

## ***Jim and Carol Tucker Lincoln, Nebraska***

*Dorothy was caught up in the excitement of the moment, whirled around a few times, and subsequently landed in an unknown and somewhat befuddled world called OZ.*

*With a mere click of her heels, she was enlightened in the wondrous ways of her new world*

Oh, if it were really that simple!!!

Thirty-Five plus years of clicking our heels together, each others -not just our own, inspired us to take time out from the dance floor long enough to try our hand at creative writing. Here is a little bit about us and our dancing career.

Did we say career??? How about hobby turned insanity!!! We started out square dancing in 1976, learned to round dance in 1979, and wore out many pairs of dancing shoes and dance floors for about the next 10 years. We lessoned, workshoped, danced, home-studied, picked brains, and traveled unbelievable miles in search of our own little Oz. We started dancing ballroom in 1980, teaching ballroom classes in 1985, and have taught basic ballroom lessons to over 500 couples during the 12 years we taught through Lincoln City Parks and Recreation. In 1983 we were chosen as the 1st place winners of the ballroom waltz contest sponsored by Lincoln's Playmor Ballroom. Both of us are involved in teaching as a profession and found we liked doing class teaching so it wasn't long before the "cue" bug hit us in 1986. The Omaha dance community welcomed us and we soon found ourselves on the road back and forth for cueing engagements at several dance clubs around the Metro. We have taught many groups of beginner classes and enjoy watching the "light bulbs" come on as music, terms and footwork come together as they learn Phases I and II. We started Rainbow Rounds, phase 2 to 4, in Lincoln in October of 1989 and with the development of skills in Phases III thru V, the need for a higher level group was born. We were granted the charter, by national founders, Frank and Iris Gilbert, for National Carousel Club #250, Rainbow Carousel Lites, in 1993.

We are honored to be the full time round dance leaders for the Chix and Chasers Square and Round Dance Club in Lincoln, NE. It was also our pleasure to have cued, and to continue to cue, for other clubs in the area. We have served as featured round dance clinicians for the Western Nebraska Square and Round Dance Festival, the Panhandle Square and Round Dance Festival, the Council Bluffs, IA Square and Round Dance Festival, the Snowball Classic at Hayes, KS (on multiple occasions), the Single Wheelers Memorial Day weekend at Norfolk, NE (on several occasions), for the 1st annual "Wheatland Classic" round dance festival in Junction City, KS. the Northeast Nebraska Square and Round Dance Festival, the Omaha Square and Round Dance Festival, the Y2K Rounders Anniversary Festival Dance (on several occasions) and we were very honored to be asked to serve as the featured round dance leaders for the 2003 Kansas State Square and Round Dance Convention in Salina, Kansas. We have served as the round dance leaders at the Wichita Round Dance Festival and the Wichita Square and Round Dance Festival (both on multiple occasions). We have been the round dance program Chaircouple for many Lincoln Festivals as well as many Nebraska State Conventions. We also served as the Director of Workshops and Programmed Rounds for the 2008 National Square and Round Dance Festival in Wichita. We were also humbled to be asked to be the featured clinicians for our home town festival, the Lincoln Square and Round Dance Festival several times and, in 2012, as the featured round dance leaders for the Nebraska State Square and Round Dance Convention.

We are members of ROUNDALAB, where we were elected to serve 2 terms (six year term limit) as members of ROUNDALAB'S Board of Directors and also elected to serve 2 terms as the Vice-Chairman of ROUNDALAB, both positions never held by a Nebraska round dance leader before. We are currently serving as ROUNDALAB's Chaircouple of Phase 5 Standardization and Planning as well as having been selected to be the current Parliamentarian for the ROUNDALAB Corporation. We are also currently members of ROUNDALAB's Education committee which plans the education program for our annual convention. We have served as Chairman of ROUNDALAB's By-laws and Procedures committee, as the Coordinators of ROUNDALAB'S Mini-Lab program and we also performed the duties, for six years, as ROUNDALAB'S Chaircouple of the phase 3 Round of the Quarter selection committee, as members of the phase 4 Round of the Quarter Selection Committee, the teaching progression manuals committee, the standardization of classic dance cues committee, the unphased figures committee. We are also members of the Nebraska State Callers and Cuers Association, the Kansas Round Dance Association, the Universal Round Dance Council, the organization of National Carousel Clubs, the Dixie Round Dance Council, and, through our own round dance club (Rainbow Rounds), we are members of the Lincoln Council of Square and Round Dance Clubs, and the Southeast Federation of Square and Round Dance clubs. We also have served as President, vice-president, Lincoln Council consultant, and past president of the Southeast Nebraska Callers Association (SENCA), an organization of callers and cuers in the Southeast Nebraska area.

We are very proud to have been the founders, and host clinicians of the Cornhusker Sweetheart Classic, a phase 2-4+ round dance weekend held over Valentine weekend that served the Round Dance community in Nebraska and the surrounding states for 15 years. We designed this weekend with the express purpose of introducing "skeptical" round dancers to the world of the round dance weekend and show them they could have a good time. We engaged as clinicians the best leaders in round dancing to do our teaching.

We are nationally recognized for the round dances we have choreographed, 31 over the past 21 years. Most of the dances we have written have been recognized as round of the month in various states. Six of these dances, "Quietly Foxtrot", "I'm Confessin'", "The Song From Moulin Rouge", "Won't You Be My Girl", "Un P'Tit Foxtrot" and "When Shadows Are Deep" have been recognized as being among the Rounds of the Quarter as selected by members of ROUNDALAB. "Waltzing With Tammy" made the Australian National Classic List, while "I'm Sorry" spent 2 years on Japan's list of 20 "recommended" round dances. Four others, "Foxtrot Shereen", "Flirting with the Moon", "I'm Confessin" and "Quietly Foxtrot" have been included by ROUNDALAB in the teaching progression manuals as suggested dance to use.

We continue to dance, workshop, home-study, pick brains, travel unbelievable miles and explore round dancing for ourselves in the hope we can share a little of our meager knowledge with those of you who have been most gracious in welcoming us into your circle of round dance friends.