

News From Washington State
25th Anniversary of the Square Dance
as the official State Dance of Washington
(October 2004)

As I woke up and looked out the window this morning and started to get ready for the Twenty Fifth Anniversary of the Square Dance being the official State Dance of Washington, the weather here in Auburn was dark and cloudy and somewhat wet. As the morning went on it didn't seem to change much. At noon I headed for Olympia hoping the weather would clear. As I reached the north end of Olympia the clouds seem to dissipate a little and by the time I got to my exit I spotted a patch of blue sky. I made my turn into the Tivoli Fountain area on the Capitol Campus and we had a beautiful blue sky to dance under. As we set up the Sound two bus loads of dancers started to filter into the area and by the time we where set up we had between two hundred and fifty and three hundred dancers from all over the state ready to start the celebration.

I think we had dancers representing practically every council and fifteen Callers and Cuers from across the state to entertain our dancers, we even had dancers from Oregon who came to help celebrate this milestone in our Square Dance history.

The trek to putting this together took two years and three presidents of the Square & Folk Dance Federation of Washington to accomplish this event. I want to thank them all for letting me present this idea to the Federation, thanks Elmer and Betty Toops, Cheryl and Dan Pruitt for keep me on track when things got frustrated trying to find a place to hold it, and Don and Lynda Congrove for handling our Intermission Break. And a special thanks to all of the Council Delegates who went back to their Councils and promoted this special celebration, without your help we wouldn't have been able to pull this together. I also need to thank Dave and Bonnie Harry for helping with the Sound, "Foot Notes", our state magazine editor Margaret Miller for the Advertising. Additionally, Dick Beham, our state "webmaster" for putting the flyer on the website and also "Wheretodance.com" for promoting this through your venue thanks Kappie and Aileen Kappenman. And I can't forget all the dancers that took the time out of their day to come and celebrate with us.

We were hoping to get some media coverage of our event as I sent out nine press releases to the three major TV Station and six News Papers throughout the state. We did have one News Paper come out and take some photos a gather some information just before we ended the dance.

The only thing that would of possibly have made this more successful would have been, had the Governor been present and addressed us for just a couple of minutes. He was mailed an invitation and when he signed the Declaration of Square Dance Week he was offered an invitation and the day of the Anniversary he was also sent an invitation. However in his defense he was just getting back from a trip to China. I hope he was promoting Square Dancing there for us. *Ha ha* .

In closing I think this was a success and we should do it again for the Fifth Anniversary in 2029.

Submitted by: Eddie Harry (eharry@lrcsunited.com)