

A LOOK BACK IN TIME –

History of Houston Square and Round Dance Council, Inc.

This article is intended to review the past activities of square and round dancing in the greater Houston area, beginning with the year 1946.

In the early 1940s, there were two small square dance clubs in the area. The clubs danced three or four squares, but almost everyone was in the U.S. Military or working for the effort to end the War. In 1945, after World War II had ended, square and round dancing became a popular social activity for some of the men and women returning from serving in the U.S. Military.

In 1946-47, the City of Houston Parks & Recreation Department began a program to teach square dancing to the public, using the City's facilities. Ms. Blanche Marrero, a Houston City employee, was responsible for coordinating and teaching square dance lessons for the Department. Usually, at the completion of ten lessons, the students graduated, and most of these students formed square dance clubs in and around Houston. Some of the callers in these clubs would call the square dance, while dancing in a square. Sometimes the callers in different squares did not call the same thing; so, each square was doing its own thing, but having fun and enjoying the dancing.

In early 1947, Carl "Doc" Journell started teaching square dance lessons. Doc had so many applications for lessons that he had to limit the size of his classes. He had an exhibition square of teenagers, who put on many good exhibitions in and around Houston. He also had an adult exhibition group called the Circle "J" Dancers. "Doc" is remembered for his teaching deaf-mute people to square dance.

In late 1946 and early 1947, many square dance clubs were organized in the Houston area. Some of the square dance leaders of that era saw the need for an organization to coordinate the activities of these clubs, and this led to the formation of the Houston Square Dance Council in 1947. Some of the leaders that helped organize the Council were: Carl "Doc" Journell, Blanche Marrero, Harry Hope, Tom Mullen, Preston R. (Jack) Plumb, Jack Stromatt, Hal Biggers, Elvis (Fuzzy) Miller, Mickey Johnson, Eldon Pounds (this is not a complete list of names—there were others.)

The purpose of the Council was to encourage and perpetuate Texas style square dancing and American Folk dancing (round dancing), and to promote goodwill and fellowship between organizations affiliated with the Council and its members. "Doc" Journell was the first President and Ms. Marrero was the Secretary, and Trust Fund Officer. She served the Council for more than 30 years—as Secretary from 1947-1968, and as Trust Fund Officer until she retired in 1979.

The Council did not have a constitution or bylaws until early 1949. An excerpt from the first bylaws is as follows:

“All organizations and clubs which heretofore participated in functions and activities of the Houston Square Dance Council and have designated representatives to attend Council meetings shall be Charter Members of the Council upon filing a written request for affiliation with the Secretary of the Council, provided that such request shall be filed not later than April 1, 1949.”

In March 1949, there were 71 square dance clubs in the Houston area, with a membership of over 5,000 dancers.

In 1947, the Council and the Parks & Recreation Dept. entered into an alliance of convenience. The Council enjoyed the use of economically priced park buildings for its dances and the Parks & Recreation Dept. enjoyed widespread community support for a popular recreational activity. As part of this alliance, a trust fund was established and was controlled by the Parks & Recreation Department. All of the funds paid by the dancers for use of the park buildings, including jamborees and festivals, went into the trust fund, and Blanche Marrero, the Trust Fund Officer, paid the bills using these monies.

During 1947 and 1948, there were several jamborees held in the Houston City Auditorium. The funds collected from these dances were used to pay the expenses of the Festival of the HSDC.

The First Annual Festival was held in Sam Houston Coliseum on April 8-9, 1949, and was attended by more than 2,700 dancers. All square dancers were admitted FREE. Prior to the Festival, tickets were issued to the clubs and mailed to out of town dancers, who had requested tickets. This was done to control the attendance; otherwise, residents of Houston who were not square dancers would crowd the dancers off the dance floor. There were 171 squares on the regular floor, in the overflow spaces, behind the bleachers, in the entrances and in every available space; and 9,950 spectators that had paid 25 cents each to watch the dance.

There were two, five-piece square dance orchestras that kept the music rolling for four hours on Friday night and another four hours on Saturday night. One caller after another, chosen from among the top callers in Texas and surrounding states, would mount the stage, call one tip, then relinquish his spot to another caller. Two such tips and a round dance would be played in fast succession by the orchestra; then, the second orchestra would chime in and duplicate with two new callers and another round dance.

There were 26 different callers on Friday night and 30 different callers on Saturday night—all of them called without remuneration. Besides local callers, some of the guest callers were: Al Burndage (Conn.), Herb Greggerson (El Paso), Bob Osgood (Los Angeles), Homer Howell (Okla. City), E.O. Rogers (Dallas), Lloyd Collier (Dallas), Jack Fromby, Rick Holden, Frank Kaltman, Don Smith and Walter Vann.

Bob Osgood wrote that some of the Texas callers had “Yell Leader” tendencies, waiving their hands and calling “Yalamand Left,” and that from above, the crowd looked like hundreds of ants. E.O. Rogers wrote that when dosado was called, everybody yelled as loud as they could, and it was repeated four to ten times. The dancers had fun and everyone had a good time.

The Council continued to hold its Annual Spring Festivals in the Albert Thomas Convention Center through 1979. The following year the buildings were not available at an economical fee, or were not available on the dates that were selected for the Festival. Since 1980, the Council has held festivals at Fondren Recreation Center, Astrohall, Astroarena, Pasadena Convention Center, Ft. Bend County Fairgrounds, and Moody Gardens Convention Center (Galveston).

When square dancing started to become popular in and around Houston, dancers at some of the festivals were welcomed by Houston Mayors as follows: Oscar Holcomb (1950, 1951, 1952); Roy Hoffheinz (1953, 1954); and Lewis Cutrer (1960).

Early round dance teachers and instructors were: Roy & Agnes Mackey; Earl & Ouida Eberling; Norman & Nadine Merrbach; and Frankie Lee & Leeland Lawson. In 1960, Earl & Ouida Eberling had a round dance exhibition group called, "The Capri Square." Members of this group were: Herb & Anna Eyster, Ed & Wanda Franks, Bill & Ann Watson; and John & Mary Pickens. Some of the couple or round dances of that era were: *Hot Pretzels*, *Lili Marlene*, *Golden Slippers*, *Boston Two Step*, *Irish Waltz*, *Josephine*, *Merry Widow Waltz*, *Varsuivienne*, *Glow Worm* and *Black Hawk Waltz*.

The early years of the Council were dominated by men, as women were not allowed to become involved in politics or policies of the organization—their primary role was for dancing and social activities. Women did not become actively involved in the organization until the late 1950's.

Many of the Council Presidents have been square dance callers. Presidents from 1947 through 1961 were callers, and again from 1962 through 1969. Five Presidents have served two terms. In May 1955, Austin & Fern Reed became President. Austin died in office on April 5, 1956, and the Vice President, Al & Dudy Treppke, became President and served 35 days to complete the term. Presidents that have served two terms are: Lonnie & Lillian Rogers (1951/52 & 1953/54), Tom & Leah Mullen (1954/55 & 1958/59), Al & Dudy Treppke (part of 1955/56, 1956/57 & 1957/58), Jack & Lillian Hine (1974/75 & 1975/76), and Tom & Judy Welker (2004 & 2005),

Singles that have served as President are: Ray Montgomery & Becky Gray (1977-78) and Skipper Cullison (1981-82). Skipper handled the office without a partner.

Some of the Presidents have served as President of the Texas State Federation of Square & Round Dancers (TSFSRD), and they are as follows:

- Leonard & Erma Morris, Council Pres. 1963/64 - State Pres. 1965/1966
- Al & Dudy Treppke, Council Pres. 1955/58 - State Pres. 1974/1975
- Lee & Lettie Reed, Council Pres. 1973/74 - State Pres. 1982/1983
- Michael & Gladys Culver, Council Pres. 1978/79 - State Pres. 1988/1989
- Gene & Clydette Osteen, Council Pres. 1976/77 – State Pres. 1996/1997
- Preston & Carolyn Smith, Council Pres. 2003 – State Pres. 2008/2009

Each year, the Council has an annual festival, and the President, with the assistance of many volunteers, works hard to make it the best ever. The following comments will be

about some of the past festivals. (A complete list of festivals and hoedowns is in one of the Council history books)

The Second Festival was held in 1950. It featured exhibitions by Manning Smith and his Skating Square from College Station and by “Doc” Journell and his dance team from the School of the Deaf.

The 1954 festival featured exhibitions by Betty Jo McKenzie and the Wheel Blazers (wheelchair dancers) from Waco, Texas, and the Skating Square from Galveston, Texas.

1958/59 - Tom & Leah Mullen, President, were instrumental in getting square and round dancing advertised through billboards in and around Houston. A committee, chaired by M. K. & Ruth Kipp, worked hard to raise funds to televise the Eleventh Annual Festival, and they succeeded in getting it on local TV on Saturday, May 16, 1959.

1959/60 - Jimmy & Vivian Holeman, President, originated the annual “Beginners Jamboree” (now called the “New Dancers Jamboree”). They introduced commercial advertising in the festival programs to help pay for the printing, and the TV show that was presented in May, 1959, featured Jimmy as one of the callers.

1960/61 - Buck & Mildred (Susie) Flanagan, President, wrote to callers in every state and Hawaii, and had callers representing 18 states and Hawaii on the program, as well as many local and state callers. All of them called without remuneration. The Flanagans enlisted volunteers from each club to help make gold and brown banners with wood frames—one for every Council club. These banners were hung around the Coliseum balcony. This was the beginning of club banners and it started the tradition of stealing banners. Now, clubs display their own banners at festivals.

1961/62 - Nelson & Bernice Holtz were the first non-caller to be President. At a controversially called Council meeting in December, 1961, the club delegates voted to have the first three-caller dance for the April 27-28, 1962 Festival. There were three professional callers as emcees, with local and other callers sharing the program.

1962/63 - Lew & Carol Torrance were the first to give the annual festival a name. They called it, “Bluebonnet Festival.” The Council received a lot of exposure in the local media because Lew was the Art Editor for the *Houston Chronicle*. (A copy of the front page of the April, 1962 *Houston Chronicle* is in one of the Council history books)

1963/64 - Leonard & Erma Morris held the 16th Spring Festival (Bluebonnet) in April, 1964. The ladies made bluebonnets for months in advance, and the Coliseum was decorated in a sea of bluebonnets. Leonard & Erma were pre-festival chairmen for the State Festival, held in Houston, Texas, on June 6, 1970.

1964/65 - Harris & Alma O’Brien named the festival, “The Yellow Rose of Texas.”

1965/66 – Bill & Catherine Clegg named the festival, “Space City.”

1966/67 - Pat & Babs Grymes named the festival, “Rainbow.” In 1967, the greatest change in square dancing was from live music to records. Camping was starting to

become popular and square dancing at campouts resulted in the formation of the Camping Squares.

1967/68 – James & Ella Adcock named the festival, “Dixie Daisy.”

1968/69 – Ed & Polly Wischmeier named the festival, “April Showers.” All 39 Council clubs made flowers from IBM cards, which were used to decorate the Coliseum for the festival.

1969/70 – Ed & Gerry Toth laid the groundwork for the State Festival that was held in Houston on June 6, 1970.

1970/71 – Jack & Eleanor Scott hosted the State Festival in June, 1970. The Annual Festival was held April 23-24, 1971, and was called, “Swing Thru Spring.”

1971/72 – Dan & Anita Williamson named the festival “Yellow Rock.” It featured two callers from California, whose names were Bob Fisk and Marv Linder.

1972/73 – Bob & Jackie Palmer held the 25th Silver Anniversary Festival. Bob & Jackie were the organizers and sponsors of the Wheel Blazers of Houston, a handicapped group that used wheelchairs to square dance.

1973/74 – Lee & Lettie Reed held the 26th Festival at the Albert Thomas Convention Center on April 26-27, 1974, and named it, “Main Event.” The Friday night dance featured local callers and cuers. On Saturday, the squares were called by Beryl Main and rounds cued by John & Wanda Winter; exhibitions: Wheel Blazers and John & Wanda.

In 1975, Lee Reed, the Immediate Past President of the Council, wanted to organize a meeting and dance to recognize the club officers. There were two purposes for the meeting:

- (1) To give recognition to the club officers, and
- (2) To provide a forum for the exchange of ideas that would further promote square and round dancing in Houston, and bring a closer working relationship between the clubs and the Council.

The first Club Officers’ Ball was held on Saturday, February 7, 1976, at the Holiday Inn, Medical Center. Since that time, this has been an annual event, held at various locations.

1974/75 and 1975/76 – Jack & Lillian Hine served two consecutive terms as President. It was during their first term in 1974, that the name of the Council was changed to Houston Square & Round Dance Council (HSRDC). In March, 1975, Jack & Lillian presented Houston’s bid for the 1977 State Festival and were successful. The festival was held on June 4, 1977, and Jack & Lillian were the Friday evening pre-festival Chairmen.

Clogging was introduced to Houston in 1975 by Gloria Driver.

In December, 1975, R.E. "Scotty" Scott, Executive Director of the Houston American Revolution Bicentennial Commission, contacted Jack Hine, requesting that the HSRDC be Ambassadors for the 1976 Bicentennial Commission. The Council was requested to perform square dance exhibitions in and around the Greater Houston area, and the exhibition group was called the "Spirit of '76." The group danced together until the end of 1976. Some of the members of the exhibition group were: Lee & Lettie Reed, Bob & Juanda Baier, A.B. & Lovie Moore, Charles & Nita Pace, Ronnie & Bobbie Briggs, and Jack & Lillian Hine, as well as some of the District Directors & Appointed Officers. The callers were Otto Warteman and Bob Baier.

1976/77 – Gene & Clydette Osteen changed the annual Spring festival to the Fall Festival and held it on November 12-13, 1976, at Fondren Recreation Center. During their term of office, the bylaws were revised to have four scheduled quarterly meetings. Clydette was the first female to preside over an HSRDC meeting.

1977/78 – Ray Montgomery & Becky Gray were the first singles to be President. The festival was held on October 21-22, 1977, and was named, "Down Memory Lane." Frank Laine called the squares and Lilly & Ray Doyle cued the rounds. During their term of office, the bylaws were amended to create the 2nd VP position, and they initiated the "Promoter of the Year" award.

1978/79 – Michael & Gladys Culver introduced an Educational Seminar for all the Council elected and appointed officers and district directors. Ollie and Mildred Mitchell from Groves, TX (Past Presidents of the TSFSRD) conducted the seminar in Houston at the Petro-Tex Recreation Hall on Park Place Blvd. The annual fall festival was held on November 3-4, 1978, and was named "Around Houston's Skyline." The Festival was held at the Sam Houston Coliseum. Ken Bower was the featured caller. Mike and Gladys encouraged the Teen dancer program throughout their term of office hosting a Teen Festival in January 1979 at the Fonde Recreation Center on Allen Parkway in Houston.

1979/80 – Ken and Barbara Pylate held the festival on October 19-20, 1979, and named it, "The Magic Hour."

1980/81 – Ron & Karen Cox held the festival on October 17-18, 1980 and named it, "Down on the Bayou." After the City of Houston changed the dates and raised the rental fees, the Coxes moved the festival from the Albert Thomas Convention Center to the Astroarena. This was the first festival held in the Astroarena, and it was very successful. Lem Gravelle was the caller. During their term of office, the format of the Council Newsletter was changed from a single page to the current format.

1981/82 – Skipper Cullison was President. The Festival was held in the Astroarena and named, "Through the Years." At the Second Quarterly Council meeting on November 22, 1981, a motion was introduced by Lee Reed, seconded by Becky Gray, "to pursue incorporating the HSRDC as a non-profit organization, to make application to the State of Texas Comptroller's office for exemption from State franchise taxes, and to approve attorney's fees not to exceed \$500." The motion was approved.

In December, 1981, Stan Upchurch, Buck Flanagan, Lee Reed and Jack Hine had a meeting with Attorney John O'Brien for the above-mentioned purpose. The application required that three or more individuals be named as Trustees for the new corporation, and the names of Buck Flanagan, Lee Reed and Jack Hine were submitted. The Council received notification from the Secretary of State that the HSRDC had been incorporated under the laws of the State of Texas on December 31, 1981. In 1988, the Council bylaws were amended to eliminate the Trustees. Jack Hine was the only Trustee of the original three trustees to serve seven years from 1981-88.

1982/83 – Stan & Eve Upchurch held the Festival on October 15-16, 1982 in the Astrohall, and named it, "Carnival of Dance." Tony Oxendine called the squares and Bob & Barbara Wilder cued the rounds. At the Council's Second Quarterly meeting in 1982, Bruce Niles made a motion that the HSRDC newsletter be renamed, *Where N' When*, and the motion carried. In January, 1983, the HSRDC printed the first issue of the *Where N' When*.

1983/84 – Homer & Cindy Markos held the Festival on October 14-15 in the AstroArena, and named it, "Beyond the Stars." Wayne Baldwin called the squares, and Dave & Nita Smith cued the rounds. One "crazy" story about this Festival is that Homer & Cindy had negotiated the use of a certain gate, and this was advertised to the dancers. They were told that no other events were scheduled at the complex for the entire weekend; however, as the dancers were starting to arrive late, they were talking about the bad traffic and closed gate; Management had booked a TRACTOR PULL and had not informed them. Some dancers missed the dance entirely, but those who came had a very good time. Management apologized profusely, but there was no way to remedy the damage. Homer & Cindy were teased long afterwards (all in fun). At the end of their term of office, Bev Davidson presented them with a hand-made cross-stitch that had a small green tractor in the middle, which she had framed.

1984/85 – Dick & Millie Paxton held the festival on October 5-6, 1984, in the Astroarena, and named it "Up, Up and Away."

1985/86 – John & Mary Pickens held the festival on October 18-19, 1985, in the Pasadena Convention Center, with the Red Boot Boys calling the squares and Bob & Barbara Herbst cueing the rounds. During their term of office, the festival was renamed to "Houston Hoedown."

1986/87 – Chuck & Beverly Davidson held the festival on October 17-18, 1986, in the Pasadena Convention Center and named it, "Houston Hoedown '86." Wayne Baldwin and Wade Driver called the squares and Don and Pete Hickman cued the rounds.

1987/88 – John & Irisgay Crivellari held the Hoedown on October 16-17, 1987, in the Pasadena Convention Center, and named it, "Something to Hoot About." Elmer Sheffield called the squares and Jim & Dottie McCord cued the rounds.

1988/89 – Jim & Shirley Dailey held the 40th Houston Hoedown on October 21-22, 1988, at the Pasadena Convention Center. The Red Boot Boys called the squares and John & Norma Becker cued the rounds.

1989/90 – John & Marjory Alleman held the 41st Houston Hoedown on October 19-20, 1989. Horace Guidry called the Friday evening squares and Jack & Ann Von der Heide cued the rounds. On Saturday, “Rocky” Strickland and Jon Jones called the squares and the Von der Heides cued the rounds. The Allemans started a new program for the student square dancers with the Crawl, Walk and Run dances. These dances were well attended by the student dancers and club angels. The Publicity Director, Otto Warteman, recorded the Hoedown for viewing on local cable TV. He has made other tapes for senior citizens and teens, and these tapes were seen on the access TV cable channels.

6/1/90-12/31/91 – At the Fourth Quarterly meeting, the club delegates voted to change the terms of the elected council officers to the calendar year, and Bill & Glenda Birdwell were elected to serve for 18 months as President. They held two Hoedowns—the 42nd & 43rd—and were the Friday evening pre-festival chairmen for the State Federation dance on June 1, 1991.

1992 – John & Theresa Burleson were the first Presidents to serve a calendar year term (January 1 through December 31). The 44th Hoedown was held on October 16-17, at the Pasadena Convention Center, and was named, “Roses for You in '92.” The Friday night squares were called by Lem Gravelle; and Don & Pete Hickman cued the rounds. The Saturday night squares were called by Dee Dee Daughtery, and the Hickmans cued the rounds. After the Saturday night dance, there was a concert by the Texas Po’ Boys (callers Stu Ringer, Pat Kotal, Jay Flowers, and K.O. Jeanes).

1993 – Ralph & Ila Garner held the Hoedown at the Adams Mark Hotel on October 15-16. Ron Schneider and Larry Letson called the squares; Jack & Ann von der Heide and Maurice & Melba Chambers cued the rounds.

1994 – Billy & Veva Foster held the Hoedown at the Ft. Bend County Fairgrounds on December 2-3, and named it, “Flight '94.” Scott Smith (St. George, Utah) and Larry Letson (McAllen, TX) called the squares; rounds were cued by Kay & Joy Read and Mark & Pam Prow.

1995 – Dale & Doris Ward held the Hoedown at the Ft. Bend County Fairgrounds on December 1-2, and named it, “Ride the Wave in '95.” Chris Vear & Shane Greer called the squares; John & Norma Becker and J.D. & Mary Norris cued the rounds.

1996 – John & JoAnn Criste held the Hoedown at the Pasadena Convention Center on October 4-5, and named it, “Celebrate Houston.” The squares were called by 28 local callers, and the rounds were cued by 6 local cuers. Exhibitions were by the NOW Dancers, The Spirits, the Syncopation Cloggers, and the Rhythm Cloggers.

1997 – Bill & Bonnie Dudley held the Hoedown at the Ft. Bend County Fairgrounds on October 10-11, and named it, “Around the World Celebration.” The squares were called by: Gary Bible, Jon Jones, Bill Wright and Nasser Shukayr; rounds cued by: Bill & Martha Buck and Kay & Joy Read. Barbara Smith was the Contra caller. Exhibitions were: Kay & Joy Read, Bill & Martha Buck, The Texas Luvin’ Cloggers, The Spirits, Rhythm Cloggers, and NOW Dancers. The After Party featured the Lolliettes (Hey Lollies Club), Showtime Barbershop Quartette, and Pat & Joy Kotal.

1998 – Carol & Linda Nixon held the 50th Annual Hoedown (Golden Anniversary) at the Ft. Bend County Fairgrounds on October 23-24, and the theme was, “Back to the Future.” There were 14 area callers and 5 area cuers. Exhibitions were by the NOW Dancers, cloggers Buncy Nemece & Bill Sharber, The Spirits, Scoggins’ Toe-Tappers (a specialized group of 4th & 5th grade tap dance students who clog as a performing troupe and as a marching/drill team unit), and Aggie Wranglers (a premier, student-run C-W dance exhibition team at Texas A&M University). During the Nixons’ term of office, Council-sponsored square dance lessons were offered in several areas of Houston.

1999 – Dave & Liz Russell held the 51st Hoedown on October 22-23, at the Ft. Bend County Fairgrounds, and named it, “Swing in Time Thru ’99.” The callers were: Bob Baier, Pat Barbour, Chris Kermiet (squares & contra), Jerry Story and Tim Tyl. Rounds: Bill & Martha Buck and Mary Norris; lines: Bill Sharber; exhibitions: Rhythm Cloggers, Spirits, Buncy Nemece & Bill Sharber.

2000 – Roy & Ann Durrett held the 52nd Hoedown at the Ft. Bend County Fairgrounds, on October 20-21, and named it, “an Old Fashioned Houston Hoedown.”

2001 – George & Juanita Unglaub hosted the 2001 State Festival at the George R. Brown Convention Center on June 1-2, and named it, “Blast Off in 2001 for Dancing Fun.”

2001 – George & Juanita Unglaub also held the 53rd Hoedown at the Ft. Bend County Fairgrounds, on October 25-26, and named it, “2001 A Dancing Odyssey.”

2002 – Jack & Beth Banks held the 54th Hoedown at the Ft. Bend County Fairgrounds on October 18-19, and the theme was, “It’s All About You in 2002.” Callers were: Larry Letson, Dennis Ray, and The Southern Knights; cuers were: Dick & Karen Fisher, Georgeann Francis, Maurice & Melba Chambers, and Ron & Patricia Cox. Exhibitions: The Golden Girl Tappers (a group of senior ladies, age 60 up, who learned to tap dance at Tracey Gee Community Center), Carl & Norma Lenz (Gospel singers), and Aggie Wranglers.

2003 – Preston & Carolyn Smith held the 55th Hoedown at the Ft. Bend County Fairgrounds on October 24-25, and the theme was, “Keys to Fun.” Callers were: Houston Callers Association, Deborah Carroll-Jones & Jon Jones; cuers were: Georgann Francis and Mark & Pam Prow.

2004 – Tom & Judy Welker held the 56th Hoedown at the Ft. Bend County Fairgrounds on October 22-23, and the theme was “Square Dancing is the Gateway to Friendship”. Callers were: Bob Baier & Pat Barbour (10/22), Wade Driver (10/23); cuers for both nights were: John & Norma Jean Becker.

2005 – Tom & Judy Welker held the 57th Hoedown at the Ft. Bend County Fairgrounds on October 14-16, and the theme was “Square Dancing is the Gateway to Friendship Two”. Caller was Ken Bower; cuers were Karen & Dick Fisher.

2006 – Jerry & Nanette Tucker held the 58th Hoedown at the Ft. Bend County Fairgrounds on October 20-21, and the theme was, “Red, White and Blue from Sea to Shining Sea.” Caller was Joe Saltel (California); cuers were Karen & Dick Fisher.

2007 – Pete & Rebecca Galindo held the 59th Hoedown at Moody Gardens (Galveston) on October 19-21, and the theme was “Square Dancing is...A Glimpse of Heaven on Earth.” Callers were: Mike Hogan (Nebraska), Bob Baier and Pat Barbour (Houston); cuers were: Sonya Savell-Jones (Oklahoma) and Marilyn & Jerral Waguespack (Houston). Exhibitions were: Texas Luv’n Cloggers and The Spirits.

2008 – Ralph & Gaylene Bynum held the 60th Hoedown at the Ft. Bend County Fairgrounds on October 31-November 2, and the theme was “Square Dancing is Fun...It’s the Best...It’s the Berries.” The Hoedown had originally been scheduled at the Pasadena Convention Center, but had to be moved due to water and wind damage caused by Hurricane Ike on September 13th. Callers were: Houston Callers Association (Friday evening), Tim Marriner and Gary Belcik (Saturday); cuers were: Mark & Pam Prow (Friday & Saturday).

2009 – Bob & Joanne Wilson, 61st Hoedown, Moody Gardens Convention Center (Galveston), October 23-25. The theme is, “Dance, Dance Wherever you may be!” Friday night callers & cuers: Houston Callers Association; Saturday Day callers & cuers: Gary Shoemake, Jerry Haag and Houston Callers Association; Saturday night callers: Gary Shoemake & Jerry Haag; cuers are: Mark & Pam Prow.

2010 - Bob & Joanne Wilson will host the Texas State Festival, June 10-12, at the Galveston Island Convention Center. (Note: Although Hurricane Ike did extensive damage to Galveston Island, the Convention Center was not damaged.)

The HSRDC has been the Host City for TSFSRD Festivals (Texas State Federation of Square and Round Dancers) and one National Convention as follows:

June 6, 1970 – State Dance, Albert Thomas Convention Center
June 4, 1977 – State Dance, Astrohall (6,221 dancers; largest recorded attendance to date)
June 6, 1983 – State Dance, Astrohall Complex (Lee & Lettie Reed, President, TSFSRD)
June, 1987 – 36th National (Lee & Lettie Reed, Gen. Chairman; 20,000 dancers attended)
June 1, 1991 – State Dance, Astrohall Complex
June 1-2, 2001 – State Dance, George R. Brown Convention Center
June 10-12, 2010 – State Dance, Galveston Island Convention Center

During 2008, the following local callers celebrated 50-yr Calling Anniversaries: Wade Driver, Hubert Kerr, James Martin, and Wayne Morvent. Each celebration drew a large attendance and the callers were properly recognized for their contributions to square dancing.

This review of the past activities of square and round dancing in the Greater Houston area does not include all of the detail of every activity and event. Some details may have been overlooked and/or not recorded. These omissions were not intentional.

We would like to say, “THANKS” to the many people that have so generously given of their time, money, and talents to promote square and round dancing in Houston through the years.

Cliff Reynolds (*deceased*), Historian
Jack (*deceased*) and Lillian Hine, Historian 1978-1998
Bill & Bonnie Dudley, Historian 1999-2002
Helen Dean, Historian 2003
Ruth Faust, Historian 2004-2006
Helen Dean, Historian 2007-2009