



Honors and Recognition

Jack was heard to remark at one point late in life, "If you hang around long enough, someone will honor you." I think that was his way of reacting to much of the recognition he was receiving in the latter part of his career in square dancing. In addition to the recognition he received for his Rounds of the Month and the appreciations shown by individual clubs, he was recognized nationally and internationally for his contributions to square and round dancing.

John was a charter member of several organizations to include the American Square Dance Society, the Minnesota Round Dance Council and Roundalab- The International Association of Round Dance Teachers. He missed being a charter member of Swingmasters by one year. He was honored to serve as President of the Minnesota Square Dance Federation in 1964.

In December of 1972 at the 25th Anniversary Celebration of the Minnesota Folk and Square Dance Federation, Mabel and Jack were presented a tribute that read;

"In recognition that you were responsible for the early success of recreational dancing in Minnesota. Your devoted efforts made the idea of dancing as a family or a group a vital force in the community life of our state, and was instrumental in uniting Minnesotans and dancers from other states in pleasure and friendship. Nietzsche says, "Dancing in all its forms cannot be excluded from the curriculum of all noble education." We commend you for educating many in a meaning full and productive activity."

Every summer during the 1970s Thunder Bay, Ontario would hold a major square dance festival. In 1975 they honored the Roaches for their contribution to dancing in the Lakehead with a Certificate signed by the Mayor of Thunder Bay.



In September of 1975 the Glen Goers hosted the Presidents Ball honoring Harry Thiesfeld of Glencoe, newly elected president of the state federation. The following article appeared in the Glencoe Enterprise

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 1975

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THE HARRY THIESFELDS and THE JOHN S. ROACH'.

In a setting of red, white and blue of Bicentennial decorations, the Glen-Goers Square Dance Club Sunday at the Glencoe High School cafeteria celebrated the President's Ball, honoring Harry and Frances Thiesfeld, who are currently President of the Minnesota State Square Dance Association. Also

honored were Jack and Mabel Roach and Virg Hintz, former State Presidents.

The Glen-Goers are the only club in Minnesota to have the honor of having two state Presidents since its existence.

At nine o'clock, caller Virg Hintz called the Grand March and as the dancers assembled in front of the stage, a picture

2x3-ft. of Harry and Frances Thiesfeld was presented to them from the club by the club's president and a small decoupage picture of them from Mr. and Mrs. Bud Reinert and a President's Tie from Dr. and Mrs. Marty Knigge.

Thirteen squares danced to the calling of Virg Hintz and the round dances calling was by Cletus Roufs.

Dancers in attendance were from Granite Falls, Glencoe, Hutchinson, New Ulm, Mankato, Litchfield, Shakopee, Minneapolis, Wayzata, Willmar, Winthrop, Lake Crystal, Arlington, Waconia, Lester Prairie, Portland, Oregon and Fort Lauderdale, Florida. Spectators were from Stewart and Chaska.

A specially decorated cake made by Mrs. Marvin Grimm was the center attraction of the potluck lunch served at the close of the dancing.

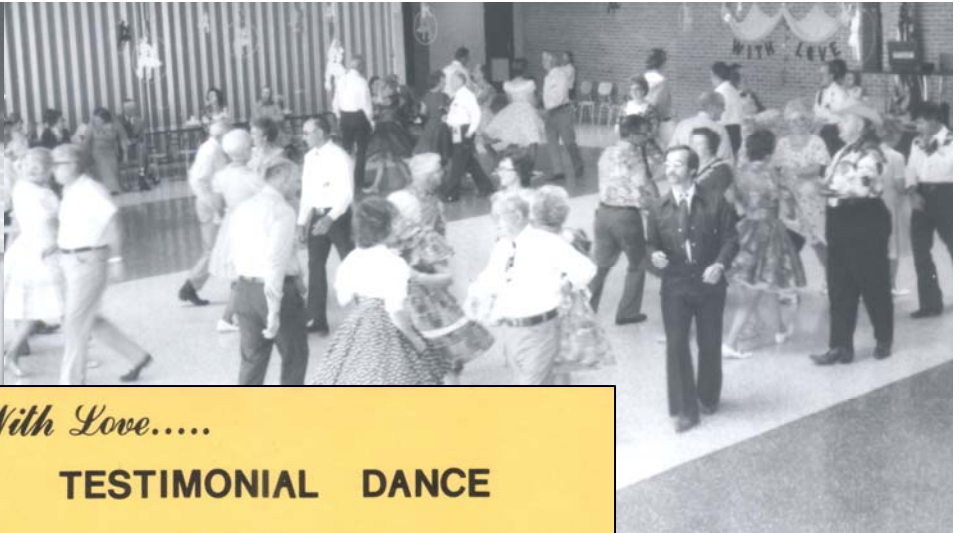
Glen-Goers wish to thank the committee and all dancers, who helped make the President's Ball Dance a huge success and invite the public to attend the next dance October 5, featuring Ken Brown of Fort Dodge, Iowa.

In June of 1976 Jack and Mabel received a standing ovation from the over 2,000 dancers attending the Minnesota State Square Dance Convention in Worthington, Minnesota. They were spotted in the crowd by featured national caller Jack Lasry who works out of Miami and who knew them from Homestead, Florida. Lasry called the crowd's attention to them and honored them for their contributions and many years of leadership.

On September 19, 1976 a Testimonial Dance was staged in Glencoe honoring Jack and Mabel. The following article appeared in the Roundup magazine, Submitted by longtime friends and colleagues Cletus and Doloris Roufs and Walt and Beverly Homer who were co-chairs for the event.

"Jack and Mabel Roach of Glencoe were honored at a Testimonial Square Dance at Glencoe on Sunday afternoon, September 19, 1976, for their outstanding service as a square dance caller and round dance leaders for over twenty-five years.

Among the honored guests at the dance were the Mayor of Glencoe; a representative of the Glencoe Public Schools where Mr. Roach had been a teacher and coach for 35



With Love.....

TESTIMONIAL DANCE

HONORING

Jack and Mabel Roach

FOR THEIR YEARS OF CALLING AND TEACHING

SUNDAY SEPT. 19

2:00 - 5:00



ROUND DANCES BY
MINNESOTA ROUND DANCE COUNCIL

SQUARE DANCES BY
SWINGMASTERS AND GUEST CALLERS

donation 2.50

LUNCH FURNISHED

SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

GLENCOE, MINN.

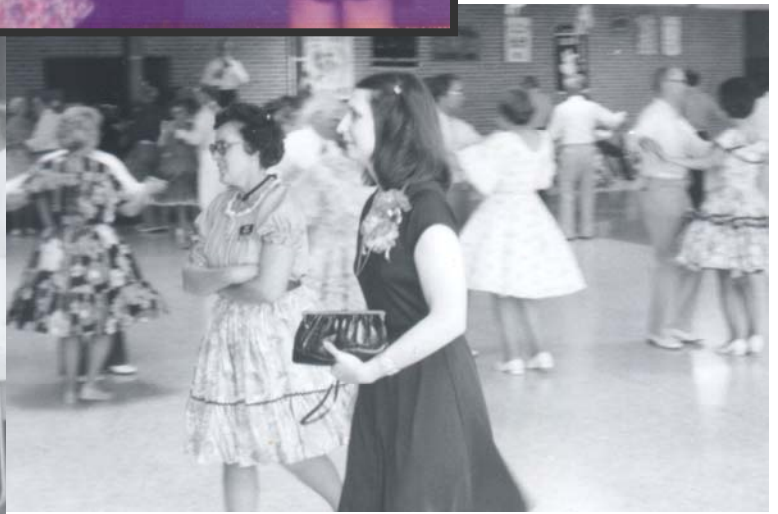
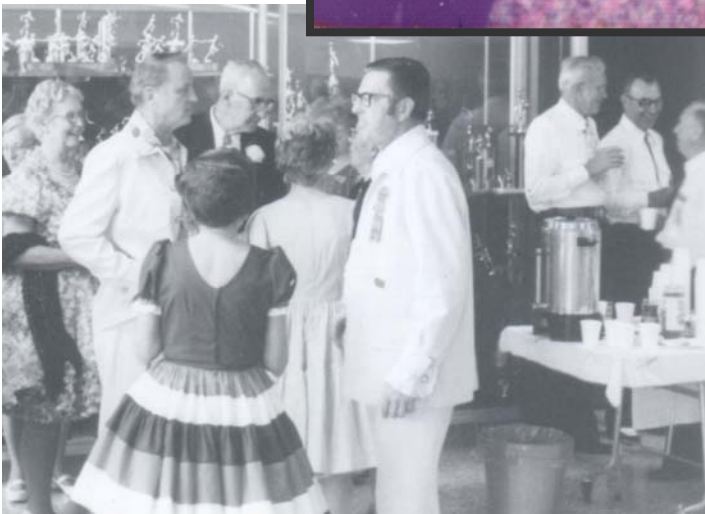




*Honoring
Jack and Mabel Roach*



*Honoring
Jack and Mabel Roach*



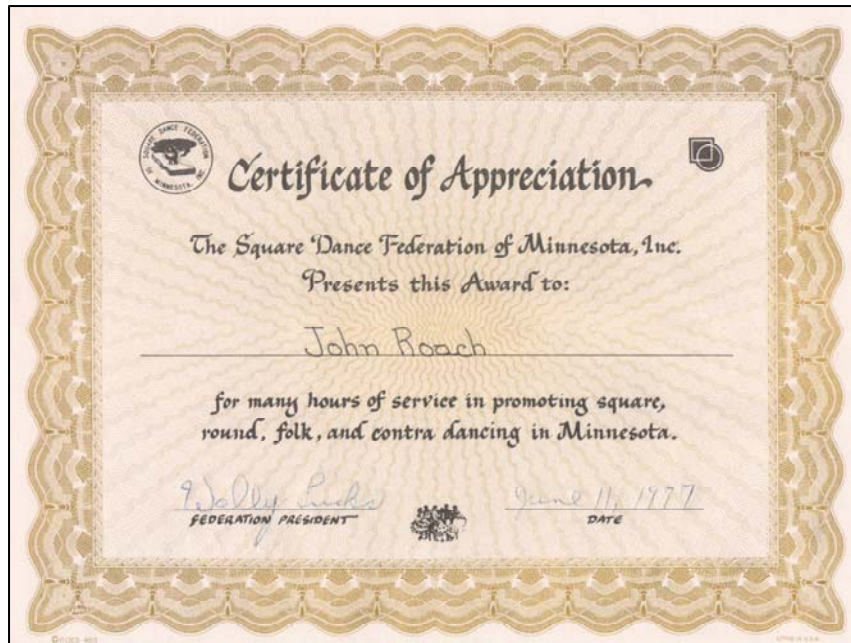
years; Wally Lucks, the President of the State Square Dance Federation; Rex Stearns, the President of Swingmasters and Cletus Roufs, the Chairman of the Minnesota Round Dance Council.

The callers assisting in the program were Al Nolden, Jerry Murray, Whitey Aamot, Sheldon Anderson, Rex Stearns, Wally Lucks, John Fox, Debbie Alsleben and Mary Roufs Zernechel. Round dance leaders who participated in the program were Walt Homer, Ron Kleschult, Syl Schmitt and Cletus Roufs. Jack Roach honored the guests with cuing the String Waltz, which was choreographed by them.

Other guests at the testimonial were representatives from the more than twenty clubs who were privileged to have the Roaches as callers and round dance leaders. Nineteen dancers from Thunder Bay, Canada came to the celebration to honor Jack and Mabel in tribute to all they have done for square and round dancing in Canada. Last year the Mayor of Thunder Bay, Canada honored the Roaches at their square dance festival there.

The many guests present paid special tribute to Jack and Mabel for being one of the outstanding callers and round dance leaders in the State of Minnesota. The Roaches are held in the highest esteem by their former students, dancers and co-workers, due to the positive influence they have been on the lives of all who have come in contact with them.”

In June of 1977 the Roaches were once again recognized at the Minnesota State Square Dance Convention in Duluth before approximately 3,000 dancers at the Duluth Arena Auditorium. The Federation presented them with one of ten awards, the first that the Federation has given, recognizing them for their many years and contributions in the promotion of square and round dancing.



Key to Photo composite pages 3 & 4.

Page one- clock-wise from upper left corner.

1. Jack and Mabel share a laugh.
2. Twenty-five couples danced in the Glencoe High School commons area.
3. Marvin Grimm- President of the Glen Goers Square Dance Club.
4. At the end of the Grand March the dancers all lined up to sing both the American and Canadian National Anthems. At front are Nancy Roach, Jack and Mabel.
5. Wally Luecks- President of the Minnesota Square Dance Federation.

Page two- clock-wise from upper left corner.

1. Marvin Grimm, Glen Goers President, presenting something to Mabel and Jack.
2. Glencoe Mayor Elf Austad welcomes dancers to Glencoe-M.C. Cletus Roufs in back.
3. Rollie Schrupp, original member of the Plato Haylofters congratulates Mabel and Jack.
4. Round dancers ring the commons.
5. Mabel and Jack in the background with Cletus Roufs (in the foreground) chatting with Jack's former teaching colleague Ed Zeleznikar. Ed spoke to the group about his days in school with Jack.

Center: The Roach family- Jack, Mabel, Lonnie and Nancy.