

Midwest Morris Ale

ATTENTION K-MART SHOPPERS!

SIXTH ANNUAL MIDWEST MORRIS ALE

Friday through Monday

MAY 23, 24, 25 & 26, 1986

ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI

January 10, 1986

Dear Folks:

The Capering Roisters of St. Louis bring you greetings and best wishes for the New Year, and invite your attendance at the Sixth Annual Midwest Morris Ale, open to all teams, individuals and friends of the Morris.

Arrangements made to date: We have secured excellent camping facilities, with space indoors for over 200 and plenty of room for tents, some facilities for those needing privacy (such as parents with young children), an enormous dining room and kitchen, and covered spaces for workshops and other activities. We have also secured the necessary permits for a wide variety of tours in the St. Louis area, dancing in or at the St. Louis Art Museum, Missouri Botanical Garden, The St. Louis Arch, Union Station, St. Louis Zoo, Central West End Streets & Pubs, Laclede's Landing, Mississippi Overlook Stage, and several Gazebo & Pavilion Picnic and Dance Sites. We are working out plans with the Childgrove Country Dancers so that those who intensely desire to visit the Kimmswick Country Dance Weekend may do so. Most of our dance sites offer protection from rain and are in pleasant surroundings where audiences may be expected.

In order to keep costs within reason and still provide the amenities to which we have grown accustomed, we are applying to two public bodies for Financial Support.

We need, for this purpose, a statement of whether you or your team may attend. Note, please, MAY, not will. This is not a commitment on your part. If you are certain that you are not coming to St. Louis, please say so. Of course, you can change your mind on that, but please let us know.

We also want a rough estimate of the number of people who you think may attend. This can be the number of people on your team. If you have the ability to get a more accurate estimate today, when you receive this, or tomorrow at the latest, fine. However, we need this information right now, yesterday, so we respectfully request that you do some arithmetic and fill out the enclosed post card and mail it immediately, without further ado. Do not wait until your next team practice. Do it now! Thanks. The more people who may come, the more money we ask for.

POSTSCRIPT - a variety of matters -

The attached letter is being sent to the following list, at the addresses shown. In a couple of cases, the letter is being sent mainly for information, with no expectation that the teams with which the addressees are affiliated will appear at the Midwest Ale; we would be glad to be proven wrong in this assumption. In a couple of other cases the teams in question may not exist except as remnants. Remnants are welcome. A copy of this letter is being hand-delivered also to Katy Early at her new address (somewhere in Chicago), and a copy is being sent to Judy Goldsmith, in Madison.

The camp we have rented is Camp Don Bosco, a Catholic Youth Conference Camp, thirty miles south of the center of St. Louis in Jefferson County, adjacent to Hillsboro, the county seat (pop. 1,500) of Jefferson County. This is not the camp that we showed to Dave Seibert last July 4, but the one seen recently by Nancy Keogel of the Maroon Bells and John Bealle of the Bloomington Quarry Morris. They saw it at night (separately, we should add), when most of you will first see it, and agreed that it was suitable.

We will have liability insurance under the blanket policy covering all Archdiocesan events, and our understanding is that this insurance will cover the Ale wherever we are, not just at camp. The blanket policy has nothing to do with blankets.

The Capering Roisters is acting under the guise of a Missouri not-for-profit corporation called "The Media School, Inc." This corporation does not run a school, but except when dancing, lives a quiet existence in a desk drawer.

The camp is going to charge us \$5 per person per night for anyone sleeping on its cots - the kind of cots with which we are all too familiar. On the other hand, it will charge only \$2 per night per person for anyone in a tent. We are charged with the responsibility (as things now stand) of ascertaining who slept where and for how long. This has the advantage (for us) of not having to put up lots of money before the Ale (we have \$50 on deposit), and helps with cash flow. It has the further advantage of converting what has been a fixed cost heretofore into a variable cost. The disadvantage is that it introduces the need for some extra bookkeeping, and will put on everyone the responsibility to be honest about what accommodations they are actually using, especially as we intend to pass most if not all of the savings on to those who use tents. (School teams, which presumably are without tents, may not be able to afford cabins at the stated price, and will probably require a subsidy.)

The tent sites are a large lawn (or two), and some sites in the woods. Nothing involves a long walk, and almost all the paths are paved with gravel. We heartily recommend tenting, for cost, privacy and comfort. There are, however, enough beds to house the entire Ale indoors, if need be.