

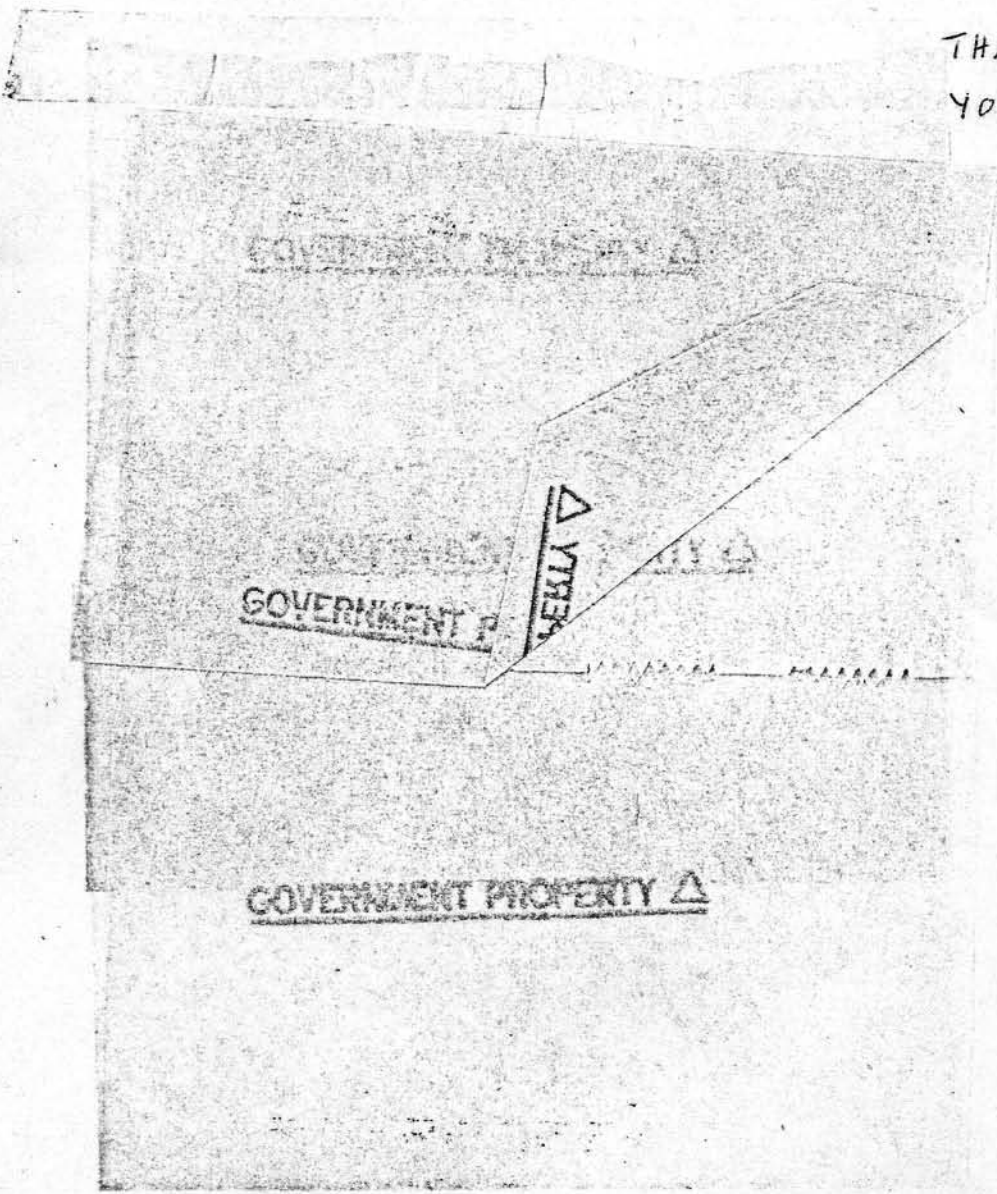


REMEMBER:

If it's not in the log,  
it didn't happen -

THANK-YOU FOR  
YOUR COURTESY

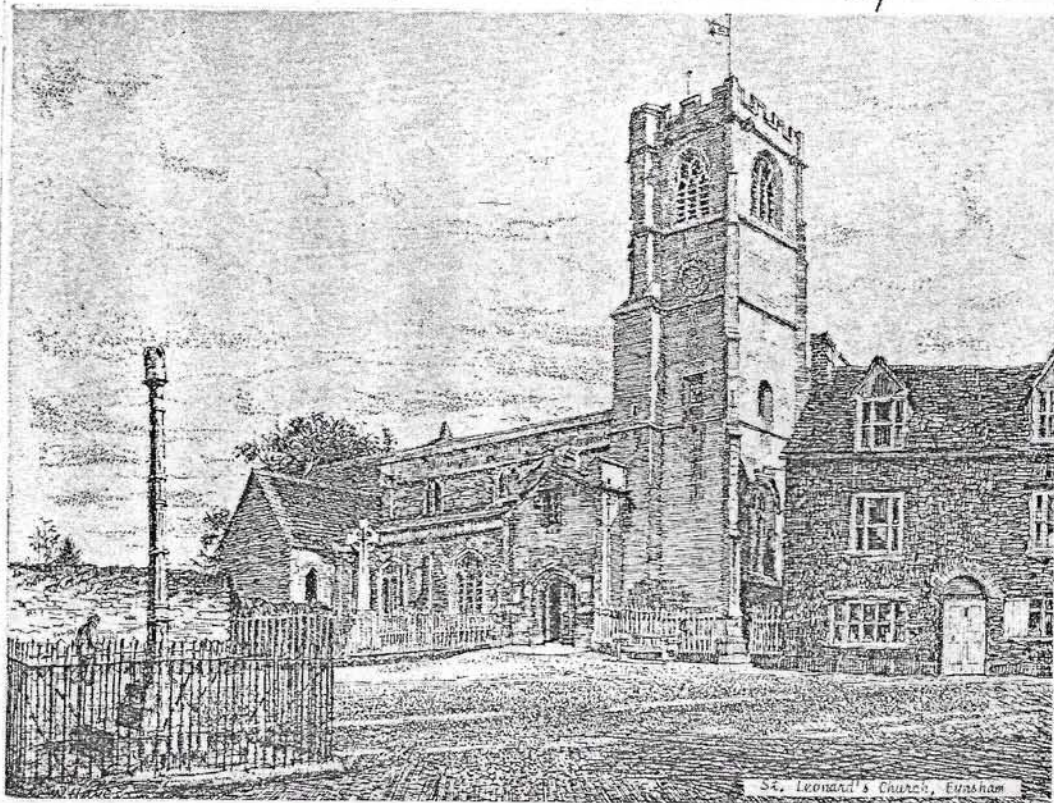
*J. M. Stangl*





Saturday, June 16

sight of waving handkerchiefs & ribbons at a school  
 fête in Hinksey, <sup>(Coxon.)</sup> so altered plans and stopped  
 off to watch. The team dancing was Bucknell morris,  
 a woman's side who have been dancing just over a  
 year. Kit was white high-collared shirt and trousers (!) ~~and~~  
 red suspenders & sashes & black top hats with wide red,  
 white and blue ribbons. Their style of dancing was  
 rather restrained (small steps, close to the ground, small  
 crisp arm movements); music was provided by melodeon  
 and accordion. First Ring O' Bells dance in English  
 soil was an informal <sup>to put it mildly</sup> ~~celebration~~ of Stmington  
 Old Mother Oxford performed & borrowed handkerchiefs  
 and bells in a field in back of the school.  
 Proceeded on to Bampton around 5:30 pm. Stopped  
 for sight-seeing at St Leonard's church, Eynsham, built  
 ca. 1200. Frank has also spotted a cricket game



in progress, a  
 canal boat and  
 3 men from  
 Eynsham morris  
 on bicycle today.  
 Spirits are high  
 (many bad puns  
 in the subject  
 of cows) and  
 skies are occasional  
 blue! Left  
 Eynsham to the  
 peeling of ancient  
 bells, and for the third time today left for Bampton.  
 Increasing excitement as scenery becomes increasingly

~~gorgeous~~

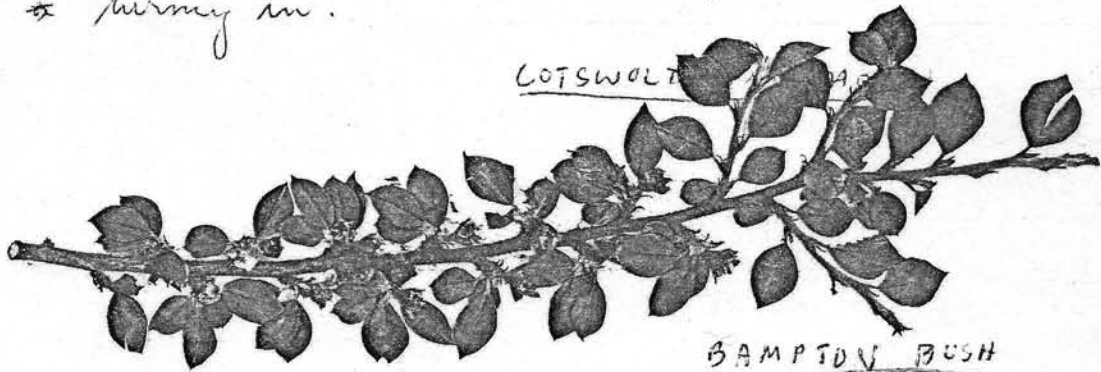
gorgeous. Magpie spotted (in the bush, of course), and many sheep. Emergency stop for team photo in front of signpost to Bampton & other hotbeds of Morris activity. Sheep appear unimpressed, though Nancy M says she'll take the third ~~one~~ on the left. Back into the van & on to Bampton. Growing concern over fact that all signposts to Bampton say "5 miles". Moving right along...

Arrival in Bampton 6:43 p.m. Had a look around the Talbot hotel (traditional site of Bampton dancing) and then had supper at Poacher's Rest, which was kindly opened especially for us by the proprietors. Music and relaxing out back in the garden, we are all "incredibilized" (Nancy S.) by the hospitality & beauty. Toast to R.O.B. England tour & our hosts offered as we "mellow out" listening to the crowing of a rooster over the lichen-covered stone walls... In for a meal of turkey and a complimentary bottle of champagne!!! ~~for~~ More <sup>more</sup> post card writing over coffee, a round of "Wild Mountain Thyme" to thank our hosts...

Evening stroll through grounds of St. Mary's the Virgin. Clippings from flowering Bampton bushes (which were swarming with bees despite the hour (9pm) to bring back to all R.O.B.'s. Incredibly peaceful we're all tending to pick a secluded corner <sup>in the cemetery</sup> ~~in the back~~ to enjoy the silence and sweet smells of English countryside evening. Then on to Ford, a small village near Stow on the Wald to meet England's Bride Phoenix Morris and Cardiff Morris. Arrived around 10<sup>30</sup>pm to a fantastic welcome, learned that a 3-course meal had been prepared for us (which we didn't know about as their information letter never reached us in the state - only

4. June 14-17

through desperate last-minute phone calls had we been able to track them down). Informal dancing out in back of the Plough Tavern, beer & cider for all. Watched in amazement as 1 team demolished 3-4 sticks in the course of a single dance! The campsite was like a tent display in a sporting goods store — we were given 4 tents to ourselves, which we found provided 2 individual foam pads! Much semi-drunk fooling around ~~with~~ before turning in.



COTSWOLD

BAMPTON BUSH

Sunday, June 17

Tea and coffee brought on a silver platter to our tents! Breakfast provided for each R.O.B. tent by a neighboring host tent, hints out jiggery again, state she "ran into a bull". With R.O.B. warm up then off to Bonstone on the Water described by our hosts as "nice but a little sport" for the first stop.

England's glories clad in ankle-length navy blue sailor shirt and skirt trimmed with white and red, started things rolling with an Elmston dance (their only tradition).

Their way of dancing is apparently based on earlier-collected notes and is done with single steps and

AUTHENTIC  
COTSWOLD  
WOOL!

Sunday, June 17

alternately swinging arms. They work as being a precision team & do not cover much distance on their figures, but stepping is vigorous & the feet together at end of stepping sequences is a definite jump. Cardiff women dance a variety of traditions, none of which are recognizable by us, as informed by starters (one of whom was Roy Rommett) <sup>but thought to be Cotswold</sup> Cardiff women dress in red gingham knee-length dresses, black lace-up vests, black top hats with individual ornamentation & black sheer stockings. Shoes are low heeled black shoes with straps <sup>to</sup> which the bells are attached (same as worn by England's Glory and Ladies of Green Willow). Ladies of Green Willow are a <sup>proper</sup> bunch who dance in multi-colored patterned calico ~~is~~ frocks (floor-length) with white pinnacles and straw hats decorated with flowers. Very decorative. A nice surprise was to see them dance some Lancashire dog morris - the other traditions they danced did not seem to be from the Cotswolds (more information to be gleaned when we stay with them).

Phoenix morris women dress in brown corduroy pants, brown vests with <sup>yellow</sup> phoenix designs on the back, red shirts, yellow handkerchiefs and red & yellow ribbons. Phoenix dance Strunghon, Brackley, Bucklington & others. Informed by starters retreat to a safe distance when they arm themselves with sticks, as they continue to break sticks per dance! Is it a joke? From



Bourton proceed over the hills to <sup>a pub in</sup> Quitting Power, an "unspoiled" little village for lunch ~~at the pub~~ (provided gratis by our hosts). Jessie learns never to order cider. All teams dance 1 dance at

June 17

quitting. Phoenix women carry on in typical form by performing a dance which features drinking of a half pint of beer by each dancer in turn - New Towne will be notified that their true soul-mates have been found deep in the heart of the Cotswolds. Cotswold Farm Park, a preserve for remnants of formerly abundant but now rare species of ~~land~~ indigenous ~~wildlife~~ farm animals/wildlife was the site of the next stop. The day of dancing ended at Sudeley Castle (built in the time of Henry VIII) where a hot air balloon meet was in progress. Huge, multicolored balloons hung in the air above the partially crumbled walls as we danced for a ~~large~~ large crowd of Sunday tourists. Flurry of group photograph-taking after the dancing, then in for a complimentary tea in the banquet hall.

Much anxiety on the subject of ~~proper~~ crumpet-and-tea etiquette, especially among those sitting with Lake, of Green Willow (Does the clotted cream go on top of the jam or vice versa?) Back to the campsite in Ford to pack up & head out to dinner & dancing at Alan & Hilary's country home (near Cheltenham). Home brewed lager, beer & cider sampled with varying results by R.O.B. Great appearance by Gloucestershire Morris men who danced some Oddington, Longbrough & other dances with great enjoyment. ~~of~~ Gloucestershire M.M. buttons distributed to interested parties.

Supper of meat loaf & baked beans followed by some more and country dancing in the garden.

R.O.B. by R.O.B. Jessie gets



June 17-18

works to R.O.B. as sung by Gloucester.

"Farewell Manchester  
Farewell noble city  
Farewell Manchester

Sadly I must go."

Evening broke up late with R.O.B. farmed out to various E.G. households, to meet in early a.m. in Cheltenham.

Monday June 18

Joty McGeen arrives! and travels to Birmingham where she will be met by Holder's Golden, sight-seeing by groups in the Cotswolds, back to Carol & Alan Williams' in Cheltenham for an early (4pm) meal of shepherd's pie. Off in the van for an 8pm pub rendezvous with representatives of 7 Holder's Golden. The phantom dogger accompanies us on the roof. Many fine specimens of dead birds seen by side of road, dead bird guide book to be purchased at first opportunity. Arrive at Chicken & Hen (or was it Hen & Chicken?) put on schedule, with cheering as Joty McGeen emerges tired but triumphant through side door. We listen in horror & amazement to her tales of "standing by" (separate monograph on ~~the~~ The Stand-By People to be published by field worker McGeen on her return to civilization) and all congratulate her on her perseverance in the face of overwhelming inconvenience. Met by Holder's Golden. We all glean the impression that we had better dance with all the steps pulled out or risk going down in their powder-puff book. Off on a 2-hr caravan through beautiful Birmingham to



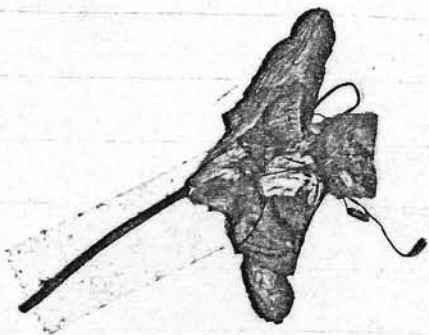
8.

distribute people at their lodgings. Emergency fresh and chips stop at 11pm. no doubt to the great bemusement if not disgust of our native guides. Much discussion on best way to get grease stains out of wash & wear fabric. Good, though... Careful scheduling of sleepless versus sleepful nights for people on the basis of past hours of sleep logged, extenuating conditions etc.

Tuesday June 19

Suggestion by Meg that Peace Corps workers be sent to England to teach natives ~~in~~ how to install plumbing & equip homes with wastepaper baskets. Pick-up rounds by the big white van at 10 AM sharp. Folly of shirtless British men rise to 13 with one shirtless gypsy. Picnic lunch at Warwick castle, several people say they don't care about seeing castle, but want to see Janis' reaction to torture chamber. I say! Wandering around the castle till 4pm, everyone feeling slightly sleepy, various theories advanced to explain this phenomenon. Bright hazy sunshine all day, sunbuck dresses and sleeveless tops have emerged from people's backpacks for the first time. Morris dancing? - isn't that a kind of tea cake??

Ring O' Bells practice on grounds of Warwick castle, peacocks scream for help. Back to Birmingham via the scenic route despite Birmingham A-Z. Linda says that tomorrow she's wearing a skirt with no



WARWICK CASTLE  
CLEMATIS

June 19

9.

underpants, and she doesn't care who knows. Finally reached pub and were met by Holder's Golden's (named after a local brewery) and Witty Pear (a team from Kidderminster named after a tree brought to this county by the Saxons which now exists only in this area). Holder's Golden's dressed in black pants, white shirts, golden ~~flat~~ baldicks with maroon & purple trim, straw hats, golden handkerchiefs & black flat shoes. Bell pads with ribbons ~~the color~~ of matching the rest of the kit were worn.

Witty Pear dressed in unbleached cotton dresses which fell to just below the knee covered by short dark brown velvet coats. Sleeves were short, and there was a broad ruffle at the bottom of the skirt. Footwear was individual, to say the least, & ankle bells were worn. Handkerchiefs were multi-color.

Both teams really got off the ground with their dancing, and stepping style changed markedly from tradition to tradition. Generally, the knees are brought up higher than we see over in the States. Holder's Golden's dance Bucknell, Bidford, Wheatly Upton on Severn & others (it seems to be the rule rather than the exception that the teams here dance many traditions rather than just 1 or 2.) Witty Pear dance a variety of traditions, including Alington, Blekington, & Apton-on-Severn and also dance some dances from Worcestershire & some Northwest Morris. Both teams have been dancing about 5 years & have the look of experienced sides. Music was provided by melodeon, flute, <sup>electric fiddle</sup> field drum (with bicycle horn). So far we have not seen any fools, jivions or other "characters," our own Beverly Francis has had the field to herself! Format for the dancing was

June 19

round-robin style, as neither Holden's Golden or Witty Pear are "into" massed dancing. Three stops were made, all at pubs, and all dancing was on good old-fashioned concrete, hurrah! The stops were not particularly scenic, but we are all enjoying the bolsterous good humor of our host teams. Ring o Bells ended its evening of dancing with "Ring o Bells" which drew shouts for "more" (whether out of friendliness or admiration). A bag of five pounds was presented to us (something of a surprise, they are subtle bag-passers) and ~~drinks~~ were on our hosts. Eight ROB's off for a late night (11pm) dinner of Indian food at the "light of Asia" in near. by Dudley. Jody Mcgeen has her coca-cola brought in with a flourish as we are about to figure up the bill. Panel discussion on ice cream moderated by Sue. Back to our lodgings <sup>with</sup> the faithful van with Sue and Beverly at the helm. These two are such a cool team the rest of us rarely know when we're lost. Meanwhile, Lee Ellen and Jessie are learning never to stay with musicians...

Wednesday, June 20

A day of relaxation for some of us, a dip out to the country for a walk for the rest. Another day of bright hazy sunshine & high temperatures will I actually return home with a sun tan ?? Pennine <sup>excited</sup> van-loading at 4<sup>30</sup>pm basic van-decorating ~~excited~~ in shiny blue tape. Demonstration of "Kaiser Bill" by Jessie and

Lee Ellen<sup>in route</sup>. Feel this game must be of pre-Christian origin. ~~Are~~ "Are you there Kaiser Bill? Oh now -"

ARE YOU ABOUT HEINZIE? CH-14-14 11.

A good dinner at Sarah's in ~~Harrogate~~ <sup>Bowwell</sup> then out to the pub at ~~Hyburn-on-the-Hill~~ <sup>Hyburn-on-the-Hill</sup> for the first stop. Ladies of Green Willow are performing Northwest morris, frequently with clogs, in sets of 8-12. Ring O Bells has a hard time snapping out of ice-cream induced torpor, first stop is a dead loss for us in terms of dancing. Green Willow dancers say they have only just started specializing in N.W. morris



Oh, he's sooo handsome! <sup>heebie</sup>  
That formerly they did "all sorts of dancing" including English country dances, Cotswold morris (Clunymen) and border morris. Their team include some very young dancers, but they move very well as a set very precise but not stuffy. ~~Next stop was the~~ Music was provided by electric organ! flute and drumset! with Jossie joining in at one point on oboe. Next stop was St Market Bosworth, a picturesque spot where the Leicester Morris men were already dancing. A

Wednesday, June 20

bit of tension as Leicester MM don't usually dance with women, but perhaps the tension helped re-vitalize us, as dancing went very well at this stop (according to unbiased observers). Met <sup>Betty</sup> ~~John~~ Reynolds (~~husband~~ wife of Tubby Reynolds) on this tour - a really delightful person who was responsible in main part for starting up the women's moves in this country. A mid-wife by profession, she was mid-wife as well to both women's moves, the oldest women's side in this country (though ~~as~~ it is a university team it doesn't have the continuity of some other teams.) She was very encouraging and seemed to enjoy the dancing. Leicester men dressed in white with forest green <sup>or was it black?</sup> boldrucks with individualized badges in front and back seemed to warm up to the situation after a bit & were really quite friendly. They danced some Bucknell and Upton-on-Severn with great energy. Retired to pub after this stop for a "ploughman's lunch" (more food?!!?) beer & more dancing organized by Ring o' Bells Cops, you read correctly). Jig by Squire Evans & a jig by a Leicester Morris man. Evening finished with a jig by Leicester MM musician who played & danced the fiddler's jig to the tune of Flowers of Edinburgh. Energetic! We astounded the local butlers by ordering full pints and we annoy the neighbors with our noise & are requested to move along. All in all, a great night. Turned out to various bushes of Green Willow for the night with strict instructions to rise early. Bulletins & direction now posted on van walls so no excuses exist for messing up. Linda will get us into combat readiness <sub>next</sub>.

# the ladies of GREEN WILLOW

*will be dancing*

## here



on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> June

at 8.30

W.H.H. King o Bells

Thursday, June 21

Overcast but bright day. Van loaded up bright and early as our hosts must be off to work. Drove to Coventry where we are free until 1pm. Most people went to swim/pool/sauna/shower - Janis takes a slipper bath but doesn't see any slippers, a cruel disappointment. Interesting discussion earlier in the van about reactions of Leicester men to our dancing - apparently many of the Leicester men had not even seen women's Morris before due to personal objections to women dancing Morris. Some of their side feel that women, by dressing up in pretty costumes and giving their dancing a country-dance flavor, emasculate the dance and give people a false idea of what Morris is. It is gratifying to know that they generally felt we dance Morris well, even if they still disapprove of women dancing Morris.



Met in front of the new Coventry Cathedral at 1pm and a Stratford expedition sets out under the guidance of the squire of the Phoenix women. The next play in Coventry to relax or sight-see. Meeting at 6pm for all to change into kit. The first stop was the ruins of old Coventry Cathedral, a 15<sup>th</sup> century structure which was destroyed by German fire bombs in 1940. It seems an especially appropriate place for Phoenix to dance, as the new cathedral rises magnificently out of the ruins of the old. Occasional glints of sunlight through the remaining fragments of stained-glass,