

BOSTON CENTRE NEWSLETTER

Country Dance Society

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

(Nov.) FALL 1977

EDITORS

Kathy Ingoldsby, 18A Glendale Avenue,
Somerville, Mass. 02144

Lyr! Ahern, 298 Central Street, Acton,
Mass. 01720

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The people to talk to about an idea or an opinion:

S-J Thomas (Pres.)	Lyr! Ahern
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Jackie Schwab (2nd V.P.)	Bill Horne
Terry Tobias (Treas.)	Louise Winston
Mary Blomberg (Sec.)	Chris Walker
	Francis Worrall

Please excuse the appearance of this issue; I have just moved and can't find my rub-off type.

Potential contributors of articles or news: please note change of address.

THANKS...

...to Gerry Mansbach for the new flyer rack at Brimmer and May.

... to Debbie Bulkley and Elizabeth Horne for managing the Labor Day weekend.

...to Marty Markham for once again running a successful Cardigan Weekend.

...to the Pinewoods Morris Men for holding off the rain until 5:00 p.m. on October 1 (Annual Harvard Yard Tour).

...to those who worked on the October 8 outing at Landmark School in Prides Crossing, Beverly: Roger Whynot, Fred Finkler, Susan Worland, Ray MacIntyre, George Fogg, and Beryl Harrison.

...to donors to the Pinewoods Scholarship Fund: Norman Patterson, Charles and Ethel McMahon, E. Mildred Abbott, Irvin W. Davis, Kathleen Ann Morse, Josephine Ray, Vera B. Freeman, Mary Blomberg, Christine Helwig, Louise Winston, Gerhard Mansbach, and Robert Paul.

...to many willing volunteers who help with admissions at the door each night. Remember that service at the door earns you a free dance.

CHRISTMAS PARTY

December 3 at 8 p.m., Brimmer and May School.

Co-sponsored by CDS and Yankee Ingenuity.

We need volunteer help to organize the refreshments. Donations of same will be helpful.

EVENING DANCES

Our regular Tuesday and Wednesday evenings are going well. Dancers are traveling to Chestnut Hill and Cambridge to enjoy the fine variety of dance tunes offered at each.

The time on the Tuesday flyer is noted as 8:00, but instruction for beginners begins at 8, and the dancing for everyone is at 8:15....(P.S. the sound in that big hall improves with more bodies.)

PINEWOODS BENEFIT DANCE

Come to a country dance to benefit Pinewoods Camp on Friday, Dec. 30 at 8:00 p.m. at the Girl Scout House, 74 Walden Street, Concord, Mass.

Three members of the greater Boston dance community are joining to sponsor and lead this one-time-only occasion: Sandy Davis, a member of the string band Common Ground; Becky Lawson, a long-time



FROM OUR ARCHIVES

CARDIGAN

At Cardigan Mountain they held a dance
For the folks from Boston Town,
And they swung and turned and do-si-doed
(Near shook the building down.)

They hiked and swam, they played and sang,
And had a grand old time,
But best of all, some people said,
Was that wonderful Cardigan climb.

With Band-Aids here and corn rings there
They fixed the blistered toes;
Scarcely noticed aches and pains,
That's how a Square Dance goes!

Believe it or not, these rugged folks
Can dance all day and night;
With "Morris", "Sword" and "English Folk"
They got along all right.

But "Running Sets" and "Western" calls
They find a little tough
And sometimes you can hear one say
"Of this I've had enough!"

Then Jack's good food revives them fast
And soon they're back at work.
The next time "Western's" coming up
You'll find they'll never shirk.

There must be something very good
In dancing, you can see,
Because it gets them, young and old —
In fact, it has got me!

9/22/51

Charley Brown

CENTRE HISTORY

In the Summer 1977 issue of the "Boston Centre Newsletter" was given the background of the Summer Camps for English country dancing.

"The English Folk Dance Society in America was founded on March 23rd, 1915 at a meeting held at the Colony Club in New York, by a group of Americans inspired by the work of the English musician and folk dance and song collector, Cecil Sharp. During the next few months, Centers were organized in Boston, Chicago, Cincinnati, New York, Pittsburgh and St. Louis."

Miss Lily Roberts, who had come here from England for the 1915 Summer School, remained in America to direct the work of the Society in Boston and was assisted by Miss Dorothy Bolles (hence the Bolles Memorial Fund), Miss Louise Chapin and others.

When Miss Roberts became Mrs. Robert K. Conant, the direction was gradually taken over by Miss Louise Chapin who made it her life work until her retirement in 1963. The number of weekly classes in

English Country dancing, Morris, and Sword increased during the years until by 1938 and 1939 the opening flyer listed - -

MONDAYS

Boston - 87 Beacon Street
8:30-10:00 P.M. - Couple Class

TUESDAYS

Boston - Brimmer School
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(Preceded by Afternoon Tea)
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Boston - 87 Beacon Street
11:00-12:00 M. - Country Dance Class
5:45-6:45 P.M. - *Morris Class
(Preceded by Afternoon Tea)

*In the 1937 flyer this was listed as Women's Morris.

A variety of classes were held five days a week. Any single girl who wished to dance was invited to join the women's group. Then, when an opening was available, it was quite a thrill to be asked to dance with the Wednesday English Couples Class. One did not know who was one's partner, but that was of little consequence as long as the numbers were even.

For many years the "Wednesday" class was held at the Agassiz School in Cambridge on Sacramento Street. Before class many of the men would disappear behind the stage curtain and then come forth wearing white shirts and white ducks - much more comfortable than business suits. The first hour was for beginners, then a period for beginners and experienced, after which the beginners were asked to leave. After weeks and weeks of intensive instruction it was quite an honor to be asked to join the advanced group.

Monthly parties were held at the Winsor School Gymnasium on Pilgrim Road in Boston (or at the Russell School in Cambridge) and once in a while there would be an extra party "for couples only". A penny postal was mailed to each member listing the dances for each party so one could bone up for the occasion. Some used the postal as a "dance card". Many of the dances were ones that had just been taught in the classes.

As one entered the gymnasium you were greeted by two hosts or hostesses standing on a small rug. One of the most gracious was Miss Anna A. Kloss (now retired from the

Boston country dancer, and Tony Saletan, singer of traditional songs.

A gathering of dance musicians is being especially assembled to play for this event.

Admission is a contribution of \$3 or more to benefit Pinewoods Camp, Inc., a non-profit organization recently formed to purchase and maintain the property on Long Pond in Buzzard's Bay, Mass., where for 47 years the Country Dance and Song Society of America has sponsored summer workshops in country dance, folk music and chamber music.

Mark your calendar now for the night before New Year's Eve!

T.S.

OFFICE NEWS

NEW SECRETARY

As of July, our CDS office person and executive secretary is Vicki Gatanis. Her new office hours are: Tues., Thurs., and Friday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., but as always, the phone-mate will take messages in her absence (she has occasional outside errands and will return your call.) Also requested for the office is a radio; donation any-one???

LIBRARY

The records and books in the office have been catalogued by Mary Blomberg. There's a sign out sheet there, and you may borrow the material for unspecified time periods.

The deadline for contributions for the next issue is February 15.

FALL WEEKENDS

There was plenty of weekend activity this Fall with two new arrivals to fill dance calendars. The Labor Day Weekend at Pinewoods had a successful first time out. About 75 adults and 9 children attended the camp session, initiating a new and different program. The classes given during the day were not the usual sort: Ida Giriunas led bird identification walks, Susan Ferguson taught drop spindle wool spinning, Bob Paul introduced photography, and Victor Wakefield held daily boardgame seminars. A few classes did have a familiar ring: Tony Parkes and Donna Hinds led advanced contras, Bob Fitzgerald was seen clogging with friends, Sue Ferguson had a beginning country class, and Tom Kruskal and Tony Parkes called for camp dances. The mood was spontaneous; a blackboard in the dining hall reflected the ever changing list of activities; and on Sunday afternoon, a real English tea highlighted the weekend.

The Landmark School Outing and Dance on Oct. 8 in Pride's Crossing, Mass. fea-

tered a softball game, an indoor pool, a square dance with Roger Whynot, and a pot pie supper. The fine facilities at the school warrant a continuation of programs there, such as this new weekend event.

The traditional Cardigan weekend, Sept. 23-25, showed hikers and dancers a good time even with a few rain clouds on the scene. The activity just moved indoors with more dancing for all called by Louise Winston, George Fogg, and Mitch Robbins, a fine new leader. The good meals at the A.M.C. camp, the fireplace sings, and the hikes to Weldon Falls all contributed to a good time.

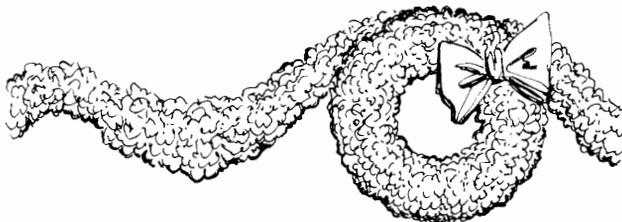
Available from Alcazar Productions, Inc. are dance records, books and teaching materials for square and contra dancing. If you'd like a catalog, contact Tony Parkes and Donna Hinds, (275-1879).

FIRST ANNUAL NEW ENGLAND COMPOSERS' DANCE

An evening of contra and square dances set to contemporary tunes composed in the traditional style, on Saturday, April 29, 1978.

Caller: Tod Whittemore.
Musicians: Peter Barnes, Joyce Desmarais, Cal Howard, Vince O'Donnell, Andy Woolf
Place: Girl Scout House, Concord, Ma.

Have you written a tune? Send an original clear copy, one tune per page, including name, address and phone on each. Material may be published or unpublished, but must adhere to the criteria of playability, danceability, originality, remaining with tradition and contribution to a varied and balanced program. Selected composers will be admitted to the dance free and invited to join the orchestra when their tunes are performed. Deadline: Dec. 31, 1977. Notification of winners: Feb. 1, 1978. Send your tunes to: Joyce Desmarais, 11 Douglas Ave. Maynard, Mass. 01754.



WEDDING

On October 22, Kit French and Deanie Hancock followed their morning wedding with a "post-nuptial potluck feast" in the carriage house at Gore Place. Country dancers and other friends joined together for an evening of good food, dancing, singing and fellowship.

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But best of all, some people said,
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With Band-Aids here and corn rings there
They fixed the blistered toes;
Scarcely noticed aches and pains,
That's how a Square Dance goes!

Believe it or not, these rugged folks
Can dance all day and night;
With "Morris", "Sword" and "English Folk"
They got along all right.

But "Running Sets" and "Western" calls
They find a little tough
And sometimes you can hear one say
"Of this I've had enough!"

Then Jack's good food revives them fast
And soon they're back at work.
The next time "Western's" coming up
You'll find they'll never shirk.

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In dancing, you can see,
Because it gets them, young and old —
In fact, it has got me!

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As one entered the gymnasium you were greeted by two hosts or hostesses standing on a small rug. One of the most gracious was Miss Anna A. Kloss (now retired from the

State Board of Education and living summers in Topsfield). Other frequent greeters were Miss Penelope Noyes, Mrs. Howes, Miss Marjorie Hurd, Mr. Harry Wyeth, and so on. Each month some of the men were asked to be ushers and wore red ribbons draped diagonally from the shoulder and pinned to their shirts. (The ribbons are still in the office, faded and worn.)

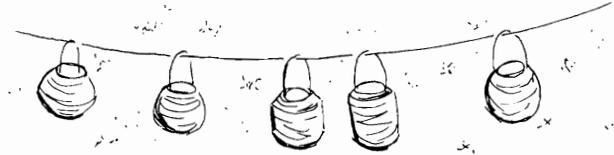
The dances were first walked through and then danced without any prompting. At the far end of the hall was a longways line of younger people, including Ricky Conant with his sisters Helen and Betty and probably many from the Concord Academy and Shady Hill School. During the evening the floor would be cleared for a demonstration of English dances by a team, which practiced on Tuesday evenings and aimed for perfection.

The two highlights of each season were the Christmas Party and the June Outing. The Christmas Party always had an outstanding demonstration - often choreographed by Mrs. Conant, and sometimes a Nummers Play was presented. Mr. Conant excelled in acting as the "Fool"—unexpectedly so, as ordinarily he was quiet and reserved. Many attended the party who were not able to come regularly to classes, so it was a grand reunion of old-timers with a very large attendance. The final dance of the evening was always Sellers Round for everyone, followed by the

dancers with joined hands singing Adeste Fidelis - (for the first time this tradition was broken in 1976).

The June Outing was extra special, held on the first Saturday of June at Mrs. James J. Storrow's estate in Lincoln—for members only. A dirt court was used for the dancing with a piano brought outside for Mrs. Agnes Brown. Elise Nichols, unexcelled in English and American dance tunes, played the violin, and often a third instrument was added for this and other parties.

After an hour or so of English dancing, groups spread out on the lawn for a picnic supper, with ice cream and coffee provided by Mrs. Storrow. Then more dancing, with Chinese lanterns strung up around the area. Several benches were on hand for the onlookers or for tired legs. There is a different atmosphere created by dancing out of doors, especially in the evening, and one could almost believe oneself to be in England. During World War II with gas rationing, many journeyed there by train from North Station. It was just unthinkable not to have a June party for the climax of each season.



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