

PEOPLE WORTH KNOWING

by George N. Cash

On the voyage through life human beings need a definite aim, a goal, an ideal; something to steer toward, something to lead them on. Our personality for this month developed his own chart and compass. "Help people to be happy through dancing." That is the aim in life that Stan Valentine set for himself. The proof of his success is the enthusiasm with which he is received by the folk dancing groups that he so often visits.

Stan was not born into folk dancing, but it is a safe bet to say that he was dancing, or at least wiggling when he was in three-cornered pants. He came up through the "Big Apple" and the "Black Bottom," through the jitter-bug era and finally joined his first folk dancing group in August of 1944, The Concord Allemanders. In 1947, just three years later, he was elected President of that club and that is when things really started. His aim in life was starting to "jell." He held offices in several folk dance groups in the ensuing years, and in 1953 was elected President of the Diablo Council of Folk and Square Dancers. He has been a California Folk Dance Council representative for the Diablo Promenaders for the past ten years.

In 1955 the President of the Northern California Folk Dance Federation, Bev Wilder, saw fit to appoint Stan the Festival Coordinator, and succeeding Presidents, Frank Kane and Don Spier reappointed him. John Mooney, our present President, has requested Stan to continue as Festival Co-Ordinator for 1958-59.

It was in 1947 that he started calling square dances and now is well known by both square and folk dancers for his own "styling" of such favorites as "Barnacle Bill the Sailor," "Cotton Eyed Joe," "Bingo, Oh, By Jingo," "Chinatown" and "Marianne."

Is he popular: He has Guest Called for over 300 different folk and square dance clubs, including clubs in Oregon, Washington and Nevada, and in Salt Lake City, Utah. He works with exhibition groups and has composed many comedy exhibition squares. If being popular is being asked for, then you might note that Stan has Guest Called on an average of four nights a week for the past five years, and travels nearly 1000 miles a month to do this. He calls approximately 1000 squares a year. Nothing highbrow, he calls for beginners as well as advanced groups. He holds honorary memberships in twelve folk and square dance clubs.

He lives at 1175 Plaza Drive in Martinez, with his wife, Edith, and two lovely daughters, Darla and Gayla. He is employed by an Oil Company there.

A salute to the man, who, through his untiring efforts has achieved his goal and has helped us in living and dancing together freely and joyously. He has really dedicated his life to those who have learned to pour their energy into joyous dancing.



STAN VALENTINE