



# RAMAPO RANGERS



Published for members of the Ramapo Rangers  
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Nice crowd out at the Passaic YM affair (May 1st). They have a new cardoid mike that makes calling a real treat. In spite of the curfew I managed to shovel in eight folk dances, eleven squares, and two contra dances! Matty and the gang must have raided some "black" market for some of the hot licks they got in some of the dances -- nice goin' boys! The next session here will be on May 28 (a Monday night), and if the weather permits it will probably be on the roof. See you there!

Good news ----- Ed Durlacher writes that for the summer at least, he and the Top Hands will be at the Central YWCA every Thursday nite including the first Thursday of each month which was previously skipped. The group of blind girls from the Marie Blodie School gave a square dance exhibition (The Top Hand's Medley) at the Lost Battalion Hall, Queens Boulevard, Forest Hills, where Ed is currently holding forth for the Park Department.

If you've never tried the Philo-Gaelic affairs at Lenox Hill House you've really missed something. They can swing and swing and swing\*\*\*\*\* The Irish version of the Varsouvienne is a novel item and you can usually depend on a couple of Irish lassies giving an exhibition to prove the feet faster than the eye.

We met Bill and Winnie Cairns there last Sunday --- they may come up to one of our practice nights when we get going outdoors. The idea of dancing barefoot on the grass seems to intrigue Bill. Hope that he and Winnie can get up to the YM dance on the 28th --- they've never heard Matty!

Larry Bruehl blew in with the Gaels also; he hasn't been seen in local folk dance circles lately, having been down at Aberdeen. He found some Swedes to dance with down there and got in quite a bit of folk dancing -- all Scandinavian. They were suprised to find he knew the Hambo -- and how! And that reminds me; ask Jack Van Saun to tell you (in dialect) about his Swedish benchmate who wanted to bet that he knew a dance Jack had never heard of (the Hambo).

We missed a Gaelic affair held at the Nola Studios last Sunday; heard they had quite a lively evening with songs and dances.

The Sillers write that their Silver Bay season will start on June 25th this year. If you want a quiet vacation, Silver Bay isn't bad \*\* the gym can hold 16 square sets and the Sillers play five nights a week! Write to Silver Bay (Lake George) N.Y.

The Country Dance Society held their Spring Party at Hunter College on May 5. Sorry I was otherwise engaged that evening; they have nice parties in the English manner. (I wonder if I should have capitalized that "manner"?) And I am really resolving to attend their Morris Dance group when the new season begins.

La Meri is running a class in American Indian Dances now; I don't have any details, but the address is 110 East 59th St. NYC.



We had a couple of visitors at our Wed. nite (May 9) practice. They hail from Rutherford and are going all the way on square and folk dancing -- they try to put in at least 4 nights a week. They tell me that the Rutherford Music Shop received and disposed of 100 Woodhull Albums last month ---- but they can't find anyone in the town to square dance with! Do people buy these records just to listen to, or are they all hermits down there?

Gathering Peascods went very well - I think we should devote a bit of practice to it, and we can probably use it on our programs occasionally. For your record, here are the figures:

#### GATHERING PEASCODS

All join hands, slide 8 steps to the left, turn single  
 All join hands, slide 8 steps to the right, turn single  
 Men join hands, slide 12 counts to the left, fall back beside partner  
 Girls the same.  
 Men forward a double and clap  
 Girls forward a double and clap as the men fall back a double  
 Men forward a double and clap as the girls fall back a double  
 Men turn single back to place  
 Girls forward a double and clap  
 Men forward a double and clap as the girls fall back a double  
 Girls forward a double and clap as the men fall back a double  
 Girls turn single back to place  
 Partners side and turn single  
 Partners side and turn single  
 Girls join hands, slide 12 to the left, fall back beside partner  
 Men the same  
 Girls forward a double and clap  
 Men forward a double and clap as the girls fall back a double  
 Girls forward a double and clap as the men fall back a double  
 Girls turn single back to place  
 Men forward a double and clap  
 Girls forward a double and clap as the men fall back a double  
 Men forward a double and clap as the girls fall back a double  
 Men turn single back to place.  
 Partners arm with the right, fall back to place and turn single  
 Partners arm with the left, fall back to place and turn single  
 Men join hands, slide 12 to the left, fall back beside partner  
 Girls the same  
 Men forward a double and clap  
 Girls forward a double and clap as the men fall back a double  
 Men forward a double and clap as the girls fall back a double  
 Men turn single back to place  
 Girls forward a double and clap  
 Men forward a double and clap as the girls fall back a double  
 Girls forward a double and clap as the men fall back a double  
 Girls turn single back to place.

Gathering Peascods has been recorded commercially \*\* Victor records #18010 and #20445 (best) both of which have Sellengers round on the reverse.

I'm glad everyone has become acclimated to those tricky castoffs in Beaux of Albany and the Irish Washerwoman!

The Folk Festival at the Fourth Street Y ran off nicely (did you see the write-up the Passaic paper gave us?). The set representing the Rangers put on the Lanciers (Oriental) and a square medley; the Ukrainian group executed Hoechonique, Kozachok, Honey Viter and a Hopak; the Greek girls in a Tsamiko and a Syrtos; and the Polish Tatra Mountaineers exhibited some wild and woolly wedding dances. Miss Stults taught a circle Schottische, then after leading dances. Miss Stults audience through some folk and square dances I set the Rangers men on the Greek and Ukrainian girls to see if they could swing 'em to death in a Swingo-Ringo. Was that a wild melée\*\*\*\*\*!!!!



Rangers in the Passaic show:- Frieda and Jack Van Saun, Estelle and Erwin Guse, Barbara and Frank Schwab, Dorothy Derks, Gay Adler, Helen and Rod LaFarge.

After the Festival, Helen and I celebrated the return of curfewless nights by paying Marshall's a visit. We got there just as they ~~started~~ started the next to the last set (Hobart intends to close at about 1 A.M. from now on) and Matty and the orchestra seem to thrive on long hours --- they had quite a head of steam up !!

I mustn't forget to mention while singing the praises of Matty's hot fiddle that Len seems to be about the best folk dance pianist I've met. I've shoved some darn queer music in front of him and he always seems to know by instinct the spirit needed to make it a dance instead of "just music".

The Polonia Opera Company gave a performance of the Polish opera "Halka" in Newark on Sunday afternoon (the 13th). The N.Y. Polish Folk Dance Circle filled the dancing roles and there were solos by Bronislaw Matusz (the leader of the group), Casimiera Brytczuk, and F. Jaros. The group danced a Polonez and Mazur in the costumes of the Polish aristocracy of the day, and later in the third act put on a lively Tatra Mountaineer number.

Wednesday the 16th the Rangers met at the Guses --- practiced like fury on Gathering Peascods in order to try it out at the IHC dance.

Durlacher had his usual crowd at the Central 'Y' Thursday night, and a guest caller from Cinnibar Ranch called the Grapevine Twist with a western accent. Ed says he may come up to the Passaic 'Y' on the 28th, to spend an evening dancing for a change. We'll see if he can take it as well as he can dish it out!

They had an accordionist at Michael Herman's Friday night group; I forgot to ask if this was to be a permanent arrangement. He wasn't too bad. They are giving a folk festival at the Bronx Botanical Garden Saturday the 19th -- can't make it -- have to call for the IHC dance. Next Friday night they'll have an open house costume party -- no teaching, all dancing.

Dropped in on the West Side Square Dance Club later in the evening --- they meet in one of the gyms now. About the usual number present; got in a couple of squares, a couple of contras and a few folk dances.

The May 19th IHC dance was transferred to E.P. Jr. Order Hall by a rental mixup. A bit smaller hall but we had a rather strenuous evening chicken Reels, Flap Like Thunders (you should see the black and blue decorations on Helen!) ect., ect.. They even did the Fireman's Dance and liked it --- I'll have to be sure to call that again next time.

We skipped the May 21st Stage Door Canteen Night; the Red Cross Station Wagons were all busy on the bond drive and the gang is a bit short on gas coupons at the instant.

Here is a tentative list for the next series of recordings; let me know if I've left out anyone's pet:- Weggis, Black Forest Mazurka, Die Schöne Wulka, Polka zu Drien, Windmuller, Caledonians (3 sides), Christchurch Bells, Upidee, Devil's Dream, Smash the Window, Nellie Bly, Opera Reel and the Five Mile Chase.

I see New York folk dancing received two publicity splashes almost on the same day:- a full page photo spread for David Hahns' group at Irving Plaza in the World Telegram, while Damon Runyon devoted one of his daily columns to Michael Herman's group. Pictures in the Telegram included one of the Sillers but nothing exciting in the way of dances. They would label a single file promenade as a grand right and left, credit the leadership to David Roth, misspell Kujawiak as Kuyaviak but the press always seems a bit hazy about folk dancing, at least in New York!



## ROD'S DANCE DIRECTORY

Rather curtailed this month, as I have put down only the places that I think will continue through the summer; the ones I know will stick the summer out I have underlined in red. I expect to have a list of summer dance spots in the next issue.

### MONDAYS

International Center YWCA 341 E. 17th St. NYC. Every Monday night. Mostly folk dancing. Membership required.

### TUESDAYS

Henry Joseph, Irving Plaza Bldg. E. 15th St. and Irving Place NYC. Mostly folk dancing. Every Tuesday night. Music by Sillers.

### WEDNESDAYS

Ramapo Rangers practice night. Outdoors soon.

### THURSDAYS

Ed Durlacher at the Central YWCA, Lexington Ave. and E. 53rd St.  
Every Thursday night. All squares and good. On the roof soon.

### FRIDAYS

Chuck Zintel at Schweithguth's Grove Broad St., Clifton N.J.  
Square and modern every Friday night.  
Michael Herman; Arlington Hall 19 St. Marks Place NYC  
All folk dancing. Every Friday night.

### SATURDAYS

Hobart Marshall, Marshall's Hall, Oak St. Boonton N.J.  
Square and modern. Every Sat. nite. Matty and the boys. ~~Max~~  
Bill Cairns at Irving Plaza Bldg. Irving Place and E. 15th St.  
Every Sat. nite. Mostly folk dances. Good place to drop in.

### SPECIAL ONE NIGHT ONLY

Monday May 28th Passaic YMCA, River Drive, Passaic N.J.  
Rod LaFarge calling. Matty and the boys playing for an evening of square and folk dancing. From Paterson take either #16 or #74 bus to Passaic. From New York take Manhattan Line Passaic bus from terminal on 41st St. just off Broadway.

This will be the last of the Y series with Matty and the boys for the summer. The Y is planning a couple of square and folk dance parties on the roof (recorded music, they can't get a piano up there and it isn't large enough to pay an orchestra) to fill in the June to September gap. For September a new series is under discussion --- perhaps a once a week affair with Matty and the orchestra, and maybe lessons early in the evening before the dancing starts.

### RAMAPO RANGERS PICNIC COMING UP

Probably in July or August. Matty and the orchestra. A number of folk and square dance groups have promised to be there.