

CDS CHESTNUTS

Crammed into a rickety wooden cabinet at 595 Mass Ave. is a treasure for people who love country dance and music. The CDS Archive is a delightful, enlightening, wonderfully quirky collection of books, magazines, and records on American and English dance and song. Although the books are stored sideways, upsidedown and backwards, it is well worth the effort to sort through them, for they are rich with information.

The collection includes many works of Cecil Sharp: volumes of The Country Dance Book (1913 edition), English Folksongs from the Appalachians, and Folksongs, Chanteys, and Singing Games, among others. There is also a biography of Sharp, and a framed photograph of this father of the current folk revival. Some other book titles are A Fireside Book of Folksongs, A Dorset Book of Folksongs, and The Play Party Book.

There are hundreds of periodicals including "English Dance and Song", "Northern Junket" (by NEFFA founder Ralph Page) and the English "Folk Music Journal". These alone are worth hours of reading on all aspects of dance and song, as well as some history of the movement here and in England. A 1966 "English Dance and Song" pulled at random contains a piece from the series "Folklore of the Months" on the custom of rush-bearing in Lancashire (what?), 2 dances written out with tunes, 4 songs, and an article on legendary concertina player Scan Tester (who?).

The record collection consists mostly of heavy 45 rpm albums such as "Cowboy Dances" and "Ten Famous Tangos".

Throughout the archive, in no particular order, are cartoons, antique photos, cook-books, "Revels" programs, and other ephemera. The cabinet itself is fetchingly adorned with a pair of antlers.

In the past, this has functioned as a lending library for CDS members. We no longer have the staff to make that practical, but I would like to see the archive made available to members somehow, so that it could become a vital resource again. Any ideas? Call the office at 354-1340, or talk to any Board member.

- Anne Goodwin, CDS Office Secretary

LOST AND HOPEFULLY FOUND...

Antique sewing basket, patchwork quilt material, knitting needles, an almost finished sweater and related items - lost somewhere between the Pinewoods parking areas and Arlington, after Labor Day Weekend at Pinewoods. Call Cheryl Moreau, 641-2073.

"LIVE FREE AND ENGLISH COUNTRY DANCE!"

With the assistance of a grant from CDS-Boston Centre, the New Hampshire English Country Dance Society has announced a new series of country dancing in addition to musician development. Dancing will happen every third Sunday of each month, beginning in November from 7-10 p.m. in Derry, Upper Village, N.H., about an hour's drive from Boston. Potluck supper will precede the dance at 5:30.

Callers for this series include Brad Sayler and Rich Jackson. Bare Necessities member Peter Barnes will conduct several music workshops to encourage and train local musicians to play for the series (Bare Necessities as a whole will be playing for the first dance of this series). Long-time Boston Centre members Lee Breslow, Honey Hastings, Arthur Fink, and Marianne Taylor are the guiding lights behind the series (and this new organization). Congratulations, good luck, and good dancing!



"CROSS CURRENTS" SPECIAL CONCERT

Save the afternoon of Dec. 14 for a very special concert called "Cross Currents". The concert, at 2 p.m. at Sanders Theater at Harvard, will attempt to explore the connections between classical and folk music. Performers will include BLT (American vintage music), Czarkany (Hungarian village music), Talitha Nelson (from the group St. James Gate, representing music from the British Isles), members of the Scottish Fiddle Club, Les Miserables Brass Band (playing brass music from around the world), as well as musicians from the Boston Symphony Orchestra and Boston Musica Viva. Robert J. Lurtsema from WGBH will be host; Dr. Steven Ledbetter, program annotator for the BSO, will prepare the program notes. The concert is funded partially by an anonymous FACONE donor and the WBZ Fund for the Arts. Tickets are \$8.50 and \$12.50 in advance, \$9.50 and \$13.50 at the door. Assist in ushering or selling tickets and get in free! For more information, call the FACONE office at 491-6084.

KIDS ARE DANCERS, TOO

There are several opportunities for adults to share the joys of dance with children. Following is an abbreviated list of family dances in the Boston area.

NEFFA Family Dances: Squares and Contras for families, with live music and plenty of instruction. Third Sundays in November, January, and March, 2-4:30, Concord Scout House. 354-1340.

FACONE Family Dance: International dances, games, and songs. Next dance-February 15, 2-4, Concord Scout House. 491-6084.

Belmont Family Dances: International, Scandinavian, and American traditions. Live music. Fourth Sundays every month, 6-8, First Church Unitarian, Belmont. 484-7895.

All of the above series are geared for kids age 5 and older; younger kids are their parents responsibility. And you don't have to be a kid to go and enjoy these events!

Do you want CDS to have a role in promoting family activities/dancing?

Call Board member Sandy Borden with your ideas and suggestions (878-4446).



WE CAN'T SO IT WITHOUT YOU!

Many thanks to the many contributors for this issue: Cindy Bignelli, Lee Breslow, Harvey Cohen, FACONE, Anne Goodwin, Miss B. Haven, Betty Hoskins, Rich Jackson, Joe Kynoch, Jenny Mosely, Karen Reed, Mary Stafford. Thanks to master News mailer Laurie Buchanan and her willing crew. Want to help with the next mailing? Call Laurie at 738-6983. Next News deadline is November 23. Send your ideas, comments, suggestions, news items, and letters to Editor Robin Kynoch, 500 Grove St., Framingham, MA 01701 by the deadline OR ELSE!

DANCE FOR FREE!!!!

If you'd like to enjoy an evening of squares and contras for free, you can do just that by volunteering to help set up the refreshments for intermission at a Tuesday night dance at the YWCA. To do so, speak to Betsy Opitz, or leave a message for her anytime at 899-8702 so that she may telephone you to select a suitable evening. A NICE DEAL!

ASK MISS B.

Miss B. Haven, the illegitimate twin sister of Miss Manners and the third cousin once-removed of May Gadd, is impeccably qualified to answer your questions pertaining to etiquette and dance. Send your questions to Miss B. c/o the News.

Dear Miss B.,

I am new to the dance world and would like to know how to go about asking people to dance. Some of the more experienced dancers look at me as if I have some communicable disease. Please Help.

Signed,
Completely Healthy

Dear Healthy,

Maybe they are the ones with the disease, incurable snobishness. Seriously, whether you are a man or a woman, don't hesitate to ask anyone to dance. If he/she is a better dancer, then this will help you improve your dancing. If he/she is worse, then you can help them. You might also try wearing a button that says "I'm clean". It couldn't hurt.

Dear Miss B.,

I have observed that during a hey in a contra dance many people actually yell out the word "HEY". Is this required?

Signed,
Quiet Dancer

Dear Quiet,

This is not required- in fact, it is discouraged. You should also avoid shouting things like "GET OUT OF MY WAY", or "LEFT SHOULDER, STUPID", or "I THOUGHT THIS WAS THE BALLROOM DANCE CLASS".

MORRIS MADNESS...



"It's shock, poor chap—someone dropped a £1 note in his hat."

From "English Dance & Song", Winter 1971

DO YOU REMEMBER YOUR FIRST DANCE?

Sweaty palms, two left feet....
Friendly faces, amazing music....
If you remember how it was the first time you went to a dance (whether it was last month or 15 years ago!), write it down and mail it to the News.

I went to my first dance in late January, 1980. I had a new boyfriend, Allan Wechsler, and he had been dancing for years and wanted to share the fun with me. We went to the Tuesday night dance, Squares and Contras, out at the Brimmer and May School in Newton. The hall there is very large, and it was always packed. The dance officially started at 8:30, but at 8:15 Al Olson would teach a brief lesson for beginners so they would understand the calls. Allan brought me early that first time, so that I could get in on this. I had done some square dancing back in third grade (who hasn't?), so I knew about allemandes and do-si-dos, but I didn't know how a contra line progressed, so this lesson was a big help. Allan danced with me fairly often, so I wouldn't feel lost, and the rest of the dancers did their best to make me feel welcome, too. I don't remember whether it was Tony Saletan or Ted Sannella calling that night. Allan advised me to sit out the "challenging" contra after the break. Actually, I sat out a lot of dances that night, partly because I was shy, but also because I was trying to solve Rubik's cube. (The cube had only come to this country a month earlier, and no one at the dance even recognized it.) Luckily, I managed to solve it on the train home that night, so that at future dances I could devote my full attention to the main event. Allan and I are still dancing together.

- Jenny Mosely

FORTY YEARS AGO...

"The Annual Meeting of the Boston Centre will be held at 8 p.m., promptly, on Monday, October 7, 1946, at the Lagoon Building on the Charles River Esplanade. At 9 o'clock there will be dancing, for which members may invite gentlemen. This Annual Meeting...is an innovation for us, and we hope that very many of our members may attend it. There is need for a serious discussion of our affairs- the war is over, we are in changing times, and our society must be ready to meet these changes. In our dancing we have something which gives us great pleasure; we wish as many others as possible to share this with us. We can expand into greater usefulness only if we have a strong and solvent organization and we need the help of all of you to make this possible."

- From the CDS Archive



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO US!
THE CDS NEWS IS TEN YEARS OLD THIS YEAR!!

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MISS B. HAVEN IN THIS ISSUE!

FORWARDING AND ADDRESS

CORRECTION REQUESTED

MEMORIES, MEMORIES...

Do you remember your first dance? Whether it was contras, squares, or English, whether it was at the Cambridge YWCA or the Brimmer and May or a church hall hundreds of miles away, whether it was last year, or 15 years ago, write it down and mail it to the News.

A social group at my workplace had as its center an energetic dynamo named Heather Claflin (now Clayton). In early '79, one of her projects was to get a bunch of us from work to all carpool out to the dance in Chestnut Hill.

A caller from New York, Carl Finger, led weekly square dances at my summer camp. It wasn't really dancing. You know: records, the "ball of yarn dance", etc. I look back now, relatively snobbishly, and acknowledge that it gave me the confidence I needed to try it again.

So one Tuesday night a bunch of us packed into two cars and motored the 1/2 hour down Route 9 to Brimmer and May. In my car was Mike Procopio, Dave Tarabar. and Dave Paist, and in the other car was Heather, Jerry Greenwood, Beau James, and Roberta Sutter. The hall was cavernous. A voice echoed out inviting all those who came for newcomer instruction. The voice belonged to Al Olson, who, for the next 15 minutes, gave a whirlwind presentation in the basics of New England-style country dancing. The people were accepting and helpful. The caller exuded friendliness and instructed exceptionally clearly and never lost patience-- of course it was Ted Sannella! My remaining apprehensions had vanished.

Andy Woolf was playing that night. The music was bold, energetic, and somehow vaguely familiar.

At 3:30 AM I was still wide awake, lying in my bed, music and dances replaying themselves in my head again and again and again.

I wanted more! - Dan Pearl

HISTORICAL NOTES ON TWO NEW ENGLAND CONTRAS
Thanks to Tony Saletan and The Country Dance Book by Beth Tolman and Ralph Page for the following information-

Jefferson and Liberty

This dance and tune first appeared during the elections of 1800. It celebrates the impending change from the Federalist period of Alien and Sedition Acts to the era of Jeffersonian philosophy, and great confidence in the vision of the American dream. The last verse of the song goes:

"Here Art shall lift her laurel'd head,
Wealth, Industry, and Peace divine;
And where dark, pathless forests spread,
Rich fields and lofty cities shine. "

The dance:

- Duple Proper
- Circle below left all the way around 8 bars
- Circle below right all the way around 8 bars
- Right hand star with same couple 4 bars
- Left hand star back to place 4 bars
- First couple down the center, turn alone and come back to place and cast off with second couple 8 bars
- Right and left through. 8 bars

Green Mountain Volunteers

The dance commemorates the story of the Green Mountain Boys. Organized under Ethan Allen, a small band of settlers in Vermont captured Crown Point, took part in the Battle of Bennington, and forced the surrender of Fort Ticonderoga on May 10, 1775. In 1777, the Green Mountain Boys declared Vermont an independent republic. Their demand for statehood was granted in 1791, and Vermont became the 14th state.

The dance:

- Duple Improper
- Active gent with inactive lady balance and swing
- Active lady with inactive gent chassez down and back 8 bars
- Active lady with inactive gent balance and swing
- Active gent with inactive lady chassez down and back 8 bars
- Active couple down the center, turn alone and come back to place casting off with the inactive couple 8 bars
- Right and left through. 8 bars

FOOD, GLORIOUS FOOD

It's never too early to think about the CDS Food Booth at NEFFA. Food Booth Committee Chairperson Carole Ramsdell is looking for ideas, suggestions, and help. Call her at 497-7490.

RALPH PAGE LIBRARY GOES TO UNIVERSITY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE (DURHAM)

NEFFA's Ralph Page Memorial Committee (RPMC) reports "with great pleasure" that the Ralph Page Library has been purchased for \$4000 by the University of New Hampshire in Durham, N.H. With funds donated by friends of Ralph, including many readers of this newsletter, the committee has matched that sum to give \$8000 to Ada Page as payment for Ralph's extensive collection of dance books, records, pamphlets, magazines, syllabi, and personal papers.

The agreement with the Special Collections Library at U.N.H. states that the Ralph Page Memorial Collection will be kept intact and will be made available for dance research.

The RPMC (Ted Sannella-chm., Sam Alexander, George Fogg, Marianne Taylor and Susan Elberger-ex. officio) wish to thank those volunteers who helped with the fund appeal mailing and those who traveled to Keene, N.H. to assist in the sorting, listing, and packing of the collection into some 40 cartons, a labor of love! Members of the RPMC Advisory Board are also to be commended for their help and their support of the library project as top-priority.

The RPMC further reports that, so far, the fund appeal has raised nearly \$12,000 with contributions still coming in from throughout the U.S.A. and several other countries. Ralph Page's name and works are universally known and his friends and others who enjoy New England dancing have been responding generously to the RPMC appeal.

With the library project settled, the RPMC is turning its attention to other uses of the Ralph Page Memorial Fund (RPMF) in keeping with its purpose of "memorializing the name of Ralph Page and continuing his work of disseminating and encouraging traditional New England dance and music". All suggestions are welcome, as are tax-deductible contributions. Send them to Ted Sannella at 148 Cedar St., Lexington, MA 02173. Checks should be made out to RPMF-NEFFA.



"Good breade and good drinke, a good fier
in the hall,
Brawne, pudding and souse, and good mustard
with all.
Beffe, mutton and porke, shred pies of the
best,
Pig, veale, goose and capon, and turkey
well dress;
Cheese, apples and nuts, joly Carols to heare,
And then in the countrie is counted good cheere."
English Dance and Song, Vol. 43, No.4- 1981



CDSS MOVES TO MASSACHUSETTS

Faced with major increases in operating expenses, the national headquarters of the Country Dance and Song Society (CDSS) will be relocating to western MA in the near future. CDSS, founded in 1915, exists "to encourage, support, and promote country dance and song activities throughout the U.S. and Canada". The organization supports, on a national level, more than 85 CDSS centers, associates, and affiliated groups, including the Boston Centre. CDSS provides leadership training and support, organizational advice, a reference library and sales desk, special dance events, as well as sponsoring 7 weeks of activity at Pinewoods Camp. Welcome to Massachusetts!

WE CAN'T DO IT WITHOUT YOU!

Thanks to the many contributors to this issue: Cindy Bignelli, Harvey Cohen, Lisa Greenleaf, Miss B. Haven, Betty Hoskins, Rich Jackson, Joe Kynoch, Vince O'Donnell, Dan Pearl, Tony Saletan, and Ted Sannella. Thanks to Mailing Chair Laurie Buchanan and her willing crew. Want to help with the next mailing? Call Laurie at 738-6983. Next News deadline is January 17. Send your ideas, comments, suggestions, news items and letters to Editor Robin Kynoch, 500 Grove St., Framingham, MA 01701 by the deadline OR ELSE!

COUNTRY DANCE SOCIETY, BOSTON CENTRE - NEW ENGLAND AREA CALENDAR

EVENTS OF INTEREST TO OUR MEMBERSHIP

EASTERN MASSACHUSETTS

CAMBRIDGE, MA - NEFFA Contra Series, 1st Sundays, Jan 4, Spring in the Valley: FEB 1, Roaring Jelly: Mar 1, Woods Hole Folk Orchestra. 7:15 - 10:15 First Church Congregational, 11 Garden St.

PLYMOUTH, MA

BOSTON CENTER '87 EVENTS AT PINWOODS CAMP:

- 1) NEW WEEKEND to be named - FRIDAY EVE 6/19 TO SUNDAY AFTERNOON 6/21
- 2) JULY 4TH WEEKEND - THURSDAY AFTERNOON 7/2 TO MONDAY MORNING 7/6
- 3) ENGLISH-SCOTTISH - MONDAY AFTERNOON 7/6 TO FRIDAY MORNING 7/10
- 4) LABOR DAY WEEKEND - SATURDAY AFTERNOON 9/5 TO TUESDAY MORNING 9/8

NATIONAL CDSS '87 EVENTS AT PINWOODS CAMP (212)594-8833:

- 1) 7/18 - 7/25 Early Music, Chair Grace Feldman
- 2) 7/25 - 8/1 Folk Music, Chair Jerry Epstein
- 3) 8/1 - 8/8 American Dance & Music, Chair Frank Hall
- 4) 8/8 - 8/15 Family Week, Chair Rodney and Jane Miller
- 5) 8/15 - 8/22 English and American Dance, Chair Margeret Ann Martin
- 6) 8/22 - 8/29 English Dance, Chair Brad Foster
- 7) 8/29 - 9/5 Campers, Chair TBD

LINCOLN, MASS - CONTRADANCE Susan Elberger calling. Music by Roaring Jelly, Vince O'Donnell Music Director. 3rd Friday thru June 8:00-11:00, Lincoln Town Hall, Bedford Road, (617)875-7551.

NATICK, MASS - NEFFA Folk Festival, Natick High School, April 24-26

SOUTH WEYMOUTH, MA - ENGLISH COUNTRY DANCE, GEORGE FOGG MC, live music Ellen Mandigo and Cindy Philips. Mondays except first Mondays. 8:00-10:00. Old South Congregational Church (617)335-0818 (617)426-1048.

WELLESLEY MA, - BOSTON CENTRE PLAYFORD BALL, March 7 - Advanced registration only. (617)876-5061

OUTSIDE OF EASTERN MASSACHUSETTS

EAST DERRY, NH - NEW ENGLISH COUNTRY DANCE SERIES - UPPER VILLAGE HALL, 3RD SUNDAYS AT 7:00. POTLUCK AT 5:30, Boston Callers Brad Sayer and Rich Jackson (603)432-8558

EAST DERRY, NH - ENGLISH COUNTRY DANCE BAND WORKSHOP, LED BY PETER BARNES, JAN 18. PREREGISTRATION A MUST. (603)432-8558

PROVIDENCE, RI - CONTRA/SQUARE DANCE LED BY 'BOSTON' CALLERS. Live music. 3rd Saturdays (2nd Saturday in April). Jan 17, Ted Sannella w/Unstrung Heroes: Feb 21, Bridget Edwards, Ruth Dornfeld and friends: March 21, Walter Lenk and friends: April 11, Dan Pearl w/Four on the Floor: May 16 Cindy Green w/Four on the Floor: June 20, Steve Zakon w/Fresh Fish: St. Martins Episcopal Church, 50 Orchard Av. Dale(617)636-8168, Bettie(401)273-0782

CDS, Boston Centre is interested in making more people aware of the many dance and music related activities of Boston Centre members and the nearby CDS centers and associates. All submissions must be in writing and received by Harvey Cohen, 54 Elda Rd, Framingham, MA 01701 by January 15, for inclusion into the February newsletter.

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

1. Archives Update- Boston Centre's archives have moved, temporarily, to two places in Framingham: the homes of Board Secretary Nancy Hanssen and Board Member Harvey Cohen. For more archival information, call Harvey (877-9065) or Nancy (875-0382).
2. Anne Goodwin, CDS Office Secretary, has left us to pursue full-time employment in arts management. Thank you, Anne, for all your help! In the meantime, George Fogg has volunteered to check the mail and message machine. Thank you, George!
3. Save Saturday, March 7, for the Playford Ball, to be held at Wellesley College. Look for more information in a forth-coming flyer.
4. Volunteerism is the name of the game for the Boston Centre. There are plenty of opportunities, both behind- and on-the-scene, for all CDS members to volunteer. Weekly dances, special events, residential weekends, this newsletter- can't do it without volunteers! Put your talents where you want, to make CDS work for everyone.



FROM DICKENS' "A CHRISTMAS CAROL"

"Away they all went, twenty couples at once, hands half round, and back again the other way; down the middle, and up again; round and round in various stages of affectionate grouping; old top couple always turning up in the wrong place; new top couple starting off again as soon as they got there; all top couples at last, and not a bottom one to help them. When this result was brought about, old Fezziwig, clapping his hands to stop the dance, cried out, 'Well done!' and the fiddler plunged his hot face into a pot of porter, especially provided for that purpose."

CECIL SHARP HOUSE TO CLOSE?

Cecil Sharp was the man who gave folk song and dance back to the people of England, and his pioneering work has brought countless thousands to folk song and dance clubs, morris dance sides and barn dances. Sharp's persevering research in English folk tradition led to much interest, notation, and revival of several forms of folk dance, including morris, sword, and country dance. In 1911 he founded the English Folk Dance and Song Society "to spread the knowledge of our songs and dances, to stimulate our pride in them, and restore them to general use".

Sharp and his students (including May Gadd, Lily Roberts Conant) spread their knowledge and enthusiasm of English folk dance to the U.S., directly and indirectly influencing the formation of the English Folk Dance Society (N.Y.), later to become the Country Dance and Song Society (CDSS), of which the Boston Centre-CDS is an associate.

Cecil Sharp House was built by public contributions and opened in 1930 as a memorial to Cecil Sharp and as a Folk Center; it is also the headquarters of the EFDSS. Word has reached us that the committee of EFDSS has now decided to close Cecil Sharp house and sell it in order to meet a growing debt. This decision was made apparently without consulting the membership.

The "Friends of Cecil Sharp House" has been set up to provide an alternative to what seems like a drastic solution. This organization is in the process of trying to raise \$150,000 to pay off bank debts and keep the House going, eventually making it self-supporting. Donations can be sent to Chairperson Brenda Godrich, 62 Huddleston Road, London N7 OAG. For more information, contact Jackie Schwab, (617)661-9484.

ASK MISS B.

THIS EDITION- MISS B. À LA JULIA CHILD

Dear Miss B.,

Is it true that you are supposed to wait one-half hour after eating before you dance?

Signed,
Overstuffed

Dear Overstuffed,

This is just an old wives' tale. The truth is, it depends on what you ate. If you've had a burger and fries, you don't have to wait at all. If it was Chinese food, you should wait an hour, or until you're hungry again. If it was Mexican food, or anything with garlic, you should wait two to three days.

Miss B. Haven, the illegitimate twin sister of Miss Manners and no relation at all to Dear Ann, Dear Abby, or Dear Dr. Ruth (or Dear News Editor), is as qualified as anyone else to answer your questions pertaining to etiquette and dance. Send your questions to Miss B., c/o the News.

She's Sitting In My Chair Vince O'Donnell

Vince writes --

"I like the syncopation at the beginning of this tune -- it works nicely on a contra with an opening balance, for example. Like a lot of other tunes, this one appeared while I was just 'doodling' on my fiddle. We use it sometimes in White Cockade Scottish arrangements.

"The title is the punchline of a joke about Miss Milligan (the late founder of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society, and reputedly a severe interpreter of tradition). Something about a remark she made about God upon entering heaven.

"I think I was trying to come up with something that was interesting (and, yes, a little weird), but not gimmicky. Whether I succeeded is up to others to judge. One thing I've found is that if the whole tune doesn't come together quickly, it's hard for me to edit it later into an acceptable state. I'd be curious to hear from other tunewriters on this point."

Editor's note: the next issue of the News will feature interviews with CDS -Boston Centre dance tune writers.



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“ We want every member to be an active member, and we want you to feel that you are an active member.”
 C.D.S. News, 6/23/56