

BOSTON CENTRE NEWSLETTER

Country Dance Society

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

[Winter 1976 - 1977]

EDITORS

Kathy Ingoldsby, 18A Glendale Ave.,
Somerville, Mass. 02144
Lyrl Ahern, 113 Springs Road,
Bedford, Mass. 01730

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The people to talk to about an idea or opinion:

S-J Thomas (Pres.), Dale Thomas (1st VP), Jackie Schwab (2nd VP), Terry Tobias (Treas.), Mary Blomberg (Sec.), Lyrl Ahern, Bob Cohen, Bill Horne, Tony Parkes, Louise Winston, and Francis Worrell.

Special Announcement !!

INTRODUCING. . .

a special Thursday night series of American square and contra dances.

These will be held on February 3, 10, 17, and 24 at the usual location, 7 Temple St., Cambridge from 9:15 to 11:00. Our Tuesday series has become so popular that we are often overcrowded, but to avoid the possibility of limiting attendance, we have chosen to offer another night of dancing.

The callers for this new series are Roger Whynot--with music by the City Ducks String Band (Claudio Buchwald, John Schwab, and David Margolin)--and Tod Whittemore--with Joyce Desmarais, Pete Colby, and April Limber.

If both American series are well-supported, the Thursday series could be continued into the spring.

From the Board of Directors

The resignation of Bob Paul from the position of first vice president was accepted with regret. We thank him for his work and ideas. His position was filled by Dale Thomas, and Bob Cohen was appointed to fill the resulting vacancy on the Board.

The responsibilities of the chairman of the activities committee (Jackie Schwab) have been redefined to include only "activities and programs", while the responsibilities of

"publicity and publications" are now assigned to a separate committee, headed by Kathy Lewallen.

Job Opportunity

We are looking for someone to fill the part-time position of Office Manager for the C.D.S. office. The duties include: keeping of financial and membership records, responding to phone and letter inquiries on Society activities, preparation of various forms and announcements, maintenance of files and other administrative procedures and duties stipulated by the Board of Directors in support of the goals and programs of the Society. The flexible hours and modest salary are negotiable, but a schedule of twenty hours total in a four or five day week is likely. Part time self employed, hobbyist, or retired person, please make note.... For more information, call S-J Thomas, evenings, at 964-7234.

The Board wishes to thank Susan Reiners for her excellent job in the office; she helped hold things together for us after Ken Crook's death. Dotty Palmer will be handling these tasks from now through the spring.

Brimmer & May

This fall and winter we've had some wonderful Saturday dances at the Brimmer & May

School in Chestnut Hill. The hall is large, there's a good floor, and the building features clean rest rooms, a good piano, and parking. It's on the trolley line, too. We have excellent relations with the school administration and a good price for the hall. The acoustics problems are being solved and we can now control the heat (in fact, at the Dec. party when the heat failed, we weren't charged for the use of the hall.)

Christmas Cheer

Thanks go to Jackie Schwab, head of the Activities Committee, for a very enjoyable Christmas Dance, and to Jerry Wheelock for decorations. Other helpers were Robin Rogers, Jack Lynch, S-J and Dale Thomas, Dan Watt, Bob Cohen, Susan Reiners, and many persons who helped out on the spot.

Sales

In the near future, Tim Cavanaugh will be selling C.D.S. books, music, and dance material at Wednesday dances 1 or 2 times a month. It is hoped that someone can eventually be found to perform this same service on Tuesday evenings.

In Memoriam *Kenneth E. Crook*

On November 5, 1976, the Boston area dance community and its world of arts and crafts lost a very fine and devoted friend, Kenneth E. Crook. Death came by heart attack suddenly and unexpectedly to Kenneth at his home in Roslindale. Seventy seven years of age, Ken was very actively engaged in his twelfth year as secretary and manager of the office which was maintained jointly by CDS and NEFFA; he was busy there right up to the day before his death.

Ken's entire life was spent in the Boston area where his career as a free lance commercial artist was a varied and fruitful one. He also found time for other allied interests, among them wood crafts including carvings, engravings, and pieces turned on his lathe, some of which he decorated in a style reminiscent of Norwegian rosemaling.

Both NEFFA and CDS profited from Ken's generosity with his time and talents. For a number of years Ken designed the covers for NEFFA's festival programs in a manner which conveyed vividly a sense of the entire festival. He also designed and helped

print countless publicity posters and dance program announcements for both organizations. He also served several years each, on NEFFA's Program, Crafts and Publicity Committees, and as the Executive Director of NEFFA from 1968 through 1970.

George Fogg reminisces about his long association with Ken: "I can't remember when I first met Ken, but it started way back. Ken was an active outdoor enthusiast and nature lover. I have fond memories of a coffee break at the old Newbiggin dance pavilion at Pinewoods Camp with Ken pointing out a scarlet tanager darting about and calling to its mate...I recall Mt. Cardigan AMC - CDS joint weekend outings with Ken leading hikes to the top of Mt. Cardigan; you always needed to be strong and steady to keep pace with him, as his group always made it to the top first...I also remember that Ken had the most wonderful dance rhythm and balance and a total sense of being in the dance; he related completely to his partner and the rest of the dancers in the set. I think of his willingness to see the fun in dancing, the laughter when mistakes were made, his serious desire to get the dance right....We had long talks of the Boston Centre for which he had the greatest interest....I think often of Ken's hearty laughter in enjoyment of a joke, of his long-ago calling of both squares and contras for the Saturday evening parties at the Cambridge YWCA, and also of his most recent cheerful working at our joint NEFFA-CDS office. Members of both organizations are deeply indebted to Ken for his devotion and work. It was not really work for him, but a labor of love!

George Fogg & Marjorie Worrell

Excerpted from the NEFFA News

Volunteers WANTED

We need many more volunteers for jobs in C.D.S., so that the programs remain interesting and the prices remain low. Are you interested in any of these?? Dance administrator (for Wed. & Sat. nights), door tenders (to help the dance administrator), party refreshment and entertainment organizers, special weekend event organizers, folders/staplers for mailings, artists/designers for fliers and special printings, volunteers to serve on a site committee, and so on, and a chairman to help organize all this!

Spotlight
on
Al Olson

for an excellent job of teaching basic square & contra figures for 15 minutes at the beginning of Tuesday night dances

SATURDAY PARTIES

These all begin at 8:00 PM and are at the Brimmer & May hall.

March 19--Fred Breunig

March 26--A Southern Mountain Weekend featuring Fred Breunig and Jim Morrison with a workshop from 1:00 to 4:30 (probably at the YWCA) and an evening party which will be a Pinewoods benefit

There are two parties tentatively set for April--keep your eyes peeled for details.

Critics Corner

The Board of Directors requested that we publish these letters. They appreciate the opinions and are already taking action on several fronts.

This first letter is an edited text of a letter sent to S-J Thomas after the 1st Saturday party at Brimmer & May School.

Now that everyone knows the location of the Brimmer and May School—the Saturday dances hopefully will begin on time...

The attendants on duty at the door should remain at their posts—not leave the cash unguarded. Also, at the door, it would be well to have a stand-up sign to show who is sponsoring the dance....

It is suggested that the leader say "Country Dance Society" not "C.D.S." and it might be mentioned that we are listed in the Boston Telephone Directory....

The caller should be prepared to instruct the musicians before the "walk through" as to preferred music, so that the orchestra would be ready to play...

The caller should stand on the stage. People like to see where the voice is coming from and the caller has a better command of the group—can oversee the squares.

This second letter is printed in full.

Dec. 1976

Dear S-J,

Do we, the Country Dance Society, and you, the Executive Board, want to preserve the traditional New England dances or will we accept a mishmash of stomping and clogging?

Is that the type of dancing we want to promote?

We have already capitulated and allow jeans instead of skirts, bare feet and boots instead of shoes.

Is the aim of the society to make money or to enjoy true traditional New England dances?

If you have any thoughts or comments on these letters, please write a letter to the editors. These letters were anonymous, and we are disappointed that these opinions went unsigned.

Pinewoods Benefit

November 22, 1976

Dear Kathy Ingoldsby:

Tom Kruskal suggested that I acknowledge to you the gift of \$701.25 which he brought us as proceeds of the Flea Market sponsored by the Boston Centre for the benefit of Pinewoods Capital Fund. Your innovative idea is something that should inspire other fund raisers--and we will certainly circulate the news of your successful event to all those who are working to support Pinewoods.

Will you thank all of those who worked to make the Flea Market so outstandingly successful (and profitable) for our drive? We have now a total of more than \$141,000 in gifts and pledges --53.3% of our goal! It now seems that our dream of raising \$265,000 is not so impossible--thanks to friends such as you at the Boston Centre.

Sincerely,

Christine Helwig
Fund Drive Chairman

The above letter is incorrect on one point: the flea market was not officially sponsored by the Boston Centre. It was simply an activity organized by Boston Centre members. People from the Boston Branch of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society and others who care about Pinewoods also participate in making it a success.

Below is a listing of contributors and workers. Many people brought things to us on the morning of the sale, and nobody could keep track of who was donating then--so thanks to all you unknown contributors, and also to... coordinators Kathy Ingoldsby and Gerry Mansbach, Joanna Hill (food table), George Fogg, Bob Paul, Bob Cohen, Lyrl and Dennis Ahern (and neighbor Signe Hanson), Ruth Kane, Ed Wilfert, Irene Calk, Barney Duane, Lark, Ellen Mandigo, Louise Kennedy, Jerry Wheelock, Charlie and Holly Webster, Joe and Cornelia Tierney, Irene and Cal Howard, Ian and Betsy Goddard, Alan Hill, Mary Blomberg, Gerda Conant, Helene Cornelius, Shag Graetz, Dale and S.-J. Thomas, Dan and Molly Watt, Susan Ferguson and Earl Gaddis, Kit French, Betsy Cazden, Claire Belyea, Chris Walker, Chuck Hammond, Ingrid Christiansen, and Stuart Coffin. THANK YOU ALL!

An extra special thank you goes to Muddy River Morris and the New Cambridge Morris Men for providing some entertainment by routing their tour through the flea market.



MANDOLIN TEACHER WANTED

Jim Abrams, of 38 Dorchester Rd., Scarsdale, N.Y. 10583, is looking for a mandolin teacher. If he finds a good one, he is even willing to relocate.

UPCOMING NEFFA DANCES

Feb. 6--Challenging Contras, 2:15 at the Concord Girl Scout House
Feb. 20--Woods Hole Folk Orchestra, 7:15 at the 1st Congregational Church in Cambridge
March 20--Fred Breunig, 7:15 at 1st Congregational, Cambridge.
April 17--Concord Square Dance Band, also 7:15, same location
A NEFFA and CDS Joint Function
March 5--Squares and contras with Tod Whittemore and the Cambridge Contra Orchestra

WEDNESDAYS

What a delightful experience recently, to see the improvement in Wednesday night English dancing. In the four months since George Fogg started teaching basic figures and style from 8:15 - 9:15, beginners are approaching the steps more confidently, quickening the pace and sharpening the awareness of all the dancers. The new format, which allows for extra teaching time, appears successful.

K.I.

Weddings

Tony Parkes and Donna Hinds were married in a Quaker ceremony on September 26, 1976 in Carlisle, Mass. Earl Gaddis played Swedish wedding marches as wedding party and guests paraded around the village green. For the dance following, all their friends who call and all those who play an instrument did so.

Terry Tobias and Cynthia DuPont were married on October 16, 1976 at Granogue in Delaware. Music was by Quadrivium and Alexander's Feast. Dancing afterwards was led by Bob Dalsemer.

To the Editors

To the Editors,
When I was preparing the review of the local dance scene for the last newsletter, it occurred to me that I was not certain

what it was that I was reviewing or how to refer to it. I have since had a few thoughts on these matters, and I would like to share them with your readers.

The subject is not too hard to define. Think of dancing developed in New England from British sources, (preferably live) music developed from British or French Canadian sources, casual attire, and not much in the way of formal classes.

As so often happens, the words cause more trouble than the subject. Some people, particularly those who make appreciable use of material very recently imported from England, refer to "Country Dancing". But this is likely to lead to communication problems when speaking to people with a long time interest in English Dance. Some people, particularly those who have come to this sort of thing recently, say "Contra Dancing". As a long term New Englander and proprietor of the NEFFA Contra Series, it always pleases me when "Contra" is used to refer to all the good things mentioned in the above paragraph. But we do have to admit that this term should be reserved for a more restricted dance form. Some may speak of "American Dancing", but to me, this conjures up images of the Twist, Jitterbug, Rain Dances, Western Style Squares, and lots of other things, as well as the New England Dancing described above. To be perfectly accurate, we might say: "An evening of New England style Squares and Contras supplemented by other material, such as polkas, kolos, triplets, English Dances and/or other things, which the caller considers appropriate". But I don't think that will ever sell as a catch phrase. So we are left with "Square Dancing", which is slightly troublesome for it covers a broad range. For example, in the southern mountains this term is used to refer to dancing that is rarely in quadrille formation, but usually has couple facing couple, backs or fronts to the center of the circle. So, if you're talking with someone who is into Mountain or Western Squares, the thing to say is "New England Squares"; in the case of an understanding local, "Squares" will do. In any case, the term "Squares", as used throughout the country, refers to the local thing, whatever it may be.

So then, maybe our paths will cross at CDS Tuesday night, at a NEFFA contra, or elsewhere. In any case, I'll be seeing you at the Square Dance.

Sincerely,
Larry Jennings

The Editors regret the delays of bad weather, disabled cars, and professional commitments which prevented publication of this issue at the earlier, planned date.