

"We have neglected our own American folk dances which correlate well with our early American History. We have found this year in teaching the early American dances, that unwholesome barriers between boys and girls are gradually being broken down. Certain behavior problems have been solved, the causes of unsocial attitude are being detected, which gives us an opportunity to develop a code for wholesome living."

-- Floy Kensinger
Principal Nettleton, Chester Park
Schools

We have found that the best introduction to such a program is through the medium of American Singing Games. Because of their rollicking nature and their native appeal, we have found that those games found in "Skip to My Lou" published by Girl Scouts, Inc., 14 West 49th Street, New York City, priced at 10¢, fulfill the needs of such a program. We have proceeded with our Social Dancing Program with the following material:

1. "Turn the Glasses Over" - is a good game to use to open a program of social dancing. In this dance there is an odd boy and everyone must grab a partner at the end of the music or be left out. The music to this game is so catchy and the words so nonsensical that it is learned in a very short period.

2. "Four in a Boat" - has usually been the next step. In this game boys and girls have to choose partners and it must be done in such a hurry that they have their partners before they realize it has happened.

3. "Sandy Sand" - introduces the Grand Right and Left, where partners are mixed up and a different one found each time.

4. The "Kentucky Round Dance."

5. The Square Dance - the children in Duluth have had a great deal of fun out of the old fashioned square dance. It is a good form of dancing to be used early in the Social program because there are no definite "steps" to be learned. They really are only drills. Children quickly develop into "callers."

6. The Schottische has an unusual appeal since it is danced in so many nations. During the first semester the women in the department of Physical Education in Duluth conducted a dance group every Monday night. Anyone who was interested was invited to attend. Some evenings there were as many as seventy in attendance. The group decided on the type of dancing it would like and teachers were found. A native of Sweden taught the Schottische which you will see demonstrated today. In some schools the children have learned the Swedish words and sing as they dance. In one part of the Schottische we introduced the closed position for ballroom dancing and our greatest hurdle has been made.