

ATTITUDE TOWARD LEVELS OF DANCING  
by Charles & Alida Lugenbuhl  
(Reprinted from FOOTNOTES IN THE ROUND)

Round Dancing is meant to be an enjoyable, carefree and social activity. Probably most of us will continue to enjoy and stay happy with it if we have or adopt the proper attitude.

Many Years ago Round Dancing was done basically on one level. By that we mean that just about all dancers danced the same level of difficulty and that level was relatively easy. Since those earlier days the dancing level has expanded to where clubs around the country are dancing anywhere from easy level to advanced. We don't feel this in itself is detrimental, but we are concerned about the attitude toward this change within the Round Dance community.

Some easy level dancers think of the dancers dancing at a higher level as show offs and some dancers dancing at a higher level feel they are superior to the easy level dancer. Unfortunately, fewer intermediate dances are being choreographed further polarizing the situation.

The Flecks, who have rated about fifteen hundred dances over the past five years, wrote in a recent article in Quarter Turn about the reduction in the number of intermediate dances being choreographed. The intermediate level is where most Round Dancers want to dance. However, we feel there is and should be a place in Round Dancing for all levels of dancing. The dancers should try to cultivate a tolerance and an understanding for dancers dancing at other levels. Each dancer has his own desires and needs.

Since Round Dancing is not a competitive form of dancing, the Round Dancer should concentrate on himself and not the other dancers. He is not dancing against anyone. Having a noncompetitive good time is the goal and the Round Dancer should find his level to satisfy his needs in order to do this.

A happy Round Dancer is a Round Dancer who will stay a Round Dancer. A tolerance and understanding of and by dancers who dance at different levels will help keep people in the movement. In order to have a healthy, viable Round Dance Activity it is necessary to have a lot of people. This keeps the activity moving in the same direction making progress and change, if need be, at a reasonable rate.

\*\*\*\*\*