

WEST COUNTY SPINNERS
NEW DANCER GRADUATION May 18, 2010
Presented by Tom & Kathy Murray in appreciation of caller Stan
Mangogna for teaching the new dancer class of 2010.

Note: This presentation was made possible with inspiration from the newsletter of the United Square Dancers Of America, the poem *Square Dance Night* by John Ward, Alton, KS and the Lakeshore Squares, Gainsville, GA February 2010 new dancer tribute to Bob Morrison.

Stan,

As we were driving over here tonight and I was preparing my speech for my 15 hours of fame..... (Kathy reminds Tom that is 15 seconds).....
Anyway, we thought we better get all our questions answered tonight, because were pretty sure this new dancer honeymoon we have been on will be coming to a sudden stop. So we talked with the other new dancers and we've created a list of questions that I was planning on asking you tonight.....(Throw out long roll of paper).....
However, since I only have 15 seconds.....I will go with a shorter version that I just created.

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A long time ago my father taught me the meaning of life. He told me to find what it is you like to do and find a way to do it for the rest of your life. I took that advice very serious. I learned very quickly that what I do best is making a fool of myself. So you can understand why square dancing was for me the natural progression in the circle of life.

You gather up 4 couples and face them in a square.
A caller yells a few calls and you move there.
How hard can it be?

However upon arriving for our first night in the hall,
We discovered the Angels had a lot of knees and hips in a ball.
Even Lisa our new dancer leader was fearing a fall!
I thought to myself maybe this square dancing might not be for all.

We allemande left our corner and weaved the ring.
My hopes were high as we learned to swing.
Then the highlight came at the end of the first night,
When we learned to Yellow Rock, All Right!
For all these years I have been trying to figure
How to hug a strange girl and not get disfigured!

Each week the lessons continued and we got more confused.
But everyone was having so much fun, how could we refuse?

Four hands around and Grand Square...make a right hand star.
Ping Pong circulate.....what the heck is an allemande Thar?
What does it mean to Wheel and Deal or do a do-si-do;
Bend the line or load the boat.....makes no difference.....I don't know which way to go!

Flutterwheel, Ferris Wheel, Do the Tea Cup Chain;
Spin the top, Linear Cycle.....These just all sound insane!
I'm just a humble beginner....These terms are all brand new,
Will I ever get to know how to do a Spin Chain Through?

From Basic to Mainstream we learned to prance,
And then Stan scared us to death when he said you're ready for a new dancer dance!

Now this is the part I don't understand,
The caller that night said "chain your lady to the opposite man."
Now that is something I never would do.
Would you want some lady chained to you?

Then things started getting worse for wear,
And I found myself caught in a really strange square.
The angel across seemed so friendly and gay,
As she extended her hand across the way.

But before I knew it she had me in a Half Nelson Twist,
She twisted my arm and that snapped my wrist!
I said "Lady! Why did you ever do that?"
She said "You silly galoot, I was Boxing the Gnat!"

I said to my wife I've had it up to here,
Chase Right honey cause we're outa here!
And just when I thought my tension had reached its height,
We heard them yell "We'll be dancing here again next Saturday Night!"

As I drove from the parking lot that night,
I know my frustration was still at its height!
I slipped the clutch and spun chained and exchanged several gears that night!

Now Stan convinced me it would get easier.....on that I came to depend,
So I kept on trying while enjoying *almost* all of my new found friends.
(Except the lady that twisted my arm!)

Even when we goofed and laughed and cried,
Stan found a way to help us survive.
We've all had our fill and share of confusing
But tonight I think we all agree,,,,,,,,,,,,,it has been pretty amusing.

Somehow we all managed to get through it,
And if you ever doubt that we are fit,
Just ask Stan and he'll tell you,
"YOU GOTTS IT!"

(Ask New Dancers to come forward with gift)

So Stan, on behalf of the class of 2010, we would all like to thank you for your
patience, persistence, patience, perseverance, patience and your great attitude. (Did I
mention patience?) We will always try to do you proud.

We have a card and a small --- ok medium size gift --- that that we hope will provide
lasting "support" and give you "great vision" as you continue to teach the square
dancers of the future! (presented a music director's step stool to Stan)

Thank You and we'll see you across the square!