

People Worth Knowing

By Hill Adkins



VERA JONES

Vera is an accomplished pianist and organist and for many years was accompanist for most of the well-known vocal and violin teachers in Fresno and as such took part in numerous concerts. She also taught piano for a number of years.

Aside from her music and folk dancing, one of her lasting interests has been ice skating and skiing. Her interest in ice skating is such that she and Cliff Paige (another folk dancer) built an ice rink, operated it and taught ice skating for about seven years. Their reason for building the rink was that the only ice rink in Fresno was being torn down and they wanted a place where they and others could skate. About one year ago they found a buyer whom they believed would continue to provide the people of this area with good ice skating facilities and instructions.

An interesting sidelight on her golfing career is that Vera is a "lefty", and, when she started playing golf, there were no women golfers who played left handed — so the clubs had to be especially made. She also developed a method of putting, using only her left hand. Despite these unorthodox methods, or maybe because of them, she worked her way down to a very respectable handicap.

Vera started folk dancing in 1950 and began teaching a year or two later. She has taught many classes, but many of us who know her think her most worthwhile project was in the psychiatric ward of the local Veteran's Hospital. She taught that class for ten years and has a pin denoting 2500 volunteer hours in the V A Hospital program. Oh, yes, and she also has a pin denoting fifteen years of service as a "Gray Lady". She too, has served for nine years on the Federation Research Committee and two years on the Teacher's Institute Committee. Locally she has served as the Fresno Council Historian and is presently its Treasurer. She is now employed by the City of Fresno Recreation Department as a folk dance specialist. At present she is teaching seventeen different playground groups plus one teenage group. These activities are, of course, in addition to her regular chore of teaching the Fresno Guild and her other Fresno Council endeavors.

Despite her interest in folk dancing and her success as a teacher, she has never been able to interest her husband, Beverly, or her sons, Jack and Allan, in folk dancing. Perhaps she still has a chance with her three grandchildren.

By now you may have come to the conclusion that Vera has enough interests and the energy to carry them out as any three or four of us ordinary mortals. If so, you are on the right track. So here's a loud "Ole!" for Vera Jones — truly a person worth knowing.



EXHIBITION TIME . . . FRESNO — 1962

DANCE GUILD Grace San Filippo, Director

Photo . . . Henry L. Bloom