

Seven year history

Hoolyehs dance and "have fun"

The Hoolyeh Folkdancers, a teenage international folk dance group, were founded in October of 1965. Outgrowing the grade school age folkdancers, several teens wished to continue dancing and insisted that a new group be formed.

Arrangements were made with Mrs. Mabel Marr, then principal of Garfield School, to dance in the school gymnasium on the first and third Thursdays of each month. A director was needed for the group, and Mrs. Hildred Rice volunteered.

The name Hoolyeh was chosen by the dancers during the group's first year of dancing. The new group danced twice a month with a limited enrollment, but there was a definite interest.

Some of the original members were Shirley Anton, Terry Bennett, Howard Booster, Kathy Bucy, Martha Davis, Jeanette Leach, Dan Martin, Lloyd McCaffery, Mary McCauley, Karen McDonald, Jeannie Olleman, Kathy Rohde, Sue Roth, Barbara Schemm and Glenn Weber.

First Festival Held

In April 1967 the Hoolyehs held their first annual festival. Vyts Beliajus was guest teacher attracting many dancers from the Northwest.

Profits from the festival were used to establish a scholarship fund sending Barbara Schemm to Mendocino Folklore Camp in California during the summer of 1967.

When school closed for the summer, teenage dancing in Corvallis also stopped.

The 1968 festival featured the late Madelynne Greene as the institute teacher. Miss Greene, who started Mendocino Folklore Camp, was a national folk dance leader and teacher having taught at many camps in the United States. She had also travelled extensively in Europe doing dance research, especially Spanish, Portugese and Majorcan.

Howard Booster and Karen McDonald received the 1968 half-scholarships to attend Mendocino.

The Hoolyehs guest teacher for the 1969 festival was Pearl Atkinson, director of Women's Physical Education at Reed College in Portland. Miss Atkinson had made a round-the-world trip the year before, dancing at many European festivals.

There were no scholarship winners during the year of 1969, due to a shortage of finances, but Howard Booster, Barbara Schemm, Mrs. Alison Weber and Glenn Weber all attended Mendocino for the week and a half of camp.

Enrollment in the Hoolyeh group was increasing, and requests for performances both in and out of town commenced as the groups reputation became known.

More Dancing Added

Dancing every Thursday night was a new attraction starting in the fall of 1969.

A fifth Thursday of the month came in January of 1970. The Hoolyehs decided to make it a special party night and had 120 local dancers and their families attending. A Chinese theme prevailed through decorations, refreshments, door

prizes, costumes and a special "Dragon Dance" performance. Because of the party's success, it was decided to make it an annual event, featuring a different country or region each year.

A special folk dance class was offered in 1970 at Corvallis High School during the Experimental Week. Teacher for the class was Howard Booster presenting beginning dances. Because of the large attendance and the interest in a totally new learning experience, the Hoolyeh's enrollment increased almost 100 per cent in the next few weeks.

Charter Bus Trips Begin

Enthusiasm increased with the influx of new dancers and interest was shown in attending the annual folk dance festival in Eugene. However, there were insufficient parents who had time available to provide transportation for the group of dancers to spend the entire day at the festival. So the dancers would not be disappointed, Alison and Glenn Weber arranged for a charter bus to take the group of dancers to the festival. This trip marked the first of a continuing number of charter trips.

The 1970 Hoolyeh Festival attracted over 300 people. Billy Burke, a young dancer and teacher from Los Angeles, presented Serbo-Croatian dances.

Debbie Hanus and Glenn Weber received the Hoolyeh Scholarships in 1970. Debbie attended Mendocino while Glenn chose to be the first Hoolyeh to attend Stockton Folk Dance Camp. Because of the educational value and college credits available to its participants,

it was recommended that all further Hoolyeh Scholarship winners attend Stockton.

During the 1970 summer, the Hoolyehs performed at the Benton County Fair as well as numerous other locations.

In August of 1970, the Northwest Folk Dance Festival was held in Enumclaw, Washington. To insure that the Hoolyehs would be well represented, Alison and Glenn Weber chartered a bus to take local dancers on the two-day trip. The weekend was filled with never ending dancing, exhibitions and special treats for the bus riders. Money to pay the bus expense was raised through flea markets, garage sales and private donations.

First Officers Elected

In September of 1970 the Hoolyehs decided that there should be officers elected to assist the management of the ever-growing group and increasing special activities. Elected as president was Glenn Weber with Mary McCauley as secretary. This marked another first for the Hoolyehs.

A Scandinavian theme was chosen for the January Party in 1971, with over 250 people attending. Mary McCauley was in charge of refreshments filling several tables with ethnic Scandinavian foods.

A second out-of-state bus trip was taken in February 1971 when the Hoolyehs attended weekend festivities at the University of Washington in Seattle. Interest and participation in this bus trip increased to such an extent that the bus was filled and dancers had to be turned away. (continued page 6)

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Hoolyehs dance for seven years

Eugene, Oregon was the destination of another bus trip in April 1971. Alice Nugent, of Seattle, Washington; Jim Norton from Salem, Oregon and Steve Reed an Oregon State University student, were teachers at the Hoolyeh Folkdancers 1971 festival. The guest teachers re-instituted some "old favorites". A new attraction beginning at this festival was an after-party held in Marys River Grange Hall, a rustic woodland lodge located near Philomath.

Scholarships from this festival were many, however, the scholarship judging committee felt there were more deserving dancers than money available. Consequently, an annual Scholarship Party was started and was held in May. The party attracted several hundred people to the fund-raising event.

Sara Leslie, Mary McCauley, Dan Moore, Mary North and Bonnie Rhynard were chosen as scholar-

ship winners to represent the Hoolyehs at Stockton Folk Dance Camp, in California.

International Celebrities Instruct
In July 1971 the Hoolyehs sponsored a teaching institute appearance of Mme. Eugenia Popescu-Judet, a prominent Romanian Folk Dance expert, ballet master and choreographer of a Romanian folk dance ensemble. This was Mme. Judetz only stop in Oregon on her tour of the United States.

Another charter bus trip was offered in August 1971 to attend the Northwest Folk Dance Festival in Enumclaw, Washington. Many Hoolyehs participated on this trip leaving Corvallis at 3:30 Saturday morning and arriving home late Sunday night.

The Hoolyeh Folkdancers elected officers for the year 1971-1972, installing Dan Moore as president and Bonnie Rhynard, secretary. The group continued to be directed by

Mrs. Hildred Rice.

There were frequent bus trips taking interested local folk dancers to Portland for performances by international exhibition groups touring the United States.

Hoolyehs

Starts Second Group

In November 1971 the Hoolyeh Folkdancers divided into two groups. The regular, general folk dancing continued and a special performance group was started. Because of the many requests for performances, it became necessary to have a small group interested in learning and practicing to develop ethnic styling and wear native folk costumes. An additional night each week was set aside and devoted to rehearsals.

Atanas Kolarovski, of Yugoslavia, specializing in Yugoslav-Macedonian and Albanian dances, taught in Corvallis at a special institute in November of 1971

Kolarovski was touring the United States and teaching in major folk dancing centers.

Greek Night was featured early in February 1972, with door prizes, refreshments and decorations helping to carry-out the Grecian theme.

The Hoolyeh performance group has been constantly in demand by school districts, lodges, service clubs, churches, and many other organizations. Audiences, both locally and out of town, have included scouting groups, business groups, students, teachers, and folk dancers.

Approximately 300 dancers in nine groups form the Corvallis folk dance family. The Hoolyehs are in charge of many of the local folk dancing events and the 100 teenagers enthusiastically support this international program.