

# BOSTON CENTRE NEWSLETTER

## Country Dance Society

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

### Summer 1977

#### EDITORS

Kathy Ingoldsby, 18A Glendale Avenue,  
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#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The people to talk to about an idea or opinion:

S-J Thomas (Pres.), Dale Thomas (1st VP), Terry Tobias (Treas.), Mary Blomberg (Sec.), Lyrl Ahern, Donna Hinds, Bill Horne, Louise Winston, Chris Walker, and Francis Worrell

### Exec. Sec.

Goodbye and thanks to Dottie Palmer, who has gone back to Maine. She's keeping in touch with us through the Maine folkdance group.

Gail Copen stepped in when Dottie left and took over quickly and efficiently, putting her experience with other non-profit organizations to good use. Unfortunately, she is only temporary, and we wish her well in her new life in Oregon.

—Remember the summer series—  
Wednesdays through August 17, 8 P.M.  
at the Brimmer & May School Gym.  
(Middlesex Rd., off Hammond St., in  
Chestnut Hill.)

### Cardigan Weekend

This activity is scheduled this year for Sept. 23-25; a flyer is enclosed with this newsletter.

Cardigan Lodge and Cardigan Little House are a property of the Appalachian Mountain Club. Situated on the side of a mountain, it offers hikes to the top of Mount Cardigan and other beauties of nature, such as waterfalls. With the nip of autumn in the air, this should be a very enjoyable weekend.

#### Reminder to CDDSSA members

The Annual Meeting of the Country Dance and Song Society of America will be held on Monday, August 8 at 7:15 P.M. in the Camphouse at Pinewoods.

### ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting took place on May 14. The results of the recent election were announced and new members were welcomed to the Board of Directors. Dale Thomas was re-elected as First Vice President, Terry Tobias continued as Treasurer, and Donna Hinds and Chris Walker became members. Thanks go to outgoing members Bob Cohen and Tony Parkes.

A marvelous demonstration of rapper sword dancing was presented by Cynthia Whear, Robin Rogers, Kathy Tighe, Margie Hunt, and Dianne Greig.

★ New England squares and contras on Tuesdays, beginning Sept. 13, are at Brimmer & May School Gym. English dancing will continue at the YWCA as usual, beginning Wednesday, Sept. 14.

### Pinewoods Weekend

We missed the use of C#; the enlargement and renovation was behind schedule, but



it will be finished soon. In spite of the extra work entailed by the dance leaders and musicians, they did an excellent job of setting up similar and excellent programs in C# Minor and the dining hall, and the dancers didn't seem to mind all the running back and forth.

Note the enclosure of a flyer for a new and unique Pinewoods Weekend to be held over Labor Day.

## NEFFA Food Booth

The biggest success ever, it showed a profit of \$ 946.12 !!! Thanks go to co-chairmen Bob Cohen and Dale Thomas, and to Able and Shelly Silva, Laura Stine, Tim Cavanaugh, and Jeff Stone--and to everyone who made food or served at the booth.

## Sales

Tim Cavanaugh is selling books, records, and other dance & music related items at Wednesday dances. This service is so successful that the Board of Directors is hoping to provide this same service on Tuesday.

A membership list for the Boston Centre has been published and is available to members for a small fee. Contact the office if you 'd like a copy.

## Thursdays

Many thanks to the callers and musicians who participated in the special Thursday night series: callers Roger Whynot and Tod Whittemore; musicians Joyce Desmarais, Pete Colby, April Limber, and the City Ducks String Band (Claudio Buchwald, John Schwab, and David Margolin). It was a popular dance. There have been requests to continue it next year, but there are no plans to do so as yet.

Our adult programs specifically exclude preteens: Tuesday and Wednesday dances, parties, Pinewoods weekend, etc. Their participation is appropriate only in specified "family" events, such as the Labor Day Pinewoods Weekend.

## Birth

Sam Rubin and Jennifer Farley Smith have a beautiful new daughter, Clara. They have already initiated her to Pinewoods with a visit during the Boston Centre Weekend.

This Spring, Roger Cartwright led some English dances as a demonstration at a nursing home in Jamaica Plain. This was organized by Margaret Tilden, who is a nurse there. The program included some audience participation. This is a good way to spread the joy of dancing to the larger community.

We need more input - please write stuff & send it to us!

The due date for contributions to the next issue is October 15.

## Centre History

Louise Chapin's notes, transcribed by our historian, Evelyn Lamond. (notes c.1965)

1913-1914 Through the interest and financial help of Mrs. James Storrow and Professor Baker of Harvard University, Claude Wright came to the U.S.A. in the summers of 1913 and 1914 and taught English Country, Morris and Sword dancing at Mrs. Storrow's red barn in Lincoln, at Chocorua in N.H., and the MacDowell Colony at Peterborough, N.H. This aroused interest and enthusiasm for our Cecil Sharp representation for English Dancing.

May 1915 Lily Roberts (Mrs. Richard K. Conant now) came to the U.S.A. in May. Mr. Sharp was in N.Y. arranging the dancing in Grenville Barker's famous production of "Mid Summer Night's Dream".

1915 Summer In the early part of summer, the first Summer School or camp for English folk dancing was held for two weeks at Dr. Moore's camp in Eliot, Maine. Mr. Cecil Sharp directed the camp, assisted by the English teachers Lily Roberts (Mrs. Conant), Miss Maud Karpeles, and Miss Nora Jervis. The dancers lived in tents and graded classes were held in pavillions. The second week, due to continued rain, the group was forced to move to a hotel.

1916-1917 Summer Schools for English Dancing were held at Amherst Agricultural College, now University of Massachusetts. Mr. Sharp, director, and Miss Karpeles and Mrs. Conant were the teaching staff.

War years followed with no Summer Schools.

1927 Again through the generosity of Mrs. Storrow, English teachers were brought from England and a most wonderful school was at Amherst. I believe that Summer Schools were held for three weeks at this time. The English group included Douglas and Helen Kennedy, Marjorie Sinclair, Ruby Avril violinist, Mr. and Mrs. Nettlewell, Nela Bower, and others.

1927-1932 Summer Schools were held at Amherst Agricultural College at Amherst.

Nov. 1929 English dancers came on a tour of Canada and the U.S.A. On Wednesday evening, November 6, 1929, at Symphony Hall in Boston, "Under the patronage of the Boston Branch of the English Folk Dance Society", a group of fourteen dancers and two musicians gave a grand performance of English Country, Morris and Sword dancing, with Clive Cary singing English folk songs. The group was under the direction of Douglas Kennedy of the English Folk Dance Society. A great event and a wonderful success.

1933 Summer Schools and Week Ends were moved to Pinewoods Camp at the invitation of Mrs. Storrow. They have continued to meet there each summer with the exception of the one wartime year when travel was impossible and the Boston Center of the C.D.S. combined a two week camp with its Annual Week End. Since Mrs. Storrow's death in November, 1944, the CDS of America and the Boston Center have been able to continue their summer activities at Pinewoods Camp through the generosity of Mr. and Mrs. Richard K. Conant.

Before the square dance popularity, Mr. and Mrs. Philip P. Sharples had week-end parties at their home in Peterborough, N.H. and the group motored on Saturday evenings to Nelson for the popular square dances in a very small hall where "Happy Hale" was the caller. In later years, Ralph Page became the caller.

The Country Dance Society started square dancing at 87 Beacon Street in Boston with a small group of people. Then with the popularity of the square dance there, followed the successful Drop In Evenings at the Brimmer School on Brimmer Street.

The American dancing grew in popularity and in addition to the Drop In Evenings, our Society developed callers who called for dances "near and far". This interest proved to be a great help to our Society.

## FALL SCHEDULE

- Sept. 3-5 - Pinewoods Weekend (unstructured recreation, evening dances)  
Sept. 24-25 - Cardigan Weekend  
Oct. 1 - English Party (Post-Morris Tour) YWCA, 8:00  
Oct. 8 - Outing at Landmark School  
Oct. 22 - New England Square and Contas, Tod Whittemore calling (Brimmer & May, 8:00)  
Nov. 5 - Advanced English Dance, YWCA, 8:00  
Nov. 12-- Southern Squares, Peter Guarnaccia calling with music by the City Ducks (B & M, 8:00)  
Nov. 23 (Wednesday) - English Party (No Morris class)  
Dec. 3 - Christmas Party, English and American (cosponsored by CDS and Yankee Ingenuity) B & M, 8:00

Yankee Ingenuity with Tony Parkes calling. 8:30 at the Concord Girl Scout House on July 26 and Aug. 16. \$2.00

As of the Annual Meeting (May 14), our membership was 630 (up from 458 this time last year).

BOSTON SENT BY  
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