STAGE ASIDES

LEE MAN IS BEHIND E.L.T. FOLK DANCE FESTIVAL

The festival of international dancing at Eltham Little Theatre on Friday and Saturday next week (January 13 and 14), under the title "See How They Dance" should be well worth a visit. Staged by the Society of International Folk Dancing — who put on an annual folk-dance festival at the Albert Hall— the Eltham show will put 50 dancers on the boards in dances from most of Europe.

Man behind the group is Mr. Herbert Price of Meadowcourt - road, Lee. He learned dancing—ballroom, tap and musical comedy — under Barbara Stowe of Blackheath. In 1946 he came into contact with the Society of International Folk Dancing, a group formed by refugees from Europe and other foreign nationals, to keep alive their dancing culture. He joined the group, became its driving force, and is now President of the Society.

Mr. Price's work has helped to preserve for posterity dance forms and music that could otherwise have been lost, for in some countries the old national dances are forbidden.

Music was difficult. The tunes were traditional, and no sheet music was available. Mr. Price had them hummed and sung, while experts scored and recorded them.

SPANISH DANCERS ESTEBAN AND MARGHRITA

English folk belong, dancing Spanish, Estonian, German, Polish and other European dances, as well as traditional English dances.

In the show will be Esteban and Marghrita, a Spanish pair who provided the floor show at E.L.T.'s New Year's Eve dance, and whom you see in my picture. They will be appearing soon in West End cabaret.

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Costume was another diffi-

HERBERT PRICE

culty. Here Mr. Price's sister, Irene Fyffe, also of Lee, came into the picture. She studied hard, visited galleries and museums, and made herself an expert on folk dance costume. Now she is asked technical questions by foreign folk about their own national dress!

The group now has hundreds of costumes, all made by Irene Fyffe, and all accurate in every detail.

The work and dedication of this Lee brother and sister brought its reward, and support for the group grew. Now many