



# SCOTTISH ST. ANDREW SOCIETY OF GREATER ST. LOUIS

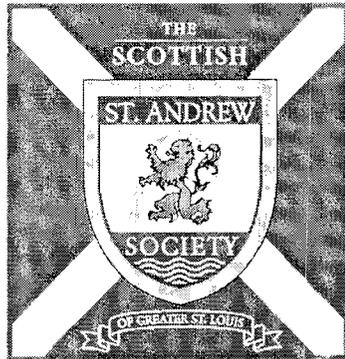
# THE ST. ANDREW TIMES

Feb 1998  
ISSUE 6.5

## PRESIDENT'S EDITORIAL

**D**ear Members,

We did it again! What a great Burns Dinner night it was at the Adams Mark hotel. The Invera'an Pipeband, Dance Caledonia, and Burns' speeches were enjoyed by the 360 people present ... and Alex Sutherland (and group) were just magnificent. Although our MC, Bill Nicoll, mentioned it on the night, it's worth noting again that we also had some exciting "firsts" and expanded the traditions of our own Society. Anna Duffy was the first lady to present the Immortal Memory in St. Louis, and it was done just right! Donald McLaren was the youngest Society member to present a toast, and he didn't forget a word! Her Majesty's Consul in Chicago, The Honorable James Halley,



presented the Society with a quaich (silver Celtic drinking cup) in appreciation of the occasion. It was just a magnificent occasion all round. Many thanks to Denise Duffy and her team of helpers, and the Board members, who all put in so many hours to make this event happen.

Would you believe we've already started working on next year's event! ... where will it be? ... what will we eat? ... who will perform? ... there's lots of decisions to made. As usual, you will find a survey attached to this newsletter —

please return it to help us keep improving the event. And, we are working hard on preparations for the Ceilidh, which will also incorporate our celebration of the U.S. "tartan day."

As for the quaich, we have decided that it should become the "symbol" that is handed along when a new Society President is elected. Much better than a gavel ... it too hard to drink whisky from a gavel anyway!

*Aw ra' best, Jim*

## PLEASE NOTE

The next meeting is:

**February 23rd,**  
"The Formation of Great  
Britain"  
by Dr. Tom Forrester,  
at Mary Inst./Country Day  
School

This meeting is NOT on Feb 16th  
as was previous announced.  
Please excuse the error.

## inside...

*Upcoming Events*

*Out and About*

*The Edinburgh Tattoo*

*Caledonia Corner*

*Toasts & Things*

# Upcoming Events

Next



Event

**February 23rd, 7:00pm**

**“The Formation of Great Britain”**

**by Dr. Tom Forrester**

at Mary Institute/Country Day School



ther events for the year:

**March (date to be confirmed), “Views of Scotland”**

at Mary Institute/Country Day School

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If you would like  
to help out, call  
Marilyn Geery  
314 916 5344

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**Wed. March 18th, 7:00 - 8:00pm**

**Scottish traditional music** at Second Presbyterian Church, 4501 Westminster Place, St Louis, MO 63108. (Take Lindell to Taylor and turn north onto Westminster, church is on the corner). There is no charge and the program will feature **John Hughes** (St Paul, MN), who plays the pipes, bohdran, tin whistle, etc. He also provides background information about the music being presented.

**W**ould you believe it!

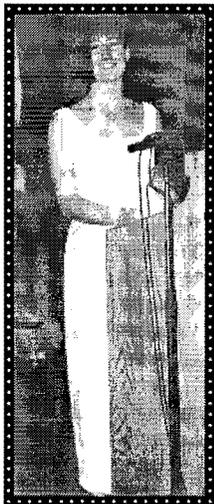
Some 3000 Scottish farmers gathered at the Playhouse (Edinburgh) last week, to discuss the state of agriculture in Scotland. Among others, John Home Robertson, Labour MP for East Lothian, addressed the farmers. In his discourse, he advised them to learn some political lessons from the coal industry. He has since had a letter from a retired miner in his constituency protesting at the miners being compared with farmers!

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Apparently some individuals in Scotland have expressed support for the nomination of Jimmy Shand's “Bluebell Polka” as the new Scottish national anthem. The suggestion is that we dispense with any vain-glorious words and stick to "*Deedle dee dee deedle, deedle dee di doe . . .*" The accompanying reason for this proposal: "If the members of our new Scottish parliament were to stand and sing this at the start of each session, it would undoubtedly set the right tone for the proceedings to follow!" It's good to see that devolution has not changed the wit nor wisdom of the native Scot.

# *Out and About: Society pictures*

**T**he Burns Dinner Celebration was the setting for these grand scenes...



Anna Duffy, the first St Louis lady to deliver the Immortal



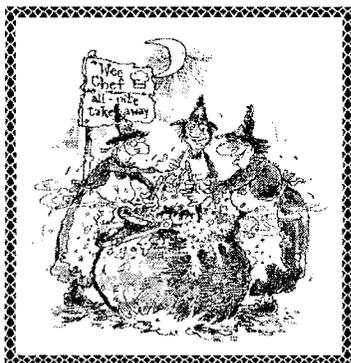
The Inverra'an Pipeband receives a standing ovation.



The Country Dancing exhibition went over well



A knowledgeable audience appreciates the Highland dancing from Dance Caledonia



The haggis at the Burns Dinner was exceptionally good this year — many thanks to the home-made cooking by several of our members. Although the haggis preparation is a tightly kept secret, we used a hidden camera to capture this picture of the scene!

# Caledonia Corner

**T**his time of year there are numerous stories, speeches, toasts and like in relation to Scotland's Bard, Rabbe Burns. Perhaps his durable posterity has come, not from his poetic genius, but from his celebration of his native country. Burns did not just write song and verse about Scotland's beautiful landscape — its moors and heather, its peat bogs, and its highlands. In addition he raised up its folk traditions, song, and sentiment. On occasion he was quite satirical, but always pointing to a better world, through his ability to evoke feelings in the reader or listener.

The Burness family had experienced considerable ill-fortune, and this may have fueled Rabbe's frustration with the political and religious institutions of the day. Burns became a Freemason which seems to have provided a welcome outlet for his frustrations, in addition to his poetic writings:

*Adieu! a heart-warm, fond adieu; Dear Brothers of the Mystic Tie!*

*Ye favour'd, ye enlighten'd few, Companions of my social joy!*

Following a low point in his personal life, when he almost emigrated to Jamaica, Burns began to appreciate his own talents. At a Masonic gathering in 1787, the Grand Master made an enlightened toast to "Caledonia and Caledonia's Bard, Brother Burns." Burns himself wrote of the occasion that ... "*in that instant of multiplied honors and acclamations ... he was downright thunderstruck, and trembling.*" For Burns, it seemed to be a moment of triumph and self-understanding set against years of discouragement and searching.

For those who may be visiting Scotland and would like to explore the history of Robert Burns, there is the Burns National Heritage Centre and Park. A four-acre landscaped gardens with shaded areas for visitors

to sit under tall trees of ash, chestnut, elder and birch, -- open seven days a week except Christmas and New Years Day. The former Land o' Burns Centre in Alloway became Burns Center Alloway and is one of Scotland's most interesting tourists attractions. The park contains Burns Cottage (restored in 1993), Museum, Monument and Gardens, the Auld Alloway Kirk and Brig O' Doon, and has a 100-seat custom-built Tam O' Shanter Auditorium.

The Burns experience near the cottage features "A Tam O' Shanter Experience", lasting about 15 minutes. The audience is treated to a dramatic reading of the famous poem while a triple screen theater set, using computer controlled back and front projection for the three-dimensional effects and sound, creates the impression of riding with Tam O' Shanter on his famous journey from the Hight Street in Ayr to the "Brig" where he was pursued by witches, in the poem. Well worth a visit.

*(Thanks to David Hartwig for the material on Burns and the Masons, some of which was used here)*

## Wha wad ken?

**F**irst to answer all three correctly wins a Society lapel pin.....

1. What's a "neep"?
2. When was Mary Queen of Scots crowned?
3. What or who is Ailsa Craig?

Congratulations to Duncan Macpherson who won last month.

### Answers:

1. Black bun: type of fruit (currants, etc) cake
2. Killiecrankie:
3. Glasgow is a lot further north than Chicago.

All replies to Jim McLaren

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Fast e-mail: mclaren@inverizon.com

Snail mail: 2214 Stoneridge Terrace Ct.,  
Chesterfield, MO 63017

# The Edinburgh Tattoo

**I**f the Seven Wonders of the World included events then the Edinburgh Military Tattoo would surely be among them. If you have never been to one, then “go” and if you have you’ll remember that strange, unique, hair-raising feeling as you gaze in amazement from high on the Castle esplanade. Since the first event in 1950, the annual attendance has grown to 200,000 people, from every corner of the world, and over 50 million people watch it on television every year.

## Did you know that:

The present stands are made up from more than 10,000 metres of steel tubing. Some 20,000 nuts and bolts are used.

The event was first seen in colour on TV in 1968.

The first overseas regiment to participate was the Band of the Royal Netherlands Grenadiers. The year was 1952, and there were also performers from Canada and France.

The average number of participants in events is 550 per year, and over 30 countries have been represented at the Tattoo.

The Tattoo tartan was officially approved in 1983. The colours of the tartan are navy blue (for the Navy), red (for the Army), sky blue (for the RAF), and black and white (for the City of Edinburgh).

Around 35 miles of cabling (the distance from Edinburgh to Glasgow) is required.

Not a single performance of the Tattoo has ever been cancelled.

The first lone piper was Pipe Major George Stoddart. He played in every performance for the first eleven years. One woman has featured as the lone piper, Officer Cadet Elaine Marnoch, who appeared in 1977.

The Tattoo has always been staged at Edinburgh Castle. Rehearsals take place at Redford Barracks in Edinburgh.

The word 'tattoo' comes from the closing time cry in the inns of the Low Countries during the 17th and 18th centuries - 'Doe den tap toe' (*turn off the taps*).

With an unique blend of music, ceremony, entertainment, and theatre set against the dramatic backdrop of Edinburgh castle, this unforgettable spectacle has taken its place as the very drumbeat of the Edinburgh International Festival. At the heart of every Tattoo's universal appeal is the stirring sight of the massed pipes and drums of the Scottish regiments. In addition, they have been reinforced by military, civilian, and police pipe bands from many overseas countries, including India, Canada, Australia, Oman, Hong Kong, and Pakistan. Over the years the Tattoo has also presented a whole host of international performers - of all sizes and descriptions, including dancers, flag-wavers, drill teams, camels, elephants, cavalry, motorcyclists, and RAF police dogs.

For those who love dramatic finales, the fireworks display is excellent, and there is a moving communal singing of “Abide with me.” But, Scots or not, there is nothing in the world to compare with the lone piper playing his haunting lament. The crowd stands in silent darkness as a single spotlight focuses on the piper high on the Castle ramparts .... and in that stirring moment, the sound of Scotland’s proud history permeates the night, and penetrates to the heart of everyone present.

# 70 ASYS & THINGS

**F**or many years flax growing and weaving were significant businesses in Scotland, and influenced the literature and songs. The Calton Weaver is a clever song about the ups and downs of the trade and the dangers of being able to afford to drink whisky:

I'm a weaver, Calton Weaver,  
I'm a rash and a roving blade;  
I've got siller in my pouches  
I'll gang and follow the roving trade.

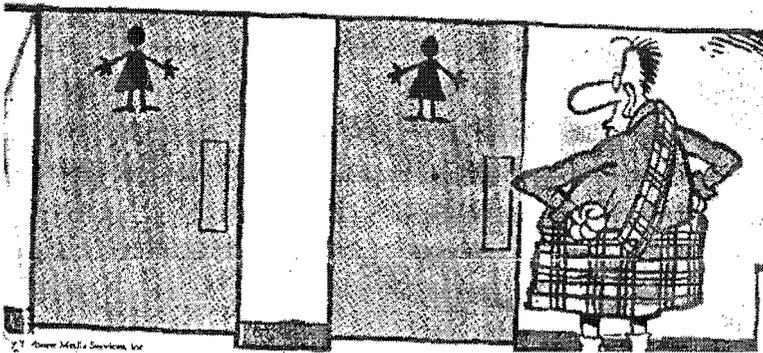
*Chorus*

Whisky whisky, Nancy whisky, whisky whisky,  
Nancy O.

As I cam' in by Glesca city,  
Nancy Whisky I chanced to smell,  
So I gaed in, sat doon beside her,  
Seven lang years since I lo'ed her well.

The mair I kissed her, the mair I lo'ed her,  
The mair I kissed her, the mair she smiled,  
Soon I forgot my mither's teaching,  
Nancy soon had me beguiled.

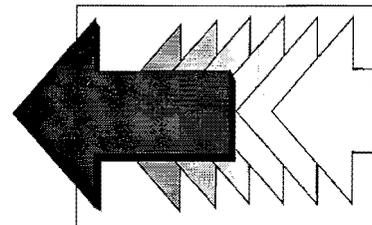
Come all ye weavers, Calton weavers,  
A' ye weavers, where e'er ye be;  
Beware of whisky, Nancy whisky,  
She'll ruin you as she ruined me.



Seems that the Post-Dispatch has noticed we are in town.....

This cartoon was entitled —  
“Why Scots never use public restrooms!”

**Remember to  
return the survey**



**H**ope you all enjoyed reading our very own newsletter, the **Thistle Times**.

Comments, and new material to the Editor:

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or call (314) 532-5986, or e-mail: [mclaren@inverizon.com](mailto:mclaren@inverizon.com).*