

SEEN ON THE SCENE

B. C. HERRING NEW BARKER



FOLK DANCE SCENE

APRIL
1972



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U. C. BERKELEY FOLK DANCERS

The U. C. Berkeley Folk Dancers, a club sponsored by the Department of Physical Education, began under the leadership of Lucille Czarnowski, and, like most university clubs, it, too, has gone through many changes in its "life style" in the past ten years. As advisor to this club since 1960, I refer affectionately and somewhat bewilderedly to this process as the "grope, stumble and carry-on" method.

Prior to 1960, the membership was "closed" after the third week of each new semester, but this policy did not reflect the new "spirit" as carried on by the rough and ready Hiking Club, dancing under the leadership of John Fitz, nor was it in keeping with the "revolutionary" zeal of the sixties. That period in our history was fraught with upheaval; the club responded to the needs and attitudes of the new breed so that now there is no formal membership. Doors are open to not only the U. C. campus community, but to students from nearby campuses and folk dancers from out of town. The music bellowing forth from Hearst Gymnasium is an enticement to join in and move.

Except for special occasions when there is a workshop with visiting master teachers, the student leaders do the teaching (8 to 11 - Mondays for beginners; Wednesdays, intermediate and advanced). Folk dancers from other places who come for the first time on a Monday night are awestruck to see as many as 150-200 on the dance floor. A colorful tradition is dancing on the lawn every Friday during the noon hour, while on Friday nights Co-Recreation sponsors the club in an evening of general dancing. In addition to these regular meetings the club sponsors, as mentioned, master workshops, weekend retreats at neighboring campgrounds, lawn parties (whimsically referred to as "Grass Festivals"), pot-luck supper dances, ski excursions, and, this year, its second annual Folk Dance Festival.

From time to time, the club has had an exhibition group, but this has not been its forte. Almost at the drop of a hat, however, 8 or 10 couples can be summoned together to dance for groups requiring their services. Entrance on normal nights of teaching costs 15¢ - the average weekly income based on this 'donation' is about \$35. Last year there was enough in the treasury to send eight students on whole or half-scholarships to the various camps. The club also gives several scholarships to the Kolo Festival and recently, to the Aman Institute. It is expected that these students will return to teach the material they have learned.

Visitors to the club, and even U. C. students themselves, have a variety of reactions to the scene. I've heard everything from "I love the action, vitality and sociability - so many good dancers, such a large repertoire!" to "What chaos, what a very snobbish, unfriendly bunch. They don't do dances the way I learned them - too much Balkan!", etc. Well, it's all true, but we do work hard to reduce the shortcomings, and most of all, to improve the level of dancing. Since it was decided to keep the doors open, we have yet to figure out a way to cope with the constant stream of beginners with their unbridled and unrefined energy who seem to come more for "therapy" of a sort than a folk dance experience.

Formal classes in folk dance offered by the Department seem to be the best training ground and it's out of these classes that many of our more polished dancers emerge to eventually lead and teach. Other places to dance at Cal are: International House on Friday nights, Hillel on Tuesdays, and U. C. Squares on Thursdays; in the community, at O'Aitos and the Mandala.

What I like best and appreciate most about my association with U. C. students, especially the club officers with whom I work closely, is their boundless enthusiasm for dancing, their enormous organizational talents, their wide interests, and their devotion, as evidenced by the many hours they give to the club each week.

Our first annual Spring Festival last year was an extraordinary event, for at the base of its planning and production was the loving philosophy of the students. Come if you can to the one on April 14-16 and I think you'll agree that all's well at Berkeley.

FOLK DANCE SCENE

13250 IDA AVENUE
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90066

Tel: (213) 398-9398

Paul Pritchard - - - - - Editor
Laura Lippett - - - - - Associate Editor
Joan Pritchard - - - - - Circulation Manager

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Deadline for all news items and flyers is the 20 of the month (except the January issue which is Dec. 15). Flyers must be unfolded on 8 1/2 x 11 stock. A minimum of 700 is required. . . Address all of your communications to the editorial offices, or telephones EX 89398. . . Please, we wish to have your club news and programs, but time is of the essence, and if in doubt, use the 'phone.

FEDERATION SOUTH

President Avis Tarvin
314 Analfi Dr., Santa Monica, Ca. 90402

FEDERATION NORTH

President Elmer Riba
P.O.Box #555, Pine Grove, Ca. 95665

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OUR COVER THIS MONTH

"ABRIL IM PORTUGAL" is a supper club on the Rua das Tiapas in Lisboa, where folk dancing is part of the scene. And the costumes of Portugal are on the cover part of our "Scene" this April... A young senhorita leads a yoke of oxen out to work in the area of Minho. From the region of Pinhao to the east of that, in the picture directly below, we have peasants bringing in the grapes for the wine-making - province of Alto Douro. In the center, a woman heads for Oporto with a catch of fish to sell in the old market place. In the upper right, you have a

(Continued on Page 5)

dates to remember

(Some important events of the next two months)

- APR. 9 - Sebastopol - Apple Blossom Festival
- APR. 14-16 - Berkeley - Annual Festival at U. C.
- APR. 14-15 - Pago Pago - Flag Day Festival & Concerts
- APR. 16 - San Francisco - Blossom Festival
- APR. 21-22 - Los Angeles - Aman at the Music Center
- APR. 23 - Culver City - Westwood Co-op Festival
- APR. 29 - Van Nuys - Haverim's Kol Ha Aviv Festival
- MAY 1 - Honolulu - Lei Day
- MAY 6 - Los Angeles - Idyllwild Bacchanal
- MAY 13-14 - Ojai - Ojai Folk Dancers Festival
- MAY 20 - Los Angeles - Hungarian "Echoes of Home"
- MAY 26-28 - Sacramento - Statewide 1972

FROM THE EDITORS

Thanks to Avis for her assistance in helping us get the last issue collated, and also to Gerry Gordon and her Westwood Stamping Society who between them whiled away spare time (they actually did have some!) at the Hess Kramer weekend and rubber stamped enough manila envelopes for both this and next month's mailings of "Scene". And, of course, to Chuck Thompson for the loan of the second typewriter. Now it is possible for two to work at once - while ye Editor roughs out the copy, Joan can be working on the finished job to ready it up for the printer.

Please, again we beseech you - send us your change of address before you move, and let us have it by the 23rd of the month preceding the move at the very latest! If you don't have your new address yet, let us know that, too, and we'll hold your "Scene" for you till you're settled.

Like we keep saying - it sure is helpful when the feature stories come in by the 15th, and we don't have everything piled up to type at the last minute. The Berkeley, Haverim and Statewide stories came along in plenty of time and helped ease this month's heavy load... As for the flyers, all those pertaining to "Statewide" are grouped, and since there were a dozen in early, we were able to collate them a bit ahead of time, another help when the issue is as large as this one.

Don't forget to check with the "Caboose" on the last page. We hold that one back from the printer until the last minute in order to catch any emergency "stop-press" items or changes that may come in after the deadline.

Add to your "Dates to Remember" above - the Youth and Family Festival in Altadena on Sunday afternoon, April 30. . . Date and place for the Rubi Memorial event uncertain at this moment.

SPECIAL THIS MONTH

WESTWOOD CO-OP FESTIVAL

The Westwood Co-op Folk Dancers will present their 27th annual folk dance festival on Sunday afternoon, April 23, at the Veterans Memorial Auditorium of Culver City, corner of Culver Blvd. and Overland Ave. The festivities start at 1:30, and the dancing will continue until 5:30. Prior to that, for the officers and delegates of the Folk Dance Federation of California, South, Inc., there will be a business meeting at 11 a.m. in a room adjacent to the auditorium proper, at which time the final slate of candidates for Federation officers for the coming year will be presented.

Westwood is a charter club of the Federation, having been one of the principal enthusiasts advocating its formation back in 1946 - the club's leader was temporary chairman at the creation of the organization - and during its many years, Westwood has seen several of its members become President of the Federation. One of the very first festivals in Southern California was hosted by the Westwood Club, and it has traditionally held one each year since. The theme this year, "Spring Festival", harks back to the original theme. Not always have they been in April, being held sometimes as early as February and sometimes as late as June, but, somehow, this month seems to fit best.

We have seen the dance program for this year's festival - it has something for everybody and no dull spots. The exhibitions lined up by Perle are excellent. With Mike Kamen in charge of decorations, we can expect the usual unusual decor. And one more goodie - it's free. After the festival, the die-hards (which means most of the Westwooders, who by then should be tired out but won't be), plus those guests who have signed up, will head for the Santa Monica Elke Club for dinner and after-party dancing. For reservations for this see the enclosed flyer, or call Claire Bernstein at (213) 837-1309 or Frances Slater at (213) 556-3791 for additional details.

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HAVERIM FOLK DANCERS FESTIVAL

"Kol Ha 'Aviv", Sound of Spring, is the theme of the 11th annual folk dance festival sponsored by the Haverim Folk Dancers. It will take place on Saturday, April 29, at the Valley Cities Jewish Community Center, 13164 Burbank Blvd. in Van Nuys (right across from Valley College), starting at 8 p.m. As in the past, the hall will be decorated in accordance with the theme. Max Lent will again be in charge, and refreshments (which are included in the price of admission) will be the Fruits of the Season.

Edith Sewell, festival chairman, has made arrangements for excellent exhibitions and dance program with the help of her capable staff. Also, again this year, a display of past programs, old folklore magazines, and pictures should bring back memories to dancers of years gone by. The festival is presented as a joint effort with the "teens" of the Center, who are serving on the committee and will also act as emcees. Jeff Shatz and Ann Brown represent the "teens" as committee members.

Proceeds from the festival are earmarked for the extensive folk dance program which the Center supports. This includes a class for Juniors taught by Nina Edelstein (Aman); a teen class taught by Bonnie Edelberg (also of Aman); a Senior Citizen class taught by Bonnie; an adult beginners class taught by Nina; and the Haverim Dancers, directed by Sam Mednick, who has been teaching at the Center since 1955. Haverim was organized by Sam eleven years ago and has been a very active group - its late spring festivals have been indicative of this enthusiasm. Haverim hopes that you'll don your best costume and join in the fun. See the flyer for additional directions.

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"THE BLOSSOM FESTIVAL" hosted by the San Francisco Council of Folk Dance Clubs is the official April Festival of the Folk Dance Federation of California, North. Date, Sunday April 16, starting at 1:30 p.m. in Kezar Pavilion, Stanyan & Waller Sts. in San Francisco.

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COVER

married woman from the mountainous area near the Sierra Estrella in Biera Alta. This costume is not much like the Portuguese costumes we see at our California festivals (or maybe they do have them up around Los Banos???), bearing some resemblance to those of the Carpathian regions. The trio at the lower right, though, are decked out in the gorgeously worked skirts, aprons, bodices and shawls of Viana do Castelo in the northernmost province of the country. Whether they beat, spun, carded and eventually wove their apparel we can but guess. However, you can see they're busily at work!

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SEEN ON THE SCENE

CYGANY DANCERS

The Cygany Dancers, directed by John Hancock, one of the Southland's top exhibition groups - and we say "top" because they always put on a good performance, with a wide repertoire, not limited to any one country or area - is going into its second decade of operation. It is growing with more and more new members, and some of them have been experiencing their first big performances. Such was the case for some at the Laguna Festival where they were seen in a performance of a Polish Suite. The audience reaction was very favorable, a great morale booster to any novice in his or her first exhibition.

The club is extremely active, both in its performing (and for many worthy causes), and in its efforts in bringing and sponsoring visiting folk dance teachers of note. During January, they sponsored an institute with Atanas Kolarovski and his Balkan dances. During the institute Atanas put on a demonstration, and the audience thoroughly enjoyed that as well as the institute. Naturally, Cygany was happy to have Atanas with them.

In February, the Cyganys performed on numerous occasions. Once, before the San Diego Women's Club, they demonstrated a real variety - Hungarian, Russian, English and Irish suites - with live music and in costume. At the polka party for St. Columbus Church, it was Russian, Irish and Polish (and did they have a time with the Polish dance on the polished floor!). Still, both Cyganys and the audience loved it. The week following the Laguna Festival featured another institute, this time with Sunni Bloland. Sunni is a favorite with the group, and her dances are always popular with them.

March saw the Cygany Dancers concentrating on Irish dances for their exhibitions. As a matter of fact, their regular dancing night fell on St. Patrick's Day, and though not all of the club can trace their ancestry to the Auld Sod, there was more than a little bit of a wearin' o' the green that night!... And, now we've mentioned their dancing night, better tell you where and when it is (seeing as how we never have any particulars under our "Teaching" columns!). We quote from Joe's letter - "If you are planning to come to San Diego, you are more than welcome to dance with the Cygany Dancers at the Recital Hall in Balboa Park at 8 p.m. any Friday."

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BORINO KOLO

Having decided that this staying home every Saturday night was strictly for the seagulls, and also having an invite to attend Borino's First Annual Institute and Concert, we packed the family into the car and wended (went?) our way down to San Pedro on March 11. We were unable to attend the afternoon Institute due to other matters, and when we finally made the hall, everything was swinging - the hall was full - the Hajduks were playing as of old - Borinos were all over the place, tending bar, taking tickets, managing things - and the audience was dancing, old favorites and new. Don't know what Bora taught during the afternoon, but we heard it was good. Should be seeing his dances soon at the clubs... Soon people began heading for the chairs and the balcony - somehow the group had managed to get away from their other tasks and into costume, and there they were on the stage. We had not seen Borino perform before, so did not know either the repertoire or the entire personnel, though, of course, we knew several members of the group.

Continued on next page.

SEEN ON THE SCENE

BORINO KOLO (Continued)

Director Bora Gajicki has kept strictly within the confines of his native country, and all of the dances on the program were Yugoslav, although from various regions. The group is not large, for only 15 names were on the printed program, but evidently many of them are skilled at both dancing and the playing of instruments. (And this latter called for some mighty fast changes at times you can bet!) However, the stage was quite small and a larger group would have been overly crowded - in fact, there was a bit of a tight squeeze at times when both musicians and dancers were on stage!... Following the concert, more dancing to live music by the Ensemble and the Hajduks... As we said at the beginning, this was the First Annual Institute and Concert. Perhaps we shall see it eventually expanded into a two day show, a Kolo Festival of the South! Let us look forward to it!

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AMAN - U. C. L. A.

Everybody likes a surprise - and such was what everybody got (that is, those who heard about it in time) when a special performance was presented by Aman at Royce Hall on March 14. No publicity came out beforehand - it was a word-of-mouth announcement - and though originally scheduled for Schonberg Hall, within three days it was transferred to Royce to accommodate the expected crowd. Aman put on a selection of its best material, over an hour and a half of dancing and singing, and the Ensemble was at its best for its viewers... Among the audience we saw Mr. Sol Hurok who is known to have been instrumental in bringing such groups as Moiseyev, Bayanihan, Beryozka, Mazowsze, Bolshoi, Folklorico, the Scots Guards, and others to our shores... and we do not think he goes slumming on Tuesdays!

Editor's thoughts (sometimes we have them!) - Why is it so traditional that Oriental, Near Eastern and African dances always have to be performed with deep colored lighting effects? The Orient is no longer mysterious and Africa no longer the dark continent! To hide the explosive rhythms of the African dance movement or the beautiful sinuous motions of Oriental dancers, both women and men - to say nothing of the magnificently colorful and elaborate costumery - in darkness seems a great shame. To be sure, neither Oriental nor African dancing is easy, and we can see that many and many a dancer or group might need subdued or mysterious lighting to cover miscues... but Aman, you have nothing to hide!

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ALL ABROAD

Neither our calendar of Balkan events nor our list of ethnographic museums has been completed yet, but a few items for the next two months are listed here for your information in case you're planning trips in these areas:

PORTUGAL - all through the country "Abril im Portugal" will be celebrated with special events, most, apparently, especially geared for "tourists"... FINLAND concludes April with the annual "Walpurgis Night Festival" on April 30 in Helsinki... IRELAND has a four day Choral and Folk Dance Festival, May 3-7, in the town of Cork... NORWAY sees the 20th International Bergen Festival, May 24 through June 7. This includes all the music arts, including folk dancing. There are several places to dance in Bergen in season, but check with the Berntsens to see if the Wednesday night group is open before June... JUGOSLAVIA has two folk dance camps later in the summer - one on the island of Badia (off Korcula) in August, and one conducted by Pece Atanasovski, formerly of "Tanec", in Ohrid in early July... ENGLAND will have several folk dance/song camps during the summer. The Society for International Folk Dancing in London can give you information regarding these, as well as about its own clubs.

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