

A TRIBUTE TO KENNETH STEED

MVFD Member 1950-1988

This is a man I knew, trusted, and on whom I depended for almost forty years. Kenneth died on Sunday, January 31, 1988, just a few days short of 84. He'd been hospitalized for eight weeks. It is difficult to speak of him alone because his wife, Jewel, who survives him, was always with him. They danced since 1950 and were charter members of the Dayton Square Dance Club, the Dayton Round Dance Club and the Miami Valley Folk Dancers. After a few years, however, the Miami Valley Folk Dancers became their chosen group. They have been loyal supporters to the present time.

We were a small group of 30 to 40 in the early days and they "rolled up their sleeves and pitched in!" Their greatest contribution was their one-to-one help with beginning dancers. Accomplished and knowledgeable dancers themselves, their help and encouragement, their persistent kindness and patience were invaluable. Officially, they are still members of our group, but we have missed their presence for the last few years because, perfectionists as they were, they chose not to come when they were no longer physically able to dance well. They continued to play bridge and follow dance activities by reading Viltis and remembering. A note from them to me after a later November '87 visit read, "... We enjoyed reading the letters (those our group received, wishing us well for our 35th anniversary). The report you gave to us about the Jane Farwell and Dick Crum weekend brought back many memories of our folk dancing days. Kenneth and I spent most of the day, after you left, talking about old times. Love, Jewel and Kenneth."

The growth and quality of our group was always paramount to Kenneth and he used his personal funds to spread the word of folk dancing. I believe our greatest tribute to him is our present very active, fun loving membership of 94. Kenneth and Jewel, we love you and we thank you.

Grace Wolff