



THE WESTERLY MORRIS MEN MAY DAY, 1987 — Back row (l to r) Bill Sternberg, Walter Ansel, Wally Fenn, Hal Walker, Lee Boltz, Norm Dudziak. Front row: Allen Lawton, Damon Leibert, Kurt Hansen, Peter Leibert, Nipper Leibert, Herb Nick, Everett Munro, George Utter.



THE MUSICIAN

Peter Leibert has been Morris dancing since the early 1950's, is a former Squire of The Pinewood Morris Men and founder of The Westerly Morris Men.

In addition to teaching Morris and country dance he also calls dances in the Southeastern parts of Connecticut and in Rhode Island.

He accompanies the team on button accordion, and pipe and tabor and represents the traditional stock character, **The Fool**. The embroidery on the back of the costume and dancers' vests represents another stock character, **The Green Man**.

What is English Morris Dancing?

The English Morris is the modern survival of a primitive, pre-Christian ceremonial of ritual dance and drama to insure and celebrate the renewal of Spring.

This rite once flourished over all of Europe and even today dances similar to the Morris can be seen in parts of France, Spain, Rumania and Portugal.

Morris Dancers in the past frequently blackened their faces (a few teams still do) as a disguise, a practice which survived from the primitive ritual.

Morris dancing enjoyed a period of great popularity about 400 years ago and was widely used as an entertainment at court as well as in the country. The derivation of the word **Morris** is lost in obscurity. However, one popular theory is that when the original name and meaning of the rite were no long remembered, the dance was called **Moorish** or **Morris** because the current word, at that time for black man was **Moor**.

The Morris Men's ceremonial dances celebrate the passing of Winter and the renewal of Spring and promote fertility in field, flock and man.

HOBBY HORSE

The Morris teams, or sides, are often accompanied by their Hobby Horse, an animal-man. Westerly also has their "Lobby Horse" a recreation of a red North Atlantic Lobster, after it's been boiled.

THE MUSIC

Some of the best traditional music has been preserved by the Morris Men. The pipe and tabor have been in use since ancient times; melodian, concertina and fiddle are also traditional modern instruments for Morris dancing.

THE WESTERLY MORRIS MEN (USA)

1987 TOUR OF SCOTLAND

This is the third overseas tour of The Westerly Morris Men; the previous tours having been in 1980 and 1983 in the south of England.

While on tour the men will have a busy schedule:

Aug 11 — Arrive at Preswick Airport.
Aug 12-13 — Dance with Banchory Morris Men

Aug 14-16 — In and around Edinburgh with the Lothians Morris Men and the Jenny Geddes Morris Clog Dancers. The two groups visited The Westerly Morris Men last year during their USA tour.

Aug 17 — With the Carlisle Sword and Morris.

Aug 18-20 — By themselves, being tourists in The Highlands.

Aug 22-24 — In Edinburgh with the Lothians.

Aug 24 — Fly back to The States from Preswick.

THE BAG

An important Morris tradition is a good monetary contribution to the bag; this brings good luck and strengthens the bond between onlookers and dancers. It also help buy oats for the Hobby horse and **BEER** for the Men.

THE WESTERLY TEAM

The Westerly Morris Men are on their third tour to Great Britain. They were here previously in 1980 and 1983. The team was organized by Peter Leibert in 1975 and rehearse regularly Tuesday evenings in the Caledonian Hall of The Westerly Sun, 56 Main Street, Westerly, R. I.

The Westerly men are again looking forward to the time when they may entertain Morris teams in their homes in The States. We hope teams will come to the USA and get a chance to see New England!

Further details concerning the possibility of visiting us may be obtained from any of the officers below:

Herb Nickel, Squire

Peter Leibert, Foreman

George H. Utter, Bagman