

[Mr. Charles Weaver]

Week No. 3

Item No. [1-1?]

Words [1600?]

Percent

Received

Accredited

Do Not Write In This Space DUP

FORM A Circumstances of Interview

NAME OF WORKER Frederick W. Kaul ADDRESS Hastings, Nebr.

DATE Jan 27, 1939 SUBJECT Folklore

1. Name and address of informant Mrs. Charles Weaver, 413 S Garfield, Hastings, Nebr.
2. Date and time of interview January 21, 22, [28?], 1939
3. Place of interview 413 South Garfield — His home
4. Name and address of person, if any, who put you in touch with informant Mrs. Elsie Harger, 410 West 4th St., Hastings, Nebr.
5. Name and address of person, if any, accompanying you

Library of Congress

Mrs. Elsie Harger, 410 West 4th St. Hastings, Nebr.

6. Description of room, house, surroundings, etc.

Neat, modern five room bungalow with furnace heat. Furniture not new or expensive but very well taken care of. C15 [9/27/41 - Nebraska?]

FORM B Personal History of Informant

NAME OF WORKER Frederick W. Kaul ADDRESS Hastings, Nebr.

DATE Jan. 27, 1939 SUBJECT Folklore—Square Dances

NAME AND ADDRESS OF THE INFORMANT Charles Weaver, 413 South Garfield, Hastings

1. Ancestry - (His own wording) My Father was German and Swede. My Mother was Scotch and French. I was born among the Danes and was raised by Bohemians so what does that make me?
2. Place and date of birth - Farm 6 miles northeast of [Friend?], Nebr. Febr. 2, [1895?].
3. Family - wife
4. Place lived in, with dates - in and around Friend, Nebr., until I moved to Hastings, Nebr. on September 3, 1936.
5. Education, with dates - Grade and High School to 10th grade at Western, Nebr.
6. Occupations and accomplishments, with dates - Farming from boyhood until 1936. Other odd jobs of [carpentry?], plastering. Also appointed Deputy Sheriff in four counties of Nebraska.

Library of Congress

7. Special skills and interests - Farming, managing dance halls, and calling dances.
8. Community and religious activities - None of great interest.
9. Description of informant - Weight 240-Height 6/2-Dark Hair and dark complexion. Pleasant disposition. [?], alert, and very willing and helping informer.
10. Other points gained in interview - Further interviews.

FORM C Text of Interview (Unedited)

NAME OF WORKER Frederick W. Kaul ADDRESS Hastings, Nebr.

DATE [Jan?]. 27, 1939 SUBJECT Folklore "Square Dances"

NAME AND ADDRESS OF INFORMANT Charles Weaver 413 Garfield, Hastings, Nebr.

SQUARE DANCES OR [QUADRILLES?]

"In the earlier days such things as Jitterbug dances and [Lambeth?] Walks were unknown but many a happy hour has been passed initiating some new barn or new home with a good old hoe down. Everything was in order from quadrilles to Circle two-steps.

There are few people who can correctly call the old square dances as they were called in days gone by but I was fortunate enough to have the opportunity to call dances as far west as Wyoming and as far east as the Mississippi River.

Calling square dances or quadrilles had not only been a tradition of three generations standing in our family but has served as a more or less sideline vocation.

My grandfather, [Thomas?] Weaver, first learned the calls which he handed down to my father Joseph Weaver, who passed it on to my brother Lewis and I.

Library of Congress

I knew several calls but at the age of fifteen I underwent [the?] natural stage of voice changing and had to be content with helping in the general management of dance hall until I was seventeen years of age.

2

At this time I was studying to be a minister of the Presbyterian Church, however, as dancing was not frowned on by members of our sect I found myself busily engaged in surrounding communities calling dances for many civic groups, lodges, and other organizations.

I can't say I made any amount of money out of it but I did and still do have plenty of fun and feel that its all worth the effort.

My hardest problem to tackle during all these years in this line was to make myself heard to a [28-set?] crowd at [Seward?], Nebraska who were dancing on an open pavillion.

SQUARE DANCE CALLS OR QUADRILLES [Alamand?] left with the left hand partner with 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 three hands round Lady promenades, open the door and circle the four Ladies do and the gents so low 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). [Alamand?] 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 left through Swing in the center and outside And a right and left back Four hands round Ladies do and the gents so low [Alamand?] left. (Repeat as before) [Alamand?] 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 lady [?] 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 you

Library of Congress

partner with a left hand round Left hand gent with a right hand round Then your partner with a 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), [Alamand?] left with the left hand partner to a left hand round 4 Right hand to your partner and right and left around the ring Meet your partner and grand promenade You know where and I don't care. [Alamand?] 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 All four ladies to center and back to the bar All four gents to cent and forma star Give the right hand across, left hand back, and don't get lost [?] your partner first and swing Then swing 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 the 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) 5 This is called the [Polka?] Dot Quadrille [Alamand?] 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 low Its lazy on so the next and three hands round Open up the door and circle five That three in the kitchen and five in the hall And the way you go with a polkay dot all Balance home and swing your partner (Repeat) [Alamand?] 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) 6 All join hands and a left around the ring Balance and swing First lady and opposite gent give right hand across Left hand back and don't get lost [Ford?] 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 low (Repeat)

Library of Congress

Honor your partner right and left Join your parties and circle left First couple break and circle to right with a post sugar twist Break and swing [Alamand?] 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 the the next. (Repeat) Join Hands and circle left Everybody s wing 7 con't First couple out to the right Four hands around Leave that lady and on the next with four hand round Leave that couple and balance home Forward up six and fall back six Forward up six and cross over Two gents doe si doe Two gents to the right and four hands round Ladies doe and gents so low Balance home. (Repeat) [Alamand?] 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 Lady round the lady and gents so low Lady round the gent and the gent don't go Four hands up and round you go Ladies doe and gents so low. (Repeat) 8 Left hand circle and a right and left around the ring meet your partner and promenade First couple out to couple on the right Four hand round Peek-a-boo four Peek-a-boo six On to the next and four hand round Peek-a-boo four Peek-a-boo six Balance home and swing your partner (Repeat)

The following call had been barred in the State of Nebraska because of the possibility of some one being injured. It is still called in some remote communities when the dance is sponsored by a lodge or some other organization which will be held liable in case of accident but well known caller over the entire state have been notified by the State Department of it illegality. [Alamand?] 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 And everybody swing First couple out to the right And your hands across The ladies bow-wow And the gents yow-yow Pick 'em up and swing like thunder Then on to the next. (Repeat) 9 [Alamand?] 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 Ever body swing First couple out to the right Lady round the lady Gent around the gent Lady round the gent and Gent around the lady Four hands up and round you go

Library of Congress

Ladies doe and gents so low On to the next till you get home Then balance and swing your partner. (Repeat)

The following call had to be altered according to the size of the hall. That is in regard to length and width. In some halls eight sets can dance at one time and in others more may participate. The dancers form a straight line down the hall one couple side 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 First and third couple out to right and 4 hands round Right and left four and right and left eight and across the hall Balance you home and swing your partner. 10 (Called to 'Cake Walk music) [Alamand?] left with 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 couple form arches and first couple play croquet Swing your partner [Promenade?] eight till you get straight. (Repeat) All join hands and circle left Its 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 [Alamand?] 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) 11 Balance and swing [alamand?] 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 doe and gents so low On to the next Two gents whirl with elbow whirl and then whirl your opposite partner Four hands round Ladies doe and gents so low (Repeat with 3rd and 4th couple) Balance your weight and swing [Alamand?] left and grand right and left Promenade right till you get straight First couple out to right Four hands round Two ladies-whirl-two gents whirl-all four whirl Ladies doe and gents so low. (3rd and 4th couple same) 12 Balance and swing-[Alamand?] left Grand right and left Promenade eight till you get straight First couple out to the couple on the right Four hands round Swing with the

Library of Congress

butterfly swing Join your hands and go it again Ladies doe and gents so low On to the next
(Repeat)

Of all the 'old time' dances the recognized 'ice breaker' in any community is called a Circle Two Step. This give all of them a chance to find out who is a good dancer and who is not. It also livens up the dance at the beginning for the caller may call any number of different ways to mix the dancers up. There are no set rules for this dance.

The gentlement 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.' When he sees they are sufficiently mixed up he calls 'Everybody two-step' and you dance with the partner that you are then changing hands with.

Another call that they use in this dance is to have the ladies on the inside and the gents on the out-or visa versa-circle left and everybody two-step with the partner in frontof them.

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

There are many other variations of this dance and as I mentioned before there are no set rules but is left to the callers imagination. He may call anything but the ide is to get people acquainted and in a friendly mood."