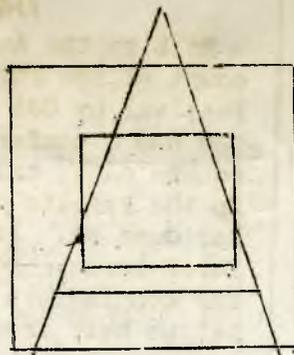


Mineola Fair (Long Island)
 September 9, 10 & 12th
 Paul Hunt and the
 Rock Candy Mountaineers
 Guest callers on
 Friday night

Camden Y. M. C. A. opens
 Oct. 2nd, until then
 the roof of THE DECK HOUSE
 Cooper River & the Blvd.
 next to Camden Airport
 Monday nights



Vol. III, No. 1

AMERICAN SQUARES

September, 1947

A Magazine Dedicated to American Folk Dancing

THE FIRST COMMANDMENT by Ye Editor

DANCING CHARTS by H. H. Dunkle

The most important thing for a square dance caller is to be understood by his dancers. If they can't understand you, they can't dance to you. And yet, have you noticed how much trouble you have understanding a new caller? Perhaps your own calls sound as bad to others.

Here is a short outline of the things to watch if you will be understood by everyone.

Be Understood! Enunciate as clearly as possible.

1. Articulate clearly.

2. Be careful that with time you do not develop a nasal quality or a tendency to run your words together. This is a normal tendency in your development as a square dance caller. Some people never correct it.

3. Get a good amplification system and study it. Learn where to put your mouth in relation to the mike. Learn the Loud-soft and Treble-bass adjustments and how to keep them at the best relationship for you. When you run into a new system try to find time to check the adjustments before using. (N.B. The adjustments may be different from your own set.)

4. It may be impossible to choose your own hall, but avoid those with ceilings too high or low for the walls. Your words will be muffled and lost in a high ceiling. A low ceiling will compress your words so they do not reach the corners. A hall which will carry music may still muffle your words.

5. Choose your pattern so as to avoid difficult and polysyllabic words. See that the downbeat, and hence the accent, is on the important words. Do not use words which can be confused, e.g., fling with swing.

Be Understood! Choose your calls carefully.

1. Pick calls that mean what they say. "Wave the ocean, wave the sea, wave that pretty girl back to me," has one meaning in Kentucky, another out West and none at all to people who never heard the call before.

2. Be careful in the use of words that have more than one meaning. Swing is sometimes used to mean: a body swing, a two-hand turn, a one-hand turn. "Swing the opposite lady with the right hand," is a call for a right hand turn with the opposite. But suppose the last part of call is drowned in the noise or is unintelligible? I always use the word turn

These charts are for use for small groups at a private house where there is room for but one square to dance at a time.

Each gent is given a slip of paper showing a letter designating himself and the number of his partner for each dance. Each lady is given a slip of paper showing her number and giving the letter of her partner for each dance.

For example, from the diagram below for eight couples, gentleman E would receive a slip of paper substantially like this:

		E	
1 -		7 -	13 -
2 -		8 -	14 -
3 3		9 4	15 5
4 5		10 6	16 8
5 8		11 7	17 7
6 -		12 -	18 -

His partner, lady 5 would receive:

1 -		5	13 -
2 -		7 -	14 -
3 C		8 -	15 E
4 E		9 B	16 F
5 F		10 H	17 G
6 -		11 G	18 -
		12 -	

The dashes denote that the person indicated does not dance that dance. You will note that each dancer dances nine times. With eight couples the dance will run about two and a half hours. With nine couples it will run about three hours.

EIGHT COUPLES AVAILABLE

	Gents							
	A	B*	C	D	E	F	G	H
D 1	1	2	3	4				
a 2	4	1	2	3				
n 3		4	5	2	3			
c 4					5	6	7	8
e 5					8	5	6	7
6	7					8	1	6
N 7	2	3	4	1				
u 8	3	2	1	4				
m 9		5	2	3	4			
b 10					6	7	8	5
e 11					7	6	5	8
r 12	6					8	7	1
13	1	4	3	2				
14	2	1	4	3				
15		3	2	4	5			
16					8	5	6	7
17					7	8	5	6
18	7					6	1	8

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THE PAPER

Back in the August issue, we had an account of the Forth Worth Square Dance Festival by Cal Moore. He noted that they had had a conference on standardization of square dance callse. I asked him to write up the results of that conference and he has done so. It will appear in the October issue. Possibly you disagree with the conclusions of the conference. If so, let us hear from you and we'll let people know how you feel about it too.

Elsie Morris, our Washington representative has moved from Tacoma to 704 12th St., Pat 6., Bremerton, Wash.

With regard to our associate edictors, Larrupin' Lou writes that they do not cover all sections of the United States. We know it. Are you interested in representing us in your area? We can use your help.

We can also use help in the form of articles, notes and descriptions of how to do dances. What is your favorite dance? Others in other sections would like to know what gives you so much pleasure. Write it to us now. Our reserve of dances is getting slim.

An remember when writing us, send us the names and addresses of some of your friends who might like to see AMERICAN SQUARES. We'll send them a complimentary copy.

This is the first issue of Volumn III. However, we can think of nothing to brag about so we shan't brag but merely announce that there was not enough respons to our suggestion of mimeographing an index to warrant putting it out.

REMEMBER, we offer a free subscription to AMERICAN SQUARES to be used as a door prize at your next big dance. Of course, we want a quid pro quo, but that is very little. This is what you do.

Write us when your dance is to be. We shall send you two posters advertising AMERICAN SQUARES. You will post one over the cashier's table and the other in some other conspicuous place. You take and send to us whatever subscriptions may come in.

After the door prize is drawn with appropriate ceremonies and flattering announcements, you send us the name of the winner and also any subscriptions you may have taken with the money for them, if any, and we'll see that subscribers and door prize winners receive AMERICAN SQUARES.

You get a door prize at the price only of doing a little publicity for us and taking subscriptions if anybody wants to buy them. No charge to you.

"We are in our first year of western dancing which is very much different from what I remember of the dances we did 20 years ago when I was in grade school and danced at the social hour after grange meeting in the northeastern part of Vermont. The favorites then were just a plain quadrille, Soldier Joy or Money Musk. For the life of me I never heard of allemande left and right or this dosey-doe as they do it here. As I remember it, tho, I enjoy these dances here much more than I did those, or perhaps it's my being older that makes it seem that way."

Wendell A. Phillips, Avondale, Ariz.

NOTES

In re a metronome--there's a dandy on the market at \$12.50. Electric sets with a dial as fas as nothing flat from 40 to 208 beats per minute, Franz Mfg. Co., New Haven, Conn. Set it on a table and lay a mike by it and you've got something for beginners and sounds like a drummer or "bones"--good sharp click. Larrupin' Lou Harrington, Rockford, Ill.

I called at Hugenott, N. Y., last week end and one square from New York City had something I had never seen before in the way of a Duck for the Oyster. The ducking couple went all the way under the arms of the other couple, without breaking hands the gent turned left and the lady turned right throwing their own arms over their heads thus making a four-leaf clover. Now, being headed back from whence they came, they ducked back again without pause and turned to their regular position. Interrestin'. Oct.

Rod LaFarge reports that SWINGO is almost gone. He is not going to republish it but is working on a pocket booklet HOW TO SQUARE DANCE that will have most of the calls and probably retail for two bits.

Received a publisher's ad for RAYMOND SMITH'S SQUARE DANCE HAND BOOK. Thirty favorite square dances for a dollar. (Why always the favorites, we already have them.) We've put in our order and will review it when received and will-possibly handle it for you.

Miles Weiser of Allentown, Pa., gave us an honorary membership in the Happy Square Dance Club of Allenton, Pa. Thanks

Piute Pete will be the square dance caller for the United Nations Folk Festival at Rockefeller Plaza, September 14 to 20th. He also writes, "Also ran a barn dance at a nudist colony out in Pennsylvania. Very nice experience--of course you understand they wore their clothes for the dance.

The square dance callers for the Hempstead Fair to be held the 12th of September, will be Dick Kraus, Steve Hopkins, Al MacLeod and Rod LaFarge, and last and least, Charley Thomas, ye editor.

THE CALLER'S CORNER

by C. D. Foster, author of LEARN TO DANCE AND CALL SQUARE DANCES

About a week ago I went to the Old Fiddlers Contest at Colorado Springs. They had prizes for the best fiddlers, the best square dancers and the best round dancers as well as the best callers. I did not enter the contests. I was "skeered to". I think they had twelve sets of square dancers on the floor and each caller had his inning. Dr. Shaw came up to me and said, "I am putting you on for the next caller." I did not expect to call. I did not know a single person in the room and they did not know me, but Dr. Shaw told them about my square dance cards and several of them yelled out that they had them. I walked over to the mike and said something like this. "I cannot call a singing call, (The one just before was Coming Around the Mountain.) but I will call Around That Couple and Swing at The Wall, Thru That Couple and Swing in The Hall." They clapped their hands and everybody was in a good humor. They danced that one without any trouble and I called the other tip and they seemed to enjoy themselves.

They went on with another caller and he walked up to the mike, the music started and he began singing the call. A part of them knew it because he was their caller but some of them did not and they were muddled and the strained look on their faces registered anything but join in the dance.

Again, I had struck the happy medium to which they all danced.

I was called out in the mountains on April 27th to make a moving picture. The title of the picture is A Tour of the Mountains from Fairplay, Colorado, to Colorado Springs. They took the picture of the dancers as they were coming up the road to the dance. Then another picture as they were tying their poines to the bannisters at the dance hall and then inside as the square dance was in progress. I had my old time square dance band and I did the calling.

The camera man came over and said that he wanted an old fashioned dance with complete figures. Just the way they would dance the square dance if he were not there. We had three sets and the first call was Birdie in the Center and Seven Hands 'Round. The second tip was Old Arkansaw. These dancers were a pick-up crowd, just whoever happened to be there. They lived all the way from Fairplay to Denver, a distance of about a hundred miles. I had met some of them before but most of them were perfect strangers. We had no time to practice; I explained the change and we went to work. They made very few mistakes, in fact I never noticed a single one.

Try this with a bunch of dancers that are trained to do the singing calls and see how far you get without a rehearsal. (To be concluded in October.)

The First Commandment from Page 1

under such circumstances, but I understand N
u 6
m 7
b 8
e 9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21

However, be understood is only the first commandment. There are plenty of others which one must obey to be a good caller.

Dancing Charts from Page 1

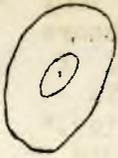
Ladie's
1 2* 3 4 5 6 7 8
D 1 A B C D
a 2 B C D A
n 3 D E B C
c 4 E F G H
e 5 F G H E
6 G H A F
N 7 D A B C
u 8 C B A D
m 9 C D E B
b 10 H E F G
e 11 G F E H
r 12 H A G F
13 A D C B
14 B A D C
15 C B D E
16 F G H E
17 G H E F
18 G F A H

Ladie's
1 2* 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
1 A B C D
2 B C D A
3 C D A B
4 E F G H
5 H E F G
6 G H E F
7 J A B C
8 A B C A
9 C J A
10 E F G D
11 F D E G
12 G E D F
13 B A J H
14 H J B A
15 A B H J
16 E C D F
17 F D C E
18 D F E C
19 G A J H
20 H J A G
21 A H G J

NINE COUPLES AVAILABLE

Gent's
A B* C D E F G H J
D 1 1 2 3 4
a 2 4 1 2 3
n 3 3 4 1 2
c 4 5 6 7 8
e 5 6 7 8 5

* indicated host and hostess giving them time to prepare the refreshments toward the end of the dance.



RECORDS The string bands form an important part of the Philadelphia Mummies Parade on New Year's Day. The bands have now recorded several pieces which they have published under their own company names. A string band is not a square dance band, but it is the next thing to it and the records have a nice beat. Their choice has made available several titles I have been searching for for some time.

KRANTZ K-1009B Durang String Band. MacNamara's Band. I was glad to find this. I had two calls crying to be danced. The verse is repeated. The bass sound funny in a square dance, but the gang had a good time dancing to this. Metronome 126
K-1009A Waiting for the Robert E. Lee. The melody is a bit obscured by the plucking sound in places, but it's not bad. Metronome 126. Cct

PALDA 102A Ferka String Band. Golden Slippers. My other Golden Slippers were too fast (Disc) or too slow (Capitol). This is just right, metronome 124, but when I tried to sing the call I found the key was too high. 102B Hello. Well, something had to be on the other side. It has singing. Cct

LINDWOOD 1101A Quaker City String Band. My Little Girl. I thought this was the end of a long search but this includes the verse as well as the chorus and the calls don't. Metronome 126. 101B Beer Barrel Polka. Not bad. Metronome 122. Cct

BLACK AND WHITE. Square Dances by Cactus Andy and the Texas Dandies with calls by Jonesy. #A65. 10" records.

6000A Music: Soldier's Joy. Call: Cage the Bird. This is the well known Birdie in the Cage done with a Do C Do with each couple. Patter is good, but the record must be played four times for a whole set to do the dance. 6000B Music: Cactus Twister; Call: Sally Goodin'. Fast tempo, but people yelling in the background cause distractions. The dance consists of first gent swinging with the right, left and then opposite girl, repeat with the first two gents doing the same, then the first three, etc. Good if you like western calling.

60001A and 60002A Oh Susanna (Two sides) Slow tempo. Good for beginners. Dance consists of a swing your opposite, swing your own with a right and left. Second side is almost identical with the first side so why make two records when playing the first thru twice would suffice?

6001B and 6002B Texas Star (Two sides) Slow tempo with both sides identical except in the first the gents form the star and in the second the ladies form the star. Good for beginners.

6003A Tennessee Waggoner (No calls) A good snappy tune. 6003B Smash the Window (No calls) Slow 6/8 tempo, fair tune.

These records are well played and recorded and are adequately called but probably will not appeal to the eastern dancer. None of the dances is particularly new and most of them have been recorded before. However, the patter is good, and with the exception of the fast numbers, the caller can be understood easily. Frank Lyman

MGM 30020A David Rose and His Orchestra. Manhattan Square Dance in the album Holiday for Strings. It may be his idea of a square dance but it's not mine.

IMPERIAL Harley Luce and his Blue Ridge Mountain Boys on Imperial ## 1009, 1010, 1011, and 1012 put out some of the best square dance music available. They slipped badly on this batch. The violin is screechy and drowns the beat. The tunes are so fast they are almost breakdowns. Unfortunately, we have these for sale at \$4.36 per album. Or perhaps I'm harder on these because they were intended to be for square dancing.

1031A Turkey in the Straw. Violin screeches, scratches, fades and monopolizes but it's not as bad as some of the others. Metronome 142. Varsouvienne. One can hear two instruments: piano and fiddle. Altho the transition from "putting" to the waltz is marked twice by a bunch of chords, I am not clear when one goes from one figure to the other. Some of the cat seems to have escaped from the gut into the music. Metronome 144. (Waltz metronome is counted once in three beats.)

1032A Tennessee Square. For the first half inch there is nothing audible but a fiddle and not too good a fiddle. The beat comes in stronger later on but not strong enough. I think the tune is uninspiring. Metronome 144. 1032B Chicken Reel. The beat is better but doesn't reach its rightful emphasis. Metronome 144

1033A Soldiers Joy. This fifth recording of Soldiers Joy is, I believe, the worst altho partway thru they get into the swing of things and do better. I can almost hear the guitar. Metronome starts at 142 and drops off to 138. 1033B Buffalo Gals This is a pretty fair recording, a little bit more bass and it would be good. 137

1034A Mississippi Sawyer. Keeps improving. This is good. It needs a little more emphasis on the beat. Metronome 137. 1034B Arkansas Traveller. Better and better. By turning the contrast knob to Bass I made a good square dance record out of this. Metronome 134. Cct

The Oracle

Perhaps readers will write you some other suggestions.

Q Do you know of any groups doing square dances on horseback? Mary Elsie Border, Manhattan, Kansas.

Q Nobody in this section of Ohio seems to know what a jump balance is. Mark Danis, Akron, Ohio.

A Roy Rogers does a square dance on horseback. Sleepy Hollow Ranch, Maple Shade, N.J. also puts on such a routine.

A What I call the New England kick balance is done in four counts. Step on right foot, swing left in front, step left and swing right. Should be done smoothly.

COUPLE DANCES

We have been describing how to do the dances recorded on records in Decca Album A525 "Ye Old Time Dance Nite". Last month we didn't have room so we describe two this month. Next month we shall set down the Rye Waltz and in November the Dutchess.

Tuxedo

FORMATION: Couples in a large circle face each other holding hands outstretched to side.

DESCRIPTION: 8 measures: In line of direction, slide two long slides and three short slides. On the last slide the back foot (right) touches the floor behind the front foot (left). 8 measures: Repeat, moving in opposite direction. 16 measures: Repeat the first sixteen measures. 16 measures: Take dancing position, either open or closed, and change step or two-step. Repeat the entire dance until the end of the record. George I. Werner, Spokane, Washington

Oxford Minuet

Four steps forward; balance twice (to side)

Four steps back; balance twice (to side)

Repeat

Balance to side once; Spin lady to left; 1, 2, hold; 1, 2, back;

Balance to side once; Spin lady to left; 1, 2, hold; 1, 2, back;

Sixteen measures of waltz.

Carl Schmitz, Phoenix, Arizona

And here's a square for you done to the tune of "Tavern in the Town":

It's eight hands all around the hall, 'round the hall.
Round and round and round you go, round you go
It's not that way, the other way back you go
And swing her, you swing her right back home.

First gent to the right and circle three, circle three
Go right home and swing for me, swing me (swing partner)
Then lead right back and swing that girl around (two hand turn)
Swing her around the four time swing. On to the next, &c.

Allemande left, 'n' circle all, circle all,
Promenade around the hall, 'round the hall
When you meet your girl, give her a whirl
And swing her, swing her, swing her home.

Doug Durant, Jr.

LUCY LONG

Singing Call

The two head couples lead to the right and circle half a mile¹
Pass right thru the other two and swing the opposite gal.²
Swing with Miss. Lucy, oh, swing her wherever you are.
Take that lady back to the sides and form a left hand star.³
Right hand back to the corner⁴ and keep on goin' strong
Pull her thru with a whoop-tee-do and swing Miss. Lucy Long.

Swing with Miss Lucy, oh, swing her all day long

Allemande left with the corner gal and promenade with the one you swung.

Repeat once more with the head couples, then twice with the side couples.

1. Circle half.
2. Head couples right and left thru the sides and swing the opposite as they meet in the center. Sides turn around and stand in place.
3. Head gents take the lady they swung back to the side where they circled. Form a left hand star.
4. Still holding the left hand star the gents bring their right hand back over their left arm and take hold of the right hand of the lady back of them. Keep circling right all this time.
5. Drop left hands and the gents pull the corner lady across in front of them and swing that lady to the gents place in the set. Allemande left the next lady on the left and promenade the one you swung.

Note: When the sides do the figure, they'll take the lady back to the HEADS to form a left hand star. Paul Hunt

McNAMARA'S BAND

Use any introduction that you would like. We use the verse just for the figure then the chorus for the break:

The first couple lead out to the right, circle four hands around
Swing your opposite lady, swing her up and down
Leave her alone and swing your own
The best girl in the town.
Lead up to the next, circle six hands around
Allemande left with your corners, right and left six around
Swing your own and promenade six around.
Up to the next and circle eight hands around
The other way back, the other way back
Allemande left with your corners, grand right and left around
Swing your own and promenade eight around. Pop Smith, Winsted, Conn.

SQUARE DANCING FOR YOUNG AND OLD by Graeme and Anna Marron, Padell Book Co., 1945
New York City, 25¢

This sounds to me as tho a couple of organizers had just found out what fun square dancing can be and have set out to tell everybody about it. The book seems a bit naive to me, but maybe that's because I'm an old square by now (with a round hair-cut). They approach square dancing from the point of view of organizing a barn dance for the evening rather than forming a permanent group. However, some of the suggestions apply to both ideas.

Their descriptions of dances and figures seem to bear out by idea that the authors are new at the game. For instance, they talk about the "caller-out" (of course, that could be the local term) and don't as a rule, list the full calls for the dances. They do describe "Wring Out the Old Dishrag". This is the first time I remember seeing it published.

It seems to me that too many are trying to crowd the square dance field with their books when they're not qualified or don't have much to offer. This is one of those. It's written in a friendly style, but really, it isn't above average.

Doug Durant, Jr.

RECORDS FOR SALE

Shipped express, collect. No less than 3 records per order. 25¢ per package for packing and handling. We will ship C. O. D. if you desire and we recommend it.

ELECTONIC, set of three 10" \$5.00. Raggedy Anne, Buffalo G ls, Hoedown; Varsouvienne; They Cut Down the Old Pine Tree, Put on Your Old Grey Bonnet, Two Step; Electronic Schottische; Rye Waltz; Black Hawk Waltz.

FOLKRAFT, singly 89¢ ea. Albums as listed, containing instructions for dancing and calling. 10".

Al Brundage, caller, Folkraft Country Dance Orchestra, Album of three \$3.47

1001 Indian File; Head Two Gents Cross Over

1002 Keep A-Steppin'; Little Old Log Cabin in the Lane

1003 Forward Six and B'ck; Danbury Fair Quadrille

Pete Seeger and Folkraft Country Dance Orch. Without calls. Album of four \$4.36

1004 Ten Little Indians; Life on the Ocean Wave

1005 White Cockade and Village Hornpipe; Little Old Log Cabin in the Lane

1006 Angleworm Wiggle; Wabash Cannonball

1007 My Darling Nellie Grey; Pop Goes the Weasel

IMPERIAL Harley Luce and his Blue Ridge Mountain Boys, 10". 89¢ without calls.

1009 Red Wing; Rainbow

1010 Hiawatha; Silver Bell (Best square dance record made.)

1011 Darling Nellie Grey; Spanish Cavalier

1012 She'll be Comin' 'Round the Mountain; At a Georgia Camp Meeting

Album: Harley Luce and his Blue Ridge Mountain Boys, four 10" records \$4.36

Varsouvianna; Turkey in the Straw; Chicken Reel; Tennessee Square; Soldiers Joy; Buffalo G₂ls; Arkansas Traveler; Mississippi Sawyer.

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