



CARL SIMS MILESTONE 2016

Carl joined the U S Air Force in the early 1950's and in 1955 he was stationed in Japan.

A folk dance club in Japan asked Carl to teach them modern square dancing. He agreed to do so and a class was organized with 2 squares of young people, most of whom were strangers to each other. This was "THE INTRODUCTION" OF Modern Western Square Dancing to the Country of Japan !!

This first class went for 12 weeks and they formed a club named the Lucky Eight Squares. The Lucky 8's visited a club on one of the American bases but, were not well received so, the Lucky 8's restricted membership to only Japanese and they danced on Sunday with an open dance every first Sunday. Two classes were taught each year and word got around to folk dance instructors who came to the classes and then they began teaching MWSD to their groups. Masaru began learning to call during this time frame. Carl also taught callers Tac Ozaki & Naru Okumura to square dance when they were teenagers. Carl is credited, by the Japanese, with introducing MWSD to their country. Carl's wife Tamae was his interpreter as she could speak both languages.

Carl's contributions included teaching several Japanese callers to call. Carl was a strong member of the Far East Square Dance Callers Association and later served as their

Chairman. He was very instrumental in helping improve the relationship between the American & Japanese dancers. He got the Americans to move a Labor Day Weekend from Mt. Fuji to an Island in Tokyo Bay where both American & Japanese dancers could attend and dance together with more than 300 in attendance.

The growth of square dancers, over the years, in Japan has increased from 16 to 15,000. And, from one club to 550 and from zero callers to 900. Carl helped lay the foundation for the Japan Square Dance Association and the Tokyo Callers Assoc.

He has stated that all of the lessons he taught in Japan were very interesting because he & Tamae had to teach American customs along with Square Dance Etiquette. He credits most of his success in square dancing in Japan to his wife. Being a native of Japan, she was the teacher of the social aspects & skills needed to square dance & communicate with Americans. He also taught in other cities like Osaka, Toyohashi and others. He taught the spirit of square dancing. And, he held square dance parties to make donations to needy children groups. In the few years we have known Carl, he is constantly talking about how the Japanese dancers & callers helped him & Tamae through their friendship and endless communication. Unfortunately, Tamae passed away in Feb. of 2011.

When he was Chairman of the Far East Callers Association, he started the Japan and US Friendship Convention which was taken over by the All Japan Square Dance Convention and they will celebrate their 55th anniversary this year.