



Clog-A-Gram

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*The NEWEST Instructor on the Block
SUSI THOMAS shares her story of how
she became an instructor and what
clogging has in store for her.*

I never thought I would be teaching clogging. For those of you who know me, my sister Jan Tuller, though she has passed on, will continue to be my inspiration and reason why I started clogging and teaching today. When Jan became very ill she was the clogging instructor for Placer School for Adults. At a time when teaching became too taxing for her she asked me to substitute teach for her class. I was terrified to step out of my "student shoes" and into the "teaching shoes." My sister practically forced me into this big step, she gave me no way out. She told me I was very capable and walked me through my first session of teaching her classes. She really believed I would be good at and knew I would love it. I have fallen in love with teaching this awesome form of dance called clogging.

PLACER SCHOOL FOR ADULTS

I now teach a beginning, easy intermediate and intermediate class every Thursday night during Placer School for Adults sessions. I have students that continue every session faithfully and I love them all dearly. The exciting thing about teaching a new beginning class every session is that I meet so many wonderful people and get to watch them learn and progress into dancers. Our classes have decided that we would like to start demonstrating what clogging is in our community to help generate interest and hopefully bring more people to our classes. I find that in our community there are people who have no idea about clogging. Our classes want to change this and educate our community about the true American heritage we call clogging. So wish us success on my student and I hope to meet and dance with you soon.

CLOGGING AT FRANKLIN SCHOOL—LOOMIS

This past winter I had a great experience, I was asked to participate in an enrichment program for the P.E. department at Franklin Elementary School. (Grade L-8 in Loomis, CA, in the foothills above Sacramento.) I taught two classes, one to seventh grades and the other to eighth graders for two days. I had close to 40 students in each class. The classes were co-ed. I would say the majority of students did not have prior dance experience and not one had any clogging experience. I found the students, even though it was going to be a part of their grade, very interested in the history and actual dancing. They had so much fun, even the tough football players, following my instructions and smiling the whole way through. We ended learning two dances, *Let Her In* and *All for Love*. Both beginning classes did great for the speedy lessons they had. Students, and kids in general, are great sports and they are the future of clogging. They will keep this wonderful American heritage alive! This was a wonderful experience that I will not forget!

From Jill Kirkland—7th Grade Teacher—Franklin Elementary School. We were able to incorporate clogging into our curriculum through a site program we call Diversity Days. Diversity Days includes the last eight days of the first and second trimesters where students have their traditional courses before lunch and have enrichment classes after lunch (for about 1 to 1-1/2 hours). It is during this enrichment time where we have extended a lesson in each of the core subjects, including P.E. This is how and why clogging was included into our program. It was an extension of P.E. that students would not have had during regular class time.