

### Dot and Don Coy



Don Coy comes from a musical family and has been “picking and grinning since he was knee high to a grasshopper.” In the mid 1960s, he traveled through Kentucky and Indiana with his band, The Rhythm Makers, and recorded two country songs: “I’m Gonna Be a Guitar Player Someday” and “So Lonely.” Through the Triangle Talent Agency, he kept busy entertaining at conventions held in Louisville.

He started square dancing in 1972 and attended his first caller-training class in 1974. Don was the featured caller for five Kentucky square dance clubs and very active in the local callers’ association, serving in every office.

Dot learned square dancing from her mother, who taught it at Fort Hamilton High School in Brooklyn. As a young adult, she had a lot of fun in the Poconos at the “Darktown Strutters Ball” called by a man named Curly. In 1984, she took additional lessons from Bill Anderson.

When Dot attended the National Square Dance Convention in 1986, she caught Don’s eye. “It was love at first dosado,” said Don. “My pick-up line was: Do you dance Plus?”

Over the next few years, Don and Dot won a few awards – “frequent flyer, that is.” So in September 1990, Don moved from Louisville to Brooklyn to marry Dot. “We survived very well on Kentucky Fried Chicken and a Big Apple,” he quipped.

Don has a degree in recreation education, though his day job was department manager for Sears. Dot earned a degree in elementary education and taught first grade in the New York school system for 35 years. After taking early retirement in 1995, Dot turned her talents to teaching line dancing. The Coys often team up with square and line dancing at local clubs, and they teach dance classes at Kingsborough Community College in Brooklyn.

They also entertain at parties in the New York City area and teach at various children’s events. With Dot’s educational background, said Don, “she really shines when we’re doing a dance for a hundred anxious children, because she knows how to make them pay attention.”

The Coys’ memorable dance experiences include calling and dancing at the Statue of Liberty, on top of Cadillac Mountain in Maine at sunrise, and on a glacier in Canada. Don is a member of CALLERLAB and the Callers’ Council of New Jersey, where he serves as treasurer. He is club caller for AleMo Squares in Brooklyn and Pelham Promenaders in Pelham, instructor of an Advanced workshop on Staten Island, and guest caller for clubs throughout the region. He has recorded several songs for Red Boot Star, Lore, TNT, and Coyote Records, and was featured on a New York State Lottery commercial.

Dot is a Yankees fan while Don roots for the Mets, but they share many other interests such as camping, kayaking, biking, traveling, and listening to audiobooks in the car. Don has two sons, Dot has two daughters, and together they have seven grandchildren.

*Adapted from the Coys’ website (www.dotanddoncoy.com) by Lise Greene*