George Armstrong (1962 - )
Elia Jenkins (1958)
Les Hook (1964-1965)
Ramon Cordova (1960-1962)
Win Stagge (1958 - )
Larry Ehrich (1962-1963)
Valucha Arnesen (1960 - )
Jack Tangerman (deceased)
Mort Haberman (1962-1965)
Chauncey Griffith (1965)
Maxine Bernardo (1967)
John Hunt (1962 - )

Shortly after the school's founding we initiated "the Folk Dance Circle" under the able direction of Nate Lofton. Here, every Wednesday night since, anywhere from twenty-five to sixty adults gather to learn and perform the delightful folk dances of Greece, Poland, Hungary, Croatia, Slovakia, Japan, Scotland, Sweden, Norway, Israel, The Netherlands, Germany, and Russia, including an occasional excursion into contemporary American dances such as the Limbo Rock and the Hully Gully. Nate Lofton, through the years, has also given our concerts an added zest by leading the expert and uninitiated alike in folk dancing, as a post-program dividend.

After heading our teaching staff for five years, Frank Hamilton accepted an offer to join "The Weavers," the singing group which had played such a significant role in the folk music revival. Dawn Greening, with rare insight, sought out and obtained the services of our present Dean of Teaching, Ray Tate. It was a happy choice. Ray, who grew up in Kentucky where he had been exposed to traditional music, not only possesses the requisite creative musical talents to command the respect of our knowledgeable student body, but a fine sense of organization.

As Ray took hold of his duties the "Old Town School" entered a new phase. There was closer liaison between the teachers. More care was given to enable the students to progress from one level of instruction to another. Ray placed increased emphasis on the background of the songs and encouraged the students to do individual research. Above all, Ray, like Frank before him, possesses an infectious love of folk music he continues to project into the joyous participation of the students.

Ray's arrival coincided with the height of the commercial folk music "boom" and because of the increased interest, new Monday night classes were added to our schedule. With the subsequent collapse of the commercial exploitation of folk songs, one might have expected a resultant decline in attendance. Not true. The "honeymoon" has been over for three years but attendance remains high and enthusiasm in the field is growing.

Under Ray Tate's leadership, an increasing emphasis on public service projects has taken place. The first of these was conducted by Ray, Dawn, and Ted Johnson in the Kenmore-Wilson Avenue area. There, in 1964, with the help of the Glenmary Sisters and a gift of twenty guitars from the Key Musical Instrument Company, a series of Saturday morning classes and programs were conducted with the idea of giving Southern Whites encouragement to perform and cherish their native music.

In the fall of 1965, I dropped a suggestion to Ray that it might be a good idea to organize groups from the more accomplished members of the student body to perform for psychiatric patients in Chicago hospitals. Ray immediately developed the idea and the result has been most gratifying, and has brought great credit to the school in the eyes and hearts of the community. To date, three groups have been formed. In order of their organization they are:

- The Old Town Singers
- That Other Group
- The Latecomers

These young people have ministered to the recreational and therapeutic needs of the patients in the following institutions, having appeared in some places as many as ten times. Added to the list are some of their other public service contributions:

- Michael Reese Hospital
- The Threshold
- Veterans Research Hospital
- Mount Sinai Hospital
- Wesley Memorial Hospital
- West Side Veteran's Hospital
- Hines Veteran's Hospital
- The Chicago Historical Society
- Fox River Valley Center
- Marillac House
- Ill. State School for Handicapped Children
- Chicago State Hospital
- Illinois State Psychiatric Institute
- Children's Memorial Hospital
- The Mayor's Senior Citizens Award Banquet
- St. Joseph's Hospital
- The Fifty-two Association
- Weiss Hospital
- Ravenswood Hospital
- The American Red Cross (at Great Lakes)
- Numerous Senior Citizen Centers

A year ago last Christmas my friend Ralph Newman and I were visiting Governor Kerner in Spring-