

WE SALUTE YOU . . . GRACE NICHOLLES!

By . . . Edith Thompson



GRACIOUS and gay
Reserved in her way
Artistic in action
Courteous all day
Excelling in teaching all kinds of play!

How can an article do justice to a person about whom one could write volumes? The very name, Grace Nicholes, fills my mind with kaleidoscopic patterns, impossible to convey to the printed page. I see her many artistic talents, original and cultural. I see the habits and customs of many lands portrayed by the dances, costumes and crafts taught by our capable Grace. Next rolls into sight the variety of positions ably held by our favorite teacher, and then the brilliant, many sided personality of one of the outstanding recreational directors of all times.

It was not chance, but fate, that caused a Physical Educator to be temporarily out of a job and thus turned her talents into public recreation. A field such as this could utilize every facet of this glittering diamond of a leader. How drab some folks' lives would have been, had they not come into contact with the bubbling, effervescent, cheerful, conscientious teacher of the Folk Arts, Carrousel, and Terpsichoreans! Many thousands of citizens have felt the impact of her dynamic ability to put across a game, a dance, a craft, a costume, a way of life, and life, itself.

Any teachers' Institute, attended by Grace, immediately became something to write home about. Her gay ringing laugh changed the mediocre into a gala occasion. Any Folk Dance learned under her presentation lives on in our minds in minute detail, embracing all the inuendoes of the origin of the dance, the habitat of the peoples represented, their very clothes, their hardships, their vocations, occupations, crafts and nationalities. Not only did we learn the dances of the various nations, but we became the very people of that nation. How enriching these experiences have been to us stay-at-homes. Through Grace's flair for research into the intricacies of the many nations and under her vibrant tutelage of this interesting culture, we feel so traveled and well versed in the daily lives of many folks from many lands that we will never see.

I could go into detail about her college life, education and various jobs, but those would be dry, dull statistics, and there has never been

anything dull about our Grace. Although her life has not been one gay song, she has never asked for anyone's shoulder to cry on, but she has offered her shoulder to many a forlorn and lonely person, and then turned on her charm and cheer and sent the lonely one away laughing and encouraged. I am sorry that Grace was not quintuplets, because the world, today, needs many more just like her. But try and find one! We, that have been privileged to know her and be in some of her many classes, should emulate her methods, her manners, her zeal. And since imitation is the highest form of flattery, then, as a teacher, our Grace will know she has succeeded.

And so, Grace, we salute you, as a director, a teacher, a homemaker, a citizen, and a very real PERSON!

GRACE PERRYMAN NICHOLS IN *FLAMENCO COSTUME*



Photo: by A. C. Smith