

People Worth Knowing

MARK and WILMA LINSOTT OF BAKERSFIELD

By Lester and Esther Engelson

When thinking of folk dancing in Bakersfield one automatically thinks of Mark and Wilma Linscott, leaders in the movement for the past fifteen years.

Even before the revival of folk dancing the Linscotts were gathering friends to attend "old time" dances at Fairfax Grange. They are charter members of Circle Eight Folk Dance Club, which is the parent organization of folk and square dancing in Bakersfield and Kern County. During this time, Mark has served as Circle Eight President and chaired many committees; while Wilma has served continuously the last eight years as instructor of Circle Eight Dance Club and promotor of Beginning Groups.

Both are public school teachers with experience in several Kern County schools. Wilma recently retired and is now devoting her time to her family and folk dancing. Mark is the busy Superintendent of the Fairfax School District. Through the years Mark has remained active in Scout work, having served as Scoutmaster, campleader, leadership trainer and, at present, is District Scout Commissioner. The Silver Beaver Award was conferred on him for his outstanding scout work.

Since the organization of Circle Eight Wilma has been a foremost leader in the folk dance movement. While teaching, she co-ordinated folk dancing in the city schools program. She has taught night school classes, attended folk dance camps at Stockton, Idyllwild and Santa Barbara, and has led or participated in many Institutes.

The Linscotts have two sons and three grandsons. Don, whose interests lie in police administration and criminology, is completing his work at San Jose State. Dean is already well known in folk dance circles as a teacher and dances with the Gandy Dancers and other Southern exhibition groups. He is completing advanced study for the doctorate at UCLA.

Wilma has many hobbies, several related to folk dancing, such as sewing and costume research. Both have a love for travel, camping and photography. Recent trips have taken them to Alaska, Canada, Mexico and a tour of the Western States.

The coming State Festival in Bakersfield, in May, is keeping these two busy people busier than ever! Wilma is General Chairman of the

big event and is giving daily attention and time to the many details, committees and projects necessary to its success. Mark and Wilma will be on hand, along with all folk dancers in Bakersfield, to welcome all dancers from near and far to the "Mid-State Mardi Gras" in May. We hope you will be there to receive their welcome.



Wilma and Mark Linscott