



TEACHER OF THE MONTH

HENRY "BUZZ" GLASS



Henry "Buzz" Glass, native son of San Francisco, has been folk dancing for almost a quarter of a century. While attending San Francisco State College in the late 30's, he attended an informal session of dancing, lead by Soong Chang. The genuine hospitality and the fun of dancing brought him back to this group, and he later became a charter member of Chang's International Folk Dancers. With this initial interest, coupled with a teaching major at San Francisco State, Buzz began to expand his dance activities, and organized a dance club at San Francisco State.

After completing his education, his first teaching job was in Lodi, where he continued to teach folk dancing and organized the Lodi Folk Dancers. He became especially interested in Russian dancing, and journeyed weekly to San Francisco where he worked at the challenging steps under Vasya Kuratoff. During the thrilling days of the International Exposition at Treasure Island, Buzz joined a group of dancers from Chang's that performed weekends at the Estonian Village. Buzz continued to seek more dance training, and visited groups of many nationalities during this time. While doing graduate work for his secondary teaching credential at U.S.C. he had his first experience in modern dance, and this led to weekly trips to San Francisco to join a small group of men studying modern dance with America's leading modern dancer, Jose Limon. He joined the Modern Ballet Theatre for productions at Sigmund Stern Grove.

In 1942 Buzz realized that the fullest potentials of the slowly spreading Folk Dance movement in Northern California could best be realized by forming a federation group. To launch this idea, Buzz issued an invitation to the then active groups to come to Lodi in May of 1942 to hold a festival and to discuss the forming of a federation group. With the Lodi Folk Dancers as hosts over 150 enthusiastic dancers came in spite of gasoline and tire rationing. A second festival was held in June in Golden Gate Park with Chang's as hosts. After initial organizational meetings, Buzz was

elected as first president of the Folk Dance Federation of California, an organization that has continued to grow and expand for nineteen years under many excellent leaders. The first secretary, Frances Farnell, became Mrs. Buzz Glass in December of 1942, and together they continued active participation in Federation affairs for several years.

In 1943 Buzz started teaching in Oakland, where he is still teaching Spanish and Physical Education at the Bret Harts Junior High School. However, for years Buzz taught mentally retarded children and found this a challenging and most inspiring teaching field.

Buzz and Frances joined the Berkeley Folk Dance Group, continued to dance with Chang's, and worked with exhibition groups from both of these clubs. Buzz organized the Castle Promenaders, and from this active group developed many fine leaders, among them Milly von Kinsky, Ruth Graham, and Clyde Evans. Harold and Betty Pearson and Eleanor and Wes Huntze, very fine Federation teachers, were also members of this group. During this time Buzz added social dancing to his interests, and became a teacher for the Arthur Murray studios in Oakland for a short time.

One of the most rewarding experiences came in working with Miss Lucile Czarnowski, Chairman of the Federation Research Committee at that time. Buzz served on the Research Committee under Miss Czarnowski helping to produce Volumes 1-5, inclusive, of Folk Dances from Near and Far. Miss Czarnowski has given so very much to the folk dance movement, and Buzz cannot give enough credit to Miss Czarnowski for all that he has learned from her.

During the early years of "Let's Dance", Buzz served as Assistant Editor and then as Editor of "Let's Dance", for a short time.

Buzz taught folk dance classes for the University of California Extension Division for eleven years. One of his early students, Grace West, went on to become a very fine teacher and leader in folk dancing. Under Buzz's direction, another early student, Mrs. Ruth Voss, a former student of Mrs. Francesca Aquino of the Philippine Islands and the National authority on Philippine folk dancing, introduced several Philippine dances that were popular several years ago, including the Phillipine Mazurka and Baruray.

As people began to enjoy some of the old American round dances, Buzz saw the possibilities of an emerging field in American round dancing, combining the dignity and flow of the old with the inspiration of the present generation. This led to his original choreography of several dances still enjoying wide popularity with folk dancers throughout the world, such as: *Blue Pacific*, *Beautiful Ohio*, *Missouri Waltz*, *Buzz's Mixer*, *Wrangler's Two-Step*, *Cba Vidrio*, etc. Buzz also arranged the *Skaters' Waltz* that is again enjoying wide popularity, and which will be taught again at the Stockton Folk Dance Camp this summer by popular demand.

Buzz helped in the launching of Corrido when he observed Avis Landis Bez dancing with a Mexican group during the war, and this dance was launched by the Castle Promenaders and Mrs. Bez. The Oklahoma Mixer was named by Buzz as a result of a teaching session at Asilomar, under the direction of Lawton Harris. This dance, originally known as the *Texas Schottische* was learned from Larry Eisenberg. The *Hopak*, as performed by Federation dancers is another of Buzz's dance arrangements.

He was co-chairman of two Mills College Easter week Institutes, and served as chairman of the Dance Department of Mills College for two summer sessions in 1951 and 1952. At one of the Mills College sessions Buzz discovered a Dublin lass, Una Kennedy, now Mrs. Sean O'Farrell, and it is with pride we dance many of the fine Irish dances introduced by Una Kennedy O'Farrell.

For thirteen years he has enjoyed teaching on the Staff on the University of the Pacific's Folk Dance Camp, and the helpful and considerate guidance of Lawton Harris, director, has been a most inspiring venture, and has given him an opportunity to work and dance with the world's leaders.

Buzz, for many years, has been devoted to educational dance activities, and in 1953 taught at the University of Southern California for a summer session and has given sessions for Chico State College in 1956 and for two years, 1958 and 1959 for the California Physical Education Workshop for Women at Cal Poly in San Luis Obispo. He has given several courses for the San Francisco State Extension Division, as well as Institutes throughout California and Oregon for teachers.

Probably the highlight was being awarded a Ford Foundation Fellowship in 1954-55 to study and travel in Mexico for one year. Buzz studied dancing at the National University of Mexico under Sra. Alura Flores de Angeles and also studied history, folk music, and Spanish at Mexico City College. Buzz danced with a number of Mexican folk dance groups, studying with many other leaders while there, and also traveled throughout Mexico observing many native fiestas and celebrations. Buzz has completed a book on Mexico dancing, and hopes to have it published in the near future. One of the most popular Mexican dances he has introduced is the *Polca Mexicana-Jesusita*. Others such as *La Mosca* and *Jota Tapatia* still enjoy limited popularity.

Buzz has served as chairman for two committees to write a course of study for social dancing in the Oakland Junior High Schools, and will continue to serve on this committee. This spring he presented a program of social dance, folk dance, creative dance, tumbling and physical fitness involving 350 junior high school students. Buzz is continuing to expand his dance activities, particularly in the field of teen-age dance, and has developed new techniques and methods in presenting teen-age dance and feels this is a very vital field at this time. He has only one dance group

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at present, a private group that meets twice a month for recreational dance activities, and it is for this group that he enjoys square dance calling.

Buzz and Frances have two children, Terry, 15, who will enter the Skyline High School in the fall, and Linelle, 12, who will enter the Bret Junior High School in the fall.

For fourteen years Buzz and Frances have been members of the Gate-swingers, a very fine folk and square dance group sponsored by the San Francisco Central YMCA, and they continue to enjoy the many fine activities sponsored by this club.

Buzz and Frances have both been awarded Honprary Life Memberships in the California Congress of Parents and Teachers Association, Buzz receiving his pin last year from the Bret Harte Junior High P. T. A. and Frances this year from the John Swett Elementary P. T. A.

Hiking, camping, picnics, and family bicycle rides are activities that are enjoyed by the entire family.

. . . *Frances Glass*