

RSCDS, Chicago Branch

February, 1997



THE BLETTHERS



Bryan Luce, Chair

Laurie Walter, Editor

Less than four months away!! It's hard to believe now, but Summer, warmth, and the 1997 RSCDS, Chicago Branch, Weekend Workshop are near at hand. To quote from the flyer: "Our 1997 workshop features exciting music for dances and classes from Earl Gaddis (fiddle), Elke Baker (fiddle), and Liz Donaldson (piano); dance instruction from Ellie Briscoe, Marjorie McLaughlin, Geoffrey Selling [all justly-popular returnees!]; all wooden dance floors, modern conference facilities [with overheads?], bath in each guest room [!], easy access from Chicago, Friday welcome dance with live music, Saturday night ball and Ceilidh." More particulars: the workshop is May 30 -June 1 at Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, IL. Pre-registration forms are available from Melissa Whitson, Registrar, 244 Powell Street, Clarendon Hills, IL 60514; (630) 655-4154 (eves.). "We hope to see you at our friendly weekend!"

Madison 20th Anniversary Ball Weekend: Madison SCD will hold a gala weekend to celebrate their twentieth year of dancing April 18-20, 1997. They will kick off with a concert of traditional Scottish songs by Jean Redpath at 8:00 PM on Friday, April 18, followed by the usual exciting ball on Saturday, April 19, and overwhelming brunch on Sunday, April 20. What a weekend! For Jean Redpath ticket information, contact Carol Bulow, (608) 274-0127; and for a ball registration flyer, Madison SCD, c/o Jean Willett, 5329 Milward Dr., Madison WI 53711, (608) 273-8546. Updates on the concert, ball, and other events available through the MSCD Web Pages: <http://sprott.physics.wisc.edu/mscd/home.htm>

Spring dance: Even before the balls and weekends, the RSCDS, Chicago Branch, Spring dance will be held on Saturday, March 15, 7:30 PM, at St. Josaphat Parish Hall, corner of Southport and Belden Aves. in Chicago; \$5 per person. Hope to see you there!

Friday night socials: The Friday night social dances are back! Upcoming dates are April 4 and May 16, from 7:00-9:00 PM at Edgewater Presbyterian Church, 1020 W. Bryn Mawr, Chicago (northeast corner of Bryn Mawr and Kenmore). These are low-key, fun dances suitable for all levels.

English Country Dancing: English Country Dancing is held on second and fourth Wednesdays at 8:00 PM at Saint Mark's Church, Evanston IL. Upcoming dates are Mar. 12 and 26. St. Jude's Assembly (featuring Greg Sandell, piano; Shannon Russell, flute; and Ruth Conley, fiddle) plays on second Wednesdays, while Putting on Aires (directed by Susan Hecker) plays on fourth Wednesdays. For information, call Tom Senior at (847) 433-8704 or e-mail: seniort@newtrier.k12.il.us

More upcoming chances to dance: Boston Highland Ball Weekend, April 4th-6th.....International Scottish Country Dance School, University of King's College, Halifax, Nova Scotia, July 23rd-27th; contact Sheila Wile, 6 Behrent Court, Lake Fletcher, NS, Canada B2T 1A5, (902) 860-1221, email: sheila.wile@dal.ca [Liz Stake is planning to attend this one]Pinewoods 1997: Scottish Session I - July 11-14; Scottish Session II - July 14-19; contact Gail Wine or Lance Ramshaw, P.O. Box 66153, Auburndale, MA 02166-6153, (617) 527-9371, email: gwine@world.std.comPinewoods English-Scottish Session - July 7-11; contact Christina Wasch, (617) 661-8091, email: cwasch@aol.comScottish Weekend at Camp Ramblewood, Sept. 26-28; contact Fred Eustis, 2118 Pine Ave., Baltimore, MD 21244; email: FEustis@ea.net

Addresses for Sandie and Jennifer Lamb: Sandie - Linlathen House Nursing Home, Arbroath Road, Broughty Ferry, Dundee DD5 3NN, Scotland; telephone 1382 480707. Jennifer - Strathallen School, Riley House, Forgondenny, Perth PH2 9EG, Scotland. They'd love to hear from us!

Stone of Scone returned: (AP, from the [Chicago Tribune](#), December 1, 1996) "Edinburgh, Scotland-With prayers, pipers and some political nuance, the legendary Stone of Scone was placed in its new home in Scotland on Saturday, seven centuries after it was stolen by an English king. 'It's back where it belongs in Scotland,' said Jean Livingstone, who stood with her 7-year-old granddaughter in the crowd along Edinburgh's Royal Mile as the stone passed in an army vehicle. Prince Andrew represented his mother, Queen Elizabeth II, at the ceremonies on the feast day of St. Andrew, Scotland's patron saint.

The rough-hewn block of gray sandstone, weighing 458 pounds, was the coronation seat of Scottish kings until it was carried away as war booty by King Edward I in 1296. The Stone of Scone (pronounced 'skoon') was placed under the coronation chair in Westminster Abbey, where it has been involved in all coronations since. The stone will [be] on public view in Edinburgh Castle. Legend says the stone originated in the Holy Land, and that the biblical patriarch Jacob rested his head on it when he had his dream of a ladder to heaven. 'Today is like recovering a valued item that has been missing for a long time, like getting back a lost wedding ring,' said Rev. John McIndoe, who preached at a service in St. Giles Cathedral.

The British government has said little about why it decided to return the stone, though Prime Minister John Major noted in his announcement that this was the 700th anniversary of the stone's removal. Many Scots suspect the gesture was intended to shore up the governing Conservative Party's dwindling support in Scotland. Rev. Michael Mayne, who retired Friday as dean of Westminster Abbey, complained he was given just 36 hours notice of the decision to remove it. 'After the abbey had kept the stone for 700 years...it was not the way to behave to wrench the two apart in what seemed to me a political gesture...' he said."

"Brave hearts fight Big Mac attack: (by Ray Moseley, also from the [Chicago Tribune](#), February 2) Fenny Stratford, England--Ronald McDonald - not the corporate clown, but a Scot of that name - is hopping mad. Another Scot, Lord Godfrey James Macdonald of Macdonald, the head of the Scottish clan that embraces all spellings of the name, has issued a call to arms. They are rallying in support of Mary Blair, a fellow Scot, who is being threatened with a lawsuit by McDonald's Restaurants Ltd., the British arm of the Oak Brook-based hamburger chain, unless she stops calling her Fenny Stratford sandwich shop McMunchies. Neither side shows signs of backing down, and battle lines are being drawn. It's McMunchies versus Big Mac, McDonalds versus McDonald's. McDonald's has told Blair that 'Mc' is a registered trademark of the company and her use of it is both illegal and misleading: it might cause the public to think she is a part of McDonald's.

...Ronald McDonald, a retired history teacher in Westhill, Scotland, sent Blair a \$75 contribution (which she returned) and wrote to McDonald's informing the company that its action 'is an insult to millions of Scots.' ...He said he had considered, but discarded, the idea of having Highland seers pronounce a curse on McDonald's: 'May all your hamburgers be greasy ones.' In Scottish folklore, a Highland seer was the seventh son of the seventh son of a clan member, and was supposed to be gifted with second sight and the ability to pronounce a curse and make it stick. McDonald said he was now thinking of circulating a petition among people named McDonald to have the company read out of the clan. In olden days, he said, those who gave offense to the clan were thrown over a cliff...McDonald's officials in London did not respond to calls requesting comment on their dispute with Blair."

Dancing: "Dancing is an art that imprints on the soul. It is with you every moment, even after you give it up. It is with you every moment of your day and night. It is an art that expresses itself in how you walk, how you eat, how you make love, and how you do nothing. It is the art of the body, and as long as a dancer possesses a body, he or she feels the call of expression in dancer's terms." (Shirley MacLaine, thanks to Noel Chavez, our Strathspey browser)

A few TAC tidbits: Quiz on "The Music of Scotland": 1. What popular air for the pipes was written originally by a well-known composer for an equally well-known opera? 2. Which European composer was inspired by Fingal's Cave and wrote a piece of music about it? 3. When the song, *The Road to the Isles*, is played as a pipe tune, what is its name? 4. Which musical instrument has been banned as an instrument of war? 5. What famous opera has a Scottish story? (Answers next issue!)