

# THE DOUBLE TOE TIMES

Volume 5, Number 3

A Clogging Newsletter

March 1987

## Orange Blossom Festival



Now and then a surprise workshop comes along that changes your whole perspective and, if you will let it, adds to your knowledge, enjoyment and respect for the many facets of clogging.

My only regret was that the Clogging community as a whole did not know about it and that provisions were not made before hand for inclement weather. And inclement weather they did have!

Lew and Gloria McRae, and the Orange Blossom Cloggers of Eustis, Florida were the hosts for the Orange Blossom Clogging and Hoedown Festival February 20 and 21, 1987 at Ferran Park in Eustis,

Florida. Friday evening the rain stopped and the outdoor tennis courts were filled with clogging teams from Maryland, Tennessee, Kentucky, Indiana and Florida. Their brightly emblazoned buses directed us to the Park, and under the flood lights there were exhibitions, free styling and hoedowns called by Warren and Ralph Case and Richard Jett.

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Ralph Case/Bobbie Adams

## R<sub>X</sub> for Stress Relief

Stress is a daily part of our lives. Prolonged pressure from a multitude of real or imagined daily confrontations can force the brain to send signals which can cause anything from a mild headache or cause us to eat or drink too much, to the release of body chemicals which produce ulcers, angina, jangling nerves and generally lower the general body's immune system.

Joel Wells Coping in the 80's - Eliminating Needless Stress and Guilt states that "There are three

basic approaches to coping with the destructive power of prolonged stress:

1. Completely eliminate the stressor;
2. Resist and minimize the stressor;
3. Accept the fact that some stress is inescapable but can be managed and relieved.

In practice, any successful attempt to manage stress will employ all three options."

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# THE DOUBLE TOE TIMES

PUBLISHER/EDITOR

Bobbie Adams

A Clogging Newsletter

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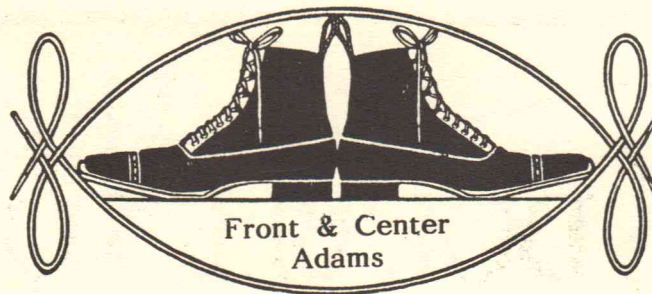
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We have NEWS from far and wide this month! I am reminded of those wonderful rambling pages of Carolyn Woodruff's Mississippi Mud Stomper, which reminds me that I haven't seen a Mud in quite a while. (Which then reminds me that I have to do a current list of all reciprocating Newsletters for members of CEA!) My desk is an antique oak drafting table which measures 3 X 5 feet and has a long document drawer and three file drawers. It has a mechanical draftsman's arm which I use IF I can dig the piles of papers and files down far enough. I have brought one of those piles in next to the typewriter, strategically positioned the wastebasket and here we go!

The Clarendon Plaza Hotel, scene of the Southern States Competition, and The Bearfoot Cloggers Workshop, looks like it should be featured on Miami Vice. Currently being remodeled by owner Chuck Penrod, the front lobby has lilac walls, a peach tile floor, wicker couches, ceiling fans and lots of large plants. Parts of the Hotel are pure Art Deco, and one imagines they will bump into Al Capone or Bugsy around any corner, especially in the hall leading to the parking garage after dark.

We received a long detailed letter from Reed Davis regarding the Pessam-Trot CLOG National Convention location for 1987 (Thanksgiving). It has been announced that it will NOT be in Arizona; for details write Reed (See AZ Directory.) Reed also reported on the first get-together of Arizona Instructors for the purpose of forming an Association. (One down, 10 to go!)

A phone call from Janice Hanzel with the news that she is the new President of the Northern California Clogging Association!

A nice letter from Betsy Farlow, new President of NCHC. She is in our Directory now, if you have any questions about competitions or The National Clogging and Hoedown Council, contact Betsy (NC).

A strange and funny flyer about the 14th Annual Erratic Spring-Easter Folk and Square Dance Camp. We received one of these last year, but never have a name of who organizes it or, indeed, who sends the flyer to me. The postmark is Austin, Texas. The Date is March 20 - 22, 1987. If you are interested call (512) 478-8900 and ask for Anybody, Somebody or Nobody!

Don and Marianne LeBlanc, Publicity Chairman for the 36th National Square Dance Convention, June 25 - 27, 1987 in Houston, Texas, are real professionals! The attendance at the very first National Convention in 1951 was over 5,000. Today, the attendance ranges from 20,000 to 30,000. I would guess that they have a hefty advertising budget, rightly so. If folks don't know about something, nothing happens! For information about the Clogging Program, see Rusty and Linda Carolan (TX) in our Directory.



# Upcoming Events

March 6 & 7

Spring Fling '87  
Pigeon Forge, TN  
Simone Nichols or Lynne  
Goode, Directory

March 7

Hot'lanta Hoedown VFW Post #6449,  
Fairburn, GA. See Beverly Mealer  
(GA) Directory

March 13 & 14

S.C. Clog. Council Stampede '87  
Columbia, SC. Call George  
Phetteplace, Directory (SC)

March 14

Pat Skinner's Clogging Co. Workshop  
Teamster's Union Hall, Springfield,  
MO. See Pat Skinner, Directory (MO)

March 14

Dixieland Clogging Workshop '87  
Cordele, GA, See Ray Hattaway  
Directory (FL)

March 21

The Wichita Shootout, Ramada  
Hotel, Wichita, Kansas. See Jay  
Dumcum (KS) Directory

March 21

LACA Spring Workshop, Louisville,  
KY. Contact: Cliff Breehl, See  
Directory

March 27 & 28

Alabama Clog. Council Workshop  
Prattville, AL. Doster Civic Center  
with Bill & Simone Nichols  
Call L. McCullar, Directory (AL)

March 27 - 29

Master City Competition  
Augusta, GA. See Donna Carter (GA)  
Directory. (James and Aileen Carter)

March 27 - 28

U.S. Clogging School Vincennes,  
Indiana. Contact Peg McLerran (IN)  
See Directory.

March 27 - 28

Springtime Tallahassee  
Tallahassee, Florida: Rex  
Akridge, Directory

April 10-11

A Spring Clogging Vacation  
Clogging & T. North Carolina  
& Tenn. Contact Skip  
Lemmond, See Directory (TX)

April 10 - 12

NCCA Convention, San Jose, CA  
Contact: Michelle John, P.O. Box  
1762, Lakeport, CA 95453

April 11

Buckin' Mule Exchange Dance  
Cent. FL. Square Dance Center,  
Longwood, FL. 7:30 P.M.  
See Foreman Heard, Directory (FL)

April 16 - 18

Easter at Possum Holler  
Fontana Village, N.C.  
Contact JoAnn Gibbs, Directory

April 24 - 25

Midlantic Clogging Network  
Spring Workshop. Medford, N.J.  
Info: Marti Stevens, P.O. Box  
60, Moorestown, NJ 08057  
(609) 235-9468

April 24

Sunshine Cloggers (of Maitland, FL)  
Anniversary Dance  
8-11 P.M., Auditorium Maitland  
Civic Center, Maitland, FL, See  
Sur & Tom Toor, Directory (FL)  
Open to All!

April 25

Illinois Spring Workshop,  
Peoria, IL Contact: Barbara  
Dale, See Directory

April 26

Kick Up Your Heels for  
Easter Seals  
1-5 P.M., Elks Lodge,  
New Smyrna Bch., FL, See  
Durrance/Cox, Directory (FL)

May 1-3

Georgia-Carolina Clogging  
Championship, Southeastern  
Sports Complex, Carnesville, GA  
See Richards, Directory (NC)

May 9 - 10

Sunshine Cloggers Jamboree  
Pensacola, FL Contact  
David Spencer, Directory (AL)

May 9 & 10

Dogwood State Classic  
Hickory, NC, See  
Chip Summey, Directory (NC)

May 16

Tidalwave Cloggers Jamboree  
Brunswick, GA, See  
Shirley Drake, Directory (GA)

May 15 - 16

Wisconsin Jamboree III  
Contact: Darlene Back, See  
Directory

May 16 - 17

Osceola County Centennial,  
Kissimmee, FL, Contact  
Jan Hughes, See Directory

May 22 - 24

International Clogging Jamboree  
Novi, Michigan. Contact Paula  
Trask-Heskett, See Directory

May 22 - 23

FCC Convention, Tampa, FL  
Contact: M. J. Wright,  
430 S.E. 4th St., Deerfield Beach,  
FL 33441 (305) 427-3517

May 28 - 30

NCHC Spring Festival, Lees  
McRae College, Banner Elk, NC

June 6

Texas State Festival, Dallas  
Clog Chrmn. John & Rosemary  
Thompson, 5826 Valley Point,  
San Antonio, TX 78233  
(512) 656-1276

June 12 - 13

Southern Heritage Clogging Compe-  
tition, Columbia, SC  
See Rodney Whitten (SC) Directory

June 19 - 21

Silver Dollar City Clogging  
Competition, Silver Dollar City, MO  
See Rex Burdette (MO) Directory

June 26 - 27

Banjos, Fiddles & Feet Workshop  
Punta Gorda, Florida. See Jan Bohley,  
(FL) Directory

June 25 - 27

Nat'l. Square Dance Convention  
Full Clogging Program. Houston,  
Texas. Contact Rusty & Linda  
Carolan, Chrmn. 606 E. Ramsey,  
San Antonio, TX 78216  
(512) 344-2557

June 28 - July 4

Nat'l. Cloggers Festival  
Provo, Utah. Contact Dennis  
Cobia, Directory

July 10 - 11

U.S. Clogging Championships  
Vincennes, In. See Peg McLerran  
(IN) Directory

July 17 - 19

NCHC Judges & Directors Workshop  
Durham, NC Write: NCHC P.O. Box  
705, Durham, NC 27702

July 24 - 25

East Coast Clogging Competition  
Chesapeake, VA See Bob Johnson  
(VA) Directory

July 28 - August 4

Clog International in Kauai,  
Hawaii. Clog International,  
P.O. Box 903, Orem, Utah 84057

July 30 - August 2

Mississippi Queen Steamboatin'  
and Clogging Peg McLerran (IN)

August 7 - 8

Sunshine Cloggers Pirate's Ball  
Expo Centre, Orlando, Florida  
See Sue & Tom Toor (FL) Directory

August 7 - 9

Blue Ridge Competition  
Gainesville, GA See Kerry Thomas  
(GA) Directory

August 29

W. Virginia Clogging & Hoedown Com-  
petition Charleston, W. VA.  
CBS Travelers, 910 Scenic Dr.,  
Charleston, WV 25311  
(304) 744-2952/344-1975

September 18 & 19

Bass Kountry Cloggers Workshop  
Palatka, FL, Ravine St. Gardens  
See Geneva Spivey, Directory (FL)



Upcoming Events  
Too late to classify.

April 4 4H Youth Clogging Workshop/Fun Day  
Sarasota, Florida County Fairgrounds. 9AM  
to 5PM. Contact Pam Liedl (813) 922-  
9193. All 4H Cloggers Welcome!

April 4-5 Blue-Grass Express Invitational Clogging  
Championship. Conkwright Jr. High School,  
Winchester, Kentucky. Contact Bill Ware,  
2739 Clintonville Rd., Paris, KY 40361  
(606) 987-5732. Entries by 3/23/87.

April 10-19 Spring Clogging Cancellation in NC and TN.  
Contact Skip Bond, 719 Ticonderoga Dr.,  
Garland, T. 75403. (214) 681-2518

June 18-20 21st Annual Nat'l. Mountain Square  
Dance and Clogging Festival Contact  
Richard Jett, Natural Bridge State Resort  
Park, Slade, KY 40376

St.  
Augustine,  
Florida

## Sugar Foot Family Workshop

Diana Allen

Greg Dionne



Sugar Foot Family "done themselves proud"! Several hundred Cloggers gathered on Valentines Day for this increasingly popular annual Workshop. Now in its fourth year, it is held in the National Guard Armory in the nations oldest city.

We understand that Lionel Ritchie's Dancing on the Ceiling video inspired Marge Callahan and Greg Dionne's airy review of that routine and only the angels heard the taps.

### Slapstick Comedy

Slapstick comedy is named after an actual slapping stick. The stick, which came to be equated with broad farce in the sixteenth century as part of the Italian commedia dell'arte, was used by the comic hero Harlequin to whack the rumps of artless stooges. It was made of two pieces of wood joined together to make a slapping sound when hit.

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## The Two Step Scene by Dr. Two Step

This month's column is an update of two-stepping activities in the central Florida area.

The Country Kickers Exhibition Team, under Leonard Ryan, has been performing its new face-paced Uncle Pen routine for various parties and clubs over the past few months. This is in addition to their main 10 couple 7½ minute medley formation. The Kickers have a fund-raising tip for other such teams. They offer a full evening of entertainment in the form of recorded dance music interspersed with dance instruction and choreographed exhibitions of Country-Western dancing and clogging.

Dr. Two-Step's December column on West Coast Swing was not the final word on this hot new partner dance. Los Angeles West Coast Swing gurus Tom Mattox and Heather LaRose were back in Orlando recently to administer their second Central Florida two-day workshop. They worked with about 40 dancers at the basic level and 20 dancers at the intermediate level and also demonstrated some of their advanced West Coast "hot licks" for the video camera. The West Coast ball will be kept rolling with bi-weekly classes at the Performing Arts Center in Maitland, Florida until the weekend of May 16 & 17 when Tom and Heather will return again for another two-day workshop - hopefully at the full intermediate level.

Tip for mixing clogging with swing:

Clogging rock-steps are executed off-beat (rock), on-beat (step);

Swing rock-steps are excuted on-beat (rock), off-beat (step).

Therefore, after clogging, pause for the count of "and" before resuming swing.

## The Spirit of Square Dancing Don't ever let it get away

"If our square dancing offered nothing more than physical exercise set to music, the values of participation would be limited. Actually the physical act of square dancing like the folk dances of all nations, is the body within which the spirit lives, and that spirit is expressive of the beliefs, the customs, the traditions of the people who founded it. Square dancing is an important social event. The people come because they need each other. They need the encouragement of their neighbors as well as the relaxation and escape for a time, from the problems of existence. They dance; they sing; they visit; they feast. Hospitality, consideration, kindness, patience, cooperation and good fellowship blend into the spirit of their dancing."

Ed Gilmore, Sets in Order, July, 1950



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# Sound Reinforcement

By Tom Toor

I have attended many different conventions, workshops and competitions over the past several years, and given that the material is sometimes difficult, in some cases the problem of learning, teaching or even competing is made harder due to the poor quality of the sound. Understanding that not all conditions in a hall can be economically corrected to give better sound reinforcement, application of a few basic principles and techniques will improve the sound quality to an acceptable level. Over the next few months we will be taking a look at the different elements associated with sound reinforcement and discussing these not as engineers but rather as dancers who want to improve the sound in their halls.

To begin with let's look at the different elements in sound reinforcement. These elements include, but are not exclusive to the following:

- 1) Room Acoustics - Echo, Hard/Soft Walls, Hi/Low Ceilings, Room Configuration (Long, Narrow, Wide, Short), Articulation loss, Equalization.
- 2) Speakers - Frequency response, Multiple Speaker Connections, Column

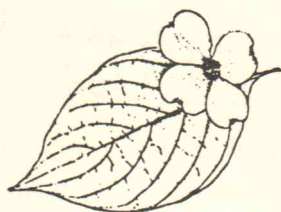
vs Single Speakers, Horns, Speaker/Amplifier Compatibility, Directivity.

- 3) Amplifier System - Power output, feature/Options, Stereo/Mono, Microphone inputs.
- 4) Microphones - Types available and how they differ.
- 5) Cassette Decks - Features, Noise Reduction.
- 6) Maintenance - Points to consider.
- 7) Turntables - Speed Control, Speed indication, Tone arms, Needles, Vibration isolation.
- 8) Feedback - What is it, How to control it, Equalization.

If some of the terms don't look familiar don't let this discourage you for they will be explained later.

If there are some particular problems or questions that are plaguing you, please write to The Double Toe Times and we will do our best to answer your questions.

Until next month . . . .



## Second Annual DOGWOOD STATE CLASSIC

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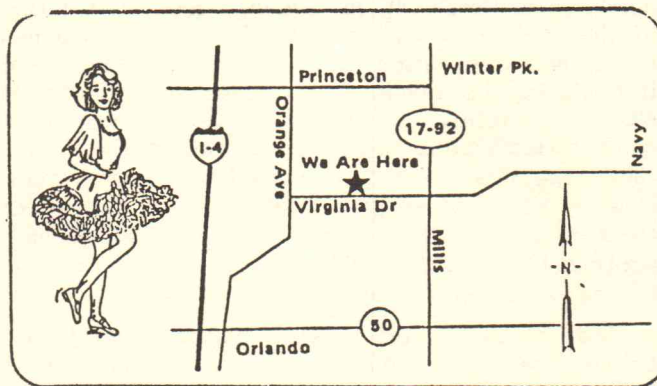
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# THE FICKLE FINGER OF FATE



Old Fickle is simply amazed at the inflexibility of some folks. At the January meeting of the Florida Clogging Council, Debbie Perkins stood up and asked to bring up something during "New Business". The President quizzed her about the nature of the "New Business" stating that if it was a non-sanctioned Convention (by the FCC, Fickle presumes) it could not be announced. Debbie said that it was NOT a Convention per se, and after a whispered consultation among the Board seated at the front table, she was allowed to make her announcement - Debbie, with a huge grin said that four days before the Instructors Clinic, she learned that she is expecting TRIPLETS! Fickle reckons Debbie will be having a Convention of sorts!!

Several days later, Fickle's Editor asked Jane Grove, President, about this policy. Seems like the Editor remembers the CLOG National Convention

being announced! But FCC Members who put on a Workshop or Convention not blessed with FCC Sanction, are also not allowed to mention it at the FCC Meeting. "Takes up too much time" the Editor was told. "Give them 30 seconds by stopwatch" the Editor responded. "No. It has always been done this way", the Editor was told. Hmmpf.

Well, let Old Fickle think about this for a sec. Use to be that FCC was for all the Cloggers and Clogging in Florida. Sally Thompson and Rex Akridge (J'ville and Tallahassee) seem to have a monopoly, though I seriously doubt this is their intent. It appears as though some revision needs to be on the agenda. Perhaps the FCC should announce only the January Instructor's Clinic and the May FCC Convention OR allow equal time to all. By stopwatch if necessary. After all -- just because we've always had an outhouse doesn't mean we can't get in-door plumbing! Fickle's Editor will be unable to attend the next meeting, therefore would one or more members please move that SANCTIONING be dropped. Tell 'em Old Fickle sent you!

Fickle was under the impression that Bass people freeze their FISH. We hear tell that the Bass Country Cloggers froze their Instructors "unmentionables". Whooee - talk about a cold shoulder? I do hate to tell you Bass Country folks, but I KNOW your Instructor - I fear for your lives!!

Congratulations Mr. Perkins -  
Looks like you have your own  
/ exhibition team!





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# CLOG • AMERICA

## CLOGGING INTERNATIONAL

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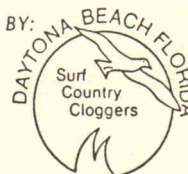


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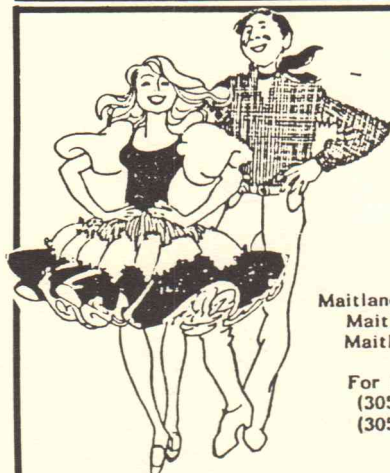
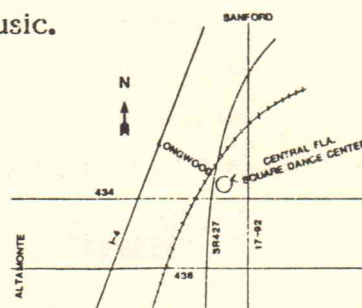
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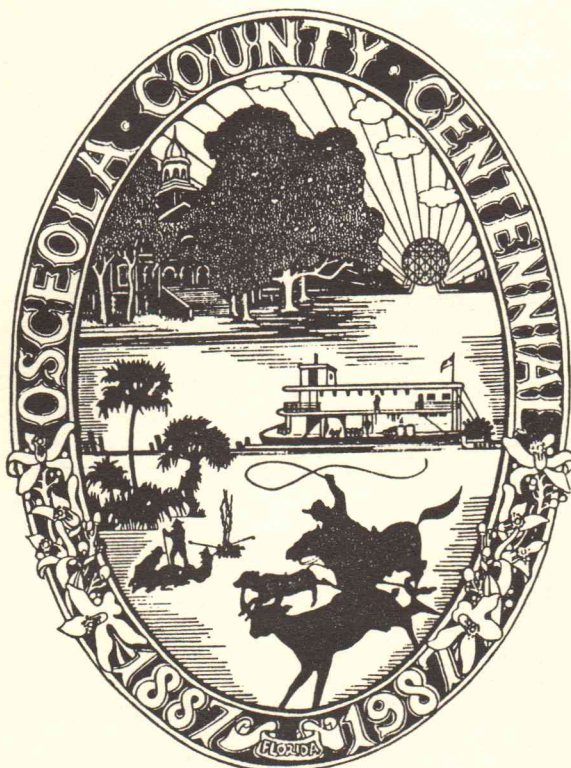
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City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ SAT. afternoon \_\_\_\_\_  
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# Big John and Shirley Walters



The adage "you're as young as you feel" could well have been coined for Big John and Shirley Walters!

John Walters is a native Georgian and graduated from Clarkston High School in Decatur, Georgia. At 18 he joined the Army and did his 2 year "hitch" in the Philippines, and in Japan with the Occupation in 1945. After his discharge he met Shirley, they married and he enrolled at Georgia Tech on the G.I. Bill. He first began working at Lockheed Aviation during the last 6 months of College but because of his Active Reserve status was called back into the Army for a year during the Korean crisis in 1952. After graduation from Georgia Tech with a Civil Engineering degree, he went back to Lockheed and has worked there for 35 years. His title is Group Engineer for the Hydraulics, Oxygen and Pitot Static Design Group.

Shirley Walters was born in Chicago, Illinois and moved with her family to Decatur, Georgia when she was 11. After marrying John, she worked and in 1952 their first child Becky was born. John and Shirley have 4 children, Becky, John Jr., Bruce and Randy, and 6 grandchildren, all of whom live near enough for lots of family get-togethers.

In 1956 with a young growing family, John and Shirley began Square Dance classes. It was fun and inexpensive and they both loved the dancing and the friendly people. John distinctly remembers the first

time he saw clogging. The Fontana Ramblers, a band, played for a Square dance in 1958 in the school gym in Norcross, Georgia and Bill Nichols was persuaded to Clog for the Square dancers. John said "that did it - I had to learn to Clog!" Fontana Village, North Carolina was (and is still) known as the Square Dance Capitol of the World. Twice each year, in Fall and Spring, John and Shirley attended the Square dance "Swap Shops". Bill Nichols worked at Fontana Village as a photographer. Each visit there, Big John, Bill McVey, Jim Coppinger and John White would coerce Bill Nichols and Billy Milliken into teaching them a step or two. John and his friends then went home and practiced in John's basement in Atlanta. Bill McVey and Jim Coppinger went on to become well known Square Dance callers, while John Walters concentrated on Clogging.

In 1961, at the urging of some Square dance friends, John put a small ad for beginning Clogging Classes in Footnotes, an Alabama Square Dance newsletter. He says he expected at most 10 students and the first night 150 people showed up. Some of his well known students include Shelia Popwell, Violet Marsh, Gloria and Wade Driver, Tandy Barrett, Jo Ann Gibbs, Don Griffith and his family. He taught the "Little General" Cloggers in Kennesaw, Georgia for four years. One of his students was Amy Carter, whose Daddy was then Governor of Georgia - Jimmy Carter.

Shirley Walters began team teaching with John in Decatur, Georgia under the Alpharetta County Park system. It was not unusual to have 150-200 dancers every Thursday evening.

As John said, out of every beginner class only a small percentage go on to become advanced Cloggers and so it is with pride that John and Shirley's classes have produced so many excellent Instructors.

The Walters are the Directors of the Footstompers (16-18 year olds) and Lil' Footstompers (10-15 year olds) Exhibition teams only, as John and Shirley do not choose to have their teams enter Competitions. They currently hold classes at Roswell Recreation Center, Roswell, Georgia every Thursday evening. Call for information.

**Editor's Note:** John and Shirley Walters visited Central Florida in April 1985 and we had a chance to participate in their "git it" kind of enthusiastic teaching. They actually persuaded 200 or more dancers to try their feet at Freestyle Clogging and LIKE it!

They are exceptionally adept at gauging the level of a group of dancers they've never seen before and their own choreographed material is aimed at all the dancers, not just the very accomplished. John and Shirley are great fun and I came away feeling that I'd known them for years. ("Why "Big" John?" About 6'4" I'd guess!) B.A.

---

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## Stress Relief

Continued from Page 1

Since most of us are unable or unwilling to 1) shoot the boss, 2) throw the kids out, 3) run away to Tahiti, we then must face Wells's option three. Some folks are able to mentally repattern their responses and some naturally cope with stress better than others. If stress cannot be brought to bay by eliminating the stressor or resisting or minimizing the stressful situation there are any number of stress management techniques, each one unique to the person who believes it will work.

Relaxation or giving the brain a rest from stress can be accomplished through meditation, sleep, the power of suggestion, listening to music, reading, watching TV, or hobbies where the brain is totally absorbed in a pleasant activity.

### Getting Physical - (Pages 129 & 130)

"By far the most common way people seek the release of relaxation is through physical activity. It may be something as fiercely energetic and exhausting as running; it may be something as passive as soaking in a hot tub. Whatever form it takes, it helps the individual to break the grip of muscular and nervous tension. And it works even at those times when one may be too busy, or simply too preoccupied, to achieve the frame of mind needed to meditate or focus sufficiently for auto-suggestion techniques to be useful.

But even though this approach to inducing relaxation is physical, its efficacy ultimately rises out of the brain. It is still related to the mental relaxation techniques, even if it works first from the "outside". If our conscious mind is too wrapped up in stress images, we can nonetheless relax our muscles and nervous system through some physical manipulation that makes the conscious mind focus on carry-

ing out the activity and thus gets at least part of its attention off the stress. Instead of arriving at such a tranquil mental state that endorphins are released which then relax muscular tension, the relaxed muscles and nervous system somehow tell the brain that endorphins should be released.

The "high" that persistent joggers experience after a long run is very probably caused by that flood of relaxing endorphins, which some scientists call the brain's natural opiate. With less violent exercise the same thing happens, but much more gradually, so that while there may be no sudden "high", there is simply a feeling of renewal and well-being.

In all cases the mind has been diverted to focusing on something simple and direct. The runner's brain is forced to deal with the severe demands the body is making on itself-breathing, keeping all those muscles and joints in synchronization, keeping the right balance and footing; the runner is also analyzing his or her progress, endurance, distance and time goals. It's nearly impossible to ponder deep worries or stay tense when you are running. The same thing happens-again, more gradually-to the determined walker, swimmer and cyclist."

When the mind is concentrating on programmed exercise such as square dancing or clogging the brain is focusing on the callers or cuers commands, breathing, keeping the right footing and synchronization, listening to the beat of the music, and has little time to worry or even think about the day's stress. Add the pleasant flood of endorphins from physical exertion and we have a perfect prescription for stress relief.

It stands to reason that children and adolescents also have stressful lives and our teen-filled clogging halls will give them valuable stress management techniques to last a lifetime.

---

## 4-H Youth Workshop

The Clogging Clovers 4-H Club is hosting a mini youth convention. The Clovers have a group of 10 beginners - "Minis", six intermediates - "Jr" and ten advances - "Sr" Cloggers. They have invited other 4-H Cloggers from several nearby counties and if



The Clogging Clovers "Sr."  
Page 14

there are 4-H groups interested in participating contact: Pam Liedel  
3813 Afton Circle  
Sarasota, Florida 33583  
(813) 922-9193

Saturday, April 4, 1987, 9 A.M. - 5 P.M.  
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---

### On Writing

Nature, not content with denying him the ability to think, has endowed him with the ability to write.

A. E. Housman

Literature is an occupation in which you have to keep proving your talent to people who have none.

Jules Renard

The difference between journalism and literature is that journalism is unreadable and literature is not read.

Oscar Wilde

Writing is an adventure. To begin with, it is a toy and an amusement. Then it becomes a mistress, then it becomes a master, then it becomes a tyrant. The last phase is that just as you are about to be reconciled to your servitude, you kill the monster and fling him to the public. Winston Churchill





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Your Editor had the privilege of interviewing Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Case, Maryland and Mr. Richard Jett, Kentucky, who will appear in the April and May issues of *The Double Toe Times*, respectively.

We talked with Bill Ware, Blue Grass Express, Kentucky who indicated surprise at all the Clogging Workshops and competitions listed in *The Double Toe Times*, and we were surprised that there are a host of clogging styles, teams, competitions and workshops that were new to us. In the months to come we hope to bring news of wider events and teams. It was fun to see Marie Pierson and her delightful "Golden Dixies" again, and I was sorry I did not get to say "howdy" to the Waughs from Ocala - Sundancers.



Richard Jett

On Saturday, moving into the Senior Center, I missed the name, Ralph Case taught a beautiful star figure for 8 couples and Richard Jett workshopped hoedown squares. Several groups taught new "buck" steps and a few waltzed or freestyled during breaks.



Will the class please come down. Our Insurance simply doesn't cover dancing on the ceiling!

#### I Didn't Know That - Did You?

If you've ever wondered what the numbers on your Social Security card signify, here is a breakdown of the mysterious code:

- 1) The first three numbers show what part of the country you applied from.
- 2) The next two numbers show, in coded form, the year you applied.
- 3) The last four numbers indicate your citizen's number kept on file by the government.

---

"The profession of book-writing makes horse racing seem like a solid, stable business" John Steinbeck

"I love being a writer. What I can't stand is the paperwork." Peter DeVries

I think that in order to write really well and convincingly, one must be somewhat poisoned by emotion. Dislike, displeasure, resentment, fault-finding, imagination, passionate remonstrance, a sense of injustice -- they all make fine fuel.

Edna Ferber





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# Preserving The Dance

by Buzzy Ireland, Director  
Orange Blossom Specials  
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One of the main goals of The National Clogging and Hoedown Council is to preserve the Appalachian and Kentucky Hoedown Dances. This is primarily done through sanctioned competitions held throughout the year. If you intend to enter the various categories representing these dances, you must learn the figures allowed, the proper way to execute them and at the same time be creative enough to do the figures in such a way that you impress the judges. Minor changes may also be made to the figure as long as it is recognizable to the judges.

I personally feel it is important to use these figures in classes and exhibitions as well as competitions because they are part of the roots of clogging. While line dances are fun and the place where most of us learn new steps, try not to let them take over your entire program. When we do shows we try to give a good mixture of everything so that everyone in the audience will hopefully see something that they enjoy.

To learn more about these figures and dances is a real challenge if you do not enter or even attend competitions. Most workshops and festivals offer little or no training in this area because the majority of participants came to learn line dances. There are exceptions however, such as Jo Ann Gibbs' Possum Holler Workshop, Easter weekend in Fontana, North Carolina. She offers hours of it, taught by excellent instructors. The Double Toe Times Competition Workshop held in Orlando, Florida, last year was another place where I was able to sit down and listen and work with people who direct some of the best teams in the country. Everyone there left with new ideas running rampant in their heads (and feet). The N.C.H.C. and The Clogging Hall of Fame offer several workshops during the year, which I have not yet been able to attend, but understand they are also very good.

Try to attend these types of workshops and a whole new world of dancing will open up to you. Appalachian and Hoedown Dancing is as challenging, exciting, and as fun as you care to make it.

There are several excellent books available on figures that some of the clogging supply vendors are carrying. You can read these books and pick out a few figures that appeal to you and work them into a three or four minute routine that will be a real crowd pleaser. They'll think they are at The Grand Ole Opry instead of Dance Fever! Give it a try.

What prompted me to write this article in the first place was a conversation with the Editor of this publication at the Southern States Clogging Competition in Daytona Beach, Florida. I suggested she find people to write short articles on Appalachian Dance Figures, explaining a figure and a creative way to get in and out of it with possible step changes. She suggested I start the ball rolling, which I'm willing to do in hopes that others will send in ideas. I imagine we are all sort of protective of our latest competition creations but I'm sure we also have heads full of things not so sacred. So if you have some nifty ideas, please send them in. Let others see how to use the traditional figures in a creative way and at the same time help preserve and show the excitement and tradition of the dance.

## Dive For The Oyster

From Circle 4 Position;

Evens arch on 1 DSRS, Odds dive thru on 2nd DSRS, (No one drops hands)

On 3rd DSRS Odds arch and Evens drop their arch. Now do -

DS TCH-X TCH-Side TCH-X,

L R R R

DS TCH-X TCH-Side TCH-X

R L L L

(Be sure to shuffle on whichever foot is not doing the touches)

Then Evens arch on 1 DSRS and Odds start back under arch on same DSRS, 2nd DSRS puts you back in Circle 4.

Now repeat with Evens diving under.

When back in Circle 4 again, to finish the figure Evens arch and Odds go under arch, turn loose of partners hand only and go around in back of Even couple and reform circle. (Same as Rip - Snort) Take 8 DSRS to execute this.

If this figure is being used in competition you must now swing Corner and then Partner before moving on.





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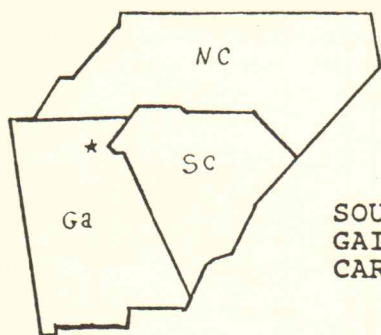
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## New Idea for Line Dance Competitions

by Steve Smith



Happy New Year! Hope all is going well for you and will continue throughout 1987.

Speaking of things that are new . . . there's a new idea brewing in the state of Tennessee. It is the brainchild of Lynne Goode from Knoxville, Tenn. Lynne is nationally-renowned instructor who hosts the Appalachian Clogging Association Competition (August 1-2 this year). Lynne's idea brings a new twist to line dance competition and she will be giving it a test run this year at her competition. Her idea is this: There will be a Line Dance Category where every team that does a line dance will be dancing to the same song! The song chosen for this year's competition is St. Elmos's Fire.

What, you may ask is the reason for such a category and limitation in the line dance category? When talking with Lynne about the new category, she gave me two reasons that led to her decision:

(1) Lynne believes that using the same song for all teams will give everyone "equal footing" in that the popularity of the song chosen will not help to determine the winner. For example, how many line dance competitions have been won with "Old Time Rock & Roll"? That song always appeared to move the audience and it is an arguable point that that song gave teams dancing to it a decided advantage.

(2) Since everyone is dancing to the same song, Lynne notes that it will give teams a chance to show off their choreography skills. It should be quite interesting to see how different teams choose to construct their steps and movement to the same song.

What are the disadvantages? The only disadvantage that I foresee is the monotony for the audience and judges of having to hear the same song played repeatedly. However, the exciting possibilities of this new format for line dances warrants a test trial. The evolutionary process of modern clogging continues to unfold and innovative ideas like Lynne Goode's can only help in the effort to keep interest in clogging competitions at a high throughout the country.

I will give you a report later in the year about the success of the new format at the Appalachian Association Clogging Competition. Hats off to Lynne!

Clogingly yours,

Steve Smith

## Laws Not On The Books (Yet)

**Murphy's Law:** Nothing is as easy as it looks; everything takes longer than you expect; and if anything can go wrong, it will and at the worst possible moment.

**Wieler's Law:** Nothing is impossible for the person who doesn't have to do it.

**Finagle's Law:** Once a job is fouled up, anything done to improve it makes it worse.

**Chisolm's Law:** Anytime things appear to be going better, you have overlooked something.

**Donsen's Law:** The specialist learns more and more about less and less until he knows everything about nothing, while the generalist learns less and less about more and more until he knows nothing about everything.

**Gumperson's Law:** The probability of anything happening is in inverse proportion to its desirability.

**Douglass' Law:** Clutter tends to expand to fill the space available for its retention.

**Zimmerman's Law:** Regardless of whether a mission expands or contracts, administrative overhead continues to grow at a steady rate.

**Man's Law:** No matter what happens, there is always somebody who knew it would.

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