



Don Armstrong
Milestone, 1980

A Charter Member of CALLERLAB, Don's interest in square dancing began four years prior to World War II. Following a two year stint as an engineering test pilot for the Royal Canadian Air Force and as experimental, prototype, demonstration test pilot for four U.S. companies, Don became a professional dance caller and teacher. He has called, conducted dances, workshops, and seminars in all 50 states, 6 provinces, 46 countries, and every continent except Antarctica.

A recording caller since 1953, Don has choreographed and recorded squares, rounds, contra, quadrilles, folk dances, and children's dances, on eight different labels. He is the author of The Caller/Teacher Manual for Contra, was a technical advisor for a film about Dr. Lloyd Shaw, and among many other TV appearances, did an hour-long documentary for Scottish television.

For the past few decades Don has staffed University workshops, caller training seminars, and taught at many dance camps. His guidance and expertise proved

invaluable in the writing or revision of educational manuals published by the Lloyd Shaw Foundation for children, teens, adults, seniors, and the mentally and physically impaired.

Don was a founding member of the Lloyd Shaw Foundation, its first president, served many terms on the board, and became the first recipient of their Silver Boot Award in 1967. He was inducted into the Square Dance Hall of Fame in 1970, given CALLERLAB's Milestone Award in 1980 and their Award of Excellence in 1982, inducted into the Florida Square-Round Dance Hall of Fame in 1984, and received the Russell O. Action Award from the Kentucky Heritage Institute in 1993.

He has dedicated a large portion of his adult life to the preservation and extension of American Dance and is regarded by associates as a keen researcher and an exceptionally talented teacher. He recently completed a book, *I Flew Them First -- A Test Pilot's Story*, about his test flying and dancing careers. His partner and co-worker in many projects is his wife, Marie.