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Let's DANCE

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Our Greater Folk Dance Federation

(An Historic Event)

By
Walter Grothe, Vice-Pres., Folk
Dance Federation of California

We think the occasion of a meeting on March 10, 1946 in Los Angeles can be called an historic event in the folk dance movement in the Pacific Coast Area. Ever since the present administration of the Federation took office, it has been constantly considering ways of suggesting to the southern groups that they join the Federation. We have been discussing this idea with numerous leaders from the southern area on their local visits here, as well as corresponding with a number of their active leaders—and all expressed a desire for a mutual organization. It remained, however, for some enthusiastic person in the south to take the initiative and gather interested persons to formulate a plan. Thus, Katherine Jett, President of the Westwood Group, invited all southern groups to a meeting on February 2, 1946. The weatherman did not coincide in his ideas for the stated meeting, and the proposed outdoor festival had to be cancelled. However, the rain did not dampen the spirits of Katherine, and circulars were distributed announcing the new meeting for March 10, 1946.

Early in February President Lucile Czarnowski had called a meeting of Federation officers to draft a letter to the southern groups informing them of the Federation's desire to assist them in forming a sectional group as well as affiliating themselves with the Federation.

Henry Koopmann, Historian of the Federation, and the writer decided it would be a wonderful thing to attend this first meeting and festival in the south and to further the cause of the Federation by having representatives from the north there. To this end, we decided to fly down to this historic meeting. We were somewhat pessimistic of the weather at 5:00 a.m. on March 10, but we decided to make the trek and left

Mills Field at 7:00 a.m. After we were about 100 miles from San Francisco, we broke into a ceiling of blue and sunshine and felt much better. The trip was uneventful (except for an excellent breakfast on the plane and a pleasant chat with the pretty stewardess who was almost persuaded to leave her job and come to the festival with us), and we landed in Burbank at 9:00 a.m. At 9:30 a.m. we were enjoying southern sunshine on a bench in Griffith Park, waiting for the arrival of the folk dance leaders. At 10:00 o'clock they started to arrive, and we were put to work decorating the field with colored papers, blowing up balloons, setting up the P. A. system, etc. We immediately made friends with the leaders, especially Katherine Jett, with whom we had corresponded all these months. At 11:00 a.m. the meeting started with the temporary chairman of the steering committee, Tex Carter, presiding. After two hours of discussions, during which we answered many questions and went over the Federation By-Laws paragraph by paragraph, a resolution was passed to form the Southern Section of the Folk Dance Federation of California, with its own officers and treasury, and a pledge of close cooperation was made with the northern groups. After this momentous accomplishment, we all went to the festival to announce the successful results of the meeting and to open the first Federation festival in the Los Angeles area, in beautiful Griffith Park. In the meantime, about 200 folk dancers had arrived and with many spectators watching, we danced for four hours, and saw some beautiful exhibitions, such as Ray Shaw's squares, Paul Erfer's Laendler, the Pasadena Group's Hull's Victory, the Westwood Group's enthusiastic presentation of the Hopak (in which we joined), and several others. Most of the dancers wore costumes and it was a very colorful spectacle. The spirit and enthusi-

May Festival At Hayward

The Mulford Garden Clodhoppers and the San Leandro Folk Dancers, two of our newest members, will be hosts to the Federation on Sunday, May 19, for the first outdoor festival of the year.

The place is the Hayward Union High School football field, Hayward, Calif.

asm of these southern folk dancers is the same as the northern folk dancers, and is a guarantee for the growth and expansion of the section. We finished the day by dancing and dining until it was time to take the plane home. Katherine Jett and some of the other folk dancers bid us good flying, and we hated to leave. Katherine Jett's parting remarks were: "Isn't it wonderful how folk dancing brings so many congenial people together and how this common interest starts friendships which may last a lifetime." As our plane left the airport and we looked down on the lights of Los Angeles, we thought of our wonderful day, our new contacts, and we knew why we liked folk dancing.

We made one more promise before we left—that we would meet them again on May 11 in Ojai and that we would do all we could to stimulate interest for this first statewide festival. The southern groups expect to have about 150 to 200 dancers present, and they are looking forward to meeting their northern friends.

Again Henry Koopmann and the writer reiterate our appreciation for the wonderful reception given us by the southern groups.

Note: If you are in Southern California and want to visit some of their folk dance groups, contact the Recording Secretary, Virginia Anderson, 1127 North Vista Avenue, Hollywood 46, Calif., or the Corresponding Secretary, Katherine Jett, 10845 Rochester Avenue, Los Angeles 24, for information. The next festival of the southern groups is scheduled for April 7 at Griffith Park, Los Angeles from 1 to 5 p.m.

YOUR CLUB AND MINE

OAKLAND FOLK DANCERS—

by Betty Pearson

The Oakland Folk Dancers gave an exhibition for the Eastern Star on March 13. Unique cutouts of figures in costume were placed on the tables and added relish to the tasty food served. Oakland group is very busy working on plans for the co-festival with the Castle Promenaders on April 14 at the Oakland Auditorium, to be followed with a big party at the Oakland High School.

SAN JOSE POLKATEERS—

by Dorothy Frost and Linda Woods

"Happy Birthday" to us was the theme of the Polkateers St. Patrick's party. Guests were present from clubs at Agnew, Campbell, Santa Cruz, Los Gatos and San Jose State. The hall was crowded to capacity and everybody shared in the birthday cake, topped by a "Paul Bunyan" candle—a hundred people tried in vain to blow it out.

SAN LEANDRO FOLK DANCERS—by Betty Stalzer

The newest Federation club, the San Leandro Folk Dancers, are meeting on Monday evenings at the San Leandro High School with an enthusiastic membership to carry out an active program. Plans are now being made to be co-hosts with the Mulford Garden Folk Dancers for the May 19 festival in Hayward.

TURN-O-BEES—by Paul O'Bryne

The Turn-O-Bees who meet every Monday at the Jewish Community Center in Oakland are happy to have visitors at their meetings. The last Monday of each month is birthday party night, honoring those whose birthday occurred during the month. Last month Ethel Turner, club director, was honored with a birthday cake and a zesty toast by the membership.

MULFORD GARDEN CLODHOOPPERS

This group, new to the Federation, is mature in its enthusiasm and energy and is already planning a co-festival with the San Leandro Folk Dancers in Hayward. The Clodhoppers have been visiting several groups, among them the San Leandro group and the Turn-O-Bees. An invitation is extended to other groups to visit our group at Mulford Gardens—2½ miles outside of San Leandro—across three railroad tracks, past two cows—and, well, it's rural out our way.

GLEN PARK FOLK DANCERS

This group combines their dancing with picture taking, and recently donned their most colorful costumes to pose for photographers. The club is hard at work to raise funds to add to their record collection.

SCANDINAVIAN FOLK DANCERS

Many new dances are being planned by the club director, Vera Lindstrom. The Spring Dance offered at the Albany Festival was one of the ambitious dances planned.

FUN CLUB FOLK DANCERS

The Fun Club is having a blow-out turkey dinner free to members, Saturday, March 30. The idea is to have a general meeting, where the program for next year will be planned, nominate officers for the new term, and then dance. If your appetite is tempted, join the Fun Club and get your ticket from Norah Porter.

GARFIELD FOLK DANCERS—

by Edna Spalding

Lotte Mohr has just come home from a week of skiing in Nevada, and Barbara Bodenschatz has returned from a trip to southern California. Harvey LeBrun enjoyed a recent trip to Los Angeles, and Charlotte Johnson also has the travel urge and is going to fly to Kansas. The G. F. D. are relaxing momentarily after their well planned festival, but a greatly enlarged and unusual program of activities has been planned.

CASTLE PROMENADERS—

by Muriel Simpson

The Castle Promenaders are eagerly anticipating their outstanding event—co-hosts with the Oakland Folk Dancers for the April festival. Ambitious plans are being made with Millie Von Konsky as general chairman. Several Promenaders participated in an exhibition for the Canadian Legion on March 16 in Hayward. Looking ahead, the group is planning a pot luck supper for the monthly party, the first Saturday in June. The last party saw over 100 dancers gathered, including many guests from other clubs. Francis Ware, an outstanding caller from Colorado, was a recent guest of the group. Lawton Harris and a group of his dancers journeyed all the way from Stockton for an evening of dancing with the Promenaders, and took back with them the routines for the "Skater's Waltz" and "Las Altenitas."

THE PEASANTS—

by Bernis Van Valer

The first meeting of this group (combining San Carlos-Belmont Country Folk Dancers and the San Carlos Peasants) was called to order by President George Ritchie. Jeanne Taylor, instructor of the group, took pictures of the gathering. Refreshments were served as the dancers gathered around the fireplace. Hostesses of the evening were Mrs. Dave Sears, Mrs. Harold Van Valer and Miss Bernis Van Valer, assisted by Mrs. George Ritchie and Mrs. Marrapo.

DOCEY-DOE CLUB, Redwood

City—by Olive Johnson

Recently the group held their annual installation dinner at Sequoia Union High School, and after a lovely dinner and appropriate speeches, Dr. E. D. Mervy of Redwood City was installed as the new president. Mr. Walter Grothe was the installing officer, and Mr. Clarence Argo was the master of ceremonies. The group was musically entertained by Mrs. Jean Cloud. On Sunday, March 3, the entire membership of the group had a very successful festival at the Sequoia Union High School. The nine different groups participating ranged in age from three to seventy, and the afternoon was equally enjoyed by both spectators and dancers.

GATE SWINGERS—

by Barbara Miller

Hearts with lace and ladies of grace whirled to the tune of the Valentine election party. The decorative cake, colorful punch, and pink peppermint ice cream added to the enjoyment of the event. The newly elected officers of the club are: President, Bill Ballou; Vice-president, Dick Muchmore; Treasurer, Bill Winder; and Secretary Milly Rossbach. Have you heard that the new Thursday night folk dance session has started under their original director, Eileen Wade? It was off to a grand start when Ken and Eileen Wade were crowned King and Queen of Valentine's Day.

BERKELEY FOLK DANCERS—

by C. J. Halamka

A large group of Berkeley Folk Dancers enjoyed a week-end in the snow at Kiski Lodge, Norden, on March 29-31. Skiing and folk dancing are naturals for the club members. Ruth Sutherland is chairman for a May Day party to be held at the Claremont Club in Berkeley on April 27. Dancing around the May Pole will be a principal attraction. A contest is under way to choose the queen of the May.

POLK-Y-DOTS, WMCA, Stockton

The group demonstrated a few dances at the Y's annual open house on March 16. Dorothy Trachiotis presented Greek dances to the group meeting at Lafayette School on March 16. The group is looking forward to the big party night on March 30 at the Lafayette School. The folk dance instruction class on Wednesday evenings at the Y is going over big—57 present with most of the Polk-Y-Dots away on vacation. On May 10 the Polk-Y-Dots will participate in the Stockton Schools Spring Music Festival, doing 10 minutes of rapid-fire squares with a live orchestra and caller. Two groups of square dancers will take part.

SAN FRANCISCO FOLK ARTS GROUP—by Grace Perryman

The San Francisco Folk Arts Group will hold a discussion group on research of various folk arts, open to all Federation members free of charge, every other Friday morning at the San Francisco Public Library at 10:00 a.m. The first meeting was held March 29 in the Commissioners' Room and the subject "Lithuania" was discussed. At least 10 must be present in order to have the use of the room, so be sure and send someone from your group. For further details contact Grace Perryman, 7 Fielding Place, San Francisco 11, Calif.

INDIVIDUALIZED HEADINGS FOR "YOUR CLUB AND MINE"

Under our new paper set-up it will be possible for each club to have an individualized heading for their news items under "Your Club and Mine." The heading will be a permanent one with no cost to the individual club, unless they change their minds and want another heading—in that case the club will have to stand the cost of the new cut. Have an artist in your club send Bill Ballou your heading. They should be one inch high and one newspaper column wide. Also, Bill has asked for suggestions as to a permanent heading for "Let's Dance."

DO-CDO DANCE CLUB, Santa Maria—by Stephen J. Fairchild

On March 16 the group held a pot luck dinner and dance with 61 persons sitting down to dinner. The kids had their chance to dance before the adults and enjoyed the Danish Ring Riding game. Each child had a hobby horse to ride. The horse was cut out of plywood and painted with gay colors, and each child had a spear, and as he galloped past a ring on a stick he tried to spear it. The adults had a full evening

of dancing and especially enjoyed the square dances. The program included several accordion solos by Mrs. Isabella Hansen. The group is taking the lead in teaching some of these squares to the Campfire Girls and in forming other square dance groups. The members are looking forward to the visit of Mildred Buhler of Redwood City on April 5 and 6.

PALOMANIANS—by Annemarie Steinbiss

Valentine Day was the theme for table decorations for the monthly party, February 16, especially in honor of Boris and Jean Small's tenth anniversary. Good spirits were topped with a midnight snack of sandwiches, cake, and coffee. Former Palomanians who have returned from the service include Glen Johnson, home from India, and Walter Brainerd, who served in Alaska. The group in costume presented an excellent program at the San Francisco Museum of Art on March 15 and afterward joined Chang's at their regular dance meeting.

HI NEIGHBOR CLUB—by Joe Barry

After a suspension of activities for several months, the Hi Neighbor Club held their first meeting recently on March 15. The group meets the 1st and 3rd Fridays at 8:00 p.m. at the Webster School, 81st Avenue and Birch Streets, Oakland. Squares and old fashioned dances are featured by the group.

SPRING FESTIVAL APRIL 14

The Oakland Civic Auditorium will be the setting on Sunday, April 14, from 1 to 5 p.m. for the Spring Festival of the Folk Dance Federation of California. The Castle Promenaders and the Oakland Folk Dancers will be joint hosts for this affair. A feature of the afternoon's program will be the 25-piece orchestra under the direction of Dean Swindell.

Festivities will continue in the evening with dinner being served 300 folk dancers in the Oakland High School Cafeteria, followed by a full evening's dancing, exhibitions, and merriment in the Oakland High School Auditorium. Harold Pearson, 4218 Detroit Avenue, Oakland 2, AN 9722, is in charge of the evening party, and reservations should be made with him immediately. The dinner will be \$1.75 each.

In The Pot

TUNA FISH "A LA MARINARE"—Italian

Vincent D'Angelo who knows his Italian cookery gave us this recipe which we feature when we want an inexpensive, filling, and delightful dinner.

1 can tuna fish
1 egg
1 can packed tomatoes
Onion, celery leaves, chopped
celery, parsley, a clove of garlic & touch of allspice, and oregano, tablespoon of wine, cracker crumbs.

Brown clove of garlic in oil. After pressing garlic in oil, remove it. Make fish balls by mixing tuna fish with cracker or bread crumbs, add chopped celery leaves, onion, touch of oregano and allspice. Add beaten egg and shape fish balls. Brown



balls on all sides, add chopped celery, onion, and parsley and brown in oil. Add packed tomatoes (half can of tomato paste can be added if desired), bring to boil, and let simmer. Add a tablespoon of claret and burgundy and cook until sauce thickens (about an hour and a half). Prepare your spaghetti shortly before you eat and there you are.—Ecco.

(Grace Perryman, our Mexican Senora, has promised us a recipe for her Mexican Tamalitos Dulces—mmmmmm.)

The housing problem and its solution—our neighbor is an old timer from Indiana. She relates the days when house building merely required a little log raising. She says the logs would be cut in a short time and a house would be standing at a day's end. Thirty or forty neighbors would take part. Following the working day, all the women who spent time cooking would put on the meal of the men folk.

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By The Way

By "BUZZ" GLASS

Avis Landis, instructor for the Mexican Nationals in Oakland, tells us that a very fine Mexican picture, "China Poblana," has been showing at the local Spanish language theaters in Oakland and San Francisco. We notice that the outstanding Russian film, "The New Gulliver" is now playing at the Larkin Theater, San Francisco. Included on the same bill is a picture starring Paul Robeson.

We recently saw pictures taken by Stephen Fairchild of his Santa Maria Group. The photographer utilized colored film, and the Danish costumes of the dancers were very striking. Judging by the pictures, the Santa Maria Do.C-Do Dance Group is a very apt group of dancers—with many of their group of Danish background. They are outstanding in Scandinavian dances. We know from the pictures that many Federation groups would like to learn the Tinker Polka—could it be????

Did you know that our folk dancer Paul O'Byrne was the artist who designed the recent cover for the January issue of the "Folk Dancer." Ask a friend who subscribes — you'll find the cut eye-filling. We have known Paul a long time and it is little known that he was quite active in educational circles as well as a possessor of one of those merited titles.

The "Folk Dancer" notes the publication of a restaurant dictionary that should be an aid for those who want to translate their various international food equivalents. This booklet is sent free on request if you contact the Fishery Restaurant at 2 West 46th Street, N. Y. C.

On publications—Harmer Davis of the Research Committee showed us a magazine that featured almost completely native American Folk Arts. With an article on American Folk Dances, with suggestions for designing and furnishing homes in the folk theme, with a delightful map of the southern folk area—you'll want House and Garden for June, 1942, the Southern Highlands Section, Conde Nast Publication. Another collectors item is the

OUR NEW PAPER An Evening of

Irish Jollity

Paralleling the expanding and ever growing program of our Federation, we are presenting a new make up for our paper, "Let's Dance." With a pragmatic philosophy that is responsive to our ever growing list of subscribers, we want to give you a publication that will meet the needs and demands of an expanding program of folk dancing. We hope you like the new set-up for our paper with its many advantages in informing you of happenings in the folk dance world at large.

THE STAFF—Let's Dance.

article on square dancing in the first publication of "Holiday," the new Curtis Publishing Co. magazine. If you want to subscribe to something worthwhile in the folk field, page the French Folklore Bulletin, 320 West 86th Street, N. Y., subscription \$1.00. You'll find material on French folk dances, costumes, music, etc.

"Disking it out"—For those of you who have been wanting to get a record for La Varsouviana, we suggest you try Victor 20-1812B recorded by Sammy Kaye. Don't let the "swing and sway" title scare you for this is a delightful record particularly for the Texas brand of La Varsouviana. We feel that the disk would gain for folk dancers without the vocalizing. This music was danced, along with square dancing, in Warner Bros. "San Antonio."

Do you like rollicking schottisches for progressive dances that set your feet into motion without prodding? Well, "Skogens Blomster," V20077B and "After Brollopet," V24085, will fit the above description.

OJAI MAY 11

Mildred Buhler, Henry Koopmann, and Walter Grothe have been assigned the job of investigating all ways and means and costs of transportation to Ojai on May 11 and to coordinate transportation with the clubs.

We are certainly glad to see that at this early date over 100 of our dancers plan to attend this first statewide festival on Saturday evening, May 11, from 5 to 11 p.m. This will be our first

The Albany Folk Dancers were hosts to the Federation at the Albany High School on March 16 for "an evening of Irish jollity." The folk dancers paid full tribute to the spirit of St. Patrick with a full evening of lively dancing. A capacity audience lined both sides of the auditorium and enjoyed watching the varied and ever changing mosaic of folk dances. The traditional Irish emblems, the liberal spread of green crepe paper, and the unique stage setting made the decorations for the affair outstanding. At the end of each dance a small boy and girl, cleverly costumed, would pull the gaily decorated two-wheeled Irish cart off the stage, change the dance-sign, and then roll it back on the stage. The clever programs were in the form of a green flag, complete with flag pole and yellow tassel. Three exhibitions were presented during the evening: "Kolomyka" by the Festival Workshop under the direction of Madelynn Greene, the "Norwegian Sword Dance" by the Scandinavian Folk Dancers under the direction of Vera Lindstrom, and "Grechaniki" by the Berkeley Folk Dancers under the direction of Gertrude Somerville. The hard working festival committee for the Albany Folk Dancers were: Master of Ceremonies, Dave Boyce; Decorations, George Jelton; Publicity, Vern Easter; and Programs, Louise Etzler.

chance to meet and dance with members of the newly formed southern section of the Federation. About 200 dancers from the southern section plan to attend. Betty and David Young of Ojai are in charge of this huge affair, and have been working hard to make it one of the most outstanding events in folk dancing. Deadline for hospitality reservations is April 10, 1946.

The information bulletin of the Russian Embassy tells of one Tamara Khanum who has a repertoire of 1500 songs and dances of 30 National groups. She performs in the language and costume of the country, what's more.