

# UPSTAIRS CLUB

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Chicago, Illinois

An Educational Group

1950-54.

Of the period covered in the last Bulletin volumes more might have been written - but where do you stop? Letters from enthusiastic readers remind us of omissions - such as the vaudeville act that worked out of the Morse office here in Chicago in the late 30's - "DANSE CLASSIQUE" - barnstorming out the dying days of vaudeville - the act included THERESA RUDOLPH, HARRIET LUNDGREN, SANDRA DAVIS, BENTLEY STONE and Myself...they were trying times - however now we remember them with nostalgia. Another interesting omission was the performance of the opera "Carmen" in Soldier's Field with Swarthout and Kiepura singing which I did the Choreography for with a company of 36 dancers... RUTH PRYOR danced with me and among the group were JEAN DOVELL (now mother of 3 young dancers of her own) - SHEILA REILLY (whom you all know) - LOUIS YETTER & ARON GIRARD (mentioned in the last Bulletin) MARGOT KOCH (teacher in Skokie) - CHARLES BOCKMAN (our good friend who teaches and now lives in the old CORNELL & GRAFF studio) - STANLEY HERBERTT (has school in St. Louis) - LAURA BLUM (teaching in Birmingham, Ala.) - EDITH ALLARD (dancing in Europe) and our dear MARIE GUERRERE.

On July 7th in 1950 President Truman ordered the draft of the 19 to 25 year olds - The Korean War had not been going well. On July 20th of the same year we signed the lease for 185 (the Grand studio had been built during the last war). We were frightened by the war situation and its affect on business - as well as the thought of so much space to be used and the work involved. In the school at the time of draft age were JIM MOORE, KELLY BROWN, BILL REILLY, PATRICK HEIM, BILL MALONEY, GILDO di NUNZIO, JOHN WIDMER, and the TYGETT brothers. At one time during the Korean War the school had 38 boys in service. The war scare was bad enough but the work facing us to get the studio ready was even worse. The place

had been empty for many years - it had once been YEN HONG LO'S chinese restaurant - during prohibition an Italian restaurant where a pot of tea meant a tea pot of wine - it had been a gambling joint - the Chess Club - and a meeting place for American Legion dances - the 3rd floor had a 9 inch rake - there was 3 truck loads of debris piled mountain high on the 2nd floor - 8 to 10 coats of wall paper on every wall to be removed - 50 miles of wiring and warning bells in case of Police raids to be pulled out ...plumbing to be repaired and dressing rooms to be built...not to mention barres - mirrors - draperies, etc. This moving of three blocks cost almost five thousand dollars.

On August 15th we began talks with decorators, sanders, carpenters, electricians, plumbers and painters. A few days later everything began to happen and it began to look like we were in business - when - in stepped the Painter's Union's "Youngblood" - and because we were removing the wall paper ourselves - at his command all union help walked out. Youngblood reminded us of what he had done to Arthur Murray's school - we reminded him that we were not in Murray's financial class. MURIEL STUART happened in at this moment gushing about the lovely European atmosphere of our prospective studio (including the raked floor) - as charming as she was - confronted by Youngblood - he was not charmed by her and all our carpenters and plasterers departed. "What a pity" said MURIEL. To make a long story short a sympathetic (to us) union painter agreed to put on one coat of paint for a nominal fee. (and then leave us to do as we wished) - this beautiful gesture brought back the other workers.

On September 1st we had to move our meager possessions from the Grand to

185. With so much more space a great deal new equipment was needed. During the whole affair I was grateful to my dear Father (not so well educated, but a sharp business man) and my education at the Montana Agricultural College where my education gave me the confidence to attack any problem. When the contractor asked \$1000 to build our present dressing rooms - I drew up a plan - ordered the lumber needed and hired 4 union carpenters - paid each \$25 for a days work and the dressing rooms were built for \$400.

On September 23rd we had our first class ...still with much work to be done. By October 12th we felt the work was far enough along to celebrate what we called "Janitor's Party". I am sure there were many others who helped us during these trying days but the following are the ones who appear in the snapshots of this party (how else can I remember)...SHEILA & BILL REILLY, DONNA ROKNICK, ELISSA QUEYQUEP, JOHN SHARPE, PATRICK HEIM, BILL MALONEY, BUD TYGETT, JACK SEIBERT, HARRY GORMAN, HARRY NORTON, JOHN WIDMER, DARRELL NOTARA, JIM MOORE & PAT MAZUR. From this point on we were in business...This particular fall began with much bad news - October 3rd BILLY ALBERTS was in Passavant hospital with a severe case of Polio. He was the third SC student to suffer this disease in the past year. Others were SUSAN FURLONG and LILLIAN DEA.

November 13th news of MARIE GUERRERE's death on the operating table in a New York hospital. A brain tumor operation. She had so little out of her very short life - an unhappy home and shifted about from pillar to post. No one ever loved dance more - nor had more to give. She was buried in a gown of light blue satin and tulle by the Radio City Music Hall ballet girl's (where she had worked until she became too ill to work) and in a pair of pink ballet shoes. Two photographs on the coffin made it possible to remember her as we all knew and loved her. This short poem of Sara Teasdale always reminded me of Marie -

Oh I must pass nothing by  
Without loving it much,  
The rain drop try with my life  
The grass with my touch;  
For how can I be sure  
I shall see again  
The world on the first of May  
Shining after the rain.

Then during this same year JANET CAMPBELL entered a tuberculosis sanatorium where she remained for several years.

After the boy's class on April 12th in 1951 we opened a couple of bottles of wine as a send off for BILL-JOHN & JIM who were to leave in a few days for New York to try out for HASSARD SHORT's new Musical "Seventeen". Each boy was going thoroughly prepared with a song to sing and a dance. BILL danced "Dapper Dan" - JOHN danced "The Down Home Rag" and JIM danced "Capers". Immediately following the try out Mr. Short wired Mr. Stone that the boys had a great try out and all would be a great asset to his musical. We were to hear of this for some time as all three were just out of High School and with no union cards. On June 1st DARRELL NOTARA joined the company in Boston.

The 16th of this month we received the sad news of ADOLPH BOLM's death in Hollywood California. Ten days later his good friend JOHN ALDEN CARPENTER also died. I had had the good fortune to receive a six month scholarship from Mr. Carpenter at the BOLM school - then at 625 South Michigan. Later at the Children's Civic Theatre we performed Mr. Carpenter's ballet "KRAZY KAT" with RUDOLPH GANZ at the piano. This program was for our very good friend PARTHENIA VOGELBACK who did so many good things for our school and all the children at the Civic Theatre. She, too, is now gone having passed away a few years ago with cancer.

The first 6 months of this year were spent in choreographing "Alice in Wonderland" and "Less Enfant perdue" - rehearsals were suspended for the summer course and resumed in the fall. MARTHA WOOLLETT designed costumes for us and November 27th the two ballets were shown at Mandel Hall...these two ballets were coupled together for most of the programs at this time because of the time and money spent on them - to say nothing of the extremely strong casts we had at that time.

This fall I was singled out for the honor of introducing MARY GARDEN on her lecture for the Chicago Drama League. BENTLEY and I had been in many of her performances during the early opera days

so we were good friends. The artistic drive and sweep of her performances had always been an inspiration to us and we hold many happy memories of the Operas in which we worked with her. This occasion was the end of my association with the Drama League. I had been dance director and artistic advisor of the Children's Civic Theatre for ten long hard years. It was this group where SHEILA & BILL REILLY, JOHN SHARPE, DARRELL NOTARA, PATRICK HEIM, JIM MOORE, JOAN EHEMANN, AUDRE DECHMANN, PAT CUMMINGS and DOLORES LIPINSKI started with me.

About the beginning of '52 JOSEPH PATRICK HEIM & PATRICK JOSEPH CUMMINGS felt it was about their time to shine - and shine they did. HEIM began to dance in "Dr Duffy" and actually danced more performances of it than any of the other boys. CUMMINGS had an important part in "Les Enfant perdus" and was the 'Dormouse' in "Alice". CHARLES BENNETT about the same age as the Pats was to go into Ballet Theatre at about this time...he had just started to rehearse and appear in SC programs before leaving.

The most important event this fall was the tour of the STONE CAMRYN BALLET through 8 states...5 dancers - JOAN EHEMANN, DONNA ROKNICK, BARBARA DE FEO, PATRICK HEIM and Myself...NEAL KAYAN was our accompanist...MR. STONE was represented on the program with a ballet entitled "Foo Foo Raw" - a twenty-five minute ballet. Our program was a two hour program - so you can guess how the five of us must have worked. It was a very beautiful autumn and we enjoyed our daily jaunts from one town to another. I came back into Chicago for the GARDEN lecture and was off on the second half of the tour which ended as snow began to fly - November 26th.

A note from my Journal dated November 28th read - news from the boys in service - JACK SEIBERT not too happy but an unusually beautiful letter - a nice letter from GILDO who will be alright where ever he goes - Bless him! BILL REILLY, emotional and very upset by the brutality of the service - JOHN SHARPE bored to death in Okinawa - easy going BILL MALONEY, sorting out his life in Germany, - JOHN WIDMER, not so changed home on leave from the Pacific - JIM MOORE also in on leave the same old bright

self - others who hope to return to dance - FRANK SPOLAR, CHUCK EARL, ARTHUR COOK, and BORIS TERON - those without much dance training to return with.

July 31, 1953 - my 50th birthday and there was the usual studio party with very few of the old faces about - suddenly all seemed to be very young... the star of this occasion was lively little creature with fleas (which CHUCK SCHICK promptly took care of) - a Siamese kitten from BENTLEY...this creature was none other than YAMA II and when he was brought home to meet UDAY (my roommate of many years - son of FRANKIE & JOHNNIE - a gift from RUTH PAGE) we were alarmed for UDAY was terribly hurt and gave us a tongue lashing we won't ever forget - to think that anyone would ever think of replacing him - it took a great deal of brushing, cajoling and petting to make him realize the little one was company for him and that he was not being replaced...promptly at 5 A.M. the next morning Uday decided he liked the little stranger and the big romp began. From then on there was no rest to be had. The little one became such an outlaw that even Uday who had perfect house manners could not train "this one" to behave - and in no time he was forcibly removed to 185 where he has been ever since...in the years intervening he has become "a real character" and is as well known as anyone in the school, he has his fans and returns his affections to his favorites.

August 6, 1954. After a strenuous summer course we had a short tour of concerts on Chautauqua - which were really religious camp meetings with entertainment. Our Checkerway bus pulled away from 185 at midnight with the first stop at Lakeside Ohio - it was a rough ride and freezing cold for August...arriving at Lakeside the next morning at 8:30 AM - had breakfast - and to bed for a bit of rest before our 4 o'clock rehearsal. Found a wonderful large stage and auditorium with ample lighting. We had been warned before not to be offended if the old folks got up and left during the show, as was their custom. However, not a soul left until the last number. Their enthusiasm grew as the program unfolded for an audience of very old

and very young it was a big success. RUTH GORDON was our accompanist and enjoyed our tour very much. The tour ended a week later in Remington Indiana. On a beautiful clear, cool sunny morning our bus pulled into the Fountain Park Chautauqua Auditorium, nestled in a small square park of green trees away out on the flat countryside of Indiana. The Company was competely charmed by the place before the first show was given.

The Auditorium was an open shed - the stage of good size and banked on all sides by a profusion of flowers. At 3 o'clock in bright sunlight we appeared before an audience of very old people and children. It was a heart warming reception about the stage door afterwards. In the evening, in bright moonlight, a second performance was given to an even larger and more enthusiastic crowd of country folk. Each year since we are invited to come back - but August is a hard month for a tour. The group on this tour included - DOLORES LIPINSKI, BETTE KILBRIDE, KAREN ROSE, JEANNE SCHULTZ, JAMES MOORE, BILL MALONEY, PATRICK CUMMINGS, BASIL CROSS, RUTH GORDON and myself...to be continued.

Walter Camryn.

GUEST TEACHERS on the 25 years have been-

SONIA WOJCIKOWSKA

MARGARET CRASKE

MARY SKEAPING

LILLIAN MOORE

MIA SLAVENSKA

INGA WEISS

NANA GOLLNER

BILL GARY

GERTRUDE JORY

RUTH ANN KOESUN

## STONE CAMRYN BALLET PROGRAMS

LORA ABORN's music has been an important part of all SC programs for a longtime...her highly original and unique compositions have usually been composed in progress with either Mr. Stone or Mr. Camryn. Among the ballets she has written are "REUNION" (Stone), "STRANGE NEW STREET" (Stone), "IN MY LANDSCAPE" (Camryn) "THE LONELY ONES" (Stone & Camryn) and she reduced the Schubert Trio Op 99 into a piano score for the ballet "TRIO VARIATIONS".

Among the shorter concert dances written for Mr. Stone were "PUNCH DRUNK" "CASEY AT THE BAT", "HOUND OF HEAVEN", and "DARKNESS AT DAWN". For Mr. Camryn she wrote "DITTIES", "BOSTON JOHN - the Shaker", "STRAWBERRY ROAN", and "HOT AFTERNOONS HAVE BEEN IN MONTANA."

NORMAN CURTIS wrote an original score for "LIKE A WEEPING WILLOW" to a libretto written for A Theatre Guild competition by Walter Camryn. The ballet used speaking and singing.

A partial list of Mr. Stone's ballets.

MERCURE . . . . .	Satie
PAVANNÉ . . . . .	Ravel
MOSIAC . . . . .	Mozart
REUNION . . . . .	Aborn
LES ENFANTS PERDUS. . . . .	Ravel
FOO FOO RAW. . . . .	Strauss
THE WALL. . . . .	Auber
THE LITTLE MATCH GIRL. . . . .	Gluck
A FRIEND IS SOMEONE WHO LIKES YOU . . . . .	Delius
STRANGE NEW STREET. . . . .	Aborn
L'INCONNUE . . . . .	Poulenc
For Ballet Theatre. . . . .	Kaye
LES BICHES . . . . .	Poulenc

Co-choreography with RUTH PAGE  
 FRANKIE AND JOHNNIE . . . . Moross  
 GUNS AND CASTANETS . . Bizet-Moross  
 AN AMERICAN PATTERN . . . . Moross

Co-choreography with Walter Camryn  
 THE LONELY ONES . . . . . Aborn

A partial list of Mr. Camryn's Ballets

ROUNDELAY . . . . . Mozart  
 THUNDER IN THE HILLS . . . . . Foster  
 THAT DURING YOUNG MAN . . . . . Period Music  
 SYMPHONY IN C . . . . . Haydn  
 THE STORY OF FERDINAND . . . . . Bizet  
 HANSEL AND GRETEL . . . . . Humperdinck  
 DR. ELI DUFFY's -Snakeroot. . . Period Music  
 THE SHOOTING OF DAN MCGREW. . . Period Music  
 THE SINGING YANKEES . . . . . Period Music  
 STAGESTRUCK . . . . . Period Music  
 ALICE IN WONDERLAND . . . . . Rossini  
 TRIO VARIATIONS . . . . . Schubert  
 LIKE A WEEPING WILLOW . . . . . Curtis  
 IN MY LANDSCAPE . . . . . Aborn  
 IN WHOM I LIVE DYING . . . . .Schumann  
 FROHLICHER REIGEN . . . . .Clementi  
 FOR THE BIRDS . . . . . Haydn  
 A SENSE OF WONDER . . . . . Schumann

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Dancers who became prominent during  
 the first few years 185 and where they  
 are now -

CHARLES BENNETT - First Chamber Dance  
 Quartet recently back from Europe.  
 PATRICK CUMMINGS - in "Half a six Pence"  
 CHAUNCE CONKLIN - teaching in  
 Bloomington, Illinois  
 ETTA BURO - teaching in Raleigh, N.C.  
 GARY ROBERTS - deceased.  
 JOHN CARBO - teacher in Old Town School  
 of music.  
 JOHN WIDMER - working around New York  
 GILDO di NUNZIO - assistant conductor  
 at the Metropolitan Opera.  
 STEVE PRIMIS - Physical Education teacher  
 JOHN BARKER - has own school in New York  
 DOLORES LIPINSKI - Lyric Opera and  
 Chicago Opera Ballet company.  
 ROBERTA REHBERG - has school in  
 West Allis  
 MARLA RAE GOLDEN - in Sybil Shearer  
 group.  
 DEAN DIGGINS - in The Madison Trio  
 JOHN LANDOWSKY - Lyric Opera and  
 Chicago Opera Ballet  
 RONALD FRASIER - Munich Opera Ballet  
 PATRICIA McENERNEY - teacher  
 DALLAS EDMUNDS - rehearsing a new  
 Broadway show.  
 NORMAN EDWARDS - working on the west  
 coast.  
 KAREN KRYCH - American Ballet Theatre  
 JOHN NEUMEIER - John Cranko Ballet in  
 Stuttgart, Germany.  
 KENNETH JOHNSON - Lyric Opera and  
 Chicago Ballet Company.  
 CHARLES SCHICK - Lyric Opera and  
 Chicago Ballet Company.  
 ROSE VRUNO - Sister Josita  
 TOM POSTON - just about everywhere  
 CONCHITA del RIVERO - Chita Rivera  
 JOHN SHARPE - "Sweet Charity".  
 PATRICK HEIM - "Sweet Charity".  
 BILL REILLY - "On a clear Day".  
 DARRELL NOTARA - "Skyscraper"  
 JUDI WEST - "Fortune Cookie"