

LET'S DANCE

Published Monthly by the Folk Dance Federation of California - Sub. Yearly \$1.75
Vol. 2 November 1945 No. 11

LOOKING FORWARD

by

Roy Zellick

Co-director of Publicity and Extension, Folk Dance Fed. of Calif.

You who read this are probably folk dancers or are interested in folk dancing in one way or another. All of us have found a great deal of pleasure and exhilaration in learning and doing many dances, and in the good fellowship of our festivals and gatherings. At this time, with the many changes and readjustments going on around us, it is fitting that we look at ourselves and take stock of our future possibilities.

Folk dancing in the Bay Area and in California, for the most part, has grown out of its swaddling clothes during the recent war years. Our Federation was formed three years ago and the present membership of approximately forty clubs and several thousand individual members speaks well for the enthusiasm and perseverance of those who have shouldered the duties and responsibilities of the Federation and its member clubs during this time. A tremendous handicap was present at all times in the absence of many of our best and most valuable members in the armed services, and the many restrictions on time and travel which were imposed during the war emergency. With a reasonable return to normalcy we can now appraise the future.

The extent of the activities of the Federation can be broadened in several ways to the advantage of folk dancing. Interest is being shown more and more by clubs and individuals living outside the Bay Area in California, and the number of inquiries show a trend which will encourage the enlistment of more groups in outlying points. At a recent council meeting in Palo Alto in September, consideration was given to future festivals and meetings which will take our Bay Area members to Southern California, the great San Joaquin Valley, and Northern California. It seems evident that the Federation must anticipate increasing folk dancing activities in Southern California which will tie up directly with our Federation, or otherwise form a collective group which would be associated with our Federation. Our members may do a great deal toward creating an interest in folk dancing and in its general objectives by assisting in all ways any of these groups or prospective groups which may be interested in our activities. This is particularly true of those members who, from time to time, travel to different sections of the State and visit these various groups and individuals, or come in contact with them in their ordinary associations. As we get to know each other from all sections it follows, inevitably, that our Federation will become the focal point for all California instead of just the approximate Bay Area.

It is conceivable its many months of fine the year, can actually center of community modern day of improved is entirely probable festivals instead of our We can be certain that the enthusiastic response country, that it would and practices which could



that California, with outdoor weather during become the national folk dancing and in this travel that is coming it that we will have national present local gatherings. such a program would have of other sections of the permit an exchange of ideas be most beneficial.

The continual and its related arts by institutions, such as movies, church groups, groups, etc., indicates demand its place as an our national scene.

attention to folk dancing national, state, and local museums, national groups, recreational and school that folk dancing will important adjunct of

The enthusiasm as indicated by government officials and delegates at the United Nations Conference make feasible direct contacts from all points of the compass

and particularly those countries to the north and south of California.

Further, the many contacts inadvertently brought about by the war will pay dividends in creating new interests in all areas. Tomorrow our guest leaders may be from Kentucky or Maine. In the broadening of our activity we should not forget that the primary purpose of our organizations and groups, including the Federation itself, is to promote folk dancing and for the entertainment of the individual members. As we grow we should not let it be obscured by any form of politics or controversies or interests which will in any way detract from such enjoyment and comradeship which folk dancing brings to our groups. The origin of folk dancing itself lies in the desires of groups of people of all nationalities to gather together to interpret and express their exuberance and good fellowship, and this is paramount to all other considerations.

As we progress in organization and size we should not forget that we should also progress in performance. Continued active interest should be shown by the groups in enlarging and improving upon their dance programs, and the Federation should encourage in all ways the introduction of dances for the group and individual. Exhibitions should be encouraged primarily as a method of introducing dance numbers to the Federation, and where a dance meets with popular response the Federation should lend its assistance to the groups that wish to adopt it. Our progress depends upon the continuing active and expanding interest of our present members as well as the thousands of new converts whom we are hopeful of encouraging. Our festivals and plans of the future should understand this and endeavor to create an enjoyment for all to the fullest extent that careful attention and consideration can accomplish.

As we see the future promising an enlarged scope to our Federation and its groups, and the introduction of more and more people into the pleasures of folk dancing, a word of caution may be expressed. Our converts are attracted and encouraged through the contacts they have with us as individuals and groups and our conduct is of relative importance. We are all convinced, I am sure, that folk dancing is the finest of recreations but we should remember that most people are skeptics and we should not endeavor to thrust ourselves forward without invitation or encouragement. When we have visitors and the general public in attendance we should be certain that our performance presents a good example of folk dancing in every respect. Our future resolution should include the elimination of carelessness in our presentations and a constant awareness of making good impressions with the public. Our future will bring us more and more in the public eye and these things are important to remember.

The Federation with its many diverse groups has a unique opportunity to embrace a new wealth of the folk arts. Together with concerted effort, the folk dancers of California can look forward and envision a host of new achievements in the development of folk dancing.

OCTOBER FESTIVAL

Foggy weather failed to dampen the enthusiasm of the large number of gay folk dancers from Federation groups who took part in the October festival of the Folk Dance Federation of California, held at the Yacht Harbor, San Francisco, on Sunday, October 14.

Dan Mc Donald, acting as master of ceremonies, assisted by members of the Fun Club, entertained spectators as well as dancers with humorous remarks on the side.

The exhibitions, one given by eight younger members of the Scandinavian group, one by the Festival Workshop group, and one by the Fun Club were highlights of the afternoon's program. Gallons of punch was served to thirsty dancers, too.

An additional thrill of the afternoon was the majestic entrance of the U.S.S. Saratoga, steaming slowly by the Marina waterfront.

To the Fun Club Folk Dancers--thanks for another gay festival.

NOVEMBER FESTIVAL

The Sausalito Folk Dancers, host group for the November festival, to be held from 1 to 6 p.m. at the Central School, Sausalito, on Sunday, November 11 is one of our smallest groups, and charter members of the Federation. COUNCIL MEETING 12 to 1 p.m.

If good weather permits, there will be a bonfire at 7:00 p.m. on Shell Beach around which picnic suppers and weiner roasts may be enjoyed by the dancers and their families.

The Federation is looking forward to this first festival in Sausalito with great interest.

COMING FESTIVALS

December.....	Berkeley Folk Dancers, hosts	April.....	Oakland Folk Dancers, hosts
January.....	Glen Park Folk Dancers, hosts	May.....	Hayward Area Park, Recreation and Parkway District, hosts
February.....	Garfield Folk Dancers, hosts	June.....	U.C. Folk and Square Dancers, hosts
March.....	Albany Folk Dancers, hosts		

BY THE WAY
by
Henry "Buzz" Glass

In Hayward, California there exists a Spanish colony. Carmen, a fellow folk dancer, relates that her parents, Spanish peasants, were brought to Hawaii as contract laborers at the turn of the century, and from the islands these people moved to California and eventually engaged in farming and other pursuits. At times they hold celebrations where one may see some of the Spanish folk dances. Recently, a demonstration of the Jota by one of the members of this colony was enjoyed, and eventually we hope to learn this simple, delightful dance and include it in our repertoire.

Did you know that there is a large Portuguese colony around San Leandro and Oakland? Every Saturday night, oldsters and youngsters gather to dance at 71st Avenue and East 14th Street. Interspersed among the fox trots, one can join in the Chamarita, a popular Portuguese progressive dance.

If you want to practice your Spanish, the Mexican colony in Oakland offers a good opportunity to chat and do the rhumba, tango, and Corrido at the New Century Club, Seventh and Peralta Streets, Oakland. The group has a formal dance twice monthly on Saturday nights.

The California Folklore Quarterly in its July, 1945 issue has a varied collection of articles. Dorothy H. Huggins describes the naming of various places by Portola's soldiers. Usually, she states, the padres of the expedition bestowed the names of saints on places they encamped. As an example, the fathers named La Carpinteria (The Carpenter Shop) San Roque. The soldiers noticing the many canals built by the Indians gave this site the name La Carpinteria which still remains and the name San Roque has been completely forgotten.

The article on Californians and Hard Money will prove of interest to all native Californians as well as others.

FLASH! FLASH! FLASH!

Miss Ginny DeLong and Mr. Gilman Merrill announced their engagement Sunday, October 14 during the afternoon's festival at the Yacht Harbor and received the congratulations and good wishes of their fellow dancers. Both Miss DeLong and Mr. Merrill are active and popular members of the Festival Workshop and the Berkeley Folk Dancers. They have set their wedding date as March 2.

Here is your chance to get a book of square dance calls. Lee Owens of Palo Alto has published a book of calls, both old and new, and you may obtain a copy by sending Mr. Owens the small sum of .75, 331 Poe Street, Palo Alto, Calif. Add this to your folk dance library. Mr. Owens is being discharged from the Navy and received the purple heart for wounds received in the South Pacific.

We are proud to announce that Ed. Kremers has been promoted from Lt. J. G. to Lt. Commander. Ed. entered the service in July, 1942 and has been stationed in Denver, Washington, Hawthorne, and now back home in San Francisco. Ed. served as the second president of the Folk Dance Federation of California.

CLUB CHANGES

The application of the Mulford Gardens Club Hoppers was accepted at the Council Meeting October 14 and they were welcomed as a new Federation group. This club meets on Tuesdays at the Mulford Gardens Community Center, San Leandro. Mrs. Grace Page is the present teacher for the group.

The Shindiggers announced they wished to withdraw from the Federation. Their withdrawal was accepted.

OAK KNOLL NAVAL HOSPITAL

Harold Pearson was appointed chairman for the Oak Knoll Naval Hospital dance nights, and was welcomed by Miss Marie Adams, Field Director. Miss Adams states the Wednesday night sessions are eagerly looked forward to by the men and that they consider it one of their best projects under the American Red Cross. She stresses the fact the dances presented to the men for participation should be very simple, saving the elaborate dances for exhibition purposes. She hopes the folk dance groups will be able to participate in a holiday festival at the hospital, with all dancers gathering for the day, similar to the program presented last June.

In the meantime, Federation clubs are taking their turn to provide dancing and entertainment for the patients each Wednesday evening.

CHANG'S HOBBY SHOW

Chang's International Folk Dancers may proudly say, "We did it again." Their hobby show on Sunday, October 7 was an outstanding achievement and demonstrated the organization and interest pointing to the success of the day. To those who missed this affair, we can say that you missed something exciting and unique.

A variety of hobbies ranging from poetry through sculpture were interspersed among decorated international food booths. (And the food was good!) Those present had the impression of being at an international fair and one continually discovered new things to attract the eye, and ear, as well as the stomach.

The new dances presented were well received. They included the Phillipine Carinosa (Madelynne Greene*); Swedish Dance (Dan McDonald*); Hungarian Csardas (Margarette Horvath*); Las Espuelas (Grace Perryman*); Dutch Dance (Grace Perryman*); Viro de Minho (Madelynne Greene*); Russian Mazurka (Boris Aberamson*). *--Dance Directors

Madelynne Greene acted as chairman; Dan McDonald, construction manager; and Angelo Sottosanti, decorations. Assisting the above as committee members were: Ann McDonagh, Peggy Giesen, Ruth Pierce, Jim Pierce, Edna Van der Wiel, Cliff Rather, Lyman Young, Alfred Kretschner, Soong Chang, and Jim Perryman.

The music for the day's program was varied and entertaining. It included a Portuguese Song sung and played by Jack Barry, Gilbert Kirkoff, Ronald Ramsay, Henry Koopman, and John Van der Wiel. Manya Klimoff assisted ably as pianist. The Hungarian duet received continued applause and the Russian Balalaika orchestra completed the musical feast.

Exhibitors of arts and crafts were: Ernie Lenshaw, Clyde Forsman, Marvin Hartfield, Robert Shinn, John Elsesser, Madelynne Greene, Gilbert Kirkoff, Peggy Giesen, Anne McDonagh, Grace Perryman, Eleanor Bates, Max Antlers, Angelo Sottosanti, Val Bleecker, Edna Van der Wiel, Frances Johnson, Harriet Chang, Larry Browne, Nick Sarabun, Soong Chang, Vilma Lenshaw, Dorothe Mow, and Lyman Young.

In charge of the booths dispensing delicious native food were: Italian Booth, Bob Gatto; Swedish, Ruth Howard; Russian, Manya Klimoff; Mexican, Grace Perryman; Hungarian, Margarette Horvath; Portuguese, Frances Shinn; and Phillipine, Edna Van der Wiel.

Carrying on the fine results demonstrated by Chang's Hobby Show, we would like to see the Federation create a similar project on a state-wide basis.

VOLUME I

"FOLK DANCES FROM NEAR AND FAR"

1. Have your club appoint a person to take charge of taking orders (be sure to include full name, address, and amount of money remitted to chairman.)
 2. Mail orders to chairman, Harold Pearson, 4218 Detroit Avenue, Oakland 2, California.
 3. Price: \$1.50 to subscribers to "Let's Dance" (one copy only at that price). \$2.00 for non-subscribers (no limit on number).
 4. DO NOT MAIL CASH. Make checks or money orders payable to Folk Dance Federation of California or Harold Pearson.
- FIRST COME FIRST SERVED!

YOUR CLUB AND MINE

GARFIELD FOLK DANCERS--Elizabeth Ann Howard

A Hallowe'en party is planned for Tuesday, October 30. Costumes, either folk or Hallowe'en are to be worn. Marianne Spalding is chairman for the affair. All are invited--8:00 p.m. sharp.

OAKLAND FOLK DANCERS--Betty Pearson

This group invites all Federation members to join them in a Hallowe'en party on Wednesday, October 31. Prizes for unusual costumes will be given, and masks will be the order of the evening. Current birthdays will be celebrated by the usual monthly birthday cake, coffee, and punch.

BERKELEY FOLK DANCERS--Walter Grothe

Recently the Berkeley folk dancers gave a 3/4 hour demonstration of folk dances at the Stage Door Canteen in San Francisco, and the dances were enthusiastically received.

SQUARE STEPPERS--R. C. Kennedy

Each girl brought a box lunch to a garden party in September that was enjoyed by members. Marsh Creek was the setting for the Square Steppers, Stockton, and Walnut Creek groups recently for a picnic, dancing, and a gala evening under the direction of Lawton Harris.

TURN-O-BEES--Betzi Flurschütz

On Sept. 19 eight girls of the group danced for and with the patients in Ward 51-A at the Oak Knoll Hospital. The evening ended with ice cream, a Viennese Waltz, and many invitations to return. Girls are urgently needed for the Monday night meetings at the Berkeley Y.M.C.A. 2001 Allston Way, 8:00 to 10:30. Just think of it--five to twenty extra men.

STAFF

Mrs. Ruby Biel, Editor, 8007 Hillmont Drive, Oakland 3
Mr. Clyde Evans, Business Manager, 8141 Idlewood Street, Oakland 3
Mr. and Mrs. Henry Glass, Assistant Editors
Miss Annemarie Steinbiss, Illustrations