

NNJ
SDA

Grand Square

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER

NORTHERN NEW JERSEY SQUARE DANCERS ASSOCIATION

NOVEMBER 1, 1961

FALL ISSUE

VOL. VIII

7TH ATLANTIC CONVENTION BIG SUCCESS

A topnotch staff, a wonderful program, Steel Pier, sunshine, 2260 happy dancers, and a hard working committee combined to make this year's 7th Atlantic Square Dance Convention a real success and a credit to our Association. Those who were there feel renewed excitement just thinking back at their many activities --- dancing in the many halls, bike riding on the boardwalk, dancing on the boardwalk, childrens' program, after party dances, Idiots gatherings, movie cameras, etc., etc., etc. It was pleasing to see so many people with smiles on their faces.



NNJSDA turned out about 220 people (approx. 20%) which is pretty good when you consider that the average NNJSDA function is attended by fewer people. The other 80% however missed a memorable affair. The remaining 2000 people came from 25 states, Washington D.C., and Canada.

NNJSDA took on the 7th Atlantic because it was felt that the publicity resulting from the affair would not only create widespread recognition for our Association, but would be a giant step in publicizing and promoting square dancing in New Jersey. There is little doubt that this objective was accomplished.

Sorry we're late; but the 7th Atlantic Convention took top priority on efforts and we decided to delay the Fall Issue a month. Winter Issue will be on time (we hope).

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

The 7th Atlantic Square Dance Convention is over, but not forgotten. The Northern New Jersey Square Dancers Association will long be remembered over much of the United States and Canada as the dancers from twenty five States and Canada, who attended the Convention, relate the details in their areas. Our Association can well be proud of this achievement. Success can be attributed to the dedicated efforts of many, working together. The Executive Committee started planning and working over a year ago, and didn't stop until the festivities were over. All the expected problems and some major unexpected ones were handled by this group. Compliments are in order for all members of the Association and dancers from out of the State who gave of their precious dancing time to assist the Executive Committee during the Convention.

Reports started coming in before the activities were over, and are still coming in, to the effect that this was one of the best Atlantic Conventions ever.

The Atlantic City Public Relations Department, Mall Dodson, Director, financed the video taping and filming of the activities in the Hotels, Steel Pier and Boardwalk, all day on Saturday, September 30th. These films are being released throughout the Country on TV programs and movie theatres. This will give New Jersey and western square dancing a tremendous boost. The Association will receive a condensed version of these films as a gift from Atlantic City to be used as we see fit. We are indeed grateful to Mall Dodson and the Press Bureau for their confidence in our Convention.

Now our efforts should be directed toward the courses, which are already inderway throughout our area. The future of our wonderful recreation depends on the success of these courses. Each year will add many more members to the active clubs and eventually start others. The past Convention and the publicity which we will derive from it should help considerably in creating new interest in the future courses.

The first Association Dance of this new season will be on Friday, December 29th, at the Edison Recreation Center in Summit. The caller will be Gordon Densmore from Madison, Ohio. Let's make this first dance a whopping success. This will be in the middle of the Holiday season, so it should be a real festive occasion. Be sure to attend and bring your dancing friends for a happy time.

(Bud Sibbald)

NEWS OF THE BEGINNERS CLASSES

NNJSDA beginners classes are now well under way in many areas. This year's turnout has been very encouraging and is well above last year's enrollment. Here are some of the details:

TENAFLY - Seven squares are now learning basics in Tenafly and the beginners are really enthusiastic. Dick Paslovsky and Jim Flammer are teamed up for the ten lesson beginners class.

PLAINFIELD - Chairman Fred Schreiber has gotten together the biggest Plainfield class since the first one in 1958. Ten squares are now learning their ABC's of square dancing under Jerry Gerold.

EAST BRUNSWICK - Class enrollment here is also a little bigger than last year as five squares turned out to become our dancing brothers and sisters. Barney Hartenstein is tutoring the new dancers through the first five lessons.

MORRISTOWN - This class is being run in cooperation with the Allied Chemical Co. Five squares turned out and are already shuffling through the basics under the careful teaching of Lloyd Siewers.

So you can see we have 27 squares of new dancers who will soon become our dancing friends. Make an effort to get out to these classes to fill out the squares. They'll appreciate your interest in them and you'll have fun.

GRAND SQUARE STAFF

Chief Editors - - - - - Bob & Terry Keck, 27 Nottingham Rd., Metuchen, N. J.

Club News Editors - - - Ed & Elsie Rice, 126 Greenbrook Rd., Dunellen, N. J.

Advertising Editors - - - Les & Dot Moyer, 148 E. Chestnut Ave., Metuchen, N. J.

HISTORY AND PROGRESS OF NNJSDA

A little over four years ago, square dancing in Northern New Jersey was at a low ebb. There were twelve clubs, all starved for membership due to the lack of a good promotion program to make people aware of our recreation and instruction classes to give them an easy entrance into it. Many and varied attempts were made by callers, dancers, and individual clubs to alleviate the situation, but with little or no results. The job was too big for an individual or small group to handle.

The idea of an association of square dance clubs stemmed from this unfortunate set of circumstances. It was being done in other states. Why not New Jersey? A group of six couples met in January, 1958 and drew up a tentative format, constitution, and name. The clubs were consulted and the majority agreed to give it a try. Delegates from these clubs gathered often that season to work out the many details. The first elected officers began their term September 1, 1958. The four officers and two appointed advisors made a six couple executive committee.

Now the real work began with the setting up of various committees; the Beginner Planning Committee to organize classes; the Scheduling Committee to maintain a listing of club dates and special dances to aid the clubs in avoiding costly and embarrassing conflicts; the Publicity Committee, Administrative Committee, and various others needed to perform the duties of the Association.

A treasury was begun through a kick-off dance which was well attended. The picnic which followed served a two-fold purpose. It helped the treasury and also stimulated interest in the forthcoming classes. Many non-square dance couples were brought by the dancers and introduced to modern western square dancing. (Yes, it rained all day at the picnic, but the 180 people who came to support their Association had a good time.)

October, 1958 saw the first Association class in Plainfield, N. J. Dancers from all the clubs scoured the countryside for couples who might attend. The results were thirty-six couples completed their twenty week course and entered the clubs of their choosing. A follow-up class in January graduated twenty-four couples. More Association classes followed in other areas with equally satisfying results.

In the midst of all this new found enthusiasm, the first issue of our official newsletter "Grand Square" was mailed to every dancer. It is now published three times a year and mailed free to every Association member. It is supported through advertisers, boosters, and if necessary, funds from the Association treasury.

A summer dance program was set up to maintain interest during the months that the clubs were not meeting. This helped to hold some of the drop-outs which occurred during the summer, as well as help our new graduate dancers keep interested until they became regular members of clubs.

The publicity committee of each new executive committee continued to work in every way possible to get square dancing before the public, both locally and nationally; newspapers, magazines, demonstration squares, and even a couple of TV spots.

The Association now boasts twenty clubs, all of which are healthy from a membership as well as a financial standpoint. You are probably wondering how much this costs the dancers and the clubs. The clubs pay a token dues of \$2.00 per year. The dancers pay nothing. The Association is supported through its three special dances held each year. Each function of the Association, such as classes, summer dancing, the newsletter, etc. are carefully budgeted so that it is not necessary to charge the dancers dues.

This year the Association took on the biggest project in its history, the Seventh Atlantic Square Dance Convention. Through this convention, we provided pleasure for the dancers as well as further promote square dancing in our area and all other areas. Only through the continued unselfish efforts of square dancers everywhere can our recreation continue to grow and give pleasure to more people. The NNJSDA intends to continue working on the promotion of square dancing, just as long as the dancers want it to function, and from the way it looks now, that is going to be a mighty long time.

(Al Aderente)

TRAILER CLUB FOR SQUARE DANCERS

Anyone in the metropolitan area of New York, New Jersey and Conn. who is interested in forming a trailer club for square dancers of club level dancing, please contact Harry Henderson, Box 261, Tabor, N. J. for further information.

This club will meet a few times a year in a location that would be convenient to the majority of its members. This has been tried and found successful in other parts of the country and we have been wondering if there are enough square dancing trailer owners to make it feasible in this area.

POST CONVENTION LETTERS

The following are excerpts from several letters received from convention goers:

"Please convey to your committee my sincere thanks and appreciation for your friendliness and help during the Seventh Atlantic Convention. I am sure you would consider it a success and you all must have given many hours of labour to make it so." - - - (Merv Murphy - Ontario)

"We thought your committee did an excellent job; and we are certain that the dancers went away happy, thanks to many months of planning and hard work on your part.

I thoroughly enjoyed being part of your staff; and I thank you for the privilege of being one of the staff callers of the 7th Atlantic Convention.

Please extend our congratulations and regards to all your committee members; and we shall be looking forward to seeing all of you in the near future." - - - (Curley Custer - Hagerstown)

"Wally and I wish to thank your committee for the very excellent job done in running the Square Dance Convention." - - - (Wally and Ann Moran)

"Just a brief note to let you know that I feel you and your committee did a fine job in organizing and presenting the 7th Atlantic Convention. All reports that I have had from our gang have been most favorable.

Please express my congratulations to your entire committee on a successful convention."

(Al Brundage - Conn.)

"Those to whom we spoke with on the boardwalk on Sunday and at the several dances we have been to since the Convention were quite enthused about the very enjoyable time they had, as verified by this statement from our club's newsletter: 'The Atlantic Convention was a huge success --- it seemed like a Belles and Beaux meeting, most members were there including all the favorite callers'. Congratulations to your Association on a most excellent job." - - - (George Krall - Phila.)

"We wish to say 'thank you' to you and your staff for a delightful September square dance week end at Atlantic City with the Seventh Convention of the Northern New Jersey Square Dancers Association.

You all certainly worked very hard before and during the Convention to have things go so smoothly. We heard many compliments on your splendid organization. You even had the weather under control.

We thoroughly enjoyed the dancing. And we considered it an honor and a privilege to have been invited to call for this group. - - - (Hayes and Vi Herschler - Colmer, Pa.)

HIGHLIGHTS of SEPT. 10th DELEGATES MEETING

The first general delegates meeting of the new season was held at the Summit Recreational Field House on Sept. 10th. Eleven out of 20 clubs were represented - not too good. Were your delegates there? Why not find out -- they're supposed to be representing you!

These are the highlights:

1. Five beginners classes were announced -- Plainfield, E. Brunswick, Tenafly, Morristown, and Rahway. (Rahway has since closed)
2. NNJSDA is now officially incorporated.
3. Motion was made and approved to proclaim November as GRAND SQUARE BOOSTER month.
4. Association dances were announced -- December 29th with Gordon Densmore and March 30th with Curley Custer.
5. Round-of-the-Month selections will be continued.

Terry and I want to thank you all for the Distinguished Service Plaque presented to us by the Association at the Atlantic Convention. We consider it the greatest tribute from all our friends.



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GRAND SQUARE BOOSTERS

Thanks to all of you who boosted GRAND SQUARE last year. Your help was a big financial boost in covering the newsletter expenses. Now we are in another new season and we ask your help again for 1961-62. Let's do better than the 35% support we had last year. Send your booster (one dollar) to:

Les Moyer, 148 E. Chestnut St., Metuchen, N. J.

New boosters:

Art & Anita Seele
Charlie & Dot Kides
Ken & Dot Decker
Ray & Lee Kirchmeyer

Ted & Stella Krochak
Ed Sitko
Bob & Terry Keck
Werner & Frances Lange

Lyle & Edna Hopper
Marion & Hink Smith
Ernie & Ina Knirsch
Fred Beltram

WE GOOFED!! (Again) --- The following boosters should have appeared in the Spring Issue as they were boosters for 1960-61. Hope they're not mad and will boost again this year.

Sue Persons
Bill Persons
Jay & Ruth Folk
Frank & Hilda Howlett
Byron & Louise Jamison
Bert & Marce Feuling
Rudy & Billie Jahn
Rol & Helen Lapee
Stan & Laura Richardson
Gene & Mabel Schreiner
Milt & Betty Godfrey

Irving & Blanche Weaver
Mary Ann Pavelka
Glenn & Shirley Einsel
John & Helen Kinzer
Finn & Mildred Holth
Jim & Alma Mitchell
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Harold & Barbara Happe
Jack & Elaine Vellekarp

Harry & Dot Henderson
Ralph & Winny Nason
Paula & Dorothy Pullman
Al & Doris Roth
Jack & Georgia Galbraith
George & Billie Milton
Chas. & Paula Widmer
Merwin & Rena Orner
Mike & Lita Duhig
Maurice & Verna Rudd
Werner & Frances Lange

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Enclosed is my dollar for boosting GRAND SQUARE

and _____ (His) _____ (Hers) _____ (Last) _____ (Club)

Send to: Dot & Les Moyer, 148 E. Chestnut Ave., Metuchen, N. J.

PATTER CALLS

Slow but sure there comes dribbling in bits of personal information of our dancers and the who, what, and where of their activities. We try to put it all together in the form of a little interesting patter. So here goes.....!

Howard and Madge Gerlach (Richmond Dancers) traveled from Newark to Staten Island 13 times for rehearsals and performances in connection with the recent Staten Island 300 year celebration. . . Twenty-one couples of the Tenakill Twirlers became Knotheads last summer - Wow! . . . Other Tenakill Twirlers danced in widespread areas on vacation; Tirrells in Maine; Brombergs in Square Acrea; Fulmers in Detroit. . . Grace O'Brien, the hard-working match maker of the Atlantic Convention, is busy gathering new members for the Bachelors 'n' Bachelorettes. She has 18 people taking lessons at our beginners classes. . . The Davidsons and Appletons (Belles & Beaux) attended the Funstitute this summer. . . Art and Vera Poulsen celebrated their 25th anniversary at the Promenaders on Oct. 14th. . . The list of our dancers attending the National in June is too long to write as Jersey had a good representation. . . The Seventh Convention had many interesting incidents too; John Carroll was approached for a calling date - the requesting party thinking he was Joe Lewis; Bob Thompson was approached for an autograph and quickly had the book pulled from his hands when he explained that he was not a caller; Grace and Jolly Cholly made a handsome couple; the law enforcement authorities broke up a square dance at 3 AM in a motel parking lot; what a time! . . . About ten couples attended Geprge Campbell's camp in N. Carolina in July. . .

We're sure that this represents only a small part of the many travels during the summer but the only ones that have filtered down to us. . . See you next issue and hope to hear from you in the meantime.

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CLUB NEWS

Many thanks to the following clubs who sent in their news items. Let us hear from you all for next issue.

TENAKILL TWIRLERS - dance on every third Thursday at Bryan School in Cresskill. This club held round dance classes during the summer meeting every third Monday with Doc and Peg Tirrell instructing. The Brombergs are again teaching folk dancing this year in their basement on 2nd Wednesday and also beginners classes. The club is now in their 11th year and regularly have a turnout of 9 squares. They are now sporting a new banner designed by the Tirrells and sewn by the Brombergs.

WAYNE SQUARE DANCERS - hold their regular dances at the Alps Road School in Wayne from 8:30 to 11:30 PM. Wayne dances at an intermediate level with Don Kean calling. For information, call Frank Marra at OX 4-6271 or Ed Schweizer at OX 4-3583.

RAHWAY SQUARE SETS - continue to hold their regular dances on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month at the Madison School in Rahway from 8 to 10 PM.

MERRY SQUARES - regular dances held at Hilltop Barn on 1st and 3rd Fridays. The club held an afternoon and evening dance at the home of Ed and Mildred Schweizer on Sept. 3rd. A smorgasbord supper was prepared by the various members. A Hallowe'en party was held on Oct. 20th at the home of Roger and Helen Smith.

RICHMOND DANCERS - off to a late start waiting for the completion of their new hall but now in full swing after a kick-off dance with Jim Cargill as guest caller. Seventeen couples participated in the celebration commemorating the 300th anniversary of Staten Island's first permanent settlement. The pageant was a big success and square dancing well received thanks to Beulah's calling and organizing work of the Duncans.

BACHELORS 'N' BACHELORETTES - a real treat for all our single dancers. Meet at VFW Hall, 19 Washington Ave., No. Plainfield. The club is proud to be the 21st club accepted into NNJSDA. This is the first chapter in eastern U. S. and has been commended by the parent organization (international) on the West Coast.

COUNTRY PROMENADERS - started their season on September 23rd with Ernie Lens calling. On opening night, two squares of members did a spectacular demonstration in phosphorescent colors and ultra-violet light. President, George Petrusky, called a tip with a singing call and hot (?) hash.

BELLES & BEAUX - are a closed club meeting on 4th Fridays with Jim Flammer. The club is now holding an open dance on every second Saturday at Hilltop Barn with John Carroll calling. Members are sporting new badges this year and the ladies have ear-rings to match. The club also bought a new coffee pot (75 cup) for their regular Friday meetings.

PLAINFIELD PROMENADERS - many kept up their dancing form through the summer at NNJSDA dances in Summit. Also members travelled widely during the summer dancing in many areas including Massachusetts, Conn., New York, No. Carolina, Florida, Michigan, and Montana. They boast that their caller, John Carroll is now an Atlantic Convention vet!

MERRI-EIGHTS - optimistically look to fine 1961-62 season with Beulah calling and a new hall (Irwin School) and also claim especially happy group. Dancing is on 1st and 3rd Fridays on a "comfortable level". Plans are already being made for a Pot-Luck supper in mid-winter and a dinner dance in the Spring.

GRAND PROWLERS - danced through the summer at Bert Feuling's home and closed their summer season with a Pot Luck supper followed by dancing. The Prowlers meet on the first and third Saturday of the month at the Memorial School on Highland Ave. in Whippany.

(continued on next page)

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SQUARE DANCE CALENDAR

1961 - 1962



NOVEMBER

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			D	C	FQ O	HP
5	6	7	D	(B)	RM	AG WL
12	E	K(S)	D	C	NF JQO	HP
19	20	21	D	23	(A)R	(P)G WL
26	E	K(S)	D	30		

DECEMBER

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					FQ O	HP
3	4	5	D	C	JR M	AG WL
10	E	K(S)	D	(B)	NF QO	HP
17	18	19	D	C	(A)R	GL
24	25	K(S)	27	28	X	30
31						

JANUARY

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2	D	C	FQ O	HP
7	E	K(S)	D	(B)	JR M	AG WL
14	15	16	D	C	NF QO	HP
21	E	K(S)	D	25	(A)R	W LG
28	E	30	D			

FEBRUARY

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				C	FQ O	HP
4	5	6	D	(B)	JR M	AG WL
11	E	K(S)	D	C	NF JQO	HP
18	19	20	D	22	(A)R	W LG
25	E	K(S)	D			

SQUARE DANCE CALENDAR KEY

- A - Belles & Beaux (Open - Hilltop Barn)
- (A) - Belles & Beaux (Tenafly)
(Private Club - by Invitation Only)
- (B) - Bell Labs Pioneers
(Private Club - by Invitation Only)
- C - Hill City Square (Summit)
- D - Westfield Squares
- E - Circle 8's (Tenafly)
- F - Merri Eights (East Brunswick)
- G - Metuchen Country Promenaders
- H - Metuchen Square Dance Club
- J - Plainfield Promenaders
- K - Rahway Square Sets

- L - Richmond Dancers
- M - Tenafly Square Dance Club
- N - Tenakill Twirlers
- O - Merri Squares (Bloomfield)
- W - Wayne Square Dance Club
- (S) - Hilltop Squares (Bloomfield)
(Private Club - by Invitation Only)
- P - Grand Prowlers (Whippany)
- (P) - Special Grand Prowlers Dance (Al Brundage)
- Q - Bachelors & Bachelorettes (N. Plainfield)
- R - Hanover Squares
- X - NNJSDA WINTER DANCE
Gordon Densmore Calling

CLUB NEWS (continued)

METUCHEN SQUARE DANCE CLUB - can now boast of having a celebrity for a caller. John Carroll was thoroughly photographed for TV at the 7th Convention. Speaking of celebrities, ask Bob Thompson about his problems with autograph hunters. Hope he is not thinking of giving up round for square dance calling after that!!

CIRCLE EIGHTS - A special dance is planned for January 29th with Dick Jones calling.

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