

In Memoriam

Bora Gajicki

(We wish to thank Dick Oates and Phantom Ranch for permission to use the following information and photo—Editor.)

Borivoj Z. "Bora" Gajicki was born in Gospodjinci, Serbia, on July 24, 1937. As a young lad, he went to Belgrade (Beograd), where he began dancing with an amateur group. Years later, after completing his military service, he auditioned for Ansambl *KOLO*, was accepted, and traveled extensively in Yugoslavia and Europe as a solo dancer with this famous troupe.



After dancing professionally with *KOLO* for seven years, he met and married Margareta "Marge" Tappia while she was vacationing in Yugoslavia. Bora immigrated to California in 1967 and started a small bookbinding business. In order to meet a need among folk dancers for Yugoslavian Opanci (dance shoes) and other items, Bora and Marge started a cobbler business in 1970, eventually giving up the bookbinding business.

He had conducted classes in Yugoslavian folk dance, directed the "Borino Kolo" Folk Ensemble, and appeared as a guest instructor at many folk dance functions throughout California and other states. Bora was on the staff of the Stockton Folk Dance Camp for several years and was a guest teacher at many folk dance institutes and camps.

In addition to devoting his time with his wife Marge and daughter Anna to the Folk Motif, a Long Beach, store specializing in opanci, folk costumes, books and related folk items, Bora continued to direct "Borino Kolo," which appeared at ethnic and international folk dance functions.

Bora and Marge bought the Veselo folk dance café, remodeled it, changed its name to Veselo Selo (happy village) and ran the popular Orange County folk dance venue for many years.

Bora produced several recordings with his orchestra on the Borino Kolo label. These recordings are available from The Folk Motif, e-mail: folkmotif@aol.com

Bora died in a fall from a ladder in which he suffered a fatal head trauma at his home on August 17, 2008. He had two sisters, Lyubica Radović and Katrica Tudorović and a brother, Ratomir Gajicki, all of Serbia.

Dances Bora taught include Bačko Kolo, Basara, Basarka (Bosarka, Basara), Belo Lence, Bre Devojce-Pod Ona, Cigančica, Čuberka, Dascalica, Denino Kolo, Devojački Povož, Divčibarsko Kolo, Gocino Kolo, Gružanka, Juriška, Kajo Kalino, Kolovodja Diko Nasa, Kolubarska Seljančica, Kolubarski Vez, Lesnoto, Lile Lile, Lilka, Mangupsko, Metkališteto, Mileševka, Momačka Šetnja, Moravac, Niška Banja, O Ubava Mala Moma, Pešačka, Piperana, Popova Mi Stojna, Popovičanka, Raca, Radujevačko Kolo, Saranac, Šareno Oro, Sašino Kolo, Šetnja—U šest Medley, Sirotica, Splitska Igra, Stara Ocmica, Stara Vlajnja, Strumička Petorka, Treskavica Naokolo, Vranjanski Čačak, Trojno, Zavrzlama and Zorica Devojko.