



THE FEDERATION



# FOLK DANCER

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## A MESSAGE FROM OUR NEW PRESIDENT

Dear fellow folk dancers:

The FOLK DANCE FEDERATION of CALIFORNIA is now celebrating its second birthday. Looking back on these two years we note an amazing growth in size and in the variety of activities which the Federation has initiated. There are thirty-one clubs encompassing over 1500 individuals in the Federation now. And every single dancer is an important part of the Federation. Your new officers will strive to continue this growth. We want to plan many exciting activities. But (ahem)...to do this we need your help. What can you do? We want you to be vitally interested in Federation affairs. Let's have your ideas on how to improve the Festivals, the Dance Patterns, and the Federation FOLK DANCER! Let the Council have your pet 'gripes' before the grapevine goes to work on 'em! The Council will carefully consider any suggestions rendered.

Looking forward to an active year of fun, study, and work together.

Yours for more Folk Dancing,

CLARICE DECHENT, President

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## OUR NEXT FESTIVAL

The next Festival will be held on Sunday, July 9th, from 1:00 TO 6:00 P. M., in Golden Gate Park at the Children's Playground (near Kezar Stadium--same place as last year, if you remember). 7 or 17 street cars are the closest. Get off at First Avenue. Chang's International Folk Dancers are to be the hosts. Be sure to come in your richest, rarest, and raciest costume.

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## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE NATIONAL FESTIVAL

Remember May 10th to 13th? Well those were big days in Philadelphia. Madelynn Greene, our special representative, has a lot to tell us:

The Festival was really fine and a great experience, so inspiring. Some of it was of a much lower standard than the rest. But we must

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remember that a lot of national groups were pretty hard hit and will be for the duration.

In the first place I was given a pass because I agreed to help back-stage. This little duty was great fun and gave me many contacts with the leaders of groups. When I told them I was from California, it made them talk quite freely about their dances, costumes, and music.

Each Afternoon and Evening Program was opened by the Town Crier walking through the audience and up on the stage calling "Hear ye, hear ye!" ringing his great bell for silence. Then he would announce the program that was to begin. His costume was most interesting with its big white collar, tall hat, knee breeches, and buckled shoes.



KIOWA INDIAN DANCES AND MUSIC (Oklahoma): This group was one of the best. Gorgeous feather work and magnificent beads. These Indians learned their dances from their families. The dances were done with the utmost artistry.

SEAMAN'S HORNPIPE: This group of British sailors were very colorful as they sang their salty ditties grouped around barrels and rope coils. Their Seaman's Hornpipe turned out to be one I learned as a child.

IRISH FOLK DANCES: This was a very well-trained group. Their steps were fast and well cut in style. However their costumes were a little on the stagey side.

LITHUANIAN FOLK DANCES: These children were very good. They were trained to within an inch of their lives by an excitable Lithuanian leader. Their Kalevelis was danced with just a slight variation from ours. The Rod Dance was most fascinating.

POLISH DANCERS: One of the highlights of the Festival. Surely the most popular dancers on every program in which they appeared. A group of boys and girls full of pep and energy. Good dancers (the boys especially) and their costumes most colorful and convincing in authentic cut and style. The Kujawiak was a charming dance which originated in Kujawy, Poland. I intend to introduce it to California. The Krakowiak they do back here is the same as ours except with variations.



THE ARMENIAN DANCES: Very beautifully costumed. The dances looked the same as those done at the Venus Club in S. F. They did some of the Hooshik Mooshik in their dances.

THE JEWISH DANCES: A fine group of young girls danced and sang old ritual dances. The leader of this group wrote a book on these dances which I have at home. I recognized the girls from the photographs in the book. This group really conveyed the spirit of these dances.

WESTERN DANCES: Never have I seen such beautiful square dancing. (Editor's note: These will be described in detail next month when the Folk Dancer will be devoted to American dances exclusively).

FRENCH DANCES: This group of Chicago Y.M.C.A. dancers put lots of spirit into their interpretations of the simple but charming French Dances.

UKRANIAN DANCES: This group was definitely at a disadvantage from its shortage of men. Rather well done but not as exciting as another group later in the Festival.

SCANDINAVIAN GROUP: I was unfortunately unable to see these children dance. But I spoke to their director who was very charming and gracious. The costumes of the group were colorful and carefully copied from originals.



BULGARIAN FOLK SONGS: These songs were beautifully played by Kehaioff on native instruments. It was hard to understand his accent, but the songs were lovely.

ITALIAN WEDDING FESTA: I was glad to see our Tarantella done by a native group. The arrangement was different but all the steps were there.

PORTUGUESE FOLK DANCES: I was disappointed not to see the Fado.

RUSSIAN FOLK DANCES: There were several Russian groups on the program, some better than others. All told however their dances loomed out over all others on the programs. There was one outstanding one from New York, easily the best group at the Festival. Their work had all the vigor and strength of the peasant dances, but with style. Their steps were arranged well and gave climax to the dances.

See you soon,

MADELYNNE GREENE

The Federation FOLK DANCER is looking for a new name. Its present name is almost identical to the FOLK DANCER published by the Michael Herman group of New York City. Therefore the Council voted at the May meeting to consider suggestions for a change. Give your suggestion to your club representative or write it to the Secretary for consideration at the next Council meeting.

#### NAMES AND ADDRESSES OF THE NEW OFFICERS

Clarice Dechent, President: 2739 Geary Blvd., S.F.(18). West 7584.  
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 Margarette Horvath and Eleanor Bates, Associate Editors.

NEWS BITS FROM HERE, THERE, AND EVERYWHERE ...

Every Wednesday night at Oak Knoll hospital Lee S. Owens of the Palomanian group conducts a real old fashioned square dance for enlisted men and women. Lee needs help, and he needs mostly gals! Any group who can send exhibition dancers, couples, or just gals on some Wednesday should get in touch with Lee at 331 Poc Street, Palo Alto.

If groups of gals want to come on their own, they should call the recreational director of the hospital for permission to pass through the gates. Exhibition groups may arrange with A.W.V.S. for transportation.

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S. F. State is offering a six weeks course in "Dances of the Western Hemisphere", starting Tuesday, June 27. The lessons will be every Tuesday and Thursday nights from 7:00 to 9:00 P.M. - in the gymnasium of the College. (Entrance through gate on Buchanan Street near Haight.) Sounds good -- see you there.

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Live near Rodeo, California? Buzz Glass, 1924-102nd Avenue, Oakland, announces that they are looking for a good folk and square leader in that community. Write him for further details.

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Brand new member of the Federation is a group known as the Square Stoppers. Taught by Doug and Ecks Nesbitt, the group is limited to twenty-five couples. If, however, you'd like to look on some night, you'll find them at Laurel Methodist Church in Oakland.

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The Do-Si-Do Club is again meeting Both Mondays and Wednesdays. A sharp-shootin good time for all on either night. The Gatewsingers are offering a new beginners course. Come on Thursday nights.

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Retiring President Ed. Kremers is stationed in Denver for what looks like "the duration". "Not much folk dancing in these parts", says he, so-o-o as next best thing - he'd like to hear from his California folk dance pals. Write him: Lt. E. L. Kremers, 218 Denham Building, Denver 2, Colorado.

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At our last festival in Palo Alto, Judy Olsen, director of the Scandinavian Group, lost a very valuable carring. Judy says it is crescent-shaped yellow gold, set with a diamond, a large pearl, and six small pearls. A reward of twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) is offered to the finder, so if you're down that way, take a look around. You can get in touch with the anxious owner at

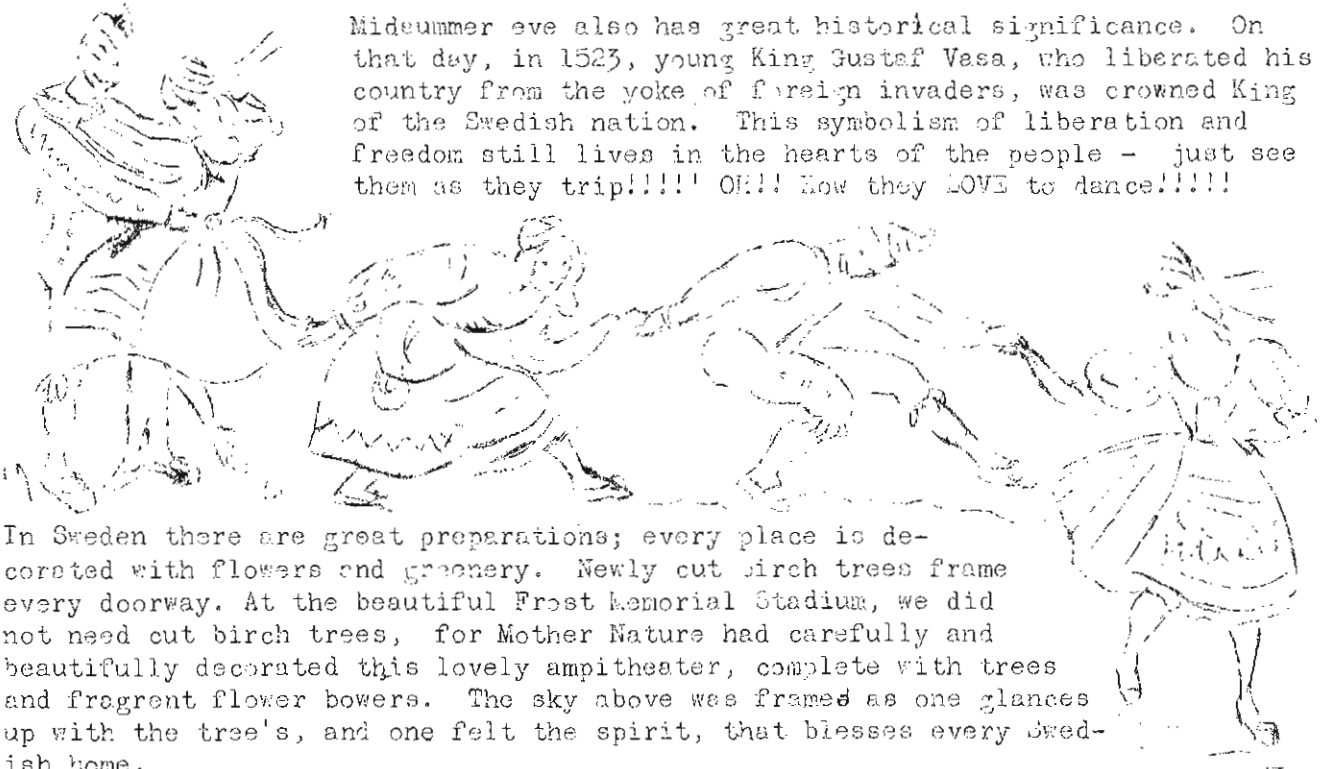
1805 Pine Street - San Francisco  
Telephone: Prospect 4035

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SWEDISH MIDSUMMER FESTIVAL \* JUNE 111944

In Northernmost Sweden, that part of the country which lies below the actual region of the MIDNIGHT SUN,, where the sun does not go down for several summer weeks, a public holiday is declared marking the climax of the actual season of light. MIDSUMMER---- next to Christmas, is the greatest festival time of all the year!!! The pagan day FESTIVAL of actual worship of the sun god has been modified to a mere happiness in the return of summer, and nature in all her glory and beauty.

Perhaps the most festive celebration is held in the colorful and historic province of "DALEGARLIA". One did not have to try very hard to let their fancy take flight and imagine, Sunday last, when the Stanford Folk Dancers so beautifully and graciously feted the Federation Dancers , that, instead of being on the Campus of an American University - we were actually in that lovely region known as the 'HEART OF SWEDEN', wearing our own native costumes. Only the lack of the fiddlers playing songs and dances which have been kept alive in the memory of many generations of musicians , substituted in our modern fashion with 'manufactured' music, betrayed to the spectators, that this was not Sweden. The dancers themselves seem truly to have let themselves embark on this flight into fancy.



Midsummer eve also has great historical significance. On that day, in 1523, young King Gustaf Vasa, who liberated his country from the yoke of foreign invaders, was crowned King of the Swedish nation. This symbolism of liberation and freedom still lives in the hearts of the people - just see them as they trip!!!! OH!! How they LOVE to dance!!!!

In Sweden there are great preparations; every place is decorated with flowers and greenery. Newly cut birch trees frame every doorway. At the beautiful Frost Memorial Stadium, we did not need cut birch trees, for Mother Nature had carefully and beautifully decorated this lovely amphitheater, complete with trees and fragrant flower bowers. The sky above was framed as one glances up with the tree's, and one felt the spirit, that blesses every Swedish home.

Yes, we even had a MAJ S'ANG (or Maypole- if you must - but meaning green leaves - and not May-) And as the Swedish Misses, those Stanford girls must have risen early in the morning to go out gathering garlands for the Pole. Yes!! it had the greenery, the flowers, the flags, the little dolls, the strings of gilded hearts, and the festoons of colored papers. And our loveliest and most popular girl, our charming new president 'CLARICE' was crowned queen or, if you will, Midsummer Bride- and carried gayly to the MAJ'SANG, by BUZZ GLASS, and WALTER BROTHE, where she was coyly kissed, and seated under the canopy of birch boughs.

- We wondered as we drove home after a merry day, who stole away with the "qvost", a bouquet of different kinds of flowers, going alone, not saying a word to anyone, then at last at home, placing it under her pillow, to see her future lover, in her dreams!!!!!!!

"BET YOU DIDN'T KNOW"  
DEPARTMENT

And neither did we!! Nor did the Swede who witnessed this satirical manifesta-  
tion and brought the tale back to us, that many peasants of Dalekarlia, Sweden-  
(Home of the Dal Dance), wear their "folk dance" peasant costumes every day of the  
week, every week of the month, every month of the year!!! Come Sunday, they merely  
brush them off, put on a new apron, (the men wear heavy leather ones), comb their  
hair, and off to church they go. This is a strange custom even for Sweden where costumes  
are usually only worn for festivals. It must have amazed our friend, as it does us,  
on the telling, to see work-a-day peasants sowing fertilizer and seeds in such gay-colored  
costumes - just such costumes as were so much in evidence at our recent Midsummer  
Swedish festival.



The French Revolutionary Jacobin influence in Denmark, strongly sympathetic to the Republican cause at that time, is responsible for the presence of long 'Jacobin' trousers instead of knee breeches for peasant costumes in certain parts of Denmark?

MOZART, BEETHOVEN, SCHUBERT, and WEBER, each in his turn, contributed much in developing the 'WALTZ'.

- A quotation from "MOZART", by Marcia Davenport (pp 186 - 187) offers an interesting theory to the origin of the 'WALTZ'.



"Vienna already waltzing in 1783? It was indeed! The waltz was the ultimate development of the MINUET and first danced to music in minuet time. Wolfgang (Mozart, the composer) wrote dance music in minuet time; minuets and DEUTSCHE TANZE, whose 3/4 time finally became the famous 'WIENER WALZER'. . . . . When the waltz first appeared, in a gradual transition from the figures of the formal minuet it was far from the "disgusting" spectacle of which our commentators of the early nineteenth century in England write. As Kelly says, the postures of the women were charmingly graceful, and the men comported themselves both gaily and gallantly. There was no encircling of arms such as appeared after the French Revolution; the dance started as a minuet, and halfway through, when the partners came face to face in a curtsy and bow, they could put the tips of their fingers very lightly on each other's waists, and continue the stately tread of the minuet so united. Gradually the dance became more waltz and less minuet. This early waltz was the rage about 1802 at the Tivoli Gardens in Paris where the spectators thought it most exquisite; by 1813, its poses had reached such excess in England as to call forth from Byron -- of all Puritans! - his famous invective."

VOILA!!! . . . . .THE WALTZ WAS BORN. . . . .!!!!!!!

The KRAKOWIAK click-heels step originated as an imitation of the clicking of horses' hoofs.

THAT IT'S STILL NOT TOO LATE TO SUBSCRIBE TO THE MONTHLY FOLK DANCER!!!

and dance descriptions - See your club representative or send your DOLLAR (for the next six months), with your name, address and zone number to BEATRICE COOK - Circulation Manager - 2455 Shattuck Avenue, Berkeley, 4, Calif.