

There's Swinging And Swaying When The Squares Get Going

BY RACHEL RIVERS

Every other Saturday night or so, a lively bit of swinging and swaying starts up, and with fiddlin' in the background, the Boone Squares go into action.

The local square dance group has been getting together in public buildings and private homes, and at last count, there were 20 couples in the group.

But, best of all—if you've a hankerin' to swing your partner round and round, you don't have to know how to dance . . . to start with, that is. And maybe that's what keeps the membership growing.

Dance Classes

This is the Western square dance. Couples usually dance in groups of 8, or in squares comprised of four couples. And the caller for the Western form is trained. The mountain square dance doesn't require a trained caller, whose rhythmic instructions send couples along with a crackle of crinolines and steady stride:

"Swing your partner, 'round you go;

Meet a little girl, and promeno."

Teacher for the Boone Squares is Jack Miller of West Jefferson. Like most professionals, Miller works long hours with a tape recorder, perfecting his calls.

To get into the class, join in couples. Meet each first and third Saturday night for six weeks. Pay \$1 per couple per lesson, and when you've completed the course, you will be invited to join the club.

Club dues are \$2 per month per person and meeting nights are the second and fourth Saturdays of the month. Dances are held either at the Appalachian Elementary School or Watauga High School and other nights in the homes of members.

Post Auxiliary Is Recognized

Watauga Unit 130 of Boone's American Legion Auxiliary recently received national recognition for its excellence as a unit. The Unit of Distinction National Membership Award, given for the first time ever this year, went to Unit 130 for the completion of requirements set down by National American Legion Headquarters and distributed nationwide to 266 state units. Out of these 266 units, 34 completed the requirements and won recognition. Boone's unit won the gold certificate of outstanding auxiliary achievement for the entire nation. The Unit of Distinction Award, signed by National President Mrs. Opal Glynn and National Membership Chairman Mrs. Jane C. Gill, was presented at the Oct. 14 business meeting of the unit by President, Mrs. Roy Ruffy.

At the Oct. 14 business meeting, reports were given concerning the fifth area meeting at Marion. Mrs. Roy Ruffy, Mrs. Lionel Ward, Mrs. Ralph S. Greer, Mrs. J. W. Norris, Mrs. Edgar Hardin and Mrs. Ralph West reported. Plans were made to serve a covered dish supper on Veterans' Day, Friday, Nov. 11.



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Many ages and occupations are represented in the Boone Squares, although prospective members are checked out carefully: They must be Christian couples of respectable community standing.

Bob and Alice

The Boone Squares organized two years ago.

Mr. and Mrs. Bob Denton "imported" the club here from Raleigh, where they belonged to a square dance club for several years. The Raleigh group was large, having a teenage division. Here, there are a large number of young couples, but no age limit.

Although the Squares were unable to accept an invitation to dance at the State Fair in Raleigh, they do a good deal of exhibition dancing. Sometimes, Mr. and Mrs. Denton

(who once danced for Gov. Terry Sanford) represent the group in exhibitions. Sometimes a whole Square will journey away to "show off" their dance-floor skills.

In July, the Squares danced for 100 spectators at Seven Devils.

Costume

Costumes are not required, although those who want to, wear gayly colored skirts and peasant blouses, crinolines and pettipants. The boys wear jeans and plaid shirts, etc.

Wray Ferrel of Raleigh often is caller for the group, and at the last dance Miss Ruth Jewell assisted him. President of the Squares, a branch of the Folk and Square Dance Federation of North Carolina, is C. P. Calloway, who welcomes inquiries from persons

interested in the club.

As a member of the local dance troupe, you will have the opportunity to go to dances in nearby towns such as

Banner Elk and West Jefferson, and on other nights will play host in Boone to visiting couples and clubs.

One jovial gentleman sometimes awards green stamps to the ladies of a visiting club.

It all works out to a lot of good, clean fun, and at least one reserved couple who said square-dancing just wouldn't suit them at all—found out it suited them to a "t".



Young and old enjoy recreation and fellowship at Saturday night dances.



Swing Your Partner



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