

Welcome
to
The
Shuffler's
Shanty's

GRAND OPENING
Oct. 18, 1969

The Prairie Shufflers
Square Dance Club

Grand Opening
and
Open House



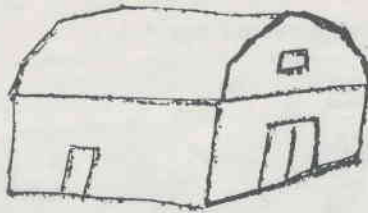
of the
Prairie
Shufflers
New
"Shanty"

717 N. Irving, Kennewick

Public Is Invited To
OPEN HOUSE 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Saturday, October 18th

Grand Opening Square Dance
8 p.m. to Midnight, Sat., Oct. 18
Harold Parker - Caller

Page 7



Our
Impossible
Dream
Come True!

Grand Opening
SHUFFLER'S NEW HALL
Sat., Oct. 18th

717 N. IRVING

KENNEWICK, Wn.

HAROLD PARKER
"CALLER"

TO OREGON

12:00 p.m.

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BE

KENNEWICK

COLUMBIA RIVER

PASCO



BYERS

Grand Opening

Tri-City Chatter

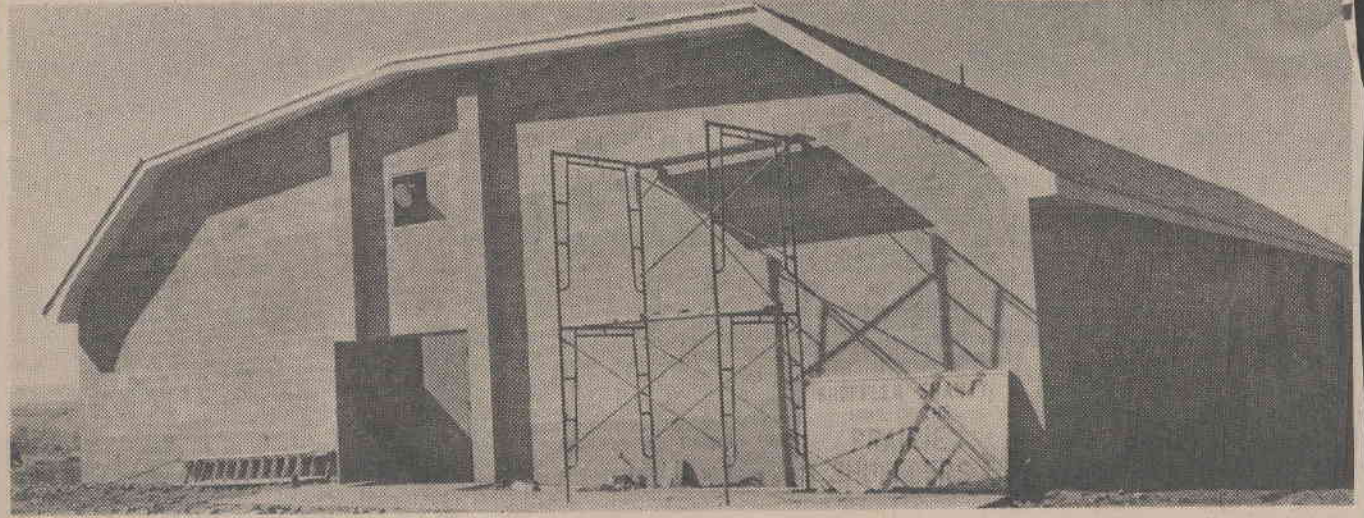


SNACK ON THE RUN

Robert Sheldon, president of the Prairie Shuffler Square Dance Club, grabbed a sandwich from Mrs. Dono Doescher as he danced with Mrs. Sheldon past the snack bar at the new Prairie Shufflers Shanty at 717 N. Irving St., Kennewick. Square dancers from Washington, Oregon,

Idaho and British Columbia will attend the grand opening of the new building Saturday from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Members of local square dance clubs will be on hand to answer questions. Also scheduled Saturday is a dance from 8 p.m. to midnight with Harold Parker as caller.

August 



The Prairie Shufflers square dance group has finished most of the major work on this new dance hall on North Irving Street near the Kennewick Airport.

Square Dancers Complete Dance Hall

A labor of love is about to end for the Prairie Shufflers square dance group.

For the past two months, group members donated money and labor to build a dance hall on North Irving Street near the Kennewick Airport.

The group will hold its first dance in the 60x90 foot building at 8 p.m. Saturday. *8-16-69*

Last June the group lost its lease for the Kennewick Highland Improvement Association building near the Highlands Junior High School. The county condemned the

building and tore it down for road construction.

So the Prairie Shufflers purchased two acres of land off West Metaline Avenue. Members bought \$10 shares of Prairie Land Co. stock to obtain most of the \$23,000 in materials.

Except for concrete wall

construction, some roofing and floor finishing; members built everything including tresses, roof and floor.

Although the building has plumbing, a floor and roof; final touches are to be finished next month. The Prairie Shufflers plan a giant grand opening sometime in October to show off their efforts to the community.

The Prairie Shufflers

Square Dance Club has nearly completed construction of the largest hardwood dance floor in the Tri-Cities. These facilities will soon be for rent to other organizations on remaining open days or evenings for meetings, dances, etc. For information call 582-3571. Watch for Grand Opening of New Shufflers Shanty.

9-26-69

Friday, October 17, 1969

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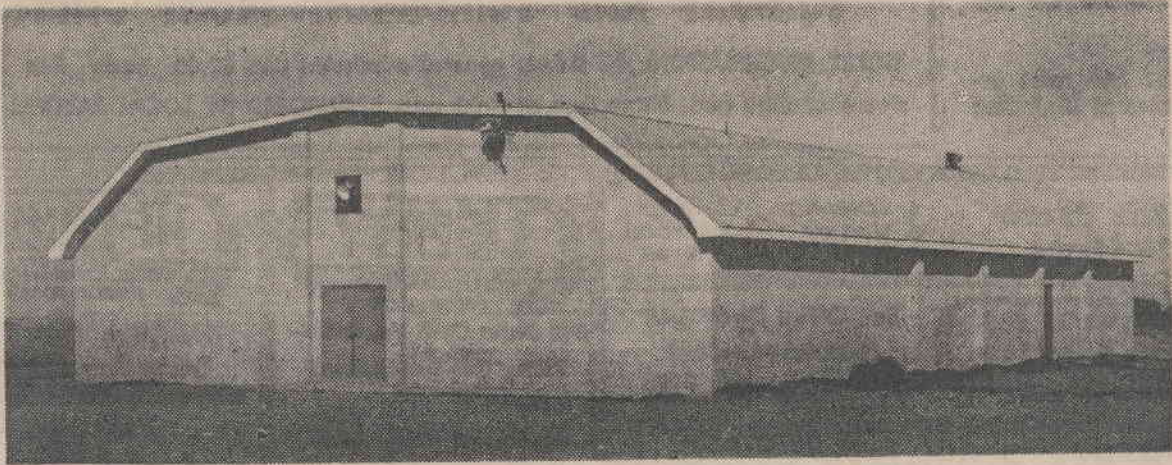
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Sat., Oct. 18 - 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Grand Opening Square Dance
Sat., Oct. 18 - 8 p.m. to Midnight



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On The Prairie Shuffler's
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Square Dance 8-12 p.m. Saturday

at 717 N. Irving
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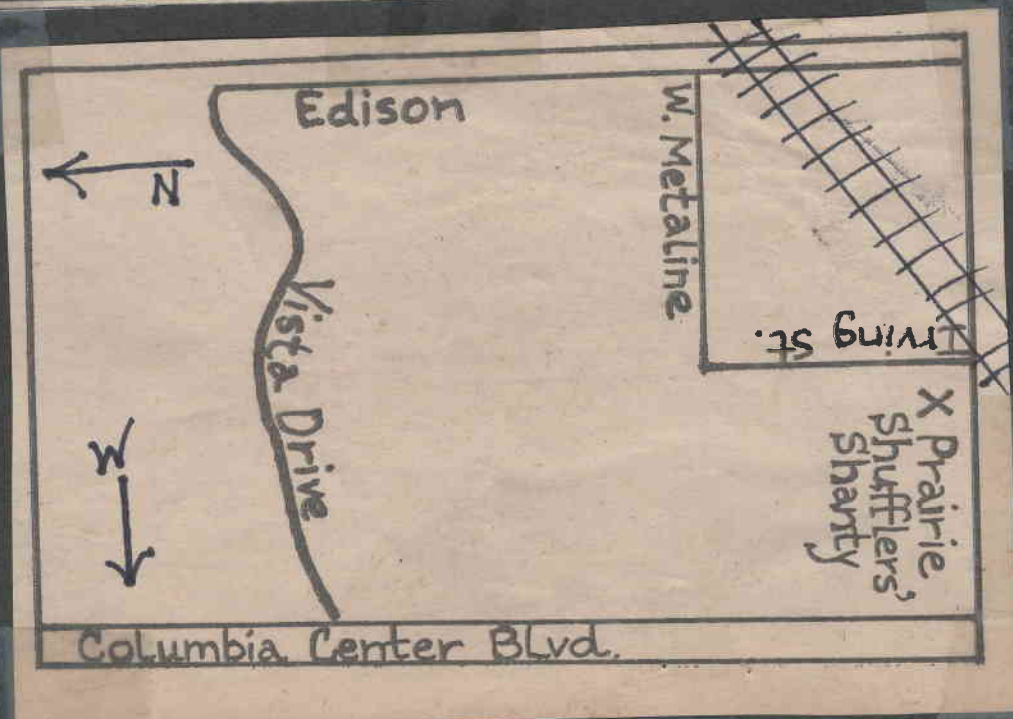
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ARTICLE BY Bob Bush - 1972

Home, Sweet Square Dance Home

Here are two clubs whose members solved the square dance housing shortage

Bob Osgood, Editor

THE CHRISTMAS SEASON is that time of year when all of us, regardless of where we live, begin thinking of *Home, Family and Friends*. For a good number of square dancers, those fortunate to have their own square dance hall, the word "home" has a very special significance. Somehow the close ties built up among square dance "family" members takes on an added meaning when club members join together to plan, to raise funds and then to actually build their own hall.

Over the years this satisfying experience has been shared by many in the square dance world. We've had stories sent in to us from Canada, from a small town in up-state New York, from the San Fernando Valley in California and from other areas. Each account is similar to the others in that the letters fairly bubble over with excitement. Each writer feels that his hall is the greatest and his "family" of

square dancers the best in the world.

In recent months we've received two similar and equally exuberant accounts of square dance house-raising. Some of the practical discoveries made by these groups may just prove helpful to you who may be contemplating building your own square dance "castle" in 1973. In hopes that these two accounts will help to turn your dreams into realities, we'll pass on the information as received by us.

"... A labor of love ..."

WHEN THE PRAIRIE SHUFFLERS of Washington received the shocking news—BUILDING CONDEMNED! Right of Way Needed!—they realized that immediate action was necessary. Two resolutions had to be considered—whether or not they would continue to dance and, if so, where? An advisory group made up of the Past Presidents Committee and the club caller scoured the area, tracked down numerous leads and investigated many facilities. With dances averaging around 20 squares, adequate and economically feasible space was just not available.

The idea of building their own hall was presented to the club executive board and the go-ahead signal was given. A six-man steering



committee, composed of members with building trade skills, accounting background, previous club leadership, and the club caller was appointed to establish criteria for the project. Included were (1) physical layout of the hall, (2) method of financing, (3) performance of work, (4) acquisition of land and (5) ownership.

One month later the steering committee reported to a mass meeting of club members details of their findings. They presented a sketch of the floor plan for a building to be 60' x 90' of block construction and with electric heat

and air conditioning. Financing was to be accomplished by the sale of stock - \$10.00 per share - with a goal of \$15,000. If pledges aggregated the goal within sixty days construction was to start immediately.

All labor possible was to be donated by club members (no shares for labor). It was decided that erection of block walls should be contracted, since volunteer labor would not be suitable. One acre of land was to be purchased, centrally located in the tri-city community of Pasco, Richland and Kennewick. A separate corporation of shareholders was formed, thereby preserving the non-profit status of dance club and also to absolve club leaders of additional responsibilities.

The operation was a three-way protective link between club and corporation: (a) Prairie Land Company - six directors, three each nominated by dance club and corporation shareholders; (b) An annual lease, renewable solely to Prairie Shufflers; (c) Shareholders of stock are dance club members.

At the conclusion of the mass meeting \$8,000 had been pledged and at the end of the sixty day goal period, \$13,000 had been

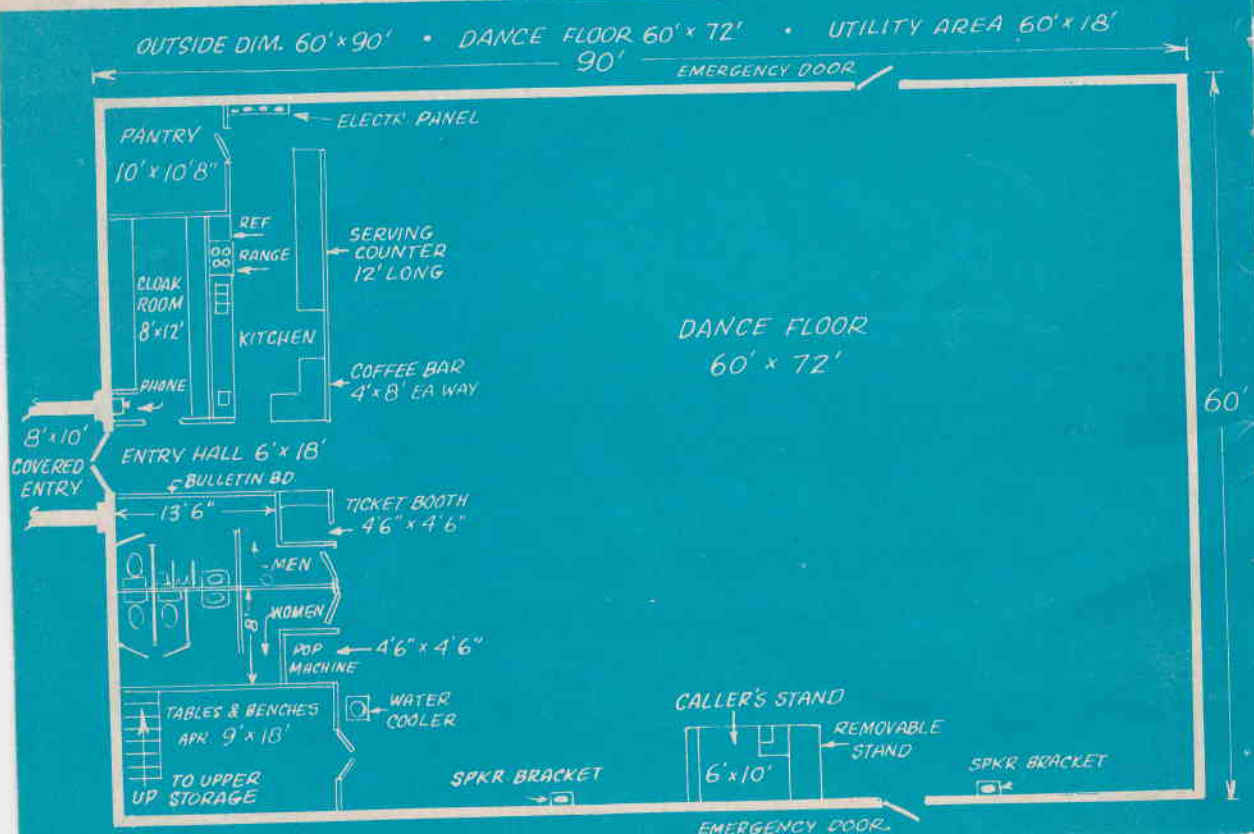
pledged. The groundbreaking ceremony took place on March 29. Five busy months and many potlucks (furnished by the gals) later, the hall was ready for use. Another two months were spent putting finishing touches on the interior. On October 18 a full-day Grand Opening was held and Shuffler's Shanty was officially "in business."

On that wonderful night 51 squares helped to open the new hall, born of a love for square dancing and built by square dancers for square dancers. The final financial report showed a total cost of \$30,000. Of this amount \$20,000 was secured by stock sales to approximately 135 member-households.

The following description of the physical properties of the hall could be used as a check list by any group interested in constructing their own dance facility.

Main Building Structure:

- Cement block walls and concrete foundation
- Sixty foot span wooden truss roof framing with purlin joist and plywood
- Asphalt roofing



Floor Structure:

- 4 x 6 stringers on 4 foot centers
- 2 inch tongue and groove sub flooring
- 1 inch oak hardwood (finished with a special dance floor mixture — needs no wax or slo-down)
- Callers stage has separate foundation and is framed separately

Ceiling:

- 9 foot 6 inches from finish floor
- 6 inch bat insulation placed above suspended ceiling of accoustical tile over dance floor
- Ceiling and walls in kitchen, rest rooms, etc. are of sheetrock
- Some paneling used on dance floor side

Heating and Cooling:

- Four electric furnaces suspended in trusses in attic
- Evaporative type coolers (arid climate) employ 2 cooler units for exhaust fans serving dance floor

Lighting:

- Dance floor — groups of standard 60 watt bulbs on rheostats
- Kitchen, baths, caller's stage — fluorescent fixtures
- Mercury vapor light for parking area
- Standard bulbs for all storage areas

Kitchen Facilities:

- Electric range and refrigerator
- One 3-compartment sink and one single sink (with formica tops)
- Separate coffee bar with outlet for six 84-cup coffee urns
- Coffee bar and serving bar are accessible from both sides to facilitate serving (two lines at one time)

Emergency Doors:

- One on each side of building near the back of dance floor

In the event that you'd like more information on either of these halls, here are the names and addresses of those who have all the information: Prairie Shufflers Shuffler's Shanty, Mr. and Mrs. Bob Bush, 218 Atkins, Richland, Washington 99352 and Merry Mixers, Mr. and Mrs. Harmon Wilson, Rte. #1, Levelland, Texas 79336. They'll be happy to help you.



First day of work. Trenches are dug for footings.



With outside walls up scaffolding is set up.



Trusses are set and floor joists tightened.



Sheathing is applied prior to the asphalt roofing.

Phone:

Near front entry in cloak room

Storage:

Main floor pantry for kitchen supplies
Storage room for tables and benches on
main floor

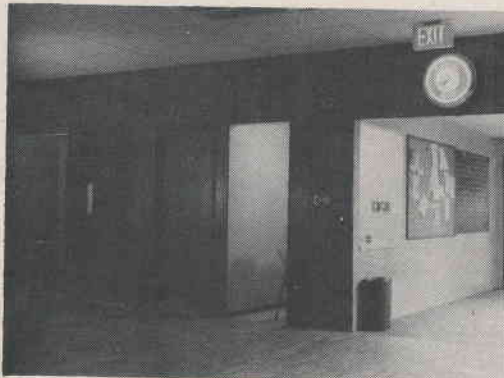
Upstairs storage above utility end of
building for seldom used articles
(seasonal decorations, etc.)



Exterior of building as it nears completion.



Ready for the caller — the stage with equipment set up.



Another view of the interior showing entrance hall.

STILL NO WORD

It's been well over a year and a half since we sent inquiries to a number of pre-fab building construction firms for plans and specifications on inexpensive structures that could be built anywhere. Although we did get a glimmer or two of interest at first, none of the companies have so far come through with anything worth passing along. Our next step may be to commission an architect or builder who will produce some plans for an all-purpose building that can be the prototype for future square dance construction. We're sorry that we haven't come up with the answer as yet, but we're still in there pitching. —editor

Some of the things done for specific reasons:

Left all paint off the dance floor walls for the good of acoustics.

Fastened 4 x 8 sheets of particle board periodically around the dance floor walls to use as a base for decorations.

In entry hall was placed a large bulletin board for flyers, minutes of meetings and a large calendar to keep track of club dates.

Caller's stand is removable from stage for other functions.

Carpeted entry hall to help keep mud and sand off the dance floor.

After having used the building for a period of time, the Prairie Shufflers offer these findings:

Acoustics Perfect!! Attributable to the 10 foot ceiling, unpainted and uncovered interior walls, rectangular shape of dance floor area.

Floor. Hardwood requires less maintenance; better appearance; requires no treatment.

Interior. Ample cloak room space; kitchen, restrooms and storage rooms are located at the same end of the building.

Air conditioning. Evaporative type best suited to arid desert climate.

Labor. If by volunteers, recommend that equivalent shares not be issued. Too many pitfalls.

Prairie Shufflers offer this last bit of advice to anyone planning to build a dance facility: First of all plan a dance hall, then build it. Don't just build a building!

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OCTOBER 1979

UP, UP AND AWAY.....(Page 11)

AMERICAN SQUARE DANCE MAGAZINE

OCT. 1979

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and published for fifteen years by Charles and Ebba Neddee of El Monte, California, is being discontinued by the Neddees, but they may be editing a teen column in the California Blue Book. A surprise plaque was presented recently to Glee Shore of Pomona, California, by the Steeltown Twirlers for her work and dedication in the area of publicity.



Leaders of the Prairie Land Company, square dance shareholders for the Shufflers Shanty in Richland, Washington, home of the Prairie Shufflers Club, are shown recently burning the mortgage, a full three years ahead of schedule at their tenth annual meeting. Shown, left to right, are Jim Vetrano, Bob Orr, Frank Spaniel, Dan Siemers, Kurt Leoser and Bob Bush.

Located in the Tri-Cities area, the Shufflers Shanty is a popular square dance and special events center, now completely owned by square dancers.



MORTGAGE
BURNING
CEREMONY
April 1979



AMERICAN SQUARE DANCE

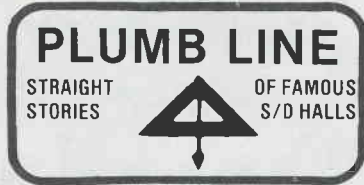
See pg 92

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DECEMBER 1987

Annual \$10.00

Tastefully adorned
same time identified
SQUARE DANCE



SHUFFLERS SHANTY Richland, Washington

Way back in the December, 1972, issue of *SIO (Square Dancing)*, formerly published by Bob Osgood in California), an article appeared concerning the building of *Shufflers' Shanty*, written by Box Rush, a.k.a. Bob Bush. Ten years later, Box told us that close to 50 inquiries had been received asking for more details of the building, located centrally in the tri-city area of Pasco, Richland and Kennewick, and home for a large number of square dance programs.

The building still stands as a model of inspiration for those from far-flung areas wishing to construct their own square

dance halls, and the Prairie Shufflers club still gets requests for information. Without repeating the full account, we'll just touch on the key points of the story:

- An advisory group included past presidents, the caller, others, to investigate .
- A six-man steering committee planned specifics.
- Sale of stock began at \$10. per share.
- Volunteer labor began (no shares for labor)
- A corporation of shareholders was formed.
- The grand opening took place with 51 sets present after five months of work and many potlucks.
- The cost was \$30,000. (\$20,000 via stock sales to 135 member-households).

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- PROBABLY, BECAUZ
AS A CALLER HE
ALWAYS Referted
TO your "CORNER"
AS MABEL (BB)

PLUMB LINE, Continued

- 60'x90' hall features movable callers' stand, kitchen, serving counter, rest-rooms, cloak room, entry way, upper storage, ticket booth, eating area, four electric furnaces suspended from above, air conditioners, extra emergency doors.

Although building costs have risen greatly since the early '70's, the shortage of good square dance homes continues, and enterprising club leaders continue to explore ways to make similar dreams become realities.

American Squaredance, December 1987

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