

SOUTH PACIFIC SQUARE DANCE REVIEW

A
ROUND-
UP OF ..

SQUARE
AND
ROUND
DANCING

PRODUCED BY . . .

- ★ THE SQUARE DANCE SOCIETY OF N.S.W.
- ★ QUEENSLAND SQUARE DANCE CLUBS.
- ★ SQUARE DANCE SOCIETY OF VICTORIA.
- ★ WEST AUST. SQUARE DANCE SOCIETY.
- ★ AND CLUBS IN TASMANIA, SOUTH AUSTRALIA, AND NEW ZEALAND.

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WHAT DO I EXPECT FROM SQUARE DANCING?

By PAT MOORE

Well, I didn't even know what Square Dancing was all about — then I saw the card! The card in the shoe store window read: "Modern Square Dancing. A learners' class will commence . . . etc., etc.". But not a word to tell you what Square Dancing is or what it does. Is it slow and stately like the Waltz Cotillions, or fast and furious as the Scotch and Irish Reels? What does the dictionary say about it? Quote: "A dance composed of eight people; the dancers form a square, the four couples facing inwards". We are not much wiser now. What kind of people would attend a class? What age group would be "adults"?

If I went along to the hall and just looked in, perhaps watched a dance or two, I'd have all the answers. Right. Here I am at the door of the hall. Let's look them over. Boy, just get an eyeful of that collection of teen-aged girls in front of the stage. I wish I was 30 years younger. Well, I am just too adult for the company of those kids. I am afraid square dancing is not my cup of tea, so I will just pad along home. Wait! Down the other end and along the sides of the hall — Why, some of those people must be in their 30's — 40's — 50's, for sure. Look, there's a bloke with a bald patch like mine. Well, what do you know?

"Come right in," the voice said. "Er, it's like this . . . I was just looking to see what this square dancing is. Must be plodding along home now." "Come in and try it, did you say? Well, I only came to have a look — I wouldn't mind having a go . . . but . . . look at all those young people. You are over 50, you say? Well, after all, what one man does another can do; so —"

Well, here I am in the "Round up" as they call it. "Down the centre, two by two. Then fours, then eight. Our four couples make a square: we all face inward. The dictionary was right, after all. The caller proceeds to instruct us: "The girl on your right is your partner. Your original partner," etc., etc. "Now take hold

of her hand . . . hold it firmly." I fasten onto her hand and stick to it like a swaggle to a chicken sandwich. "Look at her." I look at her. Whacko! A real peacherino . . . She'll do me for a partner, original or otherwise. The caller, his name is Tom: "Now we have walked through these movements we will turn on the music and have a simple hoe-down." Here we go . . . This is great . . . I lose my partner . . . My right hand should be my left hand. I am lost . . . The dance . . . Where's my partner? "Oh, you're my new partner." I'm in the dance again; I am one of the team; now I am on my own in a daze . . . lost . . . The dance rushes past me. "I am your new partner." Another one? Heck! And so we go. When I am an individual I am lost. When I cooperate I am in the team again. How can the advanced dancers be so patient and tolerant? It's great fun! I laugh at myself and at my mistakes and the mistakes of others. It's fun all around

There are several stages in learning. First, you enjoy the mistakes and muddles. It's all fun. Next, you get self-conscious, what must they be thinking? One mistake after another. Why, I must be solid concrete from the eyebrows up . . . The one and only goon from Goonsville . . . Better give square dancing away . . . Why spoil the pleasure of these kind folk?

. . . I bet they are muttering, "Ratbag!" But they are tolerant, and help you through. You start to catch on; getting clever, eh? Now you know a little. You get to the "snarly" stage. You give the big lip curl to the new recruits, pull them here, shove them there. Snarl to yourself — perhaps to them too. But you are growing up. You see the advanced dancers make mistakes, too, and then it hits you: Why all this fuss and fuming? We are here to have fun, and by crikey we are having plenty, too. You are really enjoying yourself among a crowd of happy people, getting to know them. They are your friends, one and all — your mates.

Now just hold it, just hold it. I started to find out what square dancing was and what makes it tick. And here I am using words — "Co-operate," "Team Work,"

"Patience," "Tolerance," "Friendship." Square Dancing . . . it's more than dancing; it's a WAY OF LIFE.

Editor's Note: Reprinted from the July 1965 issue of "The Review", and never were truer words written, then and now! We thank Tom McGrath for digging this old classic up for us.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

As Noelene and George Gow will be touring New Zealand with other square dancers in October, all copy for inclusion in the November Review should be sent to Mr. Bill Binns, 11 Stephen Street, Willoughby, N.S.W. 2068, and should reach him not later than Monday, October 15, 1973. Would all State Editors and N.S.W. contributors please take note?
THE EDITORS.

Goodbye America — Hello Australia

Our trip is over but the memories of the most wonderful holiday we have ever had, the many new friends we made, the old ones we met, will remain with us for many years. America is a great wide beautiful country, with so much to see from Honolulu, Las Vegas, Grand Canyon, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Olympia, Seattle, New York, Stroudsburg Pa., Williamburg, Washington D.C., Mount Vernon, Niagara Falls, West Point, Mexico and Fiji. That was our trip. Thank you, America.

Our square dancing was good. Honolulu we danced in the Y.M.C.A. two clubs, we quite expected to get lost at our first spontaneous dance, but the calling was so clear and the people so great, but also we knew nary a round dance so they kindly obliged with two we did know. This was so in practically all the square dances we attended.

San Francisco two nights of dancing, Cable Cars Squares and Square Cutters. They were very impressed with our style of promenading, and voted they would like to adopt this method, methinks we may find it danced this way on our next visit. They agreed it did make for easier hand movement, and so to Olympia, Washington State. Here we stayed with Lyn and Barbara Naylor, two

Americans who visited us awhile back. It was great, they made us feel so much a part of their family, even to the extent of using all their teabags! They took us to wonderful places, B.B.Q. (will never forget the salmon steaks) a pot luck supper and a dinner party. They arranged a wonderful evening of square dancing for us, 8 clubs attending, with their callers. Their hall was approximately 70 x 30, the land donated by a square dancer, the building was built by voluntary labour; in addition to the square dance area, was a large sitting out cum supper room (incidentally this is where you had your smoko, not on the dance area) and a large well-equipped kitchen. It was used

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solely for square dancing, so anyone any of the Clubs wanted to put on a special evening, there it was. The Clubs took alternate nights for their own evenings. How about it N.S.W.?

We had, of course, no round-ups, but the squares were so quickly filled and with the men dating the girls and vice versa (this was done prior to the dance) it was like being at a great and glorious ball complete with music and great calling. They made a tape of the evening, which was presented to us and a great welcome sign to Peggy and Charles Vaggs, it felt so good to be an Australian visiting the Americans. Thank you, you wonderful people, we shall never forget you.

From there to Stroudsburg, Pa., here they were just starting a new square dance club. They had a demonstration in the shopping centre, the caller handed out promotion tickets with the date he would commence, to the general public. This was followed by a newsletter, giving his photograph and a map of how to get to the hall, etc., so next time around we are sure we will see square dancing in full swing. To finish our dancing, in this part of the world, we went to the Bear Mountain Inn, N. York State, where they run a regular Tuesday night

dance, in the summer, they dance in the open on a huge skating rink. The caller averages 200 to 300 people every Tuesday, they do not advance very far but it is a wonderful night for dancers.

The rest of our travels, unfortunately did not include dancing, there just wasn't any within cooe, but we felt that we had got quite an all round picture of the great American way, and on returning home lo and behold, there in the mail was our Rover Badge for dancing 1,000 miles from home and a letter from the Grand Squares in which, not only did they say how much they enjoyed our company but how beautifully we dance. So Australians, how about that!

A little about the dresses and men's apparel. Apart from being a little longer than ours, the girls were dressed the same, they have, of course, plenty of shops in which they can purchase them, but as one dancer remarked "who wants to see oneself all the time", so they make their own and become individuals. They do have a much wider selection of materials and trims which makes the actual making so much easier, they buy their petticoats, but they all try to match their men's apparel. The men wear bolos, except on special occasions.

PEGGY & CHAS. VAGGS.

COMPETITION IN ROUND DANCING

Competition is just another word for conflict, but seeing the whole of society is in conflict just a little more won't matter. Round Dancing, like Square Dancing, is a very simple form of social dancing and has given an opportunity to large numbers of people to enjoy the dancing at this level.

Dancing is never static and whilst probably the majority of dancers would prefer the simple level to remain, the minority who are more capable probably of memorising keep pushing for more challenge. This is happening in round dancing. Choreographers are now turning out dances in numbers similar to square dance basics. To keep up with the pace, callers and R/dance teachers find they have to memorise and cue all rounds. At the coming New Zealand convention all rounds will be cued. On top of all this we notice modern ballroom styling making an appearance. In the past, round dances were based on only two types of foot movement — two step (step close, step hold) and the waltz. Fortunately the waltz timing is similar to the modern waltz. The Two-step was done to any form of music, Rhumba, Cha Cha, Tango, you name it! Take a most popular dance "Phoenix Rhumba," the dance is called Rhumba, the music is Rhumba, footwork two step. This would not be accepted by any student of music or of ball-

room dancing.

The influence of ballroom styling, balance, etc., must improve the technique in round dancing for the minority. If it is pushed too hard I feel the majority will again be eliminated. Recently, we have been asked to judge at round dance competitions at festivals. We have declined for two reasons: 1, we do not favour any form of serious competition dancing and, secondly, there are no guide lines to judge round dancing apart from cue sheets. If competitions are to be run, ballroom techniques will have to be incorporated. If this were to happen, ballroom would swallow round dancing for a very small minority. This probably would make for better dancing for the majority and have a beneficial effect all round.

In conclusion we are for and agin the Joneses and the Rigby's on competition — a foot in each camp. Please, George don't let them attack us and upset our lives of tranquillity and peace.

JACK & YVONNE LOOBY,

SQUARE DANCERS OF THE MONTH

The National Square Dance Convention held each year in different cities is the high point of the year. We look forward to this annual gathering to meet with Square Dance friends we see only once a year. Invariably we meet new people and see changes in what,ever city we are visiting.

We last visited Adelaide in 1966 for the Seventh National Convention. Next year we return to Adelaide for the Fifteenth Convention and it will be very interesting to see how things have changed. We had a wonderful time last time and we know the South Australians will see to it that we enjoy ourselves and among the old friends we will see next year are our Square Dancers of the Month:

From South Australia —
MAVIS and ALLAN PATERSON.

Allan's early square dance days in 1953 started a little different to most people. Allan works at the repatriation hospital and he learnt square dancing every lunch hour, a sandwich in one hand and a right swing with the other. From these lessons, Allan taught Mavis in the kitchen with imaginary partners, so that when they received an invite one Saturday night to a dance no-one believed Mavis had never been into a hall. They started dancing with Leonard Hurst, an American caller imported to South Australia by the A.B.C. Then Eddie Evans, Ken Dexter, and so on until Colin Huddleston became the main caller in South Australia. Saturday night was a ball with invites to the Bennetts and the Bayleys and what a time was had by all.

When Port Adelaide held their centenary they danced among 15 sets (to the calling of Colin Huddleston) in a demonstration before over 10,000 spectators in the streets of Port Adelaide. The police had to ask them to finish earlier than anticipated before someone finished in the river, the crowd was that huge. Allan and Mavis had two small children who they took everywhere with them. The children enjoyed it as much as they did, often sleeping under the stage or on a bed in a corner of the hall. They would sleep through all the laughter and fun. "No need for baby-sitters." History repeating itself as they now go dancing with three of their grandchildren.

Allan also loves fishing and enjoys going out after the big ones.

Quite a few years ago Allan and Colin H. entered a fishing competition at Wallaroo. They had a great time, — no fish! Allan said he still has a paper clipping from the local paper of Colin and him rushing up the jetty to try their luck at the opening.

You should see their scrap book of years ago, showing the latest fashions and steps from the local paper. They often have a laugh over the three inch clearance from the floor of the dresses. They now spend many hours dancing to Allan Frost, going 3 to 4 nights a week and enjoying every moment. They (Allan and Mavis) stated they wouldn't know what to do if they did not have square dancing — it is so much a part of their lives. They are also looking forward to the 1974 convention and meeting the friendly happy and bright people they have met from interstate.

Mavis has attended conventions 7, 9, 10, 11, 12 and 13, Allan only number 7 and 13. But he says he'll not miss another. Mavis and Allan quote the tenth commandment of square dancing, "Thou shalt spread gladness and good cheer throughout the land," advising all and sundry that square dancing is fun.

Editor's Note: The Paterson's story brings to mind something we wrote about a number of years ago. That 75 per cent of a beginners' class last about a year, another 10 per cent to 20 per cent go on for two years or so, until you get to the last 2 per cent who go on in square dancing forever. Old square dancers never die they just dance their cares away.

TOM McGRATH.

NORTHERN TERRITORY DIARY

TUESDAY:
BEGINNERS' CLASS: Tuesday, 8.00 till 10.00. Larry Bellos, Lee Beydler.

WEDNESDAY:
CENTRE SQUARES, 1st, 3rd, 5th Wednesday, Alice Springs Youth Centre. 8.00 till 10.00. Jim Floyd.

S.A. NEWS

ELIZABETH SHOOTING STARS

Enthusiasm is running high at Elizabeth and with up to 12 sets on the floor we are dancing in a terrific atmosphere. With the influx of new dancers each night and in fairness to the regular dancers our caller has introduced alternative brackets. With this method progress has been good and interest maintained. Good publicity is still getting results.

KENSINGTON GARDENS

We were glad to see Anne back dancing again after her break up at Pt. Augusta. Also this month we were thrilled to have Colin Huddleston and dancer visit us. Eleven plus sets was beaut to see. Very shortly we intend visiting Colin to have another great evening. Congratulations from us all at K.G. to Don and Val on the arrival of Shaun.

TASMANIAN TOPICS

KINDRED: Tassie Twirlers
We have been pleased to welcome Fred Byrne and Bruce Gillett of Hobart to our Saturday night dances, and Bill Woolley also of Hobart, can boast a better record of attendance than some of our local dancers. A set danced at East Devonport Football Club Cabaret and plans are well advanced for a progressive dinner on September 22.

SEACLIFF WEAVERS

It was quite a change for club members having a barbecue before our usual Friday night dance, and hope these may be held more often.

Welcome to our newest club members, Elizabeth and David Edmondson, just recently arrived from England.

Nice to see visitors from the "Shooting Stars" Club, and a party from our club paid a return visit which was very enjoyable.

In the near future we are planning a social night at a local 10-pin bowling centre.

SOUTHERN CROSS

We were pleased to welcome Les and Pat Schroder and Jack and Joyce Humphrey from Happy Valley Club. We enjoyed your call Les. Congratulations to Don and Val Muldowney on the birth of their son (Shaun). We are looking forward to our weekend in Mildura during October. The recent radio interview is still bringing in inquiries.

LAUNCESTON

An enjoyable evening taking part in Lutheran Church Social Night to help entertain their mainland visitors. Free night for visitors both new-comers and former dancers on September 26, basket supper. Committee inquiring into possibility of open air dance at Cataract Gorge on Saturday afternoons during summer. Invitation received to dance organised by Bill Woolley, of Hobart, on November 10, to be held at Ross Town Hall.

DANCER REGISTRATION FORM

For the 15th NATIONAL SQUARE DANCE CONVENTION to be held in ADELAIDE 14th, 15th, 16th, 17th JUNE, 1974
Registrations will close on MARCH 31, 1974

SURNAME
CHRISTIAN NAME(S)
ADDRESS

Please indicate all requirements thus X in the appropriate square below
ACCOMMODATION
 HOTEL MOTEL
Twin Double Single Family
CARAVAN SITE CARAVAN ON SITE

TRAVEL
Remember Ansett are the official carriers
Adelaide arrival date
Adelaide departure date
Travelling by Air
Which company Flight No.
Travelling by Bus
Which company Arrival time
Travelling by Train
Arrival time
Travelling by Car
Do you require a pilot? Yes/No

SERVICES
Ladies' hairdressing appointment:
Comb up Set When
Use of creche. Yes/No. How many children
Baby sitters. Yes/No. How many children
Use of bus to convention centre for persons.
I enclose my cheque/money order made out to S.A. Convention Committee for Full convention tickets at \$9.00 each, and Junior dancers (14 years) convention tickets at \$6.00 each.
Secretary: Kevin Matthews
26 Pioneer St.
Seaton, S.A. 5023

WOLLONGONG WANDERERS

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH HALL
PRINCES HIGHWAY, CORRIMAL
EVERY FRIDAY

KOGARAH
RECHABITE HALL, OCEAN STREET
EVERY WEDNESDAY
Caller: Terry Dodd

TASMANIA DIARY

LAUNCESTON: Wednesday, Heather Hall, Penquite Rd., Newstead. Des Webber, (Enq. to Sec., 31-1563).
KINDRED TASSIE TWIRLERS: Alternate Wednesdays. Graeme Whiteley (Forth 28-2117).
BURNIE: Texas Stars, Fridays, A.P.P.M. Service Building, Marine Tce. Max Youd, 31-1696.
KINDRED: 1st Saturday. Phone 28-2117. Workshop. Graeme Whiteley.

NEW ZEALAND DIARY

WEDNESDAY:
DUNEDIN: WAGGON WHEEL CLUB, MacAndrew. Int. School Hall. Ken Willcocks. Phone Co. 890.
DUNEDIN: HANDS ACROSS THE SEA. Beginners. Phone 34-649.
SATURDAY:
DUNEDIN: HANDS ACROSS THE SEA, Arthur Street School Gymnasium, Arthur Street. 65-420, 66-022.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA DIARY

MONDAY:
KURRALTA PK.: Weekly (Beginners). Girl Guide Hall, corner Cross Tce. and Daly St. Allan Frost. 44-1351.
THURSDAY:
PLYMPTON: R.S.L. Hall, Long St. Weekly (Advanced). Allan Frost. 44-1351.
FRIDAY:
GLENELG: Weekly (Beginners). Gordon St. Colin Huddleston. 45-4556.
SEACLIFF PK.: RAOB Hall, Ocean Blvd. Weekly (Beginners). Allan Frost. 44-1351.
SUNDAY:
WALKERVILLE: "Country Stylers". Advanced. Druids Hall, Cnr. Main Nth. East Rd. and Cassie St. Brian Townsend, 64-4864.

TUESDAY NIGHTS: WEST AUSTRALIAN DIARY

"SUNDOWNERS" SQUARE DANCE CLUB. The Guide Hall, Nannine Avenue, White Gum Valley. Caller: Kevin Kelly. Enquiries: George Donaldson, President. Phone 37-4975.
WEDNESDAY:
"RIVERSIDERS" SQUARE DANCE CLUB. Maylands Town Hall, cnr. Guilford Road and 8th Avenue, Maylands. Caller: Graham Halliwell. Enquiries: Dennis Gadsby. Phone 71-6553.
THURSDAY:
"SHANANDOAHS" SQUARE DANCE CLUB. Higgins Park Tennis Club, Playfield Street, East Victoria Park. Caller: Steven Turner. Enquiries: Ben Biomfield. Phone 61-3506.
FRIDAY:
"SWAN SWINGERS" SQUARE DANCE CLUB. Jamaica Inn, Marloo Street, Greenmount. Caller: Steven Turner. Enquiries: Jack Gilbert, President.
SATURDAY:
"WHITE GUM VALLEY" SQUARE DANCE CLUB. Guide Hall, Nannine Avenue, White Gum Valley. Caller: Les Johnson. Enquiries: Colin Crompton, President. Phone: 39-4414.
"GIDGIGANUP" SQUARE DANCE CLUB. Public Hall, Toodjay Road, Gidgiganup. Caller: Bill Gilbert. Enquiries: Jack Gilbert, President. Phone 74-2499.
"SWINGING ALBANY SQUARES". Albany. All enquiries: Alan Grogan, Phone 46-3230.
SOUTH WEST CLUBS — BUSSELTON — BUNBURY. Contact Les Johnson. Phone 097-522107. All Enquiries: Meg Donaldson, Society Secretary, 37-4975. Colin Crompton, Society President, 39-4414.