



American Morris Newsletter



*A publication
devoted solely to
English Morris and Sword Dancing.*

*Editor: Fred Breunig
RFD #1, Box 9A
Putney, VT 05346*

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April, 1979

TEAM NEWS

A feature of the American Morris Newsletter dependent on your letters, postcards, and telephone calls. Names of correspondents appear at the end of each club's news. A list of known clubs and groups dancing morris or sword in North America is on page 5.

Berkeley Morris: "Here in California, the newest cult seems to be Berkeley Morris. Since last autumn, our club's size has doubled! We attribute this phenomenon in part to our leader Brad Foster's charismatic persona and in part to a fine three-day work-out ... oops, workshop in Morris held last November with Fred Breunig and Tony Barrand. We explored the Ilmington, Adderbury, and Bampton traditions as well as Border Morris, Longsword, Rapper, Characters, and playing music for the morris. Two months earlier, Roy Dommett led a workshop in Bampton which was very inspiring, too.

"Friends will be relieved to hear that we have survived another harsh winter of 60 degree days and 50 degree nights! Spring Equinox found us with two new squires, a fool, and a hobby. After two years of anarchy, we chose to elect squires for each side. Jude Biggs is Squire for the women and Bruce Hamilton is the men's Squire. Brad Foster remains as Foreman and Fool. Much to her dismay, Mary O'Connell was re-elected as Bagman, also known as Bagwoman, Bagperson, Bagone, Baggie, and Bag (submitted by herself). Judy Jennings is our Hobby, a California Brown Bear. Although there was some sentiment that a proper California hobby should be a car, traditional sensibilities prevailed and a bear it is.

"We will celebrate our second anniversary with lots of touring highlighted by an appearance in the San Francisco Ethnic Dance Festival on March 31 and our second annual tour of the Kiwanis Club dinner in Sonoma, Calif., home of one brewery and two wineries." [See Spring Calendar for other tour dates.]

Rita Hurault, 1270 4th Avenue, San Francisco, California.

Foggy Bottom Morris: Received too late for inclusion in the last Newsletter was an announcement of the addition of a women's side to the Foggy Bottom club. Last fall they danced in Charlottesville, Staunton, and Bluemont, Virginia, in addition to Glen Echo Park and Columbia, Maryland.

This spring the club is planning its Second Annual Cherry Blossom Tour on April 7 with Bluemont Morris. They will dance "around the Washington Monument (our ersatz Maypole?) and through Georgetown, making an appearance at the George Washington University Creative Arts Festival along the way."

Officers of the club are: Laurie Andres, Squire; Roger Avery, Foreman; Nancy Taylor, Bagman; Al Kehs, Assistant Bagman. [See Spring Calendar for other tour dates.]

Nancy Taylor, 4120 North 34th Road, Arlington, Virginia 22207

Bloomington Morris is "looking forward to having our first men's morris side. The women's side danced out a couple of times last summer. We are now forming a rapper team with the help and instruction of Mark Rosenthal who moved here last year from Boston. Most of the people involved have never seen rapper performed, but we are

coming along and hope to dance out this spring."

Frank Hall, P.O.Box 9, Bloomington, Indiana 47401.

Troy Morris may still be digging out from winter. The only news received was last January in response to a note reading "How goes it Down East?" It read, "Snowy -- 27 inches in 24 hours!"

Ken Kuenster, RFD 2, Lincolnville, Maine 04849.

Muddy River Morris has taken in "seven new members this year (5 dancers and 2 musicians) so that now we can easily put out two full sets. We have 18 people in all. We have been concentrating on Fieldtown, but have added quite a few Bucknell dances as well. Our Rapper team had an active winter of dancing in schools, private homes, and at dances. Helene Cornelius filled the gap left by Diane Grieg's departure to graduate school. The rapper team also added a mummings play this year -- a great success!" [See Spring Calendar for tour dates.]

Robin Rogers-Browne, 887 Bedford Road, Carlisle, Massachusetts 01741.

Ann Arbor Morris: "Since last July we have been changing and growing. We now have about 16 women and 10 men. Several people from other Morris teams have moved into town and have joined our ranks and we have added Bucknell to the traditions we dance. Some of the older dancers have also been learning Bledington. In January we elected Peggy Gerber as Squire and Carol Mohr as Bag. Debbie Low and John Cavanaugh continue as our Foremen."

Peggy Gerber, 808 East Ann Street #1, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104.

Minnesota Traditional Morris: "Though MTM is accustomed to lying fallow between January and May beneath a considerable burden of snow and frigid weather, this year has proven different. An early recruiting effort found four more apprentices to supplement our now marginally seasoned performing side of six to eight regulars. For those regulars, an expansion of our standard Headington and Adderbury traditions took place and we added dances from Ilmington, Bledington, and Fieldtown.

"We also found ourselves with an unprecedented number of opportunities to dance this Spring. On March 10 we introduced a concert by Martin Carthy and on the 22nd we were the lunch hour feature of the Landmark Center in St. Paul. We will dance at the Minneapolis Folk Festival on April 6 and 7 and return to the Landmark Center on May Day. Also on May 1, we will have our customary May Day tour of the Nicollet Mall in Minneapolis (it is said that the flashing handkerchieves of these 'madde men' precipitated a car-taxi collision in 1978). MTM will represent British tradition in the St. Paul Festival of Nations on May 4-6 at the request of the Daughters of the British Empire, and finally, we will cap our Spring with our first out-of-state tour and join other clubs at the Marlboro Morris Ale."

Stephen Parker, 434 N.E. 4th Street, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55413.

Hearts of Oak Morris is "growing slowly, but steadily. Some old women have moved on, but a solid core is left to teach the increasing number of new dancers. We are concentrating on Badby and Bampton and, as a long term goal, are working on Sherborne with the aid of Sue Salmons from New York City. Our energy and spirits are high and we are currently setting up our spring and summer schedule. In preparation for May Day (actually Walpurgis Night), we are learning songs and appropriate speeches."

Hearts of Oak Morris, 3 Mill Street, Binghamton, New York 13903.

Pokingbrook Morris: "This looks like a good year for Pokingbrook. Although we lost several experienced dancers last fall, I am very optimistic that this spring we will have a strong men's side and women's side. We have had three intensive workshops, one by Roger Cartwright, one by John Dexter, and one by Jim Stevenson. Since we have

had to recruit many new dancers, we are keeping ourselves mainly to Bampton and Adderbury dances this year."

Larry Syzdek, 110 Farnsworth Drive, Slingerlands, New York 12159.

Mississauga Morris Men: "We would like to announce the formation of the Mississauga Morris Men. We are closely associated with Green Fiddle Morris of Toronto and have ties with Leicester Morris Men and University of Sussex Morris Men in England."

Roger I.C. Hansell, 3307 Kings Masting Drive, Mississauga, Ontario, Canada.

Green Fiddle Morris: "Just before the team's second birthday, GFM danced at its first team wedding. Carol Watson (our former fiddler) came home to Toronto bringing along fiancé, Paddy McEvoy from England. The team helped celebrate the December wedding with several dances. In January, Phil Beaumont visited from England. Besides his valuable help and sound advice at practices, he led a superb full-day workshop on January 6. Also in January we lost our practice space when Fiddler's Green Folk Club had to move. We now practice at the University of Toronto, but in April we will be looking again. [See Spring Calendar for tour dates.]

Eileen Markwick, 834 Mt. Pleasant Road, Toronto, Ontario, M4P 2L3, Canada.

Bluemont Morris "is looking forward to travelling north to the Marlboro Ale. We are training new recruits and hope to have them in shape by spring. We will be touring with Foggy Bottom in Washington and hope to arrange something with Albemarle Morris Men in Charlottesville. Of course, we have our local tour planned for the Bluemont area 'small-holdings.' Our main tradition is Ilmington, but we are starting to learn Bampton."

Howard Bass, c/o Skyfields, Box 139 Route 1, Bluemont, Virginia 22012.

Marlboro Morris and Sword: "Our fifth touring season looks to be as busy as ever. In addition to our annual May Day in Marlboro and tours of Southern Vermont and New Hampshire, we will be travelling to Cambridge to dance with NewTowne and to the Albany area where the women's side will perform stave and ribbon dances from south of the Thames. Plans for the Ale are progressing. Clubs attending are Albemarle, Binghamton, Black Jokers, Bluemont, Foggy Bottom, Green Fiddle, Greenwich, Hearts of Oak, Kingsessing, Minnesota, Muddy River, NewTowne, Pinewoods, Ring o'Bells, and Sourwood. Our second appearance in the Brattleboro 4th of July parade (dancing a Northwest clog morris procession) will be enhanced by the club's new iron-shod clogs which are arriving pair by pair in the mail from England." [See Spring Schedule for tour dates.]

Fred Breunig, R.D. 1 Box 9A, Putney, Vermont 05346.

Westerly Morris Men sent reports of their annual Twelfth Night festivities with various other groups in Westerly: Community Chorus, Rhode Island Philharmonic Brass Ensemble, Westerly Country Dancers, et al. The newspaper report claims that "these stalwarts can metabolize a six pack into the finest male dancing since Nijinsky!" [The editor wonders if they may have been upstaged by a version of the Twelve Days of Christmas featuring a live partridge and three French "hens" -- "Parisian ladies of the evening."]

George Utter, c/o the Westerly Sun, Westerly, Rhode Island 02891.

Herndon (Va.) Elementary School Sword Team: "The boys' rapper team appeared on television in October -- what a challenge! We had been granted 4 minutes and had to slice it to three. That was my 1978 team and by that time of year they are really used to show-biz; so they rehearsed like mad and by judicious speed-up techniques we 'dood it!' They and the longsword team also performed twice at the International Children's Festival at Wolf Trap and also have just been the guest artists at the Springfield Cub Scout Banquet. The 1979 teams are rehearsing and should ultimately be great!"

Barbara Harding, Box 236, Herndon, Virginia 22070.

An Orono Morris team: Roger Cartwright reports the beginnings of a new team in his current residence of Orono, Maine. About nine men have been dancing together since January in a "quiet and good way. like Maine." They are dancing the Fieldtown tradition only and may go out a little later in the Spring. "I think it's going to stick; the men care a lot about learning to dance."

Roger Cartwright, 42 Oak Street, Orono, Maine 04473.

WARM UP BEFORE DANCING!

We have several bad knees and ankles on the Marlboro club and have become more aware of the advisability of warming up before practice or performance. Roy Dommett wrote to me in a letter, "Since I was at Marlboro, I have concentrated much more on basics, in particular emphasizing warming up exercises. Those clubs who have adopted a proper system of movements from a professional coach or a physiotherapist find that they end practices invigorated, not prostrate. There seems to be some element of natural restraint without warming up and the tenseness is self-defeating."

Below is a series of exercises which a physical education teacher supplied for Morris Matters, a magazine published by Windsor Morris in England. They added, "Choose which ones suit you and work up to doing them ten times each. Running on the spot and 'knees up Mother Brown' will also get you warmed up."

--Fred Breunig

Sit with legs straight out.
Stretch foot up and down:
ten times each foot.



Stand with feet apart.
a) Touch hands to opp. toe
b) Touch both hands to
heel of each foot
Ten times each.



Walking on spot.
Stretch each ankle
alternately (toes on
ground). Ten times each leg.

Sit with legs out and
bend each knee up
alternately. 10 times.



Feet together.
a) Crouch down from
standing 10 times
b) Repeat with hands
on head 10 times.



Touch toes with
legs straight
ten times.

Sit, holding one leg
up. Circle ankle left
then right. Ten times
each leg.



Sit. Bend both knees up.
Holding ankles, straighten
legs in air, pointing
toes. Ten times.



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MORRIS IN NORTH AMERICA

An annual feature of the American Morris Newsletter in which all known clubs and groups using morris and/or sword dancing are listed. If readers find omissions, please inform the editor: a supplementary list will appear in the July issue.

TEAMS or CLUBS (arranged by State or Province)

British Columbia: Victoria MM, David Winn, 2142 Pentland Road, Victoria, B.C. V8S 2W4
 California: Berkeley Morris, Brad Foster, 1138 Francisco, Berkeley, CA 94702
 Connecticut: Mianus River Morris, Jenny Norris, Mianus, CT
 New Haven M & S, David Lindsay, 731 George St, New Haven CT 06511
 D.C.: Foggy Bottom Morris, Roger Sunderland, 5411 85th Av. #1, Lanham, MD 20801
 Indiana: Bloomington Morris, Frank Hall, 110½ E. 6th St., Bloomington, IN 47401
 Kentucky: Berea MM, John Ramsay, CPO 287, Berea, KY 40404
 Woodford MM, Jane Britton, 2111 Lansill Dr., Lexington, KY 40504
 Maine: Fiddler's Reach Morris, Maggie Baum, Star Route 3, Bath, ME 04530
 Strong Morris, John Gawler, Belgrade Lakes, ME 04918
 Troy Morris, Ken Kuenster, R.R. 2, Lincolnville, ME 04849
 Manitoba: Village Green MM, John Trevenan, 392 Campbell St., Winnipeg, Man. R3N 1B7
 Massachusetts: Berkshire MM, Roger Cartwright, Marlboro, VT 05344
 Black Jokers, Howard Lasnik, 22 Swan Pl., Arlington, MA 02174
 Muddy River Morris, Robin Rogers, 887 Bedford Rd., Carlisle, MA 01741
 NewTowne MM, Mark Wilke, 32 Camp St., Cambridge, MA 02140
 Northampton Morris, Suzy Williams, Box 84, Petersham, MA 01366
 Steve Matherly, 180 Northwood Apts, Sunderland 01375
 Woods Hole MM, Bob Guillard, RFD1, 111 County Rd, Buzzards Bay, MA 02532
 Michigan: Ann Arbor Morris, Mishka Luft, 1300 Hutchins St., Ann Arbor, MI 48103
 Minnesota: Minn. Traditional Morris, David Nichols, 1057 25th Av. S.E., Mpls, MN 55414
 New Hampshire: Moose Mountain Morris, Petey Becker, Rt.1 Box 134, Warren, NH 03279
 New York: Buffalo Morris, David Conant, 232 Hoyt St., Buffalo, NY 14213
 Binghamton MM, Peter Klosky, 105 Chestnut St., Binghamton, NY 13905
 Greenwich MM, Ed Durham, 790 Riverside Dr., New York, NY 10032
 Hearts of Oak, Jill Gibian, 1704 Glenwood Rd., Vestal, NY 13850
 Pokingbrook Morris, Ed Bosson, Bouerie Ln. RD 1, Yorktown Hts, NY 10598
 Ring o' Bells, Jody Evans, 55 Perry St., New York, NY 10014
 Ontario: Forest City MM, Alistair Brown, 9 Prospect Av., London, Ont. N6B 3A4
 Green Fiddle Morris, Eileen Markwick, 141 Redpath Ave., Toronto, Ont. M4P 2K5
 Pennsylvania: St. Peter's School, Eleanor Barlow, 319 Lombard St., Phila., PA 19147
 Three Rivers MM, Al Blank, 107 Buckingham Rd., Pittsburgh, PA 15215
 Rhode Island: Westerly MM, Peter Leibert, Rt.1, Box 191, Norwich, CT 06360
 Tennessee: Sourwood Morris, Susan Miley, 1728 Forest Av., Knoxville, TN 37916
 Texas: Men of Houston, John Vivian, 3804 Villanova, W. Univ. Pl., Houston, TX 77005
 Vermont: Marlboro Morris & Sword, Tony Barrand, Box 51, Marlboro, VT 05344
 Washington: Pike Place Morris, Lars Watson, 5315 N. Court, Tacoma, WA 98407
 Wisconsin: Dodgeville MM, Folklore Village Farm, Rt. 3, Dodgeville, WI 53533
 Regional: Mountain Morris Men, Peter Rogers, 1538 Bluebird Ln., Lexington, KY 40503
 Pinewoods MM, J.Martin Graetz, 50 Moulton Rd., Arlington, MA 02174

Country Dance and Song Society Centers (classes, workshops, some demonstrations)

Calif., Carol Dancers, Mary Judson, 562 E. Mendocino St., Altadena, CA 91001
 San Diego Center, Elaine Regelson, 1351 Reed Av. #1, San Diego, CA 92109
 Ill., Univ. of Chicago Dancers, Al Schroeder, Noyes Hall, 1212 E 59th, Chicago 60637
 Dunham Center, Mildred Dickinson, River Bend Farm, St. Charles, IL 60174
 Ind., Earlham Dancers, Cynthia Canfield, Box E-336, Earlham, Richmond, IN 47374
 Ky., U. of Ky. Dancers, Ralph Christensen, 1240 Hot Springs Ct., Lexington 40502
 Md., Metro-Wash. CDS, Mrs. J. Blundon, 9113 Wandering Trail Dr., Potomac, MD 20854
 Mass., Boston Center, 57 Roseland St., Somerville, MA 02143

(CDSS Centers, continued)

N.Y., New York Dance Activities Committee, 55 Christopher St., New York, NY 10014
 N.C., Brasstown CDS, Don Davis, John Campbell Folk School, Brasstown, NC 28902
 Penn., Media Center, Mrs. R. Montgomery, 213 S. Orange St., Media, PA 19063
 Tenn., Knoxville Dancers, Karan Dotson 2405 Woodson Dr., Knoxville, TN 37920
 Vt., CDSS of S.E. Vt., Fred Breunig, R.D.1, Box 9A, Putney, VT 05346
 Wash., Steve Lane, 1721 S. Snoqualmie, Seattle, WA 98108

OTHER GROUPS

Calif., David Garlan, 1105 A Mission Ave., San Raphael, CA 94901 (teaches groups)
 D.C., Jim Adams, St. Mark's Church, 301 A St. S.E., Wash. D.C. 20003 (church group)
 Ky., Irene Broyles, Rt. 2 Bx 416A, Somerset, KY 42501 (school)
 Newfoundland, Pauline Greenhill, Dept. of Folklore, Memorial Univ., St. John's, Nfld.
 Pa., George Zimmerman, Bryn Mawr College, Bryn Mawr, PA 19010 (classes)
 Vt., Ben Bergstein, 27 Adsit Court, Burlington, VT 05401 (performing group)
 Va., Barbara Harding, Box 236, Herdon, VA 22070 (school performing group)

SPRING CALENDAR

(This is not a complete listing of morris dancing in North America. It includes dates sent to the Newsletter in time for publication. Check with teams before travelling!)

APRIL 8/9 GrFd: Ann Arbor, Mich.
 Nhmp: Georgetown, Washington, D.C. (tent.)
 15 Gwch: Greenwich Village, New York City*
 16 Gwch: Wave Hill, Riverdale, N.Y.
 Nhmp: Amherst, Mass. area (tent.)
 15/16 Bing } Tour of Ostego County, N.Y. based
 Marl } in Gilbertsville, N.Y.
 19 Sour: Dogwood Arts Festival, Knoxville, Tenn.
 22 Pokg: Vassar College, Poughkeepsie, N.Y.
 23 Ro'B: United Nations, New York City
 22/23 BlJk }
 MdRv } New England Folk Festival, Natick, Mass.
 Pine }
 29 Marl: Lenox, Stockbridge, Mass. area
 30 GrFd: High Park, Toronto, Ont.
 MdRv: Concord, Mass.
 Nhmp: Planting tour, Amherst, Mass. area

MAY 1 GrFd: Downtown Toronto, Ont. (sunrise)
 MdRv } Charles River Banks, Cambridge, Mass. (dawn)
 NwTn }
 2 Berk: San Jose, Calif. (tent.)
 GrFd: Eaton Centre, Toronto, Ont.
 3 MdRv: Wellesley College, Wellesley, Mass. Sun Day
 6 Marl: South Road, Marlboro, Vt.
 MdRv: Worcester, Mass. (tent.)
 Pokg: Medieval Festival, Katonah, N.Y.
 Sour: Festival of Irish, English, Scottish Music, Knoxville, Tenn.
 7 Gwch: New York City
 Marl: "Manor houses", Marlboro, Vt.
 MdRv(tent.) } Rites of Spring, Audubon Society, Barre, Mass.
 Nhmp }
 Pokg: Renaissance Fair, Ulster Community Coll., Stone Ridge, N.Y.
 13 Marl: Brattleboro, Putney, Dummerston, Vt.
 Sour: Hickory, N.C. May Day
 14 BlJk: Marblehead, Mass. and environs

- (MAY) 13 Marl: Putney, Vermont, Walpole and Alstead, New Hampshire
- 16 Ro'B: Greenwich Village, New York City
- 19 MdRv }
Pine } Hartford, Connecticut
Wstl }
- 19/20 Berk: Santa Cruz County, California
- FogB: Northern Virginia Folk Festival and Bazaar, Arlington, Virginia
- Marl: Guilderland, New York and environs
- 26-28 Marl and others: Marlboro Morris Ale, Marlboro, Vermont
- 28 Berk: Norden, California
- JUNE 2 GrFd: Crafts Festival, Port Parry, Ontario
- 2/3 FogB: Folklore Society of Greater Washington Folk Festival, Glen Echo Park, Md.
- 3 Berk: SanFrancisco, California
- 10 GrFd }
ForC } Cuckoo's Nest, London, Ontario (tent.)
- 15 Ro'B: to England!
- GrFd: Mariposa Folk Festival, Toronto, Ontario (tent.)
- 24 Berk: Sonoma, California
- 30 GrFd: Pioneer Days, Rockwood, Ontario
- JULY 4 Marl: Fourth of July Parade, Brattleboro, Vermont
- 28 GrFd: Wasaga Beach Summer Festival, Wasaga Beach, Ontario

AUGUST 4-6 GrFd: Castle of Perseverance, University of Toronto
 24-27 GrFd and others: Toronto Morris Ale, Toronto, Ontario (other clubs invited)

- ABBREVIATIONS:
- | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Berk = Berkeley Morris, Calif. | Marl = Marlboro Morris, Vt. |
| Bing = Binghamton Morris Men, N.Y. | Minn = Minnesota Trad. Morris |
| Blue = Bluemont Morris, Va. | MdRv = Muddy River Morris, Mass. |
| FogB = Foggy Bottom Morris, D.C. | NwTn = NewTowne Morris Men, Mass. |
| ForC = Forest City Morris, Ont. | Pine = Pinewoods Morris Men, Regional |
| GrFd = Green Fiddle Morris, Ont. | Pokg = Pokingbrook Morris, N.Y. |
| HaPn = Ha'Penny Morris, Mass. | Ro'B = Ring o' Bells, N.Y. |
| King = Kingsessing MM, Pa. | SpHl = Spruce Hill Morris, Pa. |
| Lord = Lord Hill Morris Men, Me. | Wstl = Westerly Morris Men, R.I. |

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Reading through the Newsletter, I find references to "Squire," "Bagman," etc. While these are pretty obvious roles for a morris team, I have never heard anything about them: history, duties, relative importance. Is there anything interesting to know about these roles/titles?

Allison Thompson
 Pittsburgh, Pa.

Editor's note: I put this question to Roy Dommert who wrote the following response:

Squire is the traditional term for a side's fool. The leader is usually known as Master, Captain, or Foreman, although foreman is usually reserved for the teacher. It is sort of inverted humour. The Cambridge Morris Men when they started in 1923-24 invented the terms Squire and Bagman for club officials and everyone sort of followed. The traditional name is Ragman, as equally important is carrying the coats. The traditional sides Bampton and Abingdon have used the terms President, Secretary, and Treasurer.

Geoff Hughes is going to be teaching at the Pinewoods English Week (July 21-28) and Family Week (August 5-12), but will be free the week between. I am trying to get him some dates: he would enjoy having the chance to get around a bit and I think that people would be interested in what he has to offer.

He has danced Cotswold Morris for twenty years, but his main interest is Lancashire (clog) Morris. He is the conductor of the Rumworth Morris which he was instrumental in founding. He also is an expert in rapper sword and solo clog (he says his style is rather like Peter Brown's). He is also an established caller and M.C.

I imagine he would be happy to go anywhere in the eastern part of the country for his expenses, hospitality, and a small fee. In any case, those are the details and inquiries should be addressed to me.

Genny Shimer, 411 West 21st Street,
New York, N.Y. 10011

MORRIS MATTERS, the quarterly magazine produced by Windsor Morris, is now available on subscription for \$3.00 per year. If any North American readers would like to subscribe, please send an International Money Order for this amount along with your name and address to: Windsor Morris, 24 Alexandra Road, Windsor, Berkshire, England. If anyone wants it sent airmail, please send \$6.00 as it is not a very light magazine!

Jenny Joyce & Alan Whear
Windsor, Berkshire

Editor's Note: The warm-up exercises on page 4 were reprinted from MORRIS MATTERS.

HELP WANTED: Morris Dancers

Houston, Texas: A women's team is hoping to form in Houston (there is a men's team there), but they are lacking numbers. "We are interested in discovering what a women's tradition might be. Unfortunately, our only teachers here are the Men of Houston."

Dorcas Hand, 6102 Winsome #74, Houston, Texas 77057.

Burlington, Vermont: A morris team existed for a while in this northern New England city, but has lost several key members and is not functioning right now. "There are still some very interested people who would like to get team practices back on a regular schedule. We did dance out a few times last year and really enjoyed it."

Hannah Roberts, 539 St. Paul St., Burlington, Vermont 05401.

Albuquerque, N.M.: "There is no morris dancing of any kind within 500 miles of Albuquerque!" Bill Litchman may not be trying to get anyone dancing, but "I finally got to see some American morris at Berea, Ky., last Christmas. A few years ago, I danced with the Earls of Essex in London."

Bill Litchman, 1620 Los Alamos, SW, Albuquerque, New Mexico 87104.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Due to the success of our first Toronto Morris Ale last September, we are planning a second Ale this summer. The dates have been set for August 24-27. We hope the earlier date will enable more U.S. teams to come this year. Although we are still in the planning stage, it will be similar to last year's format. As yet, the cost for the weekend has not been completely worked out, but it will probably be about \$15 per person. This will include accommodation, all meals, and bus transportation on tours. Because of accommodation problems, we do have to restrict the number of people attending. We would like to hear from any interested teams by May 10 at the latest. More detailed

information and application forms will be sent at that time. Please contact:
 Eileen Markwick, Bagman, 834 Mt. Pleasant Rd., Toronto M4P 2L3, Ontario, Canada.
 Telephone: (416) 488-8129.

ALARMIST DEPARTMENT

Just after the January Newsletter went to press, UPI carried the following:

"DOES BEER CAUSE CANCER? Heidelberg, West Germany -- A West German magazine said today that beer may cause cancer and a newspaper said the report was 'enough to disturb the sleep' of the entire nation. The West German publication Der Stern reported a study showed that some beers contain a substance called nitrosamine which is said can cause cancer. German brewers, who yearly produce 2.4 billion gallons of beer, did not deny that nitrosamine is present in some beers. The brewers federation said that traces of the substance have been found in foreign beers, too. The federation said that the nitrosamine gets in the beer not in the brewing process itself, but during the production of the malt used in beer."

Unsettling news to contemplate just before a heavy spring touring schedule!

MORRIS DANCING IN THE GOOD OLD DAYS

In New York in November, 1937, a Morris party for men only was held at Columbia University Faculty Club. It was arranged by Leonard Elsmith and Dexter Hinckley. Forty-two men attended it, and beer was served!

In Washington, D.C., in 1938, Gene Gowing held a Morris evening for men. Twenty-two turned up including two Senators.

(Items found in the files of the Country Dance and Song Society; contributed by Genny Shimer.)

IN A MORE SERIOUS VEIN

The newsletter notes with sadness the passing of May Gadd and Louise Chapin. May Gadd, or "Gay" as she was most often called, came to the U.S. "for one year" in 1927 (her words). She stayed on, of course, to direct the Country Dance and Song Society from its New York headquarters until the early 1970's and was a great leader, teacher, and dancer. Louise Chapin was Gay's counterpart in Boston as teacher and leader for many years. Both had worked with Cecil Sharp before moving to the States and, among other things, nurtured the morris dance movement in the New World through its early years. They led full and inspiring lives, but we will miss them greatly!

The special tribute to Karl Rodgers by several of the former Village Morris Men was not ready for publication in this issue. It will appear in July.

NEWSLETTER SPECIFICS

The American Morris Newsletter is published four times per year (April, July, October, January). Subscriptions are available to anyone at \$2.00 per year: Please make checks payable to the "American Morris Newsletter" and send to the address on page 1. Copy deadline for next issue (team news, letters, comments, articles): JUNE 30, 1979.