance'. They decided to go, and upon entering the hall they noticed that the next dance on the program was one they knew. However, when they began to dance, they found that the dance the group was doing was not the same as the one they knew. Another couple, George and Migon Ybarreta, noticed their bewilderment and came to their rescue, suggesting that they change partners and help show the steps that were being used. This solved their problem and also began a long and lasting friendship of thirty-two years.

About a week or so later, the Ybarretas asked the Tamburinis if they would like to join a folk dance group that was being formed. Their teacher was to be Jean Taylor, who also taught the church group. While sitting on the floor they named the group "The San Carlos Peasants". From the twelve that started, a large group grew & developed and was very active until a few years ago. They often invited guest teachers, one of which was Mildred Buehler, an experienced teacher and square dance caller on the Peninsula. Mildred invited the Tamburinis to join the Docey Doe Club. George & Dorothy danced with the Docey Doe group, participating in many

folk and square dance exhibitions, particularly enjoying the opportunity to dance at Woodminister, Marine Memorial Auditorium, & at festivals in Sacramento, San Jose, Fresno and Marin. In 1952 Mildred Buehler, with husband, Jake, left for England, and at the end of the year George & Dorothy discontinued their dancing with the Docey Does.

About this time, Roy Zellick took over the Palomanians and invited Dorothy and George to join them. They continued to dance with the Palomanians, & Dorothy taught many dances to this group. After Janie & Roy Zellick were forced to retire because of Janie's poor health, the group gradually dispensed to be reformed three or four years later with Ruth Ruling as their teacher. Dorothy & George again joined the group and continued to dance until George was taken ill.

Dorothy and George were consistent "died in the wool" dancers, dancing at least twice a week--with a club during the week and at a club party on Saturday nights. They participated regularly in festivals, as well as driving to Marin for many of the "Hardly Able" Saturday night parties.

Dorothy has been chairman of the Research Committee of the Folk Dance Federation of California since 1953. She has whenever possible attended council meetings, Teacher Institute meetings, & Publication meetings. Until this summer she had faithfully attended the Folk Dance Camp of the University of the Pacific. George always brought her to camp and came to take her home. If you were up early enough on the Monday morning of the first session, you could have had a cup of coffee with George & Dorothy. He enjoyed working with and helping Dorothy, and we will miss seeing him at Saturday night parties and at folk dance camp.

In memory of George, and for the hours of tireless and persistent work that Dorothy has done for folk dance, you may wish to join us of the Research Committee in contributing to a scholarship fund.

Miriam B. Lidster

