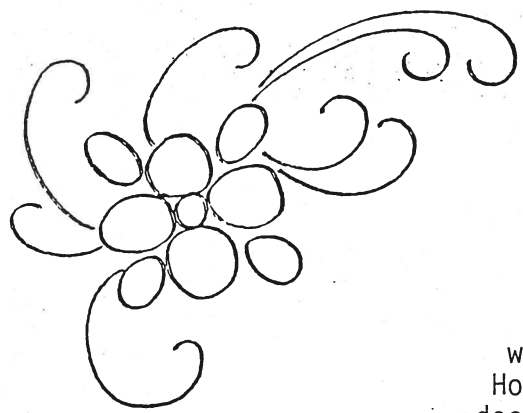


PROOF 11



WHO'S JANE FARWELL?

Dear Miami Valley Folk Dancers and others who care!

She's all tied up with our happy history! Future, too. Five or six weeks ago Harry asked, "Will you write a page about Jane Farwell for the bulletin?" Last night, from Lou, "Why don't you write something about Jane? Nobody knows why we are doing a Sunday in her memory." How can I believe that? How can I describe a spirit? How can I unravel what is so deeply enmeshed with my own? I'll try. Though she changed worlds this past April, for me and all who loved her, she lives!

More than 50 years ago, after graduating from Antioch in Yellow Springs, she began Oglebay Folk Dance Camp in Wheeling, West Virginia, as part of a job venture in her field of recreation. It was our first camp, and set the example for Maine Camp and others which she helped to pioneer. In 1948 she announced to her "friedns" a week-long "Around-the-World Christmas Festival" (the 46th is scheduled for '93) which would annually portray the Christmas customs from around the world. It was held in Mt. Horeb High School in Wisconsin, not far from her beloved family farm near Dodgeville, and seems to have been the nucleus for her legacy to us, Folklore Village, which is located on the farm. Our own Michael and Margaret Solomon were the first Daytonians to attend the festival and their 1953 account of it is available for scrutiny! (also available is a current Folklore Village schedule and a partial list of the dances that she taught us.)

With her parents' farm as a base for activities, and help from family and loyal friends, but always with "sleeves rolled up", she assembled, bit by bit, the ideas and dreams and artifacts that have become, and are still becoming, Folklore Village! She fought to keep the interstate highway from cutting through her plans, and at one point she personally drove her tractor to meet the bulldozers head on! She won her battle to keep hers and neighboring farms intact. This same fighting spirit could gently take a shy two left-footed dancer in each hand and lead them into the joy of a dance like Texas Schottish for Three, or stay up all night during her Christmas Festival, if necessary, to complete plans for the next day, when committees must be named and plans made so that each meal, tea, or snack would represent a different country and be mouth-watering as well. (not to mention all the dance sessions between the meals!) How could she ever have time to listen? But she did and the timid were never forgotten.

In the '50's she had her heyday here. Michael Solomon engaged her for recreation workshops and dance workshops. At our first dance workshop we learned Dodi Li! We had already started our class to include singles as well as couples in 1952, when she encouraged us to form a group. We did this in 1953, taking our present name. We danced, we sang, we played games and we ate the food we cooked. Without knowing it, I became her deciple. And now, if you read this and believe how much joy and vitality she contributed to our program, even today, it will be my own memorial to her!

Folklore Village is her legacy to us, too, and I shall have something more written for you about it for our September 12 Jane Farwell Sunday at Solomon Pavilion.

Do come on time at 3 P.M. There is an afternoon special surprise, and of course your only admission fee is a food contribution to our lovely and delicious 5:30 p.m. smorgasbord! More information - 293-9750.

Dayton, Ohio
August 20, 1993

Grace Wolff