3CDC & Callers List

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January 14th, 1982

Dear Friends,

The New Year brings us good news for Dance. The Carolina Coalition of Country Dance Callers & Musicians (3CDC & 𝄞) has found a home! Its beautiful too! The building is near Warren Wilson College smack between Black Mtn. & Asheville. It is 40' wide & 95' long on the inside without a single obstruction on the tongue & groove oak floor. 3,800 sq. ft. of room! With a slightly raised platform on the north end for a caller & band, it originally was built for dancing. The first of its several names & the one we will use to identify it is the Old Farmers' Ball.

It is owned by Jerry & Lily Mae Wooten who live nearby and are fine people. Jerry plays guitar and has been gathering informally with friends on Sat. nites to play bluegrass & country music. He & his wife have had poor succes in finding a use for the the place that agrees with the neighborhood (they don't want a bar) & that pays for itself (they lost their shirts to an auctioneer who used to rent it). With a mortgage that has recently doubled they have no capitol to lay out for improvements on the place.

I will take a second here to fill you in on what I've found needs work. The main objection Mrs. Wooten has to letting the public use the place is the rest rooms. They are "funky" altogether and are on the far side of the Bldg., away from the road. The city water line is right by the road & so, for cold weather, heaters must be lit (the two kerosene heaters belong to the Wootens) in the rest rooms for 1 or 2 hours before the water may be cut on out at the road. And likewise,

at the end of an evening the water lines must be opened and the main valve by the road closed. The Wootens would like to move the rest rooms to the side of the bldg. nearest the road because the water lines are buried that far (meaning no more extra work lighting heaters in winter or opening & closing water lines). This problem alone would be easily solved with volunteer labor and funds raised by the Dance.

I include this information because I see the Wootens as hard working, honest folks. I propose that the first two or three dances be benefits for the physical plant but I need your feedback. I will donate my own time until mid-March as a worker & volunteer dance caller to see that publicity gets out about all Dances, to help in the needed repairs & construction on the Old Farmers' Ball & to call with another of our Coalition at the publicized events in the Old Farmers' Ball. I seriously think that crews to work on the place can be made up of volunteers from the dance floor or by word-of-mouth on the elected day the work goes down.

What I need of you is a list of places to send our P.R., a list of musicians who would like to play for dancing in the Western N.C. area that you may know or know of, I need to know if I can call on you personally when a work day for the Old Farmers' Ball occurs and what do you think of affiliating with the Black Mtn. based, non-profit organization Grey Eagle? More about Grey Eagle later.

Now to a sense of structure for the programs we will try to do. Our first dance at the Old Farmers' Ball will be Thursday, Jan. 28th, 1982, 8 pm. $2 admission I will be calling with one of you, though I don't know

who at this writing. I should say that we already have $76.00 from our 7th Heaven Christmas Dance. I am spending like a Scot for the P.R. on this first dance so that we go into it with most of our $76.00. (Forgot to mention that the Wooters are willing to work on a percentage basis giving us free rent for all dances that benefit the bldg. After our first 2 or 3 benefits we may be able to forsee the size crowd we'll get and better know what percentage to pay them for rent at dances that are not benefits) It has been suggested that we run dances twice ~~###~~ monthly. Several dancers want a weekly dance (I would too eventually). What do you think? If we start with a twice monthly dance it could be the 1st & 3rd Thursday (Fri or Sat or Monday, etc.), the 2nd & 4th or occur at odd times. I would push for a regular schedule myself but we can break any tradition we try to establish if we need to. Look at your own calenders. Try to tell me what night will be best for you & your family. If you were calling every 3rd or 4th dance, I think the rotation would be near a balance, a pattern could begin to be ~~appearant~~ apparent by March, 1982. I realize this is seemingly optomistic, given the seven other personal calanars you all have, but I must leave in mid March to do a tour. So, since I will do every thing I can to keep us all in touch & to organize between now & then, it would be very helpfull to have from each caller as much lead time as possible to know about your vacation plans, other regular events that would prohibit your participation and any planned trip out of touch with home.

Presently I am looking also for 2 or 3 non-dancers and non-musicians who would be honest enough to watch

the door for us. I know that you're all aware of the importance of this job. It is sad to attend an event where several artists have given of themselves and with a solid ~~attendance~~ attendance the box office has come up short. It is one of the many things that needs working out, just having someone at the door the entire time an admission is being charged.

About Grey Eagle, the non-profit organization based in Black Mtn (the Cherokee called it Grey Eagle) and last operating out of Ann's Cafe on Cherry St. where Mc Dibbs is now. They are interested in keeping something going even though they've lost a home base. ~~They~~ Their sponsorship of 3CDC & S's events in the Old Farmer's Ball would allow them to have an activity calendar for purposes of review and continued operation when their case comes up (once every 3 yrs.). We may be able to introduce other kinds of events, organized and promoted by Grey Eagle & Friends, into the Old Farmers Ball. They also would allow us to keep our own books, pay ourselves and have a tax exempt status on which to continue. The tax exempt, non-profit status also gives us free publicity in many publications & in other medias. Again, I think the democratic process should decide this so bring your ideas to the first dance or call or write me about this & anything else you think of.

With two callers at all the dances the pace will be lovely & I leave it to you to work out with each other the evening schedules but what about music. Jenny & Julia & Mark Mueller will play for the first few dances but we really need a small arsenal of stringed instrument players to call on as time goes by. We want to pay everyone who works. But we need to know the pickers who

who could & would do it. Jam up good dance music is as much an attraction as a great floor or a good caller. Whoever you think of, tell them to come to the dance & we'll all talk together to help us form the best policy around our musical endeavors. (Send me the name, address & phone # of those who you know can't make it but would like to receive info. about up comming events.)

This letter is too long for me to handle any more so I'll close wishing you the best and hoping to hear from you all

Excelsior,
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