



Grand Square

OFFICIAL **NEWSLETTER**

NORTHERN NEW JERSEY SQUARE DANCERS ASSOCIATION

JANUARY 1, 1960

WINTER ISSUE

VOL. III

CLASS OF 1960 COMPLETES 1ST SEMESTER

The 1960 Class of the College of DO-SI-DOS has successfully completed their first semester and are now preparing to start their final term. A well earned mid-year vacation will give the new dancers a few weeks to gather their mental facilities after ten weeks of trying to unscramble the jumble of patter barked at them. This new group of enthusiastic dancers has learned that there's quite a difference between western dancing and the one-night benefit square dance that they were previously exposed to. And how many ever thought that to distinguish between their left and right hand in a split-second would be a problem!!



These students who have finished the first term are Dottie and Bob Bailey from Plainfield, Dot and Les Moyer from Edison, and Madeline and Bill Lynar of Piscataway Township.

Association dancers who have come to the classes from time to time to help and fill in, must certainly have a feeling of satisfaction to see these people develop into western square dancers. Helping at classes also provides a wonderful opportunity to get to know the new people personally and resulting friendships will make much easier the transition from classes to clubs when they are ready to move.

Three separate groups totalling nine squares make up the NNJSDA Class of 1960 meeting in Edison, Plainfield, and Piscataway Township. Callers who have put the groups through their paces were Jack Reeve, Lane Calendar, John Carroll, and Jim Flammer.

Based on the enthusiasm of this new group, a good group is anticipated for the advanced term. The second semester will consolidate the three groups into one class which will be held on Mondays beginning January 25th at the Plainfield High School. John Carroll and Beulah Samec will instruct the advanced term and will shape the students into polished dancers. In addition to the many newer and more complex figures, John and Beulah will concentrate on dancing style smoothing out the various bits of trim that make a working square something worth watching.



Happy New Year



PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

I think this would be a good opportunity to explain some things that seem to have been somewhat confusing to many dancers for some time.

The first thing falling into this category is the "Round of the Month", chosen by the New Jersey Callers & Teachers Association, and published monthly by the NNJSDA through postcards to club delegates. This was done on suggestion of the club delegates for the purpose of standardizing some rounds in the area so that these certain rounds could be used at club and Association festivals, giving an opportunity for the greatest percentage of people to participate in them. I think the misunderstanding arises because of the title "Round of the Month". Perhaps this should be prefixed by the word "suggested" to better describe the idea. Many people may be under the impression that their club must teach the "Round of the Month" every month and no others. This is not the case. It is not mandatory in any way. A club may teach any or all the "Rounds of the Month" and as many other rounds as they may choose - or - they need not teach any of the "Rounds of the Month". This is entirely the decision of the individual club. The Association merely presents these rounds as a service to be accepted or rejected at the will of the individual club.

The second thing I want to mention here is the distribution of the NNJSDA class graduates. As most of you know, the Association requests the cooperation of its members in not inviting couples from the Beginner Classes to regular club dances until after the completion of the first ten lessons. The dancers and clubs have all been extremely cooperative in this way. However, some misunderstanding has arisen as to when these graduates may be invited. They can be invited to any member club anytime after the completion of the first ten lessons which are designated as "Beginners Class". It is not necessary to wait until they have completed the final ten lessons or "Advanced Class". This again, is at the discretion of the individual clubs. Some clubs have invited the entire "Beginner Classes" immediately upon completion of the ten lessons. Other clubs have invited only couples known to be enrolled in the "Advanced Class", while still other clubs waited until the couples had graduated the entire twenty-week course. The Association does request that members do not try to discourage these couples from continuing on into Advanced Class. This is not being fair to them, your clubs, other dancers, or even yourself.

Finally, some words about "Grand Square". The people working on this newsletter have taken on a great deal of work and are to be highly commended for the excellent job they are doing. I think we can all give them some help and make this job a little easier by sending in any news or information about clubs or people in square dancing that would interest others. Even if you think the item is trivial, send it and let the "Grand Square" staff judge its newsworthiness. It may be just the thing that would interest or amuse the most people. Let's all get some news about our clubs and friends to "Grand Square" and do your usual wonderful job of working together to make "Grand Square" the best newsletter in square dancing. ---(Al Aderente)

"GRAND SQUARE" STAFF

Editor-in-Chief -----Bob Keck
Feature Article Editor -----Charlie Weigmann
Club News Editor -----Jim Heacock
Advertising Editor -----Bert Starlin
Special Events Editor -----Jim Cameron
Associates -----Their Taws

BEHIND THE MIKE



The editors of your NEWSLETTER have asked me to write an article for publication... I worried the idea like a puppy chews an old shoe and then decided the safest thing for me to do was a little research. Now research in this case means figures so at great personal risk and no expense to myself came up with the following:

Population in my area-----	247,000
Aged and children -----	123,500
Leaving a balance of -----	123,500
Bowlers, bridge players, movie patrons --	63,000
Balance -----	60,500
Casual square dancers(1 or 2 times/yr) --	30,000
Balance -----	30,500
Occasional square dancers -----	25,000
Balance -----	5,500
Bingo players and horse players -----	4,300
Balance -----	1,200
Drunks and Bums -----	450
Balance -----	750
People in institutions and jails -----	500
Balance -----	250
Regular square dancers and callers (at least twice a month) -----	244
Balance -----	6

Now if we could just find another couple we could have another square. The point being that if these figures are right (I don't claim that they are), there are at least 24,450 people that are missing the fun and fellowship of square dancing.

You pick out a category and see if you can get some of them to attend the NNJSDA instruction classes.

If we can make regular dancers of occasional and casual square dancers, we might stand a chance with the bowlers, bridge players, and movie patrons.

It may take quite a while to get the HORSE PLAYERS !!!
-----(Jack Reeve)----

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT !!!

The NNJSDA Special Events Committee announce the engagement of George Campbell from Florida to call for the special ASSOCIATION spring dance scheduled for April 30 1960. Further announcements will be made when arrangements have been completed.

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VALUABLE COUPON

SAVED BY THE BELL (ALLEMANDE LEFT) !!!



Didja ever take time out and just try to recall in rapid order the many different calls there are? The simple ones, the more difficult ones, and those that are somewhere in between the two extremes. Square throughs, chains, twirls, double the gnats, Dixie twirl, bend the line, and on and on all through the night. We have callers, each with a different personality and each one good in his own individual way, to which we, as dancers must attune our ears because their base is too low or their tenor is too high, the music too loud - too soft. This writer finds too often that when things go good, everybody in the square is on their toes, and all four couples execute all calls perfectly, we are inclined to pat ourselves on the back and while doing so miss the next call and there we stand confused, befuddled, and perplexed and don't know where to go or which way to turn, right or left, ahead or back. Then suddenly a penetrating call floats through the air and like a bell strikes -- BOING !!! -- "Allemande Left"----- Instantly and instinctively we look over our left shoulder and what a comfortable feeling to find your corner standing there cool, calm, serene, and smiling, her left hand extended; her right hand flaring out her skirt. Then you realize you didn't goof at all. Isn't it exhilarating and thrilling !!!... To us it is, and thanks always to a good corner.

--- (Hal Peterson) ---

NEW YEARS RESOLUTIONS

I will introduce myself to at least one new couple at each dance.
 I will serve on the refreshment committee or otherwise do my share of club duties.
 I won't glare at my corner if he makes a mistake -- I'll remember I can make them.
 I'll leave the instruction to the caller, and not try to instruct in my square.
 I'll remember that personal grooming is important to my acceptance in a square.
 I'll keep my dancing "standard" unless I'm sure my square approves extra twirls.
 I'll remember that I was once a beginner and will dance with those who're new.
 I'll try to remember that "a stranger is a friend I haven't met".

PRE-CLASS WARM UP DANCE

On Monday evening, January 18th, at the Plainfield High School, you'll have an opportunity to meet and dance with the student dancers who have completed the first term. This special Association dance is a planned interlude of fun before the new dancers start the advanced course. Your support will be rewarded with an evening of enjoyment.

The NNJSDA Instruction Class Committee ran an open house dance on Jan. 4th to recruit students. The results are unknown at this time. We all hope the Tenafly program is a success.

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and
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



We welcome your comments of criticism, praise, ideas, articles, etc. Please feel free to write to your editors at any time. Following are excerpts from two letters received from Bob Osgood of SETS-IN-ORDER.

"Thanks so much for the letter and for the Fall issue of GRAND SQUARE. We certainly enjoyed seeing the slogan "Friendship is Square Dancing's Greatest Reward" on your stationary. It seems to have taken hold and is probably as close to being an official slogan of square dancing as there is."

"I did want to compliment you upon the magazine. It's one of the most professional and neatest production jobs I've seen."

SPECIAL VACATIONS, WEEK-ENDS, FESTIVALS, ETC.

Have you registered for the WASCA'S Spring Festival? This week-end affair of March 24, 25, 26 will be in Washington, D.C. at the Sheraton Park Hotel. An outstanding calling staff will guarantee top square dancing entertainment. ----- Al Brundage's Bermuda Week (Feb. 28th to March 4th) sounds like a real swell affair (If you can scrape up the chips!). ----- The Hagerstown (Md.) May Festival has been announced. You'll be hearing more of this. ----- You'll be seeing many other announcements of week and week-end affairs as the Spring approaches.

The GRAND SQUARE staff accepts ads only from the reputable suppliers that they can recommend. When visiting these suppliers, you can boost GRAND SQUARE by telling the proprietor that you saw his as in our newsletter.

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CLUB NEWS (You send it -- We'll print it !)

Welcome to the newest member of the NNJSDA --- WAYNE SQUARE DANCERS. An intermediate level club meeting 2nd and 4th Saturday nights to Don Kean's calling at Alps Road School in Wayne, N.J. (Alps Road School is 3/4 mile off Route 23 on Alps Road, midway between Route 23 and Ratzer Road at the top of Mountain Ave.) An open invitation is extended to all intermediate dancers. For information, call Jim Schetting at OX4-0727.

Plans are in the making for several open house dances during the next few months. Only report received by press time is the PLAINFIELD PROMENADERS Birthday Party Open House on Friday night, April 1st (No Fooling !). Free to all club level dancers.

BELLS AND BEAUX have a good way of ending the season -- their May dance will start with a buffet-style pot-luck supper followed by the election of new officers and winding up with square dancing for the rest of the evening. --- Might be a good idea for other clubs.

METUCHEN COUNTRY PROMENADERS received a surprise Christmas gift at their Christmas dance --- their caller Ernie Lens wrote a new dance especially for them. From the reports we got, it was extremely good and was enjoyed by all.

PATTER CALLS

Quite a gang from METUCHEN SQUARE DANCE CLUB went to Mac's Barn to dance to BUD ABLES and all report he was sensational. ----- John and Helen Kinzer spent Thanksgiving weekend at Atlantic City dancing to Al Brundage. It was so good that they went back for New Years weekend. ----- Looks like another good group of dancers being readied by the NNJSDA schools. Some are already visiting the clubs. ----- We're pleased to see that Kay and Bob Bunker are again dancing regularly. We've missed them. ----- Understand we are going to lose Edna and Lou Sullivan soon. They will be moving to Washington, D.C.

GRAND SQUARE BOOSTERS -- Thanks to all you BOOSTERS, the GRAND SQUARE has been able to support itself financially. In addition to 46 BOOSTERS listed in last issue are:

John & Esther Schneider	Ed & Helen Schlesinger	Bob & Betty Garguile
Jim & Claire Johnson	John & Ellen Sutton	Les & Anita Beyer
George & Sue Petrusky	Wally & Ann Moran	Jim & Jean Laird
Bob & Adeline Shipp	Oscar & Mildred Somers	Finn & Mildred Holth
Grace O'Brien	Bel & Dorrie Lappeus	Skip & Dolly Skillin
Doc & Eilene Pierson	Jim & Olga Schetting	Bob & Edna Gaede

Lincoln Square Sets

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SQUARE DANCE CALENDAR

1960

January

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	H
3	4	K	D	7	JFM	IWGL
10	11	12	D	C	EN	H
17	18	K	D	(B)	JF	IWGL
24	25	K	D	C	(A)	30
31						

February

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	K	D	4	JE	H
7	8	9	D	C	FM	IWGL
14	15	K	D	(B)	JEN	H
21	22	K	D	C	(A) F	IWGL
28	29					

March

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		K	2	3	JE	H
6	7	8	D	C	FM	IWGL
13	14	K	D	(B)	JEN	H
20	21	K	D	C	(A) F	IWGL
27	28	K	D	31		

April

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					J*E	H
3	4	K	D	7	FM	IWGL
10	11	12	D	C	EN	H
17	18	K	D	(B)	(A) F	IWGL
24	25	K	D	C	29	NNJ!

May

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	K	D	5	J	H
8	9	10	D	C	FM	IGL
15	16	K	D	(B)	JN	H
22	23	K	D	C	(A) F	IGL
29	30	K				

June

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			D	2	J	4
5	6	7	8	9	F	11
12	13	14	15	(B)	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	(A)	25
26	27	28	29	30		

*-Special dance by club indicated

(A) or (B) - Private club -- by invitation only

*- April 1st - Plainfield Promenaders - Open House Birthday Party - Free to all club members and dancers from other clubs.

NNJ --- NNJSDA SPRING DANCE -- GEORGE CAMPBELL - Watch for details!

- (A) - Bells & Beaux (Tenafly)
- (B) - Bell Labs Pioneers
- C - Hill City Squares (Summit)
- D - Lincoln Square sets (Westfield)
- E - Martineers (Martinsville)
- F - Merri Eights (E. Brunswick)
- G - Metuchen Country Promenaders
- H - Metuchen Square Dance Club
- I - Middlesex Boro Square Dance Club
- J - Plainfield Promenaders -
- K - Rahway Square Sets
- L - Richmond Dancers (Staten Island)
- M - Tenafly Square Dance Club
- N - Tenakill Twirlers (Cresskill)
- W - Wayne Square Dancers

Do YOU know who your NNJSDA Delegate is? Does your DELEGATE attend General Delegates Meetings regularly? Do you realize that your Delegate is a VIP? Has your club set up a program for periodic appointment of new Delegates? If you answer any of these questions with a "no" then you're missing the value of NNJSDA



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HAPPY DANCING and
Many THANKS to those who've visited us

ASSOCIATION DANCERS APPEAR ON T.V.

(Editor's note; We thank Bud Sibbald for recounting his experiences and those of a group of our dancers who performed a square and round dance demonstration on T.V. It was through Bud's efforts that this appearance was arranged.)

Recently, a group of our square dancers appeared on Ted Steele's Dance Party on Channel 13 in New York. This program has been a very successful start in bringing back dancing to the level of popularity it enjoyed prior to World War II.

This was the first attempt in the Metropolitan area to have Western Style Square dancing and Round Dancing presented to the public.

In the past, the people who do not square dance or round dance have seen only the "clog step" square dancing, known as "triple timing", which is almost a tap dance routine, and certainly not a true picture of our Western Style dancing which we enjoy today. When someone approaches these people about trying square dancing as we know it, they visualize what they have seen on TV. Small wonder they won't give it a try!!

A program of square and round dances which would appeal to the majority of viewers was arranged. "Fun" dances were picked such as "Jellybean" and "Walking & Whistling" which are lively and not too difficult because new prospects need to be encouraged with dancing they feel they can do.

The square dancers had some anxious moments when the plans became confused. The producer arrived at the studio at 10:30 PM instead of 9:00 PM and there was no time for the scheduled rehearsal. The dances which were done were as much of a surprise to the producer and his staff as they were to the TV viewers. Waiting around a studio for an hour and a half can be very nerve-wracking, as the participants can tell you.

Edith and Bob Thompson deserved a lot of credit for the success of the show. They had to teach this group of dancers the show routine in a very short time.

The producer said that the reaction from the viewers was excellent and hopes to have the group back again. This was a good start in showing what our modern square and round dancing is like. A network show would be even better. Let's all help to promote our wonderful activity.

--- (Bud Sibbald) ---



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