

## Collectors and Collections

[This section of the *California Folklore Quarterly* is given over to descriptions of collections of California folklore and related materials within and without the State. The extent and nature of the collections pertaining to the field of the *Quarterly* are to be indicated briefly. On occasion, the work and interests of important collectors in the field will be made known to a larger audience.]

*The Homer H. Kurtz Collection of Fiddler's Tunes.*—This important collection consists of 563 pieces of music. It includes 68 hornpipes, 112 jigs, 164 reels, 75 waltzes, 26 schottisches, 11 polkas, 23 marches, 12 clogs, 7 flings, 43 songs, 2 cakewalks, 19 twosteps, and 1 minuet. It represents the labor of more than forty years, during which time the collector has noted down the music. Long before he began to record the tunes, he kept them in his memory. Mr. Kurtz was born in eastern Indiana on the banks of the Wabash River in 1889. Tunes of this sort were the common dance music of the region. More than 90 items in this collection have never been printed, so far as the collector can learn. Mr. Kurtz gives us the following sample tune. "Lord Harry's Hornpipe" is a tune known to all oldtime fiddlers in eastern Indiana and western Ohio a half-century ago. It was especially popular as a tune for square dances.



LORD HARRY'S HORNPIPE



## Notes and Queries

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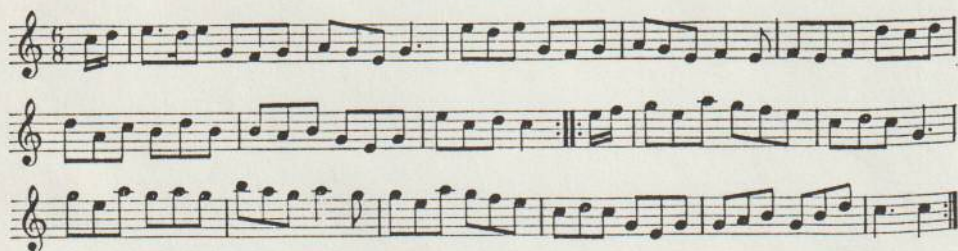
[The editors will welcome as contributions to this section of the *California Folklore Quarterly* either small items of traditional materials or inquiries designed to elicit information about such materials. In general, discussion of the materials here offered will be brief. Records of facts likely to be lost or overlooked, and inquiries which our readers may be able to answer—such items will be the typical ones.]

*California Proverbs.*—The American Dialect Society is collecting all proverbial sayings in the United States and asks Californians for their contributions. All such sayings as “Stitch in time saves nine” and “Make hay while the sun shines” are asked for, as well as sayings typical in California. Will all members of the Folklore Society who have access to old settled country districts or who know individuals in such districts furnish lists of such proverbial sayings? Name of informant and place where the saying is used should be added in each case. Lists should be sent to the *California Folklore Quarterly*, University of California, Berkeley 4, California.

“*Emerald Isle.*”—In western Ohio and eastern Indiana several fiddlers played this tune some forty years ago for the square dance, “Three by Nine in a Waltz You Go.” It was played in regular square-dance time and seemed to fit in exactly with the call. I have never heard the tune or seen the dance in any other part of the country. Try it, you square-dance lovers!

Three by Nine in a Waltz You Go (To the tune of “Emerald Isle”)

### EMERALD ISLE



#### 1. The Introduction

The dance begins, now keep in step,  
All join hands and circle to the left,  
Allemande left with your left hand,  
Right hand to partner, go right and left grand.  
Hand over hand till you come straight,  
Meet your honey and promenade eight.

## 2. The Figure

- A. First couple balance and the first couple swing,  
Lady goes right, gent to the left of the ring.
- B. Three by three in a circle - O,  
Three by nine in a waltz you go.
- C. The lady goes on with the gent behind,  
Three by three in a waltz of nine.
- D. The lady goes on with the gent in line,  
One more time in the waltz of nine.
- E. The lady stays there and the gent comes in,  
Four hands up and circle again.
- F. Lefthand lady lefthand round.  
Pass to the right as she comes round,  
Lefthand lady lefthand round,  
Pass to the right hand and promenade home.

## 3. The Ending

- Balance home and swing 'em all around,  
Allemande left as you come down.
- Grand right and left, don't be afraid,  
Meet your partners and all promenade.

## EXPLANATION OF THE DANCE CALLS

## 1. The Introduction.

This self-explanatory call should be used only at the start of the dance.

## 2. The Figure.

- A. This part explains itself.
- B. First lady and second couple join hands and the three circle to the left while at the same time the first gentleman and the fourth couple circle in the same way. At the same time the caller or some other person joins with the third couple and circles and follows on around. While the three couples circle round once to the left, they are all three moving to the left in a big circle. Hence, the call, "Three by nine in a waltz you go."
- C. When they get around, the lady goes on to the third couple and the gent comes to the second couple and they go through the dance again.
- D. The lady goes on once more to the fourth couple and the gent follows to the third couple and they proceed as before.
- E. The lady stays with the fourth couple and the gent falls in the ring of three on his partner's left. The four then join hands and circle to the left once more one time around.
- F. As they finish the circle left, each gent takes his opposite lady by the left hand and swings her around. When he does that, he will then find that he is



in the right position to take his partner by the right hand and as he swings her round, it comes just right to swing the opposite lady with the left hand once more. He then swings his partner by the right hand to place and promenades on home.

Repeat all of No. 2, "The Figure," for the second, third, and fourth couples.

### 3. The Ending.

The ending is to be used only after the fourth couple has completed the figure. It is self-explanatory.

HOMER H. KURTZ

*Richmond, California*

*The Siegal Rock Ghosts.*—In the *Berkeley Daily Gazette* of May 12, 1944, Hal Johnson tells the story of the Siegal house, which stood near what is known as Siegal Rock, not far from the Berkeley Country Club. The Siegal house, originally known as Captain Gill's house, was leased to an elderly bachelor named Nelson. Three days after he occupied it, his body was found hanging from the rafters. He had been murdered and his money had been stolen. A Mr. and Mrs. Siegal moved into the house.

They became nervous wrecks, because several times they saw a ghost walk right through the living room. Then one day the Siegals disappeared—both of them. Of course they might have moved without telling anyone where they were going, but why did they go and leave growing crops and their furniture behind? It is just as if they vanished into thin air. No! I don't believe in ghosts, but try to explain this to me. I went into that house after the Siegals left. There was an old sewing-machine and I started it to see if it would run. Suddenly there was a mourning sound from the machine. It was as if some woman were there. Then it sounded as if the machine had started running by itself. Perhaps it did. I did some running out of that door and up the hill toward home.

So John H. Davis tells the story.

Mrs. Louis Hagen, aunt of Mr. Davis, tells the following:

I was returning home from school and I got caught in the rain, so I went into the house for shelter. Suddenly there was a peculiar noise. And I am telling you the truth. I saw something like the form of a man pass along the ceiling. The ceiling boards quivered as the apparition floated along. I rushed out without looking back.

Louis Hagen told of the three nights that he and his wife's father, Pat Sullivan, spent in the house during the haying season.

Everything went wrong. The fire went out, then suddenly started up again in the little potbellied stove. Dishes and pans dropped to the floor without warning. But the climax came on the third night we were there. Our beds moved right across the room, and I'm telling you the truth. There was a peculiar sound as if someone was walking in the place. The front door, which I had locked, suddenly opened and