

Scotch Block Squares learning modern square dance technique

Once the sole preserve of rural people, the form of entertainment known as square dancing is currently enjoying an upsurge in popularity among people of other professions.

An example of this is the Scotch Block Square Dancers. The group, organized last fall, has a lively time dancing in the Ligny Hall on the Fifth Sideroad north of Milton every Monday night.

In the past, square dancing has had a "square" old-fashioned image. But the 30 or so people who come to the hall every week will tell you the only old-fashioned aspect of their club is the amount of enjoyment they derive from it.

Learn basics
Approximately 30 to 35 people are learning basic square dancing manoeuvres such as

"Starstruck" from caller Les Cairns.

Cairns is perhaps symbolic of the new trend in this type of entertainment. If you were to visit the club you wouldn't hear an old time fiddler with an American mid-west twang. The club's caller is an Englishman who learned the art of square dancing in that country before immigrating to Canada.

"Square dancing is world wide and is even popular in such far off nations as Japan," claims Cairns. A veteran ballroom dancer, Cairns and his wife began square dancing after ballroom dancing began to suffer a decline in popularity around 1965. "We weren't keen on the modern types of dancing which were replacing it," he stated.

Bargain at \$2
A resident of Burlington, Cairns learned in November that the Milton club needed a caller so he volunteered his services.

With a co-instructor Mrs. Jean Halls of Mississauga, he conducts the dances every week. Cost per night per couple is two dollars which Cairns calls "a pretty good bargain."

Square dancing has two divisions, old time and modern. Scotch Block Squares are learning the basic steps of the latter, which Cairns says has a history span of about 15 years.

"Modern dancing differs from its older relative, in that records are used in place of a fiddle. Also many of the calls of the older variety were known beforehand by the dancers. With modern square dancing the dancers are not sure which step will be called next," Cairns explains.

Complete first level
In May the club will cease operations for the summer. By that time the members who have been religiously attending the Monday night sessions, will have mastered the basic techniques of the first level square dancing, Cairns believes.

There are three levels of square dancing he explains—beginners, intermediate and club. Each level requires about a year's experience before progressing to the next class, notes the instructor. However, once a dancer becomes proficient in mastering the basic steps, he learns there are more complex

dance techniques. "You never stop learning," adds co-instructor Mrs. Halls.

Although the club consists mostly of people over 30, it does boast of a couple of young dancers. One of these is Fern Lawrence, 19, of R.R. 1 Milton. Because her mother was sick one dance night, Fern took her place as a dancing partner for her father, Denzil. Discovering square dancing was fun, she decided to join the club.

Any age group
An employee of Milton District Hospital, Fern says some of her friends don't understand her penchant for what some consider an older person's excitement. "I can get along with any age group," she quips. She's hoping her friends will give the dance a "whirl" when the club starts fresh in September.

Participation in the club, which Cairns says is the only square dancing club in the Milton area, is perhaps small, but members are optimistic for a larger crowd next year.

"One good point about square dancing in general and our club in particular is, you don't have to worry about sitting on the sidelines. There's always a partner ready and willing to dance," concluded Cairns.



GETTING READY for the music are dancing partners Fern Lawrence and John Purdy. The two-some are members of the Scotch Block Square Dancers.—(Staff Photo)



SWING TO THE LEFT, now swing to the right. . . Having a ball are the swinging members of the Scotch Block Square Dancers, a group organized last fall. Caller Les Cairns keeps the dancers hopping.—(Staff Photo)

Miss Joan Mellor . . .

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Ngambi, which the Milton missionary will have to learn as she arrives in Chad. In addition to her bookkeeping duties, Miss Mellor expects to work with the youth and the women of Moundou and help wherever she can.

Uphill struggle
She has been working toward her goal for the past 20 years, but it has been an uphill struggle all the way. Her mother died when she was four and she was raised in an orphanage. When she was 15, after just one year of high school education, she went to work to help support her family. Miss Mellor says she had her trip to Africa in mind and worked at a variety of occupations to give herself a good background. She taught herself bookkeeping, through experience, and never took a formal course in the subject.

In 1953 she went to Regina and enrolled in the Canadian Bible College, graduating from its missions course in 1956. In 1960 she went to work at the Toronto headquarters office of the North American Branch of the Sudan United Mission (which later merged with TEAM), staying there over two years.

She first applied to go to Chad while working at the SUM office in 1960, but at that time Chad had just become an independent republic and the political climate made it unfeasible to send a single girl into the field.

To Milton
From 1963 until three and a half years ago, she worked in the Toronto headquarters of the Christian and Missionary Alliance, then came to Milton to work with the Campbell-Reese team.

Then last year, a woman in the field sent out a letter appealing for someone to come to Chad and take over the mission's books to relieve the missionaries for full time work with the nationals. "I sensed, very definitely, that the Lord was showing me it was ME He wanted," she said, so she applied again to go to Chad. Six months ago she learned she was accepted.

"The Lord saw to it that I got all the breaks," she says. "It is really quite marvellous that so many things worked together in the past to fit me for my work," she adds.

Needed support
Since she first learned of her acceptance, Miss Mellor has been busy lining up support. Before she could go she had to arrange \$1,000 for transportation and close to \$1,000 for equipment and supplies, plus \$280 a month (for four years) for her expenses in the field. The \$280 covers her salary, administration costs, transportation, medical needs and other maintenance in Chad. All the money had to be promised or donated before she could leave for France. Friends, strangers and people



SWINGING TO THE MUSIC are square dancers Nora Boyce and Ed Brown, members of the Scotch Block Square Dancers. The club meets every Monday night at Ligny Hall.—(Staff Photo)

from all walks of life have rallied to give her the necessary support. Emmanuel Baptist Church has agreed to underwrite a portion of her monthly expenses, many families have promised to set aside a certain amount each month and many others gave cash donations.

"I have just been thrilled at the interest people have been showing," she said, "and when people are putting their money into something for the Lord, you can be sure of their prayer backing too."

Speaking engagements
Miss Mellor has also been speaking to church groups and women's organizations around the province, telling them of the work in Chad and showing pictures supplied by TEAM of the conditions in Africa. She left the Campbell-Reese team in February and has since spoken in such places as Chatham, Owen Sound, Toronto and Hamilton in addition to local groups.

These past few weeks have been spent packing—some things needed in France, some going straight to Chad—and tidying up last-minute details before leaving her Martin St. apartment for a four-year span.

Chimney fire
A chimney fire at the home of C. Foster at 52 Britannia Rd., Oakville caused no damage, reports Fire Chief A. E. Clement. The fire occurred early Friday afternoon. There were no other incidents during the past week.

—Mohawk Raceway's spring meeting got underway last week and good crowds are reported at the Campbellville racing oval.

Community Clubs are . . .

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cent clay and 6 per cent cement which could last for 30 years. Acreage is set aside on which to teach the natives to produce crops. Tall sorgham grass is hard to deal with. They were told that with opportunity the people in Africa are capable of running their own affairs and that the life is very unsettled in the way of revolution but that the natives are very appreciative of what the west has done for them, otherwise they would have no schools, no churches or hospitals.

1973 World day of prayer
Mrs. Ward Brownridge thanked those taking part in the program. The Easter Thanksgiving was collected. The minutes of the last meeting were read by Mrs. Jim Carney the secretary. Mrs. Tom Bousfield will be the key lady for 1973, World's Day of Prayer. The Hillcrest Daffodil Luncheon will be held on April 19, Miss Helen Allen of To-day's child or on Family Finder on Sundays at 1 p.m. will be guest speaker.

Four ladies from Hillcrest attended the annual Presbyterian meeting. Spoons at \$2.00 and \$3.00 each are available—proceeds to go to the M & S Fund. Mrs. Leslie King gave the treasurer's report. Mrs. Ward Brownridge gave a report of the stewards meeting, held on March 6.

An invitation was received from St. Andrew's Church, Georgetown to attend a thank-offering on April 12 at 8 p.m. The speakers will be Rev. and Mrs. J. Kirkwood. Mrs. G. Wilson reported on their supply parcel for Africa. Donations had been made towards this for articles not available to be purchased from funds. Used Christmas cards were sent to India. Harvest Fair socks were given out and proceeds are to be used for the organ fund. U.C.W. offered to pay up to \$500 on a P.A. system. Meeting closed with prayer and lunch was served by the Starlight Unit.

Judy Gordon of the Sixth Line, Hornby and Tansy Jennings of Port Credit, are enjoying a two week vacation in the Barbados.

They expect to be home on Easter Sunday.

Ball dance
The Hornby Men's Ball Club Division held a very successful dance at the Hornby Tower's on Saturday night, March 18. Music was supplied by the Merrett Orchestra. The lucky door prize was won by Mrs. Clarence McCann which was a \$24 voucher; a spot dance was won by Mr. and Mrs. Edward Robertson, Peter Stelman won a plant and a prize was won by Margaret Taylor. A delicious lunch was enjoyed following the dance.

The North Trafalgar Euchre Club held their weekly euchre party on Saturday night, March 25, at the North Trafalgar Recreation Centre. There were nine tables of euchre in play with the prizes going to the following winners, Mrs. Frank Peacock, Mrs. Roy Wilson, Mrs. Jim Cunningham and Mrs. Wilbert Nix. The winners for the gents were Clare Wilson, Lorne Chamberlain and John Roberts. Lucky draws were won by Mrs. Joe Sammit and Jim Hamilton.

Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Marchment of the Sixth Line, are enjoying a vacation in Florida. The Eden United Church Young People's Society met at the home of Rev. and Mrs. Jim McFadden, on Sunday afternoon where they enjoyed the abundance of snow compared to the snow in the Hornby district, for snowmobiles. Hot coffee and lunch were supplied.

Birthday greetings are extended to Mrs. Ronald Plant and Jack Sanford who will celebrate their birthdays on March 31.

Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Plant and sons David and Tommy of the Eighth Line and Mr. and Mrs. Garry Hamilton, Kent, Kendra and Kimmy and Jamie South spent Sunday at Wasaga Beach.

—School students enjoyed their winter break last week.

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