



*Frog went a-courtin', he did ride,  
Sword and pistol by his side.....*

## JOHN LANGSTAFF

has taken the familiar ballad, *A Frog He Would A-Wooing Go*, and from the many variants fashioned a new American version. Here are Mr. Frog and Miss Mouse, and all the animals and insects who take part in their wedding pictured in gay color by *Feodor Rojankovsky*, favorite illustrator of many books for children. The Appalachian mountain air, one of the earliest tunes associated with the ballad, is included at the end and will set any child singing along with you.

"Handsome illustrations and a lively story. One of the season's outstanding picture books." - *Publishers' Weekly*

**JOHN LANGSTAFF** has appeared in recital and as soloist with orchestras and choruses throughout the United States and abroad. One of America's leading young concert artists, he has also made numerous recordings. At present he heads the Music Department of the Potomac School in Washington, D.C.

**FROG WENT A-COURTIN'**

*\$2.50 at all booksellers*

**Harcourt, Brace and Company**

## THE COUNTRY DANCER



**VOLUME 11  
NUMBER 1**

**PADSTOW HOBBY HORSE**

**35c**

**SPRING  
1955**



## THE COUNTRY DANCER

*Editor:* May Gadd. *Associate Editors:* Edward Tatnall Canby, Julia Bandini, Abigail Hoffsommer, Margaret M. Ide, Ruth Sanders, Genevieve Shimer, Roberta Yerkes.

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## CALENDAR

### C.D.S. Events

C.D.S. SPRING FESTIVAL - 29th Annual - April 23; 8 to 12 p.m. at Barnard College, New York City. English and American dances. Country, Morris and Sword. May Gadd, Festival Director. C.D.S. orchestra; Phil Merrill, leader. Dances for all.

CONNECTICUT SQUARE DANCE FESTIVAL - 4th Annual - May 1; 6:15 to 10:30 p.m. at Electrolux Recreation Hall, Old Greenwich, Conn. Sponsored by C.D.S. in cooperation with Square Dance Clubs of Connecticut and Electrolux Employee's Association.

NEW JERSEY FESTIVAL at Piper's Fancy, May 28 - sponsored by the Mt. Bethel, Essex County and Summit C.D.S. Centers.

JOHN C. CAMPBELL FOLK SCHOOL, Brasstown, N.C.: Short Course in Camp and Community Recreation, May 22-29; Short Course in Traditional Recreation, June 7-18; Short Course in Handicrafts, June 20-July 2.

PINEWOODS WEEKEND - on Long Pond, Nr. Plymouth, Mass. sponsored by the Boston Center of the C.D.S. June 24 - 26 Director: Louise Chapin.

PINEWOODS SUMMER SESSION of the Country Dance Society of America - August 7 to 28 on Long Pond near Plymouth, Mass. 27th annual C.D.S. Summer Camp. May Gadd, Director.

## NEW C.D.S. CENTER

We extend a warm welcome to the COMMUNITY FOLK DANCE GROUP OF WARREN, OHIO as a new affiliated Center of the Country Dance Society of America. The group has about thirty-four members and meets usually twice a month, to dance American, English and Danish dances. the Dance Director is Mr. James Faulconer and Mrs. Marilyn Faulconer is Secretary.

## RECORDER NEWS

### NEW YORK GROUP

C.D.S. Recorder Players in New York are now meeting regularly. An experienced group meets once a month to play under the direction of Philip Merrill, and a less experienced group meets twice a month with Genevieve Shimer, Rae Meltzer and Frances Houghton rotating as leaders. Anyone interested is invited to get in touch with the Society.

### CLEVELAND GROUP

Barbara Penyak, backed by the Cleveland Public Library, has organized the Cleveland Recorder Players who meet once a month for informal practise, discussion and demonstrations by members and guest players. Friday evening, April 22 has been set for the group's first concert, to be held at the Public Library, with free admission. There are a number of able players in the group, including Madeleine Tatton and Earl and Betty Russell, who also build Harpsichords.

Wednesday April 27 from 6 to 7 p.m.

The Carl Fischer Concert Hall, 165 W. 57th Street, New York. Late after noon concerts for Business people. Last of a series of three concerts, presented by THE TELEMANN SOCIETY. Admission .50 Recorders, Harpsichord, Oboe and Bass - played by - Frank Cedric Smith, Richard Schulze, Theodora Schulze.

Sunday, May 1st at 2.30 p.m.

Town Hall, New York.

A program featuring music from the Renaissance and Baroque by THE SATURDAY CONSORT presented by Harold Newman, Director of the Hargail Music Press.

Recorders, Lute, Spinet, Virginals, Viola de Gamba. Artists are Colin Sterne, Homer Wickline, Patty Grossman, Roberta Sterne, Karl Neumann, with Conrad Seaman, Tenor.

## OPPORTUNITIES FOR VISITS TO EUROPE

OSLO, NORWAY June 29 to July 5, 1955. INTERNATIONAL FOLK MUSIC COUNCIL CONFERENCE AND FESTIVAL. Festival teams from many countries. Application to attend Conference should be made by May 1st. Council's address is: 12 Clorane Gardens, London, N.W. 3, England.

DANCE SEMINAR TOUR July 2 to September 7, 1955. The tour will be conducted by Dvora Lapson, well known dancer, educator, lecturer and author, and will visit eight European countries and Israel. The Dance Seminar will attend the International Dance Festival at Aix-les-Bains, the Edinburgh Festival, the Saltzburg Festival of Music and Dance, and the Dahlia-Israel Festival, beside making a study of the folk dances of England, France, Italy, Switzerland, Holland, Belgium and Austria. Visits to Israel and Spain are an optional part of the tour. For information write to DVORA LAPSON, c/o General Tours, 595 Madison Avenue, New York, N.Y.



## THE TWAIN CAN MEET

"East is East and West is West, and the twain shall never meet." In view of this dire prediction concerning built-in obstacles to rapport, it may be reassuring to know from experience that the twain have met in a square dance club with results mutually stimulating and beneficial.

When the Connecticut Square Dance Festival, arranged by the Country Dance Society, is held at Greenwich, Connecticut on May 1, everyone present will be able to see that East and West can meet most happily on the dance floor, and will know, in part, what a remarkable experience the Community Square dance club of New London has had this year with its two callers, both of whom will be on the program, namely Ralph Sweet of Windsor Locks and Jack McLaughlin of Yakima, Washington, on loan to the Nautilus project at New London.

Three years ago, Ralph Sweet and the Community Square dance club discovered each other at a grange benefit and have been together ever since. At that time a student at the University of Connecticut, Ralph Sweet had already mastered much of the caller's art, derived from pure New England strains. Charlie Baldwin and Ralph Page had given him much of their vast lore and his English dancing with Louise Chapin had provided the basic source material which underlies the Eastern style. Ralph came to us with a full bag of tricks, including his famous jew's harp accompaniment. He delved into old call books and soon had us dancing quadrilles and contras, combined with the latest square dances he was eagerly picking up at every opportunity.

Last summer we met Jack McLaughlin. He appeared at an open square dance given by the Connecticut College summer school of the dance with the assurance that comes from truly knowing that dancing provides its own special passport to fun wherever it is. Before the evening was over he was invited to call a number, and the girls had found out from Phyllis, his wife, the pattern she had used for a charming, long dress with ruffles in the right places. Later in the summer, when a demonstration was needed, Jack rehearsed a set and astonished the natives by a few "docey ballinettes" and wagon wheel spins. By spontaneous and popular request he was invited to continue with the club. Reluctant to encroach on Ralph's territory, he arranged a working combination which has been mutually satisfactory, each according to the other a recognition of merit.

The success of the combination is based on Jack's attitude which never seeks to exalt the western style as the one and only way to dance. True, it is his way, and we are welcome to it. His aim is easy, effortless dancing, with unhurried response to ever varied calls. We have learned the hard way not to tread on his call, because when we do, we are headed for the department of utter confusion with his prompting directed to "partner's corner's partner" until no one can remember who is "corner's corner". His fillers are enough for a three decker club sandwich.

Once he stopped to inquire if we knew the grand square which he likes to throw in as a "break". He was quite surprised to learn that it had not originated west of the Mississippi, but that some of us had learned it in the English dance, "Hunsdon House", and others in the Lancers' quadrille, one of Ralph's favorites.

To have had this contrast of East and West within the club has been a great challenge and has given a welcome change of pace. Since eastern Connecticut is off the beaten track, it has encouraged our members to seek new dancing experiences with the confidence that they could dance in other spheres to unknown callers.

Jack McLaughlin will return to Washington, when part we must, one day, with something new from the East: the contras, Petronella, Hull's Victory, Old Zip Coon and many others, which he has danced with us to Ralph's wonderfully rhythmic call. He will also have a bit of English dancing as led by May Gadd here, and it will be interesting to learn what he does with Newcastle. Best of all, he conveys the personal knowledge, which we all share, that East and West can meet and be great friends. MARGARET M. IDE

## WEDDINGS

HEMMINGS-JOHNSON: January 29, 1955 at the first Methodist Church in Hartford, Conn., Gloria Hemmings to Dennis Johnson of Springfield, Mass.

LANGSTAFF-HORSTMANN: February 28, 1955, at Grace Church in Brooklyn Heights, New York, Esther Tingley Langstaff, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Bridgewater Meredith Langstaff, to Herbert Otto Horstmann of The Hague, Holland.

## BIRTHS

CONANT: Mr. and Mrs. Richard Conant Jr. announce the arrival of a son - Donald Robert - on March 15, 1955 in Boston.

KENNEDY: Mr. and Mrs. Peter Kennedy announce the arrival of a son - David Neil - March 1955 in London, England.

RIVKIN: Mr. and Mrs. Herbert G. Rivkin announce the arrival of a daughter - Judith Sally - on January 29, 1955.

Congratulations to grandparents too: The Conant and Kennedy babies represent the third generation in our country dance families, so we want to offer our congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Richard Conant Sr. and to Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Kennedy. That the President of the Country Dance Society of America and the Director of the English Folk Dance and Song Society have acquired their first grandchild is very good news.

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## SQUARE AND ROUND DANCING IN CLEVELAND

The "SQUARE ROUNDERS" meet every 2nd and 4th Fridays of the month, except August. Out-of-town visitors are cordially invited to attend. Contact Jerry Thompson, president, 1213 Dartmoor Ave., Cleveland 9, Ohio; telephone: Ontario 1-0470.





### SPRING CUSTOMS

If we had lived a few centuries ago we could have been a part of Mayday celebrations in any part of England and all over Europe. Even today celebrations go on - possibly with less belief than formerly in their magic power for good, and yet with a lingering feeling that in some way the celebration brings good fortune to the participants.

The Mayday customs are a part of the great Spring religious Festivals of former times. The Christian Easter took the place of the pagan Festival and the Venerable Bede did not hesitate to derive the word from Eostre, an Anglo-Saxon divinity of the Spring.\* In the North of England the Pace-egggers go about, begging for eggs and performing their version of a Mummers Play - the Pasch, Pascal or Pace Play. If we think that we have left these old customs behind us how about the egg rolling and egg hunts that are continued here - even on the White House lawn - the Easter eggs, ancient symbol of new life, filling the shops, and our feeling that we must put on something new to wear on Easter Sunday. An ancient custom was to get up early and climb a hill to see the sun dance on Easter morn\* - Easter sunrise services carry on this tradition.

At Hallaton in East Leicestershire a piece of land was bequeathed to the Rector on the strange condition that he provide hare pies, ale in profusion and two dozen penny loaves to be scrambled for every Easter Monday. It is evident that the scramble was once for something quite different - a live hare perhaps, as that animal is of great magical power.\* In 1951 the Rector carried out this custom, the pie was cut up and put in a sack and carried in procession.

Later it was thrown from the sack and scrambled for, together with the bottles - actually small barrels of ale.

Whitsun - White Sunday - is the time when Morris men still dance-green bowers were erected for dancing of country dances, and rain splashing ceremonies - a fertility charm to ensure rain for the crops - took place. In England the Bampton Morris dancers have their annual dance day on Whit Monday.

On May 8th the Furry dancers of Helston Cornwall do their ancient dance through the streets, and in Padstow, Cornwall, the Hobby Horse goes through his ancient ritual of life and death on Mayday itself. The night before Mayday the Maydayers go round the little town singing the Night Song with special verses addressed to various inhabitants, and the next morning the Hobby Horse emerges and all day long he goes through his ceremonial duties. The film, made in Padstow, that we now have available makes it unnecessary for us to describe the ceremony - you can see it for yourself - and it is wonderful.

Recently we have been in correspondence with a member of one of the two Hobby Horse groups in Padstow - the Blue Ribbon Team - and she has most kindly sent us a private recording of the Mayday songs. Miss Mary Love writes that her team went to London, so that the Hobby Horse could appear at the International Folk Dance Festival held there and that the tape recording was made then. She had a few unprocessed discs made and wrote to say that she would like us to have one here for the Country Dance Society's Library. We thank her very much and shall treasure the record.

MAY GADD

\* Violet Alford: Introduction to English Folklore

### CAPE COD VACATION

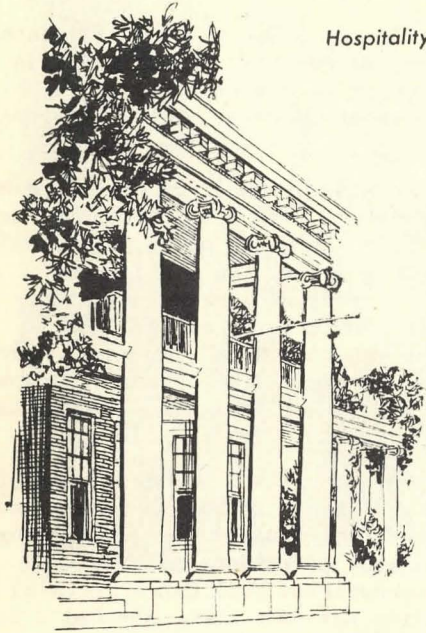
Are you one of those who have not yet been to Pinewoods? Then you should not fail to come and dance in its open-air pavilions and swim in its clear lake this summer. Those who have been before come back again and again and we shall welcome many of them this August. We are delighted that in addition to our regular C.D.S. Staff of expert teachers, callers, and musicians, Dick Forscher will be with us again to keep us moving with his infectious square dance calling; that Phil Merrill decided not to go to England this summer, so that we'll have his wonderful music and calling; and that Ethel Capps will be back with us again from the South. Those who like to play recorders will have wonderful leadership with Paul and Gretel Dunsing of Chicago and Lucile Gault of Brasstown, N.C. added to our teachers.

The wonderful set-up of Pinewoods Camp allows us to accommodate, single men, single women, and married couples - all within the Camp grounds and in a very pleasant social atmosphere. An ideal place for a very enjoyable holiday with square and country dancing to acquire for teaching purposes or for your own fun.



## BOONE TAVERN HOTEL

Hospitality Center



A delightful Kentucky Inn, famous for gracious hospitality, delicious food, courteous service. Completely air conditioned. Over ninety percent of its staff are students of Berea College.

### FAT MAN'S MISERY PICNIC SUPPER

Served in a beautiful picnic area adjoining Indian Fort Theater beginning at 5 P.M. each night of performance.

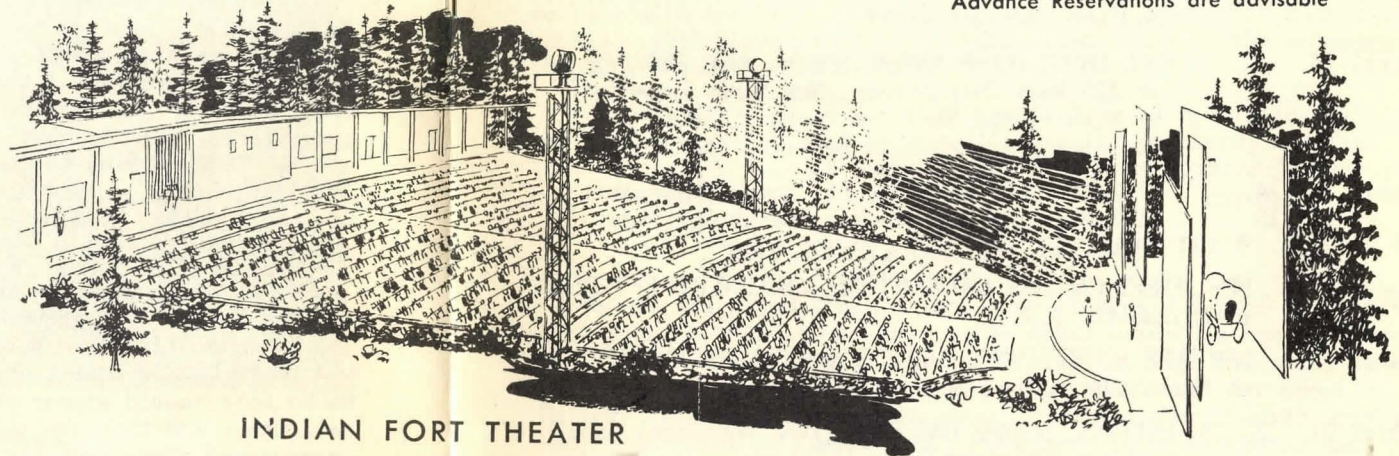
A most unusual picnic supper especially created and beautifully packaged for WILDERNESS ROAD guests.

Those of us who have attended Christmas Country Dance School at Berea know how very good the College meals are. We can imagine how delicious the picnic suppers prepared in the College kitchens will be like.

The Berea College Centennial Drama

# "WILDERNESS ROAD"

A DRAMA OF THE SOUTHERN MOUNTAIN PEOPLE



## INDIAN FORT THEATER

Snugly set in the Berea College Forest on the most westerly slopes of famous old Indian Fort Mountain . . . built of native field stone from the rugged slave fences in Madison County . . . framed with Appalachian Mountain lumber from the deep hollows of Leslie County, and carefully brought into being by artistic and loving hands . . . Indian Fort Theater is a beautiful and fitting memorial to an earlier day and people; a shrine of inspiration and courage for centuries ahead.

To see this play, written by the dramatist Paul Green for the Berea College Centennial and presented in the beautiful outdoor theater built for the occasion, will be an unforgettable experience. Hope you can get to Kentucky this summer.

By PAUL GREEN

June 29 through September 5, 1955

Performances each night at 8:15

ALL SEATS RESERVED

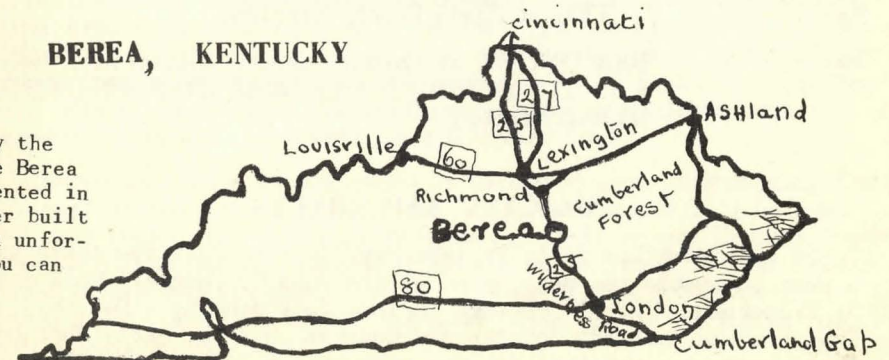
Advance Reservations are advisable

## TOURS

Berea students will show you about. Several tours of campus activities have been arranged and all include the Mountain Arts and Crafts workshops of the famous Berea College Student Industries.

A special feature is the Centennial Museum. Here you will see many unusual original art sketches and manuscripts; the very rare "Vinegar Bible"; a first edition of the Johnson Dictionary; the dress sword of Cassius Clay; an "Old Oaken Bucket," and other rare and distinctive pieces representative of mountain life and work.

## BEREA, KENTUCKY





## SPRING FESTIVALS

We are now in the midst of the Spring Festival session. Here is a sampling. Some of these Festivals will have been held before this magazine reaches you, but we'd like you to know about them as they happen every Spring:

- March 31-April 2 MOUNTAIN FOLK FESTIVAL at Berea College, Ky.
- April 1-3 NEW ENGLAND FOLK FESTIVAL at Tufts College, Medford, Massachusetts.
- April 15 FOLK DANCE HOUSE ANNUAL SPRING FOLK FESTIVAL at 225 West 24th Street, New York. Directed by Michael and Mary Ann Herman. A week's Workshop precedes this Festival each year.
- April 13, 14, 15, 16 NATIONAL FOLK FESTIVAL, St. Louis, Missouri. Kiel Auditorium. Director: Sarah Gertrude Knott.
- April 17 NEW JERSEY CALLERS AND TEACHERS ASSOCIATION FESTIVAL at Elizabeth, N.J.
- April 17 NEW YORK SQUARE DANCE CALLERS ASSOCIATION FESTIVAL at Manhattan Center, New York.
- April 21, 22, 23 NATIONAL SQUARE DANCE FESTIVAL Municipal Auditorium, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.
- April 22, 23 FOLK FESTIVAL at Lexington University, Kentucky. Sponsored by the University and by the Lexington C.D.S. Center.
- April 23 SPRING FESTIVAL OF THE COUNTRY DANCE SOCIETY OF AMERICA at Barnard College Hall, New York. Guest Caller: Dick Forscher. Director: May Gadd. Orchestra Director: Phil Merrill.
- April 23 SPRING FESTIVAL OF THE WESTCHESTER SQUARE DANCE ASSOCIATION at the County Center, White Plains. Guest Caller: Floyd Woodhull.
- April 29, 30 May 1 FLORIDA SQUARE AND FOLK DANCE CALLERS CONVENTION at Miami Beach, Florida.
- May 5, 6, 7 FOLK FESTIVAL at Cardozo Center Auditorium, Washington, D.C. WASHINGTON FOLK DANCE GROUP AND COLUMBIA RECREATION DEPT.

## DANCING AND CRAFTS

If your vacation falls in late May, June or July you could spend a most enjoyable ten days or so at the John C. Campbell Folk School in Brasstown, N.C. All courses include folk dancing - Danish, English, and American Squares and Contras, but the early June course has dancing as its chief feature with crafts second. The May course

is in general recreation and the late June and early July course features handicrafts. All are presented for use in a rural setting but a large number of city folk too, find this approach very interesting.

Last summer I was able to be at both the dance and the craft courses and had a wonderful time. I started carving during the dance course and continued during the craft course and came home with several small carved animals and a large tray - in addition to working with the Potter and making two small - but very beautiful tables - with considerable assistance from Clyde of the woodwork shop and Oscar the blacksmith.

If you then go on to the Craftsman's Fair in Asheville, N.C. you can see everyone in action from all over the Southern Mountains. Then if you are free in August, come on to Pinewoods and dance with us in the East.

May Gadd.

## MAY FESTIVAL IN CONNECTICUT

We are delighted that, on the very favorable day of May 1st the Country Dance Society of America is again holding a Square Dance Festival in the beautiful Electrolux Hall at Old Greenwich, Connecticut, in cooperation with Connecticut Callers. Our Guest Callers this year are Bob Brundage, Dick Forscher, Culver Griffin and Ralph Sweet of Connecticut; Phil Merrill of New York; and Jack McLaughlin, temporarily of Connecticut, but with Washington as his home State. Music will be supplied by the Pioneers Orchestra.

All who have enjoyed the beautiful floor and acoustics of the Electrolux Hall in others years will be on hand again. Members of Connecticut Clubs will dance in a demonstration. All other dances will be for everyone. Dancers from other States are very welcome.

As the Festival is held on a Sunday with Monday morning following the program will begin at 6:15 and end at 10:30.

## CALLER AVAILABLE FOR TRAVEL

AL BRUNDAGE, finding that his Country Barn at Stepney, Connecticut became so popular that he became tied too closely to it, decided to sell it and so become free to hold Workshops and call for Square Dances in any part of the country. Al is located at Candlewood Shores, Brookfield, Connecticut. There is no doubt that his popularity as a Caller will keep him very busy.

The Country Barn is now owned by George Comden of Westport, Conn. It still stands for high quality square dancing and will be open all year round with its regular Saturday night Square Dancing Party. Travelers from out of state will always be welcomed in true Square Dance fashion and can dance to the calling of Jim Murray or Al's brother Bob, while Al himself is away repaying the visits of his many guests of the past.



## CENTER NEWS

### BEREA COLLEGE

The Country Dancers have attended the Regional Folk Festival at Beattyville, Kentucky, and have visited Muskingum College, New Concord, Ohio. Then, several members, past and present, were enrolled in the Christmas School. At the Regional Festival the dancing was very successful, and the movie "Wake Up and Dance" was well received. At Muskingum College there was a teaching session for physical education majors, and a night demonstration, with audience participation. This enthusiastic occasion was followed by a reception for the Country Dancers.

A number of big events are now in view: a trip to Louisville to dance at a luncheon of the Kentucky Broadcasters Association, and a TV appearance over WHAS. The Mountain Folk Festival was in session March 31, April 1-2, a great occasion for the Country Dancers, who look forward to dancing with other groups who come to the Berea campus from several Southern states.

At Berea College we are in the midst of our Centennial year. The program will include a production of Paul Green's Wilderness Road, which will feature the traditional music and dancing of the Southern Appalachian Mountains.

Wilderness Road will be shown at the new Indian Fort Theatre, situated in the College forest, 3 miles from town. We hope to see many C.D.S. friends at Wilderness Road, which will open June 29 and will run six nights a week until Labor Day. FRANK H. SMITH  
HINDMAN SETTLEMENT SCHOOL

We continue with beginning, intermediate and advanced folk dance groups at the Settlement, as well as with a party each free Saturday evening. The four periods once a week in our high school are about to be increased to five at the close of the basketball season. Folk dance enthusiasts at Cordia and Carr Creek high schools, also in Knott County, continue to meet weekly. Sixth, seventh and eighth grades in the Hindman grade school are busy, as are all the other local dance groups, in preparation for our May Day, May 6th, which has always been a most festive occasion.

Our intermediate group recently very much enjoyed a trip to a Stuart Robinson Festival, mentioned in the last issue of the Country Dancer. Their return visit was snowed out, but we are hoping to see them soon. We are also hoping that our beginning group may attend a Folk Dance Evening at Homeplace this spring. Our advanced group has been practicing both dances and ballads for the Berea Festival.

All Knott County folk dancers, as well as those from neighboring centers, will soon be invited here for a Friday or Saturday evening of dancing.

A Folk Dance Assembly was held in the Hindman high school auditorium March 25th. It included Miss White's ballad group as well, for singing is an important part of our recreation program.

RAYMOND KANE McLAIN

## CLEVELAND - CECIL SHARP CLUB

The Exploratory Plan established for 1954-55 has been constructive. The monthly meetings have been and are as follows:

September - a picnic. Special feature - report by a guest. Report concerned square dancing in Tel Aviv. Guest was former member of Cleveland College folk dance classes - Beatrice Lieberman.

October - Oglebay Dance Institute. Review of this based upon a seven-year attendance at the Spring and Fall sessions - Betty Biel.

November - Pinewoods Camp - Madeleine Frahm and Elizabeth Leasure.

December - History of the Country Dance Society - Ruth DeWald.

January - Dance of Primitive Man - Ruth Morgan.

February - The Morris Dance - Elsie Brown.

March - The Music and Songs - Hattie Schultz and Madeleine Tatton.

April - More on Music - Ruth Foltz.

May - Evaluation of the Exploratory Plan and decision as to the plan for 1955-56.

Each meeting was from 3 to 4 hours in duration.

OLIVE WHITWORTH

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## FOLK AND SQUARE DANCING FOR OLD PEOPLE? SURE!

By adapting and simplifying dances so that they are not tiring and are easy to do, broad participation is achieved - with the non-dancing minority interested spectators. Thus an excellent medium for enjoyable recreation is coupled with moderate physical activity - the latter so important to the usually sedentary senior citizen.

In the last year I have conducted Folk and Square Dance programs at more than thirty different Golden Age Clubs; at three of these on a regular bi-weekly schedule and at a dozen others, two or more times. Have also had excellent results with these special groups: the blind, the deaf, emotionally disturbed patients at a VA hospital, and C.R.M.D. classes and other slow learners.

The program lasts about an hour and a quarter. I use records exclusively but group must have its own phonograph. Available for afternoon and evening engagements both locally and out of town.

CY GROSSMAN, M.S. IN ED.

811 WALTON AVE., BRONX 51, N.Y. ME 5-0289

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## BOOK REVIEW

SINGING FAMILY OF THE CUMBERLANDS by Jean Ritchie Illustrated by Maurice Sendak. New York, Oxford University Press, 1955. 282 pp. \$4.00.

This is a book the readers of the Country Dancer will want to have and will cherish, or I miss my guess. It is the story of that almost legendary family, the Ritchies of Kentucky, told with a rare artistry by the "least one," Jean. There is a well peopled little world inside the book's covers, as the Contents meditatively discloses, with chapters ranging from "Uncle Jason and seven generations of Ritchies" to "Of my parents, their courting and marrying" and "Of fall days and harvesting, and falling in love."

When Jean was born in the village of Viper, the 14th child of Abigail and Balis Ritchie who had already raised 13 in a 3-room house "between the hill and the branch," the family was still mostly together; they weren't yet all tramping over the mountains and through the creek beds to school at Hindman or Pine Mountain or going by trains as far away as Wellesley College. They were still working and singing together as the littlest one loved to have them:

"Dad and the girls and boys would come in hot and dusty from the fields around four o'clock, and we'd all head for the cool willow-river that ran around the foot of the mountain down in front of our house. Mom and one or two of the girls would get supper and we'd eat and then I'd begin to get everybody out onto the porch. I remember I would always be so afraid that the family would decide not to sing tonight, that I would even dry the dishes without being made to."

Their songs were the British ballads handed down by their ancestors or learned eagerly from neighbors or relatives; their instruments were the dulcimer for singing or the fiddle for set running. No Ritchie thought a fiddle was a tool of the devil, but a nearby farmer did. His sons had to hide their gourd fiddles to keep him from destroying them, and once he smashed a whole cache of them he found under a tree stump in new ground.

There was the time when one of the older girls was being married and no one had thought of providing music but suddenly it seemed needed. Jewel offered: "Me and Pauline (the two youngest ones then) know a song about 'There Was an Old Woman and She Had a Little Pig' -- and standing under a snowball bush they sang it through --

"Now this old woman fed the pig on clover,  
It lay down and died all over" --

their voices getting smaller verse by verse, as shyness grew on them.

Music runs through the Ritchies' lives and through this book. It rings in the cornfield and the kitchen, through school days and at "stir-offs" (when the sugar cane was boiled to molasses), on wet 20-mile hikes home from school, and on the porch or by the fire. Intermingled with the music -- there are songs every few pages, 42

of them in all -- in Jean's telling run the clear memories of a little girl about the happy-hard business of growing up; the loving but honest record of a family's living and a region's growth; and deep feeling for the mountains, the mountain people, and their ways and speech.

How did the Ritchies come by the wisdom to prize their own ways so truly, while yet they reached out for all the schools could teach? Jean does not tell in so many words, but some of the reasons must lie in the characters of both the Ritchies and their teachers. The women who came into the mountains and opened schools met a glad welcome; they also valued the traditions which they found there, and nourished them. Although trains and radio now penetrate to the heart of the Cumberlands, and Ritchies may be found in New York and Colorado, they keep alive the songs and the legends that they love, and we share them here.

ROBERTA YERKES

## SUMMER VACATION CAMPS AND COURSES

MAINE FOLK DANCE CAMP June 11 - 17 and 18 - 25. Michael and Mary Ann Herman and Ralph Page. Details from Mrs. Alice Dudley, Bryant Pond, Maine.

BRASSTOWN, N.C. JOHN C. CAMPBELL FOLK SCHOOL Folk Dance, Recreation and Handicraft courses in May, June and July, Folder from School.

PINEWOODS CAMPS - COUNTRY DANCE SOCIETY - BOSTON CENTER CAMP, Long Pond Buzzards Bay, Mass. Last weekend in June. Director: Louise Chapin with Bob Hider, Abe Kanegson and other expert Teachers and Callers. Flyer from the Society's office at 14 Asburton Place, Boston, Mass.

THIRD GENEVA FOLK AND COUNTRY DANCE SCHOOL at George Williams College Camp, Williams Bay Wisconsin. July 2nd to 10th Paul and George Williams College, 5315 Drexel, Chicago 15, Ill.

FUNSTITUTE at U.S. Thayer Hotel, West Point, New York. July 24 to 29. Al Brundage with Ed Gilmore and Frank Hamilton. Folder from Al, Candlewood Shores, Brookfield, Conn.

LIGHTED LANTERN, LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN, NEAR DENVER, COLORADO. July 3 to 17; July 24 to August 14; August 14 to 21. Director Paul Kermiet. Callers include Ray Smith.

PINEWOODS CAMP - COUNTRY DANCE SOCIETY OF AMERICA. August 8-28. Long Pond, Buzzards Bay, Mass. Director: May Gadd. Callers and Teachers include Dick Best, Dick Forscher, Bob Hider, Phil Merrill. and other experts in dance and music.

FIFTH ANNUAL NEW ENGLAND SQUARE AND FOLK DANCE CAMP. August 29 to September 5. Becket, Mass. Director Charlie Baldwin. Information from R. Sidney McNutt, Boston YMCA, 316 Huntington Avenue, Boston 15, Mass.