
KELLY'S CORNER

by Jan Kelly

Harvest Moon, probably the most romantic of moons, is the honey moon of agrarian societies. When the harvest was in, matters of the heart could be catered to. It's not just the Harvest Moon that has a specific name. All twelve moons have their own nomenclature. If there is a 13th moon it is called a Blue Moon. Hence the expression, "Once in a blue moon." Last July 1985, we had two moons, the 2nd and the 31st. No more for the 80's, next one is in the 90's decade.

January is the Wolf Moon, February, the Snow Moon, March Worm, April the Pink, May the Flower, June the Strawberry, July the Buck, August the Corn, September the Harvest, October the Hunter's, November the Beaver, and December the Cold. These are their American titles, but cultures use titles corresponding to their climate, topography and occupations. The one we all have in common is the irregular-regular Blue Moon—*The moon belongs to everyone; the best things in life are free*—As the words to that old song go.

This certainly is the case with Bunny Grant, a moon child who knows that theme all too well. Bunny had been a professional dancer since childhood. Her adult career was spent as a performer and as a teacher of dance. At the age of eleven Bunny Grant, then Bernice Thompson, left her Georgia home to travel the Chitaquah show route with her parents and brother. Bunny's dad played cello and trumpet, brother Jack played violin, Bunny danced and momma held it all together. They traveled the East coast and the central states for a year and a half.

At one point the ingenue became ill and 12 year old Bunny had to learn 5 parts in one week. The show producers wanted sorely to retain Bunny, but after a year and a half, momma said it was school time. "Finish that schooling!" At the age of 14, Bunny headed out for New York where she joined Vaudeville. Later she took dramatic parts in *Everybody's Welcome* and *Walk A Little Faster* with Bea Lillie. From there Bunny's career had a solid four years at the Paradise Club at 49th and Broadway. The Paradise and The Hollywood were the two biggest clubs in New York at that time. Bunny sang and danced until she sang and danced herself into the arms of Jack Goodman and got married. Two children were born of this marriage, Stephan and Susan.

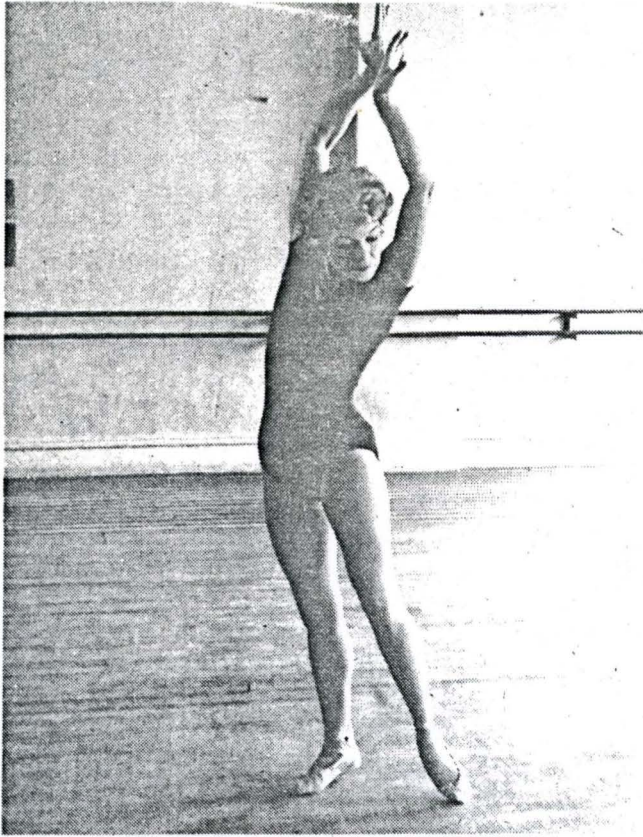
So Bunny and Jack retired from show business temporarily and put their efforts into the raising of their family. The war broke out and Goodman, with a broken arm, had to be more creative than the average man in order to perform his patriotic duty. He studied navigation and meteorology and taught this to servicemen at Cornell University. This brought the fami-

ly to Ithaca and ever-active Bunny needed her creative outlet, too. Vacuum cleaners, pots and pans and mounds of laundry could never tie this woman down, though she is a superlative housekeeper and cook. Bunny opened "The Dance Workshop" which she ran for 22 years. Not only did she teach, run the business and choreograph complete shows, both story line and exceptional solos, but she designed, made the patterns and made the costumes for all her shows. That's where her sewing skill came in. Today Bunny's business is "Bunny's Stitchery." Almost everyone in town has some of Bunny's master stitchery in their wardrobe.

Twenty-two years is a long time, so the gypsy in Bunny had her close up her school and look for change. She went back home to Georgia to help out with an ailing relative and to visit her parents who have enjoyed an eighty-year marriage. Bunny's mother is now 102 years old and she lost her father last April at the age of 99.

Bunny is a natural as a nurse, too. While in Georgia, Bunny met a special someone and came back north with him for a summer vacation. The year was 1971, the vacation spot was Provincetown. Like so many before her and after her, Bunny fell in love with Provincetown and stayed. How many times have you heard someone say, "I came here for a weekend 10, 15 or 20 years ago and just stayed." So Bunny stayed and taught dancing again, both children and adults, both tap and ballet. Costumes, productions and ongoing classes again. The work is good. Bunny receives correspondence from students who dance professionally and are ever-grateful for her guidance.

Life changed for Bunny through the 70's. Arthritic hips and multiple health problems forced another direction for this diurnally active dancer. To have a hip replacement, to be fitted with a plastic hip, is a major operation. For one month you sit still, for 6 months you hobble on and then master crutches. Then you graduate to a cane until you and your hips can walk normally. Bunny Grant has had both hips done three times. Her will and discipline have her looking younger than ever, out on a daily walk, not stroll, and living a life that would be vigorous for someone half her age. Bunny's Stitchery is the business now and the rest of the time is in pursuit of a better life. How this story came about is interesting. I've known Bunny for years, aware of her determination and resourcefulness, but sometimes your mind can be jolted into thorough thinking by seeing a person out of the routine you expect from them. I was running in the Beech Forest last Sunday going at quite a clip in the warm Indian Summer air. At a good pace, a figure was approaching me. Wide-brimmed hat, staff, neat grey slacks and blouse, white running shoes and a muslin bag over the



Bunny Grant, the dancer

shoulders, impeccable and such a picture. It was Bunny looking so healthy and youthful she commanded attention, though she was unaware. She was just enjoying herself. "Bunny, it's good to see you here." I knew that she wanders to Pilgrim Heights and the Truro bike trail and the beaches at times. "I'm up to four miles now and I've got my cranberries!" She patted the muslin bag. I love it out here. I come every day and every day I thank God for these woods and that I'm able to enjoy them." Now, the next time you want to complain about an ache or a pain just think of that response. Take a look at this woman's picture. You'd feel silly complaining about anything. Recuperation can be as creative as all other parts of your life. Wisdom is the positive side effect. I've got to rush and get that picture of Bunny, she's due at the senior citizen exercise class at 3 pm.

While Anne Kane is recuperating, so is 4 year old Justin T. Smith. Justin fell in his backyard 7 weeks ago and has been in a cast to his waist since. He lies on a raft on the living room floor and has to be tended by mother Dodie Jo for all his needs. Justin hasn't been able to have a full bath in 7 weeks. He has a front hole and a back hole sculpted into the cast. Justin is sort of like a bivalve these weeks. Dodie is on the run



Bunny Grant, the walker

with potty and fresh plastic wrap at any time of the day or night. Both mother and boy deserve a loud cheer.

When I took Divil to school this week to visit the 1st grade and help with their animal studies, I heard Danny Kanis had the same problem, same type cast. Mother Diane couldn't believe her son could stay still for seven weeks. He is still, bored but still. Television is there, but reading can be the savior of these times for people. Start them young. As a preschooler you can go to our library each Thursday from 10—11 am for the reading hour. This is a good introduction to books for the pre-readers. Cookies and juice are served. Mothers are welcome.

The library has so many new childrens' books. The early readers like to visit once a week or so to browse and exchange their books. Accompany them and encourage them until they can go on their own. This will also make children aware of the events at the library catering to them. There will be a Halloween party, an Xmas party, and special presentations for their amusement and education. If a person learns to use a library at a young age, it will be part of their life wherever they live or travel.