



SCOTTISH ST. ANDREW SOCIETY OF GREATER ST. LOUIS

THIS IS THAT

Oct 1999
ISSUE 8.2

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Members,

There was a very good turnout for our AGM with over 40 members attending. The new board was nominated and subsequently voted into office. My thanks to Carrie Sutherland for heading the nominating committee. I would also like to express my appreciation of last years board members who worked hard to maintain the quality society we all enjoy. Welcome to our new board members who have already shown their enthusiasm by representing the society at several events during the summer.

The society is starting its 1999/2000 year with an excellent team of board members, a healthy membership, and strong finances. We feel confident that our society will continue to prosper with the participation and support of our membership.

Please remember to round up the kids and grandkids and bring them to our Halloween party, it's a really fun and scary night. I also look forward to seeing many of you at our St. Andrew's Dance.

Lang May Your Lum Reek, Denise

Old Scottish proverb: *Never marry a widow unless her first husband was hanged.*

HAPPY



HALLOWEEN



inside...

Upcoming Events

Halloween

Out and About

Caledonia Corner

Toasts & Things

UPCOMING EVENTS

Next



Event

October 25th, 1999 at 6:30pm : Halloween Party **At Spoede School, on Spoede Road**

Bring a dessert and as many friends as you like. Call Judy Chaboude 636-946-4174 by October 20 with number of wee ghosts and goblins attending.

Next



Event

November 20th, 1999 **St Andrew Dinner Dance** **At The Missouri Athletic Club — see attached flier** **Limited to the first 60 couples to register**

December 20th: Christmas Party & Pot Luck Dinner
Starts 6:30pm. At Mary Institute/Country Day School.
Call Judy Chaboude 636-946-4174 with number of kids that will meet Santa.

January 22nd, 2000: Robert Burns Dinner
At The Frontenac Hilton

February 28th, 2000: To be determined
At MICD School

April, 2000: Ceilidh (and Tartan Day Celebration)
At Whispering Hills Clubhouse

May 21st, 2000: Picnic and Scottish BBQ
At Tower Grove Park

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

BATTLEFIELD BAND & MOOLAH SHRINE PIPES & DRUMS **Friday, November 5, 1999 7.30pm at Sheldon Concert Hall,** **(3648 Washington Blvd., St Louis, MO 63108)**

This concert is sponsored by the Moolah-Ainad Pipes and Drums
Tickets are \$35 for orchestra & \$25 for balcony and are available at all Metrotix outlets.

Halloween (Festival of Samhuinn)

Halloween is upon us once again and the rituals of hundreds of years will continue to be played out. Many legends exist about this time of year when the harvest is over, the winter solstice is at hand, and people would be preparing for the "dead" of winter...

One legend is that the ancient Celts would carry a lantern when they walked on the eve of October 31 to protect them from the seasonal spirits. Typically, the lanterns were made from carved turnips. When the early settlers came to America they found the big round orange pumpkin. Being larger and much more colorful than turnips (and easier to carve), pumpkins made great "jack-o-lanterns".

Another legend has it that the "jack-o-lantern" got its name from a stingy old man, named Jack, who when he died was too mean to get into heaven. When Jack went to hell, the Devil gave him a piece of burning coal and sent him away. Jack placed the burning coal in a turnip to use as a lantern. The legend claims that Jack is still walking with the lantern looking for a place to stay.

Whether Halloween or not, the folklore of Scotland is full of ghosts, fairies, and various spirits....

*He that dare sit in St Swithin's Chair
When the nighthag wings the troubled air,
Questions three, when he speaks the spell,
He must ask, and she must tell.*

The White Horse of Clumly

The farm of Clumly, just north of Stromness (Orkney), is haunted by the ghostly White Horse of Clumly and a phantom rider that is the spirit of a murderer condemned to relive the terrible happening of a night at the end of the nineteenth century.

The legend claims that a young woman came to work at the farm, and two of the farm workers became attracted to her. Over time she played one off against the other until the two men grew to hate one another. One day they were threshing sheaves of oats, with heavy threshing flails, and were continually bickering. Suddenly, in a rage, one swung his flail and smashed his rival's skull with a single blow. Taking the dead man by the feet, his murderer dragged the lifeless corpse into the barn where it was carefully hidden.

Later that night, when darkness had fallen and the farm was silent, the murderer crept into the stable and saddled a white horse. Throwing his victim's cold body over its back, he led the animal to the cliffs of Yesnaby on the westernmost coast of the Orkney mainland. Covered by the sound of massive waves crashing against the base of the cliffs, he hurled the corpse into the churning sea.

While riding back to the farm, he was gripped by a terrible fear that the dead man's ghost was following him. He forced his mount into a wild gallop and sped along the track from Yesnaby. Finally, the farm of Clumly came into view and as he neared the farm, the murderer spurred the beast onwards towards a drystone dyke (stone fence). The animal tried to leap the wall but its hooves clipped the top stones and brought them clattering down.

To this day no-one has been able to repair the broken section of the dyke. Whenever it is fixed or rebuilt it falls down again within a few days! The locals still have sightings of the speeding white horse of Clumly — with the spirit of the murderer going through the events of that fateful night over and over for eternity.

Would you stand on that track from Yesnaby on a dark and windy night....

Out and About

A selection of various features with Scottish themes...

THE BLACK WATCH UP NORTH

September 1999 saw the Black Watch Royal Highland Regiment of Canada (based in Montreal) receive the Freedom of the City of Verdun, in Quebec. The ceremony included marching through the city to City Hall with a single drummer keeping time (The Pipes and Drums did not play) and the regimental colors were cased. The Commanding Officer knocked three times on the "city door" with a claymore and was admitted to receive the Freedom of the City. As the Commander returned to the regiment bayonets were fixed, the colors uncased, and the Pipes and Drums came alive as the proud regiment marched off through the city.

TRADITION IN PHILLY

The St Andrew Society of Philadelphia held their 77th Annual Golf Outing at the Merion Club. Seemed like that event has become a solid tradition — then I was astounded to learn that they are about to have their St Andrew's Annual Dinner for the 255th time!

FLAGS AND ROYALTY

The Saltire has officially replaced the Union Jack as the flag of state in Scotland. "God Save the Queen" will no longer be the official national anthem although Elizabeth II has been declared "Elizabeth Queen of Scots".

CAN YOU BELIEVE IT

The St Andrew Society of Baltimore holds an annual William Wallace Memorial Ceremony in August. The location in 1999 was "Druid Hill Park"!!

SCOTLAND vs ENGLAND SOCCER

Some 1.25 million fans are still trying to get tickets for this game to be at Wembley (London) this year. Apparently a manager at the telephone-ticket company instructed that anyone with a Scottish accent should not be sold a ticket! The Scottish soccer fans go by the name of the "Tartan Army" and it seems there is now great trade in obtaining many tickets via relatives that live in England.



This magnificent laburnum arch walkway is in the garden of Haddington House, East Lothian, and leads to the kirk-yard. The gardens were originally laid out around 1680

CALEDONIA CORNER

Princess Anne stopped in at the National Mod to present the Gold Medals to the best singers. However, the most recalled aspect of her attendance was that her security people decreed that the bar be closed while she was in Fort William. The reason for the ban was that some crazed drinker might just throw his glass at her as she walked past. Needless to say this resulted in several comments such as: — “no Scotsman would waste his drink in such a way” (especially at \$4 a shot), and “we won't be inviting the royals back“.

Hear about the lady at a Scottish weight-watcher's class who had suffered a setback. The class manager gently inquired as to why she had put on weight that week. The lady rather sheepishly replied that her much-loved hamster had died. The class manager asked if the lady had turned to comfort-eating in her grief. The lady replied that she had eaten her way through a whole pound box of Milk Tray. Her defense was that she had needed the empty box to bury the hamster.

May he that turns the clod ne'er want a bannock!
(Honest hard workers should never go hungry)

War's sweet to them that never tried it!

Wha wad ken?

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

1. What Scot was famous for tea?
2. Where is the Caledonian canal?
3. What was banned in Scotland, in 1491

Sorry, nobody won last month.

Answers:

1. St Andrews University.
2. Edinburgh
3. July 1st, 1999

All replies to Jim McLaren Tel: 636-532-5986
Fast e-mail: mclaren@inverizon.com
Snail mail: 2214 Stoneridge Terrace Ct.,
Chesterfield, MO 63017

Anyone out there feeling old yet?

Just a line to say I'm living,
That I'm not among the dead,
Though I'm getting more forgetful
And mixed up in the head.
I got used to my arthritis
To my dentures I'm resigned
I can manage my bifocals
But oh, I miss my mind.
For sometimes I can't remember
At the foot of that darned stair
If I must go up for something
Or have just come down from there.
So if its my turn to write you
There's no need for getting sore
I may think that I have written
And don't want to be a bore.
Just remember that I love you
And wish that you were near
But now it's nearly mail time
I must say goodbye my dear.
There I stand beside my mailbox
With a face so very red
Instead of posting you my letter
I have opened it instead.

TOASTS & THINGS

From "The Shortbread Lament" by Joseph Cobain (via Winnie Shirreff)

This morning I got up at six
And that's not one of my favourite tricks
But something "special" I had to see
Babs and Agnes on coloured T.V.
Through half shut eyes, and nodding head
They taught me how to bake shortbread.

I must admit the ladies looked smashing
But the shortbread took an awful bashing
And after all this was done and said
I toddled back to my comfy bed.
This is not a tale of woe
Because I did enjoy the show
But if you should have one again
Please — Oh please, have it at TEN.

ST ANDREW SOCIETY BOARD: 1999-2000

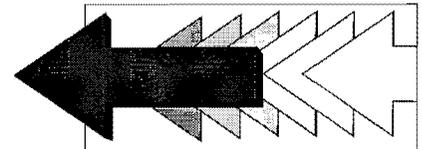
President: Denise Duffy
Past President: Jim McLaren
Programs: Diane McCullough
Burns program: Carrie Sutherland
Historian: Geoff Chaboude
Public Relations: Shawn Steadman
Attorney: Allan Stewart

1st Vice President: Alex Sutherland
Membership: Peter Geery
Treasurer: Anne McLaren
Recording Secretary: Janet Moss
Planning: Bill Nicoll
Director-at-Large: Tom Brennan
Chaplan: Rev Tom Hunter

Whiles glow'rin round wi' prudent cares,
Lest bogles catch him unawares;
Kirk-Alloway was drawing nigh,
Where ghaists and houlets nightly cry.
From Tam o' Shanter, by R. Burns.

KNOW ANYONE WHO'D LIKE TO JOIN!

Please contact Peter Geery at 636 916 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 (636) 532-5986, or e-mail: mclaren@inverizon.com.*

Website address is <http://www.inverizon.com/scotlink>
The St Andrew Society phone number is (636) 519 7979