

# BOSTON CENTRE NEWSLETTER

## Country Dance Society

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

*May 1978*

People who have worked on this issue:

Honey Hastings      Barbara Page  
Kathy Ingoldsby     Susan Stix

### BOARD of DIRECTORS

S-J Thomas, President; Joe Tierney, 1st Vice-President; Dale Thomas, Treasurer; Mary Blomberg, Secretary; George Fogg, Donna Hinds, Bill Horne, Jackie Schwab, Susan Stix, Louise Winston, Chris Walker and Francis Worrell.

## *Message from the President*

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 1977-78 YEAR IN BOSTON CENTRE CDS: A Report as my Term as President Draws to a Close.

CDS membership hit an all-time high last May, at 630, and is still going up. When the official tally is done for the Annual Meeting the number is expected to be over 650. This growth is probably the result of several factors including the continued success of the weekly English Country Dances with George Fogg, teaching the introductory portion, and Helene Cornelius, our Consultant Director of English Dance, leading the second portion of each night's program. Earl Gaddis, as the Head of the band and sound specialist, along with Claudio Buchwald and Jackie Schwab, has consistently presented excellent and delightful music.

Our Tuesday night series with Ted Sannella, alternating with Tony Parkes, and always backed by Donna Hinds with Yankee Ingenuity, set all kinds of new attendance records. Their very high standards of excellence brought more enjoyment to us all than any such combination of talent in recent years. Thanks also go to Al Olson for teaching the newcomers at the beginning of each evening.

Our additional weekly Thursday American Dance Series last spring offered Roger Whynot with the newly formed City Ducks, led by the versatile Claudio Buchwald, and Tod Whittemore who had April Limber and Pete Colby behind him.

And speaking of versatility, we should note Cal Howard, who plays with various groups and also managed to provide a more balanced sound system so that we were able to enjoy the added space afforded in the large Brimmer and May School Gym.

There are many other leaders and musicians whose significant contributions to CDS have made this a lively and successful season. Leadership for the Morris and Sword classes has come from Shag Graetz and Arthur Cornelius, with Paul Cole and Tom Kruskal supplying the music.

The 1977 Boston Centre 4th of July Weekend at Pinewoods was a great treat as usual, in spite of the loss of C# due to remodeling. The evening dance programs were divided and held simultaneously in the Dining Hall and C# Minor, necessitating an incredible shifting of musicians and leaders (not to mention dancers) and lots of running back and forth between the pines in the dark!!

Mary Blomberg and Evelyn Lamond spent many hours last year sorting our book, record and music collections, and searching the office files for historical materials. We have a lending library of several hundred English and American dances, and some folk dances, and a fair selection of books on the form and execution of the dances and the traditions behind them. Our files also include glimpses into the active social and



7

dance activities of our early members who held grand parties with style and dress that hasn't been seen in recent years.

After developing and for two years, editing, this newsletter, Lyrl Ahern and Kathy Ingoldsby have decided to move on to other projects. We appreciate their work in putting out an attractive and much needed publication.

Tim Cavanaugh has left Boston for the green hills and Morris Bells of Vermont, but takes with him our warmest thanks for establishing and maintaining our record and book sales department. This service not only put welcome money into our treasury but placed pleasurable and useful-English and American dance materials into our hands. Bruce Pratt has offered to assume the sales business for us, but needs one or two co-workers to help with this project. Volunteers should please speak to Bruce or to Honey Hastings.

The English Food Booth at the NEFFA Festival benefited again from the clever frame and tri-colored canvas roof over a table laden with home-baked goodies, beef stew, Cornish Pasties, Queen's Tarts, home-made soup, and yes, bagels. The Food Booth is always a successful money raiser for CDS as well as a service to NEFFA. Credit is due in order of appearance, to Cindy Tobias, many good cooks, Abel Silva, Gere Mansbach, Kathy Ingoldsby, and Bob Paul, and especially to the co-chairpersons, Bob Cohen and Judy Otto.

The Nominating Committee--Jerry Wheelock (chairman), Michael Paine, and Eva Linn talked to many members about CDS activities and goals. We salute them for finding several able and interested members who are willing to serve on the Board of Directors.

I doubt that many CDS members are aware of the great sense of responsibility and the many hours of work that are given so freely by every member of the Board of Directors. Our weekly programs, in addition to our participation in the NEFFA/CDS Summer Series (an idea ably

"proponented" by Larry Jennings), means that we are administrating about 95 dances per year. Our Pinewoods and Cardigan Weekends, and our annual Christmas Party must also be mentioned, and recognition extended to Marty Markham and to Laura Stein for the last two projects respectively. We now have an annual operating budget of over \$40,000.00 even though much of what we do is based upon volunteer help or reduced fees to the leaders and musicians.

After a succession of five able but short-term secretaries, including CDS members Susan Reiners, Dottie Palmer and Susie Stix, we have found a permanent executive secretary whose considerable experience with arts/cultural volunteer organizations has already become evident in administrative improvements in efficiency and style. Kitty Wheeler is a person of many talents, with a strong interest in our Society now, and plans that should help us strengthen our programs and widen our influence in the future. Experience has made it obvious to me that the administration of this Society's affairs requires the active, sustained support of a knowledgeable Executive Secretary. The new President, the Board of Directors, and you the members will soon appreciate Kitty's skills.

In addition to the excellent service given by each and every Board member, I want to mention the work being done by Evelyn Lamond, our Assistant Treasurer, as a service to the Board. To all of these people, and to the others who have been mentioned in this report, the Society owes a considerable debt of gratitude. I hope that members will consider sharing in the work of the Society in the year(s) ahead, as sharing the load is the best way to ensure that we maintain an artistically satisfying, socially stimulating and fiscally sound organization.

And now, after two years of rewarding but very time-consuming involvement as your President, I hope to do less talking and more dancing!! Good luck and continued success to all of you.

S-J Thomas

*Note - Brimmer + May Dance - Note  
Monday, May 22 (not Tuesday)*



## For the Record...

Susan Stix has been appointed to fill the vacancy on the Board of Directors created by Lyril Ahern's resignation.

Volunteers needed to help at dances, with mailings, membership and assorted office jobs. For details, ask at the door or phone Kitty at the office.

The Library of Congress has asked for back copies and a current subscription to the Boston Centre Newsletter.

Special thanks to the following faithful volunteers -- Mary Blomberg, Alan Oakes and Louise Winston.

A Workshop Series in English and Early American Dance will be held in Deerfield, MA on eight Wednesdays in July and August. Staff will include Helene Cornelius and Lila Parrar. Contact: Timothy C. Newmann, Box 174, Deerfield, MA 01342.

NEEDED: Editor, calligrapher, writers, artists--for this Newsletter. Please contact CDS office or Honey Hastings, 527-2791.

## Summer Schedule...

Flyer with details will be mailed in June.

- Tue June 13-Last Brimmer and May Dance
- Wed June 14-Last English Dance at YWCA
- Tue June 20-NEFFA Contra and Square,  
Girl Scout House, Concord
- Tue June 27-NEFFA Squares, Girl Scout  
House, Concord
- Wed June 28-English Dance, beginning of  
CDS/NEFFA Summer Series.  
Every Wed at 8:00 P.M. at  
First Congregational Church,  
Garden and Mason Streets,  
Cambridge
- Fri June 30-July 5-Boston Centre Pine-  
woods Weekend
- Wed July 5-NEFFA Contra
- 12-English Dance
- 19-English Dance
- 26-NEFFA Dance
- Wed Aug 2-NEFFA Dance
- 9-NEFFA Dance
- 16-English Dance
- 23-NEFFA Dance
- 30-NEFFA Dance
- Fri Sept 1-Sept 5-Boston Centre  
Pinewoods Weekend
- Wed Sept 6-NEFFA Dance
- 13-NEFFA Dance

## Thanks to S-J

Never since the Boston Centre of the Country Dance Society was founded in 1915 has it grown so rapidly as in the past three years, during which our numbers have trebled, to a membership of over 650. The main reason for this increase has been the dramatic growth in our square dance attendance, which has been due to changes instigated by S-J and Dale Thomas.

For the past two years S-J, in serving as our President, has ably led us through the growing pains attendant on such rapid expansion. She has also had to contend with many unusual problems, chief among them the recurring headache of finding a part-time executive secretary for our office. Six times during her term she has had to carry out the time-consuming search, then train the new secretary on all of the many details of the job, only to have each one in turn leave, usually for full-time employment. The seventh and present secretary, Kitty Wheeler, is proving to be an exceptionally wise choice and a jewel who plans to be with us for some time to come, so we expect to be grateful to S-J for that contribution to CDS long after she has left office.

Through all the many problems S-J has faced, including drains on her time which sometimes ran to as much as twenty hours a week, she has maintained a calm, friendly, tactful approach to everyone, and her wise, thoughtful, and eminently fair administration has been deeply appreciated by all of us who have worked with her. We hope that all of you who enjoy CDS activities will thank her for the outstanding job she has done as your President.

Louise Winston

## Pat Shaw

Most of Pat's dances and music were composed for his friends and were named after them or their houses or special occasions.

In London a scrapbook is being made in memory of Pat. Needed are photographs of the people and the places concerned and, where possible, a short "history" by them and why the dance or music was composed. Reminiscences of Pat and the occasions would be very welcome.

Material in America is being collected. Please send all material in duplicate to Frieda Metz Herman  
66 Chestnut Avenue  
Larchmont, New York 10538

Bob Cohen says "Thanks!!" to all helpers. 



## News from Nat'l CDS

CDSSA will sponsor six weeks of music and dance at Pinewoods this summer, including a Chamber Music Week and a Family Week. The chamber music program will include classes in early music for instrumentalists and singers, as well as Baroque, Renaissance and country dancing. The staff will include Lanone Davenport, Martha Bixler, Valerie Horst and Janis Pforsich. The Family Week will feature classes for children and adults in country and ritual dance, plus folk singing, crafts and band. New this year is a special program for teachers featuring daily seminars in the use of traditional music and dance with children. Staff includes Bob Dalsemer, Meg Durham, Sibyl Clark and Pessie Smith. For further information, contact CDSSA, 55 Christopher Street, N.Y., N.Y. 10014, (212) 255-8895.

## Plimouth Plantation

On June 24 and 25 there will be a Midsummer Festival at the Plimoth Plantation in Plymouth. After bringing in the summer harvest, villagers take pleasure in sports, dancing, singing and feasting.

On July 1, 2, 3 and 4 the villagers will begin to raise the main section of a 72-foot reproduction of a 17th century barn. Work will continue each weekend in July.

On July 23 there will be a music festival. Traditional folk music will be heard on the Plantation grounds.

On August 16 there will be re-enactment of typical wedding festivities in Pilgrim Village.

For a complete program of events through November 30 please contact Laurie Downing, Plimoth Plantation, Box 1620, Plymouth, MA 02360, (617) 746-1622.

## Other Events at Pinewoods

Work Weekends - contact Gerda Conant, 506 Elliot Street, Milton, MA 696-6293.

Dates - May 19-21

May 26-29

June 2-4

Program - Grounds work and repairs, cleaning, setting up for opening of camp.

Appalachian Mountain Club - contact Jim Christopher, 16 Birch Road, Andover, MA 475-5470.

Program - Bike trips, boating, dance, hiking. Date - June 16-18

Folk Arts Center of New England - contact Connie and Maryanne Taylor, 62 Fottler Drive, Lexington, MA 862-7144.

Date - June 23-25

Program - International folk dance and music.

Royal Scottish Country Dance Society - contact Gail Sullivan, 8 Farrington St., Arlington, MA 646-4516.

Date - July 7-15

Program - Scottish Country and Highland Dances, Special 25th anniversary events.



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