



It's a Telephone Pole Fling

This Saturday, for the second year running, Webster Groves will waken to the sound of wailing bagpipes as visiting pipers from across the country tune up at Webster's Memorial Field.

'Tis said that Highland Games follow where Scotsmen settle, and then have a disease-like effect on those who experience them. Under the joint sponsorship of the 200-member Scottish St. Andrew Society of Greater St. Louis and the City of Webster Groves, the St. Louis Games are proving the old saw. Last year's event drew between 6,000 and 7,000.

The St. Louis version of the Highland Games seeks to imitate the authentic Scottish version that takes place over and over again in Scotland from the last Saturday in May until early September when the Royal Games at Braemar are attended by Britain's Royal family. The rules of the Games have changed little from the time of the first contest held, under the watchful eye of Henry VIII, between the Scots and the English off and on since 1054. The popularity of the Games has waxed and waned since then, waning during the Rebellion of 1745, waxing during the reign of Queen Victoria and probably ever since.

The music, dancing and athletic competitions that comprise the Highland Games are roughly divided into five major events: piping, Highland dancing, "heavy" events (meaning athletic events such as the tossing of the caber, which we'll discuss later) a tug o' war and special innovations which are dependent on geography.

What time the pipers start tuning up

OnTheCover



Saturday morning is anybody's guess, but the rest of the day is pretty well defined. The solo piping and dancing begins officially at 9 at Webster Groves Memorial Field, Elm and Glendale. At 10:30 the pipers will begin the parade at the Webster City Hall, Elm and Lockwood, gathering crowds along the way. The parade will go west on Lockwood to Gore, south on Gore to Big Bend, east on Big Bend to Elm and south on Elm to Glendale where it goes into Memorial Field.

Opening ceremonies are scheduled for noon and, at last report, will NOT be conducted by Druids as they once were in ancient days.

The heavy athletic events begin at 12:30, with different events scheduled for each hour. The "heavies" include the stone throw at weights of 26 and 56 pounds, a hammer throw, and caber toss. The latter is the most spectacular of the "heavy" events. In Scotland the caber is a tree trunk weighing about 150 pounds and measuring about 18 feet in length. In this country, a whittled down telephone pole is what is most

lifts. He runs, stops dead and heaves it end over end landing the caber at the 12 o'clock position. That is, if he executes the perfect throw.

Also at 12:30, at the other end of the field, the pipe band contests will be in progress. The novice class is first, and at 3 p.m. the competition for the more advanced third and fourth grades begins.

Sometime during the afternoon, when the "heavy athletes" get tired, there will be a tug o'war between the Norsemen Rugby Club and various local celebrities. The crowd-pleasing tug o'war, is legendary in Scotland, where championships are carefully guarded and the growth of new teams carefully watched. The pillow fight, another rugby event, will also take place during the interval.

A typical American innovation which has become an established part of Highland Games in this country is the beer barrel throw for which Peter Hoyt established his record for throwing the 30 pound container 45 feet 8 inches at Grandfather's Mountain, N.C., considered to be the granddaddy of all Games in America. Hoyt will compete here against three other national champions from the East and Southeast, along with challenger Bill Bangert of St. Louis, known world-wide for his strength in carrying stones.

How To Get There

Webster Groves Memorial Field is one block south of the I-44 exit at Elm Avenue, Webster Groves. Approximately one mile north of Highway 66 at Elm and Glendale Road, turn east on Glendale. The park is between Edgar Road on the east and Elm on the west, and Memorial Field is behind Hixson Junior High School with parking adjacent to the swimming pool and ice rink.

There will be a different "heavy" event every half hour during the afternoon except between 2:30 and 3 when everything stops for sheepherding demonstrations.

At 4:30 the Open Midwest Pipe Championship trophy will be awarded to the best pipe band, followed by a drum major contest at 5 and, at 5:30, a parade onto the field of the massed bands. The Games will officially close at 6 with ceremonies and the awarding of trophies.

The day will not necessarily end with the closing ceremonies. A ceilidh — that's Scottish for a celebration and buffet supper — is being planned for band members at the Webster College cafeteria and adjacent lounges. We're told there will be more pipe playing, dancing, poetry recitations, along with a lot of general silliness, well into the

See Pole Page 13.

Ticket Info

If you're not lucky enough to have advance tickets, do not despair. For adults the gate admission is \$2; for children it's \$1. For ticket information, call Webster Groves City Hall: 961-4100 or

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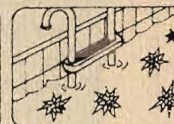
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DIRECTORY

Drive-In — 10634 St. Charles Rock Road, 142. I: Young Frankenstein; Chino; The Dixie Dance Kings. II: House by the Lake; Shadows in an Empty Room; Don't Open the Window.

Belt-Line Washington, Alton, Ill., Young Frankenstein. II: Islands in the Stream.

25 South Kingshighway, 352-2424. Who Lives Down the Lane.

Roxana, Ill., 254-6746. Slap Shot.

5700 North Belt West, Belleville, 1220. Rocky.

Interstate 170 and Highway City, Ill., 931-9960. It's Alive; Black Christmas.

2529 Brentwood, 962-7080. The Little Girl Who Lives Down the Lane.

Highway 460, Alorton, Ill., on a Grove Tube; The Young Vixen.

465-7032. Vanessa.

Wood River, Ill., 254-2114. It's Alive; Black Christmas.

10789 Old Halls Ferry, 868-5555. The Cassandra Crossing.

Mark Twain Shopping Center — 70 and Fifth Street, St. Charles, The Little Girl Who Lives Down the Lane. III: Black Sunday. IV: The Little Girl Who Lives Down the Lane.

9821 Highway 66, 965-8650. The Little Girl Who Lives Down the Lane.

10570 Old Olive Street of Lindbergh, 567-3360. It's Alive.

Lindbergh at New Halls 100. The Little Girl Who Lives Down the Lane.

19 South Florissant, 521-5500. The Little Girl Who Lives Down the Lane.

10951 St. Charles Rock Road, Black Sunday.

Manchester and Interstate 55. I: The Little Girl Who Lives Down the Lane. II: Slap Shot. IV: Bugsy Malone.

175 Manchester Road, 227-9300. The Little Girl Who Lives Down the Lane.

706 Clayton Road, 781-3300. I: House by the Lake. II: Slap Shot. III: A Star Is Born.

Crossroads Shopping Center, Heights, Ill., 398-2393. I: The Little Girl Who Lives Down the Lane. II: Nasty Habits.

7400 Collinsville Road, East St. Louis, 494-438. Swingin' Coeds; Bedtime for Mr. Boogies.

7740 Olive Street Road, 721-7740. The Little Girl Who Lives Down the Lane.

Highway 141 and Olive Street 160. I: House by the Lake. II: Young Frankenstein.

at Washington, 534-9420. Blade; The Little Girl Who Lives Down the Lane.

4533 Gravois, 481-3600. Young Frankenstein.

Grandview Plaza Shopping Center — 210 North Sixth Street, 421-0280. The Sex Thief; Hot Connections.

North Twin Drive-In — 9425 Lewis & Clark, 867-6600. I: Young Frankenstein; Chino; W. W. and the Dixie Dance Kings. II: House by the Lake; Shadows in an Empty Room; Don't Open the Window.

Northland Cinema — Northland Shopping Center, West Florissant and Lucas & Hunt Road, 383-3366. I: Fun with Dick and Jane. II: Islands in the Stream.

Northwest Plaza Cinema — Northwest Plaza Shopping Center, St. Charles Rock and Lindbergh, 739-2010. I: The Car. II: Slap Shot.

Paddock Cinema — 6845 Parker Road, 355-0414. I: It's Alive. II: A Star Is Born.

Ritz — 3147 South Grand, 772-9572. It's Alive; Black Christmas.

Ritz B.A.C. — Downtown, Belleville, Ill., 233-3536. I: The Little Girl Who Lives Down the Lane. II: Young Frankenstein.

Ronnie's Drive-In — Lindbergh and Baptist Church Road, 843-4336. It's Alive; Black Christmas.

St. Andrew — St. Charles, Mo. 723-7300. It's Alive.

St. Ann Cinema — 10430 International Plaza, 423-2120. The Little Girl Who Lives Down the Lane.

St. Ann Drive-In — 10425 St. Charles Rock Road, 429-0230. I & II: Silver Streak; End of the Game; M*A*S*H. (third feature, weekend only). III & IV: It's Alive; Black Christmas; Don't Open the Window (third feature, weekend only).

St. John Cinema — 8840 St. Charles Rock Road, 427-2000. Silver Streak.

Shady Oak — 7630 Forsyth Boulevard, 727-2319. Voyage of the Damned.

Shenandoah — 2312 South Grand, 776-3923. Gone in 60 Seconds; Eat My Dust; Ride a Pink Car.

Sixty Six Drive-In — 9440 Highway 66, 843-4825. Gone in 60 Seconds; Eat My Dust; Ride a Pink Car.

Skyview Drive-In — 5700 North Belt West, Belleville, Ill., 233-4400. House by the Lake; Strange Shadows in an Empty Room.

South City Cinema — 4491 Lemay Ferry Road, 892-0600. I: It's Alive. II: A Star Is Born.

South County Cinema — South County Shopping Center, Lemay Ferry and Lindbergh, 487-4600. I: Slap Shot. II: Fun with Dick and Jane.

South Twin Drive-In — Buckley and Lemay Ferry Road, 892-5032. I: Young Frankenstein; Chino; W.W. and the Dixie Dance Kings. II: House by the Lake; Strange Shadows in an Empty Room; Don't Open the Window.

Stadium Cinema I — Sixth and Chestnut, 241-8580. It's Alive.

Stadium Cinema II — Seventh and Chestnut, 241-8620. The Little Girl Who Lives Down the Lane.

Starlight Drive-In — Route 111 at College Avenue, Alton, Ill., 462-4921. I: Swinging Coeds; Bed Bunnies. II: The Cassandra Crossing; Farewell My Lovely.

Sunset Hills Cinema — Lindbergh and Highway 66, 966-4800. I: Black Sunday. II: The Car.

Thunderbird Drive-In — 3501 Hamilton, 261-5405. Brothers; Sparkle.

Towne — 210 North Sixth Street, 421-0280. The Sex Thief; Hot Connections.

Two Seventy Drive-In — Interstate 270 and West

Pole

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evening. For \$1 the public can take it all in.

And here's another Scottish happening, albeit at an Irish pub called Shamrock West in Overland. In a chance to cash in on something — anything — that might smack of Gaelic, the folks at Shamrock West in Overland are trading in the wearin' of the green for the tartan Saturday night. They promise ceili music by Dan Devery's Blarney Stones and Pete Sullivan's Shamrock Pipe Band. They also promise 7 Irish whistles, harp and guinness, just like on St. Pat's Day. Chances are, if pressed they'll produce some Scotch, but don't count on haggis.

What A Coincidence

The Highland Fling, a new thrill ride, plus various other attractions, all part of Six Flags's new Britannia Square, will be unveiled Sunday to the sounds of (what else?) bagpipers. The Fling, a giant wheel 58 feet across, rest on its side with 21 two-person gondolas hanging from the rim. As the wheel revs up to approximately 15 revolutions, the gondolas fling outward whirling the breathless occupants in a giant circle parallel to the ground. Then the big wheel turns at a 90-degree angle to the ground, "flinging" the now gulping occupants upside down with each revolution of the wheel. A good preparation for the "Screamin' Eagle."

It's part of the Six Flags scheme to pay homage to the flags which have flown over this area: French, Spanish, Missouri, Illinois, United States, and, of course, British.