



PORTLAND COUNTRY DANCE COMMUNITY JULY/AUGUST 1986

Summertime and the dancin' is easy. Fish are jumpin' and we dance with a sigh. It's too hot to dance, but we live for the summer. Oh, hush PCDC, don't you cry.

Special events

An Evening at the Yacht Club. If you can't make it to Lady of the Lake or Mendocino American dance weeks this year, don't miss your chance to dance with Ted Sannella, author of *Balance and Swing* and one of the States' premiere dance composers. Dianne Carreri is sponsoring a special night of challenging contras in Seattle, at the Tyce Yacht Club. This lovely hall sits right on the water, at 3229 Fairview E. Music will be by Whiskey Point, with special guest fiddler Andrea Hoag. For further information, call 206-526-7289.

The Waltz! For all you waltz fanatics out there, here is your night. Beginning with the basics of the waltz, this evening will progress through couple dances and figure waltzes, interspersed with regular contra dances. Highlights include a Zweifache and a Mazurka-Waltz.

So Long and Thanks for the Fish. Contradancing in Portland began with the Second Saturday contradance. For over seven years, Craig Shinn and Carl Wester have been supplying their talents and time to the benefit of the Portland dance community. Their efforts brought dancers into what would become the Portland Country Dance Community. Now this event is about to change. Craig will be moving to Seattle in the fall to start work on his doctorate. His participation necessarily will

be reduced, though we hope to have him as a guest caller in the future. Come make this event a going away party to beat all, and to thank both Craig and Carl for the diligence and love they have supplied to this community.

Sandy Bradley returns, with Jay Unger and Molly Mason, for a special dance at Multnomah Art Center. Sandy is a great dance caller who lives in Seattle and tours nationally with the Small Wonder String Band. Jay and Molly are the founders of the Ashokan Dance Weeks in New York state, which have been praised as the best in the country. Jay is a fine fiddler and composer of dance music. Molly, who hails from Vancouver Wa, is an accomplished accompanist on guitar, acoustic bass and piano. Sandy hasn't called down here in years, so don't miss it.

World Music Festival. August is almost upon us and with it comes Portland's own World Music Festival, once again at the University of Portland. From 11am until dark the campus will be filled with the music of such notables as Queen Ida and the Bon Temps Zydeco Band, U. Utah Philips and Connie Kaldor. This and more will be compressed into one exciting day. Tickets available at all the usual outlets.

Synopsis of regular dances

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 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. With Craig leaving after the August dance we are approaching the end of an era. 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.

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)
MAC	Multnomah Art Center	7688 SW Capitol Hwy (corner of 31st)
OAKS	Oaks Park	Near the west end of SE Spokane

Country Dance Database

A collection of nearly 200 contra and circle dances is available from Bob Nisbet. You can copy a floppy disk to run on an IBM PC or photocopy a printed master. Dances are easily sorted for figure,

formation, level of difficulty, etc. Many contemporary dances by Penn Fix, Christy Keevil and others are included. Call Bob, 503-274-1086 for more information.

CALENDAR

JULY/AUGUST 1986

June

29th (Su) An Evening at the Yacht Club. 7:30pm brings challenging contras with Ted Sannella at the Tyee Yacht Club, 3229 Fairview E., Seattle.

29th-July 6th (Su-Su) BACDS English Dance Week at Mendocino Woodlands.

July

4th (Fr) PCDC First Friday Dance. 8pm at MAC. Calling by Moggy Vanderkin and others. Music by Dale Russ and Mike Saunders.

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

11th (Fr) Stumptown Cloggers Barn Dance. 7:30-11pm at OAKS. Calling by Joseph Stevenson. Music by Meloddy.

12th (Sa) PCDC Second Saturday Contradance. 8pm at MAC. Caller and musicians to be announced.

25th (Fr) Fourth Friday Square & Swing Dance. 8pm at EH. Rich Kuras and Ned Leager calling. Music by the Rustic Brothers.

August

1st (Fr) PCDC First Friday Dance, The Waltz! 8pm at MAC. Calling by Kate Dunlay, Paul McCullough and Sister Deborah Kangas. Music by Swimming Upstream.

8th (Fr) Stumptown Cloggers Barn Dance. 7:30-11pm at OAKS. Calling by Bob Nisbet. Music by the Rustic Brothers.

9th (Sa) PCDC Second Saturday Contradance. 8pm at MAC. Calling by Carl Wester and Craig Shinn. Music by Edith Farrar and Erin Shrader. So long and thanks for the fish.

22nd (Fr) Fourth Friday Square & Swing Dance. 8pm at EH. Rich Kuras and Ned Leager calling. Music by the Rustic Brothers.

23rd (Sa) Sandy Bradley Dance 8pm at MAC Music by Jay Unger and Molly Mason. Cost is \$4/\$5.

23rd (Sa) World Music Festival at the University of Portland, 11am until dark.

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 from 7-9pm. Requirements: sense of rhythm, sense of humor, physical stamina. For info and location: 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.

Letters

Dear P.C.D.C Board,

Congratulations on the May/June issue of your newsletter! It contains a good mix of articles and reports from PCDC events as well as the usual listings and information on PCDC. Seattle should be so fortunate! ...Hope this trend in development continues. May I suggest 1) for each event listing in the Calendar section you *always* print a phone number for further information, [and] 2) you add some fun graphics to break up the bulky text on each page.

As a dance community Seattle remains something of an anomaly and/or an enigma: there is no dance organization here. There is a number of individuals (Sherry Nevins, Suzanne Girardot, Phil Katz, Diane Carreri, Tim Lane, myself and others) who promote both regular and special country dance events, so it is

difficult to find out what and when events are planned. I try to keep up on most of the dance events scheduling here; if you need information for event scheduling, contact me and I will help in whatever way I can. For publicizing your special events to the Seattle dance community, *The Seattle Folklore Society Flyer* and *Victory Music* are still the best monthly publications (for the region, use Penn Fix's *Country Crossroads*). Please send me any special flyers on your dance, and I will make sure they are available at all Seattle dances.

I think we all realize there will be some scheduling conflicts despite efforts to the contrary, but perhaps we can minimize them through better communication during the planning stages.

Some future events you all might be aware of:

● Oct. 24-26 - English Ritual Dance Weekend at Ft. Flagler. (206) 784-3477

● Oct. 31-Nov. 2 - In-town Autumn Dance Weekend at Mountaineer's Hall. (206) 634-2770

● Feb. 27-Mar. 1 - Camp Wana-dance Weekend at Ft. Flagler. (206) 634-2770

● Apr. 25, 1987 - Spring Dawn Dance. (206) 634-2770 (always the last Sat. of April). [Unfortunately, this is the same as our spring weekend, ed.]

If I may, I recommend that you keep the Portland Dawn Dance on the third or fourth Saturday of September. If it is moved to November, it would lose its seasonal significance and be lost in the Halloween-to-Xmas events deluge. Improving the line-up, regional publicity, and local dancer enthusiasm should make it a successful event. MAKE IT SPECIAL! It's a wonderful event.

You all are running a vibrant dance organization and remain an important service to the country dancers of the Pacific Northwest.

Best,
Luther F. Black
Seattle, WA

Thanks for your letter, your suggestions and your membership. We miss your extra hands when it comes to setting up the hall, and your feet and exhuberance at our dances. We do send our newsletter and flyers out to the Seattle Folklore Society, Victory Music and Country Crossroads. Unfortunately, scheduling conflicts do occur and next year our Spring Weekend (intensive French Canadian planned) is the last weekend in April and will conflict with Seattle's Spring Dawn Dance. The only other dates the camp was available conflicted with events in Portland. Your suggestions about the Portland Dusk-to-Dawn Dance are appreciated and have been voiced at our annual General Meeting in June. We're going to stay with the September tradition even if it means no turkey. We

intend to make it very SPECIAL! Thanks again for your support.

[The plans are in the works to bring Luther down to call for us in September with Dale Russ and Mike Saunders providing the music.]



Dear PCDC,

I just read your March/April issue of "Dance Notes" and enjoyed it very much, particularly Dr. Doolittle's discourse on dancers' ailments. I would like to subscribe to "Dance Notes" and am enclosing the \$6 fee to cover becoming a member of PCDC as well. Keep up the good work!

Roger Peacock
Seattle, WA

[Until this last Folklife Festival ('86), Roger Peacock was only a rumor and a 3 X 5 inch postcard which regularly advertised "The Last Friday Contra Square Dance." Recently we received a larger flyer and find that Roger also has a new monthly dance pro-

viding an opportunity for developing callers, apprenticed through his "Become an Old-Time Dance Caller" class.

[Rumor has it that Roger has introduced many people to the pleasures of country dance, his Last Friday dance being geared for beginners. A sizable percentage of the regular dancers in Seattle, so the story goes, began with Roger. He uses a head-set mike with a belt-attached transmitter instead of a hand held microphone. This frees his hands and his attachment to the sound system so that he can attend to the dances from the floor. This has been a bane to him as well as a boon. In the flush of attraction to at least one new partner, he has allegedly forgotten to shut off the transmitter. Thus his advances have been broadcast to the whole dance community.

[We know that Roger will continue his efforts to bring new dancers and callers into the community. Perhaps some day he will come down for one of our dances, and relate his side of the story.]

CALLERS' FORUM - WHY NOT?

"Country Crossroads" is a newsletter by Penn Fix listing contra and square dances in the Northwest. It is issued six times a year and includes an annual resource list of callers and bands with their special interests, as well as a contact address and phone number. Subscription is \$5 a year c/o Penn Fix, 623 West 26th, Spokane, Washington.

In the latest issue of "Country Crossroads" well deserved praise was given the Seattle community regarding the Monday night dances at New Melody Tavern. Musicians, from aspiring to accomplished, are invited to sit in and play. In addition anyone who has an urge to call is welcomed to do so. An experienced caller and musician host the event on a volunteer basis. Anyone wanting to call signs up for one dance at a time, is asked to pick a dance they can teach in four minutes, and is given a maximum fifteen minutes dancing time. They are also asked to let the host musician know what type of music they require. As many as seven or eight callers will participate with some calling more than once in an evening.

In addition to this weekly event there is also what one of them refers to as "a callers' support group". It meets every second Sunday, and is hosted by one of the callers. Beginning with a potluck, many topics are discussed concerning the music and dance, and experiences are shared. As a group they also help each other work out dances, and they discuss openly ways of improving their calling: "the new callers benefit from the experience of others; the old callers get some feedback that would not be available otherwise."

These same ideals have been discussed within our own community. Some of the results to date are as follows:

1. 1st Friday Dances are open to sit-in musicians, unmiked but monitored.
2. Every 1st Friday Dance there are two slots available for guest callers to test their skills. Approval beforehand by the hired caller is a prerequisite. A

few of us have taken advantage of that opportunity and learned from it.

3. Three times a year a 1st Friday dance is divided between 3 or 4 callers, giving developing callers a chance to do part of an evening. These dances often feature a theme for the group to focus their teaching, such as the Waltz or swinging.
4. We are striving to make better use of visiting callers and musicians by hiring them for more than just a one night dance. We intend to make a concerted effort to set up workshops with these people so that our dancers, musicians and callers can benefit from their expertise and experience. Our area also offers a few continuing events outside of PCDC that offer opportunities to play music and call dances. Among these are Sunday nights at the East Avenue Tavern.

As a community a prime concern should be the development of our own callers, musicians and dancers; to improve the quality of calling, playing, and dancing, the social aspect of these interdependent forms being our focus.

Issues raised with the PCDC board include a third monthly dance designed on the same lines as Seattle's New Melody dance; a music session set up on a weekly basis that starts out with someone teaching at least one tune thoroughly, emphasizing playing for dancers; a forum similar to Seattle's where local callers of all levels can gather to share ideas, for constructive criticism, and perhaps setting group goals to answer the needs of our dancing community.

Excuse me for a moment while I move in the soapbox.

Egos, especially where callers are concerned but not limited to them, are our biggest stumbling block. So why can't we get off our pretentious and pompous asses and start listening to one another, affirming one of the most important aspects of our title — Community! That also means greater

participation, so come to a meeting once in awhile. It doesn't obligate you to anything.

So why don't you come? Why not participate? Why are there important members who never attend anything but their own events? Is there nothing more to learn? Nothing more to share? Please write and let us know if you have an answer. This newsletter is in existence to serve, to bring into question, to challenge, and to seek out answers, to

boldly go where no dancers have gone before.

Again, what is our greatest strength? Though some may think of themselves as such, we do not have any hot-shot callers or musicians; good yes, and promising, but not hot-shots. So what is the answer? — COMMUNITY! We need your ideas, your help, your participation.

I can get down now,
— Danny...

TUNES that will be used for the 1st Friday Dance in August :

Anna Svensk's Waltz

Die Alte Kathe (Zweifache)

MAZURKA/WALTZ (à MICHEL)

The jigs from the last issue will also be used, so learn the tunes and sit in with the band!

The Portland Country Dance Community presents:



Sandy Bradley

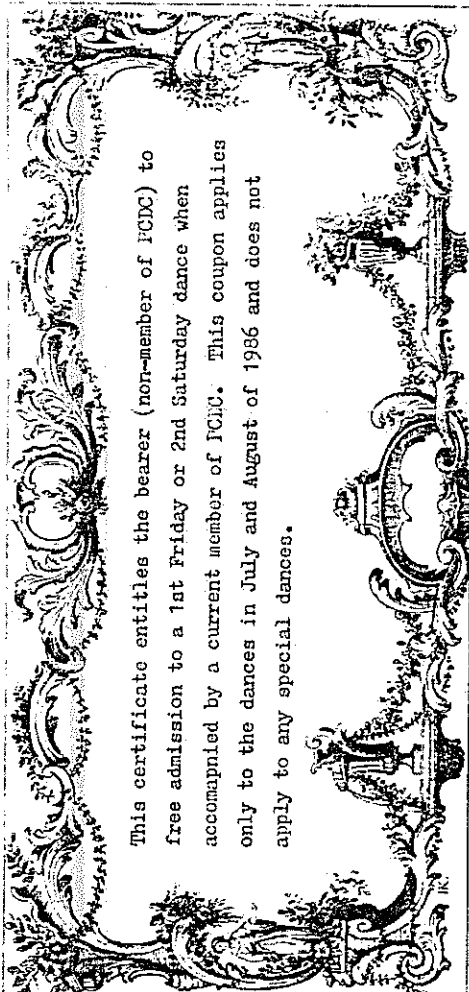
Jay Unger

Molly Mason

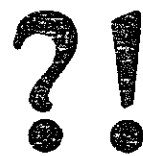
in a special dance on Saturday, August 23
8:00 p.m. at the Multnomah Art Center

\$4 for members
\$5 for non-members

No experience or partner necessary.
Watch for possible workshops.



This certificate entitles the bearer (non-member of PCDC) to free admission to a 1st Friday or 2nd Saturday dance when accompanied by a current member of PCDC. This coupon applies only to the dances in July and August of 1986 and does not apply to any special dances.



PORTLAND COUNTRY DANCE COMMUNITY JULY/AUGUST 1986

We intend to have a new name for this rag by the next issue! Dance Notes is too stodgy for this newsletter, which is no longer just a calendar of events. Please write your choice for our new name below and leave this form at one of our dances or mail to: PCDC, PO Box 14636, Portland, OR 97214.

A prize for the winner will be announced!

The newsletter's name _____

Your name and address _____

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 September-October issue is August 18th.

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

May Board Meeting. A letter from Willamette Week explained that they publish less than 50% of the announcements they receive, but encouraged us to continue sending them. A donation of \$50 will be sent to KOAP-FM with a cover letter encouraging coverage of the folk arts. Scholarship grants totaling \$560 were approved, comprising 5 \$80 grants and 4 \$40 grants. This leaves a little over \$200 in the scholarship account for the fall weekend. The board faux pas of suspending the pay policy for one dance event in April was compensated for, with the extra money repaid to PCDC by members of the board. Dance contracts will be written for all out of town performers, and an information sheet will be made available for all dances. A free dance and a two-for-one coupon were discussed as a means for promoting the start of the fall dance season. PCDC was approached by a convention organizer to produce a private dance, but the board felt it inappropriate for us to do. Membership cards will show an expiration date of a year and a day from the sign-up date. A board retreat will be held Aug 2-3. The spring weekend lost about \$60, and \$150 went to work scholarships. PCDC might produce a brochure, giving general information about the community and its interests.

June General Meeting. After a pleasant picnic in Mt. Tabor Park, board members introduced themselves and described their functions on the board. Three new board members were elected: Paul McCullough, Lecia Molineux and Molly Libbey. Upcoming events were announced, and then the meeting was thrown open for suggestions from the membership. Suggestions included: a demonstration dance at the break (like Stumptown), inverting lines to get beginners to the top, newcomers need to be welcomed early before they get flustered, at Second Saturday the early dances are easy but they go too long, and callers should encourage interaction between experienced and novice dancers more than they do.

The meeting was concluded with a small but wandering contradance on the lawn within the caldera.

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	283-2888
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
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