

Let's DANCE

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Lodi 1942--Ojai 1946

The history of the Folk Dance Federation of California with its beginnings in Lodi May 3, 1942, takes on its fullest significance when outlined against the greater Folk Dance Federation that will meet in the first all state festival in Ojai on May 11.

When nine groups gathered for the Lodi festival in 1942 in response to an invitation of the Lodi Folk Dancers, the leaders and dancers grasped for the first time the power and color inherent in a concerted action to unify our folk dancing program. The now familiar figure of hundreds of dancers moving in colorful and varied patterns made their vivid impression on the dancers gathered in Lodi and laid the framework for the growth and development that followed.

In the early days, finding sponsors for the various festivals was somewhat of a task. Starting under the handicap of wartime gasoline and tire rationing, the planning of festivals proceeded under many difficulties and challenges. How strangely our early beginnings in this respect contrasts with our present situation with festivals scheduled months in advance and seemingly a lack of sufficient months to complete the requests for host groups.

Though many of our dancers entered various branches of the service at the beginning of the war, the interest of people in folk dancing continued to grow. Compared to the 150 dancers and audience of some 300 at the Lodi festival, our last festival in the Oakland Civic Auditorium witnessed almost a thousand dancers and an audience of 8000.

From the first staff of three officers, it has become necessary to parallel the expansive growth of the Federation with an enlarged staff of seven officers and numerous standing committees.

Our Research Committee, originally organized as a short term project to publish dance descriptions of our Federation dances, has become a permanent adjunct

of the Federation, meeting regularly under its chairman, Lucile Czarnowski. Not only has this committee served to write our popular dances, but it has widened its program to bring new material to our folk dancers. Besides the work on the dance descriptions, the Research Committee has published Volume I, "Folk Dances From Near and Far," a book on folk dancing that is serving dancers all over the United States. In the near future Volume II will be forthcoming.

Our paper, "Let's Dance," pioneered itself with a beginning in January 1944 with a one page mimeographed sheet, and now we are publishing a printed paper of six pages with a circulation of 500 subscribers throughout the United States. This, we believe, is real progress.

The formation of the Southern Section of the Federation on March 10, 1946, emblazons itself boldly in our historic letters. With the full strength of our statewide organization, we mark our yesterdays and look vigorously to the outlines of tomorrow.

Today and tomorrow, the unity of Ojai should bring a greater glory to the Folk Dance Federation of California in its efforts to achieve outstanding recognition as a cultural institution.

Candidates For Office

President: Walter Grothe,
Clifton Rather

Vice President: Madelynne
Greene, Dan McDonald

Recording Sec.: Rosemary
Farrell, Lois Rodecap Rather

Corresponding Sec.: Jean Taylor,
Charlie Reindollar

Historian: Paul O'Bryne,
Grace Perryman

Treasurer: William Irving,
Earl Bodenschatz

Publicity and Extension:
Harold Pearson,
Sherby Ressegieu.

SPRING FESTIVAL

By Muriel Simpson

Folk dancers and the capacity audience will long remember the Spring Festival on April 14, 1946, as one of the most outstanding and gayest festivals. With the Castle Promenaders and the Oakland Folk Dancers as co-hosts, a crowd of some 1000 dancers plus an audience of approximately 8,000 were in attendance. The artistry of the decorating committee resulted in a beautiful spring-like setting with costumed figures surrounded by a real picket fence, green lawn, and artificial flowering trees. Paralleling the gaiety of the stage setting were the unique programs shaped in the form of a lady's and a man's spring folk bonnet.

Under the able direction of Deane Swindel, the festival orchestra delighted the dancers with their rendition of popular folk tunes for the costumed dancers. Mr. Swindel and his orchestra gave freely of their time for rehearsals and the performance and merits the Federation's appreciation.

During the afternoon, outstanding exhibitions were presented including: Scotch Quadrilles, Highland Fling, and Scotch Sword Dance by the Festival Workshop; Christmas Easter Dance by the Scandinavian Folk Dancers; Squares by the Redwood City Docey-Doe Club; and a Mexican Schottische by the Folk Arts Group. The respective leaders, Madelynne Greene and Phil Aldrich, Vera Lindstrom, Mildred Buhler, and Grace Perryman are to be complimented for the outstanding performances of their groups.

A colorful feature of the program was the Grand March directed by Dan McDonald, honoring Miss Lucile Czarnowski, President of the Federation.

The committees responsible for the success of the festival were: General Chairman, Millie von Kinsky; Decorations and Arrangements, Fred Johnson and Peter Piloti; Publicity, Peg Evans and Johnny Denis; Masters of Ceremonies, Buzz Glass and Dan McDonald; Orchestra, (Continued on page six)

ADVENTURING IN SANTA MARIA

By MILDRED BUHLER, Director, Redwood City Docey-Doe Club

Following an invitation of the Santa Maria Recreation Department, the Redwood City Docey-Doe Club journeyed some 300 miles to Santa Maria as missionaries of the Federation. Through correspondence with Mr. Nelson, Santa Maria Recreation leader, and Mr. Fairchild of the Santa Maria Do-C-Do Dance Club, arrangements were made to demonstrate popular Federation folk dances as well as providing teaching material for interested leaders in the Santa Maria area.

Advance publicity via the newspapers, radio, special displays, as well as a sound truck, provided a capacity crowd for the demonstration in the beautiful Veterans Memorial Building. During the evening's performance, the audience, to its surprise, was invited to participate in some of the simpler dances, and the crowd quickly filled the floor trying both squares and European dances. Their enthusiasm was keen and they were appreciative of our efforts.

An institute was planned providing special instruction for leaders and instead of the expected 15, some 75 eager enthusiasts showed up for the afternoon and evening session. (Some came from as far as 50 miles away.)

By The Way

On publication—the cover for Rosin the Bow, issued monthly by Rod LaFarge will knock you between the eyes. This folk magazine is published by Rod LaFarge, 115 Cliff St., Haledon, Paterson 2, N. J. Sub. \$1.50 yearly. From this publication we glean the fact that all West Indian dances are not of the hip rolling type. Many West Indian dances, says the author, are direct descendants of fashionable quadrilles, the old English country dances, the Spanish, French, and Portuguese dances of long ago.

Erwin Berliner, assisted by Catherine Shuford, sent us a compilation of folk dance groups, both affiliated and not affiliated with the Federation, in the Bay Area. We appreciate this information and hope to publish it in the near future.

NU? NU? The dance known in the United States as the rumba is called "the son" in Cuba and pronounced "sone." The rumba is a theatrical dance and requires room. Speaking of the Latin ac-

Through prior arrangements with Mr. Fairchild, we were able to bring the Santa Maria group records for the dances taught as well as dance descriptions. We found the Santa Maria people very receptive and by having the Redwood City group help the local people individually, we were able to cover a wide range of material.

The twenty visiting dancers were treated royally by their hosts. Unexpectedly, the City of Santa Maria furnished all hotel expenses and entertained with tours of the local district as well as swimming parties. We had a wonderful experience and feel that it vividly demonstrated the profits in pleasure accruing to this mission of neighborliness.

Note: Your editor received an overwhelming letter of appreciation from Mr. Fairchild of Santa Maria. As a result of the expedition, numerous requests for instruction and membership are being made to the local Santa Maria group. The Federation is proud of Mildred Buhler and the Redwood City Docey-Doe Club for their manifestation of the spirit of folk dancing and their furtherance of the work of the Folk Dance Federation of California.

cent, Panama is reviving the Panama National Carnival this month, featuring the National dance of Panama, "El Tamborito." Many local dancers remember Katherine Dunham who taught local dancers the intricacies of the Beguine. The same Miss Dunham has just completed an album of recordings of West Indian Music.

Newsworthy notes — Dorothy Frost, our recording secretary, is having our Federation Council minutes mimeographed each month and a copy sent to each group. We suggest you post these on your bulletin board, and keep up with Council news. We like the Newsletter published monthly by the Garfield Folk Dancers. With a neighborly chatty reporting on their local doings, this paper tells what is going on in our Federation and the folk dancing world at large. Their president, Earl Bodenschatz, distinguishes interestingly between "working members" and "ordinary members."

We recently enjoyed watching our local Portuguese neighbors dance the "Chamarita." It re-

minds us a great deal of a circle two-step at a slower tempo and with a snapping of the fingers. We thought the Portuguese ladies very charming in their long full skirts of different bright colored material, with black bodices. The men's costumes would appeal to those who want long trousers. They wore dark trousers, a colorful sash around the waist, white shirts, and a bright yellow or red beanie topped with a pom-pom.

MAY FESTIVAL

Sunday, May 19, will mark the date of the monthly Federation festival. This occasion will mark the last meeting to be presided over by Lucile Czarnowski, President of the Federation, and her present staff of officers. At the business meeting of this festival balloting will take place for the election of new officers.

Hosts for this outdoor festival will be the San Leandro Folk Dancers and the Mulford Garden Clodhoppers. The festival will be held at the Hayward High School, Hayward, from 1 to 5 p.m., with the business meeting scheduled for 12:00 p.m. The festival will be continued with an evening party held at the San Leandro High School Auditorium.

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The breeze in the trees — Californians like to boast of their Redwood trees—the groves in Santa Cruz, Marin, Humboldt and Mariposa Counties are truly inspiring. Matching the claim of the ancient Sequoias and Redwoods is a bold Cypress on the route of the Pan American Highway. This cypress has witnessed the Mayan civilization and the conquering armies of Cortez. It is sacred to the Indians and no one may molest it.

YOUR CLUB AND MINE

Chang's have an open invitation for each Federation group to send two couples to attend their Tuesday night dance sessions and learn new dances to take back to their groups.

The Mulford Garden Clodhoppers will meet only the 1st Wednesday of the month during the vacation season.

A new group of German folk dances is the current interest of the Berkeley Folk Dancers exhibition group under the direction of Madelynne Greene. A May day kids' party with a queen, May pole, singing songs, and childhood games was recently held at the Claremont Club.

The San Leandro Folk Dancers recently entertained the Mulford Garden Clodhoppers and both groups discussed plans for the next Federation festival.

Do you like pot luck dinners? The Garfield Folk Dancers issue an open invitation the 1st Thursday of each month.

The Fun Club members still remember with relish their turkey dinner. Members are busy rehearsing for an exhibition to be given in the near future at a festival.

The Palomanians report their box social a huge success. Special dance projects are the Jajopa, Krakowiak, and La Raspa.

Harry Wessenberg, Vallejo Folk Dancers' instructor, is pleasing his constituents. The coffee and doughnut session seems to complete their evening of dancing.

The Gate Swingers are keeping their ladies trim with their surplus of male partners. Fay Bowman of the YMCA is retiring and this outstanding friend of folk dancers will be missed.

Elwood Carpenter of the Glen Park Folk Dancers says their floor is the best in S. F. and says to come and "look see" some Tuesday evening, at the Glen Park Recreation Center at the end of Chenery Street, S. F.

The Santa Maria Do-C-Do Club was recently welcomed into Federation membership. You should see this group perform some of their Scandinavian Folk Dances.

The Turn-O-Bees exhibited April 25 at the Oakland Hospitality House and on May 2 at the Good Samaritan Neighborhood

House in San Francisco. The new club bulletin is really growing.

The San Francisco Arts Group has been active working their digestive systems as well as their feet. On April 27, the group sojourned to Fairfax where they had barbecued "Sushliks" (Russian) and a delicious Italian dinner. The party was topped with folk dancing. The contemplated Folk Arts Research discussion group will be delayed until further interest justifies the activity. On Saturday, May 4, the Folk Arts Group invite all Federation members to a Mexican Fiesta to be held at 321 Divisadero Street, S. F., from 8:30 to 12:00 p.m. Tickets are on sale for 50 cents and because the number is limited, they will not be sold at the door. Contact Grace Perryman or any Folk Arts Group member—you may reserve your ticket by telephone if you wish. These fiestas with a different theme will be held the first Saturday of each month.

The Lodi Folk Dancers are reaching their former level of a full folk dance program with the return of some of their members from the armed services. Because of the increased numbers in the group, a large hall is being secured. Duke and Mary Nepote, who were quite active in the Gate Swingers while stationed with the Coast Guard in S. F. are the new dance directors. The group is planning a dance night with Lawton Harris and his Polk-Y-Dots group in Stockton.

Mrs. Serena Arnold of the Modesto Recreation Department writes us a very interesting letter. Requested by some of the local Modesto citizens to start a folk dance group, the Recreation Department was surprised to find 135 people present at the third meeting and without any direct campaigning. The Modesto group is meeting on Thursdays and boast of having a Scotch dance conducted by a native Scotchman complete with bagpipes. A group of young Mexican people are also demonstrating Mexican dances. The group hopes to eventually put on an international festival at Modesto Junior College. (See our Ed. Kremers and invite our Federation.) For their popular square dances, the Modesto group is using a piano, with a fiddle and guitar accompaniment.

The Holy Ghost Celebration

—Its Story and Meaning*

Elaborate preparations are being made for the big Chamarita celebrations to be held in Half Moon Bay on May 27, 28, 29, and June 3 when the entire county is invited to participate in the festivities. Like our other Americans of various national backgrounds, the people of Portuguese descent, descendants of Portugal and the Azores Islands have their "big day." The day that appeals to them is Pentecost Sunday, the Portuguese Thanksgiving Day, observed as partly a religious and partly a social celebration.

From the social aspects of the day, with its sports, entertainment, dancing and barbecue, it came to get the name of the Chamarita Celebration. The day takes its name from the old country dance, the Chamarita, always associated with the festival in the islands. In the course of the dance, the male dancers frequently change partners for the next movement of the dance. The invitation to change partners was voiced in a chant: "Chama Rita, Chama Rosa! Que Bonita! Que Formosa!" Translated it means: "Call up Rita, Call up Rosa, so sweet and pretty—on it goes." And thus centuries ago did they dance the Chamarita in the Azores Islands.

To those islands in days of long ago came a series of calamities—stricken by volcanic eruptions and earthquakes, and a blight that threatened the crops and vineyards. The people were in a grip of famine and destitution. Situated in mid-Atlantic 800 miles from Portugal, the islanders were in a serious situation. The tradition has it that they prayed and on Pentecost Sunday a vessel fully laden with provisions came in answer to their prayers to the harbor of Pico. The food was distributed and the pestilence happily averted.

When Queen Isabella of Portugal heard how the precarious situation had been averted, she, accompanied by her maids of honor, carried her royal crown through the streets of Lisbon and on arriving at the cathedral left it on the altar as a votive offering of thanksgiving. Thus was begun the tradition of the parade to the church—the Queen of the

(Continued on Page Four)

SAN FRANCISCO MUSEUM OF ART EXHIBITIONS

In view of the success of last year's folk dance demonstrations, Dr. Grace Morley, Director of the San Francisco Museum of Art, issued another invitation that again gave results meeting with the approval of all. The series was arranged for four Fridays of March, with 65 dances presented by the following groups: Chang's International Folk Dancers, Redwood City Docey-Doe Club, Palomarians, Folk Arts Group, Berkeley Folk Dancers, Scandinavian Folk Dancers, Stanford Folk Dancers, Festival Workshop, and Czechoslovakian Sokol Group. Not only were the costumes outstanding, but the national dances demonstrated varying from Filipino to Scotch gained the complete approval of the audience. In addition to the dance program,

short addresses pertinent to folk dancing were delivered by Lucile Czarnowski, Buzz Glass, and Walter Grothe. Credit for the well received performances should go to all dancers who rehearsed many months, their leaders, and Dan McDonald, who furnished and engineered the P.A. system. The paintings of folk dance scenes by Wilma Stambaugh lent a beautiful background to the demonstrations. Ed Kremers capably acted as master of ceremonies on the last two evenings. The Museum officials were well pleased with the results and expressed a desire that the folk dancers would dance again next year. The Federation may feel proud of its opportunity in appearing at this popular and outstanding cultural center.

ARE YOU AN ACTIVE FOLK DANCER?

To anyone who watches our fellow folk dancer whirl through an evening's dancing, the query, "Are you an active folk dancer?" seems to be a paradoxical question. Thus, when we sound forth in unmeasured tones, we mean to imply, do you merely participate or are you an active in folk dancing. We as individuals really become an integral part of our folk dancing group when we assume a guiding hand in setting its policies as well as its development. Our activities may range from actually voicing an opinion at our club meetings to working on one of the many committees that our folk dance groups develop in the course of their activities. The experiences of those who have manipulated the policies and activities of your group offer testimony to the joy that results with a "doing philosophy."

Beyond the scope of our individual groups, we believe the active folk dancer has an interest in his Federation. The Federation, as the common denominator of our various types of groups and individuals, needs the inspiration, the enthusiasm, and the support of its various groups as well as their members. By thus directly or indirectly applying our interest and energies to folk dancing we are shaping and enlarging our mutual activities to the pleasure and social profit of all concerned.

HENRY GLASS, Editor.

Calendar of Events

May 5—Spartan Spinners of San Jose State College invite all folk dancers to a May party at the San Jose State Men's Gym, corner of South 4th and San Carlos Streets, San Jose, from 2 to 5:30 p.m.

May 11—State-wide festival, Ojai, California, Saturday evening from 5 to 11 p.m.

May 19—Monthly Federation festival, Hayward High School, Hayward, San Leandro Folk Dancers and Mulford Garden Clodhoppers, hosts, 1 to 5 p.m.

May 22-25—12th Annual National Folk Festival, Cleveland, Ohio.

June 2—Monthly Federation festival, University of California, U.C. Folk and Square Dancers, hosts.

July 14—Monthly Federation festival, Sausalito Folk Dancers, hosts.

Does Your Club Want To Sponsor A Festival?

Lt. Com. Ed Kremers, 420 Jones Street, San Francisco 2, Calif., and his committee have been granted authority to assign festival dates without bringing it first before the Federation Council. There has been such a demand to sponsor festivals that groups have already been scheduled as far as November. For further information write Lt. Com. Kremers.

The Holy Ghost

(Continued from Page Three)

Day and her attendants — the placing of the crown on the altar during Mass and some of the other ceremonies connected with the occasion.

In memory of this event, the Islanders have always cherished a special devotion to the Holy Ghost. The beautiful custom of extending a more liberal charity to the needy and afflicted on this day is still preserved in the islands and hospitality is a big note of the celebration.

***We are indebted to Dorothy Tamburini of San Carlos, California, for the clipping from the Half Moon Bay Review from which we gleaned the above information.

Note: The Research Committee has been attending numerous Portuguese affairs and is contacting members of the Portuguese colony to arrange for descriptions of their dances. These should appear in the near future.

In the clothes closet—picturesque Jeanne Crain has that certain quality that goes with clothes in the peasant style. Throughout the picture "State Fair" she caught our eye (masculine, we admit) with her peasant styled frocks. Harper's Bazaar, October, 1945, had something for les jeunes filles. Guatemalan shirts seem to be the eastern rage. In handwoven black or blue numbers of cotton, you will find blue, white, yellow, and red figures of people and animals. Encore, one of the swank clothing salons in Harper's Bazaar, featured an evening dress that has the bold abandon of a Spanish gypsy skirt—something for the eyes. One of San Francisco's local artists has a talent in making block prints. Ruth Crawford is her name and her present penchant is using various peasant motifs in blouses. She promises an article soon on her hobby and industry.

We think folk dancers are generally pleased to see Hollywood using folk dances as background material for various pictures. Unfortunately, the Hollywood dance director usually chops and skewers our folk dances to the winds. We did enjoy watching B. Stanwyck and D. Morgan enjoying a Virginia Reel in "Christmas in Connecticut." Some "coronerographer" concocted to do the same for "State Fair." Informant Phil Hodak tells us there is folk dancing in the picture "Hollywood and Vine."

Our Southern Section Reports

By Virginia Anderson

Among the outstanding groups in the south are the Hollywood Folk Dance Center, Paul Erfer, Director; Westwood Cooperative Folk Dancers, Bob Satten, President; and the Pasadena Recreation Coop, Allen Pelton, President. There are many square dance groups and most of these are sponsored by the Los Angeles Recreation Department. Outstanding among those are the Silverlake Dance Group and the North Hollywood Do-Si-Do Club. The Westwood group is very active in outside interests and goes bicycling, skiing, hiking, etc.

We started our southern branch of the Federation with eleven groups, and now have thirteen as listed below: Los Angeles Recreational Co-Operative, Hollywood Folk Dancers, Hollywood Peasants, Westwood Co-Operative Folk Dancers, W. L. A. Playground, Silverlake Dance Group, LaVerne College, Pasadena Recreation Co-operative, Eastland Folk Dance Co-operative, Jarabe Club, Whittier Folk Dance Group, Community Art Center Dancing Branch (OJAI), Pan American Dance Group.

The various groups are actively engaged in research work on costumes and at the last festival one of the groups demonstrated the Hopak with complete Russian costumes. Furthermore, the girls really pitched in and made the blouses for the fellows.

Following an informal poll of our southern dancers, the following are among the most popular dances in this region: Hambo, Korobushka, Neopolitan Tarentella, Scandinavian Polka, the square Texas Star. Schottisches and polkas in plain and fancy versions are very popular as are various versions of La Varsouviana and the European waltzes.

Recently the Hollywood Do-Si-Do Club were hosts at a square dance contest in San Fernando Valley. In spite of torrential rains, 350 paid admissions were registered.

Among the recent visitors to the April festival of the southern groups were David and Betty Young, now of Ojai and formerly of the Bay region. Everyone is quite enthusiastic about their invitation to attend the Ojai all-state festival May 11 and a large representation will be on hand.

Among the personalities active in the southern area is Tex Carter, who has started many of the

In The Pot

TAMALITOS DULCES

(Little Sweet Tamales—Mexican)

"A bowl of thanks" to Grace Perryman for this recipe. If the dish compares with Grace's Mexican dancing—ummmmm.

Masa
Dried corn husks
Sugar
Shortening
Salt
Seedless raisins

Ordinarily, the parched corn, the basic ingredient, must be soaked and ground which con-



sumes time and effort. However, the parched corn may be obtained all prepared and ground at any Mexican food store. It is called "masa." One can make 18 or 20 tamalitos from one pound of "masa." At the same store, one can buy dried corn husks in which the tamalitos are cooked.

Put the "masa" in a large pan and for each pound add $\frac{1}{4}$ cup of sugar, $\frac{1}{4}$ cup of shortening, $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon of salt, and $\frac{1}{2}$ cup of seedless raisins. Knead this well together and taste the mixture. The "masa" is never quite the same—sometimes it absorbs more sugar, sometimes it needs more shortening, and it may be a bit dry and need a little more water, but work with it until it is a soft

folk dance groups in outlying towns. Write Tex at Box 65, Glendora, Calif.

For general information concerning southern groups, contact Katherine Jett, Temporary Corresponding Secretary of the Southern Section of the Folk Dance Federation of California, 10845 Rochester Avenue, Los Angeles 24. Telephone ARizona 3-8234.

mass that will hold its shape when made into a ball.

Now put a large tablespoonful onto a corn husk that has been washed in cold clear water and is still damp so it is soft and pliable. Fold the husk over the "masa" from each side, then fold it in the middle, bringing both ends of the husk together and tie it close to the lump of "masa" with a narrow strip ripped from another husk.

Have a large pot with a closed cover. Put two inches of water in it and a wire frame that sticks out above the water. Place the tamalitos upon this wire frame and stack them upon each other so that they do not touch the water or the sides of the pot. Steam them for about two hours, adding more water if necessary until the "masa" loses its white appearance and appears more or less opalescent. Serve them cold in the husk as a between meal snack or as dessert.

We waited a long time, but we finally received our catalog of records from the Archive of American Folk Song, Library of Congress, Washington, D. C. The collection contains some 6,000 records as a sampling of authentic American folk songs and will provide the record collector with plenty of material. We recently added Richard Dyer-Bennet's Keynote Recordings to our collection. We suggest you listen to his rendition of the "West Virginia Ballad," "The House Carpenter," and the "Charleston Merchant" — you'll be humming these and his other songs.

The first postwar issue of the American Square Dance Society's magazine came to press recently. Called "Promenade," it is published at 550 Riverside Drive, care of Margot Mayo, New York., and is \$1.00 per year. We notice that this group got back into swing with a television broadcast for CBS.

Small Valencia Oranges

The small size of the summer valencias is the result of a very large yield of fruit on the trees without the usual heavy drop of fruit, which is nature's way of thinning overladen trees. The few large oranges are going overseas. The army also is purchasing small oranges for use of the armed forces in this country. The little oranges are as sweet and juicy, and the juice rates as high in vitamin content as that from large oranges.

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By The Way

By Buzz Glass

Ruth Burchenal, Secretary of the Folk Arts Center, Inc., National Committee on Folk Arts of the United States, sends her greetings to California Folk Dancers. She says anent our "Let's Dance"—"Congratulations on this lively and informative publication which gives such a bird's-eye view of California folk dancing."

David Young, Chairman of the Ojai festival, tells us that the Jarabe Dancers of Pasadena are going to exhibit some new and outstanding Mexican dances at the Ojai festival. Wheeler Springs, says David, is not only fine for swimming and breakfast for Sunday, May 12, but has the distinction of being the smallest Post Office in the U.S.A.

Lee Owens, our faithful correspondent from Palo Alto, tells us that you can get all the Henry Ford records you wish by writing to Henry Ford, Dearborn, Michigan. They'll send you a catalog and order blank and you'll receive your records within a few weeks.

One of our local dancers, while in the service in Australia, remarked on meeting a Russian Red Cross group. Rubbing his hands with anticipation of learning some fancy Russian steps, he ended up by teaching them some of our Russian dances.

The Folk Dance Federation has been getting some outstanding publicity lately via pictures and articles in the newspapers (both in the South and North) and the radio. Robert Hemmig of Los Angeles has contacted a number of national magazines re the use of material on folk dancing and says he has received an enthusiastic response. This same said Robert Hemmig had an assignment with the Library of Congress in 1940-41 titled "A Documentation of Folk Songs and Dance."

Collectors' Item. If you want to add something really outstanding, and we emphasize the really, get the House and Garden Issue of the Pennsylvania Dutch, June, 1941. It's really a carload of information and illustrations concerning this interesting group of people who contribute to the rich cultural pattern of our nation.

Style in Square Dancing

By Lee Owens, Palomarians

Style in square dancing—what is it? Just good dancing and nothing else. The music, the type of figures called, and the manner in which they are called will dictate the "style" employed by the dancers. Whether they swing with a "buzz" step or a walking step, whether twirls and flourishes are used, or just straightforward dancing, executing the figures with the least motion in the least time is the desired end.

In groups that do square dancing, there is usually a live orchestra, and a caller, and the group following their caller develop their own style. In our Federation groups, many types of music will be used with different records, and both calls and musical phrasing very in execution. Many groups that do not have callers dance almost entirely to records and make the mistake of using the same technique with a live caller as they used with called records. It doesn't work. The two types of dances are too entirely different.

To my mind, the best style of square dancing is the straightforward mountaineer style which stresses smoothness and fluency of dancing and leaves no time for anything but the indicated figures. Then, if you find that the caller is giving you enough time for it, put in any of the flourishes to fill in the dead spots. If the caller starts to bear down, or the music is fast, just forget the fancy twirls and whirls that you haven't time for, and just "pick 'em up and lay 'em down" and you'll get there.

Beating the call may be a cardinal sin in square dancing, but holding up the set and the caller while you put in an extra flourish, or dancing so indifferently that your set falls behind the call is downright inconsiderate, rude, and selfish, and those qualities just don't belong in any dance.

The test of a good square dancer lies in being able to get through the fastest figures and loaf while doing it. You can accomplish this if you dance properly. You should never scramble

or rush, regardless of the call, and a good caller is always a few beats ahead of you with his call. Finish what you are doing, then go on to the call he gave you next instead of leaving one figure half finished because the call has been voiced prior to your completion of another figure. Let the caller stay ahead of you. He's trying to, but folks won't let him sometimes. And finally, remember that square dancing is dancing, treat it as a dance. It's your own native dance and requires a lot of "know-how." As folk dancers, we should be able to dance all of the various styles and types of squares found in our country, and that includes running sets, longways, circle quadrilles, lancers, quadrilles, and singing quadrilles, as well as western cowboy squares.

VOLUME I AND VOLUME II

Copies of Volume I, "Folk Dances From Near and Far" have been exhausted, but more are being re-printed and should be ready within a few weeks. Please hold your orders until it is announced to whom to address them.

Volume II, which is now being printed, will contain 31 dances, dance steps, bibliography, dance positions, etc., and will be out by July at the latest. Watch for further announcements.

SPRING FESTIVAL

(Continued from page one)

Deane Swindel; Programs and Reception, Frank Durant, Vernon von Kinsky, Eleanor Huntze, Girl Scout Troop 16, Frankie Glass.

The day was topped by a dinner and gala party at the Oakland High School. The cleverly fashioned costumed dolls were made by Betty Stalzer, Irene Johnson and Vi Stewart. Later the dolls were auctioned off to the folk dancers with spirited bidding for dolls. The Hawaiian dances featured on the evening's entertainment were well applauded and presented by Jeane Gutfeld, Bernice Bartram and Betty Pearson. Ed Kremers performed capably as master of ceremonies. The party chairman was Harold Pearson with Betty Pearson, Irene Johnson and Betty Stalzer in charge of dinner and decorations.