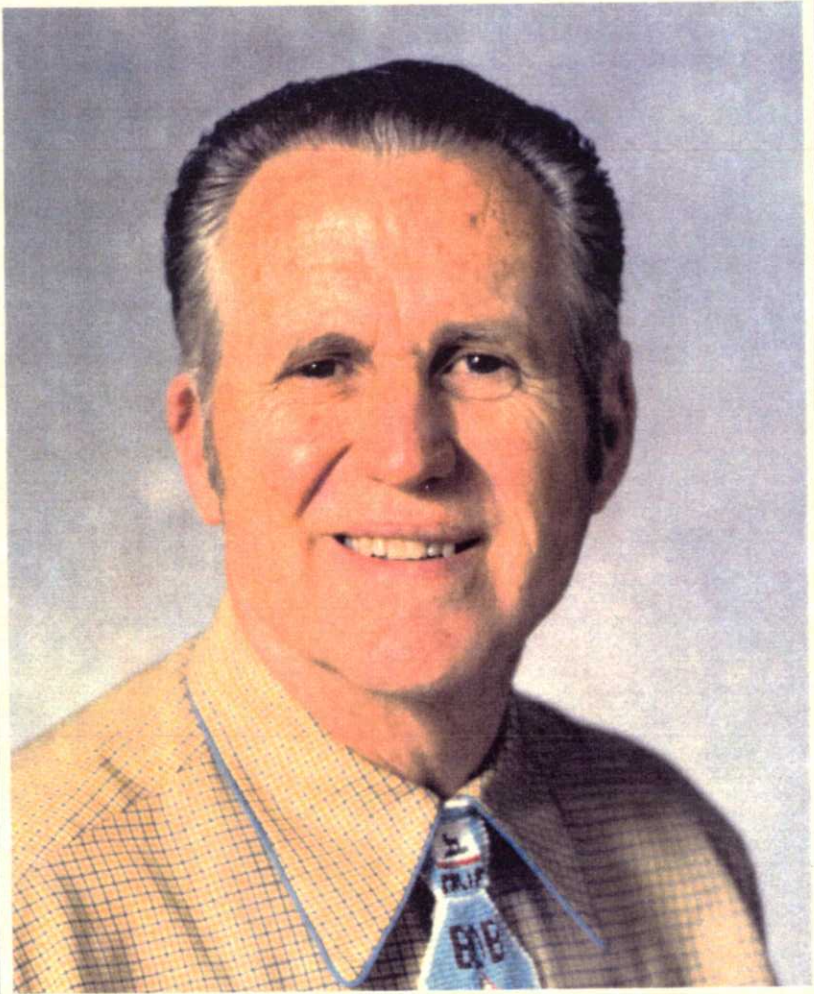




Bob Ruff
Milestone, 1994

Bob started calling in his home town of Whittier, California, in 1949 during the "boom" period of square dancing. Teaching capacity-sized classes along with his wife, Babs, the new dancers filled the clubs he called for. He became a successful recording caller and in the early 1950s, called throughout North America and appeared on the staff of many dancer institutes. He taught others to call in his home area and also served on the faculty of callers schools across the country,

At this time there was considerable concern about the square dancing that was taught to the young people in our schools. Overextended school teachers, knowing little or nothing about contemporary square dancing that was being enjoyed by the adults in their area, relied on outmoded styles of dancing and calling. Rather than challenging the young students, this form of dancing literally "turned them off" with the result that many never wanted to square dance again.

Bob's avocation was teaching and calling square dancing, while his vocation was teaching mathematics and physical education in a junior high school. Combining his ability in teaching square dancing to adults and his proven success with the 7th and 8th grade students, he set aside time each week to include squares for his young pupils.

The popularity at these dances caught the attention of other teachers and soon they were asking Bob to call for their classes. It became apparent to Bob that the combination of his teaching and calling formed a system that might be packaged and made available for teachers to use. The music, his proven style of calling and teaching, presented on a special extended-play recording, together with illustrations, printed notes and instructions completed the package. The next step was an in-service program, involving a full day of practice, to teach others how to use the tools he had created.

Indications are that this successful program will continue to thrive in years to come and because of it, many who might not have become square dancers will become enthusiasts. Bob was a member of the Square Dance Hall of Fame. He passed away in January, 1994.