They could have danced all night...and they did

# And they danced...

Steven Potter sat in his sequined jacket spinning the tunes of the decades. And as the records played, dancers swayed through the cakewalk, castle dance, lindy hop and other representational dances of years gone by.

The event was the Dance of the Decades, brought to you by the same folks who will bring you the Bicentennial Festival of Detroit Dance Companies on May 30-31, 1975.

The dance was a fund raiser to assure the actuality of such a festival in '75 and included 13 of the more than 30 dances companies that thrive in Detroit.

Held in the Palm River Club, the event found dancers uniting efforts to present all kinds of dance to Detroit. The real Lindy Hoppers from Kingswood-Cranbrook Dance company swooped, swirled and flew across the dance floor in 1950 tradition.

A BIT MORE of an update came from the Oakland University dancers whose "Peppermint twist and all that jazz "evoked visions of the 60's and Chubby Checker.

And for those with fading memories of the past. Carmen Miranda came to life by the dozens as dancers costumed in white satin and silver fruit chica boomed their way into the hearts of the audience.

But the dance companies were out to do more than "review the past. Their efforts were, in part, to bring recognition to dance as it exists in the metropolitan Detroit area.

"IT'S VERY fashionable to say Detroit is without culture." said Lisa Nowak, co-chairperson of the bicentennial dance festival. "We aren't, though. Detroit has a definite dance community. There's a real feeling for

dance here without much support from the public."

It is somewhat misleading to term it as "Detroit" dance. Detroit has no dance company per se; instead it has a spectrum of companies that go from "Jefferson to Oakland University." said Maggie Acheson, chairpers of the decades dance.

Added Ms. Nowak: "We have a lot of top grade, first-notch dancers, a lot of great people doing great dance But they are usually only seen by their own immediate families, the's who the audiences are. We want to get the whole of Detroit know that there are retinues of dance."

The planned dance festival will be held at the Music Hall in Detroit and will consist of competition amun the dance companies. Winners will later perform throughout Detroit.





Ginger and Fred whirled across the dance floor

Drama on the dance floor came from members of the Young Dancers Guild