



## MIAMI VALLEY DANCE COUNCIL

### Honor Roll Dancers

# *Mona & Len Cannell*

2201 Hazelhurst Court  
Kettering, Ohio

Mona and Len Cannell stumbled into square dancing while stationed at Goose Bay, Labrador, in 1961. A year later Mona started calling. Under the guidance of Cal Golden, she learned enough to become the club caller after Cal left. In the next few years the Cannells were deeply involved in square dancing wherever the Air Force sent them, including classes and clubs in Texas, Wyoming, North Dakota, and Nebraska before returning to their native Ohio at Dayton in 1973.

They have organized and operated square dance programs for adult couples, young adults, families with pre-teen dancers, and senior citizens. Of necessity, Mona was always training a student caller to replace her when the inevitable orders came to move again. Innumerable state square dance conventions, including every Buckeye Dance Convention since 1973, have seen her as an active staff participant

Beginning in 1972 at Salt Lake City, Mona has called squares and contras at fifteen national square dance conventions. Reluctantly, she has given up the square dance calling at nationals because of her hectic schedule with clinics, panels, seminars, and workshops concerning square dancing as a retirement activity, contras, quadrilles, and other related subjects.

Their personal career highlights have included Mona's being the entire American staff for the 1982 English and American Dance Week sponsored annually by the Country Dance and Song Society at Pinewoods Camp, Massachusetts, serving as directors of contra education for the 35th National at Indianapolis in 1986, and serving as directors of contra programming for the 36th National at Houston, Texas.

Mona's Dayton calling activities have included over ten years with Rose E. Miller Merry Mixers, with Swings 'n Things (a transition to mainstream dance program) since 1981, and eight years as the dance master for the Kettering Historical Dancers. The Cannells assumed the responsibility for Dayton Contra Dance Club in 1986 and are currently presenting a survey course in American social dance, featuring contras, quadrilles, and couple dances, at Moraine Civic Center.

Mona and Len are serving their second year as community relations committee chairman for the Miami Valley Dance Council. They initiated the Council's food drive, formed the Ambassadors performing team in 1990, and donate their time and talents to both efforts. They have served as staff members of the last four Council leadership seminars. This year is the fifth time they have been directors of the contra program for state conventions held in Dayton.

Mona & Len are charter members of BELT (Bringing Effective Leaders Together), the Ohio Mini-Legacy, for which Len currently serves as executive secretary. Mona is an active accredited member of CALLERLAB, chairman of CALLERLAB's contra and traditional dance committee, and a member of the community dance program committee. Mona is also serving as a member of the Board of Governors of CONTRALAB. She and Len edit and publish *Contra Conversations*, a newsletter for contra and traditional dance leaders, which is distributed in Europe and North America.

Mona has served two stints as secretary of the Miami Valley Callers' Association. Though parents and grandparents, they devote much time to square dancing for both the organized club activity and potential dancers through one-nighter dances and the CALLERLAB Community Dance Program. Mona's devotion to quality teaching is indicative of the Cannells' desire for square dancing to be a lifetime family recreational activity.

In recognition of their many continuous contributions to the square dance activity, Mona and Len Cannell are the Miami Valley Dance Council's 1991 Honor Couple.