

Square Dance Lessons from the Past (2)

**Quelle: verschiedene Tageszeitungen aus den USA, 1950 /
Source: different daily American newspapers from 1950**

gefunden von Rainer Scheiblich, EAASDC Historian

By searching for information about the beginning of Square Dancing in Europe within old American newspapers, I stumbled over an interesting possibility to freshen up my dance knowledge. To be honest, in 1950 Margot Mayo, a well-known person in Square Dancing, was on here way to spread Square Dance within the USA. To achieve that she published a series of lessons in various daily newspapers with in the USA with explanations of general things and specific figures. By the way, some of them are still danced today.

To make a view on those lessons possible they will be printed in a series within the bulletin. This allows to receive an impresssion into the explanations in the past and what figures were danced in the early fifties. Enjoy that view in the past.

series will be continue



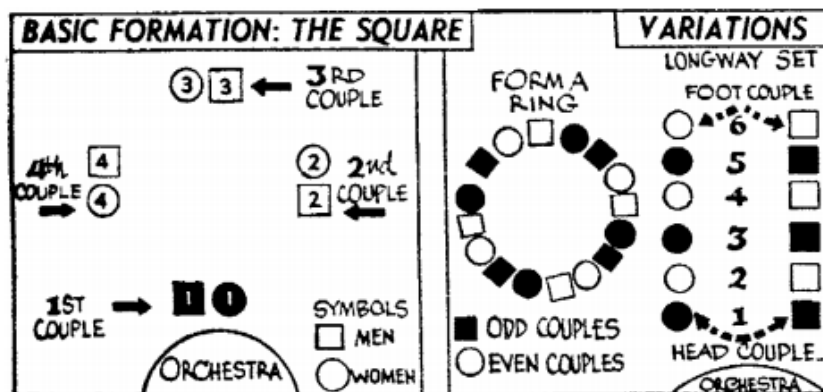
Beim Stöbern durch alte amerikanische Zeitungen auf der Suche nach den Anfängen des Square Dance in Europa bin ich über eine interessante Auffrischung meiner Tanz-Kenntnisse gestolpert. Spaß beiseite, im Jahr 1950 strebte Margot Mayo, eine bekannte Person im Square Dance, dessen Ausweitung in den USA an. In verschiedenen Tageszeitungen wurde eine Serie von Lektionen mit allgemeinen Erklärungen und zu spezifischen Square Dance Figuren veröffentlicht. Übrigens, einige werden noch heute getanzt.

Um Blicke auf die Lektionen zu ermöglichen, werden diese in einer Serie im Bulletin abgedruckt. So erhält man Einblick in Erklärungen der Vergangenheit und die Anfang der 50er Jahre getanzten Figuren. Viel Spaß bei der Lektüre aus der Vergangenheit.

Anmerkung für deutschsprachige

Leser: Diese kleine Serie dient vor allem der Präsentation historischer Dokumente und nicht dem Erlernen alter Calls. Wer nicht Englisch lesen kann, sollte seinen Klubcaller um Hilfe bitten. Vielleicht kommt dieser auf die Idee, einen Themen-Klubabend „Alte Calls“ zu organisieren.
Der Editor *Serie wird fortgesetzt*

,SWING YOUR PARTNER' - 1



If you ever played "The Farmer In The Dell" or "Ring-Around-the-Rosie" when you were a child, you know how to square dance. For square dances (or barn dances, as they're sometimes called) are actually simply games set to music. You just follow the directions given by the caller, keep time to the music and have a lot of fun. fun. What makes a square dance square is the arrangement (above, left) of the dancers. The average square consists of four couples. The one with its back to the orchestra is first, or head, couple. Each couple, of course, consists of two "partners." When the caller says, "swing your lady" or "swing your own" he means the "gent"

should swing (turn) his own partner. When the caller talks about the "corner lady" he means the lady to the left of the "gent." One of the things that makes square dancing fun is that you don't dance exclusively with your own partner all evening - you usually dance with all the members of your square set. Each "gent" can dance with his partner, his corner lady, his opposite - the lady across the set from him - and the lady in the couple to his right. And each of the couples, too, will dance with each of the others. Couple 1 will dance with

couples 2, 3 and 4; then couple 2 with couples 3, 4 and 1, and so on. There are many regional variations of square dancing. In some places the dancers don't form a square, they form a ring (center). The caller has the men count off, to designate odd and even couples. Then he'll direct the steps by referring to odds and evens. Another type is the long way set, in which the dancers form two lines, men in one and ladies in the other. But all the different types use the basic steps.

Some call 'em square dances, some call 'em barn dances or country dances. By any name, every day more and more people are swinging their partners to the rhythm of country fiddlers. Square dancing isn't hard. In this series, Margot Mayo shows you how to do the

basic square dancing steps and some of the advanced figures. Miss Mayo, a Texan, is director of the American Square Dance Group, editor of the square dance magazine "Promenade," and instructor of folklore and music at the Mills School of Adelphi College, New York.

Here's the **first** of her **12 lessons**. SAVE THEM ALL for future reference - and - Swing Your Partner !