



Dan Schweitzer

Here comes January. A new year, a new decade, and another Timberline Toppers class.

This year, we are considering an advisor. One candidate is Matilda Kumquat, who may well change our luck with square dance classes.

Matilda is a firm believer in tradition. Female students *will* wear petticoats.

Miss Kumquat is also a firm believer in hard work. *All* of the mainstream calls will be covered the first night. The second, optional, night will be just review.

Square dancing is very important to Matilda – no student frivolity will be tolerated. Matilda last smiled for her third grade portrait, and students will be expected to follow her sober example.

In preparation for classes, Matilda has honed her disapproving stare. That glare will reduce errant students to tears. As backup, she has three, heavy, knuckle-cracking rulers. She'll make an example of the first few students that mistake their right for their left. Thereafter, the class *will* dance perfectly.

Having determined in seventh grade that friendship is way overrated, Matilda discourages

any casual attachments. Brain cells will not be wasted on people's names. There will be no name tags, nor breaks for that matter – students would just get distracted by frivolous conversations.

Matilda plans to keep raw students away from regular dances until they are consistently perfect. Unfortunately, this makes it difficult for students to gain experience. One option is to encourage students to dance elsewhere, with clubs having non-Matilda standards. However, that option encourages dancers to develop bad habits like laughing and talking. Option two is keeping students segregated for five years.

If we follow Matilda's advice, our concern about out-growing our dance floor may be solved.

Speaking of advice, Matilda is planning an advice column. She'll offer advice to readers with difficult dance-related problems. The working title is, of course, *Waltzing with Matilda*. Send your question to me (Matilda can't be bothered.)

Completely different subject: For those of you that read your Bulletin early, take note. The Timberline Toppers have Scot Byars for three straight days at year end. The January 1 dance is unique. It will be called for rusty dancers. Been a while since you danced? Worried you're too rusty? This is your dance. We're inviting former dancers whose company we've missed for too long.

Details at timberlinetoppers.org.