

LET'S DANCE

VOLUME II - ISSUE NO. 1 - JANUARY, 1945

TO OUR SUBSCRIBERS

"Let's Dance" is one year old and this issue marks the beginning of the second year with Volume II, Issue No. 1. As most of you know, it had its inception as the "Folk Dancer" and recently changed its face to "Let's Dance", which title was selected by majority preference from numerous suggestions submitted. Too much credit cannot be given to the retiring members of the Staff who guided the paper through its most difficult months of infancy and its firm position now occupied as an important part of our Folk Dance scheme of things is due entirely to their efforts. Hats off and a sincere "thank you" to Bret Van Kriedt, Editor; Beatrice Cook, Business Manager; and their able assistants, Marian Van Kriedt, Eleanor Bates, Margaret Horvath, Madelynne Greene and Gilman Merrill.

This issue is actually a "between administrations" number as our new staff will take over full management and publication beginning with the February issue. As a consequence the usual illustrations and art techniques are missing and our subscribers must be satisfied for this month in taking their prose straight and will have to purchase LIFE for pictures and illustrations.

Beginning with the February number the new staff will take over and they have big plans in store for you. The new editor is Ruby Biel and the new business manager is Clyde Evans. Both are well known to all and their selection, unanimously, will insure success of our enterprise. They are now appointing assistants and are asking for volunteers. If you have some time to spare for a good cause just contact Ruby Biel at 8007 Hillmont, Oakland, or Clyde Evans at 8141 Idlewood, Oakland, and discuss it with them. May we also urge each group as a reporter for "Let's Dance" and turn in the name and address of the appointee to Ruby Biel. We cannot stress too strongly the fact that the paper depends primarily on the Clubs for its news and support and each group must help carry the load. Talk up the paper too, and discuss it and criticize constructively, and above all help us in increasing our subscription list. Remember it is your publication and its success will contribute greatly to the advertising of our Federation and its member groups, and will foster Folk Dancing in the communities.

BERKELEY CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL

The Berkeley Folk Dancers as usual outdid themselves in their production of the December Festival on Sunday, December 10th held in Oakland at the German Pioneer House. They included something new in festivals and the innovation made a big hit with those who attended.

The usual dance program started at three o'clock and ran through until about five thirty. From five thirty to about seven a Buffet Supper was served at nominal cost and during this time request dance numbers were played as the dining accommodations were limited and service had to be stretched over approximately an hour and a half. From seven until eight o'clock a program of exhibitions was presented and from eight o'clock for about three hours the dance program was continued with several requests interspersed. The Buffet Supper was prepared and served entirely by members of the Berkeley Group without catering help and the accomplishment speaks well for the careful organization of the Group. We heard numerous compliments on every side relative to all phases of the Festival and we want the Berkeley Group to know how much the members of the Federation appreciate the work and thought which was put into this gathering.

The exhibitions were unusually attractive and presented with a style which showed care and practice in preparation. The Festival Work Shop Group presented a new "version" of Fado which was danced with cymbals and an encore was insisted upon. The dance is done in two lines of couples to the same music as Fado Blanquita with several of the same steps, but the pattern and the effect of the dance are entirely novel and different.

The Berkeley Folk Dancers introduced the Irish "Fire Dance". This is a circle dance of couples and the presentation was effectively rendered with the lights extinguished and in the middle of the circle was placed an imitation log fire. The steps were very carefully arranged and the music and timing were excellent.

Chang's International Group put on a Russian Dance called Kamarinskya. They are becoming famous for these dances and each one is as interesting as the last. The dance was encored and we understand that if any of the groups are interested in acquiring the routine that the group will be glad to furnish it upon a request.

A novelty number not listed on the program was given by Madelynne Greene assisted ably by Henry Koopmann. She danced her pantomime Jarabe with Henry as her Partner in the dance sequence. It is real entertainment to watch this couple do the dance and only the strenuous foot work prevented the audience from insisting upon more and more.

Prior to the dance program, the Federation Council held their usual monthly meeting at which time routine business for the most part was presented. The new staff of "Let's Dance" was presented for approval and was voted in and suggestions of policy were made for future consideration.

NOTICE

- * HAVE YOU RENEWED YOUR SUBSCRIPTION TO "LET'S DANCE"? IF NOT, DO SO AT ONCE! UNLESS
- * RENEWALS ARE RECEIVED BY DEADLINE DATE OF
- * JANUARY 20, FURTHER COPIES WILL NOT BE MAILED.
- * SO HURRY, HURRY, HURRY! GET YOUR DANCE
- * ROUTINES, YOUR CLUB AND FEDERATION NEWS,
- * AND REMAIN A PART OF OUR EVER GROWING FOLK
- * DANCE FAMILY.

THE NEXT FESTIVAL DANCE - JANUARY 14TH

The Burlingame Community Folk Dancers are sponsoring the next monthly festival to be given on Sunday, January 14th from 2:00 P.M. to 6:00 P.M. in the gymnasium of the Burlingame High School in Burlingame. In view of the fact that the weather is ordinarily not too promising in the middle of January, this location was selected by the Burlingame Group because of its size and close location to all forms of transportation - the train, the bus lines and the street car. Full details and directions will be submitted by letter to all of the groups immediately after the first of the year and you will be told how to reach the Festival by any route.

As most of our members know, the Burlingame Community Group is not a member of the Federation but is one of the oldest and best known groups around the Bay region. Due to the fact that the group is a community group under the auspices of the Recreation Department and Burlingame being a suburban community without sufficient catering facilities, it will not be possible to prepare and present any form of dining after the Festival but all of the clubs will be supplied with information as to all available eating places on the Peninsula with means of transportation. You may be assured of a fine program of dances and the group is noted for its enthusiasm in any affair they present.

Arrangements will be made for the usual Council meeting to be held from 12:45 P.M. until 2:00 P.M. and members of the Council will receive sufficient information in the letter which will go forward to the various groups.

Look forward to the Mid-Winter Festival on the 14th and everybody come!!!

EXHIBITION PROGRAMS - CONDUCT

Ruth Ruby was asked sometime ago to write up a paper to be presented at the Council meeting preceding the November Festival in which she was to put forth her ideas as previously expressed relative to the general conduct and presentation of exhibition programs. She read her prepared article at the Council meeting but as she did so, she amplified her written comments with pungent and "to the point" remarks. These remarks we believe were more expressive than the actual article and we are reproducing here her paper of suggestions and in parenthesis we have indicated her explanatory comments which we have added as we feel our readers will enjoy them as much as we did.

SUGGESTIONS FOR EXHIBITIONS

(I was asked to explain the "Suggestions for Exhibitions." I don't know why, they appear self-explanatory to me. However, I'll be very happy to do so. Here goes!)

1. Planned Program

A. Posted

1. Participants should learn to adjust themselves to quick changes.
(A program for any exhibition should be carefully planned, taking into consideration the energy of the dancers and the quality of the audience. However, once the program is made, try and stick to it. If it is necessary to change it, participants should accept the change. Nothing will happen if you don't do your favorite dance

right at that moment, or as a matter of fact, if you don't do it at all. Try it and see. Anyway, don't make matters hard on everybody by loud griping. Leave that for the Army, for they have little enough, Heaven knows. So now we go on, we've posted our program and we've accepted the changes with ominous, but quiet looks.

11. Records

- A. Ready in order of dancing.
- B. Exhibition groups should deliver records to party in charge before the program, and the correct tempo should be arranged.
 1. Always bring your record. Don't rely on it just being there.
(Our records should be arranged and ready to be picked up at a moment's notice. We have received all the exhibition records and the correct tempo has been arranged. Well, well, this went off smoothly.)

111. Manners

- A. Be an asset to your group. Don't be condescending to the people for whom you are performing.
(Now our manners. This is perhaps a strange thing to bring up, but think it over. Carefully.)

1V. Stage Behaviour

A. Smile

(Stage behaviour is next, and this is, as far as the audience is concerned, the most important. First of all, the smile. Did you ever go to a circus and see a trapeze act. You sit there and hold your breath and suffer through every bit of the act, and when it's all over you sit back with a sigh of relief and think "well, that's over." It was wonderful, but everyone is exhausted wondering, wondering, if they were going to make it. Well, that is what the trapeze act wants, but it is not the particular effect we wish to achieve. We want to let everyone know what a wonderful time we are having, and we are not going to do it if we dance around with frowns and giving the general impression that we'll be glad when it's over. Then they are glad when it's over and the only thing achieved is that everyone has wasted their time. Make the audience feel sorry that your good time is over, and above all, make them feel that they have enjoyed having that good time with you. You might as well, it's the same amount of time involved in both instances. Gosh, this is going to be terribly long.

B. Don't lag.

(Don't lag, make up your mind if you are going to dance and get out on that stage. Don't look back, you were just there. Have your partners at your side, there will be plenty of time afterwards to mill around and attend to business. Your business on the stage is dancing at that particular moment. Don't block passageway, because you all know what the dances look like, and there is always five hundred people in the doorway who don't want to dance and four people in the back who never make it on account of the five hundred people in the doorway. Depressing, isn't it?

C. Have your partners.

D. Don't block passageway.

E. Always be conscious of your spacing and circle formation.

1. Dance as a group and not as an individual.

F. Know the dance or don't exhibit.

("F" is very important, a very touchy question, and should be left up to the individual. But please think a lot about "F".)

1. Know the dance well enough to follow any melody not particularly familiar to you.
- G. Wear a costume.
1. And petticoats for the ladies.
("G" helps in more ways than one. And ladies, please wear petticoats in exhibitions. Bare thighs are just a trifle startling in a demure Swedish, or demure anything. We admit the red pants are cute, but not on exhibitions.)
- H. Don't go on the stage during a dance. If you can't start at the beginning with the group, don't dance it unless the committee in charge directs otherwise. (Don't go on the stage during a dance, it looks simply horrible, like actors late for their cue. When the dance is finished, acknowledge the audience. We aren't professionals and the professional bows are not wanted, but after all, there is an audience and if they sit there and give us their attention, the least we can do is acknowledge the fact that they are there. Anyway, let's not kid ourselves, we know we are dancing for them.)
- I. When the dance is finished, bow to the audience.
- J. Keep in step.
("J" is very noticeable to the audience. If everyone has their right foot up but you, you are calling attention to yourself, which, besides making you look out of place, violates "E" and "F". And last, but not least, if you want it to look like a dance and not like football players fighting for position, (or is it horses), don't overcrowd the stage.)
- K. Don't overcrowd the stage.
(If the stage is crowded, don't dance or the whole pattern of the dance is lost. If you were just dancing, and the stage is crowded, sit one out and give someone else a chance. A rest does everyone a lot of good. Which is an excellent suggestion, and one that I shall follow immediately.)
- V Stage Manager
- A. Every large exhibition should have a stage manager, who is an assistant to the Chairman, and who has the power to enforce the above procedure.
"So I shall close, hoping that I have not hurt anyone's feelings, and my closing statement is 'Any resemblance in the above to persons living or dead, is true.'"

BOND DRIVE PROGRAM

The Bond Drive program which was given by the Folk Dance Federation of California on the night of December 2nd was a great success and it was announced that the admissions represented purchases of \$250,000 in bonds. The affair was given by invitation of the Treasury Department and was sponsored by the City of Oakland. Jon Bittman and his Committee deserve a pat on the back for the manner in which the program was presented and the arrangement of the program. Many compliments have been received by the Federation on this presentation and we feel quite flattered by the part which the Federation has taken in the Sixth War Loan Drive.

THROUGH THE KEY HOLE

Have you noticed the new Russian trousers

of Bob Mihailovitch? We have all seen the girls examining their petticoats and talking about the yardage in their skirts but this is the first time to our knowledge that we have seen the men bragging about the yardage in their trousers---and the way they flare out on the turns!!!!

We enjoyed the preview of Fado held behind the drapes at the Berkeley Festival. In that small room it was really a "chummy" dance and we should have more previews like it.

Jon Bittman must have lost weight working on the Bond Drive Program and the Berkeley Festival because those white stockings of his refused to grab where they used to grab. Jon is going to have to fill out or else get some pre-war rubber.

At a recent Monday evening call at the Deering home in Palo Alto, we were surprised to see Clarice Dechent and Nancy Deering walking around with huge candle sticks in their hands and a house full of burning candles. Some one had evidently pulled the fuse switch and they made a demure couple with candles in each hand and surprised looks on their faces. We understand that they finally found the fuse box but as a suggestion should they ever wish to impress people, this is a good trick.

Frances Glass recently made the suggestion that folk dancers be interviewed on the question "How I Became Interested in Folk Dancing." It occurs to us that in her case "Buzz" would have an important part in the answer or can we be sued?

We understand that on Thanksgiving Day, Bill MacDonald of the Gateswingers was celebrating more than just the turkey dinner as Jean answered in the affirmative and all is well.

CLUB NEWS

THE CASTLE PROMENADERS on December 22nd held the regular meeting in the form of a Christmas Party. A social evening was held with dancing and refreshments. The hall was decorated with various Christmas decorations. Mrs. Kitty Forester of Berkeley lead the Castle Promenaders on December 8th in our four English folk dances. She will again teach a few more during one of the January meetings.

THE GATESWINGERS held a "Sadie Hawkins Day" program on their recent regular Monday night session. The gals went as "Effie-Maes" while the guys (after slight protests) donned "Lil" Abner" outfits. The Social Hall was disguised as "Dogpatch." Everyone had a lot of fun, food and dances. Millie Roszbach stole the show by doing a Hambo despite a pair of lumberjack boots. Neatest couple: Laverne and Dick Muchmore. Kay Holmes is making the arrangements for the Annual New Year's Eve Party - when Kay's in charge, "it's got to be good." "News and Views to Chase the Blues" - that's the Gateswingers Holiday Letter that really promises to be "Something for the Boys."

THE PALOMANIANS recently gave a Saturday Evening Party inviting the groups from Burlingame to San Jose for four hours of dancing and to their surprise they had a turn-out of 225. They thought they had a festival on their hands; it was a big success and it may turn into a regular thing with swapping of ideas and dances. It may be news to you that these clubs within this territory have over 600 regular members and several of the clubs are entirely community sponsored with large attendance and special parties and occasions.

Folk Dancing has taken forward strides in the last year on the Peninsula, and we have increasing interest in all of the communities. Palo Alto now has a group meeting every week night ranging from the real beginners to the advanced organized group. The Juniors have formed the "Hoe-Downers" which is the newest group to join the Federation. These clubs are all in addition to the Stanford groups. Redwood City's intense interest was displayed at the October Festival and a tip off on this group is the fact that Mildred Buehler received dance records for her birthday -- most valuable to an inveterate folk dancer.

THE SQUARE STEPPERS had an Old World Festival for their last party. Gay posters and authentic photographs of old world dances and customs decorated the hall and everybody came dressed up in old fashioned garb. There were about forty attending and everyone had a wonderful time.

THE GOLDEN GATE FOLK DANCERS have changed their meeting place to 2212 Parker Street, Berkeley but hope to find a permanent hall for the coming year. The general membership meeting and election of officers was held on Sunday, December 24th and the new officers will be announced soon. The lady members of the club gave an exhibition at the Shrine Hospitality House in Oakland on the evening of Saturday, December 18th and on the same evening they gave a half hour exhibition at the Y.M.C.A. in Berkeley. The Club did not have their usual dance on Sunday, December 10th because of the Berkeley Festival.

THE BERKELEY FOLK DANCERS had an election of officers this month and their new officers are: President - David Boyce, Vice-President - Constance Moncharsh, Treasurer - Robert Kleinhammer, and Secretary - Trudy Summerville.

The incoming officers thanked everyone and all said they hoped they would do as good a job as the outgoing officers. Hurrah!

Our outgoing Treasurer, Russell McCaughna, when he does not have anything else to do, goes browsing through the B.F.D. Treasury book. And what he doesn't find.

Robert Williams holds an AI priority on closing our meetings. He has done it for three years now.

Persons involved in "Did you say it at Lake Merced" are Madelynne Greene, Ruth Ruby, Margaret Melnaus, Gilman Merrill, George Moncharsh, Constance Moncharsh, Walter Grothe, Henry Koopman, Beatrice Cook, Lois Rodecape and Margaret Horvath.

May we again request the leaders of all of the Groups to immediately appoint a member of their group to represent "Let's Dance" and submit this name to the Editor or Business Manager. Please also talk up the paper and assist us in enlarging our subscription list as much as possible.

Each leader should also forward to Ruby Biel, Secretary, the name and address of the leader or other designated individual of each group to whom all communications or notifications sent out by the Federation or any of its member groups should be addressed.

This is important because our present list has become out of date and inadequate because of the many changes in the clubs and recent elections of new officers.

RESEARCH COMMITTEE

The Research Committee has been responsible for the assembling and production of the dance routines which have accompanied the issues of "Let's Dance" during the past year. The Federation officers and the staff of the paper have received many favorable comments upon this work and the publication of this work has done much to promote the prestige of our California Group. The Research Committee composed of Lucile Czornowski, Buzz Glass, Alice Jameyson, Harmer Davis and Madelynne Greene, deserve a word of credit and we want them to know how much the members appreciate their efforts. It has been announced that the Committee will shortly produce in volume form all of the dances published to date and in all probability will make available individual numbers and the cost and procedure will be explained at that time.