

Chet and Billie Ferguson

2023 Hall of Fame nomination

It was in 1955 when Oklahoma was introduced to this couple who became active advocates of the square dance way of life. They were active in several square dance clubs and introduced many of their friends, church and business acquaintances to square dancing. They served as officers in their local clubs, district and state organizations and went on to serve on the National Square Dance Executive committee.

For almost 50 years they took annual vacations with their son Rodney to the National Conventions attending from 1959 until 2008, traveling by car, bus, train and plane from Mexico to Canada, when they had to retire because of health reasons. They were elected as Oklahoma State Federation Presidents 1960 and 1961. They were instrumental in helping form the Texas State Square Dance Federation patterned after the successful Oklahoma Federation. They were Assistant General Chairman with General Chairman Pete and Ester Hughes for the 1978 National Square Dance Convention in Oklahoma City.

Our recipients were a very community and a serving couple following the footsteps of their good friends Howard and Peggy Thornton. So that both couples served Kiwanis and served as the Texas-Oklahoma District of Kiwanis Governor which they served as in 1986, just prior to working on the 1989 National convention in Oklahoma City.

He was also a published book writer of notable quotes entitled "I Wished I'd Said That." In 1976 the square dance world was in need of an instrument of information about the annual national conventions. He was author of the idea and the editor of the National Squares magazine for many years.

When the hit musical "OKLAHOMA" traveled to Oklahoma City, they helped get volunteers to dance in the hot sun to do an exhibition dance in front of the Civic Center Music Hall to help high light square dancing as a hobby and part of the Oklahoma heritage. With their connections in the Kiwanis club and serving on the Oklahoma City Chamber of Commerce and being chosen to serve as the 1989 General Chairman of the 38th National Square Dance Convention in Oklahoma City, they were able to get dedicated for the 1989 Convention, the bronze square dance sculpture by artist Richard Muno, titled "America's Dance". It featured 1965 past State president and National General Chairman Pete and Ester Hughes as models. The statue can be viewed at the State Fairgrounds.

Under their leadership, the 1989 National Square Dance convention with the theme "Run to Oklahoma" brought in about 20,000 dancers to Oklahoma.

I present to you, 2023 Hall of Fame recipients, Chet and Billie Ferguson. To receive their award their son Rod and his wife Becky are here to accept.