



JOHNNY CREEL, was born in Summit, Mississippi and raised in McComb before moving to New Orleans in 1939. A graduate of Metairie High School he served his country in the World War II era as a communications specialist in the Army.

Johnny began square dancing in 1955. Within a few years he had organized a new club, Dip N Dive, and began teaching new dancers in 1959. Unbeknownst to him a club member booked a dance for him to call for another club and a career was born. A year later he was asked to record his first singing call and six months after that called his first out of state dance in Florida. Over the course of his career he recorded 62 singing calls on the Lore and Blue Star labels along with being part of 3 LPs on the Blue Star label.

In 1957, as President of Dip N Dive, Mr. Creel helped to organize the Metropolitan New Orleans Area Square and Round Dance Association. In 1959 Mr. Creel became a charter member of the New Orleans Callers Association and served four terms as its president. In 1969 Mr. Creel was one of seventeen members of the MNOASRDA who formed the Deep Dixie Square Dance Association for the sole purpose of bringing the National Square Dance Convention to New Orleans.

Johnny's selfless devotion to square dancing has brought him an abundance of awards. For his contributions he received a certificate of merit for his contributions to square dancing in New Orleans from Mayor Moon Landrieu. In 1988 he received MNOASRDA's first ever award "in appreciation for dedicated service in promoting square and round dancing."

In 1974 he received Callerlab's Quarter Century Award. In 1999 Callerlab presented him with The Special Appreciation Award for Outstanding Contributions to Square Dancing. This award is presented to members who, in the opinion of the selection committee, have "distinguished themselves with unselfish personal contributions far exceeding the norm during their square dancing career."

Johnny Creel passed away in 2006 and these singing calls are a sampling of his vocals over the years. Thanks to Barbara Reed (Johnny's daughter) for the original studio tapes.