

MICHAEL SOLOMON PAVILION

Dayton, Ohio

November 29, 1964, was a memorable day. Representatives of all the dance groups belonging to the Miami Valley Dance Council, which comprises the entire Dayton area, assembled to dedicate the beloved pavilion, their present year-round dance home, to their good friend, Michael Solomon, who retired from active service with the Dayton Division of Recreation this past June.

The facility was constructed during the first decade, after the turn of the century, to be used in the development of a welfare program for the National Cash Register employees. The pavilion, along with the Hills and Dales, Park and Golf Course, was donated to the City of Dayton by John H. Patterson. It was dedicated in June of 1918. Early in the fifties it was decided that it should be demolished, but long lists of dancers' names petitioned that it remain standing, and so it has. Its 600 square feet of sprung floor space has made it a very popular place for dancing of all kinds. Before 1964 it was used only during the summer months, but now it is in continuous use and the Miami Valley Dance Council has made available the funds to furnish an adequate kitchen.

Michael Solomon, much better known as just "Mike", to many people, was born in Beirut, Lebanon, October 20, 1902, while his mother was visiting that country from the United States. He served the City of Dayton in various capacities since 1929. Before retirement he held the position, Director of Special Activities. In this capacity he was able to encourage all forms of dances and gained an outstanding reputation at home and abroad for his interest in folk, square, and round dancing. By coincidence his first love was folk dancing, and the first city sponsored group was the Dayton Folk Dance Club. An enthusiastic folk dancing couple, the Robinsons from California, had moved next door to Mike and Margaret Solomon. They twisted the Solomon arm, and next thing to happen was a folk dance session in the Solomons' living room. That is how it all began in Dayton. All recreational dancing was considered folk dancing by this group. They enjoyed American Square and Round Dancing as well as international Folk Dances. All this began in 1946. City sponsored classes enlarged the group.

What was happening in Dayton reflected a growing interest in square and folk dancing all over the country. In 1950 the City Recreation Bureau, in cooperation with the Community Welfare Council, sponsored the first of a series of instructions for dance leaders. This series was conducted by Mike and Margaret Solomon and resulted in the immediate formation of a square dance class for beginners. After six weeks of instruction, this group became the Dayton Square Dance Club! We might add here that this group also learned folk and round dances.

Mike continued to teach folk, square, and round dancing until he had developed adequate leadership among his dancers. The square dance clubs began having different callers, most of whom Mike had coached in calling. Mike developed a round dance group which became the Dayton Round Dance Club under the leadership of David and Lydia McDevitt. When Mrs. Solomon's secretarial duties became too heavy for her to assist with teaching, Mike developed new assistants into teachers. That is how Grace Wolff came to develop the Miami Valley Round Dancers and succeed Mike as the leader of the Miami Valley Folk Dancers in 1954. Mike was forever the forerunner, always encouraging leadership, and this continued till the day of his retirement. Moreover, we still seek his advice.

Each one of us wishes that he could have been first to think of naming the pavilion for Mike! Along with our enduring friendship it is the most appropriate thank you

we know. The pavilion, usable the year round, was his dream for us, and now he shall always be a part of that dream come true.



GRACE WOLFF

The local chapter of the University of Dayton Alumni Association granted one of its three annual achievement and service awards to Mrs. Grace Wolff. She was cited for the civic achievement award in recognition for her many years of service to charitable agencies in the Dayton area through her dancing and recreational programs. She is a good wife and an equally good mother, neglecting neither and still finding time to lead folk dance groups, attend University for additional work even tho she received her master's degree in 1949. Grace was guest teacher at many camps. Grace is of Pennsylvania Dutch extraction and finds inspiration in that background. To Grace we extend good wishes for many more years in her beloved endeavors.

DAYTON LITH JUBILEE

The Dayton Lithuanian community celebrated the 50th year of the founding of their Parish, the Holy Cross Church. The church has been renovated and redecoreated in Lithuanian folk style. The main altar is an object of artistry against a stained glass wall depicting Lithuanian wayside shrines. The first priest of the parish, back in 1914, was Father Gricius. The current priest is Father T. Narbutas.

The first Lithuanians to settle in Dayton were Jonas Bačenas, and Andrius Žitkus, who came to Dayton in 1886. In 1889 they were joined by Juozas and Antanas Šlapikas, Vincas Ambrozus, Antanas Rimkevičius and Juozas Šlakis. At present the community consists of several thousand. Dayton was also one of the earlier communities to have their own Lithuanian folk dance group.

SEASON'S GREETINGS

TO VILTIS and TO OUR FRIENDS

MIAMI VALLEY FOLK DANCES

DAYTON, OHIO

Dancing Each Thursday 8—11

MICHAEL SOLOMON PAVILION

2917 Berkley

Instructor Grace Wolff