

JAY OREM

The old saw about a "friend in need" certainly holds true with us here at SETS IN ORDER.

Back in November of 1948 I had just struggled thru the initial issue of the then brand new Square Dance magazine. The whole operation was just about a one-man job - writing copy - selling ads - distribution, etc. I remember this one couple coming up to me at Pappy Shaws' Institute and asking if there was any way they might be of assistance. That was just about my first meeting with Jay and Helen Orem.

Helen, it turned out, was a writer and, man-oh-man, how I needed a writer!

Jay said he wasn't particularly trained for magazine work but he was willing to help out temporarily wherever he might be needed. Well - "temporarily" has added up to more than seven years of close association. Today Jay's our business manager with advertising, Institute planning, and office management just a part of his activity.

Most important along with the fact that Jay has become a warm personal friend is the fact that he and Helen have been enthusiastic Square and Round Dancers for 10 years. They've served as officers on clubs - helped organize classes and been on just about every conceivable type of Club committee. They've square danced their way across the country and during it all have gained a most valuable knowledge of Club organization. Since it's formation in 1950 these two have been at almost every meeting of the Council of Associations in Southern California and in this way have added to their storehouse of information on Association matters.

This week Jay will be conducting two sessions of a special Clinic on Clubs and Associations. In his preparatory work he took quite an intensive poll of various areas and has tabulated the results on the pages that follow. (Cs)

CLUBS AND ASSOCIATIONS

Facts, Figures, and How to Lick Some Problems

The structure of the square dance world as we know it today is made up of four major parts; dancers, callers, musicians and the places to dance. Without any one, the whole would be nothing. Out of these elements develop many organizational units such as square dance clubs and associations and it is with these organizations for dancers we are primarily concerned in this treatise.

Realizing that any activity that has mushroomed as rapidly as did square and round dancing brings with it vast organizational problems that the average volunteer officer is not prepared to meet, it seems beneficial to present an educational program suggested by those in the position of having solved some problems and trying to solve still more.

What may be a problem today in Westport, Connecticut may have been solved yesterday in Brighton, Colorado. So - a detailed questionnaire was sent to some association heads throughout the country and the results tabulated here and presented for study and discussion. It may help to more easily meet some of the common experiences.

PART I - RESPONSIBILITIES

Responsibility seems like a very solemn word to use in connection with something which is as much fun as square dancing. But, whether we like it or not, there are certain responsibilities which, when well dealt with, add to our own fun as well as that of everyone else.

CALLER

He is there to lead, entertain and teach.

These following basics will insure a good job: Call to the majority of the floorful of dancers; Don't try to be a showoff; Keep up on the best of the new materials; Cooperate with clubs and associations in reasonable requests; Present a balanced program; Promote square dancing instead of person; Encourage and promote friendliness; Be an entertainer if it doesn't distract from the calling; Develop cooperation between callers; Be prepared with the proper equipment and music to do the job.

DANCER

First of all, TO HAVE FUN. How?

A reasonably large application of any one or all of the following ideas should do the trick. Take an active interest in the club and be willing to serve on committees or as officers when called upon. Attend regularly. Express hospitality - friendliness. Try to "give" - cultivate extrovert qualities. Avoid being "clique-y." Be courteous. Keep the thing a hobby - a relaxing recreation. Welcome newcomers. Follow appropriate leadership. Be a good sport. Listen to the caller and try to dance as well as you can. Keep drinking away from square dancing. Avoid petty gossip. Cooperate with the caller. It takes a two way team to make a successful dance.