

HAVE YOU MET TONY RYAN?

... By . . . Millie von Konsky



It is with pleasure that I present Tony Ryan, President of the Greater East Bay Folk Dance Council, to the *Let's Dance* reader. Yes! . . . Tony does look young — as a matter of fact, at twenty-three he is the youngest regional council president ever to hold office in the Folk Dance Federation of California.

As is typical of fine leadership, and particularly of youthful leadership, Tony has good ideas, an abundance of vitality and as a devotee to the art of folk dancing he has an enthusiasm that is inspiring. He conducts his meetings as he guides the activities of nineteen member groups with modesty, consideration, and willingness to collaborate in every direction.

Tony was reared and educated in New York. He is the oldest of three boys and is of Irish and German descent. A four year service to his country in the United States Air Force ended in California, thus giving him an opportunity to see what makes Californians tick. Tony participated in various activities which included hiking and skiing, but it was not until he attended, as a spectator, the February festival in the Oakland Civic Auditorium that he decided that folk dancing was and is exactly what he has been looking for in recreation. Soon after this eventful day he joined a beginners' class and in a short time was folk dancing three nights a week plus dancing at regional and Federation Festivals on Sundays.

Tony is now a member of Dancers Internationale' and was recently initiated into Dance Arts (exhibition group) of Oakland where he is adding skill and ethnic know-how to his dance background.

Tony Ryan will represent the Greater East Bay Folk Dance Council as their Chairman and host for the Federation Festival in Oakland on February 18th, at the Oakland Civic Auditorium. This will be your opportunity to see youth in action; and incidentally, if he wears a Ukrainian costume you will be interested to know that the entire costume is of his making, even the beautiful handiwork on the tunic.

We like having Tony Ryan as a member of our Folk Dance family and we will watch him with interest and growing admiration.

TONY RYAN . . . in Ukrainian Costume



Photo . . . N. Giannini