

PAUL MARCUM
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

Paul Marcum has a reputation for being a great square dance caller and is known far beyond the state of Tennessee. He has been a “national” caller for many years, calling in nearly all of the United States including Hawaii and Alaska. Paul has called in many foreign countries, some of which are England, Japan, Sweden, and Saudi Arabia.

About 40 years ago, Paul began taking lessons in Beaumont, Texas at the Bar-B Club where Cooper Land was caller. Paul and some other students would borrow records from the caller and practice at someone’s house. When they broke down, Paul would find himself explaining movements. This and a little encouragement from his caller were the beginning of Paul’s calling career.

During Paul’s 40 year involvement in square dancing, he has been very active in clubs in Kentucky, Tennessee, and Texas. In the Nashville area, he has been responsible for beginning clubs, starting the “Music City Festival,” and serving as President in the beginning of the Nashville Area Callers Association. He even taught round dancing at some of his clubs (before round dancing was as popular as it is today). He has never taken a round dance class; just studied cue sheets. Some local Nashville cuers learned to round dance from him. Paul organized the first “Greenie” Dance to bring new dancers together in fellowship and encouragement, praising them for their hard work in class.

Paul has recorded on ESP, Hit Kickers, Ranch House, 4-Bar-B, Square Tunes, and Pioneer labels. Some of his recordings, “Roses in the Snow,” “Strong Enough to Bend,” and “Lying Eyes” are known to square dancers all over the world. Paul has called at many state conventions and nearly all of the National Conventions.

Paul has taught several callers to call and has instructed and inspired many new dancers. Currently he calls for the Sophistic 8s and the Barnlofters in Nashville.