

SCOTTISH ST. ANDREW SOCIETY OF GREATER ST. LOUIS

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Members,

Thanks to all who attended the February meeting. Mark Pollman veteran barman and writer shared some humorous anecdotes and jokes with us from his book entitled "Bottled Wisdom". The society awarded Mark one of our plaques denoting the coat of arms and this will now be displayed behind the bar at the Cheshire Inn. Mark has subsequently written a piece promoting the society for a publication called the "Tee - Box Times" and we thank him for that.

At this time of the year the board reviews the society's finances to determine if we are able to make funds available to an individual or organization for the promotion of Scotland and Scottish culture. In the past the society has supported Scottish dance, architecture, and the arts. This year we are again able to donate funds to further promote our culture and heritage. Requests for funds should be in the form of a letter outlining the purpose, together with a contact name, and telephone number. Please submit these requests for consideration by May 31st, 1999. All correspondence should be addressed to:

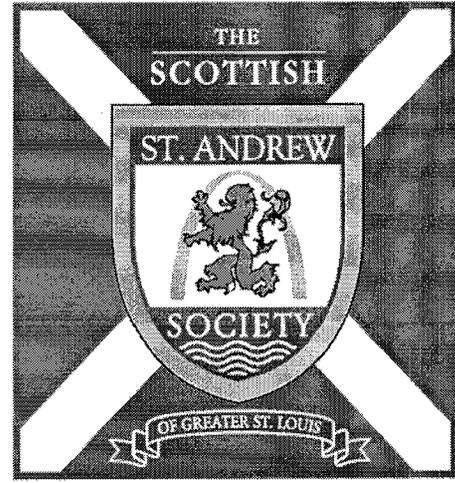
Janet Moss, 1930 Rustic Oak Rd., Chesterfield, MO 63017.

Our next social event will be the Ceilidh, and celebration of Tartan Day on April 10th at the Whispering Hills club house. Hope to see you all there.

Lang May Your Lum Reek, Denise



TARTAN
★ ★ ★ *day* ★
6th
APRIL

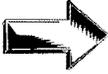


inside...

- Upcoming Events*
- Wee Stories (Quick Facts)*
- TARTAN DAY (April 6th)*
- Caledonia Corner*
- Toasts & Things*

UPCOMING EVENTS

Next



Event

April 10th: Annual Ceilidh At Whispering Hills Club House

Bring some friends along for fun, singing and dancing at the Annual Ceilidh...
SEE ATTACHED FLIER FOR DETAILS

**May 2nd, 2:00 till 6:00pm: Annual Picnic
at Tower Grove Park.**
June: working on it.

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

HIGHLAND MIST BALL (An evening of Scottish country dancing)

Saturday, June 26th, 7:30 – 11:00pm

At "Just Dancing" Studio 236 Old Meramec Station Road — near Route 141 and Manchester Road, behind the shops, west of Office Depot.

\$10 per dancer, \$3 per observer. Bring your own goodies. Call Marilyn at 314 916 5344



Mark Pollman, barman at the Fox & Hounds Pub (in the Cheshire Inn), provided an evening of humorous stories at our past monthly meeting.

He has also written an article in the Tee Box Times about Scots and mentions the St Andrew Society as "sensational folks" — we may include his article in a future newsletter.

Bill Nicoll and Alex Sutherland volunteered some time to represent the St Andrew Society at Mayor Harman's National Race Relations Day gathering, in the St Louis City Hall.



Want to order Scottish Meat Pies?

Call Tom Brennan @ 314 567 3280

Wee Stories (or Quick Facts)

Here's a few interesting facts about Scotland — *might be useful in the quiz some day!*

- ◆ The Lincoln Monument in Edinburgh's Old Carlton Cemetery was the first statue of an American president to be constructed outside the US.
- ◆ There are three Scottish place names which contain only two letters: Oa, Ae, and Bu.
- ◆ Five species of deer can be found in Scotland: Red Deer, Roe Deer, Fallow Deer, the small Sika introduced from Japan, and Reindeer.
- ◆ The shortest scheduled flight in the world is one and a half miles from Westray to Papa Westray in the Orkneys. The trip takes 1 min 14 sec.
- ◆ Edinburgh has more booksellers per head of population than any other city in Britain.
- ◆ Britain's narrowest hotel is the Star in Moffat (a town in the Borders). It is 20 feet wide, has eight bedrooms, two bars and a restaurant seating 70.
- ◆ A Scottish mile is 1,984 yards compared to the norm of 1,760 yards.
- ◆ There are approximately 450 golf courses in Scotland.
- ◆ Johnny Walker Red Label is the world's largest selling whisky brand.
- ◆ Strathisla, in Keith, founded in 1785 is the oldest working malt whisky distillery in the Highlands.
- ◆ The Scottish people of today are made up of Scots, Picts, Britons, Celts, Angles, Vikings, Normans, Flemings, Dutch, Pakistanis, Sikhs, and Bangladeshi.
- ◆ Scotland's oldest inhabited castle is Dunvegan Castle on the Isle of Skye.
- ◆ The largest ship ever built in Scotland is the QE 2, launched by Queen Elizabeth in 1967.
- ◆ The population of Scotland is approximately five and a half million. Its area is 30,411 square miles including 787 islands.
- ◆ Inverewe Gardens near Poolewe is in the same latitude as Siberia and Labrador but the plants grown there are sub-tropical-from South America, South Africa and the South Pacific. The Gulf Steam makes this possible.
- ◆ Golf has been played in St. Andrews since its arrival from Holland in the 15th Century. The Old Course is the oldest in the world.
- ◆ The Witches Well on Edinburgh Castle Esplanade marks the spot where more than 300 witches were burned between 1479 and 1722.
- ◆ A large proportion of Indian tea plantations were developed by Scots. By the late 1800s, a Glasgow trader named Thomas Lipton controlled a tenth of the entire tea trade.
- ◆ The most Scottish immigrants are in Canada. Australia is in second place. St Louis is down the list a bit!
- ◆ James IV came to the throne at age fifteen. King James practiced dentistry and charged his patients for the extractions.
- ◆ Scotland is 'midge' country, this insect is responsible for such Scottish delights as the Highland Fling. Midges make mosquitoes seem wimpy. They appear at only one time each year -- when you are on holiday!
- ◆ Ceilidh is Gaelic for 'visit'. People in remote areas used to gather in each others' homes for entertainment, each contributing a song, a poem, a story or instrumental music. **Hope to see you at ours.**

Tartan Day – April 6th

While many Scottish-Americans still celebrate St Andrew's Day (in November), there has been a growing movement to celebrate the Scottish contribution to the development of North America. The U.S. made April 6th National Tartan Day on March 20th 1998, when Senate Resolution 155, proposed by US Senate Republican majority leader Trent Lott, was passed unanimously. S.Res 155 reads...

Whereas April 6 has a special significance for all Americans, and especially those Americans of Scottish descent, because the Declaration of Arbroath, the Scottish Declaration of Independence, was signed on April 6, 1320 and the American Declaration of Independence was modeled on that inspirational document;

Whereas this resolution honors the major role that Scottish Americans played in the founding of this Nation, such as the fact that almost half of the signers of the Declaration of Independence were of Scottish descent, the Governors in 9 of the original 13 States were of Scottish ancestry, Scottish Americans successfully helped shape this country in its formative years and guide this Nation through its most troubled times;

Whereas this resolution recognizes the monumental achievements and invaluable contributions made by Scottish Americans that have led to America's preeminence in the fields of science, technology, medicine, government, politics, economics, architecture, literature, media, and visual and performing arts;

Whereas this resolution commends the more than 200 organizations throughout the United States that honor Scottish heritage, tradition, and culture, representing the hundreds of thousands of Americans of Scottish descent, residing in every State, who already have made the observance of Tartan Day on April 6 a success;

Whereas these numerous individuals, clans, societies, clubs, and fraternal organizations do not let the great contributions of the Scottish people go unnoticed:

Now, therefore, be it Resolved, That the Senate designates April 6 of each year as "National Tartan Day".

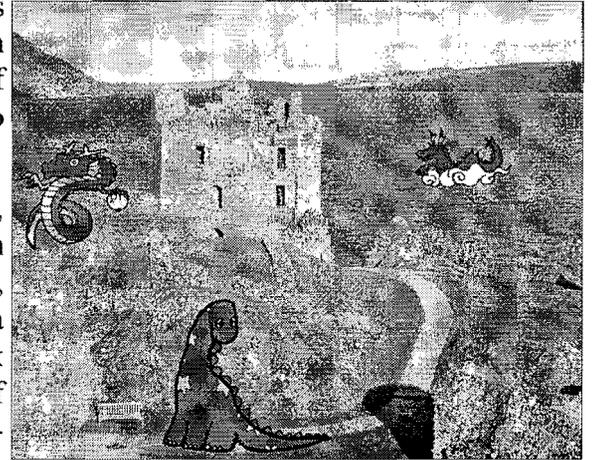
The following is a much quoted portion of **the Declaration of Arbroath**, containing some of the original basic tenets of democracy, written by visionary Scots (originally in Latin)...

But from these countless evils we have been set free, by the help of Him Who though He afflicts yet heals and restores, by our most tireless Prince, King and Lord, the Lord Robert. He, that his people and his heritage might be delivered out of the hands of our enemies, met toil and fatigue, hunger and peril, like another Macabaeus or Joshua and bore them cheerfully. Him, too, divine providence, his right of succession according to our laws and customs which we shall maintain to the death, and the due consent and assent of us all have made our Prince and King. To him, as to the man by whom salvation has been wrought unto our people, we are bound both by law and by his merits that our freedom may be still maintained, and by him, come what may, we mean to stand. Yet if he should give up what he has begun, and agree to make us or our kingdom subject to the King of England or the English, we should exert ourselves at once to drive him out as our enemy and a subverter of his own rights and ours, and make some other man who was well able to defend us our King; for, as long as but a hundred of us remain alive, never will we on any conditions be brought under English rule. It is in truth not for glory, nor riches, nor honours that we are fighting, but for freedom -- for that alone, which no honest man gives up but with life itself.

**Woodrow Wilson said of the Scots,
"Every line of strength in American history is a line colored with Scottish blood."**

CALEDONIA CORNER

Nessie Live on the Net! (<http://www.lochness.co.uk/livecam/>). The Loch Ness Monster VideoCam went live this week overlooking Loch Ness, uploading images every two minutes to the Net in the hope of spotting the mythical but shy monster which many believe lurks in the loch. Four of the latest micro-miniature cameras are now overlooking the world famous monster hunting location near Urquhart Castle (see picture). An infra-red camera is to be installed for night-time viewing. Even if Nessie does not make an appearance, it is another opportunity to see a bit of Scotland for real!



And if you want to visit in person you'll be pleased to hear that, after years of wrangling, approval has been given for a 2.7 million pounds (US\$ 4.5 million) tourist development at Urquhart Castle, on the shores of Loch Ness. The castle attracts 250,000 people a year and facilities for them are well below standard. The car park is far too small and cars are abandoned on the verge at the side of the main road. But there have been objections to the Historic Scotland proposals spoiling the character of the ancient castle. The consent given this week by the Scottish Office is for a smaller visitor center than originally proposed.

Whit Monster? Where?

Wha wad ken?

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

1. What is Britain's largest lake?
2. When was the Hadrian Wall built?
3. Scotland has two rivers with the same name: what is it?

Sorry, No 1 1 (No one won) last month.

Answers:

1. Bruce's bones: Dunfermline Abbey. His heart is in Melrose Abbey.
 2. River Forth starts near Aberfoyle (where the streams Duchray and Avondhu meet)
 3. Lagavulin is a Scotch whisky from Islay
- All replies to Jim McLaren Tel: 314-532-5986
Fast e-mail: mclaren@inverizon.com
Snail mail: 2214 Stoneridge Terrace Ct.,
Chesterfield, MO 63017

Bronze Age Sauna?

Archaeologists at a 4,000 year-old site near Broughton in Peebleshire have uncovered piles of cracked stones which they believe were heated in a charcoal fire before they were placed in a container of water. While the resulting hot water might have been used for cooking, there are no signs of organic matter, leading the researchers to the suggestion that they were used in "sweat houses" or saunas.

A southern US gentleman overheard some Scots speaking and said "y'all are English"! Being duly told that those present were Scots, not English, and having had the difference explained, he seemed amused and continued to refer to those present as English. Eventually in the conversation he asked "what do y'all call us over there?" One person indicated "we call you Yankees" and smiled. He was irate and said "I ain't no damn Yankee!" to which came the reply "still think we're English!?"

TOASTS & THINGS

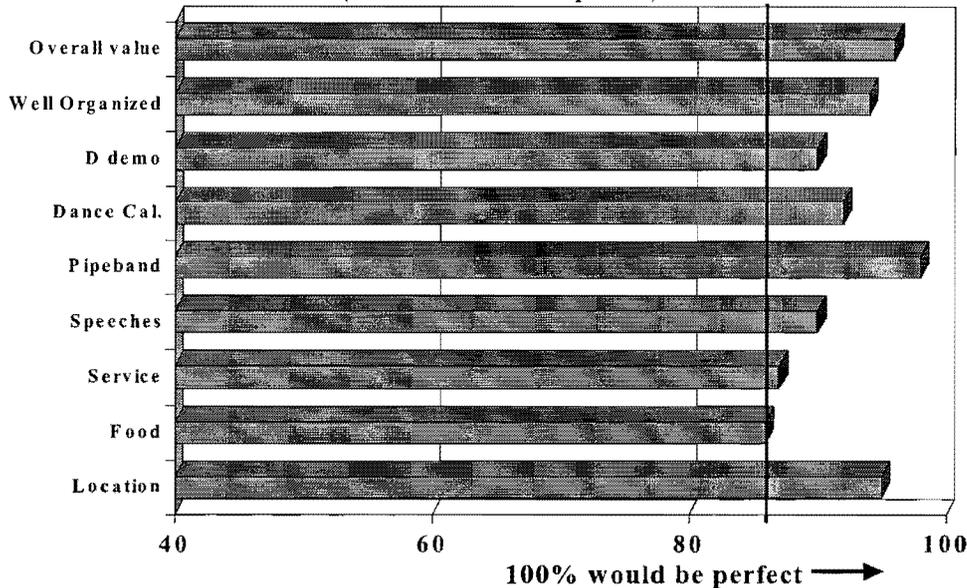
From "the Dreary Change" by Sir Walter Scott

The sun upon the Weirdlaw Hill,
 In Ettrick's vale, is sinking sweet;
 The westland wind is hush and still,
 The lake lies sleeping at my feet.
 Yet not the landscape to mine eye
 Bears those bright hues that once it bore;
 Though evening, with her richest dye,
 Flames o'er the hills of Ettrick's shore.

With listless look along the plain,
 I see Tweed's silver current glide,
 And coldly mark the holy fane
 Of Melrose rise in ruin'd pride.
 The quiet lake, the balmy air,
 The hill, the stream, the tower, the tree,---
 Are they still such as once they were?
 Or is the dreary change in me?

Burns Dinner 1999 Survey response

(~20% of members responded)



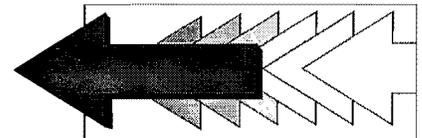
The Burns Dinner survey responses have been tabulated and are shown on the left.

Once again, it appears that the majority of the attendees enjoyed a wonderful evening of Scottish entertainment.

Thank you for your replies and comments — the Board will consider all suggestions that have been made (except the bonus for the organizers!)

KNOW ANYONE WHO'D LIKE TO JOIN!

Please contact Peter Geery at 314 916 5344



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>

The St Andrew Society phone number is (314) 519 7979