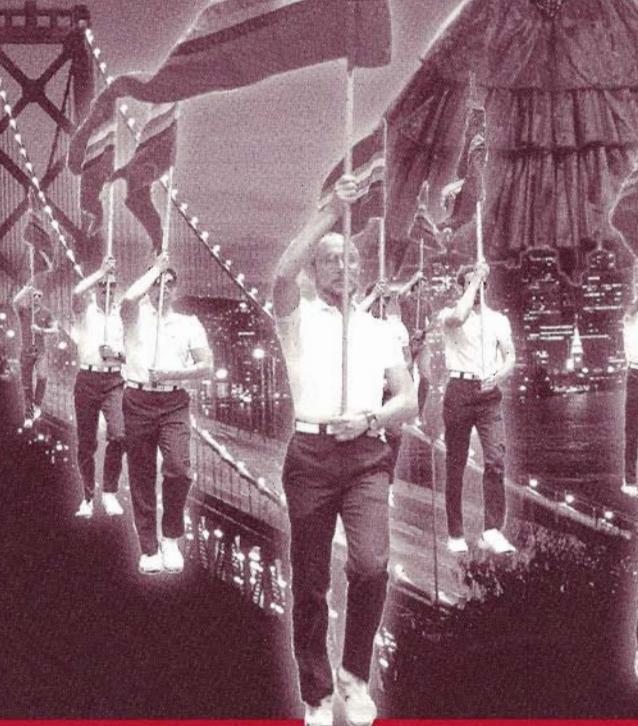
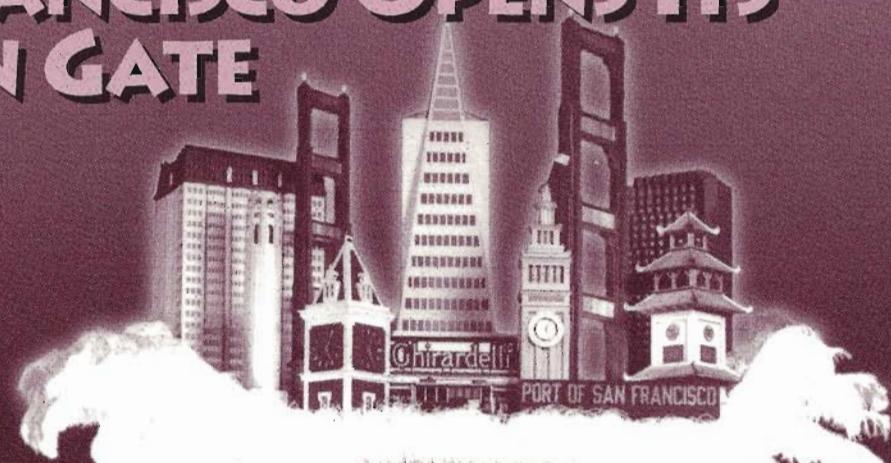


Issue 7 April/May/June 1996 \$4.95

SQUAREUP!

a magazine for gay and lesbian square dancers and their friends

**SAN FRANCISCO OPENS ITS
GOLDEN GATE
FOR
STARS
THARS
AND
CABLE
CARS**



EditorTalk

When you first subscribed to SquareUp, you may have questioned whether such a small publication could make it financially. As editor and sole investor, I've asked that question more often than anyone else. Lately I've been asking it frequently since our current subscription base is short of the amount needed to cover our costs. Advertising revenue has helped bridge the gap, but SquareUp is not completely out of the woods.

As one of our subscribers, I trust that you believe that this publication is important and should continue. SquareUp offers the only regular means of communication we have that is international in scope and exclusively devoted to gay and lesbian square dancing.

Now, the pitch. (You knew it was coming, right?) To continue this endeavor, I need your help. In the past two years, I have sent several promotional mailings to the IAGSDC® clubs. More often than not, I suspect these flyers and subscription forms end up on a table without any fanfare or announcement. Don't get me wrong — I'm not complaining. With the scores of flyers that are mailed to each club, I can't expect more.

I do believe though, that we are capable of bringing in two additional subscribers per club to increase our family of subscribers to the amount needed to keep SquareUp operating in the black (or at least teetering close to that red-black line). So, rather than send out another mass mailing to all IAGSDC® clubs, I would like to do a more personal campaign.

Enclosed in this issue is your subscription renewal form. (Most subscriptions expire with Issue 8, our next issue.) In past years, we have offered a special \$15 rate as an incentive to renew in the months preceding our annual convention. This year, we will offer the same.

But we're also offering something different: an opportunity to bring more people into the SquareUp family. For an additional \$10 (\$25 total), you can renew your subscription and present SquareUp as a gift to a dancer who has not yet subscribed. Or you can split the cost. Arrange it however you like, but I hope you'll take advantage of this offer. As I stated earlier, I need your help to continue publishing SquareUp; take me up on this offer and everyone will benefit.

My thanks to all of you for believing in and supporting SquareUp.

Yellowrocks,

Mike Staples

The Cover: Val Diamond of Beach Blanket Babylon (BBB) with her amazing San Francisco hat; the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence; and, marchers in San Francisco's Gay Pride Parade. BBB photo supplied by Browne, Zukow and Associates. All other photos provided by Steve Browning.

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The Legendary "Cruisin' The Castro" Tour

Walk Around Your Historical Corner with Trevor Hailey

Trevor Hailey is the person you go to see if you want to know about gay and lesbian history in San Francisco. Here are just a few of the questions she can answer for you: What bar was the West Coast equivalent of Stonewall, and where is it located? What is architecturally significant about the buildings at 18th and Castro? Why was the Castro Theatre officially designated an historical landmark, and how does that distinguish the theatre from any other movie house in San Francisco? Before his political office as City Supervisor, what was Harvey Milk's job and where was his place of business? Hey, folks, these are the easy questions!

Most gay San Franciscans probably can't answer these questions either, so as the only tour guide specializing in gay community tours, Trevor Hailey provides a unique and valuable service that becomes more than answering Trivial Pursuit questions. "For people who are gay or lesbian, the tour is a validation; for people who are from alternate lifestyles, it is an education; for everyone, it is an inspiration. At first I thought about giving tours of historical San Francisco in general. But it was a Chinese woman who gave walking tours of San Francisco's Chinatown District who gave me the incentive. I too could do guided tours of my own community where I speak the language and know the shopkeepers. I knew that we had a sizable history, and I found also that few people knew very much about it. Since 1989 I have been trying to fill that gap."

Originally from Jackson, Mississippi, Trevor ended her stint as a Navy nurse in San Francisco. She had seen all of the world she wanted to and knew she had found the perfect home in San Francisco by the Bay. She matriculated



Trevor and entourage across from the landmark Castro Theatre

to San Francisco State to earn her Master's Degree in Recreation. "As I was going home from school, I would see Gray Line buses going down Castro Street. I knew that there were people on those buses whose curiosity went beyond gawking at the queers and who were ready to jump out and walk around. I knew if I could just reach those people, perhaps they might learn something." Next she did the long, hard work of digging for years through the only archives that were then available, and after graduation from San Francisco State, she intensified her efforts even more, putting all of the bits and pieces, oral histories,

and scattered contradictions together.

"Too many people think that the Castro has always been the way it is today. They are not aware that it developed over the course of time, that it was hard won. Older gay folks were just too busy trying to protect themselves at the time to take part in the struggle or to learn much about it. Many younger people simply assume that the Castro sprang full-bloom from a rock." She is happy that today gay heroes like Randy Shilts (*The Mayor of Castro Street*), Vito Russo (*The Celluloid Closet*), Greta Schiller (*Before Stonewall*), and Arthur Dong and Allan Berube (*Coming Out Under*



Cruisin' the Castro with Trevor

Fire), as well as the resources available at the San Francisco Bay Area Gay and Lesbian Historical Society, are obtainable as a concrete legacy of historical documentation that validates where we

have come from. In July of 1989 she began her first tours for gay people, but soon modified her original idea to include straight people as well. "I really feel that there is a market and a need for what I do with the heterosexual population. There are the parents and other family members of gays and lesbians. There are straight people whose friends and colleagues are gay or lesbian. There are the curious tourists who have a right to be curious. I have even had four straight newlywed couples who have taken my tour on their honeymoons!" She recalls one incident that confirmed her theory even further. "There was one middle-aged woman on a business trip who took the tour simply because she wanted to do something interesting

and unique in San Francisco. The tour was such a positive experience for her that she wanted to help out in some way. When we visited the NAMES Project, home of the AIDS quilt, she pulled out her checkbook and wrote a sizable check. She even copied their wish list to see what she could contribute when she returned home. I felt real good about that. I felt like in some small way we had connected, and we had done something to bridge the gap that so often exists between our two diverse groups. I learned as much as she did that day."

Being Southern, Trevor has developed her innate talent for rich storytelling, therefore she disdains dry facts in favor of lively anecdotes and crackling entertainment. With a distinctive voice in the range between Vivian Leigh's Scarlett O'Hara and Tom Waits, Trevor brings history to life, boasting that she "never met a stranger." One Southern tourist on the Castro tour reported back to her

Weatherwise in San Francisco

When New York is hot, San Francisco is not. Or hardly ever. If the mercury rises above 75, the locals complain of a heat wave and completely lose their cool. If it stays there for more than two days, they peer feverishly seaward. And, sure enough, there it comes, trumpeted by a flourish of foghorns!

San Francisco's automatic air conditioning is created by a unique combination of waters, winds and topography. During much of the summer a great fog bank hugs the cold currents off the Northern California coast. In the Central Valley the temperatures soar to 100 or more. Because air always travels from cooler to warmer surfaces, the mist moves toward the mountainous shore. Denied access



The view from Alamo Square

along a nearly 600-mile front, it thrusts through the continental wall at the mouth of San Francisco Bay. As the land cools, the vapor dissipates.

On a typical dawn in July or August, San Francisco lies blanketed in its cool comforter. The unwary out-of-towner looks out of

his hotel window and reaches for a heavy coat, if he happened to bring one. But he will be deceived. For soon the fog begins to break up over the East Bay and fade to translucence around Fisherman's Wharf, Telegraph Hill and the financial district. By noon the city is basking in bright sunlight.

So the nonplussed newcomer switches to resort-wear and is seen shivering from site to site at dusk when the capricious fog comes back.

As the San Francisco Convention & Visitors Bureau points out in its Lodging Guide, "Visitors are most comfortable with a light jacket or coat handy, or in a suit. An all-weather coat will take the chill off cool evenings. Lightweight summer clothes are seldom practical in San Francisco. Bring comfortable walking shoes."

Here are some other pointers about this congenial spot whose climate seems custom-made in Camelot. Fall is the warmest season. The foghorns moan the most in July, August and September. A summer overcast rarely portends rain. The Golden Gate is never dulled by snow.
—Reprinted with permission, San Francisco Convention & Visitors Bureau

hometown newspaper, *The Tucker Times*, that "Trevor can talk about paint drying and make it sound interesting." The interest Trevor takes in her clients is sincere, and she has developed a personal rapport with people across the United States, Europe, Australia, North and South America, and Asia. One Dutch newspaper devoted one full page to her tour. "Even if people don't understand every word I say, they pick up the positive vibes, feel the spirit, and somehow connect to our universal history." Trevor proudly maintains files and files, and album upon album of letters and photos she has kept as gifts from her admirers. She and her tour have been broadcast on the BBC, CNN, and on shows in Denmark and Japan. As such, the tour continues to keep reinventing itself as new questions come and new answers appear, as current gay and lesbian history changes, and as the word spreads globally that "we're here and we're queer."

High praise indeed came from one gay man, Rick Miller of Northfield, Minnesota, who expressed, "I cannot recommend Trevor's tour too highly. It becomes at times an emotional experience as she explains the history of this gay homeland. I am not Jewish, but I felt some emotions akin to what I imagine Jews might feel when visiting Israel. There are other cities with gay districts, and I do not undervalue the importance of such places as the site of the Stonewall Riots in our history. But the Castro is alive and growing and occupies a unique place in gay history and culture."

"I am convinced that the Castro has the gayest four corners on Earth," Trevor says proudly.

Trevor Hailey's walking tour, "Cruisin' the Castro," covers gay and lesbian life in San Francisco from the 1849 California Gold Rush to the impact of AIDS and the current political climate. The tour lasts approximately 3.5 hours and includes brunch at the Castro's premiere garden restaurant Caffe Luna Piena. Trevor also knows most of the shop owners, business leaders, and many of the residents, so she can help you find just what you're looking for while you're in San Francisco. Reservations are required as the



Trevor with a happy customer

tour is limited to 16 persons, with a 4-person minimum. Write or call for reservations or a brochure:

Trevor Hailey, 375 Lexington Street,

San Francisco, CA 94110; or telephone (415) 550-8110. Rest assured, Gray Line never provided a tour like this!

—DAN ROBUCK WITH TREVOR HAILEY

Beach Blanket Babylon

Steve Silver's BEACH BLANKET BABYLON premiered at the Savoy Tivoli in San Francisco's North Beach, June 1974. The show, a zany musical spoof of pop culture with extravagant costumes and outrageously huge hats, was immediately so popular that it moved to larger quarters at Club Fugazi, a North Beach landmark, where it eventually found a permanent home.

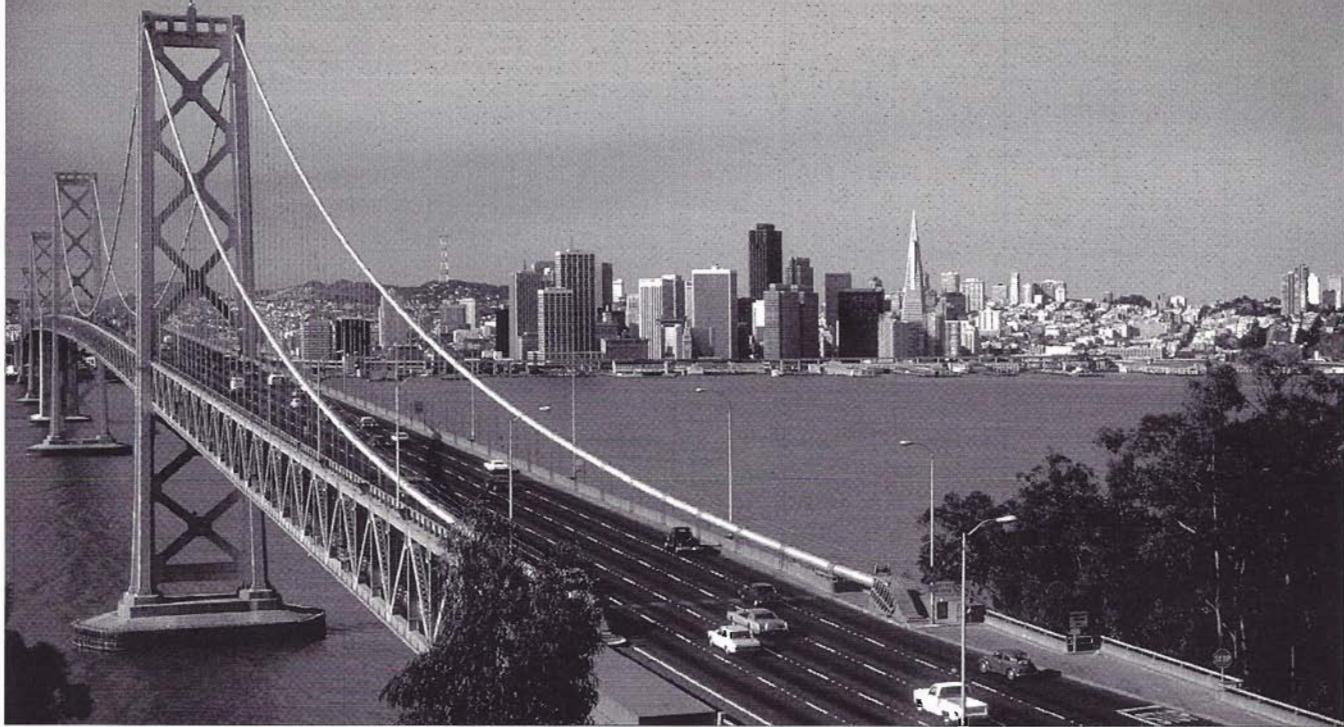
Now in its 22nd year of sold-out performances, BEACH BLANKET BABYLON is an internationally acclaimed San Francisco institution. BEACH BLANKET BABYLON is the longest running, biggest hit musical revue in theatre history; it surpassed the "Ziegfeld Follies" record in 1984 and gave its 7,547th performance December 31, 1994.

Highlights of BBB's eventful history include a performance before Queen Elizabeth and Prince Phillip, an invitation to the White House by President Reagan, a successful 18-month run in Las Vegas, the broadcast of the finale to the Soviet Union, an appearance with the San Francisco Opera (with the largest hat ever to appear on stage), and an appearance on the Academy Awards (with the largest hat ever to appear on television).

BEACH BLANKET BABYLON continually evolves in its hilarious parodies of popular icons, updating its targets and adding new characters, songs and send-ups every year.

—Text and photo supplied by Browne, Zukow and Associates.





My Summer Vacation in S.F.

You've arrived in San Francisco ready to dance your crinolines to shreds, but when the dance is not on, the City beckons. There is much to see and do, both inside and outside the usual tourist haunts. Newcomers, seasoned travelers, and residents will find that time spent in any of the city districts will provide a gay adventure.

The Financial District – Open Your Golden Gate.

The Hyatt Regency is located at the tip of the commercial and financial hub of San Francisco. Right behind Justin Herman Plaza and the still controversial Vaillancourt Fountain is the world famous clock tower of the Fairy—oops—Ferry Building, through which 100,000 people passed daily before the Golden Gate or Bay Bridges were built. There is nothing to see inside the Ferry Building, so use your time instead to shop the Embarcadero Center or walk to the Transamerica Pyramid, the tallest building in San Francisco with an observation deck on the 27th floor that looks northward.

Art lovers will want to either walk

or catch a cab to the Yerba Buena Gardens and the Museum of Modern Art (SFMOMA) at 151 Third Street. For architecture freaks who have already thrilled to the Transamerica Pyramid, wait until you see this one. Everyone has his or her own way of describing SFMOMA as an eye, a sundial, or (my favorite) "a slinky in mid-slink." The art deco gray and black atrium is a must see. Be forewarned: this will be crowded and there will be a line, but you will talk about the art inside all the way home. Photography buffs will find the Ansel Adams Center for Photography here.

Chinatown – Grant Avenue, San Francisco, U.S.A.

A few blocks from the Hyatt Embarcadero is California Street, one of the three cable car routes. Much overrated, if you ride the cable to Grant Avenue, you will actually be in the center of Chinatown. This is a great place for good, healthy, cheap food, great shopping, and lots of atmosphere and history. Whether you are looking for great inexpensive souvenirs or perfect fresh water pearls, jade or fortune cookies, Chinatown is a unique adventure. By

the way, this area is very, very congested so don't even think of driving through this part of town.

North Beach – Hello Frisco, Hello.

You won't find little Alice Faye in any of the strip joints or sleazy straight bars that make up North Beach, but if you would like to see a little gay history, turn right on Broadway as you leave Grant Avenue's Chinatown and walk one block down to Columbus Avenue. To your right is City Lights Bookstore, poet Lawrence Ferlinghetti's hangout for the original "beats"—Jack Kerouac, Allen Ginsberg, Dianne Di Primo, Harold Norse, and Frank O'Hara. This was the first all-paperback bookstore in America and the gayest spot in North Beach. If Chinese food was not your menu of choice in Chinatown, North Beach is the home of Italian-American culture with some of the most authentic Italian food in the city.

Food and San Francisco are synonymous. Being on the Pacific Ocean, San Francisco prides itself on fresh catch daily, most of which is very inexpensive. San Francisco is ethnically diverse and you can sample any cuisine imaginable in this very cosmopolitan city. Certain dishes originated in San Francisco though — clam chowder in a

San Francisco sourdough bread bowl; crab cioppino (an Italian tomato-based, shellfish and fish stew); California fruit salad (freshly picked daily from local orchards), Hangtown fry (breaded oysters and bacon in an omelet); Petrale sole (a local sole so delicate that it melts like butter in your mouth); "It's It" (an original San Francisco ice cream sandwich made with oatmeal cookies and dipped several times in thick chocolate); and Ghirardelli chocolate (one of a kind).

The Castro — Hello, Girlfriend!

Little needs to be said about the Castro. For some it is Mecca, for others it is Sodom, for yet others it is Heaven. You can go there and bathe in the homey security of being with people of like minds. For a true view of the Castro and gay life in San Francisco in general though, you owe it to yourself to take Trevor Hailey's "Cruisin' the Castro" tour (see related article).

Fisherman's Wharf and Union Square — Zzzzz.

Voted the most overrated tourist trap in San Francisco, shopping is too expensive and tacky, food is overpriced and flavorless, atmosphere is commercial and forgettable. If you must see Fisherman's Wharf, go in the morning when the fishing fleet is preparing to sail and the crowds of tourists haven't smothered the streets.

The second most overrated tourist trap is Union Square, named for the Union rallies that were held there during the War Between the States. The contradiction of Union Square is that transients and homeless make up the majority of this area's population as they sit in front of Sak's Fifth Avenue, Macy's, Neiman-Marcus, or the multitude of snobbish hotels, such as the famous St. Francis.

From Fisherman's Wharf, take the Powell Street cable car up the hill and you will arrive at two of the grandes dames of the travel set, The Mark

Hopkins Hotel and the Fairmont Hotel. The Mark Hopkins has a sky bar, The Top of the Mark, that offers one of the most spectacular views of the city but at the price is high and there is a dress code.

If you have gotten this much of the City into your agenda, you could go home happy, but if you want to see "the other San Francisco" and a rounded picture of its diversity, here are a few more paths to take.

Haight Ashbury — Be Sure To Wear Flowers in Your Hair.

When Scott McKenzie sang those lines in 1970, the sexual revolution was at its peak, the word *hippie* entered the dictionary, and *dropping out* involved bell bottom trousers, marijuana, love beads, protest buttons, tye-dye and finding nirvana. Today little is left of that period in history and the streets are filled with a new breed of angrier revolutionaries from punks to neo-Nazis. The Haight is actually one very steep hill

San Francisco Don'ts

Reams have been written about San Francisco. Most travel pieces particularize about things to do in this ebullient city — i.e., ride a cable car, walk across the Pacific on the Golden Gate Bridge, sip jasmine tea in the Japanese Tea Garden, take a bay cruise, etc.

Here, for a change, are some San Francisco don'ts.

Don't pack a tropical wardrobe; the mercury hovers around 60 degrees even in the summer.

Don't park on a hill or even a slope without cramping your wheels to the curb, setting the hand brake and putting the car in parking gear; it's the law.

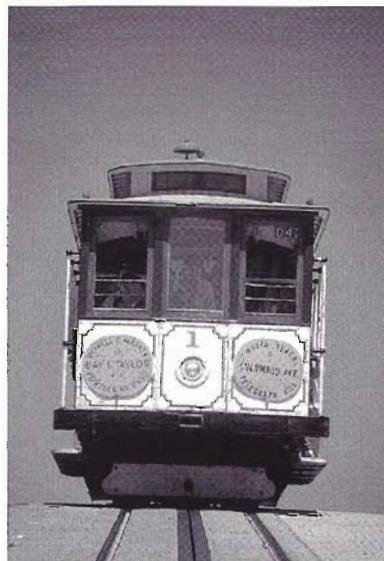
Don't wear a bathing suit to North Beach; it's the cafe-studded Italian quarter.

Don't stand directly behind a cable car gripman; you'll get the wind knocked out of you when he jerks back on the brake lever.

Don't plan to diet; this place is the weight-watchers' Waterloo.

Don't take the outside elevator to the top of the Fairmont Hotel if you suffer from acrophobia; there's an inside lift to The Crown. (Acrophobics enroute to the top of the Westin St. Francis are advised to close their eyes.)

Don't call cable cars "trolleys;" they're powered by the moving steel cable you hear humming in the slot beneath your feet.



Cable Cars, not "Trolleys"

Don't pop for an imported vintage; you're in the capital of the California wine country.

Don't plan to go swimming in San Francisco Bay unless you're a member in good standing of the Polar Bear Club.

Don't board a public conveyance without exact fare; the drivers don't make change.

Don't refer to "The Mark" as "The Hopkins."

Don't pronounce Ghirardelli with a soft G; the Square's named for a chocolate manufacturer whose old-time trademark was a pedagogical parrot prompting: "Say GEAR'-ar-delley."

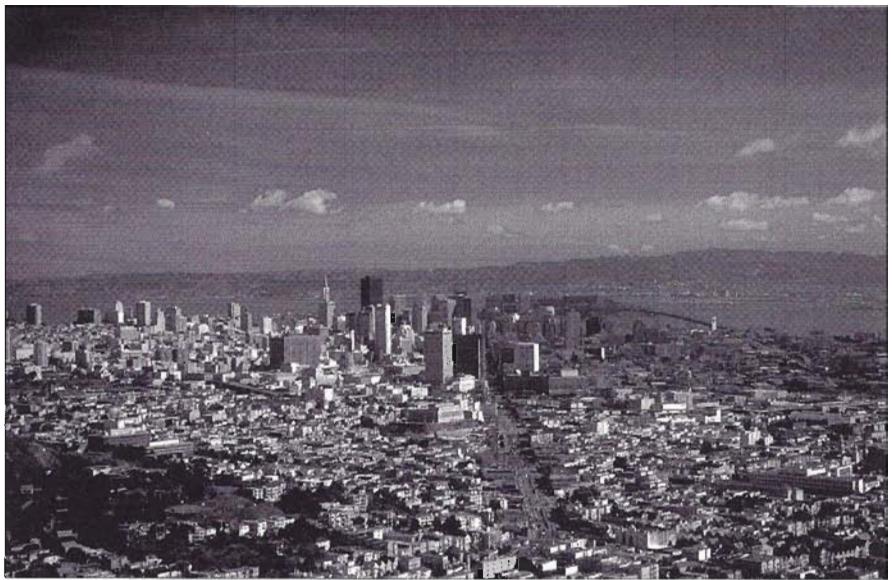
Don't be surprised if you're socked in one minute and can see forever the next; the coastal mists are capricious.

Don't color the bridge over the Golden Gate gold; it's red-orange.

Don't tell a San Franciscan your favorite city is Los Angeles.

Above all, don't call it "Frisco."

—Reprinted with permission, San Francisco Convention & Visitors Bureau



San Francisco – from Twin Peaks



Golden Gate Bridge – from Ft. Point Road

over the Castro area, and along the way are some of the most beautiful Victorian houses in San Francisco, the so-called "Painted Ladies." They alone are worth the trip.

Golden Gate Park – Where Bowers of Flowers Bloom.

Here is one of the treasures of San Francisco and actually worth an entire day if you can afford the time. The Park is a massive stretch of greenery that spreads from the Pacific Ocean to Downtown. It is romantic, peaceful, and looks like some gay queen went wild on steroids to make every plant, tree, path,

statue, and museum absolute perfection...all year long!

The Golden Gate Bridge must be the number one attraction for tourists. Only a queen would have painted the third-largest single-span bridge this color. You may not like it, but you can't miss it, and walking across it is even more spectacular.

The Park itself holds four major cultural halls. The M.H. de Young Museum holds the city's fine collection of American classical, Pre-Columbian, Oceanic and African art. Attached to it is the incredible home of the Brundage Asian Art Collection, the Asian Art Museum, with large collections from

all Asian nations. Across the street is the California Academy of Sciences, which holds spectacular dioramas of wildlife, the Morrison Planetarium, the Steinhart Aquarium, the Hall of Gems and Minerals, and SafeQuake, which allows you to experience a real 6.8 earthquake beneath your feet without getting hurt. For something far more meditative, cross the street again to the Japanese Tea Gardens with their famous Moon Bridge, gorgeous botany, and yes, tea in a real Japanese tea house.

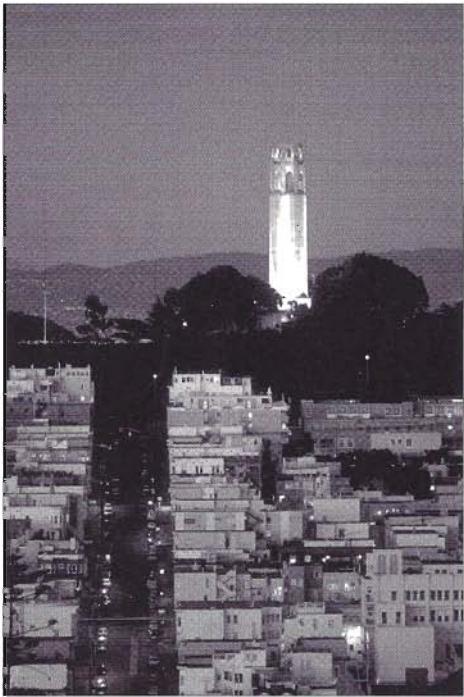
For serious art lovers you must take a journey to the far end of the Park where the Palace of the Legion of Honor stores eight centuries of classical art masterpieces. Rodin's original bronze of *The Thinker* is here, and several of Monet's waterlilies. There are also well-known portraits by Rembrandt, Van Gogh, and 70 more statues by Rodin. Outside the building is Lincoln Park with more spectacular west side views of San Francisco and the Pacific Ocean.

Farther out yet is the World Famous Cliff House, a fine restaurant indeed, built on a cliff and overlooking the Pacific Ocean. If you are lucky, the seals will be sunning and sleeping on Seal Rock below you, always an entertaining sight. To the right is the Musee Mechanique, a museum of turn-of-the-century toys in a hands-on exhibit, and the Camera Obscura on the lower level. You'll feel like a kid again. And there is always Land's End, legendary gay cruise spot for decades, but now too well-patrolled to recapture the old days.

Notice the windmills next to the San Francisco Zoo, now famous for its attention to the safety of endangered species, including snow leopards, condors, gorillas, and pandas. The true tourist spot at the zoo has to be Monkey Island though. Yes, they do look like they imitate us.

The Mission District – La Casa de San Francisco.

The Mission District is truly Latino and Hispanic, non-touristy, resplendent with the City's most colorful and beautiful wall murals. The area around Valencia Street is where many lesbians have chosen to reside and where some



Coit Tower – Telegraph Hill

lesbians have set up retail stores. Here also is the Women's Building at 3543 18th Street, a resource for women's community events, hotlines, and visitor information.

Only because it has been in so many motion pictures, a must see is Mission Dolores, which not only gives you a flavor of early California history, but of the influence of the Roman Catholic Church on the founding of San Francisco. The gardens are beauti-

ful and the baroque architecture is awe-inspiring.

Outside S.F. – Do You Know The Way to San Jose?

If you're planning on renting a car, why not take one of the many fine day trips outside of San Francisco? As long as you do not travel during rush hours, freeways are well-paved and quick to get you to another side of California. Your best bet would be to do some homework before arriving via guide books, a phone call to the San Francisco Convention and Visitor's Bureau, or talking to one of the San Francisco residents. Any of these day trips would be a special addendum to a perfect weekend:

- A tour of the Napa Wine Country will take you to 273 wineries, hot springs and spas, and even hot air balloon rides over Northern California.
- A drive up Highway One is for the true nature lover. From San Francisco travel north through the redwood forests (the oldest living thing on earth), past Bodega Bay (a seaside resort where Alfred Hitchcock filmed "The Birds"), and with a short jaunt to your right, Guerneville, which is the home to numerous gay inns, bars, and resorts in the heart of ancient forests.
- For a longer trip, the Monterey Bay Aquarium, as well as the romantic



Edward Coleman House

towns of Monterey and Carmel-by-the-Sea, couldn't be more exciting. The areas are gay friendly, relatively inexpensive and highly memorable.

No matter what you choose to do in and around San Francisco, even if you only walk three or four blocks from the hotel, you will see the uniqueness of the City, and without a doubt will start planning your next trip to the West Coast.

—DAN ROBUCK

Corrections

In our introduction of Paul Waters in the last issue, we may have inadvertently created the impression that Paul was the club caller for every Los Angeles area IAGSDC® club. This is not the case and we regret the error.

We credited John Paul with creating the cover for Issue 6. Anyone who knows John's work (see this issue's cover) probably recognized that he would not have designed something so awful. Credit or blame your editor for that one!

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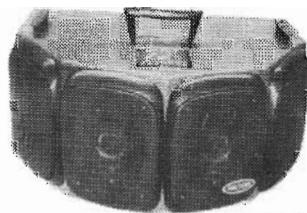
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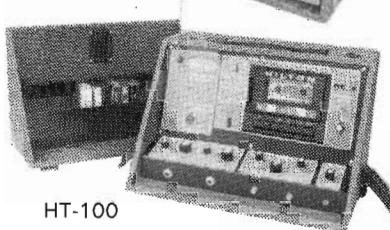
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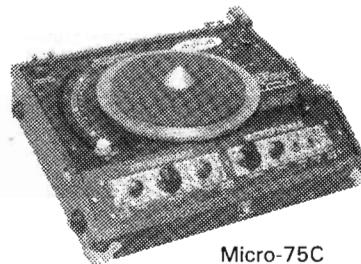
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M

y only hope for building a bigger and better square dance club was to learn how to effectively plan my recruiting. The Cheshire Cat had pointed me in the direction of the Red Queen. He said that she could teach me some of the basics for creating an effective plan.

I soon came upon some dense woods. A dark cloud of despair descended over me. I was lost. I would never be able to find the Red Queen. Suddenly there was a rustling in the bushes, and out popped the White Rabbit with the leather vest, who I had first met on the shores of Lake Michigan. "Recruit! Recruit!" he cried.

He darted back into the bushes and I followed him.

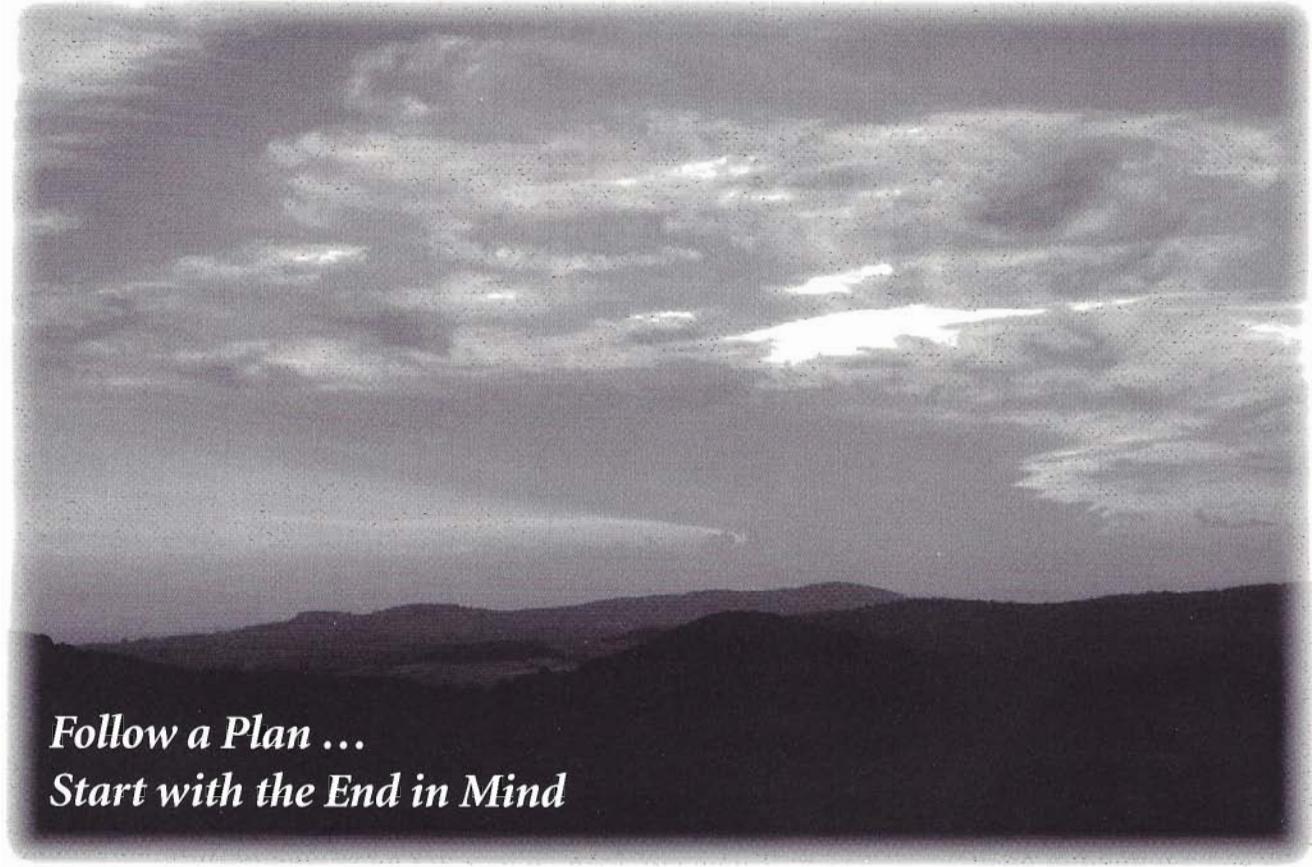
I emerged on the other side to find myself standing in a beautiful garden, with a weeping willow bowed over a lily pond, shrubs, fountains and a huge triangular bed of shocking pink pansies. In the centre of the garden, a rather grand woman sat inside a gazebo, busily scribbling onto a notepad, then turning to flutter her jungle red nails over the keys of her laptop. The woman wore an absolute froth of bright red crinolines — enough, in fact, to survive a suicide leap into the Grand Canyon — and her makeup, trucked in from the Revlon factory, had been delicately trowelled onto her face, giving her the appearance of being a bricklayer in drag. I knew that this must be the Red Queen.

I nervously sidled up to her and cleared my throat, hoping to get her attention.

Bylan Henzel



Adventures in Recruitingland, Part II



Follow a Plan ... Start with the End in Mind

"Oh good, you're here," she said, "Please review this list of gay organizations. Check off each one you think we should target with a mailing. Dahhhling! Just do what you think is correct, I am giving you full ownership of this project."

"Oh but ..." I stuttered, "I'm here to learn about planning. The Cheshire Cat told me to come and see you. I want my square dance club to grow. I don't want to square dance all alone."

"Impossible! How can you square dance alone!? ... Just a moment." The Red Queen opened her purse, pulled out a cellular phone and punched in some numbers. "Is that you, Cheshire?" she asked, "And turn down the Barbara Streisand CD, I can't hear a word you're saying. That's better. So he doesn't know a thing about planning ... I see ... I see ... I see ... So I'm going to have my work cut out. Well, I'll do my best. See you at the dance later, sweetie. Save a tip for me!"

The Red Queen snapped her phone closed, then turned back to me, "Pull up a chair, dahhhling! We need to talk. Now, tell me, how have you been recruiting new members into your club?"

"I hand out cards in bars and at the Gay Pride Parade. Sometimes, people write to us, and ..." my voice trailed away, as I noticed the incredulous look on the Red Queen's face.

"Hmmm!" she said, "A smidge disorganized, I would say!

Let me ask you this, when you take an overseas vacation, what's one of the first things you do?"

"Buy condoms," I said.

"Not quite the answer I was hoping for," said the Red Queen, "But I can work with that. Why do you buy condoms?"

"Because you have to plan ahead and be prepared," I answered.

"Exactly!" she shrieked, clapping her hands together, "You need to be prepared, and not leave anything to chance."

"I don't understand," I said, shaking my head, "What does this have to do with recruiting?"

"My, my, my," sighed the Red Queen, "You are a very sweet, if somewhat dense young man, aren't you? Now answer me this: When you are driving to a new town, what do you do first?"

"I get myself a road map," I answered.

The Red Queen clapped her hands again, "Now, we're getting somewhere."

"... And some condoms," I added.

"I can see we are developing a bit of a theme here," muttered the Queen, "So you get yourself a map and plan your route. You plan your starting point, your ending point, and all the roads you will take in between. Well, recruiting is exactly the same!"

"I need a map?"

"In a way, but I call it a plan. You need to write a plan which will lay out all the steps you will take to reach your recruiting goal."

"I'm lost," I said. "How do I even start?"

"If you're lost, then the best thing to do is to figure out where you are, where you are going and where you want to be. I call this, **Start With the End in Mind**. Sit down and count the number of members in your club, then decide how many new members you want to add to your club with the next recruiting drive. You also have to factor in how many members you expect to lose from your club." The Red Queen picked up a paper cup and poked a hole in the bottom of it with a pencil. She then poured water into the cup ... the cup filled, but some water began to leak out of the bottom. "Your club is like this cup," the Queen continued, "You have a hole in the bottom and you always will. You might make the hole smaller, but I doubt very much if you will ever plug it up. Therefore you have to make sure that you are bringing new members into your club at a rate that is at least equal to, if not greater than, the rate you are losing members."

"That's all very well," I said, "But not everyone who starts one of our beginners' classes finishes. It seems like about forty percent drop out."

"Excellent!" shrieked the Red Queen, "A man after my own heart! A man of facts and figures and statistics! So, what does that tell you?"

"If I start with the end in mind, then I should first plan how many people I want to graduate from the beginners' class, allowing for a drop out rate, and then work backwards to how many people I need to recruit. I should also count how many members dropped out of the club last year, and plan to replace them, and perhaps even try to recruit 10% more."

"You are leaving out one thing," cautioned the Queen, "Your mailing list. You should figure that from the whole mailing list, you will only be able to get 10% to try one of your classes. Therefore, if you want to add 10 new members to your club, you need to convince at least 18 people to try out your classes, and that means you need a mailing list of at least 180 names. Tea?"

The Red Queen rang a bell, and a young man appeared carrying a tray with a teapot and two cups and saucers. He was wearing Calvin Kleins, a black bow tie, and a smile on his face, "Thank you, Philip! I'll pour." The young man disappeared, "Isn't he lovely," said the Red Queen, winking, "I picked him up at the local hardware store. I gave him a helping hand in the lampshade department. Anyway, where was I? Oh yes! Do you know why you need a mailing list?"

"I suppose it will give me control," I answered, "It will be easier for me to communicate with prospective members,

send out notices and flyers, and it will also help me to figure out where I am in my plan towards reaching my goal."

"Perfect! You are well on your way toward becoming a recruiting expert!" The Queen poured two cups of tea, "But that is only the first step. What else do you need to do?"

"I need to decide what roads I'm going to take to reach my goal?"

"Oh how clever! Yes, you need to lay out all of your steps. You need to plan where you are going to recruit people and how many you expect to get from each recruiting activity. A subset of the overall recruiting plan needs to be an activity plan. Actually, there are many subsets, but we'll get into that later."

"How do I create an activity subset? Do I need a special computer program?"

"No, you silly man! A computer helps, but a pencil and paper works just as well! Read this." The Red Queen handed me a sheet of paper. "This short guide will help you create your activity plan."

I read the list out loud:

1. Look for activities in your community calendar where you might be able to do demonstration dancing.
2. Make a list of organizations in your area. Decide how you will approach them and their membership. Have prepared recruiting articles ready that they can run in their newsletters. Offer to visit them at their social events and do special demo tips. Create flyers that they can hand out or include in their mailings.
3. Team up with local bars or businesses. Decide if there are opportunities for demo tips or some other promotional activities.
4. Think about ways of creating your own events, perhaps in public spaces where you can dance and attract prospective members.
5. Work with the local newspapers, radio and television to get your word out.
6. Project the number of prospective member names you plan to get from each of your activities.
7. Decide what your message is to be for each activity.
8. Write it all down on paper!

"The last point is very important," stressed the Red Queen, "You simply *must* write it all down. That way you

will have a road map in place. You'll be able to monitor your progress, have a written record to pass on to others who follow you in recruiting and, knowing your route, you will be better able to veer off course should you need to make changes."

"It all seems a little overwhelming," I said, "I mean, I don't think I can do all this by myself."

"Of course you can't! You must enlist others to help you."

"But I've tried that! I've put articles in the club newsletter, but no one ever volunteers."

"So, what does that tell you?" asked the Red Queen.

"It tells me that I should try something different."

"Exactly! Not everything you do will work, so if it doesn't, try something else. Have you thought about handing out flyers at dances or classes? Have you thought about approaching each club member one on one to solicit their help? Put yourself in control! An article in your club newsletter is fine, but not as your only tactic. That makes you too passive, become more active! You'll be surprised at what a difference it will make!"

"OK," I said, "So I have to start with the end in mind, by projecting how many new members I want to add to the club, and then work backwards into how large a mailing list I need to build. I also need to write down a plan comprised of each activity that we are going to do to recruit new members. I also have to think about directly approaching other club members to help me. Is that all I need to know?"

"Heavens no!" laughed the Red Queen. "Do you remember I mentioned that the overall recruiting plan was comprised of several subsets? Well dahhhling, we have only just begun! You still have to define your message; that is, what you want prospective members to know about you. Who your club is, and what it has to offer. And what sort of recruiting materials. You also have to plan how you are going to communicate with prospective members ... and learn about those divine metrics, that is how to track and measure your success ... how to use what you learn this year to help you next year."

"Can you teach me all those things?" I asked.

"I could. But I think it is best you hear it from the experts. I want you to visit the Mad Hatter at his special marketing think-tank. He and his staff can better advise you."

"How do I find him?"

"Do I have to tell you everything!" shrieked the Red Queen. Then calming down, she said, "Well, you've got a choice. You can either wander about aimlessly, or you could follow a plan. Remember what I told you, **Start With The End In Mind**. Now go and find the Mad Hatter."

As I pushed my way back through the bushes, I heard the Red Queen call out, "Philip! I'm very hungry. I need something warm inside of me ... toast me a crumpet, sweetie!"

Stay tuned for more of "Adventures in Recruitingland" in our next issue.

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The Square PLANET



Dive Thru Long Beach, hosted by Golden State Squares and Tinseltown Squares February 16 through the 18 attracted over 150 dancers from northern and southern California and as far away as Washington DC. The IAGSDC® clubs visiting included: Capital City Squares, DC Lambda Squares, El Camino Reelers, Finest City Squares, Foggy City Dancers, Midnight Squares, Rosetown Ramblers, Royalty Squares and The Wilde Bunch. The fly-in also attracted many friends and supporters from local straight clubs such as Pioneer 8s, The Sierra Hillbillies, Stanford Quads and the Honeycomber Club.

This co-sponsored event marked the 10th anniversary of Golden State and the 9th anniversary of Tinseltown in providing square dance opportunities for the gay and lesbian community. The fly-in committee, coordinated by Ted Kerkelis (Tinseltown) and Marty Dee (Golden State), provided dancers with three days of three callers in three dance halls at the historic Ebell of Long Beach. Perhaps the fly-in should have been dubbed Triple Play!

Anne Uebelacker, Robert French and CJ Smith provided over 27 hours of Mainstream, Plus, advanced (A2) and challenge (C1) dancing and workshops over the weekend. This fly-in format allowed dancing for everyone at their chosen level without anyone sitting out more than one tip! Workshops were geared for newer dancers and

those long-time veterans alike.

A special effort was made to welcome the newest group of dancers in southern California. A fourth hall was set up Saturday afternoon, and Paul Waters brought class members from his Simi Valley mainstream class to the fly-in. He called a class level workshop and the visitors joined us for dinner and anniversary cake. The Moonshine Dancers entered stage left for a tip Saturday afternoon on stage of an 850 seat 1920s theater. As usual, the curtain was drawn, house lights were off and the audience was kept in the dark.

The weekend included a fabulous catered dinner and quick access to the beach and nightlife in Long Beach. A special recognition was made to the past presidents and founding members of Golden State in attendance: Al Alfaro (1991-1993 president), Peter Barbour (1993-1994 president), Kathy Yhip and Laura Green (1994-1995 co-presidents) and Mark Halley (club member since 1987). Bill Hartley, the clubs only founding member who continues to dance with Golden State was out of town.

Marty Dee, current club president, also introduced and presented diplomas and badges to 14 mainstream class graduates (4 class member graduates were unable to attend). Congratulations Golden State and Tinseltown! I'm looking forward to celebrating

Tinseltown's 10th next year (February 14-16, 1997) in the same grand style.
[Peter Barbour]

The initial class of the Big D Long-horns club graduated with not one, but two dances! At the first, our instructor caller and his wife brought along some straight couples from a local club to dance with us. Naturally, our guys flipped when they got a glimpse of those crinolines and dresses. In fact, the ladies brought enough to share, so everyone got to try out the "pette" experience. Since then we've been invited to dance with Rebel Rousers (a local straight club) and we've been contacted by NorTex, the local square and round dance association (50 member clubs).

Our second dance on February 25 featured two Bills—Bill Richardson, our instructor, and Bill Eyler, who "just happened" to be visiting Dallas that weekend. (Are we lucky, or what?) Badges were handed out, several "tests" were devised for the graduating class, and (of course) a great time was had by all who attended. Many thanks to the folks who e-mailed graduation suggestions.

Our current membership stands at twenty folks, so we're planning another series of lessons to start in May. We currently dance on Sunday afternoon at the Desert Moon bar, 5039 Willis Ave in Dallas. However, we're exploring other locations and times, so please call



Photo: Peter Barbour

Golden State & Tinseltown host
Anne Uebelacker, Rob French & CJ Smith,
Feb 16-18, 1996 at Dive Thru Long Beach

first if you're in the area for more current information. Our voice mail number is (214) 521-5342 x272. We hope to meet you in San Francisco!

[Kris Anderson]

The second "HIGH SPIRITED" Womens' International Convention went smoothly. Everyone had a great time hoppin' to Anne's expert choreography. Next year we will have a little different format at *Join Hands & Circle Right* with Anne, Saundra Bryant and Dvorah Dnali. We hope this will keep the dancers on their toes and wanting more, more and more of the good stuff. Anne will also be conducting a seminar for women callers. We hope to be triple our attendance next year and are currently looking for a new hotel to accommodate all the dancers. Remember early registration gives everyone a better deal. [Dvorah Dnali]

Although Ian Henzel's intent in documenting his recruitment techniques has been to make them available to the other gay square dance clubs, his efforts have not gone unnoticed by the square dance community at large. The SD-Callers Internet newsgroup has been a forum for many lively square dance topics, one of which is the age old question of how to attract new dancers into the activity. It was during one of these discussions that Paul Waters posted that all of the ideas that were being bandied about with respect to national spokespersons, corporate sponsors and tie ins with local merchants sounded too much like asking someone else to fix the problem for us, and the real solution already exists in the form of Ian's work. The post stated that there was no reason to continue the discussion — just hire Ian to conduct a seminar, learn what he has to teach, and then implement the plan...full stop, halt...period ...end of paragraph...end of chapter... done.

As a consequence of this discussion, square dancers far and wide have contacted Ian via e-mail and by phone to get more information. And as of the writing, Ian has booked his first paid job to do a six hour seminar for three square dance groups in the St. Louis area. [Paul Waters]

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Home, Home on the Internet...

This picture—much nicer in color—comes from Finest City Squares home page.



IAGSDC® club home pages:

- | | |
|---|---|
| Big D Longhorns | http://pages.prodigy.com/TX/krispy/krispy.html |
| Capital City Squares | http://www.ptown.com/users/ccs/ |
| Chi-Town Squares | http://www.mcs.net/~jdpope/ctshomep.html |
| Cleveland City County Dancers | http://cc.yzu.edu/~doug/WSD/ccc.html |
| DC Lambda Squares | http://access.digex.net/~thom/dcls/ |
| Dairyland Rainbow Squares | http://tps.stdorg.wisc.edu/MGLRC/Groups/DairylandRainbowSquares.html |
| Diablo Dancers | http://webcom.com/~benny/diablo/dd.html |
| El Camino Reelers | http://www.glyphic.com/ecr/ |
| Finest City Squares | http://www.lanz.com/finestcity/ |
| Golden State Squares | http://www.lanz.com/golden/ |
| Independence Squares | http://astro.ocis.temple.edu/~tomfeke/indsq.html |
| Prime 8's | http://www.ptown.com/users/ccs/p8homep.htm |
| Rainbow Wranglers | http://www.efn.org/~richard/index2.html |
| Rocket City Rainbows | http://fly.hiwaay.net/~droberts/rainbow/ |
| Rosetown Ramblers | http://www.teleport.com/~samc/GAY/roset.html |
| Times Squares | http://www.glyphic.com/iagsdc/TS.html |
| Toronto Triangle Squares | http://www.glyphic.com/iagsdc/Toronto.html |
| | |
| IAGSDC® home page | http://www.glyphic.com/iagsdc/ |
| Stars Thars and Cable Cars | http://www.glyphic.com/stcc/home.html |
| Western Square Dance page | http://suif.stanford.edu/~rfrench/wsd/ |
| Lynette Bellini's Challenge Square Dance page | http://www.ics.uci.edu/~lynnette/chaldance.html |
| | |
| If your club's page is missing, e-mail Doug Sewell (doug@cc.yzu.edu). | |

The Rising of the High Desert Stars

One might not think so, but it is a very long sixty miles through the New Mexico landscape from Santa Fe to Albuquerque. Yes, the Wilde Bunch in Albuquerque is alive and well and we would love to dance with them all the time, but the drive seems too long for all of us to do weekly. So, in January 1991, when we discovered that Bill Eyler was willing to do the trek to be our caller, we leapt at the chance to start a new club. By convention time in 1991 we felt we would be hangin' in there and were accepted as an IAGSDC® club. Soon Kris Jensen began coming to Santa Fe to practice calling under Bill's coaching. In the fall of 1993 it was time for her to try her wings as our regular caller.

We danced in the children's room of an Episcopal church. We would move back the toys and find room for as many as three squares. The children's art work lent a certain informality to our classes, potlucks, and the cross-over nights. Let it never be said that we are a staid and stuffy group. One summer we put on a dramatic wedding, complete with cake, script and characters. Another summer we were into house-raising. We were invited to bring lunch and our hammers. We arrived at a club member's place to find a foundation and a pile of lumber. When we left walls were framed and the roof was on.

There are particular challenges in calling for a club in Santa Fe. In the



Visit New Mexico at High Desert Star's "Wheel Thru to Ghost Ranch" fly-in

first place, the city has a flaky reputation as people try one thing, then another. This affects our club as people come and go weekly and monthly. We recently discovered that Kris keeps a list of who knows which calls and, on the spot, can call for whoever shows up each evening. In the second place, we now have seven advanced dancers when all of us are in town. This is Santa Fe. We are not always all in town. When we are all there, Kris will hop into the square and sight call while she is dancing.

By 1994 we felt we were strong enough to invite others to Santa Fe for a Saturday "Sashay to Santa Fe." Art Tangen called basic through plus for afternoon dancing, followed by a fabulous potluck and more evening dancing. The number of dancers who came from Albuquerque and various places warmed our hearts. Now, two years later, we have expanded our efforts and are planning a regular length fly-in at Ghost Ranch.

Wheel Thru where? Wheel Thru to

New Mexico's famous Ghost Ranch in May 1996. We have arranged for a fly-in at the Ghost Ranch Conference Center north of Santa Fe. The dance hall, with views all around, is on a mesa sur-

rounded by the spectacular red and yellow rock cliffs that inspired Georgia O'Keeffe's works. Pedernal, the flat-topped blue mountain in her works, is within view. The huge ranch contained her home for more than thirty years. When you are not dancing and marveling at the scenery, you can hike to Chimney Rock, or up the creek valley, or visit the paleontology museum, the library, or see part of the high desert research farm. Meals will be shared with other guests in the large dining hall. In Spanish, the ranch is called Rancho de los Brujos, ranch of the male witches. Yes, the accommodations are rustic; this is not New York City.

Ah, but dancing is the reason we gather; Saundra Bryant and Kris Jensen will be calling Mainstream through Advanced. (A C1 workshop will be available if interest warrants.) Those of you who have danced to Saundra Bryant know how great she is. Some of you have also danced with Kris Jensen and will remember her high-energy calling. Dancing at Ghost Ranch promises to be an unforgettable experience.

Look for flyers in the February IAGSDC® mailing. The dates are May 17-19, 1996. Until March 31st, registration is \$45.00. Food and lodging will be \$40.00 per night. Camping is also available. Our friends from the Wilde Bunch will provide transportation from the Albuquerque airport. Please register as soon as you can. This will help us in planning for a good time. If you have questions, call Peli or Rebecca at 505-989-8627.

—REBECCA HENDERSON

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Opening our Squares and our Circle of Friends

As more transgenders (transexuals and transvestites) are joining gay and lesbian square dance clubs, we thought it would be appropriate to hear some of their experiences in "breaking the ice." Carol Thomas writes about dancing with Finest City Squares followed by an interview with three Foggy City Dancers transgenders.

Carol Thomas, Finest City Squares

Afew years ago my wife suggested that we should learn to square dance. We had been active in ballroom dancing and square dancing seemed like a good variation. We began lessons, eventually going through classes with three different clubs. One of the callers mentioned that there was a square dance club in town where all the dancers were of the same sex. I had no idea what type of group the caller was speaking about, but that one sentence was enough to catch my attention. I filed the information away in the back of my mind—just in case. If my situation ever changed (and it could, the marriage was in bad shape), such a club might provide some great entertainment. I considered it possible that I might be able to both dress and dance the girl's part.

My situation did change and I became free to investigate the intriguing prospect of dancing while cross dressed. I phoned Ron Nelson, the caller for Finest City Squares, the gay and lesbian square dance club in San Diego. Ron was most encouraging. The following Sunday afternoon I showed up at Kickers to begin my adventures. I was quite nervous about the whole thing—I had to park nearly a block away in a strange part of town, the streets were busy with people, and here I was in a dress. And not a dress that blended in, but a dress suitable for square dancing. I felt most conspicuous! Then I discovered that the entrance was through a busy restaurant. I nearly turned around and left. Inside I met Ron and a few others; all were friendly and welcomed me warmly. I noticed how the dancers were dressed—casual! Not only was I the only guy in a dress (which I expected) but I was the only person in a dress. I didn't know there wasn't a dress code. In all the other clubs I had danced with, the girls wore dresses and petticoats. I felt very out of place.

We squared up with me in the girl's position. As you would expect, I turned left when I should have turned right, used the wrong hand, and seemed to frequently go in the wrong direction. So much for the first tip. But it got better as the afternoon continued. After a couple of hours I was making fewer and fewer mistakes. Everyone was friendly and encouraging. I was hooked; it was a great afternoon and I knew there would be many more to come (once I braved the walk through the restaurant). It took several weeks before I felt comfortable in the group, and much longer before I was



Carol Thomas

comfortable walking through the restaurant. I got used to being the only one in a dress. I started helping with the beginner classes as an angel. After angeling a couple of classes I really began to learn to dance; I hadn't realized when I began how little I actually knew.

In the months that followed I discovered how big the world of gay square dancing was. I have danced with the other three gay clubs in Southern California and was welcomed in all of them. I have participated in all three of our "Pass the Sea" fly-in's, which are a high point of each year. (If you've been to one you know how fun they are; if not, you need to discover it). I have been with FCS when they visited straight clubs—where the girls do wear petticoats. The first couple of times I was very nervous but now it's just added fun. There are times when I wish that our club would dress a bit more traditionally, but then we're not a traditional club. I have not experienced any problems in being accepted, even though I know there are those who disapprove of me. I do my best to fit in and just enjoy the dancing.

I have been a member of Finest City Squares for about three years now. With them, I have learned a lot about what it takes to dance well, mainly from the abundance of excellent dancers in the club. I dance as a male with clubs all over the county and as a female with FCS. I enjoy both but dancing with FCS is best, not only because of the cross dress but also because we have the most energetic dancers anywhere.

—CAROL THOMAS

Laura, Trina and Kindra, Foggy City Dancers

The Place: The Patio Restaurant in San Francisco's Castro District The Time: 10 P.M., after Foggy City Dancers' Basic/Mainstream Class

Kindra, Laura, and Trina have just finished their last night of Basic/Mainstream class and are reflecting over the last 18 weeks of their youthful lives, and what it is like being the only transgenders square dancing full-time in the Bay Area.

Kindra: The first night I came to Foggy City I was with a woman named Kathy. I had on full petticoats, heels, and everything. Every eye in the place looked at us, and it got dead quiet for a couple of minutes after we entered the room. No one said anything. When we squared up, we were in the last square to get full.

But we were readily accepted by a few people. Others were curious but didn't know what to do. The second and third times we came, people were still shying off, but by the fourth week we were totally accepted. They found out I wasn't going to hurt'em, and they could enjoy being with me.

Laura: I have to say for Trina and myself it was very much to our advantage that Kindra had already broken the ice at Foggy City Dancers for us. When I came to FCD, I felt as though I got a warmer reception than some of the other beginners, especially from friendly men like Freddy Papapietro.

Trina: FCD is a great group to us transgenders. It's unfortunate that I have to drive so far from Sunnyvale and have so little time to get ready before I come. You may have noticed that I hardly ever show up with any makeup, and that partly is because by the time I get home, freshen up, dress, and hit the road, I have only one hour or I'll be late. In fact, when I first started with FCD, I used to work an hour longer and had an opportunity for overtime, but I changed my hours just to get to FCD on time.

Kindra: One thing about the gay and lesbian square dance clubs is that if one of us girls misses many times with the group, tons of people ask where we've been. I've even gotten telephone calls trying to find out where Kindra is!

Laura: What I remember was the FCD Anniversary Dance. There were a lot of FCD angels who knew us, but there were a lot more people who had never met us. So it was like breaking into a new group again, and what impressed me was how warm and accepting and friendly everyone was to us. It felt instantly good and okay, and not just about my gender peculiarity.

In contrast to going to a straight club or party, the FCD

Anniversary Dance was a lot, lot warmer than either of my gender faces get to see. I have to say that the same held true at Diablo Dancers' Christmas Dance too.

Trina: I have to say that not only FCD, but El Camino Reelers and even Stanford Quads, which is basically a straight dance club, have been accepting of me and the other transgenders. I'm already learning Plus Level, and...

Kindra: They want us to go on through C-4!

Laura: One of the interesting things for me is that I can either dance as Laura or as my male persona, Ted. I didn't start cross-dressing until I was 12 or 13, and I have always been unwilling to totally give up my male side. I want it all. I'm also unwilling to give up my female side. In fact, I would rather have anyone I'm friendly with know both Ted and Laura. I think it's good for people not to accept gender lines.

Trina: In my case, my co-workers know me only as David. I think sooner or later they're going to find out about Trina, and who knows what hell will break loose. But I have been a genderist for 10 years, politically active in RGA (Rainbow Gender Association) and ETVC (Educational TV Channel), and live largely as Trina. That's how Laura and I met Kindra. She was passing out FCD flyers and recruited us. We expect

more will start attending square dance classes now that we have graduated.

Laura: Except the ones who are young and don't think it's "cool."

Kindra: I am currently an early preoperative transsexual. From day one there was a fight with what people were pushing at me about being a boy. The clothes they forced me to wear weren't right. My body was male, but inside I was female.

Now, Kindra is grateful to Rick, my male side. Rick gave me the skills that put food on the

table, and got me a good job as a journeyman carpenter. Everything Rick learned was a gift to Kindra. Kindra has a lot more to learn though, and not just about square dancing. What's really heartbreaking is that many times people will go through a grieving process as though Rick had died. They can't accept change.

Laura: I get that too, but Ted will always be there as much as Rick will be there. I have no intentions of getting rid of Ted.

Trina: The only thing I would like to get rid of is 20 years!

The lesson here: Whether you're transgender, gay or lesbian, young or old, male or female, we all face the battle for acceptance. At Foggy City Dancers we hope everyone will find square dancing truly "friendship set to music."

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Laura, Trina and Kindra

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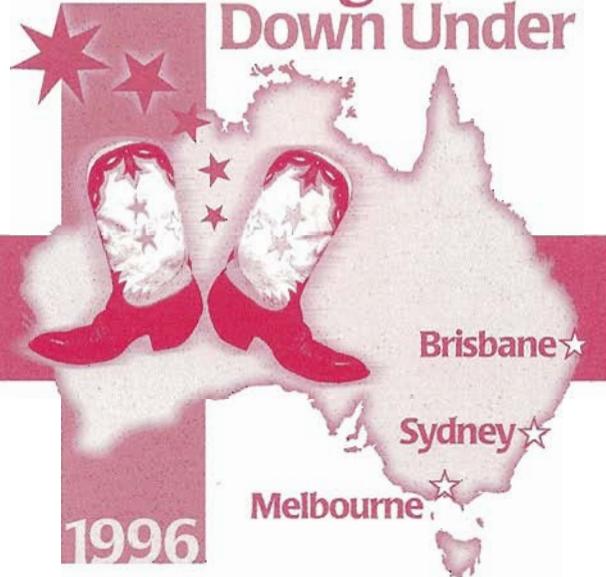
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Yellow rocks to Michael McMullen, Alan Davis, John Oshin, Robert Krimsky, Rich Wilkes, Gary Dougan, Mick Sheppard, Jim Burford, Donna E, David Norton, Al Schroeder, Randy Clarke, Andy Shore, and Chip Carman for making the Australia trip just perfect!

No doubt, the IAGSDC will be receiving club membership applications from Melbourne & Brisbane within the year!

Read about and see photos from our daily adventures on the World Wide Web at <http://www.spiral.com/pink>.

Will there be new Pink Triangle Adventures square dance trips in 1997? — stay posted!



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