



BOB BRUNDAGE

MILESTONE 2012

Bob started playing drums in a square dance orchestra organized by his mother as a 4-H club in 1933 or 1934. She traveled by horse and buggy as a young girl to play piano at square dances with her father, later played sound effects for silent movies, and eventually became a concert pianist. She wanted her sons to have some sort of a musical education and she overcame many problems to form the first music 4-H club in the U.S. Eventually, the entire family was involved in the square dance activity.

Throughout his career, Bob has always had a positive effect on the square dance activity, from local and regional influence to National recognition. He has recorded on the Folkcraft and MacGregor labels. His personal style and teaching of timing and phrasing has influenced many new callers to show and teach the musical values of dancing. His philosophy is that dance steps are set to music: music is not an incidental accompaniment to choreography.

Bob discovered a void in the documentation of the history and development of square dancing. There was very little written about the transition from what we now know as "Traditional" and our present Modern Western Square Dancing. He decided to get this history on tape to get a complete and accurate account from as many of the early leaders as possible before these leaders were no longer available. His goal was to create an unparalleled historical document for the Lloyd Shaw Foundation Archives. He has spent over two and a half years on this project. He has interviewed Hall-Of-Fame members, Milestone Award recipients, Silver Halo leaders, Silver Spur leaders, and well-known National and regional leaders from all over the world. He acquired an interview and lecture tape of **Ed Gilmore** taken at Ed's Caller's School in 1949. He has expanded the number of interviews to well over 100. Nearly all have been transcribed and both the written files and the audio files are now available on-line on the website of the Square Dance Foundation of New England.