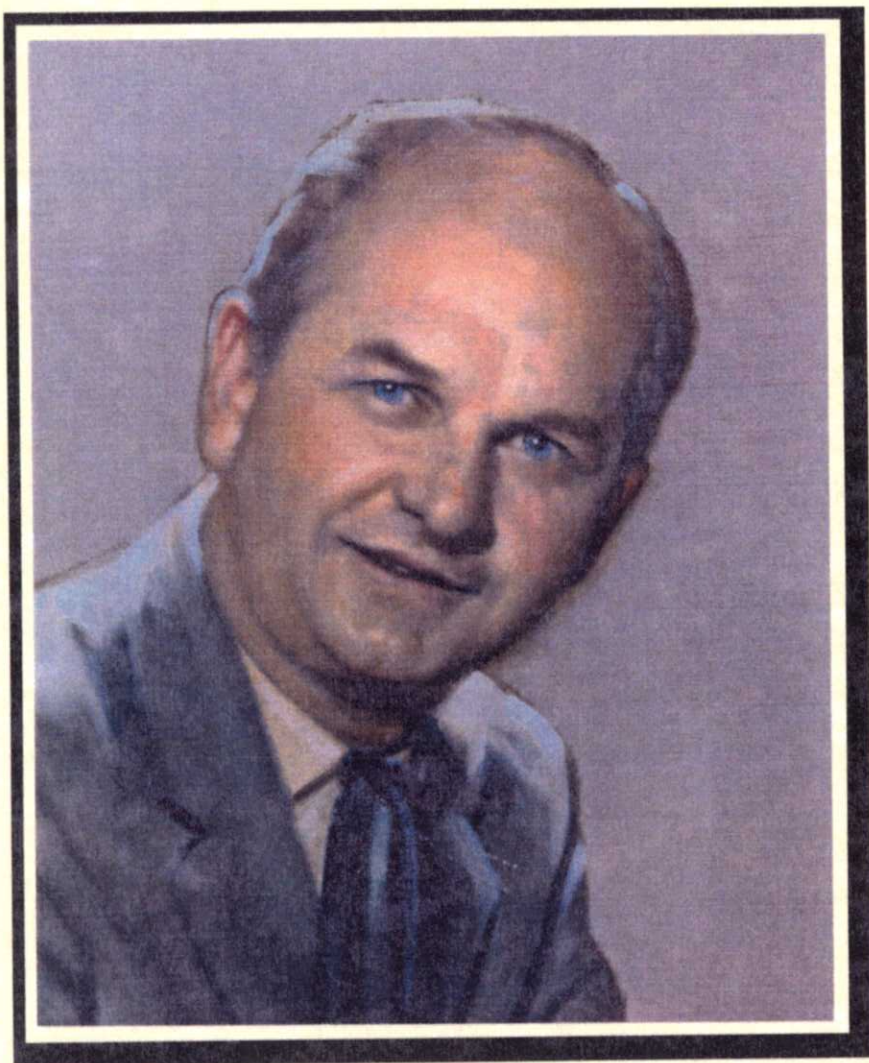




Arnie Kronenberger
Milestone, 1983
Gold Card, 1978

After calling a square dance for a crowd of more than 15,000 dancers in California in 1950 and calling across the Canadian Province of Alberta as a special guest of the government, Kronenberger must have felt that there was nothing "unusual" left in the world of square dancing. That was before the telephone rang and a voice informed him that it was the National Broadcasting Company. Could he, the voice asked, call a square dance for a coming television special? Arnie, who had recorded on a number of labels including one of the few stereo square dance albums for Warner Bros. Records, answered in the affirmative. After all, what could they dream up that he hadn't run across sometime in the past? He got his answer soon enough when the network informed him that his dancers would be four helicopters. Figuring he had gone too far now to drop out, he somehow managed to come up with a call that even the whirlybirds could follow.

Arnie and his late wife, Jan, started square dancing in 1947 and not too long after he decided to become a caller. This was during the "boom" period of square

dancing in Los Angeles and while he was getting his experience as a caller/teacher, both he and Jan appeared as dancers on television shows for NBC, CBS, and several local channels. His first class of beginners was a sell-out crowd of 25 squares at Beverly Hills High School.

Within a few years he was well entrenched in a home-club and class program.

Traveling to call at some of the large square dance festivals and serve on the staff of a number of prominent vacation institutes, all, somehow, fitted into Arnie's already full non-square dancing vocation. Calling regularly for a group of Hollywood actors and motion picture people added to his fun and experience.

A member of a pioneer group of callers in the Los Angeles area known as the "Callers Pow Wow", Arnie played an important role in caller training. In the late 1950s he helped share in the planning of a Dale Carnegie-type callers leadership program. In the mid-1960s he played a major part in the promotion of two caller's leadership courses in conjunction with UCLA. In June, 1970, he became a member of the Square Dance Hall of Fame and in February, 1971, Arnie was selected as a Founding Member of CALLERLAB. Serving as acting chairman, he was a part of its Board of Governors during its critical years.

When Arnie hung up his microphone and retired from calling a number of years ago, he left behind him many dancers who not only were fans but true friends. One of the nicest tributes a person can pay to a caller was aimed at Arnie on the occasion of his retirement when a dancer said, "He wears well over the years".