

1st

**AUSTRALIAN
NATIONAL
SQUARE
DANCE
CONVENTION**

CANBERRA

30th April 1960

1st National - CANBERRA 1960

Chairman - Jim White



THE AUSTRALIAN SQUARE DANCE REVIEW

From The Square Dancers Society of N.S.W.

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PRICE 6d. GRATIS TO MEMBERS.

Square Dancing Booms In Adelaide and Melbourne

Square Dancing is once again back in the public eye in Melbourne. Whereas a few months ago the numbers Square Dancing in Melbourne were only about 1,500, the number now well exceeds 4,000 according to our latest reports. A similar boom has been created in Adelaide and plans are under way for a boom here in a few months time.

In Melbourne, there is no doubt in the minds of promoters, radio and television officials that Square Dancing is becoming a very strong force to be reckoned with.

Already Jim Vickers-Willis is doing a half-hour broadcast on Adelaide radio station 5AD once a week, and two radi Square Dance sessions each week on Melbourne stations.

On June 6, the 5AD broadcast was also televised for two hours on Adelaide TV station Channel 7.

A half-hour weekly session on teaching people to Square Dance has commenced on Melbourne TV station, Channel 2.

Apart from this, Jim Vickers-Willis calls at the Palais de Danse in Adelaide every Monday, and Earl's Court in Melbourne, every Tuesday.

In addition, it is reported that Eddie Carrol is also drawing big crowds and other Melbourne callers have been besieged with requests to form clubs in recent weeks.

Present indications are that this boom will become every bit as large as the original boom in 1950.

Jim Vickers-Willis has recently introduced a card entitled "The Etiquette of Open House Square Dancing."

It is called 'Open House' dancing because it is intended for Square Dancers of varying standards.

Jim says it was introduced because he considered that the vast majority of Square Dancers were being robbed of a lot of fun by a selfish few, who could best be described as displaying bad manners.

The vast majority of dancers who have good manners are now seeing that this "etiquette" is carried out at the dances and this has been a helpful factor.

THE ETIQUETTE OF "OPEN HOUSE" SQUARE DANCING

(By Jim Vickers-Willis)

1. Never let your own or a fellow dancer's mistakes really annoy you.

Remember, it's just a dance, and it's just for fun.

2. It is bad etiquette at "Open House" to pick your own set when a round-up is called.

* Every third dance is a "pick your own."

Remainder of the dances at "Open House" are round-ups.

3. Ask the caller for request numbers, but don't ask for difficult dances likely to show off the ability of a few experts, but too complicated for the majority.

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JIM VICKERS-WILLIS

Remember, the caller's job at "Open House" is to call an even standard of dance which most dancers will join in easily and enjoy.

4. * When picking your own set for every third dance, endeavour to get a complete set.

Taking the floor one couple short and relying on the caller to fill your set, holds up the fun of all the other dancers.

5. When your set gets mixed up during a dance, move quickly back to your home position and wait for the next call.

FRIENDLINESS AND COURTESY TO ONE ANOTHER ARE THE ESSENCE OF "OPEN HOUSE" SQUARE DANCING.

* Sydney dancers should note that every third dance in Sydney is not a "pick your own" as stated in this list.

The "pick your own" rule varies within the different Sydney clubs.

SETS IN ORDER

Most Square Dancers have heard of the largest dance magazine in the world, "Sets In Order," yet have never seen a copy.

If you would like a copy, just fill in the form below and we will post to you, free of charge, a recent issue.

Numbers are limited, so, first in first served.

NAME

ADDRESS

.....

Member of

Square Dance Club

WOULD YOU LIKE TO LEARN TO SQUARE DANCE?

The following clubs are welcoming beginners at the present time:

Rose Bay: Every other Tuesday at corner Dover and Old South Head Roads, Rose Bay. Callers: Les Hitchen and Lucky Newton. Ring FL3791 or FY8056 for details.

Cammeray: A new weekly dance, commencing August 3, at the North Sydney Memorial Hall, Bellevue St., Cammeray. Callers: Ron Jones and Tom Chambers. Ring JF4240 for details. FIRST NIGHT IS FREE!

Carlingford: Dundas Allemanders are commencing a new night on second and fourth Mondays in the month at the Scouts' Hall, Penant Hills Road, Carlingford (opp. bowling club). Caller: Harry Jackson. Ring Eileen Dickson, WL3180 for details.

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LOOSE TALK

(By Square Joe)

American caller, Bruce Johnson, on a trip to the Orient for the U.S. Air Force, is taking no chances. He is carrying with him 150 pounds (weight) of records and equipment.

Recently, at a well-known club, a member suggested to the caller that an adjustment to his equipment would make his voice more easy to hear. The caller twiddled a knob. The dancer said the sound was perfect.

Shortly afterwards another member suggested that the music was too loud. The same knob was adjusted.

The dancer, cocking an ear critically, and after due consideration and deliberation, declared it was fine.

Beauty of this story is that the knob was connected to NOTHING!

A newly formed Canberra club is called the "Southern Stars."

How very refreshing to have an Australian name. Let's have more.

The Eisteddfod brought up one peculiar point.

Square Dancing was essentially brought into this country by two callers—Joe Lewis and Leonard Hurst.

It is amazing how the Australian states have developed different styles.

Perhaps this could be one of the subjects for discussion at the 1961 Eisteddfod.

Winter is here. Fuel stocks are getting scarce. Order now from

I have heard of callers travelling long distances for calling at dances, but I think Fred Byrne, of Tasmania must beat the record.

Once a month, Fred, a Hobart caller, calls in Launceston, 124 miles away. He leaves Hobart at 4.30 to travel to Launceston. After the dance he leaves Launceston at 11 and arrives back in Hobart at 2 a.m., 248 miles—can anyone beat this?

Further on Tasmania: Whilst Jim White was on holidays down there, he gave Fred Byrne the low-down on our Society.

They are planning to form a similar organisation in Tasmania.

At the moment there are several groups but no organisation between the groups.

People who viewed the old-time ballroom dancing on Channel 2 the other Saturday night, were probably flabbergasted at the similarity of the Lancers presented, to that of our modern Square Dancing of to-day.

One particular dance was almost exactly the same as Glory Hallelulah.

It was interesting to note that the couples anticlockwise around the room were 1, 3, 2, 4, instead of as in Square Dancing, 1, 2, 3, 4.

Recently, the Daily Telegraph in its 50-50 column ran an article asking why Square Dancing had died out.

We do not know who did it, but someone replied that it was far from dead

MILSON'S POINT RECORD CENTRE for TV, Radios and Tape Recorders REPAIRS A SPECIALTY Ennis Street MILSON'S POINT XB5350 (Pat and Don House St. Ives Club)

VARIETY

"Variety is the spice of life." This could easily be changed to "Variety is the life of Square Dancing."

Where have you heard these familiar words: "I think I had most of the fun Square Dancing when I was learning."

Why? Because of the variety!

Meeting new people, learning new things, making new friends.

On the other hand, what about these words: "I'm a little tired to-night. Let's don't go, there won't be anything different anyhow."

If a couple uses these words too often they end up leaving Square Dancing.

In California, they have the Knothead Clubs, complete with badges, etc.

You join this group by travelling over 100 miles for the purpose of attending a Square dance.

And the Idiot Clubs, badges and all, where a group of dancers dressed in appropriate night attire, call on their caller around 2 or 3 a.m. in the morning for an impromptu Square Dance.

Crazy? Perhaps, but never-the-less forms of variety.

Have you noticed that your best nights are your dress-up party nights. Nights you visit other clubs, nights your club has visitors and even nights your caller just "goes into orbit" and tries out all the fancy calls leaving you goofing and laughing the whole night long?

So dancers, it is up to us, not the committees, callers and officials of the clubs to make variety in Square Dancing.

Bring in new faces, visit other clubs, have them visit you, request the calls you have the most fun out of, and, if you feel brave, wake up your caller at 2 a.m. some morning.

Nuff sed, TOM and CHICK McGRATH

(Wow! For the benefit of dancers, we always publish the telephone numbers of callers—Editor.)

SQUARE DANCING AT THE SIXTH NATIONAL EISTEDDFOD

Square Dance history was written in Canberra when the National Eisteddfod Committee featured Square Dancing for the first time.

Six teams competed — one all the way from Brisbane, Queensland.

All the teams were attractively dressed and well presented and the standard of dancing was extremely high.

The Square Dancing was well received by a large public and the Eisteddfod committee — so much so that these events will be an annual feature of this Eisteddfod.

It is expected that with much more time to organise events, next year more inter-state teams will compete.

The Square Dance competitions were held at the Albert Hall, Canberra, on the afternoon of Saturday, April 30.

There were three sections. Results:

Grade 2: Open to amateur dancers who had not won a Square Dance competition.

The dances were: "Alabama Jubilee," "The Hash."

The same teams competed, with the exception of the Sunrays Square, which was not eligible for this section. The winning team was The Louisiana Stars. Grade 1: Open to all amateur dancers who have been square dancing for less than 12 months. This event was cancelled due to insufficient entries. Vince Spillane was the adjudicator and Ron Jones, the supplier of sound and records. The Society wishes to take this opportunity of extending its sincere thanks to everyone for their assistance in arranging this most successful Eisteddfod event. It particularly wishes to thank the organisers in Canberra and Vince Spillane and Ron Jones for the tremendous amount of effort they put into the whole affair.

EDITORIAL WELCOME TO THE NEW SQUARE DANCE MAGAZINE

We sincerely hope you like Square Dance Review in its new form.

Comments would be appreciated.

To those who are reading the Square Dance news for the first time, we hasten to assure you that Square Dancing is far from dead in Australia.

Most clubs to date have been private clubs and hence no advertising.

This will soon be changed.

Square Dancing is booming in Melbourne and Adelaide and will soon be doing the same in Sydney.

This magazine is brought to you by the Square Dancers' Society of N.S.W.

It is free of charge to members and 6d. per copy to others.

In it we bring you the local, interstate and overseas Square Dance news.

Articles of general interest to Square Dancers are most welcome.

It is the editor's wish that his views are expressed as little as possible and in that regard, even the coverage of society news by members is most welcome.

Par names are permitted provided the writer's name is supplied to the editor.

Provided articles do not ridicule clubs or individuals, they may be as controversial as the writer wishes.

Views expressed are not necessarily those of the editor or the Society.

It is important to note that all correspondence relating to Square Dancing should be addressed to the Square Dance editor, Jim White, 26 Osborne Road, Lane Cove and not to the general editor of the Australian Dance Review.

NEW RELEASES

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Sir,

Recently two new dances to Australian tunes have been published in the magazine, namely, "The Road to Gundagai" and "Waltzing Matilda."

Welcome to them and let's have many more.

I have danced the former and like it.

Just for the record, I originated dances to both of the above tunes about two years ago. The former was called by me at a few private parties and was liked.

May I suggest that we start a "Let's have an Australian Tunes Campaign?"

Yours sincerely, BOB D'EMDEN, 12 Greens Avenue, Cammeray.