

1954 S'ALLEMANDE 1997
SPRINGFIELD, OHIO

The S'Allemande Western Square Dance Club of Springfield, Ohio had its beginning during 1954 and formalized into a club with its first meeting in November of 1955. The first elected president was Walter Canfield, in whose home the club was started and where the first class was given. Classes were held in the Central YWCA, YMCA, The Carey Bldg., the Central Methodist Church as well as joining with other clubs to bring Western Square Dancing to the many people who enjoyed the learning experience as well as the friendship always associated with the activity. S'Allemande also supported Round Dance classes and included that into their dance schedule. New Years Eve dances were started by S'Allemande. They were soon joined by several other Miami Valley Dance Council clubs and this union provided a great New Years Eve Square Dance for all who attended.

Mystery bus trips were also a part of the S'Allemande program, taking five or more squares to an unknown Western Square Dance club, usually out of the Miami Valley Dance Council area. S'Allemande became well known to other dance clubs and in other dance councils in Ohio. For a long time the membership of S'Allemande was in excess of one hundred members and they were always welcomed wherever they went.

The S'Allemande Western Square Dance Club participated in many civic activities in and around Springfield and were honored by the city with certificates and plaques of honor. Through the years, members participated in many state as well as national conventions. The club was one of the first to join the Miami Valley Dance Council. Members of S'Allemande have been officers, trustees and president of the Miami Valley Dance Council. The council has, over the years, bestowed honors and presented certificates and plaques to the S'Allemande club for its participation in council activities.

Due to the lack of new members and a dwindling membership, it was decided by the membership to cease operations with the New Years Eve dance 1997-1998. So after more than forty plus years of square dance activities, the S'Allemande Western Square Dance Club is no more.

S'ALLEMANDE

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This brief history of the S'Allemande was taken from the historical records of the dance club and from newspaper articles as well as from former members of the club.

Submitted by Don J. Stiles