

The GHILLIE CALLUM

Volume 39 No. 2

December 2007

SEASIDE GAMES

The Gathering of the Clans and all things Scottish took place on Oct. 13 and 14 at Seaside Park in Ventura.

The weekend activities began on Friday night with the usual Whiskey Tasting party and kickoff dinner and entertainment featuring Alex Beaton, and a tartan fashion show. As always, the dinner was well attended and put everyone in just the right mood for the weekend events.

Once again, the organizers of the Games, John and Nellie Lowry, turned over McBride Hall to those of us in Scottish Country Dancing. We began the weekend events with a demonstration by the L.A. Demonstration Team under the direction of Ann McBride. The team was represented by 14 dancers, three of whom dashed off as soon as possible to get ready to join the Channel and Coast-Dancers for a presentation in the opening ceremonies.

By 1:30 in the afternoon, dancers were back at McBride for an afternoon of Adjudication dancing. We had four teams participating this year: Eagle Rock, Northridge, the L.A. Team and The MacLeod Dancers. Our adjudicators, Marjorie McLaughlin from San Diego and Oberdan Otto from Camarillo,

watched as each team presented three dances: a jig, a reel and a strathspey. Following their performances, each team received a debriefing from the adjudicators with tips on how they could improve both as individual dancers and as a group. In between sets, the audience was kept entertained – and in the building – by the singing duo Rigel (Becky Green and David Key of the San Gabriel Valley Branch) and a harpist from the Ventura area.

At about 4:30 p.m. our dancers began to leave the Fairgrounds for dinner and a quick change of clothes before moving on to the evening activities. For many, the venue was our third annual Scotch Hop. The dance has become a popular addi-

(Continued on next page.)



Deanna St. Amand with Norm and Michi White



L. A. Demonstration Team

tion to the weekend activities and this year was no exception. Thanks to Marta and Ken Evans, San Gabriel Valley Branch, we were able to use their church hall for the dance. The church is located conveniently close to the Fairgrounds and most of the area motels and hotels. We had over 60 dancers at the Hop, despite the fact that a number of dancers chose to save their feet and instead attended the Alasdair Fraser and Natalie Haas concert sponsored by the Games Committee.

The next morning, we were back at McBride Hall for more dancing. The day began with a performance by the Scottish Fiddlers of L.A. and then moved on to Scottish Country Dancing with the MacLeod Dancers, English Country Dancing and Irish Set Dancing. A highpoint of the MacLeod performance on Sunday was the presentation of a special dance thanking Norm and Michi White for manning the RSCDS Booth for both days of the Games each year since the Seaside Games began. The dance, "Hail To The Chieftain," was devised by Deanna in 1997 for Norm, at the time, Chieftain of the United Scottish Society, Santa Barbara, and a beginner in her class.

Many, many thanks go to Donna Ingram of the San Gabriel Valley Branch for organizing our dance events for the weekend. Donna has a small crew of loyal helpers, not nearly enough to handle all the work involved for a two-day event. Thanks, too, to the teachers who prepared their classes for the Adjudication dancing and to the teams for performing. It wouldn't have been a success without you.

Deanna St. Amand

Photos by Deanna St. Amand and Claudia Pedersen

LOS ANGELES BRANCH SCHEDULE OF DANCES 2007-08



December

- 31 Hogmanay.** El Segundo Woman's Club. 8:00 p.m. Recorded music. \$18. paid ahead.

2008

January

- 26 Burns Ball (Tri-branch).** Ports O'Call Restaurant. Music: Callum McKinnon & Lisa Scott.

February

- 16 Queen Mary Festival Dance.** Our Savior Church, Long Beach. 7:30 p.m. Recorded music. Members \$10, non-members \$12.

- 23 Beginner Dance.** Van Nuys/Sherman Oaks Senior Center. 7:00 p.m. Recorded music. Members \$10, non-members \$12.

March

- 22 Beginner Dance.** Torrance Arts Center, Torrance Blvd. at Madona. 7:00 p.m. Recorded music. Members \$10, Non-members \$12.

OTHER EVENTS

**OC = Orange County Branch;
SD = San Diego;
SGV = San Gabriel Valley Branch.
2007**

December

- 1 SD. Christmas Ball.** United Portuguese Hall, 2818 Avenida de Portugal, Point Loma. 7:30 p.m. Music: John Taylor and Barbara Magone. Members: #20, non-members: \$ 25.

- 8 OC Christmas Ball,** with buffet supper. Tustin Senior Center, 200 "C" Street, Tustin. 7:30 p.m. Music: Hood, Wink & Swagger. Members: \$25, non-members: \$ 27.

2008

February

- 21-26 Winter School 2008 at Atholl Pallace Hotel,** Pitlochry, Perthshire, Scotland. Applications on RSCDS web site (waiting list).

March

- 29 SD Workshop.**

May

- 3 OC Anniversary Ball.** Women's Club of Orange. Music: Muriel Johnstone and Keith Smith.



NOTES FROM THE CHAIR LADY



How is everybody doing?

It's great to see you at our events and wonderful to share lively music and dancing fun with you all. Kudos to our own unflappable Bill Hartung and his staff (including the Marvelous Maddie Rackley and her kitchen help) for our recent successful St. Andrew's Ball! Check out the wonderful pictures in our next issue.

We have several more great events to look forward to as this edition goes to press: our Annual Hogmanay, The Burns Supper (a three-branch event) and the Orange County 25th Anniversary Ball. Hogmanay will take place at the El Segundo Woman's Club on New Year's Eve and will be in the same format as last year. (I do hear a rumor of some new very puzzling puzzles that may appear.) The Burns Supper will take place on Jan 26 at Ports O'Call, San Pedro, and will feature Calum McKinnon accompanied by Lisa Scott. We are looking forward to the usual Burns Supper fun, lots of tasty haggis, Burns lore, fun toasts and an excellent meal. If you have not purchased your tickets, do not delay. Go to the website and check out the details there.

The Orange County Branch's 25th Anniversary is going to be one "fantabulous," extraordinary celebration and if you miss this you will have only yourself to blame! Muriel Johnstone and Keith Smith have been engaged to play for this event on Saturday, May 3, 2008. In addition to superb music, the OC folk have also reserved a superb location for this event -- the Women's Club of Orange -- which boasts a great wood floor. Add to all that, delicious food and friendly people and you have one incredible night. Mark this event on your calendar with a huge red "X" and order your tickets as soon as they are available. Consider carpooling with others in your class. (If transportation is a problem, please let me know.)

Special thanks to Wilma Fee, Roberta Gotfried, and Jack Rennie, who gave up a Sunday afternoon to teach dances to brand new dancers at our Dance Scottish free event in September. The "newbies" were treated to a "how-to" demonstration of some of the dances by members of the L.A. Demonstration team led by Ann McBride. (As Jack noted, "a picture is worth a thousand words".) In addition, a number of South Bay dancers came to support the event, bringing food and pairing up with beginners. We had 19 first-timers and it is worth noting that about 15 of those came as the result of a personal invitation by an LA dancer, and only about four came as a result of the 10,000 flyers we had inserted in the local newspaper. So, there you have it! **YOU** are the key to getting more people involved in Scottish Dancing. Think about who you know who might be interested and bring them to a class to observe or to one of these free events.

Special thanks also to Tim Harrison, who agreed to step into the teaching slot that was vacated at the Sunday night class in Redondo Beach. Tim hails from Texas and is the editor of the "Inter-City Scot". Also, kudos to Roberta Gotfried who has restarted the Santa Monica Friday night intermediate class after a long period of time with no presence in that city by us. In addition, she has kept up the new Long Beach beginner's class with good support from a number of seasoned dancers.

We are incredibly lucky in the L.A. Branch to have so many dedicated, capable teachers. We don't tell them often enough how much we appreciate the hours they give, the miles they drive, the patience they demonstrate, and the money they donate so that we can accomplish this fun we call Scottish Country Dancing. Be sure and tell your teacher "Thank You" next time you go to class!

Doris Fischer





Burns Supper and Ball
Ports O'Call Restaurant,
Port O'Call, San Pedro.
Jan. 26, 2008

St. Andrew's Fair	J B	5 SCD for 1982
Swiss Lassie	R I	Book 39
Miss Milligan's Strathspey	S I	RSCDS Leaflet
Blue Bonnets	J B	Book 3
Miss Johnstone of Ardrossan	R I	Goldring 14 Social
Maitland to Manchester	J I	Thomas/Wallace
Delvine Side	S B	Book 2
A Trip to Bavaria	R I	Collins SCD Book
Corian Strathspey, The	S A	Book 43
Best Set in The Hall	J I	Greenwood Leaflet
Catch The Wind	R B	Book 45
Dream Catcher	S A	Book 45
Lady in Red	J A	Ruby Anniversary
Cashmere Shawl	S I	Strathtay Album
Bratach Bana	R A	Bon Accord
Napier's Index	J I	Book 45
Highland Rambler, The	R B	Silver Jubilee



Beginner Dance
Van Nuys Sherman Oaks Senior Center
5040 Van Nuys Blvd. Sherman Oaks
February 23, 2008

La Flora	J B	Book 27
Lady Dumfries	R B	MMM I
Casting Glances	S I	Solstice Party Bk
Napier's Index	J B	Book 45
A Trip to Bavaria	R I	Collins SCD Book
The Rover's Rant	J I	Goldring 12 More
Jimmy's Fancy	S B	Book 14
Ladies' Fancy	J B	Book 13
Blackadder House	S I	Blackadder Coll.
Selkirk Settlers	R B	Let's All Dance
Best Set in The Hall	J I	Greenwood Leaflet
Lady Glasgow	S B	MMM 1
Swiss Lassie	R I	Book 39
Delvine Side	S B	Book 2
Catch The Wind	R B	Book 45
Miss Johnstone/Ardrossan	R I	Goldring 14 Social
Good Hearted Glasgow	J B	Collins SCD

December 2007



Beginner Dance
Torrance Cultural Arts Center
Torrance Blvd. at Madona.
March 22, 2008

Collichur	J B	Book 30
Flowers of Edinburgh	R B	Book 1
The Quern	S I	Dunedin Dances
Alan J. Smith	J B	Book 45
Ferla Mor	R I	Deeside Book 1
La Flora	J B	Book 27
Casting Glances	S I	Solstice Party Bk
The Sailor	R B	Book 24
The Lea Rig	S B	Book 21
The Rover's Rant	J I	Goldring - 12 More
Swiss Lassie	R I	Book 39
The Cabrach	M B	Goldring
Napier's Index	J B	Book 45
Lady Glasgow	S B	MMM I
Music Makars	R I	Book 33
The Cranberry Tart	J I	Glasspool 7 Yr Itch
Shiftin' Bobbins	R B	Clowes

Board of Management Meeting

Our next Board of Management meeting is scheduled for January 13th, 2008 at 1:30 p.m. at Stoner Park in Los Angeles. Board meetings are open to any branch member who would like to attend, and are normally held on the second Sunday of the month. (Of course, you will not be able to vote at the meeting.) Perhaps you are thinking of being on the board, and would like to see what we do? Let me know ahead of time if you plan to attend, so I can let you know of any changes in meeting time or place.

This and That.....

Special thanks is due to the following folk:

.....Deborah Ash for serving as Publicity Chair for the last year and for all the research she did into newspaper advertising, etc.

.....Ray Tucker for agreeing to take on the position of Publicity Chair. If you know of free advertising opportunities, please let him know.

.....Russell Ham for doing the Ghille Callum mailings for the last year and the name badges for many years, in addition to his other jobs for us!

.....Terry Schaeffer for agreeing to take on the Ghille Callum mailing job.

.....Irv Cohen for agreeing to take on the Name Badges job.

Doris Fisher, ChairLady (doris.fisher@gmail).

DEMONSTRATION TEAM

The demonstration team is looking for a few good members!!! Are you interested in perking up your *pas de Basque* or stretching your strathspey? What about sharpening up your skip change? Won't you consider joining the Demonstration Team?

We are looking for new members and would love to have you come along on Tuesday, January 15, 2008, 8:00 p.m. The Team meets at Cheviot Hills Park and Recreation Center, 2551 Motor Avenue off Pico Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90064

The only qualifications are to have been dancing for at least three years and be willing to make a commitment to participate in performances. We work hard, but we have a lot of fun too.

So, why don't you think about it and if you have any questions, give me a call at (818) 841-8161 (evenings) or via email at: mcbridea@cshs.org.

Ann McBride, Team Director



Left to right: Marion Reeve, Roberta Gotfried, Jack Rennie and Wilma Fee.

TEA DANCE

A Branch-sponsored Tea Dance was held at the Torrance Cultural Arts Center on September 9, 2007.

Nineteen potential new dancers along with 23 branch members participated in the afternoon activities. In fact, some newcomers walked in when they saw the tartans and kilts. Ann McBride brought along 3 couples from the Demonstration Team to show the new dancers how 2 of the simple dances were done. Then, Jack Rennie, Wilma Fee, and Roberta Gotfried taught the same dances. Marion Reeve assisted by running the music.

A special thank-you goes to all those who helped with the set-up and the Manhattan Beach and Torrance classes, who provided partners for the novice dancers, as well as the wonderful refreshments.

Rosemary Abend

December 2007



Photos by Rosemary Abend



GHILLIE CALLUM



Manhattan Beach Class, November 2007 with Joan Baker from Phoenix and two visitors from Scotland.

**CLEAN OUT YOUR GIFT
CABINET FOR A GOOD CAUSE!**

With the holidays approaching we are all likely to receive a few great gifts we can't use. Here is your chance to clean out your "re-gifting" cabinet so that we can magically re-assemble these items into desirable gift baskets for the Burn's Supper.

We can make good use of wine, Scotch, cook-books, gardening books, great paperbacks, CD's, coffee mugs, tea and coffee. Items should be new (or at least look like they are...).

Donations of baskets will also be appreciated. Please bring these items to Hogmanay on December 31st or give them to Susie Smyth Tucker or Doris Fisher by January 13th.

Start the New Year out with a clean closet!

Doris Fisher



**The deadline for
the March Ghillie Callum
is January 21, 2008.**

**ROYAL SCOTS DRAGOON
GUARDS
PERFORMANCE PLUS
THE COLDSTREAM GUARDS**

The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards and the Band of the Coldstream Guards will be performing one time only at the Orange County Performing Arts Center next Feb. 24, 2008.

It is a Sunday afternoon performance at 3:00 p.m. If we can get a group of 15 or more, our price would be about \$32. Would you please circulate this among your members? If anyone is interested, they can contact me.

Jan Lauer sk8njan@yahoo.com

CLASS REPORTS

Bakersfield

Our group held a house party at Dorothy's in August, complete with tartan-patterned cake, to congratulate Barbara Mackenzie on passing her teaching exam in Scotland. Well done, Barbara!

One of our longtime dancers decided to hang up her dancing shoes. Eleanor Clark, who has attended many TAC workshops in Canada, move into a new apartment and has also given up driving. She has a phenomenal memory for the steps of every dance.

The White Heather Dancers performed on a terrific stage at the Kern County Fair in September. Since the theme was rock 'n' roll, we wore white felt Scottie dogs on our skirts, as a gesture to poodle skirts.

We were lucky to have Michael McIntosh do a sean triubhas for the audience. Michael is a wonderful addition to our group and we all love to dance with him.

Happy Dancing, *Dorothy Hill*



Redondo Beach

The Redondo Beach class is now being taught by Tim Harrison. The class for intermediate and advanced dancers will meet at its historic time, 7-9 pm on Sundays, in its historic location, the American Legion Hall (412 S. Camino Real). Tim is a recent newcomer to the Los Angeles area. He comes from Austin, Texas. Tim received his RSCDS Preliminary Pass in 1998 at TAC Summer School. He has been teaching regularly since then. He taught adult intermediate classes for about seven years and teen beginner/intermediate classes for five years.

All intermediate/advanced dancers who have attended the class before, and those who haven't, are invited to come try out the new teacher.

Regards, *Tim Harrison*

Ventura

Frank Ibbott's Friday night Scottish Country Dance class, which meets at Ventura Hall, is delighted that the Highland Games have been held in Ventura for the past five Octobers. And many visiting from Los Angeles and Santa Barbara County joined Ventura County dancers in decorating the McBride Building at Seaside Park for dance demonstrations and adjudications.

The Scotch Hop, the dance held on Saturday night in the First United Methodist Church in Ventura, was wildly successful. The social hall, with its fine wood floor, was crowded with dancers. While Frank modulated the sound, Lea Maiolo, Aase Hansen and Deanna St. Amand reminded the sets of their figures. There was even a charming room close by for punch and desserts.

Some, like Donna Ingram, who was in charge, and Frank, Mike McChesney and Angela Tennyson stayed late on Sunday afternoon after the Games to take the posters, programs and class banners off the walls. They also folded canopies, stacked chairs and cleaned the coffee and cookie table.

We can hardly wait for next year.

Lillian Goldstein

Long Beach

Several members of the class traveled to Scotland during the summer: Jim Bell (on his annual trek back home), Bob and Carol Fisher, and Roberta. All managed to make their way to Summer Dancing in Ayr at Jim's hometown of Troon. Roberta had a reunion with several of her classmates from St. Andrews while she was in Scotland.

The class welcomed several new dancers for the Fall session some of whom are working hard to be ready to dance at an upcoming dance. Look for Karen Kerman, Olivia Crump, and Robbie Jones-Morrison in the future. We all enjoy the participation of the more experienced dancers – Jim Bell, John and Mary Cahill, Carolyn Repart, and Roz and Gil Gotfried.

The class in Long Beach will continue in 2008, registering through the Parks and Recreation.

Roberta Gotfried

Manhattan Beach

Tim Harrison, Ginger Moore, and Rosemary Abend met at the Seaside Highland Games while watching the Demonstration Team perform. Rosemary spent a couple days in Santa Barbara with branch member Christine Carlin.

Jacqui Sargent had a fabulous time in Maui attending the wedding of a friend.

Susie Tucker is planning the August 9th wedding of her daughter, Alexi. The wedding will be in Carmel. Both Alexi and her fiancé work at the Berkeley Lab.

Bonnie Waters and seven friends will dance an eight-hands reel at the Western Regional Irish Dance Championship in Los Angeles. Two years ago in Denver they placed first in their division.

Wilma Fee's "bed and breakfast" has been booked for most of the past 2 months. Her sister and brother-in-law, a niece and two great nieces, a nephew and his wife, and several friends from Toronto (who stopped twice – on the way to a cruise and after the cruise) have all visited.

The class has been busy with visitors this month, we welcomed Wilma's great nieces, Meagan age 8 and Taylor age 10, who danced with us. They currently dance in a SCD children's class in the Toronto area. Wilma's Toronto dance friends (8 of them) also came to class one evening. Joan Baker was in town with two Scottish friends who also danced with us.

Finally, we welcome a new class member -- Leslie Evans. Leslie danced in San Francisco and Sacramento quite a few years ago. But, SCD is like riding a bicycle ...

And Leslie plans to join us at the St. Andrew Ball.

Rosemary Abend

Santa Monica

The new Friday Santa Monica class for experienced dancers has been up and running for a couple of months. We've been lucky to have good attendance, with at least one set every week, but of course we would welcome more dancers. Apart from branch dances, we do challenging dances from all branches, and some that are not on any program but are favorites of class members or the teacher. That format is good to keep the wee

grey cells working and lots of laughter too.

The class regulars represent a reunion of a variety of classes from the past -- some of our regulars are Eve and Jerry Lubin, Pat and John Ziegler, Carol Madden, Randy Scherer, Jeff Altman, Robyn George, Audree Fowler, Gail Halverson, Howard Hansen, Anne Clarke, John Kevany, and Larry Stumpf.

After class a few of us head over to Carrows in Santa Monica, where we have an ice cream, or a meal, or a glass of wine, or all of the above. It's a fun evening, and I'd like to encourage any dancers to visit our class to try it out and join us.

Larry Stumpf who has been a regular is having some health issues, and is unable to dance at the moment. We all wish Larry a speedy recovery, and hope he's back dancing with us in the near future.

Jim Bell

Lomita

Monday night class in Lomita ran all summer, and we have all the usual attenders back this fall. Attendance has been a bit low, with a few nights causing cancellation. The class is mostly seniors who travel more and have more health problems.

Rose and Joe Peters have been kept busy with family activities, namely the birth and later the christening of their granddaughter in Denver. These events were followed by the celebration of their 40th wedding anniversary. Afterwards Rose had some time out to deal with some health problems, and we hope all's well and we'll see them again soon.

Anneliese Grohs has departed for Germany until January to spend some time with her sister and family, and we are sure she will have a white Christmas. Sheila and John Bray have not been seen lately since their extended stay at Davis when their son graduated. Sheila reports they have given up their holiday home in Palm Springs in favor of another in the mountains outside Portland in order to be near their sons who live there. Anne Dwyer had a fall in a "super store" dislocating her shoulder. Although it seemed alright for a while, she continued to dance, but eventually had to have surgery to correct the problem and has been missing six weeks of class as a result. However, her recovery was brightened by a visit from her daughter and new grandson, Fin, who is

growing like a weed.

Similarly, Marion Reeve had a fall at home, and broke her right arm in two places, getting a cast from wrist to shoulder, and also had to be absent from class for a while. Rick St. Amant went to Ft. Myers, FL to visit an ailing aunt and uncle. It was nice he got to see her before she passed on.

Tony McQuilkin is on hand most nights except when he has a musical performance to prepare for. He has been coming up with some new humorous "quips" for the class and he has given up his Bible in favor of new one called, "Pillings" which he likes to read at class.

Most of the class had an outing together to see "Kiss Me Kate" at the Redondo Beach performing arts center.

Ray (and Susie) have embarked on an extended travel plan to visit relatives across the country as the Christmas season approaches, but promise to return in time for Hogmanay. Not so with Roz and Gil Gotfried, who are headed for Sunrise FL to be with a daughter and family for the Yuletide season and probably the New Year's.

I ran into Shu-Jen Su, recently who has been spending most of her time in Orange County looking after her grandchild since her retirement. She only came home to Palos Verdes on the odd weekends and has not been able to come class or events. She promised to do better.

Irv Cohen visits the class frequently, as do Doris and Eric Fisher, which has helped bolster attendance.

Class Manager Molly Dawes, a PV Schools teacher's aide is fending off retirement as long as possible but still keeps us abreast of who's coming and who is not and who has to bring the refreshments each night. Although she is our most senior senior, she's still dancing up a storm after some 30 years attendance since the class began.

Jack Rennie

LOST.....AND FOUND ?

A book of Scottish music in a manila envelope may have been lost at the August dance in the valley. If anyone found the gift from Roberta Gotfried and does not know to whom it belongs, please call me. I'd be most appreciative and thankful to receive it.

Jack Rennie

Northridge

Northridge dancers began the season with their usual enthusiasm. There was a strong turnout for the Seaside Games and eight members were participants in the adjudication: Alice Allen, Jeff Altman, Jim Bell, Robyn George, Audrey Prest, Terry Schaeffer, Linda McWade and Lathon Wells. Jim, Lathon, and Angela Tennyson are members of the MacLeod Dancers and Alice, Jim and Linda dance on the Los Angeles Branch Demonstration Team as well. Observers at the Games enjoyed performances by both the MacLeods and the Demonstration Team.

We had two travelers on the move in the fall. Terry Schaeffer and her husband, Jim spent three weeks visiting in Scotland and England. There was a conference in New Castle-Upon-Tyne followed by visits to Edinburgh and an Iron Age fort located above the Whiteadder (not Blackadder) River. Visits to England included Reading, Dartford, Cambridge and Manchester and some enthusiastic hiking in the Peak District: 25 miles in three days.

Angela Tennyson safely weathered the Malibu winds and fire closures and then enjoyed a 10-day trip to Texas to visit daughter, Elizabeth and her husband and to see grandson, Kerrick. Next time she visits, there will be a new baby boy and the 'big brother' will be a ripe old age of 5.

Claudia Pedersen

Torrance

Following a busy summer session, the fall session of class with the Parks and Recreation Department opened with more than 25 registrants and a few new beginners who seem to be progressing nicely. Carol Posner has moved up to begin dancing with the intermediates, and I believe has taken branch membership. Carol has recently published a book which seems to be attracting much attention, as she has been invited to speak at various clubs and groups as well as book signing events arranged by her publisher to promote it. [Incidentally, Carol Posner's new book (ISBN#9781602665897) is now available on line at Amazon, and Borders, and is titled "Ordinary Patriot" and deals with how her Christian family relates to her son fighting in Iraq, his determination to survive, returns to the life and country he was treasuring for the first time as a result

of this experience.] Congratulations, Carol, and good luck with your new book!

Ashley Mikami, one of our younger home-scholar dancers, has also progressed nicely and has become a new branch member. She will be heading off to college later in the year, and hopes to become a doctor.

Betty Findley has returned to reregister for the class following her hip surgery and recently took off to visit Greece, where her granddaughter is attending university in Athens. Ruth Fleming has seen her daughter Sarah off to work for her master's degree in opera in Arizona. A few of us attended one of her last performances at L'Opera Restaurant in Long Beach and were delighted to hear her performance and enjoyed her program. We wish her well in her quest towards an operatic career.

Amelie Tanimoto (nick-name Aki) has progressed rapidly, moving up to the intermediate class and has become a new branch member. She has begun attending our events, as well as some in Orange county. Aki is tiny and has a hard time keeping

up with the giant strides of Tony McQuilkin, a frequent partner. So she has had to become a "frequent flyer."

Bill and Nancy Hartung had some excitement recently when they hosted their daughter's wedding at their home. By all accounts, it was a gala affair which took place in their garden. Bill has continued working on his drumming with the pipe band and played at the Seaside Games.

I had a recent conversation with former class member, Patrick Fly, who reported he has been teaching his own class in Tacoma, WA, since obtaining his full certificate, and also has a new hobby of learning to fly, which seems to make sense since he now works for Boeing, and in view of his last name! He was very excited about it.

Doris and Eric Fisher keep us all on track with updates and pep talks encouraging attendance at coming events.

Most of the class are enjoying the new dances and plan to attend the St. Andrews Ball.

Jack Rennie



Board of Management November 2007

Front row (kneeling): (left to right) Irv Cohen, Sue Higgins. 2nd row: (l to r) Ann McBride, Claudia Pedersen, Deborah Ash.
3rd row: (l to r) Doris Fisher, Audrey Prest, Aase Hansen. 4th row: (l to r) Bill Hartung, Tove Olafsen, Russell Ham
December 2007

MacLeod Rant 2008

NEW MEMBERS

The Branch is pleased to welcome the following new members: Ashley Mikami; Carol Posner; Bob & Carol Fisher; Karen Kerman; Guinevere Saenger, Ian Sullivan, both members of the SGV Branch; Carol & Norman Auslander, who have transferred from the New Jersey Branch. We hope you will enjoy dancing with us.

Melinda & Frank

It is with deep regret that I must tell you that there will not be a Rant in 2008. In September I was informed that the Beverly Hills Woman's Club was no longer renting to outside organizations, although we had been accepted for May 31st.

We immediately began to look for another location, but other halls were rejected because of cost, location, etc. Even if we were lucky enough to find a suitable hall, we were still facing the challenge of finding good musicians at such short notice.

Therefore, we have decided to cancel plans for 2008 and turn our attention to finding a new location for the MacLeod Rant in future years.

Deanna St. Amand



FLOWERS OF THE FOREST

News was recently received of the passing of two icons of our Scottish country dance community; both on the same day, September 4, 2007

In the United Kingdom, dance devisor Roy Goldring died suddenly. However, he left our teachers with some wonderful dance books. You might say that these were his legacy to us to enjoy on our dance programs. No doubt you will recall those on our local programs that we have all enjoyed. The dances are of great variety and suitable for all levels of dancers.

The dances have also prompted compositions of new music to accompany them also adding to our enjoyment of his body of work. Roy had a wonderful personality, as many of our members will remember from dancing with him at St. Andrews Summer School and he will be sorely missed.

Band leader Stan Hamilton died near my hometown of Toronto. He was well known by seasoned Scottish country dancers around the world. He once told me that he learned all his dance band skills from working in his father's band in Ayrshire, Scotland.

Hamilton immigrated to Canada just about the time the first dance groups were forming in Hamilton and Toronto. He was a superb pianist and he made the arrangements for his band, called "Stan Hamilton and the Flying Scotsmen," which fairly lifted the dancers off the floor with their music. Word of his reputation soon spread when he was playing for Boston and New York. Then as dance groups spread, the band made it to the West Coast. My last chance to dance to the band came at a ball in San Francisco, and what a treat that was. The band's LP's were superb and soon became collector's items. Fortunately we have them to refresh our memories of what a real band sounds like.

Stan suffered a stroke some years ago, but he continued to attend events to hear the music some of his old band members made. His influence gave rise to the Bobby Frew Trio and Bobby Brown's Band.

Stanley received the Society's Scroll of Honor in 2005 for his wonderful musical contributions, which aided the growth of the dancing particularly in North America, but his legacy is worldwide. Stan is survived by his wife Ann in their hometown, Orangeville, Ontario, Canada.

Jack Rennie



The Royal Scottish Country Dance Society
Los Angeles Branch, Inc.
P.O. Box 90871
Los Angeles CA 90009



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