

# Travolta-style dancing brings 'em back to floor

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Barnes, who's been teaching dancing for 30 years, admits one attraction to the dance is that the new ones are fairly easy to learn.

"You can get out on the dance floor and look good after a couple of lessons," she said of the fast dances.

Fox trots and waltzes are difficult to master because they're slow and less showy than such steps as the three count hustle.

"THE FAST DANCES are exciting. You look like you're doing something because they're fast. If you goof up a few steps, no one really notices. And it looks good."

"A waltz is difficult to learn because you have to know the patterns and steps to look good," he said.

In addition to the many dances taking off on the hustle, young dancers are returning to hand-to-hand contact in the discos.

For the last 15 years, the young version of slow dancing has been to engage the partner in a bear hug and rock back and forth to the music, according to Barnes.

Now, a slightly more sophisticated version of that non-step is being used and taught. The rocking motion is more uniform and the feet are apart.

"It's a good looking step. The best I've taught," Barnes said.

The box step is moving into favor as more structured dances take over the popular floor.

WHILE STRUCTURE is undergoing a revival on the Saturday night floors, it's enjoying continued popularity in

the studios and the schools. An old form of structured dancing that has survived reports of its imminent death is square dancing.

One of the reasons it's alive and well in the suburbs is the enthusiasm of square dance groups like the Fancy Farmers of Farmington.

More difficult to learn than disco, square dance enthusiasts can take 30 lessons in a year's time through the Fancy Farmers and Farmington Public Schools. After a year of learning their way around the 75 basic steps, the students are invited to join the group.

Even after a year, dancers often need to re-visit the classes to review the steps, said Edith Stone, of Farmington Hills. Fancy Farmers publicity chairman.

"You have to keep dancing to keep in practice," she said. "You have to listen to the caller."

Experienced square dancers who need review can attend classes as teacher aids, according to Mrs. Stone. The students learn the intricacies of square dancing manners as well as the steps.

Dancers shake hands and introduce themselves to the other couples in their square of four partners before the dance. Afterwards, etiquette means each member thank the other for the dance.

"Even the young teenagers do that," said Mrs. Stone.

For about \$4 a couple, dancers can attend a club sponsored dance. Club fees are \$150 a year. Out of that money, the club pays their caller, Bruce Light, who also runs the dance classes.

IT'S a common practice, also, for a caller to form his own club, according to Mrs. Stone.

Social activity, the chance to dress up and exercise lures people to a club. Mrs. Stone and her husband Jack decided to join the Farmers after they decided to join the dance at the Farmington Founders Festival two years ago.

"It's good exercise. When I don't dance for a while, I feel my legs get stiff," she said.

On square dance night she and her husband don their costumes and membership badges. Occasionally, the group will go "stealing," to encourage a neighboring organization to attend their dances.

Stealing involves one group taking another's banner. In order to retrieve the group banner, the members have to attend the other group's dance.

Costumes help to identify members of each group when they go "traveling" to other dances. Women with some sewing skill can make the short ruffled skirt and peasant blouse of their costume. A crinoline petticoat is the most outstanding expense at \$18.

Soft soled square dance shoes help the dancer slide across wooden floors.

Men can get away with a string tie, long sleeved western shirt, loafers and slacks. Blue jeans are frowned on for everyone.

EXERCISE also plays a part in tap dancing's appeal. Long relegated to

old movies and spoofs, tap is coming into its own again, thanks to advertisements and plays such as "No, No, Nanette," according to Virginia Dickerman, who's been taping in Farmington for 20 years.

"It burns up calories. It's fun," she said.

Children with feet that toe in, coordination problems and poor muscle control can get the proper exercise through tap dancing. Mrs. Dickerman says.

The dance has reappeared because it's easy to learn.

"I never had anybody whom I couldn't get tap dancing in her class," said Mrs. Dickerman. "They walk out of the studio with at least one

step."

Her classes attract between 25-60 adults as well as children.

Men shy away from tap but a few are daring to try to emulate Astaire.

"It helps them with their footwork when they play basketball," Mrs. Dickerman said.

WHILE MEN TAKE their first few cautious shuffles into tap dancing, they are managing to weave their way into ballet.

"Even men are accepting the dance," said Mrs. Evelyn Kreson, who has four young boys in her classes. "One went to the Dayton Ballet," added Mrs. Kreson.



## 'Elvis' fans flock to their newest idol

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performer could toss them to his adoring fans during a performance.

It's been happening all over the country and now it'll happen at the Redford Theatre at 7:30 Friday night when Wade returns to the area that spawned his success.

Nita Hanchett of Canton first encountered Wade in 1974 at the Poison Apple Lounge in Westland, where he had been a regular attraction generating a strong local following. Her mother introduced her to the performer and described him as a "down-to-earth, loving person, and a real character."

That evening, Mrs. Hanchett became the founder and president of the national Elvis Wade fan club. Upon the lounge owner's suggestion, she decided to take over the club's work for Elvis Wade. She says while Mrs. Hanchett is excited by exciting things, she can remain calm and evaluate how to best help Wade. Mrs. Hatata manages much of the business side of promotions and the fan club's work.

"I do what I do best because I've been in the business world for so long," she says.

"This is really one person I need to be associated with. My husband and I both feel this way."

record shops to check on the sales of his latest album, "Introducing Elvis Wade," they've sent out 1,000 flyers, posters, and made personal phone calls to other club members.

ONE MIGHT WONDER why these people have become so dedicated to the success of Elvis Wade. The officers say his sincerity, personal magnetism and his love for people have set him off from other performers. They add that all they want in return for their dedication is to see him make it big.

"We don't receive any compensation from him or from the fan club," Mrs. Hatata stresses. "It's strictly because we see him as a great performer and want to see him go to the top."

Mrs. Hatata says that she and Mrs. Hanchett work well together in their work for Elvis Wade. She says while Mrs. Hanchett is excited by exciting things, she can remain calm and evaluate how to best help Wade. Mrs. Hatata manages much of the business side of promotions and the fan club's work.

"I do what I do best because I've been in the business world for so long," she says.

"This is really one person I need to be associated with. My husband and I both feel this way."

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