Pioneer Dance Calls - Nebraska Folklore

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Nebraska Folklore
NEBRASKA
FOLKLORE
PAMPHLET TWENTY-TWO
PIONEER DANCE CALLS

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FEDERAL WRITERS' PROJECT
NEBRASKA JUNE 1939
"Chase the possum, chase the coon,
Chase the pretty girl 'round the room."

Lines like these were a part of a once popular form of entertainment in Nebraska, the old-time dance. The dances then in vogue, the quadrille, the polka, the schottische, and others, followed conventional patterns, and the dancers were guided through the steps of these patterns by appropriate calls. Partners and couples swung, turned and bowed in rhythmic unison, taking their cues from the voice of the caller against a background of lively music.

Transportation in those days, limited as it was to buggies, two-wheeled carts and democrat wagons, permitted trips of no great distance. The dirt roads, often no better than trails, sometimes hardly passable in rainy weather, further narrowed the social horizon. The pioneers, thus confined to infrequent contacts with the outer world, as represented by the larger cities of Lincoln and Omaha, created a social life peculiarly their own. Church sociables, Sunday visiting and dances came to be their only forms of organized recreation and entertainment.

Among their dances the quadrille, better known as the square dance, was one of the most popular. The callers employed variations of calls brought to this State by emigrants, and occasionally composed original calls. Many callers could conduct a dance all evening, lasting several hours, without repeating the same call twice.

The calls reproduced in this pamphlet have all been obtained from the dictation of native Nebraskans.

The environment of a Nebraska square dance was usually rustic. For instance, John Hartje, of Lincoln, told a Federal Writers' Project interviewer that in the 1890's he used to conduct dances in a long machine shed on his farm, located 12 miles south of Lincoln. A stream of buggies, carriages, spring wagons and horseback riders would begin arriving at his farmyard as soon as the shadows of early evening had begun to fall. Later, after sundown, shadowy figures, laughing and bantering in the dusk, converged upon the machine shed, whose entrance was lit up by a huge iron lamp.
Inside the building, a dozen kerosene lanterns shed a pale glow over the rustic walls and benches. The girls and women wore long checkered gingham dresses with wide skirts and tight waists. Their hair was long, combed into curls and fastened with many pins and ribbons. Now and then "topper" shoes were revealed when skirts were daringly whisked aside. The men, old and young, wore every possible kind of dress, from tight-fitting pants and high collars to overalls.

A kitchen and barroom spirit was created at the apron-and-overall dance, so called because all the ladies wore aprons and the men overalls. Another variation was the necktie and apron dance. For this the women made up an apron and necktie from the same piece of cloth. Before going to the dance the lady would put on her apron and place the matching necktie in an envelope. At the dance the men would purchase the envelopes, the money being usually dedicated for some charitable purpose, and the purchaser being entitled to dance for the rest of the evening with the lady who wore the matching apron.

Mr. Hartje says that after this preliminary skit was over W. G. "Scovie" Selloff of Lincoln, one of the State's most popular dance callers, would take his place beside the orchestra, which, in addition to "Scovie" violin, generally consisted of parlor organ, cello, guitar and mandolin. Here, seated on a raised platform, he would call, "Choose your partners, choose your partners and be ready to go. Choose your partners." With shuffling of feet and ready laughter couple after couple fell into position for the dance, which nearly always began with the Grand March, executed according to the following call:

Fall in by couples and once around the hall,
Then down the center, one by one;
Then around and meet.
Down center in couples,
One couple to right, one to the left,
Around the hall again.
Meet in fours, down center by fours,
First four to the right, second four to the left;
Around by fours and meet in center in eights,
Down center by eights.

The quadrilles, which are sets of four couples, have now been formed.
"Scovie" made his orchestra and they began to play a popular tune of the day, such as "Leather Breeches," or "Old Zip Coon," as "Scovie" calls:

Now salute your partner,
Opposite lady too.
Join hands and circle to the left.
Promenade back.

"Scovie's" voice, clear and sharp, rises louder and louder above the music and the shuffle of the dancers' feet as he continues:

First four forward and back,
Forward again and right and left.

The dance is on as the caller improvises one dance call after another, in time with the music, while every move of the dancers is gracefully executed in perfect unison.

THE QUADRILLES

(This call was often used by Mr. and Mrs. John Hartje for their own farm dances in the vicinity of Roca.)

First four forward and back,
Forward again and right and left,
Forward and back.
Ladies change,
Change right back.
Half promenade.
Balance all and swing.
All the man left,
Grand right and left.
Till you meet your partner.

(Side four repeat once more.)

Second
Change

Balance all and swing your partner.
First couple round the outside,
In the center and six hands around,
To your place and swing your partner.

(Repeat to 6th couple)

Third
Couple

Balance all and swing,
First couple face out.
Seashy right, seashy left.
Ladies to the right,
Boots to the left.
Forward and back,
Forward again,
And swing your partner to your place.

Second couple
Third couple
Fourth couple

THE LANCERS

(Mr. Hartje says that this beautiful dance was popular over the entire State, in both rural communities and towns.)

First four forward and back,
Forward again, turn opposite partner,
Back to your place.
Swing on the corner,
And back to your place,
And swing your own partner.

(Repeat 3 more times.)

First four forward and back,
Forward again and salute.
Back to your place.
Ladies change,
Change right back.

(Repeat 3 times.)

Head couple lead to the right
And salute.
Lead to the left and salute.
Back to your place,
And all salute.

(Repeat 3 times.)

Right hand to your partner,
And swing right and left.
First couple face out,
Sashay forward, sashay back.
Lady to the right,
Gent to the left,
Forward and back.
Swing your partner to your place.

(Repeat 3 times.)

These quadrilles were obtained from Mrs. Charles Huyck, who learned them from her father, W. G. "Scovie" Saidolf, the State's most famous dance caller. Short in stature, but energetic and always smiling, he brought into his calls a great deal of enthusiasm which was quickly transferred to the dancers. He came to Nebraska as a young pioneer and farmer, but his chief interest, during 56 years of calling, was always in the dance.

This call was used by "Scovie" for the beginning of many quadrilles:

Balance and swing.
All the men left,
Grand right and left.
Meet your partner and promenade.

(Then came the quadrille proper, which was danced to the tune of "Buffalo Gals!"

First lady swing with a right hand gent.
The right hand around,
The right hand around.

Partner left with a left hand around.
Swing to the center,
And seven hands around.
(Then)
Second lady swing, etc.
(through the call)
Third lady swing, etc.
(same call)
Fourth lady swing, etc.
(same call)

First couple lead to the right.
Four hands half around.
Right and left six,
Right and left back.
Lead to the next couple,
And four hands half around.

Right and left through to
the next couple.
Four hands half around.
Right and left six.
Then home.

First couple promenade around the outside.
Promenade to the center,
And six hands around.
(Then second couple, third couple and
fourth couple do the same, always
starting with (B) balance and swing, etc.)

First four lead to the right.
Four hands half around,
And swing to a line.
All forward and back.
Forward again and right and left.
Forward and back,
And right and left back.
Four ladies change,
Change right back.
Half promenade.
Right and left back.
(Then (B) call and side couples lead
to the right, etc., same as above.)
Promenade home.

QUADRILLE CALL

This call was another favorite of "Scovie's."

Honor your partner,
Opposite lady too.
Join hands and circle to the left.
First four forward and back.
Forward again and right and left.
Forward and back.
Right and left home.
Ladies change (hold hands).
Change right back.
Half promenade.
Right and left back.
Balance all.
Swing your partner.
All the men left.
Grand right and left.
All promenade.
(Repeat)

Side four forward and back.
Forward again and right and left.
Right and left back.
Balance all and swing your partner.
All the men left.
Grand right and left.
Meet your partner and promenade.
All four ladies lead to the right and swing.
And on to the next and swing.
Home and swing your partner.
All the men left, grand right and left.
All the four parts lead to the right and swing.
(Repeat until all the couples cme "home".)

THE GIRL I LEFT BEHIND ME

(Mr. Dellett, who died in Lincoln in September, 1938, about one week after giving a Federal Wickers project interviewer these calls, was a Nebraska old timer who had played and sung calls in Gove, Custer and Buffalo counties. He loved the dance, and his reminiscences were constantly interwoven with references to his community's indulgence in this folk pastime. He often said, "I could play all night and never play the same place twice.")

First two couples lead up to the right,
Pass right through.
Balance two,
And swing with the girl behind you.
( Four times around)
And promenade eight.
( This was repeated 4 times for each two couples)

POP GIVES THE WASSEL

First gent lead up to the right,
Three hands around and pass right through.

Ladies do-se-do Ballante.
First two lead to the couple on the right.
Half way round.
Do-se-do Ballante.
Break and swing.
Half right and pass right through.
Do-se-do Ballante.
( Four times around)

Some of the tunes that Mr. Dellett played on his fiddle to accompany his dance calls were:

Missouri Mush Ice
Miss Zettler's Horn Pipe
Miss Edgewood Hoe
Irish Washer Woman
Sweat Salt
Turkey in the Straw
Grandfather's Days

OLD DUN TUCKER

( "The Tucker" is not only a good ice breaker but also a variation to relieve the monotony of dancing in a straight set formation and affords an opportunity for the crowd to mix thoroughly. Since the dancers are changing partners with the ever-present possibility that the Old Dun Tucker will steal theirs, the element of chance adds zest to the occasion.

George Nye, of Lincoln, who is a big, good-natured, two-hundred-pound engineer, tells us this Tucker call's)

Old Dun Tucker,
He's in town.
Swing in the ladies,
All around.
First to the right,
And then to the left,
And then to the one,
You love the best.

(Fillmore Greenfield, Lincoln, dance caller and player, tells us more about it)

THE POSITION AND CALL TO START A TUCKER

Form a circle,
Tucker in the center.
"Old Dan Tucker" is the odd man who stands in the center of the circle, which is made up of at least four couples and as many more as the hall will accommodate. When the caller says, "Everybody dance," then, if possible, "Tucker" will try to get a partner and thus some other man will become the odd one in the pairs. If the crowd happens to be large, there may be four or five or more "Tuckers."

As the dancers are executing the grand right and left, and the call "Everybody dance" is given them, each man takes as a partner whatever lady he is handling or meeting at that moment. The exchange creates a great deal of fun and pep up the crowd.

Fillmore Greenfield, of Lincoln, Nebraska, is an ardent devotee of the dance, and particularly the old quadrilles, which he plays and calls, having learned them from his father, Albert Greenfield, who was associated with Nebraska dances for fifty years.

Fillmore, like his father, sometimes plays with a tin tin, which gives a novel tambourine effect to the music. The following dances and calls were given by him and are set down exactly as he told them.

(The terms "Grand right and left" and "Right hand your partner and around you go" in this call have the same meaning, and merely furnish a variety of terms for the same maneuver, which is meeting each lady first by right hand, then by left, and so on around the circle.)

This call can also be given with the following variations:

Original
First couple lead out to the right.
And balance and swing.

2d Term
Lady round the lady,
And the gent so - lo,
The lady round the lady,
And the gent don't go.

3d Version
First couple lead out to the right.
Chase the rabbit, chase the squirrel,
Chase the pretty girl around the world.

All the men left
All the men left
With the old left hand.
Why in the world don't you right
And left grand?
Mind what I say?
Don't go away.
The old man's gone,
And we'll all chaw hay.

ROUND SQUARE DANCE

(The name "Round Square Dance" seems odd, but that's just what it is):

Join hands and circle to the left,
Break, swing and promenade a ring.
First couple balance and swing,
Promenade outside ring.
Right and left through
To the couple you meet.

Side four the same.
Two ladies change.
Change away back.
Half promenade.
Right and left home.
Balance home,
And swing all through.
All the men left,
Meet your partner and promenade.
(Repeat three more times.)

DOLLAR DANCE

(This is one of Mr. Greenfield's novelty calls):

First couple balance and swing.
Load out to the right of the ring,
Change and swing your twenty-five cents
Now your fifty cents.
Now your seventy-five cents.
Now the big round dollar.

(25¢ means "Swing the lady in front of you.")
50¢ means "Change and swing own partner."
75¢ means "Swing opposite partner."
$1.00 means "Change and swing own partner."

and then:

Four hands half,
Right and left thru.
Right and left back.
On to the next.
(Repeat three more times.)

GUARDILLE

(The following call, recently called a square dance in Lincoln, is one which very few know or use today, although many of the old time dancers used it.)
First couple balance and swing
Round the outside couple, half way.
Balance the four in a line.
Opposite two forward and back,
Forward again and right and left,
Forward again and right and left.

**HOME**

Two ladies change in front of the rest.
Change your way back,
Half promenade.
Then right and left home.
Four hands half.
Do-si-do.
Balance home and swing.
(Repeat three more times.)

**SQUARE DANCE CALL**

(Mr. Spellmeyer, of Sumner, Nebraska, has called for barn and country dances for twenty years in Nebraska.)

All four gents to center and back to the bar.
All four ladies to center and form a star.
With right hands cross left hands back and don't get lost;
Pass your partner one and swing.
All four gents to center and back to the bar.
All four ladies to center and form a star.
With right hands cross left hands back and don't get lost;
Pass your partner two and swing.
All four gents to center and back to the bar.
All four ladies to center and form a star.
With right hands cross left hands back and don't get lost;
Pass your partner three and swing.
All four gents to center and back to the bar.
All four ladies to center and form a star.
With right hands cross left hands back and don't get lost;
Swing your partner.
All the men left, right and left.
Meet your partner and promenade.

All four ladies to center and back to the bar.
All four gents to center and form a star.
With right hands cross left hands back and don't get lost;
Pass your partner four and swing.

**SWING THE GIRL BEHIND YOU**

(This is another favorite call used by Mr. Spellmeyer):

All join hands and circle to the left.
All the men left, right and left.
First couple balance and swing out to the right of the ring.
Balance two, pass right through and swing that girl behind you.
Pass right back in the same old track and swing that girl behind you.
Four hands half, right and left through and on to the next.
Balance two and pass right through and swing that girl behind you.
Pass right back in the same old track and swing that girl behind you.
Four hands half, right and left through and on to the next.
Balance two, pass right through and swing the girl behind you.
Four hands half right and left through.
And swing all eight and around the world with a grand right and left.

Second couple balance and swing out to the right of the ring.
Balance two, and pass right through and swing the girl behind you.
Pass right back in the same old track and swing that girl behind you.
Four hands half, right and left through and on to the next.
Balance two and pass right through and swing that girl behind you.
Pass right back in the same old track and swing that girl behind you.
Four hands half, right and left through and on to the next.
Balance two, pass right through and swing the girl behind you.
Four hands half right and left through.
Swing all eight, all the men left around the world.
With a grand right and left meet your partner,
And all promenade.

Third couple balance and swing out to the right of the ring.
Balance two and pass right through and swing that girl behind you.
Pass right back in the same old track and swing that girl behind you.
Four hands half right and left through and on to the next.
And balance two, pass right through and swing that girl behind you.

Pass right back in the same old track and swing that girl behind you. Four hands half right and left through and home you go. And swing all eight, all the men left around the world. With a grand right and left, meet your partner, and promenade.

Fourth couple balance and swing out to the right of the ring. Balance two and pass right through and swing the girl behind you. Pass right back in the same old track and swing the girl behind you. Four hands half right and left through and on to the next. Balance two, pass right through and swing the girl behind you. Pass right back in the same old track and swing the girl behind you. Four hands half right and left through, home you go and swing all eight. Now on the corner if you are not too late, like an old hen swinging on a barn door gate. Hand a man Joe, if they don’t like biscuits feed ’em on dough. Meet your partner and all promenade. You know where and I don’t care.

Mr. Charles Weaver, who married and called dances in and around Friend and Hastings, gives the following calls, many of which were devised and used by his grandfather, then passed on to his father, and him. He says, “Calling square dances has not only been a tradition of three generations’ standing in our family, but has served as a more or less side-line occupation. Every is the happy hour which has been passed deflecting a new house or barn or school, I have been on from quadrille and reels to circle two-steps.” Mr. Weaver studied for the Presbyterian ministry, but this did not cause him to give up dance calling. He says that his most difficult task, during all his years of dance work, was to make himself heard calling to 28 sets, who were dancing in an open air pavilion at Soard, Nebraska.

Mr. Weaver thinks that newer dance forms, such as the jitterbug, big apple, and Lindy walk, are throw-backs to the jigs and semi-arabesque dances of savages and underworld characters, and, though they furnish a means of releasing pent up emotions and energy, there is little of the art and beauty of the quadrille, waltzes and minuets to be found in them.

**Quadrilles**

(Called by Charles Weaver, of Hastings, Nebraska)

All the men left with the left hand partner to a left hand round. Right hand to your partner and right and left round the ring. Meet your partner and grand promenade. Everybody swing.

First couple out to the right, and three hands round. Lady promenade open the door and circle four.

Ladies do and the gents so-lo.

Then on to the next and then to the third, right on home and a grand promenade.

(This is repeated until all four couples have followed suit of the first)

All the men left with the left hand partner to a left hand round. Right hand to your partner and right and left round the ring. Meet your partner and grand promenade. Everybody swing.

First couple out to right and left through. Swing in the center and sides. And a right and left back. Four hands round. Ladies do and the gents so-lo. All the men left.

(Repeat as before)

All the men left with the left hand partner to a left hand round. Right hand to your partner and right and left round the ring. Meet your partner and grand promenade. Everybody swing.

First lady out to couple on the right. Right hand gent with a right hand round. Now your partner with a left hand round. The opposite gent with a right hand round. Now your partner with a left hand round. Left hand gent with a right hand round. Then your partner with left hand round. Birdie in the center and seven hands round. Birdie hops out and crow hops in.

Join your hands and do it again. (Repeat, ending with)

All the men left with the left hand partner to a left hand round. Right hand to your partner and right and left round the ring. Meet your partner and grand promenade. You know where and I don’t care.

All the men left with the left hand partner to a left hand round. Right hand to your partner and right and left round the ring. Meet your partner and grand promenade. Everybody swing.

All four ladies to center and back to the bar. All four gents to center and form a star. Give the right hand across, left hand back, and don’t get lost. Pass your partner first and swing. Then bring your partner. (Repeat with gents to the center)

All join hands and circle to the left.

A right and left and grand promenade.

First couple balance and swing. Promenade around the outside ring.
Right and left through the couple you meet.
Side four the same.
Right and left back and the two ladies change.
Change right back and a half promenade.
Right and left home and swing your partner.

(Repeat)

POLKA DOT QUADRIILLE
(Called by Charles Weaver)

All the men left with the left hand partner to a left hand round.
Right hand to your partner and right and left around the ring.
Meet your partner and grand promenade.
Balance and swing.
First couple out to the right,
And four hands round,
Ladies do and gents so-lo.
It's lady on to the next and three hands round.
Open up the door and circle five.
That's three in the kitchen and five in the hall.
And the way you go with a polka dot dell.
Balance home and swing your partner.

(Repeat)

All the men left with the left hand partner to a left hand round.
Right hand to your partner and right and left around the ring.
Meet your partner and grand promenade.
Everybody swing.
First couple balance and swing,
Down the center and divide the ring,
Lady go right, the gent go left,
Swing at the head and swing at the foot.
Down the center and cast off four,
Swing the same as you did before.
Down the center and cast off two.
Now everybody swing your partner.

(Repeat)

All join hands and left around the ring.
Balance and swing.
First lady opposite gent give right hand across,
Left hand back and don't get lost,
Forward up four in line,
Break in center and swing half round,
Cut a figure eight with lady in the lead.
Break in center and swing half round,
Cut figure eight with gent in the lead,
Center four and four hands round,
Ladies do and gents so-lo.

(Repeat)

Honor your partner right and left.
Join your patties and circle left.
First couple break and circle to right with a post anger twist.
Break and swing.
All the men left with the left hand partner to a left hand round.
Right hand to your partner and right and left around the ring.
Meet your partner and grand promenade.
Now on to the next.

(Repeat)

Join hands and circle left.
Everybody swing.
First couple cut to the right,
Four hands round.
Leave that lady and on to the next with a three hands round,
Take that lady and on to the next with four hands round.
Leave that couple and balance home.
Forward up six and fall back six,
Forward up six and cross over.
Two gents do-as-do.
Two gents to the right and four hands round.
Ladies do and gents so-lo.
Balance home.

(Repeat)

All the men left with the left hand partner to a left hand round.
Right hand to your partner and right and left around the ring.
Meet your partner and grand promenade.
Everybody swing.
First couple cut to the right,
Lady round the lady and gents so-lo.
Lady round the gent and the gents don't go.
Four hands up and around you go.
Ladies do and gents so-lo.

(Repeat)

Left hand circle and a right and left around the ring.
Meet your partner and promenade.
First couple cut to couple on the right,
Four hands round.
Peek-a-boo four.
Peek-a-boo six.
On to the next and four hands round,
Do-as lady and so-lo gent.
Then on to next and four hands round.
Peek-a-boo four.
Peek-a-boo six.
Balance home and swing your partner.

(Repeat)

SWING 'EM BY THE HEELS

(This call has been buried in the State of Nebraska because, due
It is still used in some remote communities when the dance is sponsored by a lodge or organization that can be held for liability in case of an accident but all well known callers over the entire State have been notified by the State Department of its illegality.)

All the men left with the left hand partner to a left hand round.
Right hand to your partner and right and left around the ring.
Meet your partner and grand promenade.
Everybody swing.
First couple out to the right,
And four hands across.
The ladies bow-wow.
And the gents yow-yow.
Pick 'em up and swing like thunder.
Then on to the next.
(Repeat)

Balance home

(Mr. Weaver says that this call has to be altered according to the size of the hall, since in some halls eight sets can dance at one time, while in others many more may participate.)

The dancers form a straight line down the hall one couple wide.
First and third couple out to right and Four hands round.
A right and left four and a right and left eight.
Across the hall.
Balance home and swing your partner.

Second and fourth round but not across the hall,
Balance home and swing your partner.
First and third couple out to right and four hands round,
Right and left four and right and left eight and across the hall,
Balance you home and swing your partner.

ALL THE MEN VARIATION

(Tune: "The Cake Walk")

(This call was also obtained from Charles Weaver, of Hastings.)

All the men left with the left hand partner to a left hand round.
Right hand to your partner and right and left around the ring.
Meet your partner and grand promenade.

Everybody swing.
Three couples form arches and first couple play croquet.
Swing your partner.
All the men left, grand right and left.
Promenade eight until you get straight.
(Repeat)

All join hands and circle left.
It's a right and left and promenade all.
When you get straight swing your partner.
All join hands and circle to the left.
Promenade back single file.
Lady in the lead Indian style.
Then swing that girl behind you.
Repeat four times until you come to your own partner.
All the men left with the left hand partner to a left hand round.
Right hand to your partner and right and left around the ring.
Meet your partner and grand promenade.
(Repeat)

Balance and swing all the men left.
Grand right and left.
Promenade eight until you get straight.
First couple out to the couple on the right.
Two gents whirl with the elbow whirl.
Now whirl your opposite partner.
Now four hands round.
The ladies do and the gents so-lo.
On to the next.
Two gents whirl with elbow whirl,
And then whirl your opposite partner.
Four hands round.
Ladies do and gents so-lo.
(Repeat with 3d and 4th couple)

Balance your weight and swing all the men left.
Grand right and left.
Promenade eight until you get straight.
First couple out to right.

Four hands round.
Two ladies whirl, two gents whirl, all four whirl.
Ladies do and gents so-lo.
(3d and 4th couple same)
Balance and swing, all the men left,
Grand right and left.
Promenade eight until you get straight.
First couple out to the couple on the right.
Four hands round,
Swing with the butterfly swing,
J-in your hands and go it again,
Ladies do and gents so-lo.
On to the next.
(Repeat)

Mr. Weaver further adds that, "Of all old-time dances the recognized ice breaker in any community is called a Circle Two-Step. This gives all of the participants a chance to find out who is a good dancer and who is not. It also lines up the dance at the beginning, for the caller may call any number of different ways to mix the dancers. There are no set rules for this dance.

"The gentlemen choose their partners and the dance is opened with a two-step. At any time the caller may call out, 'All join hands and circle left. Now a right and left!' Then he sees that they are sufficiently mixed he calls, 'Everybody two-step!' and you dance with the partner with whom you are then changing hands.'"

A variation of this dance is: "The ladies on the inside and the gents on the out (or vice versa); circle left and everybody two-step with the partner front of them."

Still another variation is to have the dancers circle Indian file, with the ladies in the lead. At the call the gents make a half circle and dances with the lady behind him.

QUADRILE

(For in the Lincoln, who is an engineer in Lincoln, has turned out the hand of time and literally pioneered in Nebraska in the twentieth century by building a log house and settling on a wild, untamed island in the Platte River. Mr. Nye has played and called Nebraska square dances for thirty years and still plays the violin for dances in Lincoln and vicinity. Below are given Mr. Nye's favorite calls as he sang them to a Federal Writers' Project interviewer.)

Salute your partner,
Then lady on your left.
Grand right and left.
Half right and left.
Balance.
Promenade.
Ladies choice.
Grand promenade.

BALANCE FOUR

(Tune: "Joy of the Dance")

First four right and left.
Balance four.
Turn partners, ladies change.
Half promenade, right left back.
Sides the same.
(Repeat 4 times)

CROSS OVER FOUR

(Tune: "Silver Slipper Horn Pipe")

First four forward and back,
Cross over four.
Change to the right and left.
Promenade and turn.
Cross back and partners separate.
All forward and back, turn partners to place.
(Repeat this 4 times)

CROSS OVER

(Tune: "New Century")

First four forward,
Ladies cross over.
Sides forward and ladies.
Cross over.
Grand right and left.
Quarter round.
Next partners.
Promenade to place.
(Repeat 4 times)

HONE Y SUCKLE VINE HORN PIPE

First couple lead to the right.
Balance four.
Gents take two ladies.
Balance to the next.
Turn five hands around.
Take three ladies.
Balance to the next.
Turn six hands around.
All join hands.
Circle to the right.
(Repeat each couple)
Honey Cole Revival

Grand Right and Left: (Tuneful)
Forward all.
Chose by couples across, right and left.
Half right and left to places.
Balance, turn partner.
First four forward and back.
First couple cross over inside.
Back to outside.
Sente corner and turn.
Sides separate, join hands.
With first four.
Forward eight.
First, forward, turn opposite lady to place.
Turn partner, all forward.
Salute and return to places.

Chicken in the Bread Pan: (Tune: "Skip to Malco By Darling")

(As Nye says, "Every community has a different style of dancing.
The term 'All men left' was sometimes used for "Grand Right and Left.")

Chicken in the bread pan, pickin' up dough,
Chicken in the bread pan, pickin' up dough,
Chicken in the bread pan, pickin' up dough,
Skip to Malco my darling.
Little more dough and on you go.
(Repeat twice more)
Skip to Malco, my darling.

Hit bed with her old score.
(Repeat twice more)
Skip to Malco my darling.

Skip a little further, this will never do,
(Repeat twice more) and stayed.
Skip to Malco my darling.

THE MILLER'S SPOUSE SELL

There was a little miller of mine
Lived by the mill, out of town.
The wheel turned round and round
With a right good will.
One hand in the hopper, good,
And the other in the sacktie and good.
Ladies step forward and gents all,
Fall back, six and six, (Repeat) since done waited.

QUAD1ILLE

(Characters Cole, of Doniphan, has called dances for many years in
Nebraska. He says that calls vary in the different localities of the State,
each caller improvising his own wording. Below are some of Mr. Cole's
favorite calls:

All the men left and a grand parade right and left,
Promenade till you meet your own.
First couple down center and cast off six,
Swing at the head and swing at the foot,
Down center and cast off four.
Lady to the right and the gent to the left.
Swing her once more.
Down the center and cast off two,
Lady to the right and west go thru,
Everybody swing,
All the men left.
(Repeat until each couple has followed suit)

WALTZ QUAD1ILLE

All join hands and circle left.
All the men right and left.
Promenade right till you get straight.
First couple down center and there you divide,
Lady to the right and the gent to the side,
Don't be bashful and don't be afraid,
Swing the corner in a waltz promenade.
(Repeat as before)

QUAD1ILLE

All the men right and left and a grand promenade
Until you meet your own.
All four gents out to right of the ring,
When they get there they balance and swing,
Always remember the call,
A right and a left and promenade all.
(First 4 men and then 4 ladies)

First couple out to the right,
Birdie in the cage and three hands round,
Birdie in the cage and five hands round,
Birdie in the cage and seven hands round,
Birdie fall out and row fall in.
All join hands and circle again.
Swing ten on the corner like you would on a gate.
Now your own.
All the men left.
(Repeat)
SINGING CALL

First lady, put to the right,
Now the one that looks so neat,
Now the one with the little mustache,
Now go home and swing your hash.
All the men left, back hand.
(Repeat)

First couple out to the right,
Ladies bow and gents go under,
Hold 'em right and swing like thunder,
All the men left, back hand.
(Repeat)

First couple out to right,
Form a star with a right hand round,
With the left hand back you swing your opposite then your own.
(Repeat)

First couple round the outside ring,
Right and left to the couple you meet,
Side four the same.
Promenade right back.
Two ladies change,
Change right back,
All the men left and grand parade.
Promenade right till you get straight.
(Repeat)

Balance and swing,
First lady cut to the right to swing the Indian,
Then the square,
Then the little capoose from Arkansas.
All the men left.
(Repeat)

All the men left.
First couple cut to the right of the ring,
Lady round, Gent and Gent don't go,
Four hands half-two ladies change,
Change right back,
Swing your opposite then your own,
All the men left.
(Repeat)

THE GOLDEN WAVE

(G. C. Carter, of Lincoln, possesses an unusual sense of rhythm and split-second timing in his dance calls. A native of Nebraska, where he has called dances for many years, he has had opportunities to observe the dance customs and practices of various communities. Mr. Carter's calls always imbue the crowd with a vibrant interest in the dance because so much of his personality is expressed in his phrasing.)

All four ladies to the center
And pass right through,
Swing your opposite partner
As you had ought to do.
Honor your corner partner,
Your partner the same.
Swing corner partner,
And all promenade.
(Repeat three more times.)

(The second part is the same as the above with the exception that it is called for the gents instead of the ladies.)

This is an old call, often used by Mr. Carter and very popular today, particularly with the older dancers. While it may have originated in Nebraska, it was probably brought to the State by emigrants along with many other calls.

LITTLE BROWN JUG

(Who, young or old, has not heard of the immortal "Little Brown Jug"? Mr. Carter says that the call having this name was very popular in the early days.)

First and second on the floor,
Swing your partner
And balance four,
On the corner, all alone,
Now return and swing your own.

(Then first and third couples reverse the above, then first and fourth;
Second and third,
Second and fourth,
Second and first,
Third and fourth,
Third and first,
Third and second.

The above call is repeated twelve times, once with each couple's position as indicated.)
(The lilting cadence of this call causes it to seem shorter and more effortless than it is)

Circle four in the middle of the floor,
Ladies do and the gents you know.
Break by the left,
And then by the right,
And on you go.
First couple balance and swing,
Down the center
and around the ring,
Lady goes geo and gents goes now.
Corner balance.
Corner whirl.
Promenade that corner girl.

The same little guy with another little girl,
Down the center and around the world.
Lady goes geo and the gents goes now.
Corner balance.
Corner whirl.
Promenade that corner girl.

(Repeat two more times to and including the fourth girl. Then the second couple goes through repeating the call four times, one for each lady; then the third and then the fourth couples, the call being repeated sixteen times.)

EASILY THROUGH

(Called by G. C. Carter)

First couple balance and swing,
Promenade the outside ring,
Sashay through with the couple you meet.
Side four the same,
Sashay back.
Two ladies change.
Change right back
With a half promenade.
Four hands half.
Ladies do and the gents you know,
Light and left through
And home you go.
Turn 'em all eight.
All the men left.
All promenade.

(Repeat above call three more times.)

THE SINGING CALL

(Till McGowan, of Lincoln, a dance caller for many years, gives us the following call. He thinks singing calls adds zest and life to every square dance because the call, awkward intervals are thus eliminated.)

Text 'em up and down.
Turn 'em all around.
All the men left as you come around.
Right to your yard!
And right on around.
Hands over hand,
Right and left grand.
Walk along John with your.
Leather breeches on.
If you ever get 'em off.
You'll never get 'em on.
Rest your partner and promenade.
Promenade home.

First couple balance and swing,
Lead right out to the right of the ring,
Round that couple with the lady in the lead,
Gent fall through and take the lead.
Lead her off to Arkansas.
To act corn bread and possum jaw.
Lady fall through and four hands round,
Four hands up and round you go.
Ladies do-see-do and gents you know.
Two little boys, rollin' the dough,
One more change and on you.

Second couple out and two around,
Two gents fall through.
Chase the groom, chase the cow.
Chase the pretty girl round the moon.
Ladies fall through and four hands half.
Ladies do-see-do and round,
Put 'em on the head.
If you can't get biscuits got corn bread.
Beet your yard with the allow hook.
I see you and you see me.
Allow hook and you I see.
Keep hookin' on.
Kill the cow and skin the calf.
Keep hookin' on for an hour and a half.
Meet your partner and promenade home.
Your half done.

THE WALZ QUADRILLE

(Mr. McGowan says this waltz quadrille is still very popular among the older folks. It is a combination of square and round dancing. The fiddler,
First couple down center
And there you divide,
Ladies to the left,
Gents around the outside.
How to your partner,
Don't be afraid.
Swing on the corner
And waltz promenade.

CHASE THE SQUIRREL

(John Albert Bauer was born near Shinelock, in Cass County, eighty-two years ago. He started calling square dances in the old Hotel Hall in Omaha in 1878. Below are four calls he sang to a Federal Writers' Project interviewer.

Mr. Bauer says this Nebraska call is at least 75 years old.)

Honor your partner,
The lady on the left.
Join hands on circle to the left.
Break out swing.
All the men left.
Grand right and left.
Meet your partners and promenade back.

(Host callers started out the quadrilles with these movements although some did not use all of it.)

Then—
First couple out, to the right, and Four hands right, and break right and left.
Right and left back, left and right.
Two ladies change,
Change right back.
(Repeat three more times.)

GIRL I LEFT BEHIND IS

(Foot caller started out the waltz for this set.)

First couple down center
And there you divide,
Ladies to the left,
Gents around the outside.
How to your partner,
Don't be afraid.
Swing on the corner
And waltz promenade.

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Honor your partner,
The lady on the left.
Join hands on circle to the left.
Break out swing.
All the men left.
Grand right and left.
Meet your partners and promenade back.

(Host callers started out the quadrilles with these movements although some did not use all of it.)

Then—
First couple out, to the right, and Four hands right, and break right and left.
Right and left back, left and right.
Two ladies change,
Change right back.
(Repeat three more times.)

INDIAN FILE DANCE

(Mr. Bauer says this is a comparatively new call, being about 45 years old.)

All the men left.
Right hand your partner.
Grand right and left.
Meet your partner.
Promenade back.
First couple out to the couple on the right.
Four hands half,
Join the opposite couple,
Six hands around,
Six to two end eight hands around.
Break and swing.
Promenade single file.
Indian style.
Stop and swing then every little while.

CUT-A-Figure-EIGHT

(Mr. Bauer says this call is about 75 years old, having been identified with Nebraska square dances in "Poor Men's Haller," Cass County, in the early seventies.)

First lady and opposite one,
Give right hand across.
Join your partners—
Balance four in line;
Break in the center,
Swing half around,
Cut a figure eight,
With a lady in the lead.
Break in the center,
Swing half around,
Cut a figure eight,
With a gent in the lead.
(Repeat three more times.)