

From the



Hayloft

LOS GATOS, CA.

***** MAY 1999 *****

FROM THE PRES

First and foremost, a huge thank you to Lenny and Glenn and their Board for a great year. We are looking forward to working with your new Board and hope we can follow their example.

On June 16th, we will move to Cabrini for the summer. The Gadabouts will be joining us and I hope you will all make them feel welcome. Dance with them and get to know them. It should be a fun summer!

If you know of any member who is ill or needs to hear from us, please let Jobie Berry know. She is the Hospitality Chairman and wants to keep in contact with our members.

We are planning on having a Beginner Class in the fall. Start working on those friends, neighbors, co-workers - convince them of the good time, friends, exercise, etc., they will have if they give square dancing a try. It is so important that we further the dance movement. Let's all try to make this class a success.

I didn't have to make any campaign promises, but I want you all to know that I am a good listener. If you have questions, suggestions, concerns or problems, feel free to talk to me at Club or give me a call. Your Board will always try to make decisions for the good of the entire Club. Together, we can have a great year!

Judy and Bob

THANKS

The knees are done, the eyes are fixed,
And now that I can see,
It's really great to dance again,
So please remember me.

Couples come to dance together
That's how it should be,
Most everybody's having fun,

But oftentimes not me.

Now if your partner's not too well,
Or if she's on a spree,
I'm grateful for a tip or two ----
And thanks for asking me!!!

Love,
Shirley Hall

GRAND FINALE

Congratulations Square Dancers. Your efforts to raise funds to Promote Square Dancing was an outstanding success. In addition to the many individual donations, many clubs initiated various fund raisers ranging from bake sales to donation buckets to flea markets. The highlight of our 5/1/99 Grand Finale Dance occurred when representatives from many clubs marched and danced their way to the stage to present the Committee to Promote Square Dancing with a GIANT CHECK representing these efforts. It's a thrill to announce that the TOTAL FUNDS COLLECTED WAS \$7112.64. Although every club, the SCVSDA, and the Callers Association all gave as much as they could, four of our clubs announced superb fund raising results - the Rafter Rockers and Bows and Beau's contributed over \$1000 each and the Sunnyvale Singles and Outlaws almost reached the \$1000 mark. That's remarkable. As a result, our TOTAL FUNDS COLLECTED from both dances is \$11,112.64. Every contributor should be proud of this effort. With these funds your Committee has initiated a 3 step process - Find 'Em, Hook 'Em, and Keep 'Em-to attract and retain new dancers.

FIND 'EM

Fund raising is just the beginning. Our focus is to advertise the fun of square dancing to find all those out there who would love to join us but don't yet know it. We are developing a marketing strategy to clarify our product, to understand how other areas have marketed dancing, and how we might best deploy our resources. Currently we have 2 radio stations (KRTY

and KLIV) and the Century 21-25 theaters under contract. During the August/ September months we plan to launch a very professional search for new dancers-but we will need everyone's help to further spread the word. Articles and interviews will have to be provided to the media, flyers will need distributing, and dance teams will need to perform. And as always, word of mouth advertising will be our best advertising.

HOOK 'EM

Following up on leads is frankly one place we have not done well in the past. The committee has developed a process to manage this effort but lots of help will be needed to be sure that all those who express interest are contacted and personally invited to join us. If possible, it would be great to have each prospect assigned to a club member so that each is made to feel really welcome and so that any concerns can be addressed right away.

KEEP 'EM

The last step is to really make those first few class weeks a great experience in which they develop a sense of accomplishment, they enjoy dancing, and they feel good about themselves. This is where their commitment will be established. We need to work with our callers and with each other to structure our classes so that when our prospects go home, they will each say "That was fun! I can't wait till the next class."

Van Symons

GOOD ANSWER

Recently reported in the Massachusetts Bar Association Lawyers Journal, the following are questions actually asked of witnesses by attorneys during trials and in certain cases, the responses given by insightful witnesses:

Q. Is your appearance here this morning pursuant to a deposition notice which I sent to your attorney?

A. No, this is how I dress when I go to work.

Q. Doctor, how many autopsies have you performed on dead people?

A. All my autopsies are performed on dead people.

Q. All your responses must be oral, OK? What school did you go to?

A. Oral.

Q. Do you recall the time that you examined the body?

A. The autopsy started at around 8:30 pm.

Q. And Mr. Dennington was dead at the time?

A. No, he was sitting on the table wondering why I was doing an autopsy.

Q. Doctor, before you performed the autopsy did you check for a pulse?

A. No.

Q. Did you check for blood pressure?

A. No.

Q. Did you check for breathing?

A. No.

Q. So, then it's possible that the patient was alive when you began the autopsy?

A. No.

Q. How can you be so sure doctor?

A. Because his brain was sitting on my desk in a jar.

Q. But could the patient have still been alive nevertheless?

A. It is possible he could have been alive and practicing law somewhere.

GO TAKE A HIKE

That's just what 10 Rafter Rockers and 2 guests did on Saturday, May 1st. Led by Don & Jean Arndt, this intrepid group hiked nearly 7 miles in Almaden Quicksilver Park. For those unfamiliar with the area, the Almaden Quicksilver Park is the site of the once-most-productive quicksilver mine in the world. Today, on 23 miles of trails, hikers can explore these lovely hills and imagine New Almaden's heyday when miles of tunnels pierced the hills and more than 500 houses clustered on the ridge. The trail taken by the RR's provided a fine combination of woodlands, chaparral, and open grassland clearings affording great views of the Almaden valley; and accenting the whole scene were lots and lots of blooming wildflowers (if you're curious about the names of the flowers, ask Jean or Jane Bishop).

And what is the perfect end to a great morning of hiking? Lunch (brunch?) at the Quicksilver Café of course! This unassuming little neighborhood café serves wonderful omelets, "scrambles", sandwiches, etc. in quantities guaranteed to satisfy the hungriest working man (or two ordinary hikers).

All of us that participated send a big THANKYOU to Don & Jean for organizing this event, and I'm given to understand that if enough interest is shone, they would be willing to do it again.

SECOND HARVEST FOOD BANK

On April 15th, a small group of RR volunteers, working at the Second Harvest Food Bank, filled nearly 500 boxes of food for distribution to the needy. **Well done gang!!** Thanks to Bill Barnes for once again coordinating this event.

Square Dance Commemorative Postage Stamp

Thanks to all of you who signed the petition requesting a square dance commemorative postage stamp. And a very special thanks to Jane Bishop and Tom Robertson who 'beat the bushes' and secured 450 signatures!!

WEST COAST JAMBOREE

The Rafter Rockers again made a great showing at this year's West Coast Jubilee held in King City on April 23 - 25; and three cheers go to Wagonmasters Chuck and Phyllis DePalmo for doing an outstanding job of organizing everything. What a great weekend of dancing to the superb calling of Gary Carnes, Randy Dibble, Larry Letson, Dee Dee Dougherty Lottie, and Tim Marriner, and with rounds by Wally & Ione Wade, and country western by Ted & Joanne Arrouzet.

In addition to the dancing, the weekend also featured a great Rafter Rocker potluck, a fun afterparty on Saturday night, and a "Santa Maria Style" Bar-B-Que on Sunday.

The West Coast Jamboree has consistently been one of the best square dance weekends of the year, but unfortunately, due to lower attendance, it will be no more. Gary announced that they are forced to discontinue the event because they can't meet expenses and pay the callers a reasonable fee. This is now the second major square dance weekend that is being discontinued, and it points up the need for all of us who enjoy these events to try very hard to support them, and to encourage others to give them a try.

SILENT AUCTION

Our Silent Auction on May 19th produced nearly \$700 in revenue. Though not quite up to last year's numbers, this will still provide good funding for our year-end charity activities in support of the convalescent homes, etc. Hot items in this fun activity included the wheelbarrows, patchwork skirt, gourmet dinner, and goodies & baskets. Thanks to everyone who participated and to square 5 for hosting the evening.

If you were unable to participate in the auction but would still like to support our charity work, contributions would be gratefully accepted. See our Treasurer, Bill & Joan Blood.

RAFTER ROCKER RECIPES

As you all know from participating in our various potlucks, we have some marvelous cooks in our midst. It therefore occurred to us that maybe we could exploit this talent by persuading some of you to provide a favorite recipe or two for publication in the Hayloft. The idea would be to include two or three recipes in each issue, and if we accumulate enough over time, we might consider putting out another Rafter Rocker cookbook. Sooo, each of you who are willing to participate choose a favorite recipe or two and give them to us (Don or Jeanne Wilson) on a Wednesday night, or e-mail us at dw20365@aol.com. You can provide inputs in any format you choose.

To get this started, we persuaded Joan denBroeder to give us her recipe for curried fruit that she served at the King City potluck:

Birdcage's Curried Fruit

- 2 large cans drained sliced pineapple
- 2 large cans drained pear halves
- 2 large cans drained peach halves
- 2 cups dark brown sugar
- 1 cup butter or oleo
- 3 tablespoons curry powder

Melt butter - add sugar and curry powder. Mix well. Pour over drained fruits. Heat in 350 degree oven for 30 to 45 minutes. Serve warm. This makes a large amount and needs a good sized baking dish - at least 9 x 13.

Serves 8 to 10 at least.

(I use between 1/2 & 3/4 cup of margarine. I think 1 cup is too much. When topping melts - after about 15 minutes in the oven - spoon mixture over fruit and continue to bake.)

This mixture may be kept in refrigerator for weeks and can be heated whenever. It's said to be a perfect accent for chicken or turkey salad.

Joan denBroeder

THEATER PARTY

Don't forget the theater night on June 11th, when the Saratoga Drama Group is presenting *State Fair*. If you don't have tickets, see Jane Bishop. The plan for the evening is:

Dinner at Casa Valencia - 6:15 PM

Theater performance - 8:00 PM

Post-theater dessert afterparty at Shirley Hall's

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