

Mary (Cottone) and Bill Sellar
South River, NJ

Current club: Rutgers Promenaders

Former teen clubs:

Bill – Ridge Squares (Basking Ridge, NJ)

Mary – Conejo Swingers (Thousand Oaks, CA)



How did you start square dancing?

Bill and I both belonged to teen clubs, then stopped (he graduated high school, I moved from CA to NJ). I saw the Rutgers Promenaders ad in the *Daily Targum* (Rutgers University newspaper) and having just suffered through a breakup, thought this would be a great way to get out and meet new people.

Bill's mother saw the ad in a local paper, and suggested to him and his brother that they start up lessons again. By the time they started, I was vice president and therefore in charge of lessons, and was there weekly.

What year did you meet? 1983 (started dating in 1984) And marry? 1988

We celebrated at our reception by having a square dance tip and round for us and our Promenader friends courtesy of Betsy and Roy Gotta, our friends as well as caller and cuer for our club.

Circumstances of your meeting and dating?

I was vice president and in charge of lessons (administrative – caller was in charge of teaching!) when Bill joined, so we saw each other weekly. I was dating someone else at the time, so although he was interested, he didn't want to break anything up, so he, my roommate and I just started hanging out as friends, going to dances, etc. My other relationship broke up when I realized my feelings for Bill were more than just friends. We stayed together all through the rest of college, and got engaged after we both graduated from college.

Favorite square dance memories?

Our first trip together was to the 1984 National Square Dance Convention in Baltimore, MD. We were in one of the two central platform squares (out of 26 total on the field) as part of the country music section of the Statue of Liberty Centennial celebration at Giants Stadium on July 6, 1986. Our engagement was announced to our friends by Roy Gotta at our Toys for Tots Dance in December 1986. Roy also obliged us by dedicating the round dance "Thank God for Kids" at dances to us when we wanted to announce our two pregnancies. Our younger daughter is also a Promenader, having grown up around the dances.

Anything else?

We have many friends that we have made as a result of our long membership in the Promenaders, and know that we will always have friends at any dance we decide to attend.