

REPUBLICATION OF BALLADS

THE FOLKLORE PRESS is giving valuable service by republishing "The English and Scottish Popular Ballads" by Francis James Child, originally published in Boston, 1882-1898. Limited to a printing of 1000 sets, the work has long been out of print, but it is used as a standard work of reference by all folk song collectors, and remains the basis of all modern studies of Ballad tests.

The Folklore Press is offering for sale the completely unabridged version of the work, in three volumes, bound in cloth and printed in offset. The price will be \$37.50 for the set. Printing is limited to 500 sets.

THE BALLAD RECORD

While the value of Professor Child's book lies in the texts, here we have available a BALLAD RECORD (RLP 12-601) sung by Ed McCURDY, presented by Riverside Records and edited by Keaneth Goldstein. The Ballads were selected by McEdward Leach, Secretary of the American Folklore Society and author of THE BALLAD BOOK. The record cover gives an interesting foreword by Mr. Leach, something about the history of each ballad, and, where applicable, the reference number of the ballad in the Child collection. The purpose of the Record is given as follows: "Conceived as a recorded survey of British and American Ballads.....the album can stand on its own feet as pure musical entertainment. However, it is also designed to serve as a vehicle for study of the ballad - as a musical supplement to MacEdward Leach's authoritative work." (This book will be reviewed in our next issue).

The Ballads presented are classified as follows: BRITISH BALLADS: Sir Patrick Spens; The Three Ravens; The Twa Corbies; Get up and Bar the door; Son Davie, Son Davie; The Unquiet Grave: The Bitter Withy. BRITISH BALLADS IN AMERICA: Crow Song; Black Jack Davie; Old Bangum; High Barbary; BROADSIDE BALLADS: Brennan on the Moor; William Glen; The Butcher Boy; The Poor and Single Sailor; AMERICAN BALLADS: Springfield Mountain; John Henry; Canada I.O.; Naomi Wise.

NEWLY RECEIVED

Sixth annual edition of the FOLK DANCE GUIDE, for 1956. Paul Schwartz, Editor and Publisher, Box 342, Cooper Station, 93 Fourth Avenue, New York 3, N.Y. Price, one dollar a copy. Contents include quotations on "Dance Through the Ages", Directory of Instruction Groups in ten states; British Columbia and Hawaii; list of conventions, festivals and folk dance camps; a selected bibliography.

PRESS CUTTING

From THE HONG KONG TIGER STANDARD - November 1, 1955
"The Social Programme" (of the Founders' Day Celebration at Chung Chi College) "immediately following the service, included a choral singing by the college choir.... folk dances: Csegotar, Hungary; Clap Dance, Swedish by Freshman Class; Ruffy-Tuffy, English, by Junior and Senior Classes."

THE COUNTRY DANCER



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Chinese New Year Celebration

WINTER

1955-1956

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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NATIONAL C. D. S. DATES TO NOTE

August 5 to 26, 1956 PINETREES CAMP on Long Pond near Plymouth, Mass. 28th annual Summer Session of the Country Dance Society of America. May Gadd, National Director

Saturday, May 26 - ANNUAL MAYPOLE RAISING at Piper's Fancy, Mount Bethel, N.J. Procession and exhibition dances at 3 p.m. Dancing for everyone from noon until after dark.

NEW YORK

Our monthly Saturday Square Dances have been one of our big successes this season - and with the line-up of Callers that we have had, it could scarcely be otherwise. Dick Forscher started us off with a gay dance in the Fall. In January Ralph Page obligingly had his Birthday right on the day that he called for us. Nearly 200 people turned out to wish him well and to enjoy his calling and taste his Birthday Cake. In February Rickey Holden was to be our Caller, but at the last minute was unavoidably prevented - by a case of the Mumps. Frank Kaltman most kindly consented to substitute for him and gave us a wonderful evening. Our good wishes go to Rickey for a quick recovery and we hope that he can make another date with us this season.

Our Wednesday evening teaching evenings have gone along well, with their usual mixture of good fellowship, good dancing and good music. The Christmas Festival was one of our best - a very good dancing crowd - spectacular decorations by Genevieve Shimer and her helpers - new costumes for a rousing exhibition of Royton Morris with visiting Boston dancers combining with New York, and our regular Boar's Head Processional and Carol, with Roland Jones as the singer - and the Christmas Sword Dance and short Play. Now we are planning the Spring Festival on April 28th at Hunter College.

FESTIVAL PATRONS NEEDED

Can you find us at least one Patron, or Sponsor, for our 30th Spring Festival to be held in New York on Saturday, April 28th. Finding a new Patron is one way of arousing new interest in the purposes of the national C.D.S.; and the money brought in by the subscriptions helps to lighten the struggle for funds in which a

non-profit organization is always engaged. The Festival pays its own costs by means of admissions, but its Patrons and Sponsors help the national work of the organization. Have you ever made a list of people whom you might approach? It would be a good deed.

HOUSEPARTY DANCE WEEKEND

Our Thanksgiving Weekend at Hudson Guild Farm, Andover, N.J. was so much enjoyed that we plan to have a Spring Weekend at the same place, April 6 (Friday evening) April 8 (Sunday afternoon). Descriptive folder is now available, and registrations are being taken. Better register early to avoid disappointment; accommodations are limited to 29 men and 29 women. It is a lovely place - and the dancing and the music are tops. Send registrations to the C.D.S. office in New York. Dick Forscher will be there for Squares, Phil Merrill for music, singing and all the other things that he does; Bob Hider and Sam Lindenbaum for morris and sword; May Gadd and Genevieve Shimer for country dancing - and there will be recorder playing too. Hope to see you - beginners and advanced dancers all welcome.



WE POINT WITH PRIDE...

The C.D.S. and its National Director "get into print" quite often and we do not always tell you about it, but we would like to cite here two magazines of recent issue:

PROMENADE Magazine, in an article, "Terpsichorean Town" ... "Now a long hop from the Cuban import to one hundred per cent Anglo-Saxon folk dancing. Are you in the mood for 'picking up sticks' or 'soldier's joy'? Thanks to the Country Dance Society of America and Miss May Gadd, its moving spirit, a vast repertoire is offered. On coming to this country, Miss Gadd, already an expert in English folk dance, combed the Appalachians and other rural hideouts for counterparts here. Agnes de Mille consulted her on the dances for 'Oklahoma'! Noted for her own 'lilt', Miss Gadd beams upon the squares and contras going on lustily in Metropolitan-Duane Hall on West Thirteenth Street in the basement of a Methodist Church."

The NEW ENGLAND CALLER, January issue, carried a picture of Miss Gadd on its cover, saying "see page 9", which is given over to our National Director and her work for the Country Dance Society of America, her leave of absence as an USO director, a weekly television show produced by her for CBS for a year, her association with Agnes de Mille, and other work. We hope you have seen this, or will have a chance to do so!

From the New York Times of February 5th, 1956: Writing of the spectacular performance given recently by the Yugoslav National Folk Ballet, "Tanec", Mr. John Martin said: "...there was a flood of revelation in the movements we saw here for the first time. Indeed, there was enough material to supply the choreographers of the "art" dance with "invention" for the rest of their creative

lives. This is not to imply, of course, that Skoplje has any monopoly on movement thus externalized; it is true of any rich folk culture. We have had among us for the last twenty years the admirable exhibition "teams" developed by May Gadd in the English traditions of the sword and country dances and of the morrismen, and there are none more stylish or more beautiful. We have seen only recently a bit of what the dance of the kilted Scots contains along these lines...."

It is a wonderful thing to have as dance critic of the Times someone with such an understanding of folk art as Mr. Martin and we are proud that he is a member of our Society's Advisory Board. In another part of his article he says: "One comes away from such a program with many colossal generalizations surging through one's head, and serving to a large extent to clear it. For one thing, it is perfectly clear that no choreographer ever invented a movement; every movement is already latent in the human body, ready to spring into being under the proper provocation. All human bodies have the same number of members which can be manipulated in the same directions, with the same variations of force and speed; the reasons that they differ in specific instances must be sought in the outward pressures brought to bear upon them - racial, psychological, environmental, or what you will."

MOUNTAIN FOLK FESTIVAL

The twenty-first annual Mountain Folk Festival, which is affiliated with the Country Dance Society of America, will be held at Berea College, Berea, Kentucky, April 5th to 8th.

The Festival is held to encourage the use and preservation of material - songs, games, dances, stories - and to unite, for the fun of non-competitive recreation, groups throughout the Southern Highlands. At the same time, leaders are asked to help maintain a high standard of skill in dancing, and to see that their young people participate only in the dances with which they are familiar. Frank Smith is Chairman of the Festival Committee.

GOODWILL THROUGH FOLK DANCING

We shall all send our good wishes with Michael and Mary Ann Herman, Ralph Page, Jane Farwell and Nelda Guerrero Lindsay when they leave for their trip to Japan. They arrive in Japan on April 6th and leave on May 11th, and during this time they will be teaching in ten cities, Sapporo, Sendai, Tokyo, Yokohama, Nogoya, Osaka, Kobe, Hiroshima, Fukuoka and Kumamoto. U.S.A. sponsorship of the trip is the Specialists Division of the International Educational Exchange Service, with the International Recreation Service coordinating the project. In Japan the trip is being sponsored by the Asahi Shimbun newspapers, in cooperation with the Japan National Recreation Association, the Ministry of Education and local Boards of Education.

DRAGONS, LIONS, HOBBY-HORSES AND BULLS

I have just seen the Lions of old China dance in Chinatown, New York, in celebration of the Chinese New Year. Five Lions took part in the ceremony. A Dragon was expected but did not appear. This was the year of the Monkey, each year in a twelve year cycle being named for a different animal, and it is the year 4653 on the Chinese Lunar calendar. As in all folk celebrations, noise was needed to scare away evil demons and to wake up the good spirits, and firecrackers popped and crackled, gongs and drums were beaten for the dancing, and cymbals clashed. The Lions and their colorful attendants danced up and down Mott, Pell and Bayard Streets for several hours and well performed their function of bringing good to the community. Special dances were performed in front of special houses, with alternate rearing up and obeisance. As in all magic ceremonies the occupants did their part by means of contributions - in this case money in small red envelopes. All shops were open, sweetmeats were being distributed and everyone was good-humored. There was plenty of noise but no roughness. The interested police force tactfully ignored the illegal firecrackers as long as the Lions were present.

Like a Hobbyhorse, a Chinese Lion makes no attempt to disguise the fact that a man is identified with the animal. A youth carries the enormous and beautifully made head over his own, often raising it at arm's length, while the body, made of embroidered material, is carried by an attendant. The Lion moves in beautiful rhythm, prancing along, making sudden rushes, or bowing to the ground. From time to time groups of boys performed athletic dances. It was a great occasion.

Richard Chase writes that on old Christmas night he was at Rodanthe on the Outer Banks of North Carolina, and about midnight "Old Buck" the Wild Bull of Hatteras Woods, made his appearance, as he has done there for three hundred years. He used to be a part of every Hatteras Island community's Twelfth Night celebration and went from house to house with a sort of "trick or treat" ritual. He came in to the beat of an ancient drum - the old fife used formerly to "pipe" him in had been lost, so Richard helped out with his harmonica. Two husky coastguardsmen were his legs and part of the ritual was for daring little boys to jump on the Wild Bull's back and get bucked off. Richard says that he seemed to be a combination of Dragon and Hobby Horse.

MAY GADD



GOING TO GERMANY THIS SUMMER?

THE INTERNATIONAL FOLK MUSIC COUNCIL will hold its ninth annual Conference in Germany July 25th to July 31st, at Trossingen, Wurtemberg, on the border of the Black Forest. During the Conference there will be concerts, and performances of folk dance and folk song by groups from the Black Forest, Bavaria and other regions. Also, excursions by motor coach will be arranged from Trossingen to Stuttgart and points of interest enroute. Arrangements will be made for tours before or after the Conference in the region of Lake Constance, Switzerland and Austria. The official languages of the Conference will be English, French and German.

All wishing to attend the Conference should write to The Secretary, International Folk Music Council, 12 Clorane Gardens, London, N.W. 3, England, enclosing the equivalent of two pounds in English money for registration fee and membership in the Council. If already a member, send registration fee of one pound. State if you wish to have hotel accommodation reserved for you, the approximate amount that you are prepared to pay, and if you are willing to share a room. Other information about the Conference can be obtained from the New York office of the Country Dance Society of America.

FRONTIER DANCE NEWS

We like that name - the Frontier Folk Dance Association - formed to encourage and perpetuate square dancing and American folk dancing through square dance clubs whose members reside near the New York State-Canadian border. Two of the groups are well known to readers of the Country Dancer - and elsewhere. They are the Potsdam Polka Dots and the Collegiate Square Dancers (for a while known as The Terpsichoreans).

The Polka Dots meet every other Saturday night at the American Legion rooms in Potsdam, N.Y. The Collegiate Square Dancers started in the current season with thirty-five members, and Howard Smith calls for them. They meet at his house, and a group of students are learning to call with Howard Smith as instructor - so that the Club will not be dependent on any one person for calling, and to prepare for a good hobby after graduation from college.

CIRCULATING DANCE LIBRARY

The Kamin Dance Bookshop and Gallery of New York City has inaugurated a circulating library exclusively devoted to books on the Dance.

The rental service section will contain selected books and pamphlets on all phases of dancing - Ballet, Ballroom, Folk, Ethnic, Modern, Tap, Acrobatic, etc. - and also on Ballet piano scores. Rental and deposit fees will be based on the value of the book. Special membership arrangements will be made available for Dance schools, teachers, students and performers. For the convenience of those who do not reside in the New York area, there will be available a rental service by mail.

Address inquires to the Kamin Dance Bookshop, 1365 Sixth Avenue, New York 19, N. Y.

OUR NATIONAL C.D.S. PRESIDENT

LILY ROBERTS CONANT



MRS. RICHARD CONANT, then Lily Roberts, was the first of the English Folk Dance Society's teachers to come from England to represent Cecil Sharp in America. After her marriage Mrs. Conant ceased devoting all of her time to folk dancing - but those who have seen her at Pinewoods may well wonder what constitutes a part-time interest.

Considered by Mr. Sharp to have an outstanding grasp of the technique and quality of English folk dances, Lily Roberts Conant has never lost the vision of what the dancing can be. Neither has she lost the vitality and grace of her own dancing. She has always shown a willingness to adapt to developments and an ability to relate these changes to the essential qualities of the material with which we deal.

As owner of Pinewoods, Mrs. Conant continues to give first consideration to the needs of the Country Dance Society of America. We feel that we are very fortunate to have a national President of such understanding and ability; and with an ever present sense of fun that surmounts all difficulties and leads us all to the deep enjoyment which is the real moving force of our Society.



NEWS FROM ENGLAND

From English Dance and Song: We are pleased to welcome back Miss Eileen Gunnell from the United States where she has been living for the past two years. Formerly one of the South-East Area Representatives, based on Reading, she is now on the Staff of the South-West Area and will be working mainly in Dorset, Somerset and Wiltshire. For the time being correspondence should be addressed to her c/o The South-West Area Office, 3 Barnfield Crescent, Exeter.

GREETING FROM NEW LONDON

A trip to New York for the C.D.S. Christmas party is like "going home for Christmas". We have it always in mind, and if it proves an impossibility, we with many others can recall the festive scenes and beautiful dancing of other years. It is a very fine thing to have traditions, to know that on a homecoming there will be certain recipes, certain ornaments, and familiar customs. Were it not for these essences, preserved and renewed from the past, each generation would find the task of creating suitable forms to express great emotions far too great a strain on time, energy and imagination.

How horrible it would be to need to decide annually what colors would be Christmas colors! Red and green are quite satisfactory without taking a poll on "pink and charcoal" or "orange and blue". On a larger scale, the expression of joy at spiritual renewal would leave us inept and tongue-tied without the fact of Christmas, stated in the beautiful words of ancient seers and animated by the customs which people for generations have worked out to the point of abundant satisfaction.

Since many of the New London group were not able to attend the C.D.S. Christmas party, we would like to send word as to what we were doing for the holidays here. The December dance of the Community Square Dance Club (a member group of the C.D.S.) was a gala function attended by over 100 people. The Connecticut College gymnasium (which it is our privilege to use this year for our square dances) was utterly transformed by decorations which had been made well in advance as a "decorating junket". Branches of hedge and tree were painted white and hung with paper ornaments. People who were reluctant to decorate found they could trace around bells and trees and stars quite easily. Some of these trimmed branches were made into mobiles, hung from the rafters, and others were placed against the black window shades which line the gym. Giant snowflakes were cut from newspapers, double thickness, and painted with metallic paints. These were quickly fastened to the walls with Scotch tape. Snowmen and Santa Clauses were painted on large brown wrapping paper by a father who was so pleased with them that he took them home after the dance to surprise his children. One young man blew up about a hundred balloons. Members who can really cook turned out attractive Christmas cookies and a pleasant fruit punch. About thirty people, most of them new members, worked on the dance.

The program of the evening featured favorite square dances and demonstration numbers. Ralph Sweet club caller, led the evening, assisted by Abe Friedman, who taught the Waltz Country Dance to everyone. After intermission the crowd was surprised by a "Visit with Santa Claus". He came on, attired in the Father Christmas outfit kindly loaned us by the C.D.S. Wandering about the North Pole, a real pole and so labeled, Santa rounded up his eight reindeer, calling them by name and blowing great blasts on an old-

fashioned horn. The reindeer responded two by two, but shook their golden antlers in protest to going on the long trip to points South until they had danced. A ninepin reel was then called by Ralph with Santa in the center, surrounded by his eight reindeer, and from time to time cutting in on the stags.

In case anyone wants to make some antlers, tree branches make a good base, wound with wire, wound with ex-nylon stockings, wound with strips of brown paper soaked in wallpaper paste. These are then dried for a couple of days and painted gold. They look heavy and impressive but are very light. Mounted on a headband of wire screen and velveteen, they will fit any deer if an elastic band is set across the back. A piece of velveteen going over the top of the head from front to back holds the piece in place so that dancing can be done without hindrance. Golden ears for the "does" can be made from paper and painted gold.

With school and college gymnasiums closed for the holidays, the club scurried around to locate a suitable place for a New Year's Eve party and square dance. A little red building with a lot of atmosphere was found, and a pot luck buffet supper planned for the late evening. One of the girls brought a big box of feathers, ribbons, and assorted dodads and from these odds and ends zany hats were made on the spot. A jolly time and a good start on a Happy New Year!--MARGARET M. IDE



FROM CAIRO, EGYPT

Dear friends: Poinsettias everywhere, the fragile flags of Christmas, announce that soon "the Lord is at Hand." There are no store and street decorations here, and no December snow, but if it is true that Christmas is in the heart this is a deeper, warmer greeting than we've ever sent you before. Accept it with our love.

Our Lord was born only a little way from where we write, and on the "flight into Egypt" Mary and Joseph stopped with Him, so tradition says, not more than a half-hour walk from our house. Country-side life here, now, must be much as it was then; the shepherds on the Judean hills, now, must be very much like the ones who saw His star by night; Bethlehem is as it was and Jerusalem, painfully divided, is a city to be wept over now as it was then. Our life has been in these places this year; ancient places, good places. The roots and flower of our school, the students and alumni, are in these places and the strangeness disappears as the words are much on our lips. Imagine going to Jerusalem for an alumni meeting and to Damascus to interview students!

We write with gratitude that a great deal of living has gone

into our family's life this year. Little Holly Marie, born to Rosemary and Jimmy Stovall, is four months old. Her father graduated from the University of Kentucky in February and became a Marine Lieutenant in May. Her mother graduated from Transylvania in June. All three are leaving Quantico just now for a post as yet unknown. Little Raymond is just turning two and fulfills the life of Betty and Bun and, from what we hear, the Hindman Settlement School as well, where Raymond is in his second year of teaching. Word from various unprejudiced sources declares him the friendliest, brightest boy that could possibly be. His photographs attest the fact, as we shall gladly show you when we meet.

These are the larger things, but the smaller ones are not to be overlooked. After one year here we are delighted and a little shocked to find that we do not feel like strangers in a strange land. We admire and love the University and the people in it. Bicky will be teaching a course in the Ballad beginning in February, and is already started in a program of research in folk-lore that may grow to be quite extensive. Raymond is ending his first semester of teaching a course in drawing, and will offer a course in water-color painting the second semester. Both (but especially Bicky) have been finishing and furnishing an apartment since last May.

Both have moved about a good bit this past year. Raymond went to America in June and on the way back to Cairo joined Bicky in Oslo, where she had been attending the annual meeting of the International Folk Music Council. Later, after a three-week stay in the Western Desert of Egypt to do some writing, both went to Barford, England, where Bicky helped direct and taught in the Anglo-American School of Folk-lore. After that, we (to get back to the first person) joined Marguerite and Georg Bidstrup in Denmark, and drove with them over Jutland and down through Germany, east to Vienna and south to Venice and finally, Rome. From there we flew to Istanbul for a meeting of the International Universities Association, stopping at Athens on the way.

The school year at the University has been demanding and very rewarding. It could hardly be in a more interesting place or a more threatening and promising time. Many old friends from America have stopped by for visits during the year, fortunately for us. We trust that they have set an example for the rest of you and that you will follow your letters to Cairo to see the pyramids, to ride the camels, to enjoy the Nile, the villages and the desert, to savour the ancient cultures of this land and to spend time with your friends.--BICKY AND RAYMOND McLAIN, The American University, Cairo, Egypt.

VISITOR

We were happy to have a recent visit in our New York office from Joe Letson, President of the Chicago Country Dancers. It was good to have news of the Chicago group and very pleasant to know that Joe is planning to attend Pinewoods this summer.

CENTER NEWS

SUMMIT, N.J.

Following a very gay Christmas Party, the Summit group has lined up a very interesting program for the January to May season, with monthly Friday Folk Dance evenings, twice monthly Contra and Country Dance evenings and some Sword dancing. Recorder groups meet on Saturday afternoons with C.D.S. Music Director Phil Merrill visiting once each month. On Saturday, March 31st there will be a Contra Dance Workshop with Rickey Holden, and live music supplied by Phil. All details from the C.D.S. New York office or from the Summit Center Director, Mrs. Walter MacWilliams, 213 Kent Place Boulevard, Summit, N.J.



Summit Christmas Party



Summit Recorder Group

BEREA COLLEGE

The fall activities of the Country Dancers have consisted of participation in a Regional Festival at Beattyville, and trips to Central City, Eubank, and Somerset, Kentucky. Three programs have been presented in high schools, one on the stage of a movie theatre, one in a hotel dining-room. In each case the audience joined in. It is true, spectators did not dance on the stage of the movie theatre but, instead, the interested ones went to the high school gymnasium for that purpose.

The sponsors for these trips were a music club, a 4-H group,

and two high schools that have their own folk dance clubs. One of these has been started recently by Mildred Strunk, a former Berea Country Dancer.

Paul Green's Wilderness Road was presented as a Centennial event for sixty performances at Indian Fort Theatre last summer. Mr. Green included two episodes in the script in which dancing was necessary. It was an interesting job to work out appropriate routines. In what the cast called "the big dance" twelve couples were used, against a colorful scene in the mountains with a crowd of friendly neighbors standing around. The dances of course grew out of a natural situation in each scene, and it was the general opinion that they added greatly to the total effect of the drama.--FRANK H. SMITH

BOSTON, MASS.

The Boston Branch of the Country Dance Society held its annual Christmas party at the Old South Church, Copley Square, Boston, on December 17, 1955. It was presented under the direction of their leader, Louise Chapin, and was attended by a total of 170 members and guests from Boston and neighboring towns. A lively assortment of English and American dances was enjoyed, and carols were sung.

Two highlights of the evening's entertainment were a Morris dance of the Eynsham tradition entitled "Brighton Camp" and a Morris jig from the Bampton tradition named, appropriately enough, "Lumps of Plum Pudding". These were followed by the Boar's Head processional led by Louis Baker, who also gave a very pleasing rendition of the Boar's Head Carol. After refreshments of Christmas cookies and punch, the party ended with the singing of "Adeste Fidelis".

The next, and final, event of the year 1955 was the pre-New Year's Eve party held at the Union Boat Club on Thursday, December 29, from 8 until 11 p.m.

If you are visiting in Boston, come and join us. You will be welcome.

CORRESPONDENCE

We were just so full of enthusiasm when we left Pinewoods that we could hardly contain ourselves. We have talked and talked about it and are now not only sure that we will return to Pinewoods whenever we can, but we also know that some of our friends and dancers will join us there.

We enjoyed ourselves at Pinewoods Camp. The relaxed atmosphere, excellent leadership, superb dancing - Morris, Sword, English Country, and American Square dancing - the singing and recorder playing, the wonderful fellowship with all the other campers, the perfect and spirited exhibitions ...all this has given us memories that we shall cherish for a long time to come. And we are looking forward to other years at Pinewoods Camp. Thank you for making it so pleasant for us.

We are busily engaged in teaching. Paul has 12 hours of folk dance

teaching this Fall. There are two courses of beginning folk dancing, plain skill courses; then two teaching courses and our Tuesday evening intermediate folk dance course. Since I help with all classes, I am here every day. But I am having fun. Every morning we leave the house at 7 o'clock. Since our way leads along the lake front with the sun coming up over the lake to our left, we get a wonderful view which is different every morning. We also leave the College together and we try to have some relaxing evenings and weekends. One of our relaxing evenings is a "recorder class" on Monday evenings which I started this year and which has an enrollment of 14 - which includes four faculty members besides us.--Gretel Dunsing (George Williams College, Chicago).

Dear Miss Chamberlain: Thanks for all the "things" you sent me. I more than enjoy being informed about programs, etc. It's a great impetus to my spirit to know what's going on.

In my class at R.P.I. (Richmond Professional Institute, College of William and Mary) I am going to assign different articles from The Country Dancer, English Dance and Song, and also Mountain Life and Work, to be reviewed by members of the class for the class.--Mrs. S. S. Martin.

Greetings and salutations! I wanted to tell you how disappointed I am that family circumstances prevented my coming to Pinewoods this year. I miss it very much and hope to be back again next year. I am enclosing a small contribution to the Society. I only wish it could be more. Please give my best regards to my Pinewoods friends. With best wishes for a pleasant and successful season.--Eleanor Boyer.

BEREA CHRISTMAS SCHOOL

On December 26, 1955, at about three o'clock in the afternoon, folks began to arrive on the Berea College campus to register for the eighteenth annual Christmas Country Dance School.

"Berea Country Dance School!" What holiday magic those words call up! To one who has taken part in this event, those words bring forth all kinds of warm and festive memories - carol singing in candle light, the tinkle of Morris bells, the glow of happy faces as we meet our partners in the joyous traditional dances of England, of Denmark, and of America. We hear the inimitable tunes of "Newcastle", of "Weaving", and of hundreds more, played as only our folk musicians can play them.

Our dance instructors this year were Frank H. Smith, Director of the Christmas Country Dance School and instructor in recreational leadership at Berea College, Berea, Kentucky; Miss May Gadd, National Director of the Country Dance Society of America; Mrs. Beatrice McLain, Co-director of the Anglo-American Dance School in Barford, England (Mrs. McLain now lives in Cairo, Egypt); Georg and Marguerite Bidstrup of the John C. Campbell Folk School at Brasstown, North Carolina; Miss Ethel Capps, Physical Education and Folk Dance Instructor of Knoxville, Tennessee; Patrick E. Napier, Square Dance caller and recreation leader from Stuart Robinson School, Blackey, Kentucky; Jim Wolf, recreation leader for the Council of Southern Mountain Workers, Berea, Kentucky, and

Edna Ritchie of Viper, Kentucky, who teaches English and recreation at the Dilce Combs Memorial School at Jeff, Kentucky.

Our musicians were Ruth White of Hindman Settlement School, Hindman, Kentucky; Raymond McLain, also of Hindman; Otto and Marguerite Wood from South Haven, Michigan, and Rachel Grubbs from Knoxville, Tennessee.

Mrs. Frank Smith (Leila) held classes in puppetry, and assisted everybody in a hundred ways. Miss Rachel Grubbs operated a library of source materials, and also a store from which such materials could be purchased.

The crowning event of the week was the wonderful New Year's Eve party held in Woods-Penniman auditorium. The program included dances for everyone, special demonstrations of Morris and Sword, and a surprise Mummer's Play. At the height of the festivity, a hobby horse suddenly appeared, bearing crowns and necklaces made of gaily-colored ribbon chains. He chose a couple to lead the New Year's Eve waltz, giving the lady a crown and the man a necklace. They, in turn, presented a token and chose a new partner. Soon everyone was dancing. On the stroke of midnight, everyone formed a big circle, as gaily-colored balloons floated from balcony windows above. Thus the old year ended on a note of high festivity.

As New Year's Day, the seventh day of Christmas, dawned we said our goodbyes - sad to see the week over, yet eager to return to our homes and share what we had learned with others.

This School is sponsored by the Council of Southern Mountain Workers and Berea College in cooperation with the Country Dance Society of America. We wish to thank Berea College especially, for making this school possible. Not only does Berea College give us the very best of food and hospitality, but back of it all is the living, moving Spirit of Berea College, which one somehow absorbs without knowing. We wish that everyone could have the experience of attending the Berea Country Dance School.--EDNA RITCHIE

MORE ABOUT RECORDERS

The Country Dancer was very pleased to receive one of the programs for the recorder concert given by the Cleveland Recorder Players. This is the group which was organized by Barbara Penyak, in cooperation with the Public Library - as noted in a preceding issue. Meetings are held once a month at the Main Library. And we quote here for the benefit of our many C.D.S. recorder players the program notes by Earl Russell, a member of the group:

"No one knows the exact place or time of the recorder's origin, but observant readers may recall quaint stage directions in the plays of Shakespeare calling for 'music of recorders'. An inspection of Medieval and Renaissance paintings will reveal illustrations of recorders and recorder players among musicians performing on the lute, rebec, tromba marina and other long-silent members of the old musical order. The English name for the instrument is derived from the obsolete verb 'to record' which meant to warble like a bird.

"In the periods before the Baroque era, recorders, like most instruments, were usually employed in 'consorts', generally consisting of bass, tenor, alto, and soprano. Later, in the Baroque period, only the alto was played with any frequency, its mellow, reedy tone being used in solo music and as part of the orchestra.

"After the middle of the 18th century, the recorder fell out of use along with a number of instruments which did not suit the tonal needs, either in volume or in romantic expressiveness, of the homophonic music of the classical period.

"It was not until the 1920's that recorders again came into use. Their revival came partly as a result of the resurgence of interest in old music and its instruments, and partly because the instrument offered a very excellent medium for amateur music-making. Since then, interest has grown so much that today there are, no doubt, more recorders and recorder players in the world than ever in the history of the instrument.

"In this evening's program, music representative of the whole history of the recorder will be heard: The early 'consort' of four or more recorders of different voice, the Baroque music using the alto as solo instrument and part of the ensemble, arrangements of later music for home playing on recorders, and finally modern works written in our own time for these 'new old' instruments."

C.D.S. NATIONAL OFFICERS AND COUNCIL MEMBERS

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The Society's grateful thanks for service given, go to the following retiring National Council Officers and Members' Representatives: Mrs. Frederic W. Bancroft, Dr. Raymond McLain, Elizabeth Balmer, James S. Brown, Duncan Hay; and to retiring Executive Committee Members: Anne Davis, Eileen Gunnell, Wesley Johnson, Maggie Mahon.

The Society's very good wishes go with Eileen Gunnell on her return to England. We have enjoyed having her dancing with us in America for the last two years.