

February 2007

Mono-Railers

The Mono-Railers Square Dance Club was founded on November 25, 1977, by David Courtney, a retired Kansas City, Missouri Police Officer. The Mono-Railers name was copyrighted by David Courtney. The Mono-Railers Badge is comprised of a red engine with smoke spelling the name of Mono-Railer. David Courtney called for the Club from 1977 until 1990, when David retired from square dance calling. John (J.J.) Johnson called for the Club from 1991 through 1993. Bob Clarkson has called for the Club beginning in September 1994 and has called until the present time.

The Mono-Railers have 3 charter members who are David Courtney, Hazel Ford and Jenny Ellis. The Mono-Railers was started as a singles club, but soon thereafter was changed to include couples and youth. Some of our past Presidents have been Hazel Ford (5 years), Gretta Auld (3 years), Edna Thomas (5 years). Jerry Priest, Dustin Cleaveland, Doris Deml and Tom Moore (9 years). There were others that I have not been able to identify.

The Mono-Railers began dancing at the Boys Scouts Club in Riverside, Missouri. The Club danced at La Petite Academy at Vivion Road and Chouteau, Kansas City, Missouri from 1979 through 1986. The Club then danced at Park Hill Christian Church, Kansas City, Missouri from 1987 through 2000. Starting in 2001 and until the present time, we are dancing at Gashland United Methodist Church, 7715 North Oak Trafficway, Kansas City, Missouri.

The Mono-Railers reached 101 members during the 1981-1982 year. From 1977 until the present time approximately 80 individuals were married from the Mono-Railers. The Club continued with square dance lessons every fall until 1997. After 1997 We had such a few new lesseners that we joined with other Clubs in the Northland for lessons. Like Square Dancing in general, our membership has declined in the past several years. However the Mono-Railers with some very dedicated members including our Caller and Taw Bob and Linda Clarkson, continue to be very active in Vigorous Visitation and Banner Stealing programs.

Picture submitted is Hazel Ford, Charter Member and Bob Clarkson Caller for the Mono-Railers.

Submitted by Tom Moore

