



BILL STIRRAT, president of the newly formed Scottish St. Andrew's Society of Greater St. Louis, with his wife, Agnes. Behind them is the flag of St. Andrew, the patron saint of Scotland. (Post-Dispatch Photo by Ken J. MacSwan)

Scottish Group To Honor Burns

By D. D. OBIKA
Of the Post-Dispatch Staff

The Haggis, a Scottish pudding made from cuts of sheep, herbs and vegetables, will be featured prominently on Feb. 3, when the newly formed Scottish St. Andrew's Society of Greater St. Louis will hold a dinner to celebrate the 214th birthday anniversary of Robert Burns at Holiday Inn Downtown.

Stirratt, president of the society, explained that celebration of Burns's birthday is one of the purposes of the society. He said that the group had its annual dinner-dance at the

haggis. Tickets to the affair may be obtained from Thomas Brennan, corresponding secretary, at \$7.50 a person. Brennan lives at 9213 Shortridge Avenue, Rock Hill.

"There will be plenty of entertainment until midnight," said Mrs. Craig, who came here from Scotland eight years ago. "There will be highland dancing and a variety of other Scottish dancing."

The Scottish St. Andrew's Society was formed in September and has about 150 members. On Nov. 26, the group had its annual dinner-dance at the

he said. "We shall develop plans, programs and meetings to perpetuate the memories, histories and music of our ancestors."

"We want to pass on to the young persons the warmth and hospitality of the Scottish people," Stirrat's wife, Agnes, said. "We feel that the Scottish people can give something to America — and that's the spirit of friendliness and hospitality."

Mrs. Stirrat, who is historian for the group, notes that people never drop in on people in this country. "In Scotland, you can drop in any time and you will

Breezy Law Suit In Hillsboro

When is a windbreak not a windbreak or what is it?

That was the issue that pitted trustees of Starling Estates subdivision in Arnold against resident John Grofe and wife, Judi, in a day-long hearing at Hillsboro before Circuit Judge Philip G. Hess.

The trustees asked the judge for a mandatory injunction requiring the defendant "to remove the windbreak insofar as it extends beyond the minimum setback line of about 25 feet."

The petition said that by letter on Dec. 16, 1971, the trustees advised Grofe that a "a row of cedar trees on both sides extended beyond the minimum setback building line" and could not remain because of existing subdivision restrictions.

Petitioners said initial response from Grofe came from his wife, who said he was ill and was unable to remove the trees. Later, the trustees said, it was brought to their attention that Grofe was applying fertilizer and peat moss and had no intention of doing anything about the "windbreak."

Grofe, taking the stand, told the court he put in what he called shrubbery not long after moving to the subdivision on Oct. 5, 1966. For years nothing was said about it, he testified, adding "others have similar plant material to which no exception is being taken."

Attorneys for both sides were given until Jan. 26 to submit to Judge Hess a suggested decree and suggested findings of law. They are Robert L. Brown for the trustees and Charles A. Sheehan for the defendant. Brown also is city attorney of Arnold.

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Paul Ferber, attorney for the petitioner, asked the council to give the basis for its denial by ordinance. The city attorney did not have the information on the ordinance's wording at the council's recent meeting.

Councilman Jones, who reminded Ferber he had cast an affirmative vote, said, "I don't think the council needs other justification other than what they consider as the protection of the community."

Ferber asked the city administrator to note the individual reasons for denial.

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Bill Stirrat, president of the new society, explained that celebration of Burns's birthday was one of the purposes of the organization. He said that Burns represented the very best that Scotland has produced.

Burns, the greatest of Scottish poets, was born in 1759 and died in 1796. Stirrat notes that haggis was part of the Burns dinner tradition.

"We always have haggis, in addition to the usual menu," said Stirrat, who came to the United States shortly after World War II. "Burns wrote a poem about haggis."

Mrs. Hazel Craig, membership chairman, said that her organization had not decided whether to have an imported

haggis. Tickets to the affair may be obtained from Thomas Brennan, corresponding secretary, at \$7.50 a person. Brennan lives at 9213 Shortridge Avenue, Rock Hill.

"There will be plenty of entertainment until midnight," said Mrs. Craig, who came here from Scotland eight years ago. "There will be highland dancing and a variety of other Scottish dancing."

The Scottish St. Andrew's Society was formed in September and has about 150 members. On Nov. 26, the group had its annual dinner-dance atop the Farm & Home Savings & Loan building, 7801 Forsyth Boulevard, Clayton. About 300 persons were present.

Stirrat, who said he has more than 40 relatives here, explained that the aims of the group are to foster and exchange cultural, benevolent, educational and recreational ideas and pursuits between those of Scottish birth and descent and others in the St. Louis area.

"There are certain things in our culture we want to teach our children and friends here,"

he said. "We shall develop plans, programs and meetings to perpetuate the memories, histories and music of our ancestors."

"We want to pass on to the young persons the warmth and hospitality of the Scottish people," Stirrat's wife, Agnes, said. "We feel that the Scottish people can give something to America — and that's the spirit of friendliness and hospitality."

Mrs. Stirrat, who is historian for the group, notes that people never drop in on people in this country. "In Scotland, you can drop in any time and you will be treated the same way an invited guest is treated," she said. "Preserving our heritage, without rejecting American heritage, is our goal."

"Unlike other ethnic groups," Stirrat said, "we do not form a hub, but we retain our identity anywhere we might go."

Long-range plans of the group include taking care of indigent old persons of Scottish descent by building a home for them, helping children of poor parents to finish school, and giving scholarships to students who are interested in the study of the history, culture and tradition of Scotland.

The group intends to familiarize young persons here with the works and contributions of Robert Burns, Sir Walter Scott, Robert Louis Stevenson, John Napier, Andrew Carnegie, John Logie Baird and William Lister, among others.

It plans to teach the young persons Scottish ballroom, sword and highland dancing. Films of the wildlife in Scotland will be shown to persons interested in the group.

Stirrat said the group would plan charter flights to Scotland. This will enable young persons to see where their fathers and mothers came from.

Mark Twain Institute Registration

Applications are now available for the Mark Twain Summer Institute's 1973 session. The institute is open to any student from any school.

Academically able and talented students in the ninth through the twelfth grades in public, private and parochial schools will be selected on the basis of school records, recommendations of principals and teachers and the result of a screening examination. March 2 is the deadline for applications, and screening examinations will be given March 3 and March 10 at Clayton High School, 1 Mark

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The council enacted an ordinance contracting with Louis H. Antoine and Associates Inc. for engineering services, mostly surveying, for street improvements.

It was reported that it will cost \$4075 to improve storm water drainage at Taylor and Chester Avenues, on East Madison Avenue from Taylor to Kirkwood Road, West Monroe Avenue from Kirkwood Road to Harrison Avenue, Van Buren Avenue from Woodbine Avenue to Monroe and East Madison from Taylor to Fillmore Avenue.

A bill was introduced to renew the contract with Peerless Land Co. for dumping refuse from the city. First reading was given a bill to approve the final plat of Colony Woods' community unit plan with the addition of two units, now allowed under a change in ordinances.

The council adopted a resolution honoring the Rev. Webster Kitchell, who has been pastor of Eliot Unitarian Chapel.

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