

BOSTON CENTRE NEWSLETTER

Country Dance Society

57 Roseland St., Somerville, Mass. 02143 - Phone 354-2455

FALL 1976

Vol. 1 No. 3

EDITORS

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The people to talk to about an
idea or opinion:

S-J Thomas (Pres.), Bob Paul
(Lst VP), Jackie Schwab (2nd VP),
Terry Tobias (Treas.), Mary
Blomberg (Sec.), Bill Horne,
Francis Worrell, Lyrl Ahern, Tony
Parkes, Dale Thomas, and Louise
Winston

Open Season

The season has opened, with New England squares and contras beginning Tuesday, Sept. 14 and English country dancing beginning Wednesday, Sept. 15. The format for Tuesdays will be about the same as last year's, but Wednesdays will be different! Morris will run concurrently with country dancing at the beginning of the evening, giving those who wish it a full evening of country dancing. An effort is being made to have more Saturday parties this year. The first will be on Oct. 2, English country dancing following the Annual Harvard Yard Morris Tour. The second, on Oct. 16, will be New England contras and squares. For details, consult the schedule insert.

Pinewoods Benefit

The flea market to benefit Pinewoods has been set for November 13 at the Baptist Church in Harvard Square from 12-4 pm. We need help and donations: household goods, odds & ends, trinkets, and memorabilia,

almost anything that is useful! (We're not accepting clothing unless it's in the costume category.) Dance related items, records, music makers, books, and dancing gear would be a welcome addition. Any items deemed useful for Pinewoods will be selected and donated directly to the camp.

After October 22 but before November 12, donations should be brought to the various drop-off points listed below, or call Gerry Mansbach (628-8011) to arrange for pick-up at your home. Each regional drop-off will handle smaller goods -- the larger items should be picked up. Please call Gerry if you are able to lend a hand on this project in any way!

Drop-off points:

Concord: Molly and Dan Watt
369-1621

Newton: Irene Calk 969-3875

Weymouth: Jo Ray 335-0818
(after Oct. 29)

Somerville: Gerry Mansbach
628-8011

There isn't much, these days, that is without value. Please look long and hard for goods. People without personal fortunes might find this a perfect way to contribute to our camp.

The Morris Ale

The first American Morris Ale was held in Marlboro, Vt. over Memorial Day weekend. Twelve Morris teams joined in an exciting but exhausting schedule of simultaneous dancing on the wide field at Marlboro College.

The Ale was hosted by Tony Barrand of the Marlboro Morris and Sword team, with assistance from Andra Barrand and Dinah Breunig of the Marlboro Women's Morris.

Local teams participating were the Black Jokers, Muddy River Morris, the New Cambridge Morris Men, and the Pinewoods Morris Men. Other teams were the Binghamton Morris Men, N.Y.; the Greenwich Morris Men, N.Y.C.; the Hartford Women's Morris, Conn.; Phoenix Morris, Canterbury N.H.; Poking Brook Morris and Sword team, Poughkeepsie, N.Y.; the Ring o' Bells, N.Y.C.; and the Strong Morris, Maine.

Chris Walker, Squire of the Pinewoods Morris Men, supplied the details for this report.

Pinewoods Weekend

...turned a nice profit of approximately \$417. There were 144 persons in attendance.

Persons who volunteered their help and should have been mentioned and thanked in the last newsletter are Ida Giriunas, the nurse; Roberta Lasnik, lifeguard; and Pam Kelly, dining room chairperson.

Thanks also go to the dance and music staffs who made the weekend so enjoyable. Tony Parkes' advanced square class was a wonderful addition.

Pinewoods Scholarships

Many thanks to the generous people who contributed to the scholarship fund and helped a number of deserving persons attend the weekend at Pinewoods. A total of \$281 was collected from:

Gerry Mansbach	Don Fife
Helene Cornelius	Louise Winston
William Joyce	Irvin Davis
Ida Giriunas	Norman Patterson
Al Chertok	Lois Harper
Evelyn Lamond	Jackie Schwab
Roger Cartwright	Ed & Christine
John Conway	Helwig
The Jennings	Judith Knight
Eva Linn	Howard Lasnik
Charles Hammond	E. Mildred Abbott
Wm. Rubin	Patricia White
Rey Steiger	Bob Paul
Maude Beaton	Louis Green
	Helen Sweeney

The Fund is open all year around . . . send money!



SQUARE AND CONTRA DANCE
with

Tony Parkes, caller
Donna Hinds, fiddler
Peter Barnes, piano

Fourth Fridays starting
Sept. 24, First Unitarian
Church, Carlisle, Mass.
8:30 pm - \$1.75

Summer Series

For the second successful year, NEFFA and CDS jointly presented a Wednesday evening summer series of contras and squares and English country dancing. Larry Jennings organized it for us again this year, and all we can say is, "Thanks, Larry, for another job well done."

The executive board voted to earmark CDS's share of the profits toward the purchase of good sound equipment, a decision which will be applauded by our callers and musicians.

Simeon Darley Chapin !

Son of Hank and Amy Chapin

Born at home at 3:48 a. m. on Sept. 11, 1976



He was 19 1/2 inches long and weighed approximately 6 pounds (in the absence of a scales). In attendance was Chuck Hammond, and two birth attendants and a doctor from Birth Day. Birth Day, a Cambridge-based organization, encourages and teaches about home birth and disseminates information about good maternal care.

"Simeon" means "hearing" in Hebrew, and Hank expressed the hope that he and Amy would hear a lot from their son as he grows, seeing life through his eyes. Simeon is named after his mother's great-great-great-great-grandfather, Simeon Blanchard of Ticonderoga.

Leadership Scholarship

The Lawrence V. Loy Memorial Fund is available this year to several New Englanders to attend the 1976 Christmas Country Dance School in Berea, Ky. from Dec. 26 through New Year's Eve. Full tuition is offered. (Transportation and lodging are not included.) At Berea College this 38th annual professional recreation course is "devoted to the practice and enjoyment of authentic folk material". Instruction in many aspects of community recreation includes: Dance musicianship, folk singing, story telling, puppetry, English country dancing, Danish dancing, Appalachian & Early American square dancing, singing games, dulcimer, and recorder playing.

The Lawrence V. Loy Memorial Fund was established to perpetuate the memory of this outstanding recreation leader and square dance caller by encouraging and assisting persons in acquiring training and education for leadership in the field of recreation.

The trustees of the Fund are seeking applicants who have the

necessary dance skills, a genuine interest, a need for financial assistance, and a desire for leadership training opportunity. Those interested should apply in writing to the Trustees listed below, stating their interest, qualifications, and experience. Recipients are expected to report back with an evaluation of their experience.

Charlie Baldwin, Box NC, Norwell, Mass. 02061
Bob Brundage, 34 Franklin St. Extension, Danbury, Conn. 06810
H. Ruth McIntire, 33 Pokeberry Ridge, Amherst, Mass. 01002
William E. Randall, Univ. of Mass., Amherst, Mass. 01002
Ted Sannella, 493 Worcester St., Wellesley, Mass. 02181

-- Ted Sannella

Work/Dance Scholarship



Volunteers needed at door on Wed. nights. For every hour you work, a free hour of dancing. Contact person at door or call the office.

Fall Schedule

IN BOSTON:

Tuesday -- New England Squares and Contras; Ted Sannella and Tony Parkes, callers, music by Donna Hinds, Peter Barnes, and Hank Chapin.
8:15 PM, 7 Temple St., Cambridge

Wednesday -- English Dancing; Morris dancing, 'Shag' Graetz, teacher, 8:00 - 9:15.
Country dancing, George Fogg and Helene Cornelius, teachers, 8:15-- 10:45.
7 Temple St., Cambridge.

IN WELLESLEY:

Thursday -- English country dancing; Susan Ferguson, teacher, 7:30 - 10:00.
Wellesley Hills Unitarian Church (on Rt. 16)

IN SOUTH WEYMOUTH:

Monday -- English country dancing; George Fogg, teacher,
8:00 PM. Old South Church Congregational.

IN PROVIDENCE, R.I.:

Tuesday -- English country dancing; George Fogg, teacher,
8:00 PM. Beneficent Congregational Church.

SPECIAL DATES

October 2 -- Pinewoods Morris Men's Harvard Tour, 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM, Harvard Square and environs.

English Country Dance, 8:15 PM, Brimmer and May School Activities Hall, Middlesex Rd., Chestnut Hill (just off Rt. 9).

October 16 -- New England Squares and Contras; Tony Parkes, caller, music by Donna Hinds, Peter Barnes, and Jack Sloanaker, 8:15 PM, Brimmer and May School Activities Hall.

November 10 -- Long sword dancing begins, 8:00 - 9:15 PM, 7 Temple St., Cambridge.

November 20 -- New England Squares and Contras - details to be announced.

November 24 (Wed.) -- English Dance Party, no long sword.

December 11 -- CDS Christmas party - details to be announced.

NOTICE

A professional librarian has offered to catalog the books, music, and records which comprise the library of the Boston Centre, making them more available to the membership. So that we can know what we have, please -- if you have borrowed some of this material, either return it to the office or call the office and let us know what you have.

-- S-J Thomas

Dance Schedules

Anyone who is involved in traditional American or English dancing outside of CDS activities, please, let the newsletter know when your dances are and we will publicize them.

Volunteer Opportunity

The Boston Centre would appreciate assistance with the expanded Saturday party schedule. Do you have an idea for an interesting happening (mummers, etc.) or have you heard a good band that may not be familiar to all of us? Can you help organize? Contact Jackie Schwab, Chairperson of the Activities Committee.

From the Editors...

Please write us! Send an article on a dance, a tune, CDS 25 years ago...expound your opinion...start a discussion. This newsletter is a forum for you.

THEY'RE ALL THE SAME...

...BUT THEY'RE ALL DIFFERENT

is what Sarah Gregory said about the various Boston area New England style dances. They're all the same -- they use the same calls and often the same dances -- but they're all different -- each series has a personality of its own. Each personality offers an interesting dance experience, and I urge every dancer to judge each series for him/herself. You may perhaps want some guidance in getting started, and I would like to share a thumbnail sketch of each series with you.

The CDS "Tuesday Night Dance" represents Squares and Contras at

★ NEFFA - FALL PROGRAM

CONTRA SERIES

7:15 pm, 3rd Sundays, Sept. thru May:
Sept. 19 -- Rodney and Randy Miller (1st Cong. Ch.)
Oct. 17 -- Pumpkin Hood Old Time Orchestra (Girl Sct. House, Concord)
Nov. 21 -- Cambridge Contra Orchestra (1st Cong. Ch.)

SPECIAL EVENTS

at Concord Girl Scout House
Sept. 12, 7:15 pm -- Challenging Contras
Oct. 30, 1 & 8 pm -- Dance Fiddler's Contest, followed by Square and Contra Dance
Nov. 14, 2:15 & 7:15 pm -- Family Dance - Dudley Dance

Also, Dec. 5, Roger Whynot at the Concord Girl Scout House (7:15 pm)

their best. They feature exciting live music and zesty dancing. The calling is the best in town, and the only problem is how to cope with success.

The NEFFA Contra Series is the only one which purports to offer something different: a different musical group each month, so you take a pleasant chance with this series. The calling is shared around and no Squares are done. The series espouses "investment in your dancing future" and is likely to have the most challenging dances, though, because of the limited genre, it is fairly easy to get by by engaging the mind. It is also the only non-CDS series accessible by subway.

Ted Sannella's Concord series is the longest running in its present format. The music and calling are tried and true and have a solidity which goes well with the suburban couples and their teen-aged offspring to whom the dance

is predominantly directed. It's easy to feel comfortable with this group, but the hall is likely to be full, making it a little hard to identify with the heart of the dance.

Dudley Laufman's Carlisle dance draws a mixed crowd of his followers and of local people (i.e., people who only go dancing if the dance is in their town). Dudley likes to create a feeling of spontaneity and also to cater to local people, so one shouldn't look for much formal teaching at these dances...but they are the closest thing to "let's dance".

The Common Ground features professional music and calling by the very Sarah Gregory mentioned earlier. Dancing is taken seriously here, but there is a fairly large fraction of beginners. Since these dances are not likely to be overcrowded, a beginner looking for individual attention and sympathetic reception might well find it here.

The Roaring Jelly dances are really parties given by the musicians, who are present in large numbers. There is a feeling of friendly informality enhanced by Dan Watt, who shares the leadership with guest callers. English as well as New England dances are done, and overcrowding is not likely to be a problem.

The Tony Parkes/Donna Hinds dances make use of some of the Tuesday Night personnel in a small town setting. This is also the most recently established series, so it is not yet clear what personality the mixture will produce. You might find it fun to drop in and help mold it.

I might also mention Roger Whynot's record dances in Belmont on alternate Fridays. Roger chooses a very interesting variety of material. In spite of being on the MBTA and being open to all comers, these dances have a local flavor. Ted Sannella also has series of

locally-oriented dances. In many ways these local dances are probably the best places for a beginner to feel comfortable: they are not overcrowded.

Remembering that we are considering regular New England style dances featuring live music, the above listing is complete for greater Boston to the best of my knowledge. CDS, NEFFA, and other organizations present additional parties and specials, and you will want to keep an eye out for these.. It is difficult for me to conceal my opinion that the action follows the live music, and that by concentrating and doing his/her homework, a zesty beginner can be part of that action in short order.

One of my pleasures is to talk to people about dancing, the more so to direct someone to a dance he will enjoy, even if it's not my own favorite; so stop by and talk to me sometime. --- Larry Jennings

Another Pinewoods Benefit

Boston Centre members Lyrl and Dennis Ahern are printing notepaper with sketches of Pinewoods. There will be a variety of sketches showing dancing, chamber music, and folk musicians -- probably four different scenes. These are appropriate in size and design for Christmas cards. A generous percentage of the profit will be donated to the Pinewoods Purchase Fund. Keep your eyes open for them at dances -- hopefully the first ones will be off the press in October.

