

DANCE THE NIGHT AWAY

1920

As the Town of Brighton grew, more people went to Presqu'île just for fun. Better roads gave city people an easy way to escape from their busy lives. People had more free time and money, and were looking for fun things to do. Presqu'île was great for pleasure boating, picnics, and summer holidays.

Ship's Log: 1920s

Boats were no longer the only way to travel. Roads, trains, and even airplanes were now common ways to move people and goods around the country. Sailboats, motorboats, and other types of smaller watercraft became increasingly popular.

There were many places on the Presqu'île Peninsula for people to dock their boats. Businesses like the Presqu'île Hotel, cottage rentals, and camping grew in popularity.

Peter Covell, the original manager of the Presqu'île Hotel, sold the hotel to Grant Quick in 1914. By the mid-1920s, the Presqu'île Hotel dining room could seat 225 guests. The cost of a stay at the hotel ranged from \$3 per day to \$16 per week, meals included.

Grant Quick was a key figure in turning the peninsula into a place for recreational use. He was chair of the Presqu'île Park Commission in the 1930s. The commission later became known as Presqu'île Provincial Park.

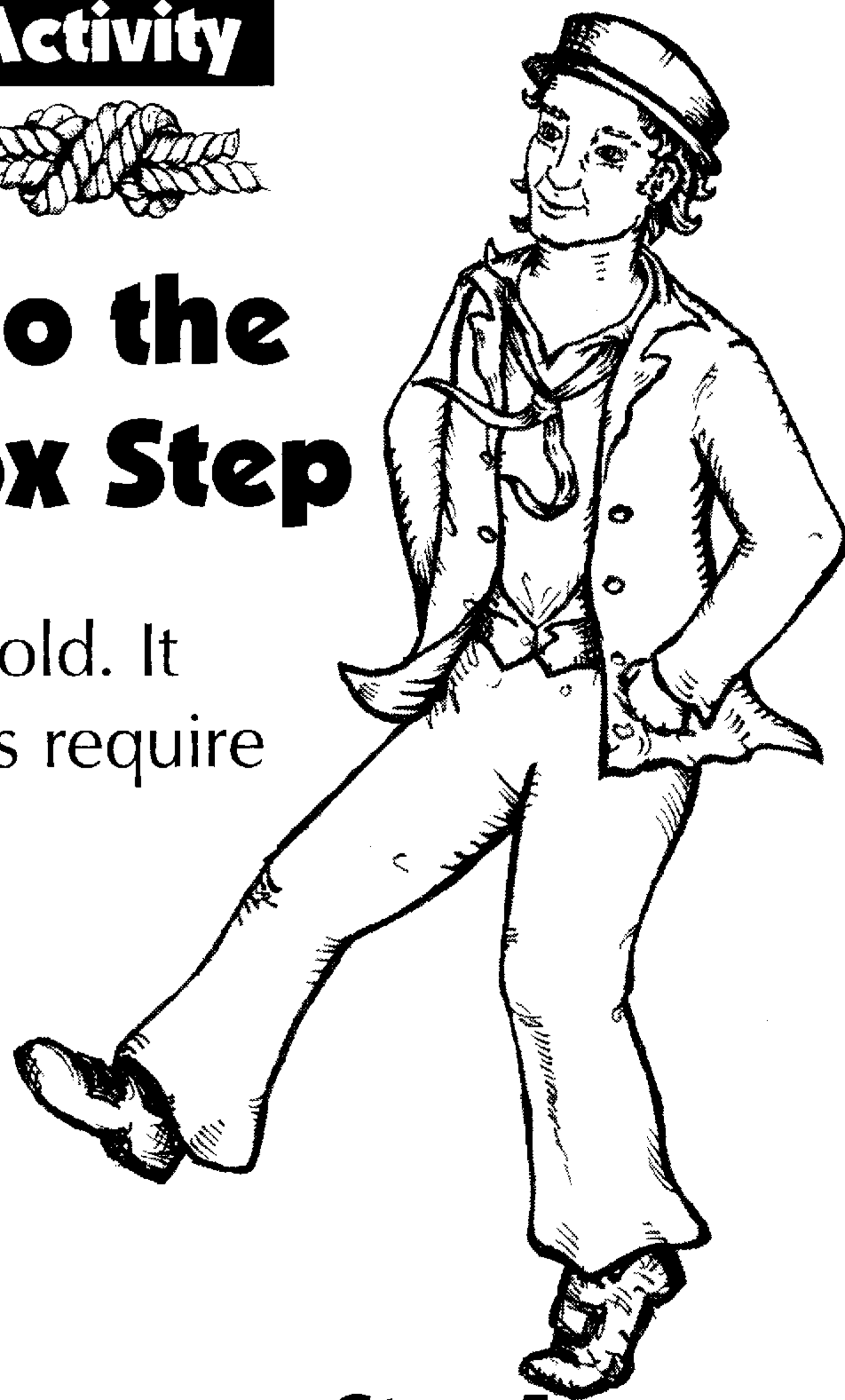
Did you know?

The Presqu'île Dance Pavilion hosted dances six nights a week in the summer. Many famous musicians and dancers performed for the crowds.

Activity



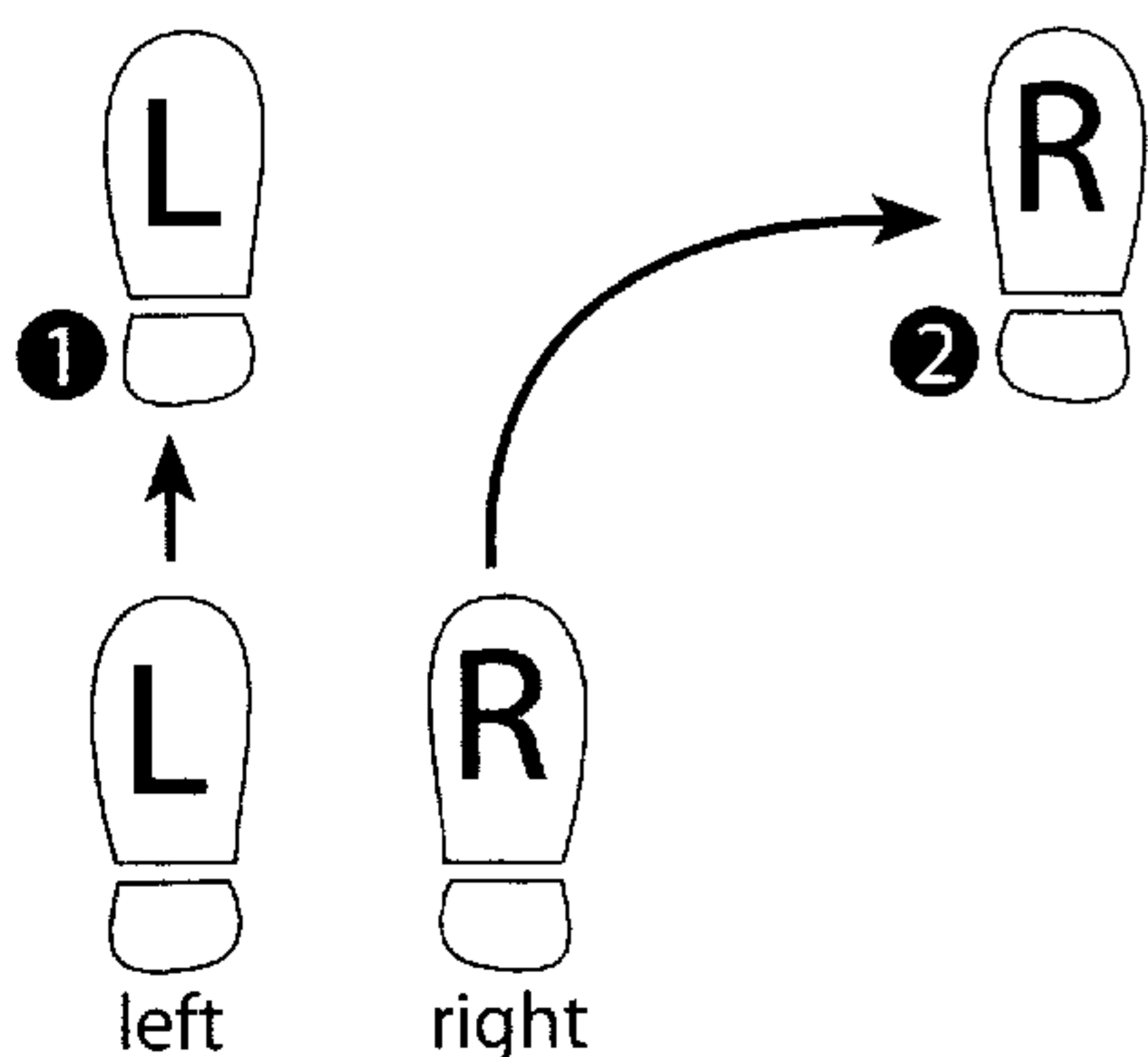
Do the Box Step



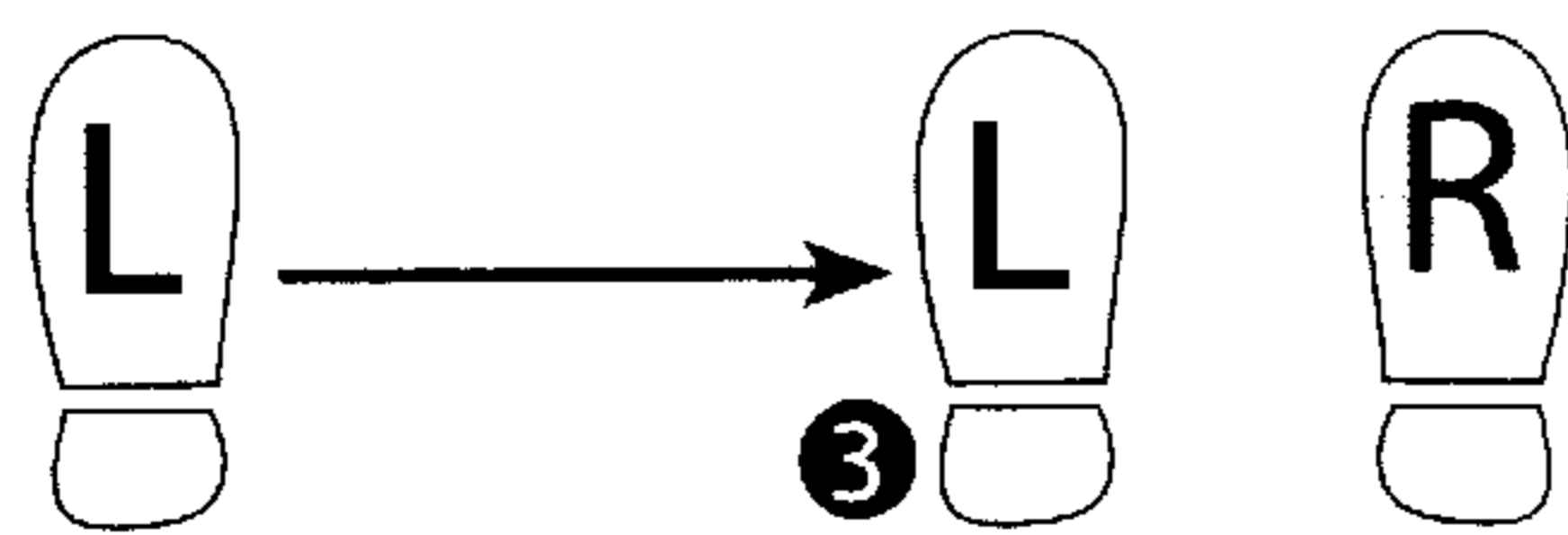
Presqu'île Hotel's Dance Pavilion attracted both young and old. It was the "place to go" for summertime dancing. Most dances require certain steps or patterns.

One easy dance was called the Box Step. If you do it the right way, your feet will make a square from the place that you start to the place that you finish. Try doing the Box Step by making your feet do the same steps as the feet

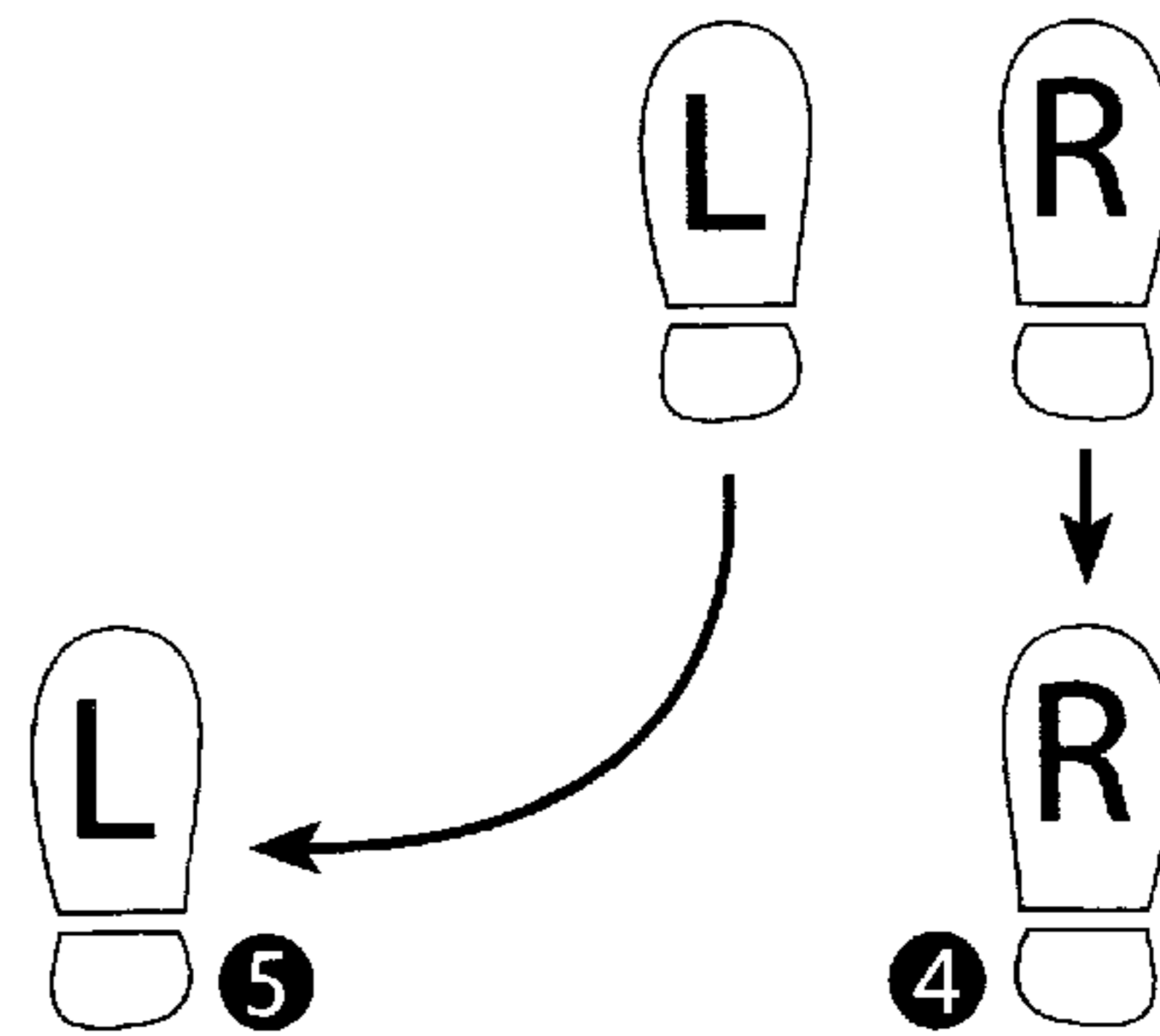
Step 1



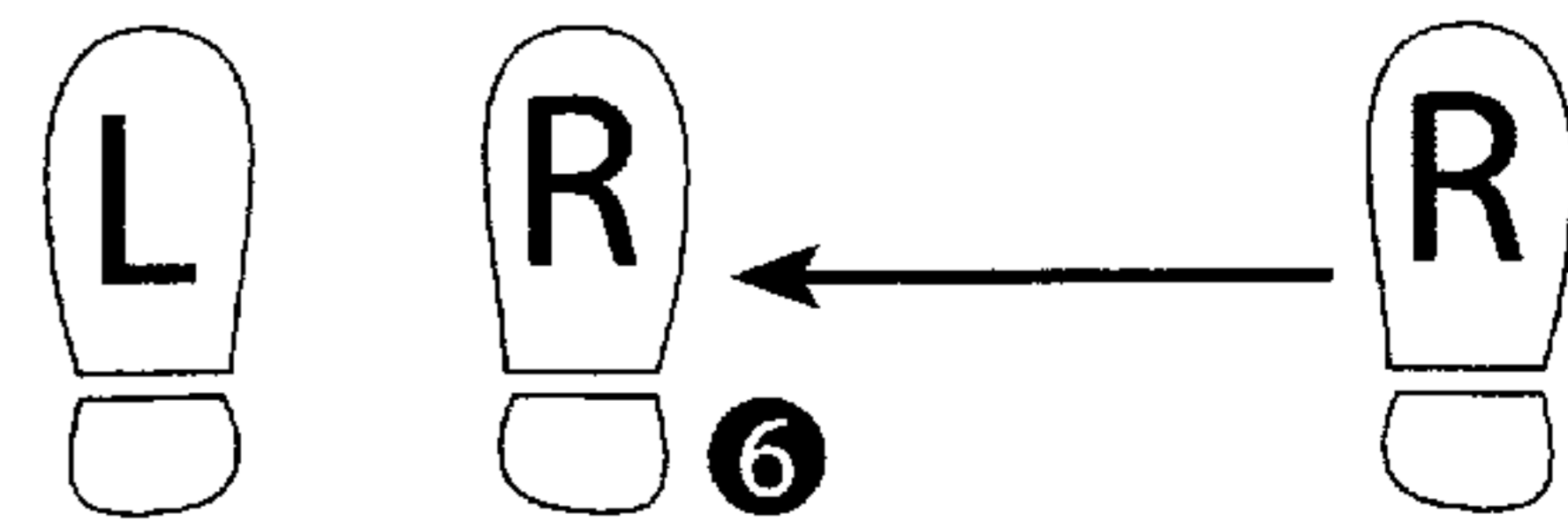
Step 2

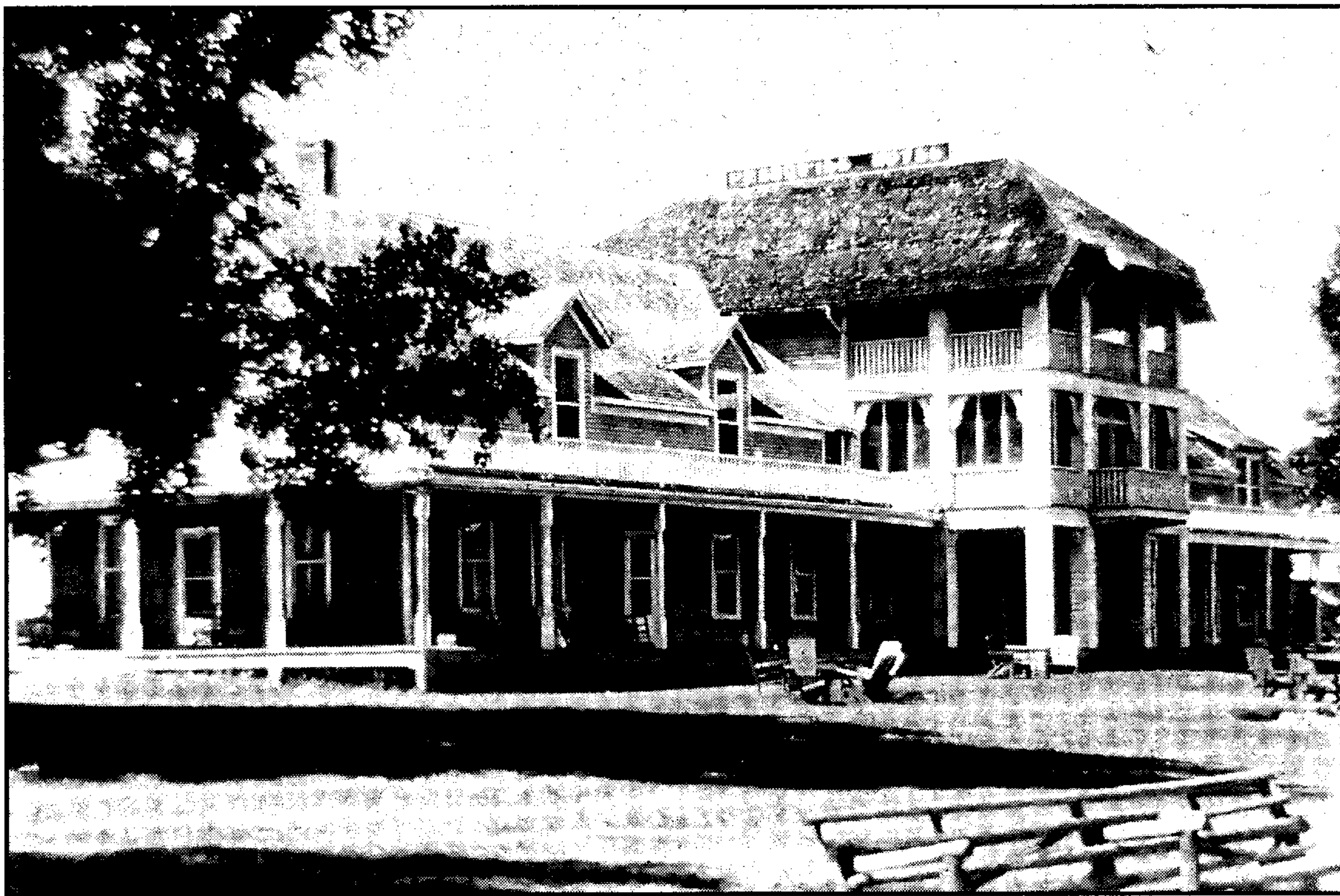


Step 3



Step 4





The Presqu'ile Hotel

A large hotel was built at Presqu'ile in 1905. It was a popular place until it was torn down in 1971. Visitors could choose from a wide variety of activities. The hotel had tennis courts, horse riding trails, and plenty of spots for a family picnic. The nearby government dock was a great place to dock your boat for a weekend of summertime fun.

Not All Fun & Games

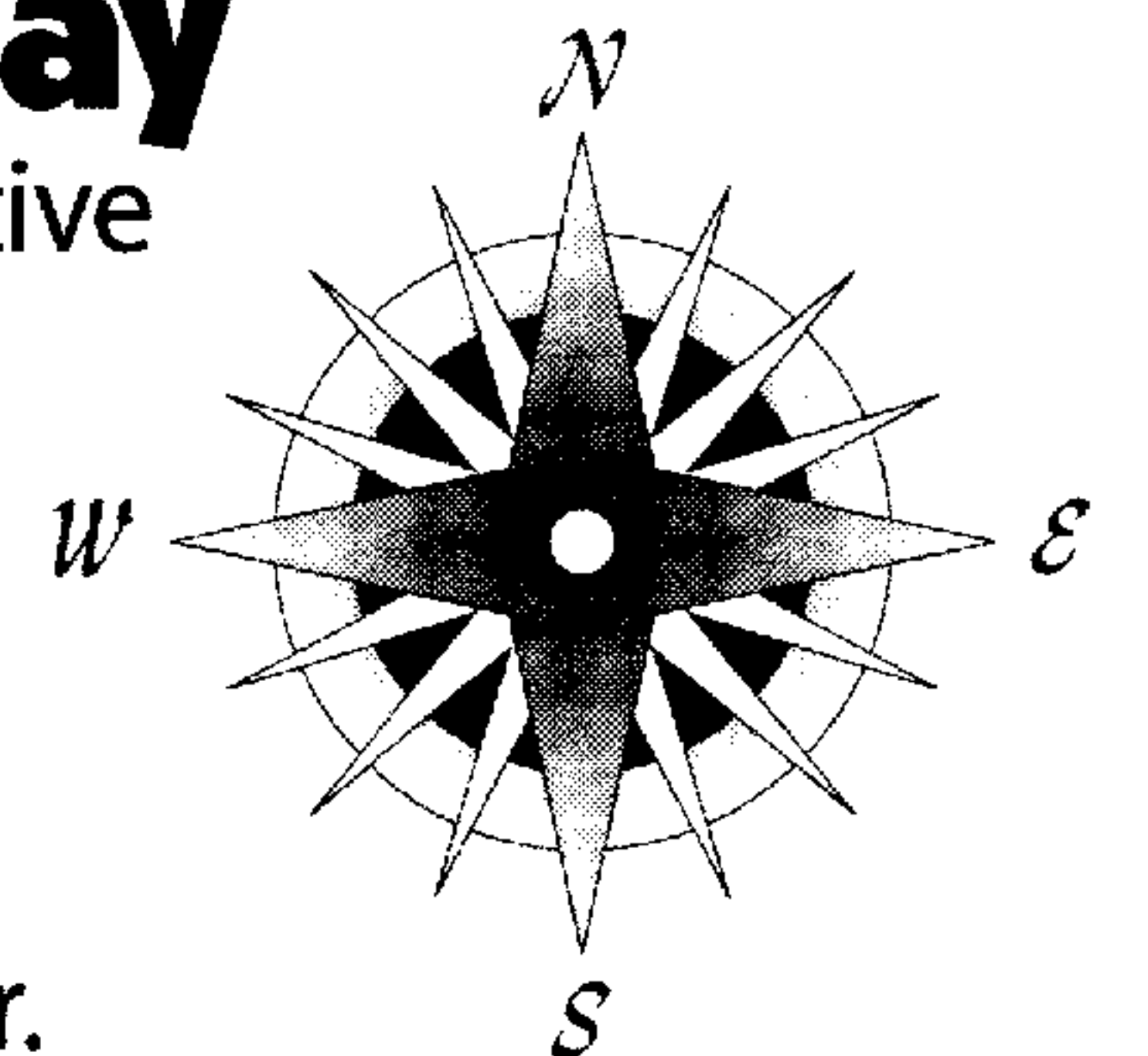
In the 1920s, it was against the law to drink alcohol in the United States. Rum runners made huge profits by sneaking Canadian alcohol across the border. A \$3 bottle of whisky could sell for \$12 in the United States.

Ben Kerr was one of Presqu'ile's notorious rum runners. He made use of the quiet Presqu'ile Harbour to hide his boats.



Visit It Today

The Lighthouse Interpretive Centre has displays about the growth of recreation at Presqu'ile. You can also learn about rum runners like Ben Kerr.



Activity



Create Your Own Dance Steps

Once you've mastered the Box Step, try making up your own dance. Draw the spots where your left and right feet should land. Try asking a friend to perform the dance that you have invented.

Step 1

Step 2

Step 3

Step 4