

NED & MARIAN GAULT PEOPLE TO BE PROUD OF

Editor's Note:

Ned and Marian Gault are well known, not only in the California folk dance community, but nationwide as well as abroad. Those of us who have been involved in international folk dancing remember them well. In addition to these appearances, the Gaults introduced many folk dances and these dances are still being danced and enjoyed today. I have learned that not only are they expert in the folk dance arena, but are gifted teachers and artists. I was made aware that Ned and Marian were honored in March of this year by the National Folk Organization of the United States of America at the Drury/San Antonio College Folk Dance Festival in San Antonio, Texas. As I understand it, awards have been presented to deserving individuals for at least 25 years. The Gaults are two of the possible few from California to be so honored. In addition to all that the Gaults have done for folk dancing, Ned served as President of the Folk Dance Federation, North, from 1964 – 1966. Ned said he and Marian never thought they would receive an award like this, but we who know of their work believe it is definitely time to honor these two very special people.

In the January 12, 2000, issue of the Los Gatos Weekly Times newspaper, a three-page article complete with photographs, was published on the Gaults. The article headings were "Dancing Folk," "lord and lady of the dance" and "Real Troupers." This is a wonderful article written in detail about the life and accomplishments of the Gaults.



Marian and Ned of Ensemble International take the lead in a spirited folk dance. The ensemble has done 3 European tours.

Following are excerpts from the introduction of the Gaults by Vonnice Brown, Vice President of the National Folk Organization, at the Festival in San Antonio in March.

NADINE MITCHELL, Editor

2000 DRURY/SAN ANTONIO COLLEGE FOLK DANCE FESTIVAL HONOREES NED AND MARIAN GAULT

"Each year the Drury/San Antonio College Folk Dance Festival honors individuals who have made outstanding contributions in the idiom of international folk dancing. It is indeed my pleasure, and a great honor, to introduce two of the recipients for the year 2000, Ned and Marian Gault.

It is common in international folk dancing to find individuals who are very strong in one area. They may be a great recreational dance leader, a talented director or choreographer, or they may have studied and collected dances abroad and



One of several instruments Ned Gault enjoys playing is his autoharp.

are a so-called specialty teacher. Rarely, however, do we find someone who does it all – who are professional educators, recreational dance leaders, artistic directors of a performing company, choreographers, dance ethnographers, writers and publishers, musician and artist. Ned and Marian wear all these hats and are the rare individuals who do everything and do it all so well!

They have taught folk dance classes for San Jose State University, West Valley College, adult education programs, recreation departments, dance conferences, teacher's workshops, and teacher training seminars.

recreation departments, dance conferences, teacher's workshops, and teacher training seminars. When Lawton Harris, the founder of Stockton Folk Dance Camp, invited them to teach they accepted and remained on the teaching staff for 28 years. Their sound and innovative teaching techniques were an inspiration. Ned, with all his technological skills, managed all the sound equipment and did the camp's first video documentation. Marian, an artist and calligrapher, designed syllabi covers and did various types of art work.

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The Gaults rapidly gained a reputation of being very skilled recreational dance teachers and their services were much in demand. Eventually, this also led to teaching engagements in Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Holland, Germany, Switzerland, Italy, Austria and Japan.



Marian Gault straightens one of her many paintings that hang in the Monte Sereno home she and Ned share with their keeshond, Misty.

During the course of the Gault's recreational dance career, it is interesting to note that they created three dances which are still found on the programs of groups and festivals across the United States and Canada: Tango Poquito, El Gaucho Tango and La EnCantada Tango. They have just recently composed a nice collection of trio dances which are especially useful in folk dancing where women usually outnumber the men.

In 1966, the Gaults formed the performing company called Ensemble International and for 34 years they have danced and

served as artistic directors and choreographers of this group. Ensemble International has been a principal company in the City of San Jose's Performing Arts Series and the City of Sunnyvale's Cultural and Performing Arts Series. Their most significant performances have been at Tivoli Gardens in Copenhagen, the 1974 World's Fair in Spokane, Washington, for his Majesty King Karl Gustav of Sweden, and the Festival of Nations in St. Paul.

Ned is a musician, composer and arranger playing the button accordion and auto harp. He directs a small orchestra which has produced two commercial tapes of Austrian folk music. Ned has also published a book of his musical compositions which is sold nationally. He is a glass blower and computer technologist. He worked with the group which invented and made the first computer chips in Silicon Valley.

Marian is an accomplished watercolor painter, calligrapher, and does pen and ink drawings. She teaches and exhibits her work on a regular basis and has won many awards.

Ned and Marian feel that the most rewarding and challenging part of their work is with beginning folk dancers and the development and training of new teachers.

Because of Ned and Marian's sound philosophy, their strong work ethic, their desire for perfection, the charitable giving of their time and work, and their love and devotion to dance, folklore, and people, we have all benefited. Few people in life "make a difference" but you certainly have. Because of you, positive things have happened not only in folk dancing but in the lives of all the people that you have touched. Tonight we express our gratitude to you."

Vonnie R. Brown, Presenter