

Bill and Helen and Dancing

I had breakfast with Dad at *Eggs and Things*. He was in moderate discomfort but bearing up, though he said that he missed two things; surfing and dancing. When I told Mom about that, she said, oh yes, that she and Dad, both very fond of dancing, had started an early dance club in Ojai about 1955. They wanted to be able to do it really well, and to enjoy their skills with people who would appreciate the experience. So they and Katie and Barney Lawrence, and Madge and Frank Ross asked Jim and Dorothy McDaniel to teach them. The McDaniels' were grammar school teachers but loved to dance and would go down to LA, perhaps to competitions. They taught Cotillion at that time. They danced beautifully.

At first the group had lessons at the Big House. Then like-minded fun people were asked to join them, Dixon and Marian Kelly and Bob Davis - Broomfields? They wanted a place to share their pleasure, and were looking around for an appropriate place for that. Dorothy and Bill Briggs' joined and made the Ojai Valley Inn available, and the club began meeting once a month. This was the old Ojai Valley Inn with its big dining room with a wooden floor, which was wonderful for dancing. They limited the group to 20 regular couples. Fred and Agnes Embshoff were infrequent attendees. Fees were charged to pay for the "orchestra," Julie and Mel Kirkman, a combo with piano and ??