

BUCK DANCIN'

N.E. Georgia

Buck Dancing, as I observed it this summer in Ga., is a free style dance done individually, though usually by several people at one time in no particular formation on the floor. The feet fairly fly while the arms and torso are comparatively passive.

During the summer months there is a public dance held every Saturday night in a large hall called the "Mountain City Playhouse." People from surrounding states vacationing in the nearby mt. resort areas, as well as local people, attend. I observed approximately 700 people in attendance in a single evening. Though heavily attended by young adults and teens, there were people there of all ages, including whole families. Reports are that the hall has held 1500 - 2000 people on a single Saturday night.

The playhouse has been used as a dance hall for more than 50 years. Lessons in Buck Dancin' are not taught at the playhouse. Local people learn the dances by growing up around them and emulating what others do. Many of the people from outside of the mountain area take courses in order to learn.

Record: Georgia Mountain Fair, Vol. 4, HS-0004.

Buck Dance Basic:

As learned by Katina Savvidis in N. E. Georgia, Summer '79.

A. Double St. Rock St.

Double - Weight on L brush R out and pull it back making two tap sounds as ball of ft. hits floor.

St - St on R

Rock - Take Wt. on ball of L

St. - St on R

- repeat with opposite ftwk - then R, L, R, ad infinitum.

B. Nanny's Shuffle

Same as above except on "double" the ball of R encribes a small CCW circle on the floor and comes back next to L before taking wt. Styling - all steps very close, almost caressing the ground.

Some N. E. Ga. variations:

Two Footed Chug

As seen at Mt. City, keeping both ft together slide forward and back.

continued ...

Brush Slide

A one footed chug. As supporting ft slides forward knee of gesturing leg comes up. With back slide gesturing ft touches ball next to sliding ft.

Lincoln Webb St.

A step done by an older gentleman in Clayton Ga. Mr. Webb died a few years ago but this step is recognized as his.

Chug - Wt on L ft slide forward R ft swings from knee to L

Touch - Hold L in place, touch ball of R beside R.

Chug - For slide on L, R swings to R.

Any number of chugs can be done in succession, on wither ft.

Cody's Quick Step

As seen done by a man named Cody at Mt. City Playhouse.

(Cody is a cloggin' instructor with long and limber legs)

The quick step is 3 quick runs in place inserted between any other steps. (Sounds easy-looks slick!)

Young Whippersnapper's Windmill

While chugging on L, the R foot extends from the knee behind the L parallel to the floor and makes great windmill type circles in a cw direction. (Go ahead and try it with opp. ftwk - but good luck, I can't do it!)

taught by: Katina Savvidis

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