

# WHO'S WHO

ANN and BILL D'ALVY

Folk Dancing, to the majority of those who enjoy it, is a hobby - - one of a variety of social activities enjoyed by each person. However, with a relatively small number of people it has become "a way of life" -- their main interest outside their job or profession. So it is with Ann and Bill D'Alvy, Mill Valley residents, and one of the Marin dance movement's most attractive and best-known couples.



## ANN and BILL D'ALVY (continued)

Both have been dancing for a number of years. Ann discovered the ethnic scene in 1952, as a chaperon for a student group at Sir Francis Drake High School, and Bill 'way back in 1945, as a beginner in Ethel Turner's class at Marina Junior High. He had received an ultimatum; learn folk dancing or give up semi pro baseball. The reluctant dragon was soon teaching five classes a week under adult education, one of these assignments being replacement for Soong Chang while he went to Europe. Finding a dearth of square dance callers, Bill attended classes and began calling, also.

With both of them dancing in Marin a meeting was inevitable. It happened at a "Ladies Whim" party, hosted by the Mill Valley Folk Dancers in May, 1957. During that summer Bill, with Ann as co-instructor, began a workshop at College of Marin, instructing in new Federation-approved dances. Friendship was replaced by romance, and they were married in September of 1958.

They have served in just about every capacity concerning folk dancing - both have been officers of the Hardly Ables Club of Marin; they still hold a "rather inactive" membership in Changs International Folk Dancers; they belong to the Step Togethers of Marin, and take charge of each Fourth Saturday party running the all-request program at a fast, but most enjoyable pace. They have performed in a specially-organized exhibition group, directed by Millie von Kinsky, which presented finale dances in the past two Folk Dance Concerts in conjunction with Statewide; Ann served two years as Federation Secretary, and Bill, one year as President, 1967-1968; during this Spring's Teacher Training Program they "came early and stayed late" at each session, providing the sound system, and playing the records, freeing the instructors from this task; they seldom miss a festival, Assembly meeting, or Marin dance activity.

The month of July means the Annual Kentfield Festival, now a two-day event, sponsored by the Marin Dance Council, Inc. This Council realizes there is a need for basic instruction in American square dancing, which is always included in a festival or party program. To this end, Bill will offer an institute on Saturday, July 12, 1969, beginning with basic pattern calls and going on to some of the current favorites. Regarding squares as integrated into folk dances, Bill has this to say: "Many folk dance teachers do not teach American squares and new dancers are finding it increasingly difficult to learn the fundamental basics of square dancing and experienced dancers are not able to keep up with many of the newer patterns." He is adding an extra half-hour of instruction in this field once a month at his Tuesday night Workshop, hoping to combat this problem.

Yes, they do have something to do every day to keep them busy!! Ann is a secretary with the Tamalpais Union High School District, and Bill is an optician and contact lens fitter at Permanente Hospital in San Francisco. If you can't see the person dancing in front of you, clearly, see Bill!

ANN and BILL D'ALVY (continued)

To keep her hands busy during long meetings and such Ann can be observed doing embroidery in all forms -- her work is lovely to look at. And when a "motion to adjourn" one of those sessions is needed, Bill D'Alvy has the fastest draw in the West!

If you are fortunate enough to meet this charming couple you will enjoy their company and contributions to folk dancing - we do!

*Suzy Martine*