

# BOW & SWING

Volume II, Number 6

April, 1952

Published ten times a year in the interest of Florida square dancing

## FIRST STEPS TAKEN TO FORM STATE CALLERS' ASSOCIATION

On Sunday, March 23, a group of Florida callers met in St. Petersburg to discuss and make plans for a "Florida Square Dance Callers' Association". The meeting was held in the Jaycees Beach Club building in St. Petersburg. With Don Armstrong (who had arranged this planning meeting) as chairman, various proposals were discussed and a temporary organization set up to contact other callers and arrange for another meeting in the near future.

The "Florida Square Dance Callers' Association" will work in the interests of better Square Dancing for Florida, and hopes to have all portions of the state represented in the organization.

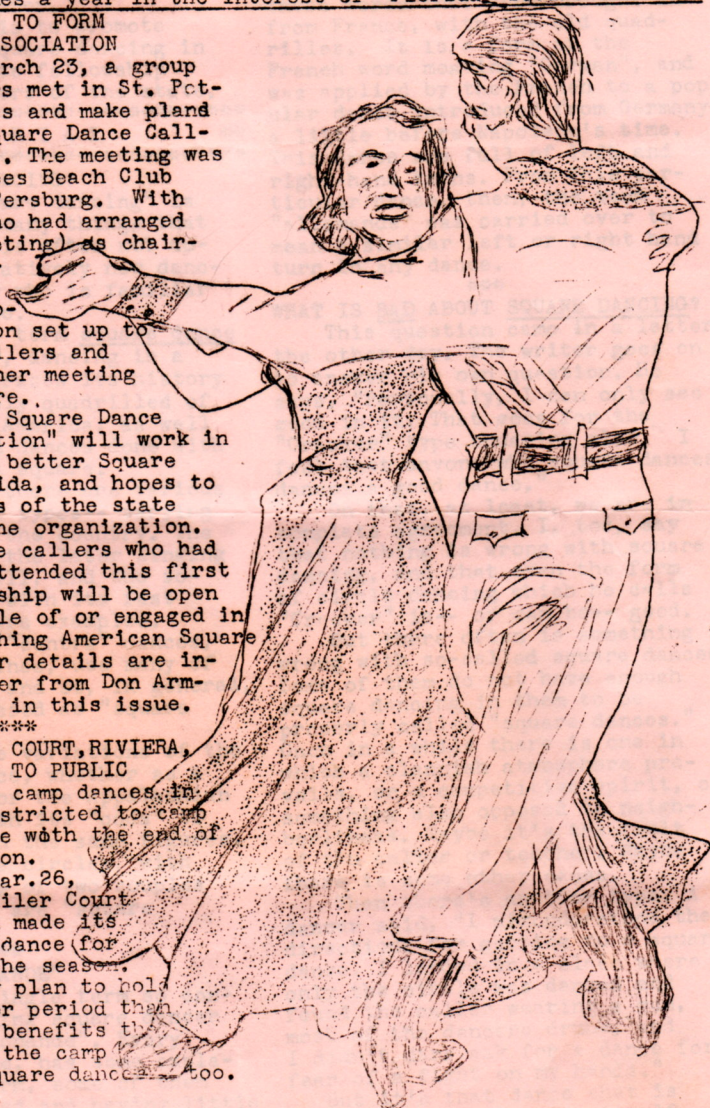
Eleven of the callers who had been contacted attended this first meeting. Membership will be open to persons capable of or engaged in calling and teaching American Square Dancing. Further details are included in a letter from Don Armstrong elsewhere in this issue.

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## SOUTHERN TRAILER COURT, RIVIERA, OPENS ITS DANCES TO PUBLIC

Most trailer camp dances in this area are restricted to camp guests, and close with the end of the tourist season.

On Tuesday, Mar. 26, the Southern Trailer Court in Riviera Beach made its dance an "open" dance for the balance of the season. In this way they plan to hold them for a longer period than is usual. This benefits the guests still at the camp and the other square dancers, too.



## BOW AND SWING

is published ten times a year by HAROLD EMERY, R.R.1, Box 390, West Palm Beach, Fla. Telephone 3-5842.

Subscription price is \$1.00 per year, from the editor.

The purpose is to promote more and better square dancing in Florida and promote fellowship among square dancers of the state.

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\*\* EDITORIAL \*\*

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## WHAT IS SQUARE DANCING?

The term "square dancing" is made to cover so many things that its full meaning is often not apparent to the relatively new dancer, or the dancer who is familiar with only one type.

Of course the term square dance means, originally, dancing in a square set, and traces its history back to the stately quadrilled of Europe and early America, as well as other European dances done with four couples in a square.

Even in this there are various "styles"-- almost types-- varying with the part of the country. The old prompt call, the later singing call and chant call, and the so-called "western" with its fast patter calling, are examples.

But the old "contra" dances, with their two lines, use many of the same figures and so, in general, are properly classed as "square dances".

Likewise, the variations of the great circle dance, whether as a "circle contra" or the Appalachian Circle dance, with its "odds" to "evens", use much the same figures. These progressive circles, with their little sets of two couples always changing, are "square dances", too.

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## THAT WORD "ALLEMANDE"

Perhaps no single term so confuses the beginning square dancer as the term "allemande". Every caller, I suppose, has some explanation of the term, some of them pretty far-fetched and having little relationship with the meaning,

or nothing to do with the real meaning of the word. A supposed resemblance of sound is the basis for some explanations.

Actually, it is simply one of those words that were brought in from France, with the old quadrilles. It is a form of the French word meaning "German", and was applied by the French to a popular dance introduced from Germany a little before Napoleon's time. This dance was full of left and right-hand turns. From this particular dance, then, the term "allemande" was carried over to mean a similar left or right hand turn in any dance.

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WHAT IS BAD ABOUT SQUARE DANCING?

This question came in a letter the other day. The writer goes on to answer his own question. He says, "Personally, I can only see good in it. That goes for the "Cracker" type souaring also. I feel that anyone who square dances dances a good dance."

On that, at least, we are in complete agreement. I, too, say that nothing is wrong with square dancing, and that even the form of circle dancing which he calls "Cracker" is-- or can be-- good.

But there often is something wrong with so-called square dances. Some of them do not have enough square dancing in them to be properly called "square dances." Once in a while there is one in which a clannish atmosphere prevails, or a competitive spirit, or something else opposed to neighborliness. Maybe it's the fault of the caller or teacher. Maybe there is some other cause.

Then there's another type. A dancer said, "I misunderstood the directions for getting to a square dance. I landed in a place where only the circle was danced and found the caller wearing a gun, most of the dancers drunk, and I didn't dare ask for a dance for fear of a fight on my hands."

But it's that dance that is bad, not Square Dancing itself.

**B O W   A N D   S W I N G**

**SQUARE DANCING AROUND FLORIDA**

**FIRST ANNUAL TAMPA SQUARE DANCE WEEK AND JAMBOREE A SUCCESS**

The week of March 16-22 was declared by official proclamation as Tampa Square Dance Week. City and area publicity was extensive and the results proved the worth of the efforts.

On Friday night, March 21, the week was climaxed by the first annual City of Tampa Square Dance Jamboree. Sponsored by the Tampa Square Dance Club, an affiliate of the City Recreation Department, the Jamboree attracted over 600 persons, many of whom became Square Dancers after their first night of Squaring at the Jamboree. Mayor Hixon and Cordelia Hunt, Supt. of Recreation, led the Grand March.

The program EmCee and featured caller was Don Armstrong, singing caller, and all the music was provided by Don's Quadrilles Orchestra. Local and visiting callers included in the program were: Hannah Cunningham, president of the Tampa Square Dance Club; Fred Christopher, of Phoenix, Arizona; Peggy Bochnell, Tampa; and J.B. Sammons, Tampa. The Jamboree was held in the Municipal Auditorium, but may have to move to the larger Colosseum next year.

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**TAMPA-ST. PETE TRIP ENJOYABLE AND FRUITFUL**

Bill and Irene Embury and their daughter, Thelma, Mr. and Mrs. C.C. Blackburn, and your editor made a trip to St. Petersburg March 23, to meet with callers of that area. Just getting acquainted and visiting with those fine folks was a pleasure, even without the new Florida Callers' Association.

On the way home we stopped in Tampa for a pleasant two-hours with Gene Kersey and his wife. Finally we got out in the home "warehouse" listening to some of the Windsor and Old Timer records which Gene distributes through the Southeast and almost forgot to come home.

**DAY BY DAY DANCING FOR WEST COAST FLORIDA**

Gene Kersey sends us the following schedule of dances in the Tampa, St. Petersburg Clearwater area. We are starring those which we are informed will continue through the summer months. All may be considered as "open", since they welcome out-of-town visitors, even if normally closed to the public. Most are open, and most begin at 8:00 p.m.

Monday--Clearwater, Fla. (C.of C.)\*  
R.R.Orcutt, caller.

Wednesday--River Bend Trailer Village, New Port Richey\*  
(Don Armstrong, caller)  
--Safety Harbor Spa, Safety Harbor, Fla.

--Sulphur Springs Tourist Club, Sulphur Springs, Tampa (1st and 3rd)--Tampa Square Dance Club, Recreation Center, No. Blvd., Tampa.\*

Thursday--Clearwater, Fla. (C.of C.)

Saturday--Gulfport Casino (7 P.M.)\*  
Gulfport (St. Pete) Fla.  
(Don Armstrong, Quadrilles  
--Rod and Gun Club, St. Petersburg.\* R.R.Orcutt, caller.

--Steel (Million Dollar) Pier, St. Petersburg.  
--St. Petersburg Square Dance Club, Lehman Hall, 42nd St. & 56th Ave.No.\*  
D,J.Birchard, caller.

Besides the above, there were closed dances indicated as follows: Tuesday, Hilltop Trailer Park and Deep South Trailer Park, Tampa; and Friday at Tower Trailer Park, Tampa.

In addition, there is a square dance at the McDill Air Force Base, Tampa, every Thursday for service personnel and their dates, with Don Armstrong and the Quadrilles.

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Layton's Park, Riviera Beach, closed its dances for the season on Thursday, March 27. This is the second season for these dances, with the Hulme Orchestra and Bill Embury as caller.

B O W A N D S W I N G

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\* FROM OUR MAILBAG \*

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MORE ABOUT THE STATE  
CALLERS' ASSOCIATION

Dear Editor:

On Sunday, March 23, the first organized meeting of the "Florida Square Dance Callers' Association" was held in St. Petersburg.

The prime purposes of this organization are three-fold:

**First:** To facilitate and develop wholesome Square Dancing in Florida.

**Second:** To provide the many Florida tourists who are Square Dancers with accurate information as to the locations of other well conducted Square Dances in all sections of the state.

**Third:** Through an exchange of ideas within the Association and with members of other similar groups throughout the country, to improve the standards of teaching and calling Square Dances in Florida, thereby providing more fine wholesome entertainment in our Florida Square Dances.

Attending this organizational meeting were Bill Ross and R.R. Orcutt from Clearwater, Corb Echols Sr., Corb Echols Jr., Tom Ulstrup, and Dennis Birchard from St. Pete, C.C. Blackburn, Bill Embury, and Harold Emery from West Palm Beach, and A.M. Sorensen and Don Armstrong from New Port Richey. Other registrants are from Orlando, Jacksonville, Gainesville, Tallahassee, Tampa, and other square dance areas of the state.

Temporary officers elected to serve until next fall include Don Armstrong as President, R.R. Orcutt as treasurer, and Corb Echols Jr. and Bill Embury, all on the planning committee. The next meeting will take place in about 45 days.

In order to expedite and facilitate the growth of this Association,

it would be appreciated if BOW AND SWING would run this letter and also ask callers that have not yet been contacted and wish to join this group to immediately write to: Don Armstrong, New Port Richey, Florida.

Similar callers' associations in other parts of the country have contributed much to the growth of Square Dancing in their areas, and all concerned hope that the Florida Square Dance Callers Association can do the same for Florida.

Don Armstrong, Acting Pres.  
Florida Square Dance  
Callers' Association.

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SQUARE DANCING IN FT. PIERCE

Dear Mr. Emery:

We started square dancing in our recreation program in September, 1950. We do not consider ourselves professionals in any sense of the word, but our people do have a good time and are learning to square dance, and that is what we are interested in.

We hold square dances each Thursday night at the Community Center from 7:30 until 11 o'clock. These dances are open to the public and during the peak of the winter season have had as many as 500 in attendance. The first part of each evening is devoted to instruction and then on with the dancing. We use records for instruction, but have a piano and guitar player for the regular dance. We have had people attend our dances from as far north as Eau Gallie and as far south as Okeechobee. We make no charge for the dances, but take up a collection for the orchestra.

We do not square dance the year round and usually stop around the 1st of May. We would be pleased to have you visit us. Enclosed please find \$1.00 for a year's subscription.

Respectfully,  
Woodrow W. Dukes  
Director of Recreation  
St. Lucie County

## SQUARE YOUR SETS

with  
BILL EMBURY

Almost everywhere in the country, square dancers have formed into clubs, and through these clubs or groups, have done wonders for square dancing. They have gone into some of the more difficult changes and worked out all the little frills, bows, etc., that make square dancing as nice as it is. They also, in many cases, go into the many folk dances and work with each other to make folk- and square-dancing as much fun as it is.

Now in the Palm Beaches we do not have a square dance club, as far as I know, but I sure would like to see one or more started. Until recently, we did not have a suitable place where a square dance club could meet, but Mr. York, of the recreation department, has indicated an interest in seeing clubs started. Now, I believe, places will be available to meet in the park club houses. If any of our local readers of BOW AND SWING are interested and want to find out more about a club, write or call your editor or Mr. Ben York, City Recreation Director for West Palm Beach, or call Bill Embury, phone 3-2253. If your church or social group is interested in forming a club, get in touch with us and we will help in any way we can.

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I have not heard from Ed Durlacher since he left W.P.B., but he did promise to send us some literature about calling, clubs, etc. I know he is a busy man and expect to hear from him as soon as his tour around the country is over.

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After reading the letter from R.R. Orcutt, of Clearwater, Fla., about people moving to Clearwater and making it their home, I thought of a lot of people here who, if they ever leave W.P.B., will look for a place to live where there are square dances.

The elementary grades in the schools of West Palm Beach are planning a May Day celebration to be given May 1. I saw it last year, and even though part of it was rained out, it was well worth seeing. And this year it should be even better, as the teachers and school administration have been planning it ever since last year. Mrs. Montoya, one of our square dancers, has a very large part in getting this organized and ready.

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LAKE WORTH SHUFFLEBOARD CLUB  
SPONSORS WEEKLY SQUARE DANCE

For some time now the Lake Worth Shuffleboard Club has been sponsoring a Thursday night square dance in the club rooms at the city auditorium building. These are the outgrowth of a series of classes held by Ty Persson earlier in the season. Ty does the calling, while volunteer musicians furnish part of the music on piano and violin. Recorded music is used for part of the dancing.

I enjoyed the two visits I've made to the dance.

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GENE KERSEY ISSUES  
BULLETIN FOR CALLERS

Gene Kersey, distributor of square and folk dance records, is issuing a mimeographed bulletin for callers in his area, which includes Florida, Georgia, and Alabama.

It is a very chatty little sheet dealing with the records he handles, activities of callers in various areas, etc. If any caller in the area is not getting it, he should write Gene at P.O. Box 10254, Tampa, Fla.

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WEST PALM BEACH OPEN DANCES  
TO CONTINUE THROUGH SUMMER

According to present plans, the weekly Friday night square dances at the Armory will be continued through the summer. These dances are sponsored by the City Recreation Department, with Caller Bill Embury and the Hulme Orchestra.

## A SQUARE DANCER'S PRAYER

by  
Doris C. Saltus

Lord, as this evening I joyfully go to the square dance, make me not forget which hand is my right and which is my left; fill me with endurance that I may last out the night as "fit as the fiddle" and that my blood pressure will remain at a reasonable level; let me refrain from too long a swing in any set, thereby throwing a monkey-wrench into the machinery; give me assurance that the belt of my trousers or the elastic waistband will do their duty and not chance to cause me undue embarrassment.

Grant me sufficient courage to withstand the hard-to-repress desire to annihilate the square dance beginner as I do my best to help him, for, as he is now so once was I, but I do not wish to remember it. Keep my metatarsals from becoming annoying and give me this day adequate cash for square dance admissions and babysitters as well as new soles on my shoes.

Let me take into consideration that a square dance floor is primarily a place to dance, and that spooning, mugging, necking, or what-have-you may be done to much better advantage to both parties concerned in some other more private environment. Do not let me confuse a "grand allemand" with an "allemand X" but still do not let all of my brains go to my feet.

Help me to conquer the urge to criticize another's dancing mistakes, that he does not do unto me as I do unto him; let me be graceful (within my heart) though my avoirdupois or my acute angles may belie that possibility upon the dance floor, or allow me to think that my manly physique is literally mowing down the dear damsels that I hold in my so brawny arms, for on such assumptions comes confi-

dence and ultimate carefree enjoyment.

I pray make me to remember that square dancing is supposed to be a pleasure and not a verbal pugilistic affray - make me remember this in particular if I am dancing with my partner in marriage and keep a smile on my lips and a kind word on my tongue-- in public, at least.

Allow me to believe without reservation, that I am, in my dancing, as wonderful as the caller claims. Forgive him if he is in error, but protect him and keep him so that he may continue to make friends and influence other people in the pleasures and satisfactions to be found in the square dance, at the same time keeping his hat-size from too much expansion.

I implore you, Lord, lead me not into committing mayhem upon those who sagely counsel me to "act my age", for they know not what they do, nor do they know what they are missing. Let not my enthusiasm get out of bounds, for all this - and Heaven, too, maketh my cup run over. But fill me with zest and desire and the realization that life is what I make it at a square dance, but soon. All this I ask of you, Lord, in a spirit of faith and good fellowship, for doth not "a merry heart doeth good like a medicine?" AMEN

(Reprinted by permission from the January, 1952, issue of The New England Caller.)

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A note from Mr. and Mrs. G.R. Nevins (along with a subscription) says that "even though we wont be square dancing for a while, we want to keep up with what's going on. Square dancing will be the first thing we'll return to after the arrival of our little 'tax exemption' in September."

We miss them as much as they miss the dances, and look forward to having them with us again.

## BOW AND SWING

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\*\*\* THIS 'N' THAT \*\*\*  
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Have just received a review copy of Charley Ythomas's new book, "Dancing Back the Clock". It is a collection of instructions for 94 dances, all keyed to the Dance-land series of English records, which Charley rates very highly.

Of the 94 dances, only seven or eight are group dances--circle and quadrille formation. The rest are couple dances. Often several records are suitable for the same dance, or several dances can be done to the same record. So besides the recommending of a certain record for each dance, Charley gives an index of records which lists the dances for which he thinks each is suitable.

The dances include a variety of special sequences in waltzes, two-steps, schottisches, polkas, gavottes, fox-trots, and tangos. Instructions are brief, measure-by-measure, and mostly written in England. Charley has simply collected, edited, and published them in book form.

Any attempt to evaluate the book would require a knowledge of the dances themselves and the records to which they are keyed which I do not possess. Paper-bound; 64 pages; \$1.50. The book can be ordered from Danceland Records, 121-2 Delaware St., Woodbury, N.J.

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C.C. Blackburn called a square dance at the Moose Lodge Hall on Belvedere Rd., Friday, Mar. 28. He reported the dancers had a very good time and plan to have more. They've been wanting to get square dancing started for their members for some time, it seems.

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About 25 members of the D.C.T. Club of Palm Beach High School enjoyed a square dance party at the Luther Haymond home on Congress Avenue the evening of Sat-

urday, March 29. Miss Gladys Haymond and Miss Darlene Whims were acting as hostesses for the group. While many of them had never done any square dancing before, all seemed to enjoy it. Harold Emery was caller, with recorded music.

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In typing the letter from Woody Duke about square dancing at Ft. Pierce, the paragraph about "Midget Square Dances" was omitted. Each Saturday morning from 9:30 till 11 o'clock about 125 boys and girls from the 4th, 5th, 6th, and 7th grades gather at the Ft. Pierce Community Hall for square dancing. Woody reports them as very quick to learn and very enthusiastic. Different sets of the youngsters are used for demonstration and entertainment at various Civic Clubs and organizations.

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Out of some 25 publications devoted to fold and square dancing in the United States, about half are in the Northeast and Midwest, the other half in the Southwest and Far West. BOW AND SWING seems to be the only one in the whole Southeast.

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We understand the summer recreation program in Palm Beach County will be organized somewhat along the lines of the last two years, under the Palm Beach County School Board, in co-operation with the City Recreation Departments. If so, there will probably be square dance classes again, giving a lot more people a chance to learn to square dance. Watch the newspapers for details, and pass the word along to all who might be interested.

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With the March issue, Charley Thomas bade farewell as editor of "American Squares". Rickey Holden, of Texas, takes over the editorial chair. Charley will still be connected with the magazine and its enterprises, however.

# BOW AND SWING

## DANCING AROUND

With the trailer camps ending their dance seasons, Bill Embury says that maybe he'll have a chance to dance some now, if he can find a dance close enough to go to on any night that he isn't playing and calling.

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A partial list of callers from the Tampa Bay area, received from Don Armstrong, lists 13. They're having a bit of activity in square dancing over there.

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Corb Echols, Jr., of St. Pete, says, "Keep your dances simple and fun." With which we all agree, here in South Florida, it seems.

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Jimmy Glossin, of Orlando, is on the staff of the "American Squares" Summer Square Dance Camps again this summer. (Better keep a tight hold on your pants so they won't go up a flagpole this year, Jimmy.)

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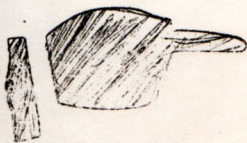
Don't forget what Bill said about the May Day program in West Palm Beach, at Cooley Stadium.

Central Junior High square dancers will have a part in it. Thelma Embury is helping out in instructing them.

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My wife and I have missed getting to the Finnish Hall at Lantana for any of their dances this year, but have resolved to do better another year. They are not square dances, but shottisches, polkas, and old Finnish dances, with some waltzes sprinkled in. Good coffee and cake, too.

For  
Your  
Use



Many of you have received one or more sample copies of BOW AND SWING.

It is a magazine for dancers rather than callers, and should continue so. But it takes dancers, callers, and music to make a square dance. So we'll continue to have news of all three.

If you think it is worthwhile to have a Florida square dance publication-- in fact, the only one in the Southeast-- help out with your subscription.

Use the blank below or any sheet of paper.

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Exactly two-thirds of our subscriptions so far are from outside the West Palm Beach-Lake Worth area, and over a third are from outside the state of Florida. Ten states besides Florida are represented, with Idaho the one most distant at this time.

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YOU, TOO, should be on that list.

Harold Emery  
R.R.1, Box 390  
West Palm Beach, Fla.

I want to see BOW AND SWING continued as Florida's square dance magazine.

Here is my dollar for a one year subscription (ten issues).

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

(If you have already subscribed, you might get a friend to use this or use it for a gift subscription. Use BOW AND SWING as a gift for a square dancing friend.)