



**Bruce Johnson
Milestone, 1988**

It was July 13, 1950, on a balmy summer evening, that a young caller recently out of the Navy hesitantly climbed five wooden steps, squeezed his way between fiddler and bass player and stood nervously beside the dignified, grey-haired gentleman who addressed the crowd of more than 50,000. Words were always easy for Lloyd "Pappy" Shaw and this evening when he introduced the timid young caller, the huge audience stood hushed. Finally the words of the introduction were almost completed and, as Shaw's voice rose, you could sense the excitement in the crowd. "...And now, ladies and gentlemen, it's with great pleasure that I bring you your next caller, a young man who is doing an outstanding job and whom I predict will go far in this world of square dancing, Bruce Johnson!" In the explosion of applause Bruce moved up to the microphone, signaled the piano to begin and then delivered a long-to-be-remembered rendition of Alabama Jubilee.

This was not the beginning for Bruce who had been calling for several years but "Pappy's" prediction was truly on-the-money, for in the years that followed,

Bruce became one of the true leaders in the contemporary square dance world. A pioneer in this young activity, he has called in virtually every state, in most Canadian Provinces, Japan and the Philippines, Germany, and other countries overseas. He recorded on the Windsor, MacGregor, and Scope labels and appeared several times on the annual Documentaries In Sound for The American Square Dance Society.

Playing a major role in caller leadership Johnson was present at the caller "think tank" at Glenwood Springs in 1961, on the staff of the UCLA leadership courses in the '60s and, as a member of the Square Dance Hall of Fame, was a founding member of CALLERLAB in 1971. He played a feature role as a caller in the motion picture, "Bound for Glory", and for more than two decades set up Sets in Order magazine style photos.

Conducting callers schools and clinics, appearing on the staff of many festivals, conventions and vacation institutes, he nevertheless over almost five decades, maintained a full home-club program and a year never went by, without a class being started and completed. Bruce has proven, many times over, Lloyd Shaw's prediction to be a reality. Bruce has come a long way.