



RANMARD RANGERS



Published at irregular intervals for
members of the Ranapo Rangers, by
Rod LaFarge, 115 Cliff St., Haledon N.J.

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With the gal's new calico summer costumes coming right along the contra dances will soon present quite a sight to the spectators. Don't think I'm stringing you, as they call them "string dances" in parts of New England. Here are the figures for the ones you are supposed to know well :-

Lady Walpole's Reel

First, third and all odd couples active - actives cross over before dance starts. Balance and swing the one below, down the center and back, cast off, ladies chain, half promenade, half right and left.

Money Musk

First, fourth, and every third couple active. Right hand to your partner turn once and one-half around (falling in one place below) forward and back 6, right hand to your partner swing three quarters round, up and down 6, turn partner to place, right and left with the couple above.

Hull's Victory

First, third and all odd couples active. Right hand to your partner left to the opposite and balance four in line, elbow reel with opposite (twice around), right hand to partner left to opposite and balance four in line, swing partner in the center, down the center and back, cast off, right and left.

Beaux of Albany

First, third and all odd couples active. Everybody balance and swing, everybody down the center and back, actives cast off, right hand star, left hand back, right and left.

Thady You Gander

Head couple active. Head couple join both hands, slide down the set, swing half around and slide back, lady lead the men around, man lead the ladies around, head couple: left hand round your partner, right hand round the next, reeling thus to the foot of the set.

Rangers' Reel

First, third and all odd couples active. Balance and swing your partner, down the center and back, cast off, figure eight.

Virginia Reel

Head and foot couples active.

Head lady and foot gent forward and back

Head gent and foot lady the same

Head lady and foot gent right hand around

Head gent and foot lady the same

Head lady and foot gent left hand around

Head gent and foot lady the same

Head lady and foot gent both hands around

Head gent and foot lady the same

Head lady and foot gent dos-a-dos

Head gent and foot lady the same

Head couples slide down the set and back

Right elbows to partners, left to the next- reel down the set

Slide back up, cast off and lead the lines around

Head couple only form arch, all march through.

I've dug up music to use with some of the Bahamian dances that I picked up from that colored quadrille club up in Harlem and we'll try it out at our next practice. It's about time I went snooping in Harlem again --- I would like to add some more West Indian dances to my list, especially the Haitian Merengue. I missed the voodoo ceremonies this year.

Since I have had the new professional recording outfit, our list of special transcriptions has grown considerably. The latest include the Spanish Dance, Eide Ratas, Thady You Gander, Danza, Noriu Miego, Sudmalinas and a bunch of square and longways dances. A few new records the other day put my personal collection of commercial records past the 400 mark.

Got a letter from Ed Durlacher last week. He has made a series of 15 minute transcriptions for the use of the smaller radio stations. Be on the watch for them -- they will probably be good.

Miss Ilasz has changed the date of the ~~Y.W.C.A.~~ Y.W.C.A. Folk Festival to May 5th in order not to interfere with our Stage Door and IHC dates. Hope you all can make it. They have invited Greek, Russian, Lithuanian, and other groups including the Polish Gorale mountaineer group. The Gorale are a colorful group. Helen and I dropped in on a play they gave a month or so ago (darn good thing Helen speaks Polish) and the dancing in it was really wild and woolly ---- wilder than the Russians. Very odd music too, they use a different scale than ours.

Some of that old sheet music from the 60's and 70's that I picked up proved quite attractive when recorded. You'll hear it next Wednesday night.

Had a lot of fun calling at the Passaic YMCA last Tuesday night, Matty and the orchestra were ridin' high and we had 8 or 10 sets on the floor, plus spectators. Twelve members of the Rangers and a few of the IHC were there, and did they dance! The Schwartzes were there but left just in time to miss the one that wore the VanBlarcoms' shoe coupon out-- swingo ringo. The Guses and the Schwabs went to town on Chicken Reel, but poor Jack and Friede were robbed of their Bell Bottom Trousers. And did the Lawrences have the Old Apple Tree in the groove!

There were a lot of inquiries about bookings-- for the orchestra--- for the caller --- and for the Ramapo Rangers. The Y will probably have some more square and folk dances as soon as the weather permits the use of the roof.

Helen dropped in at Bill Cairnes' group the other Sat. nite. They were having a Palestine evening and she fell for the Sher. I'll have to make a recording of that; it's quite lively.

We're both going down to Bills' on the 14th and to Durlachers on the 12th. If any of the ⁶⁰⁷⁸ cares to go along let us know.

I was talking to one of the girls from the St. George Folk Dance Group, and I think they may go out on a few exhibitions with us. Helen and I were to one of their dances a few weeks ago and they did a Syrto with some real snappy steps in it. They have quite exotic costumes too. Perhaps I can persuade one of them to teach me the Zeibekiko. That music fascinates me -- I think it was probably the inspiration for Tuxedo Junction--? Don't forget we go to the Stage Door Canteen on April 23. I'll let you know when we rehearse for that very shortly. Doggone this Victory typewriter anyhow*****

Movie Items

I suppose you don't need to be reminded that Roy Rogers called a running set in his last picture 'The Lights Of Old Santa Fe', but did you see it? It should be around in the neighborhood theatres soon ---- Cowpoke Polka and all!

The current Republic picture "Utah" has no usable dance material an but little in the way of new costumes. (Roy has one new shirt).

"Dark Waters" is playing the small houses at the moment. The Cajun polka and square dance in thés are quite typical.

"Gypsy Wildcat" also current in the side street shows, has some colorful costumes (Technicolor). The villians jacket nearly broke my heart.

Don't miss "The Three Caballeros" even if you happen to detest Donald Duck. Lots of hot Latin American music and dances, some authentic and some distorted. Also some striking costumes. The most startling of the lot is probably the Mexican cowgirl. This is not the usual China Poblano outfit, but an adaptation of the Mexican man's Charro costume. Not a bad idea where flash and not authenticity is wanted.

There is a Virginia Reel sequence in "Meet Me in St. Louis" and a showing of the costume of that period.

Some strikingly exotic costumes in the Technicolor "Sudan" Can't vouch for their authenticity -- nor thinf of any use we could make of ancient Egyptian costumes. The hat of the Grand Vizier sure got a laugh from the audience.

Too bad Gay has to work so many nights and miss so much dancing. Helen and I intend to resume collecting old dances where I left off among the Jackson Whites in the Ramapos and the old settlers along the Morris Canal as soon as the weather gets nice enough to get them out on their porches -- they are difficult to approach, and chary about inviting strangers into their homes, although I know a great many of them.

Durlacher and the Top Hands played Caravan Hall last week, sponsored by the I.C.A., and the boys have that schottische really perkin' now. Quite a few people you know were there, including Bill Cairns and Ken Deemer who called a couple of squares. Ed's forthcoming book on square dancing is well worth waiting for. We'll let you know when the publishers release it. He also expects to record a new square dance album soon and you better get your copies of that as soon as it comes out as it will go in a hurry.

Sorry to hear that the Sagebrush Troubadours have discontinued their Saturday night squares at Legion Hall

A half-dozen of the Rangers dropped in at the Campgaw Garden Club dance Friday night. Cookie's Country Cobblers furnished the music (good), Les Mickens called the squares (not bad what there were of them). In spite of the curfew-curtailed time they held the most ~~***#&~~ series of longwinded raffle drawings and cakewalks I've ever seen. Some consolation -- Erwin and Estelle won a nice basket of groceries. The caller didn't have an amplifier, so I loaned him one I had in the car to save stretching my ears out of shape. The VanSauns knew a lot of people there. The Winters were there, and ~~wasxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ contemplate joining the Rangers. We spent the time during the raffles in reminiscence -- Hud Cooper and his banjo, the old quadrilles, ect. Mr. Winters, by the way, dotes on the Lanciers!

The Ballet Theatre evening performances at the Met. are now starting at 8.20 because of the curfew. Three more of Ragini Devi's dances of India remain: April 15, 22, 29. La Meri is now running some classes for men only. The African Academy of Arts and Research held their second Festival of African Dance and Music at Carnegie Hall on Wednesday and Friday of last week. Perhaps we can get up a party to attend next time. Some of the material is really good. Two dates remain on the American Museum of Natural History series of free dance demonstrations: April 19 and May 17, and two on the Brooklyn program: April 28 and May 26. The AMNH at 3PM., Brooklyn at 3.30 PM.

Crowds are thinning down a bit at Marshall's lately, either because of the curfew (although they have speeded things up so that you get almost as many squares now from 8.00 to ~~11.45~~ 11.45 as previously from 8.30 to 2.30 %) or because of the early warm weather. Only 8 or 10 sets on the floor Saturday -- plenty of room to swing! Quite a few new faces.

Did you hear Bradshaw call Aunt Mariah's Delight on the Ford Program Saturday night? Not bad at all, and we'll have to add that dip schottische to our repertoire as a breather.

And how about getting a set together to go up and dance with the Hudson shad fishermen who are having their run now. You'll have tales to tell! April 21 maybe ????

Happy hoppin',

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(cont.) SPECIAL ONE TIME EVENTS

Friday April 13 Marshall and Matty with his orchestra. Hanover School, Hanover, N.J.

Saturday April 14 Italian Folk Dance sponsored by the Italian American Co-operative. 144 Bleeker St. NYC

♦ Monday April 23 The Ramapo Rangers with the Wright Rubes at the Stage Door Canteen. Admission to service people only.

Saturday April 28 Seventh anniversary dance of L'Alliance Haitienne at Renaissance Casino, 138th St. and 7th Ave. NYC.

* Tuesday May 1st Passaic YMCA square dance. Rod LaFarge calls. Matty and the orchestra plays for a bang-up evening of square, contra, and folk dancing. 9.30 PM Passaic YMCA, 45 River Drive Passaic N.J.

♦ Saturday May 12th Passaic Fourth Street YWCA Folk Festival. The Ramapo Rangers, the St. George Greek Girls, the Gorale ect., ect. Starts at 8.00 PM.