



BETWEEN TIPS

"BETWEEN TIPS" is the official bulletin of the
SQUARE & ROUND DANCE FEDERATION OF NOVA SCOTIA

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Editor's Comments:

There were a few items missed in the last BT as the change in editors took place. Those are included in this edition. A group of dedicated volunteers attended a seminar to discuss the marketing of square dancing in Nova Scotia. The co-chair, Dottie Welch, has written a complete review of the current status of the activity and a summary of suggestions for effective marketing in the province. A copy for all clubs is enclosed with this edition. It is hoped to produce another BT for May. Any suggestions or submissions are welcome and should be received by 15 April. Photos are always welcome and should be sent as Email - JPEG format, or by snail-mail.

A Hawaiian Christmas

On a brisk, mid- December evening the Highland Squares, Stellarton, celebrated "A Hawaiian Christmas". The hall was decorated throughout with vases of poinsettia, a flower that grows along the coast of the Hawaiian Island of Kona. Posters of the members of the Highland Squares on fantasy vacations in the Islands could be seen on the walls.

As each guest arrived, they were welcomed by Jack & Dolores MacArthur and in the tradition of the Islands were given a Hawaiian lei. Also given was a special badge for the evening with their name in Hawaiian and a word connected with the Christmas season. During the evening, guests were asked to circulate and collect all the Hawaiian translations of those words. These badges were personally designed by club member Robert Partington.

Caller Ed Giles got the festivities underway with his upbeat style and everyone on the dance floor. Cuer, Kitty Giles kept the momentum going when she ably led the dancers through the evening's round dances. Jack MacArthur, a local caller, in his special style called alternate tips with Ed, much to the enjoyment of the dancers. A highlight came as Jack and his former calling buddy, Herb Muir, treated those present with a Christmas duet reminiscent of Christmases passed.

At intermission, our club dancers, amused those present, with an impromptu hula. It is customary that the hula tell a story, and this one, written by Dolores MacArthur and read by Lola Patterson was no exception. Some of the guests joined the group now known as the 'happy hula hooligans'. Much fun was had by viewers and participants. Prizes were awarded for those guests in Hawaiian costumes. Winners were: Mens first: Emile Bouds. Ladies first: Diane Fleck. Most colourful couple: Grant & Annamae Thompson, and taking the prize for most original was Bev Forsythe.

Laughter greeted the debate on the subject, "Is Santa a Woman"/"Is Santa a Man". Lola Patterson took the women's side and Jack MacArthur upheld the argument for the men. The verdict on this topic, it is safe to say, is still pending! Throughout the evening, prizes were given for the Hawaiian word mixer. In random draws the winners were: Diane Boudreau, Toni Fleck, Bonnie McKay, Phyllis Fiddes and Clarence Fitzherbert. The story teller for the Highland Squares, Anna Mae Thompson told the amusing story of two Hawaiian lovers who managed to sing, "We wish you a merry Christmas". A special presentation to Kitty Giles on the occasion of her birthday, was made by Dolores MacArthur.

Santa arrives in Hawaii in a red, outrigger canoe propelled by dolphins, magic of course. But we suspect our Hawaiian Santa arrived in this hall by elevator. Wearing the traditional Hawaiian Santa outfit of an aloha shirt, shorts and sporting a Santa hat and white beard, he looked suspiciously like club member, Marshall Dunn. From his Santa's sack, each 'boy' and 'girl' present, received a gift.

Social convenor, Paula Marshall and club members served a buffet style lunch with Hawaiian foods such as pineapple, coconuts, etc.

At the close of the evening, "alohas" were said and a "Mele Kalikimaka" (Merry Christmas) wished to all.



Left to right: Caller & Taw, Ed & Kitty Giles
Graduating couple, Robert & Sandra Partington
President couple, Jack & Dolores MacArthur

Roger Whynot - By Dottie Welch

After Roger left Nova Scotia he lived for several years in New England. During the seventies he called for a group in Belmont, Massachusetts. My parents were members of that group and during 1973-1974 Gary and I danced with them for our first year of square dancing together. Roger had a small group of live musicians who played traditional music for us. He called simple squares using perhaps 30 of the basic moves and lots of contras including some complex triples. In 1974 we moved to Nova Scotia. Looking for a way to meet people we decided to continue square dancing and began modern square dance classes with the Bee Squares. So Roger was an important influence in determining our path into the square dance world. And the circle comes around as we are now enjoying a revival of traditional music and contra dancing.

Roger wrote many contras including some still available on Lloyd Shaw records with Roger prompting on one side. Some of his best are *Come and See Me, Fletcher's Folly, O.A.T.A. Reel, Star & Promenade Contra* and *Sue's Delight*.

HOW TO GET LARGER CLASSES IN YOUR CLUB

by Ron and Dot Connell

The single September start time for classes has been strongly suggested as a reason for losing a number of potential dancers. Perhaps we should look back at the formative stages of the Metro Merry Makers, and their resulting membership of about 100. They did this by having multiple start times for classes during the year, thus 'closing the sale' when the customer was enthusiastic about joining. Their very successful staggered approach to timing of new classes was accomplished by the use of three callers.

When we all start most classes at the same time, we dilute the number of prospects for any one club and lose out on other potential customers the rest of the year. There must be a way in which we could cooperate with each other to a win-win situation. If each club could agree to start a class at one of say, September, or November, or January, or March, then members of all clubs could direct an interested person to the next available class. We would all gain by attracting more dancers and having less of the one or two couple classes in various places at the same time. It's a win-win situation.

The down side may be that some clubs may gain more than others. This would be the luck of the draw. Some clubs may put in more effort at the time of 'their' class. Clubs and callers should discuss this "almost can't lose" proposal and send their comments to their Metro Association or Federation Reps.

Gaylan Ritchie (1931 - 2005)

On March 10th Gaylan Ritchie, wife of Alex, passed away. Alex became involved in square and round dancing after Gaylan was diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis in the 1970's. Although she was unable to participate in the dancing as her mobility decreased through her long struggle with the disease, she was the cheerful voice on the telephone and the encouraging presence behind Alex's years of service to our community as cuer, editor, treasurer and helpful organizer. With her degrees in English and Library Science and love of the performing arts and music, it is certain that she was able to offer Alex lots of support over the years.

Her ready wit and practical determination to deal with challenges, allowed them each to maintain active involvement in the organizations most important to them. Although her personal interest was elsewhere, she gave a great deal to square dancing through her willingness to share Alex with us, and her patience in waiting for him to return from his many meetings and dances. On behalf of all those dancers who could not attend the service at Saint James United Church, we express our condolences and support to Alex and their family during this sad time.

(Written by Dottie Welch)

The rest of this issue of "Between Tips" consists of the "Marketing Seminar Report"