

The Ghillie Callum

Volume 38 No. 1

September 2006



LAST NIGHT OF DANCING AT MANHATTAN BEACH FOR 2006-2007

Chris Brooks, Bob Harmon, Val Rodgers, Wilma Fee, Anne Clark, Nan Werner, Bob Brooks, Ginger Moore, Tim Harrison, Rosemary Abend, Irv Cohen. We were honored to have Tim Harrison, a friend of Ginger Moore and a teacher from Austin, TX, to visit and teach a couple of dances.

The Royal Scots - the oldest regiment in the British Army and the oldest active army unit in the world - made its farewell march through the streets of Edinburgh on May 26, 2006. The regiment, which was formed 373 years ago, will become an integral part of the new Royal Regiment of Scotland. The regiment chose to parade in desert fatigues rather than dress uniforms to signify their recent return from an extended tour of duty in Iraq. (A snippet from Ann McBride)

TEACHER CANDIDATES

Four members of the Branch took the written exam in May - the first step toward a full certificate. Kathy Byers, Roberta Gotfried, Bill Hartung, and Barbara MacKenzie all passed! Roberta went to RSCDS Summer School in St. Andrews and passed Unit 2 (dancing) and Unit 3 (preliminary teaching). Roberta's tutor was Brenda Burnell, our representative in Scotland. Congratulations to all of them. Anyone interested in preparing for the written exam should contact Aase Hansen: phone 818.845.5726 or aasehansen@aol.com.

LOS ANGELES BRANCH SCHEDULE OF DANCES 2006

September

23 Interbranch Dance. Tustin Senior Center.
Details to be announced.

October

1 "Dancing with a Scottish Accent," from
2 pm to 5 pm, at Van Nuys/Sherman Oaks
Senior Center. Recorded music. The
dance is open to new and potential dancers,
with no set program. Donation \$5.

28 Beginner Dance. VanNuys/Sherman Oaks
Senior Center. 7:00 p.m. Recorded music.

November

25 St. Andrews Ball. South Bay Masonic Cen-
ter. 520 Main St. El Segundo. Musicians:
Hood, Wink and Swagger. 6:00 p.m.

December

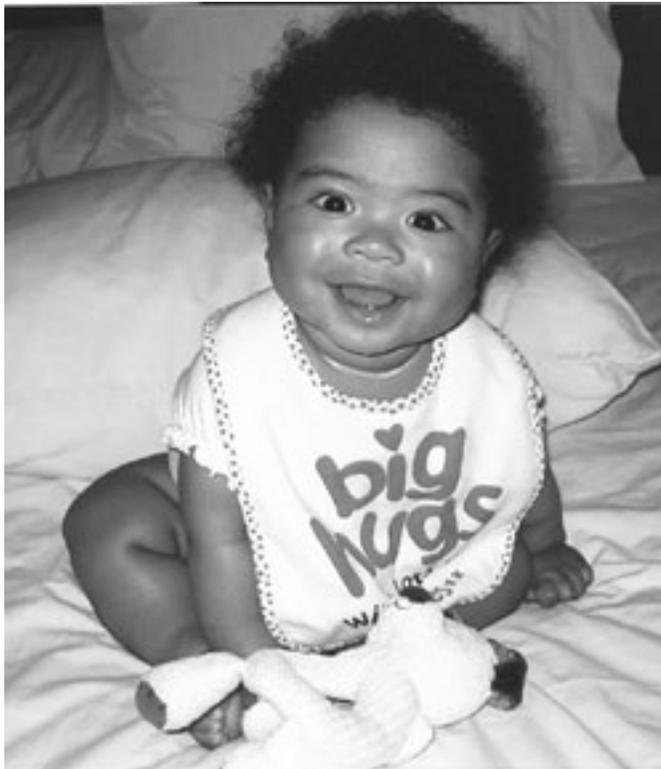
31 Hogmanay. El Segundo Women's Club. El
Segundo. 8:00 p.m. Music: TBA.

2007

January.

20 Interbranch Burns Ball. South Bay Masonic
Center. Musicians: Fiddlesticks and Ivory.
TBA.

TOMORROW'S SCOTTISH DANCE STAR



Nine month old, Kaylin Henry, daughter of Kal Wal Henry, who dances in Jack's Torrance Class, and did dance in Birmingham, England

September 2006

OTHER EVENTS

OC = Orange County Branch;

SD = San Diego;

SGV = San Gabriel Valley Branch.

2006

September

**1-10 - Scottish Country Dancing - Russia
Summer Dance.** Contact: Fiona Grant,
fiona@dancetour.co.uk or Dance Tour
Ltd, 7 Maurice Road, St. Andrews Park,
Bristol, BS6 5BZ, UK and Ilona Velichko:
ilona@dancetour.co.uk

November

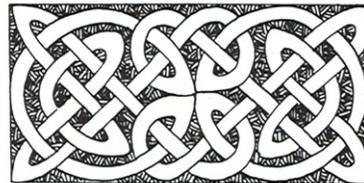
**25-Dec.7, 2006.- Scottish Dancing on the Nile
River in Egypt.** Contact Ken McFarland:
ken-mcfarland@earthlink.net or FAX
907.456-7558.

December

**9&10, 2006 - Bonnie Rideout - Christmas
Concert.** Pasadena, CA.

If there is a star (*) on your address label, this will be your last GC, as your membership has ended. If you still would like to be a member contact the membership chair:

Membership Chairman: Melinda Brown
Address: 565 Azure Hills Dr.
Simi Valley CA 93065
email: mjt1002@hotmail.com



PHYLLIS LARSEN MOVED BACK EAST THE MIDDLE OF AUGUST

If you didn't hear Phyllis' announcement at the July Dance, you will want to know that she has decided that this is the best option for her. She made the decision that she needed to be closer to her family, and her doctor and family agree. Her brother and cousin came out to help her pack up and move. She'll be staying with a cousin and his family in Phoenixville, PA, near Valley Forge, while she checks out her options there. We will miss Phyllis and wish her the best for the future.

THE STRATHSPEY

by Bill Clement, Former Chairman of the Royal Scottish County Dance Society.

The Strathspey is unique to Scotland, but the tempo at which we dance our Strathspeys has varied over the years.

In the RSCDS Manual we are told the Scott Skinner's suggested tempo for the Strathspey was given:
1 minim=94 representing approximately 41 seconds per 32 bars.

In the Society's Bulletin No. 2 in 1932, the recommended tempo for Strathspeys was given:
1 minim=94 or 41 seconds per 32 bars. So the Society continued to use the Scott Skinner tempo during its first nine years.

Today's recommended tempo for Strathspeys as given in the Manual (2005 Edition) is:
1 minim=60 64 seconds for 32 bars.

This is, however, even slower than the recommended tempo since Duncan MacLeod was responsible for our early recordings. Duncan always aimed for 61.5 seconds for 32 bars.

This clearly shows how we have slowed down the tempo of the Strathspey, but in so doing enabled the steps to be developed, or made more balletic as the late Sir Iain Moncreiffe of That Ilk once said, whilst he was a Vice President of the Society, which was a style a great many of us enjoyed so much.

However, we must ask ourselves: "Has this change made Scottish Dancing less appealing to many Scots?"

(This article was sent by Bill Clement to Jack Rennie, who sent it me. Note that Bill uses the older version of the spelling of "Strathspey," without the extra "e." Bill said that it was printed in the Edinburgh Branch Magazine, and Jack added that it was also printed in the May/June issue of the Tartan Times March 18, 2006.)

New Members

The Branch is pleased to welcome the following new members: Kathleen & Michael O'Meara, Sarah Stelck, Lorna Schock, Nancy Burns, and Jan Lauer who is also a member of the Orange County Branch. We hope that you enjoy dancing with us.
Melinda & Frank.

**DEADLINE
FOR
DECEMBER
GHILLIE CALLUM
OCTOBER 16, 2006**

You'll never guess -- but there was a Special Party and these were the celebrants and right in the center is the special birthday person -- our Frank!!



September 2006

Interbranch Dance
September 23
Tustin Senior Center

Hooper's Jig	BJ	MMM II
Maxwell's Rant	IR	Book 18
Delvine Side	BS	Book 2
The Cranberry Tart	AJ	7 Year Itch
The Celebration Strathspey	IS	Book 43
Bratach Bana	AR	Bon Accord
Flights of Fancy	IJ	Boston 50th
Catch the Wind	IR	Book 45
Haste to the Wedding	BJ	Book 25
Bonnie Ina Campbell	AS	Book 37
Gen. Stuart's Reel	IR	Book 10
Mrs. Stewart's Jig	IJ	Book 35
John McAlpin	IS	Foss
Polharrow Burn	IR	Foss
Cherrybank Gardens	IS	Bankhead I
Sleepy Maggie	IR	Book 11
Glasgow Highlanders	IS	Book 2

Beginner Dance
October 28 7:00 P.M.

Van Nuys / Sherman Oaks Senior Center

Miss Welsh's Reel	BJ	Graded
Music Makars	IR	Book 33
Lady Lucy Ramsay	BS	MMM II
Quarries' Jig	IJ	Book 36
The Duran Ranger	BR	Book 13
Good Hearted Glasgow	BJ	Collins
It's About Time	IS	TAC Leaflet
The Sailor	BR	Book 24
Delvine Side	BS	Book 2
Knotwork	IJ	Book 44
Kelso Races	BR	MMM II
12 Coates Crescent	BS	Book 40
A Trip to the Drakensberg	IJ	Book 38
The Celebration Strathspey	IS	Book 43
Shifftin' Bobbins	BR	Clowes
Flights of Fancy	IJ	Boston 50th
Reel of the 51st	BR	Book 13

ST. ANDREWS BALL
November 25 6:00 P.M.
South Bay Masonic Hall, El Segundo

Dashing White Sergeant	BR	Book 3
Flights of Fancy	IJ	Boston 50th
It's About Time	IS	TAC Leaflet
Bratach Bana	AR	Bon Accord
Ladies' Fancy	BJ	Book 13
Music Makars	IR	Book 33
Miss Milligan's Strathspey	IS	RSCDS Leaflet
Lady in Red	AJ	Ruby Anniversary
Lady Lucy Ramsay	BS	MMM II
Whigmaleeries	IR	Imperial Book
The Chequered Court	IJ	Book 42
Delvine Side	BS	Book 2
The Piper and the Penguin	IR	Scotia Suite
The Corian Strathspey	AS	Book 43
Alan J. Smith	BJ	Book 45
The Tri-Mariner	IR	Ann Dix
Good Hearted Glasgow	BJ	Collins

HOGMANAY

December 31 8:00 P.M.
El Segundo Woman's Club

Gloria's Wee Jig	BJ	Devil's Quandary
The Tri-Mariner	IR	Ann Dix
Bonnie Ina Campbell	AS	Book 37
Follow Me Home	IJ	Book 38
Lady Glasgow	BS	MMM I
Whigmaleeries	IR	Imperial Book
The Cranberry Tart	IJ	7 Year Itch
Linnea's Strathspey	IS	Dunsmuir
Bratach Bana	AR	Bon Accord
Haste to the Wedding	BJ	Book 25
Miss Milligan's Strathspey	IS	RSCDS Leaflet
Selkirk Settlers	BR	Let's All Dance
Lady in Red	AJ	Ruby Anniversary
Flowers of Edinburgh	BR	Book 1
The Silver Strathspey	IS	Book 44
Alan J. Smith	BJ	Book 45
The Quern	IS	Dunedin
Founders' Reel	AR	Dances/Difference
Quarries' Jig	IJ	Book 36
Reel of the 51st	BR	Book 13

THE THINGS I DO TO DANCE

by Jim Bell

Every year the Scotland Royal Scottish Country Dance Society with a travel agent in Scotland arranges holidays; this year's was to the Algarve in Portugal. My niece, Anne McBean, and her partner, Robert Armour, have a restaurant close to the dance venue, so I decided I'd combine dancing with a visit to Anne. I booked through the travel agent, but like an idiot I just paid for the hotel and not the airfare only to find at the last minute that the flight from Prestwick, Scotland, to Faro, Portugal was fully booked! The travel agent said she could get me out from Manchester, England, so I was booked on that flight.

I arrived in Glasgow from California on Saturday morning at 9 am, and was met by my sister Betty. We had a lovely day, which included a lovely dinner at the Piersland Hotel with Betty and back to Betty's for a good night's sleep. The plan was that I'd leave Buchanan Street, Glasgow, at 11 pm on Sunday night on a coach bound for Manchester. This is where the nightmare began! Due to heavy snowfall the coach was cancelled and Glasgow airport was closed. Not to be outdone, I found there was a way - by going to Glasgow's Queen Street station I could get a train to Edinburgh, change there for Newcastle, with another change for Manchester via York (and a few other stops) arriving in Manchester airport at 5:30 am for my 7:30 am flight to Portugal. A bit circuitous, but I'd be on time for the plane.

Well of course, it didn't work out that way. I arrived late in Edinburgh because of the weather and had only minutes to make the transfer. I was told to run to platform 11 which was at the other side of the train station, and the first train in would be going to Newcastle. I was hauling luggage and going like the clappers, but managed to jump aboard and stow my luggage. Now I could maybe relax - but not for long! The conductor came along and checked my ticket and that's when I found out that the train was going to Glasgow. I called Betty from the train on my cell phone and told her I was getting a hotel at Glasgow and going back to L.A. the next day.

Ten minutes later the porter returned and told me two other people had done the same thing, but if we got off at Motherwell and shared a taxi back to Edinburgh we could still catch a later train to Manchester from Newcastle at 2 am, reaching

Manchester at 5:30 am. Ok, that sounded good, but again because of weather conditions the train took 45 minutes instead of 15 to reach Motherwell, so we would not make the later train. The porter, who was a delightful guy, then told us that the train was deadheading back to Edinburgh from Glasgow and he'd got permission for us to travel back. He took the three of us up to First Class, made tea, and brought us biscuits and water. Things were looking up.

One of my fellow travellers was Amy Ferguson, a mounted policewoman from Aberdeen assigned to Newcastle, accompanied by her Alsation, a retired drug sniffing dog. Amy called her boyfriend, David, in Newcastle to update him on her arrival, and he decided he'd drive to Edinburgh, meet us and drive us to Newcastle in time for me to get the 2:00 am train. The other traveller was a young fellow from Sheffield who immediately proceeded to roll a joint of hashish. Amy warned him that if he continued she would get him arrested, so intelligent guy that he was, he proceeded to the toilet and smoked his joint and then returned wasted. In the meantime the dog was going nuts sniffing the guy's bag while he was in the toilet. Amy told me that there was no way he was getting in her car. Upon arrival in Edinburgh this guy immediately lit up another joint and walked down the platform with us - the dog was beside itself so Amy summoned the law and the smoker was whisked away.

Amy and David drove me to Newcastle dropped me off at the station at 1 am for the 2 am departure. Oops, the station was closed and not scheduled to reopen until 1:50 am. So there I was perishing cold in the -4 degree temperature, fresh in from balmy Los Angeles and knackered; I thought I'd die of the cold! Finally, I got on the train at 2 am and arrived at Manchester Piccadilly at 5:30 am. Manchester airport was the next stop but they had a 30 minute tea break coming up which meant I'd miss my plane, so I grabbed my luggage, ran for a taxi and told him to break all speed limits, and that there was a big tip for him.

The taxi driver didn't know which terminal Monarch Airlines used and there are 3 terminals to pick from. He dropped me off at Terminal 2 where I could run either way to 1 or 3 - Monarch was at Terminal 1 which meant a 10 minute run hauling luggage along a skywalk. I made it with 15 minutes to spare. I eventually got to Portugal, had a blast dancing every night, and visited with

Anne and Robert. So it all came out all right in the end. But on the way back I had to change planes in Newark, New Jersey, and since the plane was 2 hours late leaving Glasgow, my luggage never made it to Los Angeles until the next day.

(I am sorry that this article was submitted for last issue, but was delayed to put in the dance programs. The editor.)

CLASS REPORTS SANTA CLASS

After a hiatus, the Santa Barbara class returned to activity on the second and fourth Thursdays of the month. With the infusion of three new dancers who valiantly make long treks – Vivian Davis and Guy Wallace from San Luis Obispo, and Laura Schock from Santa Maria – we again have a viable group. Longtime members Eileen Gray,



The honoree, Frank Ibbott, at his surpris birthday party!

Christine Carlin, Deedy King, John & Ilse Gilbert, Lillian Goldstein (from Ventura), and newish dancer Sarah Stelck fill out our current roster. It was with great regret that we had to say “Good-bye” to Richard Juzix, as it was due mainly to his energy and enthusiasm that the class came back to life. He also discovered the very attractive venue, Serra Hall on Garden Street. Marcia Lunde is migratory and joins us during the winter months.

If you happen to be in the vicinity when we are in action, it would be our pleasure to have you join us. Of course, new dancers are always welcome.

Frank.

VALLEY COLLEGE CLASS

The class stopped at the end of June. By then some members had already gone on vacation. Kathrin Segal and Steve Kaplan left for a trip to England where Steve was doing a workshop and then on to Scotland to visit Kathrin’s mother.

Claudia Pedersen had to say a difficult goodbye to her daughter Erika, who with her husband Steve left for a 3-year stay in Guam.

Audrey Prest has been up in the Bay Area for a memorial service that gave her an opportunity to meet up with both of her children and the daughter Julie’s family.



And a sunflower plant to go with the party!

There was another daughter who left L.A. as well. Robyn George packed up her daughter Jessie to go to school at UBC in Vancouver. The same university where many of our members went to summer school in 1998.

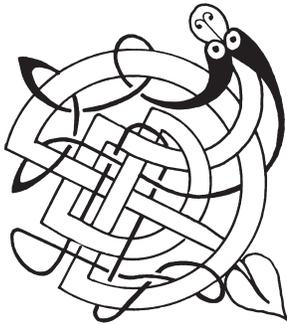
Many of us must have daughters, for Sue Higgins went to New York with her daughter as did Linda McWade.

Aase went of for her annual trip to visit friends in Wisconsin but not until her son got married in late July.

The most special thing, though, was the surprise party right after classes had stopped. Deanna and I were invited to go out for dinner with Robyn George and Jeff Altman, both members of our two classes. Although it seemed slightly odd that they would do that, we graciously accepted.

On the night of the dinner, Jeff offered to pick us up at Deanna's and then go and pick up Robyn. Only, when we got to Robyn's house, he said that Robyn wanted us to see her new deck before we left. We found the living room full of our dancers who all surprised us with a lovely party.

Aase



SIMI VALLEY CLASS

We experienced considerable growth this last half year. With our regulars aboard, we had enough new dancers to form two sets. Men and women were nearly equal in number!! We have been well represented at the monthly dances, especially in Van Nuys (now Canoga Park), but we had very few of our group at the Pomona Games, unlike in past years. This is owing to a conflict in schedules or, in the case of your beloved correspondent, a sciatica problem of cosmic proportions, which is now coming under control. Long live cortisone!! We'll be on summer break until September, but hope to see y'all at the August dance.

Don Cutler

VENTURA CLASS

The Friday night class in Ventura has a patient teacher in Frank Ibbott. Every week, he prepares the dances he plans to teach, based on upcoming programs and requests from his students. However, when he comes to class, what does he find? Unexpected visitors and his regular dancers scattered around the earth.

Marta and Ken Evans went to France for a month to celebrate their honeymoon.

Bill and Pat Livingston traveled by caravan around England ("the wettest Spring in history!"). Last Spring, Margaret Falconer sailed on a Russian river boat and Monica Cherrix took a trip to Tahoe and Silver City, New Mexico. Sandy and Madeleine Waddell had a wonderful vacation in New Zealand and plan soon to visit Sweden, to attend a Scandinavian Dance Festival, and then Kyoto, Japan, to attend their son's wedding. Madeleine performs grandmotherly duty regularly by visiting their first grandchild up north every so often. Barbara Evans recently traveled to the state of Washington to celebrate her sister's birthday.

Jean McGuire is resting a bad foot, so husband Gerry comes by himself. And our class has been enriched by visitors. Mike McChesney brought his camera and took pictures of us dancing, for the 40th Anniversary Ball, allowing himself to be prevailed upon to do a dance or two. Frank brought Nancy Burns and Claudia Pedersen with him on different nights, both delightful dancers. And teachers Aase Hansen and Deanna St. Amand brought Christine Richard with them to celebrate Frank's birthday in Ventura.

So Frank patiently adjusts his planned program, to accommodate whoever comes to class to dance, and is not off visiting some exotic place far away.

Lillian Goldstein

**October 16, 2006
Deadline for
December
Ghillie Callum**

LOMITA CLASS

Our class continued throughout the summer with the exception of a few nights when there were not going to be enough participants due to vacation times. It helps that the room is nicely air conditioned.

Anne Dwyer took advantage of the summer lull to have her foot repaired and was soon up and around, but cannot dance until the fall when she should have full recovery. Marion Reeve returned to class following her long recovery from two hip replacements. It was great to see her out on the floor dancing without pain. In spite of cautionary words from the class not to overdo, her enthusiasm won out and she did most of the dances. Kudos to Marion!!!

Roz & Gil Gotfried made a trip up to Brooklyn early in the summer, and concluded the sale of their old family home. That was good news for them, and they prepared to have Gil enter hospital August 1st for a hip operation which should improve his ability to take part in the dancing again. We wish a successful outcome and a speedy recovery.

Sheila and John Bray made a trip east to Virginia and DC to stay with their two sons for a week, and encountered drastic heat, only to return here and find the same. However, the next trip was to London, mainly for Sheila to attend her class reunion and see the English countryside where it was much more pleasant.

We were saddened to hear that Jimmy Armstrong, one of our regular dancers from Long Beach was stricken by a stroke around the 4th of July. But we received good news of his recovery and from all accounts he will be back dancing again in a couple of months. His improvement with speech, occupational and physical therapy has progressed well. Rick St. Amant was out of commission for a few weeks with a bout of diverticulitis.

Anneliese Grohs had the pleasure of her sister's visit from Germany, and they managed quite a bit of travel together mostly in northern parts of the state before she used up her three weeks' vacation. Other visitors to the class were Irv Cohen, and Kim Baily, a recent arrival from the Seattle area.

All in all, the summer class has been well attended, and had fun investigating new dances which are not usually on local programs.

Jack Rennie

TORRANCE CLASS

The summer class in Torrance was its usual 10 weeks of fun. It was nice to have some newcomers and summer visitors attend as well.

Tony McQuilkin quickly informed us that he would be in a new production of "BIG RIVER." So, quite a few of us took advantage of his offer to get tickets at a group rate, which made for a nice social event for the class in July.

Ray and Suzie Tucker took advantage of the summer to get in some travel to their many relatives around the country, and came to class whenever they touched base at home. The Fourth of July saw quite a number of us at a swimming and barbecue party at their home which proved fun for all. Ruth Fleming and hubby Kyle managed a nice trip to Chicago early in the summer and seemed to have had a good time. Ruth's earlier foot surgery seems to have made a good recovery and has helped improve her dancing pleasure considerably. Unfortunately though, she has to undertake a similar procedure on the other foot some time in the future.

Betty Findley will also have to have a surgical procedure for relief of her pain when dancing. She reports that the addition to her house by the beach in Redondo is progressing nicely and should be completed by Christmas when her family will descend on her for the holidays.

Folk dancer Louise Sakamoto has joined the class and seems to be picking up the steps and figures quickly, having had some exposure to Scottish dancing through her folk dance group repertoire. Kim Baily joined the class and seemed to fit in right away, having just moved to Torrance from Seattle, where she danced for over a year with Irene Paterson. Irv Cohen has also been attending the summer class and enjoying the new dances.

Surprise, surprise, who showed up to dance with us but Mary Urquart, whom we have not seen for several years, but she had not forgotten the dancing experience she had years ago. Kah Wai Henry also has recovered from the birth of her first child, a daughter who is doing well, and is the apple of her daddy's eye, we hear. Kah Wai's

mother visited for a long holiday with them and managed to spoil her new granddaughter most of the summer.

Ginger Moore also joined our class this summer. She is a Palos Verdes Peninsula resident, and horse lover. At present she owns a pony and helps children to learn to ride. Ginger has been dancing in Manhattan Beach class for a year or so. Unfortunately we hear that she is absent due to her father having a heart attack and she has been helping out with his care, which involves quite a bit of travel out of the area. We hope she will be back soon.

Beatriz Calzadilla has been doing some nice travel too, visiting Argentina, and Europe, and needs this relaxation after a hard year of teaching high school and also advancing her own degree at the same time. We look forward to her return. Valerie Adamson made a nice trip to Mexico early in the summer and came back relaxed and enthused about dancing again. As did Clarice Lawrence, who missed a few weeks at the beginning of the session while traveling with her daughter to look at colleges.

Joe and Rose Peters also got the travel bug and planned a visit to their daughters in Chicago and other cities in the east and ending with a visit to Phoenix to see Joe's mother who is her 90's.

Last but not least, Doris and Eric Fisher planned a two week trip to Ireland and Scotland with their church choir, with even a stop in St. Andrews and Edinburgh, where they might visit 12 Coates Crescent, and will attend the Tattoo at the castle one evening before returning. However, before departure, they managed to get some of their church group interested in experiencing a little Scottish culture by trying a few classes of Scottish dancing.

And so, one Sunday a small group of them showed up at the church for a late afternoon class preceding their choir practice. They all seemed to enjoy the class, and two more dates were arranged for them try some more before their departure. With any luck, the trip itself might increase their interest, and we hope some may come and join the fall class on their return. Kudos to Doris and Eric for making all the arrangements and getting the group enthused enough to attend. Before we went to press we heard that both Bill Hartung and Roberta Gotfried passed the written test required for entry into the teacher training class if

they wish to undertake the training for the preliminary test. Roberta attended St. Andrews summer school to do the dancing and teaching parts and should be heading home around August 1st. Roberta did some practice teaching in local South Bay classes prior to her departure, and we are all hoping she will return having passed the exams so she can continue her quest to become a fully certificated teacher two years from now.

At the moment she has communicated by e-mail that she thinks she has done well, we just now need to await the results. Both Roberta and Bill deserve our congratulations and encouragement of their efforts in the future.

Jack Rennie



READERS WHO DIGEST

I have often been asked by people in my classes here, or when teaching elsewhere, if there is any reading material that might be of interest to Scottish country dancers. Some avid readers want to know more about the history of our dancing and the music that makes it such a wonderful pastime. There are three scholarly and interesting works that readers might like to look at. They are by the late George S. Emerson, a native Scot who danced and taught dancing in London, Ontario, Canada, where he was a professor at the University of Western Ontario. I cite them below:

- **Scotland Through Her Country Dances:** first published in 1967, and updated in a second edition in 1981. Library of Congress ISBN #0-9690653-0-2.
- **A Social History of Scottish Dance (A Celestial Recreation):** published 1972. ISBN #07735-0087-1.
- **Rantin' Pipe and Tremblin' String, a History of Scottish Dance Music:** published in 1971. ISBN#0 460 03891 S.

Happy reading!

Jack Rennie



Members of the South Bay Classes "horsing around" with Ginger Moore's pony "Shadow" – Ginger, Chris, Denis, Julia, Bob, Wilma and side profile of Irv the photographer, who could not beat the shutter speed!

Wilma Fee's niece Linda and hubby Peter (both do Scottish dancing in the Toronto), plus their three young children, visited Wilma during July. One of the highlights of their visit was to a pony camp run by Ginger Moore and her pony "Shadow". Auntie Wilma thoroughly enjoyed this outing and they all learned never to walk around the back of a horse without keeping one hand on its butt!

RANDOM THOUGHTS FROM THE CHAIR

First and foremost, I want to thank you all for giving me the honor of serving as your chair for another year. With your help, we can make this year another great dancing experience.

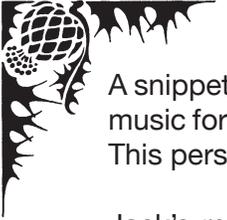
We already have some grand events planned. This year, for the first time, the three local branches, Los Angeles, Orange County and San Gabriel Valley, will join forces to hold a gala Burns Supper. Planning is underway, and it promises to be an event to remember. Mark your calendars and reserve January 20, 2007.

And of course, we are all looking forward to the workshop weekend coming in the Spring on Catalina Island. It all takes place between May 4th and 6th with a ceilidh, outstanding teachers, and a grand ball at the Avalon Casino with music by the Music Makars.

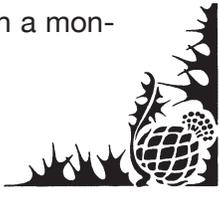
Don't forget that we have our St. Andrews Ball and Hogmamay as warm-ups for these two great events.

I look forward to seeing all of you at these events. Happy Dancing!

Ray



A snippet from Doris: At a recent dance, Jack Rennie told us that he had written some original music for the first dance on our program “Lady Home’s Jig,” and sent it to a friend in Scotland. This person submitted it to a contest for original music and Jack won a cash prize for it.



Jack’s response: The first dance on the program one Saturday night was “Lady’s Home’s Jig.” I announced that in my arrangement for our band’s music that evening, I included some original music that I had composed. I had sent the music to a pianist in Scotland, who liked it very much and submitted it without my knowledge to a competition for newly composed music at the Oban Festival. It won first prize, and later, when I saw the pianist at St. Andrews summer school, I was surprised to be told the happy news and was presented with a monetary prize!

BETWEEN DANCES AT A BALL - George Meikle, Lothian Scottish Dance band

....he is responding to a comment made in reference to dance cards, which was: “ much prefer the more friendly SCD method of taking a partner when the music strikes up.”

George replies: Oh how I wish this were more often the case as I am finding it is becoming more common for dancers either not to leave the floor at all, or take to the floor before the dance has either been announced by the MC or the band has had the opportunity to strike up with 8 bars of music to announce it.

As a bandleader I find this habit to be most annoying as it gives the band no time to get the music together. Please, please, please, can dancers stop this habit and consider the Musician(s), and other dancers in the hall, before taking to the floor. It is even more annoying when you find that those that have just taken to the floor early, stand reading their crib sheet swotting up on the dance they have just taken the floor for. I have even been given dirty looks because I have started to play the actual dance before they have finished reading their crib! Oh yes, I can assure you this has happened and I have actually had a dancer complain to me verbally that I had not give them enough time to read their crib. Would it not be easier for everyone, if these dancers were to read their crib during the break between the dances first, and then take to the floor when the dance is announced?

I get the impression, perhaps wrongly, that certain dancers always want to get as near to the band as possible, to the detriment of other dancers (often less experienced) in the hall who politely wait until the dance is announced. How tempting it must be at times for some MCs (and musicians) to consider asking the set at the top of the hall to go to the bottom - now that just might be one way to getting them out of this habit?

George also notes that this habit is most noticeable in the Central belt of Scotland and particularly at RSCDS Balls, with RSCDS certificated teachers being being as guilty as others. Surely they were taught not to do this when taking their certificate, or have they just conveniently forgotten that bit?

He goes on to say: “Come on, let’s get this habit stopped once and for all as it does not lead to a very friendly approach to dancing. After all, is it not supposed to be a social event involving everyone?”

(This article was sent to the editor by Jack Rennie, who adds a note that it was printed in the May/June 2006 issue of “The Tartan Times.”)

The Deadline for the December Issue of the Ghillie Callum is October 16, 2006!



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