

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

A TRIBUTE TO BILL AND LOUISE LIDICKER

by Marian Snyder

One of the perks of being president of the Federation is that I get to write this monthly message. I also have the privilege of choosing what I write about. This month it is my honor to feature two very important people who recently announced that they are slowing down from folk dancing. **Here's my story about Bill and Louise Lidicker.**

Once upon a time in the past century, Bill started folk dancing. It was first brought to his attention in 1964 by one of his UC Berkeley grad students, who *"talked me into it."* Bill and his first wife Naomi went to check it out at Berkeley Folk Dancers and the rest is history.

In the same century, Louise was introduced to folk dancing in 1972 in Napa. She was looking for something fun to do and there it was right across the street from where she lived. *"International folk dancing was my first experience with dance. I was in my 30's. I was hooked that first month when we learned Zilletaler Laendler."*

Bill was a professor of Integrative Biology and, before that, professor of Zoology at UC Berkeley. In addition to research papers, he has published four books. At one time he was President of the International Federation of Mammologists. Louise worked for at least 16 different companies, moving from file clerk to secretary to math teacher to engineering aide to biology field assistant for Bill.

In 1979, Bill's very first time teaching was with Naomi, when they taught Trip to Bavaria. He was a guest teacher in the early 80s and then went on to teach for about 30 years. Bill and Louise met at various folk dance festivals. Louise joined Berkeley Folk Dancers in 1984 and they married in 1989. Louise taught with Bill for 23 years. *"Louise and I have enjoyed making a special effort to become proficient in the dances of the Czech Republic."* This led to a big highlight in their instructional careers in 1998 when they were invited to teach in Taiwan. *"We covered 33 dances in three days and had a wonderful time."* In addition, Bill danced in two performing groups, Westwind (1994-1999) and Jubilee (1999-2010).



Both of the Lidickers attended Stockton Folk Dance Camp almost continuously, Bill for 30 years, Louise for 25. His comment about what he remembered most about camp was, *"Wow, it was great!"* She had this to say: *"I remember dancing all the time, dancing until 2:00 am, and never missing a time slot for a class. Such fun!"*

continued on p. 8

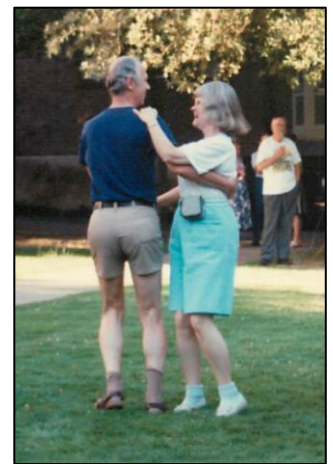
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A Tribute to Bill and Louise Lidicker *(continued)*
 Their favorite dance to do as a couple was *Hopak*. Bill says the best part about folk dancing is “*moving to the music and the comradery, sharing something you enjoy doing together.*” Dancing also goes very deep with Louise. “*No matter what problems I’ve had, the concentration, pleasure, music, and friendships have preserved my sanity many times over.*”

In addition to their many years of teaching, Bill and Louise have held various offices. Louise has been BFD secretary and insurance representative. For many years she co-organized the BFD Monte Toyon weekend. She was also Federation Treasurer and Insurance chair and played a big part in planning the Statewide Festival. Louise was the founder of the Ice Cream Sundae Social at Statewide! Bill was a Federation President and is the current Parliamentarian. He served as BFD President, Vice President, and chair of the Dance Committee. Bill took the lead in planning Statewide twice. He was also president of the National Folk Organization, and received their prestigious *Preserving Our Heritage Award* (2016).

Bill and Louise continue to enjoy listening to their large collection of folk dance music. Currently age 88, Bill just “*finished writing two important manuscripts to help humanity.*” They both hope to attend local dance parties and perhaps an occasional class.

The greater folk dance community thanks this wonderful couple for their tireless years of giving themselves to all of us. It will be unbelievably amazing when we are allowed to gather and experience the fun of dancing together again.



All photos by A. Partos, except upper right is by G. Milton.

I always enjoyed Bill and Louise and their dedicated approach to dance. I will miss their presence at dance events. I wish them well in future paths their lives will follow.
 ~ Suzanne Rocca-Butler



For many years I found Bill and Louise to be very supportive of all of the dance programs I chaired. He provided many different services when I was President of the Federation and he was in charge of streamlining the Bylaws of the NFO while I was President of the NFO.
 ~ Bruce Mitchell

Always present, always enthusiastic, and great supporters of the Federation and folk dance in general are ways to describe Bill and Louise Lidicker. Their work on the Research Committee for the Federation, and as long-time members of the Research Committee at Stockton Camp, has meant that dances as originally taught are presented accurately at institutes and workshops. Their diligent efforts reflect their respect for the various cultures as well as for those teachers who share their music, dance, and the many unique aspects of their cultures.

~ Denise Heenan