

Skipper Hall on the Building of the Historic Chapel at Sacramento, NM

One reason the chapel got built was in '36, when I was recreation leader, I introduced the folk games, which is a form of dancing. I had two carloads, I had two preachers load up the young people and leave in protest to my dancing. But anyway, that kept going and kids would come up and go back home and say, "Bryan Hall let us dance up in Sacramento." Of course, that got me into trouble in a lot of areas. But it led to the building of the chapel. The way it happened, halfway between the present-day chapel and the dining room was a two-story building in which we worshiped in the bottom floor and square danced in the top floor. And I was there when it happened. One night we were square dancing — a great big crowd of young people were square dancing up on the top floor and we saw the walls vibrating five or six inches. We got scared and we pulled the young people out of there and as soon as we got around to it we took that top floor off. That meant that every time we wanted to square dance we had to take all the pews outside to make room to square dance and that gave birth to the fact that we ought to have a place to worship so we wouldn't have to move the benches. That's the background to the beautiful log chapel built in Sacramento. It might not have happened if it wasn't for the controversy over square dancing.

– Bryan "Skipper" Hall, March 30, 1980 (As told to James L. Smith)