



# RAMAPO RANGERS

Published by Rod La Farge 115 Cliff St. Haledon N.J.  
Vol. I December 1945 No. 12.

We note that Ed Durlacher has edited a Play Party Book (Devin Adair, Publisher, \$2.50) My book of singing calls will be ready in January; the edition is limited, if you want to be sure of a copy send for it early. (\$1.00 to 115 Cliff St. Haledon). I also hear there will be a book of Polish folk material out next year, and there are rumors of a book on West Indian Dances.

Don Conine is no longer calling at Franklin Grange -- he's gone back to college and the grangers are experimenting with various callers and orchestras. The Wigwam at Budd Lake has closed for the winter, but Al Shaner is still calling on Saturday nights at the Moose Hall in Dover, and also the following one-time dates with Al Green's orchestra: Friday Dec. 7 at the Borough Hall, Roseland N.J.; Thursday Dec. 13 at the Borough Hall, Andover N.J.; Tuesday Dec. 18 at the Clubhouse Washington Valley N.J. Also specials at the Dover Moose Hall on Sun. evening Dec. 2, Dec. 9 and New Years Eve Dec. 31.

Gary Vandershaff is still calling with his Mountain Ramblers at the American Legion Hall in Middletown; and in addition sends in these one-time dates:- Friday Dec. 14 for the Minnesink Hose Co. at the Community Hall in Unionville N.Y.; Thursday Dec. 20 for the Eagle Fire Co. at the Central Fire House in Middletown N.Y.; Friday Dec. 28 for the Young Peoples Club at the North Con. Church on Beacon St. Middletown N.Y.; and on New Years Eve for the Walkill American Legion at their home on Wisner Ave.

I see that Don Pearce is doing a fair amount of calling up around Pompton and Abramson and his band were at the OES in Hawthorne last week. Pap Stout is again calling at the Jefferson School in Plainfield William Barzell is leading the "Ukrainian Folk Dancers" (open to all) at the Dance Players Studio, 154 W. 56 St. NYC every Sunday at 5:30 P.M., John Tukey writes that they have a folk and square dance group in the Elementary School on Nassau St. in Princeton N.J. every Tuesday from 8 to 10 P.M. The American Square Dance Group has Moved to 1657 Bwdy., NYC and will hold the first open house there on Dec. 8 at 8:30 P.M.

The Ramapo Rangers are now meeting on Monday nights at the Passaic YMCA. Out for the first night at the new practice hall were Jack and Frieda Van Saun, Estelle and Erwin Guse, Ed and Catherine Laurence, Frank and Babbara Schwab, Bill and Rena Kamena, Gay and Dot Adler, Joe and Eileen Rourke, Marie Larkin, Mary Arristibia, Helen and Rod La Farge.

I've put in a couple of Saturday nights calling at the Sparkill (N.Y.) American Legion Hall with the Sagebrush Troubadours. A very nice hall

and friendly people. They like their square dances more complicated than most places prefer -- they just dote on such things as Dip and Dive, Progressive Billy Boy, Lucy Long, Left Hand Lady Under, and they fell for the Western Dosey-doe (Arkansas version). The Sagebrushers are beginning to play jigs and reels for the squares and the dancers really enjoy a change from the Standard Favorites (Nellie Gray, etc.) I used a new, extra big amplifier on these jobs and the crowds sure 'shush', in fact they practically cower! But are they full of pep! After the usual three dances of a square set they scream for more -- and let the sissy fox trots fall where they may!

Several of the Rangers dropped in at the Franklin Lakes Firehouse where I called with the Troubadours on Thanksgiving Eve. Also along were Al and Charlotte Coxley and the Winters showed up in force. Nice evening -- good cider too! There was one set of sub teen-agers on the floor that waited out the smooch dance with crimson embarrassment! Jack took a lovely spill whilst doing -- of all things -- Looby Loo!

I dropped in on Michael Herman's Tuesday night group at Arlington Hall (Nov. 27), but had to leave early --- there were about a hundred present when I left. Leroy Balje and Kitty Toomey were there, with several others of the Friday Night Crowd. Michael notes in "The Folk Dancer" that he has issued a list of folk dance groups -- I haven't seen anything of it so I can't comment.

Bill Cairns has resigned as chairman of the attempt to form an international dance leaders association in NY, but I am later given to understand that the project is still very much alive.

Any of you who can arrange to get to the American Museum of Natural History on a Thursday afternoon would probably feel well repaid for the effort on one of the dates scheduled for their "Around the World with Dance and Song" series. The remaining events are:-- Dec. 13 African Dances Past and Present by Asadata Dafora and Company; Dec. 27 American History in Dance and Song by the N.Y. State Folk Dance Group; Jan. 17 Jewish Dance Through the Ages by Dvora Lapson and Group; Feb. 7 Pan-American Folk Dances by La Meri and Company. All of these programs are presented in the main auditorium from 3 to 4 P.M. and there is no admission charge. The last previous event of the series featured the folk dances and songs of Yugoslavia under the direction of Fred Berk and Katya Delakove with the Yugoslavian Folk Dance Group and Tamburitza Orchestra. Dances from Serbia, Croatia and Slovenia were presented, including the Kola, Balun, Skrjancek Poje, Steirish, Polka and a figure Schottésche. Quite a colorful affair with folk costumes all over the place. The only one of the "regular" folk dance set that I saw there was Fred Leifer -- he belongs to the Yugoslav group and was dancing with them on the stage. (He showed up that evening at the English Country Dance Society just to finish off the day!)

The monthly dance at the Passaic N.Y. YMCA featured the Sagebrush Troubadours this time and they were well received. I managed to call six sets in the time allotted (9.30 to 12)

The end-of-the-lessons-series dance at the Passaic YMCA drew quite a nice crowd, including a set (friends of Miss Stultz) that came all the way up from Princeton.

The Fairleigh Dickinson College series ends with the coming of the holiday season and I was just planning some nice Sat. night visits to some of the other square and folk dance spots, when I walked Mr. Van Blarcom and bought my remaining Sat. nights of 1945 to call at Franklin Grange Hall. (With the exception of Sat. Dec. 8, which was already booked to call with the Sagebrush Troubadours at Sparkill N.Y. American Legion.)

November 23 I went to All Saints Parish Hall in Jersey City to call at a Jitterbug's Barn Dance! All beginners -- six hundred odd of them -- and did I sweat! After dragging them through a few squares, Helen and I gave them a jitterbug exhibition; frankly I'll confess they liked it much better than all the square dancing! The hit of the evening there was their mock-marriage booth -- rings sold enough to sink a ship!

Thursday Nov. 29 I was guest teacher for Florence Blumes folk dance group at the Newark YWCA. Helen and I taught them Thady You Gander, Lady Walpoles Reel, Roll the Barrel and the Wyoming Varsoviene. And you would never guess who was there -- Ralph Page's wife. Nice baby blizzard we had on the way home too; I finally made the last hill with the aid of an improvised shovel at around 3 A.M.

Well, this is the last issue of THE RAMAPO RANGERS -- the next issue will come out under the new name "ROSIN THE BOW". It will be a real printed magazine with color cover an' all the fixins'. A list of recordings suitable for square dancing, a list of places that sell rodeo and farmer clothing, calls, news an up-to-date revision of the folk and square dance directory will be among the features. If you have a paid subscription to the "Ramapo Rangers" that will of course continue the same number of months regardless of change in name or price. (The price for "Rosin the Bow" is \$1.50 for 12 months) but any subscriptions sent in before Dec. 31st will be accepted at the old \$1.00 per year rate.)

Here's the new singing call for the month:-

FORWARD HEADS, SIDES DIVIDE

Music; When Johnny Comes Marching Home.

Introduction.

Swing your corners 'round and 'round; hurray, hurray!  
Swing your partners 'round and 'round; hurray, hurray!  
Allemande left your corners all,  
Go back and swing your partners all:  
Swing your baby around and 'round and 'round.

Figure

Two head couples right hand star; hurray, hurray!  
Back with the left to where you wens; hurray, hurray!  
Now forward heads and the sides divide,  
You swing at the center and swing at the sides;  
And we'll all feel gay when Johnny comes marching home.

(Call this figure 4 times -- all will then be in original places and with original partners.)

Break

Two head couples dos-a-dos; hurray, hurray!  
Two side couples dos-a-dos; hurray, hurray!  
Dos-a-dos with your corners all,  
Dos-a-dos with your partners all:-  
Allemande your corner -- grand right and left around.  
(Orchestra plays march medley)

Here's how -- diagram

