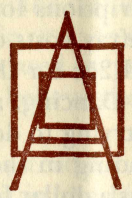


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AMERICAN SQUARES

THE MAGAZINE DEDICATED TO AMERICAN FOLK DANCING



10 cents



September, 1948

The Magazine

C. A. "Doc" Newland of Milwaukee wrote us " The high quality of editing and arrangement of AMERICAN SQUARES has impressed me very much. It is a refreshing lift each month to read what is being done with square dancing elsewhere and by whom. You and the other editors are to be highly commended for the magnificent way in which you are handling the publishing."

We hope we can live up to these fine words of "Docs". But he must have really meant what he said, for at a recent picnic which he held, he garnered 94 subscriptions for us by suggesting that each couple contribute \$1.00 to defray costs of the picnic. (75c went for the club subscription rate and 25c for the picnic.)

If you believe in Square Dancing, and what we, the editors of AMERICAN SQUARES are trying to do in promoting square dancing, won't you help us in sending in the names of prospective subscribers? Or better still, send us a dollar for your friends subscription. Only with your help can we achieve our aim—the furtherance of square dancing.

Good dancing,
Frank Lyman

AMERICAN SQUARES

121 Delaware St., Woodbury, N. J.

VOL. IV NO. I

EDITOR: Charley Thomas, 121 Delaware Street, Woodbury, N. J.

MANAGING EDITOR: Frank Lyman, Jr., 819½ Avenue "G", Fort Madison, Ia.

ASSOCIATE EDITORS:

Jimmy Clossin, 2930 Van Buren, El Paso, Texas; **Mark Dannis**, R. D. 7, Box 668, Akron 3, Ohio; **Douglas Durant, Jr.**, 2225 Spruce, Phila., Pa.; **C. D. Foster**, Box 540, Denver 1, Colorado; **Deke Fowler**, 107 Ivy Street, New Haven, Conn.; **Lou Harrington**, 1131 Harlem Blvd., Rockford, Illinois; **Paul Hunt**, 136 Emery Street, Hempstead, N. Y.; **J. C. Moore**, 705 So. Oakland Blvd., Fort Worth 3, Texas; **Elsie C. I. Morris**, County Jr. High School, Bremerton, Wash.; **Ralph A. Piper**, Dept. Phys. Ed., U. of Minn., Minneapolis, Minn.; **Carl E. Schmitz**, 1517 E. Almeria Ave., Phoenix, Arizona; **Nat Welsh**, Southern Farmer, Montgomery 1, Ala.

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Long Island Square Dance Festival

By Paul Hunt

An annual Long Island Square Dance Festival has long been in the minds of many Long Island callers, but it was not until this year that it became a reality.

About two months ago, a representative group of callers and folk dance leaders met and laid the framework for the Festival. The purpose of such an affair was two-fold. First: to provide a day of fun and festivity for the already established square dancers here, where they could meet and dance to the calling of leaders whom they would not meet in any other way. Second: to create and foster an interest in square dancing in the uninitiated by presenting a program of easy-to-do yet interesting dances. I believe the affair was truly successful in both aims.

Sponsored by the Hempstead Units of the New York National Guard, the Festival was held in the Hempstead Armory on Sunday, June 6. About 1000 dancers and twenty-two callers participated in the afternoon and evening session.

The evening program opened with a grand march led by Ed Durlacher of Freeport, L. I. The advancing of the Colors by the Color Guard of the N. Y. N. G. and the singing of the National Anthem by Miss Paula Grady, a member of the Hempstead Country Dance Group, lent a stirring and colorful note to the opening ceremonies. This was followed by a word of welcome from Sgt. Martin Nickel, general chairman of the Festival and an address by Major Thomas Kelly, Commanding Officer of the Hempstead Units of the N. Y. National Guard.

After the opening ceremonies the dancing got into full swing, and from that time on, square dances, exhibition dances, and general hilarity held full sway. Danny Sutter of Hicksville put on his Indian War Dance, and many hearts thumped with something that was not breathlessness from dancing as he scalped his imaginary foe. Mary and Michael Herman demonstrated the Veleta Waltz; Martha and George Merrill gave us some authentic Mexican folk dances; the Hempstead Country Dance Group displayed their usual spirit and symmetry in a New England Quadrille; the Armory Square Dancers did an exhibition medley square; and in between and all around were hundreds of dancers whirling to the tunes of the Top Hands and the calls of the twenty-two Long Island callers, all of whom, incidentally, did a swell job.

One of the surprises of the evening came from Betty Palumbo of Jamaica, L. I., the only woman caller participating. With a pleasant huskiness in her voice that came excellently over the "mike" and an

attention-getting personality, she did a beautiful job and was one of the big hits of the evening. I've heard woman callers before, and frankly, was never greatly impressed, but my hat comes off to Betty.

I noticed many visiting callers attending. I'm afraid I'll have to apologize for not being a good reporter and getting their names on the spot, but among the whirling dervishes on the floor I did notice Rod LaFarge and a group of his dancers, Pop Smith, Lawrence Loy, the Brundages, father and son, and Deke Fowler whom I had met before only on the pages of AMERICAN SQUARES. There were others, and I am sincerely sorry that I didn't get all the names.

A meeting of the callers was held during the supper intermission and plans are already going forward for the Second Annual Long Island Square Dance Festival to which, dear readers, you are all most cordially invited.

The members of your square dance club are interested in square dancing; otherwise they wouldn't join the club. They would enjoy reading AMERICAN SQUARES

The Canton County Dance Council orders 25 copies of AMERICAN SQUARES which are sent to them each month in a bunch at 7 cents each and retailed to their members at the standard 10 cents.

Quadrille of Oklahoma has a different idea. They have asked us for a price and we will sell individual subscriptions to clubs for 75 cents. Make this 75 cents part of the yearly dues of the club and send us names and addresses of members, and each will receive AMERICAN SQUARES as part of his club membership.

Russell Huestis reports that Los Angeles has formed an association of square dancers composed of fifteen clubs with more than a thousand members. Devoted to the furtherance of square dancing, the association invites communications from other interested clubs. Write Russell Huestis, 4932 Cahuenga Blvd., No. Hollywood, Calif.

With this issue we welcome Fred and Mary Collette, 1286 University Dr. N. E., Atlanta 6, Georgia, to our staff of associate editors. Fred used to sell shoes but at present they seem to be full time dancers, for Fred writes that after attending Gene Gowing's school in New Hampshire they are leaving New York for South America, going by ship to Buenos Aires and flying back up the west coast. They'll be back in time to catch their breaths only and leave on October 22 from New York for a 100 day trip 'round the world. Says Fred, "Part of our purpose in making these cruises is to pick up all the new angles on dancing that we can, so we intend to send back a bit of interesting dance news occasionally."

Have you sent us the names and addresses of the members of your Square Dance Club? If not, send them in and we will send a free copy of AMERICAN SQUARES to them.

Club Organization

Many clubs have asked us for material on organizing a club. Here is a constitution adopted by one club.

SUGGESTED

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS FOR A SQUARE DANCE ORGANIZATION

Dates and numbers can easily be changed to fit the desires of the individual club and even the rest is merely suggestion and can be altered easily.

Article I

NAME AND PURPOSE

1. The name of this club shall be -----
2. The purpose of this club shall be to provide members and friends with opportunities to square dance and to further and promote square dancing.

Article II

MEMBERSHIP

1. The total membership of this club shall not exceed 100.
2. At any time, the membership of the club shall not embrace more than 20% more of one sex than the other.
3. Persons may be admitted to membership as follows:
 - a. They must first attend two meetings of the club as prospective members. At each meeting they shall be introduced to the club as prospective members by a member of the Membership Committee.
 - b. They shall then submit an application for membership, accompanied by dues for one half year, signed by two members of the club, to the Membership Committee.
 - c. Their names shall be presented to the Membership Committee and approved by a two-thirds vote.

Article III

OFFICERS

1. The officers of this club shall consist of the president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer, two delegates to the Folk Federation and chairmen of committees.

(In some places the Caller is an officer. However, in other places the Caller is a paid employee and in others members of the club take turns calling. Since we prefer and recommend the latter practice, this suggested constitution does not recognize the Caller as an officer. He may be added where desired.)

2. All officers, except chairmen of committees other than the Executive and Program Committees shall be elected by majority vote at the September business meeting of the club and shall hold office for one year unless earlier removed.

3. Any officer may be removed by majority vote at any business meeting of the club provided each member of the club is notified that such a vote will be taken.

4. The officers shall compose the Executive Committee. The president shall be chairman.

5. The president shall preside at the business meetings of the club, represent the club in its dealings with others and appoint the chairmen of the committees, other than Executive and Program Committees.

6. The vice-president shall be ex-officio chairman of the Program Committee, preside at the social meetings of the club and act for the president in the event of his absence or incapacity.

(The Chairman of the Program Committee is the person who, next to the president, knows what is going on. It is therefore logical to give this job to the vice-president who will succeed the president in the event of his incapacity.)

7. The secretary shall keep the minutes of the meetings and conduct the correspondence of the club.

8. The treasurer shall collect the dues and keep the money of the club, paying it out upon direction of the club or the Executive Committee.

9. The two delegates to the Folk Federation shall, with one other officer designated by the president, officially represent the club at meetings of the Folk Federation.

Article IV

COMMITTEES

1. The chairmen of the committees, except the Executive and Program Committees, shall be appointed by the president to serve during the president's term. They may be removed by the president without notice or in the same method other officers may be removed.

2. The chairman of each committee shall appoint as many members of his committee as he may desire. They shall hold office at his pleasure and their terms shall end with his.

3. Committee meetings shall be held upon call of the chairman. Each committee may make its own rules.

4. The permanent committees shall be as follows: Executive, Program, Membership, Property, Demonstration and Publicity.

5. The Executive Committee shall advise the president and act for the club during the period between business meetings.

6. The Program Committee shall provide the place for the social meetings of the club, the music, callers and instructors.

7. The Membership Committee shall pass on the admissibility of members.

8. The Property Committee shall have custody of all books, records, square dance supplies and other property belonging to the club. They shall make the rules for use of the material by the individual members of the club, subject to the approval of the club itself.

9. The Demonstration Committee shall choose and instruct the better dancers for giving demonstrations. They shall also arrange the times and places for giving demonstrations and provide the audience.

10. The publicity Committee shall publicize the club.

11. Special committees shall be established for special purposes by authorization of the club.

(Continued on page 12)

Callers Corner

By C. D. Foster

The Play-Party has been neglected by Folk-lorists until recently and it is only in the last few years that it has been recognized as having a definite place in the development of America.

The methods of playing the games as well as the music accompanying it are as numerous as the communities that played them. Even today they are in a constant state of change.

The Play-Party games as I give them to you are not modernized, neither are they streamlined. They are given to you as we actually played them fifty years ago.

WEEVILY WHEAT

The players stand in two lines, boys on one side—partners opposite. (About 6 feet apart)

Six couples in a line are best. If more are present, make more lines. Be sure to have the same number of couples in a line. This play is known in square dancing as the Virginia Reel. You can find a complete description of it under that title in Part One, Card 34. If music is used, any good 4—4 time piece will do. Of course we used to sing. I will give you a few verses.

*Over the river to feed the sheep,
Over the river to Charley,
Over the river to feed the sheep,
And bake a cake for Charley.
Charley he's a fine young man,
Charley he's a dandy,
Charley likes to kiss the girls
Whenever it comes handy.
The higher up the cherry tree,
The riper grow the cherries,
The more you hug and kiss the girl,
The sooner she will marry.*

So much for the verses. There were many of them. (If you do not know the music, write me in care of AMERICAN SQUARES and I will send you a pencil copy.)

If you want to shorten the play rotation, in place of following the dance as given in Virginia reel, do as follows:

When the song or music starts—

*All couples forward and salute partners.
All turn partners with right hand. (Now back to places)
All turn partners with left hand. (Back)
All turn partners with both hands. (Back)*

All Do-si partners. (See Card 12, Part 2. Foster's Dance Cards)

Now first couple down center and back. At their home place stop and turn partner once and a half with right elbow swing. Gent catch second lady left elbow, lady catch second gent with left elbow and then partners swing with right elbow and then catch third same and back to right with partners again until they reach the foot. This is the reel.

Now first couple skip back to position and lady turn right and gent left—supposing the girls are on the left of the music— and go on the outside of the lines to the foot. All girls following the girl leader, boys following boy leader.

When the first couple meet at the foot, they form an arch by joining both hands above their heads and as the other couples meet they join both hands and pass through the arch. The first couple through going to the head and the next couple next, etc. The first couple stays at the foot after all couples have passed through their arch and the couple that was second is now first.

Now start over and continue until all couples have acted as first couple and all players are where they started from.

And, so we leave you. We hope you get some idea of the old Play-Party. Part 3 of Foster's Dance Cards will be devoted to Play-Party Games and is now ready for the press.

A VERMONT COUNTRY DANCE ABOUT 1890

It is winter in New England, the hills are white with snow,
Outside the air is frosty, for it must be ten below,
Wrap well the heated freestones, tuck the robes in good and tight,
For we are going to a country dance, in the old town hall tonight.
Old Fiddler Bill will be there, and 'neath his skillful bow,
French Four, Hull's Victory, Money Musk, in turn will quickly flow,
Step lively through the changes, right and left or ladies chain,
Or chase down the center, to the foot and back again.
The old box stove, with apple chunks, is filled and glowing red,
The hall is dimly lighted, with some oil lamps hung o'er head,
The spirit of New England cheer, pervades the very air,
And like one happy family, is the crowd assembled there.
In those days men wore cowhide boots, and women calico,
They came to "cut a pigeon wing", or "trip fantastic toe",
A country dance of olden days could warm the coldest heart,
God speed the day it may return, again to play its part.

Will E. Ayer,
Fitchburg, Mass.
"Old Fiddler Bill"

Folkraft Records Contest

Folkraft Records is offering a prize of \$10 worth of square dance books and records for the best dance designed to one of their records. Their records may be obtained from AMERICAN SQUARES at \$.89 each. The rules of the contest follow.

1. Any subscriber to AMERICAN SQUARES may enter the contest.

2. Submit your calls and instructions to Folkraft Contest, AMERICAN SQUARES, 121 Delaware Street, Woodbury, N. J. Bear in mind that the dance is to be designed to fit a Folkraft record, including the change tune. The dance need not be completely original, but originality will count a great deal toward final scoring. Particularly it must fit the change tune that appears on several Folkraft records.

3. The judges will be Charley Thomas, Lou Harrington and Jimmie Clossin. Their decision will be final.

4. The prize will be \$10 worth of books and | or records from the AMERICAN SQUARES catalogue.

5. Entries must be received before October 2, 1948.

6. All entries become the property of AMERICAN SQUARES and Folkraft Records.

Four of these contests will be held in the following year. Entries that are not successful in the first contest may be re-entered in following contests.

Dances Contributed

A Square demonstrated and presented for Associate Editor Schmitz on a recent visit to the Circle Eight Club, Boulder City, Nevada, and called by Edward Nilsen and brought from Estes Park, Colorado, by Montgomery of Estes Park.

Circle Eight meets the first three Saturdays in the month, has a membership of 75 couples. Mr. Frank Long is the president. Barney Gino, Commander of American Legion is an active host to the costumed dancers. Refreshments are served after a lively evening of squares to several capable callers.

Ye Editor served up the happy "Patty Cake Polka" as his contribution to that evening's program. (in the 'Dam City')

TWO STARS IN THE NIGHT

Opener—

*Honor your corner, the lady by your side,
Eight hands up and circle wide,
Now promenade back, Indian style,
Squaw in the lead, chief runs wild,*

*You swing yours, I'll swing mine,
I'll swing my gal any old time,
Now lead to the left with a left allemande,
And lead right back with a right and left grand,
First old Sal, then old Sue,
Grab that girl with the great big shoe
And promenade boys, promenade.*

Figure—

*Eight to the center, backs to the bar,
Eight to the center and form a star
With the right hands crossed,
Now back to the left and don't get lost,
FIRST LADY out, form two stars,
One like Venus and one like Mars,
Ladies come in and gents go out,
Turn those two stars wrong side out,
Ladies go out and gents come in,
Turn those stars around agin,
Find the one you call your own,
Pick her off and take her home.
Eight to the center, backs to the bar,
Eight to the center and form a star
With the right hands crossed,
Now back to the left and don't get lost.
And there you stand.*

SECOND LADY: as the first lady

Repeat the figure

THIRD LADY: as the first lady

Repeat the figure

FOURTH LADY: as the first lady

ENDING

OCEAN WAVE

*Head two gents right hands across, you step around in
time.
Back by the left, take hold of their hands and balance
four in line.
Break in the center, swing half-way round and balance
in line some more.
Swing your partner once around and promenade the
floor.*

Repeat this four times around the set and the change tune exactly fits:

*Allemande left, grand right and left, meet your own and
promenade.*

Repeat four more times calling for ladies. In this rotation you

can complete the dance on playing the record through once. You can rearrange it however, so that you call the first four gents as above, then after the grand right and left figure call for ladies in order as follows:

*The head two ladies cross over and with your opposite swing,
The side two ladies cross over and do the same old thing.
You do-si-do with your partners and then to your corners all,
Swing your corners once around and promenade the hall.*

As recorded on Folkraft records 1004 and submitted by Frank Haltman. This record is for sale by American Squares. \$.89

Ralpn Page Says

I went down to Wheeling, West Virginia, May 30—June 4th, to Folk Dance Camp, at Ogleby Park. Jane Farwell, Michael and Mary Ann Herman and myself were the leaders there this year. Two hundred and twenty-five campers there, all the way from Texas to Maine. And a finer group of folk dancers would be impossible to gather together. We DANCED ALL DAY AND HALF THE NIGHT, 'twas wonderful. I would say that half the people were leaders, and the rest just dance lovers. Classes all day and parties from 7—11:30. Also we found time somehow, to do a lot of folk singing and discuss folk dancing with the other people there.

Am thinking seriously of some time trying such a camp up here in N. H. After Memorial Day week-end would be a grand time for it, and anywhere in the state is near enough to Boston and Worcester and Fitchburg to attract many dancers there.

Met two of the editors of Foot 'n Fiddle down there in W. Va. A swell pair of girls, too. Anne Pitman and Marlys Swenson— physical education teachers at the State University in Austin. They showed us some interesting variations of Texas dances, too. And we swung them crazy with our Yankee swings.

Oklahoma's state-wide Square Dance Jamboree held last May cleared around \$1200. Following the jamboree, the state was divided into five districts.

On July 25, delegates from 30 clubs in the central district met in Oklahoma City and formed the Central Oklahoma Square Dance Association, adopting by-laws, and electing the following officers: John Bowlware, pres.; Millard Stewart, vice pres.; Paul Johnson, treas.; Hugh Gill, exec. sec; and Retha Duggan, sec.

(Club organization continued)

Article V

MEETINGS

1. Meetings shall be either social or business. No business shall be transacted at social meetings except the making of announcements. However, a special business meeting may be called for the same time and place as a social meeting.

2. Regular business meetings shall be held the first Thursdays of September and January of each year. Special business meetings may be held at any time upon call of the president or the Executive Committee.

3. Each member shall be notified by mail of every business meeting and no business shall be transacted unless this is done.

4. Social meetings shall be held every Friday night.

Article VI

AMENDMENTS

1. This constitution may be amended by a vote of two-thirds at any business meeting provided each member has been notified of the intention to submit an amendment to the constitution .

BY-LAWS

1. Business meetings shall be governed by Robert's Rules of Order when not contrary to the constitution or by-laws.

2. A quorum at a business meeting shall consist of those interested enough to attend. Proxies, however, may be furnished by those unable to attend.

3. Dues shall be \$10 per year—\$5 payable at the regular business meetings. \$.75 of each year's dues shall be used to pay for a subscription to AMERICAN SQUARES for the member. (N. B.: This is club rate.)

4. Default in dues for two social meetings after the business meeting at which they become due shall result in loss of membership. Ex-members may be reinstated upon payment of back dues, except that those who have been in default for a half year or more will be reinstated upon payment of \$10. After two years, an ex-member loses his status as an ex-member and must follow the procedure that any other applicant must follow.

(In our club the payment of all back dues up to \$10 for reinstatement of ex-members was found necessary to prevent members dropping out during the inactive season when the club expenses went on just the same, and rejoining during the active season.)

5. Each member shall be entitled to bring one visitor or prospective member to a social meeting.

6. No intoxicating liquors shall be allowed at social meetings.

7. By-Laws may be amended by vote of a majority at any business meeting provided each member has been notified of the intention to submit an amendment to the by-laws.

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F 1016A *Honolulu Baby*, 1016B *Git Along Cindy*

F1017A *Oh Susannah*, 1017B *Flopp Eared Mule (D & A)*

F1018A *Buffalo Gal*, 1018B *Old Joe Clark*. These are without calls. They have also released another Al Brundage record with calls, F1014 *Pop Goes the Weasel* and *My Darling Nellie Gray*.

VICTOR Album C-34 *Swing Your Partner*. Bill Dickinson's Tuxedo Colonels, calls by Paul Conklin: 12" *Chasse Your Partner, Buffalo Gal, Darling Nellie Gray, Duck the Oyster, Lady 'Round the Lady, Life on the Ocean Wave, Quadrille Fig. I, Quadrille Fig. 3.*

Album C-36 *Square Dances* Woodhull's Old Tyme Masters, 12" with calls. *Pop Goes the Weasel, Oh Susanna, The Wearing of the Green, Captain Jinks, Triple Right and Left Four, The Girl Behind Me*, and *Soldier's Joy and Blackberry Quadrille* without calls.

VICTOR 20-2168 *Flop-Eared Mule* and *Soldiers Joy*. Gil Tanner and his Skillet Lickers 10".

20-2167 *Back Up and Push and Down Yonder*. Gil Tanner and his Skillet Lickers. 10".

STARR 16341 *Chicken Reel, New Bedford Reel, J. O. Madelein* 89c

KRANTZ 1009 *MacNamara's Band, Waiting for the Robert E. Lees* Durning string band. \$.89