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MEMORY TIPS

Florida Folkdancer

FFDC NEWS LETTER

JULY 1995

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE- *Andy Pollock*

First, a big thank you goes to all of you who participated in the FFDC show at White Springs. For those of you not there, I think we did the FFDC proud. Special thanks to Pat Henderson for organizing things. Also, congratulations go to Karen Boon Von Oschee and the Gainesville group on a fine performance. We hope to see many of their new dancers at the February camp.

Recruiting tip--recruit people by the group load. Most social clubs, church clubs and singles' clubs have activity chairpersons who are dying for ideas. Offer them a night of folk dancing and make it a beginner night.

Congratulations to the Babiaks on what by now must be a 50th performance year. What a remarkable achievement.

Someone recently commented on my memory for dances (not great when compared to the woman who taught me to hambo in A2. She could remember dances learned 12 years before and had not done them since). However, it made me think about why I sometimes remember 35% of the dances from a workshop and other times' 100%.

Personal (and perhaps useless) tips to retain dances you learn this summer:

- 1) Believe you can learn all the ones you like, but ignore the ones you don't (they don't stick anyway).
- 2) Concentrate on what the teacher is saying. Close your eyes during the teaching; then open them and compare your "vision" with reality.
- 3) Take good notes; don't depend on the teachers' syllabi (they're wrong 50% of the time). * Don't depend on a video at this point--what you need may be blocked, missing, etc.
- 4) Go over the dance in your mind at the location after teaching is over (it is much harder to remember the minute you are out of the room).
- 5) You arrive home exhausted after a week(end) of dancing and it is time to think about work the next day. Don't fall asleep just yet; reconstruct all the dances from memory. Do this 3 more times in the next 8 days.
- 6) Now come visit and teach all the best dances.

*Note to teachers--of course, I mean the teacher next to you.

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The Florida Folk Dance Council is a non-profit corporation which coordinates events, disseminates information and encourages education and appreciation of international folk dances and related cultural activities for group and individuals in Florida. Membership is \$10.00 per calendar year collected in January.

The editor reserves the right to edit material submitted to the newsletter. All material must be dated and signed.

DEADLINE FOR MATERIAL IS THE 15th OF THE PRECEDING MONTH

Order of preference for article formats:

- 1.) To make life much easier, send articles via Prodigy at user # RKHD58A. OR E.MAIL it to rkhd58a@prodigy.com. E.mail may be accessed through most common on-line carriers as Compuserve, Prodigy, America Online, America, any Internet carrier or connection, and others that are emerging almost weekly.
- 2.) Mail it to me via floppy disk (IBM compatible formatted disk). The density can be 360 , 720, 1.2, or 1.44. The file

formats can be almost any popular word processor. I can import Word Perfect, Word for Windows, Peachtext, Wordstar, plain text, & many others. I am using Lotus Ami Pro. I will even mail your disks back if you wish.

3. Send it to me by mail. I have to retype it into my word processor, but that's my job, I guess.

Mail information, articles, & change of address to:

FFDC NEWSLETTER
BOBBY J. QUIBODEAUX
9859 BERRY DEASE ROAD
ORLANDO FL 32825

NEW MEMBERSHIP \$5.00, July - Dec '95

EDITOR'S NOTES:

It is summer time and the heat and humidity is upon us. At least it is upon me, for I am attempting outdoor work along with all my other duties.

Patricia, my chief newsletter helper is out of town. She went to Chicago for a library convention and I am trying very hard to get this critter out before the 1st of July. It is not looking good for the 1st but it will happen. I guess the heat is slowing down my typing.

Things have been a bit slow for the Orlando OIFDC also. Turn out has been a bit low the last few weeks. I guess folk dancing has moved to cooler pastures.

- Bobby J. Quibodeaux -

SARASOTA GRAPEVINERS

John Millett's back and "he's gotten your number." "What's my number, John," I asked. "35," he responded. Not bad for May 31st. John, our numbers man is faring a little better now and came, camera in hand, to our farewell party for Ann Kessler and Fred Miller. John didn't dance but he was the center of attention as people sashayed up to him to give him a warm welcome.

Ann has seasoned the folk dance programs with a great variety of nationalities. She sometimes spices up a dance with a folk-time story. One I remember well relates to Dospatsko Oro. While Ann was on a folk dance tour in Bulgaria, the group leader went 40 miles out of his way to the small town of Dospot. The group arrived on a Sunday afternoon to find what seemed like a ghost town. The leader placed his tape recorder on the curb while 2 busloads of enthusiastic folk dancers descended from the buses. Shutters clattered, windows sprang open, dogs barked and soon about 80 people approached the dancers. Shortly thereafter, the mayor arrived to find out what the commotion was all about. The dancers danced Dospatsko and had gone out of their way to perform this dance in Dospot where it was supposed to have originated. The mayor said, "That's very nice but I've never seen it before!"

Some grapeviners who are also members of the Sarasota Scottish Country Dancers performed at the Florida Folk Festival in

White Springs. Under the leadership of Cubby Whitehead, they demonstrated jigs, reels and elegant strathspeys. During the audience participation segment, this audience needed no coaxing. About 70 people eagerly participated in the Cumberland Reel to the accompaniment of Friends of Reilly.

The grapeviners were well represented at the Scottish weekend at Sebring. We're specially proud of Doris Cook, relatively new to the folk dance scene. At a previous weekend in Jacksonville, Doris only watched at the evening parties. This time we reeled her into the dances. As a true grapeviner, she hung in there and did very well. At times like this, one doesn't mind "being pushed around." Needless to say, a ball was had by all.

--- Ann Paige ---

FOLKDANCER TIDBITS

**CLARA BARTON HONOR AWARD FOR
MERITORIOUS VOLUNTEER
LEADERSHIP
AMERICAN RED CROSS NAVAL
TRAINING CENTER, ORLANDO, FL.
ANNUAL AWARDS CRITERIA**

Larry Wartell received top award for station volunteers on 05/25/95. Nominees have served in numerous leadership roles and made significant impact on Red Cross programs & services.

--- Submitted by Ellie Hall ---

SHALOM FOLKDANCERS

In June, we moved into a new, much larger building where we practice on Saturday mornings. It is located at 6237-E Presidential Court in Ft. Myers, across the street from the Edison Community College campus. We performed at Centennial Park for the B'hai festival June 11th, their annual event. While visiting long time friends in Maui in May, I discovered their son and his wife are avid fold dancers in Livermore, CA. Jim Morris is in his early fifties and belongs to an active group there. Naturally, I wrote to him immediately and await hearing from him.

LYNN'S RECIPE FOR FOLK DANCING:

F A pint of Fun
 O Oodles of Oomph
 L Lots of leg Lifts
 K A bunch of Kicks
 Mix with:
 D A dash of Delight
 A A heap of Attitude
 N A pinch of Nerve
 C A cup of Challenge
 I An inch of Irrepressibility
 N A large dollop of Nimbleness
 G Globbs of Glee

--- Lynn Badagnani ---

A FIRST-TIMER (& CAMPER)
ATTENDS THE 43RD FLORIDA
FOLK FESTIVAL

When signing up for the festival last summer, I had planned to camp in my van, but a month before the event, the van died. The tiny Nissan sports coup replacing it wasn't the wardrobe-restraurant - transportation portable rest haven I had counted on. Friends quickly offered their screen room, cot and dome tent.

To make sure that I know how it all worked, I spent a maddening and hilarious morning without instructions trying to assemble the ever-collapsing screen room. Somehow, the thing even ended up inside-out and there were octopus bungee parts left over that obviously were intended to brace the whole thing into subservience. The little tent was a snap and the cot fit along one side perfectly, yielding storage underneath.

Thursday morning, Marion Hoerscher and I packed it all in her car and left Sarasota before 11 AM. When we arrived at the campground about 4 PM and found all the shady spots taken, we picked a place near the woods, pitched the tent and set up housekeeping, leaving the screen room in its box until someone cleverer than I came along. Part I (To be continued)

--- D. A. Tyler ---

HOGTOWN HYPERBOLES

(Gainesville)

Tom and Kinsey McDonnell who now live in New York state, just became parents. A baby girl, Ceara Clare, was born on May 12, 1995 and she weighed 7 lbs. 1 oz. Mother and baby are fine, Tom is as proud as can be, and Mary is very happy to have a baby sister. Two of our student dancers recently received their degrees. Asta Volungeviciute, who is from Lithuania, just received her B.A. degree in Anthropology and Russell May received his Masters degree in Geology. Beth Strickland has finished her post doctorate work. Toshi has been hard at work. He dubbed all of our short tapes so that we have two sets and can store one set at the gym. He also created labels for all of them using a program which was developed by Max and Diane Forkel. Toni Sands and Tom (a brand new member) have been working on developing a design for T-shirts for the group. Tom is currently taking a printing class. This past Friday night he wore a T-shirt with folk dance imagery and it looked great. The performance at White Springs went well judging from the video I saw. I had gone up Saturday and caught the Drava (and Folk Dance Council) performance which I very much enjoyed. I saw Pat Pieratte before the performance and didn't recognize her at first with her new short hairdo which looks very nice. Just the other day five of us (Whitley, Toshi, Toni

and her son Jason, and me) met at the Plaza of the Americas in the early evening and we put up a banner (one from our homecoming float which Jack, Karen's friend had made). The banner was stretched between two trees. Ellen, another new member and one of our student officers, arranged to have a reservation made. One cannot just hang banners willy nilly in the Plaza. Anyway, it looked very good and was highly visible. I just discovered that there are more CDs available of balkan singing. There are several more Le Mystere Les Voix Bulgares types and one of all gaida music. So check out your local record store. Andy Pollock came up to dance with us last Friday evening. He was also here a week (or was it two weeks ago). Toshi proudly introduced the FFDC president and treasurer to our group during our intermission time. I suggested that it is the first time Gainesville has had an officer on the council and that it would behoove everyone to become a member. I was looking over The Folk Dance Phone Book and Group Directory put out by Ron Houston. He had done a survey and offers up some "Obvious Conclusions" which are very thought provoking. Do any of you remember Barbaros who was here about 12 or more years ago? He is back in his native Turkey and teaching engineering and ballroom dancing although he misses folk dancing very much. I got his E-Mail address from Karen and sent him a message and have received a response. This E-Mail and

all the other computer capabilities can become addictive. But it will never replace folk dancing. Happy dancing.

---- Joyce Dewsbury ----

SAD NEWS FROM PORT ORANGE

IT IS WITH GREAT SADNESS THAT WE ANNOUNCE THAT ON FRIDAY, JUNE 16TH, BLANCHE FEARN PASSED AWAY. SHE WAS A MEMBER OF THE ORMOND BEACH AND PORT ORANGE GROUPS AS WELL AS IN THEIR PERFORMANCE ENSEMBLE. HER HOUSE WAS ALWAYS OPEN TO THOSE WISHING TO STAY AFTER A WORKSHOP OR FLING. BLANCHE WAS LOVED AND WILL BE GREATLY MISSED BY HER MANY FRIENDS ...ISTEN ALDJA MEG! THANK YOU!

A MEMORIAL SERVICE WILL BE HELD AT 2PM, SATURDAY, JULY 1 AT THE UNITARIAN CHURCH, 56 NORTH HALIFAX DRIVE IN ORMOND BEACH. FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION PLEASE CALL JULIUS AT 904-252-5738

Thank you, Julius Horvath

FLORIDA FOLK FESTIVAL

On Saturday, May 27, at 2 PM, on the Main Stage of the Florida Folk Festival, eighteen folk dancers (8 men and 8 women!) came

together to represent a few of the ethnic groups who settled Florida. The costumes represented the six areas or countries: Greece, Mexico, Hungary, Ukraine, Balkan, and Israel. After Mike Lobato led the group through a morning rehearsal in a room too small and too hot for us to practice effectively, we had lunch and then meandered to the main stage area. We assembled and performed an excellent show. Many of the dances performed were chosen at the Spring Fling when we were all dancing together. It was truly a FFDC show with six current or past presidents of the organization participating. Hopefully, someone will bring the video to camp next year. A few of us also added dance to a Klezmer and piano duo with the able leadership of Terry Abrahams. On Sunday, Andy Pollock taught two Balkan dances to an eager group of participants. It is so exhilarating to see so many people interested in any form of dance in which they can participate. With five stages of continuous entertainment, when there is a chance to dance, dancers fill the stages. Cajun, contra and swing were featured in the evening dances. I am giving a lot of information here since it is truly an enjoyable experience. Put it on your calendar for next year. I wish someone had told me more about it fifteen years ago and I would not have waited until 1992 to go for the first time!

--- Pat Henderson ---

42nd ANNUAL KENTUCKY DANCE INSTITUTE

AT MOREHEAD UNIVERSITY, MOREHEAD, KENTUCKY

Sun, July 30 - Aug 5, 1995

Six days of international folk dancing to include folk, square, contra, line, circle mixers and many others, some old and some new. The dancing will be in the Grand Ballroom of Morehead University on a floating wood floor.

Staff includes: Stew Shacklette-	Contra, square, quadrille/lancers
David Vinski-	Balkan Dances and Ralph Page style contra
Ahmet Luleci-	Turkish dances (Native of Turkey)
Bea Montross-	Mexican and Spanish
George Fogg-	English Country Dances in Playford style and mixers
Scott McKee-	Clogging
Special Staff: Olga Kulbitsky	The Kentucky Dance Foundation will be recording Olga on video tape to enable us to preserve Olga's unique teaching techniques

Meals, syllabus, air conditioned lodging, all dance classes and activities included for \$320.00. Save your space with a \$50.00 deposit and a completed registration form. To register complete the bottom portion of this page and return to: Anna Lewis Shacklette, 460 Long Needle Rd., Brandenburg, KY - 40108 (502) 422- 2421

KDI DANCE CAMP 1995 REGISTRATION

NAME(S): _____

ADDRESS: _____

TELEPHONE () _____

I(WE) plan to drive__ take a bus__ plane__ Arriving_____

Enclosed is \$50.00 per person (payable to K.D.I.). Scholarships are available to any potential dance leaders. If interested, call or write Anna Lewis Shacklette at 460 Long Needle Rd., Brandenburg, KY 40108

Check one: Male__ Female__ Couple__ Teen__ Children__

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(if the Prez's answering machine is full, try Terry for sympathy)

Treasurer Jenneine Lambert 5310 NW 24th Place, Gainesville FL-32606 904-376-7473
(send her all checks, moneys, receipts, etc.)

Secretary (last I heard we are still looking for a volunteer)

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