It is with the enthusiasm of mad hatters that we are making a dive for clean cups this spring and bringing the Newsletter into a new format. The readership has been more than generous with contributions of articles, news and announcements, and we happy to have the extra work! As in years past, we are also moving down to clean cups as many new teams join us at the North American morris table. The Morris Ring in its winter newsletter estimated that number of North American teams at 50; there are, in reality, almost 100 teams currently dancing in the U.S. and Canada, and many more teams that have come and gone or that we have not heard about. Sizeable tea party, I should say!

We owe our redesigned logo to Tim Dennis, an elaborate punster whose Cheshirely grin enlivened our many hours together. Associate Editor Lynn Medow Dennis came into a great deal of extra work collating the extra information we requested from you into a base of historical data on morris in North America. Jim Brickwedde, our Editor/ambassador in England, continues to research the early history of American morris from British sources. On the mundane side, a recent cost analysis indicates that our subscription rate is probably safe for the remainder of this volume and we are now prepared to offer you back issues in a somewhat organized fashion. (For details, see the subscription blank at the back of this issue.) We wish you all the kindest of weather and audience in your rambles, high spirits and higher capers!

**Morris In North America:** 1983

This is an annual feature of *American Morris Newsletter* in which all known clubs using morris dancing of whatever type (Cotswold, longsword, stave, garland, border, rapper, clog) are listed. As usual we are dependent on our readers in maintaining this service and we request that incorrect entries be updated as soon as possible. A list of corrections will be published in the July issue. This year we have added to the usual list of contacts a parenthetical section containing information on team composition (M=men's, W=women's, Mx=mixed), rehearsal day (M,T,W,Th,F,Sa,Su) and the year founded, if known. In addition to serving as a helpful compendium of North American teams, it is also intended to facilitate contacts between teams, especially when members are travelling.

**Alabama**

(Fairhope, Alabama; name unknown, founded 1927)
British Columbia
Hollytree Morris Dancers. David Winn. 2142 Pentland Rd., Victoria, B.C. V8S 2W4
(Mx; M; 74)

California
Berkeley Morris. Paul or Barbara Brooks. 785 31st St., Richmond, CA 94804 (Mx; T; 74)
Berkeley Rapper & Sword. Clyde F. O'Meara II. 5827 Patton St., Oakland, CA 94618
Deer Creek Morris & Sword. Bob Fraley. 856 Metadero Ave., Palo Alto, CA 94306
Sunset MM. Jeff Johnson. 1629 Franklin St. #4, Santa Monica, CA 90404 (Mx; T; 74)
The Swords of Berkeley. Jocelyn Brown Reynolds. 5827 Patton St., Oakland, CA 94618 (Mx; T; 81)

Colorado
Circle Weavers. Donna McGinnis. 1640 Humbolt #1, Denver, CO 80218
Maroon Bells Morris. Sallie Sprague. 145 S. 30th St., Boulder, CO 80303 (Mx; T; 82)
Rocky Mountain Morris & Sword. Jim Sites. 1024 Wind Trail. Fort Collins, CO 80526
Swords Over Sopris Morris. Ronald H. Geering. 519 S. Second. Carbondale, CO 81623

Connecticut
Mianus River Morris. Tony Poile. 26 Oscaleta Rd., Ridgefield, CT 06877
Mystic Garland. Platt Arnold. 250 Hempstead St., New London, CT 06320 (Mx; T; 74)
New Haven Morris & Sword. David Lindsay. 95 Mansfield St., New Haven, CT 06311
Rose and Thistle Morris. Chuck Malloch. 327 Burnside Ave., East Hartford, CT 06108 (Mx; T; 81)

District of Columbia
Foam Bottom Morris. Paul Kalina. 412 N. Cleveland St., Arlington, VA 22201 (Mx; T; 74)
Rock Creek Morris. Mary Chor. 3217 McKinley St., Washington, D.C. 20008 (Mx; T; 74)

Florida
Tallahassee Morris. Jon Ericson. 178-8 Moore Dr., Tallahassee, FL 32304 (Mx; T; 74)

Georgia
Briar Rose Dancers. Susan Davis. 1838 Almeta Av. N.E., Atlanta, GA 30307 (Mx; T; 74)
Magnolia Morris Men. Scott Russell. 1838 Almeta Av. N.E., Atlanta, GA 30307 (Mx; T; 74)
Illinois
Cornstalk Morris. Keith Cauthrett, 1960-C Orchard, Urbana, IL 61801 (Mx:7:81)
Hill Onion Morris Men. Andrew Bolten, 414 Wing Lane, St. Charles, IL 60074
(M:7:80)
Hindy City Women. Leslie Roberte, 425 W. Roscoe, Apt. 510, Chicago, IL 60657
(W:7:80)

Indiana
Bloomington Quarry Morris. Frank Hell, P.O. Box 9, Bloomington, IN 47401
(Mx:7:7)
Earlham College Morris Dancers. Stephen Nelson, Box E-6, Earlham College,
Richmond, IN (7:7)

Kentucky
Berea Morris Men. John Ramsey, C.P.O. 287, Berea, KY 40404 (Mx:7:7)
Casteivedd Morris Women. (No current contact: Lexington, KY)
Nav Apple Morris. Pamela Cottley, C.P.O. 359, Berea, KY 40404 (M:7:7)

Maine
(Blue Hill, ME) Roger Cartwright (No current address.)
Kiddlet’s Reach Morris. Rob Spivey, 9 Wilson St., Topsham, ME 04086 (M:7:7)
Rockland Morris. Sarah Brian (No current address.) (W:7:7)

Massachusetts
Black Jokers. Howard Lasnick, 22 Swan St., Arlington, MA 02174 (M:7:7)
HatPenny Morris. Barbara Canco, 238 Walden St., Cambridge, MA 02140 (W:7:7)
Juliette Meadow Morris Men. Geoffrey Rogers, R.D. 1, 494 Munson Rd., Belcher-
town, MA 01007 (M:7:80)

Maryland
Baltimore Morris. Mark Vidor, 528 E. 28th St., Baltimore, MD 21218 (Mx:7:7)
Huntingdon Sword of Baltimore. Frank Pratte, 305 E. Lorraine Av., Baltimore,
MD 21218 (7:7:82)

Michigan
(Michigan, MI) Sue Stauton, 248 Kingsway Rd., Winnipeg, MAN R3N 1B7 (W:7:7)

Minnesota
Village Green Morris. John Trevenen, 392 Campbell St., Winnipeg, MAN R3N 1B7
(W:7:7)
(Withman, MIN) Sue Stauton, 248 Kingsway Rd., Winnipeg, MAN R3N 1B7 (W:7:7)

Mississippi

Missouri

Montana

New York

North Carolina

Ohio

Oklahoma

Oregon

Pennsylvania

South Carolina

Tennessee

Texas

Utah

Vermont

Virginia

Washington

West Virginia

Wisconsin

Wyoming
New Cambridge Morris Men. Mark Wilke, 90 College Av., Somerville, MA 02144 (Mx;7:77)
Newtown Morris Men. Carl Pistoris, 18 Norman St., Cambridge, MA 02138 (Mx;7:66)
Esignwood Morris Men. J. M. Graetz, 50 Moulton Rd., Arlington, MA 02174 (Mx;7:66)
Wetland Stomers Morris & Sword. Dennis Ahern, 298 Central St., West Acton, MA 01720 (Mx;7:71)
Woods Hole Morris. Emily Ferguson, P.O. Box 453, Woods Hole, MA 02543 (Mx;T;81)

Michigan
Ann Arbor Morris and Sword. Rayna Alswagg, 2345 Fernwood, Ann Arbor, MI 48104 (Mx;7:71)
Greenwood Morris. (No contact: East Lansing, MI) (Mx;7:7)

Minnesota
Bells of the North. Beth Hamassy, 723 7th Av. S.E., Mpls., MN 55414 (W;W;80)
Minnesota Traditional Morris. Larry Klueh, 1916 Roblyn, St. Paul, MN 55104 (Mx;7:71)

Nebraska
Prairie Hayes Morris. David Nichols and Alice Love, 3501 N. 49th St., Omaha, NE 68104 (Mx;7:82)

New Hampshire
Harrisville Morris Women. Mary Dea Bosiers, Chesham R.F.D. Marlboro, NH 03455 (Mx;7:73)
Hannah Mac Morris. Nancy Winneg, R.F.D. 4, Box 208, Hookset, NH 03106 (Mx;7:73)
Hope Mountain Morris. Peter Becker, Box 384, Norwich, VT 05055 (Mx;7:73)
Ronesuch Morris. Peter Yarensky, 10 Middle St., Dover, NH 03820 (Mx;7:73)

New York
Binghamton Morris Men. Ken Kearns, 68 Murray St., Binghamton, NY 13951 (Mx;7:73)
Bouwerie Boys. John Dexter, 250 Elizabeth St., New York, NY 10012 (Mx;7:80)
Greenwich Morris Men. Dan Stenzler, 57-57 228th St., Bayard, NY 11364 (Mx;7:73)
Hearts of Oak. Tom Gajewski, Cayutaville Rd., R.F.D. L, Alpine, NY 14805 (Mx;7:73)
Pokinabrook Morris. Jim Caggrove, R.D. Box 255, Chatham, NY 12037 (Mx;7:73)
Rings O' Bells. Diane Roeweller, 74 River Rd., Cos Cob CT 06807 (Mx;7:73)
Thornden Morris. Roberta Mackett, 335 Fellows Av., Syracuse, NY 13210 (Mx;7:73)

North Carolina
Rural Felicity Garland Dancers. (No current contact: Brasstown, NC) (Mx;7:73)
Ontario

Black Sheep Morris. Sarah Parquhar, 379 Woolwich St., Guelph, ON N1H 3W8 (2j7)7

Bread and Roses Morris. (No contact: Toronto, ON)

Forrest City Morris. Tom Siews, 37 Mackenzie Av., London, ON N6G 3T7 (M:w;7)7

Green Fiddle Morris. Doug Creighton, 292 Brunswick Av., Toronto ON M5S 2M7 (M:w;7)

Hornbeam Morris. (No contact: Toronto, ON) (2j7)7

Malt Hill Morris. (No Contact: London, ON) (2j7)7

Mississippi Morris Men. Roger Hansell (no current address). Mississauga, ON (2j7)7

Thames Valley Morris. Paul Handford, Dept. of Zoology, University of Western Ontario, London, ON N6A 5B7 (2j7)7

Pennsylvania

Kingsessing Morris Men. Tom Senior, 2729 N. 45th St., Philadelphia, PA 19131 (M:N;77)

Mason-Dixon Border Morris. Larry Shute, Rt. 1 Box 63, Clearville, PA 15535 (M:2;80)

Blackstone Valley Morris. Ann Mason, 26 Wyatt Rd., West Barrington, RI 02806 (2j7)7

Western Morris Men. George Utter, 54 Elm St., Westerly RI 02891 (M:Tu:76)

Tennessee

Sourwood Morris. Ruth Horton, 2515 South Haven Rd., Knoxville, TN 37920 (M:7;7)

Texas

Men of Houston. John Vivian, 3804 Villanova, West University Pl., Houston, TX 77005 (M:7;7)

Yellow Rose Morris. (No current contact: Houston, TX) (M:7;7)

Vermont

Wardboro Morris & Sword. J. N. Stevens, March Hill Rd., Walpole, NH 03608 (D:7;4)

Putney Morris Men. Fred Breunig, R.D. 1, Box 9A, Putney, VT 05346 (M:7;81)
Virginia

Albermarle Morris Men. Robert La Rue, Rt. 1 Box 303A, Barboursville, VA 22923 (M;7;7)

Bluemont Morris. Howard Bass, Rt. 2 Box 2948, Berryville, VA 22611 (M;W;7;7)

Court Square Dancing Society. Marny Morrison. Rt. 2 Box 416, Charlottesville, VA 22901 (M;7;7)

More Or Less Morris. Anna Jolly, 14 N. Sheppard St., Richmond, VA 23221 (M;7;7)

Richmond Morris Men. Guy A. Maclean-Eltham, 609C Tilden St., Richmond, VA 23221 (M;7;7)

Washington

Gasworks Morris. Patricia Tanin, 2720 N.E. 92nd, Seattle, WA 98115 (M;7;7)

Wisconsin

Folklore Village Morris Men. Bob Werner, 3810 Harlow Rd., Mt. Horeb, WI 53572 (M;7;7)

Oak Apple Morris. Karen Agee, 2020 Field St., Madison, WI 53713 (M;W;7;8)

Announcements

First Ever Morris Organization in North America!

Pamela Corley of Berea College wrote us recently that during a gathering of garland dancers in Brasstown, N.C. in January, the Southern Women's Organization for Ritual Dance (S.W.O.R.D.) was formed, "to encourage morris and ritual dance by the women of the southern United States through various programs to include performances, instruction, and practical workshops." Membership is open to anyone interested in supporting the objective of the organization. This includes dancers, teachers and musicians. Members will receive all mailings (including a newsletter) and may participate in all organizational programs. Membership costs $5.00 per person; a team may join (at the same price of $5.00 per member) if more the 50% of their membership is paid up, and that gives them the right to a representative on the governing board. There are two officers elected for one-year terms--First Lady and Bag Lady. (Pamela Corley of the Mayapple Morris is First Lady and Laura Sprung of the Rural Felicity is Bag Lady.) The First Annual S.W.O.R.D. Ale is planned for the second weekend in October in Brasstown but more information will be available later. Anyone interested in joining should contact Pamela Corley, 115 Elm St., Berea, KY 40404.

Rattle Publication

Battle Up, Ye Ruffs! The Story of Longsword Dancing: A Yorkshire Tradition by Trevor Stone has recently been released in England. It sells for about $3.50 including postage. Interested readers can write: Trevor Stone, 6 Priory Road, Sale, Cheshire M33 2BR, U.K.

More announcements on page 20
This feature of the American Morris Newsletter is meant to provide for the regular communication among all morris sides as well as those who dance sword, ribbon, and garland. It is dependent upon your letters, postcards, and telephone calls. The names of the correspondents appear at the end of each club's news.

Berkeley Morris (Berkeley, CA)

With the addition of many enthusiastic and talented newcomers, 1982 was a big year for Berkeley Morris. Our ranks were at least doubled from '81 and the flush of new love for morris dancing showed in our well-received and tireless tour season. Our Fieldtown repertoire was expanded to include most of the dances from that tradition, and not only did the new members master the old warhorses like “The Forester” and “Balance the Straw,” but also the more difficult dances. A call for “Leap Frog” always caused a scramble for a place in the set.

We begin our third year dancing as a mixed team in 1983. What began as a necessity when we only had 8-10 dancers became a philosophical change as well for most members when the team developed a more cohesive dancing style and a renewed vitality. Rumblings have started to add some dances from a tradition other than Fieldtown this year. We are also contemplating the idea of a West Coast Ale or week-long tour of Northern California this year and would appreciate hearing from any interested West Coast teams.

Foreman and Fool Terry O'Neal still teaches the Tuesday night practices with the aid of Cliff Rainey (Foreman and Squire, respectively). Paul Brooks is the Bagman and unofficial P.T. Barnum of Berkeley Morris. We welcome all in the summer for beginning lessons; semi-experienced dancers may join us after January each year. Experienced dancers are welcome anytime.

Paul and Barbara Brooks, 685 31st St., Richmond, CA 94804
Clifford Rainey, 4600 Belfast Ave., Oakland, CA 94619

Bluemont Morris (Bluemont, VA)

We are looking forward to our fourth annual Ale in September. All the regional teams are invited, and a few far off teams usually come as well (London, Ont. is generally well-represented). Last year around 120 dancers attended.

We dance as men's and women's sides (separate but equal), and occasionally dance mixed as well. There are currently twenty-five members. Squire is Dick Pearman, peglady is Claire Ross. Foremen are Warren Wofresta and Howard Bass for the men; Claire and Leah Robinson for the women.

Then there’s the Bluemont Mummers, a forgettable lot, I suppose. There are roughly ten of us (I do mean rough). We get together in November and
December and work up an absurdity we call a mummers play: we have been doing Sleights longsword along with it. We've performed at the Bluemont Mid-Winter Ball the past three years and at the Smithsonian the past two years, which I guess makes us valuable cultural artifacts.

Only one of our current team members actually lives in Bluemont, which is a small town sort of in the hip pocket of the Blue Ridge Mts—about fifty miles west of Washington, D.C. But Bluemont is the focal point of a lot of dancing and music for this area—there are regular country dances twice a month, and concerts of classical and traditional music at least once a month.

Almost forgot to mention that one-third of our women members are pregnant. Surely morris magic is at work! Also, three upcoming weddings feature one or more Bluemont dancers.

Howard Bass, Rt. 1, Box 2948, Berryville, VA 22611

Kinasessing Morris Men (Philadelphia, PA)

We entered our fifth year together with yet another Fall Keg Party General Meeting Potluck Dinner Slide Show at which new meaning was given to our favorite expression, “If we like it, we eat it.” Moments later we found ourselves at the third annual Bluemont Morris Ale and someplace we were touring with Rock Creek at this gas station when the fire house siren went off and it was Stick dances for the Hearing Impaired. Well, we recovered from that just in time for the Fall Dance Weekend in Charlottesville, but by then we didn’t have a whole side, so we met up with some guys from a certain D.C. team and danced out calling ourselves “King’s Bottom.” And that was sure good for a few laughs until we got home to participate in a very serious workshop in the Ducklington tradition conducted by John Dexter of the Bouwerie Boys. This inspiring session made it possible for our members to experience a state of very seriousness. And just so the day wasn’t a complete waste, we’ve been practicing those dances ever since.

Next thing you know, we appeared at a really big festival of Irish and British Folk Music with such as Martin Carthy, the guitarist who plays some morris tunes with his hands. The day after that, we danced at the Peddler’s Village Apple Festival, sustained once again by a cold keg conveniently hidden within Mike Gallagher’s van. Pretty soon we got home and were greeted by a bunch of those Bouwerie Boys. We showed them some of Philly’s Scenic Wonders and pubs, and even found time to do some serious dancing.

After Christmas we rejoined the Bouweries in progress as they rearranged the foundations of several Manhattan bars. Next we were home again dancing at an elegant Twelfth Night Ball. It was all the food you could eat, and we did.

We recently moved into a new, larger practice hall with a big refrigerator. The biggest problem has been the decline in membership, with only one new dancer this year and several gone. But, seriously, folks. I’d love to see some readers of AMH comment on this problem in future issues.

Jamie Watson is our squire, Gary Undercuffler our foreman, and Tom Senior our bagman.

Jamie Watson, 6925 Greene Street, Philadelphia, PA 19119
We're a new morris team in Boulder, started last April (1982) by relocated morris dancers Martha Wild (formerly of New Haven, CT) and David Driver (of Ft. Collins, CO) with Sallie Sprague, a folk dancer from Amherst, MA. Currently, we have about a dozen members, half or so of whom are performing level. We danced out on the Boulder mall last summer, and at the Shakespeare festival on campus in August, as well as several folk festivals. We're supposed to be doing much of this again, as well as more festival work this summer. We're hoping to get an Ale together, as there are three morris groups near here—Denver, Boulder, and Ft. Collins. And I see that there's a group on the western slope in Carbondale. We aren't as isolated as we thought.

We're always interested in new/more members. We're an integrated group, so both men and women are welcome. Current officers are: Sallie Sprague, squire; Martha Wild, foreperson; David Driver and Sarah Purdy, assistants.

Sallie Sprague, 145 So. 30th Street, Boulder, Co 80303

Marsh Island Morris (Orono, ME)

We wanted to let you know that all of the Marsh Island women enjoyed the January 1983 repertory, especially the two new dances, the report from Brickwedde, and "In the Bag."

Marsh Island Morris is a women's side that was founded in 1979 by Cherie Bushey, with the assistance of Roger Cartwright. We dance the Headington Quarry tradition, and are also beginning to learn some Adderbury. Since the team began, we have held Mayday celebrations in Orono in conjunction with the Stillwater Morris Men. For the past two years we have also conducted joint pre-Christmas tours in local towns, including dancing, singing, and a mummer's play. This past summer we also participated in tours with the Starling Morris (Farmington, ME), Highland Mary (Camden), and the all-Maine Ales at the Common Ground Fair (Windsor, ME).

At the present time, the team consists of nine members, one of whom, Kim Morris, has been dancing since the side was formed. Cherie left us this year to move to Greenfield, MA, and we're hoping that she will find some good dancing there. Cheers!

Kathy Carter, squire, MBB #299, Veazie, ME 04401
May Apple Morris (Berea, KY)

The Rural Felicity Garland Dancers of Brasstown, NC hosted the first Gala Garland Gathering January 14-16 at the John C. Campbell Folk School in Brasstown. About twenty-five women representing three sides—the Rural Felicity, Atlanta's Briar Rose side, and the May Apple Morris—spent the weekend dancing and teaching each other garland, stave, ribbon, and Lancashire clogging dances.

Pamela Corley, 115 Elm Street, Berea, Kentucky 40404

More or Less Morris (Richmond, VA)

More or Less Morris is a women's team located in Richmond, Virginia. We have been in existence approximately four years. In the last year we have performed extensively in the Richmond area, and also at the Fall Dance Festival in Charlottesville, VA and The Blue Moon Ale.

Our first big planned event was Easter weekend, April 2 and 3. It was on the order of a mini-ale. We toured in conjunction with the annual Easter Parade. This is a large street fair held every Year. The night preceding the tour, we had a potluck dinner and dance with the Roane Mountain Hilltoppers. It was a big event.

Our squire is Cathi Farmer and our Bagperson is Anna Jolly. Expect to hear more from us in the future. Anyone in the area is welcome to come and dance with us.

Anna Jolly, 14 N. Sheppard Street, Richmond, VA 23221

Pokinabrook Morris (~lbany, NY)

Pokinabrook is an acronym for Poughkeepsie, Kingston, and Millbrook, which is where the team started; dancing mixed only when there were never enough of one gender to dance out. Later, we danced mixed by choice. The membership gradually shifted north of this area over the years until 1979 when the entire membership consisted of Albany area folks. It was decided that we should keep our name rather than switch to something like 'Albany Morris' for reasons of old lang syne and continuity. Also, English dancers are often amused by the "poking" of our name. Starting this year, Pokinabrook has a men's side and a women's side, and are being taught Bledington and Fieldtown respectively by Jim Stevenson of the Bouwerie Boys. The addition of Selma Kaplan (the former Mrs. Bledington of Binghamton, NY) as musician has improved our dancing immensely. Not to mention Mr. William Newman.

Jim Cosgrove, squire, RD Box 255, Chatham, NY 12037

Putney Morris Men (Putney, VT)

Weather, illness, and local politics combined to create a spotty practice schedule this winter for the Putney MM, but we are primed for an active May touring season. Mayday will find us visiting the various Putney "big houses" (notables such as former Governor and Senator George Aiken, 94-year-
old Irish Tweed lady Carol Brown, and others) and our second annual tour down Main Street is planned for the first Saturday of May. Tours with the Harrisville women and the Pinewoods MM are in the works for the following weekends, and the Marlboro Morris Ale will keep us busy over Memorial Day.

A possible complication throughout the whole touring season is the expected arrival of babies to families of not just one, but two Putney MM. A third is due in July to the squire's family. Too much morris cake ingested in 1982! Happy dancing to all!

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

Westerly Morris Men (Westerly, RI)

The Westerly MM are working out details of our big event of the year—a trip to England in August. We are being sponsored by the Traditional Bampton MM, and are planning to return again to Saddleworth to push the Rush Cart, as well as dancing out in the Bampton area. We have received an invitation to the 1983 London (England) Morris Ale, but this is unfortunately in June, two months before our scheduled trip.

Meanwhile we're dancing at various local festivals, concerts, and historical events, as well as planning to attend the Eighth Marlboro Morris Ale over Memorial Day weekend.

(Editors' Note: this is a summary of the Westerly Morris Men's Newsletter, which we receive periodically from George Utter.)

George Utter, 54 Elm Street, Westerly, RI 02891

Windy City Women (Chicago, IL)

The persistent spring breezes nudging away Chicago's winter drafts find spring already anticipated in the practice halls of the women morris dancers. The women's team, known for three years as Ladies Pleasure, is working up some favorite capers in preparation for good dancing and good fun at the Midwest Morris Ale in Ann Arbor on Memorial Day weekend. But look for us there under a new name. Reflecting the best of tradition and affection for our gusty city, we're proud to be the Windy City Women. With our new name come other changes. We welcome to the team several new dancers, including Lisa Glascott, Mavis Rice, and Teresa Savino. This makes us really a fresh team, with six of our ten members having joined within the year. This season we're dancing Sherbourne, a new tradition for all. Leslie Roberts is doing a fine job as our new squire, and Erna-Lynne Bogue carries on as foreperson. See you in Michigan!

Mavis Rice, 425 W. Roscoe, Apt. 510, Chicago, IL 60657
The Woods Hole Morris is alive and kicking. We've been doing Adderbury since we got back from the Westerly/Bampton Ale. Tubby Reynolds work-shopped us a bit of Bampton on his way back to England. His fiddling and pipe-and-taboring were a marvelous experience to dance to. We've danced at Woods Hole's own local Christmas Revels, for an English supper which the local Unitarians had, and in mid-April we're doing morris and a sword dance for the sixth graders in the local school system. We've actually gotten written into a state Council on Arts and Humanities grant for that one. We'll do a murderous version of Beaux of London City (Bozo) for the Joker's annual mid-March blues chaser and hit the New England Folk Festival with fifteen of us all spiffed up for show (if we're diligent).
Last year a change came over our May Day celebrations. Due to a lack of
forthought by calendar makers, May Day fell upon a Saturday. All the "great"
ideas for where and when we might dance in addition to the Mall were suddenly
possible, nay, required. Up before dawn to greet the sun. Off for brunch.
Down to the Mall. Up the St. Croix River for lunch and dancing on the shore.
Back downtown for dinner, drinks and more dancing. We were all thoroughly
exhausted by the end of it, and so sore we couldn't dance for a week. Not
the least problem was sobering up three separate times during the day so that
we could drive on to our next pub stop. This year those same calendar makers
came up with the equally ill-conceived idea of having May Day on Sunday.
All the same again, and more, but with no day to recover. If any of us survive
it will be a miracle. Luckily, next year--I have it on good authority--May
Day will be on a Tuesday.

May Day is also the debut performance for our apprentice dancers. In
kit for the first time, they become official members of the side. They also
get their first taste of being gawked, stared, laughed and scowled at by all
and sundry passers by. Even after nine or ten years of dancing, many of the
two million people in this metropolitan area have never seen or heard of
morris dancing. Most of them in fact. The initial reactions of first time
audiences span the emotional spectrum from delight through incredulity to
suspicion and downright hostility. Occasionally we are accosted by drunken
rowdies, but since most of us are familiar with that state of mind it is not
difficult to deal with them. Sometimes the effect of our dancing can even be
traumatic. One maned can driver turned left in order to get a better view--
into an oncoming car. (We managed to process up the street before the police
arrived.) Generally any negative feelings dissipate during the first dance
to be replaced by a rampant curiosity. Who are we? What are we? Why are we?
Questions both silly and sincere, intelligent and lame, but most repetitive.
After ascertaining that we are not either Hari Krishnas or Moonies, most of
our fellow citizens presume that we are Irish. We wear green baldricks; any-
one wearing green must be Irish. No, we're not Irish. Perhaps Finns? or
Norwegian? Bohemian? Greek? Apparently every ethnic group is willing to
believe the worst about its neighbors. We are, after all, a bunch of grown
men dressed up in funny clothes and dancing with other men. We must be
strange. The local Native Americans enjoy us because they also dance with
bells on their legs, but they can't figure out what tribe we're from either.
Equally we make them understand that we are doing English dances. To some
that confuses them, but the stereotype that most Americans have of the English
is that they are a very staid people who seldom laugh and would never be so
foolish as to dance. Such foolish misconceptions are, unfortunately, the
norm. Audience education is a neverending and often thankless task. It can
also be very frustrating.

To deal with the problem of audience ignorance, here is a list of oft-
asked questions with some sample answers to allow new dancers to "lend a
feeling of verisimilitude to our otherwise bald and uninteresting tale."
Remember that you always score more points for alacrity and wit than you do
for truthfulness, and no one is really going to believe you anyway.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Why are you doing this?</th>
<th>Because it is fun</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Are all the dancers men?</td>
<td>Sometimes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Never</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td>Always</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Spring |
traditional
How long has this been going on?
Fifteen minutes.
Six hundred years.
Three thousand years.

Do you do this for a living?
No. I drink for a living. I dance for fun.

What religion are you?
Christian: one death and resurrection is enough.
Pagan: if you've seen one death and resurrection, you've seen them all.
Raoulite: Say what?

Why is it called "morris"?
After Morris the Cat.
Morris is the name of an ancient tribe of Cockneys.
For Morris Knacker who invented the dance in 1953, in Chicago.
It is derived from Mori-kan, an ancient Japanese martial art form.

Why do you dance?
For the beer.
To insure fertility.
Because we're being paid.

What does it all mean?
That it will rain soon.
That it will soon stop raining.
That we are out of beer.

Oak Apple Day
By Dave Titus
Oak Apple Morris

We little suspected that we would end up composing a new dance when, two years ago, we decided to take the name of a springtime English festival for our own. The January, 1983 issue of AMN (Vol. VI No. 1) contains an outline of the dance. In this article I hope to elucidate the history of this festival.

Oak Apple Day is a celebration of the restoration of Charles II to the throne of England in 1660 after the death of Oliver Cromwell. As the story
Prince Charles (not to be confused with Scotland's Bonnie Prince Charlie, 1720-1788) had escaped from Cromwell after the Battle of Worcester (1651) by hiding in the branches of the Boscobel Oak. He supposedly held a small bird which he released when his pursuers rode past. This fooled them into believing the tree to be vacant, as no bird would alight in a tree containing a man.

According to Ralph Whitlock in "A Calendar of Country Customs," Oak Apple Day became a popular holiday as a consequence of the change in calendar in 1752, which set Mayday two weeks earlier in the spring. Oak Apple Day, always celebrated on the 29th of May, then became the preferred day for May festivities in some villages because of the generally better weather later in May. From Whitlock:

To generations of children in many parts of the country Oak Apple Day was Pinch-Bum Day, the loyal youngsters who wore sprigs of oak regarding it as their bounden duty to pinch the bums of those who did not. A legend explains the custom by asserting that when Charles II was hiding in the Boscobel Oak one of his companions had to keep pinching him to prevent him from falling asleep when his pursuers were near, but obviously the practice had so much to commend it to the participants that a legend was hardly needed.

The less botanically inclined among us may be surprised to learn (as I was) that an oak apple is not the fruit of an experiment in tree grafting, nor even a fruit of any sort. An oak apple is a gall, a spherical growth induced by the infestation of an oak branch by the gall-fly, Biorrhiza terminalis. Now Biorrhiza got involved with Charles II, or with morris dancing, remains a mystery to me? Speculations, anyone?

The Women's Morris Federation

By James C. Brickwedde

(Editors' Note: This is the second of three articles by Jim on the English umbrella morris organizations: The Morris Ring, The W.M.F. and Open Morris.)

In 1973, five women's morris sides were at an instructional in Chelmsford. The teams were Bath City, Cardiff Ladies, Chelmsford Ladies, Oxford University Women and England's Glory. They originated the idea of a federation of morris sides whose eventual aim would be:

1. to encourage and maintain an interest in the morris by women and men of all ages;
2. to provide a channel of communication between member clubs;
3. to encourage improvement of dancing among its members.

Two years later, after seeking out other women's sides in the country, the Women's Morris Federation was inaugurated with twelve sides represented. Now, ten years since its inception, almost 100 sides wave the W.M.F. banner. Member sides include not only Cotswold sides (about 50% of total membership), but also Northwest morris, garland, clog and country dance sides as well.
In its early years, W.M.F. was by necessity and by choice an all-women's organization. This was in direct reaction to the policies of the only other morris organization, the Morris Ring. The Ring excluded women's sides. It still does and the battle lines between the two official organizations are still strongly drawn. Although the years of argument have caused the softening of tone on some local fronts, W.M.F., however, has become more flexible since the 1979 creation of Open Morris. Open Morris was born to service those men's sides who found the Ring too pompous, for the women's sides who found W.M.F. too bureaucratic, and for those mixed sides who previously had no place to go at all.

To the credit of W.M.F., instead of fighting the unwinnable battle over whether woman 'did, can or will' dance morris, it has decided to cooperate with Open Morris on mutually beneficial projects. The Morris Ring is left to battle the outdated cause of male-only morris, right or wrong, alone. More importantly, changes have been made in W.M.F. membership regulations: all is not female in W.M.F. any longer.

At the 1980 Annual General Meeting in Narrogate, membership rules were altered to admit mixed sides and joint sides (a women's and a men's side who dance in separate sets but share the same administration). It was not, however, until the September, 1982 Annual General Meeting at Carlisle that the last vestiges of single sex politics fell. Now any side who is willing to uphold the charter's goals may join, be they Women's, men's, mixed or joint. One wonders whether the 'W.' will eventually be dropped from the Federation's title. Apparently at the Carlisle meeting such a motion lost by a narrow margin—perhaps next year?

Member sides of the Federation have been involved in developing a number of programs over the years. Federation-sponsored instructional by high-quality instructors and musicians are an annual occurrence. An attempt to work with sides on more selective problems was introduced last year. The program is called "Moots." A Moot is an event where three to four sides get together to dance for half a day, then meet the second half for constructive criticism and discussion of mutual concerns.

I attended one such Moot October 17, 1982, sponsored by Meridian Morris from Woolwich. They were joined by Jackstraws (Hastings) and Fleur de Llys (Surrey) for dancing at a South London pub called the Goose and Firkin. Afterwards, we adjourned to Woolwich for lunch and a group discussion on ways to improve the public presentation of morris, e.g. how to find one person with a loud enough voice to tell the audience what's going on, among other things. This is a regular problem with a lot of English sides I've seen; there is little in the way of communication with the audiences. Dances are not named and historical accolades are non-existent, making for a less than lively atmosphere. This Moot provided a means of exploring ways of improving in this area. (You can see Meridian Morris every third Sunday of the month at the Goose and Firkin pub on Borough St. near St. George's Circus in South London. The dancing is decent and the pub brews its own ale in the basement.)

The Federation has also organized two committees to gather historical information for future dissemination. They are the Notation Group (NG) and the Research Group (RG). The Notation Group has been working to expand on what is published concerning specific dance traditions and individual dance descriptions. The work is to be more narrative than the Bacon collection,
which is found to be too abbreviated in format. The first section published was a Glossary of Morris Terms. This is already out of print and undergoing revision for a second edition. Soon to be published is a description of Wheatley, and drafts are completed describing Hinton and Brackley. Just beginning is work on Bucknell. Preliminary work is being initiated on noting Northwest Morris, and orchard and ribbon dancing.

The Research Group has been working on collecting and indexing music for Morris and is documenting the history of the work of Mary Neal and the Esperance Club. Other projects include work on the rapper sword dances. Progress reports will appear from time to time in such dance magazines as the independent Morris Matters or English Dance and Song.

The Federation is experiencing some important growing pains as its membership composition changes over time. As more non-Cotswold and more non-female sides enter it’s ranks, it will find a greater need for organizational flexibility. One accusation levelled at the Federation by outsiders is that it is too bogged down in procedural red tape. If the maturity which the Federation has shown in making the recent changes in membership carries over into the areas of external cooperation and internal governance, I sense that it will thrive over the next few years.

My travels have taken me to see women’s sides up in Coventry (Phoenix and Three Spires) and out twice to Windsor to see the inestimable Windsor Morris and, on one of those occasions, to see New Esperance Morris. As summer approaches, I hope to continue to see more sides dance.

Women’s Morris Federation has both Overseas and Individual membership categories. Any sides, female, male or mixed, who wish to join should contact W.M.F. Secretary Val Parker, 16 Evuda Grove, St. Albans, Herts, AL4 9PJ, England. (Please note that English banks greatly appreciate receiving money orders which are already converted into pounds sterling.)

The Editors also highly recommend that interested readers subscribe to Morris Matters, a fine periodical with many items of interest for American readers. Address your inquiries to Jenny Joyce and Alan Whear, 24 Alexandre Rd., Windsor, Berks., England.

Letters to the Editor

I think the AM is terrific. It is a nifty source of morris information, trivia, and besides, gossip about what’s going on in Other Parts of the World. Certain members of our team have expressed a distaste for the accounts of various teams, especially those who feel it necessary to mention how many high paying gigs they ave performed at recently, etc. Most of us feel that morris is a ritual with extremely deep meanings far exceeding the obvious visual, auditory, and (in some cases) economic appeal. We feel that bagging is fine, and if somebody wants to pay us for dancing, that is okay sometimes but not ordinarily. Charging for our performances, we think, would add a different twist to our reasons for dancing. Similarly, many of us feel that too much horn-blowing is inappropriate and belittling to the tradition.
18 I must add that we, of course, recognize that these opinions are purely our own and therefore perhaps worth mentioning but not dwelling upon. We certainly don't have the right to tell anybody how to conduct their affairs. I just wanted to share a few thoughts with you and tell you that we probably won't send you any "progress reports" or statements of how we are doing for purposes of publication in the ANN. If you're interested (and probably even if you aren't), I'll let you know from time to time what Juggler Meadow is up to etc., just to make conversation.

I hope these thoughts don't offend anybody. I, and Juggler Meadow, realize that our opinions are strong and perhaps a bit unconventional these days. But we try to treat them as opinions and not inflict them on others (like I just did--sorry).

Geoffrey A. Rogers, RD #1, 494 Munsell Road, Belchertown, MA 01007

1983 Morris Calendar

This calendar is a listing of morris dance events in North America consisting of those notices received by us in time for publication. It is by no means a complete listing. The lack of detail is also intentional. I check with the first team listed for details before you go! Support your local morris team!

Abbreviations: (M=morris, S=sword, MM=morris men, two-letter code=state, prov.)

Albm: Albemarle MM, VA
AmhW: Amherst Women, MA
Ann: Ann Arbor MLS, MI
Ber: Berkeley Morris, CA
Berea: Berea MM, KY
Bing: Binghampton MM, NY
Blo: Bloomingtown Quarry M, IN
Bour: Bowerie Boys, NY
Bro: Bread and Roses, ON
Can: Canterbury MM, NH
Cas: Castlewood Women, KY
Cor: Cornetalk, IL
CtS: Court Square
ForC: Forrest City M, ON
GreF: Green Fiddle M, ON
GreM: Greenwood M, MI
Hafn: Ha' penny M, MA
Harr: Harrisville Women, NH
JugM: Juggler Meadow MM, MA
King: Kingheesing MM, PA
Lex: Lexington MM, KY
Magn: Magnolia MM, GA
Malt: Malt Mill M, VT
Mar: Maryland MM, CT
Min: Miller's Rivers M, MA
MinT: Minnesota Traditional M, MN
Mud: Muddy River M, MA
Ntw: New Towne MM, KY
Oak: Oak Apple M, WI
Pine: Pine Vood M, MA
Putn: Putney MM, VT
R'OB: Ring O' Bells, NY
Sour: Sourwood M, TN
ThaT: Thames Valley M, ON
Thor: Thordenn's NY
W'd: Windy City Women, IL

10 Bing: Marathon, NY Maplefest
23- Bing: Annual Gilbertsville, NY Tour
26 Minn: National Secretary's Assn.

APRIL

1 Bing: May Celebration, Binghampton, NY
1 NR: May Day at Boote's Farm, Berea, KY, 2 P.M.
1 Ber: dawn at Inspiration Point, Tilden Park; Shattuck B.A.R.T. Station, Live Oak Park, Walnut Sq., all in Berkeley, CA area
1 Minn: dawn at Ik, Hokomis, Mpls. Lakes, Nicollet Mall, Nicollet Belk: Island Inn, Powderhorn Park Mayfest, Saltair May Day
2 PUMM: Town Hall and "big houses", Putney, VT
1 West: dawn at Connecticut College, breakfast and church tour. Middlety, RI area
7 PUMM: Main St., Putney, VT
9 MarL: Marlboro May Day, South Road, Marlboro, VT
11 MarL: manor houses, Marlboro, VT
14 MarL: Brattleboro and Dummerston, VT
15 MarL: Putney, VT; Waipole, NH: Alstead, NH
15 PUMM: So. Acmuth, Bellows Falls, Westminster and Dummerston, VT
21 MarL: Burlington, VT
22 Minn: St. Paul Arts Festival
22 Bing: Major's Inn Festival, Gibtaville, NY
22 PUMM: Pine tour of New Hampshire towns
24 Harr: West: N.A.P.A. Folk Festival, Natick High School
28-- Marl: 30 AlbM MilR West
28 Bing: MuDr
30 Bour: NewT
30 Ctsq PUMM
30 Gref BO'B
30 HaPn Thav
30 NAPN Thor
26 AnAr: 28 AnAr: 30 AnAr: 30 Ambw JugM
28 Belk LegeTh
30 Bloo Malt
30 Bros Minc
30 Casw OakA
30 Corn Sour
30 Forc Wion
30 Grew WiWo
JUNE 3 Belk: Grand Old Days, Grand Av., St. Paul, MN
5 Bing: Binghamton, NY "Garden Tour"
11- Bour: Second Bourierie Sudz, Music Mt., CT
12 Bing: Community Chorus Summer Pops Concert, Westerly, RI
25 Belk: Minnesota Crafts Festival, College of St. Catherine, St. Paul
25 West: Community Chorus Summer Pops concert, Westerly, RI
25- Bing: King: Philadelphia, PA tour
25 Bing: July 1983
9 West: International Day, Captains' Walk, New London, CT
16 Minn: tour of the Schell's Brewery, New Ulm, MN
17 Bing: Madison Green, Madison Beach, Madison, CT
25 Cant: Canterbury Fair, Canterbury, NH
25 West

Please submit any additions or corrections to the Calendar by the copy deadline for the July issue. We will extend the Calendar into the last half of 1983 in that issue.
Toronto Ale

Green Fiddle Morris of Toronto, Ontario will host a morris ale Sept. 2nd-5th in honor of a tour by the Beaus of London City from England. Teams interested in attending should contact Green Fiddle bagman Doug Creighton, 292 Brunswick Av., Toronto, Ontario, M5S 2M7.

Third Midwest Morris Ale

Memorial Day weekend will see the largest-ever Midwest Ale in Ann Arbor, Michigan, hosted by Ann Arbor Morris and Sword. Teams planning to attend so far include the men's team from Chicago and the Windy City Women, Bloomington Quarry (Ill), Cornetalk Morris (Champaign-Urbana, Ill), Forest City and Malt Mill (London, Ont), Oak Apple (Madison, WI), Minnetro Traditional and the Halls of the North (Minneapolis-St. Paul, Minn), Bread and Roses (Toronto, Ont), Greenwood (East Lansing, Mich), Sourwood (Knoxville, Tenn), Castlewood Women and the Lexington Morris Men (Lexington, Ky). Rumor has it that the outrageous Juggler Meadow Men and the Amherst Women are also very interested in attending but have not responded officially. Those interested in savoring this event (for whatever reasons) should contact Rayna Alsberg or Peggy Gerber of the Ann Arbor side. (See the Directory.)

Country Dance Camps

ANN has begun to receive information on a number of country dance camps besides the long established events at Pinewoods and Berea, Ky. Those which might be of interest to morris dancers are listed below:


Mendocino Woodlands Country Dance Camp, July 3-10, Mendocino, Ca. Morris instruction by Brad Foster (Bay Area C.D.S.S.) and Gene Myrow (Sunset M.M. and Bouwerie Boys). Contact Bay Area Country Dance Society, 3234 Ramona St., Palo Alto, Ca 94306.

Minnesota Country Dance Camp, Sept. 30-Oct. 2. The exact role and format of morris instruction is not yet settled. Those interested should contact John O'Loughlin, 3427 Blaisdell Av. S., Mpls., MN 55408.

Directory of Clog Manufacturers

Just as we were pasting up the text for this issue of ANN, we received an interesting and inexpensive directory and guide to the manufacture of clogs of all sorts in England. The pamphlet includes technical explanations of various types and designs of clogs, lists addresses of clog makers and the types of clogs they produce, and contains no information on prices. A card to ANN will get you information on how to order the directory.
The American Morris Newsletter is published four times per year, typically in April, July, October and January. Individual subscriptions are available for $3 per year (overseas subscribers should add $3 for airmail delivery, $1 for surface mail). Team subscriptions are $2 per copy for a minimum of six copies sent to the same address. Back issues are available for 70¢ each plus postage. Please make all checks or money orders payable to American Morris Newsletter. Copy deadlines for the submission of articles, letters or team news are the fifteenth of the month preceding publication. After that date contact us by telephone at 612/379-2286.

I would like to subscribe to the American Morris Newsletter. This is a new subscription. I have enclosed my check or money order. Mailing address: AMN, 438 N.E. 4th St., Minneapolis, MN 55413.

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