

Bow and Swing

Volume 7, No. 4

September, 1957

HELLO AGAIN!!!

It's been a long time since we got out the April-May issue, with an announced schedule of publication which included two summer issues. After that issue was in the mail, school closed for the year, and other summer activities under way, your editor found that a vacation from BOW AND SWING was a MUST.

From now on we'll make every effort to keep some kind of a regular schedule, at least through the winter months, even if it has to be on a somewhat reduced scale.

So much has happened that we cannot begin to cover adequately the activities since last May 3. For example, Tommy Thompson's fine report on the Square Dance Convention at Miami Beach is now "old stuff", but we may use part of it.

"MR. SUN'S SETS" NOW A YEAR OLD

A note from Ray Carter, publicity chairman for MR. SUN'S SETS, a relatively new St. Pete Club, reminds us that the club is now a year old. The "celebrated their first anniversary with installation of officers, a swim party, and their regular dance, followed by refreshments," Ray says. Hicks and Chicks club were guests.

Following are the new officers of Mr. Sun's Sets: Ron Young, president; Paul Weber, vice-president; Jane Herndon, treasurer; Ruth Starr, secretary; and Ed Hoggarth, membership chairman.

Jim Pearson is caller for both MR. SUN'S SETS and HICKS & CHICKS.

THIRD ANNUAL SHORT COURSE FINE AFFAIR

From all reports, the Third Annual Square Dance Short Course at the University of Florida, Gainesville, was a really fine affair. Attendance was more than twice that of previous years, and the annual affair should now be firmly established.

The fine syllabus is really a book worth keeping, and the 22 page introduction of Square Dance Basics by Ernest Bartley and Jimmy Clossin is one of the best. Space is not taken up with the old standard calls and dances, which are readily available in other places. Rather, the Squares and Rounds published are largely selected from among the newer ones, less readily available in book form.

Your editor certainly hopes to be able to attend next year.

KNOTHEAD KONVENTION

As this is being written, the Florida Knothead Konvention is--or should be--in session in St. Pete. Aug. 31, Sept. 1 & 2 were the dates announced.

Had one issue of the FLORIDA KNOTHEAD, a neatly printed four-page publication issued last April. Don't know how many more have been issued.

BOW AND SWING is edited and published by Harold Emery, R.R. 3, Box 582, West Palm Beach, Fla. Subscription price is one dollar for eight issues.

FLORIDA CONVENTION LONG PAST

Florida's annual Square and Folk Dance Convention, held last May in Miami Beach, is long past. However, since we took a long vacation, perhaps a few words are still in order.

"From the Square Dance angle, the convention was very good, and Gene Baylis deserves a big hand." This quote from a letter is typical of many comments.

Folk dancing was represented on the evening programs to almost no extent. However, Annette and Tommy Thompson and Bert and Elizabeth Bennett held a fine Saturday afternoon session, attended by an ardent group of Folk Dancers, including some who came to the convention solely for this part of the program. A number of dances were taught, other familiar ones danced, and two couples from the Ukrainian-American club presented Ukrainian dances, danced in the colorful costumes of their country.

CONTRAS AT THE CONVENTION

A good group attended the Saturday morning contra session led by Annette and Tommy Thompson. At previous Florida conventions it has seemed that the majority who came out for contras had never danced them before, and were there from curiosity. This year it appeared that a majority of the group had done some contra-dancing, and were there because they love them. Many of the dancers mentioned that they wished their callers would include some contras on the programs.

With this interest in contras from over the state, it appears that the use of an occasional Contra by square dance callers is long over-due in this area.

ARMSTRONGS HAD BUSY SUMMER

Don and Marie Armstrong started their summer schedule started off with nine full weeks of camp activity at some of the leading Square and Folk Dance camps and schools of the nation, working with a varied group of other leaders in the field. Just when they'll be home and be opening DANCELAND we haven't heard. Not too long now, though.

(Understand Shorty Armstrong entered college in June -- starting a course in Recreation activities.)

CALENDAR

Just as soon as we can get together enough material, we'll start the popular CALENDAR reature and carry it through the months of greatest Square Dance activity. Please drop us a note or a card giving your dances, and specifying whether each is an open or a closed dance. Time, place, sponsoring group, caller, and any other pertinent data should be given.

Just because your dance was listed last year, or for the past several years, don't assume that we know it is still going on. Dances do suspend, and new ones begin. Sponsoring groups change their policies and their callers.

HOBE SOUND TO HAVE DANCE AGAIN

After nearly two years without a Square Dance, the little community of Hobe Sound is to have one in their Community Hall again this year. The dances will start Saturday, September 7, with Harold Emery as caller, and will continue each Saturday.

For several years very successful dances were held in this little community some 30 miles north of West Palm Beach. It is hoped the new series will be equally successful.

FAREWELL---

In the past year we have had to bid farewell to a number of fine Square Dance publications. Most of them were regional publications, and the burden of their labor of love just became too much for the editors and publishers.

We salute them and bid a fond farewell.

ROSIN THE BOW had a personality that made it alive, and was a real contribution to square and folk dance literature. Rod La Farge is now associated with American Squares, and a few features have been carried over to that publication. One of the finest of our national publications, American Squares has preserved its own character, and does not replace the other publication.

After several years as a fine printed publication, HOOSIER SQUARE DANCER has suspended. It, too, will be missed. Likewise, that fine Texas publication, FOOT 'N' FIDDLE. Along with these have gone a number of smaller, less well established local and state publications. Each was a work of love and served a good purpose, and we're sorry to see them gone.

RECORD REVIEWS

Once or twice your editor has been very critical of record reviews and reviewers. Yet I always find them interesting, and enjoy reading them. When well done, I'm sure they may be as important to the record buyer as book reviews are to the book buyer.

Keeping in mind that the review is one man's opinion, if that man has a good basic knowledge of music as well as a fine knowledge of square and folk dancing, and if he sometimes calls in other qualified people to review certain records because they can do a better or more unbiased job, the reviews can and do keep a lot of people from wasting a lot of money on unusable material.

I have in mind particularly reviews like the series on standard records in American Squares. In the September issue, Frank Kaltman takes 11 records of "Boil the Cabbage Down", analyzing them and pointing out their characteristics. Of course the makers of the poorer records and a good many callers who prefer certain types of beat or certain arrangements won't agree with him, but on the whole it looks like a good job. I don't know why, in his final summary, he didn't include the Capitol as one of the best, even though a slow tempo. Perhaps for that reason, or because it is now available only in 45's, which few callers use.

MARIANNE, THE JOKES ON ME

When I first saw MARIANNE advertised, I said to myself, "Hey, what's Frank Kaltman doing? He has commented on the use of unshittable popular songs for square dances. and here he goes doing the same thing." But I was wrong, for it's a fine dance to a fine piece of music, and has already become very popular.

FLORIDA KNOTHEAD AMBASSADORS DUE HOME

Herb and Hazel Cassell, square dancing pair from Jupiter, should be home any day now from their summer's travels in England and on the continent.

The rank and badge as "Traveling Florida Knothead Ambassadors" was presented to Herb and Hazel at the annual dinner dance of the "Tampa Travelers" Square and Round Dance Club shortly before they left for England.

We'll all be glad to welcome back these fine square dance folk.

DO-SI-DO CLUB OF PALM BEACHES

The Do-Si-Do Club of the Palm Beaches is having some of the nicest dances in the area, according to all reports. It's dances are now held weekly, each Monday night, at the Boutwell Dairy Auditorium west of Lake Worth and are open to all square dancers. A beginner class is being conducted before the dance.

The club seems to have got back to its original purpose of promoting square dancing, and to be benefiting by it in greater attendance and more fun for all.

By the way, this is by far the oldest Square Dance club in this area. Had occasion a short time ago to look up its beginnings, as recorded in early issues of BOW & SWING.

The name first appears in the February and March, 1951, issues of BOW & SWING, and is listed as meeting each Tuesday at the Aragon Dance Hall. Memory fails me, but evidently this was a fleeting and temporary organization, for there is no more mention until May, 1952, when the organization of the club on April 7 of that year.

BETTER THINGS IN STORE

After struggling along with fairly regular publication for about five years, the past year of BOW & SWING has been rather hectic, marked by irregularities and late issues. This summer, many subscribers undoubtedly thought it was completely done, and your editor did for a while, too.

However, we believe better things are in the offing. There's a possibility of a considerable change in the near future, about which nothing can be said right now except that it should make BOW & SWING a much more useful publication.

But even if it remains the amateurish effort of your editor alone, we hope for a smoother, better future, with many good things to come.

FONTANA VACATION

Jim and Norene Pearson had a mid-July vacation at Fontana Dam, North Carolina, after a tour which included quite a bit of dancing and calling. They reported a good many Florida people vacationing at Fontana, and some fine square dance sessions in the Recreation Hall.

Jim calls regularly at the Treasure Island Auditorium in St. Pete on Thursday nights, besides various club activities. The Treasure Island dances continued through the summer.

FONTANA FALL SWAP SHOP

One of the big events among dancers and callers of the Southeast is the Fontana Swap Shop, held twice yearly. The Fall Swap Shop is scheduled for October 4, 5, & 6.

If you can make it, it's a fine chance to combine a nice vacation at a beautiful spot with good Square Dance fun.

HAROLD EMERY

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Enclosed is one dollar for eight issues of BOW & SWING

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