

# "The Paris"



*Dance Studio*

*it started as*

*Rowley Dance Studio*

*Buena Lamoreaux Rowley*

aka *Ann Paris*

Started her Dance studio about 1950





# The Owner/Teacher – Buena Rowley latter known as Ann Paris

*The beginning:*

*Buena Lamoreaux Rowley wanted her daughter, April, to have the dance lessons she never had. So to pay for lessons, she played piano for April's dance teacher, Ida Smithson. A year later, when Ida retired because she was expecting and had a bad heart, Buena took over the classes. She took lessons from every good teacher she could find and worked hard to make her studio the best in Mesa. She later remarried and became Ann Paris.*



**At age 25**



**at age 45**



# 1955

## Review Time

Twice a year there were big recitals.

At first in a local church building – then in the High

School Auditorium.

- ◊ Buena put her students on stage every chance she could. We danced for anyone and everyone from retirement homes to the State Fair
- ◊ We were so cool
- ◊ April – back row – 2<sup>nd</sup> from left



**WILL PERFORM** — The dance review to be presented tonight by the Rowley School of Dance will include a variety of steps by the some 70 participants. The ballet will be entitled "Mistress Mary." "Little Rabbit who Wanted Red Wings" will be the tap subject. Pictured above is a group who will appear as moonbeams. They include, from left, front row, Patty Reed, Patsy Taylor, Janice Bruce, Claudia Vance; second row, Myrna Jones, Connie Cooper, Tommie Sue Andersen, Linda Openshaw; third row, Arlene Jones, April Rowley, Linda Baldwin and Judy Crawford. The review will be enacted in the Seventh ward recreation hall beginning at 8 p.m. 1955



# Dance Studio Synopsis

- ♦ Buena Lamoreaux and her childhood friends Rhoda & Martha & Strelsa (Strelsa and Martha took turns being the soprano) called themselves "The Three Anns" or the "Ann Sisters" (ancestors) and performed as often as they could.
- ♦ Buena Rowley took over students for Ida Smithson in 1950, and stayed one step ahead of the oldest class till as...
- ♦ Ann Paris, she had the best dance studio in the East Valley. Students came from all over Mesa and around to take lessons from her.
- ♦ The time I noticed what a very good teacher my mom was is when people who had danced with professional ballet companies like "Ballet Russe de Monte Carlo" and the famous New York's Radio City "Rockettes" took lessons from mom when they moved to Mesa.



Buena Rowley School of Dance

Presents

Annual Spring Student Review



M. H. S. Auditorium

May 17, 1956

Rowley School of Dance

presents its

Annual Spring Student Revue

Mesa High School Auditorium

May 16, 1957

8:00 p.m.

\$1.00

# Programs Our **First Revues**

-- ROWLEY DANCE STUDIOS --

Present an

**\*\*\*...ANNUAL SPRING STUDENT REVUE...\*\*\***

**May 16, 1957, 8 P.M.**

**Mesa High School Auditorium**

**Buena Rowley – Director      Studios – 925 E Main, Mesa**

**157 E Commonwealth, Chandler**

**Summer Classes Start May 27**

**For information Call WO-4-1111**

[This was "Woodland 4" – Mesa's only prefix. Tempe was "Woodland 6"]

Can you find April & Penny?

April

Penny

Crystal

Buena not only taught the classes,  
she also made most of the costumes.

Finale 1955





Another opening, another show!



Norma & ? Church

April Rowley

Carol Ann or Jerri Lynn Haw

Rowley School of Dance about 1957



# Mom and her studio were so famous - Our Birthday parties even made news.



UNWRAPPING — Chris Rowley, seated, opens his birthday gifts at a party given in his honor Wednesday afternoon. Looking on are, left to right, back row, Gordon Rowley, Lamont Ball, April Reiley, Mike Young, Marty Ball; second row, Duane and Norman Millett, Gary Rowley, Greg Jones, Lee Van Ball and Penny Ann Rowley. Also attending were David Farnsworth and Gary Riggs.

## *Birthday Party Held Wednesday for Chris Rowley*

Chris Rowley, son of Mr. and Mrs. Var Rowley, celebrated his 7th birthday Wednesday afternoon with a party at his home, 67 N. Fraser Dr.

His guests were entertained with games and received model airplanes as party favors. Refreshments were cup cakes, ice cream and punch.

## Chris' Party 1957



## Miss Rowley Hosts Party

Miss April Rowley, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Var Rowley, 67 N. Fraser Dr., was hostess on Monday evening for a luau and slumber party.

The menu for the exotic theme included a Hawaiian fruit bowl, orange baskets with candied yams,

shiskabobs, tossed salad, and Hawaiian punch with roses and pineapple. The centerpiece was made of palm leaves.

Guests included Misses Kathy Kelly, Pennie Magnusson, Linda Cottam, Danna Sherwood, Janet Lambson, Karen Hornbrook, Sandy Miller and Janet McCormick.

# April's party

A Teenager! 1958



**HAWAIIAN STYLE** — Miss April Rowley, far right, was hostess on Monday evening to a Hawaiian party at her home, 67 N. Fraser Dr. Those attending are Misses Kathy Kelly, Pennie Magnusson, Linda Cottam, Donna Sherwood, Janet Lambson, Karen Hornbrook, Sandy Miller and Janet McCormick. (Tribfoto)



We made news, no matter what we did. Actually,  
Mesa was so small-time that we didn't have a lot to talk about.



# Dance Festivals And more about 1959

Buena was in charge of all the social events, pageants, Roadshows, Dance Festivals – so April danced with the big girls. Buena did choreography, staging, production, ... everything.



FINE ARTS FESTIVAL — The Fifteenth Ward of the Latter-day Saints church will enter the Fine Arts Festival Saturday night at the 6th and 10th Ward Chapel, 4th St. and N. Mesa Dr. The musical program, depicting the importance and beauty of music in religion, includes this group coached by Mrs. Var Rowley. Pictured here are (front row) Wilma Scioneaux, Jennifer Newell, ~~Pat Clode~~ and April Rowley. Janice Phelps will participate but was not present for the picture. (Tribfoto)





## 4<sup>th</sup> of July Entertainers

Among the many acts to be presented at the Mesa Lions Club annual 4<sup>th</sup> of July program at Jackrabbit Stadium will be the Dodge sisters, above, who do a story dance. The young dancers, Susan, left, and Marsha are the daughters of Mr & Mrs Thurbert Dodge, 538 S Pasadena. (Tribfoto)

**4TH OF JULY ENTERTAINERS** — Among the many acts to be presented at the Mesa Lions Club annual 4th of July program at Jackrabbit Stadium will be the Dodge sisters, above, who do a story dance. The young dancers, Susan, left, and Marsha are the daughters of Mr. and Mrs. Thurbert Dodge, 538 S. Pasadena.

(Tribfoto)



# Rowley Dance Studio

- ♦ "The Rowley Dance Studio," which became "The Paris Dance Studio," was very popular in Mesa from 1950's to 1980's before Ann moved to Hawaii.
- ♦ We won many competitions. The Chandler Studio Group called themselves "The Sparklettes" won prizes at many of the local 4<sup>th</sup> of July Celebration and more.



**ALL SIZES** — Dancers ranging in age from teen-agers to the tots at right, Susan and Marsha Dodge, daughters of Mr. and Mrs. Thurbert Dodge, will be performing Friday evening in the dance

recital, presented by the Rowley Dance Studio. At left are jazz moderns Marianne Leason, left, Darlene Andersen, center, and Laura Haws. (Tribfoto)



**All sizes** — Dancers ranging in age from teen-agers to the tots at right Susan & Marsha Dodge, daughters of Mr & Mrs Thurber Dodge, will be performing Friday evening in the dance recital presented by the Rowley Dance Studio. At left [Not included here] are jazz moderns Marianne Leason, left, Darlene Anderson, center and Laura Haws. (Tribfoto)

## Rowley Dance Students Will Present Recital Here Friday

Musical backgrounds, live and recorded, and a variety of costumes depicting nations throughout the world as well as specialty numbers, will set the scene Friday at 8 p.m. for the annual recital presented by the Rowley Dance Studio.

Open to the public without charge, the recital will be at the Mesa High school auditorium. Taking the spotlight are 130 students, ranging in age from 2 years to teen-agers, under the direction of Mrs. Buena Rowley. They will present tap, ballet, Hawaiian, acrobatic and modern.

Forest Thorburg of Scottsdale will do choreography and direction for a specialty number.

Baton twirling performances will be given by students of Mrs. Joy Lamoreaux and trampoline acts are planned by students of Louis Haws.

Stephen Phelps is the piano accompanist.

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— Stephen Phelps is the piano ac...

# Newspaper Articles



# Dance Teachers Associations

When Mom started teaching she joined  
*Chicago National Association of Dance Masters* and  
attended their conventions held in Chicago each year.  
I went with her later. We also went to California and  
Las Vegas for *Dance Masters of America* Conventions  
for many years. We studied with such famous people as:  
Ballet – Margot Fountain, Edward Valilla,  
Modern – Martha Graham, Juliette Prouse, Alvin Alley  
Tap – Danny Hoctor, Al Gilbert, (tap & Production)  
Jack Wolfgram  
Ethnic – Ruth St Dennis & Indra Devy –  
Rockettes manager – Mr Markham

Mom studied at the San Francisco Ballet Co.

We took Polynesian from any Islanders we could find.



THEY'RE OFF! — Mrs. Ann Rowley and her daughter, Ann, of Rowley Dance Studio leave today by train for the Chicago convention of the National Dancing Masters where Mrs. Rowley will serve as hospitality chairman during the week of Aug. 11. (Tribune)



The Family moved to Maryvale  
for the summer in 1960.  
and Ann remarries.

## New Dance Studio Open

Ann Rowley, of Rowley Dance Studios in Mesa, has opened a Phoenix studio at 2802 N. 16th St.

A veteran of 10 years as an instructor of dancing in the Valley, Miss Rowley presently is serving as a regional director for the Chicago National Association of Dancing Masters.



Miss Rowley

She also is a member of Dance Masters of America.

Instruction will include tap, ballet, modern, ballroom and Hawaiian.

The Mesa dance studio is located at 925 E. Main.

Buena Lamoreaux  
became,  
Buena Rowley  
who became  
Ann Rowley then  
Ann Paris  
Later she was  
Ann Carter and  
last Dr. Ann Paris

she moved to Hawaii in  
the 1970's and back to  
Mesa in the 1980s.

## Jazzercise and keiki dance



Ann Paris

An adult Jazzercise class and Keiki Dance class will be added to the Spring program schedule of the Kaua'i YWCA.

Adult Jazzercise will be offered Tuesdays and Thursdays beginning April 14, from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. at the Luau Pavilion of Paradise Pacifica. Jazzercise is jazz exercise set to music.

Registration for two nights a week of adult Jazzercise is \$20 per month for YWCA members and \$25 for non members. The

fee is \$15 for members and \$20 for non members if you only attend one class per week.

Keiki Dance classes will begin Saturday, April 18. Keikis will learn a combination of tap and ballet dancing plus acrobatics. Keikis from 3 to 5 years of age will dance at 9 a.m.; those 6 to 8 at 10 a.m. and 9 to 12 year olds at 11 a.m.

These classes will also be in the Luau Pavilion of Paradise Pacifica. Registration for Keiki Dance is \$15 a month.

Ann Paris, owner and operator of Paris Dance Studio from 1959 to 1979, will teach both classes. Ann is currently a school psychologist for the Kaua'i School District and the manager of Paradise Pacifica.

Registration for adult Jazzercise and/or Keiki Dance classes can be sent to the Kaua'i County YWCA, P.O. Box 308, Lihue, Hawai'i 96766. For more information call the YWCA at 245-2171 Monday through Friday, from 8:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m.



# 1961

"The Rowley Dance Studio" became "The Paris Dance Studio." Ann Paris had Studios in Mesa, Chandler, Phoenix, Apache Junction, Williams Air Force Base, Eloy, Maryvale, Kearney, and Ray [All in Arizona] and later in Kauai, Hawaii.

## Women — Clubs

## Annual Student Dance Revue Scheduled in Four Areas



IN REVUE — Students of the Rowley Dance Studio will participate in four reviews this year on May 5, 6, 11 and 12 at Williams AFB, Maryvale, Apache Junction and Mesa. One of the numbers, "I Love My Baby," will feature Misses Kathy Henshall, Nancy Garner, Nedra Taylor, Mignos Julian and April Rowley, as seen here in the Charleston flapper costumes. All revues are open to the public. (Tribune)

The 10th annual spring student revue will be presented by Rowley Dance Studios of Mesa, Apache Junction, Maryvale and Williams AFB, on May 5, 6, 11 and 12.

The first of the four events is scheduled for Friday evening, a Williams AFB in the Service Club at 7:30 p.m.

On May 12 at 8 p.m. the revue will be presented at Mesa High School Auditorium and on May 11 the performance is scheduled for 8 p.m. in the Apache Junction School.

The program includes Charleston, tap, ballet, baton, Hawaiian, and other special numbers.

Students participating are Kathy Henshall, Nancy Garner, Nedra Taylor, Mignos Julian, April Rowley, Margaret Collins, Carol Ann Webb, Penny Ann Rowley, Jeri Lynn Haws, Debra Ethington, Paul Ellsworth, Ann Marie McDunnell, Bobbie Garner, Ava Ford, Kathy Dawson, Cindy Marshall, Laurel Raether, Barbara Bernel, Janice Estabrooks, Kathy Chilson, Diane Williams, Vickie Traber, Diane Rash, Patti Kunes, Janis Braca.

Linda Bowen, Robin Ross, Nedra Taylor, Frances Weber, Diane Wood, Sanford Marks, Debby Damon, Arles Johnston, Kristi Rowley, Carrie Ford, Laurie Ann Petrie, Jenny Skousen, Carol Cain, Barbara Gaines, Haver Bice, Phyllis Hindman, Paula Woods, Olivia Bernel, Debby Johnson, Rose Ann Daugherty, Cheryl Hawkins, Mary Kaye, Kathy Buechler, Rinda Lofthouse, Candy Grant, Joy Fogle.

Also Carrie Ford, Jan Hancock, Rae Ann Cecchet, Libby Damon, Suzanne Holloman, Diane Feichtinger, Terri Lee, Janet Mata, Karen Hembrook, Mary Lee Douglas, Barbara Joyce Power, Jimmie Power, Lou Ann Woody, Wanda Maxwell, Sherri Smith, Edith Alvarez, Terry Bernard, Terry Rotundo, Linda Self, Tara Thornburg, and Sandra Self.

# Charleston

10th Annual Dance Revue





\_\_\_ ? \_\_\_ ? April \_\_\_ ? Penny, Chuck  
Good old Polaroid cameras

Dance Studio Kids — mid 1960's



One of our Specialties is tap dance.

Mom tells the story of taking an hour of private tap lessons with Danny Hoctor, "the best tap dancer in the world." It was her first year at the dance convention. She was just learning tap. At the end of the hour he wouldn't let her pay for the lesson because, she needed it too badly. In later years, he used her students to demonstrate for his lessons at conventions, we were that good.

When teachers didn't bring their own assistant, they used dancers in the classes to demonstrate. It is a real tribute to mom that her students (April, Penny, Chuck, etc) were often chosen to demonstrate.



# Convention Time Made News

Jan 1962 – by this time April danced while Ann took notes

## Rowley Dance School Group Attends CNADM Convention

Mrs. Ann Rowley, director of the Rowley School of Dance, was appointed state supervisor for the Chicago National Association of Dancing Masters at the Tucson Convention Dec. 26 to 30.

The first Arizona convention for the group was held at the Pioneer Hotel with classes in tap by Al Gilbert, Hollywood, and Jack Wal-

Francisco. Modern jazz, ballroom and the "twist" was taught by Gus Giordona of New York and Betty Mae Harris instructed the Hawaiian and ballroom class.

Teachers and students from all over the nation, Jack Thomas, assistant director, Miss April Rowley, teacher, Penny Rowley, Jody Johnson of Ray, students, also attended the convention with the Rowley school group.

Friday, January 5, 1962



ATTEND CONVENTION — Miss April Rowley, student instructor, Jack Thomas, assistant director and Mrs. Ann Rowley, director for the Rowley School of Dance, attended the Arizona convention of the Chicago National Association of Dancing Masters at Tucson last weekend.

Mom brought the Chicago National Association to Tucson, Arizona



# Dance Teachers we studied under

**Forest Thornburg**, a ballet master, retired to Scottsdale, at his studio, "Casa Del Asrama" (House of Rest). **Buena** took private lessons with him for years. He came to the studio for special lessons. He taught with his cane and rapped your knees and ankles if he didn't like how you held your leg. He knew and was known by many famous dancers through out the world and introduced them to us. **Isadore Duncan, Martha Graham, Ruth St Dennis...** Ruth referred to **Buena** as, "My Blue Angel."

**Forest** also got **Buena** into the Chicago National Association of Dance Masters and Dance Masters of America. (1952) She was supposed to have taught for at least two years before she could join. He got her in after she had taught only one. He said she was good enough already and they took her on his recommendation.





DANCE CONVENTION — Mr. and Mrs. Jack Thomas, operators of the Paris Dance Studio in Mesans, will leave Sunday for a convention in Chicago. Mrs. Thomas' daughter, April Rowley, far left, will accompany them. (Tribphoto)

## Mesans Go To Chicago

Mr. and Mrs. Jack Thomas, the former Ann Rowley, and daughter, April Rowley will leave Sunday for the Chicago National Association of Dance Masters, of which Mrs. Thomas is a state supervisor.

The convention will be held Aug. 7-12. The couple operates the Paris Dance Studio, formerly the Rowley Dance Studios, 925 E. Main St. Mr. and Mrs. Thomas were married in May. He will join the national organization during the convention.

- ♦ August 1962
- ♦ Just the  
three of us.

Newspaper  
Coverage  
...always  
good for  
studio  
business



• Caption:

**SOD BUSTERS—Mesa Mayor Bert Brown has plenty of helpers as he breaks ground for the new Paris Dance Studio at 345 N Stapley Dr. From left to right are Wally Zwingli, vice president of M.J. Hoffman Mortgage Co.; Jack and Ann Paris, co-owners of the studio; Mayor Brown; Dan Blackburn, contractor; V.L. Shill, planner and architect; and Fred Lundin, owner of the new dentist building located just south of the construction site. (Tribfoto) — see article next slide**



**SOD BUSTERS —** Mesa Mayor Bert Brown has plenty of helpers as he breaks ground for the new Paris Dance Studio at 345 N. Stapley Dr. From left are Wally Zwingli, vice president of M. J. Hoffman Mortgage Co.; Jack and Ann Paris, co-owners of the studio; Mayor Brown; Dan Blackburn, contractor; V. L. Shill, planner and architect; and Dr. Fred Lundin, owner of the new dentist building located just south of the construction site. (Tribfoto)

**Studio  
Ground  
breaking  
Jan 1965**

## Dance Studio Dirt Busted This Week

Ground was officially broken by Mayor E. J. Brown, Wednesday for the new Paris Dance Studio at 345 N. Stapley Dr. Completion date has been tentatively set for April 1.

The new 3,000 sq. ft. structure will consist of a main dance studio with office space for four other businesses.

Contractor on the project is Dan Blackburn of Mesa. Architect is V. L. Shill.

Owners Jack and Ann Paris said temporary classes are being conducted at their home, 46 N. Burkley. Mrs. Paris has spent 15 years in the dance studio business, operating under the name Rowley Dance Studio until three years ago at 825 E. Main.

Mr. and Mrs. Paris and daughter April Rowley are members of the Chicago National Association of Dance Masters (CNADM) and Dance Masters of America. Also, Mrs. Paris is state supervisor and regional director for CNADM for several years.

All types of dancing are taught at the studio, including tap, ballroom, jazz, acrobatic, Hawaiian, Tibetan, etc.



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All types of dancing are taught at the studio, including tap, ballet, toe, acrobatic, Hawaiian, Tahitian, ethnic, and ballroom. Classes are open for all dancers, regardless of age or experience.



April Rowley  
Ann Paris

aka Mom

Penny Rowley

1965 - Mom opened a new studio at 345 N Stapley Dr., Mesa, Arizona. We had been at 925 E. Main Street across from Frasier Drive, where we lived. Mattas' Restaurant was next door. They later moved across the street.



**ALL TYPES OF DANCING FOR ALL AGES** is taught at Paris Dance Studio, 345 North Stapley Drive, Mesa, (964-1111) which is owned and operated by Jack and Ann Paris. Pictured are Ann, in the center, with her two daughters, April, left, an instructor, and Penny, who also is an assistant. All types of dancing are taught including tap, ballet, toe, Hawaiian, ballroom, arcobatic, modern jazz, Tahitian . . . and they even can teach 3-year-olds to dance. Talent is available for all types of shows. Ann has owned and managed her own studio for 19 years in Mesa, and she has taught thousands of the valley residents the art of the dance. She is a member of the Dance Masters of America, the Chicago National Association of Dance Masters since 1952, and she has served as a state director and regional supervisor for the latter organization.



Ann &  
April

## Dance Studio Window

- ❖ We always had to wear curlers in our hair – the bigger, the better to make it straight.





1  
9  
6  
6

# Another Review – Teacher & Kids

17<sup>th</sup> annual



**IN REVIEW** — This group of young dancers from Paris Dance Studio will be among those performing in the 17th annual Spring Student Revue on Thursday at 8 p.m. in the Mesa High School auditorium. Pictured are (front) Krista Ausprung and Scott Taylor, (chorus line) Kyra Morris, Tere Slattery, Jeanne Johnson, Lee Ann Schultz, Holly Isley, Vernell Taylor, Barbara Osborne, Jeanne Holly and Cindy Taylor, (Can Can Girls) April Rowley and Lisa Sloan. A variety show of tap, ballet, modern jazz, acrobatic and Polynesian numbers is planned. The public is invited. (Tribfoto)



# News! News! News!



**DANCERS** — Jeanne Dupont, left, and Chuck Walker, right, pose with top hats and cane as Nancy Hill and Karen Wall observe as "Edeline" class during rehearsal for the Paris Dance Studio's 18th annual student revue scheduled at 7 p.m. at 345 N. Maple Dr. The event, open to the public, will feature tap, ballet, toe, acrobatic, Hawaiian, Telenovela, ballroom and modern jazz numbers. (Tribune)

16<sup>th</sup> Annual

18<sup>th</sup> annual

27<sup>th</sup> annual -  
1978



**IS IT OR ISN'T IT?** — Not exactly purple-people-eaters but these dancers do have a flavor of space people as they rehearse for the 18th Annual Spring Revue "Around the World in 80 Minutes" being presented Friday by Paris Dance Studio at 7:45 p.m. in the Westwood Shepherd Auditorium. Students pictured are Howard Petersen, Mariene Cox, Terri Porter, Annette Petersen, Yolanda Garza, Debbie Nagy and Chuck Walker. (Tribune)



**Dance revue**

Students at the Apex Paris Dance Studio (in reflection, from left) Bridget Carter, Andrea Gonzalez, Sara Hickey, Kathy Sullivan, Kristy Tulliver and Kim Frances Parks, prepare for tonight's Spring Revue to be held at 7:45 in the Mountain View High School auditorium. The program, which is the 27th annual revue for the Paris Studio, is free to the public.

We are  
always  
in the  
news.



**Debbie**

**TO ENTERTAIN AT DINNER SATURDAY** — Dancers from the Paris Dance studio will provide entertainment for a sworgobord dinner sponsored by the Desert Wells Lions and Lionsess-ess clubs Saturday at Jefferson School from 5 to 8 p.m.. It has been announced. Dancers shown are Mary Jane Kintner, Kathie Austin, Diane Sirrine, Amy Vanwinkle, Elin Duckworth, Shelby Richards, Debbie Rowley, Lenell Hancock, and Kathie Ford. Proceeds of the dinner will be used for eye and dental care for boys and girls in Taft and Jefferson schools. Tickets will be on sale at the door.



# 1968 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Review



**MUSIC TO WATCH GIRLS BY** — This line of cuties will be featured in the 19th annual spring revue of Paris Dance Studio students this Saturday evening at the Westwood High Shepherd Auditorium. Striking a pose are Marlene Cox, Sue Mattingly, Donna Cullen, Marta Kawsler, April Coleman, Penny Rowley, Anne Wolsieffer and Jerri Haws. (Tribfoto)

## **Dance Studio Sets Revue**

- **The 19<sup>th</sup> annual spring revue by Paris Dance Studio tonight at 7:45 p.m. in the Shepherd Auditorium at Westwood High School will feature colorful costumes and a variety of dances.**
- **Students will be presented in jazz, tap, ballet, modern, Polynesian, polka and other dance routines.**
- **During intermission 100 percent attendance awards will be presented to the dance students.**
- **The public is invited without charge.**





**PERFORMERS** — Misses Gail Beck and Penny Rowley (top) and Sherril Lea Gering (below) will be among the dance group from Paris Studio performing at the Sociables Club Luau on Saturday evening at 9 p.m. at the Edith Hendricks home, 336 N. Fraser Dr., W. The dancers will present Polynesian dances from Hawaii, Tahiti, New Zealand and Samoa along with performers of all ages. (Tribphoto)



# Penny & Chuck

also assistant teachers

## Stars at "The Paris."

ARIZ. Thursday, October 10, 1968

### Chuck Walker Places First In Fair Talent Competition

Young Chuck Walker is a winner!!

The 11 year old son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Walker, 1111 W. Main St., won first place of his division in the State Fair talent contest. He will compete against winners of the other divisions at the fair in the talent finals on Nov. 8.

Chuck's winning number is a tap dance to "Tut, Tut Tut, Goodbye".

He is a sixth grader at A School and has been a student with Ann Paris for years.

**WINNER** of the Eastern Division in the State Fair talent contest preliminaries is Chuck Walker, 11 year old son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Walker, 1111 W. Main. (Tribphoto)

1968



# Paris Dance Studio in the News 1969

Page 10 Sun Valley Spur-Shopper January 16, 1969



THE PARIS DANCE Studio Peewees will be one of the dancing groups performing at the Desert Wells Lions and Lioness Smorgasbord dinner Jan. 25. Left to right are Ruth Ann Daley, Lori

Duckworth, Terri Conn, Sharon Telford, Kathy Farrow, Holly Lee Frazier, Annette Hancock, Jack Paris Jr. is the only boy in the group.

**THE PARIS DANCE Studio Peewees will be one of the dancing groups performing at the Desert Wells Lions and Lioness Smorgasbord dinner Jan. 25. Left to right are Ruth Ann Daley, Lori Duckworth, Terri Conn, Sharon Telford, Kathy Farrow, Holly Lee Frazier, Annette Handcock, Jack Paris, Jr is the only boy in the group.**



# Special Guest Teachers

Many famous people came to the studio for special week-end or weeklong teaching sessions. These included:

Ruth St Dennis – Ethnic dances and a good friend of Isadore Duncan

Nicco Charrise, who starred with her husband Cid Charrise & Gene Kelly

Gus Giordono, NY jazz – He was teaching John Travolta for "Saturday Night Fever" plus other big stars at the time.

Al Gilbert was a regular. He is famous for his tap exercise work. He taught me to do 'single wings'.

James Rozannas – world famous Olympic Acrobatic

Joe Pirro – jazz, novelty – he taught dance to many people of royalty. He taught "The Queen" how to dance. Mom danced with him at the Disneyland Bandstand & people cleared the floor for them. They even offered them a job dancing there.



# Guest Teacher, Sid Charise

Front row: April, Penny, Ann



Front row Ann, Jackie, Penny, April, \_\_\_\_



- ♦ We learned a lot and had tons of fun. Our muscles really ached the next day.




# We Danced!

- ♦ Any time – any where –
  - On TV in the early 60s– we were regulars on the local “Lew King Rangers” Talent Show
  - The Arizona State Fair each year – usually two shows each year – on the best stages...
  - Bi-Yearly Formal Reviews –
    - held in several locations
  - City affairs – local businesses
  - Rest homes, trailer parks, church events
  - Luau’s all over – like at Mt Shadows & private parties
  - Booked thru a booking agency all over the state



*Paris Dance Studio*



Member of Dance Masters  
of America & Chicago Nat'l  
Assoc. of Dance Masters

★ ALL TYPE DANCING FOR ALL AGES

- TAP • BALLET • TOE • HAWAIIAN
- BALLROOM • ACROBATIC
- MODERN JAZZ • TAHITIAN

TALENT AVAILABLE FOR ALL TYPE SHOWS

SINCE 1949

964-1111

OPEN 24 HOURS  
BY APPOINTMENT

345 N. STAPLEY DR.  
MESA

Paris  
Dance Studio  
Ad in the  
phone book  
yellow pages  
1970's

- ◊ Notice: Talent available – we danced everywhere



# Dance, Dance, Dance!

- ♦ We danced at the Arizona State Fair each year on the Coliseum Stage. One year we were the warm-up show for Sonny & Cher. This was when they were in their prime.
- ♦ In the 60s we danced several times on the local TV Talent Show, "The Lew King Rangers." After we "tried out" the first time, they would call us when they needed another group to compete. The "Rangers" were on right after "Wallace & Ladmo," a popular children's show.
- ♦ Several of our students have opened their own studios. Chuck Walker, Bridgette MacCarter, even Frances Campbell was a student, for a time, before she opened her own studio.
- ♦ Ann Paris went to college with her youngest daughter, Penny, and received her PhD in Clinical Psychology, and became Dr Ann Paris. She moved to Hawaii and retired from Dance teaching..



# Hula Dance – we were the best!

- ♦ We did Hawaiian Shows throughout the valley
- ♦ April & Penny paid their way through college dancing, working thru a booking agency.
- ♦ April, Penny, Jackie & Sue





# Penny & April

"Sisters" 1969

we danced  
together for  
many years.  
mom always  
made our  
costumes.





# Penny & April



Over the years







**MESANS AT FAIR TONIGHT** — Jackie Oller, April and Penny Rowley and Sue Mattingly will appear at 8:40 tonight on the Plaza Stage at Arizona State Fair along with other dancers from Paris Dance Studio in a Hawaiian program. Last week they entertained at the Arizona Association of School Food Service.

Arizona State Fair about 1970 – a yearly event

• Jackie, April, Penny, Sue



# Dance at the Fair Again 1971

Star, April,  
Chuck & Kathi  
Chuck was taller  
now

November 2, 1971



STAGE FRONT—Performing in the "Happiness Is" Program at the Arizona State Fair tonight will be Star Gilliland, April Coleman, Chuck Walker and Kathi Austin. Not shown are Penny Rowley and Judy Thurston. They are supported by Paris PeeWees and Sparklettes. (Tribfoto)



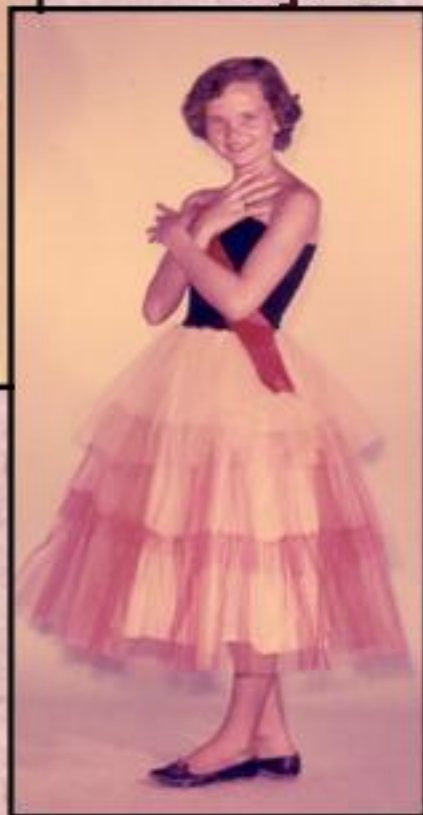
# April

1964

...age 19

age 14

age 12



April becomes  
Assistant teacher.



# We were ...the place to be!

- ♦ 1950's – There were only two major studios in Mesa – "Rowley School of Dance" was one. Lessons began at the LDS Seventh Ward building – on East Broadway.
- ♦ 1960's – We moved up and had a studio at 925 E. Main Street. The "Rowley Dance Studio."
- ♦ Mid 1960's – We built our own building at 345 North Stapley Drive. Now "Paris Dance Studio,".
- ♦ In the 1980's teenage dances were held at "The Paris." Many local bands got their starts there. Wanna-be rock bands, too young to come to the dances, stayed outside and listened. It was ...the place to be.
- ♦ The Studio was always very popular.





**GOING OVER SCRIPT** — Mrs. Jack Paris and Fred Johnson confer on script of forthcoming "My Three Angels" production. (Tribphoto)

## LDS Experience Benefits 2 Members of MLT Cast

By PAT LARO

Two members of the Mesa Little Theatre cast for "My Three Angels" received much of their drama experience in performing through the Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter Day Saints.

Mrs. Jack Paris, now a member of the Mesa Fifteenth Ward as chorister for the Relief Society, has been dance director for several L.D.S. wards and drama director for plays and road shows.

A graduate of Mesa High School, she has operated a dance studio in Mesa for 18 years. Mrs. Paris is a member of the Chicago National Association of Dance Masters, and Dance Masters of America and has studied with many famous dance personalities.

Her family includes husband Jack, and children Ken, April, Gordon, Chris and Penny Hawley and young son Jack, Jr. She has one granddaughter.

Fred G. Johnson, a certified public accountant and partner in the firm of George L. Sheppard and Co., has participated in L.D.S. drama activities since the age of 8 years and is presently drama director for the Mesa Fourth Ward.

While attending Mesa High School, he had roles in eight plays and worked on properties

and scenery.

A native of Phoenix, he received his B. S. degree from Arizona State University. He resides with his wife, Marjorie, and six sons, McKay, Lee, Irvyn, Ezra, Webb and Jared, at 441 N. Beverly St.

An active member of Mesa Little Theatre since its beginning, he also serves as treasurer for the Mesa Lions Club, is on the board of directors for Mesa Fine Arts Association, chairman of the education committee of Mesa Chamber of Commerce and MLT secretary.

In the coming production of "My Three Angels" he is cast in the role of "Felix".

## 3-Act Comedy Coming Up



**IN LITTLE THEATRE PRODUCTION** — Ann Paris, Susan Shaw, and Ila Odom are shown in a scene from "My Three Angels", Mesa Little Theatre production scheduled Thursday and Friday at Irving School auditorium. The comedy involves a trio of convicts at a penitentiary. Curtain time is 8:30 both nights.

Ann also stars in local plays.



Ann Paris passed away in 2011 peacefully at her home where she wanted to be, with her children around her. "Life has been real fun." She is missed.

This presentation is a compilation of all studio pictures and news articles in my possession

- If you have additional pictures, programs or news articles please contact me
- April Coleman at 480-834-3209 or [akcoleman1@yahoo.com](mailto:akcoleman1@yahoo.com).