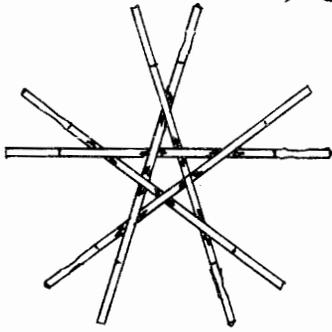


# BOSTON CENTRE NEWSLETTER



*The Country Dance Society, Boston Centre, Inc.  
309 Washington Street  
Wellesley Hills, Massachusetts 02181*

*Telephone (617) 235-6181*

November, 1981  
Vol. VI, No. 2  
Editor: Sally Rusher  
Asst. Editor: Roger Davidson

## GREETINGS TO ALL!

The 1981-82 season is now well under way, and many exciting things either have happened or are about to happen. Those of you who were at the Labor Day weekend in Pinewoods know what a thrilling time that was, and those who went to the AMC-CDS weekend at the Cardigan Lodge in New Hampshire remember how much fun the dancing was and how beautiful and inspiring the mountains were. And there was a new event at Pinewoods -- "Campers' Week," jointly run by CDS-Boston and CDSS (National Center), which was so successful that everyone involved wants to continue it next year and thereafter. Thanks to the organizers of these events (Honey Hastings & Brad Sayler, Martin Markham, and Pam Kelly) and their teams for all their energy, skill and inspiration.

## And now for coming events:

On Saturday, Nov. 28, Rich Castner, accompanied by White Cockade, will present Early 18th Century Figures, Squares, Contras, and Cotillion, at Brimmer & May School in Chestnut Hill. Look for details inside.

The CDS Christmas Party is coming soon! -Tis the season of red and green, and wassail and parties! The date is Saturday, December 12, so mark your calendar if you haven't already done so.

And finally, don't forget all the regular dances every Tuesday and Wednesday - and be sure to bring along one or more friends or relatives! Let us share the joys of country dancing as widely as possible. See you then!

The Editors.



## IRVIN DAVIS: FOUNDING MEMBER

Irvin Davis, attorney-at-law and dancer at heart, has long been a part of the Country Dance Society, Boston Centre. In fact, he is the first to have been its president, and the Boston Centre was incorporated by him and his law office in 1945. In addition, he was also the incorporator of the New England Folk Festival Association (N.E.F.F.A.) and the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society of Boston (R.S.C.D.S.), during the same years.

But with Irvin Davis there is far more than a procedural interest in country dancing; he has been interested in it for nearly fifty years to date, and at the time of CDS-Boston's incorporation he had already been dancing for over a decade and had been actively encouraging the incorporation of the groups that propagated the dancing he love so much. In fact, it was in 1933 that Irvin Davis first became enthralled with country dancing -- during the course of several ski trips in New Hampshire and Vermont. One evening after an active day of skiing, he was taken by a friend to a square dance -- and that did it; thereafter he sought out dances wherever he could find them. But that was just the American side of things; in 1939 he started English country dancing.

It was at the Leslie School (Boston) that he showed up one day expecting to find a square dance. However, instead he stumbled upon an English country dance, with Louise Chapin leading, and he just joined in -- and enjoyed it thoroughly. "Orleans Baffled" is the first English dance he remembers having danced. Thereafter Irvin Davis became an enthusiastic exponent of English dance, being especially enamored by its grace, rhythm and style. This is, of course, not to say that he appreciates American squares and contras any less!

When asked what he thought CDS-Boston should be encouraging and supporting most of all, Irvin Davis expressed his thoughts as clearly and succinctly as usual: English dance, both country and ritual (sword and Morris dancing), should be given the highest priority; these traditions are upheld in New England mainly by CDS, and they should be actively supported, developed and spread around. In addition, he would encourage re-instating song as an actively supported element of CDS-Boston, which has been devoting itself only to dance (and the music that makes the dancing possible, of course!). American dance should certainly be continued as actively as ever, but there is not the same cultural urgency for its support as there is for English dance.

In conclusion, this writer would like to express the most profound thanks, on behalf of all CDS members, to Irvin Davis for his many years of service and enthusiasm as a leading light in both the development and the maintainance of the Boston Centre. He is and will always be in our hearts.

Irvin Davis was awarded Life Membership in C.D.S. at the Annual Meeting in May, 1980.

- Roger Davidson



IN THE INTEREST OF A GOOD TIME

-----FOR ALL

In the middle of September, Tony Parkes wrote an open letter to Traditional Dance Callers in New England. Out of deep concern, he brings up the question of where is the line between having a good time and roughhousing during the dancing and who should decide when the line has been crossed. The following is an excerpt.

"I recently called an open dance for a group that meets regularly -- the name and place are not important here. Most of the people who attended had done enough dancing to be out of the beginner stage. During the evening, I noticed several people using a swing position that has been the bane of callers for years --the straight-arm or "bull-by-the-tail" swing. Each time I saw it, I asked them not to do it, as is my custom of long standing. I was careful to mention each time that I was objecting to the swing because it can lead to serious injury, for dancers and onlookers alike. One couple kept ignoring me--I made sure afterwards that they hadn't just misunderstood me--and I finally lost my temper (which I admit was a mistake, brought on by fatigue) and ordered them off the floor.

"What happened then took me by surprise. Several people who hadn't been doing anything out of line came up to the stage and objected strenuously on principal to my dictating anything to the floor. Their position was that they had hired me to call an evening of dancing, and not to set policy or to interfere with the dancers' right to interpret my calls as they saw fit. I stuck to my guns, and one or two people said they'd never dance to my calling again.

"What's at issue here is not whether the straight-arm swing should be allowed at open dances--though I feel very strongly that it should not. The issue is whether a caller has the right to set and enforce any rules regarding behavior on the dance floor. To say "No" is to talk nonsense. I think we would all agree that a caller should take



action of someone on the floor were to punch his partner in the nose every time the caller said "Swing." The example is not as ridiculous as it sounds; there is a principle involved here. Either the caller has the right to set limits on the dancers' behavior, or no. I submit that he or she has, and should be the judge during the dance of what may be allowed or ignored and what must be stopped.

"Obviously, there have to be some criteria for unacceptable behavior on the dance floor. The chief criterion, in my mind, is whether such behavior affects the safety and well-being of the entire group. I think it's beyond reasonable argument that the caller is responsible for that safety and well-being. No one else in the hall is in a position to see the whole dance floor, and typically no one else has the knowledge, gained from experience, of what constitutes good and bad or dangerous dancing. In extreme cases, I feel that if the caller considers a dancer's behavior to be in such obvious bad taste as to offend a sizable number of people, he or she should move to stop it."

Let us know your views on this subject. If you agree with Tony, please suggest possible responses to the problem. How can we ensure that the dances in our area give all people a chance to have a good time?

# C.D.S. CALENDAR

## REGULAR WEEKLY EVENTS

### Mondays - Squares and Contras:

Tony Parkes and Yankee Ingenuity,  
Concord Scout House (Walden St.,  
Concord Center), 8:00 p.m.;  
For further info call 275-1879

Scottish Country Dance, RSCDS,  
Cambridge YWCA, 7 Temple St.  
(Central Square), 8:15 p.m.  
Call 862-7144

English Country Dance, Union  
Congregational Church, South  
Weymouth. 8:00 p.m. George Fogg,  
Leader. Info: J. Ray, 335-0818.  
Call for dates of sessions.

### Tuesdays - Squares and Contras:

Country Dance Society, Brimmer  
and May School gym, Middlesex  
Road near Hammond St., Chestnut  
Hill (near Chestnut Hill T stop,  
Riverside Green Line), 7:45 in-  
struction, 8:15 dance begins;  
For further info call C.D.S.  
235-6181

Advanced Balkan Dance - MIT  
Student Center, Mass. Ave.,  
Cambridge. 7:30 p.m. Instructions  
& Requests. MIT Folk Dance Club,  
964-7109

### Wednesdays - English Country Dance:

Country Dance Society, Cambridge  
YWCA, 7 Temple St. (Central Square),  
8:15 p.m.; C.D.S. Office 235-6181.  
Also instruction in Morris and Sword  
dances, 8:00 p.m.

Framingham International Folk Dancers  
Folk dancing and contras, instruction  
& requests. Hemenway School, Water St.,  
Framingham, 8:00 p.m. Lee Mason 877-0151

Israeli Dance - MIT Student Center,  
Mass. Ave., Cambridge. 7:30 p.m.  
MIT Folk Dance Club, 964-7109

### Thursdays- Squares and Contras:

Tod Whittemore and friends,  
Cambridge V.F.W. Hall, 8:00 p.m.  
For info call 491-7727

Thursdays- Experienced International  
Folk Dance - First Baptist Church,  
5 Magazine St., Central Square.,  
Cambridge. 8:15 p.m. Conny &  
Marianne Taylor, leaders. Folk  
Arts Center 862-7144

### Fridays- Basic folk dancing

(International) with the Taylors,  
Brimmer and May School gym, 8:00 p.m.  
call for more info: 862-7144

2nd Fridays - Squares and Contras  
with Cindy Green calling, First  
Unitarian Church, 90 Main Street,  
Worcester, Music by "Union Reel,"  
8:30 p.m., \$3.00 donation at door.  
Call 799-4671

3rd Fridays - Country Dancing with  
Roaring Jelly, Andy Woolf, Music  
Director. Lincoln Town Hall, 8-  
11 p.m., only \$2.00! For further  
info call: 369-1621

### Saturdays- 1st Saturdays - Contra

Dance, Susan Elberger, calling.  
Harvard Town Hall, Harvard, Mass.  
8:30 p.m. Potluck dinner at 6:00  
Fellowship Hall. For further info  
call: 456-3539

2nd Saturdays - New England Squares &  
Contras - Concord Scout House, Walden  
St., Concord. 8:30 p.m. Live music.  
Ted Sanella, caller, 235-4437

### 2nd Saturdays - Contras & Squares

with Jacob Bloom at Hill House,  
74 Joy St., Beacon Hill, Boston.  
8:00 p.m., Beginners welcome. \$3.00.  
For information call 776-7579.

3rd Saturdays - New England Squares &  
Contras - Concord Scout House, Walden  
St., Concord. 8:30 p.m. Music by  
Yankee Ingenuity; caller, Tony Parkes,  
275-1879

### Sundays - 1st Sundays - Challenging

Squares & Contras - Scout House,  
Concord. 8:00 p.m. Experienced  
Dancers only. Yankee Ingenuity,  
275-1879.

SEE ARTICLES ABOUT RICH CASTNER WORKSHOP  
& DANCE ON NOV. 28 and the C.D.S.  
CHRISTMAS PARTY ON DEC. 12

## CAMPERS' WEEK AT PINEWOODS

The following article was sent in by Alex Humez who describes himself as a zealous newcomer to the pleasures of country dance and music. -Ed.

I would like to put in an enthusiastic plug for having Campers' Week at Pinewoods be a regular CDS offering, and I am writing to say so in the hope that others will sashay, caper, or just plain leap onto the bandwagon (if such a thing is possible without danger to life and limb) in order to make this happen.

I went to Campers' Week this year with my seven-year-old child at the invitation of a particularly generous friend who told us that there would be lots of dancing if we cared to try it--neither of us ever had before, though it sounded like fun--and that there would also be lots of good music--I play banjo and recorder after a fashion and both my child and I like to sing--and, if we didn't feel like dancing or doing music, we could always spend the week swimming, eating good food, meeting nice people, and generally hanging out in a friendly, low-key, bucolic setting. Oh, yes: if we were so inclined, we could plan to offer some sort of musical or crafts entertainment for the assembled company, since the crew would be somewhat more skeletal than usual, what with its being the end of the summer and all.

So we went and had the time of our lives. The staff which had been billed as "skeletal" was in fact opulent: Claudio Buchwald, David Holt, and Jim Morrison provided such a staggering amount of great music, calling, story-telling, and general liveliness and good humor that it is hard to imagine what it would have been like if there had been more of them.

Besides these three outstanding performers, all of whom offered or participated in workshops in playing for dancers, story-telling, banjo, handbones, and contra and squaredancing, a large number of campers came forward to offer child care and entertainment, and workshops in dancing, music, crafts, and magic. There was, also, a daily free-style volleyball game, sing-alongs, and countless jam-sessions.

As a person whose previous dance experience was retracted to junior high school ballroom and rainy-day high school elementary squaredancing in the gym and whose child had never done any dancing at all, I found Campers' Week a terrific entree to a new and wonderful world, as did my child.

-Alex Humez

### COMING EVENTS !!!

On Saturday, Nov. 28, Rich Castner, accompanied by White Cockade, will present Early 18th Century Figures, Squares, Contras, and Cotillion, at Brimmer & May School in Chestnut Hill. There will be a workshop from 2:30 - 5:00 p.m. and a dance from 8:00 - 11:00 p.m. The cost is \$3.50 each session or \$6.00 for the workshop and dance combined.

A historian on early American music and dances, Rich Castner is a leader in the New York area. He has taught at Year End Camp in Keene, N.H. and at East Hill Farm in Troy, N.H., both sponsored by Ralph Page. Specializing in early figures up to 1812 and squares of Germanic origin, Rich is a Professor in the Music Department at SUNY, Brockport, N.Y.

We are certainly pleased that Rich, along with the talented musicians of White Cockade will be with us on November 28.

### C.D.S. CHRISTMAS PARTY

'Tis the season of red and green, and wassail, and parties! On Saturday, December 12, Olde English and New England Dances will be led by Helene Cornelius and called by Dan Pearl. The music will be provided by Mary Lea, Earl Gaddis, and Jackie Schwab. Entertainment will be, as usual, a delightful surprise.

Some refreshments will be provided, but we welcome your bringing extra snacks and desserts.

# INGRID'S WALTZ

G7 C G C C/E F  
 C/E Dm G7 C G  
 C C7 F C Dm G7  
 1 C 2 C G D Em  
 B C G A7 D7  
 G D Em B  
 C G Em G7  
 C G C C/E F  
 C/E Dm G7 C  
 G C C7 F C  
 Dm G7 C

Thanks to Eleanor Calvin for this lovely new waltz which she composed at Pinewoods Labor Day Weekend for Ingrid Christiansen's dance class.

MEMBERSHIP for September 1, 1981 to August 31, 1982: The Country Dance Society,  
 Boston Centre, Inc., 309 Washington St., Wellesley Hills, Massachusetts 02181.  
 (617)235-6181

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_ Apt # \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Rates per person:  
 \$6.00 - Regular NEW \_\_\_\_\_  
 \$3.00 - Senior Citizen RENEWAL \_\_\_\_\_  
 \$15.00 - Contributing  
 \$25.00 - Supporting

If you would not like your address listed in the directory, check here ( )  
 Phone (day) \_\_\_\_\_ (eve.) \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_  
 I can volunteer to help \_\_\_\_\_  
 Skills or interests \_\_\_\_\_

Check dancing interests: New England ( ) English country ( ) Morris/Sword ( )

THINK ABOUT THIS

Xvxn though my typxwritxr is an old modxl, it works quitx wxll xxcxpt for onx of thx kxys. I'vx wishxd many timxs that it workxd pxrfectly. Trux, thxrx are fortytwo kxys functioning wxll xnough, but just onx kxy not working makxs thx diffxrxncx. Somxtimxs, it sxxms to mx that our organization is somxwhat likx my typxwritxr--not all thx kxy pxoplx arx working propxrlly. You might say, "Wxll, I'm only onx pxrson. It won't makx much diffxrxncx." But you sxx, thx organization, to bx xffixxnt, nxxds thx activx participation of vxxy pxrson. Thx nxxt timx you think your xfforts arxn't nxxdxd, rxmxmbr my thpxwritxr, and say to yoursxlf, "I am a kxy pxrson and nxxdxd vxry much."

Thanks to S-J Thomas for finding this inspirational message.



If you have quotes or ideas for the newsletter, we would greatly appreciate your sending them to Sally Rusher, 75 Brook Street, Wellesley, Ma. 02181.

QUOTES FOUND AT PINEWOODS

Jim Guinness found these quotes on the bulletin board in the dining hall at Pinewoods this summer. Thanks, Jim, for sending them along.

"Then they let go of Alice's hands, and stood looking at her for a minute: there was a rather awkward pause, as Alice didn't know how to begin a conversation with people she had just been dancing with. 'It would never do to say "How d'ye do?" now,' she said to herself: 'We seem to have got beyond that, somehow!'"

-Lewis Carroll, Through the Looking Glass

"Dancing for the most part is attended with many amorous smiles, wanton compliments, unchaste kisses, scurrilous songs, effeminate music, lust provoking attire, ridiculous love pranks, all of which savor only of sensuality, of raging fleshly lusts..."

-William Prynne (a Puritan writer)

"Any man who says he has gone through the contortions of a modern dance without committing adultery in his heart is either more than a man, less than a man, or a damn liar."

-A North Carolinian Fundamantalist preacher, circa 1930



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C.D.S. OFFICE

As S-J Thomas' term as office manager expired on Sept. 30, she is no longer in the office at 309 Washington St., Wellesley. Ruthie Caramanica is the Office Secretary and is generally in the C.D.S. office Monday through Thursday. She can be reached at 235-6181. Dea Marvin, our Vice-President, is the liaison person from the board. Dea can be reached at home (1-486-4469) or at work (263-9578).

We still need volunteer help in the office. One major job is running off flyers on our copying machine. If you feel you can spare a couple of hours on a regular basis, please call Ruthie or Dea.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

If you have not renewed your C.D.S. membership this fall, this is the last mailing you will receive. Also, as the grace period is over, you will be charged non-members prices at the dances. If you have overlooked renewing, please mail the application form and \$6.00 to Mary Blomberg today.

NEWSLETTER NOTES

S-J and Dale Thomas have recently donated a record player to C.D.S. which is being used at the dances when extra music is needed during intermission. Thank you, Dale and S-J.

In September, Mary Lea won 1st place in two categories in a Fiddle Contest. Belated congratulations, Mary.

Our August newsletter printed an erroneous number for the Folk Arts Center. Please only use the number 862-7144. We apologise for the mistake.

-Ed.

