

# SQUARE DANCE

## STENOGRAPHIC NOTES OF A 'PHONE CONVERSATION BETWEEN AL BRUNDAGE & COOK

- Cook:** How many students do you have?
- Al:** In the Fall, after Labor Day, when our season and classes start, we will process some 700 or 800 dancers. There are about 12 lessons in basic dance, how to move, etc., then they will graduate and go into various square dance clubs in the area.
- Cook:** Did you study music?
- Al:** No. Don't know where all this strange facility comes from. My mother had quite a musical background. My granddad on my mother's side was a bandmaster and well known throughout Connecticut in his day.
- Cook:** Whereabouts have you called during these 20 years, Al?
- Al:** I go all over the country. Called in 44 or 45 states and Canada and leading institutes and workshops, dances, festivals, etc., and also quite a few Centennials in the West.
- Cook:** From how far away do they come?
- Al:** For a steady class, once a week, or once a month, they might go only 50 or 60 miles. For the big group in the summer we have "Funstitute". This is a five-day session, morning, afternoon and evening, catering to people all over the country -- England, Canada, Mexico. 18 or 20 states represented, Canada and New England.
- Cook:** Now what do you do up there? Do you operate a school?
- Al:** We operate two or three things. First--a dance barn for square dancing.
- Cook:** What about facilities; you must be operating the largest square-dance school in the country?
- Al:** We process more people as a group than anyone in the country because we have the school in Wisconsin. There were 347 processed in Wisconsin, 222 at West Point. In comparison of schools, I am sure that we do.
- Cook:** What do you call it?
- Al:** The country Barn. It's in Stepney, Conn., built in 1948 for square dancing. We run all kinds of square dancing there including classes and the dancing itself. Dances are held every Saturday night. Part of the rest of the week it is classes.
- Cook:** Tell me something about how you got started.
- Al:** Well, it is a funny situation. When we started we developed quite a dance following in our area, the King Street section of Danbury. When I went away to school, my brother learned to call. Two years later he went to school and we were both away, my dad learned how to call and called until we finished school.



## FIDELITY OF RR

Most RR discs are "high fidelity". All records are identified in the catalog, however, as HF, MF, and LF, for high, medium and low fidelity. MF and LF releases may be the result of field work with a spring-wound machine or 7 1/2" sec. tape originals or non-condenser-microphone work, for example. However, in each case, the MF and LF discs are released because they carry hard-to-find material which is precious to collectors.

## IMPORTANT

Do not order Road Recordings until you have read carefully the catalog descriptions. Descriptions are made as complete as possible in order to warn away those who would not be interested... Since WE CAN NOT ACCEPT RECORDS IN RETURN or for exchange in this "Limited Edition" series.