

THE DOUBLE TOE TIMES

Volume 4, No. 2

A Clogging Newsletter

February 1986

Competition Workshop July 18, 19 & 20, 1986 Sponsored by The Double Toe Times

Even without a crystal ball, it is evident that Clogging Competitions are gaining favor all across the United States. Large entries with competitors coming from a wide geographical area to Hee Haw, Silver Dollar City, Pacific Coast and Utah indicate that the challenge of Competition Clogging has an ever increasing lure.

The only requirements for a Performance were largely self-imposed. In Competition there are the Sponsors and Judges rules for each category, many with traditional background and regulations.

With the thought that many of us need training in the How-To's of Competition, The Double Toe Times is sponsoring a Competition Workshop July 18, 19 & 20, 1986 at the famous River Ranch Resort, Lake Wales, Florida.

JoAnn Gibbs will be on hand to co-ordinate the program. Our Instructors will be Buzzy Ireland, Barbara Kohler, John PerMar, Bob Johnson, Foreman Heard, Scott Bilz, and JoAnn Gibbs. Additionally there will time in our program for teams to be critiqued by our Workshop Instructors.

Those Instructors and Directors who think they will never be interested in Competition are in for a surprise! In every Club there will be a few who WILL be excited about solos, duos, or duets and ultimately a four or eight couple team will emerge, with or without the Instructor! Wouldn't it be more fun to join them? This workshop is for ANYONE who is interested in learning.

A word about The River Ranch Resort. "The Largest Western Resort in the Southeastern United States" is their claim. Only an hour from Walt Disney World, it boasts an air strip, golf course, skeet and trap range, boat ramp and dock, horseback trail rides, two huge swimming pools, Motel, Cottages, tent or full hook-up RV sites, three WOOD-FLOORED halls for our use, plus an optional Barbecue and live Rodeo on Saturday night. There is a full restaurant with red-checked tablecloths, plus food available at the Marina and the pool snack bar. River Ranch is casual - no need to bring dress-up duds, unless it is Cowboy Style. River Ranch is about 20 years old, and we found it to be immaculately clean, the windows in every building sparkling, the coquina walkways under the live oaks freshly raked. It will be very different from our City Conventions.

"It is not the critic who counts, not the man who points out how the strong man stumbled or where the doer of deeds could have done better.

The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena; whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly; who errs and comes short again and again; who knows the great enthusiasms, the great devotions, and spends himself in a worthy cause; who, at the best, knows in the end the triumph of high achievement; and who, at the worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who know neither victory nor defeat."

THEODORE ROOSEVELT



THE DOUBLE TOE TIMES

PUBLISHER/EDITOR

Bobbie Adams

A Clogging Newsletter

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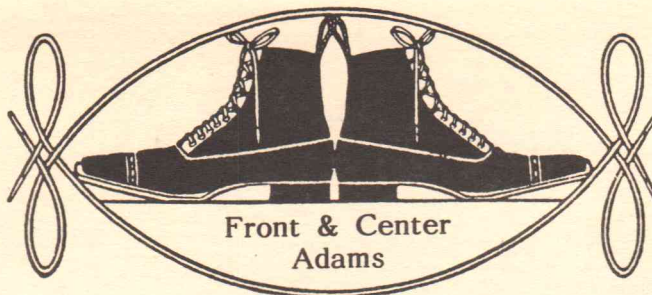
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Bobbie Adams 305/834-8255



Just finished reading the Missouri Clogging Council's NEWS - Jan. '86. It's just as friendly and spontaneous as Midwestern folks are supposed to be! Co-Editor Mary Pearson said she got a new computerized typewriter from 'Sandy Claws'. We've had one for about a year, and this Editor is just learning to use it. It was doing all sorts of strange and not so wonderful things, so I figured it needed an oil change and tune-up and toted it to my Dealer. To make a long story short - there wasn't a darn thing wrong with the machine - t'was the operator who needed adjustment! The typewriter remembers more than the typist. Good first issue, Gail and Mary!.

Marti Stevens, Moorestown, N.J. is doing an outstanding job of promoting Clogging in the Eastern PA-NJ area. Seems like Clogging is a popular activity with 4-H Groups. Keep us posted!

The first issue of "The Great Plains Clogger", soon to be the newsletter for The Kansas Clogging Association, indicates some good P.R. work on the part of Sheldon Lawrence. The Power of Positive Thinking Sheldon!

I enjoy reading "Square and Round Dance News" of San Antonio, TX, Ted Breske, Editor. Taw Deloris Breske is Director of the Alamo Cloggers, and this monthly publication always has news of Cloggers in the San Antonio area. Arizona "Follow the Sun" Monthly paper is also devoted to covering Square, Round and Clog Dancing, and when I read it I sometimes think Reed and Kay Davis are really pseudonyms for fourteen people - how on earth do they get to so many different places in one month? Ah, Youth!

One small jewel of a paper well worth mentioning, but little known - in fact I only have two issues - is Linda Carolan's "Fire on the Mountain Gazette". Wish she would get serious about newslettering because this gal makes every word count! Very Professional!

One of my favorite papers is Barb Shade's "Footnoter". Barb lives in Batavia, Ohio and her paper covers a broad area of Clogging, Bluegrass Music, and Folk Dancing. She had the neatest article on "Play Party Games" in a past issue now if I can only find it in my jumbled file cabinet! Barb's own outstanding pen and ink art work is sprinkled through the paper and her covers are always delightful.

These are only a few of the papers we've received in the last few months - more in our next issue. We requested some new "stories" from Foreman Heard, Editor of "The Flop Eared Mule" (CLOG), (our FH folder is empty) and he said he was "dry"! I empathize completely. One way I get my creative juices flowing again is to read and reread other wonderful Clogging newsletters!

Our March Issue will have a write-up, the Winners, and Photos of Buckin' Mules Southern States Competition, Kissimmee, FL. Have it first hand that there will be folks from ALL over including Virginia, Utah and California!

Upcoming Events

- Feb. 7 & 8** Bearfoot Cloggers Jamboree
Daytona Beach, FL
Beverly Dionne, Director
(904) 428-5333
- Feb. 14 & 28** Goodtime Cloggers Dances
Riverview, FL
Sally Root, Director
Rt. 3, Box 519
Valrico, FL 33594
(813) 689-7271
- Feb. 15** The Footnoter Benefit
Cincinnati, OH
Contact: The Footnoter
1555 Old S.R. 74
Batavia, OH 45103
- Feb. 21 & 22** CSRA Clogging Festival
Augusta, GA
Contact: Peggy Gasque
4409 Ga. Hereford Farm Road
Evans, GA 30809
(404) 863-9074
- Mar. 1** USA Cloggers Workshop
Live Oak Coliseum, Live Oak, FL
Contact: Linda Waldron
(904) 397-2841 (Work)
(904) 397-2650 (Home)
- Mar. 14 & 18** Goodtime Cloggers Dances
(Same as Feb. 14 & 18)
- Mar. 21 & 22** Springtime Tallahassee Festival
Tallahassee, FL
Contact: Gaynelle Mullis
Rt. 15, Box 750
Tallahassee, FL 32301
(904) 878-8837
- Mar. 21 & 22** South Carolina Clogging Stampede
North Myrtle Beach, SC
Contact: Shirley Heyward
P. O. Box 198
N. Myrtle Beach, SC 29597
(803) 249-3235
- Mar. 22** Louisville (LACA) Spring Workshop
With Steve Smith - Kentucky
Contact: Cliff & Patricia Breehl
4007 Peachtree Ave.
Louisville, KY 40215
(502) 363-4336
- Mar. 27, 28 & 29** Possum Holler Clogging Workshop
Fontana Village, NC
JoAnn Gibbs, Director
3452 Summitt Ridge Drive
Doraville, GA 30340
(404) 934-1691
- Mar. 28 & 29** Master City Clogging Championship
Augusta, GA
Contact: James and Aileen Carter
720 Heard Ave.
Augusta, GA 30904
(404) 736-2698
- Apr. 4 & 5** Midlantic Clogging & 4-H Cloggers
Workshop with John PerMar - Florida
Near Philadelphia
contact: Marti Stevens
105 Fellowship Rd.
Moorestown, NJ 08057
(609) 235-9468
- Apr. 11 - 13** Derby City Spring Festival
Louisville, KY
Contact: Cliff and Patricia Breehl
(See Mar. 22 - LACA)
- Apr. 25 & 26** Sunshine Cloggers Pirates Ball
Orlando, FL
Contact: Sue and Tom Toor
P. O. Box 563
Longwood, FL 32750
(305) 695-6437 or 834-8255
- May 2 & 3** CAW - Wisconsin - Jamboree '86
Holiday Inn SE, Madison, WI
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1224 Jenifer # 3
Madison, WI 53703
(608) 251-6169 eve. or 845-6127 days
- May 17** Missouri Clog Council Workshop
"Showcase of Instructors"
Eldon Tri-County Convention Center
Contact: Brenda Martien
P. O. Box 427
Branson, MO 65616
(417) 334-6263
- May 23 & 24** FCC State Clogging Convention
Curtis Hixon Center, Tampa, FL
Contact: Bill Fuller
2512 Pecan Rd.
Tallahassee, FL 32303
(904) 385-8460
- June 13, 14 & 15** 35th Minnesota Square Dance
Convention Clog Program with
Charlie Burns - Kentucky
Rochester, MN
Contact: Ida Seibel
9315 Union Terr.
Maple Grove, MN 55369
(612) 425-2240
- June 26, 27 & 28** 35th National Square Dance
Convention - Indiana Convention Ctr.
Full Clogging Program
Contact: Mike and Carolyn Kell
315 W. 4th Street
Seymour, IN 47274
(812) 522-8199
- June 28 - July 4** 11th Annual Nat'l Cloggers Festival
Provo, Utah
Contact: Cloggers Festival
P. O. Box 903
Orem, UT 84057
- July 18, 19, & 20** Double Toe Times Competition
Workshop
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COMPETITIVELY SPEAKING

By Steve Smith
281 Boiling Springs Dr.
Lexington, Ky. 40505

RATING INDIVIDUAL COMPETITORS



A student came up to me the other day and asked about individual competition. She wanted to know what the judges look for when an individual "rises and shines". I began by telling her about my experience as a competitor. As I continued to talk I realized that the systems used to judge individuals are often not explicit, not very easy to articulate, and are additionally subjective. So I am going to take the plunge and attempt to identify characteristics of individual freestyling which I consider important for judges to rate and for festival directors to include on a judging sheet.

Grace: The effortlessness and smoothness with which steps and movements are performed

Enthusiasm: The amount of excitement generated by the dancer.

Posture: How does the individual carry him or herself.

Versatility: The variety of steps, styling, and movement shown by the dancer.

Contact: Audience contact made while dancing.

Rhythm/Sound: The crispness, clarity, and complexity of the tap sounds.

Judges will sometimes say that it is impossible to rate each individual using rating sheets because it would be too time consuming. RUBBISH!!! What is time consuming is having repetitive "call backs" because judges cannot make up their minds who they think is the winner. So what decides for them - - - FATIGUE!! I don't think it should be that way. We don't need fainting children at competitions. Such situations happen all too often.

Each child could be rated from 1-10 on each of the six characteristics stated in about 30 seconds. The sheets could quickly be tallied at another table and the top 6-8 brought back for a final attempt. It is unlikely that a tie would result when all the judges scores were added together.

Another nice result from this process is the feedback that individual dancers would get at the end of the competition. I have never participated in a competition where individual dancers were given feedback regarding the ratings they received. This would allow that and give notice to the dancer on his/her weakest and strongest categories. It would also provide a more objective rating device and leave the judges less vulnerable to criticisms of subjective decision-making.

As always I would like to hear your opinions regarding these matters. Keep the cards and letters coming!!!

I'm Steve Smith
Lexington, Ky

Left Tap Immortality!

We are a pair of TAPS! We HAVE to tell someone our story. We are at this moment, on our owners feet — it is early in the morning — his feet are tired, a bit swollen, but we can sense his excitement — will he have us bronzed if he wins?

It all goes back to the day we got the last polish at the factory and were packed in a dark box, put into a truck with other boxes and jostled on the road for hours. We napped, not knowing what was next. We were uncrated and stacked on a shelf — my partner Righty, always the Boss, was grouchy, but I gossiped with the other taps at night. I might add with modest pride that my partner and I are a pair of high quality metal taps. Righty was to have told this story but I had the incredible good fortune to be purchased by a left-footed dancer, so Righty is left out. I'm sure you understand that it is incredible for a Lefty to be right!!

Our first excursion was a bit startling — we were put on a "last" and nailed onto the toes and heels of a pair of leather soled shoes. I let Righty go first — his (koff koff) last first!!

Our new owner whistled a catchy tune as we

hurried home — but we soon learned that he whistles off key. That evening we had our first workout — we were a bit stiff and Righty rubbed some blisters, out of spite I think, but we keep good time! As the weeks and months rolled by, it was one tired pair of taps who rested by day in their soft cloth bag. Righty does his work well, only occasionally stepping on me, and now accepts me as the Boss!

We've been to Parakeet, West California, Montana, Disaster City, Cone Hill, Copper Penny Town and here we are at the S.P.C.T.C.E. finals competing for the Grand Overall Championship (with a twice life size bust of Darcy Abernathy on top. You remember Darcy, he's the one who won in 1939, and he's here today in his full length racoon coat, shaking hands and giving autographs — I even got my program X'd!)

And here we are — the big moment — we did our stuff brilliantly the first time and we are waiting for Call Backs — electricity from our owner NOW — here we go again — love those fiddles — AAAAND. . . The Winner Is. . . OUR OWNER!!!!!!!

I hope he realizes that without us, he'd just be an old soft shoe man!!

Moral: Now and then Left is right and Right is left!!

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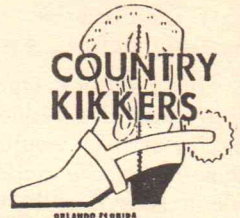
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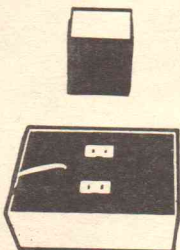
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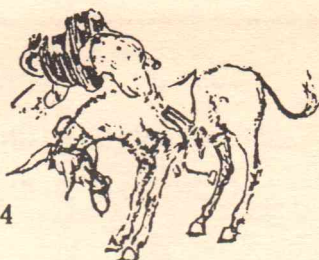
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BUCK VS CLOG PART II

In my first article on this subject, I gave you hints and clues on what exact style that you danced. For example, Buck dancers usually danced on the balls of their feet, and Cloggers use a good shuffle and double toe.

The first Competition using a division of Buck and Clog was recently held in Atlanta, Georgia. It was called The All American Clogging Championship, and the only categories at this competition were Individual and Duet and within these two divisions were Novice, Buck or Clog.

The Novice category was really popular and the only requirement was that you hadn't won at a competition before, excluding Team wins.

In the Buck Dance Division, the dancers were told that the Judges (Scotty Bilz, Jean Stephenson, Jeff Parrott) would be looking for a dancer who danced on the balls of their feet, made a good clean sound while using a smooth floating style. Whether deliberate or accidental, some of the were in all actuality "Clogging".

For example: A double-toe-step-rock-step is a basic in Clogging. A Basic Buck is double ball-heel-ball heel-ball - a difference of five sounds to seven. My advice to all dancers entering a divided solo competition is to go home and examine how you dance again, and be sure before you enter! I'd hate to see a good Clogger lose in the Buck Dance Division.

That's all for this month!

Scotty's Spotlight

CHIP WOODALL

This month's Spotlight is on Chip Woodall, a very talented young man who lives in Gainesville, Georgia. He teaches two to three nights a week and is the Director of The Melody Hoedown Cloggers, a newly formed group with some really impressive dancers.

Chip is mighty impressive himself! He has won numerous awards in the individual and duet categories. Probably his most well-known win was the Overall Duet at HeeHaw in 1984 with his partner, Kimberly Chapman. Most recently he won the All American Buck Dance Male.

I've never heard such corny lyrics, such simpering sentimentality, such repetitious, uninspired melody. Man, we've got a hit on our hands!

--- Brad Anderson

NAME THAT CLOGGER



Christi Cross: "But how did Santa know my Size?"



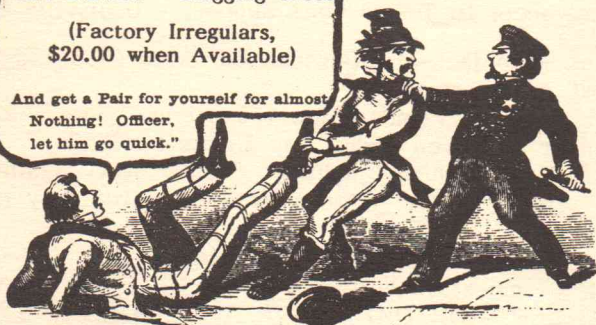
Cheryl Cross: T'was the night before Citrus?

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Editors Note: On the last night of the CLOG National Convention, a Minnesota Clogger was paged via JoAnn Gibbs on the Microphone, for an important phone call - of course our hearts went out to that person, hoping it wasn't really bad news. The news was "don't try to come home tomorrow, we are having a blizzard!" -----

We were filled with enthusiasm following an enjoyable and informative Second CLOG National Convention, and were anxious to return home to share our experiences with Minnesota Clogger.

When we left Louisville, Kentucky on Sunday little did we know what was in store for us. For real thrills and excitement you need to drive on an ice-covered road with snow coming down in sheets. Some Minnesota dancers, concerned about the bad roads, decided to stop early enough to stay in a Motel; others thought they could manage a few more miles, hoping to spend the night with fellow cloggers and friends. The house we finally stayed in was a House of Worship!

As we started preparing for dinner, the suggestion was made that we all pool whatever food we had or could buy and have a smorgasbord - fortunately there was a grocery store within walking distance. The Church Ladies cooked a delicious meal for 120 stranded motorists. The local service station and convenience store, hearing of our plight, donated soda, cookies and other goodies.

Not only was there a smorgasbord of food, but a smorgasbord of people as well. Large families, small families, farmers, retirees and students, all returning to somewhere after the Thanksgiving Holiday. After dinner, the students worked on homework, some folks played cards, others found puzzles or conversation to keep them occupied.

The Cloggers brought in their tape recorder, found a nice clear area and worked on some of the routines they'd just learned. People, seeing them practicing, hoped there would be a Clogging Exhibition, but once again the weather stepped in. The power and heat went out for nearly five hours, and since the temperature outside was -7° (that's seven BELOW zero) not even counting the windchill factor, it did not take long for the Church to cool off! People huddled in blankets which the Minister managed to find, or simply walked the floor trying to keep warm.

When we left the Church Monday morning, we realized how fortunate we have been. The ditches and median strips were lined for miles with cars and trucks whose drivers had obviously lost control of their vehicles -- in one spot five cars were piled up! After we returned home, we learned that other Minnesota dancers, unable to find a Motel Room, had spent the night in a FireHouse!

All the Minnesota Cloggers have indicated that they really enjoyed the Convention and are looking forward to the Third, where ever it might be!

Page 8

Rawls Denies Rumor!

It is hard to pin Chris Rawls, Miami, Florida, down for an interview if there is a dance floor available. Therefore, it was a surprise when this Editor wound up on the same plane from Atlanta, Ga. to Louisville, Kentucky. At 30,000 feet with the SEAT BELT sign ON, he was trapped.

Chris told the whole story of The Big Red Drawers - Mobile '84 and this Editor was delighted to be privvy, in advance, to JoAnn Gets Support - Louisville '85.

A good jack-of-all-trades Editor is first and foremost a Reporter:

Editor: "I understand you originally were a Tap Dancer and even had a Tap Dance Studio."

Rawls: Much laughter. "THAT story again!"

Editor: "I've heard it for years from any number of reliable sources."

Rawls: "I may have done some ball room dancing, but let me state here and now I NEVER WAS A TAP DANCER, NOR DID I HAVE A TAP DANCE STUDIO!" "Furthermore, the first time I ever saw Clogging, I thought it was tacky!"

There you have it folks - the True Story. Chris obviously doesn't think it is tacky any more, but if you want to interview him, the only place to do it is at 30,000 feet! Thanks, Chris.

JOY OF BEING AN EDITOR

Getting out this newspaper is no picnic.

If we print jokes, people say we are silly.

If we don't they say we are too serious.

If we don't print contributions, we don't appreciate genius;

And, if we do print them, the paper is filled with junk!

If we edit the other fellow's write-up, we're too critical;

If we don't, we're asleep.

If we clip things from other papers, we are too lazy to write them ourselves.

If we don't, we are stuck on our own stuff.

*Now, likely as not, some guy will say we swiped this from some magazine.**

**We did!*

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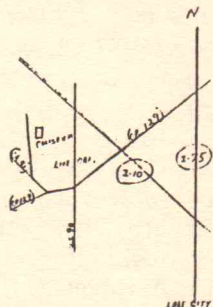
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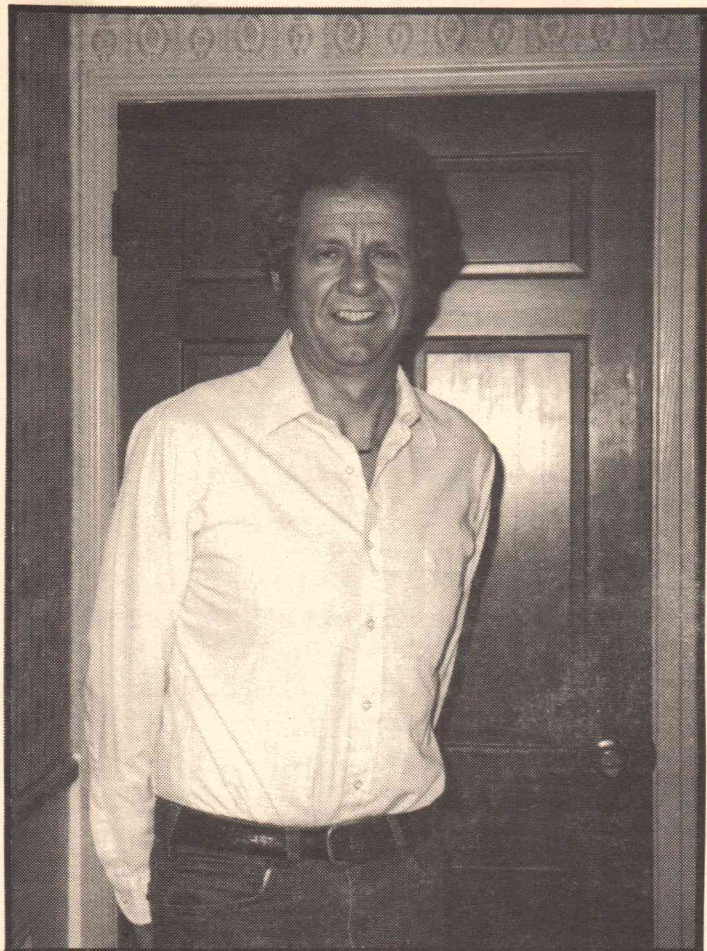
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CHARLIE BURNS



I am delighted to have the opportunity to share with you some of my thoughts and feelings about a man that many of you have either met or heard of in some capacity — "Charlie Burns". If ever a list is compiled of people who have touched and changed the lives of cloggers everywhere, his will be there.

He lives in Richmond, Kentucky and is well-known throughout Central Kentucky. Teaching 4-6 nights a week, Charlie has single-handedly taught over 3,000 new cloggers in the last 4 years. His classes always over-packed, he is a clogging teacher extraordinaire. Charlie is probably THE BEST beginner clogging instructor in the country. Sit in a class with him

and watch how he handles the crowd. His enthusiasm is catching and his methods of communicating to potential dancers is the result of thousands of hours spent honing his skill. "He makes it seem so easy", they say. Above and beyond teaching people "how to communicate with their feet" as Charlie often says, he also gives people a lifelong gift of self-confidence and self-esteem.

I am a psychologist by profession, but there is a lot of the psychologist in Charlie also. His classes are truly "therapeutic" and offer people an invaluable avenue for stress reduction and personal growth. More than once I have seen frightened and insecure adults and children undergo almost miraculous changes in a matter of several weeks.

Charlie has also made a name for himself as a "caller". Teams will often hire Charlie to call a dance for them as a way to raise money for their team. He always has a "full house" because of his good nature and enthusiasm. It is not uncommon during the winter months for Charlie to be calling a dance every Friday and Saturday night. In addition, he also volunteers his time for charity and benefit dances. Hosting dances for the American Heart Association, Muscular Dystrophy Association, Kidney Foundation, and others, he aids those not fortunate enough to have the capacity to dance.

Where does he get the time? I've known Charlie for six years now and I still don't know! He's a full-time manager at IBM and has a lovely spouse named Shirley. In this case it's definitely true that behind every great man is a great woman. It takes a lot of patience and love to graciously accept her role as the supporting cast.

Charlie first started clogging in 1979 and has been a "clog-a-holic" ever since. He has co-directed two teams, The Bluegrass Country Cloggers and Orange Blossom Specials, to national titles in the USA competition in Nashville, Indiana. He is a "seasoned" competition judge but prefers teaching workshops to judging clogging competitions. He is a frequently requested workshop teacher all over the country.

The next opportunity you have to either speak to Charlie Burns or to learn the latest "hot" step from him — do it!! You'll never meet a more personable man. Thanks Charlie for being you!!!

Sincerely,
Steve Smith



Dear Elvira: I need some advise on freestyle clogging. Do I dance on the up beat, the down beat, or somewhere in between?
T.W.

Dear T. W.: Yes!
Elvira

Dear Elvira: My parents make me mad. Have you ever run away from home?
Dennis

Page 10

Dear Dennis: Yes. It took them a month to find me. They didn't look.
Elvira

Dear Elvira: I missed a test question. How would you complete it? "Give a criminal enough rope. . . ."
S.P.

Dear S.P.: . . . and he'll tie up the cashier."
Elvira

Dear Elvira: What's the best way for a girl to keep a man at a distance?
Nita

Dear Nita: Chase him.
Elvira

Third Annual Sunshine Cloggers Pirate's Ball

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Exhibition times are still available. Minimum of six dancers to perform. Five (5) minute time limit. There will be a Trophy for the largest Club Group in the Grand March and also one for the Group coming from the Farthest distance.

The Pirate's Costume Competition, held Saturday evening, will have five Categories: Most Creative, Most Original, Handsomest (Male), Most Beautiful (Female), and Funniest! There will be magnificent Pirate Theme trophies for First, Second and Third in each category.

Our Pirate's Chest Competition has two purposes. The money in the Chests, and part of the overall proceeds from the entire Pirate's Ball, will be presented to Harry Anna Crippled Children's Hospital, an Elks project in Umatilla, Florida. The exterior decoration and design of each Chest will be competing for our Pirate's traveling Trophy, which has been won for the past two years by The Pony Express Cloggers, Kissimmee, Florida.

Dress: Our Friday Evening Dance will be "dress up" night. Club Outfit, best Clogging attire or your fanciest Country-Western duds. The folks at Cheyenne Saloon would especially like us to be in Clogging costume. Saturday workshops are casual. Saturday Evening is Clogging attire or Pirate's Costumes!

Our Pirate's Ball Afterparty will be held in the Grand Ballroom of the Howard Johnson's Hotel Saturday April 26, 1986 beginning at 11 PM. Please bring fingerfoods to share; there will be a Cash Coke and Ice Bar. Bring your own liquid refreshments if you like. Music and dancing and maybe a skit or two - if your group has one to share, please bring it along!



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I'LL DRIVE

BY: Foreman Heard

Scotty told me that we may have to fly to some workshops and competitions next year. No way, Scotty, unless you can find me a parachute. You fly, I'll drive. It's not so much the flying that bothers me, actually. It's the idea of coming to a sudden and complete stop on a runway somewhere. Landing is the scary part. I'm used to the take off, but I'm not used to the landing.

It's October 1969. The plane had taken off from Fort Benning, Georgia only minutes before. Strapped to my back is a bag full of twenty-five pounds of nylon. Attached to the bag is a long yellow cord, the other end of which is attached to a cable near the ceiling of the aircraft. Standing behind and beside me are twenty-nine other guys similarly dressed. We are standing in an airplane, somewhere over Alabama, and the back door is OPEN. Only an idiot would fly in an airplane with the door open. All thirty idiots look around at each other and smile weakly at the thought of what we are about to do. In two minutes a little red light by the open door is going to turn green and I am going to step out of a perfectly good airplane into 1,250 feet of nothing but blue skies. Hopefully that cord attached to the airplane is going to pop open the bag on my back, and a parachute will gracefully unfold and lower me gently to earth. I've got to be out of my mind.

There is another fool who seems to be in charge of this mission, hanging out the open door, trying to see where we are going. His face is distorted by the wind blowing by at 150 miles per hour. Suddenly he steps back and tells me to stand in the door. I think

that now would be a good time to excuse myself and retire to the restroom. Unfortunately this plane has no restroom. I am looking straight out the door. All I see is the distance are trees. I glance out of the corner of my eye at the ground. Trees! I thought there was going to be a haystack or something down there.

Suppose I refuse to go? I mean really, what can they do? Surely they wouldn't make someone do something against his will. The light is green. The fool in charge is screaming in my ear. **GO!!!** I summon all my strength, shut my eyes tightly, and commit suicide.

"In space no one can hear you, scream". But then, that's not screaming I hear, it's cheering. I open my eyes to make sure it's not a chorus of angels and there I hang, under a thirty foot canopy, 1,200 feet above the ground, floating slowly downward. The feeling is exhilarating. I'm alive.

The trip from 1,200 feet to the ground takes about 60 seconds. It's a short sixty seconds. Suddenly the ground appears to be rushing up to meet me with frightening speed. I prepare for the shock. I hit firmly and decide next time to remove my wallet before I jump. Final assessment: I'm on the ground, no broken bones, first parachute jump completed.

As I said in the beginning, Scotty, I'm not going in a plane. It's not the flight that concerns me. It's the landing. You see, Scotty, I've taken off and flown in an airplane thirty-one times and it was "cool", but I have yet to land in one. "Now you know the rest of the story". You fly, I'll drive.



Sunshinettes "Sweet Nutcracker"



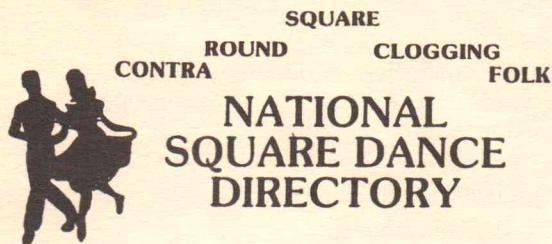
Our "ballerinas" and their reluctant impromptu new director, were once again the hit of the seasonal show at the Maitland Auditorium. "Kevinette" and "Waynette" made their debut, and it was rumored that "Tomette" wept copiously on the plane to California, because he had to miss the annual performance. "Waynette" will be in charge of Fund Raisers this year to replenish their pantyhose and balloons.

THE FICKLE FINGER OF FATE



Old Fickle is tickled! Way back in October he mentioned that there were a few State Clogging Groups he'd never heard from - well, practically all those groups have been heard from! That'll show the Editor that folks DO read Fickle!

Sheldon Lawrence/Kansas; Cathy Reynolds/ Colorado; Darl Moreland/Indiana -- still no word from the elusive and mysterious Becky Jones/Kentucky. Guess Fickle will pick on Ohio, Oklahoma, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania! Or how about North Dakota, South Dakota, and New Mexico. The strangest thing of all though, is North Carolina and Georgia. These two states are supposedly in the heartland of Clogging and neither one have a State Organization! Hmmm! Anybody out there who has an answer?



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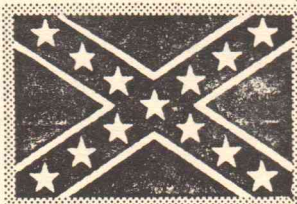
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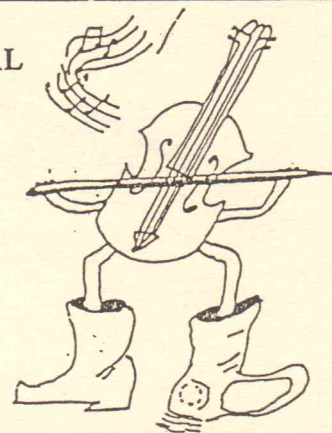
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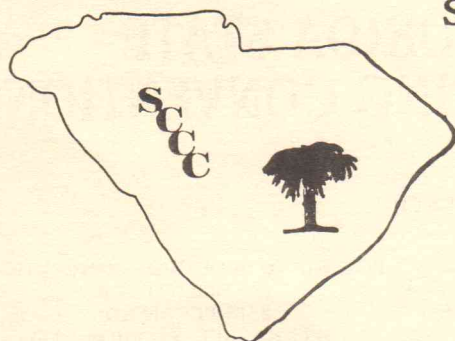


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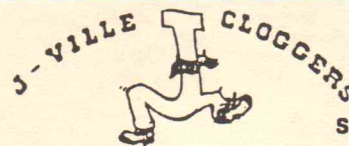
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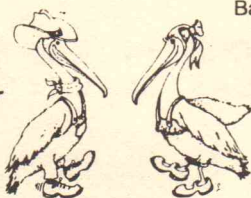
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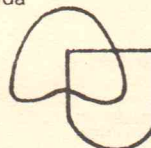
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