



## Proteges

Over the years Jack had opportunities to not only help others to develop as dancers but to move on to become teachers and leaders. In the round dance field there are three couples that stand out. The Cletus Roufs, the Walter Homers and the Allen Reiners.

The first of Jacks dancers to move into the round dance leadership field were **Cletus and Doloris Roufs**. They had danced with Jack for years with the Le Sueur and Mankato Circle 8 Clubs as well as the Glen Goers. They lived in Le Sueur and later Winsted.

### Spotlight Round Dance Leaders



We started square dancing in the fall of 1953 and the "Black Hawk Waltz" was our introduction to round dancing.

The spark that really ignited the flame of our love for round dancing was touched off at the 1957 Minnesota State Convention held at Wold-Chamberlain Field in the Twin Cities. At a basic round dance workshop, Manning Smith said "If you can walk, you can round dance". Then he and his vivacious wife, Nita, proceeded to do just that with such enthusiasm and style that we knew this was for us.

Throughout the ensuing years, we were fortunate to have Jack and Mabel Roach of Glencoe as our round dance leaders. Their precise method of teaching positioning and styling served as an excellent basis for us as dancers and, later, for entering into the round dance leader field. When Jack and Mabel Roach retired from teaching round dancing in this area, they encouraged us to do so. They continue to be a source of encouragement and advice.

In January, 1973, we started teaching our first basic round dance class in Glencoe. Each year since, we have conducted basic and easy/intermediate round dance classes. We also program and cue rounds at various square dance clubs, camps and festivals.

We attend as many round dance workshops, seminars and conventions as possible to get new ideas on teaching any styling. By observing other leaders, we can develop methods of teaching for the betterment of our dancers. Again this year, we will be attending the Manning Smith Conference-Round Dance Institute in Oklahoma.

We were privileged to have been co-chairmen of the 1964 Minnesota State Square Dance Convention in Mankato. We are members of Swingmasters and are currently serving as Chairmen of the Minnesota Round Dance Council, after having been appointed chairmen of the steering committee to organize such a council at the State Square Dance Convention held in Bemidji in 1975.

We have four married children, all of whom grew up with square dancing. Two daughters are still active in square and round dancing. We also have three lovely grandchildren. After moving from LeSueur last fall, we now live at our remodeled lake home west of the Twin Cities near Winsted (Winsted phone, Howard Lake address).

We are firm believers in cueing the dances to enable more dancers to fully participate in this activity. We sincerely believe that a square dance club that has a good, sound round dance program to offer its dancers will experience continued growth. Square dance callers tell us that dancers who have had good round dance basics are better square dancers. We strive to teach our dancers the basic steps, fun in their dancing, styling and the enjoyment of fellowship.

Cletus and Doloris Roufs



**Walter and Beverly Homer** of Mankato were also long time dance friends of Jack and Mabel. They too became round dance leaders with Jack's help. However, not much is known about how they decided to become leaders and how they worked with Jack. Walter cued at the 1976 Testimonial dance



Walter and Beverly Homer of Mankato in 1978.

The last couple he tutored was **Dolores and Allen Reiner** of Hutchinson. Their round dance relationship developed through the Biscay Bunch around 1979. When the Bunch stopped meeting in April of 1981, Dolores and Allen asked to continue with private lessons. The private session began immediately and continued until the summer of 1982. The Reiners were beautiful dancers and Dolores had a voice and a manner that was commanding and possessed excellent timing so Jack was grooming her as a cuer. When he became ill in January 1983 he felt confident enough to ask Dolores to cue in his place for the Knuckleheads.



Jack demonstrating a round dance figure with Dolores Reiner in October of 1982.



Dolores and Allen Reiner and Jack and Mabel at the Knucklehead reunion at Two Harbors, Mn. in October of 1982.

Dolores and Jack continued to meet throughout his illness to work on developing her skills. She went on to be a leader and cuer on her own after Jack had passed away in 1985. She and Mabel continued their friendship, spending many afternoons together looking through Jack's records and discussing what was happening in the clubs, all the way up to the time Mabel entered the nursing home at age 89 in 1998.

In the early 1970s Jack had the opportunity to work with several high school aged people, children of Glen Goers square dance families, that wanted to learn to call square dances. They included Sheldon Anderson, Mary Roufs, Debbie Alsleben and Chris and Kathy Johnson.