



RAMAPO RANGERS RAMAPO RANGERS



Published for members of the Ramapo Rangers
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The weather jinx relented a bit for the Passaic YMCA dance (June 26), at least it didn't rain in the evening as usual, but it managed to deposit enough water in the afternoon to leave puddles on the roof, so we held the affair in the gym. It was a very nice gathering for a hot summer evening. The Kamenas were there and I called Swing Like Thunder for their benefit; I think every set in the hall had their girls off their feet for most of the call!

Florence Blume dropped in; her group at the Newark YMCA has closed for the summer. When they open again in the fall, the Sillers will play for them every Monday night. Paul Shea attended -- he intends to spend the summer in Boston. Marie and Virginia from the hiking club (IHC) also had an evening of it (and no male shortage)!

The next Passaic YMCA dance will be held Tuesday July 24 --- on the roof --? (I hope)

The Rangers ganged up and presented me with a swell fringed buckskin jacket. Thanks a lot neighbors -- and Mrs. Swislocka, who was also in the surprise. It will sure keep the draughts off my bones when we're out dancing these coming cool nights. I'm glad you like my teaching that much.

The outing club of the Paterson YMCA held a square dance Thursday evening (June 28), and since Ed and Catherine Laurence are members of that group we got a set of Rangers together to go down and pay them a visit. The affair was scheduled for the roof, but it started to sprinkle at the last moment and they frantically moved into the gym (very hot). A large percentage of beginners, mostly girls, showed up; the majority of them struggled through fairly well. The caller (Josh Hallenbach) wasn't so hot; no spirit and bad timing on the calls, and an apparently poor memory more than outweighed the advantage of a quite fair calling voice.

Gracie Viviano was there, and did she get the oayights swung out of her! (Erwin, the villian). On one set the Ranger's girls sat out while the men took on some of the surplus female contingent. On this I drew a gal that could swing quite well but balked at "swing like thunder" and "pick 'em up". Once, in Boonton, I danced with a girl who acted just like that: her sister later told me on the side ----- no panties!!

Saturday June 23 at Bill Cairns' was the Siller's last night in New York for the Summer. They will play at Silver Bay until Sept. Bill intends to stay open all summer except the last three Saturdays in July; he will be on vacation at Silver Bay then. Miss Brown will furnish the music for the summer period.

I forgot to count noses at Bill's, but I guess about thirty or forty defied the heat and humidity to perspire through the assorted

folk dances, a contra dance and a couple of squares. (I called Swingo Ringo and Roll the Barrel for them). I promised Bill and Winnie that I'd bring down some of my folk dance transcriptions and a great big amplifier some Saturday night in August. Perhaps we can get the gang together that night and all go down?

David Hahn has discontinued his Wednesday night group at Irving Plaza for the summer, but Henry Joseph plans to remain open there all summer on Tuesday nights. Miss Brown will be at the piano. Henry also teaches all summer at Arrowhead Lodge in Ellenville N.Y. on weekends. Square and folk dancing on into September.

Two of our members, Dorothy Derks and Gerhardt Adler, took the big leap June 30 and the Rangers were all invited to the reception. We had a jolly evening in spite of the heat, doing assorted folk dances, square dances and jitterbuggings. A great many of the guests had spent their earlier years in Germany, so Landler and Rheinlander were quite popular with them. (You should have heard one of the men yip and stamp on the Tyrolean numbers) It was very strange though, to have a German-speaking crowd asking about Obereks and Krakowiaks. I hadn't brought any Polish recordings with me, but it seems that some of these people came from near the old Polish-German border, where evidently dances disregard political boundary lines, skipping gaily over such imaginary barriers!

Some of the older people, reminiscing of the days of their youth, recalled dances which were apparently the transitions between the old French Court Quadrilles and the later German Bunte Tänze. I'll have to do a bit of snooping on this --- it sounds very interesting. Most of my previous German friends were from Southern or Central Germany, and they knew no such dances.

And before I forget to write it up, here is a schottische step that I picked up in Yorkville; I haven't seen it done at any of the all-nations folk dance groups.

Turnhalle Schottische (Man's part; girl performs the counterpart starting with the opposite foot.) Open position, partners holding inside hands. Step diagonally forward with the left foot, step the right foot in front of the left, step diagonally forward with the left again; hop on the left, swinging the right leg across in front at the same time. Repeat to the right starting with the right foot, then take closed position and perform the usual schottische series of four step-hops. Open position, partners holding inside hands. Step diagonally forward with the left foot, bring right up in back of left, step diagonally forward on left again; hop on left swinging right in front at the same time. Repeat to the right starting with the right foot and again perform the four hop-steps. Repeat all ad lib.

Having a Tuesday night free with no dance classes and no calling dates, I decided to relax by visiting two Tuesday night folk groups:-- Henry Joseph's and Michael Herman's. They were warming up at Henry's by pushing the piano around --- the only cool looking person in the place was Miss Brown, and she hadn't started to play yet! Henry took a bride to himself a couple of weeks ago; did well by himself too, she is very attractive.

The heat didn't deter the group at all, they danced right along, and after calling a couple of squares for them I left to see what the Hermans were up to these Tuesday nights. I met Paul Shea coming out as I arrived and a number of the regulars were in attendance, including Kitty Toomey. Mary Herman tells me that they started the Tuesday class to teach the more popular dances to the newer crowd and thus take some of the pressure off the Friday night group. They were using both their newfound accordionist and recordings. Michael's C.O. is so impressed with the merits of folk dancing after the recreation work Michael has been doing with convalescent soldiers that he has

issued a sort of permanent Friday furlough to him so that he can lead his Community Folk Dance Center in person. Mary tells me also that she thinks Helen and I look very lovey-dovey in the O.W.I. film they took for the army. She expects to have a 16 mm copy of it as soon as they can get the priority on the necessary film stock.

Kenneth Balje writes to tell us about square dancing up in the Adirondacks around Gloversville, the beauties of nature and the joys of life in the wildwoods. We'll have to invite him out with the IHC Hiking Club. Other mail included some folk dance literature from Miss Woods in New Zealand. Their branch of the English Folk Dance and Song Society publishes an eight page magazine listing the activities of various New Zealand folk dance centers, new records issued, and short articles on folk lore and dancing. An attractive little paper.

Morphea Tevas led a group of girls in Greek dances at a program presented by the Greek War Relief Association at the North Jersey Training School for Girls in appreciation of the work done by the school for the recent clothing drive. Jean Pondikas, the Greek radio star, played the accordion on the program.

Elizabeth Burchenal is teaching folk dancing at the annual Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival. (Lee, Massachusetts)

La Meri and her Natya Dancers are still giving both Tuesday and Wednesday night performances at the Ethnological Center Theatre 110 East 59th Street NYC.

Helen and I went to Egbert Lake on the Fourth with the Guses to spend the day and incidently arrange details of the Rangers overnight dance-camp-hike affair. Details in the dance directory section.

Thursday (July 5) I was guest caller for Ed Durlacher. The rainy weather killed the roof so we danced in the ballroom. Smaller crowd than usual --- I understand this is because of the new rule requiring all comers to become members of the YWCA. However this is more of a technical membership and costs only one dollar. Amusing incident on the way home --- Helen and I (in cowboy costume) were singled out of a subway crowd by a sailor and his girl as the logical people to give him Manhattan street directions. He must have been from Brooklyn; I understand some of the natives there think the great open spaces start at the West end of the Brooklyn Bridge and New Jersey is just one of the Texas ranches --- 'all them thar Jersey cow critters???'

We scraped together three couples not on vacation (the Van Sauns and the Guses) and went to Budd Lake on the 6th. Nice and cool there in the hall at the lakeside. I called a set for them -- Marching Through Georgia, the new Lucy Long number, and Swingo Ringo with a swing bonus on the end. The crowd did the figures well, the orchestra (Al Green's) followed beautifully and the applause would have warmed any callers heart. With only three couples the Rangers couldn't do an exhibition square so we put on a medley of polka steps which was very nicely received.

Al Shaner has his own version of Bell Bottom Trousers. His figures run like this:- Introduction; swing corner - swing partner. First couple separate go around the outside of the set, pass between opposite couple, swing in the center (long swing), everybody dos-a-dos corner, dos-a-dos partner, left elbow swing with corner, right hand to partner and grand right and left around. Repeat with 2nd, 3rd, 4th couples. Shaner, by the way recalls some of the old dances; the Plain Quadrilles, the Glide Lancers, the Loomis Lancers etc. Nice large hall they have there, and a good floor; we would bring the gang up oftener if it wasn't for the doggone gas rationing.

Vasar Farm is also at Budd Lake, and they have Scandinavian dances there. We'll tell you more about that next time.

Small summertime crowd at Marshall's Saturday night, only 6 or 7 sets on the floor --- plenty of room to swing all over the place. Part of the evening I spent experimenting with the recorder, making a few

transcriptions of Hobart's calls. Matty, Len and the boys hitting it up right under my nose proved to be too much however. By the third set I could no longer control my itching feet; I shut off the recorder and spent the rest of the evening dancing!

If any of you have any calling or teaching dates in mind for me, and especially if they require an orchestra, please let me know as soon as possible; I have already signed up some single nights as far ahead as November and will have at least three nights a week tied up steady when the Fall season gets under way.

***** ROD'S DANCE DIRECTORY *****

MONDAYS

Ed Durlacher and his Top Hands. In Central Park, Riverside Drive at 105th St. NYC. Every Monday night, all squares, free admission.

TUESDAYS

- Henry Joseph. Irving Plaza Bldg. E. 15th St. and Irving Place NYC. Mostly folk dancing. Every Tuesday Night, all year round.
- Michael Herman. Folk Dancing. 19 St. Marks Place NYC. Polish Nat. Home. Every Tuesday night. All year round.

WEDNESDAYS

- Ramapo Rangers Practice Night. Outdoors now!

THURSDAYS

- Ed Durlacher and His Top Hands. Central YWCA, Lexington Ave. at 53rd St. NYC. Every Thursday night on the roof ** come early.

FRIDAYS

- Budd's Pavillion, Budd Lake N.J. Al Shaner calls, Music by Al Green and His Country Club Orchestra. Square and modern. Every Friday night. All year round.
- Michael Herman's Community Folk Dance Center. 19 St. Marks Place (Polish National Home) NYC. Every Friday Night. All folk dancing.

SATURDAYS

- Marshall's Hall, Oak St., Boonton N.J. Hobart Marshall calls, Matty, Len and the boys play (!!!) every Saturday night all year round. Square and Modern.
- Egbert Lake, Marcella N.J. Fred James calls with Pura Hardy and His Electrons. Square and modern. Every Saturday night all year.
- Bill Cairns. Metropolitan Folk Dance Group. Irving Plaza Bldg., E. 15th St. and Irving Place NYC. Mostly folk dancing. Every Saturday night except the last 3 Saturdays of July (Bill's vacation)
- Moose Hall. Dover N.J. Squares and Jitterjive. Every Sat. Night. Small floor, 3 piece orchestra, Al Shaner calls, \$1 admit, free beer.

ONE TIME EVENTS

- Tuesday July 24. Square and folk dance party. Passaic N.J. YMCA 45 River Drive Passaic N.J. On the roof. Led by Rod La Farge.
- Saturday July 14. Free barn dance for teen-agers. Ed Durlacher's Top Hands with Ed in person. 72nd St. and Central Park NYC.
- Thursday July 19th. Square and round dance. Borough Hall, Andover N.J. Al Green's Orchestra, Al Shaner calls.
- Saturday July 21 -- Sunday July 22. Ramapo Rangers Camp-Dance-Hike Party. Square dance at Egbert Lake Sat, night - camp overnight there, (tent required; campsite \$1) - hike and pick berries the next day. This is the huckleberry season there and they are very plentiful this year. (Early because of the unusual weather.)
- Coming. The Ramapo Rangers Picnic for Square and Folk Dancers. We'll let you know the date as soon as we get the priority on the picnic site!

DUDE RANCHES AND SUMMER RESORTS WITH SQUARE DANCE EVENINGS

Cinnabar Ranch. Peekskill N.Y.

Square dancing at the ranch every Tuesday and Saturday evening. Bill Stanfield calls with local orchestra.

Cinnaron Ranch. Peekskill N.Y.

Square dancing at the ranch every Saturday night.

Circle "E" Ranch Peekskill N.Y.

Square Dancing at the ranch every Saturday night. Slim Pauline calls with Marty Ingersol's Orchestra.

Arrowhead Lodge Ellenville N.Y.

Folk and square dancing with Henry Joseph. Week ends into Sept.

Fredericks North View Farm E.Stroudsburg Pa. --- Restricted

Square dancing at the farm every Tuesday and Saturday night.

Hidden Valley Ranch Lake Luzerne N.Y.

Square dancing at the ranch every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday night. Walter Van Allen calls with Lennie Nelson and his Orchestra.

Manitou Ranch Garrison N.Y.

Square dancing at the ranch every Saturday night. Curley Altsonior calls with the Manitou Ranch Orchestra.

Maplehurst Ranch Croton Falls N.Y.

Square dancing every Saturday night. Professional caller and an orchestra.

Silver Bay (YMCA Resort) Lake George N.Y.

Square and folk dancing 5 nights per week. Music by the Sillers

Stanbrooke Ranch Rhinebeck N.Y.

Square dancing in Wing's Hall, Clinton Corners (5 miles away) every Saturday night. Farmer caller and local orchestra.

Sun Canyon Ranch Warrensburg N.Y.

Square dancing at the Ranch every Saturday night. Also every Wednesday night. Their own caller and orchestra.

White Horse Dude Ranch Wevertown N.Y.

Square dancing at the ranch every Monday night. Jimmy Casey calls with his own orchestra.

Also at nearby Glendale Park, Art Ingraham calls with his own orchestra every Saturday night.

We have had a great many requests for extra copies of the dance directory, and since it is impractical to publish larger editions of this paper using the present duplicating process, I am now printing a separate card with this information. I will gladly mail copies to anyone on request, and place their names on a mailing list to receive future copies as I plan to issue this card at regular intervals and keep the information up to date.

For future issues of the Rangers Bulletin there will be lists of Southwestern and Western Dude Ranches, with incidental square dance activity; lists of Rodeos and Fairs with square dancing contests, How-to-get-there listings of various square dance resorts etc.

And if I've left out you or any of your friends --- let me know; I try to keep track of everything and everybody!