



august 1973

ffdc newsletter



TAMPA'S TOURNAMENT

by NELLE E. WESTERGARD

Have you ever wished that you could spend a day in Camelot, as a knight or lady fair? Or perhaps you've sometimes longed to run berserk across the countryside, waving your sword and shrieking a Viking battle-cry. Or would the simple life of a yeoman farmer have been more to your liking. Maybe you picture yourself as a medieval sorceress. Tampan's got a chance to indulge their wildest fantasies on June 30 as we all slipped back into the Middle Ages for a day and a night.

One of our more alert members, Ron Isaksen, heard about a most unusual club on a radio interview. Called the Anachronistic Society, it is composed of medieval buffs, people who are interested in that time period in Europe, the costumes, customs, historic events, etc. There are chapters of this society all over the United States, including Miami, if anyone from that area is interested. We invited the "seneschal" of the newly formed Tampa chapter, Paul Camp, alias Eric of Ravenscald (the members take names typical of the period and are known in the Society by those names), to talk to our Friday night group and after he finished describing the Society's major social event, the Tournament, a number of us couldn't wait to go.

The Tournament was held in an open field in Zephyrhills. Colorful tents and canopies, with flags and standards, created a realistic backdrop that was further enhanced by the medieval dress of the revelers. (The meetings are open to anyone, the only requirement being that everyone wear some kind of medieval costume.) During the day there were games, duels, archery, and spear-throwing competitions. One champion for the day was crowned to oversee the evening's revels and he chose a Lady of Love and Beauty to reign with him. Dinner was a pot luck picnic, with chicken cooked over open coals as the main course and homemade ice cream for dessert, served with authentic mead, homemade, of course. Seventeen of our group attended, and one of our number, Sir Albertus of Excedor, better known as David Johnson, won the spear-throwing contest. Harald Haraldur (Ron Isaksen), upholding the honor of the ladies of our group, fought a challenge duel against the Champion, Kalicon-Kal. Harald fought bravely and well, considering it was his first time to duel with helmet, shield, and sword, but he was vanquished in the end. Some of the male members have suits of armor and chain mail that they have made themselves to wear in the tournaments.

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The FFDC NEWSLETTER is a monthly publication of the Florida Folk Dance Council, Rt. 3, Box 90, Sarasota, FL 33580.

Individual membership in the Florida Folk Dance Council is \$3.00 per year. Members are entitled to receive the Newsletter free. It is available to nonmembers at 50¢ per copy. Groups may be listed in the FFDC DIRECTORY free of charge. To join the Council send \$3.00 to Nelle E. Westergard, 9330 N. Highland St., Tampa, FL 33612.

Officers of the Florida Folk Dance Council are:

- President--Cubby Whitehead
- Secretary--Donna Pezdek
- Treasurer--Nelle Westergard

Contributions to the Newsletter should be sent to Helen Hyams, 449 Anastasia, #2, Coral Gables, FL 33134.

ADVERTISING RATES

	One Month	Six Months	One Year
Full page	\$9.00	\$49.50	\$90.00
Half page	5.00	27.50	50.00
Quarter page	3.00	16.50	30.00
Eighth page	1.75	9.50	17.50

ffdc directory

CLEARWATER Scottish Dancing, Sun. 7:30 p.m., Peace Memorial Church, 107 S. Osceola. Contact John Marsden, 107 S. Osceola, Clearwater 33516, (813) 447-6176.

FT. LAUDERDALE Around-the-World Dancers, Sat. beginners, 1-2 p.m.; intermediate-advanced, 2:30-5 p.m., Holiday Park Social Annex, 844 N.E. 7th Ave. Contact Bea or Phil Statnick, 91 N.E. 46th St., Ft. Lauderdale 33308, (305) 771-5287.

GAINESVILLE Meetings Fri. 9:30-12 p.m., Norman Hall Gym, Univ. of Florida. Contact John Ward, 1503 N.W. 10th Ave., Gainesville, 32605; or Barbara Klingberg, Box 228 Jennings Hall, Univ. of Florida, Gainesville 32601.

MIAMI Miami International Folk Dancers, Wed. beginners, 7:30-8:15 p.m.; intermediates, 8:30-10:30 p.m., First Unitarian Church, 7701 S.W. 76th Ave. Contact Harold or Helen Pelta, 16200 S.W. 87th Ave., Miami 33157, (305) 233-5916.

MIAMI Univ. of Miami Folk Dance Club. Will resume in the fall. Contact Helen Hyams, 449 Anastasia, Coral Gables 33134, (305) 448-5117.

MIAMI Scottish Country Dancing. Will resume in the fall. Contact Ken or Isis Hilton, 11600 S.W. 70th Ave., Miami, (305) 667-9059.

MIAMI--FT. LAUDERDALE Belly Dance Lessons, Ron Daniels Academy of Dance, Dade:(305) 759-1182; Broward:(305) 763-6128. Contact Karen Gillis, 711 N.W. 1st Ave., Ft. Lauderdale 33311, (305) 763-1193.

MIAMI BEACH The group led by Morris and Mary Urovsky will resume in the fall.

MIRAMAR Irish-American Ceili Club, 4th Fri. of month, Old Fireman's Hall, 7600 Venetian, Miramar. Contact Mary Borden, 700 N.W. 200 Terr., Miami 33169, (305) 625-1652; or Jack Smith, 3091 N.W. Holatee Trail, Ft. Lauderdale, (305) 587-5552.

ORLANDO Orlando International Folk Dance Club, Wed. 7:57-10:30 p.m., Unitarian Church, 1815 E. Robinson (at Hampton). Contact Dave Digby, 311 S. Brown Ave., Orlando 32801, (305) 894-3743; or Larry Wartell, 5706 Eggleston Ave., Orlando 32810, (305) 645-0290.

PENSACOLA Tzigany, c/o Student Activities, Univ. of West Florida. Will resume in the fall. Contact Jim Marsh, Physics Dept., Univ. of West Florida, Pensacola 32504, home phone (904) 438-3284; or Drew Harris, 1300 E. Tunis, Pensacola 32503, (904) 434-3744, for summer activities.

SARASOTA The Folksdancing, 2nd and 4th Fri. of month, 7:30-10:30 p.m., Sugar Creek Camp Resort, 3300 26th Ave. E., Bradenton. Scottish Country Dancing, 2nd and 4th Mon. at the Folk House. For specific meetings contact Cubby or Jeanie Whitehead, Rt. 3, Box 90, Sarasota 33580, (813) 755-7005 or 755-6212.

TALLAHASSEE International dancing, Sun. 7:30-10:30 p.m., Student Union, Florida State Univ. Contact Joe or Joyce Abbatte, 316 Conradi St., #202, Tallahassee 32304, (904) 224-1479 or 599-4237.

TAMPA Meetings Fri. 7-10 p.m., Forest Hills Community Center, 724 W. 109th Ave., Tampa. Contact Nelle E. Westergard, 9330 N. Highland St., Tampa 33612, (813) 932-0830; or Judith or Ernesto Baizan, 2503 Palm Dr., Tampa 33609, (813) 257-0001 or 245-1881.

WEST PALM BEACH Sun. night meetings. Contact Mrs. June Volpi, 251 16th Way W., Riviera Beach, (305) 848-2072.

WEST PALM BEACH Beginners and intermediate folk dancing, Century Village. Contact Rose or Sam Kanars, 129 E. Hampton, Century Village, W. Palm Beach 33401.

ATLANTA, GEORGIA International folk dancing, Mon. 8-10:45 p.m., Home Park Recreation Center, 1015 Tumlin St., Atlanta. Contact Norma Juff, 4520 Garmon Rd., N.W., Atlanta, (404) 255-3005; or John Wallace, (404) 872-2807.

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Editor's note: We try to be as up-to-date as possible with the Directory, but in the summer it is wise to contact the contact people for a group you are attending for the first time, to make sure that it isn't on vacation. And group leaders, please send me any changes of time or place as soon as possible, to avoid disappointing visitors.

After dinner, two ladies played the recorder and we danced the Bransle (pronounced brawl), a very simple medieval dance that is done in a circle, with a step-close-step twice to the left, twice to the right, once to the left, and three fast kicks. This was the dance that was done to old ballads, in 2/4 or 4/4 time. All the dancers would sing the chorus as they danced and the leader would sing the verses. Our group taught a French Bransle from the seventeenth century that is based on the bransle step, but with figures. Since the basic Bransle is not too exciting, we livened it up a little by doing "Perinita" to it, and everyone really got into that. Those who don't know what Perinita is will find out over Labor Day.

We are looking forward to another tournament and revel, and hope to know about it far enough ahead of time to publish the date in advance in the Newsletter.

* * * * *

An open letter to a former Tampa dancer who moved back to Wisconsin and hasn't written us since. Ray Sundby, would you please write your old group and let us know your new address? You can also tell us how you're getting along. My address is in the Directory.

Nelle

DANCING AROUND DELAWARE

by DONNA PEZDEK

I've found one very nice group which meets in a suburban community called Arden in a place called Gild Hall. The group is large by Florida standards (50 and up), young, and lively. A very interesting custom they have is to do a number of square dances throughout the evening (Wednesday nights, 7:30-11:00 p.m.), always two in a row. Since I've had practically no experience in square dancing this is quite a learning experience for me! There is so much more to say about this Gild Hall and the number of special-interest groups or "gilds" that support it, but for right now suffice it to say that the dancing is sponsored by a group called the Folk Guild. I recommend the group highly to any Florida folk dancers passing through.

Philadelphia offers more variety in folk dancing. So far I've been to the Friday night group at the YWCA downtown sponsored by the Folk Dance Center of Philly, and the group that meets at the University of Pennsylvania on Tuesday nights. In both cases there was so much to learn and many people to help. (The Penn group seems very advanced and there is very little teaching.)

I've yet to visit Thursday night outdoor dancing at JFK Plaza and the International House dancing on Friday nights. (The outdoor dancing is in the summer only; in the fall the Penn group shifts to Thursday nights.)

I hope to see you all at the winter camp since I doubt that I'll be down at Labor Day. Too bad, I think it will be really good.

4 SYRTOS-KALAMATIANOS

The ancient dance Syrtos is described in great detail by Lucian, in his chapter on dances. Youths and maidens danced it in a circle. The man who led the dance executed complicated steps to display his youthful valour; demure maidens followed, hand upon wrist. This is still popular in the Islands, but today the ancient Syrtos has become the Kalamatianos, and under the newer name has become a real Greek national dance. It is still danced in a circle; the man leading the dance performs various swirls, turns and jumps. He makes fencing lunges, as if he held a sword, while the girls follow holding hands. They are described in a popular ballad as "willowy and of downcast eyes; in fact demure".

This and its older Syrtos form are the favourites of the Evzones, the "beautifully belted ones", when they gather at the cafes and drinking places they like to patronise. The music at such a place is provided by a fiddle, a bulging mandoline and a zither, played by a gipsy. You hand over a small sum to the band, and proceed to form your chain linked by handkerchiefs or hands, and call the tune. The Evzones are recruited from all over Greece so there is a good variety of steps, and the Kalamatianos makes a good background on which to embroider. The foundation step continues all the time as the chain moves round, while the outstanding dancers indulge not only in real virtuosity but in gymnastic feats and extraordinary tricks, always keeping in place and in time.

...the foustanella, worn notably by the Evzones, the celebrated Greek Guards. Their dress uniform is composed of a full-sleeved, white shirt, embroidered cloth bolero of dark-blue, long white woollen stockings, bright red shoes with high black pompons on the upturned toes (which by no means interfere with the agility of the wearer), and a full, pleated, snow-white skirt, the foustanella, measuring some 40 yards round.

The most decorative of women's costumes is the Amalia, originally worn at the Court of the first King of Greece--King Otho--and Queen Amalia, from whom the dress gets its name. This is a full, ankle-length skirt, with white blouse and heavily embroidered bolero. Sometimes an ornamental buckle is worn at the waist. A trace of Turkish influence remains in the small red cap with its long and heavy silk tassel resembling the fez worn by the Turks. This is a Court and urban dress and can properly be worn in any dance.



NORTHWEST IMPRESSIONS

by BART CORWIN

Before leaving Florida, I received word from former West Palm Beach folk dance instructor Carol Nevin, that there was much folk dancing to be had out here. She also informed me that it was not a matter of dancing one or two nights per week, but a choice of folk dance locations any night of the week. Upon arrival, I found this not to be quite true, but six out of seven nights isn't bad! The thought of writing this came from the possibility (and hope) that some Floridian dancers will find their way out here, and because some of you may have curiosities on what the folk dancing is like way out there.

To begin with, the most popular nights to dance in Seattle are Monday and Friday at the University of Washington, and on Sunday at the Seattle Center, which also played host to the Northwest Regional Folk-Life Festival a few weeks ago. Arriving on a Monday afternoon, I proceeded to the university that evening to get my first taste of it.

Being from Florida, it caught me a bit off-guard at first. There were about 120-140 people under 30 years of age, doing a Macedonian dance which I had never seen before, and doing it with incredible styling. Regaining my composure, I set out, with the help of Carol, to meet some people. What I was soon to learn, though, was that, coming from Florida, I happen to be very spoiled. Meeting state-wide Floridian dancers at the Land-O-Lakes and Avon Park weekends, and knowing the Miami dancers, all prove to me that the Florida folk dancers are the friendliest in the country. I think the last paragraph that Cubby wrote in the June Newsletter portrays this just fine.

Coming back to Seattle, the folk dancers are really good dancers, but my belief is that when they take the dancing so seriously as to be unfriendly toward newcomers, it subtracts an awful lot to the cause of not only good dancing, but having a good time as well. Simply, it was too much of a performance atmosphere, whereas folk dancing should be for the folk.

Solutions: Being that many of their dancers were even set apart from each other, a few of the "ideal" local dancers, along with Carol and I, set about to break down some of the barriers. It took time, but being aided by the summer, and the fact that some dancers are away on vacation, we succeeded in creating a pleasurable atmosphere for folk dancing at the University. It is not as nice as Florida yet, but in time

Too, the director of the program at the University is leaving for Alaska, so a few of us are getting together, and we are overhauling the past. As we are getting started, we are encouraging more and more beginners to learn who might have been discouraged earlier by the "old air" of the group. We will be teaching many new and old dances, as was not part of the past practice, and it should evolve into something good.

I am enjoying myself tremendously out here, for aside from the outstanding beauty of the Northwest, I am learning a fantastic amount about folk dancing, that I would probably only have come across on the West Coast.

If you would like any information, or have any questions on the dancing in the Northwest, write: (mom) Ginny Corwin
4410 S.W. 13th St.
Miami, FL 33134.

She will, no doubt, be kept informed as to what the situation is like out here.

Well, ffdc--KEEP UP THE FINE WORK!

FT. LAUDERDALE

by BEA STATNICK

In spite of summer vacations, the "Around-the-World" Folk Dancers will continue throughout the hot period with beginners' class and intermediate-advanced sessions.

I believe that increased interest in folk dancing in the West Palm Beach to Miami Beach area has crystallized the need for a central source from which all types of dance records and needs may be ordered, thereby insuring prompt attention. So, before ordering records, contact me at "Around-the-World" Folk Dancers, 91 N.E. 46th St., Ft. Lauderdale 33308, (305) 771-5287.

REMEMBER: Sunday, October 14, 1973--
"Around-the-World" Folk Dancers'
Dancin' Picnic, at Snyder Park (Ft.
Lauderdale entrance on S.W. 4th
Ave., south of State Road 84).
Lake for swimming and boating,
nature trails, grills. Bring char-
coal, dancing feet, and records.

FOR SWAP: One pair kolo shoes, about
size 8, excellent condition, for
one pair kolo shoes, excellent
condition, in size 9 or 11. Bea
Statnick, AWF, 41 N.E. 46 St.,
Ft. Lauderdale 33308, 771-5287.

Dancing in the Dark? See the Light

. . . AND DANCE WITH US!
THE MIAMI INTERNATIONAL
FOLK DANCERS

First Unitarian Church
7701 S.W. 76th Ave.
Wednesday nights

CONTACT: Harold or Helen Pelta
16200 S.W. 87th Ave.
Miami 33157

LABOR DAY WORKSHOP

Where can you get nine delicious meals representing the cuisine of nine different countries, two days of folk dance instruction from a nationally known teacher, three lively parties with old friends and interesting new faces, swimming, canoing, and a place to lay your weary head for three nights, when you give out from everything else, for only \$27, including the most useful souvenir you'll ever pick up anyplace--a syllabus? At the ffdc Labor Day Camp, where else?
SIGN UP NOW!

Editor's Note--Unfortunately, there is not enough time each month to check with you about things in your contributions that are not clear to me. When possible, I do check, but often I have to guess what you wanted to say, and then I am likely to be wrong. Please cooperate by checking your letters to me before mailing them; make sure that all names are spelled out and that places are identified clearly. And please, don't assume I know your future plans for your group meetings. Each month, check your Directory listing, and let me know of any changes. If your group will start up again in the fall, let me know in plenty of time when and where. In turn, I'll do my best to get all your changes in print. And thank you for all the wonderful contributions. They make editing the Newsletter a pleasure. Keep them coming.