





Above left, pretty Mary Beth Miller of Kansas City, an internationally-known Scottish dancer, performs the Scottish version of the Irish jig as part of her exhibition repertoire at the Games. Left, standing at attention during the opening ceremonies is Drum Major Norman Mackenzie of Ontario, Canada, who served as chief steward of the Highland Games. Above, the Rev. Arnold Pope of North Carolina strains as he prepares to throw the 28 pound ball and chain. He is a caber tossing champion.

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With the strains of "Rowan Tree" skirling over the field from the massed pipe bands and the royal flag of Scotland with its red lion on a yellow background fluttering in the breeze, all that was missing were the surrounding hills covered with their purple blanket of heather.

Otherwise, you might have been in Braemar, come to see the most famous Highland Games of them all.

However, even though this really was Webster Groves' Memorial Park, the excitement was still there. Sponsored by the city of Webster Groves as a Bicentennial event and presented by the St. Andrew Society of Greater St. Louis, the very first true Highland Games to be held in the St. Louis area were about to begin.

Participants had come from Minneapolis-St. Paul, Chicago, Kansas City, Milwaukee, North Carolina and Florida — among other places — to compete in the

band, solo piping and drumming, Scottish dancing and athletic events.

Even the weather cooperated, with blue skies and temperatures in the 70s.

"We call this 'the Queen's weather' back in Scotland," smiled William A. Stirrat, president of the St. Andrew Society, whose soft burr still reflects his native land. "That goes back to the time when Queen Victoria would visit Scotland. It seems the mists would go away and the sun would come out whenever she came."

Some say it was Malcolm Canmore, King of Scotland in the 11th century, who organized the first games at Braemar. The story goes that he was unhappy with the speed of his messengers so he decided that the young men should hold contests of speed and endurance so he could choose the top ones for his service. The main event was a race to the top of nearby Craig Choinich which was won,

continued

By Shirley Althoff/Pictures by Dick Weddle

SCOTTISH HIGHLAND GAMES

King Henry VIII of England, a pretty big fellow himself, once tried his hand at caber tossing

SCOTTISH HIGHLAND GAMES

according to the legend, by the youngest son of a local chieftain who beat his two older brothers.

However, others argue that some events at the games — the dancing, for instance — are rooted far deeper in history than just Malcolm's day. For example, in 54 B.C., a seasoned officer in a Roman legion trying to invade Scotland wrote in shocked terms about the wild ancient Caledonian warriors who stuck the hilts of their swords and the butts of their spears in the ground and danced jubilantly around them amid the bodies of their fallen victims.

While the beginnings of the bagpipe are lost in time, they are said to have originated in India. However, it is only in Scotland and Ireland that the pipes became the instruments of warriors and were developed to sound at a maximum intensity with two to three drones or sustained tones and a chanter or melody-playing pipe. Don't forget that in World War I, the Germans called the piper-led Highland Regiments "the ladies from

when they wanted to cross a stream or get the log across without fording the water. The object of the caber toss is to throw the log end over end in a straight line so it lands in a 12 o'clock position. Distance has nothing to do with it. Incidentally, King Henry VIII of England, who was a pretty big fellow himself, once tried his hand at this sport.

Other Scottish athletic events include throwing a 28-pound and a 56-pound ball and chain for distance and the 56-pound ball for height as well; putting a 16-pound and 28-pound stone and throwing the Scottish hammer. In addition, the Webster games featured a beer barrel toss (with an empty one that weighed 28 pounds and one filled with concrete that weighed a hefty 197 pounds) and a tug of war.

Adding color and gaiety to the Webster Highland Games were seven pipe bands and more than 50 dancers.

"There's nothing like a pipe band playing on an open field on a beautiful day," said British Consul-General Archibald Rendall, O.B.E., one of the honored guests at the festivities. "Pipes are not an instrument for indoors."

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There are three types of music played on the Highland bagpipe: the classical Piobaireachd or Pibroch as it's spelled in English, dance tunes and folk airs and competition music, encompassing marches, strathspeys and reels of an elaborate nature with difficult fingering.

Anyway, although the true origin of the Highland Games may be open to argument, everybody agrees on one thing — they've been around a long, long time.

The traditional athletic events at these competitions prove that the Scots are a sturdy lot with an abundance of muscle power. They got their start in the day-to-day activities of the average Scotsman years ago. If he could not cut and transport timber or lift rocks to build a house, he was in a bad way.

It's said that woodsmen invented the tossing of the caber (a 20-foot or longer log that weighs 100 or more pounds)

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Crowds began to gather early for the morning field, solo piping and dancing events and good-naturedly showed little impatience when the activities started late.

"Scots people never begin on time," noted Mrs. Dorothy Campbell of Chicago whose daughter, Heather, 10, was competing in the dancing.

"We've really been looking forward to this," declared Lt. Larry Warthen, a Navy recruiting officer in St. Louis. "I was stationed at Dunoon, Scotland for three years before I came here. Our youngest son, Callan, is our Scotsman; he was born there."

Callan, 2, his brother Chris, 5, and their mother, Gloria, were all decked out in plaid outfits as were many other members of the audience, including Webster Groves Mayor Jack Cooper and his wife, Betty.

While a lot of people in the crowd





It was only in Scotland and Ireland that the bagpipe became the instrument of warriors

were familiar with Highland Games, others — including some participants — were not.

For example, Bill Stirrat's son, Russell, who is a jet engine mechanic stationed at the Naval Air Station in Memphis, Tenn., persuaded four of his fellow sailors and eight Marines to enter the tug of war event.

"When Russ asked us if we wanted to come up to the Highland Games, we said 'sure. What's a Highland Game?'" laughed Richard Newton, another jet engine mechanic. "Then he started talking about throwing a 20-foot-log that weighs 100 pounds and tossing a 56-pound weight and we said, 'Oh, come on now!' But we thought we'd like to try it.

"Besides, it's a weekend away from school."

And try it the young servicemen did, entering most of the athletic events, surprising both the judges and other contestants in some cases and charming the crowd.

At first the sailors and Marines stood on the sidelines watching in awe as the professional "heavy" athletes practiced.

St. Louis' own powerful 6-foot-5 Bill Bangert brought "wows" from them as he hurled a 56-pound ball more than 30 feet. Told that he was the first man in 151 years to carry the "Dinnie Stones" (named for famed Scottish strong man, Donald Dinnie) which weigh 750 pounds across the Bridge of Potarch in Scotland, one of them entered with one being

"That's something I gotta try," said Pfc. Al Pulikowski of Chicago. (He later did and took first place in the amateur division.)

They talked to the Rev. Pope, a strapping Methodist minister from Fayetteville, North Carolina and three-time caber champion at the Grandfather Mountain Highland Games in his home state, who told them the object of the contest. The Rev. Pope didn't disappoint them in the open division, winning it with three perfect tosses.

Pfc. Pulikowski provided some excitement himself when it came to putting the 16-pound stone. He outdistanced not only his teammates but also the pros with a throw of more than 45 feet.

Asked by The Globe-Democrat if he had done any shot putting in high school since it looked as though he had more than a working acquaintance with the event, he admitted he had.

Asked just how good he had been, Pulikowski modestly confessed:

"Well, I won the Illinois state track meet."

"Al pulled a ringer; he never told any of us that," one of his fellow Marines jokingly complained.

The big event for the servicemen, of course, was the finale — the tug of war. The Navy boys already had recruited the recruiting officer from the stands, Lt. Warthen who had been talking with them during the day, for an extra man.

"Get down as low as you can get and





Left, the Rev. Arnold Pope of Fayetteville, N.C., prepares to toss the caber. He won the event with three perfect tosses. Top of page, Pfc. Al Pulikowski tosses the 56 pound ball and chain. The young Marine won the overall amateur title in the athletic competition. Above, St. Louis' own strong man, Bill Bangert, heaves his winning toss of more than 30 feet with the heavy ball and chain. Bangert came out on top in the professional division of the contests.

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What they found hard to believe was that the national record holder in the beer barrel toss, Peter Hoyt of Orlando, Fla., or anybody else for that matter could even lift the awkward 197-pound barrel much less heave it any distance. When Hoyt threw it more than eight feet and Bangert an even 10, the servicemen shook their heads.

Later, some of them decided to enter the amateur beer barrel toss, using the 28-pound barrel. Pfc. Ralph Stanley came in first with a throw of nearly 70 feet but neither he nor any other of the sailors or Marines or even Bill Bangert or the Rev. Arnold Pope could equal Hoyt who, with a loud yell, gave a mighty hurl of 80 feet, one inch.

The servicemen also were fascinated with the caber, the 20-foot, 100-pound log.

"Migosh, it's as big as a telephone pole," quipped one.

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"Get down as low as you can get and lean back. If you stand up, it's all over," advised Charles Wright, brother of Rayfield Wright of the Dallas Cowboys and no 120-pound weakling himself.

The Marines, already worried about the weight difference between them and the Navy, gave a loud groan when they saw the sailors' next move. Still short of men, they got Bill Bangert to join their team.

"God, I thought they left the anchors behind the ships," a somewhat slightly-built Marine grumbled.

The Marines were right to worry; the Navy and Bangert won in short order.

While the athletic events were taking place in one area of the field, the pipe band and dancing competitions continued in others.

The band contest was divided into two parts — Grade IV in which they played a regular march, and the open division in which the bands played a slow march and then broke into a quick march.

continued



With the powerful Bangert as anchor man, the Navy pulls away for an easy victory in the tug of war. Proceeds from the Highland Games will be divided among various children's charities in the Greater St. Louis area.

SCOTTISH HIGHLAND GAMES

There was the Brian Boru Pipe Band from Minneapolis-St. Paul wearing the McLaughlin tartan; St. Louis' own Meeting of the Waters Pipe Band in Drum-

followed by the Billy Mitchell Band, the Brian Boru Band and the Meeting of the Waters Band, and the first three bands also took the top places in the open division.

On the dancing platform, boys and girls from four years old to 16 and over danced the Highland fling, sword dance and Seann Triubhas throughout the day in their gaily-colored costumes. The youngsters were grouped both by age and experience into beginners, novice, intermediate and open categories. Judge for the dancing events was Mrs. Gladys

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SCOTTISH HIGHLAND GAMES

There was the Brian Boru Pipe Band from Minneapolis-St. Paul wearing the McLaughlin tartan; St. Louis' own Meeting of the Waters Pipe Band in Drummond of Perth tartans; the Shannon Rovers Pipe Band of Chicago in Kennedy tartans; the Billy Mitchell Scottish Band in Mitchell tartans, the Midlothian Scottish Band from Midlothian, Ill., in Hod-den grey tartans, and the Pipes and Drums of Moolah Temple in Royal Stuart tartans.

The Kansas City St. Andrew Band, in their MacDonald of Keppoch tartans, did not enter the contests because they were a Grade II band and only played in the morning parade in Webster Groves and in the massed bands presentations.

"The bands are judged first, by the way they start together; second, by the balance of the chant — they must all be set the same — and third, on the musical interpretation, lift and expression," pointed out Judge Sandy MacPhee of Dunedin, Fla., who teaches piping. The other judge was Roderick MacDonald from Rutherford, Del.

The Midlothian Scottish Band took first place in the Grade IV competition,

followed by the Billy Mitchell Band, the Brian Boru Band and the Meeting of the Waters Band, and the first three bands also took the top places in the open division.

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When the Games were over, both spectators as they wended their way home and participants who were off to an evening "ceilidh" or dinner and party at Webster College voiced hopes that the Highland Games would be repeated next year. Members of the St. Andrew Society, delighted with the response to their first efforts, feel they will be.

And perhaps one or two of them remembered with pleasure the Scottish poet Robert Burns' special tribute to the Highlands:

"Farewell to the Highlands, farewell to the North,

The birthplace of valor, the country of worth!

Wherever I wander, wherever I rove,

The hills of the Highlands for ever I love."

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SCOTTISH HIGHLAND GAMES

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GAMES

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Left, barrel-throwing champion Peter Hoyt demonstrates his skill with the 28 pound keg. The athletes also threw a concrete-filled 197 pound barrel. Above, judge Sandy MacPhee watches as St. Louis' Meeting of the Waters Pipe Band gets ready to break into a competition circle.