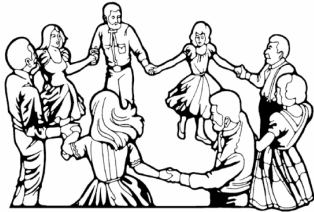


Community

Dance

Program Journal



A Publication of
The CDP Committee
of
CALLERLAB

The International Association
of
Square Dance Callers

Volume 5 Number 1

January 1996

Plans for 1996 CALLERLAB Convention

The CDP Committee will host a dance swapshop on Saturday evening ahead of the start of the CALLERLAB Convention for all leaders working in or interested in the Community Dance Program.

The format is very simple. Stick a few records in your suitcase and some notes in your pocket. Then come and share. There is no set program. We'll just swap ideas about dances and music. The sessions will be video taped.

Before the swapshop, several of us are going to enjoy dinner together. If you are getting in enough ahead of time, please let Cal Campbell know and he will make reservations at a nice restaurant for the

group.

Sunday afternoon, from 3-5 PM, the CDP Committee will host a dance for the incoming callers. This is the fourth year for this dance and it has become very popular. We need to have all CDP leaders bring a dance to share and participate in the program. We will just have an MC and whoever shows up will call/prompt/cue.

The CDP Committee will meet during the CALLERLAB Convention. We need your input. The committee will be considering ways to attract and educate new CDP leaders. There is lots going on so don't miss it.

We Need Your Help at the Convention!!!

In order to plan better for the CDP events at the 1996 CALLERLAB convention, it would help if you complete the short questionnaire below and return it by March 15th.

Every year we have people come to the convention without their records. **Please notice that we are going to dance on Saturday evening and again Sunday afternoon. WE NEED YOUR INPUT AND DANCES.** This is the only way we can increase our collective knowledge and share this knowledge with dance leaders who are not experienced in using the Community Dance Program.

Send to: Calvin Campbell
343 Turf Lane
Castle Rock, CO 80104

- Yes, I plan to attend the 1996 CALLERLAB Convention
- I do do not plan to participate in the Saturday evening dinner
- I do do not plan to participate in the Saturday evening dance swapshop.
- I do do not plan to participate in the Sunday afternoon CDP Dance.
- I do do not plan to participate in the CDP Committee meeting during the CALLERLAB Convention.

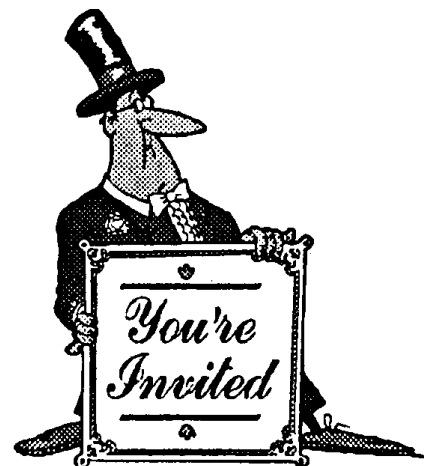
Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____ E-mail _____

Fax Number _____



We Need a New Generation of Dancers

By Calvin Campbell

The mailing list for the *CDP Journal* is well of 300 subscribers. The CDP committee membership is over 80. This indicates that there is a sizable interest in doing something about the problems facing square dancing. The big question is how do we get each of you from just being interested bystanders to actually doing something???

Almost everyone agrees we need a new generation of dancers. We also need a new generation of dance leaders. Where is the best place to start? Where can we get the most bang-for-the buck? I've been talking to several of the long time leaders in square dancing. Most of them started in their 20s, in college groups or with other young people in their age range. Most of the college clubs at that time were able to teach the new dancer the fundamentals of square dancing in ten lessons or less. In many of the clubs you just showed up and someone grabbed you and you learned by staying fast on your feet.

The main attraction was that the dancing was fun, the learning time minimal, and the emphasis was on social opportunities. Sound a lot like the Community Dance Program? You bet it does. If each of the 300+ callers receiving the CDP Journal would go to their local college or university and start a CDP club we wouldn't have to worry about a new generation of dancers. This is the age group when people acquire recreation tastes that will last a lifetime. If they learn to dance now, many will dance, on and off, for the rest of their lives.

Now, let me be clear about several things that should be the goals of a college club. For college age dancers, any CDP club will be more of a place to meet people and socialize than to dance. This means you are going to have to change the way many of you now do business. You will not be challenging the dancers with clever cho-

reographic puzzles. You will be helping them entertain themselves and to meet each other. You will need to use lots of mixers, trios, square dances that mix partners, contras, etc. Lots of opportunities for people to size each other up and decide whether they would like to have a date.

You had better be prepared for an influx of new people every evening. Teaching sessions (lessons) will have to be short and concise. Once you get started, you will depend a great deal on the old dancers helping the new dancers.

You will need to emphasize the joy of dancing together as a team effort. These kids are constantly working in teams either in their classes or in sports. Show them the advantages of dancing together and dancing it right. People love to play roles. Show them how to dance correctly and they will assume that as part of the role.

People will be coming and going a lot. This means you should always use a program where people can be comfortable dancing after missing several dances. This does not have to be a one night-stand approach. College students are used to learning things quickly. If you are precise in your teaching skills, you can introduce a new basic very quickly. Remember, you are not trying to prepare them for dancing in a puzzle solving environment. You are showing them a set of dance routines for their entertainment for one evening. Progress in dancing skill will still come, but the process will be as much from good (or bad) examples presented by experienced dancers as by teaching by the leader. That is why it is so important to set a goal of working together as a team. Teach styling and timing from the first dance.

Using just the recommended

CDP list of basics, it is very easy to plan an infinite number of programs using no more than a dozen terms each night. With a little thought, you can rotate the basic used so dancers who attend on a regular basis will have something new to learn while the new dancers are not overwhelmed. Add to that the vast variety available from different formations and music and keeping people entertained should be a cake-walk.

Now, let's imagine you are interested, but you feel that your skills as a prompter or cuer are far less than your skills as a square dance caller. How do you bridge the gap? Many of us learned a lot about calling by listening to the flip side of records. The same thing applies to the Community Dance Program. There is also a pretty good collection of video tapes available. The CDP dance at the CALLERLAB Convention has been taped several times. CALLERLAB has an introductory tape on the Community Dance Program. I'm currently in the process of working with public access TV on a series of 30 minute teaching programs.

If you have been taking the CDP Journal any length of time at all there is a wealth of material in its pages. There are several other collections of dances published. Check the pages of previous journals. If you haven't saved your copies, write me and I'll send you a list.

I feel we are at a critical turning point. What happens in the next few years will set the stage for square dancing for the next 20-25 years. What we are doing in recreational square dancing will continue to remain an activity for people who have a great deal of time to devote to learning. It will continue to become a smaller activity. Something else will have to come along for all the rest of us. In my view the Community Dance Program has about the best shot of succeeding if WE can provide the leadership to get it rolling. In the next CDP Journal we'll talk a bit about where to get the next generation of leaders.

Square Dancing

One of the advantages of the CDP is the ability to walk thru an interesting pattern before attempting to dance the pattern. All three of the following dances would require skilled recreational square dancers if they were called without a walk-thru. In the Community Dance Program they can be walked and then danced.

4 Ladies Chain...
Heads/sides Pass Thru...
Both turn left/right Single File Promenade around 2 to a line..
Diagonal head Ladies Chain...
Diagonal side Ladies Chain...
Swing your partner...
Promenade home...

The following pattern can easily be adapted to fit a 64-beat singing call.

Heads/sides Right & Left Thru with a full turn...
Separate around 1...
Into the middle & turn the Opposite 1/2 right...
(hold on and) Star Right...
To the corner Left Allemande..

Stars from two facing lines of four are unusual. This figure will almost always require a walk-thru the first time. It is also a good figure for a workshop tip at a recreational square dance level.

Heads/sides Pass Thru...
Separate around 1 to a line...
Go up to the middle & back...
Make two Right Hand Stars (2 men and 2 ladies).
Turn them twice (exactly)
Back out, join hands and Circle Left (2 men - 2 ladies)...
Those who can,
Left Allemande...
Others Roll Away 1/2 Sashay...
All Right and Left Grand (beginning with corner)

Contra Dance

We all learn to dance by hearing and dancing the same terms over and over until the action becomes automatic. If this repetition process is only done in a square formation, it can quickly become a grinding bore. Contra dances provide a real advantage because you are constantly changing people in the usual partner position and constantly changing positions in the set. A second great advantage is the ability to prompt ahead of the music which gives the dancers the opportunity to dance to the phrase of the music.

The pattern below is just one of several 'school' routines that can be used in a class situation. Use music with a strong phrase and/or a sing-along flavor and you will have an entertaining dance that will provide the practice necessary to enable a new student to master a new basic.

Simplicity Contra

Author Unknown

Formation: Contra lines, 1, 3, 5, etc. crossed over and active.

Record: Wagon Wheel 913 "Engine #9"

Prompts

Intro ----, *With the one below DoSaDo*
1-8 ----, -- **Same Lady Swing**
9-16 ----, -- **Right & Left Thru across**
17-24 ----, -- **Right & Left Back**
25-32 ----, -- **2 Ladies Chain**
33-40 ----, -- **Chain Back**
41-48 ----, -- **Star Left**
49-56 ----, -- **Star Right**
57-64 ----, **With the one below DoSaDo**

Description:

1-8 DoSaDo with the corner.
 9-16 Swing this same corner and face across the set with the lady on the man's right.
 17-24 Right & Left Thru with the couple across the set.
 25-32 Same four Right & Left Thru back to their home line.
 33-40 2 Ladies Chain across the set.
 41-48 Same 2 Ladies Chain back.
 49-56 Same four Star Left.
 57-64 Same four Star Right.

**Plan now to attend the
 CDP Swapshop
 on
 Saturday evening
 Prior to the 1996
 CALLERLAB Convention**

No Partner Circle

Many CDP dances will have more of one gender than the other. It is always good to have several dances in your case that are done in a circle and require no partners. Line dances are fine for providing a place for everyone to dance, but many of these dancers are too difficult for the average 'klutz'.

Bob Howell used this dance at a beginner party in Ft. Worth recently. The music is Don Williams "Stay Young and Keep Your Wheels in Motion." The record is still available. It is mostly walking steps and the music is excellent.

Stay Young Jerry Helt

Formation: Single circle

Record: MCA 52310 "Stay Young"

Description:

1-4 Circle Left four steps.

5-8 Face the center of the hall and side-close to the left twice.

9-12 repeat 1-4.

13-16 repeat 5-8.

17-20 Walk diagonally left toward the center of the hall three steps and clap your hands together on the 4th count.

21-24 Back out following the same path four steps.

25-28 Walk diagonally right toward the center of the hall three steps and clap your hands together on the 4th count.

29-32 Back out following the same path four steps.

Note: Counts 17-32 should be danced in a V-shaped pattern.



Mixer

Many years ago *White Silver Sands* was a standard mixer done at many dances. As you can tell from the record references, two square dance labels recorded it. Recently another 'pop' version was released by Don Rondo on Virgo records. It's good and has much of the flavor of the original recording. Try it out.

White Silver Sands Manning & Nita Smith

Formation: Couples facing counterclockwise around the hall with near hands joined. Opposite footwork for the man and the lady.

Record: Jewel 703 or Grenn 15006 or Virgo VO-6016 "White Silver Sands"

Cues

Intro - - - -, - - Walk forward

1-8 - - Turn backup, - - Walk forward

9-16 - - Turn backup, - - Step apart

17-24 - Together - Apart, - Together & ladies roll back

25-32 - - Step left & right, - - Walk forward

Description:

1-8 Starting with outside feet, couples walk counterclockwise around the hall 3 steps. Turn on the 4th step to face clockwise. Backup 4 steps counterclockwise around the hall.

9-16 Couples reverse their direction of travel and walk clockwise around the hall 3 steps. Turn on the 4th step to face counterclockwise. Backup 4 steps clockwise around the hall.

17-24 Still facing counterclockwise couples step apart on the outside feet and touch the inside foot next to the outside foot in 2 beats of music. Step together on the inside feet and touch the outside foot beside the inside foot in 2 counts. Repeat the apart and together action one more time.

25-32 The lady rolls back over her right shoulder to the following man as he turns 1/4 to face her in 4 beats of music. Then they step to the man's left and touch and then to the man's right and touch. Couples should then quickly face to the counterclockwise direction to start the dance once again.

Note: This dance routine can be used to many other records. The music should have a medium beat.