



Honoring Jack and Mabel Roach

Round Dances Written by John Roach

During the course of John Roach's thirty-five year career as a square dance caller and round dance leader he wrote many round dances. There was a note in a record case filled with 78 records dating from the mid 1950s that Jack had written a dance to one of the records. Unfortunately there was no cue sheet with the record and no other record of the dance. During the 1970s and early 80s, particularly after he dedicated himself to round dancing in 1974, he wrote many dances. In her usual manner of organization, his wife Mabel had collected as many of these dances that existed and stored them together with the 45rpm records that went with them. There were a total of thirty-four dances saved. Twenty-five of these had been typed up and duplicated with the intent of submitting them for honors and publication in federation magazines as Round of the Month or to give to fellow leaders for their use. Nine of the dances were still in rough pencil or pen copy in Jack's left handed scrawl. Illness in 1983 probably prevented him from completing the process of getting them properly typed and ready for distribution. One dance appeared to be still in the process of creation.

Jack's intent was to distribute or publish these dances so they are offered here. These dances were fun when they were written and will still be fun today. Given the natural evolution of the form these dances will probably be considered easy or intermediate to today's dancers, perhaps just what a caller needs so that everyone at the square dance can get on the floor for rounds. Jack always stressed that dancing should be fun.

To prepare these dances for distribution, I typed them up from his notes and then submitted them to round dance leader Dolores Reiner of Hutchinson, Minnesota for editing. Dolores, who had studied with Jack in his last years, also took the incomplete instructions for the unfinished dance and created the language necessary to describe the movements that Jack had stipulated in his notes. Please feel free to use these dances with your clubs. LCR