A decorative border with a repeating pattern of stylized flowers and leaves surrounds the central text.

FFDC Newsletter

June 1988

President: Bonnie Dupuis, P.O. Box 1755, Dade City, Florida 34297
Treasurer: Rita Princi, 1017 Chippewa Trail, Holly Hill, FL 32017
Editor: David Digby, 3303 Price Avenue, Tampa, Florida 33611
Call: (813)839-1899 - (answer machine when away dancing)

Friends, enemies, and folkdancers...lend me your ear!

You probably are wondering if I have gone off the deep end with a greeting like this, however, I assure you that I am not being entirely literal in this opening. It is true that I consider many of you friends, it is further true that some of you may choose to be my enemies because you don't like certain things that I do or say, but above all, I hope that all of you will remain folkdancers regardless of what I do as your FFDC President.

You may be wondering why I started in this manner. It appears that after four months some people are still angry with me about things that I said, did do, or didn't do last February. I am amazed. Somehow I thought that the last camp was over and done with. So, what do I know? I still get "little notes" from members worded in ways that denote anger, hurt feelings, demands, or just plain negativity. Although I may appear to be a person of great composure, little feelings, or whatever, I assure you that I do take these messages to heart. Incidentally, these messages are generally from people who did not follow instructions concerning camp which were provided in the newsletters. I spent a great deal of time laying the ground work for people to know what to bring, when to arrive, and what to expect. So, I too have angry feelings at the audacity of some of our members. Members who chose to ignore information and expected me to greet them with open arms while trying to solve the dilemma that they presented. Sorry folks, I'm only human and sometimes seem rude or tactless when under stress. On one hand, I apologize because there can be no excuse for rudeness; on the other hand, I see that I still have a lot of educating to do as President of this group.

First, let me say that no guide book came with this position; second, may I remind you that no one else would take it. I'll bet you thought that I won this position through diligent campaigning, amazing strategies, or incredible bribes. How soon we forget. No folks, popularity was not a question in the winning of this presidency. But regardless of past history, since I won the office, I decided to do the best job that I could. I actually had several months of enthusiasm, ideas, and action which with the help of others became the reality of last year's camp. Many member's ideas were put into action and camp was a bit more special because of these. We had two top-notch teachers, learned both line and couple dances, and made a profit. What more could you ask for? (The surveys are definitely answering this question.)

Thank you to the 20 people who took the time to answer the survey in last month's newsletter. I hope more positive input will be forth coming.

But back to the education which some of us still seem to need. Some of you might remember that I used to be one of the biggest complainers and one of the last to help. Somehow, I didn't really realize what was going on. I just kept thinking that I had paid all this money and somebody should be making sure that I was having a good time. Someone should know how I liked things done. What was the matter with these people who couldn't get organized, provide enough male partners, or figure out what food I liked? Why hadn't someone checked for the pea under my mattress? Was I expected to sleep, dance, and adjust to this weekend cheerfully?

Embarrassingly enough, I had no idea that my attitude was directly contributing to the not-so-wonderful time that I was having....not to mention affecting the poor folks around me. Well, nothing cures like the eye-opening experience of being the one who has to be on the other side.. of being the one who has to do it. I'll bet you have no idea how many things can go wrong in one little weekend. Some of you may remember that I finally drew the line at dealing with the plumbing. Some of you know that I learned about two dances during the whole week end and spent a few hours on the dock crying. I'm not telling you this to gain sympathy or words of encouragement. I'm certain that other officers have felt the same way. If you've been with us long enough you'll realize that some of our past officers no longer come to camp; some of them don't even dance in their local groups any more. Maybe you also realize that we have had a problem finding people to be officers of FFDC...the same ones keep doing the jobs. So, I'm not looking for a pat on the back...I'm just one of the many hard working officers that some of you forget has feelings and is human. I'm just telling you so that you might stop and think for a few seconds before you complain...before you demand...before you say how things could be better. Stop and think about how willing you are to be involved...to be a part of the solution. And stop and think about how this is Florida's only camp. Can you really afford to wear down your best people, to criticize, to nit-pick, to make their jobs harder? Can you afford to harass your president, editor, or treasurer? And while I'm being painfully, pointedly truthful, you might want to go one step further and ask yourself if you can afford to treat your local group leaders in this way.

There always seem to be a few who spoil things for the rest of any group. Why not join the 90% who are cheerful, able to read and follow guidelines, be helpful, and supportive? Why not be a part of the solution?

If you wish to give input, why not take the extra seconds to word your suggestions in the most positive way possible? If you really want things to improve, why not be ready to say you'll help?

I have several more months to work at this job. I'd like to do the best that I possibly can. I know that my energies are a bit low at present, so I'm sure that my attitude can use improving. I'll work on improving me, if you'll work on improving you. What a deal!

Bonnie

P.S. The 90% of you who didn't need to read this article may feel free to torch it. Just remember to do so safely.

(And please try not to melt any of the Golden Words on the other pages!)

Say thank you to a past officer. Write a little who's who about the person for our FFDC newsletter. Let's get to know one another. There's something special about everyone!



"SPECIAL EVENT" ANNOUNCEMENTS

June 10-17, Blue Star (Israeli) Folk Dance Workshop - NC - \$295.
Write 3595 Sheridan St, Suite 107, Hollywood, FL 33021-3608.

June 15 - DEADLINE - - Y'all git Y'stuff in, rot naow, Y'hear?

June 18 - Pensacola - Greek Workshop with Joe Graziosi
- (tentative) - Diana Polizo (904) 968-2628

June 19-26, Caribbean Folk Dance Cruise - Mel Mann, Berkeley
Travel Company, 1301 California St, Berkeley, CA 94703
telephone (415)526-4033 or 524-9901.

June 23-27, Pinewoods Camp with Yves Moreau & Marilyn Wathen Folk Arts
Center, 1950 Mass. Ave, Cambridge, MA 02140 'phone (617)491-6083

June 24 - Bradenton, 7:30 PM, - Olde Tyme Dance - Live Music - Anna
Maria Power Squadron, 1200 71st St NW. - Alan (813)746-5621

June 25 - Olde Tyme and Irish Dance, Tampa, 7:30 PM Hunt Rec Cntr
(see full page ad) - Andy Pollock (813) 882-4472.

June 25 - Spring Fling in Daytona Beach - FREE PARTY - Y'all Come
Julius Horvath, 1018 Berkshire Rd, FL 32017 (904) 252-5738.

June 26 - Miami - 1-5 PM - Old Time Dance with Wild Harp Irish band
Kendall Crossings DC, 12188 SW 131st Ave, Bob Stone (305) 235-2122

June 29 - July 18, Dance Tour of Yugoslavia CANCELLED for lack of
sufficient registration. Try again in 1989!

July 8 to 18 - Drummondville Festival, Quebec, Canada
call 1-800-567-1444.

July 29 - Bradenton, 7:30 PM, - Olde Tyme Dance - Live Music - Anna
Maria Power Squadron, 1200 71st St NW. - Alan (813) 746-5621

July 31 - Miami - 1-5 PM - Old Time Dance with Home Grown String B.
Kendall Crossings DC, 12188 SW 131st Ave, Bob Stone (305) 235-2122

August 7 - 13, Blue Ridge Mountain Dance Roundup - \$301
(Lloyd Shaw Foundation camp) call (719) 275-8755.

August 19 - 20, Maitland (Orlando area) - Israeli Workshop -
(Darcy Silvers) Randa Marder @ JCC (305) 645-5933

August 19 - 22, Polish Family Camp - Buffalo Gap -
call Basia Dzienanowska, (617) 926-8048 or (305) 296-6099.

August 28 - Miami - 1-5 PM - Old Time Dance with live music
Kendall Crossings DC, 12188 SW 131st Ave, Bob Stone (305) 235-2122

Sept 2-5 Oglebay FD Camp - Joe Graziosi, Sandy Starkman & Bill Alkire.
FD Camp c/o Stifer Center, 1330 National Rd, Wheeling, WV 26003.

September 15-19, Cajun Music & Dance Tour - \$275 - Diana Polizo,
2400 Sunnydale Lane, Cantonment, FL 32533. (904) 968-2628

September 25 - Miami - 1-5 PM - Old Time Dance with live music
Kendall Crossings DC, 12188 SW 131st Ave, Bob Stone (305) 235-2122

November 13 (tentative) - Folk Fest '88 - 2PM, Performing Arts Center,
Tampa - (see article elsewhere) - Andy Pollock (813) 882-4472.

December (Xmas to New Year) - Florida Heritage Center? - NEWSFLASH
Plans are underway to establish a Florida version of the Augusta
Heritage Center between Christmas and New Years at Ocala Camp. This
will hopefully include classes in fiddle with Ginny Milnes (W. Va.),
banjo with (prize winning) Tammy Murray, mandolin & improvization with
T. J. Wangerman, and dance with Larry Edelman.

Contact Bill Paine, 9710 S.W. 75th Way, Gainesville, 32608-6241,
'phone (904) 495-2243. More details when available. - Kathie Aagaard

A special thanks to Wanda and Dylan Conway for organizing and hosting the
Greek Workshop in Tarpon Springs. John Lulias was great as were all the
special treats. I hope that they'll host another workshop in the near future.

Is Folkdancing a waste of your time?

Last month, a mystery author (gentlemen) wrote a few paragraphs which seemed to say that folkdancing wasn't providing him with new friends any more. Well, developing new friendships does take time and effort, and this man might want to look at his method of operation. Is he actively seeking out new people and working to make them feel comfortable? After all, he's in his realm, they are probably still wondering what kind of strange world they have happened upon. Is he spending time trying to find out what they are like and looking for things that they share in common? Or is he like most of us saying one to four sentences and then madly dashing off to do the next dance?

Oops! I guess I should have read farther. Actually, this gentlemen seems to be complaining that he's not meeting the RIGHT new friend. Okay, I can identify with that. However, I must add that if he's having a hard time finding that special woman with all the extra women available at most folkdance events, just imagine what difficulty the women are having finding that special man with so few men to choose from. Somehow, I just cannot conjure up enough sympathy for this mystery man. Actually, I might have had just a little tear, if he hadn't gone so far as to say that the rest of us (women) don't count. Personally, I find that attitude offensive. Dancing is not just a lonely hearts club where one goes to find a mate. What about the pure joy of dancing with an excellent partner? What about helping someone who is less adept than you? What about the family feeling of seeing all your "old friends"? Isn't that satisfying? And finally what about the fun of flirting? Has our gentlemen forgotten these playful arts that can feed the ego for hours to come.

I'll agree that there seems to be a lack of obvious princes and princesses who seem to readily match...maybe we need to enjoy dancing and stop looking for a while. Maybe we need to take a look at what we're offering if as he said, everyone is disappearing quickly after the evening party.

I know that there are a lot of "what about's" and "maybe's" in the above reply; however, one thing that I do know for sure, if this gentleman is "advertising", he'll need to admit that he wrote the article. Also, he'll need to pay for advertising space. What do you think...shall we make money for the Olga Princi Scholarship fund by charging for running "Personals" in our monthly newsletter? All princes and princess may feel free to respond.

SHALL WE HAVE "LONELY HEARTS" ADS ?

Bonnie

Bonnie's response to "Mysterious Gentleman" has raised the question of running ads for "personals" in the newsletter. Do you like the idea? Or hate it? She may be kidding, but go ahead and send one in - we'll see how it plays. Here's her's, (We'll give it the honor of Box #1.) and another one we dug up just for balance, as follows:

"They used to have mail order brides. Do you suppose that they have male order folkdance partners (spelling slip intended). Send information, prices and stipulations to FFDC President ASAP. Must include photo and references."

"You are an irrepressible dancing lady, quite tall for your weight, and perhaps a third to two-thirds of my age. A twitchy beat can put you in orbit, but when I arouse your deepest feelings, you may launch us both into outer space. (Caution, it's at least an hours trip.) At other times we can share mutual interests in computers, science & canoeing. Now write me a perfumed letter before you dry off. (If you are twins, write one together ... could I handle you both?) Want a permanent relationship. Box #2, c/o editor."

(Writing THIS letter was a trip of it's own.)

How much should I charge myself for this? B.

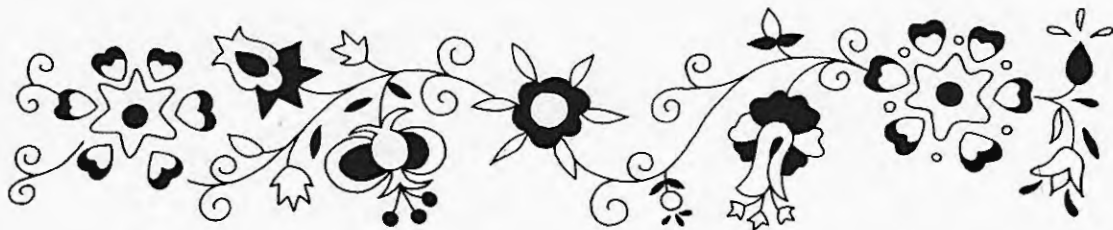
(Let's call it 5c a word, to approximate the other ad rates.) (Please note that replies addressed to a box number will be sent on to the advertizer unopened, unlike other letters sent to the editor.)

IF YOU WANT TO HIDE IN THE CLOSET

The question of anonymous contributions has come up and been rejected. You may request that your name not be published - or that your work be signed with a pseudonym, but you MUST tell ME who you are first. So if you have a grievance with some article or another - or you want to debate some point made therein, you need to communicate same to me. If you do, please tell me whether you want me to publish it, (signed or unsigned ?) or just to send it on to the author in question.

"EQUAL TIME" CHALLENGE ACCEPTED

Last month's "Mystery Author" article was not submitted as an ad, in fact it wasn't really intended to be "mysterious", it just came out that way. (And by now it is so much fun that we'll let it stand.) If I thought you'd believe me, I could claim I did it on purpose to stimulate reader response, because it certainly has done that! In addition to the two published items in this issue, there have been a bunch of verbal comments and questions. Some of those folks may even come through with an article in the next month or so.



NEWS FROM THE SPACE COAST

The Space Coast Folk Dancers, Scottish Country Dancers and the Advanced Contra Group are stopping activities for the summer, and will start again at the end of August. The season ended with a number of demonstrations at the Indian River Festival, the Melbourne Historical Society and the Florida State Square and Round Dance Convention, so it was a busy ending.

George & Onie Senyk are off to China for four and a half weeks with the Chinese/American Educational Association, to stay at two colleges. They were invited to teach some American dances for an evening at each place, and this should prove to be an interesting experience.

The fifth annual Space Coast Scottish Workshop was an unqualified success. There were 110 for the workshops conducted by Betty Smith of Northern Ireland as well as local Florida teachers, and 150 for the banquet and Tartan Ball in the evening. There were quite a number of new dancers for the basic classes this year. Jack Rennie of Los Angeles has been invited to conduct next year's event at the end of March, 1989.

MOUSE MUSINGS

Things are getting hot in Orlando. (We have no air conditioning.) The good news is that Darcy Silvers had a boy on April 27. Mom, Dad and baby Aaron are doing well.

There really is no bad news. (That's good) We will miss Joan & Wally Washington, who went back to Michigan for the summer. Anita Holloway is NOT going north for the summer, well, not the whole summer. Eleanor Hall visited her 1 year old granddaughter, out West, and did Joc de Leagone, the Romanian candle dance, with her, keeping an old tradition. Or starting one. And it is always a pleasure having Melbourne Marge & John Thompson join us.

The Performing Gruppe has started rehearsing rigorously. They meet one Friday evening a month. (For them that is rigorous rehearsing.)

Juanita & Fred Schokey are attending the Oglebay Memorial Day FD Camp at Wheeling, WV. Yes, they are giving Jaap a Florida hug from all of us.

- Larry Wartell

FOLK FEST FEVER FERMENTS FURIOUSLY!

Andy Pollock, chairman of Folk Fest 1988, is now aiming at Sunday, November 13, 2 PM at the Performing Arts Center in Tampa. There will be rehearsals that morning. There has been some preference expressed for a Saturday night show, with rehearsals in the morning and/or afternoon, and a party after the show. If you feel strongly, one way or the other, better say so REAL SOON, because we need to sign a contract. In either case, if you come in time for regular Friday night dancing, you'll be all warmed up for the show!

The list has gotten a lot longer since last month:

John Karris - Scottish
Julius Horvath - Transylvanian (and maybe something else, too?)
Shiley Babiak - Portuguese
Lisa Princi - Russian
Terry Abrahams & Andi Kapplin - Israeli
Judith Baizan - Norwegian
Pat Henderson - Bulgarian
Stan Prince/Don Davis - English
Andy Pollock - Yugoslavian (and Azerbaijani?)
a

If you would like to direct a performance segment, or feel even remotely in the mood to participate, and you haven't contacted Andy, please do so right away. You need to tell him what you want to do & how many people. It takes time to get the Playbill together, find housing, etc. (If one of the above items seems to have preempted your one and only country, also contact the leader listed. We have NOT ruled out multiple segments from the same place, PROVIDED that the leaders coordinate their efforts - to avoid duplicate dances, etc. You could even choreograph the transition from one to the other!)

"I expect to send out a letter to each group in the next 60 days with more details. In the meantime let's get those program notes together, make those costumes, learn those dances and prepare for a great weekend!"

Andy Pollock, 6104 N. Webb #1102, Tampa, FL 33615.
or 'phone (813) 882-4472.

AS THE OPANCI HOP-STEP-STEP

by
Tiffany Teardrop

It was an ordinary night at the Opaville Folk Dance Club --- just another ordinary weekly dance with all its ordinary dances. As was the custom, the line was being led by vivacious Vivian Vlasko. Somewhere toward the end of the line, Ethel Ann Arbuckle was following along and contemplating the TRADITIONAL FOLK DANCE DILEMMA --- Why are there NEVER enough INTERESTING men?

Ethel Ann was relatively new to folkdancing, having joined the Opaville club eight months ago after the dissolution of a rather disastrous affair of the heart. Since this was the third such catastrophe within one month, Ethel Ann decided to join the folk dance club to get away from the Bar Scene. She had heard that folkdancing was a great way to make new friends without having to worry about being treated like a piece of meat, and she was finding this to be true. "All too true", she thought with a twinge of disappointment. Even though Ethel Ann was making new friends, attending all the workshops and having a great time, she still felt a certain longing, an aching loneliness at the bottom of her heart.

"Oh, well", sighed Ethel Ann, coming out of her reverie: "I guess it just wasn't meant to be."

The dance had ended, and Vivian called out for people to get partners for a couple dance. Ethel Ann had resigned herself to doing the dance with another woman when she felt a large, warm hand enveloping hers. She turned and looked into the face of the Absolutely Most Gorgeous Hunk she had ever seen.

"I heard through the grapevine that you know this dance", the Hunk said. "Would you consider doing it with me?"

"I guess so", said Ethel Ann, trying to appear cool even though her pulse was racing. As they circled around the room and stared meaningfully into each other's eyes, Ethel Ann thought, "WOW! I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS! HE'S GOOD LOOKING AND HE CAN DANCE!"

The music ended, but before Ethel Ann could say anything, Miriam Mayim ran up, pulled her away and said, "Oh, Ethel Ann, you have to do this next dance! It's 'New Israeli Dance #150'. We learned it at camp! It's so wonderful! You'll absolutely love it!"

Ethel Ann started to protest, but it was too late. She was in line dancing, and she had to admit it was a nice dance. It kind of reminded her of "New Israeli Dance #121" which they had learned last week, but the music was more like that of "New Israeli Dance #5" which was also one of her favorites. Still, Ethel Ann wanted to get back to the Absolutely Most Gorgeous Hunk. She hadn't even learned his name yet. She looked up and --- HORROR OF ALL HORRORS! THE HUNK WAS TALKING TO VIVACIOUS VIVIAN VLASKO!

Well, fellow folkdancers, what will become of poor Ethel Ann? Will she ever find out the Absolutely Most Gorgeous Hunk's name? Will Vivian? Does Vivian even care? Does the Hunk want to talk to/dance with Ethel Ann again? How many more "New Israeli Dances" are there? The answers to these and other questions can be found in future installments of "As the Opanci Hop-Step-Step." Until then, keep your shoelaces tied and don't cut in at the head of the line. I remain yours, faithfully,

Tiffany Teardrop



SARASOTA SIZZLERS

Thursday nite Folk Dance Classes (7-9) at St. Boniface Church on Siesta Key will continue through the summer months under the direction of Eleanor & Lee Gleiter and Judy & Debbie Norris, while the Babiaks are on summer tour. Shirley & - will be conducting Portuguese Workshops in Charleston, SC, and Williston, VT. They will also participate in the Balkan Music and Dance Conference at Buffalo Gap, and an International Dance Conference in Montreal before returning to Sarasota in September.

The development of leadership skills in our young dancers is one sign of progress in our objective to provide a bridge between the generations. The Babiaks are hoping that Debbie & Judy will help attract other families to come out on Thursday nights to dance together - the ultimate celebration of life.

- Shirley Babiak

LEVENDIA'S OWN '88 ODYSSEY -- DETROIT THE GREEK ISLANDS, ATHENS, ISTANBUL

The crowded travel schedule of the young Levendia Dancers of Tarpon Springs will be climaxed this year by a 3-week tour of the Greek islands of Crete, Rhodes, Patmos, Symi, Halki, Kalymnos and Samos, plus Ephesus and Istanbul in Turkey, and finally Athens. They have been invited by the Dora Stratou Dancers to perform at their amphitheatre near the Acropolis.

Before that Aegean odyssey begins, Levendia will have been featured at the Norfolk, VA, Greek Festival on May 15, and at the Detroit Folk Dance Conference, May 28-30, where they drew the honored position of closing the show each day. Director John Lulias has also been chosen to conduct the teaching workshops at the Detroit conference.

ORMOND ODBALLS MISCALCULATE SPRING AGAIN

SPRING FLING: Saturday, June 25th, from 11 AM til midnight or ?, in the small annex behind the Recreation Center, Grenada at US-1, in Ormond Beach. No charge, but leaders are asked to teach a dance or two, to help cross-pollinate our groups. We'll make tapes for out-of-print music used, show folk dance videos, including a Yugoslavian group with nice variations of BMK Kolo. Bring yours too, make copies.

Bring your ethnic junk to La Presidente's famous "Auction" for the Olga Princi Scholarship Fund.

It should be a great weekend. Join us, and bring your friends. (You MIGHT even see the 1987 "T" shirt mystery get resolved!)

See you in Ormond June 25th.....

- Julius Horvath

TAMPA TEMPORIZES ABOUT WHITE SPRINGS TRIP

At the time of this writing, it is unknown whether anyone from Tampa is going to White Springs for the annual Florida Folkfest, except for Kathy Aagaard, who cannot leave until after her Saturday concert with the orchestra. This is about par for the course. It seems to be the ambition of nearly everyone to be the only one attending such distant events. No one will admit to planning ahead, but there are usually several others there if you show up. Such a waste of gasoline! I am NOT going to drive my van all the way up there EMPTY.



CONTRAS

with **SISS HINKEL**

Siss has called regularly in
Atlanta and recently in Gainesville

CEILI with TFOOTD staff or guest

MUSIC BY WIND THAT SHAKES THE BARLEY

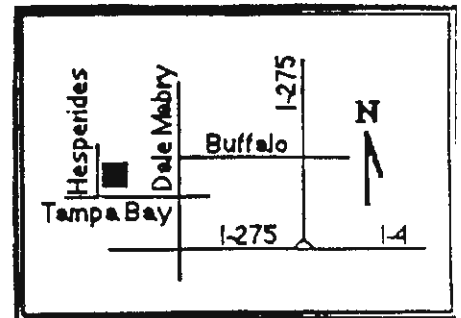
KATHIE AAGAARD - fiddle

BILL DUDLEY - Guitar
and guests

PETER MARTIN - Hammered Dulcimer

COLLIN RAMIREZ - flute, mandolin,
banjo

CHUCK ZAHM - guitar,
octave mandolin



MORE ADDITIONS TO THE WEEKLY DANCE SCHEDULE

We have a new listing for an Israeli group. They meet every Sunday night from 7:30 to 9:30 at Congregation B'nai Israel, near 5th Ave N & 58th St in St Petersburg. For information call (813) 381-4900 or 345-3341.

We still need meeting details from Tallahassee, Key West and any others who haven't been listed recently. If you meet regularly, let us know soon. It is almost time for another complete listing, so get us the dope before it's too late!

PROMOTIONAL COPIES TO GROUPS

Your group should be on our promotional mailing list if it is open to new members, meets every week, and has a contact person who is a member of FFDC. This still means we send two extra copies of this newsletter for "instant gratification" to new members when they join.

--- Happy recruiting!

FFDC still has some member who have not paid their dues increase and a few who have been asked repeatedly to straighten out whether or not their dues have been paid at all. We plan on helping the former by printing a list of names next month. Any time that there is a change of policy, it is expected that some people are certain to be confused about what to do. I realize that many of you did not attend the camp meeting and may not understand that you need to send money...so next month we'll try to list the few of you who remain. We hope that this will prove helpful.

Next, we have a few members that I have written to personally to ask about their payment. The responses that I received, if any, were not particularly helpful. Please understand that if someone asks that you prove

that you paid your dues or a bill, the carbon copy of your check is not what they need to see. Of course you probably wrote it. The question is, did it ever get to the organization and did it ever get cashed. Check your bank statement to see if check # so and so ever came in. Then send a xerox of the statement and your carbon to the asking organization. They will appreciate your prompt and helpful reply. Keeping track of lots of different memberships can be a harrowing experience. Remember that no one is incompetent and no one is picking on you...these things just happen from time to time. You can help by being cheerful about the few minutes you'll need to invest to put your name once again in good standing. Need I say more?

FLORIDA FOLK DANCE COUNCIL
3303 PRICE AVENUE
TAMPA, FLORIDA 33611
(address correction requested)