

People Worth Knowing

JAMES A. DE PAOLI

By Millie von Konsky

If the Folk Dance Federation of California had a diplomatic corp, James De Paoli would, without doubt, be a top contender. He is knowledgeable, dignified and a man with high moral courage and a deep sense of responsibility. Unrelentingly, he has assisted in the guidance of the Folk Dance movement; openly when necessary, yet always unobtrusively. In all Federation matters, whether regional or state-wide, he has advised his associates with a thought toward a future folk dance movement of continuity and growth.

With great enthusiasm, James De Paoli will tell you his one and only hobby is folkdancing; however, time and again during the past twenty years he has accepted Federation administrative responsibility by counseling in the areas of budget, parliamentary law, and the managing of Oakland Woodminister productions. And speaking of Oakland, he has served the Greater East Bay Folk Dance Council as their president for two terms and takes pride in the fact that during this time the Council-Sponsored Beginner Classes were started. He is an active member and past president of Dancers Internationale, Swing 'n Circle, and the Merry Macs of Oakland. Yet we wonder if those who have asked for his assistance are aware of the fact that he has had extensive experience in civic activities and government. James De Paoli has held elective office of City Councilman for twelve years, Vice-Mayor of the City of Oakland for four years, and continues in his twenty-first year as manager of the Oakland Housing Authority, where the results of a University of California degree in law is put to daily use.

Those of us who know James see in him, along with a dignity fitting his position in public life, a delightful sense of humor and a warmth and spontaneity typical of his Italian background. He enjoys conversing in Italian, French, Portuguese and Spanish, and understands and speaks Shoshone Indian. James was born in Eureka, Nevada, one of five children, where his father operated a cattle and sheep ranch, forty miles from the Indian Reservation. He was reared among the Indian children and each year his Indian friends make a great preparation for his annual visit during the hunting season.



JAMES AND LILLIAN DE PAOLI

Photo: Lamb's Studio, Oakland

It is said "behind every successful man is a woman". You have but to meet Lillian De Paoli, James' wife, to realize that this statement is again substantiated. Lillian complements James in every detail as well as being perfect hostess and lovely to look at as his dancing partner. She is an active member of the East Bay Women's Dance Circle and has a perfect understanding of James' activities.

And so it is with gratitude that we thank James and Lillian De Paoli for enhancing the folk dance movement in several directions as good-will ambassadors wherever they go.