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## IT IS MORE THAN JUST FUN

By  
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Some time ago you, the reader of this article, took up folk dancing, probably because you thought it might be fun, or because a friend asked you to come along, or because you heard other people talk about it and you wanted to still your curiosity. Anyway, you enjoyed it and found it very stimulating. You attended conscientiously and learned all the dances your particular group was doing.



The next step was a costume. You wanted to go to a Federation festival and, naturally, wished to look gay and colorful. Unless you participated in an exhibition the choice was not easy. You started investigating the costumes of various nations to find out which one you liked the best and the one most becoming to you. You looked through old issues of the "National Geographic" magazine or you went to the public library and looked through such outstanding costume books as "National Costumes," "French Costumes," "Il Costume Popolare Italiano" and others, or you dropped in at the local costumers and admired their beautiful pictures of authentic costumes.

Through the opportunity of this investigation you came across articles about the peoples of other lands, their customs and culture. Perhaps you were fascinated in finding some background material associated with your folk dance activity and started to read pertinent literature.

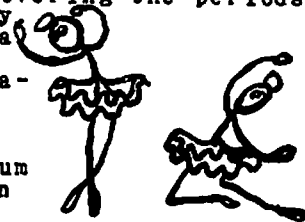
From that time on your eyes opened to things you had not observed before and you went out of your way to look for them. You visited stores that carried merchandise of other nations, such as the "House of Portugal" on Sutter Street or the Filipino store on Kearney Street or some of the Mexican or Chinese shops in town. You may have gone to the Russian War Relief store on Van Ness Avenue and inspected their display of unique articles. Then you looked at the programs of the movie houses to see what was offered in the way of foreign films and visited the Clay and Larkin Theater, or if you speak Spanish, one of the Spanish language theaters like the Teatro Sutro. You may have subscribed to the "Town Hall" series of films of and about other countries and people at the Veterans Auditorium from October 11 through April 12. Then you probably visited the Ballet Theater and saw Russian Ballets such as "Petrouchka" or "The Fair of the steps you are doing in of the Russian Opera in Sept. attend some of the symphonies would be presented.



Some night you decided to try the foods of other nations and you had a great choice of restaurants: Chinese, Swedish, Italian, Mexican, Basque, French, Russian, German, Dutch, Greek, Armenian and others.

Then one Sunday, on which there was no folk dance festival, you made up your mind to visit the local museums. Since it was a nice day you went first to the Golden Gate Park and dropped in at the De Young Museum. Looking for exhibits related to the folk arts you were interested in the show of old American costumes covering the periods from the early pioneer days to the beginning of the 20th century. You were surprised to see in the exhibit "Are Clothes Modern?" a Greek man's skirt and a Scotch kilt, such as you would like to have for a Scotch or a Greek folk dance costume. Upon investigation you were told there would probably be an exhibit of folk costumes this coming season.

Since you had such a successful visit at the De Young Museum you proceeded to the "Museum of Art" in the Veterans Building on Van Ness Avenue, where you had participated in or watched the



folk dance demonstrations last March. Dr. Grace Mc Cann Morley, the director, told you upon inquiry that the following exhibits and activities of special interest to you as a folk dancer are planned or scheduled for the coming season.

A Cuban Show (September and November)

A Mexican Exhibition (Spring)

Latin American Folk Art, Paintings, Costumes, articles of every day use (planned)

Creative crafts of European nations done during the war (planned)

Soviet Posters (direct and powerful, on and off on exhibit)

Reproductions of Soviet Folk Art (scheduled)

A Film Series every weekend (1st weekend of each month Latin American program of dances, masques and costumes for dances)

Another series of folk dance demonstrations (four evenings in March)



You left the Museum very stimulated and amazed about all the material at your disposal right here in San Francisco, and concluded that the more you investigated the field the broader it became. You find still other avenues of interest to explore:

Foreign language clubs, and foreign language courses at the University of California Extension or the Labor School

Night clubs with accent on foreign atmosphere

Nationality groups such as Swiss, Czech, Italian, Hungarian, Yugoslavian, etc.

A walk through Potrero Heights district, where the Slavic population lives

Dinners of Russian food which a Russian society gives occasionally in the basement on Sutter Street

And many more.

While on a business trip East you stopped over in Denver and visited the Denver Museum, which has wonderful collections of American folk art. You could even take a six day square dance course with Lloyd Shaw in Colorado Springs. In New York you visited the Museum of Costume Art, previously in the Rockefeller Center, now housed at the Metropolitan Museum, which has one of the greatest collections of peasant costumes of all nations.

And in addition to all this you would probably discover many other things and would pass on the information to your fellow folk dancers.

Then some quiet hour (if there is such a thing in the life of an active and enthusiastic folk dancer) you could sit back and think of the time before you started this activity. By comparison you would find how the unifying spirit of friendship and mutual interest that grows out of folk dancing enriched your life. Your horizon had broadened with stimulating new interests, and you gained a deeper understanding of other people and of the issues of peace and democracy. In the tolerance thus gained you proved there is more to folk dancing than just fun.



### SEPTEMBER FESTIVAL

A large, enthusiastic, and gaily costumed group of folk dancers from all parts of Northern California journeyed to Palo Alto on Sunday, Sept. 16 to be the guests of the Palomaniacs at the autumn festival of the Folk Dance Federation of California.

Roy Zellick kept the program running smoothly from 1:30 to 6:00 p.m., and although the day was warm the dancers could not resist the whirls and stamps of the popular dances chosen for the program. Coca cola "hit the spot," too.

The program struck a new and interesting note by presenting five dances which had been presented previously by different Federation groups as exhibitions, the purpose being to let all who wished join in and learn these fine dances. The response of the dancers proved their enthusiasm for this policy. The five dances all had a chance to learn and make a part of their repertoire were: Kanafaska (sponsored by Stanford Folk Dancers); Amanor Waltz (sponsored by the Fun Club); Russian Peasant Dance (sponsored by Chang's); Neapolitan Tarantella, (sponsored by Festival Workshop); Kukunjesto and Seljancica Kolos (sponsored by Yugoslavian Group).



The programs in the form of autumn leaves were extremely decorative and artistically illustrated by Annemarie Steinbiss. All who attended will remember this festival as a grand way to start the autumn season.

#### OCTOBER FESTIVAL

The Yacht Harbor in the Marina will be the setting for the October festival to be held October 14 with the Fun Club Dancers as hosts. Watch your bulletin board for full particulars, hours of dancing, business meeting, directions, etc.

#### NOVEMBER FESTIVAL

The Sausalito Folk Dancers will be hosts to the Folk Dance Federation of California on Sunday, November 11. Groups will receive posters for their bulletin boards with complete and concise directions. This will be the first time there has been a large group showing of folk dances in this area and the Sausalito Folk Dancers have interested civic organizations in supporting the event, including the City of Sausalito and the Sausalito Chamber of Commerce.

Transportation: In crossing the Golden Gate Bridge take the lateral that turns off to Sausalito at the north end of the bridge. Four busses leave each hour from the Seventh and Mission Street terminal. Half hour service for returning in the evening.

Central School, Caledonia and Litho Streets, one block from Bridgeway, the main street, is the locale of the festival. Weather permitting, the plan is to have a bonfire on Shell Beach for picnic suppers--so plan a weiner roast and enjoy a beach supper. The beach is two blocks from the school. Save the date of November 11!

#### VOLUME ONE--"FOLK DANCES FROM NEAR AND FAR"

Harold Pearson, Treasurer of the Folk Dance Federation of California has been appointed chairman for the distribution of Volume One of dance descriptions, "Folk Dances From Near and Far." Orders may be sent to Mr. Harold Pearson, 4218 Detroit Avenue, Oakland 2, California.

The price of Volume One will be \$1.50 to all subscribers of "Let's Dance" (each subscriber allowed only one copy for \$1.50), and \$2.00 to all non-subscribers, with no limit on the number of copies that may be purchased for \$2.00. Only checks or money orders will be accepted, and if the wrong amount is sent in the money will be returned to the sender. The chairman requests that each club make one member responsible for orders, sending a complete list of names and addresses and the correct amount to Mr. Pearson.

It is expected that Volume One will be published around October 10. More details will be given as received.

#### ERRATA

\*Ed. Kremers wishes to correct an error in his recent article. The Hatter was listed incorrectly as an English dance whereas it should have been referred to as a Danish Dance.

#### IMPORTANT--RE SUBSCRIPTION RENEWALS

Clyde K. Evans, Business Manager of Let's Dance, states that all subscription renewals must reach him by the 10th of the month following notification in order to receive continuous issues. IT WILL NOT BE POSSIBLE TO SEND OUT BACK ISSUES MISSED DUE TO LATE SUBSCRIPTION RENEWALS. All subscribers are reminded to renew their subscriptions immediately upon receiving an expiration notice. Address communications to Clyde K. Evans, 8141 Idlewood Street, Oakland 3, California. Subscription rates are \$1.75 per year.

DO NOT send Mr. Evans your orders for Volume One of Dance Descriptions. (See article on Volume One.)

#### NEW YORK FOLK DANCERS REQUEST-----

Mary Ann Herman, acting for Michael Herman, in a recent letter requests that we help them complete their files of "Let's Dance." We need your help in obtaining some back issues, so won't you please go through your files and see if you have extra copies of the following numbers. The New York group is willing to pay for them.

Volume 1--Numbers 1,2,3

Jan., Feb., March, April, July, 1945

We may look forward next year to a visit from Michael Herman who will gladly introduce us to some of their dances and lead us in others. This would be a grand opportunity for California groups, and we'll let you know as soon as possible other plans. In turn, we will introduce Michael Herman to some of the popular dances of California groups.

We are looking forward to an article about the New York group in the near future.



## YOUR CLUB AND MINE

### SAUSALITO FOLK DANCERS--by Wilma Young

The date of November 11--chosen by the Sausalito Folk Dancers as the date on which they will be hosts to the Federation--is a day well suited to a dance festival with dances of the peoples of the world. On this day everyone is conscious of the wars that have passed, with all too many customs falling into discard. It is hoped that we here in America can keep alive the dances and customs of those countries, to pass on to future citizens of war destroyed Europe.

Sausalito is the smallest group in the Federation, but is proud to say they are charter members of the organization. Although small and at various times almost non-existent, the group struggled to keep folk dancing alive in the community. Greatly handicapped for several years by being unable to actually be more than a class, those few interested in dancing have decided that bringing the Festival to Sausalito for November will foster greater interest in folk dancing.

### BERKELEY FOLK DANCERS--by Walter Grothe

The Berkeley Folk Dancers have a number of activities on their folk dancing calendar. An outstanding event will be the picnic planned for members only at the Marin Town and Country Club on October 7. Plans for the day include games, swimming, hiking, a picnic supper, and dancing.

The group also entertained at the Hayward U.S.O. on September 23.

The Berkeley group has a full schedule of beginners classes at John Hinkel and Willard School, plus an exhibition group on Wednesdays, and as usual the regular advanced dance night on Thursdays. An innovation is the presentation of one new dance every Thursday to increase the club's repertoire. Another innovation is a "fun night" replete with games and singing added to the program.

### OAKLAND FOLK DANCERS--by Betty Pearson

On Wednesday, Sept. 6, the Oakland Folk Dancers were honored by having the Federation Vice-President, Walter Grothe, as a guest instructor. Dances presented were: Sicilian Tarantella, Lesginka and Las Chiapanecas.

Lt. Ed Kremers, former president of the Federation, is now on the teaching staff of the Oakland Folk Dancers and is bringing the club new and interesting material.

Recently some of the club members danced for the Moose Lodge in Alameda, ending the evening by teaching squares to the lodge members.

Apparently garden enthusiasts of the Mulford Garden Improvement Club will wield a trowel while polka-ing along the garden paths. This of course will be the result of Harold Pearson's teaching at a fun nite of the garden club.

The club holds a party night the last Wednesday of each month at which members birthdays of the current month are celebrated. Special refreshments are served and an invitation is extended to all folk dancers to attend these fun nites.

### GARFIELD FOLK DANCERS--by Elizabeth Ann Howard

Wedding bells rang out in August for Rosemarie Grube, secretary, and Freeman Bovard, vice president, of the Garfield Folk Dancers. Welcomed back from overseas service was Dan Carrington. Plans are well under way for the party to be held the third Thursday of October.

### PALOMANIANS--by Annemarie J. Steinbiss

At their August Saturday night party it was regretfully noted by those present that several members were varying their folk dancing with vacations. However, everyone was kept busy helping the visiting couples become acquainted with the "old" members and "new" dances. Five couples, led by Roy Zellick, followed the example of other folk dance groups when they entertained Thursday, Sept. 13 at the San Francisco Stage Door Canteen. To round out the evening, the group visited the Berkeley Folk Dancers and gave a demonstration of "Jesucita." The Berkeley group is learning this dance at present.

### CHANG'S--by Jack Kaufman

Sunday, October 7, the date set for Chang's Hobby-Craft Show will include an International Food and Snack Bar which will feature 5¢ and 10¢ goodies and samplers among which will be cooking from the countries of Yugoslavia, India, Portugal, Philippine Islands, Russia, Scandinavian countries. Hostesses will include Margaret Horvath, Manya Klimoff, Edna Vanderweil, Ruth Howard, Grace Perryman, and Madelynne Greene. New national folk dances and songs from many nations will be presented. Other featured entertainment will include the showing of hobby crafts. Admission is free.

### FESTIVAL WORKSHOP--by Madelynne Greene

The second birthday party of the Workshop was held on Sept. 22 with about 30 members attending, dressed in oriental costumes, eating oriental food, listening to oriental music--and spending an oriental evening. Just two years ago they gave their first exhibition.

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