

# Missouri Promenaders Square Dance Club

The Missouri Promenaders Square Dance Club was established in 1976 when a group of people got together at the VFW Hall in Florissant, Missouri to dance. They called themselves the Missouri VFW Promenaders and danced every Tuesday night.

In 1979 twelve couples started lessons and finished in 1980. The next two years the club grew in numbers and soon the VFW Hall could not hold all the dancers. Other locations were used, including Combs School, Kirkwood Middle School, Sperring Middle School and Immanuel Lutheran Church of Christ.

In 1981 the club moved to John Knox Presbyterian Church and changed its name to Missouri Promenaders. One thing remains from the old club; the flag on the badges of long-time members, representing the club's start at the VFW Hall.

The Missouri Promenaders have graduated many new dancers. Our largest class had as many as forty dancers. Our instructors have been Earl Kinsey, Tom Morgan, Wayne Akers, Marvin Keppler, Jim "Who" Cholmondeley and Stan Mangogna. Don't hold the way we dance against our instructors...We were taught the "Right Way!"

Club activities have all centered around square dancing. A few of them have been: baseball games, picnics, patio dances, Christmas parties, riverboat dancing, Halloween parties, hayrides, and going to Six Flags, County Fairs, State Square Dances and National Square Dance Conventions.

Our club has completed 15 "We Done Its" over the years, which are earned by visiting every club in the area two times. Our most distinguished raiding and retrieving couple is Ned & Trudy Romanoli, with over 500. They are charter members of Missouri Promenaders.

Since our beginning, membership has grown from 25 up to 125. We have about 42 dancers in the club at this time. Our past presidents have been: Mark & Donna Hasemier, John & Sharon Langley, Earl & Maggie Brinkman and Vern & Eunice Thieman.

Our goals for the future include:

- To introduce as many people to square dancing as possible
- To provide a variety of talented and challenging callers and cuers
- To continue to promote square dancing as an activity that can be enjoyed by everyone, both the young and the young-at-heart.