

MIAMI VALLEY ROUND DANCE CLUB

After a devastating flood in 1913, John H. Patterson donated a large tract of land to the City of Dayton for a park. Included in the tract was Patterson Park. After much deliberation as to its use, the City of Dayton formulated two eighteen hole golf courses and a parcel for Hills and Dales Park. With the influx of traction links and later street cars to the section known as South Park, it became a popular area for recreation, picnics and golf parties. The area soon grew to become a great part of the City of Dayton. During the summer activities progression, an idea was formulated to build a pavilion for band concerts, high school graduations, dances and picnics to be held at the pavilion. This came about in the early 1920's. The building at the time was quite "The thing" with closed walls on three sides and one open air side. A small stage was placed on the parking lot side. With electricity at a minimum, just three small lights were placed in the center of the hall. This was the physical condition of the building for a great number of years.

During the late 40's, the western style square dancing came into being. Our ethnic groups became interested and ideas were formulated and our square and round dance clubs were born. We were fortunate in having a representative in the City of Dayton Recreation Department, none other than our own Michael Solomon.

Michael Solomon, Grace and Bill Wolff, the Clinemans, Graziannos, the McDevitts and several couple from other ethnic groups were instrumental in the formulation of our MVSDC and MVRDC'S. Grace Wolff was our teacher and leader of MVRDC. After a long tenure, Grace decided to go into teaching at UD college, thereby leaving an opening for a teacher and cuer.

After much ado about teachers, including Ed and Millie Borhringer, John and Margaret O'hara, Bryce and Eleanor Rary, the Rary's were chosen as our teachers. Health problems caused the Rary's to discontinue with their teaching. Al and Millie Borhringer (a brother of Ed Borhringer) was chosen to become our new teachers. With the passing of Millie Borhringer and a breathing problem, Al was forced to relinquish his teaching thereby opening a place for George and Mady D'Alisio. George and Mady were our sixth teachers and cuers. We have experienced twenty-one very enjoyable years of dancing for which we are very thankful.

Merle A. Steiner
August 18, 1992