

REMEMBERING HAROLD IN WORDS AND PICTURES



1972



1997 Halloween Party



Harold and Lee Fleeman  
Karolids - Halloween 1999  
1999 Halloween Party

Katydoer Graduation 2000  
by Pat Moorhead

(Or was that Graduation 20,000? Only the cake decorator knows for sure.)

What fun we had at graduation! We had a tip called by a mummy. Or was that Harold wrapped in toilet paper, courtesy of the class?

We had guests. Richard invited his own cheering section from Sunnyvale Singles. Willie's parents came all the way from Germany – and it just so happened we had other German speaking guests to help make things convivial.

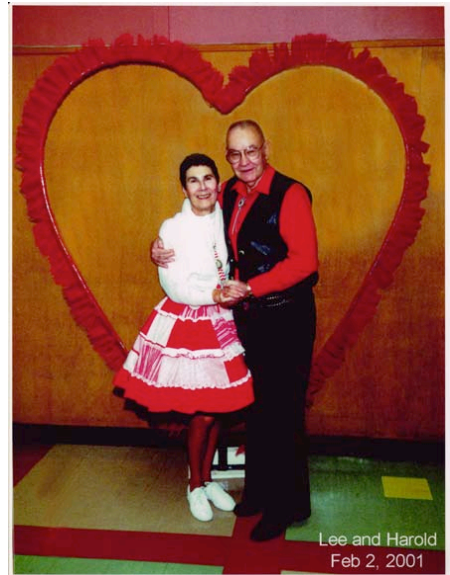
We had gifts . Harold not only got to keep the toilet paper, he also received a very handsome gold Bolo from the class. I know Harold will wear it



Chirper, Nov. 2000, Vol. 37, No. 11, pg 7



December 2000: Harold & Lee received a Photo Memory Album



Lee and Harold  
Feb 2, 2001



2001: Christmas gift presented to Harold by Pat Moorhead

# Harold Fleeman

**July 21, 1923 - Dec. 14, 2011**  
**Resident of Santa Cruz**

A private graveside ceremony was held in Santa Cruz on December 21st for James Harold Fleeman who passed away in Santa Cruz at Dominican Hospital on December 14, 2011.



Born in Visalia, California on July 21, 1923, he was 88 years old. Mr. Fleeman worked in the produce industry for 43 years, retiring as a warehouse superintendent. He also served his country in the US Navy during WW II.

He and wife Leona moved to Santa Cruz 66 years ago. He had a passion for music, and dancing. Mr. Fleeman was both an accomplished and acclaimed square dance caller. He was recognized by the National Square Dance Association as one of the top 10 callers, and was a member of Callerlab. His family will forever cherish the many memories and photographs of Mr. Fleeman in his element, calling dances and watching people feel the love of the music through their participation. He was also a former member of the East Santa Cruz Lions Club, leaving many friends and colleagues whom he worked with and celebrated life.

He is survived by his wife, Leona Fleeman of Santa Cruz, his son and daughter in-law, David and Karen Fleeman of Flowery Branch, Georgia; and his three grandsons, Matthew, Christopher, and Brandon Fleeman. To light a virtual candle and share your thoughts or condolences with his family, please visit [www.pacificgardenschapel.com](http://www.pacificgardenschapel.com).

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From the Archives:

## HAROLD AND LEE FLEEMAN:

As we welcome Harold and Lee Fleeman into our Katydid family, we thought you might like to know a little bit about them.

Lee was born in Ohio and moved to Oakland as a toddler. Harold was born in Visalia (yes, a native son!), and later moved with his family to Oakland. Lee and Harold lived in the same neighborhood and attended the same high school, but they did not start dating till after graduation.

Job opportunities took them to Santa Cruz, where Harold worked for Stokeley-Van Camp for many years, taking early retirement in 1984. They have a son who has recently moved with his family to Georgia. This means a long trip to check up on their three grandsons from time to time!

Square dance calling has been part of their lives for over thirty years. (When asked about their hobbies, Lee listed square dancing, square dancing and square dancing.) Harold's first club was the Mission Mixers of San Juan Bautista. He calls for three clubs besides Katydids: Lucky Steppers in Santa Cruz, a YMCA plus club in the same area, and an advanced group in Watsonville. (Now that's a lot of cookies, isn't it., Lee?)

Harold met Bill Davis early in his calling career, and often says Bill taught him everything he knows. The two have been fast friends for many, many years. I know I speak for all the Katydids when I say how happy we are to have these nice folks with us!

*Chirper*: Nov. 1995, Vol. 32, No. 10, pg 5

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## Club Chatter

### Prompter Article by Sandy Ferrill

February 2<sup>nd</sup> found some Katydids helping out at the New Dancer Hoedown sponsored by the Lucky Steppers. **Harold Fleeman** and **Roger Smith** shared the calling and it was so much fun to see the room full of up and coming new dancers. **Lee Fleeman**, **Char Pitts**, **Don Powell**, **Jill Cameron**, **Carmen Hea**, **Bob Pyle**, and **Bill & Sandy Ferrill** all had a terrific time. Then February 9<sup>th</sup> saw the Katydids hosting our 39<sup>th</sup> annual Sweetheart Special. What a blast! Thank you to **Eric Henerlau** for sensational calling, to **Jim Chico** for super rounds, to **Harold Fleeman** for serving as Master of Ceremonies, and to all the Katydids who made it all happen.

*Chirper* Vol. 39, No. 3, March 2002



July 2002: Club Picnic



February 2003: Sweetheart Special Jim chico, Harold Fleeman, Eric Henerlau



February 2004: Sweetheart Special Harold with Curly Frei & Pat Angotti



June 2003: Club Picnic Harold talking with Sandy Ferrill & Lloyd Darknell



April 2004: Installation Dinner



2003: Harold at Bill Davis' 80th birthday party. He is talking to Caller Bill Peters who is now deceased.



June 2004: Club Picnic Harold with Bill Davis



May 2002: Installation Dinner



2002: Class graduation Look at that hairdo!



October 2004



Harold with Morris Hosoda

MYTHS & LEGENDS OF SQUARE DANCE CALLS...

by Harold Fleeman

Someone once asked me about the origination of the popular square dance call "Yellow Rock". I was told the following tale, myth, legend or even true story.

"A Rock" is the natural deposit of sand, earth or clay. In the olden days when everything began, an Indian Chief lived with his two sons, Yellow Rock and Falling Rock in an Indian village which had a big dance house. His sons were very shy. They would not dance with any of the beautiful young Indian maidens. The Chief became concerned and one day he called his sons before him and said in a deep and authoritative voice, "You must stop this foolishness. You are both very good with a bow & arrow and are good hunters. One day I will die and the Tribe will need a new Chief and a wife to help him rule. I am going to test both of you to a race around all of our tribe lands to see who will be the next Chief."

The next day the Chief's sons started their race. One day passed, two days passed, three days passed and no sign of either Yellow Rock or Falling Rock. At the end of the fourth day, Yellow Rock appeared. The Chief was so happy to see him he embraced his son saying, "Yellow Rock, Yellow Rock." The Chief then asked his son where was Falling Rock. The son answered, "Father, me no know." The Chief was so concerned he assembled all his warriors and ordered them to search for Falling Rock.

The search went on for days, weeks, months, years. After every search the chief would greet his son, give him a big hug saying, "Yellow Rock, Yellow Rock." Falling Rock was never found, but to this day, the search continues.

If some day you are traveling our many freeways and you see a sign saying: Watch for Falling Rock, you will know the Chief is still looking for his son.

Some place, some time, some Square when you find your corner that was lost, reach out and give him or her a big Yellow Rock.

Happy Dancing. *Chirper: August 1997, Vol. 34, No. 8, pg9*

An Ode to Recently Graduated Katydid Square Dancers

by Marianne Hohenner

... And now it is graduation day  
And it is comforting to know,  
We've finally learned the basic steps  
With only 4,000 more to go!

But we never could have come this far  
Without the patience of the caller,  
I hope they're paying him mighty big bucks  
'cause he's sure earned every dollar!

And when it comes to callers,  
As you put them to the test,  
We all agree on one thing,  
Harold Fleeman is the best!

*Chirper: January 2001, Vol. 38, No. 1, pg 7*

Harold Fleeman's Surprise Birthday Party

Joanne Arrouzet stunned Harold Fleeman on Friday, July 19 when she told him to stand facing the stage. Now Harold is used to being the caller and telling others where to stand. With only a few words and a little difficulty Harold dutifully did it. Joanne started the music and everyone sang "Happy Birthday, dear Harold". Then Pres. Hohenner crowned and badged him and his lively taw, Lee. He was presented with a large bag filled with cards of Birthday wishes. Turning to say "Thank you", he was surprised and pleased to see Callers Gary Carnes, Jay Klassen, Earl Phillips, Bill Davis, Keith Ferguson, Larry Davenport, Don Lewis, Donn Thomson and their lovely Taws. Harold was quick to decide that each caller was to take a turn calling a tip while he played. He even took a turn dancing with his sweet Lee. A large cake and other goodies were devoured in his honor.

May this be a Special Year for you, Harold.

July 21, 1996

Dear Katydid,

Many thanks for the Wonderful Birthday Party, the delicious cake, many cards and gifts. It was indeed a surprise. You never fail to amaze us with all you do for us and the whole club. We feel fortunate to be a part of the katydid. You're great.

Thank you again,  
Fondly, Harold & Lee

*Chirper: August 1996, Vol. 33, No. 8, pg5*

IS IT DANCE BY DEFINITION or DANCE APD ???

by Harold Fleeman

Dance by definition is the new phrase which has emerged from Callerlab. It is meant to replace the term "All Position Dancing", since one cannot do a call from a variety of position without a thorough knowledge of the definition. But ... the dancer must remember, you can dance a figure all night long by "Dance by Definition" ... and never dance (APD) "All Position Dancing".

The new term, "Dance by Definition" appears to be a good choice. Dancers will not be fearful of the phrase and it will also help remind the dancers that it is important they understand the definitions of the calls they dance, rather than just memorize a position. The term A.P.D. will remain for awhile - it has been in use too long to suddenly disappear overnight. But in the future months we will see "Dance By Definition" appear more and more.

The key to "Dancing by Definition: is "Teaching By Definition".

*Chirper: October 1997, Vol. 34, No. 10, pg 7*

As I remember Harold Fleeman ...

He was a fun (non-contradicting) serious caller. He has been calling for a long time, before we (Louise and I) started square dancing in 1974. After taking several classes on square dance calling from 1986 and joining as Associate Member of the Santa Clara Valley Caller's Association, I began to rub shoulders more often with Harold. After Bill Davis's stroke that left him unable to do any more calling, Katydid's contracted with Harold Fleeman in 1995 to be our Club Caller. He was a great caller helping Katydid's to maintain their status as one of the premier square dance clubs in the Valley. He was also a long time caller for the Lucky Steppers Square Dance Club in Santa Cruz, Generics Square Dance Club (A-2) of Cupertino (2000 to 2005) and perhaps other clubs which I am not sure of.

There were years that Harold and Lee went on a 10+ days of vacation on a CARAVAN in some states west of the Mississippi. These CARAVAN trips were arranged by Colorado caller Frank Lane covering a small part of a state or adjoining states making stops for sight-seeing, catching events and even doing a couple of hoedowns along the way pre-arranged. Mind you, this group consisted of several callers and spouses so they were never lacking for callers. While on the road they communicated with each other with the use of CBs (Citizen Band hand held radios). Frank Lane did this for about 19 years quitting in July 2000 and Harold and Lee participated in most, if not all, of these CARAVAN vacations.

Another event that needs mentioning as relayed by Bobbie Davis, there was a hoedown when four callers were on stage, Bill Davis, Bill Peters, Kenny Steen and Harold Fleeman. Nothing really unusual about this that 3 of the callers called for Katydid's but the fact that all 4 callers were born the same year, 1923.

Some of my personal observations about Harold are that he did not like to change, especially to newer technologies in square dance calling. This might be because there was nothing wrong with his equipment, if it ain't broke...don't fix it. ... His music records were old but he was comfortable with them so why change. One of his favorites I recall was **Hazel Eyes**.

*Join your hands, make that ring  
Now circle to the left like everything  
with ah---HAZEL EYES  
You allemande left your corner,*

*Men star left one time.  
Turn thru the partner, your corner allemande.  
Come on back and promenade,  
Go walking 'round the land.  
Well are they green? (NO) Blue? (NO)  
Well sort of in between, (WOW) HAZEL EYES.*

*Heads promenade, half way round that big old ring  
Sides you do the right and left thru.  
Heads star thru, California twirl  
Do sa do the outside two you know, swing thru  
Boys trade, girls circulate, box the gnat  
Pull them by and swing the corner.  
Promenade the track.  
Well are they green? (NO) Blue? (NO)  
Well sort of in between. (WOW) HAZEL EYES.*

He was an honest, didn't beat around the bush, shoot from the hip kind of a guy. I will miss him. Rest in Peace, Harold...you've earned it.

Submitted by Morris Hosoda

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I remember Harold Fleeman

When questioned by someone who had tried to telephone Harold – the phone rang but was not answered and there was no answering machine on which to leave a message.

Harold's response: "What do you mean: I don't have a telephone answering machine? I have a brand new one. My son gave it to me several years ago. It's under the telephone, still in its unopened box."

Just before hoedowns at John Muir Middle School, Harold would frequently invite us to have dinner with Lee and him. Someone would suggest a restaurant. Harold's reply was usually along the lines of "Any place that serves good food is fine with me as long as it has a sign that says 'Armadillo Willy's' at the front door."

Oh yes, Harold savored his food and chewed it slowly and deliberately. He was often the last person in the group to finish his dinner. Consequently, members of the group would frequently call the waiter aside and request that Harold should be the first person served. After club dances, Harold would seldom turn down the opportunity for ice cream and socializing.

Harold had a couple of great hobbies. He would make elaborate safety pin pendants for the men to wear and exquisite bead necklaces so the ladies can wear their name badge without damaging their clothing. Both slipped on or off easily over the head – there was no fussing with pins or whatever that could damage clothing.

Harold loved to work with the new callers, help them along, and encourage them. As for the experienced callers in the area, Harold was the final authority on calls, their execution, and always emphasized attaining a smooth flow of body motion between each call. If a newer caller would come to a club dance, Harold would invite the newer caller to call for additional experience. He would go out of his way to help callers by assembling a single square at a local home. Often he would call specific movements and leave a square in an unfamiliar pattern. Then he would ask the caller to take over and resolve the square. Harold emphasized and preferred sight calling and watching the dancers on the floor. He would adjust the difficulty of the calls used to the general level of the dancers. He wanted dancers to have fun and enjoy square dancing. He was also slow to accept the modern, computer-based systems, as they tended to frustrate him. He always carried his older, rugged system in the back of his car. Occasionally this saved a dance or hoedown when a caller's newer computerized equipment refused to work.

Then, Harold always wanted to drive a thrifty, gas sipping, small car with a huge trunk to carry all of his square dance electronics and records – yes records. He had quite a collection.

Submitted by Don Gaubatz



October 2004



September 2010: Keith Ferguson, Harold Fleeman, Ken Carroll, Jim Wylie, Eric Henerlau, Roger Smith, Lawrence Johnstone, Gary Carnes, Jim Ostone. Front: Cuer: John Flora



July 2008: Fairgrounds Skip Stevens, Mary Monticello, Harold & Lee Fleeman



February 2009: Sweetheart Special



June 2011: Picnic, talking to Bobbie Davis



2009 Jubilee Harold receiving lifetime achievement award



July 2010



July 2010 at the Ben Lomond Slab with Roger Smith



Katydid's Square Dance Club  
of Santa Clara Valley

Is proud to bestow the title of  
**HONORARY MEMBERS**  
upon  
*Harold & Lee Fleeman*

in recognition and appreciation of their many years of dedicated service to the Katydid's Square Dance Club and the square dance community.

President \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Secretary \_\_\_\_\_

11/28/11 Harold & Lee receiving honorary membership from the Katydid's

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Many thanks to Morris Hosoda, John Caywood, Don Gaubatz Pat Angotti, Roger Smith and Stephanie Stevens for their contributions to this tribute to Harold Fleeman.