

Royal Scottish Country Dance Society, Chicago Branch

September 1989

B l e t h e r s

Mary Ellen Endo, Chairman

Kenneth Schoon, Editor

Congratulations to Bill Moorhead who passed his full SCD teaching exam at St. Andrews and is now a fully-certificated teacher of Scottish Country Dancing. Bill received his preliminary certificate two years ago, also at the St. Andrew's Summer School.

The International Culture Festival will be at Morton High School in Hammond, Indiana, on Saturday and Sunday, September 9 and 10 from 10:00 to 6:00. As before, there will be lots of international dancing and foods, and a large arts and crafts fair. Our demonstration team will dance Saturday at 3:10 p.m., after which all branch members and friends are invited to Schoons' home in nearby Munster for a special party. Special because:

Chris Day is leaving for California: Yes, if you haven't heard the news, in a week or two Chris will be leaving us for Berkeley, California. We don't know yet if he'll be dancing with us on Sunday the 10th, but we do know that he'll be with us on the 9th at the festival in Hammond. So, the party at the Schoons' will be a going-away party for him. Do plan to attend. For those who can't attend the festival, but would like to attend the party, we'll be getting underway about 5:30 or 6:00. It will be pot-luck; please call Chari (848-6502) to arrange food.

Classes begin September 10th at a new location: Our new hall, complete with wooden floor, is at St. Josaphat Church at Southport and Belden in Chicago (directions enclosed). Classes will start as before at 6:00 and continue until 8:30 when we will have some light refreshments. Help is needed to set up the hall each Sunday. Please come at 5:15 to help take down chairs and tables. (We will institute a sign-up sheet for future Sundays.)

Whether you can help set up or not, please plan on arriving early enough so that you can greet other dancers, get your ghillies on, and be ready to dance by 6:00. Many thanks to Ingrid Kendall and Bill Moorhead for helping us find a hall with a wooden floor. By the way, the church locks the doors at 6:30, so if you arrive after 6:30, knock loudly!

Subscription Option: Last year, branch members were asked if they were willing to pay more per Sunday in order to dance on a wooden floor. The response was an overwhelming, YES. We've got the wooden floor now at St. Josaphat, and the rent did go up. Class fees have also. However, the branch now has two ways to pay for classes: weekly fees at \$3.00 (as before, but higher) and a semester subscription. The subscription rate is \$36.00 and includes all classes through February 4, 1990. The subscription averages \$ 2.25 a class, so it's a real bargain.

Storage cabinets needed: St. Josaphat will allow us to keep equipment at the hall if we supply the cabinets. We also need members to store some items at their homes. If you have, or know of, a cabinet which could be donated to the branch, or can store some materials at your home, please contact Mary Ellen.

Looking for equipment: As we begin our new year, we would also like to locate and (hopefully) consolidate all our supplies. If you have any branch equipment at your home now (banners, records, decorations, whatever) please tell Mary Ellen.

New officers elected at the AGM last Spring are:

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| Mary Ellen Endo, Chairman | Ingrid Kendall, Member at Large |
| Chari Wurtzel, Secretary | Suzie Kinsman, Member at Large |
| Noel Chavez, Treasurer | Tom Watkins, Member at Large |

Members who have accepted other positions include:

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| Phyllis Michaels, Fall dance coordinator, | Suzie Kinsman, Demo team manager, |
| Jeannette Parrott, Publicity Coordinator, | Catherine Blair, Historian, |
| Mary Ellen Endo, Beginner's Workshop, | Laurie Walter, Beginners' Dance, |
| Ken Schoon, <u>Blethers</u> editor, and | |
| Kent Smith, Mailing List Coordinator and Demonstration Team Teacher | |

Teaching this year will be (in alphabetical order):

Barbara Ellis, Barbara Cool, Ingrid Kendall,
Bill Moorhead, Kent Smith, and Tom Senior

Dues are due! You should have received a renewal form in the mail. If you haven't done so yet, please complete the form and send in with your check. That's all there is to it. Actually it's a little more complex as some of you are long-term RSCDS members, however that same form explains all of that. If you didn't receive one, simply contact Chari (at 848-6502) and she'll see that you get one post-haste.

Kent Smith's "Quarrie's Jig" to be published by the RSCDS! For our 10th anniversary booklet, Kent composed a dance he called, Quarrie's Jig. The New Dances Committee thought that it was the best of the dances contributed and decided to submit it to the RSCDS for inclusion in the 1991 new dance booklet, Frae A' the Airts. It has been now been accepted for their booklet, and we're all quite pleased.

Beginner's Workshop September 16th: A Special Introductory SCD workshop will be conducted on Saturday, September 16th at St. Josaphat Hall. This is the perfect time for those who might be interested in Scottish Country Dance to try it out. Help spread the word. The social dance that evening is open to all members. Your attendance will help make the beginners feel more comfortable, so mark the date on your calendar now. Mary Ellen is chairing the workshop and Laurie Walter is chairing the dance. Both need help.

The Duke of Perth is a new Scottish-American restaurant, located at 2913 North Clark--not far from St. Josaphat Church, specializing in fresh Scottish Salmon Steaks and "Haggis Wings" (the latter, a delicacy unheard-of until now by the editor). The restaurant is open every day of the week from 11am to midnight.

Madison Workshop: The Madison SCD group is sponsoring a fall workshop, "Autumnal Equinox Celebration," Saturday, September 23rd. Todd McCall of Minneapolis and Madison's own Norma Briggs will be conducting the classes (which will include Highland steps used in SCD). Registration forms are on the bulletin board. For hospitality or for more information call Nancy McClements at (608) 233-2956.

English Country Dance Parties will be held in Wilmette on the 4th Wednesday of each month this fall. Information is on our bulletin board. Call 433-8704 or see Barbara Cool or Tom Senior for more information.

Quarries elected to Life Membership. At special branch meeting, David and Avril Quarrie were thanked for their many years of service to the branch and were then unanimously elected to branch life membership. They were then given a couple small tokens of our appreciation which has elicited the following:

From the Quarries in Virginia:

Dear Mary Ellen,

David and I would like to say a great big "thank you" to you and every member of the branch for your very, very generous gifts. We were delighted with the Paul Revere dish but even more delighted with the air tickets. That was a really wonderful idea. I already miss the contact with you all.

We are going SCD this evening for the first time. We're hoping to meet people there who might become our friends in the future. Our house is coming along nicely so we think it will be October when we move in. Please say hello and thank you to everyone from us both. Yours, aye,

David and Avril (now at 212-1A Monticello Court Newport News, Virginia 23602)

Left at the Quarrie Farewell: One fabric hat and one nice little camera. Owners should contact Ken or Peg Schoon at (219) 836-8593.

Reel-Aid, the world-wide dance on August 6th to benefit charities, netted \$60.00 in Chicago which has been given to the Chicago Food Depository.

Teachers' meetings are held periodically. If you have suggestions concerning our classes, have one of them bring it up at their meeting.

Greetings from Jessie Harper of the South Argyle RSCDS Branch came to Chicago via Betsy Murison when she arrived last month to visit Ingrid.

Top salesperson needed to sell T-shirts and mugs at class and other activities and to store them between classes. Interested?

Auction--November 12th: It's not too early to start gathering your treasures, crafty items, white elephants, and ideas for baked goods and extravagant services for the branch's annual auction. More information in the next Blethers.

10th anniversary plans, beginning with the New Year Ball (January 6th), are being finalized. We would like to have a special anniversary logo. If you would be willing to design one, please see the editor. As part of our anniversary plans, we have considered a

Trip to Scotland: Wouldn't it be wonderful if a bunch of the branch could go to Scotland next summer? We are thinking of such a trip (being on your own once you're there, but coinciding with summer school at St. Andrew's.) If you might at all be interested, please mention it to Mary Ellen before September 17th.

Noel's Chutney Cheese Ball: Noel Chavez had many requests for her cheese ball which she brought to the Quarrie's farewell--so here it is.

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| 4 oz raisins, chopped | 1/2 c bacon bits |
| 3 T sour cream | 1/2 c green onions, chopped |
| 2 t curry powder | 6 oz peanuts, chopped |
| 11 oz cream cheese | 1 bottle chutney |
| (1-8 oz + 1-3 oz pkg) | |

Mix ingredients (except chutney) together.
Form into a ball and pour/spread chutney over this.
Refrigerate until firm. Serve with crackers.

Coming up in the next Blethers edition: Suzie's Newfie Encounter!!

Branch Classes: Sunday evenings at 6:00 p.m., St. Josaphat Church, Chicago, Illinois
Basic and advanced. Tea and light refreshments served at 8:30.
No charge for first attendance

Calendar:

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| September 2 | No class--Labor Day weekend | |
| September 9 | International Culture Festival, Hammond, Indiana 10:00 - 6:00 Going Away party for Chris Day, Schoons, about 5:30 | |
| September 10 | Classes begin, St. Josaphat Church | 6:00 |
| September 16 | Beginners' Workshop, St. Josaphat Church | 12:30 |
| | Social Dance, St. Josaphat Church | 7:30 |
| September 17 | No class | |
| September 23 | English Fest, Libertyville, Illinois | (SCD demo at 2:45) |
| September 23 | Madison's Autumnal Equinox Celebration (SCD workshop) | 10:00 |
| October 1 | Semi-Annual General Meeting (before class) | 5:30 |
| October 21-22 | Scottish Fair, Irish-American Cultural Center | |
| October 28 | Fall dance | |
| November 12 | Auction | |

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Address Correction Requested