

# BOSTON CENTRE NEWSLETTER

## Country Dance Society

57 Roseland St., Somerville, Mass. 02143 — Phone 354-2455

### Spring 1977

EDITORS

Kathy Ingoldsby, 18A Glendale Ave.,  
Somerville, Mass. 02144  
Lyrl Ahern, 113 Springs Road,  
Bedford, Mass. 01730

#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The people to talk to about an idea or opinion:

S-J Thomas (Pres.), Dale Thomas (1st VP), Jackie Schwab (2nd VP), Terry Tobias (Treas.), Mary Blomberg (Sec.), Lyrl Ahern, Bob Cohen, Bill Horne, Tony Parkes, Louise Winston, and Francis Worrell.



## WANTED

**EXECUTIVE SECRETARY:** Needed for the CDS office starting in May. Work 3 to 4 days a week at \$3.00 per hour... (18-22 hours). Should have proven clerical, secretarial, and office organizational skills and some experience. Must work independently to carry out both routine programs and special assignments as indicated by the Board of Directors. Will need to relate easily to people and develop a friendly position and cooperative role as our spokesperson.

CONTACT: Dottie Palmer OR  
CDS office

S-J Thomas  
(evenings)  
954-7234

## ANNUAL MEETING

English and American dances called by CDS leaders will accompany this year's Annual Meeting on Saturday, May 14, 8 PM, at the Cambridge YWCA at 7 Temple St. in Cambridge. The announcement of newly elected officers and other CDS business will be held mid-evening. The event is free, to members only, but memberships will be available at the door.

## SEARCH FOR A NEW OFFICE LOCATION

The joint CDS & NEFFA office is actively seeking a new location. Requirements include more space (presently holding forth with 1½ small rooms), convenience to public transportation, and low rent. A rental in a private home would be suitable. Relay any suggestions to the CDS office, 354-2455.

#### PARTY

April 30 Tony Parkes with  
Yankee Ingenuity  
8:00 PM Members \$1.75  
Non-members \$2.00

at Brimmer & May School

## Thursday Dances

The new Thursday Square and Contra series will continue through May to mid June. A successful counterpart to Tuesday evenings, this series has generated enough support to become a regular feature this year. (9:15-11 PM, 7 Temple St, Cambridge)

### NEFFA DANCES & NEWS

NEFFA Annual Meeting, May 22, 2-6 PM... Members Only - Free Dance with Ted Sannella (and vintage 78's) at the Concord Girl Scout House.

Challenging Contras, June 5, 7:15 PM with Yankee Ingenuity at the Concord Girl Scout House

Information on the CDS Pinewoods Boston Centre Weekend will be out soon. Watch for details and save the July 4th weekend for Pinewoods Camp.



## Pinewoods Camp News

There are 3 work weekends coming up during which volunteers are needed for doing various repairs on the buildings at Pinewoods. If you would like to volunteer to help on either the weekend of May 6-8, June 3-5, or June 10-12, contact Gerda Conant, 506 Eliot St., Milton, Ma., 02186, 696-6293.

### HOUSES FOR RENT AT PINEWOODS

Occasionally during the summer season, and during the off-season, houses at Pinewoods are available for people who want to rent but not participate. Contact Gerda Conant, camp manager.

Dennis Ahern is heading a committee to do some landscaping at Pinewoods Camp. Anyone who has shrubs, cuttings, or perennial seedlings from their garden that they'd like to contribute, or who would like to help do some gardening should call Dennis Ahern, 275-7438.

### FOUND

Case of tape cassettes was left at CDS office. Will the owner please call and identify.

## Summer Series

Plans have been finalized for the CDS/NEFFA Summer Series at the Brimmer and May School. The Wednesday evening dances will alternate between English, Squares, and Contras, and will run from 8-11 PM. Watch for further details.

ENGLISH: June 29  
July 13, 27  
Aug. 17

SQUARES: July 6  
Aug. 3

CONTRAS: June 22  
July 20  
Aug. 10

### NEW MEMBERS...TAKE NOTICE

#### REGULAR CDS WEEKLY DANCES

These dances will continue until mid June and are all held at 7 Temple St, Cambridge

TUESDAYS American Squares and Contras  
8:15 PM Members \$1.50  
Non-members \$1.75

WEDNESDAYS English Country Dancing and Morris Dancing  
8:15 PM Members \$1.50  
Non-members \$1.75

THURSDAYS American Squares and Contras  
9:15 PM Members \$1.25  
Non-members \$1.50

(Note: This Thursday series will continue through April, and possibly through mid June. Call the CDS office to check.)

## New Release

Yankee Ingenuity, one of our favorite traditional dance bands, has recently cut an LP with Fretless Records. The band, which plays for the CDS Tuesday night squares and contras, has put ten tunes on the record, including Growling Old Man, Joys of Quebec, and the waltz, Star of the County Down. Many of the cuts are medleys of two tunes, making them good listening as well as good dance music. The record is scheduled for release in late April or early May, hopefully in time for NEFFA. A companion record of the same instrumentals, with calls by Tony Parkes, will be released at the same time. Band members are Donna Hinds, fiddle;

Tony Parkes, piano and calls; Jack O'Connor, fiddle, mandolin, tenor banjo, and piano; and Hank Chapin, bass. Joan Pelton, of the Pumpkin Hook Old Time Orchestra, produced the record, and plays bodhran on one selection.

---

## TO THE EDITORS

To the Editors:

I am prompted to write by the second anonymous letter published in your last issue which complained of the kind of dancing at Boston Centre activities. The writer stated that he or she wishes "to preserve the traditional New England dances". Allow me to comment.

Tradition is a difficult concept to define simply, but one element that is vital to it is change. Even a superficial examination of the history of dancing in this country will show that dances and dancing style have changed drastically in the last several centuries. If the writer has ever been in a contra dance where every third or every second couple starts the dance, he or she has tacitly acknowledged change: only the top couple started the dance in the 18th century. Does the writer dance Chorus Jig or Lamplighters Hornpipe (Road to California) as "duple minor" dances? Forty years ago they were triple minor. I am certain that the writer does not wear a corset or tight jacket of the 18th century or even a high-necked long dress and bonnet or top hat and tails of the late 19th century (cf. Ed Larkin dancers). Just as the social customs regarding clothing have relaxed, so has dance style changed over the years.

I am not saying that all changes, just because they are changes, are traditional (notice I did not say, "good"). Not everything with which people experiment is accepted by the majority. For instance, many people will continue to dance in shoes rather than in bare feet or boots because they prefer to do so. Whereas there is indeed a lot of stomping about at dances, many people like myself will continue to dance with a smooth gliding motion with only an occasional "fancy step". In neither case would I, as a caller, prevent someone from trying something new. Where strict rules are made, change and, therefore, life are stifled and stagnation will eventually result. I have heard it said that this is exactly what is happening in club-style square dancing.

My guess is that the writer of the anon-

The John C. Campbell Folk School, located in the mountains of North Carolina, is co-sponsoring with CDSSA, a Dance Week, June 12-18, and a Recorder Week, June 19-25. The dance week features American, English, and Danish dancing. For more information, write John C. Campbell Folk School, Brass-town, N.C., 28902, or call the CDS office, 354-2455.

ymous letter has been dancing at least ten and perhaps twenty years. He or she obviously resents the "jean-clad, bare-footed stompers" who have been appearing at dances in greater numbers during the last five years. Let me point out, though, that those young people represent another twenty years of life for the dance tradition. Just as they may change the style and the dances somewhat (though I'll bet not beyond recognition: the majority would not accept it), they will have to accept some changes from "the tradition" in twenty years' time.

Sincerely yours,  
Fred Breunig

---

To the Editors:

Being a visitor to Maine on a regular basis now, I want to share with you the excitement I feel about the dance scene that has developed in Maine during the last year. It is generated by the recently formed Maine Country Dance Orchestra, which is made up of 4 or 5 regular dance bands who circulate around the state each weekend. Several times a month, the Maine Country Dance Orchestra runs a dance - what an excitement! 20 or so musicians on the stage, getting higher and higher from the music they're creating and their own spontaneous singing, playing on until 1:30 in the morning, to a crowd of dancers that simply just won't stop! Dancers from all over the state come together for these dances, and a warm sense of community is developing.

For those visiting Maine, the Maine Country Dance Orchestra publishes a monthly newsletter. You can send for it (include money for return postage) to: Maine Country Dance Orchestra, Belgrade Rd., Mt. Vernon, Me, 04352. Or call the CDS office, because usually there's a copy on file there.

Dottie Palmer



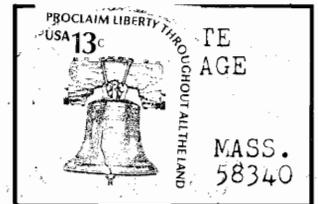
# Rites of Spring

Oh say can you see, by the dawn's early light, on the banks of the Charles -- a Maypole? If you're astir by five a.m. on the first of May join the few Cambridge Morris Men for the start of their annual May Day Rites, welcoming the sunrise at the Wee's footbridge with circle dances around the Maypole and the singing of May songs. If, perchance, you oversleep, you can join the processional as it wends its way through Harvard to Roger Cartwright's for breakfast and dancing til noon. If you'd like to know more, give Roger a call at 547-4017.



*The June dance with the Roaring Jelly will be a Pinewoods Benefit*  
*June 17*  
*Lincoln Town Hall*

BOSTON CENTRE  
COUNTRY DANCE SOCIETY, INC.  
57 ROSELAND ST.  
SOMERVILLE, MA, 02143



# BOSTON CENTRE NEWSLETTER

## Country Dance Society

57 Roseland St., Somerville, Mass. 02143 — Phone 354-2455

### Summer 1977

#### EDITORS

Kathy Ingoldsby, 18A Glendale Avenue,  
Somerville, Mass. 02144  
Lyrl Ahern, 113 Springs Road, Bedford,  
Mass. 01730

#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The people to talk to about an idea or  
opinion:

S-J Thomas (Pres.), Dale Thomas (1st  
VP), Terry Tobias (Treas.), Mary  
Blomberg (Sec.), Lyrl Ahern, Donna  
Hinds, Bill Horne, Louise Winston,  
Chris Walker, and Francis Worrell

### Exec. Sec.

Goodbye and thanks to Dottie Palmer, who  
has gone back to Maine. She's keeping in  
touch with us through the Maine folkdance  
group.

Gail Copen stepped in when Dottie left  
and took over quickly and efficiently,  
putting her experience with other non-  
profit organizations to good use. Unfor-  
tunately, she is only temporary, and we  
wish her well in her new life in Oregon.

—Remember the summer series—  
Wednesdays through August 17, 8 P.M.  
at the Brimmer & May School Gym.  
(Middlesex Rd., off Hammond St., in  
Chestnut Hill.)

### Cardigan Weekend

This activity is scheduled this year for  
Sept. 23-25; a flyer is enclosed with  
this newsletter.

Cardigan Lodge and Cardigan Little  
House are a property of the Appalchian  
Mountain Club. Situated on the side of  
a mountain, it offers hikes to the top of  
Mount Cardigan and other beauties of nature,  
such as waterfalls. With the nip of autumn  
in the air, this should be a very enjoyable  
weekend.

#### Reminder to CDDSSA members

The Annual Meeting of the Country  
Dance and Song Society of America  
will be held on Monday, August 8 at  
7:15 P.M. in the Camphouse at Pine-  
woods.

### ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting took place on May 14.  
The results of the recent election were  
announced and new members were welcomed  
to the Board of Directors. Dale Thomas  
was re-elected as First Vice President,  
Terry Tobias continued as Treasurer, and  
Donna Hinds and Chris Walker became  
members. Thanks go to outgoing members  
Bob Cohen and Tony Parkes.

A marvelous demonstration of rapper  
sword dancing was presented by Cynthia  
Whear, Robin Rogers, Kathy Tighe, Margie  
Hunt, and Dianne Greig.

★ New England squares and contras on  
Tuesdays, beginning Sept. 13, are  
at Brimmer & May School Gym. English  
dancing will continue at the YWCA as  
usual, beginning Wednesday, Sept. 14.

### Pinewoods Weekend

We missed the use of C#; the enlargement  
and renovation was behind schedule, but



it will be finished soon. In spite of the extra work entailed by the dance leaders and musicians, they did an excellent job of setting up similar and excellent programs in C# Minor and the dining hall, and the dancers didn't seem to mind all the running back and forth.

Note the enclosure of a flyer for a new and unique Pinewoods Weekend to be held over Labor Day.

## NEFFA Food Booth

The biggest success ever, it showed a profit of \$ 946.12 !!! Thanks go to co-chairmen Bob Cohen and Dale Thomas, and to Able and Shelly Silva, Laura Stine, Tim Cavanaugh, and Jeff Stone--and to everyone who made food or served at the booth.

## Sales

Tim Cavanaugh is selling books, records, and other dance & music related items at Wednesday dances. This service is so successful that the Board of Directors is hoping to provide this same service on Tuesday.

A membership list for the Boston Centre has been published and is available to members for a small fee. Contact the office if you 'd like a copy.

## Thursdays

Many thanks to the callers and musicians who participated in the special Thursday night series: callers Roger Whynot and Tod Whittemore; musicians Joyce Desmarais, Pete Colby, April Limber, and the City Ducks String Band (Claudio Buchwald, John Schwab, and David Margolin). It was a popular dance. There have been requests to continue it next year, but there are no plans to do so as yet.

Our adult programs specifically exclude preteens: Tuesday and Wednesday dances, parties, Pinewoods weekend, etc. Their participation is appropriate only in specified "family" events, such as the Labor Day Pinewoods Weekend. ★

## Birth

Sam Rubin and Jennifer Farley Smith have a beautiful new daughter, Clara. They have already initiated her to Pinewoods with a visit during the Boston Centre Weekend.

This Spring, Roger Cartwright led some English dances as a demonstration at a nursing home in Jamaica Plain. This was organized by Margaret Tilden, who is a nurse there. The program included some audience participation. This is a good way to spread the joy of dancing to the larger community.

We need more input - please write stuff & send it to us!

The due date for contributions to the next issue is October 15.

## Centre History

Louise Chapin's notes, transcribed by our historian, Evelyn Lamond. (notes c.1965)

1913-1914 Through the interest and financial help of Mrs. James Storrow and Professor Baker of Harvard University, Claude Wright came to the U.S.A. in the summers of 1913 and 1914 and taught English Country, Morris and Sword dancing at Mrs. Storrow's red barn in Lincoln, at Chocorua in N.H., and the MacDowell Colony at Peterborough, N.H. This aroused interest and enthusiasm for our Cecil Sharp representation for English Dancing.

May 1915 Lily Roberts (Mrs. Richard K. Conant now) came to the U.S.A. in May. Mr. Sharp was in N.Y. arranging the dancing in Grenville Barker's famous production of "Mid Summer Night's Dream".

1915 Summer In the early part of summer, the first Summer School or camp for English folk dancing was held for two weeks at Dr. Moore's camp in Eliot, Maine. Mr. Cecil Sharp directed the camp, assisted by the English teachers Lily Roberts (Mrs. Conant), Miss Maud Karpeles, and Miss Nora Jervis. The dancers lived in tents and graded classes were held in pavillions. The second week, due to continued rain, the group was forced to move to a hotel.

1916-1917 Summer Schools for English Dancing were held at Amherst Agricultural College, now University of Massachusetts. Mr. Sharp, director, and Miss Karpeles and Mrs. Conant were the teaching staff.

War years followed with no Summer Schools.

1927 Again through the generosity of Mrs. Storrow, English teachers were brought from England and a most wonderful school was at Amherst. I believe that Summer Schools were held for three weeks at this time. The English group included Douglas and Helen Kennedy, Marjorie Sinclair, Ruby Avril violinist, Mr. and Mrs. Nettlewell, Nela Bower, and others.

1927-1932 Summer Schools were held at Amherst Agricultural College at Amherst.

Nov. 1929 English dancers came on a tour of Canada and the U.S.A. On Wednesday evening, November 6, 1929, at Symphony Hall in Boston, "Under the patronage of the Boston Branch of the English Folk Dance Society", a group of fourteen dancers and two musicians gave a grand performance of English Country, Morris and Sword dancing, with Clive Cary singing English folk songs. The group was under the direction of Douglas Kennedy of the English Folk Dance Society. A great event and a wonderful success.

1933 Summer Schools and Week Ends were moved to Pinewoods Camp at the invitation of Mrs. Storrow. They have continued to meet there each summer with the exception of the one wartime year when travel was impossible and the Boston Center of the C.D.S. combined a two week camp with its Annual Week End. Since Mrs. Storrow's death in November, 1944, the CDS of America and the Boston Center have been able to continue their summer activities at Pinewoods Camp through the generosity of Mr. and Mrs. Richard K. Conant.

Before the square dance popularity, Mr. and Mrs. Philip P. Sharples had week-end parties at their home in Peterborough, N.H. and the group motored on Saturday evenings to Nelson for the popular square dances in a very small hall where "Happy Hale" was the caller. In later years, Ralph Page became the caller.

The Country Dance Society started square dancing at 87 Beacon Street in Boston with a small group of people. Then with the popularity of the square dance there, followed the successful Drop In Evenings at the Brimmer School on Brimmer Street.

The American dancing grew in popularity and in addition to the Drop In Evenings, our Society developed callers who called for dances "near and far". This interest proved to be a great help to our Society.

## FALL SCHEDULE

- Sept. 3-5 - Pinewoods Weekend (unstructured recreation, evening dances)
- Sept. 24-25 - Cardigan Weekend
- Oct. 1 - English Party (Post-Morris Tour) YWCA, 8:00
- Oct. 8 - Outing at Landmark School
- Oct. 22 - New England Square and Contas, Tod Whittemore calling (Brimmer & May, 8:00)
- Nov. 5 - Advanced English Dance, YWCA, 8:00
- Nov. 12-- Southern Squares, Peter Guarnaccia calling with music by the City Ducks (B & M, 8:00)
- Nov. 23 (Wednesday) - English Party (No Morris class)
- Dec. 3 - Christmas Party, English and American (cosponsored by CDS and Yankee Ingenuity) B & M, 8:00

Yankee Ingenuity with Tony Parkes calling. 8:30 at the Concord Girl Scout House on July 26 and Aug. 16. \$2.00

As of the Annual Meeting (May 14), our membership was 630 (up from 458 this time last year).

BOSTON SENT BY  
COUNTRY LANCE SOCIETY, INC.  
57 ROSELAND ST.  
SOMERVILLE, MA 02143

BULK RATE  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
CAMBRIDGE, MASS.  
PERMIT NO. 58340

# BOSTON CENTRE NEWSLETTER

## Country Dance Society

57 Roseland St., Somerville, Mass. 02143 - Phone 354-2455

(Nov.) FALL 1977

### EDITORS

Kathy Ingoldsby, 18A Glendale Avenue,  
Somerville, Mass. 02144

Lyr! Ahern, 298 Central Street, Acton,  
Mass. 01720

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The people to talk to about an idea or an opinion:

S-J Thomas (Pres.)	Lyr! Ahern
Dale Thomas (1st V.P.)	Donna Hinds
Jackie Schwab (2nd V.P.)	Bill Horne
Terry Tobias (Treas.)	Louise Winston
Mary Blomberg (Sec.)	Chris Walker
	Francis Worrall

*Please excuse the appearance of this issue; I have just moved and can't find my rub-off type.*

*Potential contributors of articles or news: please note change of address.*

### THANKS...

...to Gerry Mansbach for the new flyer rack at Brimmer and May.

... to Debbie Bulkley and Elizabeth Horne for managing the Labor Day weekend.

...to Marty Markham for once again running a successful Cardigan Weekend.

...to the Pinewoods Morris Men for holding off the rain until 5:00 p.m. on October 1 (Annual Harvard Yard Tour).

...to those who worked on the October 8 outing at Landmark School in Prides Crossing, Beverly: Roger Whynot, Fred Finkler, Susan Worland, Ray MacIntyre, George Fogg, and Beryl Harrison.

...to donors to the Pinewoods Scholarship Fund: Norman Patterson, Charles and Ethel McMahon, E. Mildred Abbott, Irvin W. Davis, Kathleen Ann Morse, Josephine Ray, Vera B. Freeman, Mary Blomberg, Christine Helwig, Louise Winston, Gerhard Mansbach, and Robert Paul.

...to many willing volunteers who help with admissions at the door each night. Remember that service at the door earns you a free dance.

### CHRISTMAS PARTY

December 3 at 8 p.m., Brimmer and May School.

Co-sponsored by CDS and Yankee Ingenuity.

We need volunteer help to organize the refreshments. Donations of same will be helpful.

### EVENING DANCES

Our regular Tuesday and Wednesday evenings are going well. Dancers are traveling to Chestnut Hill and Cambridge to enjoy the fine variety of dance tunes offered at each.

The time on the Tuesday flyer is noted as 8:00, but instruction for beginners begins at 8, and the dancing for everyone is at 8:15....(P.S. the sound in that big hall improves with more bodies.)

### PINEWOODS BENEFIT DANCE

Come to a country dance to benefit Pinewoods Camp on Friday, Dec. 30 at 8:00 p.m. at the Girl Scout House, 74 Walden Street, Concord, Mass.

Three members of the greater Boston dance community are joining to sponsor and lead this one-time-only occasion: Sandy Davis, a member of the string band Common Ground; Becky Lawson, a long-time



## FROM OUR ARCHIVES

### CARDIGAN

At Cardigan Mountain they held a dance  
For the folks from Boston Town,  
And they swung and turned and do-si-doed  
(Near shook the building down.)

They hiked and swam, they played and sang,  
And had a grand old time,  
But best of all, some people said,  
Was that wonderful Cardigan climb.

With Band-Aids here and corn rings there  
They fixed the blistered toes;  
Scarcely noticed aches and pains,  
That's how a Square Dance goes!

Believe it or not, these rugged folks  
Can dance all day and night;  
With "Morris", "Sword" and "English Folk"  
They got along all right.

But "Running Sets" and "Western" calls  
They find a little tough  
And sometimes you can hear one say  
"Of this I've had enough!"

Then Jack's good food revives them fast  
And soon they're back at work.  
The next time "Western's" coming up  
You'll find they'll never shirk.

There must be something very good  
In dancing, you can see,  
Because it gets them, young and old —  
In fact, it has got me!

9/22/51

Charley Brown

---

### CENTRE HISTORY

In the Summer 1977 issue of the "Boston Centre Newsletter" was given the background of the Summer Camps for English country dancing.

"The English Folk Dance Society in America was founded on March 23rd, 1915 at a meeting held at the Colony Club in New York, by a group of Americans inspired by the work of the English musician and folk dance and song collector, Cecil Sharp. During the next few months, Centers were organized in Boston, Chicago, Cincinnati, New York, Pittsburgh and St. Louis."

Miss Lily Roberts, who had come here from England for the 1915 Summer School, remained in America to direct the work of the Society in Boston and was assisted by Miss Dorothy Bolles (hence the Bolles Memorial Fund), Miss Louise Chapin and others.

When Miss Roberts became Mrs. Robert K. Conant, the direction was gradually taken over by Miss Louise Chapin who made it her life work until her retirement in 1963. The number of weekly classes in

English Country dancing, Morris, and Sword increased during the years until by 1938 and 1939 the opening flyer listed - -

### MONDAYS

Boston - 87 Beacon Street  
8:30-10:00 P.M. - Couple Class

### TUESDAYS

Boston - Brimmer School  
7:30-8:30 P.M. - Intermediate Country  
8:30-9:45 P.M. - Advanced Country  
9:45-10:00 P.M. - Demonstration Practice

### WEDNESDAYS

Cambridge - Agassiz School-Sacramento  
School  
7:30-9:00 P.M. - Elementary Couple Class  
8:00-9:30 P.M. - Intermediate Couple Class  
8:30-10:00 P.M. - Advanced Couple Class

### THURSDAYS

Boston - 87 Beacon Street  
5:30-6:30 P.M. - Afternoon Tea Class  
(Preceded by Afternoon Tea)  
8:00-9:00 P.M. - Elementary Country

### FRIDAYS

Boston - 87 Beacon Street  
11:00-12:00 M. - Country Dance Class  
5:45-6:45 P.M. - \*Morris Class  
(Preceded by Afternoon Tea)

\*In the 1937 flyer this was listed as Women's Morris.

A variety of classes were held five days a week. Any single girl who wished to dance was invited to join the women's group. Then, when an opening was available, it was quite a thrill to be asked to dance with the Wednesday English Couples Class. One did not know who was one's partner, but that was of little consequence as long as the numbers were even.

For many years the "Wednesday" class was held at the Agassiz School in Cambridge on Sacramento Street. Before class many of the men would disappear behind the stage curtain and then come forth wearing white shirts and white ducks - much more comfortable than business suits. The first hour was for beginners, then a period for beginners and experienced, after which the beginners were asked to leave. After weeks and weeks of intensive instruction it was quite an honor to be asked to join the advanced group.

Monthly parties were held at the Winsor School Gymnasium on Pilgrim Road in Boston (or at the Russell School in Cambridge) and once in a while there would be an extra party "for couples only". A penny postal was mailed to each member listing the dances for each party so one could bone up for the occasion. Some used the postal as a "dance card". Many of the dances were ones that had just been taught in the classes.

As one entered the gymnasium you were greeted by two hosts or hostesses standing on a small rug. One of the most gracious was Miss Anna A. Kloss (now retired from the

Boston country dancer, and Tony Saletan, singer of traditional songs.

A gathering of dance musicians is being especially assembled to play for this event.

Admission is a contribution of \$3 or more to benefit Pinewoods Camp, Inc., a non-profit organization recently formed to purchase and maintain the property on Long Pond in Buzzard's Bay, Mass., where for 47 years the Country Dance and Song Society of America has sponsored summer workshops in country dance, folk music and chamber music.

Mark your calendar now for the night before New Year's Eve!

T.S.

## OFFICE NEWS

### NEW SECRETARY

As of July, our CDS office person and executive secretary is Vicki Gatanis. Her new office hours are: Tues., Thurs., and Friday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., but as always, the phone-mate will take messages in her absence (she has occasional outside errands and will return your call.) Also requested for the office is a radio; donation any-one???

### LIBRARY

The records and books in the office have been catalogued by Mary Blomberg. There's a sign out sheet there, and you may borrow the material for unspecified time periods.

The deadline for contributions for the next issue is February 15.

## FALL WEEKENDS

There was plenty of weekend activity this Fall with two new arrivals to fill dance calendars. The Labor Day Weekend at Pinewoods had a successful first time out. About 75 adults and 9 children attended the camp session, initiating a new and different program. The classes given during the day were not the usual sort: Ida Giriunas led bird identification walks, Susan Ferguson taught drop spindle wool spinning, Bob Paul introduced photography, and Victor Wakefield held daily boardgame seminars. A few classes did have a familiar ring: Tony Parkes and Donna Hinds led advanced contras, Bob Fitzgerald was seen clogging with friends, Sue Ferguson had a beginning country class, and Tom Kruskal and Tony Parkes called for camp dances. The mood was spontaneous; a blackboard in the dining hall reflected the ever changing list of activities; and on Sunday afternoon, a real English tea highlighted the weekend.

The Landmark School Outing and Dance on Oct. 8 in Pride's Crossing, Mass. fea-

tered a softball game, an indoor pool, a square dance with Roger Whynot, and a pot pie supper. The fine facilities at the school warrant a continuation of programs there, such as this new weekend event.

The traditional Cardigan weekend, Sept. 23-25, showed hikers and dancers a good time even with a few rain clouds on the scene. The activity just moved indoors with more dancing for all called by Louise Winston, George Fogg, and Mitch Robbins, a fine new leader. The good meals at the A.M.C. camp, the fireplace sings, and the hikes to Weldon Falls all contributed to a good time.

Available from Alcazar Productions, Inc. are dance records, books and teaching materials for square and contra dancing. If you'd like a catalog, contact Tony Parkes and Donna Hinds, (275-1879).

## FIRST ANNUAL NEW ENGLAND COMPOSERS' DANCE

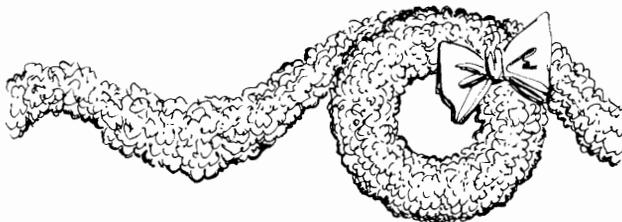
An evening of contra and square dances set to contemporary tunes composed in the traditional style, on Saturday, April 29, 1978.

Caller: Tod Whittemore.

Musicians: Peter Barnes, Joyce Desmarais, Cal Howard, Vince O'Donnell, Andy Woolf

Place: Girl Scout House, Concord, Ma.

Have you written a tune? Send an original clear copy, one tune per page, including name, address and phone on each. Material may be published or unpublished, but must adhere to the criteria of playability, danceability, originality, remaining with tradition and contribution to a varied and balanced program. Selected composers will be admitted to the dance free and invited to join the orchestra when their tunes are performed. Deadline: Dec. 31, 1977. Notification of winners: Feb. 1, 1978. Send your tunes to: Joyce Desmarais, 11 Douglas Ave. Maynard, Mass. 01754.



## WEDDING

On October 22, Kit French and Deanie Hancock followed their morning wedding with a "post-nuptial potluck feast" in the carriage house at Gore Place. Country dancers and other friends joined together for an evening of good food, dancing, singing and fellowship.

## FROM OUR ARCHIVES

### CARDIGAN

At Cardigan Mountain they held a dance  
For the folks from Boston Town,  
And they swung and turned and do-si-doed  
(Near shook the building down.)

They hiked and swam, they played and sang,  
And had a grand old time,  
But best of all, some people said,  
Was that wonderful Cardigan climb.

With Band-Aids here and corn rings there  
They fixed the blistered toes;  
Scarcely noticed aches and pains,  
That's how a Square Dance goes!

Believe it or not, these rugged folks  
Can dance all day and night;  
With "Morris", "Sword" and "English Folk"  
They got along all right.

But "Running Sets" and "Western" calls  
They find a little tough  
And sometimes you can hear one say  
"Of this I've had enough!"

Then Jack's good food revives them fast  
And soon they're back at work.  
The next time "Western's" coming up  
You'll find they'll never shirk.

There must be something very good  
In dancing, you can see,  
Because it gets them, young and old —  
In fact, it has got me!

9/22/51 Charley Brown

---

### CENTRE HISTORY

In the Summer 1977 issue of the "Boston Centre Newsletter" was given the background of the Summer Camps for English country dancing.

"The English Folk Dance Society in America was founded on March 23rd, 1915 at a meeting held at the Colony Club in New York, by a group of Americans inspired by the work of the English musician and folk dance and song collector, Cecil Sharp. During the next few months, Centers were organized in Boston, Chicago, Cincinnati, New York, Pittsburgh and St. Louis."

Miss Lily Roberts, who had come here from England for the 1915 Summer School, remained in America to direct the work of the Society in Boston and was assisted by Miss Dorothy Bolles (hence the Bolles Memorial Fund), Miss Louise Chapin and others.

When Miss Roberts became Mrs. Robert K. Conant, the direction was gradually taken over by Miss Louise Chapin who made it her life work until her retirement in 1963. The number of weekly classes in

English Country dancing, Morris, and Sword increased during the years until by 1938 and 1939 the opening flyer listed - -

### MONDAYS

Boston - 87 Beacon Street  
8:30-10:00 P.M. - Couple Class

### TUESDAYS

Boston - Brimmer School  
7:30-8:30 P.M. - Intermediate Country  
8:30-9:45 P.M. - Advanced Country  
9:45-10:00 P.M. - Demonstration Practice

### WEDNESDAYS

Cambridge - Agassiz School-Sacramento  
School  
7:30-9:00 P.M. - Elementary Couple Class  
8:00-9:30 P.M. - Intermediate Couple Class  
8:30-10:00 P.M. - Advanced Couple Class

### THURSDAYS

Boston - 87 Beacon Street  
5:30-6:30 P.M. - Afternoon Tea Class  
(Preceded by Afternoon Tea)  
8:00-9:00 P.M. - Elementary Country

### FRIDAYS

Boston - 87 Beacon Street  
11:00-12:00 M. - Country Dance Class  
5:45-6:45 P.M. - \*Morris Class  
(Preceded by Afternoon Tea)

\*In the 1937 flyer this was listed as Women's Morris.

A variety of classes were held five days a week. Any single girl who wished to dance was invited to join the women's group. Then, when an opening was available, it was quite a thrill to be asked to dance with the Wednesday English Couples Class. One did not know who was one's partner, but that was of little consequence as long as the numbers were even.

For many years the "Wednesday" class was held at the Agassiz School in Cambridge on Sacramento Street. Before class many of the men would disappear behind the stage curtain and then come forth wearing white shirts and white ducks - much more comfortable than business suits. The first hour was for beginners, then a period for beginners and experienced, after which the beginners were asked to leave. After weeks and weeks of intensive instruction it was quite an honor to be asked to join the advanced group.

Monthly parties were held at the Winsor School Gymnasium on Pilgrim Road in Boston (or at the Russell School in Cambridge) and once in a while there would be an extra party "for couples only". A penny postal was mailed to each member listing the dances for each party so one could bone up for the occasion. Some used the postal as a "dance card". Many of the dances were ones that had just been taught in the classes.

As one entered the gymnasium you were greeted by two hosts or hostesses standing on a small rug. One of the most gracious was Miss Anna A. Kloss (now retired from the

State Board of Education and living summers in Topsfield). Other frequent greeters were Miss Penelope Noyes, Mrs. Howes, Miss Marjorie Hurd, Mr. Harry Wyeth, and so on. Each month some of the men were asked to be ushers and wore red ribbons draped diagonally from the shoulder and pinned to their shirts. (The ribbons are still in the office, faded and worn.)

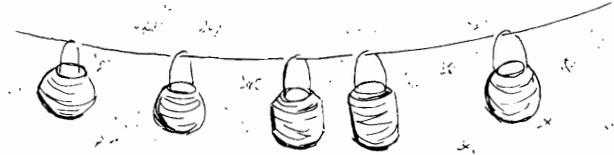
The dances were first walked through and then danced without any prompting. At the far end of the hall was a longways line of younger people, including Ricky Conant with his sisters Helen and Betty and probably many from the Concord Academy and Shady Hill School. During the evening the floor would be cleared for a demonstration of English dances by a team, which practiced on Tuesday evenings and aimed for perfection.

The two highlights of each season were the Christmas Party and the June Outing. The Christmas Party always had an outstanding demonstration - often choreographed by Mrs. Conant, and sometimes a Nummers Play was presented. Mr. Conant excelled in acting as the "Fool"—unexpectedly so, as ordinarily he was quiet and reserved. Many attended the party who were not able to come regularly to classes, so it was a grand reunion of old-timers with a very large attendance. The final dance of the evening was always Sellers Round for everyone, followed by the

dancers with joined hands singing Adeste Fidelis - (for the first time this tradition was broken in 1976).

The June Outing was extra special, held on the first Saturday of June at Mrs. James J. Storrow's estate in Lincoln—for members only. A dirt court was used for the dancing with a piano brought outside for Mrs. Agnes Brown. Elise Nichols, unexcelled in English and American dance tunes, played the violin, and often a third instrument was added for this and other parties.

After an hour or so of English dancing, groups spread out on the lawn for a picnic supper, with ice cream and coffee provided by Mrs. Storrow. Then more dancing, with Chinese lanterns strung up around the area. Several benches were on hand for the onlookers or for tired legs. There is a different atmosphere created by dancing out of doors, especially in the evening, and one could almost believe oneself to be in England. During World War II with gas rationing, many journeyed there by train from North Station. It was just unthinkable not to have a June party for the climax of each season.



Boston Centre  
Country Dance Society, Inc.  
57 Roseland Street  
Somerville, Mass. 02143

BULK RATE  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
CAMBRIDGE, MASS.  
PERMIT NO. 58340