



*Dan Schweitzer*

*Since breakfast, he saw only grey in every direction. Bits of sleet and desert sandblasted his ears. Ice frosted his Stetson. He rode on. Finally, a shack's black silhouette grew out of the darkening grey. He'd not been to the old line cabin before, but had found it easily. It would now be home for the weeks it took to round up the herd.*

Ok, I live in the West. I own cowboy boots. These tough, never-lost cowboys are my heritage. Right?

So how come, at a dance, I can NOT keep track of the Head-Couple orientation? As the tip starts, the "Head Couples" either face, or have their backs to the caller. I know that.

Still, on hearing Head Couples Promenade Halfway, I'm dragging my confused partner from one *side* to the other *side* of the square. What made me think I was a Head? Because I was facing North? Mecca? The front door?

I hear that those wimps in Texas never stir the bucket. Some couples even stake out the same position for every dance.

I guess we're tougher here in Colorado, but I need a caller-compass. Haven't been able to find one.

This is supposed to be fun, and Western heritage or not, I see no point in going overboard on the challenges. So, once again, I'm wondering, out loud, why the Denver Council isn't doing its job here. I mean, heck, why haven't they prescribed patterns to be painted on square dance floors? I'm thinking about a simple 4-pointed star with an "H" on two points and an "S" on two points. A quick glance, and a brief mental calculation ("H" = head) would prevent a lot of collisions. (The floor pattern would also locate squares for the optimum spacing – an item growing more important with all those successful chili dinners expanding membership.)

Hold it. Before we get out the floor paint, there is one issue to address. Square dance instruction books haven't been updated for remote microphones. What's the rule for callers, like Mike Sikorsky, that wander around with a remote? Am I a Head, if I was facing him the last time we had a "square" configuration? Or do I just have to check when a new song starts? What if he's in the middle of the room at 45 degrees to my square?

I happen to know that Mike will be in Frisco on May 4th. Come early. I'm sure he'll clear up the confusion he's created.

Me? Considering that I grew up where the cows came to the barn by themselves, I might just have the heritage thing wrong,