



SCOTTISH ST. ANDREW SOCIETY OF GREATER ST. LOUIS

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Members,

It's an honor to be writing my first remarks as your President.

Not only will the world officially enter the new Millenium in less than 100 days, but I believe our Society is entering a new era of opportunities *"to foster and exchange cultural, educational, and recreational pursuits between those of Scottish birth and descent and others in the St. Louis area."*

On the Board these past four years, I've seen what it takes there, and beyond, to make our organization tick...or, should I say, really hum? I compliment the Presidents with whom I have served, Jim McLaren and Denise Duffy. I'm also compiling a list of all Past Presidents since our 1972 founding, and this will appear in a future edition of the Thistle Times.

Acknowledging our past helps us to prepare for an exciting future. For the new Board, this process began at our opening meeting on October 3rd. For the rest of you, as members of our Society, it starts with reading this Newsletter and committing to be as supportive and participative as I now invite you all to be.

There's a lot to be accomplished and enjoyed!

Yours aye, Bill Nicoll

THIS TLE TIMES

OCT 2000
ISSUE 9.2

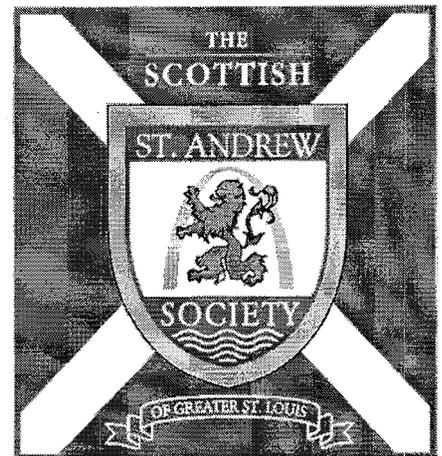


HAPPY HALLOWEEN



Ghosts and goblins...

wraiths, kelpies, monsters, warlocks, witches, seers, and weird prophesies... Were these encouraged by the romantic streams of the Borders and misty glens of the Highlands? Or has Scotland been the door to another world? While imprisoned for seven years in the Eildon Hills (in the Borders), Sir Thomas Learmonth, c1200-97 (later known as Thomas the Rhymer), made several prophesies — many of which proved to be quite accurate. One of the most famous was:
When Tweed and Powsail meet at Merlin's Grave, England and Scotland shall one monarch have.
Legend has it that the Tweed river flooded and flowed into the Powsail Burn, near the Peebles site claimed for Merlin's grave — on the day of the accession of James VI.



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UPCOMING EVENTS

Next



Event

Monday, October 30th, 7:30 pm

Annual Halloween Party. At Spoede School, 425 N. Spoede Road
Lots of fun, games, and costume prizes for all ages. Go ahead be a witch!

Next



Event

Saturday, November 18th, 6:30 pm



VERY SPECIAL EVENT THIS YEAR

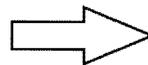
St Andrew's Day Dinner Dance at Forest Hills Country Club

Promises to be a fabulous night of gourmet food, Scottish culture, with music and dance of assorted types. Reserve the date — **bring some friends** — it will be a night to remember.

SEE ATTACHED FLIER FOR DETAILS

Several exciting events are being planned for this year....

Monday, December 18th, 6:00 pm **Christmas Party**
at Mary Inst/Country Day School



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

Saturday, January 20th, 2001. **Robert Burns Dinner** at Frontenac Hilton

Monday, February 26th, 2001, 7:00 pm. Special Program TBA at MICDS

April: **Ceilidh** at Whispering Hills — details TBA



New Board Appointed

The following people were elected and sworn into office at the recent AGM:

President: Bill Nicoll

Immediate Past President: Denise Duffy

Membership Director: Geoff Chaboude

Secretary: Janet Moss

Special Events Director: Carrie Sutherland

PR Director: Shawn Steadman

Attorney: Allan Stewart

Vice-President: Alex Sutherland

Treasurer: Anne McLaren

Programs Director: Diane McCullough

TT Editor: Jim McLaren

Historian: Judy Chaboude

Merchandising Director: Chris Fulton

Chaplain: Rev. Thom Hunter

Board meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month — members are welcome to attend.

Call Bill Nicoll (314) 966 3920 for details.

ALEX SUTHERLAND & HIS CRONIES

Up to their summer tricks again.... You can catch up with them at:

Oct 21st: **International Folkfest** at Queeny Park.

Nov 10th: **Taste of Scotland** at Soulard Coffee Garden

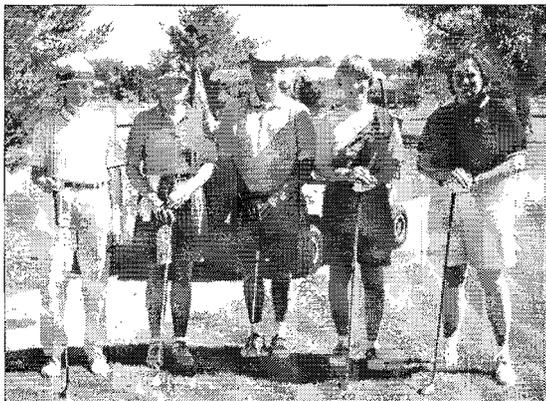
Call (314) 771 0119 for more details.

A Scottish Christmas

St. Louis Chamber Choir
Dec 17th: at St. Margaret of
Scotland Church,
in the Shaw Neighborhood

This 'n That

The evidence from the Annual Kilted golf Tournament...



The winning ladies team plus ...
...their coach?



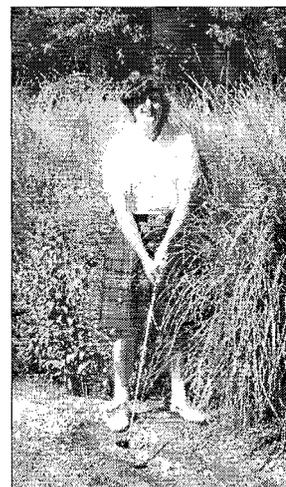
There were wonderful kilts
of many colors.



And flags to go
along with the kilts.



The winning laddies team (by less than
the whisker of a Skye seal).. at 6 under.



And the "rough" was
just like back in the
Auld Country.

And scenes from the Belleville Festival...



Do you have any old
photos from the Soci-
ety events, that we
could copy for the
historical record?

Call Judy Chaboude
at (636) 946 4774

Caledonia Corner

Would you believe it?

On the Island of Gigha (population about 120, off the Kintyre peninsula in Western Scotland) Seumas McSporrán is retiring after a long and distinguished career. This simple act has created 14 new jobs on the Island. You see, for 30 some years, Seamus has been postman, policeman, pier master, taxi driver, fire chief, petrol pump attendant, ambulance driver, rent collector, undertaker, school bus driver, shopkeeper, guest house proprietor, and odd job man. Now at the grand age of 62, not only is he retiring but he is also planning to take his first holiday since 1964 — which was also his honeymoon!

Scotland's Other National Drink

Remember the recent question about Irn-Bru in the Thistle Times? Well, the orange-colored fizzy drink that is considered to be Scotland's cure for hangovers, as well as regular thirst, is in the news again. Barrs (the maker of the magical potion) has announced that Irn-bru profits have taken a big hit this year — reputedly, related to poor weather and lack of sunshine. (Whit! That's some excuse for a company in Scotland!). However, Irn-bru still has 25% of the fizzy drink market in Scotland, and is making headway in England and Russia — maybe related to vodka sales the night before?

Nits, the Long-Forgotten Beastie

Remember those schooldays with clouds of chalk dust, doing gym in your vest and pants, and wee bottles of warm milk. But the some of the more amazing moments were having your head clamped in the vice-like bosom of the nit nurse. Then to be humiliated in front of your peers when, in the caring way they had, she shouted: "Absolutely jumpin'!"

Technology for nit control has advanced quite a bit. The little invaders developed immunity to insecticides which meant that your scalp was hot and hair messed up while they remained free to scamper.

But science to the rescue once again! It is a device which applies several hundred electrical jolts to a child's scalp (totally harmless to the child, unfortunately). The Bug Buster emits a buzzing sound which changes when one of the multi-legged beasties has been zapped. Some scalps have more sound than others.

That story's nit sae good!

Awa and bile yer heid, Jimmy! Does that help?

Wha wad ken?

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

1. What is the Tattoo?
2. On which river does Perth sit?
3. What Scottish product contains lead?

Answers:

No answers since there were no questions in the past edition of the TT.

All replies to Jim McLaren Tel: 636-532-5986

Fast e-mail: mclaren@inverizon.com

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

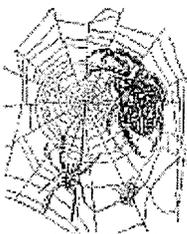
Halloween

You all know about Halloween being the merger of the ancient Celtic Festival of Samhuinn (winter solstice) with All Saints, but what about all those strange customs like “dookin’ for apples”? These are all related to the superstitions and beliefs of the underlying cultures. For example, the often mentioned green mantle symbolizes nature and rebirth, while the white steed and black steed are good and evil omens, respectively. Dressing up in costumes, called “guising” in Scotland, is descended from the Druid customs of disguising themselves to avoid recognition by the spirits of the dead during Samhuinn. Likewise, the carved lanterns (turnips in Scotland and pumpkins here) are derived from customs that were intended to keep away evil demons.

Divination was also a large part of Halloween in the Scotland of 300 years ago. Selected individuals would be blindfolded and asked to pull a kale plant from a field at random — the size and shape of the plant being used to divine future prospects. Luggies (bowls or pails with extended handles, like lugs) of clear water, dirty water, or being empty were used in a similar manner for blindfolded, young, men to determine whom they might marry in the upcoming year (an empty luggie means a bachelor he remains, clear water means he marries a virgin, and the dirty water, well...). Nuts were also used for divination with individuals placing the nuts by a fire and as the nuts “popped” the individuals were linked.

Still waiting to hear about dookin’? The apple is the fruit of Halloween in Scotland and can be used for divination and for the dookin’. A large tub of water is placed on the floor and several apples are allowed to float on the water. The ritual involves kneeling and being able to capture an apple without the use of hands — that’s why teeth are often used, although in the milder version it is common to use a metal implement like a fork dropped from the teeth. The actions are relics of the Druid Ordeal by Water and signify the passage of the soul across the waters to the hereafter.

Me, I just like nuts and apples.



HAPPY HALLOWEEN



Robert Burns wrote an 8-page poem called “**Halloween**” that is considered one of the greatest works ever to describe the Scottish customs associated with this time of year. Excerpts...

Then, first and foremost thro’ the kail,
Their stocks maun a’ be sought ance;
They steek their een, and grape an’ wale
For muckle anes, an’ straight anes.

The auls guidwife’s weel-hoordit nits
Are round an’ round divided
An’ mony lads and lassies’ fates
Are there that night decided:

Wee Jenny to her graunie says,
“Will ye go wi’ me, graunie?
I’ll eat the apple at the glass,
I gat frae uncle Johnie:”

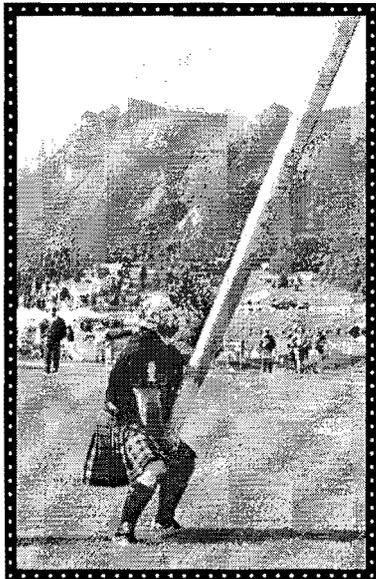
She thro’ the whins, an’ by the cairn,
An’ owre the hill gaed scievin;
Whare three lairds’ lan’s met at a burn,
To dip her left sark-sleeve in.

In order, on the clean hearth-stane,
The luggies three are ranged;
An’ ev’ry time great care is ta’en
To see them duly changed:
Auld uncle John, wha wedlock’s joys
Sin’ Mar’s-year did desire,
Because he gat the toom dish thrice,
He heav’d them on the fire.

TOASTS & THINGS

From The Spider by Robert Menzies Banks

Ye creep along the skirtin board
Ye scamper ower the flair
Ye hide in wee dark corners
Pretendin ye're no there!



Don't you need a license for that!?

Excerpts on Halloween by Sir Walter Scott

On Hallowmas Eve, ere ye boune to rest
Ever beware that your couch be blest;
Sign it with cross and sain it with bead,
Sing the Ave and the Creed.
He that dare sit in St Swithin's Chair
When the Nightwag wings the troubled air,
Questions three, when he speaks the spell,
He must ask, and she must tell

*Actually, this is Harry MacDonald, the Canadian
Champion for the caber.*

It's time to be thinking about how you can help
out for the **St. Louis Games** in October 2001.
"St. Louis Scottish Games" is the operating com-
pany and needs many volunteers and sponsors.

Web site at:

www.stlouis-scottishgames.com

E-mail to

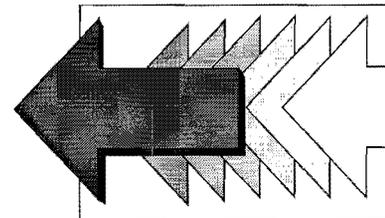
macmail@stlouis-scottishgames.com

Interested in joining the Society

Dues payment...encourage a friend to join...questions...

Please contact Geoff Chaboude at (636) 519 7979

Or send him an e-mail at jeffcktj@aol.com



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

*Jim McLaren, 2214 Stoneridge Terrace Court, Chesterfield, MO 63017
or call (636) 532-5986, or e-mail: mclaren@inverizon.com.*

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