

Footnotes

Portland Country Dance Community · July/August 1992

SPECIAL EVENTS

Summer: the dance halls are steamy, the men are for once wearing something other than jeans (mostly cut-off jeans), and dance organizers are desperately trying to find a couple of musicians not away on vacation.

But July's first steamy caller, **Merilee Karr**, has managed to round up some great players. PCDC's **First Friday Dance** of July 3 will rock to the Iroid energy of **Dan Compton, Lauren Sheehan & Ron Nagy**. 8 PM at Multnomah Art Center. (*Now that PCDC has its own electric fan there is no discount for those who supply a fan or power cord. But if it's a hot night, definitely feel free to bring along your own climate control contrivances.*)

Somewhat cooler, the new **Second Friday English Country Dance** series continues on July 10 at the Burlingame Water Tower Hall. Filling in for jet-setting caller Nan Evans will be **Andy Peterson**, who promises a few special surprises. **Kathleen Towers, Beverly Stafford & Dave Goldman** will supply the sounds. 8 PM—and remember: bring a pair of non-street shoes.

It's that time again! In accordance with our organization's always scrupulously-obeyed bylaws, the annual **PCDC General Membership Meeting & Elections to the Board of Directors** will be held Saturday night, July 11, at MAC. If you would like to take your place at the helm of PCDC, contact Rik Smoody (503/249-8300) to get your name on the ballot. And please ignore whatever rumors you may have heard regarding Ross Perot's entry into this race. (However, Harry Lonsdale apparently *is* going for the write-in vote.)

Conveniently located immediately before and after the General Membership meeting on July 11 will be the **PCDC Second Saturday Dance**. Exciting caller **Woody Lane** makes the long drive up from Roseburg with his collection of traditional and avant garde dances. What better band for him, then, than those radical folklorists, **Island?** 8 PM at MAC.

There will be a **special benefit dance** on Friday, July 17, to help pay health care bills for folk community member **Victoria Larson**. **Dr. Merilee Karr** will be the evening's primary provider, with supplemental ser-

vices covered by **George Penk & Heather Pinney**, plus **Island**. At the break, Portland's **Süssefüsse International Folkdancers** will perform. 8 PM at MAC.

The **Fourth Friday Contra & Square Dance Party** returns on July 24. Aimed at the more experienced dancer, the evening features caller **Mary Devlin** with musicians **Clyde Curley, Creighton Lindsay & Joel Bernstein**. This dance hall is famous for its cross-ventilation and ceiling fans, so plan on comfortable dancing no matter how hot the night. (No street shoes, though.) 8 PM at BWT.

One of Seattle's favorite and funnest callers, **Mike Richardson**, will visit our fair city on August 7 for the **PCDC First Friday Dance**. He's still chasing down some musicians, but his judgment in such matters is renowned. 8 PM at MAC.

In fact, we expect Mike and his friends to wear you out so completely that we have canceled this month's **Second Saturday Dance** for August 8.

August's **Second Friday English Country Dance** will welcome back caller **Nan Evans**. **James Thomas** and his friends will do the musical honors. 8 PM at BWT.

This month's **Fourth Saturday Contradance**, August 22, will witness the Portland debut of celebrated New England caller, dance author, national dance-camp staff regular, and generally nice guy **Steve Zakon**. Local celebrities **George Penk & Heather Pinney** will also be on hand. 8 PM at Fulton Community Center.

Port Townsend's annual **Ethnic Dance & Music Festival** takes place August 24-30. Workshops and dances at beautiful Fort Worden State Park, and—best of all—Milo is no longer doing the cooking! Contact Centrum (PO Box 1158, Port Townsend WA 98368; 206/385-3102).

But if you can't get away, join caller **Mary Devlin** plus **George Penk & his motley crew** for August 28's **FFC&SDP**. A cool hall, a hot dance, minimal teaching, maximal fun. 8 PM at BWT.

Why I Dance With Beginners

by Merilee Karr

Because it's fun.

I am an experienced contradancer. I don't get dizzy when I swing, I know where my next swing is coming from, and I know how to get there. I love the athletic challenge of a perfect twirl together on the beat.

But, you know, a whole evening of such perfect dancing can be deadly dull. Too predictable. Too serious. It can turn me into a mere technician—not to mention an arrogant, self-satisfied twit.

That's why I dance with beginners. Dancing with a beginner is a different kind of fun. It's not perfect. Predictable, it's not. But what excitement boils out of them! It's like holding a giggling tiger by the eyeballs. And I have never been more appreciated than when I have offered a

diplomatic "May I suggest something?" about technique to a beginner partner. I guess I dance at least three dances with beginners in an evening.

If you want to test your dancing ability, dance with a beginner. It's easy to think you're God's Gift to Contradancing if you only dance with experienced dancers. When you dance with a beginner, you might find out pretty quick that you don't know the next figure, that you don't give enough weight, or that you don't swing as smoothly as you thought. Or you might not. Some dancers take the opposite gender role for a challenge. The ultimate challenge is dancing with beginners.

Have fun.

Dear Professor Dance...™

I'm an avid contra dancer, my sweetie is a Federation Square dancer. Is there any hope of happiness in mixed marriages such as these?

—Won't wear those petticoats in Seattle

Dear Won't:

As an avid Professor Dance reader you know we have said that Federation Square dancing has done for American Folk culture what McDonald's has done for American cuisine. However, your letter has caused us to realize the supreme value of those Hollywood-inspired petticoats and string ties.

Suttle Lake Registration Deadline Looms

PCDC's Fall Dance & Music Weekend at Suttle Lake is filling up fast. And remember—registration rates go up after August 1. If you can't find your application, contact Margie at 503/244-9066.

Portland Country Dance Location Acronyms

BWT	Burlingame Water Tower Dance Hall, SW 17th and Marigold (between Spring Garden and Taylor's Ferry Roads)— <i>no street shoes permitted on the dance floor</i>
EAT	East Avenue Tavern, 727 E. Burnside
ECHO	Echo Theater, 1515 SE 37th
FAS	French American School, 1849 SW 58th (Sylvan)
FCC	Fulton Community Center, 68 SW Miles (off Barbur, traffic light just east of Terwilliger)
HS	Hough School, 1900 Daniels, Vancouver, WA.
MAC	Multnomah Art Center, 7688 SW Capitol Hwy. (at 31st)
MLB	Melody Lane Ballroom, 615 SE Alder
NWSC	Northwest Service Center, 1819 NW Everett
OC	The Old Church, 1422 SW 11th
PPAA	Portland Police Athletic Assoc., 618 SE Alder

Regular dances

Unless stated, all dances are open to everyone—experienced or not, with or without partners, and feature live music. All dances are taught and children are admitted without charge. At any PCDC dance where sit-in musicians are encouraged to play, they will be admitted free.

PCDC First Friday Dance. This contra dance showcases local and regional callers and dance bands. If you'd like to call or book a band for this dance, please contact PCDC. Musicians are encouraged to sit in with the hired band, but will not be miked. MAC, 8 pm, beginners' workshop 7:30 pm. \$5/\$4 for seniors and PCDC members.

PCDC First Saturday English Country Dance. English Country dance is a source of modern square and contra

dance style. FCC, 8 pm, beginner's workshop 7:30 pm. \$5/\$4 seniors and PCDC members.

Second Friday English Country Dance. At least a little experience advised. Nan Evans calls and coordinates. BWT, 8 pm, no beginner's workshop. \$4.

PCDC Second Saturday Dance, the longest continuously running contra dance in the state. This dance is similar to the first Friday dance, maintaining the tradition. MAC, 8 pm, beginners' workshop 7:30 pm. \$5/\$4 seniors and PCDC members.

Portland Ceili Society Dance is "a gathering of friends" with lively Irish music, frequently played by world famous musicians. Very aerobic dancing and a full

bar are only a few of the notable features of this Third Friday of the month dance, held at Portland Police Athletic Association. Cost \$5.

Third Saturday Contradance is a dance series organized by Paul McCullough. The dances tend towards the challenging side. FCC, 8 pm, beginner's workshop 7:30 pm. \$5.

Fourth Friday Contra and Square Dance Party. Contras and squares, usually called by organizer Mary Devlin. Not so much teaching. BWT, 8 pm, no beginner's workshop. \$4.

Fourth Saturday Contradance is another independent dance series, organized by Ted Remillard. FCC, 8 pm, beginner's workshop 7:30 pm. \$5.

CALENDAR • JULY/AUGUST '92

Note: most dances offer a beginners' workshop half an hour before the listed time.

July

1st (We) Beginner Music Session. Call Sue (503/293-1446) for details.

3rd (Fr) PCDC First Friday Dance. 8 pm at MAC. Caller: Merilee Karr. Music: Dan Compton, Lauren Sheehan, Ron Nagy.

4th (Sa) PCDC English Country Dance. *Off for the summer.*

8th (We) Beginner Music Session. 6:30 pm at 5746 North Haight Avenue. Leader: George Penk or Dan Compton. Call Jim (503/283-2688) for details.

10th (Fr) Second Friday English Country Dance. 8 pm at BWT. Caller: Andy Peterson. Music: Kathleen Towers, Beverly Stafford, Dave Goldman. (*No street shoes allowed.*)

11th (Sa) PCDC Second Saturday Dance & Annual General Membership Meeting. 8 pm at MAC. Caller: Woody Lane. Music: Island.

15th (We) Beginner Music Session. Call Sue (503/293-1446) for details.

17th (Fr) Benefit Dance for Victoria Larson. 8 pm at MAC. Caller: Merilee Karr. Music: Island; George Penk & Heather Pinney. *See Special Events.*

17th (Fr) Portland Ceili Society Dance. 8:30 pm at PPAA. *Off for the summer?*

18th (Sa) Third Saturday Contradance. 8 pm at FCC. Caller: Paul McCullough. Music: Rose City Aces.

19th (Su) Callers' Workshop. Call Paul (503/244-9066) for details.

22nd (We) Beginner Music Session. Call Sue (503/293-1446) for details.

24th (Fr) Fourth Friday Contra & Square Dance Party. 8 pm at BWT. Caller: Mary Devlin. Music: Clyde Curley, Creighton Lindsay, Joel Bernstein. (*No street shoes allowed.*)

24th (Fr) Fourth Friday Scandinavian Dance. 8 pm at IOOF Lodge, 187 High NE, Salem. Check with Sharon (503/364-6713) to confirm.

25th (Sa) Fourth Saturday Contradance. 8 pm at FCC. Caller: Ted Remillard. Music: Island.

29th (We) Beginner Music Session. Call Sue (503/293-1446) for details.

August

1st (Sa) PCDC English Country Dance. *off for the summer*

5th (We) Beginner Music Session. Call Sue (503/293-1446) for details.

7th (Fr) PCDC First Friday Dance. 8 pm at MAC. Caller: Mike Richardson. Music: TBA.

8th (Sa) PCDC Second Saturday Dance. *Canceled this month, due to proximity to the previous evening.*

12th (We) Beginner Music Session. 6:30 pm at 5746 North Haight Avenue. Leader: Dan Compton or George Penk. Call Jim (503/283-2688) for details.

14th (Fr) Second Friday English Country Dance. 8 pm at BWT. Caller: Nan

Evans. Music: James Thomas & friends. (*No street shoes allowed.*)

15th (Sa) Third Saturday Contradance. 8 pm at FCC. Caller: Paul McCullough. Music: Dan Compton, Clyde Curley, Joel Bernstein.

16th (Su) Callers' Workshop. *cancelled this month*

19th (We) Beginner Music Session. Call Sue (503/293-1446) for details.

21st (Fr) Portland Ceili Society Dance. 8:30 pm at PPAA. (*unless it's off for the summer*)

22nd (Sa) Fourth Saturday Contradance. 8 pm at FCC. Caller: Steve Zakon. Music: George Penk & Heather Pinney. *See Special Events.*

24th-30th (Mo-Su) Ethnic Dance & Music Festival at Port Townsend. *See Special Events.*

26th (We) Beginner Music Session. Call Sue (503/293-1446) for details.

28th (Fr) Fourth Friday Contra & Square Dance Party. 8 pm at BWT. Caller: Mary Devlin. Music: George Penk & friends. (*No street shoes allowed.*)

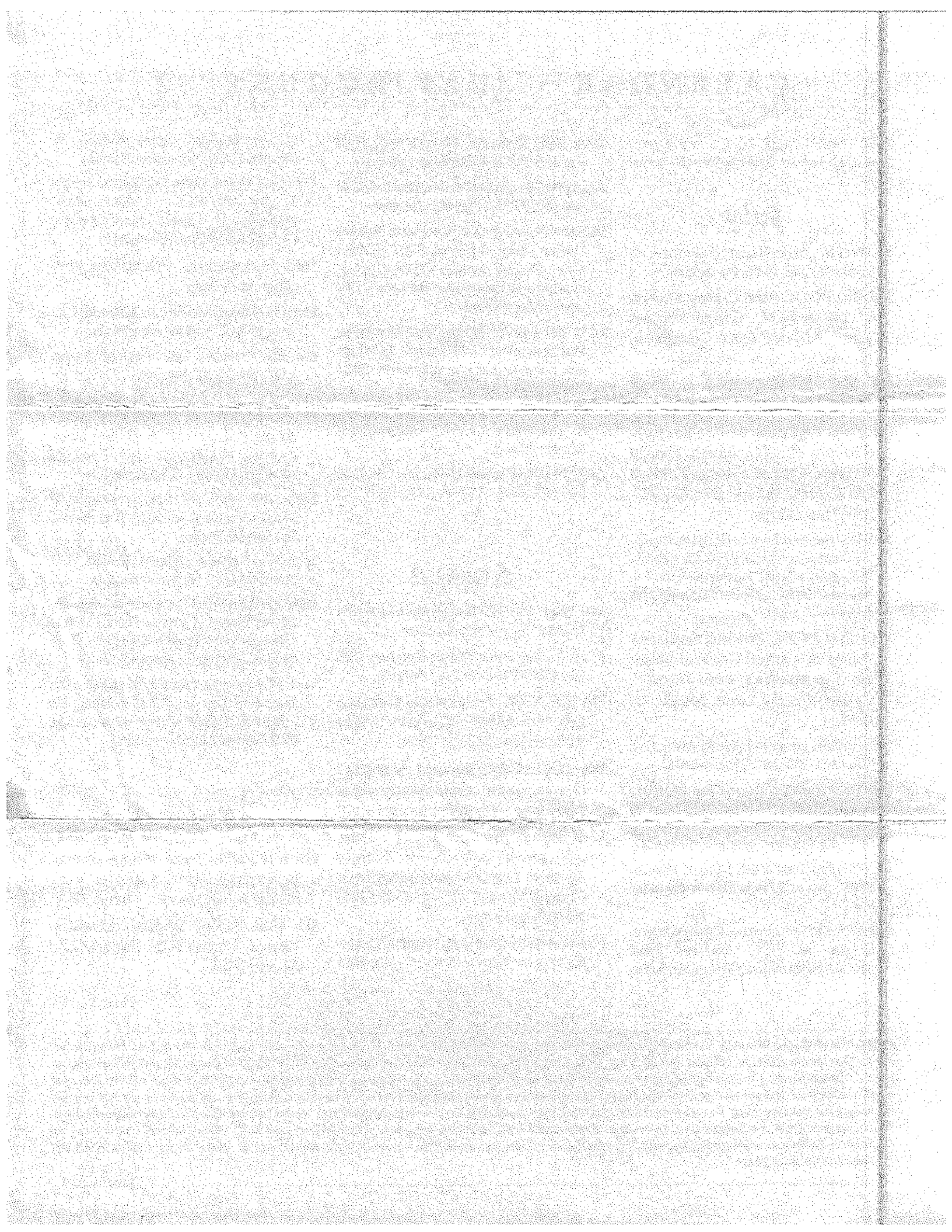
26th (Fr) Fourth Friday Scandinavian Dance. 8 pm at IOOF Lodge, 187 High NE, Salem. Check with Sharon (503/364-6713) to confirm.

September

4th (Fr) PCDC First Friday Dance. 8 pm at MAC. Callers: Rich Kuras & Bill Martin. Music: TBA.

5th (Sa) PCDC English Country Dance. 8 pm at FCC. Caller: TBA. Music: TBA.

PCDC March Board Minutes. The Ski & Dance weekend broke even, and was a lot of fun. Thanks not only to the paid staff—Rich, Joel, Stuart, David, Annie—but also to volunteers Elinor, Woody, Fred, Eliza, Carter, Bill and Nancy. Brief discussion of the PCDC English Dance; we will be receiving an annual report at the next board meeting. Some people's checks have been bouncing, so when someone pays for a dance with a check we will endeavor to record their phone number and address. The Suttle Lake committee reported on its plans, including an early sign-up discount. \$300 of work scholarships for Suttle Lake were approved. Having noticed that the PCDC bylaws state that the newsletter is published "by the board of directors," one of the newsletter editors suggested that board members start writing articles. Some board members then made unprintable suggestions to the newsletter editor. Plans for the Dusk-to-Dawn dance are underway, with Tyler Robinson running the show. Nan will book a special concert by Andrea Hoag, Charlie Pilzer and Jacqueline Schwab, in May.



As you know, your wise Professor is not against dancing as such; our argument is with dancing that leads to sensual thoughts and actions. Well, there is the solution, don't you see? How can one have such thoughts while dancing when the entire company is wearing such garments?

Our recommendation: stay with this "sweetie" and convert to his style of dancing. Both of you will live longer, happier lives.

—Professor Dance

Professor Dance goes to Folklife

We thought the Seattle Folklife Festival must be about Amish women with spinning wheels, men demonstrating the art of the blacksmith and other wholesome American folk arts. Imagine our surprise to hear that Folklife included dancing, and not just contra dancing but jitterbug, tango and Cajun. We felt we must witness this Festival of Travesty for ourselves.

We knew we had arrived in Seattle when we saw a sign that said "Art's Plumbing Supply and Drive-Through Espresso." We soon learned that Seattlites are unable to keep up with their round-the-clock dancing without an espresso joint every few hundred feet.

At Folklife there was music for dancing inside and out. A sunny-looking fellow had coerced some poor, innocent young lady into helping him teach TANGO to the unsuspecting crowd. Folksingers sang songs encouraging irreverence for proper authority. Hundreds of bodies were packed into a hot sweaty room where Cajun music and dancing were being offered for free (once you are hooked, there is a \$10 cover). We felt we must sample, just a little, each item on this menu of sensual delights.

Cleverly disguised in borrowed jeans and dance camp T-shirts we wandered through this affliction when we noticed one ray of light. Caller Laura Mé Smith, obviously a woman pure in thought and deed, was teaching an entranced audience the proper way ladies and gentlemen should contra.

Upon hearing our name on the crowded midway one lady turned and said, "Oh yes, the mysterious Professor Dance." No mystery, my dear, but when you next enter a dance hall remember, Professor Dance may be watching.

No matter how humble, Professor Dance will answer your questions. Write him at the Professor Dance Library, Box 763, Spokane WA 99210.



Suttle Lake Preview—

Tony Saletan

In anticipation of PCDC's annual Suttle Lake Dance & Music Weekend—to be held this year on September 18-20—*Footnotes* is highlighting the camp staff.

Tony Saletan is a Boston-area caller, choreographer and musician. For a decade he shared with Ted Sanella the weekly dance sponsored by Boston's Country Dance Society.

Tony has called from Boston to Beijing. He is currently seen on television in 20 states and overseas on "Let's All Sing," an educational series of music and dance for children.

Tony is the author of many popular contra- and square dances, including Summit Reel, Double Draydl, Amicable Settlement, Grand Beginning, New Home and Welcome Tonight. He currently has a Fund for the Arts grant for his work with the Folk Arts Center of New England on the choreography of contra and square dances. Tony was recently selected to choreograph a musical, "The Robber Bridegroom," based on a story by Eudora Welty. (The book and lyrics were written by Alfred Uhry, of "Driving Miss Daisy" fame.)

Tony is known not only for his calling and choreography, but also for his piano playing. His publicity photo suggests other, less savory, instrumental skills as well.

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 Bob Nisbet, 10101 SW 55th, Portland, OR 97210, 244-3971.

This newsletter, *Footnotes*, 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 and callers, date, time, place, cost, and phone number for further info. The information provided here is as accurate as we can make it, and changes or cancellations may not be reflected in this calendar. We encourage submission of letters and articles of interest to the community. Letters and articles become the property of *Footnotes* on publication and may be edited. The **DEAD-LINE** for the Sept. Oct. calendar is Aug. 15th.

Portland Country Dance Community is a consortium of dancers, musicians and callers promoting country dance and music traditions through regular dances, workshops 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 \$10.00 a year (\$8.00 for seniors), which provides a \$1.00 discount at our regular dances and subscription to the newsletter. Donations in excess of \$10 per year are tax deductible. Correspondence may be sent to PCDC, PO 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 17 New South Street, Northampton, MA 01060.

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:

Kathy Bowman	244-0125
Allen Cook	628-2946
Darrell Desper	252-6203
Nan Evans	245-5675
Barbara & Rik Fischer Smoody	249-8300
Dave Goldman	224-8811
Dave Hamlin	
Wendy Hill	244-7022
John Kral	239-6919
George Penk	244-4057
Anne Reif	239-4813
Michele Smith	771-1261
Diana O'Farrell	244-6635

Chair: George
Secretary: Allen
Treasurer: Nan
Booking: Michele
Publicity: Diana
Newsletter: Dave (224-8811), Terri (235-3153)
Mailing list & membership:
Bob Nisbet (244-3971)

PCDC April Board Minutes. Dana Jensen & Molly Libby presented a report on the 1991-92 English Country Dance season. The English Dance netted \$7 for the year, making it one of PCDC's most profitable activities. After hearing this, the board members were ready to agree with virtually any proposal from the English Dance organizers. A high percentage of the English Dance attendees have been new dancers who do not return from month to month, leading to frustration for novice and experienced dancers alike, not to mention the callers. The English Dance committee is considering several new ideas to improve this situation during next year's season. PCDC's annual membership meeting and board elections will be held during the Second Saturday Dance, July 11. For the first time in memory, there seem to be more people interested in joining the board than there are available slots. Third-hand reports of grumbling from out of town musicians regarding PCDC's pay policies will be investigated by four board members.

PCDC June Board Minutes. The board agreed to subsidize next year's English Country Dance series for up to \$500, although the actual expected subsidy is less than \$150. Rik will supervise the coming elections. A new board chairperson will be elected at the July 27 board meeting, with Nan serving as acting chair between the general elections and the board meeting. The Second Saturday dance in October will be held at the Warner Grange, with a special dance workshop and potluck that afternoon. Results of pay-policy surveys indicated that Portland does not seem to be out of line, and that most musicians are satisfied with what they're getting. To the general relief of all, a motion was passed that PCDC pay policies not be discussed by the board for at least the next six months.

Next board meeting: July 27, at Allen Cook's (503/628-2946 for directions).

Portland Country Dance Community

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