

54th Nationals Fashion Show, from our viewpoint

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Our adventure with the fashion show at 54th Nationals in Portland, OR actually began early in 2004 at a Top-Kan dance at Croco Hall in Topeka. Jon and Rosemary Ware, who were Fashion Show Directors for the 2004 Kansas State Convention, asked us if we would model in the convention in Salina during June of that year. Although we have been square dancing on and off for over 30 years, we attended only one previous fashion show (and state convention), and that was Missouri. It looked like fun so we told them “yes.”



The 2004 Kansas Fashion Show went well and we had fun with all the other modeling couples. Jon and Rosemary’s group did an outstanding job with the show.

We attended the 53rd Nationals in Denver a couple of weeks later, with Lloyd and Connie Northrop, a first for both couples. It seemed a shame to have worn the Salina costumes only once and it seemed appropriate to really dress up for the big dance Saturday night and wear them once again.

During a tip in the High-Energy hall, Ginger Chugg and her partner from Washington state approached us to ask if we were going to next year’s Nationals in Portland, and if so, would we consider modeling in their fashion show? By this time we were having so much fun and had decided that we would go to Portland if any way possible, so we said “yes.”

Rosalee donned her design hat once again, starting on another set of original costumes. Her childhood heroine was Dale Evans, which again inspired her design, except this time Bob had requested “no fringe” on his shirt. This was probably due to an encounter in a Denver hotel hallway, while wearing the Salina costumes, with a group of teenage girls who gushed “You two are soooo cute together!” Ok, no “cute” fringe for Bob this time. Substitute white piping instead.

There were many telephone calls and emails between Rosalee and Chris Kastella, the Portland Fashion Show Vice-Chairman. Their committee initially proposed that we would be tied up with the show for most of Saturday and would miss a lot of dancing. The schedule was later modified so that we would drop off costumes mid-morning Saturday, meet with managers and other participants for a walk thru on-stage, and be free to dance until a noon luncheon. This would then allow time to dress and prepare for the show at 1:00 pm.

The show seemed to go smoothly but we spent most of the time back-stage rather than from an audience viewpoint. Friends and others commented that they enjoyed the fashion show. It was a fun experience for both of us and we are glad that we participated in the once-in-a-lifetime event (unlike our Kansas State Convention, you may model only once in the Nationals). We are looking forward to being in the audience down in San Antonio (and Charlotte, and Wichita).

Bob & Rosalee Rainbolt,
NE KSDA Historians,
Happy Time Squares,
Lawrence

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