

This is **name the PCDC newsletter** month. *Dance notes* is too stodgy for this newsletter, which is no longer just a calendar of events, so we're running a contest. Entry blanks will be made available at the PCDC dances. The prize for the winning entry will be announced later.

Special events

A Dance in the Springtime is another benefit dance for the Raphael House, an emergency shelter for women and children that has been serving families in need since 1977. Refreshments will be sold.

Seattle Spring Dawn Dance. Drawing near to daylight savings time, we have another opportunity to dance through 'till dawn. Seattle Folklore Society's Dusk-to-Dawn dance will wind up the last Saturday in April, and will not come down 'till the sun comes up. Portlanders are urged to support the Portland-Seattle Dawn Dance Exchange Program by attending the dance of our neighbors to the north. Contact 206-634-2770.

PCDC First Friday Dances. May continues our program of providing time to new local callers. Paul McCullough has been involved in the Portland and San Francisco dance scene for many years, as a dancer and recently as a caller and dance composer. Mogy Vanderkin, perhaps better known to the folk song community, also has been calling dances. They will share the evening in May.

Playford Ball. The regular May English Country dance will be a first annual Playford ball. Costumes are encouraged but not necessary. There will be a workshop on the dances for the evening at Fulton Park from 1 to 4 that afternoon. Cost is \$5 or \$4 for PCDC members; \$2 charge for the workshop.

Larry Edelman is a dance caller from Pittsburgh, PA. "At a dance in Seattle last year, I was dazzled by his square dance breaks, some of which sent me careening around the square, arriving miraculously back with my partner."—Robert. He is a devoted dance researcher, and is the creative force behind the Augusta Heritage Festival Dance Week. For all this, his easy going style is encouraging to modest beginners and kamakazi dancers alike.

Northwest Folklife Festival. Memorial Day

weekend brings the largest free folk festival in the northwest. Seattle Center becomes the site of over 15 stages, with every imaginable kind of folk music and dance, as well as folk arts and food. Local musicians, callers and dancers will be performing.

PCDC General Meeting. Come to a potluck picnic, express your desires about PCDC and its goals, bring instruments and dancing shoes, and prepare for a great afternoon at Mt. Tabor Park. Board members will be seeking your opinions. Whither PCDC? What would you like to see us do?

Lady of the Lake Dance and Music Week. The Spokane Folklore Society have arranged for the last week of June (22-28), a dance and music camp at Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. Among the staff will be Ted Sanella, Jim Morrison, Rodney Miller, Sandy Bradley, Greg and Jere Canote, Penn Fix and Laurie Andres. Cost is \$190 for this week of contras, squares, clogging and couples dances. For more information, contact SFS, PO Box 141, Spokane, WA 99210.

Bret Cannon extends an invitation to campers to spend the night at his house in Richland on the 21st. Contact him at 509-375-4761.

Bob Childs and the Moosetones are a New England dance band scheduled to give a special dance at the end of June. The Moosetones have played together in Maine for ten years, and Bob is a very spirited caller. His dance last year was one of our most heavily attended.

BACDS English and American Dance Camps are now accepting applications for the first two weeks in July, English and then American week. English week staff includes Larry B. Smith, Alistair Brown and Jim Morrison, while American week features Ted Sanella, Larry Edelman and Ira Bernstein. For more information, contact BACDS/Dance Camp, 3234 Ramona St., Palo Alto, CA 94306.

Synopsis of regular dances

Special note: Several people returned recently from a Fourth Friday dance extolling its virtues. Among these is the floating wooden floor. What is a floating floor? You'll just have to come and find out yourself.

Unless otherwise noted, these dances are open to everyone—experienced or not. Partners are not necessary, all dances are taught, and children are admitted without charge.

PCDC First Friday Dance. This is a contra dance at the Multnomah Art Center which showcases a collection of local and regional callers and dance bands. Cost is \$3 for seniors and PCDC members, others \$4. If you are interested in calling or booking a band for this dance, please contact PCDC. Musicians are welcome to sit in with the hired band, but only the hired band will be miked.

PCDC English Country Dance. Come experience the dance form which provides a root for modern square and contra dance style. This First Saturday of the month dance is held at Fulton Community Center, starts at 7:30pm and

features live music and several callers. For more information, contact Kate Mac-Millan, 255-2226. Cost is \$2.

Stumptown Cloggers' Barn Dance. On the second Friday of the month the Stumptown Cloggers sponsor a dance of mostly squares and a few contras in the old roller rink at Oaks Park. It is a large room with a good floor, and usually features a Stumptown performance as an intermission event. Cost \$3.50.

Second Saturday Contra Dance. This is the longest continuously running contra dance in the state. For over seven years, Craig Shinn and Carl Wester have been introducing Portlanders to New England Contra Dancing. The location and bands have changed, but the dance goes on, currently in Multnomah Art Center. Cost is \$3 for seniors and PCDC members, others \$4.

Portland Ceili Dance. In Irish, *ceili* means loosely "a gathering of friends." Lively Irish music, sometimes played by world famous musicians, very aerobic dancing in a warm company of friends and a full bar are only a few of the notable features of this Third Friday of the month dance. The basic steps are taught usually from 8 to 8:30, then dances are called until 11. The band plays until around 1am. Because of the bar, you must be 21 or older to enter. Cost is \$3.50 for members of the Portland Ceili Society, \$4.50 for others.

Fourth Friday Square and Swing Dance. Rich Kuras and Ned Leager call squares and contras intermixed with swing and cajun dances at the St. John's Eagles Hall, on John street between Lombard and Ivanhoe. Cost is \$3.50.

April

- 26th (Sa) **A Dance in the Springtime.** 7:30pm at MAC. Contrabands, Squares, Irish and Scandinavian dancing with music by George Penk, Heather Pinney, Brad Johnson and others. A benefit for Raphael House.
- 26th (Sa) **Seattle Spring Dawn Dance** 8pm at Blessed Sacrament School, 52nd and Roosevelt, Seattle.
- 27th (Su) **PCDC Board Meeting** 5pm at Jim Howe's, 5746 N. Haight Ave, 283-2688. Everyone is welcome.

May

- 1st (Th) **Portland Morris dance in the May** at dawn, in the compass at Council Crest.
- 2nd (Fr) **PCDC First Friday Dance.** 8pm at MAC. Calling by Paul McCullough and Moggy Vanderkin. Music by Dennis Rothrock, Bob Nisbet and friends.
- 3rd (Sa) **PCDC Playford Ball.** 7:30pm at FCC. A workshop covering the evening's dances will be held from 1 to 4pm that afternoon, at FCC.
- 9th (Fr) **Stumptown Cloggers Barn Dance.** 7:30pm at OAKS. Calling by Joe Stephenson. Music by Meloddy.
- 10th (Sa) **PCDC Second Saturday Contradance.** 8pm at MAC. Calling by Carl Wester and Craig Shinn. Music by Erin Shrader, Julie King and Brent Burhan.
- 15th (Th) **Fall Weekend Planning Meeting.** 7:30pm at Bob Nisbet's, 2337 NW Overton, 241-1130.
- 16th (Fr) **Portland Ceili Society Dance.** 8pm-1am at the PPAA. Music by Dale Russ and Mike Saunders.
- 17th (Sa) **Larry Edelman Contra and Square Dance.** 8pm at FAS. Music by Edith Farrar, Tim Lane and Claude Ginsburg.
- 23rd-26th (Fr-Mo) **Northwest Folklife Festival at Seattle Center.**
- 30rd (Fr) **Fifth Friday Square & Swing Dance.** 8pm at EH. Rich Kuras and Ned Leager calling. Music by the Rustic Brothers.

June

- 1st (Su) **PCDC General Membership Meeting** 3pm at Mt Tabor Park. Picnic potluck.
- 6th (Fr) **PCDC First Friday Dance.** 8pm at MAC. Calling by Bob Nisbet. Music by George Penk, Heather Pinney et. al.
- 7th (Sa) **PCDC English Country Dance.** 7:30pm at FCC.
- 13th (Fr) **Stumptown Cloggers Barn Dance.** 7:30-11pm at OAKS.
- 14th (Sa) **PCDC Second Saturday Contradance.** 8pm at MAC. Calling by Carl Wester and Craig Shinn.
- 20th (Fr) **Portland Ceili Society Dance.** 8pm-1am at the PPAA.
- 22nd-28th (Su-Sa) **Lady of the Lake Dance and Music Week.** Lake Cour d'Alene, Idaho
- 27th (Fr) **Fourth Friday Square & Swing Dance.** 8pm at EH. Rich Kuras and Ned Leager calling. Music by the Rustic Brothers.
- 28th (Sa) **Bob Childs and the Moosetones.** 8pm contradance at MAC.
- 29th-July 6th (Su-Su) **BACDS English Dance Week** at Mendocino Woodlands.

July

- 6th-13th (Su-Su) **BACDS American Dance Week** at Mendocino Woodlands.

On a weekly basis...

- Mondays* **Folk Song Circle.** 8:30-11pm at The Horse Brass Pub, 4534 SE Belmont. A varied group who bring a varied mix of English, Irish and American folk songs—and good conviviality besides. No cover charge. For more information, contact Moggy (236-8499)
- Wednesdays* **Morris Dance Practise.** Learn Morris dancing! The only traditional English Morris side in Oregon seeks new members. Weekly practise at Skylark studio from 7-9pm. Requirements: sense of rhythm, sense of humor, physical stamina. For info: call Edith, 235-5023
- Sundays* **Old Time Music and Clogging** 8-12 at East Avenue Tavern. A "sit-in" music session with dancing. This is a good place to hone your skills at playing or calling, or pick up a few new dance steps. Clogging instruction available from 8 to 9.

Portland country dance locations

The acronyms used for representing dance locations listed in the calendar are explained below.

EAT	East Avenue Tavern	727 E. Burnside
EH	Eagles' Hall	8401 N Ivanhoe (in St. Johns)
FAS	French American School	1849 SW 58th (the old Silvan school)
FCC	Fulton Community Center	68 SW Miles (off Barbur, East of Terwilliger)
MAC	Multnomah Art Center	7688 SW Capitol Hwy (corner of 31st)
OAKS	Oaks Park	Near the west end of SE Spokane
PPAA	Portland Police Athletic Association	618 SE Alder

Ski Dance Weekend Report

I want to congratulate the 69 hardy souls who endured the pouring monsoon for the 2nd annual Ski and Dance Weekend held Feb. 21-23 at the Mt. Hood Kiwanis Camp. Though plenty of snow was on the ground, the warm rain changed it to a heavy substance called Mt. Hood cement.

Despite the weather and snow conditions, an admirable skiing attempt was made. One party skied to Newton Creek on the east side of Mt. Hood, while another party skied down the Westleg trail from Timberline Lodge to Government Camp. Then there was the hardy crew which made a valiant run to the Rams Head Bar in Timberline

Lodge to play board games. For these folks, weather was no obstacle. By late afternoon, most people were back to camp, warming by a fire, enjoying conversation and a warm drink.

The evening began with a fine Mexican dinner prepared by Libby Jolley and family, followed by a highly energetic contra dance. No amount of foul weather could dampen the spirits of these dance crazed beings, especially when charged by the and music of Steve Einhorn, George Penk, Heather Pinney and Dennis Rothrock and the calling of Craig Shinn. The post-dance party featured candlelit storytelling and singing.

On Sunday morning the rain stopped. Tired but blissful bodies gathered for a last meal together. Soon they were packing and preparing for departure, either homeward bound or for one last run. The weekend had served well as a pleasant winter retreat, breaking up the doldrums between the Christmas holiday and the first blossoms of spring. The gathering of friends old and new, from near and far, produced a fine blend of outdoor fun, fellowship, music and dance.

P.S. There is a collection of lost and found items. If you are missing something, let me know by calling 292-1662.

Ted Remillard

What Are Our Goals?

[Editor's note: Whither PCDC? Here's one person's notion. Do you have an opinion? Write us a letter.]

A dance, for me, is primarily a social event—a time to gossip, joke, court, exchange news, clown. It is a gathering of friends and neighbors, a kind of structured party.

I feel it is important for our dancers to be so accomplished and courteous that even a beginner can flow through a contra line without getting too lost or embarrassed.

There is real joy in a group of dancers moving with music that fits the dance well, played by musicians sensitive to what is happening on the dance floor.

Dancing in some communities has gone on for generations and in some places has died. If we want to keep the spirit alive in Portland, there are some approaches we can take as a group.

We say we are "dancers, musicians and callers promoting country dance and music." Promoting dance means more than just organizing and running dances that already have sufficient community support to survive on their own.

Anyone can set up a dance in a community that is already dancing. Some of our members may be individually important to the dance community, but as an organization we are not absolutely vital as dance organizers and managers. There are dances in the Portland area that exist without PCDC.

The difference that PCDC

can make (and I consider this our responsibility) is to improve the quality of all the dances in our area by providing:

1. A series of workshops throughout the year for callers. This alone would energize and improve the quality of all the dances in Portland. We could bring new people into calling dances via a structured program that would teach them to do the job right. As their calling improves with our help and training, these people will become more in demand at local dances and those callers who choose not to grow and improve will, naturally, be less in demand.

This is "promoting" dance.

2. Workshops for dancers throughout the year. Molly Libby and Bob Nisbet have demonstrated that there is a need for beginner's workshops and possibly advanced styling workshops. Bob's class was well attended and Molly has consistently gotten a crowd for her mini-workshops at half time at the dances.

This, folks, is "promoting" dance.

3. Musicians workshops all year long. We must have a corps of skilled, local dance musicians. People who want to learn dance musicianship need more than a two hour workshop every year or so and one or two local dances to sit in on.

We need a structured program for teaching our new and developing musicians the basics and the exciting fine points of playing for dancers, how to choose tunes to fit a dance, what kind of tune changes work or

don't work, etc. This is *important* if we want to raise the "goose bump" factor at our local dances.

This, pals, is "promoting" dance.

4. Special dances at which we may lose money but which will enrich the community through exposure to great callers and musicians from other parts of the country.

"Promoting" dance? Yes.

This is where an organization like ours can contribute. The Stumptown Cloggers can not afford to put on money-losing events like those listed above. We are not likely to see Portland Folklore take on these projects. Who does that leave? The World Music Festival? Oregon Bluegrass Association? Rich Kuras and Ned Leager?

We are probably the group best able to raise money for the purpose of promoting country dance in Portland. We either can use our talents and resources to give something of inestimable value to our dancing community or we can become a caretaker organization that exists to benefit and line the pockets of a small group of callers and musicians at the expense of the people who are the heart of country dancing—the dancers.

We need to have vision and a little backbone if we are going to be an effective group in this community. As in any relationship, we need to give and grow or the relationship becomes stale and the spark is lost.

Bill Martin

Perhaps you've seen them, wandering city streets of a spring or summer's day, dressed in white with brightly colored ribbons, vests or sashes, bells affixed to their shins and smiles to their faces, stopping occasionally to burst into dance or song, or perhaps just to mill about. Perhaps you haven't.

Sometimes accosted on the streets for their outlandish dress, their nappies or their "jingle bells," these merry pranksters seek the attention of all who will take a moment to listen to the banter or watch their dances. In return, these hapful buskers deliver joy, wonder, or perhaps just confusion to those suffering the dull plod of our contemporaneous life.

These are Morris dancers, perpetrators of an ancient English tradition, carried forward, some say, from the dawn of man. The actual origins of Morris are subject to controversy. The earliest known literary reference comes from around 1180 A.D., referring to a "Morisco," a dance celebrating battles with the Moors. Much of modern Morris dance style comes from the collections of Cecil Sharp, whose field notes and books describe the form as remembered by survivors in the

PCDC's Spring Weekend is over. Those who attended are nursing the itches where Kiwanilong's mosquitos enjoyed a cocktail. Fortunately, they were too big to get through the window screens on the cabins. The first two cabins were heated and even lit but alas, these were reserved for the staff. However no one froze to death. Many of us were up and about most of the night anyway, except for a very few hours of attempted sleep.

Saturday night we were raided by a pack of coyotes who by the sound of their calls were not in particularly good health. There was also a small earthquake at Mike and Gigi's van. At the Hathaways cabin around four the sun made a premature ascent of the window shade, accompanied by calls of many unrecognizable birds. When a bird everyone recognized climbed the inside of the window, the curious and erratic sun disappeared and the odd birds ceased their cacophony.

Campers came from all over the Northwest including Canada, a rowdy bunch. Contributing to

Oh No! Morris Dancers!

Cotswold region around Oxfordshire, to the northwest of London.

Each village would have their distinct style of Cotswold Morris, in which six dancers in two lines of three would dance a series of figures to the playing of one or two musicians. This celebratory tradition thrives on spectacle, where dancers jump and caper about, flashing handkerchiefs above them to exaggerate their height, or clashing sticks to add elements of rhythm and danger. Distinct from the Cotswold style are Border Morris, from along the Welsh border, and Northwest Morris.

Every spring brings a renewal of the Morris tradition, in keeping with its role as a celebration of life. May 1st, May Day, begins the season, when Morris dancers all over the world dance in the dawn. Our own side, the Portland Morris, brought this tradition to Council Crest last year, and plan to continue it this year (you're welcome to join us).

Once the season has opened, Morris dancers are likely to be seen at fairs and festivals throughout the region, or frequenting their favorite pubs in celebration of John Barleycorn. The microbrewery renaissance

Spring Weekend Blues

that quality were infamous personalities like Robert Reed, Paul McCullough, Dale Russ, Heather Pinney, Joan Hathaway, and Sister Deborah. Meals were always a surprise—one night we barbecued a rat which someone had found in their cabin. One distressful comment about the weekend was "I'm a veteran of many dance camps and this is the first one where I actually put on weight."

We reached our lowest ebb of depravity when the song "I-Yi-Yi-Yi", a cheap vehicle for uncensored limericks, was started around the campfire. It also rained and I am under oath not to talk about the sunshine.

There were numerous attempts to find the beach. Dale and Heidi were gone for more than five hours. Others who tried were never fully accounted for. The perpetrator of "it's just over the next rise" was up at 7:00 Sunday morning, made hot cider, restarted the fire in the hearth, and awaited the arrival of believers. Heather, George, and Walter showed. We left just after 8, found the passage to the beach,

occurring here in the Northwest provides a rich environment for this Morris tradition. Among the stops made by the Portland Morris are such establishments as Bogart's, Portland Brewing's brewpub, and the Horse Brass.

Hearty ale is a frequent companion of Morris, and the occasions when dancers gather to share each other's company are called "ales." Two such northwest ales are the Killer Ale, sponsored on Bainbridge Island by the Mossy Back Morrismen of Seattle, and new this year, the Prince of Ales and Touring the Blooming City, sponsored by The Holly Tree Morris and The Other Side, two teams residing around Victoria, B.C. Morris teams are usually in evidence at the Northwest Folklife Festival as well.

In order to dance out at various occasions and ales, teams will have a regular practise schedule for conditioning and learning the dances. These are also social occasions and can serve as the springboard for midweek dancing out. The Portland Morris has been meeting at the Skylark Studio (SW 16th and Alder) Wednesdays from 7 to 9 pm. Come on down and join the fun.

Robert Reed

and returned in time for brunch.

Cajun and/or French Canadian next year? One evaluation suggested African hand clapping. For the committee it was our first weekend but not our last. Mark your calendar for next April 23rd - 26th. Camp Kiwanilong or Bust...

Well gang, did I guard the secret of our good time? Here's one more promise fulfilled:

PICE AR Y MAEN (Anglicized "picks", also known as Welsh cakes)

8 oz. flour	4 oz. butter
4 oz. sugar	2 eggs
4 oz. currants	pinch of salt
	pinch of nutmeg...

1. Mix butter into flour to resemble breadcrumbs.
2. Add sugar, currants, salt & nutmeg to flour mixture.
3. Add beaten eggs & mix to a soft dough.
4. Roll to 1/4" thick and cut into 2" discs.
5. Cook on a greased griddle (Maen = Stone) over slow/medium heat. Turn and cook the other side. PATIENCE NEEDED!
6. Sprinkle with sugar. ENJOY!

Danny Hathaway

THE PORTLAND COUNTRY DANCE COMMUNITY PRESENTS

A CONTRA DANCE WITH

BOB CHILDS AND THE MOOSETONES



CREIGHTON LINDSEY



SMOKEY McKEEN



JOHN GAWLER

\$5/4 PCDC
MEMBERS

NO PARTNER OR
EXPERIENCE NEEDED

8:00pm Saturday

JUNE 28

Multnomah Art Center

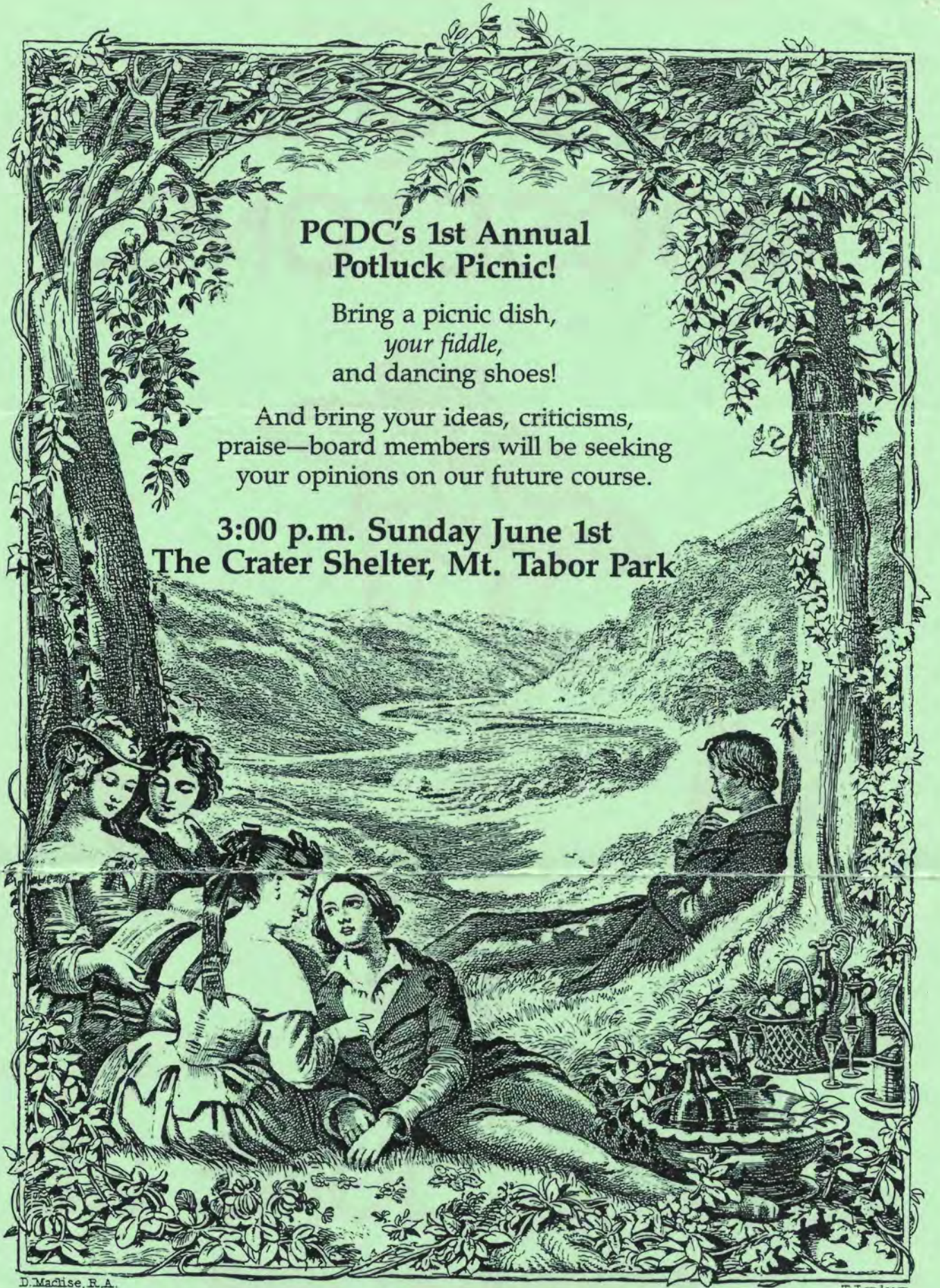
7688 SW CAPITOL HWY

**PCDC's 1st Annual
Potluck Picnic!**

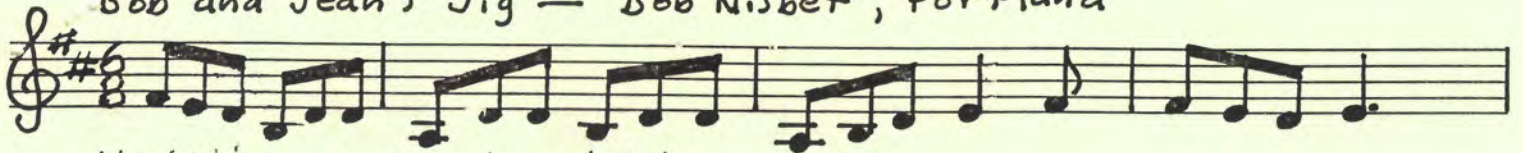
Bring a picnic dish,
your fiddle,
and dancing shoes!

And bring your ideas, criticisms,
praise—board members will be seeking
your opinions on our future course.

**3:00 p.m. Sunday June 1st
The Crater Shelter, Mt. Tabor Park**



Bob and Jean's Jig — Bob Nisbet, Portland



Variation — one octave higher



Joanie's Jig — Nancy Martin, Vancouver, WA



PLAYFORD BALL



Saturday, May 3, 7:30 ~ 11:30 pm

Tilton Park Community Center — \$5

65 S.W. Miles (off Parkview Blvd.)

Ball workshop at the Center, May 3, 1-4 pm, \$2

Live music — Refreshments

For information, call 282-1687

PLEASE let us know immediately if your address changes. We get charged a quarter for each newsletter that is returned. And worse yet, you won't get your newsletter. Give your old and new address. Contact Skip Comer, 4551 NE 32nd, Portland, OR 97211, 282-8163.

This newsletter, *Dance Notes*, is published every other month. If you have a dance announcement for the newsletter, please contact the newsletter committee, or send it to PCDC, PO Box 14636, Portland, 97214. Give a concise description of your event, including featured band/callers, date, time, place, cost, and phone number for further info. The DEADLINE for the July-August issue is June 16th (Bloomsday).

Portland Country Dance Community: Dancers, musicians and callers promoting country dance and music traditions through regular dances, workshops

March Board Meeting. Ski-dance weekend was a success. The spring weekend has some last minute hitches regarding food and an American dance caller. The musicians/callers workshop had a good turnout but the callers workshop was poorly planned. It was suggested to have a well known caller rather than just a discussion group in future workshops. Irene Young made a pitch for increasing the ties between PCDC and the Heather and Rose Dance Society. We can help by giving them advance notice of our events and by publishing their events in our newsletter. Members of the Board will meet with Brad Foster to discuss tax exempt status for PCDC.

April Board Meeting. Plans for the May Playford ball are being finalized, and a large southern Oregon contingent is expected to come. A heated discussion ensued regarding an impromptu exception to pay policy made at the April 1st Friday dance; it was resolved that no changes will be contemplated until the one year trial period for the new policy is completed. Because the Kiwanas Camp are raising their rates and requiring a lot of insurance next year, alternate sites are being sought for next year's ski-dance weekend. PCDC will put another ad in the KBOO program guide and also put them in Willamette Week. Should we move the Dusk-to-Dawn dance to November? CDSS asked PCDC to identify persons for Pinewoods camp priority. PCDC needs to pick a Center representative to serve on the CDSS national council.

and other events. Everyone is welcome. Our interests include American, English, Celtic, Scandinavian and related traditions, expressed through live performance and participation. With this newsletter, we hope to exchange information and share concerns about traditional music and dance. We publish the newsletter every other month and distribute it to members of PCDC and other folk organizations in the Pacific Northwest. Membership is \$6.00 a year, which provides a \$1.00 discount at our regular dances and subscription to the newsletter. Subscription alone is \$3.00 a year. Correspondence may be sent to PCDC, P. O. Box 14636, Portland, OR 97214. We are an educational non-profit corporation and also a center of the Country Dance and Song Society, a national organization whose address is 505 Eighth Avenue, Suite 2500, New York, N.Y. 10018-6506.

The PCDC board is an elected body of volunteers from the community. Meetings are held once a month, and community members are always welcome. Help, ideas and feedback from the community, in whatever form, is necessary to make PCDC events happen. Your contributions of time and support are appreciated. Call any board member for further info. The PCDC board comprises:

Jim Howe	283-2688
Bob Nisbet	241-1130
Ted Remillard	292-1662
Danny Hathaway	(206) 574-7445
Robert Reed	(work) 629-1354
Bill Martin	(206) 695-4361

Newsletter committee:
Danny, Robert, Bill.

First Friday dance committee:
Danny, Jim.

PORTLAND COUNTRY DANCE COMMUNITY
P. O. Box 14636
Portland, OR 97214

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