

The GHILLIE CALLUM

Volume 37 No. 3

March 2006

Happy Birthday L. A. Branch
Be Sure To Save the Date
We're going to Light the Candles on the Birthday Cake!

Greetings everyone ~ it's our birthday and we are going to celebrate. But first, I would like to take a short trip down the memory lane of the Los Angeles Branch.

In the past forty years a lot of changes and events have taken place. In that time the U.S. has had 8 Presidents – but Britain only one queen. Calvin Coolidge was President when the Society was formed in 1923, and Lyndon B. Johnson was president in 1966 when the LA Branch was formed. We have walked on the moon~ we found the Titanic. We've searched for Nessie, stalked Big Foot and pretty much given up on the Himalayan Yeti. We've seen skirts go up and hair go down; we've seen skirts go down and hair go up.

The same has happened with SCD in Los Angeles. Lots of changes. In the early days when we held our monthly parties in Miles Playhouse, we did have cue books for the dances, but we didn't have the glorious wall posters that we have now, we had a "crib board" on which the names of the dances were displayed, reminiscent of the "hymn boards" in church, and during the intervals, someone would come along and take out the old dances and insert the new ones.

We danced to music on long-playing records – having always to be careful not to dance too close to the player otherwise the needle would skip. We ladies were not yet emancipated enough to boldly ask a gentleman to dance except for the dances marked with an asterisk - these were the designated "ladies choice" dances for the evening; the program devisors were careful to evenly distribute the choices, I might add, so that we ladies had a choice of asking the gentleman of our choice for a reel, jig or strathspey.

Then came the advent of live music when Jack Rennie formed the Thistle Band. The LA Branch proudly hailed the Thistle Band as their very own, although it didn't take long for their fame to spread and soon they were playing up and down the West Coast for every dance event. They were the perennial musicians for the Banff Springs Weekend and many of the Los Angeles dancers have fond memories of those glorious weekends. Banff Springs was the premier dance event in the whole of Western North America!

In the early '70s a new and, at that time, radical change took place at our dances -- we began to brief the dances. People no longer needed to bury



their noses in their cue books, instead a brave-hearted teacher would “talk” the dances through. Another subtle change took place – we women demanded our rights and “ladies choice” dances became a thing of the past. It was equality for all.

Awareness of the fact that the strength of the Branch lies in encouraging new dancers, we began having several dances in the year which were labeled “Beginner Dance”. Again in an effort to encourage new dancers, we had “Dollar/Dish” dances – meaning the admittance was \$1 and you had to bring a dish.

There have been subtle changes in the classes too; in the early days never, ever would a lady come to class in pants. Then, when pants were becoming so much more a part of everyday dress, I have very clear memories of having to take a dancer or two aside and ask that they wear a skirt to class. I think I even suggested that if they didn’t have a skirt, they could get one very cheaply at a thrift store!

However, in all change there is at least one constant – and our constant is the sheer enjoyment we get from Scottish Country Dancing. I hope you have all marked your calendars with big red letters for April 29, 2006 ~ it certainly is a red-letter day for the Los Angeles Branch. It is going to be a truly magical evening. Enclosed in the Ghillie Callum is a flyer for the anniversary ball, so won’t you please tear off the bottom portion and reserve your tickets for what is going to be a genuinely memorable evening.

Ann McBride, Chair, Anniversary Ball

And here are some of us today -- Redondo Beach Christmas Party



Photo by Bob Brooks

Back to front, left to right, Gil Gotfried, Bob Harmon, Bill Critchfield, John Bray, Ray Tucker, Cloyd Duncan, Denis Rodgers, Bill Hartung, Ric Simmons, John Ziegler, Jack Rennie, Gail Halverson, Melody Horner, Roz Gotfried, Pat Ziegler, Chris Brooks, Audree Fowler, Nancy Hartung, Carol Johnson, Sheila Bray, Pat Grivetti, Val Rogers, Susie Tucker, Bob Brooks, Irv Cohen.

SPECIAL THANKS IS DUE

from the Vice-Chair

Special thanks is owed to the following people:

- Maddie Rackley for once again heading up the kitchen for our St. Andrews event. Everything was delicious as usual!

- Bill and Nancy Hartung for once again chairing the Hogmanay celebration so capably. A good time was had by all!

- ALL the people who helped me in any way with the Burns Birthday event - Check your program to see all the names! Too many to name here! But special mention should be made of Aase Hansen for handling the tickets sales and Ray Tucker for handling the bar.

- To my MMAL's (Marvelous Members at Large) for helping out at events. That would be Irv Cohen, Claudia Pedersen & Linda McWade (who helped immensely with decorations and set-up at both St Andrews & Burns). (Deborah Ash is currently sidelined with a knee injury.)

- Frank Ibbott for making all our flyers, tickets and programs for all our events. We've been keeping Frank out of trouble!

- Terry Schaeffer for tying on cue ribbons for both St. Andrews and Burns Birthday cuebooks.

- The Hartungs for hosting musicians for both St. Andrews and Burns, and for giving them rides to the airport, too!

- Irv Cohen & Eric Fisher for picking up musicians for Burns.



- The Hartungs and the Tuckers and my husband Eric for helping out with the food and setup at the Queen Mary Dance.

- and YOU, for supporting our events! Thank You!

Doris Fisher, Vice-Chair



March 2006



*40th Anniversary Ball
By Special Invitation*

Won't You Join the Dance



April 29, 2006

*Music by
The Music Makars
Of Meadville, PA*

PROGRAMME

*The Dashing White Sergeant
Knotwork
Delvine Side
Founders' Reel
Quarries Jig
Flowers of Edinburgh
Sands of Morar
The Piper and the Penguin
Miss Milligan's Strathspey
The Glenora Ferry
The Sailor
Cherrybank Gardens
Fifty Years On
Fair Donald
Mrs. MacLeod
The Cranberry Tart
The Reel of the 51st Division*

*The Ports O'Call Restaurant
Berth 76, San Pedro
6:30 pm—Reception and Dinner
8:00 pm—Grand March*



LOS ANGELES BRANCH SCHEDULE OF DANCES 2006

March

25, 2006 - **Beginner Dance.** Canoga Park Senior Center. 7:00 pm. Recorded Music.
\$8 Member, \$10 Non-member

April

29, 2006 - **40th Anniversary Ball.** Ports O'Call Restaurant. San Pedro. Musicians:
The Music Makars. See flyer & reservation form.

May

27, 2006 **Pomona Games Dance.** Women's Club of Claremont. 7:00 pm. Recorded Music. \$8 Member, \$10 Non-member.

June

24, 2006 - **AGM.** Canoga Park Senior Center. 5:30 pm Musicians: *Heathertones.* \$10 Member, \$12 Non-member.

July

22, 2006 - **Summer Dance** Culver City, 4095 Overland Ave. Room B45. 7:00 pm. Recorded Music. \$8 Member, \$10 Non-member.

August

26, 2006 - **Summer Dance.** Canoga Park Senior Center. 7:00 pm. Recorded Music. \$8 Member, \$10 Non-member.
Mark these dates on your calendar and we'll look forward to seeing you there!



A SPECIAL NOTE

I want to thank everyone in the LA branch for the many sympathy cards and emails to me on the death of my husband. Each and every one was such a comfort to me during a difficult time.

We truly belong to a wonderful organization. Scottish dancers are terrific.

Sincerely
Dianne Wilson & family

March 2006

OTHER EVENTS

OC = Orange County Branch;

SD = San Diego;

SGV = San Gabriel Valley Branch.

2006

March

11, 2006 **OC - Monthly Dance.** 7:30 pm Anaheim Downtown Community Center.

18, 2006 **SGV-March Winds Dance.** Hillcrest Arts Center, Thousand Oaks.

April

15, 2006 **OC - Monthly Dance.** 7:30 pm Anaheim Downtown Community Center.

16, 2006 **Easter Vacation at Orkney, Scotland:**
<http://orkneydancefestival.co.uk/orkneydancefestival/index.htm>

22, 2006 **SGV - Tax Freedom Dance.** 7:30 pm Lindberg Park Rec Center, Culver City

28-May 1, 2006 - **Far North Queensland**

Annual Ball and weekend. Contacts:

John Bell <bellsat60@optusnet.com.au> or
Anne Archdeacon archdeacon@iig.com.au
Phone 07 4055 9329, FAX 07 4055 9260.

May

5-7, 2006 **Vancouver Dance & Music Work**

shop. Teacher: Ann Dix, from England,
Musicians: Fiddle, Elke Baker & piano, Liz Donaldson. Contact: Wendy Swaine at
wendys@rscdsvancouver.org

13, 2006 **OC - Monthly Dance.** 7:30 pm Anaheim Downtown Community Center.

20, 2006 **SGV - Monthly Dance 7:30 pm.** TBA.

June

10, 2006 **OC-AGM.** TBA

November

25-Dec.7, 2006. **Scottish Dancing on the Nile**

River in Egypt. Contact Ken McFarland:
ken-mcfarland@earthlink.net or FAX
907.456-7558.

December

9&10, 2006 - **Bonnie Rideout - Christmas**

Concert. (Dance Team: Robert McOwen & friends.) Pasadena, CA.

**DEADLINE FOR
JUNE GHILLIE CALLUM**

APRIL 17, 2006

RANDOM THOUGHTS FROM THE CHAIR

This is a plea for help-or maybe I should call it a help wanted ad?

As I look around at our dance parties, it seems that the number of dancers is dwindling and I don't see a lot of new faces. We are gaining a few new dancers, and thanks to those who work hard to bring them in and help them along, but I believe we need to be taking positive steps to attract new dancers, and retain those we have.

Last September, your Interbranch Committee addressed this issue and established a "Recruiting and Retention Committee." This committee has been meeting to discuss ways to accomplish this end, and some ideas are being put to work. We need your thoughts and ideas, and your participation if you are so inclined.

What are YOUR ideas for sharing with the non-dancing world how exciting we can be? Do you belong to a gym where people do plain exercises to boring music. Tell them about how much fun dancing is. What can we do to attract newer and younger dancers? Support children and youth groups which will entice the parents to join them? Can we create a "bring-a-friend" night or time at our dances? Please contact me with your thoughts and ideas, and if you want to help out with the Interbranch Recruiting Committee, please contact me. You will be very welcome.

In the meantime, let's all work together to create an atmosphere to attract and keep new dancers, and think about promoting Scottish Country Dancing in our everyday activities.

All this is leading up to my plea for help! The branch has a very important position of Publicity Chairman, and we need someone to fill it. This person would, in conjunction with the Board of Management and the Teachers Committee, be aware of branch activities and select information to be promoted through newspapers, radio, television and other available media, including our web site, which would generate interest in our activities and encourage potential members to come forward and join us.

If you are interested, or know someone who might be available and interested, please call or e-mail me. (I promise I won't reveal my sources!!!) I look forward to hearing from you.

Happy Dancing

March 2006

Ray 5

FLOWERS OF THE FOREST



1915-2005: Sadly, just before Christmas, after a lengthy illness, ADOLPHUS MORRIS, affectionately called "Dolph" by his friends, passed away at his home in Altadena. He was interred at Mountain View in Pasadena. It was followed by a traditional jazz reception held in the adjacent reception hall on December 22nd. Dolph was known as "the rhythm man" in the Dixieland music circles and in the Pasadena symphony group. He came to love Scottish country dance music when he joined the Thistle Dance Band in which he performed for some 25 years and traveled around extensively playing throughout the USA and Canada. He once played at the White House for the President as a member of "The Legends of Jazz" He is honored also by the RSCDS in Book 39 with the selection of "Mr. Dolph Morris Strathspey" being chosen as the tune for the dance Capetown Wedding. Many earlier members of the branch are familiar with his wife Juanita, who often attended our functions when he was playing. At 89, she survives him, as does his daughter, Jackie.

Shortly after the last issue of the Ghillie Callum we learned of the passing of JOHN TIFFANY, one of the first teachers to get a full-certificate by the Society in Southern California. Miss Milligan visited Los Angeles to examine teacher candidates trained by C. Stewart Smith with the objective of forming a branch of the Society. To become a branch, we had to have two full-certificate teachers, and John, along with David Brandon, passed the tests and the branch was formed a short time later. All of those attempting the tests were members of the Los Angeles Folk Dancers, who did some Scottish dancing along with other international folk dancing. John's main interest was folk dancing which he also taught. However, he did teach for the branch in a church in Inglewood. He is survived by his first wife, Susan, who was a former member of early demonstration teams= with John. There is also his son, Michael, of Ventura and a daughter on the east coast. The branch extends condolences to the family.

Jack Rennie.

**DEADLINE FOR
JUNE GHILLIE CALLUM
APRIL 17, 2006**

GHILLIE CALLUM

**Pomona Games Dance
Women's Club of Claremont
7:00 pm. 27, 2006. Recorded Music
\$8 Member, \$10 Non-member**

The Old Man of Storr	BR	Children's Book
Linnea's Strathspey	IS	Dunsmuir Dances
Ladies' Fancy	AJ	Book 13
Bonnie Ina Campbell	AS	Book 37
Royal Yacht Britannia	IR	Book 43
Duke of Atholl's Reel	BJ	Book 16
Thirteen Fourteen	A M	Rondel
Knotwork	I J	Book 44
Delvine Side	B S	Book 2
Johnstone/Ardrossan	IR	R. Goldring-14 Soc.
Bratach Bana	AR	Bon Accord
Glen Feshie	BS	Grampian
Lady in Red	AJ	Vancouver Ruby
The Quern	IS	Dunedin
Catch the Wind	IR	Book 45
The Chequered Court	IJ	Book 42
Shiftin' Bobbins	BR	Ormskirk



**AGM Dance, 5:30 pm
June 24, 2006**

**Canoga Park Senior Center
Musicians: Heathertones**

\$10 Member, \$12 Non-member

Lady Home's Jig	B J	MMM I
The Piper & the Penguin	I R	Scotia Suite
Bonnie Ina Campbell	A S	Book 37 #6
Mr Watson's Favourite	B R	Graded Bk #9
Flights of Fancy	I J	Boston 50th
Founders Reel	A R	Dances/Differ.
Lady Lucy Ramsay	B S	MMM II 24
A Trip to Drakensberg	I J	Book 38 8
The Silver Strathspey	I S	Book 44 3
The Sailor	B R	Book 24 #4
Fifty Years On	A J	Book 43
Celebration Strathspey	I S	Book 43
Bonavista	A R	Newfoundland Bk
Jimmy's Fancy	B S	Book 14
Quarries' Jig	I J	Book 36
Naughty Nancy	BJ	Solstice
The Tri-Mariner	I R	Ann Dix Bk

**A BIRTHDAY PARTY
TO REMEMBER**

From the first magnificent skirl of John Cahill's pipes to the very last chord of Fiddlesticks & Ivory's music – the LA Burns Birthday Party was truly a bash that would have warmed the poet's heart. The groaning trenchers were laden with truly halesome farin' – tatties, shepherds pies, meat pasties and a glorious sight – the haggis, warm-reekin', rich!

Poosey Doris and her tavern lads and lassies produced a meal fit for a king. Mary Brandon once again rose to the occasion with a magnificent haggis. To round off the meal, we had cupcakes, lots and lots of cupcakes!

Jim Bell got the evening going with his hearty Address to the Haggis; complete with swirling dirk – then John Edmonds regaled us with the shortest Immortal Memory on record and thanks to Ian and Anne Clarke, the lassies and laddies were toasted in fine style. Then the tables were cleared and it was on with the dance.

The musicians, Janet, Susan, David & Lyle were at their sparkling best. From Ladies' Fancy to Corian Strathspey, they kept everyone on their toes. Thanks too to Pete Keir for his expert sound mixing!

While the dancers enjoyed a short break in the program, the Demonstration Team performed two dances – one, *The Dancers of Don* by Mary Brandon and the other *The Queen's Quadrille* – both unique dances. Thank you Team.

Before the company headed out into the cold, starry night, the evening ended with a cozy *ceildhe*. Special thanks go to Bonnie Waters who, even though she had danced all evening, still had the energy for a lovely Irish slip jig danced to music from "Riverdance". Then Rosemary Abend surprised us with her hidden talents – a lovely singing voice and a poetic side with her parody of Gilbert & Sullivan's "*And Now I am the ruler of the Queen's Navy*" which, with the help of the teachers, became "*And now I am a teacher in the RSCDS*". Song sheets were handed out and the *ceildhe* ended with a sing-along with the music being provided by a terrific trio – Jack Rennie, Bill Hartung and Ric Simmons.

All too soon it was time to go home but all were in agreement that it had really been a marvelous birthday bash!

CLASS REPORTS'

(The following arrived just after December Ghillie Callum, was sent to the printer. The Editor.)

SIMI VALLEY

The Simi Valley class still meets on Mondays at the recreation center. Our class has the same members but with one welcome addition of Elizabeth, Mary Lund's daughter. Under Mary's tutelage our class has been writing some dances in honor of David Brandon. This is more than an enjoyable exercise; it will hopefully develop into a booklet of about a dozen dances. It's fun but challenging to create dances, and makes us appreciate the dances that we do and sometimes take for granted. In October several of our members attended the Seaside Games in Ventura. We hope to be represented in the various year-end dances and balls.

Don Cutler

TORRANCE CLASS

The Friday night class in Torrance began with an increased registration. Jimmy Armstrong an experienced dancer from Long Beach signed on, as well as his wife Chris were dancing in Orange County, but felt Torrance was a closer location. Rose and Joe Peters as well as well as Nancy and Bill Hartung returned after a brief hiatus, and of course we were glad to see them. It's fortunate that numbers are up, because two class members will be missing part of the winter session while they undergo operations. Ruth Stephens for a knee operation, and Marion Reeve for hip replacements. At the time of writing Marion is already recouping from the first one and hopes to have the second after a speedy recuperation. Clarice Lawrence also returned bringing along another new beginner Val Adamson and Teri Bateman of Palos Verdes also joined the new class along with Kathy and Michael O'Meara from Torrance. It was also great to see Betty Findley back having recuperated from her illness and Arlene Lee. Beatriz Calzadilla also resumed dancing which also helps bolster the numbers and we hope that 2006 is going to bring more dances for fun on Friday nights.

Jack Rennie

LOMITA CLASS

The Monday night Lomita class wound up the year well prepared for the celebration of the holidays and confident of their dances for the Hogmanay dance. Rick St. Amant missed a few weeks in December due to a bout with diverticulitis. The class ended the year with a nice social Christmas party at the home of Anneliese Grohs, with most members attending and enjoying her preparations and hospitality. Susie and Ray Tucker extended invitations after the new year to a pleasant Twelfth Night party at their home rounding out the holiday season. The class resumed dancing on the second Monday of the year. Roz & Gil Gotfried made a trip to Florida to visit their daughter and family, but most everyone else was present and anxious to gain proficiency in the dances for the Burns Birthday dance which most planned to attend. We also welcomed back Sheila Bray following her return from Australia to see her son, both returning in time for the holiday season.

Jack Rennie

**DEADLINE FOR
JUNE GHILLIE CALLUM
APRIL 17, 2006**

The Manhattan Beach Christmas Party
Back row; Irv Cohen, Sue Spackman, Paul Spackman.
Bob Harmon, Ray Tucker, Ginger, Denis Rodgers, Susie
Tucker. Middle row: Val Rodgers, Chris Brooks, Wilma
Fee, Rosemary Abend, Anne Clark, Nan Werner. Front
row: Jennifer McAulay, Jackie Sargent, Julia Spackman,
Bob Brooks





Members of the Demonstration Team: standing, from left, Jim Maiolo, Carol Madden, Deanna St. Amand, Ric Simmons, Jim Bell, Larry Kanowsky, Lea Thorin, Randy Scherer; seated, Mary Brandon and Alice Allen. Photo by Alice Allen

THE FINAL PERFORMANCE OF THE DEMONSTRATION TEAM FOR 2005

The Demonstration Team has completed its performances for 2005. In November the team made their annual presentation at the Kirking of the Tartans at the First Presbyterian Church in Santa Monica. This is always a delightful event. The audience is warm and several members join in the audience participation after the demonstration. As always, the ladies of the church fed the dancers pasties and mash. Several of the dancers also explored their jumble sale, especially the books.

The final performance of the year was a personal one. Members of the team danced at the Alice Allen's retirement party at the Malilbu Nature Preserve (formerly the Mailbu Tennis and Equestrian Club). Alice retired from the National Park Service, and her co-workers specifically requested the opportunity to see what it was that made her leave work so promptly every Tuesday night.

The evening was also the last demonstration for the team under the direction of Mary Brandon. All of the team members danced their best to make Mary proud of their work. The audience also got to see how much the team loves and respects Mary as she explained tartans and had the gentlemen show off their kilts.

Alice Allen



In July, I took my niece Angie Pettitt visiting from San Francisco to the Eagle Rock class when I learned her fiance was Scottish. She fell in love with Scottish country dancing. I suggested she have a demo team from San Francisco perform at the wedding reception. At her wedding to James Taylor Sept. 24th she not only had her pet turtle as the ring bearer but also the Red Thistle dancers which included Fred DeMarse formerly of the LA Branch! The dancers were the hit of the wedding and everyone loved trying out two Scottish dances for themselves.

Betty Pettitt

This little snippet was sent to us by Ann McBride.



Hogmanay.

Kathrin King and Steve Kaplan took off for Fort Lauderdale, FL, right after the New Year to visit his mother. They had a great time.

Claudia Pederson had her knee surgery before Christmas and was out of dancing for two months. We missed her.

Erin Holman and Dore Ozdy went on a skiing trip over the New Year and Jeff Altman went on one later on. Altogether a very active group.

Many dancers attended the various big events over the winter and had a great time.

Aase

LANCASTER

So many of us remember Erik and Belinda Edmunds who danced with us for years, who now live in England with their two daughters. They visited Helen and Forrest MacDonald recently, who sent us a photo of them.

VALLEY COLLEGE

The winter has seen a bit of traveling for the class. In early December, Jon Reeves went on a business trip to England. He was able to attend a ball in London and had a thoroughly great time. For most of the year, Jon has been busy working on the Burbank Rose Float. His efforts paid off for the float won a great award.

Although we have only seen Audrey Prest one time this year, we still count her among our dancers. Over Christmas, she went to Des Moines, IA, and visited her daughter and her family in their new home. Nothing like spending Christmas with your grandchildren.

Lisbet Hencke once again made it home for Christmas from Tampa, Florida. Unfortunately, her husband Rick was not able to join her as planned, since he got an unexpected assignment to finish.

Christine Richard took off for Switzerland to spend Christmas with her mother and brother and his family. She took a side trip to Finland on her way home and went dogsledding. She said it was beautiful up in northern Finland also known as Lapland. The snow was untouched.

Frank Ibbott spent Christmas with his son and daughter-in-law in Houston, TX. Unfortunately, he got a nasty respiratory infection probably from the flight there and had to miss out on

We have had rain on only one class night this year, and that was only a drizzle. Nevertheless, it slowed the traffic to a crawl. I was able to phone Kathy Byers and have her bring her equipment and start the class. A good thing, since it took me nearly three hours to drive up there.

Other than that, things have been going well. We had a great class Christmas party. We had invited members of the Ridgecrest class to come as our guests and four of them made it including Frank Wu. We had piano playing, story telling and singing after the regular dancing. Megan and Alison Byers even did an Irish jig for us.

Aase





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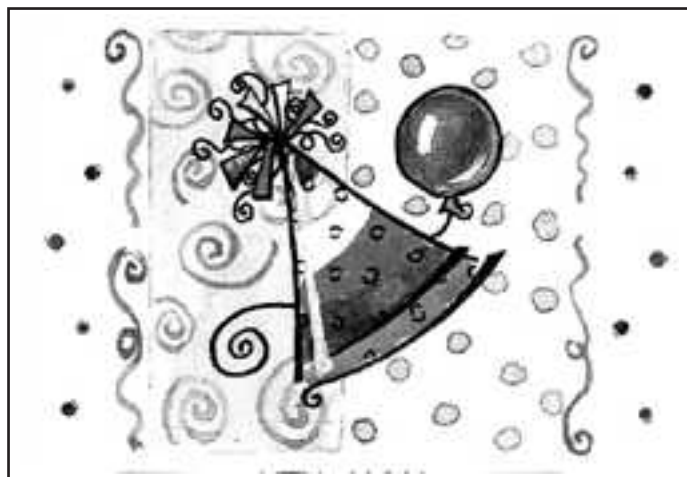
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FORTIETH ANNIVERSARY BALL
L. A. BRANCH