

MERRY MIXERS

Olive & Elmer Manket, winners of a contest, named the Merry Mixers. Actually, the name was "The Rose E. Miller Merry Mixers", and the emblem was a large rose, a large E and Merry Mixers. The dances were held at the Rose E. Miller Elementary School on Marshall Road. It was called the Senior Citizens Square Dance Club and was a part of the City of Kettering Recreation Department.

Mona Cannell initiated the contest around 1977. She called for the group from 1975 to 1985. Before she called, there was Hank Mays, and before him Kenny Stomps, who, at age 17, taught the first classes. This was back in 1970 and 1971. The actual starting date is unknown, and it is also unknown whether or not any of the charter members are still dancing. Dottie Seitz and Grady McManus are still dancing, and they were among the first; but they say that they are not charter members.

The early dances were 50-50 dances, which were well attended with eight or nine squares year round. Jerry Helt was among the early callers, and John Chevalier called his first dance for this club.

The name was changed to Merry Mixers when the group left the school and moved to the new Lathrem Center at the Kettering Recreational Division of the Parks and Recreation. It is a fine facility with hardwood floors; it is air conditioned; and there are tables for sitting around when eating or visiting with friends between tips. The club is managed by the Parks Division, except for raids and retrievals, which are arranged by Peg & Bob Harold and Irene & Art Ball. It is a very friendly group, and all are welcome.