

# People Worth Knowing

LOU PRICE

By . . . Liesl Barnett



Not all of you readers may know Mrs. Lou Price, of Pasadena, personally, or, perhaps even know her name, but chances are she may have had at least an indirect effect as a folk dancer.

Lou Price is, by her own admission, 74 years *young* this year. For reasons of health her activities have been greatly curtailed in the past year, but she still manages to do a great deal more than many people who are her juniors.

Lou started dancing at about age 3 when she followed the German bands around which played in the yards and neighborhoods of her native New York City. Fluidity in several languages, no doubt, gave added im-

petous to her interest in folk dancing and ethnics.

Over the years Lou has started, or was largely instrumental in establishing, many groups, both here and in New York, and many of them are going strong. During World War I she and her late husband did much physical therapy work in military hospitals, entertained service men, served uncountable cups of coffee and doughnuts in USO canteens, and opened their home on Long Island to those boys who could get leave from hospitals. She was known to thousands of service men as Mom Price and has scrolls and citations to show for her devoted service. Even had some poems written in her honor and about her! She is still actively engaged in physical therapy work, now confining her activities to helping handicapped children.

Perhaps from the folk dancers' point of view her most notable achievement of youth groups in Southern California, ultimately resulting in the founding of the Junior Federation in the Southland. In this field she has taught youngsters from the ages of 2½ years through junior and senior high school ages. Her great lament is that there is such a lack of interest from the parents. Well-qualified to have an opinion on the subject through her years of work for and with the juvenile departments of New York courts, Lou feels very strongly that, in addition to being fun and healthful exercise, folk dancing can be a strong factor in combating juvenile delinquency. For this reason she has endeavored to train many adults to be leaders and teachers of young groups, but all too few of them stay in this field. Her hopes now rest with Eunice and Ken Kingsbury.

There are so many sides to this fascinating woman that one cannot do her justice with a thumbnail sketch. (This is a hint, Lou, for you to start writing your memoirs. After all, everyone else is doing it nowadays!!)

Among her myriad activities and interests were also drama and little theatre groups. And somehow, dances always seemed to sneak into her plays. One of these players' groups, founded by Lou Price, about 1931 or 1932, still exists and is mildly active. She has been a social worker, secretary, teacher, advisor, research worker and morale builder extraordinaire. Altogether, we are agreed — Lou Price is most certainly a personality and well-worth knowing. We hope she will continue to be the guiding spirit of the junior Federation for many more years, and will continue to give up coming leaders and teachers the benefit of her wide experience.

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