



Earl Johnston  
Milestone, 1993

**E**arl started his calling career while in high school in Rockville (now called Vernon), Connecticut. He was playing saxophone in a local dance band when someone requested a square dance. As Earl knew a few dances, he took the microphone and has been calling ever since.

He was involved with the starting of NECCA, the New England Council of Callers Associations, as well as the Connecticut Callers and Teachers Association and the Springfield, Massachusetts, Callers Association.

Earl conducted callers schools where thousands of callers received their initial introduction to the world of square dance calling. These classes were held in Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Michigan, Pennsylvania, Virginia, Iowa, Colorado, California, and Maryland.

Having successfully bridged the gap from traditional to modern western calling, Earl established a reputation of being a truly versatile, triple threat man in the

field of square dance leadership. His home-club and class programs always came first. His work with new callers was high on his list and his travels to call and teach outside of his area also fitted into his schedule.

Putting back into square dancing a share of what he and his wife, Marion, had derived from it, was a goal of the Johnstons for almost a half century. In recognition of this Earl, was inducted into the Square Dance Hall of Fame and a portrait of him is on display in the Lloyd Shaw Archives Center in New Mexico.

A Charter Member of CALLERLAB, he has served on its Board of Governors. The Johnstons have traveled extensively throughout North America, serving on the staffs of vacation institutes, calling at major festivals and conventions, and conducting caller-training institutes. They have also traveled with square dancers to a number of countries overseas. Add to all that, the number of articles Earl has written for various publications, the many records he has recorded, and the successful callers note service he produced, and you have a very busy and dedicated individual.