

**FRED “CHOO CHOO” GOODNER  
CHATTANOOGA, TENNESSEE**

Fred Goodner introduced western style square dancing to the Chattanooga area in 1951. The only type of square dancing known in the area at that time was big-circle square dancing. Some of Chattanooga's pioneer clubs he started were Music for Fun, Cotillion Club, WreckTangles, Hayloft Promenaders and Chatta Squares, a club for which he was the caller for many years. Fred also taught western style dancing in the University of Chattanooga (now University of Tennessee at Chattanooga) Physical Education Department.

Fred also called outside of Chattanooga in North Georgia and East Tennessee towns. He called for the Western Promenaders in Rome, Georgia for five years and started the Sugarfooters club in Etowah, Tennessee. He taught several teenage groups in that area, one being the Etowah Sugar Babes, which traveled in several areas for exhibitions.

In 1953, Fred helped start the week-long festivals at Fontana Village, N.C. Known as the Swap Shop, Fred was a member of the staff for over 30 years. He and his wife, Shorty, were inducted into the Fontana Hall of Fame in 1982. She was instrumental in activities following dances at the Swap Shops. Another festival Fred was instrumental in starting was the Chattanooga Choo Choo Festival which began in 1954.

He was a full time caller and teacher throughout the Southeast from 1954 to 1964. He has been guest caller for many clubs and festivals in the entire eastern half of the country.

A great honor for him was being written up in Sets in Order as Caller of the Month. Another was being tagged as the “Chattanooga Choo Choo”. He was honored by the Tennessee Recreation and Park Society for outstanding service in 1973.

His motto is “Square dancing is fellowship set to music”. Through many years he has provided countless hours of pleasure to thousands of dancers.