

## CLINTON COUNTRY COUNTRY SQUARES

Clinton County Country squares originated in September of 1976 when Dale and Delores Faulkner moved to Clinton County from West Virginia. They were dismayed to find no western square dancing in the area. They contacted interested persons and found a caller in Xenia, Ohio, Jim Erbaugh. The first lesson class was held at the Farmer's and Sportman's Club with 6 squares and 2 angels, Martin and Zelma Ball.

Jim Erbaugh stayed with the club until he retired and moved to Florida. He was the first and only instructor/club caller. The club held Jim in high esteem, considered him to be one of the best callers in the area with a beautiful singing voice.

In October of 1976 the club was named "Clinton County Country Squares". Janet and Howard Davis designed and made the club banner. The dances were moved to Smith Place School and then to the I.O.O.F. Hall, upstairs over the Fairley Hardware Store, where the first graduation was held with 46 graduates. 28 dancers from the Xenia Hospitality Squares and the Super B's also attended. The 2nd class finished in May 1977.

In 1977 the club became members of the Miami Valley Dance Council and the club moved to Laurel Oaks Career Development Campus in the new building. Round dancing was added in 1983. Jean Hendee is the only active charter member of the club.

The club has participated in many demonstrations and charity events over the years. They entertain annually at the Clinton County Fair, Corn Festival, Kroger's, Bob & Carl's, and Wal-Mart and at nursing homes. Highlights of each year are the Valentine Dance, the All-Nighter, Saturday Night Special, Mystery Trip and Christmas Dance.

During 1992 and 1993 the club provided Texas 2-step and line dance lessons. In 1994 line dances, Texas 2-step and rounds will be offered alternately. Our caller today is Randy West from Vandalia, Ohio. We still have guest callers every month. The club will be 25 years old in 2001. We have quite a few members, but not all are active. We just keep adding a few every year.