

## **Bruce Wyckoff** (August 8, 1928 - October 10, 2019)

by Loui Tucker with Dorothy Young and A Lisin

Bruce Wyckoff was a past president of the Folk Dance Federation (1978-80). The photo on the right appeared in *Let's Dance!* magazine with the columns he wrote during that time period.

He was born in San Francisco and grew up in Burlingame. When Bruce's parents were students at Stanford they were folk dancers, so when Bruce went there, he joined a folk dance group. His wife Mary started at Stanford a year later. When girls in her dorm said they were going folk dancing, she decided to join them. That's how she and Bruce met.

They were married, had four children, and lived in Redwood City. They joined the Docey Doe Folk Dancers, which was originally a square dance group started by Mildred Buhler, but had changed to include more folk dances by the time Bruce and Mary joined. When the teacher left, Bruce took over as their teacher and remained so until their club disbanded due to illnesses and aging. In the meantime, Mary and Bruce also joined the Palomanians in the 1970s. Bruce often said he wished we danced more German dances, possibly because of some German background. He also especially liked Scottish dances.

Bruce served the folk dance community in many capacities. He held several positions in the Peninsula Folk Dance Council, including more than one term as president. As mentioned above, he served as president of the Folk Dance Federation for two years. He served on the Folk Dance Federation's Dance Research Committee and its Institute Committee. He was largely responsible for the large collection of videos taken at Federation institutes. While president of the Federation, he wrote a column in *Let's Dance!* called a Moment of Concern (see p. 17) and another called Let's Do Squares.

His degree and career were in civil engineering. He was also an avid photographer, although it was reported that he had a hard time accepting digital photography. Bruce and Mary were world travelers and often regaled fellow folk dancers in their home to wonderful slide shows of their trips.

Bruce died in October 2019, having been in a care home for several months. A memorial service for him will be held on February 29, 2020 at the Congregation Church in Belmont.

Bruce's wife Mary has moved to the Atria Senior Living Center in Willow Glen in San Jose. Should you wish to send her a card or letter, her address is 1660 Gaton Dr., Apt. SQ09, San Jose, CA 95125.

