



CITY OF DAYTON, OHIO

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WELFARE

DIVISION OF RECREATION • MUNICIPAL BLDG. • HE 3441

DANIEL E. WAGNER
Superintendent of Recreation

1955

Fifteen square, folk, and round dance clubs in the Miami Valley have banded together in a Dance Council, and their first major project is the Miami Valley's first annual Dance Festival.

This will be held at the Fairground Coliseum in Dayton on October 29 and 30. On Saturday the 29th there will be two sessions: 1:00 to 5:00 p.m., and 8:00 to 12:00 p.m. On Sunday the 30th there will be one session: 1:00 to 5:00 p.m.

Purpose of the festival will be to create more interest in all forms of recreational dancing, and to promote at least one occasion annually when all our organized groups can get together to exchange dance experience and have fun---together.

Square dancing will receive the major attention of the festival, although other forms---folk, round, and contra dancing---will be fairly represented. The festival will be neither a workshop, on the one hand, nor just a jamboree, on the other. There will be no regular instruction session as such. But there will be some teaching of dances. Whenever this occurs, it will in all cases be short and to the point, just enough so that everyone can get into the fun. Square dance numbers will be kept simple to intermediate. (We expect to attract an appreciable number of spectators, and hope to appeal to those who have done little or no dancing before.)

Music at the Saturday afternoon session will be records. Saturday evening and Sunday afternoon there will be an orchestra. The orchestra will consist of members who have had experience playing for square dances in this area, and on TV square dance programs.

And here we come to the point of this letter: Right now we want to line up callers---lots of them! Anyone who has done calling for clubs, open dances, school and church groups, is cordially invited to join us in putting on the festival. It will be a grand opportunity for all of us to get together and get better acquainted as we promote this wonderful form of recreation for the entire Miami Valley.

"A SAFE PLACE FOR EVERY CHILD TO PLAY"

All callers will be special guests of the Festival and the Festival Committee. If you are from out-of-town and plan to stay for the weekend (which we hope you do), the committee will take care of your accommodations---including of course the Missus, or Nister, whichever the case may be.

As you can readily understand, it is not possible at this time to say just how much time will be allotted to each caller or dance leader. This can only be determined later, when all of our responses are in. But right now you can do two things: 1) Tell us if you will be able to take part in the festival: 2) Let us know if you can be here for both days, or just one. The more of our callers and leaders who can stay for the weekend, the easier it will be to arrange the program---and the more fun for all of us.

If you wish additional information at this time, or have suggestions to offer, we'll be pleased to hear from you. In the meantime, we do want to hear from you as soon as possible---that you'll be able to join us in putting on the Miami Valley's first Dance Festival!

And after we hear from you, we'll write you again before too long, for a little background to be used in our publicity---a brief personal sketch, photograph, your favorite dances or square dance calls, etc.

Hoping to hear from you at your earliest convenience, I am,

Sincerely yours,



Michael Solomon
Chairman Program Committee
Miami Valley Dance Council