

GENE AND RUTH SMITH - HONOR COUPLE NOMINEE

Ruth began square dance lessons in 1977 with the Crossroads Squares in Vandalia. That year she joined "The Single Ones", a club in Middletown that was close to her home. The following year she became club treasurer.

Gene met Ruth when her car let her down - he never could resist a pretty face. He fixed the car and, after Ruth convinced him that square dancing was a great place to meet people, Gene started lessons in 1978 with the Kittyhawk Squares. Ruth was his "angel". The blizzard of '78 may have slowed some people, but not this couple. By the Spring of 1978, Gene's "angel" became his wife.

After graduation Ruth and Gene joined the Kittyhawks and, when the club divided into the Kittyhawks and the Twin Base Squares, they supported both clubs. They were very active in both club's activities as banner raiders or as angels for the square dance classes. Ruth often filled-in whenever an extra "man" was needed.

Shortly after they moved north of Huber Heights in (1981) they joined the Buckeye Squares. Ruth became club Secretary in 1983. That same year they were voted the Buckeye Squares Honor Couple.

They joined the Shooting <sup>STARS</sup>Squares in late 1983. Again they actively donated their time and talents and did whatever was necessary to get the job done. In 1986 they were selected to serve on the Shooting Stars Executive Board. They are still active members of the club.

In 1984 a new square dance class started in Huber Heights. Ruth and Gene were among the most faithful "angels" for the new "Grin and Square It" dancers. Again Ruth often danced the "man's part" to ensure all the students had partners. Their enthusiastic yet easy-going approach to classes helped many floundering dancers get through the rigors of learning to square dance. Both Ruth and Gene have the innate ability to spot a student in trouble and they go out of their way to help them. They alert the caller to the problem and stay close to the troubled dancer for several tips, or until the problem is resolved. This devotion to the activity has given many students the encouragement they need to graduate from the class. Several dancers have commented that they are in the square dance activity today because of the help and encouragement given them in class by Gene and Ruth Smith.

When the "Grin and Square It" class graduated in May 1985 Ruth and Gene were instrumental in helping the class transition into a club. They are charter members of the Double H Squares. As they did in their other clubs, they have continued to put their energies and enthusiasm into all club functions. This support is evidenced in the rapid growth of the Double H Square Dance Club, one of the fastest growing clubs in the area. Their activities were also acknowledged by the award to them of the Honor Raider badge by the Miami Valley Dance Council. They are currently well on their way towards their second hundred banner raids.

Gene and Ruth have been active participants in the Shooting Stars convention "bus trips". No trip is ever dull when Gene is around. Since 1978 they have attended four National Square Dance Conventions and eight of the last 10 State Square Dance Conventions.

*1st Semel*

SUBMITTED BY:  
Double H Sqs