

Folkdances from around the world keep these dancers' feet tapping

By Valerie Shockey

Battalion Reporter

The Texas A&M University International Folk Dancers may not be the largest group of dancers on campus, but they certainly bring alive a bit of culture.

The group does all types of international dances including Russian, Swedish, and Bulgarian, group member Sue Friesen said.

"If someone would like to teach us a dance, they are always welcome," Friesen said.

The club, which has been in existence for about five years, is sponsored by funds from the Memorial Student Center Bookstore and by the \$1.50 dues each member pays, Friesen said.

The group has given performances for Library Week and Washington-on-the-Brazos

ceremonies, Friesen said.

The group also co-sponsored a clogging and American dance workshop with the Texas International Folk Dancers. on Feb. 6, 7 and 8. Friesen is also a member of the state group.

Friesen said about 115 people attended the workshop, mostly clogging groups from around Texas. People from Austin, Friendswood, Houston and San Antonio attended, but the workshop also attracted people from Louisiana, Oklahoma and Tennessee, said Kaye Roth, another member of the state-wide organization.

Jerry Duke, who has held workshops at other colleges and universities and who is completing his doctorate in dance at Texas Women's University in Denton, taught the workshop.

Duke taught clogging, some American dances and some Bulgarian and Swedish dances. He also gave a culture session on influences upon clogging and how it came about, Roth said.

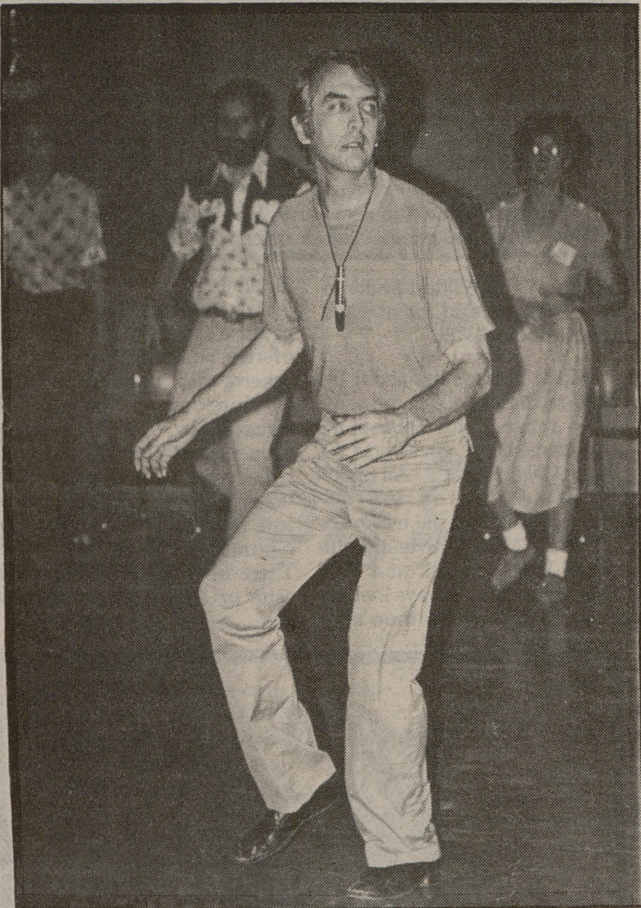
Duke said there are two types of clogging: the old-time freestyle, where the dancers are relaxed and do what they want, and the precision, which is mostly done by teams who do the same step at the same time.

Precision clogging, which has been in existence for 15 years, is the most popular and is done all over the United States, Duke said.

Some of the groups who attended the workshop gave performances on Saturday night, Roth said.

The Cadence Cloggers from San Antonio and the Friendswood Country Cloggers were two groups who performed, Roth said.

"Some groups gave demonstrations of unusual instruments such as the mouthbow (something like a Jew's harp),



Paul Duke demonstrates the finer points of clogging to the Texas A&M International Folkdancers. Photo by Valerie Shockey.



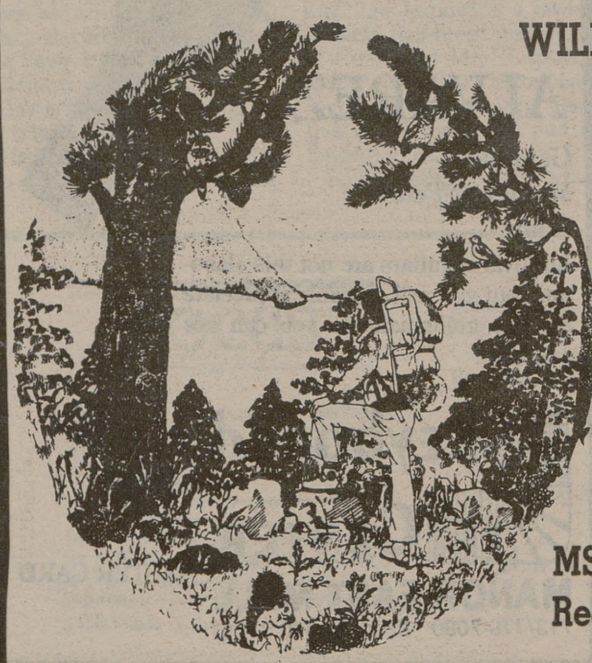
Paul Duke and partner twirl their way through one of the dances Duke taught at the clogging workshop at Texas A&M University. Photo by Valerie Shockey.

the saw and the spoons," Roth said.

Most of the money earned by the workshop went to the Texas International Folk Dancers for the Thanksgiving Folk Dance camp they sponsor every year,

Friesen said.

Anyone interested in joining the Texas A&M International Folk Dancers should attend the meetings and dance sessions held every Thursday at 8 p.m. in 263 G. Rollie White.



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