

A LITTLE BIT OF ETIQUETTE

by Art & Fran Moore

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We have been teaching for 4-1/2 years and during this time we have tried to teach as many Classics and Hall of Fame dances as possible. The majority of these dances are well received and as a result become some of the couples "favorite" dances. We have also taught many other dances which were well received and may become Classic or Hall of Fame Dances and some on the Square Dance Level that are fun to do. Numerous times we have heard from couples that have gone to various festivals, weekends, vacations, or dances around town and asked another instructor to cue a certain dance and have received replies, according to them, such as "My Gosh, that old dance", or "We wore that out years ago", or "I never could stand that dance", or "That dance isn't worth teaching" and some others that we probably have forgotten. We also have heard some of these replies and sometimes they were done jokingly, but the majority of the time they were done in bad taste.

If we, as Instructors, would stop and think, the couple or couples making this request must like the dance or else may have just learned the dance, or just simply wanted to communicate with another instructor because they like you. With one of the negative answers as quoted above, we have not helped round dancing and certainly not helped ourselves as instructors. The comments we hear from the dancers after one of these occasions is that "they don't care about going back to that Instructor", or "that Instructor sure is snooty", or worst of all, "if that's what round dancing is all about we don't want any part of it".

We believe that all of the Instructors can best help round dancing and themselves with an apology for either not knowing the dance, (this is no sin), or not able to remember the dance well enough to cue it, or if you don't care for the dance, to just simply apologize for not having the record, and at the same time keep them talking and find out other dances that they like and that you can do. Also suggest some dances that you do to see if they know them. We've done this and a lot of times received answers like "Oh yeah, I like that dance even better." By keeping them talking you've shown an interest in them and in interest in round dancing, and the majority of the time you have made a friend that you will see again, and to us that's what round dancing is all about.

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