

THE PINEWOODS MORRIS MEN

were formed in August, 1964, at Pinewoods Camp in Plymouth, Massachusetts, during the annual "Dance Weeks" conducted by the Country Dance and Song Society of America. The team has two officers: the Squire, who acts like a president, and the Bagman, who does the rest of the work (he gets his title from the gentleman who carries the bag of sticks and paraphernalia during a tour). Through the sponsorship of Mr. Nibs Matthews, the Pinewoods Morris Men became the first (and still only) team outside the British Isles to be accepted into the Morris Ring, a loose federation of the teams of England.

THE MORRIS TOUR

is a long-standing custom in England, where the dancers perform on many village greens in the course of a day.

THE CONNECTICUT COLLEGE ART DEPARTMENT

PRESENTS



A MORRIS TOUR WITH THE

Pinewoods Morris Men

SATURDAY, MAY 5th 1973 1:00 – 4:00

BEGINNING AT CROZIER-WILLIAMS
ON THE CONNECTICUT COLLEGE CAMPUS
TO BE FOLLOWED IN THE EVE BY

AN ENGLISH FOLK DANCE

CROZIER-WILLIAMS, 8:00

THE ENGLISH MORRIS DANCE

comes straight out of the ancient spring rituals of renewal and fertility. As with so many similar traditions, strong medicine is required to insure the success of the crops and the increase of the population; this kind of magic is traditionally man's work, and the Morris is for men only, who disguise themselves and go about the countryside bringing good fortune to all. With the dancers come the Hobbyhorse and the Fool, figures of fun and of deep mystery, out of the old ritual plays.

The existence of the Morris tradition, in the villages of Oxfordshire and the surrounding country what is called the Cotswold, was brought to the awareness of the rest of England by Cecil Sharp, who in 1899 first saw a traditional Morris team dancing in Headington, Oxon., where he had gone to collect folk songs. Since then, the work of Sharp and his successors has caused the popularity of the Morris to spread, encouraging the revival of many traditional teams and the creation of new ones. Nearly every village in the Cotswold has or has had its own tradition; from these come the dances in today's tour.

The characteristic Morris dance is performed by a team of six men dressed in white, decorated with ribbons, bright waistcoats or baldrics, and wearing bells on their legs. It is not a display of virtuoso stepping; the dancer uses his whole body, accenting the rhythms by waving handkerchiefs, clapping, or banging sticks. The dances all follow the same general pattern of a set of figures, alternating with a chorus. A dance usually builds to a climax of high leaps ("capers") and sometimes a great shout. A few dances, called jigs, are solos, and seldom danced by more than two at the same time.

(continued overleaf)



The dances will be taken from those listed below:

Beaux of London City, Badby
Highland Mary, Bampton
William and Nancy, Bledington
Leap Frog, Bledington
Shooting, Brackley
Brighton Camp, Eynsham
Balance the Straw, Fieldtown
Constant Billy, Headington
Getting Upstairs, Headington
Rodney, Headington
Ring O'Bells, Lichfield

The Itinerary

1:00	Harris Refectory Green
1:40	Crozier-Williams Green
2:15	Cummings Art Center, Sculpture Court
*3:15	Stonington Village, Wadawanuck Park

*This site is tentative and if it is not possible to dance here an alternate place will be chosen.