

Loch Michigan Scottish Country Dancers

December 1986

# Loch Mich 'Blethers'

Ingrid Kendall, President

Kenneth Schoon, Editor

The officers of Loch Mich hope that each of you are having a very enjoyable holiday season. If you, like your Blethers editor, are walking around--slightly heavier than you were in October, and are looking for a healthy and enjoyable means to regain your slimmer silhouette, we have the formula you need --Come dance with us.

New Year Ball, Saturday, January 3, 1987. Our now annual New Year Ball will be held again at the Glendora Ballroom on Ridgeland Avenue in Chicago Ridge. As before, the food will be great, the dress--semiformal, and the fun--contagious. What is new this year is that we will have live music! The Madison Ceilidh Band will be playing for us. So, come celebrate the new year and our 7th anniversary while starting 1987 out on a very enjoyable note. If you have not yet made your reservations, call Ingrid (957-4494) as soon as you can.

If, however, you just can't wait until January to dance, be sure to attend the:

Racine Christmas Party, this Saturday afternoon, December 27th, at the DeKoven Foundation, Racine, Wisconsin. Sister Dorcas has invited one and all to their annual party at their beautiful campus on the shores of Lake Michigan. The dance will begin at 2:00 with refreshments following. We hope to have several cars going, so if you need a ride please ask one the officers.

Winter weather cancellations: For the period of December 1 through March 31, our teachers will make a decision before 3:00 each Sunday as to whether our classes must be cancelled due to inclement weather; if so they will notify Bill Moorhead. Members are to call Bill at 848-2332 after 3 p.m.; he will leave a recorded message advising whether or not classes will be held. If a problem arises, (i.e. the blizzard has knocked down Bill's phone lines) the back up phone number is Ingrid's (957-4494). If the blizzard has knocked down your phone lines and you can't call either one of them, perhaps you wouldn't be planning on coming.

In an area as large as ours (Indiana to the Fox River Valley) driving may be impossible in one part of the area and fine in another. So call to be sure.

The Chicago Area Workshop seems a long way off (May 29-31), but now is the time to send in a deposit and reserve a place. Teachers will be the world reknown Bill Hamilton, Valerie Harris and Bob Blackie. Send your \$20.00 deposit to Mary Brown at 5406 S. 73rd Ct., Summit, Illinois.

Auction!! On Sunday, February 1st, we will have an auction of Scottish (and non-Scottish) goods to raise money for the workshop. Ann Wood, who has been unable to dance with us because of recent foot surgery, has agreed to chair this event (do the foot-work as it were). We need Scottish (and non-Scottish) goods to be donated, and lots of Scots (and non-Scots) to part with their hard earned pennies (and dollars). We'll begin class that evening at 6:00 and end early so that we may all go downstairs, have the auction down there, and not have to "stay up too late."



Nicht Wi' Burns: Saturday, January 24, 1987. A highlight of the year has always been the Burns dinner which will be held at the Oak Lawn Hilton on Cicero Avenue at 94th Street in Oak Lawn.

This is truly a "First Class Event," a fine tribute to Scotland's foremost poet featuring also the finest in Scottish entertainment: Piping, Singing, Highland and Country Dancing. Kent and Lynette TeVault will give the traditional toasts to the lads and lassies; Ken Schoon will be toastmaster, the demonstration team will perform some new dances. The formal part of the program has been shortened somewhat to allow more time for Scottish social dancing.

Seats are limited to the first 350 requests, so please send in your reservation as soon as your notice arrives in the mail. If you would write "Loch Mich" next to "I'd like to be seated with," then we'll all be able to sit in the same area. If you do not receive a notice in the mail within the next week or so please call one of the committee members, Ken, Ann or Fiona.

The Itasca Country Club will host its third annual Scottish Evening on Saturday, February 21, 1987. The country club goes all out for this evening: hors d'oeuvres, piped in haggis with Glenlivet, fish course (salmon last year), main course, dessert, savory followed by Scottish songs, Highland and Country Dancing --all in a very elegant setting. In return for our participation in the evening, the country club makes a generous donation towards our May workshop. Tickets are available from the country club or through Bill Moorhead.

Indianapolis Burns Night will be held Saturday, February 7, 1987. From Scotland, by way of Boston, Jean Redpath will be there singing some of Robert Burns' best loved songs. The Loch Mich demonstration team has once again been invited to entertain. See Ingrid or Martin if interested in attending.

Congratulations to Kevin Lesko, formerly of Loch Mich--presently of Berkeley, CA, who has been winning numerous ribbons, trophies and other awards in Highland dance competition this last year.

The Scottish Home's Christmas Party was Sunday, December 21st. We hope our dancing added to a festive party. The Scottish Home is owned and operated by the Illinois St. Andrew Society and is one of the finest retirement homes in the midwest--or anywhere else for that matter. The St. Andrew Society hosts the Feast of the Haggis every November and the Scottish Home picnic every July. Membership in the society is open to all Scottish and Scottish-American residents of Illinois and northwest Indiana and their spouses.

Madison's 10th anniversary Ball and Workshop will be April 10th and 11th at the University of Wisconsin at Madison. Jean Redpath will present a concert Friday evening; Gregor and Vickery Trinkaus-Randall will lead a workshop on Saturday; the Madison Ceilidh Band will provide the music of the Saturday evening ball. See our notice board for more information or contact Chuck Snowdon (608) 238-3547 or Mike and Norma Briggs (608) 256-3445.

Publicity: Have you seen the recent articles about us in the Star and Crete newspapers? Terrific--perhaps we'll get a visitor or member who might not have known about us otherwise.

Detroit Ball: The 7th annual Detroit Dinner Dance will be Saturday, March 14, in the magnificent Crystal Ballroom of the Detroit Masonic Temple. "Scots Measure" from Louisville, Kentucky, will provide the music for the ball. Tickets are \$15.00 if ordered before February 14th, \$17.00 after. This includes dinner, dancing, and parking.

Ed Rawson Memorial Fund. We have donated \$50.00 to this fund honoring Mr. Rawson. The fund will be used for facilities at the Pinewoods SCD camp near Boston.

Barbados anyone?? Bob Blackie will lead a SCD tour of the Carribean April 5-12, 1987. If interested call (416) 844-4324.

Our Spring Party is scheduled for March 21. More information later, but why not mark that new 1987 calendar now?

Our officers over the next few months will be discussing:

The implications of Branch status for our group. Information is being sent to our full members who will be asked to vote on whether to become a Branch of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society or just to retain the affiliated status which we have now.

The writing of a constitution or by-laws. (Required if we become a Branch)  
Application for Illinois and Federal tax exempt status.

Anyone with thoughts or ideas on these topics is encouraged to discuss same with an officer. Further information as it becomes available.

Why the Thistle? That the thistle is the emblem of Scotland is quite well known, but the reason for its being so is less known, if questions at the Scottish Fair are any indication.



Actually we have the Danes to thank for the emblem. It seems that in the 13th century the Danes were invading Scotland. So as not to be detected, they marched barefooted and under cover of darkness. Fortunately, when they were quite near the Scottish forces, one of them stood upon a thistle.

Hearing his loud cry of pain, the Scots were alerted and rushed out to rout the foe. Henceforth the thistle was adopted as Scotland's emblem, with the motto, "Nemo me impune lacessit," meaning, "Touch me not with impunity," or in the Scottish dialect, "Ye daurna meddle wi' me."

Business or Personal Ads: There has been some interest in placing ads in the Blethers. The officers have determined that business ads would be charged as: \$5.00 for a business card or 1/8th page, \$10.00 for 1/4 page, while special large ads would be negotiated. Personal or private ads would be 10 cents per word. Proceeds would be placed in our workshop fund.

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For Sale: Ghillies: 2 pr. ladies size 7, nearly brand new \$10.00; used \$5.00. Set of RSCDS dance books--unused, \$10.00. See Ken (for Annabeth Packard).

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CALENDAR:

December 27	Racine Dance Party	DeKoven Foundation, Racine, Wisconsin
January 3	New Year Ball	Glendora Ballroom, Chicago Ridge
January 4	No class	
January 24	Nicht Wi' Burns	6:30 Oak Lawn Hilton
January 25	No class	
February 1	Auction immediately after class	6:00 Palos Park Village Hall
February 7	Burns Night	Indianapolis
February 21	Scottish evening	Itasca Country Club, Itasca
March 14	Detroit Ball	Detroit, Michigan
March 21	Spring Dance Party	Palos Park Village Hall
April 10-11	Concert/Workshop/Ball	Madison, Wisconsin

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Address Correction Requested