



SCOTTISH ST. ANDREW SOCIETY OF GREATER ST. LOUIS

THIS IS THE TIMES

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Members,

A happy and prosperous New Year to you all. Preparations are well underway for the big event of the year - the Burn's Dinner. We look forward to this event more than any other on the calendar because it gives the society a forum to promote Scottish culture at it's best. The quality of our speech makers, singers, poetry reciters, dancers, and pipe band is first class. Please get your reservations into Anne McLaren as soon as you can and ensure your enjoyment of the evening.

My thanks go out to all of the members who participated in the organization of the Christmas party and especially to Santa who came bringing gifts for all the children. The food provided was wonderful and we enjoyed the expertise of our resident harpist Wayne Elrod and Winnie Shirreff on piano who set the musical tone for the evening.

Hope to see you all at the Burn's Dinner, Denise

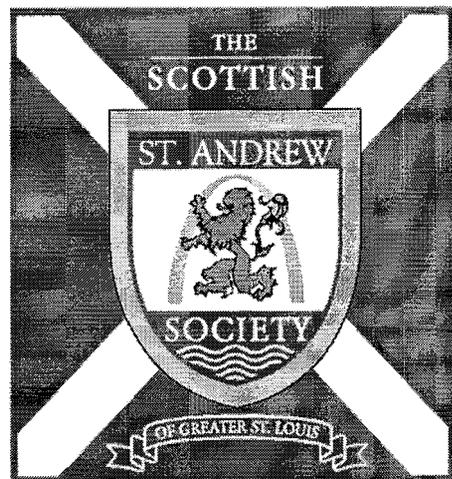
A guid New-year I wish thee, Maggie
Hae, there's a ripp to thy auld baggie:
Tho' thou's howe-backit now, an' knaggie,
I've seen the day
Thou could hae gaen like ony staggie, *Rabbie Burns*
Out-owre the lay *To the mare Maggie*

SISENEG CITLEC

Hope y'all had a great Christmas and have recovered from a happy and fun Hogmanay....



I'm looking for a way to get to that great Burns Dinner in St Louis. See you there!



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Upcoming Events

Xmas Party Pictures

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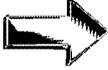
Caledonia Corner

Toasts & Things

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Upcoming Events

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Event

BURNS NIGHT DINNER

January 23rd, 1999, at the Frontenac Hilton
It's the event of the year
See attached reservation form

Feb 22nd: Humorist Bill Pollman
at Mary Institute/Country Day School
March: no event
April 10th: ANNUAL CEILIDH
at Whispering Hills Cub House

**If you would like
to help out, call
Diane McCullough
314 773 4195**

We now have a dedicated phone number for the Society: (314) 519 7979

Whit! That's silly!

For 50 years, the Drovers Inn at Loch Lomond has had a 6-foot, stuffed, shark hanging safely from the ceiling — well, until last summer. An American tourist (maybe with a wee dram too many) could not resist the temptation to jump up and give it “high five” on the nose. Well, sharks teeth are pretty close to the nose and apparently don't get blunt with age..... all this was confirmed, as the blood-covered tourist had to be rushed to Stirling Royal Infirmary. The barman said the shark had usually been quite well behaved, until that night!

Trousers or what!

Trousers (or pants in St Louis terminology) are a relatively recent invention for male attire. In fact, many of the world's males still wear kilts, togas, shirts, robes, lederhosen, etc. It appears that the young American male is also having great difficulty in wearing trousers — as is obvious by the method of “sagging.” This is where the seat of the pants is worn around the knees and belt is worn below the private parts! Now, apparently, kilts are becoming the fashion with young Japanese men — worn above the private parts but with or without undergarments, as in Scotland!

Fun at the Christmas Party...

Too bad if you missed the Christmas Party (like I did). Santa is not holding your present but here's a selection of what you missed....



Who is that guy.....



Now, there's a party crowd....



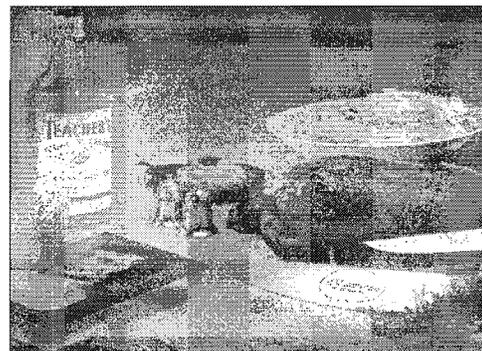
Having fun yet.....



Pianist extraordinary (at no extra charge)....



There he is again....



This is to remind you to reserve tickets for the Burns Dinner on January 23rd (see attached form)

Scotia's Culinary Delights

You know you are in Orkney if a pattie supper (mince-and-tattie-burger with chips, aka fries) is on the menu, you're in Aberdeen if there is a red pudding, or in East-Central Scotland if you are offered brown sauce on your chips. Seasonal produce, varied weather patterns, and diverse geographical features (within relatively short distances) have provided a rich table of culinary delights for many years.

In Lerwick, the butchers prepare legs of reesit mutton. Hung from hooks in their shops, the wet-salted mutton will be well dried-out and ready for Shetlanders' Up-Helly-Aa celebrations (January) -- when they will use it to flavor the broth pot, then slice it for eating throughout the night's festivities. It's also great sliced and fried, like bacon, with onions.

In the Aberdeen area, ancient fishing traditions led to a curing technique that produces the Finnan haddock. This area also has a strong baking tradition -- you have never tasted baking until you sampled the crisp, strange-shaped, fabulous-flavored roll known in the region as a "rowie" and described elsewhere as an "Aberdeen butterie".

Further south on the east coast lies Angus and then Fife where there are more food legends, such as Dundee marmalade, Dundee cake, Forfar bridies, and Arbroath smokies. There are also abundant supplies of soft fruits and vegetables from the fertile Carse of Gowrie and Vale of Strathmore (where do you think Baxter Soups and Jams started?)

In the capital City, the invention of Edinburgh Rock began its life as an accident when a confectioner discovered an old batch of toffee that had gone soft. Not to mention that this is the origin of that rich, spicy, festive Black Bun, and the ubiquitous tins of shortbread.

In the Scottish Borders, the rich arable lands (a favorite area for ancient monastery communities) produce the goods for beef, mutton, milk, honey, and the Selkirk Bannock (a buttery yeasted bun that was a favorite of Queen Victoria). This area also has a sweetie-making tradition that includes Berwick cockles, soor plums and jeddart snails. In the western Borders, lush grazing for cattle and sheep provides milk for two of Scotland's largest modern cheddar cheese creameries at Stranraer and Lockerbie. The small surrounding farms support the making of specialty cheeses, yogurt and ice-cream.

North, up the west coast, into Ayrshire, and the 70-mile crescent of farmlands which border the Firth of Clyde is where cheesemaking can be traced back to the seventeenth century. There is also the distinctive Ayrshire bacon cure, originally an adjunct of the cheesemaking process. Ayrshire cows milk is now sold as specialty milk while the local Dunlop cheese continues to be produced in the traditional farmhouse way. Just off the Ayrshire coast is the Isle of Arran, best known for many famous varieties of original breeds of potatoes. (most of which were created by the father of my Botany professor)

Then on to Seturrday night in Glesca (the great City of Galsgow), and a hefty serving of (hairy) Scotch pies and Bovril -- great half-time warmers at "the gemme", not to mention a wee half an' half. Would you believe that Glasgow's invention of the tearoom was based on the local tradition of special baking treats - fancies (cakes), teabread, girdle-baked pancakes and scones (both treacle and otherwise).

We've run out of space to describe the fresh-off-the-boats fish and shellfish on the west coast, and other delicacies such as crofter's crowdie cheese (Tain), solan geese, cormorants, and Orkney oatcakes.

But if you want the real haggis stuff then come to the Burns Dinner on January 23rd!!

(Parts were excerpted from a review of the 1999 Natural Cooks' Tour of Scotland Calendar (£7.99), Department of Tourism, Glasgow Caledonian University, 1 Park Drive, Glasgow. Tel: 0141 337 4367)

Caledonia Corner

What does Anheuser-Busch have in common with Scotland? Ok, you said good beer, Clydesdale horses, and....Sea Eagles! Extinct in Scotland since 1916, twelve of these magnificent, rare, birds have been re-introduced from Norway by the Scottish Natural Heritage organization and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds. Support for the rehabilitation and the development of an educational program was provided by none other than A-B. In recognition of the company who has that famous eagle in the logo, one of the Scottish sea eagles has been named "Bud" (well, it's better than being named "frog").

Early Celts or recent Scots... We were born before television, before penicillin, polio shots, frozen food, Xerox, plastic, contact lenses, videos, frisbees, and the Pill! We existed before radar, credit cards, split atoms, laser beams, and ball-point pens! We were here before dishwashers, tumble dryers, electric blankets, air conditioners, and drip dry clothes. The man on the moon was a joke. We thought a "Big Mac" was an over-sized raincoat, only pirates wore male earrings, and that sheltered accommodation was where we waited for the bus. We never heard of FM radio, tape decks, electric typewriters, word processors, yogurt, instant coffee, pizzas, and "Made in Japan" was the code for junk! A "chip" was a fried potato, "hardware" meant nuts and bolts, "stud" was something to fasten a collar, "grass" was what we mowed, "coke" was kept in the coal-shed, and going all the way meant staying on the bus till we reached the depot! Talk about psychological torture.... But, we have survived! (there must be a God).

Wha wad ken?

First to answer all three correctly wins a Society lapel pin....

1. What's a young salmon called?
2. Where does the river Clyde start?
3. Name the farthest north place on the mainland of Scotland.

Congratulations to Jim Duffy who won.

Answers:

1. Highest Scottish mountain: Everest
(just joking), it's Ben Nevis
2. A loon is a male (man)
3. James VI of Scotland and James I of England

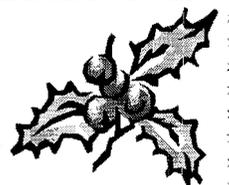
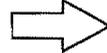
All replies to Jim McLaren Tel: 314-532-5986
Fast e-mail: mclaren@inverizon.com
Snail mail: 2214 Stoneridge Terrace Ct.,
Chesterfield, MO 63017

Smile, it could happen to you...

A Librarian at Glasgow's Mitchell Library was having trouble with a ballpoint pen which only worked properly if you leant heavily on it. When he passed it to a member of the public making a request for a book he could see she was having difficulty with it, so he told her: "Put your weight on it." The puzzled woman paused, and then wrote 12st 3lbs on the request form.

Someone obviously has a sense of humor as February 14, according to the Institute of Public Relations 1999 diary, is National Impotence Day. What happened to ... St Valentine's Day?!!

Here's that wee decoration in the corner that you always miss when you're packing everything away.....



TOASTS & THINGS

BEST WISHES FOR THE NEW YEAR

Warlocks and witches in a dance:
Nae cotillon, brent new frae France,
But hornpipes, jigs, strathspeys, and reels
Put life and mettle in their heels.

When Guilford good our pilot stood
An' did our hellim thraw, man,
Ae night, at tea, began a plea,
Within America, man

Ye hypocrites! Are these your pranks?
To murder men and give God thanks!

Dusty was the coat,
Dusty was the colour,
Dusty was the kiss
That I gat frae the Miller

The many faces of
Robert Burns, 1759 – 1796

There's nought but care on ev'ry han',
In ev'ry hour that passes. O
What signifies the life o' man
An 'twere na for the lasses, O

All you who follow wealth and power with unremitting ardour, O,
The more in this you look for bliss, you leave your view the farther, O
Had you the wealth Potosi boasts, or nations to adore you, O,
A cheerful honest-hearted clown I will prefer before you, O.

A prince can mak a belted knight
A marquis, duke, an' a that;
But an honest man's aboon his might,
Gude faith, he maunna fa' that!



Happy New Year
Tae yin an' aw, an' lang mae yer lum reek

Hope you all enjoyed reading our very own newsletter, the **Thistle Times**. Thank you to all who contribute material. It is appreciated. Comments, and new material to the Editor:

*Jim McLaren, 2214 Stoneridge Terrace Court, Chesterfield, MO 63017
or call (314) 532-5986, or e-mail: mclaren@inverizon.com.*

Website address is <http://www.inverizon.com/scotlink>