

THE DOUBLE TOE TIMES

Volume 4, No. 4

A Clogging Newsletter

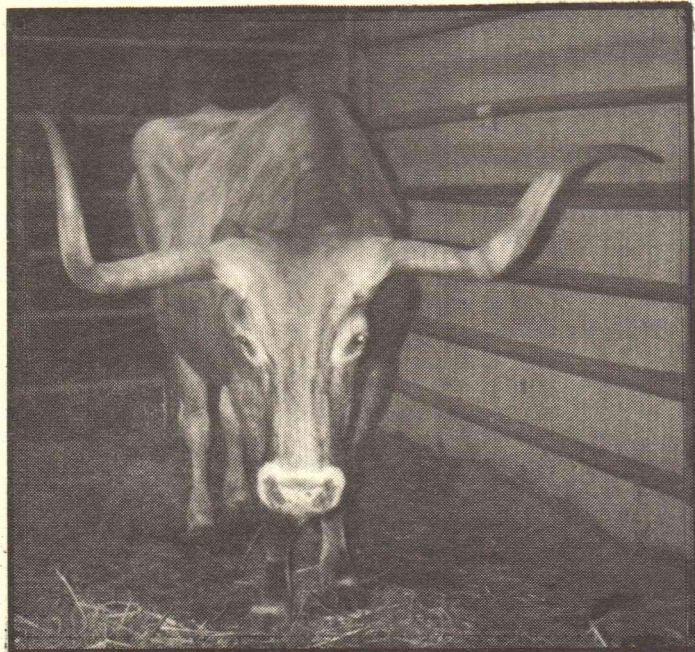
April 1986

Two Steppin' in Texas

By Leonard Ryan
Orlando, Florida

Gilly's! San Antone Rose! Midnight Rodeo! Bull Whip! Cow Palace! Diamondback! These are the dance and entertainment spots visited by the Country Kikkers, from Orlando, Florida, on their recent trip to Houston, Texas. Country Western dancing is alive and well in

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Livestock Show, Houston

Sugarfoot Workshop

St. Augustine, Florida

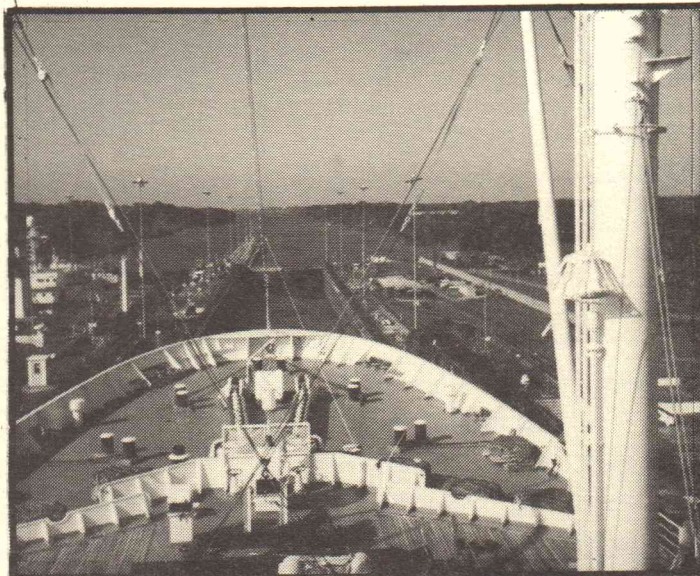
Held in the St. Augustine National Guard Armory, this high energy workshop had just about something for everyone. The programming was excellent, including ample request time, and just enough (but not too many) performances before the evening dance.

The Sugar Foot Family Cloggers are the perpetrators of some very funny costume or mime choreography, and once again made laughter as important as Clogging. Their "Potato Sack Clogger" and "Bird" dancers were hilarious. We also got to see Tish Allen and Greg Dionne perform their Competition Duet which netted this first-time pair a 2nd Place

Continued on Page 11

Pride and Joy Cloggers Transcanal Cruise

By Peg McLerran
Solsberry, Indiana



Passing through the locks, Panama Canal

The Pride and Joy Cloggers, under the direction of Peggy McLerran, Solsberry, Indiana, are one of the oldest clogging groups still dancing and performing today. Some of the original members of ten years ago are still dancing with the group. They have traveled and performed throughout the United States

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Tish Allen & Greg Dionne

THE DOUBLE TOE TIMES

PUBLISHER/EDITOR

Bobbie Adams

A Clogging Newsletter

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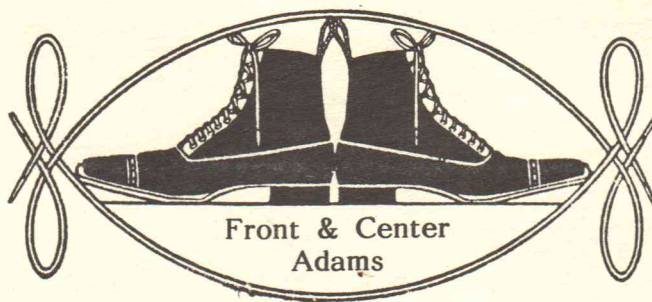
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An "Editor Who Shall Remain Nameless" referred, in his March Issue, Page 5, to ". . . that iridescent . . . Bobbie Adams". UNDERLINED! Reed - are you sure you've been introduced to the right Bobbie Adams? My Webster's Collegiate Dictionary sez: iridescent - 1. a play of colors producing rainbow effects 2. effect suggestive of iridescence . . . as in brilliance; a certain glamor and superiority. Aw shucks, Reed. (And this Editor went off humming "Glow Little Glow Worm, Glimmer Glimmer . . . ")

The Texas Clogger Volume VI, Number 4, arrived. New Editor Linda Carol Forest has done a fine first issue. Devoted to pertinent Texas news, it is done in a classy, columnized, computerized format. Linda Carol even re-did (on computer) the seven routines included in this issue - no mean feat! Wonder what the word processor thought of all those DSRS's!

Pam Liedl is involved with 4-H Cloggers in the Sarasota, Florida area. He; question: "Are there other 4-H Cloggers, past or present, who would be interested in corresponding?" Write: Pam Liedl, Clogging Clovers, 3813 Afton Circle, Sarasota, FL 33583.

Fill in the Blanks with the State of your Choice; _____ only does line routines. The only type of Clogging they do in _____ is Mountain Style. _____ doesn't have workshops or Conventions because none of the Competition Teams speak to each other. _____ (all of it) only allows Cueing with their own terminology, and doesn't welcome guests. No adults Clog in _____.

The McLerran's trip through the Panama Canal is a wonderful bonus feature. Barb Kohler makes me want to go to Missouri in June. We hope these folks will continue to share with we "armchair travelers".

For those of you who have asked, we believe that Scott Bilz, Foreman Heard, Old Fickle and Elvira are all on Strike! Or, like Eastern, perhaps they sold out! Do I look worried? Mother Nature always manages to fill a vacuum with something.

Carolyn Woodruff informed us that her daughter, Cindy Parlin, was married to Mr. Buddy Howard during the past Christmas Holidays. Congratulations to this Clogging and Square Dancing couple. Carolyn assured us that the Mississippi Mud Stomper will soon be in the mail.

Marge Callahan sez - "I'm a Volkswagen Instructor!" 'Course this Editor always equates the VW with the trusty Bug of days gone by - the old pregnant roller skate now no longer manufactured. So we decided that Marge is a high-quality, collectible Classic in her own time!

Funny Story: A (Nameless) Clogging group performed at a Nursing Home in their area during the Christmas season. The Nursing Home Activities Director called and persuaded the group to perform again in January, because she said the residents enjoyed it so. Now Spring is a hectic season for Cloggers, with rehearsals and Conventions and performances, and when the Activities Director called again in February, she used a different ploy. "We have one very elderly man who has never asked for anything before and he really wants to see the Cloggers

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Upcoming Events

April 4 & 5

Midlantic Clogging & 4-H Cloggers Workshop Contact Marti Stevens
105 Fellowship Rd. Moorestown,
NJ 08057 (609) 235-9468

April 11 - 13

Derby City Spring Festival
Contact Cliff & Patricia Breehl
4007 Peachtree Ave, Louisville,
KY 40215 (502) 363-4336

April 11 - 13

U.S. Clogging School, Nashville,
Indiana Contact Peg McLerran
R.R. 2, Box 216, Solsberry,
IN 47459 (812) 825-4072

April 18

Spaghetti Dinner & Dance
Sponsored by Pacesetter Kid's Team
Longwood, FL Contact Jacky Egli.
P.O. Box 1328, Longwood, FL
32750 (305) 886-1563

April 18 - 20

NCCA Clogging Convention
Fairgrounds, San Jose, CA
Contact Lois Elling, 16000 Marcella,
San Leandro, CA 94578
(415) 278-8621 or (408) 633-2739

April 20

Easter Seals Clogathon at the
Volusia Cty. Fairgrounds Contact
B. Durrance (904) 673-0503 or
Tom Cox (904) 672-0972

April 25 & 26

Sunshine Cloggers Pirates Ball
Expo Centr, Orlando, Florida
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
Contact Linda Weeks, 1224 Jenifer #3,
Madison, WI 53703 (608) 251-6169 eve.
or (608) 845-6127 days

May 3 - 4

Big John's Mountain Stomp - 3rd Annual
Stone Mountain, Georgia. Spectator's
delight! Big John Walters and 42 teams
perform for Park Visitors. Contact
Kathi Hayes, Stone Mountain Park,
GA (404) 469-9831

May 9 - 10

Sunshine Cloggers 7th Jamboree
Pensacola Auditorium, Pensacola, FL
Contact David Spencer, P.O. Box 8476,
Pensacola, FL 32505 (205) 342-4417 or
(205) 473-0300

May 16 - 17

"By the Sea" Clogging Festival
North Myrtle Beach, S.C. Contact
Shirley Heyward, P.O. Box 198,
N. Myrtle Beach, SC 29597
(803) 249-3235

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 Florida
Contact Bill Fuller, 2512 Pecan Rd.
Tallahassee, FL 32303
(904) 385-8460

May 30

Fifth Friday Clearwater Clogging
Jamboree Boatyard Village Pavillion
Contact Perry (Clearwater) 541-8783
Lee (Tampa) 933-3433 or Elvi
(St. Pete) 345-0883

May 30 - 31

Arkansas Spring Clogging Festival
University of Little Rock, Little Rock
Arkansas. Contact Dwayne Glanton
7600 Circle "R" Road, North Little
Rock, AR 72118 (501) 753-6245

June 13 - 15

35th Minnesota Square Dance Convention
Clog Program with Charlie Burns, KY.
Rochester, MN Contact Ida Seibel
9315 Union Ter., Maple Grove, MN 55369
(612) 425-2240

June 14 - 15

Southern Heritage Clogging Classic
Contact Rodney Whitten, Rt #6, Box 276G
Columbia, SC 29210 (803) 732-3465

June 20 - 22

Silver Dollar City Clogging
Extravaganza (Competition) Silver Dollar
City, Missouri Contact Rex Burdette
Silver Dollar City/Marvel Cave Park,
MO 65616 MO (800) 492-7092
All other States (800) 641-4202

June 27 - 28

Summertime Stomp, Punta Gorda,
Florida Contact Jan Bohley, 760
Del Ray Place, Punta Gorda, FL
33950 (813) 639-1001

June 26 - 28

35th National Square Dance Convention
Indianapolis, Indiana. Full Clogging
Program. Contact Mike and Carolyn
Kell, 315 W. 4th St., 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 11 - 13

U.S. Clogging Championship Nashville,
Indiana Contact Peg McLerran
R.R. 2, Box 216, Solsberry, IN 47459
(812) 825-4072

July 18 - 20

Double Toe Times Competition Workshop
River Ranch Resort, Lake Wales, Florida
Contact Bobbie Adams, P.O. Box 1004
Longwood, FL 32750 (305) 834-8255

August 1 - 3

Blue Ridge Mountain Clogging
Competition Georgia Mountains
Center, Gainesville, GA Contact Kerry
Thomas, P.O. Box 56571, Atlanta, GA
(404) 925-3842

August 8 - 10

Central Florida Clogging Celebration
Expo Centre, Orlando, FL Contact
Jacky Egli, P.O. Box 1328, Longwood,
FL 32750 (305) 886-1563

August 15 - 16

Canadian Clogging Festival Aurora,
Ontario, Canada Contact Sylvia
Hunka, 5 Springhouse Sq. Scarboro
Ontario M1W 2X2 Canada
(416) 498-8032 or 261-1517

August 23

West Virginia Clogging and
Hoedown Championships, Civic Center
Charleston, WV Contact CBS
Travelers, 910 Scenic Dr. Charleston,
WV 25311 (304) 744-2952 or 344-1975

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Upcoming Events through the month of the Event.

COMPETITIVELY SPEAKING

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



Individual Freestyling

This article will deal with tips and techniques that I have found useful in individual Freestyle competition. This is a category that takes a lot of courage to enter the first time because you are out there in center stage — all by yourself. It can be quite unnerving but is rarely as scary as our catastrophic predictions, i.e., "I will fall down and everybody will laugh at me."

Individual competition is an exhilarating event to participate in and always a crowd pleaser. But don't expect the judges to agree with your choices — the styles will vary and necessarily subjective selections will be made. However, here are a few tips designed to give you. . . the competitive edge.

Endurance

You have to be in good shape! Freestyle competition often comes to the point that endurance will decide the winner. If you get fatigued, you can't carry out your steps with style and sharpness. Contestants are far too often asked to dance too long for their safety and to a point where endurance, not dancing ability, decides the winner. I don't like to see fainting, heart attacks, asthmatic episodes and other traumas brought on by the inability of the judges to make quick and accurate judgments. If they can't decide, then they shouldn't be judging. No one ever said it was easy.

However, you can safely bet that individual competition will be physically taxing in the final stages of the competition and it will behoove you to be in aerobic shape. What do I mean by aerobic shape? I mean keeping your heart rate at 70-85 percent of maximum capacity for 20-30 minutes at least three times a week. This could be through clogging, jogging, bike riding, etc. It doesn't matter as long as your cardiovascular system is taxed for that amount of time at that intensity.

It will also help greatly if you practice full breathing while you are clogging. Many people hold their breath when dancing (especially in competition) and as a result fatigue much more rapidly. By breathing fully you will get oxygen to the muscles that need it. If not, then your legs will begin to feel like lead.

Also, light shoes and lightweight slacks will lighten the load on your legs, and believe me, it really makes a difference over the long haul

Condition of Floor

Is the floor slick, sticky, rough, smooth, or have cracks in it? Check the condition of the floor to see whether you need to put tape on your taps or on the soles of your shoes if the floor is too slick. I like adhesive tape but others use duct tape.

If the floor has cracks or spots that are sticky, then avoid dancing in those areas. If the floor is very rough, consider selecting steps to perform that do not require a lot of "shuffling" on the floor so that you don't fatigue rapidly or feel like your foot is glued to the floor.

Judges' Preference

Watch the judges. Who are they rewarding in the freestyle category? Are they rewarding those with good showmanship but with mediocre footwork, or are they rewarding versatility in footwork? Some judges watch only the feet while others watch the person's face and body movements much of the time. As a result, you might be able to somewhat alter your presentation to suit the judges' preference.

Showmanship

Many a competition has been decided by showmanship when all other things are equal. When the footwork does not clearly delineate the winner, showmanship will. Work on it by practicing in front of a mirror, by facing the spectators in exhibitions where you are freestyling, and by looking outward at the audience. Don't watch your feet! They're not going anywhere. Practice your posture, smile and show your excitement!

Speed of Music

I once won a competition because I could dance equally well at different speeds of music. Because most freestyle competitions resemble horse races, some people only practice dancing to very fast music. Dancing fast is certainly a necessity but you should also practice to moderately fast, moderate, and moderately slow music. There are many steps that I can do at moderately paced music that I can't do to fast music. Have some steps in your repertoire that you can "shine" with if the music is slowed down a bit. Remember that the definition of dancing is movement to rhythm. If the rhythm is slowed down, be ready to move with it!

Steps & Style

This is certainly the most controversial aspect in a freestyle competition. I am not going to discuss the merits of different styles but will say again that it is important to watch the judges to see if indeed their choices are reflecting their style preferences. It is something that you cannot get away from in a

Continued on Page 6

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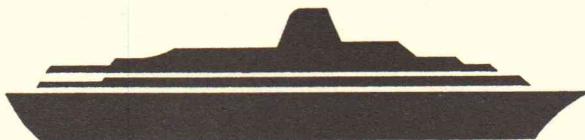
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A stylized, cursive signature of the word "dolphin" in a dark, bold font.

Steve Smith

Continued from Page 4

contest where subjectivity reigns so grin and bear it!

Some people have asked me if I do a routine when I got out for a 'rise and shine'. I don't, and know of no one that does who has done well in individual competition. I usually have four or five steps that I know that I want to do. I can't remember any more than that under pressure and trust that I will remember others when I get out there. I hopefully have a step that I can move forwards with, backwards, sideways, and in a circle. Sometimes the judges will have you "travel" and it is beneficial to have steps that you can move about the stage with.

Don't get too hung up on the number of steps that you can do. It is more important to do the ones you do very well, with grace and style, and with showmanship.

Also, don't forget to practice doing your "rise and shine" in front of a mirror. Some steps look better facing the judges while others look flashier from the side. By looking in the mirror you will see what the judges will be seeing. It is also a good way to see yourself without looking down at your feet. Practice good posture and good showmanship.

Front & Center Continued from Page 2

again". They went! As the Clogging Instructor said, the guilt at the thought of this old fellow departing this world without seeing the Cloggers was too much! Still another Clogging group, who normally charge a nominal fee for performing, were doing a Free performance at a Nursing home, when one of the Aides got chatty. It seems as though most of the residents were in the 50% tax bracket, and the following week-end were taking a Chartered Bus to a luxury hotel in Palm Beach. Sheesh!

'Nother Funny Story: A new Clogging friend had been purchasing and reading The Double Toe Time for five or six months. I see her every week, and she and her family have begun going to workshops with all of us. Last night she came charging up to me, waving a copy of The Double Toe Times. "I just found out YOU are the Editor!" she said. My Mom will appreciate the humor in my low profile!!!

Country Wisdom

"Ain't nothin' wrong with bein' proud!" Pride is what makes you stand a little taller, an' gives you the oomph to put your best foot forward. What happens when a body gets too proud? Why then he ain't proud no more - he's scairt and arrogant and boastey. Instead of holdin' his own head up nice an high, he's peekin' out the corners of his eyes at other folks and comparin' hisself and then tryin' to make them look littler and hisself bigger. Just remember - Pride that dines on vanity sups on contempt. Benjamin Franklin - 1757.

Page 6



The following . . . was sent to The Old Farmer's Almanac . . . from a man in Sneeds Ferry, North Carolina.

Dear Editor of The Old Farmer's Almanac
(Dublin, NH 03444);

Here's my situation and I hope you can straighten things out for me. My wife's grandfather was named Jerry Jarman. His best friend was Henry Heath. Tragically, both lost their wives in death and each was left with children to care for. Also, each had a daughter old enough to court. Well, Jerry Jarman courted and married Henry Heath's daughter, Lou, which made Henry Jerry's father-in-law, and Jerry Henry's son-in-law.

To complicate matters, Henry Heath then courted and married Jerry Jarman's daughter, Eva. Now Jerry became Henry's father-in-law and Henry became Jerry's son-in-law. Of course, Henry was already Jerry's father-in-law and now he was his son-in-law. Same with Jerry, so in a manner of speaking one could say each became his own father-in-law and his own son-in-law.

In the same way, Jerry and Henry's new wives, Lou and Eva, became each other's own mother-in-law and daughter-in-law. Naturally enough, complications mushroomed when both couples were blessed with children, then more children, all of whom had such a confusion of double stepfathers and stepmothers, double nephews, and double grandfathers-in-law that in several generations no one knows who is who.

Well, 37 years ago I married one of the granddaughters. I do know my wife's maiden name was Sadie Marie Jarman, granddaughter of Jerry Jarman and daughter of Claude Jarman. But when you consider the Heaths, does it mean she's her own grandmother-in-law? (signed)

Garland Wesley Brinson (I think)

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Pride & Joy Continued from Page 1

and in fifteen foreign countries.

The **Pride and Joy** and 49 friends from a five State area, recently took an exciting and educational Transcanal Cruise. Departing from Indianapolis via Mexicana Airlines for Acapulco, Mexico where they boarded the French Cruise Ship, the S/S Rhapsody. From Acapulco, the ship headed south for Central America and steamed through the Panama Canal to the Caribbean with disembarkation at Ft. Lauderdale, Florida for a return flight to Indianapolis.

Ports of Call included Acapulco, Mexico; Cristobal, Panama; San Blas Islands, Panama; Cartagena, Columbia, South America; Ocho Rios, Jamaica; and Ft. Lauderdale, Florida.

During their stop at Cristobal, the **Pride and Joy Cloggers** joined forces with the **Folkloric Panamanian Dancers** and the **San Blas Islands Cuna Indian Dancers** to entertain the ship's passengers for the evening. It was truly a rewarding experience to share traditional folk dances with these two genuinely unique dancing groups. The Panamanian dance routines in some aspects could be related to clogging routines. They danced with eight couples and maneuvered in circles and did a type of rise and shine similar to those used in clogging routines. The Cuna Indian danced individually and made their own music as they danced. The men blew on multi-section wooden type flutes, while the women shook out the rhythm on maracas, a dried gourd containing dry seeds or pebbles. We exchanged gifts with all the dancers, and enjoyed a fellowship that will be an everlasting memory. The next stop was the Rhapsody's anchorage off Panama, among the San Blas Islands. We boarded the ship's whale boats and visited one of the 136 islands, which range from small coral cays to islands inhabited by hundreds of Cuna Indians. For the Cunas, marriage with outsiders is taboo, consequently, the Cuna Indians of Carib origin are almost pure-blooded aborigines. The men work

on the mainland and the women tend the crops and travel among the other islands by canoe. The women also do reverse applique needlework, calling the result "molas", which are exquisite pieces of art. One of the Cuna dancers is having a special mola made for Peg and Bill McLerran, a copy of their Eagle trademark.

After another day at sea, the ship stopped at Cartagena, Columbia, South America. The passengers toured the 16th century Augustinian Monastery located there. They also toured the Fortress of San Felipe de Barajas also built in the 16th century, with its dungeons and ancient walls, the scene of many battles. (This was the day before the big volcano eruption in Bogota, which killed several thousand people.) From Cartagena, they sailed to Ocho Rios, Jamaica and then on to Ft. Lauderdale.

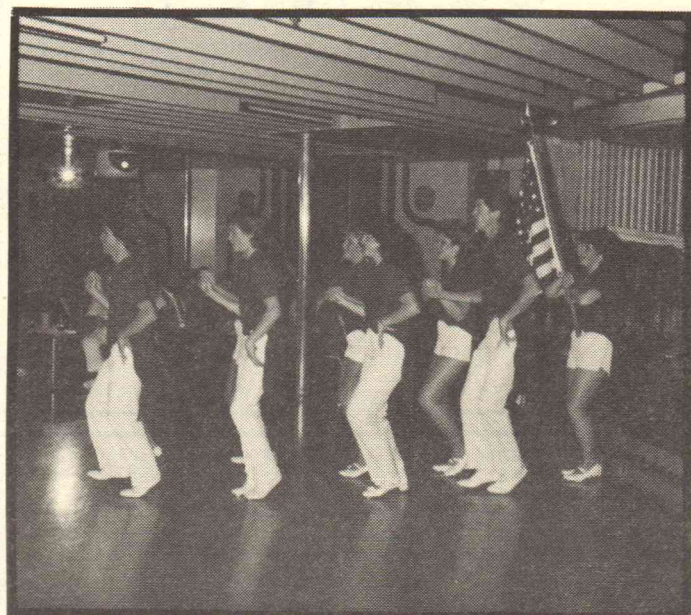
If you ever get the chance to go on the Transcanal Cruise, don't pass it up - the McLerrans and **Pride and Joy Cloggers** had a wonderful, educational trip, and made new dancing friends!



Peg McLerran with Cuna Indian Dancers



Cuna Indian Village
Page 8



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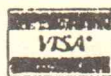
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BUCK

AS EASY AS !, @, #!

BUCK

AS EASY AS 1, 2, 3!

By John PerMar
The Clogging Machine
Apopka, Florida

Editor's Note: In typing the header, the Capital lock was left on, and we thought the accidental headline had great social significance, or perhaps Freudian overtones. Actually, I believe even your Editor could learn to Buck Dance under the tutelege of John PerMar!

INSTRUCTIONS: Three basic steps are listed below. The following system can be used to produce basic to advanced step combinations.

- A) Using any number by itself
- B) Any two numbers together
- C) A combination of any three

1. BOUNCE or HOP (Use HEEL or BALL)
2. DTB (DOUBLE TOE BALL)
3. HEEL BALL (Same Foot)
TOE BALL
TAP BALL
TOE HEEL
HEEL HEEL

EXAMPLES:

2 Sounds Per Beat: L-HEEL R-HEEL HEEL BALL
R-BALL L-BALL L L
& 1 & 1

EXAMPLES:

2 Sounds Per Beat: L-HEEL R-HEEL
R-BALL L-BALL
& 1

OR

HEEL BALL
L L
& 1

3 Sounds Per Beat: BOUNCE HEEL BALL
L R R
& a 1

OR

HEEL TAP BALL
R R R
& a 1

4 Sounds Per Beat: BOUNCE DTB
L R
e & a 1

OR

BOUNCE HEEL TAP HEEL
L R R L
e & a 1

COMPETITION FEVER

or

A Great Excuse for a Shopping Spree
Part 2

By: Barbara Kohler
Director: Gold Coast Cloggers

Summertime competitions in the Mountain States, are virtually every other weekend. If you plan carefully, you can squeeze a few in, between the antique and country craft stores. If you are headed for Silver Dollar City, MO., take an empty suitcase along. The best values for beautiful handiwork is in nearby Eureka Springs, Arkansas, about 1½ hours from Silver Dollar City. An expensive "looking", pottery gallery was the best discovery of all. The prices were so reasonable, I kept thinking that someone made a mistake when tagging the items. The entire shopping area is very quaint and well worth the side trip. There is an old train which runs on the outskirts of town providing a nostalgic view of the territory from its few miles of track. In nearby Holiday Isles, there is an exact small scale replica of the Golden Gate Bridge that crosses over to the town of Beaver, Arkansas.

Roads all through the mountains are loops and cutbacks — take Dramamine or other precautions if you tend to get carsick!!!!

We stayed in a campground outside of Silver Dollar City. The campground was full of Bluegrass musicians as well as cloggers. Day and night, they would gather in groups and play (impromptu). The Ozark Mountains are very pretty in the summer and Silver Dollar City Competition was great fun!!! For those of us who live way South, it was an expensive trip but my team agreed it was worth every cent. When not on stage competing, we explored the entire park, part of which is built on top of a cavern. Take the walking tour through the cavern and take a sweater, as the inside temperature is quite cool and damp.

Branson, Missouri - 'Jest a 'fer piece down the road, is loaded with shops. However, they are strictly for the tourist trade. You can find quality crafts being sold from private homes if you take the time to drive around the area. An unusual feature of the area, are the Mini-theaters - lining the streets around and in Branson. Each is run by a family of Musicians, Singers and Dancers. They put on a complete show geared for the entire family. Unfortunately I didn't have the opportunity to see one but the reports I heard from the other cloggers were quite good. In case you really want to get away from it all, find one of the many lovely lakes and spend the day fishing! Remember, when the competition dust settles, the best "Trophy" may be something beautiful you discovered and not a 1st Place statue!!! Have Fun!!!

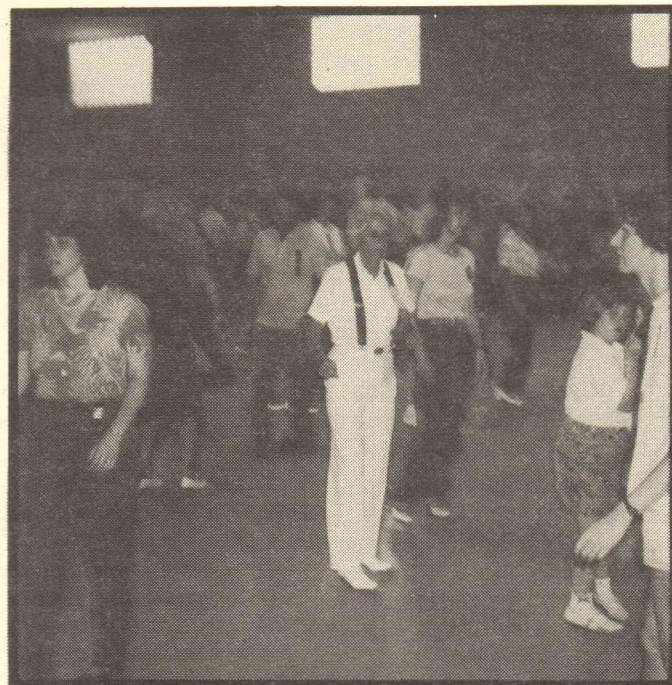
Salt, the most widely used seasoning in the world, was given as monthly wages to Roman legionnaires. It was called "salt money" or *salarium*, and it is from this word that our word "salary" comes.

Sugarfoot Workshop
Continued from Page 1

trophy in the Buck and Wing category at Southern States Clogging Competition. Look for more trophies for these outstanding youngsters!



The Potato Sack Cloggers



Marge Callahan

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Two Steppin'

Continued from Page 1

Houston. Most dance floors (Texas size, of course) were absolutely packed. Gilley's was the only club that had a live band; the rest had a DJ to spin records. To entice customers, most clubs offered free food and drinks during happy hour.

Other places of interest visited by these tour members included the world's largest Livestock Show and rodeo, held in the Astrodome; the San Jacinto Monument; and the battleship Texas. I'll bet that if General Sam Houston hadn't defeated General Santa Anna at the Battle of San Jacinto, we would be doing the Mexican Hat Dance instead of the two-step. Can on clog to La Cucaracha?

There is not a big difference between the Houston and Orlando two-stepping styles. The Houston dancers demonstrated a lot of intricate "arm work" and included many twirls for both males and females. They



Mechanical Bull, Gilley's

also did the triple-step more frequently than we do and they seldom did the one-step, which is very popular in Orlando. I think we do a greater number of steps and routines, but you won't find anyone "smoother" than those Texas dancers.

Our trip was certainly good for the economy of Houston! Maria Klinger added to her collection and now has over 25 pairs of Western boots and Pat Shepherd purchased Houston's local supply of turquoise jewelry. Allen Brown didn't have time or energy to purchase very much - he was busy escorting three young ladies all over town. Gordon Hansen still has bruises from riding the bull at Gilley's. We all survived the 4-day trip, however, and Len and Elinor Ryan plan to lead a Country Kikker tour to Texas again next year. Watch for details in the Double Toe Times.



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Number Of Dancers

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Fifteen Year Financial Report or How to Shift Down Without Burning Out Your Brakes

By Roberta R. Adams, President
Wit's End National Bank

Erma Bombeck once wrote a hilarious column on MONEY, stating that she was cashier for the First National Bombeck Bank. I have considered the pet oriented family personally and in depth, and its Cashier. Normal expenditures include cat food, dog food, horse feed, parakeet seed and live flies for the chameleon (in winter). The vet bills could drive me to drink if I could afford booze. In one documented 9½ day period, he wormed the dog, put 19 stitches in a pale, upchucking cat who was the loser in a midnight battle, and "vetted" our mare and brand new foal. I probably could have added a wing onto the house more cheaply. Erma, if all you have to worry about are lunch money, panty hose and notebook paper, YOU NEED A PET!

The Child Psychologists have written that pets are marvelous therapy for children, providing the children are past the age of cruelty. How long must we provide the therapy? Cruelty to whom? Therapy begins for Parents when? Are there dog and cat Psychologists?

It has occurred to me to carefully observe my neighbors and friends. To Whit:

Non-pet families drive newer, nicely upholstered cars. My 1968 Volkswagen Bus has a Sunliner roof so that our two St. Bernards can ride with their heads out. The middle seat has been removed so that our Sardinian Donkey can be transported to his yearly acting part in the Church live Nativity scene. I do mean acting!

Quite often my non-pet neighbor grills a STEAK outdoors, during which time the four children, three dogs, and three cats silently abandon their own dinner (we were probably having macaroni and cheese) and stand in a row by the fence sniffing the aroma and trying not to drool noticeably.

Non-pet families wear new clothing. Our clothes allowance this month covered three new Show leads, a blanket for the mare, and two large pairs of boots for Brownie's toe fungus. Brownie is a Labrador Retriever.

Non-pet families, as the children leave the nest, close their houses and take what I believe are known as Vacations, while we who have provided the marvelous therapy that pets provide children, are then left with the marvelous therapy to feed and house forever. "Old Bub" hates the boarding kennel. "LuveyCat" refuses to eat anywhere but next to her very own washing machine in the garage. The parakeet is fairly adaptable at a kindly neighbors - fortunately she has a house identical to mine. Unfortunately she just got a cat. Cancel Vacation.

Because of some really terrifying recent TV commercials, I've had to invest heavily in Sprays,
Page 14

Solid Stick Air Freshener, and assorted Household deodorizers. You see my neighbor comes for coffee quite often, and sniffs the air in my kitchen - just like that lady on TV. After weeks of getting up at 4 AM to clean the cat box, I finally asked her if my house had "tell-take odors". "I can't even smell my own perfume" she said, "I have sinus drip you know"!

Erma Bombeck -- we gals go bare legged, the kids borrow notebook paper, but I still have to pack lunches. The County said we were not eligible for the Free Hot-Lunch Program just because dog food went up.

Editors Note: This almost true short story was written almost fifteen years ago. A wondering author mused about her current status. One child still at home, one hamster, one bird, one cat (still Luveycat) and one dog. We went into Clogging after our Horse phase was over and LO the Vet became Dr. Scholl's, the macaroni and cheese became a staple, and clothing became short and ruffled. We do go on Vacations - though they are called Conventions and still have the problem of what to do with the various varmints. Our Dog loves to go to the Summertime Stomp in Punta Gorda! We refer to certain places only by their Convention Hall, since we drive to and from after dark, but we do know the location of McDonald's in 32 cities.

Aid to Dependant Clogging Children and Convention Food Stamps are non-existent, but I do have my Senior Citizen AARP Card and can get a discount on Motel rooms and food.

Steve Smith, by profession a Clinical Psychologist, has not yet agreed to Cloggers Group Therapy, but since I have seen Executive Stress Clinics, it's just a matter of time.



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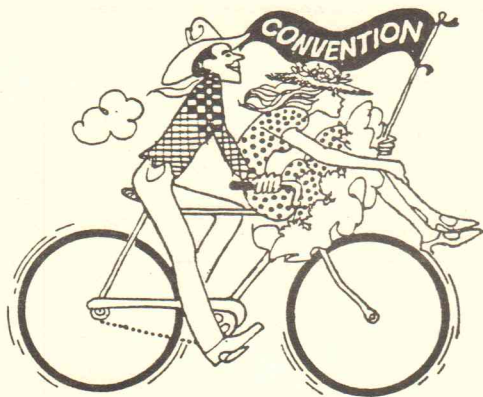
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Ready, Set, - GO!

By Bobbie Adams

New Cloggers, faced with their first Convention or Workshop are often hesitant to attend because they've watched the more advanced dancers in their own Clubs, and are afraid they can't keep up. And to some degree they are right!

We urge these new dancers to go anyway! Most wise Convention planners include Beginner and Intermediate material designed especially for these folks. The new dancer may pick up a step, or an oldie-goldie routine that everyone in their Club already seems to know, but hasn't been on the current agenda for a while. The new Clogger, cocooned in their own Club or Class, will have an enormous world of Clogging spread out before them at a Convention! Granted, that very first Workshop will probably be more watching than dancing BUT there

will be new Instructors; styles of dancing never seen before; a rainbow of costumes; and generally each Clubs very best performance.

Conventions need not be expensive if some pre-planning takes place. Most Conventions offer early registrations at a lower fee - DO buy a Dancers Ribbon - you will want to participate and Spectators are not allowed to dance. Buddy-up for rooms - most Motels offer up to quad occupancy for the same price as two. Take a cooler and fixin's for some meals in your room. If you take your own coffee maker, carry along a plug adapter - many old Motels still have 2 prong outlets.

After 12 years of Conventions, I have a "survival" kit which includes all the normal forks, napkins, sewing kit, masking tape, safety pins - PLUS a multi-type can opener and corkscrew, tiny hot-pot, hot and cold cups, and foot soaking solutions.

Unless you are performing with your Club, it is not absolutely necessary to have a fancy outfit. The flyer for each Clogging Convention will state the preferred dress, and most are casual. You will not be turned away if you arrive in jeans! The day-time workshops especially encourage comfortable clothes - take plenty of deodorant!

GO! Dance when and what you can! Even if you flub it, get out and try! Watch! Wander around! Listen! You have my personal guarantee that next year, when you attend this very same Convention for the Second time, you'll be out there with the best of them! See you there!



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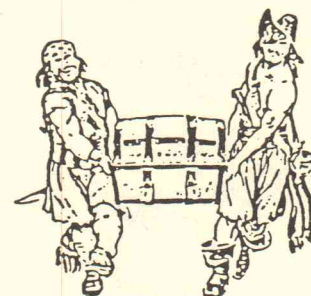
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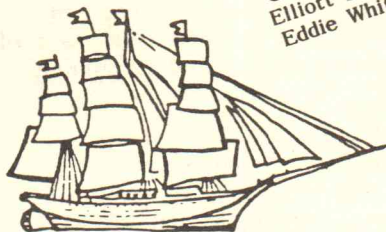
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TELL IT TO THE JUDGES

By Don and Heather Griffith



DON, HEATHER and CLOGGING

Don and Heather Griffith celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary in February, 1986. They have 5 daughters and have opened their home to 14 foster children over the last decade.

Each has numerous separate interests and hobbies but they decided to pool common interests and capitalize on enjoying them and each other at the same time. They agree this type activity goes a long way to making a happy and fulfilling marriage and leads very naturally into retirement. High school sweethearts married for 25 years looking forward to retirement? How drab!

Not at all. Together they have taken karate, square dancing, and clogging lessons. They have served 15 years as scout co-leaders and as co-trainers (of Girl Scout leaders) for the Northwest Georgia Girl Scout Council, clogging instructors, clogging judges, and writers. They have always loved participating in sports, and continue to enjoy a wide variety of arts and crafts and music. They camped for a number of years before acquiring an old farm house in the country (close to a lake) that now occupies a good deal of their time.

Heather is certified as an income tax consultant and a realtor. She intended to major in veterinary medicine and left high school with a full scholarship to the University of South Florida. She never finished the degree she started out to acquire but says she gladly traded it in for Don and her girls. She taught art in grades K-8 at the private school they started in South Florida. She now serves as the Georgia and Alabama Merchandise Marketing Representative for Monsanto, Inc.

Don always wanted to be a teacher. He credits this to his dad who still has a wonderful rapport with children. After a brief teaching career, he was hired as a principal when he was twenty-four. Since then, he has served as a school administrator in just about every capacity. Currently, he is assistant superintendent for instructional services in City Schools of Decatur - Decatur, Georgia. He holds a doctorate in education and a black belt in Tae Kwon Do karate.

Don and Heather had their first exposure to mountain style square dancing and buck dancing in 1960 while they were camp counselors in Rabun County, Georgia. One of their favorite counseling activities was to journey to nearby Mountain City, Georgia where the Mountain City Playhouse happened each Saturday night.

The first summer evening they attended might have been business as usual for the 498 other people who crowded the old Playhouse, but for Don and Heather, it was a revelation. These two South Floridians straight from the rock and roll era in Miami witnessed mountain style square dancing and

buck dancing for the first time. It was a new and thrilling adventure. They returned to Mountain City as often as they could that summer.

Don had to learn to dance that way. Two of the other male counselors were from the area and demonstrated the basics (later he learned the names "shuffle" and "step-rock-step"). There wasn't really a double toe in what they referred to as the "buck dance". He had watched his mother do a "jig" step. She used to demonstrate this in the kitchen when the music was right (which wasn't too often so far away from county music stations and so far away from her native hills of Virginia). She used a number of rapid-fire double toe steps. This Mountain City buck dance employed a lot of knee bending with the heels being lifted into the air periodically and coming straight down to contact the floor. Sometimes the heel crossed the other foot. Sometimes the heel made a double sound.

Don got a Tommy Jackson rendering of Forked Deer from the local record store when he returned to Hialeah, Florida and practiced the steps he had learned on the oak floor in front of a mirror.

Heather wasn't as desperately in need of clogging, however, it was she who signed the two up for lessons (with Diane Schell) nearly 15 years later.

Diane was a very good teacher. She had a great deal of patience with her students and a great respect for breaking clogging down to its component parts. She never tired of analyzing steps and determining better ways of teaching them. She played a very important part in introducing clogging to Atlantans.

Within a couple of years of taking lessons and dancing on a couple of teams directed by Diane, Don and Heather began teaching clogging lessons. Beginning students requested more advanced instruction. They developed detailed lesson plans and offered intermediate and advanced clogging for several years. Diane and Don co-produced a set of videotapes for cable television entitled Beginning Clogging With Diane and Don three years ago.

The Georgia State Buckdance Championship at Stone Mountain, Georgia is a Griffith family tradition. Spring won the title the first year it was offered. In the nine years since, a Griffith has placed in the top 4 all but one time. Don is the only individual to have won the title twice, and Spice is the current (1986) Georgia State Buckdance Champion.

Approximately five years ago, Don was asked to judge his first competition. He did so with some apprehension — especially since he was asked to act as "head judge". The competition was successful. Don learned some major facts:

1. He loved to judge.
2. He was going to get Heather involved in this activity.
3. Competitors were eager to know what judges were looking for.
4. Scoresheets needed to be improved dramatically.

Continued on Page 20

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5. Competitions had more potential impact on clogging and the future of clogging than any other available forum.

After four years of judging together in five different states — of analyzing, discussing, reviewing, talking with dancers and other judges, and of experimenting with their own "Dixie Clogging Championships" competition in Carrollton, Georgia — Don and Heather feel compelled to share their experience-based opinions on how participants can get the most out of clogging competitions.

These opinions are presented in a series of booklets titled, CLOGGING COMPETITIONS: HOW TO GET THE MOST OUT OF THEM. Each category of clogging is addressed in a separate booklet. The categories include: *Individuals, *Duos & Duets, *Line Dance, Show/Novelty, Precision (8cpl; 4cpl), Traditional (8cpl), and Kentucky Hoedown (4cpl). The first booklet is on *Scoring and Scoresheets and sets the tone for the following booklets in the series.

The authors, Don and Heather, invite comments and suggestions on the books they have finished (*). They will continue to publish — approximately one every other month — until all in the series have been completed. Meanwhile, they will begin writing a regular column in The Double Toe Times. The column will be called ASK THE JUDGES and will consist of responses to your questions about judging.

You can address questions to them by writing The Double Toe Times, by writing them directly, or by asking or writing down questions on the form they will have with them at the various competitions where they judge. Your questions and their answers will become a part of our toe tappin' history and you will gain some valuable insights about clogging competitions.

Happy Clogging!!!

- Q. How can a judge tell when a team is dancing too fast or too slow?
- A. There are several ways of determining whether the speed of music is appropriate to the dancers. Oftentimes when music is too fast for a team, the dancers will "slap" the floor instead of making clean double toes (Chip Summey referred to this phenomenon as "pawing" while we were discussing it at the Peach State Clogging Competition in Gainesville in February.) Slapping or pawing is done when only the second half of the double toe connects with the floor. (Sometimes this is just a bad habit that can be corrected with practice.)

There is also a noticeable difference between healthy exertion and the exhaustion that results from dancing beyond one's capacity. It

becomes obvious toward the end of a routine that has been danced too fast. Dancers may begin making timing errors, missing steps, or simply looking whipped out.

Dancing can also be exhausting to spectators when the music is too slow for performers' abilities. An obvious "too slow" signal is when dancers lack a smooth drag-slide shuffle. Steps which look graceful when performed with a clogging shuffle become monotonous when they are substituted for an up and down bobbing motion that is often accompanied by a loud and relentless stomp. The result is not clogging, and it is tiring to watch and to listen to.

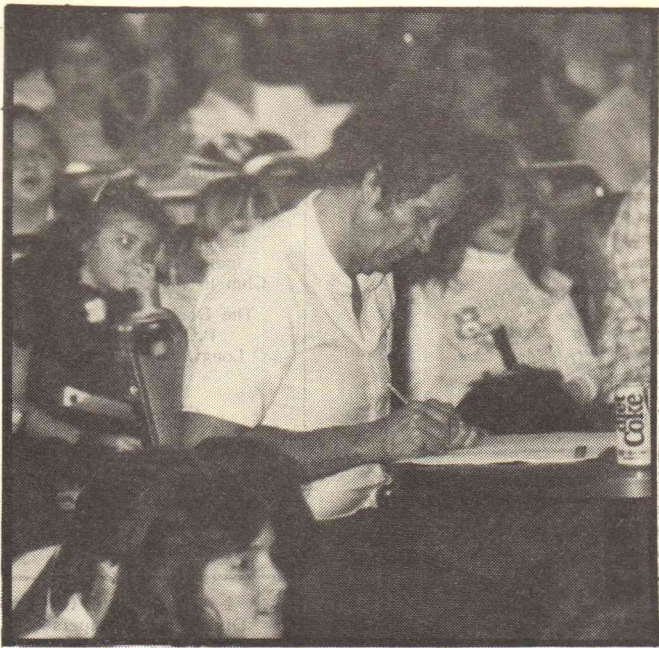
Videotaped routines can provide good models for teams to use in evaluating the performances of their fellow competitors. Instead of looking at the performance as a whole, it is useful to determine a specific aspect of the routine and observe and then discuss it. Note the rate of speed used by dancers on winning teams to see how they adjust to their music — their steps, timing, energy level, figures or formations, and audience projection.

Word to the Wise

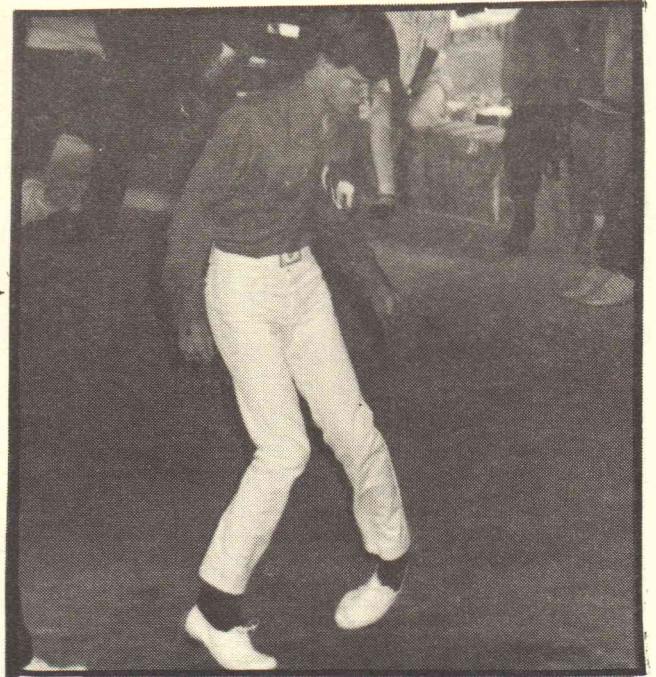
Instructors, how do you motivate your dancers to BELONG, to want to be an active part of the Club or Team? Motivational experts say the answer lies in fulfilling five needs.

- 1) Economic Dancers should feel that the cost of their hobby is commensurate with their time and effort. If it becomes too expensive they feel taken advantage of; if it is too cheap or free, they somehow cease to appreciate it.
- 2) Emotional Instructors must create a climate in which dancers "trust" their Instructors, and feel their dancing or part in the Club structure, contributes to worthwhile goals.
- 3) Recognition Dancers should feel that their good work with and for the Club will be appreciated and praised. Concentrating your attention on the Exhibition Team and forgetting the other dancers leads to a very unhappy Club.
- 4) Self-expression We live in a democracy and none of us should feel that we surrender that heritage. Dancers should have the right to communicate ideas, suggestions, fears and opinions to their Instructor without fear of retribution.
- 5) Self Respect This is simply the need to be treated as an individual, as a human being - not a statistic.

Uncle Eb sez most of the growed up men in Big Piney b'longs to the Sit, Whittle an Spit Club. They only need to know these three things - Don't set in the sun. Don't whittle towards yerself. Don't spit against the wind.



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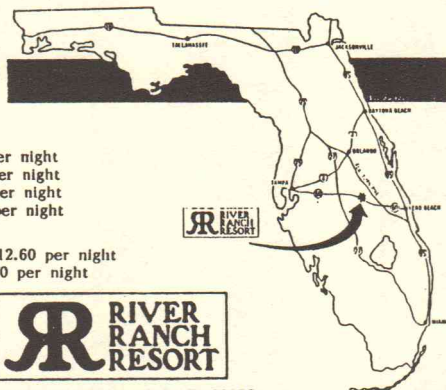
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