



**Tony Oxendine
Milestone, 2000**

In 1972 a long and distinguished career in square dancing began when Tony first learned to dance. He has been deeply involved with square dancing since that time. He entered square dance calling in 1974 when it was well developed. The techniques of club calling were well understood and widely practiced and the methods and presentations of traveling callers had become reasonably standardized. It was also just before the CALLERLAB Mainstream Program was developed. The establishment and acceptance of a standard list of calls required a new way of calling. A caller could no longer simply introduce new terms (moves) as a means of “leveling” the ability of the floor. Tony quickly realized he needed to develop presentation skills which would permit the dancers to enjoy this new style of choreography. He combined a unique presentation style and a mastery of choreography, with an uncanny sense of showmanship. Through these skills he quickly became one of the most popular festival callers. This provided other callers the opportunity to observe his many talents to bring enjoyment to the dancers. His presentation and showmanship skills had a tremendous influence on the way other callers viewed their presentations and provided them a model to follow.

In addition to his leadership on stage, Tony accepted, somewhat reluctantly, a position of organizational leadership by serving on the Board Of Governors. Later he was called upon to assume an even greater leadership role when he was elected Chairman Of The Board. This turned out to be a turbulent time for CALLERLAB and few will ever know how very important and valuable it was to have Tony as our Chairman at this critical time. His leadership and stature represented CALLERLAB most effectively during some difficult negotiations. His energy, devotion, leadership, and diplomacy were exemplary.

His professionalism, showmanship, leadership, and other talents have had a broad influence on the square dance activity, callers, and CALLERLAB. He has unselfishly devoted vast amounts of time and money toward the preservation and promotion of square dancing.