

SANDANCE



Notes of the Week

For the week of August 17, 2015



Remembering Sam & Jody Shawver

Sam Shawver died in December 1980, long before most of today's dancers took to the floor, but they would know him by at least one dance—*Sam's Song*, a Hall of Fame classic to the music *My Cherie*, started by Sam and finished after his death by *Russ & Barbara Casey*.

We have recently dug back into the oldies to teach *I'm In The Mood For Love*, a phase VI foxtrot written by the Shawvers in 1980, a very advanced dance for its time. It was regularly part of the John Michaelson program and that of Mickey Marshall long after Sam died. The Shawvers' *Married*, a phase VI waltz, continues to be on many programs in Southern California. Some will remember their *To Each His Own*, phase VI foxtrot.

So just who were the Shawvers? In the late 1970s, they ran five round dance classes a week from beginner to advanced, in Orange, Fullerton and Claremont. They wrote choreography for festivals all over the country and organized an exhibition team that ran for about three years. *Ed Waters* was a member of one of their teams.

Bob Hennessey, a dancer with the Shawvers at the time, wrote in a tribute to them: "They believe teachers must have a commitment to give their very best to their dancers, and this philosophy is reflected in their teaching methods."

Kris Millard met the Shawvers in the late 1970s when they were club cuers for the Apollo 8s, and she soon began a beginner class with them. "Sam and Jody were very particular about their dancers learning the figures correctly from the beginning. I remember Sam going over and over figures—even dancing the woman's part with a man in order for him to learn the figure correctly. Sam taught the figures, then the dance to go with the figures. I remember him saying, 'If we knew the figures, we could dance them in any dance we heard'."

She also recalls that Sam always had a cigarette lit and if not in his mouth, then in an ashtray on the stage. When they taught, he didn't use a wireless mic and somehow managed to never get tangled in his 30-foot mic cord as they danced.

Many dancers from that era remember that Sam was particularly vocal about his opinions. If he didn't like a dance that was selected as round of the month, he would play it as a dutiful RDTA member, then toss the



A marriage may be made in heaven but the maintenance has to be done here on earth.

Dance programs for this week:

Tuesday, Carousel 303, Cypress Senior Center: *I'm In The Mood For Love (Shawver 6FT)*
Wednesday, Carousel 216, Long Beach Senior Center: *I'm In The Mood For Love (Shawver 6FT)*
Thursday Advanced Basics, Cypress Senior Center: *Adeline (Shibata 6ST)*

Theme of the Week: Dog Days of Summer

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record across the room, having done his part to play the ROM at least once.

The Shawvers got into round dancing in 1968 after meeting square dance caller Ed Gilmore while bowling. They were convinced to take up dancing to improve their timing for bowling, according to an article written about them in Round Dancer Magazine the year he died. In 1972, they started their first round dance class. They went on to study international style ballroom from Jim Cullip, who had moved here from London (his son Steve Cullip later became a US national ballroom champion).

The Shawvers were members of Round Dance Teachers Association of Southern California and he served as secretary in 1974. They taught *I'm In The Mood for Love* at the fourth URDC convention in Kansas City in 1980, and taught at the San Diego festival that year. They also taught at Round-A-Cade in Baltimore in 1979 and were the perennial teachers for Septemberfest, a round dance festival in Claremont, from 1978 to 1980.

When Sam died, the Septemberfest organizers, *Russ & Barbara Casey* asked *Eddie & Audrey Palmquist* to step in. The Caseys told the Palmquists they wanted a hard dance, not one that could be done on cues. The latest advanced choreography was always done at that weekend. A second teaching couple was always invited to teach too—the Procters from Texas, the Stones [credited with writing one of the first international quick steps], and Koit & Helen Tullus from Hayward (*Kiss Me Goodbye Foxtrot, 4 & 1 Cha*). In 1981, Koit & Helen were the other teachers, bringing a samba called *Manana*.

With the admonition that the Septemberfest dance had to be tough, the Palmquists went to their coaches, John & Jill Morton, who had relocated to Los Angeles from London, and asked them for the latest thing being done in competition. That became Part A of *Autumn Nocturne* (another Hall of Fame dance). [We know this story about how *Autumn Nocturne* came to be from the Palmquists. We also got it from Jill Morton, who worked with us to perfect it when we were asked to demo it at URDC the year it was named to the Hall of Fame.]

Russ & Barbara Casey (*St. Michel's Quickstep, Tenderly*) have long been retired from round dancing, and earlier this year, they moved to Fort Collins, CO, to be near family.

Coming Events

(Check for flyers when in class or email Sandi for information)

Labor Day Potluck All-Level Party Dance with D&S, 9/7
Seal Beach Leisure World, Alex Marziana host

Palm Springs Palmquist Round-Up, 9/25-27
Curt & Tammy Worlock, featured teachers
Palm Springs Pavilion

2nd Friday Phase 3-4-5 Dance, 10/9
Cedarbrook Dance Center

New Year's Eve Party Dance with D&S, 12/31
Cedarbrook Dance Center
Pre-sale tickets available soon

Videos On Line

<http://glenandhelen.com/dance/>
(Passwords available to ICBDA members, or ask us to request one for you)

<http://we-dance.info/Dances/>
The Hayes site is being run by ICBDA.
Your old log-on works or contact
JL Pelton at icbdaws@gmail.com.

Contact Gene Severance at
danceinfo@cox.net to request access
and password to his [new Shutterfly](#) site