

Square dancers have all the moves

Would you like to "squeeze the galaxy" or spin the windmill?"

There's a group in town that would like to show you how. They'll even teach you how to "box the gnat." And if you act now, they'll help you "chase your neighbor."



Rich Kenney Jr.

They're known as the Westerners Square Dance Club and are residents of Sun City West.

For Jerry Corn, a native of Seattle, it all started in 1969 when he met "a girl from a square-dancing family."

"I remember she and her family conned me into getting out onto the dance floor," he said. "Well, I stumbled around for awhile and thought, I can't let them buffalo me. I can do what they do."

Thirty-five years later, the former elementary and high school teacher is smoothly scooting and sliding across dance halls throughout Arizona.

"Square dancing is basically a set of movements that are given to the dancers in groups of eight," he explained. "The calls are given to us by the caller and we, as a group, attempt to do whatever it is the caller wishes us to do. The caller's job is to coordinate the dance in such a way that it is a continuing motion all the way around."

Jerry likes the mental challenge square dancing presents.

"It keeps you mentally sharp," he said. "For me, it's



STEVE CHERNEK/DAILY NEWS-SUN

Don and Diane Thoene, of Sun City West, show off their square-dancing skills. The couple are members of Westerners Square Dance Club.

not only can I do it but can I remember it in the sequence in which it's supposed to be done? It forces you to concentrate and listen. In that respect, it's an excellent activity for older people."

Then, grinning, "Not that we're all older."

Diane and Don Thoene moved from California to Sun City West in September 2003 and immediately signed up with the square dance club.

"We're fairly serious dancers," Diane said. "We used to dance three or four nights a week in California. Sometimes, on our way to dances, I'd sit in the car with a flashlight memorizing the definitions because I didn't want to embarrass Don. Plus, I wanted to learn."

She's learned quite a bit since she started dancing

with her mother as a child in California's Imperial Valley.

"My mother was a folk and square dancer," she said. "She would take time off at her lunch hour and go out into the park with a wind-up Victrola teaching people to dance. I was 7 and was her partner. I'd dance the boy's part."

Today, Diane and Don travel the festival circuit covering square dances from Mesa to King's Canyon National Park in California.

"We've met some of the neatest people," she said. "We don't know their last names in most cases. But you see a familiar couple and it's like no time has passed - it's 'come join our square.'"

Don recalled the first time he saw a group of advanced dancers perform.

"I took one look at them and said, man, I've got to learn to do that," he said. "It was like watching a kaleidoscope with the patterns and everyone doing something different at the same time."

In addition to square dancing, Don is a caller.

"As callers, it's all about how we put them together," he said. "At the advanced level, there are 190 calls we know. Basically, most callers work with modules, which are a series of calls that all flow together."

Jerry Petersen is another member of the Westerners. He and his wife, Jan, came to Sun City West from Illinois in 1996. The couple has been dancing for seven years.

"My wife is the one who wanted to start square dancing," he said. "I didn't have any opposition to it and it has actually been fun."

Like so many members, Jerry looks forward to the activity's mental challenge.

"Whatever the activity, I always like some kind of a challenge," he said. "It's like, can I do it? That's what I like."

"That's the great tremendous thing about square dancing," Jerry Corn said. "There's a common bond. It becomes a place where you know you can go and be accepted. It doesn't matter if you're going to dance with your own group or someone else's. You can travel anywhere in the square dance community worldwide and be accepted."

"Where else can you go and have two hours of good fun and entertainment for \$3 a night?" Diane asked.

For information about the Westerners Square Dance Club, call Jerry Corn at 975-3504.



Photos by Rob Schumacher/The Arizona Republic

The Sun City West Rhythm Tappers was formed in the early 1980s and now has a membership of 147. There is also a traveling group that performs in parades. Average age? 69.

Moving just for the fun of it

By Paula Hubbs Cohen
Special for The Republic

Inspiration comes in all shapes, sizes — and ages. As the doors opened to the Palm Ridge Recreation Center in Sun City West one recent day, a cacophony of rat-a-tat-tats rang out, created by dozens of senior citizen tap-dancers tapping their hearts out to the strains of *When the Saints Go Marching In*.

They were laughing, socializing and basically having a blast. Retirement never looked so good.

Peg Kuntzelman is the president of the Sun City West Rhythm Tappers, which has 147 members enrolled in classes such as tap, jazz and clogging.

There is also the Jazzy Poms parade group, which has an average age of 69 and appears in up to 10 parades a year.

"The Jazzy Poms dance as we go along a parade route, so after we do our routine for a mile or two, we really get quite a workout," Kuntzelman said. "But we love to perform."

The Rhythm Tappers started in the early 1980s, and has grown up with the West Valley. Since 1982, the group has

performed in the annual Sun City West Variety Show, and under the leadership of recently retired choreographer and instructor, Nian Cadman-Dake, the group started competing in dance competitions outside the community. During the 1990s, the Rhythm Tappers began touring abroad and has performed in 10 countries.

Richard Klix, 76, is one of just three men in the group, although at one time, there was a "men only" ensemble of seven.

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Connie LaLonde of Sun City West practices with the Rhythm Tappers.

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"I've been a member for 14 years. Before I joined the Rhythm Tappers, I hadn't taken a dance class for 50 years, since I was 12," Klix said. The retired hairdresser from Chicago and his wife both participate in the group. "We love it. It's as much fun to entertain as it is to be entertained."

Kuntzelman compares the energy and euphoria that dancing gives her with the adrenaline rush that mountain climbers or bungee jumpers have about

"Dancing leaves you with an incredible high for the rest of the day. You can't be sad or

worry about your troubles after you leave here," she said.

In January, 18 members of the Rhythm Tappers participated in their first All American Senior Dance Competition, which took place on a Caribbean cruise ship.

The dance troupe brought home two gold medals for their *Saints Go Marching In* and *New York, New York* routines. *Make 'em Laugh* and *Frug* earned silver designations. In addition to competing, they participated in workshops taught by the three international judges of the competition.

Thirty-year-old Renae Bohall teaches several of the

Rhythm Tappers classes teaching children and seniors is, when you're older, you come to class because you want to be here, not because your parent is pushing you in the door. The thing that's the same with both groups is that they all like to socialize," she said.

The second part-time instructor is Dody Homan Fedrigault, who has a professional dance background, and previously taught dance at George Mason University in Fairfax, Va.

"The most fun thing about teaching these classes is that I love to see the smiles on their

faces. Because these dancers really enjoy what they are doing."

Kuntzelman says she joined the group in 1998 when she was looking for something fun to do for exercise.

"I started with a tap class, then added jazz. Then I joined the Jazzy Poms," she said. "After class or a performance, I'm not tired. I'm totally energized. I can go home and be ready for anything."

For more information on the Sun City West Rhythm Tappers, contact Kuntzelman at (623) 214-6276.

The next performance will be April 10 in the Easter Day Parade in AHWA-ukce.

Thursday, July 20, 2000 THE WESTER

SCW Rhythm Tappers receive ovations on the Continent

By Beth Carlino

From quaint villages with awesome scenery to sophisticated cities boasting 5-star restaurants and superb theater, the Sun City West Rhythm Tappers played to European crowds enthusiastic and eager to view the senior Americans whose performances have been hailed as tantamount to those of the Rockettes.

Fourteen tappers—Rose Bressler, Kathy Burns, Helen Dannacher, Val Gitter, Alice Kessler, Sophie Korte, Janet Lang, Lois McDonald, Marilyn Mulholland, Jane Phelps, Barbara Shapiro, Lee Vetesy, Shirley Walker, and Pat Webb appeared in three scheduled and two unscheduled performances accompanied by singer Dave Burgoyne and singer/impersonator Ron McCollor.

The first performance took place in Interlaken, Switzerland. Here they appeared before an audience consisting of local townspeople of varying ages curious to see the acclaimed American dancers. The routines were varied and included an as-

sortment of selections from "At the Hop" to "You're Just Too Marvelous." The grand finale drew a standing ovation.

The journey then continued along the Rhine River on the MS Deutschland to Heidelberg and Rudesheim, Germany. Here their presentation was attended not only by locals but also by American and Japanese tourists. Various language filled the night club, but it was the universal language of music that drew an overwhelming response.

Before disembarking the ship in Amsterdam, the Tappers presented an unscheduled, but command, performance for the ship's passengers.

The entourage then flew to London where there was time to explore the cosmopolitan city and to enjoy the theater productions of "Fosse" and the "Lion King."

The stage of a veteran's home provided the venue for their last performance where the friendly residents enjoyed the costumes and nostalgic songs. A farewell party in a London pub concluded the excursion.

And so, they are back home, recovered from jet lag, and once again at work creating and perfecting new routines—this time in preparation for the Variety Show.



During their eighth trip abroad members of the SCW Rhythm Tappers (above) put on an unscheduled performance at a German beer garden. Below, the entire entourage takes a break in the Swiss Alps near the Jungfrau.



Tapped Out

Dancers' practice floor causing aches and pains

By Lori Baker
The Arizona Republic

SUN CITY WEST — They wow audiences throughout Arizona and around the globe with their fancy footwork.

Members of the Rhythm Tappers of Sun City West, ranging in age from 55 to 82, outperform dancers half their age.

But in recent years, some in the dance troupe have been experiencing knee, ankle and hip problems.

It's not from old age, they say. It's because of the hard tile floor they practice on.

The non-profit Rhythm Tappers have been trying to persuade the Recreation Centers of Sun City West board to replace

“
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**MARGARET
CHAMBERLAIN**
RHYTHM TAPPERS
OFFICER

the floor in their dance room at the Palm Ridge Recreation Center, which was built in 1994.

“We've had tap and ballet teachers who have said they wouldn't teach on this floor because it's too hard on anybody,” said Margaret Chamberlain, Rhythm Tappers parliamentarian, who has experienced aches in her knees and hip after dancing.

Board members have refused to pay for a new floor. But earlier this month, they agreed to provide a two-year, interest-free loan to the chartered club to pay the \$12,000 to \$15,000 cost of installing a floor that will be easier on the dancers.

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Mona Reeder/The Arizona Republic

It is not the dancing that is hurting the Rhythm Tappers. Members say they are suffering because of a hard-surface practice floor.

City West, said the existing floor was installed to the specifications of the Rhythm Tappers. It was after they started dancing on it that they realized they needed something different, Young said.

The Rhythm Tappers have about 200 members and hold several classes each week in jazz, tap and pom.

Dozens of trophies are displayed in the dance room from years of local, state and national contests.

Members perform in shows in Sun City West, elsewhere in the Valley and even abroad. The troupe's trips have included Russia, Japan, Spain, Italy, Australia

and New Zealand.

The group, which started in 1981, has gained in popularity over the years, outgrowing its quarters in the Beardsley Center and Stardust Theater. Increasing numbers of people wanted to take classes, but Rhythm Tappers couldn't accommodate everyone.

After classes were moved to Surprise, the Recreation Centers board said the group couldn't hold sessions outside Sun City West. The new Palm Ridge center, built by Sun City West developer Del Webb Corp., gave the dancers the space they

needed to practice. Shows are still presented at Stardust.

“We (Rhythm Tappers) have had high visibility for Sun City West,” Schalk said.

Many of the members have not danced before joining the club, while some are professional performers.

“I love the music, the moments and to perform,” said Joann Henson, Rhythm Tappers secretary who has danced for four years.

Being in the Rhythm Tappers costs \$5 a year. But members have to pay for their own costumes, transportation to performances and dance classes.

Rhythm Tappers hope the community will donate money to help pay for the floor. Ruth Baldwin, the group treasurer, has set up an account at Norwest Bank in Sun City West. Tax-deductible donations to the Rhythm Tappers Fund may be sent to Norwest Bank Arizona, P.O. Box 29 Phoenix, 85062.

Donations also are collected for performances. The Rhythm Tappers have two major performances at the Stardust Theater each year. “Winter Wonderland,” which costs \$5 per person, will be presented Dec. They also will perform at World Dance Symposium Phoenix Civic Plaza on Aug.

Lori Baker can be reached at 444- or at lori.baker@pni.com via e-mail.

A wooden floor, with a cushioned feel, will be installed in August in the 1,768-square-foot room.

When the Palm Ridge Recreation Center was being planned, Rhythm Tappers members helped the architect design the oblong dance room. They asked for a floor that was like the one at the Stardust Theater, where they perform shows.

However, the Palm Ridge floor is on a concrete surface, which doesn't provide as much give as the raised floor at the Stardust stage.

Howie Schalk, who was president of Rhythm Tappers in 1992 when Palm Ridge was being designed, said the dancers wanted a wooden floor all along but were told that it would be too expensive.

Palm Ridge and the R.H. Johnson recreation centers both have ballrooms with wooden floors, but the tap dancers are not allowed to work out in those rooms because their shoes might ruin those floors, Schalk said.

Carole Hubbs, vice president of the Recreation Centers board, said it would be unfair to other clubs if the recreation centers paid for the new floor.

“Each club needs to arrange for its own special needs,” said Hubbs, who takes Rhythm Tappers classes.

Mauryne Young, spokeswoman for Recreation Centers of Sun

Wanted: men with happy feet

By BRUCE ELLISON
Staff writer

The Hillcrest Ballroom Dance Club in Sun City West is looking for a few good men.

Actually, they don't have to be all that good at ballroom dancing since the club is offering free lessons to men who might be interested.

The reason for all this generosity? Too many unaccompanied women who'd like to dance, but who frequently sit out the evening at a singles table at the regular Saturday night dance in the R.H. Johnson Social Hall.

The Hillcrest Ballroom Dance Club is one of Sun City West's biggest clubs, with about 750 members. As many as 300 of them turn out for the Saturday dance, which starts at 8 p.m. and ends by 11. Live bands play for the event.

Club president Andrew Morgan said most nights there are four tables of single women waiting for partners. "For some reason, the men here expire faster than their wives, they are gone sooner than the ladies.

"So there are five or six times as many ladies at our singles tables as there are men. The women get quite bored with nobody to dance with."

As a result, the club makes this offer to male residents:

A free three-ticket package that

can be used for (1) admission to the Saturday night dance; (2) admission to the tea dance every Tuesday, 12:30 to 3 p.m. in Summit Hall at the Palm Ridge Activity Center, and (3) a dance lesson on Thursday, noon to 3 p.m., also at Palm Ridge.

The Saturday dance features live music, and an intermission at which refreshments are served. The event is a BYOB evening, so those who wish to drink may do so.

The Tuesday and Thursday sessions are conducted by dance instructor Frank Romani of Peoria, and use taped music. They also include an intermission and refreshments.

Romani was at work on a recent Tuesday, helping several couples with the steps for the waltz and the tango.

"Most of these people are familiar with the dances," he said diplomatically, "but sometimes they need work."

It isn't so much that they haven't got rhythm, Romani said, "but that you forget the steps, the order of the dance." A few never danced before, the instructor said. "They were too busy with families or with work."

But most folks, he said, remember how to dance because they were brought up with it.

As he helped a growing crowd pick up some new steps, or recall

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Mollie J. Hoppes/Daily News-Sun

Jean Davidson and Ernie Brothers practice the tango in the Palm Ridge ballroom during a Hillcrest Dance club class recently. The club is urging men to come out for a spin around the dance floor.

OVER

◀ From A1

old ones, his voice from a clip-on mike encouraged them. "You've got to see it in your mind," he said. "See yourself moving across the floor. Don't watch your feet, watch what your minds shows you."

All your steps are important, he added, but "concentrate on the one where you turn."

Following carefully this day were Jean Davidson and Ernie Brothers, who despite their different names now are husband and wife.

"We started taking dance lessons from Frank four years ago," Jean said. "We've worked at it together." The couple now dances at the club's events, but also heads to Sun City's Bell Recreation Center and Ventana Lakes for additional dancing. "We're dancing five or six times a week," Brothers said.

Also on the floor were Nancy Sanders and Alfred Tschaekofske, who met one another at the club's dances.

"She started dancing right out of the crib," said Tschaekovske, "but I had to learn it here."

The couple now are going steady, they said. They met at a club dance, but each was with another partner at the time.

"We broke up and I went to Nancy," said Tschaekovske, who is 77. "She had good legs, and I had been watching them. I appreciate good legs."

The couple also bowl together on Monday nights, they said.

For those who might want to

dance, there's a big event coming up: Sadie Hawkins Day. That's March 14, with the Big Band sounds of Terry McFee.

Club spokesman Noel Winfield said, "It's an evening of ladies' choice, where the gals get to pick their male partners, and where the single men of Sun City West who are not now members will be admitted free."

Most of the dancing is to the music of the '30s, '40s and '50s, he said.

The club was established in 1979 by Pat Catrona and Vi Fallon, and was the first club to practice reciprocity — with members of a similar club in Sun City freely able to visit the Hillcrest Club, and Hillcrest members able to dance in Sun City.

Sig Chojancki, a club officer-at-large, said some of the group's members "are real good, enthusiastic dancers" while others are less able. All enjoy their participation, he said.

Dancing, depending on how enthusiastic you are, can be good exercise, said Winfield, who's been in the club 18 years.

"It's aerobics in a way, if you want it to be," he said.

And, apparently, romantic as well.

"One thing that does happen, I know, is that they're single, and they meet at the dance, and they hit it off, and the next few weeks — what do you know, they're paired, and not singles any more."



Dance troupe marches in holiday parade

The Sun City West Rhythm Tappers' Drill Team will march in the Thanksgiving Day Parade in Houston, Texas. The parade will be televised in Phoenix on KASW-TV at 8 a.m. Nov. 23.

SCW Rhythm Tappers to Appear on National TV

The Drill team segment of the Sun City West Rhythm Tappers has spent many hours in the past several weeks practicing new march routines. Why the extra hours of practice? To prepare for the Houston, Texas, Thanksgiving Day Parade!! The parade will be nationally televised so the many supporters of the Drill Team will be able to see the great march routines done so capably by the team, under the

Tappers
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The SCW Rhythm Tappers' Drill Team has been practicing hard for their Thanksgiving Day parade appearance in Houston, Texas, that will be the group's first national TV exposure.

Rhythm Tappers

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direction of Miriam Lawless and Capt. Valerie Gitter. The team, and featured Majorette Lee Daugherty, have been in many parades and exhibitions in and around Phoenix.

The pre-band pageants at the Fiesta Bowl for the past two years have been gratifying experiences. Forthcoming parades are scheduled in Sun City on Oct. 7, Maryvale on Oct. 14, Sun City West Merchants' Parade on Nov. 4 and Glendale on Nov. 11.

The upcoming Houston Parade will be the first national exposure and the group is eagerly looking forward to it and many subsequent parades.

SCW

Next stop Spain for tap dance troupe

SUN CITY WEST — The Rhythm Tappers of Sun City West will be hoofing it in Spain from next Wednesday through July 1 as part of the 15th annual Summer Festival of the Performing Arts International Senior Dance Days.

The group will be dancing in five towns and will be welcomed by the elected officials of each municipality, the group's vice president and publicity director Richard Klix said.

The Rhythm Tappers will promote the state on their tour. Gwen Szalap, tour director of the Rhythm Tappers 1994 Dance Group, came up with the idea and contacted Gov. Fife Symington's office about the event.

The governor's office issued five certificates from the state. The certificates have the gold seal of the state and are imprinted with the name of each town where the Tappers will perform — Benalmdena, Mijas, Marbella, Torremolinos and Fuengirola.

The certificates will be presented by Valerie Gitter, president of the Rhythm Tappers. Also, arrangements have been made to

have the state flag flown along with the Spanish and U.S. flags at each performance. This has never been done before, Klix said.

Also making the tour will be Eunice Scheldt, 83, one of the group's solo dancers. Scheldt recently was the third runner-up in the Mrs. Senior Arizona Competition of 1994.

The dance troupe is practicing 12 hours a week. Costumes are being assembled for the big show.

In 1992, the Rhythm Tappers visited Australia doing shows for the Australian Wonderland, the country's equivalent to Disney World.

In 1991, they tapped their way through the Soviet Union on a trip sponsored by the Russian Theatrical Union and St. George International Inc. of Utah.

The year before, the Rhythm Tappers visited Japan as part of a cultural exchange for an international exposition during Japan's annual Golden Week celebration.

The group was formed in 1981 by the Sun City West Recreation Centers.



File photo

The Rhythm Tappers of Sun City West plan a two-week tour of Spain to perform and promote the state of Arizona.



Members of the Rhythm Tappers star Monday and Sept. 21 in a two-part film detailing their May tour of New Zealand and Australia.

Submitted photo

Rhythm Tappers tour to air on Channel 22

Daily News-Sun staff

SUN CITY WEST — Sun City West's Rhythm Tappers have put their best feet forward in foreign countries — and Hawaii — in the past 24 months.

For the next two Mondays, members of the almost 200-member dance team will toe the line in Australia and New Zealand for Dimension Cable's Channel 22

viewers in a four-hour, two-part film, "The Rhythm Tappers See Down Under."

Filmed from May 5-29 by husband and wife team Owen and Debra Lowe, the Rhythm Tappers' coordinators and tour leaders, the films lend a look at "Sun City West's ambassadors to the world."

The program shares sights and fun shared on the

journey, as well as insights on the group from troupe members. Stops include Wellington, New Zealand and Sydney, Australia.

"The Rhythm Tappers See Down Under" airs from 6 to 8 p.m. Monday, with Part II airing 6 to 8 p.m. Sept. 21 on Channel 22.

For information, call 584-7030.

Senior tappers add Australia to show's tour

By Diana Balazs
Staff writer

The Rhythm Tappers of Sun City West are adding Australia and New Zealand to their postcard list.

The 37-member dance troupe left Tuesday for a nearly month-long excursion, spokeswoman Deborah Lowe said.

The itinerary includes stops in Cairns and Sydney, she said. "We will be doing shows for the Australian Wonderland, which is kind of an equivalent to Disney World."

The attraction is hosting a retirement week celebration, and the dance troupe will perform five shows there.

This is the group's third trip overseas. In 1990, the Rhythm Tappers visited Japan as part of a cultural exchange for an international exposition during Japan's annual Golden Week celebration.

Last year, they tapped their way through the Soviet Union on a trip sponsored by the Russian Theatrical Union and St. George International Inc. of Utah.

"We had a fabulous time," Lowe said. "That's an experience we'll never forget. We saw things that most tourists are never able to see."

The group hopes to have as much fun in Australia.

"We're even going to go snorkeling at the Great Barrier Reef," she said. "We're going to try everything." The troupe will return May 30.

The Rhythm Tappers have been hoofing in preparation for the trip. "We've been practicing pretty much now five days a week, anywhere from two hours to five hours at a time, to get the show shaped up," she said.

The troupe ranges in ages from 53 to 78, Lowe said.

Nani Komohana Tutus In Action

by Stan Steciak



The Nani Komohana Tutus (Pretty Wester Grandmothers) from L.: Kay Herzog, Patti Dahl, Sally Phillips, Pat Pantea and Naomi Hadsell. Ass't teacher Lilo Bloombaum is missing from picture.
(Photo by Stan Steciak)

Beautiful ladies, beautiful costumes and a movement better than the highest priced watch. I have described the Nani Komohana Tutus to a "T".

This 11 year old dance group is busy entertaining folks. They specialize in Hawaiian and Polynesian dance.

The founder and director of the Tutus is Kay Herzog. Kay is assisted by Patti Dahl and assistant teachers Sally Phillips, Naomi Hassell and Pat Pantea. Presently there are 27 ladies in the Hawaiian Dance Troupe.

Certainly SCW is familiar with the Nani Komohana Tutus...they have appeared locally many times. The youngest member, Gale Seighart, is in her early fifties. An amazing young lady at 79, and still performing, is Anne Segnitz.

The Dance Group will perform at the Phoenician Resort for the Del Webb Corporate office Christmas luncheon on Friday, Dec. 20. The Nani Komohana Tutus is available to present a program for your organization's special party or show. Call Kay Herzog, 584-1966 and arrangements can be made.

Mrs. Herzog informs us that new dance classes will be formed starting the first Friday in January 1992 (Jan. 3) at the Bank of America, Johnson Blvd. Class starts at 11:45 a.m. If you ladies have that "Hawaiian feeling," come on over.

Go ahead and ask, "What does Nani Komohana Tutus mean?" Honestly! It is the best name for these fine ladies. It means "Pretty Western Grandmothers".

THE WESTER

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SCW

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A date with history

Dance troupe ends USSR tour days before coup attempt

By LAURIE HURD-MOORE
and BRET McKEAND
Sun Cities Independent

A touring company of the Sun City West Rhythm Tappers and their assistants left the Soviet Union just in time to miss the Aug. 19 coup attempt by a group of Communist hard-liners.

Twenty-six dancers and 13 others from Sun City West left Aug. 1 to conduct a three-performance tour in the Soviet Union. The group performed in Zelinograd, Leningrad and Tallinn, Estonia.

Upon the conclusion of the last show Aug. 11, one portion of the local group returned to the United States while a second group stayed on to visit Scandinavia. The later assemblage returned home on Aug. 21.

Club President Valerie Gitter and her husband, Martin, were two of the members who returned from Scandinavia after the 60-hour Soviet coup.

The president says she saw no evidence in the Soviet Union that indicated a government takeover was brewing.

"I saw no clue of it. The people we saw all were happy with their recent freedoms," she explains.

She describes the group's reception in the U.S.S.R. as "wonderful."

Debra Lowe, a member of the group and coordinator of the trip, says she, too, saw no sign of an impending uprising and was surprised to hear of a coup attempt. She wasn't however, surprised to hear of the resistance that followed.

"It clearly came across to us



Photo by TYSON KUHRT/Sun Cities Independent

Valerie Gitter, president of the Sun City West Rhythm Tappers, displays some of the souvenirs brought back from the group's recent tour of the Soviet Union. The group spent three weeks in the U.S.S.R. and left a few days before an attempted overthrow of the government.

while we were there that these people (the Soviets) would never go back to what they had," says Mrs. Lowe.

Both Mrs. Gitter and Mrs. Lowe were surprised at how well-

received the Rhythm Tappers were in the Soviet Union.

"The people were so warm and friendly," says Mrs. Lowe. "They

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■ TAPPERS

treated us royally."

In Leningrad, the dancers were greeted with their names up on a theater marquee.

"They had this big sign and everything on it was in Russian. The only English was Rhythm Tappers," says Mrs. Gitter.

The president of the dance group says she found Soviet people to be art lovers. If people in the audience like a particular performer, it was not uncommon for them to present flowers to the performer while they were still on stage. And if Soviets liked the music, they would clap in time to the songs.

"They could not do enough for us," says Mrs. Lowe. "They gave us flowers constantly ... we didn't know what to do with all the flowers!"

Mrs. Gitter says aside from the performances, her group also had the opportunity to observe the daily

lifestyle of the Soviet people.

"It seems Russians spend the entire day on errands gathering food and the store shelves are fairly empty. The longest line we saw was the line for alcohol."

Her group had no trouble getting enough to eat and primarily dined at the hotels, she says.

"Their bread is wonderful. I put on 4 pounds!"

During their last stop in Estonia, Mrs. Gitter says the citizens often remarked how they would like to remove the many post-Stalin era statues that marked the landscape.

Also while touring in Estonia, the Rhythm Tappers learned that a couple of tourist-carrying barges got caught up in a blockade in the Gulf of Finland. "That was kind of scary."

The club president says all in all she found the trip rewarding and would do it again.



Among the souvenirs Mrs. Gitter brought back from the Soviet Union were these ceramic dolls.

Japan Welcomes SCWest Rhythm Tappers

THE WESTER June 21-27, 1990

by Stan Steciak



SCW Rhythm Tappers in full costume at the Osaka, Japan Floral Expo.

People in the land of "The Rising Sun", raised their voices to praise the Rhythm Tappers of SCW. The local group, average age 65, surprised the Japanese with their toe tapping, dancing, singing and genuine professional-like performances.

The SCW contingent, 40 strong including 30 members of the troupe, spent 14 full days in Japan. They visited the cities of Osaka, Kyoto, Ogaki, Gifu, Yokohama, Ota-Ku, Nagoya and Tokyo, and a few cities in between.

Happy To Meet Americans

The Japanese people welcomed the Rhythm Tappers with open arms. Their arrival at Osaka International Airport was filled with greeters, TV cameras and interviewers. The Tappers were part of a "cultural exchange" program directed by St. George International, Inc. This organization usually works with children's cultural exchange programs, but Nian Cadman, choreographer and dance teacher, probably convinced the St. George International to consider seniors in their program. No sooner said than done. The Rhythm Tappers were on their way.

Past president, Debbie Lowe, worked extremely hard to get this Japan show on the road. She continued to be Japan trip coordinator for the troupe, with Esther Slager, program director. This undertaking, no doubt, took the efforts of many RT members.

Treated Extremely Well

The SCW group was treated like royalty. Each member paid for air transportation, but the housing and most meals, "No Cost"! Imagine that for the entire 14 night stay. The interesting part of the tour was that Rhythm Tapper couples were housed by Japanese people. They were made part of a Japanese family in their home.

Valerie Gitter, and husband Marty, were invited by the Takahoshi family. The Takahoshi's were only about 40 years old with two teen daughters. They dined together, watched TV with them and communicated with each other as much as possible.

Later in the tour, the Gitters were hosted by the Tejuka family. A typical dinner in a Japanese home might be, pork and onions on a skewer or whole fish, potatoes and mayonnaise, fried rice and jello with fresh strawberries. The homes are smaller than we are accustomed to, including the kitchen. Kitchens do have a range and microwave. Every kitchen has a rice cooker.

Worldwide

The Rhythm Tappers, now known internationally because of Japanese Television, all were hosted by a Japanese family. This is called "home stay". They were separated in different homes. A few even lived on a

Continued on Page 3

OVER

VF-CLUBS/DANCE

SCW

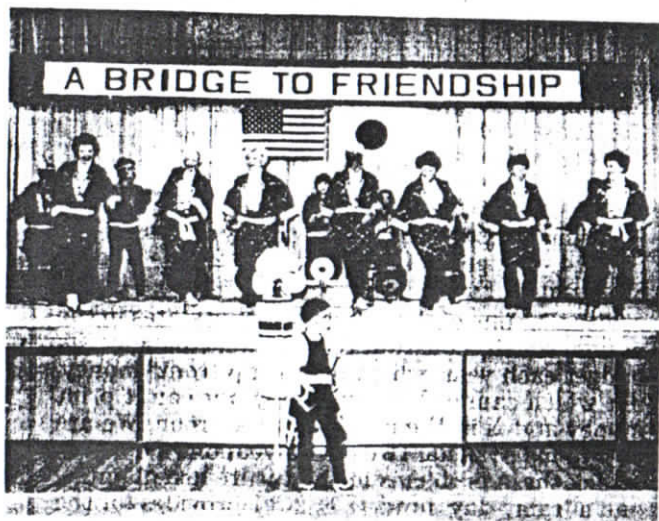
THE WESTER

June 21-27,

1990

Rhythm Tappers

Continued from Page 1



SCW Rhythm Tappers exchange costumes with Japanese dancers and perform "Clog" dance in Otaku, Japan.

Japanese farm. The troupe had two "command posts" at Ogaki and Gifu stations. They would always meet there before any move was made by the group. The moves were monitored and included an interpreter.

The Tappers met politicians and Japanese VIP's at the many parties they attended and at performances. Wherever they went, signs would say, "Welcome Rhythm Tappers", of course in Japanese.

Performances

The American troupe performed in many cities, including the Worlds Fair, Floral Expo 90, outside of Tokyo. In some of the cities, local native groups, would also perform. The Expo 90 appearance had many in attendance. Newspapers published pictures and good words about the SCW Rhythm Tappers and often said they were former professional Broadway dancers.

A most interesting program, enjoyed even by the performers, was at what was called the Nagoya Senior University, a residence for seniors with an average age of 68. Needless to say, the Japanese were amazed with the agility and the beauty of our own Rhythm Tappers.

Glad To Be There

The Tappers were happy to make the Japan trip. Valerie Gitter has books filled with pictures and stories. One obstacle for all was the transport of costumes and the small dressing rooms. On the other hand, it was always a happy time to exchange gifts at the different parties and performances.

SCW Rhythm Tappers President Anna McCassey, along with officers, Vice President Valerie Gitter; Secretary Milly Popowich and Treasurer Lena Raiton, certainly thank all members, whether they went to Japan or not. Anna McCassey said, "Without the efforts of everyone, there would not be an "Internationally known SCW Rhythm Tappers".

Those who went to Japan were: June Allen, Maybelle Berg, Robert Berg (Charlie Chaplin

routine), Eleanor Bledsoe, Beverly Bradshaw, Alice Castaldo, Frances Castaldo; Ruby Crowley, Kathy Cunningham, Evelyn Deeg, Rita DeLayo, Pat Dugan, Hazel Eckstein (vocalist), Lucy Gay, Val Gitter, Carolyn Golden, Doris Goldfarb, Betty Grobleski, Marilyn Jaedes, Jackie Langlais, Debra and Owen Lowe (Ballroom dance solo), Ann Malison, Anna McCassey, Doris Patton, Esther Slager (tapsolo), Betty Vissat, Arline Walter, Colleen Webb and Shirley Wilder (tap solo).

Non-club members who gave so dearly were: Paul Hofstad, MC and vocalist; Jack McCassey, videotape engineer and Howard Allen, musical tape artist.

Editors note: The Wester is extremely proud of all the Rhythm Tappers for bringing fame to Sun City West.



A group of Rhythm Tappers visiting Castle in Nagoya, Japan.

SCW

Rhythm for Russia

Sun City West dance group to perform 4 shows in Soviet Union

By Lori Baker
Staff writer

SUN CITY WEST — The Rhythm Tappers of Sun City West are taking their time step to Russia next week.

Ranging from 55 to 72 years old, the 29 members of the dance troupe will show the other side of the world that age hasn't impaired their talent.

"We've been winning first place or gold medals in state and regional finals competing against kids and people in their 20s and 30s," said Deborah Lowe, who has been in the Rhythm Tappers for five years. She is coordinating the Russian trip along with her husband, Owen, who also is a dancer.

Because the dancers are getting ready for their Russian premiere, the group had to pass up a chance to compete in the national Headliners dance finals in South Carolina this month. During regional finals in Phoenix in May, the Tappers won first place and the judges' award.

The Russian Theatrical Union and St. George International Inc. of Utah are sponsoring the Rhythm Tappers' performances in Russia.

This is the Tappers' second major excursion. Last summer, they went to Japan as part of a cultural exchange for an international exposition during Japan's Golden Week.

The Sun City West dancers — some of whom are married couples — have been practicing for more than four months for the Russian performance.

"We're very, very excited about going," said Esther Slager, who is line captain and stage manager.

There will be four shows, rang-



Community

Esther Slager is totally engrossed in performing her solo during a Rhythm Tappers rehearsal.

ing from one to 1½ hours each, at the American Embassy in Moscow as well as in Leningrad and Tallinn, between next Wednesday and Aug. 16.

The group's repertoire includes 26 numbers performed in recent years and choreographed by Nian Chadman and Miriam Lawless. Some dancers will have as many as nine costume changes, from sequins to white chiffon and feathered gowns.

Valley residents can get a sneak preview of the Russian show during Thursday's dance rehearsal.

The troupe roars through "Sing, Sing, Sing," "Second Hand Rose," "Tea for Two" and other popular songs from the 1920s to the 1940s. The grand finale is George M. Cohan's "Yankee Doodle Dandy."

Adding a bit of merriment are clowns Bob Berg, Robert Marchinko and Howard Schalk. Berg imitates Charlie Chaplin's comedic

"We've got 155 members. People just love to come to dance. We make it a whole lot of fun."

Valerie Gitter
President of The Rhythm Tappers

attempt at Russian ballet.

During intermission, Bill Molnar plays the piano accordion and leads a Russian sing-along with the audience.

Since the Rhythm Tappers were started 10 years ago by the Sun City West Recreation Centers, they have been a phenomenal success, said Valerie Gitter, president of the group.

"We've got 155 members. People just love to come to dance," Gitter said. "We make it a whole lot of fun."

Dance classes are held from 7 a.m. to noon three days a week, ranging from beginning to advanced. On the other days, dancers are rehearsing for shows.

The Tappers are hired to do shows around the Valley as well as performances at charity events. An upcoming show will be at 2 p.m. Oct. 13 at Shadow Mountain High School to raise money for Kathy Sobel, a 10-year-old Mercury Mine Elementary School student who lost a foot to bone cancer.

In late November, the Tappers will perform during the variety show at the Sundome Center for the Performing Arts to raise money for the non-profit Sun Health Foundation.



Dana Leonard / Staff photographer

Betty Levy (foreground), Maybelle Berg and Eileen Hagedorn of the Rhythm Tappers of Sun City West practice a 1920s number they will do during the dance troupe's tour of Russia.

If you go:
Rhythm Tappers Dress Rehearsal

WHEN: 1 to 5 p.m. Thursday

WHERE: Stardust Theater, Stardust and R.H. Johnson boulevards.

COST: No admission charge.

Dancers commemorate 10 years

SUN CITY WEST — The money the Rhythm Tappers raise from their "Spring Frolic," May 3 through May 5, will buy costumes and tap shoes.

The tappers need new costumes for their yearly appearance in the Sun Health Foundation Auxiliary's Annual Variety Show, Dec. 5 and Dec. 6, in Arizona State University's Sundome Center for the Performing Arts, 19403 R.H. Johnson Blvd. And they have bought tap shoes for a group of dancers at Dysart High School, 14404 N. Dysart Road.

Tickets to the tappers 10th anniversary commemoration performance sell for \$2 and \$3 between 9 and noon Monday through Friday in the box office of the Stardust Theatre, 14401 R.H. Johnson Blvd.

Tickets to a dress rehearsal Friday, May 3, sell for \$2. Tickets to the 7:30 p.m. performance Saturday, May 4, and 2:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. performances Sunday, May 5, include homemade refreshments after the performances and sell for \$3.

Russia invites SCW troupe

By CONNIE STEELE
Daily News-Sun staff

SUN CITY WEST — Joining a chorus line can shape great looking legs and even run into cultural exchanges.

Just ask the 192 members of Sun City West's rhythm Tappers.

The dance troupe has been to Japan and plans a cultural exchange trip to Russia in August.

Since January, the dancers have been rehearsing for their 10th anniversary commemoration production, "Spring Frolic." To perfect a dozen or so routines before their May 3-5 show, the rhythm Tappers have been rehearsing three times a week.

"This is not baby stuff," said Loretta Marshall. "This is very intense."

The exercise is wonderful most tappers agree, but "I personally hate exercise," said tapper president Valerie Gitter. Gitter is a retired high school business teacher from Long Island.

"But anything to do with music is wonderful," she said, voicing an opinion common among the 192-member group of amateur-cum-professionals.

The Tappers may hate exercise but "they can go the full hour," dance instructor Nian Cadman said from the Stardust Theatre's stage. "Their cardiovascular systems are good."

But an hour of uninterrupted dance doesn't come without practice. Cadman said, "They work up to it." At first, "They take breaks every 15 minutes."

The instructor operates two studios, one in Surprise, in the Crossroads Towne Center at R.H. Johnson Boulevard and Bell Road, and the other in Phoenix.

Cadman, who has choreographed shows "all over the country," has included all six of her tap dance classes in the troupe's 10th anniversary show.

The dancers will tell you that the benefits of tap dancing are social, psychological and physical.

"It keeps your mind alert trying to remember all those steps and its physically stimulating," said Ann Posack. Posack has been with the group eight years but has bowed out of the spring show.

"It's good discipline," said Nona Uthoff, a 6-year veteran of the group. She said dance routines "force you to put your feet and your thinking together. It's very good for your coordination."

Since few of the tappers have been professional dancers, each performer has her own formula for fighting pre-show jitters.

"I take my glasses off and I can't see the audience," Gitter said.

As the dancers leave the wings, they carry on stage the traditional theatrical blessing, "Break a leg," from Esther Slager, the group's line captain and booking agent.

The blessing comes right after, Slager admonishes, "Look like you're enjoying yourself and Don't forget to smile."



Daily News-Sun photo by Stephen Chermek

STRUTTING — Teacher and choreographer Niam Cadman leads Rhythm Tappers dancers in a rehearsal of "Walking My Baby Back Home" at the Stardust Theater in Sun City West.

SCW

SCW

Off to Japan

Sun City West dance troupe travels abroad to promote values of active retirement living

By LAURIE HURD-MOORE
Sun Cities Independent

The term "work-aholic" has become synonymous with the Japanese professional.

Since early childhood, Japanese children are groomed and guided toward specific careers.

As adults, the predominantly male work force is compelled to work 12- to 14-hour days, six days a week.

Accustomed to this fast-paced lifestyle, it is little wonder that retirement for the Japanese is a difficult transition to make.

Hoping to assist in this effort - and prove to the Japanese that retirement can be fun -- the Rhythm Tappers of Sun City West will travel to Japan in early April to become the first senior citizen entertainment group from the U.S. to perform in that country.

"They are doing a deal about retirement over in Japan now, because they force retirement at 60 years of age. The Japanese people are getting real uptight about it," says Debbie Lowe, trip coordinator.

Mrs. Lowe was president of the group in 1989 and was first approached about the tour by a talent agency representing Japanese interests.

"The agency went to the national (dance) championships in New York and were looking for retirement dance groups in the competition.

"Of course, they didn't find any there. But our choreographer, Nian Cadman, was one of the judges," she says.

"They said they were looking for very good retirement groups to bring over there to show to the Japanese people.

"The agency wants us to show the Japanese that this is the life they can look forward to when they retire.

"(Retirement is not just) quit

"The agency wants us (the Rhythm Tappers) to show the Japanese that this is the life they can look forward to when they retire."

-- Debbie Lowe, trip coordinator

work and die," says Mrs. Lowe.

A meeting between the Tappers and the talent agency was set up.

Five video tapes of the group's performances and 40 photographs were submitted to the agency.

It was at this point, says the coordinator, the Rhythm Tappers made their "entrance" and were selected for the trip.

Of the 131 total group members, 32 of the more advanced tap dancers were selected for the tour. A music operator and several of the Tappers' husbands will accompany the performers.

They are now rehearsing several days each week in preparation for the trip.

In addition to rehearsing their routine, group members are also spending time brushing up on Japanese etiquette and learning the language. A translator will also accompany the women throughout the country.

The Sun City West group will spend 15 days in Japan and will dance in seven performances.

Many of the Tappers will continue on for sightseeing excursions to Korea and Hawaii.

The entire trip, except for air fare, will be paid for by sponsors in Japan.

The tap dancers and their supporters will arrive in Osaka, Japan.

They will spend five days in this city and perform at the International Expo.

Except for their first night in

Please see TAPPERS, P. B-4

• TAPPERS

From Page B-1

the country, the women will be staying in the homes of several Japanese host families.

The Sun City West group will then move on to Nagoya, Japan to do a show.

Ultimately, the Rhythm Tappers will visit Tokyo and appear on a major network television show.

SCW



THE RHYTHM TAPPERS of Sun City West rehearse for their upcoming tour to Japan.



Tyson Kuhrt/Independent

TAPPING THEIR WAY TO JAPAN. Thirty-two members of the Rhythm Tappers of Sun City West will travel to Japan May 1 to entertain audiences and appear on a national television program as part of an effort to educate Japanese seniors on the value of retirement.

BCR

SUN CITY WESTERNERS SQUARE DANCE CLUB

CLUB COSTUME

2/24/83

Ladies:

Skirt or bottom of dress:

Red Super Broadcloth - FN3803 (House Of Fabrics)
Appliques of white Western Club Hats

Blouse or top of dress:

Any pattern of white eyelet material
Round neckline & puff sleeves

Men:

Body of shirt:

Any pattern of white eyelet or white broadcloth
Long sleeves

Yoke of shirt:

Red Super Broadcloth - FN3803 (House Of Fabrics)
Applique of a white Western Club Hat

Vest:

Red Super Broadcloth - FN3803 (House Of Fabrics)
Applique of a white Western Club Hat across shoulders

Trousers:

Black (Navy blue optional)

Deviations:

Any deviations from the above will be at the discretion
of the individuals.

Hat Patterns:

Several sizes of patterns for the Western Club Hat are
available for borrowing.

Westers get case of happy feet

By CarolAnne Gainer
Staff Writer

Remember the movies of the 1930s and 1940s? The ones with the big musical numbers?

Well, never fear. They may be revived if a certain group in Sun City West has anything to do with it.

The group is the tap dancing class which meets from 10:30 a.m. to noon three Mondays out of every month in Johnson Social Hall.

Actually, if you talk to these beginner and intermediate tap dancers, they are pretty modest and deny that they could aspire to professional heights.

JUNE SHIELDS, a bubbly Sun City West resident of five months who has a college degree in history, was in the foreign service with her husband.

She remembered how she used to watch her father perform. "My father was one of those in the community who sang and danced," she said. She watched him rehearse and picked up his routines but was not allowed to do more.

"My father did not want me to turn professional. It was not proper, not acceptable at that time" due to her strong New England background.

But when she and her husband moved to Glendale, Calif., Mrs. Shields joined a community group and sang and danced for charity.

Then they moved to Sun City West, where she at-

tended Jazzercise classes and asked about tap dancing classes. "I figured there must be some people in this community who tapped," she reasoned.

FOR MRS. Shields there was a happy ending ... or a beginning, depending on how you look at it. She is presently an assistant instructor in the class.

A youthful and shapely 65-year-old, Claire Mitchell and her husband moved to Sun City West nearly four years from San Diego. Her childhood and higher education did not remotely touch on the field of show business.

"I had a friend, as a child, who took (dance) lessons and I couldn't afford it. We would practice together and she would teach me," she explained.

Mrs. Mitchell obtained a master's degree in speech pathology and then taught at Indiana State University while working on her Ph.D. in education.

NOW RETIRED, Mrs. Mitchell attends Jazzercise classes because of her health problem: Blood clots in her legs force her to keep physically active.

But once she discovered tap dancing, she added it to her schedule as a follow up to Jazzercise.

"I always wanted to tap—not for show biz. And it is aerobic," she said of the tap dancing. "A good cool down from Jazzercise."

The class is mainly women but a small share of men are tapping their toes, too. There are even

some married couples taking the class together, such as Bill and Marion Friebolin.

THE EASYGOING Friebolins, both 60, moved to Sun City West three years ago from Des Plaines, Ill., where Friebolin was an electric plant foreman and Mrs. Friebolin was an executive secretary.

Friebolin used to be a bandboy for his brother's 15-piece band, but that's as far as he pursued show business. Except for the "Big Band" era when the Friebolins did ballroom dancing together.

Mrs. Friebolin recalled her link with dancing in childhood. "Tap dancing is something I always wanted to do. My folks couldn't afford it. My father did a tap routine and we followed it."

So naturally, when the Friebolins found out about the Sun City West class, they joined as a couple. "She didn't have to drag me," Friebolin stated proudly.

MRS. FRIEBOLIN agreed. "We square dance, ballroom dance and do a lot of things together." And, as she reasoned, "I'd say a lot of people were in my boat. It's something I always wanted to do."

As members of the Sunshine Serenaders, they've done other types of entertainment for charity. "We'll find we'll have a real need for it (tap dancing) with the Serenaders. It'll break up the singing," Friebolin said.

Also active in the Wes-

ternaires, the Friebolins participated in a variety show at the Sundome. And from that very show the tap dance class was conceived, thanks to Sylvia Lustig and Muriel Kentnor, two of the show's committee members.

The announcement appeared in the January Activities Calendar and on Feb. 1 a large crowd of Westers gathered for the first tap dancing class. As Friebolin viewed it, "They (retirees) are doing things now they never had the time to do before."

AND DOING things they are! Somewhere between 80 and 100 retirees now attend the class—and benefit from it in many ways.

Mrs. Shields echoed the sentiments of the others. "It's fun, fun, fun!"

Mrs. Mitchell, whose health benefits from it, touted its worth. "It's helping my health and my happiness. It keeps the circulation going."

Mrs. Shields added yet another claim. "It's mental exercise as well as physical. You really have to concentrate and think. It makes you come alive."

THE FRIEBOLINS see it as fun. "We just love to do it. We love to dance," he exclaimed. "It's happy. You feel good."

Then why are so few men involved? Friebolin had one reason to offer. "I think that they're shy. (I'm not shy.) I think if more fellas came out and tried it they'd enjoy it."

"It's harder to do it at our age than a young

OVER

child," he added. But that's not enough of an excuse to keep Friebolin from participating. Echoing the phrase, "Don't knock it until you've tried it," he encourages other men to at least give tap dancing a try.

And where else can you get help right at your doorstep? "We appreciate these instructors. They've offered to come over to our homes. These people love to teach us," Friebolin stated.

THERE ARE nine instructors in all. Mrs. Kentnor is the head instructor and Mrs. Lustig is the main assistant instructor. Assistant instructors are Jeanne Christensen, Audrey Farrell, Lila Kaye, Ione Kessler, Fran Martin, June Shields and Jean Wilson.

The class is divided into four "chorus lines" with two instructors in front of each line. This set-up provides all the students with a close-up demonstration of what Mrs. Kentnor is teaching that day. Musical accompaniment is furnished by Fred Lustig on piano.

So there seems little reason not to get involved, if tap dancing catches your fancy or has been a lifelong dream. If doubt remains, students involved in the class can dispel it.

They are full of positive comments, exuberance and vitality. As Mrs. Shields puts it, "You feel bubbly inside. It's rhythm, it's life, it's the flow and ebb of life. You see the happiness on the peoples' faces."

THERE IS so much toe-tapping happiness, in fact, that the class will become a club the first week of May. Just under 85 people have registered as members of "The Rhythm Tappers," whose theme song will be—what else?—"I Got Rhythm."

Despite age or condition, the Westers are tapping to their hearts' content and feeling all the better for doing so. Done with the emphasis on fun, it makes a person believe that dreams still come true when you're an adult.

As Mrs. Friebolin dreamed aloud, "Gam-mage Center is next."

SCM



Westers take to the floor in a spirited session of tap dancing. (News-Sun Photos by Jim Painter)

SCW

SCW

CLUBS - DANCE

VF



The "Jazzercise" group at Johnson Center sways to the music during a recent session in Sun City West.

The class has become so popular that a club is being formed. Men are encouraged to join.

(News-Sun Photo)

'Jazzercise' class catching on in SCW

3-25-80

"Jazzercise," the latest in a series of exercise-to-music classes to become popular, has hit Sun City West.

A beginners' class has been meeting in Johnson Center social hall and has grown to an enrollment of 77.

And a club is being organized, to be chartered as part of Recreation Centers, Inc.

Lessons will continue at 9:30 a.m. Fridays. A Wednesday class will be started in April and a Monday session is planned as a final goal, said Mrs. Robert W. Thompson, temporary chairman of the club. Nancy De-whurst, a professional instructor, has been engaged to lead the group.

Mrs. Thompson said men are encouraged to join the Jazzercise group. Registration will precede each class.

Officers of the club include Mrs. Charles Leston, vice-chairman; Mrs. F. Gordon Bulger, treasurer and bylaws; Mrs. Irving Malisow, membership; Mrs. Donald Yohe, contractor, and Mrs. James Walker, telephone.