



Published for members of the Ramapo Rangers  
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Boosts for square dancing come from unexpected quarters these days; Macy's had three windows devoted to "What to wear for square dancing", record albums, etc. And have you noticed the perfume company with the square dance ads? Then there's the magazine 'Seventeen', a publication for teen-agers; in their July issue they had articles on rural fairs, rodeos, cowboys, ballad singers and --- square dancing. After that running start, they sponsored a square dance party (July 14) for teen-agers on the Mall in Central Park (NYC), with Ed Durlacher and His Top Hands. The teen-agers came all right -- literally thousands of them. And in all sorts of dress; Sloppy-Janes, farmers and their farmerettes, dirndl and what have you! The papers reported 4,000 dancing before 10,000 spectators; there sure were a lot of people there -- but all of New York's folk dance fraternity we could find in the jam were the Leifers and Anne Parish.

The hep-cats and alligators really took to the cow-capers; all the slick-chicks came in solid on the down-beat as hick-chicks -- and they knew their hay-play too. High? Every call had the Y.G. throwing swing-dings all over the Mall, --- if Ed stays in that groove he'll become the teenies new Swoonie! (He later praised the kids and told me it was one of the easiest crowds he had ever handled.) Added entertainment on the program was Jimmie Ameche and Josh White with his banjo.

Bill Smith was at Marshall's (July 14); he called a set including Chase That Dear, Pop Goes the Weasel and Bow to That Lady. Several New Zealand soldiers were there, jitterbugging and square dancing with wild abandon; I'm wondering what the results will be when they bring home these violent forms of social recreation! The young accordionist in Marshall's orchestra has been coming right along since he joined the outfit --- he has the approbation of the jitterbugs now. And Matty laid down his fiddle to dance a couple of numbers at the end of the evening.

Paul Shea is staying in Cambridge for the summer and writes to tell of a couple of the dance groups in the vicinity. Nadel's Harvard Folk Dance Group meets every Friday for American and European folk dances. (Paul says they all Hambo) He likes Ralph Pages Boston YWCA group, with difficult squares, lots of different longways dances (Ah! Helen and I will just have to get there for one visit before our Autumn calling and teaching schedule starts!) Paul says everyone swings well. Be seein' you, Paul.

Bill and Winnie Cairns spent their vacation in Maine, instead of at Silver Bay as they had planned. They wrote in telling of big square dances (at Higgin's Corners; doesn't that sound nice and rustic ??), hillbilly shows etc. They did some exhibiting at one of the affairs to the delight of the natives. Bill isn't sure if he will resume his Saturday night classes at Irving Plaza before Sept. 15, when the Sillers

return to play for him there. He will also have a new group starting in Sept. -- the Monday night square and folk dance class at the 17th Street (International) YWCA (NYC). Good luck Bill!

Henry Joseph dropped a card to tell me that he has changed his Tue. night class at Irving Plaza to Thursday nights. (Too many meetings in the place on Tuesday nights.)

Starting in September I will be calling every Tuesday night at the Passaic YMCA; in October I'll start on an every Friday night square and folk dance class for beginners at the Passaic YWCA (Main Branch); and I'll probably be running squares on alternate Saturday nights at Fairleigh Dickinson College starting in Sept. or early Oct.

The Rangers' dance-camp week end was a lot of fun. The square dancing at Egbert's Hall was quite furious, (15 sets on the floor for a while) but by 12 o'clock the pace had taken it's toll and half of the native sons had gone home. Helen and I slept a bit late Sunday A.M., and when we got up the Laurences had gone for a swim and the Guses and the Van Sauns had already breakfasted and taken their tents down.

The whole gang spent most of the morning gathering mushrooms with Frieda and Jack presiding. With all the wet weather we have had, the fungi are putting out bumper crops; we all had baskets full before noon. And what a variety! From the red Beefsteak mushroom to the Green Russula; from the white Puffballs to the Black Trumpets!! Estelle and Frieda found a patch of Lactarius almost in the shadow of the tents. You should have seen the horrified face on one of the natives to whom we showed our harvest. "Rank poison, every dang one of 'em", he exclaimed. "I wouldn't touch 'em with a ten-foot pole!" (P.S. The whole party survives at the moment.)

In the afternoon we picked huckleberries, since the blueberries were not yet ripe in any quantity, and the best swamps were too flooded by the rains to permit passage.

Monday July 23 was supposed to be the date of one of the Rangers' Stage Door Canteen exhibitions with the Wright Rubes Orchestra. Then that early morning flash flood washed out the Red Cross transportation arrangements and left part of the orchestra marooned (literally), so this date was postponed. However, a set of the Rangers had assembled at the meeting place, and all attired in their rodeo best, decided not to waste the evening, but to pay Ed Durlacher a visit at his Riverside Drive outdoor dance. Ed draws a good crowd there (sponsored by the NY Park Dept. and Pepsi-Cola), and we had a nice evening. A number of the N.Y. regulars were there including Ivan Flores, Phil Maron, and Peter Van Beek with his daughter (cute). The squares progressed very smoothly, and when they came to a Virginia Reel, Helen took time out to get a bird's eye view of the effect and I borrowed Ted Bever's wife for the set. She dances as well as Ted plays the banjo!

Helen and I managed to find time to pay Michael Herman's a visit -- together for once -- on July 27. He had a large crowd out, considering the weather, and several of the N.Y. group leaders were there; Aasmund Goytil, Tadeus Januskewicz, and Mr. and Mrs. Witschi. Kitty Toomey was there, of course, with a number of the other regulars. Mary Herman called a circle dance for trios (2 women, 1 man; a useful combination these days) to the tune of Red River Valley. The dance was very much like the one described by Ralph Page in his "Country Dance Book", and called the "Swedish Dance". And the army has given Michael a nice coat of tan; he's looking real rugged!

Saturday July 28 we picked up Jack and Frieda (suprise) and went to investigate the Saturday night square dancing at Sun Tan Lodge (Sun Tan Lake) which just started on July 21. Not a bad evening, in spite of the omnipresent rain. The orchestra did well, the caller was fair, although a bit awkward in handling the calls to fit the beginners and the experienced dancers at the same time. With a bit of good luck and a little less rain the place will probably grow and become one of the

permanent square dance resorts.

One set of the Rangers went to the Brooklyn Navy Yard Hospital with Wright's Rubes on Aug. 2, to entertain the boys there. Those Red Cross gals can really drive; they got us there in no time. The audience was generous with applause (I hear they walk out in droves on shows they don't like) and we were invited back again with sincerity. Our next service dates are: Aug. 14, Asbury Park Naval Hospital; Aug. 20, New York Stage Door Canteen; Aug. 27, Newark Canteen; Sept. 5, Staten Island Station Area Hospital; Sept. 10, Seaman's Institute; Oct. 10, Base 81 Hospital. And don't forget we're getting up a party to go to Budd Lake on Aug. 24.

Jack Van Saun held his annual hot dog raast for members of the IHC on Sat. Aug. 4, and since most of the Rangers also belong to the IHC, nearly our whole crew attended. We had a nice day looking over photos of mountain climbing, etc. (When I got home I looked over my ropes, counted my pitons and -- say, who wants to go for a practice climb next Sunday? After the feast of franks, corn, watermelon and so on, we got the dancers out to wear down Jack's newly surfaced driveway. We wore down both the driveway --- and the dance s!! Nice party Jack!

Lively practice session at Jack's Aug. 8; a couple of new contras and new recordings. Our two latest couples (Bill and Rena Kamena, Frank and Barbara Schwab are coming right along with the new folk dances.

Ed Durlacher will not be at the Mineola Fair this year; I don't know what's planned over there, but Paul Hunt is in charge of the squares. Ed is holding his Fourth Annual Square and Folk Dance Festival in Lost Battalion Hall, Queens. Program: exhibitions from 2 to 5 P.M. Ramapo Rangers will do a Kentucky Running Set, Al Mac Leod's group is showing the Chorus Jig, Gertrude Polin is rehearsing a minuet, Jack Powelson a Play Party number, at least four of the top notch nationality groups will demonstrate, etc., etc.. In the evening there will be a Caller's Jamboree, including Al and Hal Brundage, Ralph Page, Lawrence Loy, Floyd Woodhull and probably Bascom Lamar Lunsford, and Benjamin Lovett. More details in next issue as this event is scheduled for Oct. 21.

Hobart Marshall will hold his Seventh Annual Caller's night on Labor Day evening Sept. 3. It's always a grade A good time with almost all square dancing and 15 to 20 callers. (I'M one - and have I a new and violent version of Billy Boy to contribute to the slaughter! 8.30 start.

Florence Blume is leading a folk festival at the Newark YWCA (53 Washington St., Newark) on Thursday Sept. 20. Start 8.00 P.M. Her weekly group starts there on Thursday Oct. 4.

My Tuesday night group at the Passaic YMCA opens Tue. Oct. 2 with an orchestra, and my beginners class at the Passaic YWCA will start on Oct. 5 with a free lesson. Information on request - tell your friends.

Morris Grange (Troy Hills) is open --- who wants to go up with us one of these Friday nights?

"The Daddy Of Them All", the Cheyenne Frontier Days Rodeo, drew a gate of 12,000 opening day. The boys shot at \$25,000 in prize money. They will have their semi-centennial next year, and that will be a party worth taking the trip for!

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That show you shouldn't miss, the Calgary Stampede, broke their attendance and a number of other records this year. They really have themselves a time there; a week of competitions, parades, Indian exhibitions and ceremonies, square dancing, etc. First place rodeo winners this year: bronc riding (open) - Bill Linderman, bronc riding (Canadian) - Frank Duce, bareback riding - Gerald Roberts, calf roping - Floyd Peters. Amusing ruling there; all cow-boys must wear 10 gallon hats while in the rodeo area or forfeit 5% of their points. Everett Colborn of the Madison Square Garden Rodeo was around looking the boys (and girls) over.

Three tribes of Indians; the Blackfeet, the Stoneys and the Sarcees, paraded and competed for various prizes. Some of the names are surely intriguing; Mrs. Walking Buffalo, Jo Catface, Tom Turn Up Nose and Joe Shot One Side! And their costumes are as colorful as their names!

A cowboy square dance at the Hudson's Bay Company lot topped off the affair, with 4,000 dancing to the music of Pop Cordick and his band.

Another close-up-the-town affair is the "Days of '47" a two-weeks commotion in Utah. Rodeos, square dancing, beauty queens, etc. They are planning a centennial in 1947, and judging by the annual celebration they'll probably suspend all other business in the state for a month or two! At any rate try not to miss it.

The Snake River Stampede at Nampa pulled a capacity crowd too. One feature of this show was a cowboy quadrille on horseback. And the police complained of the buckaroos riding their broncs into the town's business establishments! Yippee!!!!

The Graburn Gap Oldtimers Association held their annual Dominion Day picnic with over 2,000 attending. A day of rodeo events was climaxed with a square dance that lasted until dawn:- the men are still men out there!

First place winners in the Cheyenne Frontier Days Rodeo; bulldogging- Bill Lowry, bronc riding (saddle) - Bill Linderman, roping- Walter Poage.

Boulder, Col. Pow Wow Days Rodeo 1st places; bronc riding (saddle) - Bill Mc Macken, bronc riding (bareback) - Fred Badsky, calf roping - Homer Pettigrew (13.4 sec), bulldogging - Jack Wade. They had a big crowd at the square dance contest. Four teams placed: Lefthand Grange, Valley Farmers, Long's Peak Grange, and Altona Grange.

Tilley Stampede first places; bronc riding (saddle) - I. Sunstrom, bronc riding (bareback) - B. Stockwell, calf roping - R. Jacobson. and a super-doooper cowboy ball concluded the affair.

The Eagle Lodge and Bannock Creek Indians completed a four-day Sun Dance near Pacatello, Idaho on July 24. They wave the sun up on the fourth A.M. and celebrate with a barbecue. (And watermelon, yummmmm)

McGregor, (Texas) rodeo first places; (A-first day, B 2nd day) Calf roping - (A) A. Young (B) Alex Hardin, bronc riding (saddle) (A) Eddie Cameron (B) split: Les Hood, Bill MacSprott, bronc riding (bareback) Harold Watson, cowgirls race (A) split: Eula Henson, Dona Henson (B) Dona Henson. Bulldogging \* (A) Johnnie Bell (B) Sam Stuart. Bull Riding - Genn Vick.