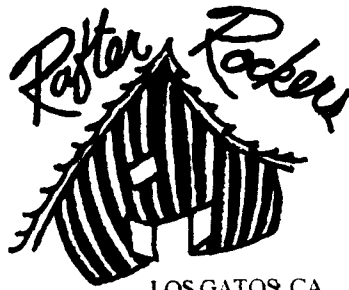


From the



LOS GATOS, CA.

Tillman

Hayloft

APRIL 1999

FROM THE PRESIDENT

CONGRATULATIONS!!!

What a great hoedown...with a superior staff! We had a very successful Circus, Circus, with a larger crowd than ever, wonderful raffle prizes, and door prizes. Everybody remarked on the outstanding, abundant FOOD!!! Thanks to all members, who helped and worked so hard on our special event. Ken and Ken were just great, and Wally Wade was a cuer supreme. Hugh and Jobie did a fine job as chairman, and Bill had the school open right on time. Special thanks to those who put in lots of time and effort on gathering donated raffle prizes. Special thanks to Tasha and Lee Burkett for the well-organized kitchen, and to Beth and Bill Barnes who hosted a lovely afterparty. (Enough adjectives?) We even came out in the "black" this year.

Glenn and I wish to extend our thanks to those who pitched in when we had to be gone, due to the illness of Glenn's sister. Thanks, too, for the cards of sympathy for her passing. They were appreciated.

Now we look forward to our next event...the Flea Market on April 10. It will benefit the Committee To Promote Square Dancing, and all clubs are invited to participate. We are asked to price our items, and to stay and work for a while. The items not sold will be picked up at the end of the day by the Salvation Army, so you won't have to cart them home again. Based on the success of the last few dances, and hoedowns, the flea market should be a success. It will be well advertised... and help us all with Spring Cleaning.

Also in April will be our Hard Times party night. Wear "after-tax-type" clothing! We look forward

to this event each year...at least taxes are over with!

We hope to see lots of Rafter Rockers at the Cal State Square Dance Convention in Sacramento. The dates are April 16 to 18. If you are going to RV, we need to try to meet outside to go in together. They will not let us reserve spaces.

As we reach the end of our term as President, we look back on the wonderful year we have had. We have enjoyed the many events that took place, such as dances, trips and theatre parties, the good food and good friends. Rafter Rockers is a group that always comes through for Square Dancing...I know we can keep up the good work!

Glenn & Lenny Weber

LEIGH CAMPUS BEAUTIFICATION DAY

On March 6th, 18 Rafter Rockers led by Bill & Beth Barnes, turned out to mow, edge, weed and otherwise help in the beautification of the Leigh High School campus. This was an excellent way to further cement our good relationship with the school while performing a real community service. This effort was truly appreciated as evidenced by the note the Principal sent to Bill:

" Dear Bill,

I wanted to thank your group for helping out on March 6. It's nice to know that someone else cares and is appreciative of California's natural beauty.

Again thanks to you and the rest of the people who helped make Leigh's Beautification Day a success."

Way To Go Rafter Rockers!!!!

CALLERS CORNER

Hi Rafter Rockers,

Boy, the RR's never slow down. As we took our annual trip to Mesa we found RR's RVing and dancing the night away. Then, on taking a trip to Bakersfield, we found the same crazy bunch there. Glad to see that they're having fun.

Our Circus Circus hoedown was a huge success as approximately 30 squares attended. Once again, the RR's did a fabulous job on decorations and food. Ken Carroll and I had our usual fun on stage along with Jim Chico. Thank you Bill & Beth for the afterparty.

Upcoming events are the State Convention on the third weekend of April, Gary Carnes and his West Coast Jamboree on the fourth weekend, and the Benefit Dance on the Saturday after that. Plan to attend one or more of these events, and we'll see you across the square - OK?

Also in April, we plan to have Daryl Clendenin on three nights as he passes thru our area for hoedowns in L.A. & Reno. Monday, April 12th, A2 level with the Generic Squares in S.J.; Tuesday, April 13th, Plus level with the Pleasanton Singles in Dublin; and Thursday, April 22nd, with the Square Hoppers in S.J. Try to drop in on one or more of these nights and dance to a National Caller.

Until next time, Ken & Chris

BAKERSFIELD FIESTA

Nine Rafter Rocker couples, plus two ex-RR couples, converged on the Kern County Fairgrounds for the 33rd annual Bakersfield Fiesta held on March 19, 20, and 21. As usual, this was one of the best square dance weekends of the year. The dancers, (numbering more than 2900, with over 500 RV's), were kept thoroughly challenged and thoroughly entertained by callers Mike Jacobs, Larry Letson, Dee Dee Dougherty-Lottie, Tony Oxendine, Jet Roberts, and Ben Rubright; and

round dance cuers the Chaffee's, DeFore's, and Garza's.

As always, those who arrived in Bakersfield early got in some golf, shopping, etc., and everyone found ways to occupy their time when not dancing (eg. eating, Eating, and EATING). Frank Smith & Betty Watson did a simply outstanding job as Wagonmasters, including arriving on Tuesday and securing, and holding, RV spaces so that we could all camp together. They also organized potlucks and a dinner at a German restaurant. THANKS from all of us, Frank and Betty!!!

Next year's Fiesta will be on March 17, 18, and 19, and will again have a world-class slate of callers and cuers - so, mark your callendars and plan to attend.

THEATER NIGHT

It's show time again! Saratoga Drama Group is presenting *State Fair* on Friday, June 11th, and Rafter Rockers are once again making an evening of it.

We will begin the evening at 6:15 P.M. with dinner at Casa Valencia, and then proceed to the Saratoga Civic Theater for an 8:00 performance. Then, if someone would like to volunteer to host it, we will get together for a post theater dessert afterparty.

State Fair has music by Rodgers & Hammerstein, and is based on the screenplay by Oscar Hammerstein and the novel by Bill Strong. Like the film of the same name, love, laughter, and life collide when a country family goes to the State Fair. A big, bright musical for the whole family. Come enjoy classic tunes like "It Might As Well Be Spring" and "It's A Grand Night For Singing".

See Jane Bishop for tickets.

New Members

Please extend a warm Rafter Rocker welcome to new members Bob Reid and Mary Lee

Committee To Support Square Dancing

To kickoff our square dance promotions for 1999, the Committee to Promote Square Dancing held a highly successful Benefit dance on 2/19 at Leigh High school. The response from Santa Clara Valley Square dancers was exciting and outstanding. The hall was packed with over 320 dancers (over 40 squares) from over 24 clubs in the area. And the total contributions of \$3973.00 to this effort far exceeded the committee's expectations. This super effort succeeded because so many people just jumped in and contributed their time and money. Special thanks go to our 4 entertainers (Gary Carnes, Ken Kenmiile, Jim Chico, and Joanne Arrouzet) who contributed their time, to Keith Ferguson who paid for the hall, and to the many dancers who obtained or donated prizes, to all the people who set up the hall and kitchen and sold tickets. It seemed that everyone felt good about doing something positive for this activity that we all love-SQUARE DANCING.

Currently the committee is contracting with KRTY and KLIV for 2 weeks of radio ads in September. Depending on the amount collected from our fund raising activities and our 5/1 Grand Finale, the committee plans to contract for 4 weeks of advertising at the Century and AMC theaters, to incorporate flyers within other local activities and papers, and to maximize our opportunities for free advertising (local papers, magazines, Public Service Announcements, etc). This is your committee and we welcome any ideas or opportunities you might suggest. Contact Van symons (vansymons@aol.com) or Walt Fant (gjfwjf@aol.com). Note on your calendar our GRAND FINALE ON 5/1. We plan to make a big production for all individuals, clubs, and associations to present the results of their fund raising efforts. It promises to be another great dance and a wonderful experience for all of us.

Ken's Birthday / Slab Dance

Mark August 21st on your calendars and come help celebrate Ken's birthday in combination with dancing at the Slab in Ben Lomond. We'd like to get a really big turnout this year.

THE CIRCUS CAME TO TOWN

The months of planning for the Rafter Rocker annual hoedown produced great results this year. The financial results are not all in as of this writing, but indications are that of success. The big excitement was the personal involvement of so many members, callers, cuer, and guests.

The call for participation was accepted by many. The positions of chairpersons of the various committees were filled right away, and the sign-ups of committee members followed smoothly within a few weeks. There was overwhelming support by members contributing over 85 gifts – some personally made. Publicity, with flyers, ads, and club visits really reached out to the field of dancers. And decorating and take-down of the extensive decorations went smoothly, and was one of the most fun times.

As a newer member to the club (compared to many), I feel I can say this hoedown was equal to those of the past that were rated in the "best" category. For many people, Circus Circus is anticipated to be the best hoedown of the year for its calling, cueing, food, raffle & door prizes, and friendly members. We did not disappoint them.

As Chairpersons of this event we feel we benefited the most by the association with all of you who volunteered your time and talents to make this a success. Our joint participation made the whole activity fun, plus the added enjoyment of getting to know our fellow members better. We won't list names, but from holding the microphone on stage to pushing the mop on the floor, thank you so much each and every one of you.

Hugh & Jobie Berry, V.P.

Wildflower Hike

Don't forget. On Saturday, May 1st, Jean and Don Arndt will lead hikers six miles or so through the flowers at Almaden Quicksilver (Camden & Meridian area). Mark your calendars and dust off your pack and boots or sturdy shoes, and join in this fun event

What Is It?

The following riddle is typically solved by about 70% of kindergartners. However, if you have trouble don't feel bad; it's only solved by about 10% of Stanford graduates.

It is greater than God
It is more evil than Satan
The rich want it
The poor have it
If you eat it you'll die
What is it?

If you can't solve it, ask a kindergartner, or see your friendly editor.

5th Wednesday Dance

As many of you can attest, the 5th Wednesday dance on March 31st at Leigh HS was a whole lot of fun. Eighteen + squares turned out to dance to Gary Carnes, Ken Carroll, and are own Ken Kenmille, and it was great mixing with the other clubs. It had the feel of a very good (and very cheap) hoedown. A highlight, (lowligh?) was Gary's rendition of "Ghost Chickens In The Sky"

The next 5th Wednesday will be June 30th. Details will be available at a later date.

Year In Peril

While browsing through material in the recesses of the Roman Section of the British Museum, a researcher recently came across a tattered bit of parchment. After some effort he translated it and found it was a letter from a man called Plutonium with the title of "magister factorium", or keeper of the calendar, to one Cassius. It was dated, strangely enough, 2 BC, December 3 – about 2000 years ago. The text of the message follows:

Dear Cassius: Are you still working on the Y zero K problem? The change from BC to AD is giving us a lot of headaches and we haven't much time left. I don't know how people will cope with working the wrong way around. Having been working happily downward forever, now we have to start thinking upward. You would think that someone would have thought of it earlier and not left it to us to sort it all out at the last minute.

I spoke to Caesar the other evening. He was livid that Julius hadn't done something about it when he was sorting out the

calendar. He said he could see why Brutus had turned nasty. We called in the consulting astrologers, but they simply said that continuing downward using minus BC won't work. As usual, the consultants charged a fortune for doing nothing useful.

As for myself, I just can't see the sand in the hourglass flowing upward.

We have heard that there are three wise men in the east who have been working on the problem, but unfortunately, they won't arrive until it's all over.

Some say the world will cease to exist at the moment of transition.

We're continuing to work on the Y zero K problem and I'll send you a parchment if anything develops.

Best Regards, Plutonis

Ken's Schedule

April 16-17 California State Convention in Sacramento

May 1 Benefit dance for the Promotion of Square Dancing (with Gary Carnes & Donn Thomson)

May 28-30 Golden State Roundup
Oakland Convention Center

Chris' "Insight Of The Day"

Membership in a club is made up of 4 bones :

- Wishbones spend all their time wishing others would do the work
- Jawbones do nothing but talk
- Knucklebones knock everything that others have done
- Backbones take on the load and get the job completed

WHICH ONE ARE YOU?

1999 OUT OF TOWN SQUARE DANCE FESTIVALS

The Rafter Rocker Board has chosen the following out-of-town square dance festivals as those that we, as a club, will try to support. These festivals feature dancing at all levels, and were picked from a more extensive list compiled by, and available from, Van Symons. We encourage each of you to attend as many of these as you can. They are great fun, the dancing is outstanding, and our attendance will help ensure the continuation of these activities.

DATE	FESTIVAL LOCATION	LEVEL	CALLERS	WAGON MASTER
4/16-18	Sacramento	All	Calif. State	Weber
4/23-25	King City	All	Carnes, Dibble, Letson, Marriner	DePalmo
7/9-11	Watsonville	All	Jacobs, Sikorsky, Wise	Busch
10/8-9	Watsonville	All	Jubilee	?

UPCOMING LOCAL DANCES

As previously mentioned, the weekend festivals are great fun; but we should also take advantage of the excellent dances held right here in our own local area. Check *The Prompter* for listings of these upcoming events. We hope you will attend as many of them as you can. As with the festivals, attendance at these dances is the only way to ensure their continuation.

RAFTER ROCKER DANCE SCHEDULE

Apr	7	Fisher	
Apr	14	Union	
Apr	21	Union	Hard Times Dance
Apr	28	Union	
May	5	Union	
May	12	Union	
May	19	Fisher	Silent Auction
May	26	Union	
June	2	Union	
June	9	Union	
June	16	St. Francis Cabrini	

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