

BOSTON CENTRE NEWSLETTER

Country Dance Society

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

Spring 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.



WANTED

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY: Needed for the CDS office starting in May. Work 3 to 4 days a week at \$3.00 per hour... (18-22 hours). Should have proven clerical, secretarial, and office organizational skills and some experience. Must work independently to carry out both routine programs and special assignments as indicated by the Board of Directors. Will need to relate easily to people and develop a friendly position and cooperative role as our spokesperson.

CONTACT: Dottie Palmer OR
CDS office

S-J Thomas
(evenings)
954-7234

ANNUAL MEETING

English and American dances called by CDS leaders will accompany this year's Annual Meeting on Saturday, May 14, 8 PM, at the Cambridge YWCA at 7 Temple St. in Cambridge. The announcement of newly elected officers and other CDS business will be held mid-evening. The event is free, to members only, but memberships will be available at the door.

SEARCH FOR A NEW OFFICE LOCATION

The joint CDS & NEFFA office is actively seeking a new location. Requirements include more space (presently holding forth with 1½ small rooms), convenience to public transportation, and low rent. A rental in a private home would be suitable. Relay any suggestions to the CDS office, 354-2455.

PARTY

April 30 Tony Parkes with
Yankee Ingenuity
8:00 PM Members \$1.75
Non-members \$2.00

at Brimmer & May School

Thursday Dances

The new Thursday Square and Contra series will continue through May to mid June. A successful counterpart to Tuesday evenings, this series has generated enough support to become a regular feature this year. (9:15-11 PM, 7 Temple St, Cambridge)

NEFFA DANCES & NEWS

NEFFA Annual Meeting, May 22, 2-6 PM... Members Only - Free Dance with Ted Sannella (and vintage 78's) at the Concord Girl Scout House.

Challenging Contrás, June 5, 7:15 PM with Yankee Ingenuity at the Concord Girl Scout House

Information on the CDS Pinewoods Boston Centre Weekend will be out soon. Watch for details and save the July 4th weekend for Pinewoods Camp.



Pinewoods Camp News

There are 3 work weekends coming up during which volunteers are needed for doing various repairs on the buildings at Pinewoods. If you would like to volunteer to help on either the weekend of May 6-8, June 3-5, or June 10-12, contact Gerda Conant, 506 Eliot St., Milton, Ma., 02186, 696-6293.

HOUSES FOR RENT AT PINEWOODS

Occasionally during the summer season, and during the off-season, houses at Pinewoods are available for people who want to rent but not participate. Contact Gerda Conant, camp manager.

Dennis Ahern is heading a committee to do some landscaping at Pinewoods Camp. Anyone who has shrubs, cuttings, or perennial seedlings from their garden that they'd like to contribute, or who would like to help do some gardening should call Dennis Ahern, 275-7438.

FOUND

Case of tape cassettes was left at CDS office. Will the owner please call and identify.

Summer Series

Plans have been finalized for the CDS/NEFFA Summer Series at the Brimmer and May School. The Wednesday evening dances will alternate between English, Squares, and Contrás, and will run from 8-11 PM. Watch for further details.

ENGLISH: June 29
July 13, 27
Aug. 17

SQUARES: July 6
Aug. 3

CONTRAS: June 22
July 20
Aug. 10

NEW MEMBERS...TAKE NOTICE

REGULAR CDS WEEKLY DANCES

These dances will continue until mid June and are all held at 7 Temple St, Cambridge

TUESDAYS American Squares and Contrás
8:15 PM Members \$1.50
Non-members \$1.75

WEDNESDAYS English Country Dancing and Morris Dancing
8:15 PM Members \$1.50
Non-members \$1.75

THURSDAYS American Squares and Contrás
9:15 PM Members \$1.25
Non-members \$1.50

(Note: This Thursday series will continue through April, and possibly through mid June. Call the CDS office to check.)

New Release

Yankee Ingenuity, one of our favorite traditional dance bands, has recently cut an LP with Fretless Records. The band, which plays for the CDS Tuesday night squares and contrás, has put ten tunes on the record, including Growling Old Man, Joys of Quebec, and the waltz, Star of the County Down. Many of the cuts are medleys of two tunes, making them good listening as well as good dance music. The record is scheduled for release in late April or early May, hopefully in time for NEFFA. A companion record of the same instrumentals, with calls by Tony Parkes, will be released at the same time. Band members are Donna Hinds, fiddle;

Tony Parkes, piano and calls; Jack O'Connor, fiddle, mandolin, tenor banjo, and piano; and Hank Chapin, bass. Joan Pelton, of the Pumpkin Hook Old Time Orchestra, produced the record, and plays bodhran on one selection.

TO THE EDITORS

To the Editors:

I am prompted to write by the second anonymous letter published in your last issue which complained of the kind of dancing at Boston Centre activities. The writer stated that he or she wishes "to preserve the traditional New England dances". Allow me to comment.

Tradition is a difficult concept to define simply, but one element that is vital to it is change. Even a superficial examination of the history of dancing in this country will show that dances and dancing style have changed drastically in the last several centuries. If the writer has ever been in a contra dance where every third or every second couple starts the dance, he or she has tacitly acknowledged change: only the top couple started the dance in the 18th century. Does the writer dance Chorus Jig or Lamplighters Hornpipe (Road to California) as "duple minor" dances? Forty years ago they were triple minor. I am certain that the writer does not wear a corset or tight jacket of the 18th century or even a high-necked long dress and bonnet or top hat and tails of the late 19th century (cf. Ed Larkin dancers). Just as the social customs regarding clothing have relaxed, so has dance style changed over the years.

I am not saying that all changes, just because they are changes, are traditional (notice I did not say, "good"). Not everything with which people experiment is accepted by the majority. For instance, many people will continue to dance in shoes rather than in bare feet or boots because they prefer to do so. Whereas there is indeed a lot of stomping about at dances, many people like myself will continue to dance with a smooth gliding motion with only an occasional "fancy step". In neither case would I, as a caller, prevent someone from trying something new. Where strict rules are made, change and, therefore, life are stifled and stagnation will eventually result. I have heard it said that this is exactly what is happening in club-style square dancing.

My guess is that the writer of the anon-

The John C. Campbell Folk School, located in the mountains of North Carolina, is co-sponsoring with CDSSA, a Dance Week, June 12-18, and a Recorder Week, June 19-25. The dance week features American, English, and Danish dancing. For more information, write John C. Campbell Folk School, Brass-town, N.C., 28902, or call the CDS office, 354-2455.

ymous letter has been dancing at least ten and perhaps twenty years. He or she obviously resents the "jean-clad, bare-footed stompers" who have been appearing at dances in greater numbers during the last five years. Let me point out, though, that those young people represent another twenty years of life for the dance tradition. Just as they may change the style and the dances somewhat (though I'll bet not beyond recognition: the majority would not accept it), they will have to accept some changes from "the tradition" in twenty years' time.

Sincerely yours,
Fred Breunig

To the Editors:

Being a visitor to Maine on a regular basis now, I want to share with you the excitement I feel about the dance scene that has developed in Maine during the last year. It is generated by the recently formed Maine Country Dance Orchestra, which is made up of 4 or 5 regular dance bands who circulate around the state each weekend. Several times a month, the Maine Country Dance Orchestra runs a dance - what an excitement! 20 or so musicians on the stage, getting higher and higher from the music they're creating and their own spontaneous singing, playing on until 1:30 in the morning, to a crowd of dancers that simply just won't stop! Dancers from all over the state come together for these dances, and a warm sense of community is developing.

For those visiting Maine, the Maine Country Dance Orchestra publishes a monthly newsletter. You can send for it (include money for return postage) to: Maine Country Dance Orchestra, Belgrade Rd., Mt. Vernon, Me, 04352. Or call the CDS office, because usually there's a copy on file there.

Dottie Palmer



Rites of Spring

Oh say can you see, by the dawn's early light, on the banks of the Charles -- a Maypole? If you're astir by five a.m. on the first of May join the few Cambridge Morris Men for the start of their annual May Day Rites, welcoming the sunrise at the Wee's footbridge with circle dances around the Maypole and the singing of May songs. If, perchance, you oversleep, you can join the processional as it wends its way through Harvard to Roger Cartwright's for breakfast and dancing til noon. If you'd like to know more, give Roger a call at 547-4017.



The June dance with the Roaring Jelly will be a Pinewoods Benefit
June 17
Lincoln Town Hall

BOSTON CENTRE
COUNTRY DANCE SOCIETY, INC.
57 ROSELAND ST.
SOMERVILLE, MA, 02143

