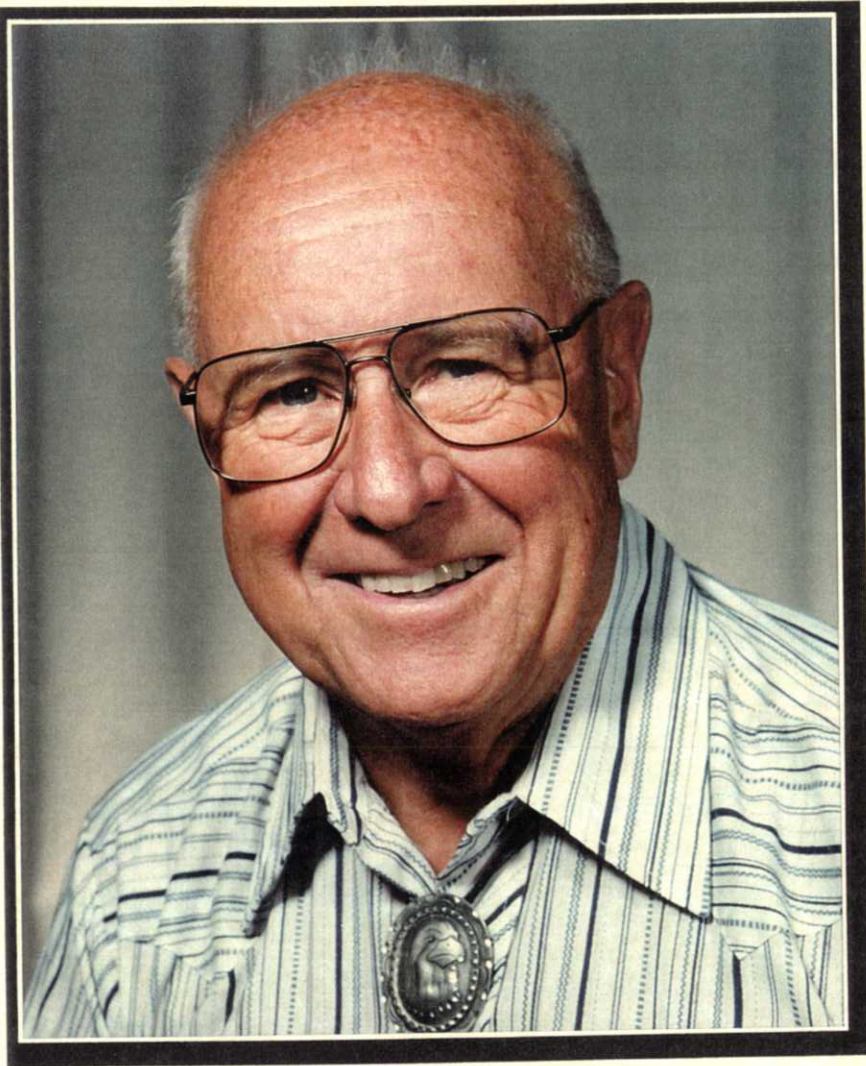


Bob Howell
Milestone, 1998



In the packed auditorium at the Louisville, Kentucky Convention Center, the two squares of youthful dancers are following the calls of their veteran caller and coach. In a moment the exhibition is over and the crowd explodes with applause for this is not your ordinary, run-of-the mill square dance demonstration. Each of the 16 dancers is "dancing" while riding a unicycle -- you know, those single-wheel, nine feet tall contraptions -- and what they were dancing was not some simple square. They were doing double squares and tea cup chains -- all while balancing high above the dance surface. Unusual, perhaps, but not for their caller, Bob Howell, for whom out-of-the-ordinary is to be expected.

A firm believer in making square dancing available to everyone, Howell is comfortable calling a one-night-stand for several hundred or handling one of the clubs he called for on a regular basis. A master at all forms of square dancing he has written a regular column of "Easy Level" dances each month in The

American Square Dance magazine since 1971. In recent years he has written two volumes of "Bob Howell's Easy Level".

"Solo Dances", that have become textbooks for many entering the field of dance, Bob's expertise at fun calling has come across in the records he has produced on the Grenn, Top, and Lloyd Shaw labels.

Bob Howell, former Chairman of LEGACY, former junior high school principal, veteran caller/teacher, was first exposed to square dancing at Ohio State University in 1941 and while a naval officer, had a chance during the war to get a taste of square dancing while in the Carolinas. Following the war he did his first calling in a recreational class at Western Reserve University while doing graduate work in 1947, and began calling professionally about six months later. He taught his first square dance class in 1953 and has called in many states, as well as Australia, Germany, Sweden, Switzerland, and Scotland.

An active member of CALLERLAB since its convention in 1974, he is past president of the Cleveland Area Association and over the years has introduced the calling and teaching of square dancing to many physical education majors attending his university leadership courses.

Studying with the late Dr. Lloyd "Pappy" Shaw for many years, Bob became a strong right arm for Dorothy Shaw, whom he credits as having had the greatest influence over him and his square dance life. He was one of the founders of the Lloyd Shaw Foundation and has served on a number of its committees.

Bob, who with his wife Phyllis, calls Cleveland, Ohio his home, has called a yearly one-night-stand for new arrivals to the United States from Yugoslavia, Hungary, South Africa, Asia, etc., and has used the American Square Dance as a means of welcoming these newcomers to our shores and does it most effectively.

If he's not actually out on the dance floor -- dancing or teaching someone else to dance -- he's mentally dancing these routines, knowing the pleasure they will bring others. As Snoopy gleefully proclaimed in one of Charles Schultz' Peanuts comic strips, "To dance is to live -- to live is to dance!" This indeed could be the glowing motto of dancer/caller/ teacher/author, Bob Howell.