



The GHILLIE CALLUM

Volume 36 No. 3

March 2005

BURNS SUPPER 2005

Did you know that Robert Burns enjoyed the same spirited and exciting dancing we do? We learned that, plus the fact that his father soundly disapproved of the dancing, during this year's celebration of our favorite Scottish poet.

In a "This Is Your Life" format, four actors read the parts of Burns' mother, brother, lover and friend, telling of his life in an especially personal way. We learned of his wives and lovers, children (legitimate and not), his reprimands by the church, his efforts at various careers and most of all, the fond feelings of those closest to him. The cast for the Immortal Memory was Ann McBride, Eric Fisher, Kathy Higgins and Mike Mackenzie. Ann and Kathy even wore caps and aprons typical of Burns' era.

No Burns celebration would be complete without haggis and the Burns poem "To a Haggis." Jim Bell recited the old Scots words with such zest and appreciation, it was easy to imagine we were in a tavern some 200 years ago with the hearty dish being served to Burns himself and the "rustic goodmen" of the time. The haggis was capably piped in by Nancy Scott, accompanied by Susie Smyth Tucker as Poesie Nancy and Jeff Altman as the Henchman.

Ric Simmons added a musical touch to his Toast to the Lassies by playing his guitar and singing some of his kind words. Robyn George humorously replied in her Toast to the Laddies.

Bill Hartung organized a choral group to lead us in another Burns tradition, "The Star o' Rabbie Burns." The singers included Nancy Hartung, Ruth Fleming-Stephens, Eric Fisher, Tony McQuilkin and Madeleine Rackley, accompanied by Jack Rennie on accordion.

Doris Fisher chaired the wonderful evening and deserves much appreciation for calmly dealing with snags such as Ports o' Call notifying us it could be closing (it did) and moving us to the Proud Bird and then finding on arrival that night that a high school dance was (quite loudly) occupying the ballroom next door. But Doris is so organized and unflappable that

each issue was handled smoothly and graciously.

Entertainment was provided by champion Highland dancer Courtney Sutcliffe before dinner and our own L.A. Branch Demonstration Team dancing at the first break.

Claudia Pedersen was decorations chairman and carried out the color scheme of teal, silver and black with silk flower centerpieces and coordinating balloons. She also created sweet little table favors for everyone: yummy little chocolates neatly tied up in teal and white.

Grand marshals were Frank Ibbott and Audrey Prest, with Nancy piping the grand march. Emcees for the dancing were Frank, Ann and Wilma Fee. Jack's Thistle Band played for the dancing.

Special thanks go to Carol Johnson for handling dinner reservations. She was assisted at check-in by Pat Ziegler. Tickets for the superb raffle baskets were sold by Phyllis Larsen, Betty Findley and Arlene Lee. Early arrivals Randy Scherer and Russell Ham not only supervised getting the dance floor in shape, they both joined the restaurant staff on hands and knees to make it spotless.

Frank did all the graphic arts, including special silver lettering to match the colors of the evening and printing the fliers twice. The haggis was made by Mary Brandon, Pat Grivetti and Randy. Branch chairman Ray Tucker handled the welcoming and toasted the queen.

As we joyfully danced through the evening, we could easily relate to the Burns lines: "The dancers quick and quicker flew; they reel'd, they set, they cross'd, they cleekit." We are proudly and happily keeping a unique tradition alive!

Audrey Ramsay Prest

(Be sure to look at the color photographs of the three main winter dances on the center pages of this issue of the Ghillie Callum.)

**LOS ANGELES BRANCH
CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS
2005**

MARCH

26 Monthly Dance. 7:00 p.m. Van Nuys/
Sherman Oaks Senior Center. Music:
Heathertones. Member: \$10; non-mem-
ber \$12.

APRIL

23 Beginner Dance. 7:30 p.m. Torrance
Cultural Arts Center. Music: Heather-
tones. Member: \$10; non-member \$12.

MAY

8 Tea Dance. 1:30 p.m. Simi Valley Se-
nior Center. Music: Heathertones.
Member: \$10; non-member \$12.

JUNE

25 AGM. Pot luck 5:00 p.m., meeting 6:00
p.m., dance 7:00 p.m. Van Nuys/
Sherman Oaks Senior Center. Music
TBA. Member: \$10; non-member \$12.

JULY

23 Summer Dance. 7:30 p.m. Torrance
Cultural Arts Center. Music recorded:
Members: \$7; non-member \$8.

AUGUST

27 Summer Dance. 7:00 p.m. Van Nuys/
Sherman Oaks Senior Center. Music re-
corded: Members: \$7; non-member \$8.

<p>www.rscds-losangeles.org</p> <p>The Los Angeles branch will soon have its own website!</p> <p>Our thanks to Bob Brooks for keeping us informed about branch events on his site (www.dancin-fool.com) about dance and music in the Los Angeles area for so long.</p> <p>That site has served us well, and we are all grateful to Bob for keeping us informed all these years. However, we've decided that it's time for the branch to have its own site.</p> <p>The address for our website is www.rscds-losangeles.org and right now, this address points to Bob's site. When our page gets up and running, this name will be re-directed to our new site, so you can get used to checking that address now. The new site will still have links to Bob's page.</p> <p>If you have any ideas, pictures, or announcements you'd like to contribute to the site, just let me know at 310.399.0843 or gail_halverson@mac.com</p> <p align="right"><i>Gail Halverson</i></p>

OTHER EVENTS

**OC = Orange County Branch;
SC = San Diego;
SGV = San Gabriel Valley Branch.
2005**

MARCH

12 OC Beginners' Dance. 7:30 p.m.
AnaheimDowntown Community Center,
(Taped music).

19-20 SGV Workshop

APRIL

**8-10 InterBranch Camp Cedar Glen
Workshop - Julian**

**16 SGV Basic Technique Workshop #4
Culver City**

MAY

14 OC Dance

14 Thistle Ball-Vancouver, B.C., Canada.
Dinner dance at the Squamish Nation's
Hall, North Vancouver. \$45,
RSCDS members. Musician: Marion
Anderson. Contact: Barbara MacKenzie:
mackenzie@csurfers.net.

27-29 USS Scottish Games - Pomona

JUNE

11 OC AGM and Dance

15-19 Scottish Dance Masters'Conference.
Sonoma State University, Rohnert
Park (north of San Francisco). Dance
teachers: Ruth Jappy, John Middleton
and Geoffrey Selling. Musicians:
Muriel Johnstone and Keith Smith.
Contact: Irene Paterson at
SDMC.1@comcast.net

JULY

29-31 TAC AGM, Shawnigan Lake, Vancouver
Island, British Columbia

31-August 7 TAC Summer School,

Shawnigan Lake, Vancouver Island,
British Columbia

SEPTEMBER

24 - Interbranch Dance - LA host

NEW MEMBERS

The Branch is pleased to welcome two new members: Caitlin Gomez, and Jim Matolo, who is also a member of the San Gabriel Valley Branch. We hope that you enjoy dancing with us.

Melinda & Frank.

RANDOM THOUGHTS FROM THE CHAIR:

The 39th annual Burns Supper has passed into the annals of history -- a grand, gala affair and a fine tribute to Scotland's favorite poet. Despite a last-minute venue change and some unavoidable snags, it was a ball to remember. Thanks again to our able vice-chair and her unflagging crew. And a special thanks to the family of Robert Burns for sharing their memories with us, and to the newly formed and not to be soon forgotten Branch Singers!

I want to thank all of you who took the time to complete the 2004 Los Angeles Branch Dance Survey. A total of forty-nine responses were received, and a good cross section of the branch was represented. The numerical results of the survey are included in an insert to this issue of the Ghillie Callum. Unfortunately, there is not room to include the many thoughtful and deliberative comments which were received and which will be beneficial as we formulate plans for the future of the Branch and prepare our dance programs. If you would like a copy of the comments (all eight pages), send me an e-mail (rtucl@cox.net), and I will get a copy to you.

A significant number of you expressed interest in more inter-branch events. The dance following the Queen Mary Highland Games, sponsored by the Los Angeles, Orange County and San Gabriel Valley Branches, was such an event. Dinner followed by an evening of dancing offered a welcome respite for those who worked so diligently at the games. We look forward to more of these combined events in the future.

As spring approaches, our fancies turn to thoughts of—a workshop weekend in April! Your workshop committee, with representation from all four Southern California Branches, is working diligently to make it a fun and informative weekend. If you haven't yet signed up, you should contact the registrar.

And, lastly, come celebrate Mother's Day at the Tea Dance in Simi Valley. There will be something for everyone, including an outstanding dance program, and audience participation dances for those interested in learning more about Scottish Country Dancing.

Happy Dancing! And remember to use the "F" word: Scottish Country Dancing is FUN!

Ray Tucker



Manhattan Beach Class Christmas Party

BEGINNER DANCE

April 23, 7:30 p.m.
 Torrance Cultural Arts Center
 Torrance Blvd. at Madrona, Torrance
 Music: The Heathertones

St. Andrew's Fair	B/J	5 for 82
Ways in New Hall	B/R	Book 42
The Three Sisters	I/S	Drewry Dances
Haste to the Wedding	B/J	Book 25
General Stuart's Reel	I/R	Book 10
Lady Home's Jig	B/J	MMM I
Braes of Breadalbane	I/S	Book 21
Mr. Watson's Favourite	B/R	Graded Book
Andrew's Fancy	B/S	L.A. 25 th Anniv.
MacLeod's Fancy	I/J	Book 33
The Duran Ranger	B/R	Book 13
The Celebration Strathspey	I/S	Book 43
Flights of Fancy	I/J	Boston 50 th
Bedrule	B/S	Book 33
Kelso Races	B/R	MMM II
O'er the Border	I/J	The South Gate
Royal Deeside Railway	B/R	Book 40

TEA DANCE

May 8, 1:30 p.m.
 Simi Valley Senior Center
 3900 Avenida Simi, Simi Valley
 Music: The Heathertone

Nice to See You	B/R	Book 40
O'er the Border	I/J	The South Gate
From Scotia's Shores	A/S	RSCDS Leaflet
Haste to the Wedding	B/J	Book 25
Falls of Rogie	I/R	Alexander Book
The Duran Ranger	B/R	Book 13
The Trysting Place	I/S	Book 35
The Glenora Ferry	A/J	An Itch to Dance
Glasgow Country Dance	B/M	Book 23
The Piper and the Penguin	I/R	Scotia Suite
Gloria's Wee Jig	B/J	Devil's Quandary
The Celebration Strathspey	I/S	Book 43
Founders' Reel	A/R	Dances/ Difference
Fair Donald	B/S	Book 29
Flights of Fancy	I/J	Boston 50 th
Mrs. MacLeod	R/I	Book 6
The Nurseryman	I/J	Book 37

HOGMANAY REPORT

The New Year was welcomed in with a fun and festive Hogmanay party at the Westchester Senior Center. Bill & Nancy Hartung chaired the event, dressing up the hall with black and gold balloons and decorations, and making sure there was plenty

March 2005 GHILLIE CALLUM

AGM DANCE

June 25, following meeting and potluck supper
 Van Nuys Sherman Oaks Senior Center
 5040 Van Nuys Blvd., Sherman Oaks
 Music: TBA

Light & Airy	B/J	Book 4
The Royal Yacht Britannia	I/R	Book 43
The Trysting Place	I/S	Book 35
The Duran Ranger	B/R	Book 13
Midnight Oil	A/J	Bankhead 3
West's Hornpipe	I/R	Five for 65
Andrew's Fancy	B/S	L.A. 25 th Anniv.
Macleod's Fancy	I/J	Book 33
Glasgow Country Dance	B/M	Book 23
Bonavista	A/R	Newfoundland
Gloria's Wee Jig	J/B	Devil's Quandary
Sands of Morar	A/S	Glasgow Branch
The Old Man of Storr	B/R	Children's Book
The Thornhill Strathspey	I/S	15 Social Dances
Flights of Fancy	I/J	Boston 50 th
Mrs. LacLeod	I/R	Book 6
The Nurseryman	I/J	Book 37

of yummy food on hand. Special thanks to all who brought food, in particular to Russell Ham and Jo Solomon for their tasty trifles. Russell is also to be thanked for handling our champagne and sparkling cider needs. (Thank you, Ray & Susie for donating champagne from their wedding.) The Heathertones added a drummer to their complement for the occasion, helping us all keep the beat, and Aase did a good job of making sure we danced right up to midnight, just in time to toast the New Year on the stroke of twelve! We ended the night with the traditional singing of Auld Lang Syne. And, as if that wasn't good enough, the rumor was that the puzzle was even completed!

Doris

ST. ANDREW'S REPORT

Thanksgiving weekend was finished up with a bang at the Masonic Lodge on Saturday, Nov. 27th. No one was dieting as the food was so very tasty and beautifully prepared by Maddie Rackley and her helpers (sister Dorothy, Anne Clarke, Barbara Mackenzie, Ruth Fleming Stephens & Rachel Wolfe). Lighthouse-themed decorations and setup were handled by Doris & Eric Fisher, Mike Mackenzie and Tony McQuilkin. In spite of the rain and blowing wind outside, we were snug inside dancing to the tunes provided by Lisa Scott and Calum MacKinnon. Mark your calendars for this event on Nov. 26, 2005, as rumor has it that Maddie has agreed to an encore performance in the kitchen!

Deadline for June GC - April 18, 2005

CLASS REPORTS VALLEY COLLEGE

I have not had to miss class because of illness for several years, but my luck ran out just before Christmas. In the midst of decorating the Christmas tree, I decided to trim the bushes in front of the house. Moving the trash barrel over the lawn, it tipped over and I fell into it. The result was three broken ribs and a partially collapsed lung. I had to call Deanna to the rescue and she was kind enough to take the last two classes before Christmas. Lisbet paid us yet another visit and was able to bring me to class for the Christmas party night.



Christine Richard met up with her adopted Vietnamese sister in Vietnam over the Christmas holidays. That was quite an experience. It was at the time of the tsunami but she said they heard very little about it. Her sister lives in Switzerland where the rest of Christine's family lives.

Bob Littlehale from Boston has finished the job assignment he had been on here for about 14 months. We are going to miss him in class. He says he has enjoyed being here. He will be back for the Camp Cedar Glen Weekend.

Nearly the whole class is signed up for Camp Cedar Glen. A number of us went last year and had such a good time that more are going back this time.

Robyn George is still flying but is able to make it to class quite often. We often have to miss Audrey Prest because of her work, but it is either have Monday off or be able to make a dance on the Saturday, so that has happened a lot.

Aase Hansen

(Photographs of the Valley Class were sent by Aase.
Note the one on the back page.)

March 2005 GHILLIE CALLUM

LANCASTER

The Lancaster class is going very well. Starting in September some of the children from the children's class have been promoted to the adult class. Four youngsters from 10 to 12 years old are coming on a regular basis. They are doing very well and three of them are staying for the intermediate/advanced part of the class. One of them, Megan Byers, will be attending the Camp Cedar Glen Workshop.

In addition to them, a young couple who saw the dancing at the Seaside Games have been coming to class. The class co-hosted the February dance in Sherman Oaks.

Aase Hansen

MANHATTAN BEACH CLASS

The class recently welcomed a new member – “Wee, sleekit, cow’rin’, tim’rous beastie...” (a mouse for those of you who don’t know Burns). The little ‘beastie’ scurried across the floor – just long enough for everyone to get a look.

Before Christmas, Bob and Chris Brooks were off on an “excellent adventure” of their own to Tahiti. They had their picture taken holding a copy of The Beach Reporter. (The Beach Reporter has a column where they publish pictures of South Bay residents, usually in some exotic spot, holding a copy of the newspaper.) Bob and Chris are still waiting to see their picture on newsprint.

Anne and Ian Clarke are awaiting the birth of their first grandchild. Daughter Lynn is expecting a boy on March 17th – Grandpa Ian’s birthday.

Rosemary Abend and Anne Clarke came away from the Burns’ Supper with big raffle prizes. Rosemary won the Casual Picnic Basket, while Anne won the Chocolate Basket.

Rosemary Abend

TORRANCE CLASS

The Friday night class had a good fall session which ended just before Christmas. The new session starting in January brought a surprising number of new beginners signing up, about a full set to be exact.

Some of the new dancers from last session have augmented the class during the new session.

Most of the intermediate class are planning to attend the Burns Ball at the Proud Bird and were eager to learn the new dances for that and other coming programs.

Ruth Stephens spent the holidays in Chicago with hubby Kyle's family, and reported they encountered more seasonal weather for the holiday period. Bill Hartung made an arrangement of the music for a choral rendition of "The Star of Robbie Burns" for class members

Eric Fisher, Ruth Stephens, Tony McQuilkin, Nancy, Madeline Rackley and himself. It came off very well, especially considering they had only one rehearsal. We hope to see some of these new beginners at the coming Torrance beginner dance. *Jack Rennie*



LOMITA CLASS

Monday night class has been steaming along since the last issue of the Ghillie Callum, although we did have a couple of nights off when heavy rains forced cancellation. The class had a nice informal Christmas party at the home of Anneliese Grohs.

Molly Dawes has been kept from class while she recoups from a cataract operation, but she reports that her doctor says she can start doing pdb's again in February without fear. Rose and Joe Peters were called out of town to Phoenix where Joe's mother in her 90's had a fall and they had to change her living arrangements so she can get 24/7 care. Susie Tucker has been taking some time out to get in some studying to upgrade her knowledge and skills for her interesting profession. We wish her success in this and look forward to her return soon after completion.

Marion Reeve is heading off to Hawaii in March to attend a wedding. Anne Dwyer took a trip to Seattle a few weeks ago to visit her daughter. Rick St. Amant has returned to class after several months of rest following his heart bypass operation. He extended an invitation to the demonstration team to perform at an installation banquet for a new Scottish officer in his Kiwanis organization held at the new Stadium Club of the Home Depot Sports Center located adjacent to the Cal. State Dominguez campus in Carson. The performance was given on Jan. 21st, the night before our own Burns Supper dance. I was told that it was very well received.

The class has been bolstered in attendance by visitors from Torrance and other classes wanting extra practice for the Burns ball and other upcoming dances. *Jack Rennie*

(The photograph of the Christmas party of the Lomita class was sent us by Jack Rennie.)

L.A. RSCDS BOARD MEETINGS

Board Meetings Are Open to All Members

Your Branch Committee of Management meets most months on the second Sunday. Meetings are held at 1:30 p.m. at Stoner Park, 1835 Stoner Ave., West Los Angeles. Meetings are open to all branch members, and your input and participation is encouraged. We suggest that you call Chairman Ray Tucker to verify that a meeting will be held.

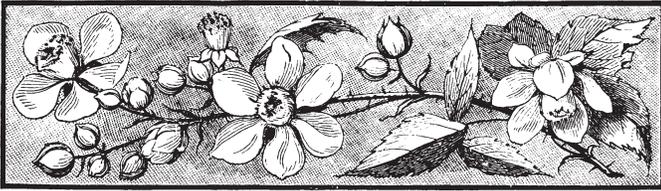
DEMONSTRATION TEAM AUDITIONS

Spring tryouts for the Los Angeles Branch Demonstration Team will be held March 8 at 7:45 p.m. at the team's usual rehearsal site, the small gym of the Cheviot Hills Recreation Center, 2459 Motor Ave, West Los Angeles.

Director Mary Brandon, has set team commitment, including weekly classes, necessary rehearsals and the performances to be a top priority for anyone considering membership. Other requirements include a thorough knowledge and accurate execution of basic steps and formations through the beginning and intermediate levels.

A good sense of timing is imperative for successful execution of dances, as well as physical strength and a willingness to accept criticism and utilize any suggestions that will enhance a dancer's capabilities. Participation on this team is an ongoing commitment to improving one's technique and working with fellow team members to present the joy and excellence that make Scottish Country Dancing unique.

For more information, contact Mary.



FLOWERS OF THE FOREST

Irving Cohen recently lost his wife Betty, who had been battling cancer for some years. Both used to dance in the Palos Verdes class and later the Manhattan Beach class where Irv has continued to dance since Betty had to stop dancing due to her health problems. Condolences have been extended by the branch and I am sure all who know them extend sympathy to Irv in his great loss.

We have also learned that Bill Hartung recently lost his father, who although he was in his 90's had been in good health up until a few months before his passing. Bill recently joined the branch committee as corresponding secretary. I am sure that we all extend him and Nancy condolences for their bereavement.

Two other of our active members, Phyllis Larsen and Maggie Manchester, lost their mothers just before Christmas. The branch extends our sympathy to both.

CAMP CEDAR GLEN

All the preparations for the workshop have been done. We will be having an outside caterer prepare the food for us, and it should be a lot better than last year. More of the rooms will have new beds as well.

As of this writing, more than half the spaces are taken. If you haven't signed up, it may not be too late. You won't find another workshop in the area at this price with such great teachers and musicians. It was an enchanted weekend last year.

Don't forget that if you don't like to share rooms, there are hotels in Julian only four miles away. A number of dancers are staying there.

Aase Hansen

NORTHRIDGE CLASS

The holiday season was highlighted by the party held in Deanna's home for the Northridge class. The evening was filled with enthusiastic guests, wonderful food and an atmosphere conducive to sharing among friends.

Norm Plotkin, one of our classes' long-time dancers, is recovering from recent surgery. We want him to know that he is missed and we look forward to having him back as soon as possible. Things just aren't the same without those fancy red socks!

Recently Angela Tennyson went back East to celebrate her daughter, Elizabeth's successful completion of the University of Maryland's Master's program in International Business. Angela also enjoyed a visit here from Elizabeth's son Kerrick who was almost a year old, fully mobile and displaying a love of anything furry, especially anything alive and furry.

We enjoyed Laura Husman's return to class in January. She and her husband, Matt are expecting their second potential dancer in early summer. She enjoyed being back and everyone was very glad to see her looking well and happy.

This noting of class participants and activities wouldn't be complete without mentioning Maddie Rackley. She planned the outstanding refreshments for the St. Andrews Ball. The variety and quantity of food available to the evening's dancers was greatly appreciated by all. Thank you again, Maddie! I wonder if we could talk her into doing it again next year?)

Our class has four dancers who perform on Scottish Country Dance demonstration teams at various function throughout the year. They were recently invited to perform at Burns Suppers. The first held by the San Gabriel Valley and Orange County branches welcomed two McLeod team members: Jim Bell and Lathon Wells. The L. A. branch invited the Los Angeles Demonstration team to entertain the evening's guests. Our participants in this group include Deanna St. Amand, Alice Allen, Jim Bell and Lathon Wells. The extra time and effort put into practices and performances make these dancers appreciated by both observers and fellow dancers as well.

Claudia Pedersen

Agoura Hills

Our Sunday class in Agoura remains small but strong, and we recently got a wonderful new addition to our group. Caitlin Gomez began attending classes in December, and after only a month of lessons decided to join us at the Los Angeles Branch Burns Supper. She brought her parents Ruth and David along, and the whole family had a marvelous time. With a formal ball under her belt, Caitlin is looking forward to her first beginner dance later this month. Caitlin is a senior at UCLA where she is studying electrical engineering.

After our class on the last Sunday of January, Dore Ozdy invited us all for tea and scones at her house. We had a lovely afternoon of chatting and eating, and we'd all like to thank Dore for her hospitality and delicious snacks.

Erin Holman



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