

**The original documents are located in Box 46, folder “Travis, Calla (Dancing School)” of the Betty Ford White House Papers, 1973-1977 at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.**

### **Copyright Notice**

The copyright law of the United States (Title 17, United States Code) governs the making of photocopies or other reproductions of copyrighted material. Betty Ford donated to the United States of America her copyrights in all of her unpublished writings in National Archives collections. Works prepared by U.S. Government employees as part of their official duties are in the public domain. The copyrights to materials written by other individuals or organizations are presumed to remain with them. If you think any of the information displayed in the PDF is subject to a valid copyright claim, please contact the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

August 25, 1974

Dear Molly:

Think I finally have all the info for the accompanying photos. The numbers on the backs and the listings below will correspond. Incidentally - the name of the dancing school was Galla Travis - not Davis - I didn't pick it up - I was just admiring the good job you did on the article - but I've been getting untold calls concerning same as Miss Travis was a G.R. "Institution", so to speak! Enclosed an article from the Press at the time of her fiftieth anniversary - in case you can use some of the info connected with Betty. Miss Travis was responsible for arranging Betty's summer at Bennington College.

Photo Listing

No. 1: "Night - in a Modern Mood"

Date: May 1935 - Senior Class Graduates

Identification: Mary Snapp, Bonnie Kate Idema, Dorothea Sutter, Betty Bloomer, Shirley Brooks, Barbara Dunham, Phyllis VandeBunte, Sara Paul, Gloria Lively.

No. 2: "Modern Melodies"

Date: May 1936

Identification: Mary Snapp, Dorothea Sutter, Betty Bloomer, Harriet Grove, Phyllis VandeBunte.

No. 3: "Scaramouche"

Date: May 1936

Identification: Betty Bloomer and Mary Snapp

(Betty received her Normal Certificate at this time and became a member of the Travis School faculty in the Fall of '36. Left for Bennington Summer School of Dance in '37. Went on to New York to model and continue studies with Martha Graham, joining the performing group for appearances on the east coast. Returning to Grand Rapids to continue dancing, teaching and modeling. Spent summers at a private girls' camp - Bryn Afon - near Rhinelander, Wis. as head of the Dance Dept. Married Bill Warren in '42.)

No. 4: "Fantasy"

No. 5: "

Date: June 1945

Description: Original composition depicting modern fashion section of fashion show benefit - an annual local charity affair of the Babies Welfare Guild. Designed costume also - steel grey leotard, gray satin skirt with godets, sash and gloves of magenta. (Sorry couldn't locate the glossy of the Press pic. Hope it is clear enough to use in re-photograph, but am sending both for your choice)

(Also in 1945 - at the request of the Director of the Fine Arts Dep't. of Fountain St. Church - Amy Goodhue Loomis - Betty organized a group of dancers to perform in several of



the Vesper Service presentations. We did a series of Psalms - The Devil and Daniel Webster and in '47, a tremendous production entitled "The Three Parables". A religious dance-cantata by contemporary American composer Lionel Nowak. It was the premier performance of the work and was done many times afterward throughout the country. Betty's choreography became a permanent part of the productions. This affiliation was the beginning of religious dance in the Grand Rapids area - another First for First Lady Betty!

(Became Fashion Co-ordinator at a local department store with weekly tea-time fashion shows as well as arranging appearances of her models for many charitable organizations' fund raising projects - 1946.)

In 1946 Betty developed the Grand Rapids Concert Dance Group - which leads into pictures 6-7-8-9. Take your choice!

No's. 6-7-8-9 "Spring" Poem by Joseph Auslander

Date: May 1948

Music: Collins C. Clark

Choreographer: Betty Ford

Costume Design: Betty Ford - pastel gowns with ombre

Dance Type: Creative Modern chiffon over one shoulder

Photos: William Gutaskus and as detail at waist.

Dancers: (See pic 7 - if  
you want correct line-up)

Betty Ford - Marilyn Tooker - Kay Clark - Viola Gutaskus

I stretched it a bit when I listed Betty as Ford - she didn't marry Jerry until that Fall - but leave out the date "May" and let it stand. Hope you can find all - or a least some of this useable. I tried to get this off to you sooner but got caught in another project commitment right after you phoned. If you have any questions don't hesitate to call and I shall try to help. Good luck!



With best wishes  
to Harold Ringold Ford  
Betty Bloomer  
July, 23rd 1975

Miss Calla Travis  
Annual May Dance Revue  
" 1933 "

St. Cecilia Auditorium  
Grand Rapids, Michigan

Friday Evening, May 19, 8:15 P. M.  
Saturday Matinee, May 20, 2:30 P. M.

---

ASSOCIATE DIRECTORS-FACULTY 1933

MR. HAROLD RINGOLD, guest teacher will present his dance creations throughout the program entitled "Dance Moods."

GRADUATE ASSOCIATE DIRECTORS

Miss Helen Gillaspay, Miss Josephine Warren, Mrs. Jeanne Helmer Darling

---

After June 15 Miss Travis will open her summer school at the Belvedere Club, Charlevoix, Mich. The present Studio location will be closed at the end of this season. A new studio school suite with all modern equipment will be opened early in the fall. Location to be announced later. Phone School secretary, 87536 for information.

PHONE 87536



*Shoes worn in Tap numbers in this  
Revue furnished by*

## R & S Shoe Store

238 Monroe Avenue

*A complete line of Capezio Dance Slippers  
for every dance occasion.*

Verratta Smith

Phone 8-0581

*Specializing in the Eugene \$5.00*

### *Verratta Beauty Shoppe*

Finger Waving      Marcelling  
PERMANENT WAVING  
Shampooing      Manicuring

7 Ransom Ave, N. E.  
Near Fulton

### DENISON CO.

135 FULTON ST.

Telephone 87674

*Hats and Dresses of Distinction  
at Moderate Prices*

## DE LUXE GARDENS

*Dinners -- Salads -- Toasted Sandwiches*

POPULAR PRICES

*The Place to Eat After the Play*

1503 LAKE DRIVE

PHONE 87178



.... Program ....

Part One :

ACT 1. Opening Fantasy

1. Fireflies: Solo Dancer—Jean Nicholson.  
Mary Jane Kirchgressner, Miriam Snider, Nancy Palmer, Betty McCormick, Inez Cole, Jean Nicholson, Margaret Mary Jones, Virginia Miller, Louise Ann Usher, Barbara Williams.
  2. Fantasy Pirrots.....  
Marjorie Simpson, Marcia Steketee, Carolyn Hendricks, Helen Kirkpatrick, Louise Phillips, Betty Jo Jarvis, Mary Ann VanderVeen, Katherine Verschoor, Virginia Tuthill, Jane Ellen Cooper, Cynthia Murray, Harriet Ann Corbus, Betty Jean Farley.
  3. Butterflies .....  
Dorothy Jean Dawson, Dorothy Snider, Naomi Johnson, Jean Merdinger, Elsie Evans, Phylis Crane, Doris Andrews, Phylis McDowell.
  - "Hide Away" Tap.....  
Lois Merdinger, Marcia Travis, Gretchen Griffin, Marcy Donker, Carol Marshall.
  4. Bumble Bees.....  
Patricia Muir, Mary Ann Lynch, Bonnie Jean Evans, Barbara Muir, Helen Hutchins, Patricia Geistert, Raydelle Evans, Betty Keeler, Nancy Wilmink, Joanne Voorheis, Virginia Tidey.
- Baby Tap—Mary Grubb, Helen Jean Troy.

Act 2. Schooltime

Opening—"Twinkle Twins"—Marian Doane, Jeanne Darling.

Playground Stunts.....

1. Acrobatic Solo—Virginia Miller.
  2. "Dance Mood".....  
Elizabeth Robinson, Nancy Schermerhorn, Lila Hicks, Bobbie Faust, Mary Jane Kirchgressner, Barbara Williams, Jane Uhl, Florence Troy, Marjorie Low, Sally VandeCar, Katherine Black, Mary Jean Doyle.
  3. Group No. 1—Helen's Tappers.....  
Cynthia Murray, Emy Lou Ross, Mary Ann Griffin, Patricia VanValkenburg, Betty Farley, Doris Richards, Harriet Ann Corbus, Annie Low Hall, Carolyn Hendricks, Doris Chapman.
- Group No. 2—Helen's Tappers.....  
Dorothy Jean Dawson, Dorothy Snider, Naomi Johnson, Jean Merdinger, Elsie Evans, Phylis Crane, Doris Andrews.
- Folk Irish Jig—Miss Ruth Longfield.
4. Schooltime Ensemble—

Act 3.

"Long and Short of It".....Harold Ringold  
With Josephine Warren, Helen Gillaspay, Jeanne Darling, Marian Doane.  
"A Dance Mood"



Act 4.

Harold's Junior Tap Dancers.....

Group No. 1.....

Betty Williams, Nancy Avery, Mary Idema, Betty Ann Jaquith, Mary Snapp, Phylis VandeBunte, Dorothea Sutter, Bonnie Kate Idema, Sara Jean Paul.

Acrobatic Tap Solo—Marian Banks.

Group No. 2—"Fun On Foot".....

Madeline Ringold, Donna Baltes, Gretchen Van Sluyters, Stanislaw Nowak, Dorothea Sutter.

Group No. 3.....

Gloria Lively, Helen Louise Keeler, Marian Banks, Janet Hushour, Shirley Brooks, Barbara Dunham, Ruth Williams, Jean Fales.

Act 5.

Tap Dancers—Edward Denman, Robert Denman.

Act 6.

Dance Mood—"Mood Indigo".....

Peggie Murphy, Jean Carlyle, Winifred VanKuelen, Harriet Grove, Marian Doane, Ruth Longfield, Lorraine McCormick, Louise Uhlmann.

Act 7.

Comedy Drama Dance—"Dutch Sketch".....

Mary Cleland—The Girl; Lois Sandler—The Boy

Act 8.

Exhibition Waltz.....

Featuring MR. HAROLD RINGOLD and Miss Katherine Beardslee in a Blue Danube Waltz.

Soloist, Mr. Sidney Straight singing "Love is a Dream" and "Was It a Dream?"

---

MARTINI'S PLACE

Dinners Served by Reservations Only

*"You Will Like Our Service"*

CHICKEN DINNERS, \$1

Phone 116, Line 826-F3

R. R. No. 1, West River Road

BERNARD  
LIBRARY

## Act 9.

### Ballet—"Rehearsal and Marian's Dream".....

A musical interpretation from Anton Arensky's "Romance" and "Valse" Featuring Josephine Warren and Marian Doane. "Rehearsal and Marian's Dream" gives a picture of back stage rehearsals. The Ballet Mistress appears, proceeds to encourage the pupils in their specialty dancing. Weary with efforts to dance, Marian falls asleep during an exhibition of the Ballet Mistress' dancing. Marian is now shown as "Premiere Danseuse" 'but all in a dream. Again the rehearsal. The Ballet Mistress rudely awakens Marian, and continues the dance.

### Ballet Ensemble.....

Peggie Murphy, Jean Carlyle, Winifred VanKeulen, Lorraine McCormick, Betty Bloomer.

### Dream Ensemble.....

Mary Snapp, Phylis VandeBunte, Dorothea Sutter, Sara Jean Paul, Betty Ann Jaquith, Mary Idema, Nancy Avery, Betty Williams, Helen Randall.

## Part Two

### Act 1. "Dude Ranchers"

Leaders—Betty Bloomer, Dick Cornelius.

Solo—Lorraine McCormick.

Pony Boy and Girl—Milton Bryson, Betty Ann Jaquith.

Girls: Fronia Davidson, Elizabeth Merrick, Barbara Collisi, Betty Bennett, Elizabeth Ann Bottje, Sally Dix, Betty Jane Plumb.

Boys: Allen Hall, David Amberg, Jimmie Idema, Bob King, Tom Hubbard, Abbott Bullock, Jack Hess.

---

*Clothes worn by the Boys in Act 1 of Part 2 furnished by*

**A. MAY & SONS**

---

**The Mary-Marie Dressmaking Shop**

1203 Madison Avenue

*Expert DRESSMAKING at Reasonable Prices*

Furs Repaired or Remodeled

Dresses, Suits and Coats Repaired or Remodeled

---



*Compliments*

**Pantlind Luggage Store**

**Act 2.**

Harold's Harlem—"Just Easin' Along", featuring Harold Ringold Ensemble, Katherine Beardslee, Lois Sandler, Mary Cleland, Eleanor Happel, Dorothy Chinnick, Louise Uhlmann, Mrs. Robert Fox, Esther Hansen.

Pickaninny—Louise Ann Usher.

Mrs. Edward Brink singing "Lindy Lou" and "Going, Going, Gone."

**Act 3. Spic and Spanish**

Spanish Waltz—Miss Helen Gillaspy.

Tango Leaders—Winifred VanKuelen, Edward Denman; Peggie Murphy, Lester Johnson, Harriet Grove, Bonnie O'Brien, Jean Carlyle, Jack Dalton, Ruth Longfield, Emory Lowry, Lorraine McCormick, Dennis Kelly, Betty Bloomer, Monte Welch.

"Dance Mood", Spanish Tap—Helen Gillaspy, Edward Denman.

Cape Ensemble Finale.

**Act 4. Harold's Wooden Soldiers**

Miriam Snider, Nancy Palmer, Lila Hicks, Betty McCormick, Margaret Mary Jones, Jean Nicholson, Inez Cole, Louise Ann Usher.

**Act 5. Adagio—Indian Design**

Jeanne and Tom Darling. Mrs. Edward Brink singing "Pale Moon."

**Act 6. Dance Mood in Black and White**

"Happy Feet"—Peggy Murphy, Jean Carlyle.

1. Manhattan Serenade. Solo—Miss Josephine Warren.  
With Esther Hansen, Dorothy Chinnick, Lois Sandler, Mary Cleland, Louise Uhlman, Mrs. Robert Fox, Katherine Beardslee.
2. Sweet and Hot.  
Peggie Murphy, Jean Carlyle, Winifred VanKuelen, Ruth Longfield, Lorraine McCormick, Harriet Grove, Marian Doane.
3. Kickin' Kapers.
4. Strut Finale.

Phone 80114

**The Beryl Shop**

DRESS MAKING and  
GENERAL ALTERATIONS

Miss Cooper

218 Ashton Bldg.

Compliments of

**Matthew Schmidt**

444 Bridge St., N. W.

*Granite and Marble*  
**MONUMENTS**

Office Phone 9-3832



**Act 7. Jazzomania**

Josephine Warren, Helen Gillaspy, Edward Denman, Robert Denman.

**Act 8.**

Featuring Mr. Sidney Straight, Vocalist.

**Act 9. Bolero**

**Mr. Harold Ringold** and his partner, Miss Katherine Beardslee.

Interpretation of Ravel's "Bolero" taken from a story of a dance and music suggested by a painting by Gayna, theme known as "Obstinate."

**Act 10. "Rhapsody in Blue"**

Choreography by Harold Ringold. Music by George Gershwin, arrangement for two pianos. The formal Opera Ballet is in conflict with the Ballet Modern, vividly portrayed in the arm movements of the opening Ensemble and the quick interpretation of the ballet technique to modern music.

Modern Ballet—Miss Esther Hansen.

Opera Ballet—Miss Josephine Warren.

Sarcasm—Miss Harriet Grove.

Opera Ballet Ensemble

Winifred VanKuelen, Marian Doane, Lorraine McCormick, Ruth Longfield.

Ensemble

Dorothea Sutter, Bonnie Kate Idema, Mary Snapp, Sara Jean Paul, Betty Williams, Phylis VandeBunte, Marian Banks, Gloria Lively, Barbara Dunham, Shirley Brooks, Betty Bloomer, Helen Louise Keeler, Jean Fales, Janet Hushour.

**FINALE.**

Normal Graduate 1933—Miss Marian Doane.

Certificate Credits—Miss Ruth Longfield, Miss Lorraine McCormick.

Accompanists—Mrs. Frank Stokes, Mrs. Frederick Royce, Mrs. Robert Luce.

Pecussian Instruments—Mr. Leon Knapp.

Lights and Staging—Hugh Hayward.

Designer of Costumes—Miss Esther Hansen.

School Secretary—Miss Lola E. Davis.

Appreciation from Miss Travis to all patrons, co-operation among all pupils, splendid assistance from graduates, associate directors and musicians, in constant attendance and loyalty from all studio associates.

We all desire to express our happiness and appreciation for the year's study and association with Mr. Harold Ringold. We wish him every success in his profession "The Dance Art."

EBALD P. J. CHU LINDEN

# ARTHUR F. CRABB

*Flowers of Quality*

Fulton at Jefferson

Telephone 9-4234

*Compliments*

*from a*

**FRIEND**

*Save Your Hair!*

Put your Scalp in a Hair  
Growing condition

IT CAN BE DONE

Try us on a Money Back  
Guarantee.

**Joslin Shoppe**

Phone 6-2042 212 Watson Bldg.

Banquets and Bridge Luncheons

Phone 608-33 F 6

**Old Home Tavern**  
**CHICKEN DINNERS**

KALAMAZOO ROAD, Five Miles from City Limits

**DANCING**

Anything Special by Appointment

Private Dining Rooms

