Each year the ‘National Folk Festival held in Constitution Hall in Washington, D.C. Dr. Lloyd Shaw, Superintendent of the Colorado Springs High School, got wind of our performances, attended as an observer, and returned to his school to form his own dance group. Both his group and ours received invitations to the National Folk Festival....

There was a large difference in his group and ours. His school catered to the ‘wealthy’ while ours was just ‘good old plain’ folk. His group demonstrated the most graceful and proper decorum while we stomped and shouted, and even tried to kiss our partners during a dance. His group got to go that year while ours could not afford the trip. However......

The following year I joined the ‘Sherwood Group’ of community dancers.....we also got an invitation. We anted up $75.00 each to buy a bus and pay for lodging and meals. I took the radio out of my Model A Ford to provide music as we rolled along..... meals and lodgings were offered wherever we demonstrated our dances.

The National Folk Festival was quite a shindig in which we took part. Dancers from all over the nation were there to demonstrate their community’s dances. During one figure I was supposed to dance with one of twins. I picked the wrong one! I apologized profusely to attending Colorado’s governor Love, who laughingly assured us that the audience thought it was part of the program. The next night I brought my partner a gardenia to wear in her hair so I’d know which twin was mine!

Back at home we began getting letters from those who had sheltered and fed us along the way, telling us of the great interest of other groups in our style of dancing. They were starting western square dancing also. If you mapped our trip you could see the interest in our type of dancing spread as water spreads from a wetted line on paper. Incidentally, we each got our original $75.00 ante form the trip and another $50.00 from our demonstration to boot!

After the Festival we went to New York------on the observation platform of the Empire State Building ------I was approached by a gent who asked if I was with a show------on learning I was from ‘out west’------ he introduced me to his wife------they offered to show me the sights, telephoned for their car and did just that!