

Faculty Club dances into night, tradition continues over years

By Mary Louise Knapp

Many people think that UNL faculty members do is teach. Not so, according to Mary Ellen Glenn, co-treasurer of the Faculty Dance Club.

The dance club, which meets every other month, will have its first dance of the year Saturday in the East Campus Ballroom.

About 40 couples are involved in the club, mostly married faculty members, although many single members bring dates, Glenn said.

"The club is open to all faculty members from Lincoln schools," Glenn said. Dues are \$30 if paid before the first dance, and \$35 thereafter.

"For eight dances, we feel that the dues are reasonable," Glenn said. Most of the dances are dinner dances and the dinner costs are separate. "You don't have to come to dinner to enjoy the dance," Glenn remarked.

In the past, live bands were used for every dance, but this year the club will hire disc jockeys for one or two dances.

Most of the bands hired are from the Lincoln area. Some, such as the Cosmopolitans, are from UNL.

"It is interesting to note," Glenn said, "that a seven-piece orchestra cost \$40 in 1939, and in 1976 a ten-piece band cost \$225." The average cost for a band today is \$200.

"We're just people who enjoy all types of dances, from tango to waltzes to modern disco," she said. "The members of this club range in age from the 20's to the 70's."

Recently two of the older members, Floyd and Lois Hoover, wrote a descriptive history of the club. The dance club started in 1914 as a highly informal social club by Dr. Winett Orr, an orthopedic surgeon. The first dances were held in a laundry room above the orthopedic hospital. In 1916, the club was named "Faculty Dance Club," its present name.

Early dances included the foxtrot, two-step and the waltz. In the 1930's, the jitterbug and other none-too-sedate dances were popular.

During the 1920s, the club was opened to anyone who taught one hour or more at UNL. In 1923, A.R. Congdon was elected as the first formally recognized president. Other officers were added in 1925-26. Today, couples act jointly as officers. Larry and Billie Brown are co-presidents this year.

Surprisingly, the club became very formal during the 1930s. Men wore tuxedos and women wore long dresses. This custom fell into disuse during the 1940s, when the more relaxed, informal style still used today came into fashion. "We still dress up to some extent, though," Glenn said.

In 1977, membership invitations were extended to faculty from Nebraska Wesleyan and other Lincoln Schools.



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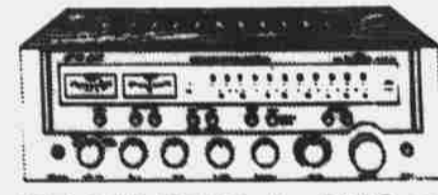
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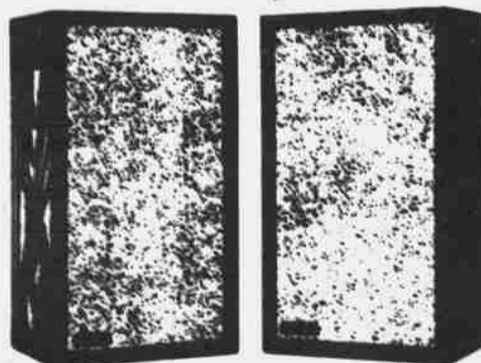


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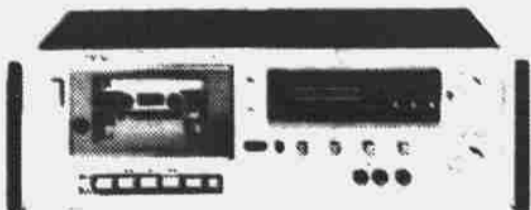
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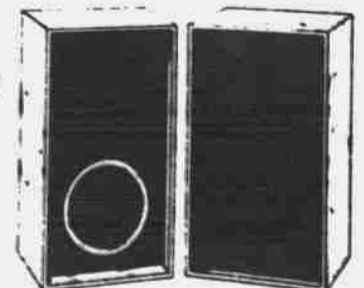


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