



# RAMAPO RANGERS

Published by Rod La Farge 115 Cliff St. Haledon N.J.  
Vol. I October 1945 No. 10

We went out to check up on the Rockland Co. (N.Y.) area for our dance directory on Sat. Sept. 29, swinging in a big circle up through Liberty and back around through Middletown. We found Bob DeLong at Freer's Hotel in Gardiner, calling for a small but willing crowd, some of whom sported cowboy costumes. When they swung, they swung; they smashed one table while I was there! I noticed one variation of the allemande left there; the men gave left hands to their corners, and placing the other hand on the ladies waist, turned her as in ladies chain. I called my new Billy Boy for them before we left. Ray Bruyn was calling at Cronomer Valley Firehouse with a nice lively crowd; he was calling a Paul Jones when we wandered in. Ray and the Moonshiners are a nice crew; you should drop in on them sometime. We made a dash for Middletown to see Gary Vandershaff call at the American Legion Hall, but it was closed when we arrived (I don't know what time that was, but we got back to Haledon at 4.45 A.M.)

Charles Crabbe Thomas of Woodbury N.J. is putting out a mimeographed publication called 'American Squares'. You can tell he is a lawyer; he prints it on 8½ x 14 paper ---- the standard legal size, but not the size of the usual loose-leaf binder. He offers a sample copy to anyone sending in their name and address to him at 38 South Girard St. Woodbury N.J. I have the first two issues at hand; they contain square dance calls and descriptions, the double schottische etc., and doings of his dance group 'Denim and Calico'. Also a species of editorial warfare with Michael Herman's 'Folk Dancer', which duel is now over I have been told. And Jack Powelson laments the lack of square dance records without calls; I intend to publish a list of such records in the January issue of the Ramapo Rangers Bulletin in a special square dance number to start the year off right. It will be quite a paper I hope, with (a) a new name, (b) new size 5½ x 8 (c) letterpress printed with illustrations etc. (d) color cover and regular booklet style binding. In addition to the record list the issue will contain a bibliography of square dancing and other items of lasting interest to dancers and callers. Be sure your subscription is in!

Helen and I have been dancing recently with the Polish Folk Art and Dance group. Very nice people, nice Polish folk dances (Trojok, Mazur, Kokotek, etc.). It's a closed group but they are having an open house on Saturday evening Nov. 17 at the International Center YWCA, 341 East 17th St. N.Y.C. You'll be assured of a pleasant evening if you attend.

I managed to find time to put in a few Thursday evenings at the English Country Dance Society. If you're not the type that falls



asleep at the switch you can fill out an entertaining evening there, but if you can't stay alert you can certainly cause a scramble! May Gadd has been there for the past few Thursdays, on a furlough from her Texas USO assignment. She brought back a Texas Square Dance (caps are intentional) called 'Two Hold Up and Two Go Through', that proved exciting. It's rather complicated, with an Arkansas Dosey-Doe on the end of each figure. And incidently my long-awaited order of English records has at last arrived; Thady You Gander, Flowers of Edinburgh, Hunt the Squirrel, Black Nag, Ribbon Dance, Mary and Dorothy, Tempest, If All the World Were Paper and The Merry, Merry Milkmaids.

The proposed dance leaders group has had a couple meetings at the International Center, but to date has done nothing drastic. Margot Mayo is out of the WACs and attended one of the meetings as did representatives of the Danish, French, Ukrainian, Fillipino, and other groups. Elizabeth Burchenal, La Meri, Durlacher and a number of others sent their approvals or blessings but couldn't attend the meetings. I didn't have time to make a list of the international leaders present, but among others Henry Joseph, Harry Molbert and Mary Herman attended. The Hermans by the way, intend to try having their Arlington Hall classes open every night next year, I have been told. The group leaders will meet again very shortly. Bill Cairns is still temporary chairman of the business.

The Ramapo Rangers gave a square dance exhibition at the Paterson YM-YWHA on Sunday Oct. 14. Members demonstrating were:- Barbara and Frank Schwab, Helen and Rod La Farge, Frieda and Jack Van Saun, Estelle and Erwin Guse, and Rena and Bill Kamena. We did the Ladies Chain Medley, The Lanciers and a Western style square. And that reminds me; Mr. Thomas writes to ask if our girls really dress like the heading of this paper. He says his females would spend the evening holding down their skirts with one hand if they dressed like that ---- well our girls do dress like that; in fact most of them have at least three complete cowgirl outfits, all with short skirts either with fringes or with leather scrollwork. The secret of their free-swinging in such an outfit is that the panties and blouses are all one unit; a sort of romper as it were, and the panties are made to match the skirts. With this arrangement the blouse won't pull out, the panties are always where they belong and the demands of modesty are satisfied -- unless one hasn't been to a theatre or bathing beach for the last 30 years! In addition to this rodeo regalia, most of the group have outfits (not authentic) based on European Peasant costumes, a few have the real folk costumes and most of the girls have American costumes of the 1860-1880 period. (Also note to Mr. Thomas: the buckskin jacket came from Kauffman's, 139 East 24th St. NYC, who carry quite a line of rodeo items. There will be a list of such places in the aforesaid Jan. issue.)

Here's this month's singing call. Tune, Turkey in the Straw -- use your own pet introduction.

Ladies in the center back to back,  
Gents all around the outside track,  
Pass your own, then what'll you do?  
Swing that one you're comin' to!  
Step right back and see her smile,  
Step right up and swing her awhile,  
Step right back and see her grin,  
Step right up and swing her again!

Call this four times -- you'll have your original partner back; then after an allemande left, a grand right and left repeat the figure with the gents in the center back to back.

Mr. Tiger who calls down Mendham and Pottersville way (he's listed in the current dance directory) sends in a nice photo of his all girl square dance orchestra 'Tigers Lady Bugs'. We'll have to drop in to see them some evening -- if I ever get one off! Pop Stout is holding A caller's night on Sunday Nov. 4, 8.00 P.M. at the Three Towers, Route 31, South Somerville N.J. That's one I can make at least!



The Poles mustered an estimated 15,000 for the annual Pulaski Day parade up Fifth Ave. in New York. About 10% were in Polish costume (mostly Cracow) and made a pretty sight with their gay ribbons and bright beaded jackets. One group that made the N.Y. picture pages was a mother and two children, each with two dolls -- all in the Cracow costume. About halfway through the parade it began to rain, and it was distressing to see the havoc wrought among the costumes. The only dry looking group were the Tatra Mountaineers (they wear woolen outfits about 1/2 inch thick) but Mr. Gromada later told me the damage to his group was considerable.

The Polish Folk Art And Dance Group missed the parade (and wetting) having come over to Jersey to attend --- of all things -- a square dance. It was a benefit dance for a NJAC scholarship fund. And they can square dance too!

On Sunday Oct. 21, the Ramapo Rangers went over to Lost Battalion Hall to exhibit a running set at Ed Durlachers Fourth Annual Square and folk dance Festival. (Just received a nice thank you letter from Ed) Here is the program from the event:

AFTERNOON

Minuet ..... Group led by Gertrude Polin  
Heel and Toe Polka ..... Group led by Rose Marcus  
Kentucky Running Set ..... Ramapo Rangers led by Rod La Farge  
Contra Dance ..... Group led by Al McLeod  
Nightmare Square ..... Squares and Rounds led by Don Chambers  
Polish Dances .. Polish Folk Art and Dance Group; John Galinsky,  
Ukrainian Dances ..... Danse Ukraine leader.  
Scotch Dances ..... Castle Roy Group  
Irish Dances ..... Philo-Celtic Society  
Roping Exhibit ..... Madison Square Garden Rodeo Ropers  
Audience participation... Polka, schottische, hambo and squares.

Evening Caller's Jamboree with calls by:

Ed Durlacher ..... Freeport L.I.  
Floyd Woodhull ..... Elmira N.Y.  
Lawrence Loy ..... Amherst Mass.  
Hal Brundage ..... Danbury Conn.  
Ralph Page ..... Nelson N.H.  
Larry Cairns ..... Queens L.I.

A good time was had by all, including Ray Bruyn, Gary Vandershaff, and Bob DeLong who came down from Rockland County to attend the affair, and other assorted visiting callers. And -- say, before I forget, Ralph Page is getting Married! His downfall was dancing in my set after the weary Rangers had gone home to catch up on their sleep, and she knows her squares, so don't try to cut any corners on her! Rangers showing at this affair:- Bill and Rena Kamena, Ed and Catherine Laurence, Erwin and Estelle Guse, Jack and Frieda Van Saun, Rod and Helen LaFarge.

We had to pass up our last exhibition night at the Stage Door Canteen, before it closed, since we couldn't round up enough fresh Rangers on the 22nd; the crew that appeared at Durlachers on the 21st was still all worn out.

I went down to Jersey City Medical Center on Oct. 25 to call the dances at the Nurse's Square Dance Jamboree. Dycky and the Hillbillies furnished the music. The nurses really let their hair down and in spite of the fact that three-quarters of them were beginners and a oversupply of gals, they square danced --- and how. And did Dykie send the jitterbugs! During intermission we taught them the butterfly polka, the Badger Gavotte and the Rye Waltz.

Oct. 27 I called for the Sagebrush Troubadours at Thorpe Hall, Lincoln Park. They had a polka-conscious crowd -- quite a few Poles-- and most of the numbers between the squares were polkas. Helen and I did an exhibition for them. The number that really got them though, was the Jackson White Reel (the North Jersey hillbilly version of the Virginina Reel). They darn near killed themselves!