

MIAMI VALLEY FOLK DANCERS

NOVEMBER, 1988 NEWSLETTER

IMPORTANT DATES:

DECEMBER - CLEAN THE PAVILION DAY, PEG ELTZROTH,
CHAIRPERSON.

DECEMBER 11 - ETHNIC SUNDAY

DECEMBER 31 - NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY, AT DOT SANTI'S HOUSE. SAM
AND ANN BALLINGER CO-CHAIRS.

JANUARY 8 - ANNUAL MEETING, TWO MEMBERS ARE TO BE ELECTED
TO COUNCIL TO REPLACE LOUISE VAN VLIET AND DICK CLAIR.

Please let Louise Van Vliet know in writing if you are NOT
willing to serve on council. A list of eligibles who are willing to
serve will be presented in the next newsletter.

Enclosed is a copy of the rules and regulations of MVFD, 1981 revision.

In this newsletter, a special tribute is made to three members who
have made SIGNIFICANT contributions to the club. Although many club
members have done much for MVFD, **Grace Wolff**, **Ann Ballinger**,
and **John Pappas** have had a tremendous impact on what this club is all
about. Grace was the instructor and leader of MVFD from 1954 to 1967,
over 60% of our current members took their beginners' course under the
direction of Ann, and the singles are indebted to John Pappas for the
enhancement of our non-partner repertoire.

Grace, of Pennsylvania Dutch origin, became involved in the Dayton
Recreation Department's dance programs in a search for program activity for
her daughter Susie's Brownie Troop. Anything in Dayton that has had to do
with dance has probably had Grace's feet in it at one time or another. In
addition to being the leader of MVFD, she was the organizer of the Miami
Valley Round Dancers, Festival Dancers, Yugoslav dance group, and dance

instruction to girl scouts and their leaders. At their 1967 convention, 2000 girl scouts and their leaders participated in a dance festival at the University of Dayton with 500 girls dancing at one time. Grace was the first person in Ohio to receive a certificate to teach Scottish Country Dancing from the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society in Edinburg, Scotland, was responsible for bringing the Duquesne University Tammies to Dayton, and, in 1976, conducted a three-week class in square and contra dancing in Campinas, Brazil.

She received her B.S. and M.A. degrees from the University of Dayton and from 1967 and 1973 did public relations and recruitment for the St. Elizabeth Medical Center School of Nursing. In addition to her famous pot pies, Grace is noted for her superb bread and her interest in natural foods. Grace and Bill have three children, Sue Ann and Bill Jr. are lawyers and Mary, a former Tammie, is a dancer/choreographer in Arizona.

I should add, that in 1964, Bill, Sr. was responsible for saving what is now known as Solomon Pavilion from demolition. Bill and Grace were named as the Honor Roll Couple of the Miami Valley Dance Council for 1984.

Ann almost didn't make it to the New World from her homeland of Germany. Fortunately her father saved her, just in time, from falling overboard into the Atlantic. Ann first began dancing as a girl scout leader under the direction of Grace Wolff and since then she and Sam, he didn't start dancing until about 1962, have done contra, square, and round dancing as well as folk dancing. If one thinks of beginners' classes of MVFD, he/she thinks of Ann Ballinger. She has, also, spent an enormous number of hours teaching and organizing performances; these average about 6 a year. The performance at the Sauerkraut Festival has been tradition with MVFD; Ann has had a performing group there each year since the start of the Festival. Each one of these performances requires several rehearsals, her church is the second home of our dance group, and requires great skill - what does one do with all of these single women? In addition to teaching at MVFD, Ann has taught folk dancing to many girl scouts and has been in charge of the "Girl Scout cleanup" at the International Festival since it first began.

Ann and Sam have two daughters, three grandsons, and one granddaughter. Their oldest grandson is in the Marines. Ann is a collector-angels, postcards, with a special interest in Ohio Court Houses; and salt dips. Salt dips? Do you realize how hard it is to find salt dips? This summer, four of her friends spent one entire day looking for a Portugese salt dip. Some people might think that they came up with a little ash tray but it is a salt

dip, the Portugese make all of their salt dips look like ash trays. Ann also crochets and plays wild bridge.

John almost didn't get to live through the Old World, he just missed being killed by mortar at the age of 8 when guerillas attacked his hometown of Ceresnica in the Macedonian area of Greece, prior to the Greek Civil War. His boat trip, in the bottom of a converted Navy ship, to the New World wasn't much healthier. He was sick throughout the entire trip. In Toledo, Ohio, he began folk dancing at the age of 9; became an avid stamp collector, his first money earned as a paperboy went for stamps; and fell in love with classical music. This interest was instigated by his sister who gave him a portable record player and a record of light classical music while he was in high school. He is also a superb bridge player.

John has served as chairperson of the MVFD council more than any other member, chaired workshops, publicity, program committee and tape committee. It was during his tenure as chairman that request dances were incorporated into the evening's program to ensure that all members would have a chance to dance their favorites and that ample non-partner dances were taught to satisfy the needs of singles. He has been the leader of the Živio dancers and has directed and choreographed their performances given throughout Ohio and Yugoslavia, has served as the chairman of the Yugoslav Club of Dayton, and was the first President of the World 'A Fair after it became incorporated.

John is an aerospace engineer at W.P.A.F.B. He received his electrical engineering degree from the University of Toledo where he was in ROTC. Following graduation he was commissioned as a 2nd Lieut. in the artillery and served in the U.S. army for two years. John and Carole have two sons, two step-sons, and the most beautiful grandson in the WHOLE world.

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Rules and Regulations

11 January 1981

PURPOSE: The purpose of this organization is to develop and promote international folk dancing under the sponsorship of the City of Dayton Bureau of Recreation.

MEMBERSHIP: Anyone interested in folk dancing is eligible for associate membership in the Miami Valley Folk Dancers. After twenty (20) sessions of associate membership and participation concurrent in the club-sponsored instructions, they will be accorded full membership. Associate members are entitled to all the rights, privileges and responsibilities of membership, except voting, serving on council, membership dues, and weekend rates. If an experienced and accomplished international folk dancer requests membership, the council, by unanimous vote, can substitute the requirement of attending and participating in twenty (20) regular programs instead of the participation in twenty (20) club-sponsored instruction sessions.

DUES: Dues, as determined by the membership, shall be payable monthly. Members in arrears three (3) months shall be automatically dropped. Such members may be reinstated by paying all back dues, or they may rejoin as associate members.

FEES PER PERSON: Associate members, 50¢; guests, 50¢, spectators, no charge.

THE COUNCIL: The Council shall consist of five members, elected by the membership for two-year terms. Election shall be held annually for either two or three new members to the Council. At the first meeting of the Council after election of new Council members, they shall choose from among their number a Council chairman, vice-chairman, a secretary, and a treasurer, to serve for a term of one year. The Council will also appoint a Program Committee.

The Council shall determine such matters as general program policies and anything pertaining to the welfare of the organization, provided such action shall not be in conflict with the policies of the Bureau of Recreation. A Representative of the Bureau of Recreation shall be, ex-officio, an advisory member of the Council. The Council shall be responsible for other major decisions, with the approval of the membership.

COMPENSATION: No club member shall receive any compensation from the club, except reimbursement for authorized expenses incurred on behalf of the organization.

DISSOLUTION OF ORGANIZATION: Upon decision of two-thirds (2/3) of the members present and voting, following due notification of the membership, the organization may be disbanded. All funds held at the time of such disbandment shall be transferred to the Bureau of Recreation.

CHANGES IN RULES AND REGULATIONS: Changes in these rules and regulations may be made at any called membership meeting, provided that a written notice containing time and place of meeting, as well as the proposed changes, be delivered to the membership at least two weeks prior to the time of such meeting.