

People Worth Knowing

By Carmen Schweers

In years past, when at a Federation Council meeting and just as it is time to start, you see several people entering, and you hear "Now you can start, here is Sacramento!" In that group you were sure to see Bee and Harold Whittier, folk dancers since 1949.

The Whittiers started their folk dancing career in a class sponsored by the McClatchy Newspapers for the Centennial Discovery of Gold. There was a six months class of instruction in folk and square dancing for all employees of the McClatchy newspapers and radio stations all over the State. As an employee of the Sacramento Bee, Harold thought that they should have a try at it. Bee couldn't make it for the first two or three classes but Harold was so enthusiastic that she went, too, to see what it was all about. They have danced as Capitol Skippers, Sacramento Folk Dancers, Triple S Folk Dancers, Mavericks and Wagon Reelers down through the years.

They have contributed a lot of time to folk dancing, besides just the pleasure of dancing. Bee was Federation secretary in 1954-55. During 1957-58 she was the chairman of the scholarship committee. In 1952-53 she was secretary of the Sacramento Council, and is serving as the Vice President and Treasurer at the present time. She has been exhibition chairman of the Sacramento Camellia pageants.

Harold has been an officer in the Sacramento Folk Dancers, the Mavericks, and the Triple S Folk Dancers. He has taught for the Sacramento City Recreation classes, Wagon Reelers and Country Swingers.

In May 1955, while Bee was Federation secretary, she and Harold entertained their friends to celebrate Bee's 50th birthday and their 30th wedding anniversary. It was a wonderful party, nearly two hundred of their friends gathered to help them celebrate . . . Among the guests were nearly all the Federation Officers, their original instructor, members of their Club and many others. It was a party that will be long remembered "as the best ever".

There is no better way to meet wonderful people than to folk dance, and as folk dancers, Harold and Bee have contributed much to this movement and have made many contacts and gained many friends through their folk dancing years.

Bee works for the State and Harold, at the Sacramento Bee, but they still spend a lot of time with their family. The family includes both of their mothers, a son, Terrell, his wife, Florence, and their three grandchildren, Terry, or "Butch", a miniature Harold, Lise and Connie. The last report is that the son is moving to near Salt Lake City to take an Engineer's job. Our best wishes to two fine people, who have given freely to our folk dancing activities.



Bee and Harold Whittier