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Greetings of Your New President

This is the fifth year of our Federation and by now, it has become an established custom for the new President to send you his greetings and tell you something of his plans and ideas.

It is needless to say that I am very much flattered and honored to have been chosen by you as your President for the ensuing year and I am fully aware of the responsibility the office embraces. We are a rapidly growing organization. Many activities have been started during the last year which want to be carried on; many new ones have already been planned. The demands which are made of our Federation are constantly increasing as more and more people become interested in folk dancing as a recreational activity.

In order to administer the affairs of the Federation efficiently and to be able not only to take care of the demands made of us but also, to take the initiative in branching out into new and yet untouched fields, it will be necessary to take advantage of all the talents we have among our folk dancers. As one of the first steps of my administration, it is my intention to compile a list of people who are willing to work on Federation matters. Many new committees will have to be formed and there will be a place for almost every talent.

I shall try to visit as many groups as possible and establish a personal contact with every-

one of our folk dancers. But in the meantime, I would appreciate it if those who are interested in working on special committees and on special assignments would please come to me and talk it over.

The administration of our Federation should be a pleasure and should not be a burden on anyone. Therefore, I would like to broaden the basis, draw more people into this work, give assistants to each one of the officers and set up committees for special tasks. There is no limit to what we can do. The field of folk dancing with all its related arts is boundless. The more people we have at our disposal, the more we can accomplish.

I know that I can count on the cooperation of all our groups and I am looking forward to a year of progress and expansion in our Folk Dance World. Expansion, however, should not only be an endeavor to draw into the Federation already existing clubs but also, should strive toward the formation of new groups. We know of many regions where Recreation Departments, schools or groups of individuals are anxious to get folk dancing started and only need a little help, encouragement and teachers. We shall compile a list of available teachers in the near future and shall try to render assistance where needed.

Also, the forming of groups
(Continued on page six)

Allan Pelton, Southern President, Tells Aims

When I came to California five years ago, I spent much time finding a group with whom I could folk dance. Those were dreary months — may none of you, gentle readers, have to do without dancing for as long . . . if folk dancing is in your blood.

Lest this happen to other newcomers to this community, our newly formed Southern Section has published as one of its first services a continually expanding list of 46 known dance groups in this area. Our first three festivals have been highly successful. The friendliness with which we have been welcomed at visits to other groups has been heartwarming. The charm and spirit of our Northern Federation guests, Walter Grothe and Henry Koopmann, at our first festival helped to set this convivial tone as a fine example of folk dance behavior. Their advice and cooperation has been instrumental in getting us off to a good start.

The Federation is proving very much of a good thing. We are aware of and willing to face the hard work required before our section can function with
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The Mulford Gardens Clodhoppers are meeting every Wednesday evening in preparation for the Club's part in the San Leandro Fourth of July celebration. Ed Kremers is teaching new square dances to be used on the Fourth.



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ON RECORD

The writer, for many years intimately connected with recording companies, record collecting and record buying and selling, was asked by members of the Federation to investigate the possibility of obtaining folk dance records inasmuch as many folk dancers complain of a seeming impossibility of obtaining certain discs, not only here in the west, but also in the east. While in the east recently, dancers told of being able to get only Kismet pressings and that no other sources were available to any appreciable extent.

After extensive investigation, however, it was discovered that almost unlimited supplies of rare and excellent pressings are put out by small and almost unknown recording companies specializing in Scandinavian, Russian, Polish, Italian and other folk dance music. On hearing some of these made expressly for the juke box trade, the writer was amazed at their authentic flavor and perfection for folk dancing. Equally amazed were the manufacturers on being told that a greater potential demand existed among folk dancers, of whose existence, from a sales standpoint, they were unaware.

In all, the situation up to now has been a regrettable one. On the one hand, a manufacturer puts out, say 3000 copies, of an authentic "Polka Mazurka," well played by a Russian type orchestra. Then he finds it difficult to market this to the juke operators even though he changes its title to some such ambiguous one as "Beer and Cheese" to suit them.

On the other hand, probably 50,000 or more folk dancers over the country are biting their nails because Victor or Columbia do not repress their old masters on this one. One manufacturer, putting out an excellent Korobushka on one side and an equally good Hopak on the other, begged to know if I knew where he could "get rid" of a thousand copies which the juke boxes wouldn't take even though he changed the names to "Gremlin Polka" and "Pandoar Polka" respectively. Pleading the cause of western folk dancers in the Federation, most fortunate connections and arrangements were made whereby these rare and specially labelled pressings will

be available to Federation members.

Of the orchestras represented, the G. Vicari Orchestra was at one time, a leading seller of the Italian Columbia Series. E. Jarl and his Quintet for years has been the leading Swed'sh Orchestra in sales for Victor and his records comprised about 40% of all their Scandinavian pressings. He left them and is now with a new concern which includes records being made by E. Olsen's Quartet and Jarl coupling with Franzen, the great Swedish accordionist, on other numbers. Pressings and numbers of all orchestras are new and should be folk dance "collector's items" in the near future, if not now.

Through any record dealer you can now order Columbia No. 20322-F, a fine Sherr on one side and Tziganitchka on the other. It is played by Novinka Russian Orchestra.

Because of the great and increasing interest in the Viennese waltz, I have been asked to suggest or comment on recordings made of them. Unfortunately, most of the finest pressings are not generally available today but if an order can be placed through your record dealer to the distributor and, in turn, to the manufacturer, sometimes it brings the desired result. Most orchestras making recordings of them here in America play adequately but not well in the Viennese manner, excepting those of Marek Weber now on Columbia and formerly on Victor. The greatest recordings are pre-eminent those of European origin but with American pressings.

The Victor Album of Viennese Waltzes played by Anton and the Paramount Orchestra of London is an excellent one, as are also the current Columbia ones of Marek Weber. There have been literally hundreds of splendid pressings of Viennese waltzes in this country played by European orchestras but which have escaped the attention of folk dancers inasmuch as many of them have been released here solely through the German or International catalogues of the major record companies and must usually be ordered to be heard and secured. The usual recording of a Viennese waltz by American orchestras, such as Al

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FEDERATION PRESIDENTS

These are the presidents of the Folk Dance Federation of California, past and present. Left to right, they are: Walter Grothe, newly elected President, Lucille Cazrnowski, Clarice Dechant, Ed Kremers, and Buzz Glass. This is one of the seven large pictures from the first page of the Green Flash Section of the June 11th S. F. Call-Bulletin. We appreciate the fine coverage given by the Call-Bulletin to the June 9th Festival.

Our Advertisers

One of the things which our new and better paper makes practicable, is the incorporation of paid advertisements. The Federation Council has decided that "Let's Dance" may accept ad-

vertisements having a relation to the primary purpose of the publication—that is, to promote folk dancing and allied activities. Prices have been set at \$1.50 per column inch per month, or \$3.50 for three months.

Subscribers are encouraged to aid the advertising manager, Paul O'Bryne, 3263 Sacramento St., S. F. 15, We. 4508, in secur-

ing suitable copy. Subject matter would include records, sheet music, instruments, magazines and books on dancing, costuming, arts and craft materials, restaurants featuring international dishes, and other "folksy" items.

Check your local area for possibilities and send Paul some good leads.

PASADENA HOST AT FOURTH SOUTHERN FEDERATION FESTIVAL

Two hundred enthusiastic dancers cavorted on the large outfield area of Tournament Park in Pasadena from three till seven on Sunday, June 16. Allan Pelton, the new president of the southern section, and his entire committee deserve great praise for the many aspects of the festival. For the efficiency in the running of the program, for the fine planned program which divided the dances into groups of three in order that the second dance, a mixer, might bring together new combinations of dancers, and for the preparation of an ample space in which to do even a hambo with comfort . . . the Pasadena Recreation Association Committee should receive our thanks.

Four groups exhibited to enthusiastic applause. The "Tamle Reinlander," performed by five couples from the Sons of Norway Leikarringen in spectacular authentic Norwegian costumes was a delight to behold. The East Los Angeles Co-op Folk Dancers, under Paul Erfer's guidance, gave a pleasing demonstration with two sets performing the Danish Hatter's Dance. The Los Angeles Recreational Co-op did the "Slovak Polka." Most interesting from the Folk Spirit point of view was the presentation of three square dances from different countries and in different languages for the calls . . . by the Pan-American Dance Group of Los Angeles . . . "United Nations Squares. First an American square, with long dresses and cowboy hats, then, with the girls adding 'kerchiefs to their heads . . . A Jewish Sherr, and then the 'kerchiefs around their necks, and with sashes added to the men's costumes the four couples went into El Pericon, with calls in the native tongue. Here was demonstrated the true spirit of cooperation . . . here was a mixed racial group enjoying the dances of various cultures . . . and dancing in the traditional styles . . . to the enjoyment of the large audience.

Another fine feature of the Pasadena plans was the excellent loudspeaker system which had been donated gratis by the Technocracy, Inc. The timing and choice of music made the program run smoothly, and on schedule. So well planned was it that no omissions were necessary, although there remained

no time for requests. Frankly, after dancing for four continuous intensive hours we were hot, exhausted, but very happy. Another fine innovation at this festival was the presence of hot-dog stands at both ends of the dancing fields, so that no time was taken from the dancing by those who had desire for refreshment.

New personalities and new voices were enjoyed at the calling of the squares. Carl Myles, of Los Angeles, Jack Russell of Pasadena, Dick Noyes of Pasadena for a Paul Jones, and Jimmy Kleih of the Ski Mountaineers Folk Dancers who delighted us all with his calling of the Rout and Jimmy's Nightmare . . . had 160 eager folks swinging, allemanding, and do-si-do-ing.

About the only recommendation we would make to the Pasadena group when they are hosts again . . . and we hope they will be soon . . . is that they put a shade around the sun or plan the festival for a cooler evening, for it sure was hot . . . but we all had a swell time!

LILLIE FIALKOFF

The 50th Festival

"One of the nicest Festivals we've had in some time" was the right description for this Golden Jubilee of monthly Federation gatherings—and the comment was heard on all sides. The 9th was one of those "rare days in June" and the beautiful campus of the University of California was a proper and fitting place. The hosts were the U.C. Folk & Square Dancers, and Village Folk Dancers.

The council meeting in the cool and spacious Women's Gym Building proved more than usually stimulating to the representatives of the Federated Clubs gathered there, with Walter Grothe presiding for his first meeting of the year, and giving us such a preview of his ambitious and worthwhile plans for the coming term that we feel great things are ahead for the Federation and for every member club that will take advantage of all the useful helps he is developing. The presence of Katherine Jett and Esther Liptz from the Southern Section, and Stephen Fairchild, from our

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newest Santa Maria affiliate, added interest.

The exhibitions performed during the afternoon were Squares by the Redwood City Docey-Do Club, Lithuanian Quadrille by the S. F. Folk Arts Group, and Kujawiak by the Festival Workshop (this one later taught to the assembled multitude).

The highlight of the afternoon was the induction of the new officers in a quaint ceremony, led by the bare-footed Buzz Glass, the Federation's very first president. To the strains of the Nixie Polka, he wheeled and swooped to Ed Kremers, the second president, and with him in tow, gathered into their train, Clarice Dechant and Lucille Czarnowski in turn as third and fourth presidents. Whereupon the whole flight of past-presidents proceeded to the waiting this-year's officers, who firmly attached themselves to the polka-ing line-up as worthy and

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YOUR CLUB AND MINE

CASTLE PROMENADERS . . . A History and Word-Picture

Folk dancers are all familiar with that often-asked question "How did you happen to become interested in folk dancing?" or, "How did your particular club come to be organized?" Those of us who belong to the Castle Promenaders owe our initiation into this very enjoyable pastime to "Buzz" Glass. In January, 1944, "Buzz" was teaching dancing to students at Castlemont High School. He was interested in starting an adult folk dance group and with this in mind, asked and received the necessary authority from the Oakland Public Schools to go ahead.

The first meetings brought a few brave would-be dancers out. At the end of the first class, they left with an enthusiasm to bring all their friends and their friends, ad infinitum. Some arrived with a "do or die" look. Others nonchalantly strolled in to see what the public had been talked into now. There were a few "try anything once" people and some who were awed at seeing Mr. and Mrs. Glass perform the Hopak, wondering if they, themselves, could ever hope to learn anything like that. Some were just plain scared and positive they would not get out on the floor. Also, maybe some of the fellows came to see for themselves the cute "redhead who dances with the instructor all the time and probably is his wife (darn it)."

Anyway, regardless of what brought them, in a very short time, "Buzz" had a class of 54, mostly beginners. After everyone relaxed a little and came to the conclusion that everyone was too busy with his own feet to watch others, the tense look was gone and all at once, people realized, "why, this is really fun!" From then on, nothing could stop the dancers.

In March, 1944, the first business meeting of the Club was held and Castle Promenaders was chosen for the name of the group. Mr. Glass gave the Club a brief history of the Folk Dance Federation of California and proposed affiliation with it.

In April, 1944, the Castle Promenaders were hosts to the Festival. This was quite an undertaking for such a newly formed group but they went ahead and a very successful Festival was held with some 300

dancers participating. In 1945, we were again hosts to the Federation with 500 guest dancers. In April, 1946, Castle Promenaders and The Oakland Folk Dancers were co-hosts to the Festival with dancers numbering around 1000. Thus, as each year passes, the Club has expanded and accomplished more and more.

During the last two years, we have had guest teachers at our Club, teaching us new dances. Avis Landis taught the group some of the Mexican national dances. Kitty Forester visited the Club, showing us English country dances. A number of visiting servicemen were excellent callers and introduced new squares. We feel we have learned much since those early days when we first mastered "Wooden Shoes." It is a grand feeling to become acquainted with each new dance and learn to do it well. We are eager for more, but as we learn, we want to dance for the relaxation, the fun, the glory and the spirit of dancing.

We would like our fellow folk dancers to visit our Club. We meet the second and fourth Friday of every month at Castlemont High School in Oakland. Also, we have a party dance the first Saturday of every month at Durant Park in Oakland. Come and see us!

SHIRLEY CASE

The 50th Festival

(Continued from page Four)

lineal descendants of those hard-working administrations, and the whole lot of them danced off the field to the accompaniment of popping flash bulbs and appreciative applause.

Dinner time found us more than ready for the food prepared so well by the Village Folk Dancers. Charming decorated tables were grouped in the lunchroom of the Whittier Elementary School, and the crowds of hungry folk dancers were soon served big, hot portions of a succulent ham dinner (even seconds and thirds were available).

Needless to say, we danced far into the night—and the number of dancers increased, if anything. Good floor, different records, and a gay crowd were irresistible, and they stayed with us to the very end.

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ON RECORD

(Continued from page Two)

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T. REINDOLLAR

(Edit. Note: Ted Reindollar has been appointed by President Walter Grothe as head of a clearing bureau for information on the availability of records.)

STAFF

Henry Koopmann, Editor.....1249-A Ninth Ave., S. F. 22, Calif.
W. S. Ballou, Business Manager.....857 Third Ave., San Bruno, Calif.
Paul O'Bryne, Advertising Manager.....3263 Sacramento St., S. F. 15, Calif.
Editorial Assistants.....Lillie Fialkoff, Cheryl Kleinhammer, Trudy Somerville

Folk Dance Festival

Under auspices of the Folk Dance Federation of California, the Sausalito Folk Dancers, directed by Wilma Young, will be hosts at the Festival, July 14th, from 1:00 to 5:00 P.M. It is sponsored by the City of Sausalito and the Sausalito Chamber of Commerce, and will be held on the beautiful, spacious lawn of the Marin Junior College Football Stadium, with majestic Mt. Tamalpais as a towering, impressive backdrop.

The Junior College is located in the center of Kentfield and is only a twenty to thirty minute ride from San Francisco by bus or private car. Ample free parking space is available at the Stadium. Light refreshments will be served on the grounds during the Festival. The event is expected to be one of the most successful yet held, and from interest and inquiry evinced thus far, should attract a record crowd of participants and spectators.

After the many and colorful dances, all are invited to the Alta Mira Hotel, Sausalito, for a sumptuous dinner, reservations in advance. Festivities there will include more folk dancing.

T. RHEINDOLLAR

FOLK DANCES

The business management of Volume I of the Federation dance book, is now under the direction of Ethel Turner, 3263 Sacramento St., S. F. 15, We. 4508. Orders for the book should be sent to Ethel. It contains revised copies of all the dances issued in conjunction with "Let's Dance" during the entire year 1944, besides much material of interest and value. One copy of the book will be sold to each "Let's Dance" subscriber for \$1.50; non-subscribers may purchase it for \$2.00 per copy.

Volume II, soon to be issued, will contain the 1945 set of dance patterns with revisions. Announcement of its availability will be made in "Let's Dance."

Calendar of Events

July 4—Patriotic Celebration—San Leandro — Afternoon and evening. Folk dancing from 3:30 on. Mulford Garden Clodhoppers in charge.

July 13—Federation Festival—Southern Section—Whittier College Gym, Whittier, California.

July 14—Federation Festival—Northern Section—Marin Junior College, Kentfield, California.

July 20—San Francisco Folk Arts German Beer Garden Party —8:30 p.m. Given by San Francisco Folk Arts Group, 321 Divisadero Street, San Francisco, California. Tickets obtainable from members.

July—San Jose State College Summer Session Folk Dance Day being planned under direction of Mrs. Jeanette Van Vleck.

August 4 — Exhibitions and general folk dancing Federation groups, Woodminster Amphitheater, East Oakland, 3:00-6:00 p.m. Costumes required for participants.

August 25 — Federation Festival, San Francisco.

Allan Pelton, Southern President, Tells Aims

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maximum benefit to all. The first year of our existence will be a critical one, for during that time will be formulated policies and principles which will guide our activities for a long time to come.

The precedent we are hoping to establish most firmly is the development of a spirit of tolerance and friendliness which is characteristic of most of the people who enjoy the art that means so much to us all.

In a current movie short touring the country the famous exhibition dance team of Veloz and Yolanda demonstrate interesting versions of the Chapanecas, Tango and Maxixe.

Greetings of Your New President

(Continued from Page Three)

for children and for girls and boys of high school age is on our program. Very little has been done in this field so far but there are unlimited possibilities.

It is, furthermore, the intention of the new administration to increase the activities of each office. There will be more publicity for each Festival in the district where it is held. Press releases will be available for each Federation affair. All events of our Southern Section will be published in our paper "Let's Dance" so that folk dancers who visit Southern California may attend these functions.

The office of the Historian will also expand its activities.

Among other things, we will make available to each Federation member a center of information where he may determine which records are available and where, be it locally, elsewhere in the United States or abroad.

The new Editorial Staff for "Let's Dance" also has ambitious plans for expansion, as has our Research Committee.

And then, in addition to our monthly Festivals, we are looking forward to another performance at Woodminster Amphitheater in August, to a similar function at Bay Meadows in September for the San Mateo County Fair, to another series of folk dance demonstrations at the San Francisco Museum of Art this winter, to our second statewide Festival half way between San Francisco and Los Angeles sometime during the coming year, and to many other affairs.

For all these tasks, we need your help, your enthusiasm and your cooperation and I know that we shall have it.

WALTER GROTHE,
President.

Those interested in learning the Tamborito and other Panamanian folk dances may contact Anita, Panamanian professional dancer and teacher through Mrs. Hamilton, International House, 1101 Vallejo St., San Francisco.