



The Trailer Years 1971-1983



Their first trailer, a 22 foot Kayot Forrester.

Jack and Mabel were of the generation for whom the term “snowbird” was coined. Many of their retired square dance friends had purchased travel trailers and had moved to warmer climates for the winter

months. Mabel’s mother passed away in January of 1971

and while at the cemetery in Minneapolis for the interment, they decided to check with the Department of Education in St. Paul and see just how much Jack’s teacher retirement pension would bring in. They decided that day that Jack would retire from public school teaching at the end of that school year after 34 years in the classroom.

Preparations for the trailer life began immediately. In March Jack ordered a new 1971 Chrysler station wagon with the trailer package. In April they ordered a 22 foot Kayot Forrester travel trailer through the firm of one of their square dancers in New Ulm, Minnesota. The trailer arrived in May.

The months of May and June were spent determining what needed to go into the trailer and making adjustments like changing springs on the trailer and adding sway bars. The first trailer trip came on July 15th with a three day weekend at Mille Lacs Lake. The second outing came the next week right on the heels of the first, taking them to Thunder Bay, Canada for the Thunder Bay Square Dance Festival and then the annual Knucklehead camp in Le Seuer at the end of July. August saw trips to Freemont, Nebraska and the Wisconsin Dells.

September was more adventurous with a trip to the east coast to deliver their daughter Nancy to Peabody Conservatory in Baltimore, Maryland where she would be studying piano. On the way back they



July 1971 at Trowbridge Falls Trailer Park, Thunder Bay, Ontario with Knuckleheads.

made a swing to the north up into Michigan to visit Jack's relatives in the Tawas City area and then on through the upper peninsula and Wisconsin to get home. There would be one more trip to Mille Lacs Lake before the real adventure began.

By November they were ready to try extended living in the trailer. They left November 21 for Baltimore, Md. to pay a visit to their daughter. After some touring in the area they headed south along the eastern seaboard with a final destination of Miami, Florida where Jack's Aunt Bernice and her



husband lived. Initially the trailer was parked at

Jack and Mabel, snug in their trailer, waiting out a snow storm on Thanksgiving Day near Baltimore, Md. while visiting daughter Nancy.

Bernice's. Nancy flew down joining them for Christmas and on December 20th she and Jack went looking at trailer parks. They decided on the Four Seasons Mobile Home Park in Homestead, south of Miami and signed up for six days to try it out. They headed back to Minnesota on January 6th, 1972 ready to go for next year.

In March of 1972 preparations were beginning for Jack to host a square dance trip to the Hawaiian State Square Dance Convention in February of 1973. Brownie Peterson, a longtime member of Jack's Willmar club and one of the original Knuckleheads from 1957, was working with a travel agency and suggested that Jack should front the trip. For the remainder of the dancing season Mabel and Jack danced locally.

Over the summer of 1972 they trailered to the Iowa State Square Dance Convention and then on to Ocean City, New Jersey and Baltimore, Maryland, and to a Max Forsyth Camp in Indiana. There was also Knucklehead Camp in Le Seuer in August and another weekend at Mille Lacs Lake. When fall came Jack continued the beginning square dance classes in Glencoe, meeting two times a week during the months of September and October. There was no let up in dancing with the Knucklehead Reunion in Duluth and additional dances.

On November 17th of 1972 it was off to Florida again and the Four Seasons Mobile Home Park in Homestead. The trip is roughly 2,000 miles each way and would take them eight days to get there. Arriving and settling in on November 24th, the following day they immediately found a square dance in Homestead. Jack had a chance to meet Lou Davis, one of the well known area callers. Throughout their 1972-73 season they participated as dancers having the opportunity to network and meet the callers and key players in the area. They attended dances with Bobby Andrews, Lou Davis, Jack Lasry, Les Linn at the Homestead Air Force Base, Frank Bedell, round dancing with Bill Beatie at Hollywood and Tamiami Park. Jack was even invited to call at the Air Force Base. They settled into

a dance schedule of Hollywood on Wednesdays, Tamiami Park on Thursdays, The Air Force Base on Fridays and other area dances on Saturdays. Jack was also making round dance practice tapes to send north to his dancing friends there.

Dwelling on the minutia of their dance schedule and trailer activities is probably not very interesting reading but I put it in just to show how quickly they transformed their lives and how vigorously they pursued it. Once free of the school schedule they could go where they wanted, when they pleased, and stay as long as they wanted. It will take another year of networking and positioning before Jack can begin what will be his real mission in retirement, if you can call it that.



Here's the "Fly with Jack" group in Hawaii ready to go for the Annual Aloha State Square Dance Convention. Jack and Mabel are on the far right.

The great excitement of the 1972-73 dance season was the square dance trip to Hawaii to attend the Hawaiian State Square Dance Convention. The arrangements were made by Adventure Travel of Willmar. Ralph and Brownie Peterson, square dancers from Willmar and original Knuckleheads, were owners of the agency. They put together a promotion for square dancers entitled "Fly with Jack" that included eight days and seven nights in Honolulu in conjunction with the 9th Annual Aloha State Square Dance Convention. The trip was open only to members of the Minnesota State Square Dance Federation. For the price of \$299 per person participants would fly to Hawaii on February 4th, have a variety of tours and activities available to them prior to the convention and then a weekend of dance activities typical of state conventions, returning on February 11th. Sixty people from all over Minnesota, and some from Thunder Bay, Ontario, made the trip.



Mabel dealt with her first airplane flight by sleeping through it.



Ralph Peterson and Jack don island appropriate clothing.

This trip offered a number of “firsts” for Mabel and Jack like their first airplane ride. Judging from Mabel’s reaction there was a definite learning curve. She also reacted badly over water. They were also encouraged to dress casually in clothing appropriate to the islands.

Upon returning from Hawaii and several days of visiting at home, they headed back to Florida and immediately resumed their dancing activities until bringing the trailer back to Minnesota at the beginning of April.

After extended periods of living in their 22 foot trailer they felt that it could be a bit larger for full time living. As soon as they returned to Minnesota they went to Minnesota Trailer Sales in Minneapolis and traded their Forrester for a 29 foot Airstream. They also traded in their 1971 Chrysler wagon on a 1973 Chrysler wagon. The two new items were ready to go by June. Summer trial runs included the Minnesota State Square Dance Convention in Rochester, a three week trip to Salt Lake City, Utah, The Thunder Bay Festival and a week of fishing with Bill Jacobson, Knucklehead camp in Le Seuer, three days at Mille Lacs Lake and Pine-O-Rama at Park Rapids, Minnesota. September local dance activities were limited to teaching a weekly round dance session at the Biscay City Hall before a final Knucklehead Reunion in Duluth, a weekend workshop in Detroit Lakes, and one day later, the mid October return to Florida.

Biscay deserves a mention because it would become important years later with a group called “The Biscay Bunch.” Biscay is a small town halfway between Glencoe and Hutchinson (8 miles from each). In the early days Biscay was a complete little town with a school, stores, a railroad connection, and a creamery, among other things. It’s reason for being was that it was on the South Fork of the Crow River (travel in pioneer days) and that it was a milk skimming station before the days of refrigeration and the large bulk trucks. That’s why it had a creamery. As times and methods changed, the creamery closed, the school closed through consolidation and so did the garage and gas station. The rail line was torn up. Biscay in modern times, became a cross roads with a collection of houses and a liquor store.

By the way, most people new to the area mispronounce Biscay. They say bis-Kay, with emphasis on the Kay. In the local vernacular it is pronounced Bis –key, rhymes with

whiskey! Folks would refer to the liquor store as the “Bis-key Whiskey.” Biscay did have a city hall that was a multi purpose building and had a nice dance floor. Public meetings, voting, public dances, basketball games, showing movies (it had a small projection booth) were held there in addition to conducting city business.

The 1973 journey back to Florida involved a bit of exploration on the way. Many of their retired square dance friends had made their winter home at a place called “Venture Out” in Arizona. Leaving October 16th, one day after returning from the Detroit Lakes workshop, they headed for Arizona arriving five days later on the 20th. While trying out the Arizona climate they did a lot of dancing and visiting before leaving “Venture Out” on November 1st. They crossed Texas, another of the snowbird winter locations, Louisiana, Mississippi and finally Florida, where they settled into the Four Seasons on November 9th with their new Airstream. They decided that they liked the southern Florida climate the best.



At home with their new 29 foot Airstream at the Four Seasons-1973

Their 1973-74 stay in Homestead would be different in other ways too. They immediately found a square dance on November 10th in Homestead and began to resume the dance schedule they had developed the year before. In 1972-73 Jack and Mabel had only participated as dancers. This year they began teaching. On November 15th they started a round dance class at the

De Soto Trailer Court with 18 couples. Within three weeks this Thursday class

was attracting 42 people, about half from De Soto Trailer Court and half from outside. By the end of December the number from De Soto had dropped to only 9 with the remaining majority from outside the trailer court. Dancers from Royal Colonial Mobile Home Park invited Jack to take a look at their recreation room as a location for the class. On Saturday January 12 he canceled the class at De Soto. On Monday he got the OK to use the Jill Mallory Dance Studio for those classes and was officially invited to cue at Royal Colonial. He set up Monday classes from 2:30 to 4:30 at Royal Colonial and set up two Sunday round dance parties for February and March.

On Jack’s return to Florida, local caller Bobby Andrews, having gotten to know Jack the year before, asked him to take one of his Saturday night Homestead dances for him. Jack called and Mabel served refreshments. Lou Davis also invited them to add his Leisure City round dance group to their schedule. Before returning to Minnesota in April Jack called several dances for Bobby Andrews

Jack had also been composing round dances and on April 1st he received notification that his dance, “String Waltz” had been selected as Round of the Month in Minnesota and would be published in the Roundup magazine May issue.

Summer activities in 1974 were what would become typical with Knucklehead Camp and the Thunder Bay Festival, some round dance teaching in Mankato and Glen Goers dances.

The trailer high light of 1974 was the purchase of a lot at Airstream Park near Clear Lake, Minnesota, about an hours drive north of Glencoe. This park was strictly limited to Airstream trailers and had many relaxation and recreational amenities. Although the 29 foot trailer would fit in the back yard at home in Glencoe, Airstream Park became the summer home for the trailer. By the time they headed back to Florida in October Jack had the park doing beginning square dancing.

The square dance high light of 1974 though, was Jack’s announcement that he would be retiring as a square dance caller. The announcement came in September at a four-day camp called Pine-O-Rama at Park Rapids, Minnesota. Jack had been the camp instructor and at the end of the last session made the announcement that this would be the last square dance he would call. Listening to a tape of this session it is clear that he was laboring with the new figures and the timing. Following the announcement he put on a record and cut loose with an improvised square dance joyously sounding as if the weight of the world had been lifted from his shoulders.

The reason for the decision was simple. His situation in Florida was such that he could not regularly practice his craft and keep up with the latest square dance material. There was an older man living in his trailer court who had lived there for many years and teaching square dancing in the court was his life. To avoid a bad situation Jack decided that he would only teach round dancing and the two got along famously. Rather than do a poor job at calling squares, at 67, he would give it up and devote himself to round dancing.



Royal Colonial Mobile Home Park in 1974.

Returning to Florida in October of 1974 they settled in at a new location, Royal Colonial Mobile Home Park where Jack had been conducting his round dance classes. The teaching schedule was immediately expanded and began the week after they arrived. The beginners class that had started the past year at De Soto Trailer Court and had moved to Royal Colonial, now met as an intermediate and advanced group on Tuesdays at the Royal Colonial recreation hall with six couples. A

new class of beginners was started on Fridays with twenty-two couples.

On Wednesdays he had six couples

of beginners at the Jill Mallory Dance Studio in Homestead.

Following the new year into 1975 the schedule expands again. The Wednesday Jill Mallory beginners continue with around twelve couples and become intermediates. At Royal Colonial he has as many as thirteen couples of beginners on Mondays, ten couples of former intermediates that had become advanced dancers, and a Friday beginners class with around fifteen couples. By the end of February the Monday beginners were meeting



Christmas of 1973 in Florida with ocean in the background.



Two Hoboes at Pine-O-Rama Camp Ground near Park Rapids, Mn..



Jack with Canadian friends at the Thunder Bay Square Dance Festival banquet, July 1973



Pirate Jack on the right at Knucklehead Camp May 1975.



Jack huddles with Canadian callers Lindsey Stanfield, Bill Jacobson and Stan Sherlock .



Knucklehead Camp at Le Seuer, May 1975.

in both morning and afternoon sessions. Monthly round dance parties were scheduled to get everyone together.

All of the schedule information presented here for the years 1972-1980 came from little account books that Mabel kept in her purse. She used them to keep track of her spending and household accounts. They also had notations regarding important events, almost an abbreviated diary. Entries for Thursdays show that Jack did something for a group called the Paws and Taws twice a month. Some entries just say "Paws and Taws" while others say "square dance" so it is not clear just what was going on here. Was this a class or was Jack taking the club for someone as club caller? Was he just cueing rounds or calling square dances as well. After all, he had just announced that he would be retiring as a square dance caller. A normal entry for cueing a dance would be a flat figure like \$20.00. Mabel's entries list the number of couples and a fee that shows they charged one dollar a person, the same as they charged for their round dance classes.

Saturdays were reserved for their personal dancing with clubs in the area. At some of these dances Jack was asked to cue. He became a regular cuer on Friday nights for the Flying Squares at Homestead Air Force Base. Just before returning to Minnesota in April, Jack was presented a plaque at one of Bobby Andrew's dances in Homestead. In addition to the dancers who had contact with Jack and Mabel at regular area club dances, their greatest impact was on round dancing. With their fall classes they reached around twenty-eight couples and during the winter of 1975, fifty couples.

The teaching schedule at Royal Colonial for 1975-76 included advanced round dancing on Tuesdays, beginners on Wednesdays at Mallory studio and intermediates on Fridays at the park. Friday was also a dance at the air force base where Jack was now cueing on a regular basis and Saturday night dances at least twice a month. Most clubs they danced with began to take advantage of his cueing abilities if the regular caller didn't care to do the rounds. Sundays were round dance parties once a month at the park. In February Jack was hospitalized for a serious blood pressure issue so all dancing and club participation stopped. After getting home to Minnesota later than usual, they did go to the state square dance convention in Worthington, but cancelled everything else for the summer and rested. With their classes for 75-76, even with Jack's illness, they introduced 37 couples to round dancing.

From an interview by Mildred Kovar in the July 2, 1976 edition of the Hutchinson Leader newspaper..."Testimony of Jack's leadership was exemplified in a Florida square dance club that expanded from three or four couples doing the round dance to three or four rings of dancers numbering in the hundreds."

Outside of childhood, for most of Jack's life illness had never amounted to much more than a cold. Sometime in the 1960's his doctor started treating him for elevated blood pressure. In one of Mabel's little account books for this period she even records the doctor's warning to Jack that he "stop burning the candle at both ends." By 1976 he was in serious trouble. On February 10th of that year he went to the doctor for a regular appointment and was told that his blood pressure was so high that he needed to see a cardiologist immediately. An appointment was set up for the next day. This didn't stop him from running his afternoon beginners class at Royal Colonial. The next day he reported to the cardiologist with a blood pressure of 240 over 130 and was immediately hospitalized at the James Archer Smith Hospital in Homestead for dangerously high blood pressure. He stayed at Smith for tests while they attempted to lower his BP until

the 14th when he was transferred to Miami Dade General Hospital for more tests to see if they could determine why it was so high. Among the tests he received was a renal scan and on the 16th it was determined that his left kidney was abnormal. On the 17th he received an arteriogram. On the 18th the determination was made that they would try to control his blood pressure with medication and if that didn't work his left kidney would have to come out.

While Jack was at Miami Dade, a man, very sick with pneumonia, was moved into his room. Jack was discharged on the 20th with medications and instructions for a low salt diet. He also saw a urologist. The very next day both Mabel and Jack came down with a cold that became severe enough that they called the doctor for help. Mabel's cold eventually subsided but Jack's didn't. At a regular doctors appointment on March 3rd his blood pressure was still very high and he was coughing badly. An X-ray revealed that he had developed bronchial pneumonia. Jack went straight to Miami Dade and was admitted, this time to get rid of the pneumonia so that he could have surgery to remove his kidney on March 9th. Surgery was successfully completed on schedule but treatment for pneumonia continued as his condition had progressed to lobar pneumonia in the right lung. The blood pressure problem though, had been solved, at least for now. His next regular checkup was on the 24th and the blood pressure was down to 150 over 90. He was also told that the pneumonia was gone but they would be unable to return to Minnesota for at least six weeks and at a subsequent appointment with the urologist who performed the surgery, he was told that he couldn't drive for eight weeks. Trailers were already starting to roll out of the park for the annual trek north and eight weeks would put them well into May for departure. The key issue right now was to get his strength and appetite back so that he could drive. Mabel could drive but preferred not to. During the whole ordeal of hospitalization their good friends at the trailer park had daily volunteered to ferry her back and forth to the hospital. She did do some driving practice with the supervision of one of the neighbors so she could drive if she absolutely had to but felt that she would not be competent to bring the trailer back to Minnesota. While all of this was going on she had attempted to minimize the impact of their problems on their children, who both lived in Minnesota, but consideration was given to asking their son to fly down to Miami and bring them home. However, Jack's strength and stamina did return in time and with the instructions to not put on more than 300 miles a day, they left for home on May 9th, doing the 2,000 miles in seven days. In June they made a token visit to Knucklehead Camp and the state square dance convention in Worthington but then parked the trailer at Airstream Park and cancelled all of their other scheduled activities for the summer.

On October 28th of 1976, Jack received the OK from his doctor in Florida to return to square dancing. The next night, a Friday, he cued rounds at the air force base and Saturday night for the Florida Crackers. On Monday he put on a dance at Royal Colonial recreation room. Two weeks later the classes began for 1976-77. It started with a Tuesday class of eleven couples and six couples of beginners on Fridays. In December he added fourteen couples of beginners. For most of this year there were no activities on Mondays and Thursdays. Thirty-one couples benefited from round dancing that year.

1977-78 saw Monday classes at Homestead Junior High School with twenty couples, Tuesdays at Royal Colonial with eleven couples, Wednesdays, nine couples of beginners

Round Dances taught by John and Mabel Roach

1975-76

1. Bingo Waltz
2. Cotton Eye Joe
3. Dancing Shadows *
4. Dancing in the Streets
5. Fraulein
6. Frenchy Boy
7. Heartaches by the Number
8. Jessica Polka
9. Just a Kiss
10. Left Footer's One Step
11. Manita Waltz *
12. Mexicali Rose *
13. My Wife's House
14. Sleepy Time Gal *
15. St. Louis Blues *
16. String Waltz
17. Tick Tock
18. Tips of My Fingers

Beginners 1976-77

1. Cotton Eye Joe
2. Fraulein
3. Heartaches By the Number
4. Jessica Polka
5. Left Footer's One Step
6. Mexicali Rose
7. Old Fashioned Love
8. Ruby Baby
9. Summer Affair
10. St. Louis Blues
11. Tick Tock
12. Tips pf My Fingers
13. You're the Only World I Know
14. Dancing Shadows

1976-77

1. Ace in the Hole
2. Angels Don't Lie
3. Answer Me *

4. Apron Strings
5. Blown in the Wind
6. Blue Lady
7. Born to Dance
8. Dance with Me
9. Day Dreams
10. Deep Purple
11. Four Walls
12. Gypsy Feet
13. Give Me Five Minutes
14. Hot Lips *
15. Josephine
16. Lazy River
17. Love Sick Blues
18. Lucky
19. Manuella
20. Maria Rhumba
21. Mocking Bird Hill
22. Old Fashioned Love
23. One More Time
24. Pretty Eyes
25. Rhapsody
26. Rockin' Round the Christmas
Tree
27. Roses for Elizabeth *
28. Ruby Baby
29. Silver Bells
30. Shake Me I Rattle
31. Song We Fell in Love With
32. Springtime in the Rockies
33. Strutting Around
34. Support Your Local Honky
Tonk
35. Sweetheart Tree
36. The Angels Sing
37. Too Many Rivers
38. Waltz With Me
39. Whispering Cha Cha
40. You're the Only World I Know
41. Birth of the Blues
42. Tippy Toeing
43. Feelin'
44. Folsom Prison Blues

* Classic

at H.Jr.H.S. and six couples at Royal Colonial in Fridays impacting forty-six couples for the year.



Some of the Royal Colonial dancers celebrating Jack's birthday on April 10, 1978.

1978-79: Mondays: thirteen couples at H.Jr.H.S., Tuesday: eleven couples at Royal Colonial and ten couples at H.Jr.H.S., Wednesday: eight couples at H.Jr.H.S. , Friday eight couples at Royal Colonial for a total of fifty couples for the year.

1979-80: Things slowed down. Classes were only held Mondays and Tuesdays and no count was kept. Not only did they cut back on their teaching, but on their dancing as well. They were still weekly regulars at the air force base

on Friday nights but they stayed home Saturday nights. Where Thursday had been their rest day they now danced

regularly with the Salty Dawgs, making Saturday the rest day. They continued to hold round dance parties twice a month at the Royal Colonial recreation room. He also continued to cue for the Flying Squares at the air force base. This note appeared in the April 1980 issue of "Bow and Swing," the Florida state square and round dance magazine. "Flying Squares-Homestead: January and February were great months for all who attended our dances.....John Roach cueing the rounds was just fantastic week after week.....John will be with us every week cueing the rounds."

At about this time, Jack was seeing more success in getting his round dances published. In May of 1980 he was awarded "Round of the Month" by the Minnesota Round Dance Council for his dance "After Party Waltz." It appeared in both Cue Sheet and Round Dancer. In January of 1981 his "Time for Kissing" was awarded "Round of the Month" at the intermediate level by the Round Dance Council of Florida and published in "Round Dancer" magazine. It had also been published in "Cue Sheet" in December of 1980. "I'm Trying" was published at the same time in both publications. His "String Waltz" had been published in 1974 as Round of the Month in Minnesota.

Major summer activities during the trailer years of 1972 to 1980 typically featured the same annual events. These would include the Minnesota State Square Dance Convention and Knucklehead Camp in June, the Thunder Bay Festival in July and Shindig in Duluth in September. There might be additional dances and events by the Glen Goers or other clubs they had been associated with over the years.

Since purchasing an Airstream trailer in 1973 and a lot at Airstream Park in 1974 they had been introduced to the Airstream trailer culture and the Wally Byam Caravan Club International. Every year club members would travel to a specified gathering place around the continent for a variety of entertainment and recreational activities. Square and round dancing was a big part of it. These rallies would take place in June and last around ten days. Mabel and Jack would typically leave for the rally a day or so after returning from the state convention. Depending on how far away the rally destination, they could be gone for over twenty days. In 1975 the rally was held in Brandon, Manitoba; 1977-

Bozeman, Montana; and in 1978- Ames, Iowa. Airstream trailers by the thousands would descend on venues like the fairgrounds at Bozeman or Iowa State University at Ames.



21st INTERNATIONAL RALLY
WALLY BYAM CARAVAN CLUB INTERNATIONAL

AMES, IOWA, 1978
"BIG COUNTRY FESTIVAL"



Jack and Mabel cutting a rug
at Ames, Iowa. This appeared
in the Wally Byam national
magazine.

The main attraction for most was the adventure of the road and seeing the sights, but for Jack and Mabel, it was all about dancing. For Jack it was about teaching and cueing rounds. Dancing went on throughout the day each day of the rally. They worked with several other round and square dance teachers, who were also Wally Byam members, to staff classes running throughout the day and into the evening.

Mabel and Jack became charter members of the Minnesota Round Dance Council. Begun in August of 1975, the council's purpose was to promote the proper growth and development of social, recreational and educational needs of the area through round dancing.

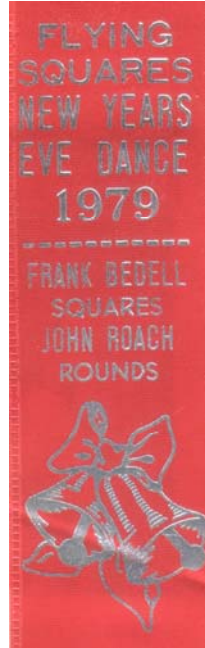
Activities included five gatherings a year where they would dance, pick the Rounds of the Month, styling, do new dances and have a business meeting.

In 1978 a group was formed to help find solutions to problems faced by round dance teachers. It was called

ROUNDALAB- The International Association of Round Dance Teachers. Mabel and Jack became charter members and attended the first meeting in October of 1978 in Kansas City, Missouri. The date of the meeting just happened to coincide with their return trip to Florida.



Jack with the Homestead Air Force Base Flying Squares cueing their New Years Eve dance- 1977.



Summer of 1979 in Minnesota



Upon arriving back in Florida in 1978, their 2,000 mile trip down was featured in a local paper.



Royal Colonial dancers celebrate Jack's birthday on April 10, 1980 with a birthday potluck.



Jack and Mabel were charter members of ROUNDALAB in 1978. This picture is from the 1979 annual meeting. Mabel and Jack are on the far right in the circle.

The Final Years

Conventional family wisdom is that when Mabel and Jack learned in July that their daughter was expecting her first child, their first grand child, in March of 1981, they decided not to return to Florida. They would stay in Minnesota to enjoy the experience with her and lend support. Their schedule however, tells a bit different story. The notion that their nomadic days were numbered had perhaps already occurred to them. Even as early as 1978 there is the beginning of greater activity locally when they began dancing regularly with the Arlington Squares, another nearby community, in addition to the Glen Goers. In the summer of 1979, the summer before their last winter in Florida, they took all of their regular square dance trailer trips but skipped the Wally Byam Caravan. Both summers of 1978 and 79 they traveled to St. Paul to take round dance lessons themselves. The summer of 1979 though, was the beginning of the Biscay Bunch with Jack teaching locally again. Starting July 12th this group of round dancers would meet two and sometimes three times a month at the Biscay Hall until Jack returned to Florida in October. Then, through out the summer of 1980, these eleven couples met every Thursday night, continuing through the year until April of 1981. Class was moved to a location in Hutchinson for January and February, probably due to heating issues in the old hall.

Since they decided not to return to Florida in the fall of 1980 they started a round dance class in Hutchinson, meeting two times a month and in January a class in Glencoe meeting every Tuesday.

With the end of regular sessions of the Biscay Bunch, dancers Delores and Allen Reiner of Hutchinson asked for individual lessons and so began weekly lessons at Biscay Hall. Jack worked with Dolores to help her develop into a round dance cuer and leader. As the fall progressed, the Reiners being farmers, lessons were less regular but continued through the year.

In October of 1981 Jack started a beginning class meeting every Tuesday at Arlington and in March of 1982, a new square dance group in Hutchinson. Round dance classes would continue to be scheduled on an irregular basis at Hutchinson, Biscay and Glencoe through April of 1982.

Dance activities in 1981-82 were primarily on Sundays and every Sunday. How much dancing was done is not known. The calendar indicates that Jack was there to cue, sometimes two dances a Sunday. The groups were typically Glencoe, Hutchinson, Arlington and the Knuckleheads. Jack would also call for dancers who would demonstrate and entertain at nursing homes and retirement centers in Glencoe and Hutchinson. Jack taught elementary students to square dance as a part of a "Family Night" at East Union Elementary School where his daughter's children would later be attending and had children square dancing at a K-Mart store in Hutchinson. Most of these activities involved Jack standing in one place to call or cue.

During this period Jack was also teaching a driver safety course for senior citizens called "55 Alive." Completing the course, the students would receive a discount on their automobile insurance. Up until his bought with leg pains in 1982 he delivered "Meals on Wheels" to seniors and disabled people.

Mabel and Jack were taking a walk downtown one evening in June of 1982, but Jack only made it about one block from the house and could go no further. Mabel came back

to the house and got her son to bring the car and retrieve him. They found him clinging to a parking meter unable to walk further. On June 28th Jack was hospitalized with leg pain. The diagnosis was arterial sclerosis. By October it was determined that nothing could be done for it. Jack could walk but needed frequent rest. Dancing was limited. They did attend some of their regular summer events and continued private lessons with the Reiners but by fall there is little or nothing to be found on the calendar, either dancing or teaching. Jack did increase his activity in Glencoe's Masonic Lodge.

On January 6, 1983 Jack complained of not feeling well, shortness of breath and loss of appetite. He asked his student Dolores Reiner to cue in his place at a Knucklehead gathering on January 9th. The next day he was again hospitalized in Glencoe and placed in intensive care with blood pressure and kidney problems. He was transported to Methodist Hospital in St. Louis Park for a six day stay.

With Jack's health deteriorating they felt it was time to sell the trailer. There came an opportunity to sell both the trailer and the lot at Airstream Park to the same individual. They also canceled their subscription to the "Roundup", the state federation magazine, an ominous sign.

On August 4, 1983 Jack was vomiting blood and went immediately to the hospital in Glencoe and then straight off to Methodist. He was diagnosed with kidney failure and set up for dialysis. He started his dialysis program going for treatment twice a week but within a year he needed to go three times a week. Rides for the 50 mile trip to Methodist were provided by volunteers, younger patients who could drive themselves or his son. Jack had to endure the dialysis treatments for just over two years. During that time he also had to have surgery to repair an aneurysm on his aorta. On October 11, 1985, Jack entered the hospital again for the last time, to check on pneumonia, his heart and another aneurysm that was developing. Over the course of the next month and a half he failed to respond to treatment and was moved to intensive care where he passed away at 6:45am on Saturday November 23rd. Funeral services were held at the First Congregational Church in Glencoe on Wednesday the 27th, the day before Thanksgiving, with interment in the Lakewood Cemetery plot next to Mabel's mother that they had purchased that January day in 1971 when they decided that Jack should retire from teaching.

Mabel continued to have some involvement with dancing after Jack's passing. She would be invited by friends to attend dances and would occasionally go, but not do much dancing. Dolores Reiner continued to visit her on a regular basis and bring her up to date on what was happening in dancing and to look through Jack's records for dances that she needed in her cueing work. Mabel lived at home in Glencoe with her son until 1998 when she decided that she would have a better life as a resident of the Glencoe Area Health Center long term care. She passed away December 27, 2004 at the age of 97 and was buried next to her husband and her mother in Lakewood Cemetery in Minneapolis.



October 1980-Jack is Grand Marshal for the Glencoe High School homecoming parade. As soon as the parade made it out to the football field Jack and Mabel headed for Shindig in Duluth.



Elementary school children dance to Jack's instruction at East Union Elementary near Jordan, Mn. March 1982.

Mabel in 1982 and the reason why they spent their winters in southern Florida!



Cueing the Glen Goers Festival in Glencoe, November 1981.



1981-Calling for Glen Goers as entertainment at senior housing.

