

MIAMI VALLEY FOLK DANCERS

ETHNIC SUNDAY

PROGRAM

10 JULY 1977

AMERICAN FOLK DANCES

SQUARE, CIRCLE, CONTRA,

NOVELTY

HISTORY OF AMERICAN SQUARE DANCING

- 1850 - Square Dancing banished from cities.
- 1920 Singing games and play party games in South and rural areas were prime survivors.
- 1920's With Public Address Systems in being - Singing Dances and singing calls began to appear.
- 1926 Henry Ford and Wife revived American Folk Dances with book "Good Morning".
- 1930's The Cooperative Recreation Service, Deleware, Ohio published "Handy" (loose leaf booklets) describing Folk Dances, including all types of Square dancing.
- 1936 Dr. Lloyd Shaw began publishing books on Cowboy and Round dances.
- 1940's Many books and booklets published primarily with patter and singing calls, in which each couple visits the other couples with many figures, some old and some new. (4th edition of Good Morning 1943 contained many singing calls). 50 - 50 dances were popular with a tip of square dancing followed by ball room dances of the region.
- 1950 Considered the year when Western style started with those dances which provided maximum movements of the entire set being most popular. Nearly 100% singing calls. Al Brundage on East Coast and Les Gotcher on West Coast champion callers.
- 1950's Lead by Les Gotcher, hash calling, similar to old patter calls, but western style, began to develop. Many books and booklets were published.
- 1952 First Annual Square Dance Convention.
- 1966 One Night Stands became recognized for parties.

- 1966 - Ralph Sweet expressed the feelings of many that Western Style was moving too fast and too many movements and strongly proposed an Ole Tyme approach. His idea has never been adopted.
- 1969 Bob Osgood, a leader for Western style began a movement to organize square dance presentation. Published "The Basic Program for Square Dancing."
- 1971 Published "The Extended (25) Basics".
- 1974 Published "Plus 50 Experimental Movements".
- 1973 Don Armstrong using research by Ralph Page prepared Manual for Contra's.
- 1974 Callers formed CALLERLAB.
- 1977 CALLERLAB announced new revisions to the Basic and Extended Movements.
- 1970 Bill Burleson issued a loose leaf Square Dance Encyclopedia with additions 3 times each year. At the end of 1976 he had described 2449 terms and movements used in the U. S.
- 1976 There are actions to make Square Dancing the National Dance of the U. S.
- 1976 It is estimated that:
- | | | | |
|--------|-----------|------------|-----------------|
| 12,000 | clubs | are in the | U.S. |
| 700 | " | " | Canada |
| 100 | " | " | England |
| 82 | " | " | Japan |
| 100 | " | " | Australia |
| 50 | countries | enjoy | Square Dancing. |

ESTABLISHING THE REPERTOIRE FOR THE AMERICAN FOLK DANCES

The American Folk Dance which is primarily variations of squares, circles, contra and couple dances, all have evolved into a large ever increasing number of movements that depend on prompting. The heart of American Folk Dance today is the Square Dance. To understand and appreciate the American Folk Dance, the Movements described in the pamphlet (Handbook) "The Basic Movements of Square Dancing 'Basic 50!'" will be used as the base line. The movements to be taught at Ethnic Sundays will be used in Square Dance Tips and Contra's in Thursday night programs to practice their applications and to practice responding to prompting. The number indicated by each movement correspond to the number and are described in the handbook.

The movements are divided into two categories. Category I - Movements which are taught as part of dances at the 7:00 - 8:00 lessons. Minimum instructions except for possible styling. Category II - Movement which require more detailed instruction at Ethnic Sundays. Listed in order of preference, depending on time available to instruct.

Once these basics are known, square dancing of all types, contra dancing and circle dances, (mixers and couples) become rather routine if prompted or called.

CATAGORY I

1. Circle L & R.
2. Walk
3. Forward and Back
4. Honors
5. Do Sa Do
6. Waist Swing
7. Couple Promenade
8. Single File Promenade
9. The Square
10. Split The Ring
11. Grand R & L
12. Arms Turn
13. Couples Separate
14. Allemande L
16. Courtesy Turn
17. Two Ladies Chain
19. R & L Thru
20. Four Ladies Chain
21. R Hand Star
22. Back by the L
29. Pass Thru
30. Separate
31. Dive Thru
32. Wheel Around
33. Box The Gnat
39. Single File Turn Back
40. Roll Away
43. Balance
46. Half Promenade

CATAGORY II

15. Bend The Line
23. Star Promenade
24. Hub Back Out
25. Circle to a Line
26. All Around
27. See Saw
28. Promenade Flourishes
31. Grand Square
32. California Twirl
34. Around one to a Line
35. Ends turn in
36. Cross Trail
44. Alamo Style
45. Square Thru
47. Star Thru
48. Couple Backtrack
49. Three Quarter Chain
50. Turn back from a Grand
R & L
40. Allemande Thar Star
41. Shoot That Star
18. Do Paso

*As the result of standardization, enjoyable differences in dancing such as two-stepping, extra hand clapping, and preferred language for favorite calls, are discouraged, although still indulged in by a few individualists. But standardization makes it possible for one to square dance comfortably anywhere in the world.

Regional types of square dances are still around and folks get together for party square dancing based on old time and simple figures - at vacation camps, scout meetings and socials. But the organized version of modern American Square Dancing is the big one - the one that draws the crowds.

*Extract from Book "The Complete Book of Square Dancing and Round Dancing" by Betty Casey.

For further information, background or guidance on American Folk Dances, contact:

Hulon R. Shows - 253-8366 or
Lou Hyll - 252-3514

Additional information will be available on Round Dancing and Novelty dances.

CONTRA TERMS AND MOVEMENTS

(Taken from The Caller/Teacher Manual for
Contras)

Actives - Those couples designated by the caller to primarily respond to the directive calls.

Cast Down - A dance action in which the designated dancers move down the set one or more places.

Cast Off - Move down only one place. (Progression)

Cast Up - Moves up one or more places.

Corners - The one below, or lady on gents left or gent on lady's right.

Cross Over at the (Head, Foot, Ends) - A directive to instruct the indicated couple(s) to exchange places with partners. Usually at the head to become active and at the foot to become inactive.

Dead Couple - Couple(s) at the head or foot waiting one or more dance sequences before becoming active or inactive.

Inactive - Couples not designated Actives.

Improper - The active couples are crossed over before the dance starts.

New one below - Used to call attention to the fact that the actives will be dancing an action, or a sequence, with a different couple, below them.

Progression - at the completion of each entire sequence, the active dancers have moved into a new starting position so as to repeat the sequence with different dancers. The most common are:

Swing your corner and put her on the Right

Cast Off one below


Pass Thru "U# turn back, $\frac{1}{2}$ Promenade lady on
your R

Down in 4's (depending on how you turn)


Slant left, R & L Thru (For couples facing
across)




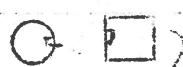



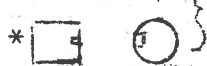







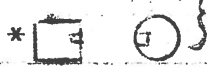




CONTRA FORMATIONS

 Gent

 Lady

* Active

 Caller

Top Couple Active	All Couples Active	Duple	Alternate Duple
			
			
			
			
			
TRIPLE	Alternate Triple	Couples Facing	Mescolanza
