

## TOWN HALL SQUARES

presented by Ralph Page

The charm of New England squares is not necessarily the complexity of figure, but the sudden interpolation of surprise calls which the competent caller inserts into the chorus figure, or anywhere at all for that matter. "Jumping the gun" is plain asking for trouble and nothing but misery awaits the unwary know-it-all who, much to his horror finds himself dancing alone, while the rest of the set works out a chorus figure.

You will find none of these surprise calls in your syllabus. If you know about it ahead of time it isn't a surprise.

Also, New England callers are expert at taking a basic figure and improvising on the theme on the spur of the moment. We like them called that way; not in a spirit of competition with the dancers pitted against the caller - the Lord forbid! - but entirely in the spirit of a good time for all, the experts as well as the beginner.

The style is entirely different and you will have much to "unlearn." Allemandes are always danced with a hand hold and not the western forearm grip; right and left four, with nothing else said always means over and back the same for ladies chain, grand chain, etc. Promenades are usually done by the man placing his R arm around the ladies' waist, her R H holding his R H at her waist; L Hs joined in front of the man. Grand R and L is always all the way around, unless stated to promenade home. There are other differences, but those will be enough to keep you in a state of confusion the entire week.

### THE BASKET

(traditional)

Heat two couples to the right  
 Circle four hands around  
 Cross both hands over, gents bow  
 low, ladies do so and cuddle up  
 boys as round you go  
 Break it up with a right hand star  
 Left hand back the other way  
 Swing the girl behind you  
 Swing partners all and promenade  
 the hall  
 Repeat for heads; sides; then  
 sides to the right, etc.

### CHAOS SET TO MUSIC

(4 or 9 sets needed)

Heads right and left four  
 Sides the same  
 Heads right & left length of the hall  
 Sides right & left across the hall  
 All right & left the hall  
 Same for ladies chain: combine both  
 Same for Chassez

### GRAND SQUARE

(traditional)

Grand square - heads forward, sides divide  
 etc.  
 Reverse  
 Head two couples right and left four  
 Side two couples swing  
 Sides two couples right and left four  
 Head two couples swing  
 Grand square, sides forward, heads divide  
 Reverse  
 Head two couples ladies chain  
 Side two couples swing  
 Side two couples ladies chain  
 Head two couples swing  
 Grand square, heads forward, etc.  
 Reverse  
 Head two couples circle four  
 Circle four with the left hand couple  
 Everyone swing and promenade home  
 Side couples circle four  
 Circle four with right hand couple  
 Everyone swing and promenade home  
 Grand square, sides forward, etc.  
 Reverse  
 Head two couples sashay four  
 Sashay four with right hand couple  
 Side two couples sashay four  
 Sashay four with the left hand couple  
 Allemande left your corner, right hand around  
 your own  
 All four gentlemen grand chain  
 Grand square, heads forward, etc.  
 Reverse