CALLER of the Month

By Mildred R. Buhler

BORN IN DENVER, moving to California at the age of two to spend his early boyhood among the orange groves and on the then undeveloped beaches in southern California where his father was in the real estate business, witnessing the panic which caused the family to lose everything, including the present site of Hollywood which then was among their holdings, returning practically destitute to Denver at the age of nine, then two years or so later moving to Colorado Springs where he finished his formal education and has remained ever since—that is the beginning of the colorful career of 60-year-old Dr. Lloyd Shaw, fondly called "Pappy" by his many students the length and breadth of the land.

Ever a lover of the great out-of-doors, a patron of the arts, a sound supporter of Democracy, and an educator par-excellence, he has made a contribution to the American people that will live on in history and the hearts of his fellow men.

During the 34 years he has served as superintendent of the Cheyenne Mountain School, in the Broadmoor district on the outskirts of Colorado Springs, he has developed a unique sports program that provides active participation for the major part of his student body. After developing a championship football team in the early days, he completely barred the sport from the school's program, feeling the acclaim and ensuing publicity the team drew was an unhealthy thing for the school. Looking for something less competitive, that the whole school could participate in, he started a program of mountaineering, including hiking and skiing in addition to outdoor camp life. He also included horsemanship on the program but felt it was too strenuous for the girls since it launched them into the rodeo field, and so he turned to the more cultural activities of dramatics and folk dancing. After a few years of working diligently with the European folk dancing, he discovered there was a vast amount of material among the cowboys of the west, and he turned to that with a vengeance, bit by bit uncovering and chronicling properly for the first time the American folk dance of the west which led to his book *Cowboy Dances*, which he published in 1939. Still the most popular book of its kind, it is used the country over as a manual for beginning square dancers.

Welcome news to square dancers everywhere is the announcement that "Pappy" plans to write a second volume which will bring his square dance information up to date. Feeling that he could not do justice to the whole field, he has, during the later years, specialized in the American folk dance, feeling this broad enough to occupy his time, and he has unquestionably earned the title, "Dean of American Square Dancing." His vast research in the field of round dancing, and the demands of his students for further reference material brought about his writing of the *Round Dance Book*, which was published in 1947, and is a most welcome addition to the folk dancer's library.

First an educator, secondly a showman, and lastly a missionary, his unquenchable zeal to spread the square dance gospel from Sunset Boulevard to Broadway, from New Orleans to Detroit, has been fulfilled and each year sees countless thousands of new converts to the joyous movement. Never before in the history of the country have so many people danced.

He took his first out-of-state trip with his teen-age dance team, the Cheyenne Mountain Dancers, in 1937, when he visited Scripps College in Claremont, California. Then they traveled to the National Folk Dance Festival in Washington, D. C., in 1939, and since that time have made two trips a year, one in the spring and another in the fall, with the exception of a couple of war years when they were unable to travel out of their home state. In the past five years they have appeared in more than 50 major cities of the U. S.

People often ask how they can do this and manage their studies. First and foremost, Dr. Shaw demands high scholastic standing from all team members. In spite of the fact that his mission is to spread square dancing the length and breadth of the land, he arranges the itinerary with a complete disregard for those who clamor to see his dancers, considering only the opportunity to provide new and enriching experiences for the youngsters. That's why he never takes the same team over the same territory. He waits until there is a turnover in the team before he returns to an area.

His recent trip to California is typical of the program he plans for his troupe. Coming by way of Idaho Falls, Reno, Colusa, Merced, San Francisco, Carmel, San Luis Obispo, Boulder City, Ogden and Salt Lake City, they presented 10 shows enroute, but also did much sightseeing, the high spots including such things as a peek at the glamorous night club show in the Mapes Hotel in Reno, a glimpse of Lake Tahoe, a short trip to Yosemite and the Mariposa Big Trees, a shopping tour in the big stores and rides on the cable cars of San Francisco, a two-and one-half-hour boat trip on the San Francisco Bay, a supper at Fisherman's Wharf, a trip up Telegraph Hill, a tour of Chinatown, a drive over the San Francisco Bay Bridge, encircling Berkeley, then a ferry crossing at Richmond and on to the beautiful Muir Woods, back over Golden Gate Bridge with lunch at Seal Rocks, a delightful trip around Monterey and the 17-Mile Drive with a stop at the Carmel Mission, on down the coast past Point Lobos down to Big Sur, which really gave the inland youngsters a wonderful glimpse of the ocean, then

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INTERNATIONAL DANCE FESTIVAL

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by a full evening of exhibitions of square dancing interspersed with special entertainment by members of the National Barn Dance cast and other famous radio stars including Martha Tilton, Kurt Massey, Bob Atcher, Pat Barrett ("Uncle Ezra"), Lulu Belle and Scotty, Arkansas Arkie, the Buccaneers, Dolph Hewett, Grace Wilson, Homer Jethro and the Maple City Four.

The 18 various exhibitions represented 16 different states and Canada, and several of the teams had as many as 10 sets. The dancing as a whole was quite simple in form according to our California standards, but it was thrilling to see this great assemblage of dancers from so many sections of the country.

In the opinion of Edith Thompson, the most beautifully-costumed team, with the smoothest dancing, came from Georgia, with Fred Collette of Atlanta doing the calling. The most outstanding team, all things considered, came from Washington, D. C., with Dr. Walter Goodsell calling. Indiana had eleven sets in its exhibition, coming from all sections of the state. One set from southern Indiana, however, stole the show with its original "back woodsy" style that simply captivated the entire audience and brought thunderous applause.

The exhibition which pulled the heart strings of everyone there and drew a good many tears was a specialty called "Square Dancing Is for Everyone," put on by the Chicago Park District with Virginia Morrison calling. This team numbered 11 sets including two sets of blind dancers, two of deaf and dumb, two recovered polio victims, two with members all over 60, and three whose members were all under twelve. This exhibition truly demonstrated the comprehensive work being done by the Chicago Park District, and bouquets go to them and especially to Virginia Morrison.

The Canadian group was very interesting and made a big hit with everyone. All French Canadians, they danced American square figures but the calls were all given in French. They were members of a very old group which was organized in 1607 and which are now under the direction of Ernest Lee, director of physical fitness for the Government of Canada.

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BY MILDRED R. BUHLER

CORVALLIS, OREGON. *Clinic and Jamboree Held!*

Oregon State College sponsored the annual folk dance clinic at the college on Oct. 22, followed by a jamboree at the Coliseum Oct. 22. Although the clinic was designed primarily for teachers, the jamboree was open to all organized clubs of Oregon and the neighboring states, and a huge crowd responded. Miss Erma Weir of the Women's P. E. staff at O.S.C. was in charge of the affair, which has done much to further the movement in that area.

BAKER, OREGON. *Dance for Choir's Benefit!*

The Powder River Promenaders recently held a benefit square dance to raise funds to purchase robes for the high school choir. An orchestra from Boise, as well as callers from Boise and Weiser, plus the group from Baker, furnished plenty of top entertainment.

PASADENA, CALIF. *Square Dancers Perform at Football Game!*

Under the direction of Jack Hoheisal of Alhambra, a large group of square dancers from the Pasadena and San Gabriel Valley area presented an exhibition at the Memerial Coliseum on Nov. 5, just preceding the game between the Los Angeles Rams and the San Francisco '49ers. The colorful spectacle was well received by the large crowd.

SELAH, WASHINGTON. *Lion's Club Sponsors Square Dancing!*

The Selah Lions Club is sponsoring a Beginners' Square Dance class for its members here.

BOISE, IDAHO. *Attend Chicago International Square Dance Festival!*

A. W. "Gus" Empie and four couples from different parts of Idaho represented this state at the recent International Square Dance Festival held in the Chicago Stadium Oct. 28. The group presented two original Idaho figures in their exhibition.

PORTLAND, OREGON. *Has Hayloft Too!*

Portland now has a Hayloft too, patterned after Joe Lang's original one in Denver. The Oregon Hayloft was built by Mr. and Mrs. John J. O'Donnell to provide square dance devotees of Portland with an ideal rendezvous for their favorite pastime. Jack and Gertrude O'Donnell, both over 60, are ardent hobbyists who became smitten with the "square dance bug" a little more than two years ago. Going into it wholeheartedly, they decided to build for Portland an ideal square dance home in place of the dream house they had planned so long for themselves. The new Hayloft, which is on the corner of SW Front Ave. and Lincoln St., has western decor throughout, including the 325 famous cattlebrands which Jack burned into the trimming himself and the front doorknobs which are fashioned of polished horseshoes.

OKINAWA. *Hoedown Held!*

Roy Wolfe from Phoenix, Arizona, called the squares at a recent old fashioned square dance held at the Rycom Officers Mess on Okinawa.

CALL of the Month

The Drifters

BY JACK McKAY

1. First and third go forward and back,
2. Forward again with a right and left through,
3. Sides drift out to positions new
   (Second and fourth couples sashay two steps away from each other to corners)
4. And swing the girl that's nearest you.
   (First man swings second lady, second man swings third lady, third man swings fourth lady, fourth man swings first lady)
5. Pull 'em straight to lines of four
   (Each man puts his new partner down on his R forming two lines that are parallel to positions one and three, which face each other. The line in first position has third man and fourth lady, and second man and third lady. The line in third position has first man and second lady, fourth man and first lady.)
6. Forward eight and fall back eight, and pass right through and don't hesitate.
7. Forward eight and fall back eight, pass right back and don't be late.
8. Now right and left through across the street,
9. Everybody swing your own little sweet.
   (Each man turns around to swing his original partner.)
10. Now it's allemande left and a grand old right and left, etc.

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on across the state via Bakersfield into Las Vegas, Boulder City, a trip over the dam and a boat ride on Lake Meade, continuing home through beautiful Zion National Park, where they witnessed the glory of the sunset on those beautiful rocks, a stop-over at Salt Lake to visit the Mormon Tabernacle and enjoy the famous organ recital, and a swim (or rather a float) on the lake itself. That trip alone is a wonderful education for anyone, and a compensation the youngsters get for their share of missionary work in the field of square dancing.

With his lovely poetess wife, Dorothy, at his side, ever ready to assist him in any way she can, and with his competent and most charming accompanist, Harriet Johnson, who knows and meets his every musical need, plus Howard Jones, the school custodian, who also drives the special bus they travel in, they are a traveling academy, no less.

In addition to the trips into many sections of the country with his dance team, he conducts three week-long summer institutes in Colorado Springs which serve as the main training center for leaders and callers all over the nation.

His vast knowledge in this field brought Shaw to Hollywood as the special dance director for "Duel In the Sun," with the making of a Decca square dance album following, and his most recent contribution to the folk dance world is the making of two albums of our favorite round dances under his own label. A truly great man, with a mission he has fulfilled.

Watch the next issue for one of Dr. Shaw's new original calls.

International Festival

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The Prairie Farmer, WLS and the Chicago Park District deserve much credit for this tremendous undertaking, and it is to be hoped that their plan to make this a yearly event will materialize, and that next year a much wider participation will be possible, with several days devoted to the event. If at all possible we would like to see time arranged for an exchange of material of the various leaders. It is hoped, though, that the various types and forms of dancing will be carefully preserved and that we will not see any one section completely overpowering the rest, destroying the various native forms that have developed through generations of dancing.