

# Meet Herluf (Bill) Herlow

Bill Herlow, treasurer for the southern section, was born in Denmark in 1901. At the tender age of fifteen he ran away to sea, spent some time in Argentina and one and a half years in the Antarctic with a Norwegian whaling expedition. It was on this journey that he first learned to dance, with the Norwegian men, as there were, of course, no women along. The Norwegians were great accordion players, so music was never lacking.

Many years later, in Montana, he danced again in the one-room schoolhouse of the prairie where there were usually five or six couples eager to dance their native dances. Since there were no musicians, Bill taught himself to play the mouth organ and they all had a swell time in the long winter evenings.

After coming to California, he attended the summer sessions at the Danish Atterdag College in Solvang, near Santa Barbara, where he learned most of the Danish folk dances. He also joined the old timers and learned to polka, schottische, three-step, square dance, and was even called upon to call the squares when the regular caller was absent, although this was much against his will as he would rather dance.

Being a painter and decorator by profession, he gets plenty of exercise but is never too tired to dance an evening through. He considers folk dancing the perfect recreation because one gets to meet so many interesting, happy people, and, as he says, "in a movement such as ours, there is room for only happy people."

You may be confused by the spelling, pro-



nunciation, and similarity of "Herluf," the given name, to Herbert, Henry, Harry, and other like sounding names, as were Bill's friends, and so he despaired of their ever getting it right and called himself Bill, by which name everyone knows him now.

His hobby, outside of dancing, is hiking and mountain climbing on a small scale, camping and roaming in the desert country. A bone grafting on his spine a few years ago left him in doubt for some time as to whether or not he would ever be able to do these things again but fortunately he can, as you will see if you notice the most energetic dancer at the next festival. That's Bill.