

WHO'S WHO

BERNICE SCHRAM - FRANK BACHER

Nineteen hundred and seventy marks the 14th year in which Bernice Schram and Frank Bacher have, as a team, taught folk dancing to literally hundreds of people, and in so many ways furthered the movement. Because of this, we felt that their many friends would like to know a bit more about them, and how they "get it together".

Of Danish extraction, Bernice has danced since childhood, when her mother taught her native dances at home, and says that dancing has always been her favorite hobby. Bea Jenkins, whom some may remember as a Federation officer and member of Changs International Folk Dancers, first introduced Bernice to the Federation. She saw her first festival at Kentfield in 1946, and found her way to the Fairfax Community Folk Dancers club. Also a charter member of Novato Folk Dancers, she has been that club's instructor since 1950.

Berkeley is Bernice's birthplace, and most of her life has been spent in the Bay Area. She is a graduate of the Lux School in San Francisco and her career has included work with the Army at the Presidio of San Francisco, transfer to Salt Lake City during W.W. II, and a number of years at Hamilton Field, from which she retired earlier this year. Remodeling her home in Novato is her other main interest, and she says, "almost as much fun".

Bernice's list of accomplishments on behalf of folk dancing is a long one - instructor in Adult Education classes at Sonoma High; Valley of the Moon Swingers, also in Sonoma; Silverado Folk Dancers, Napa; Petaluma International Folk Dancers; Federation Recording Secretary for two years; Federation Institute, Scholarship and Research Committees, have all had the benefit of Bernice's ability and willingness to work hard.

Enter the other half of this unique team - Frank Bacher, who was raised in Vineburg and graduated from Sonoma High. With time out for duty with the Army Air Corps, he has been employed at Mare Island Naval Shipyard for almost 30 years. He also began dancing in Adult Education, at Sonoma High. He has been president of both Valley of the Moon Swingers and Petaluma International Folk Dancers; has been Floor Chairman for Changs and is now their treasurer. Like Bernice, he served on the Institute Committee, with one year as Co-Ordinator. The Federation By-Laws Committee also receives his attention and help.

No-partner dances are the main feature of this couple's classes at Marion School in Novato, and are gathering more members all the time. Emphasis is also placed on review of the



Frank Bacher and Bernice Schram

"oldies-but-goodies", a feature so important for the preservation of favorite dances. New dances are taught if and when they become popular. As Bernice herself phrases it, "We try not to waste time for these people who travel so far -- Petaluma, Sonoma, Santa Rosa, Napa, Sebastopol, San Francisco." This club does not feature parties as part of their program, but rather concentrates on learning and remembering. The big involvement for Petaluma International Folk Dancers each August is their "Little Festival in the Redwoods", featuring dancing, pot-luck lunch and dinner, all in a beautiful spot called Armstrong Grove, near the Russian River, at Guerneville. Bernice and Frank feature a fast-moving program, both afternoon and evening for this event.

Both these quiet but delightful people feel that their richest reward is working with and getting to know PEOPLE -- those who travel to class or party no matter what the weather, the leaders they meet at camps, institutes, etc., and "we work with and love the 'little people' in folk dancing, and most of them are big people in something else".

So are you, Bernice and Frank.

Suzy Vails