

Royal Scottish Country Dance Society, Chicago Branch

December 1989

B l e t h e r s

Mary Ellen Endo, Chairman

Kenneth Schoon, Editor

Our 10th Anniversary: It sure doesn't seem as though it's been ten years since our group was formed. Time flies when you're having fun!! Your editor and his wife first became aware of the formation of this new Scottish Country Dance group while attending their first Illinois Nicht Wi' Burns. A flyer (reproduced on page three) was distributed that evening inviting one and all to join the new group.

Classes began on Thursday evening, February 7th, in Palos Park, Illinois, with Jeannette Parrott and Nancy LeNoble (now the instructor of the McGladdery Highland Dancers) the group's first teachers. We had a commitment that first Thursday--but cleared future Thursdays and joined the group at its second meeting. We were soon "hooked." Scottish Country Dancing was to become an integral part of our lives.

At that time our group had no name, no officers, and no official affiliation with the RSCDS. We would soon become known as the Loch Michigan Scottish Country Dancers (we chose not to include Palos Park in our name because we didn't know if we would always remain in that village.) The group's first demonstration was in September (1980) at the International Culture Festival in Hammond, Indiana. The following year saw the first Blethers distributed. Within another year we had hosted our first workshop and soon became an affiliated group with the RSCDS. David and Avril Quarrie joined us in 1982 and after the RSCDS officially certificated them as teachers we began to investigate the possibility of becoming a Branch of the Society. Branch status was received in 1987 and our name officially was changed to the Chicago Branch of the RSCDS.

This next year we will be celebrating our 10th anniversary. Throughout the year the Blethers will have a special section which will note the highlights of our group--10 years ago. We have planned a year-long celebration beginning with the:

New Year Ball January 6th. As is traditional, the Ball will be held at the Glendora House in Chicago Ridge. Music will be provided by the fabulous Swaara (Arlene Leitch and Bruce Patterson). You may have heard Arlene and Bruce, they played at the Chicago Highland Games last July and also at the Scottish Fair in October. Their music is vibrant and exciting and we are very pleased that they have agreed to play for us in January. The ball is one of the highlights of our year and therefore is a great way to begin our anniversary celebration. Dinner begins at 6:30, but all are invited to arrive at 5:45 or so, so that you can greet your friends, meet the dancers from out of town, and enjoy each other's company. We'll have Sunday morning brunch at the home of Mary Brown and John Collins. Maps to their place will be available at the Ball. Price of the dinner-dance is \$16.50.

Invitations were sent out last week. If you haven't received one please call dance chairman, Ken Schoon, at (219) 836-8593. Your reservations should be made by December 28th so that plans can be finalized. Myrtle Herman is again coordinating Hospitality for out-of-town guests. Just call her or the Branch "Hot-Line" at (708) 957-4494.

Christmas Dance and Pot Luck: On Sunday, December 17th, our class schedule will be a little different from the usual. To begin: Barbara and John Ellis have invited all branch members to their home at 2142 Bradley Place in Chicago for hors d'oeuvres at 3:00 preceding class. Bradley Place (between Adison and Irving Park Road) is a one-way street going west from Damen. Maps to their home will be available at class on Sunday. For more information call Barb or John at (312) 935-8116. Class will then begin at nearby St. Josaphat's at the usual time; the dances will be fun and class will be short so that we can adjourn to our annual **Potluck Supper:** We will use the church basement for a potluck after class. Noel Chavez and Suzie Kinsman are coordinating the dinner--so check with them for suggestions for what to bring.

Wednesday Classes begin on January 10th. Bill Morehead will be teaching classes for beginners and intermediates at the Irish-American Heritage Center in Chicago. The classes are free to members of the Scottish Cultural Society. (Their dues are only \$10.00 a year--if you're not a member, you can easily become one.) Bill will be teaching there instead of at Oak Park this year. We hope all his Oak Park members and many others will join him at the new location. For more information call Bill at (708) 848-2332.

Open House: January 21st. Mark your calendars for an unusual and very enjoyable evening. Our branch is going to have its first Open House that Sunday. We'll have dance demonstrations, a mini-workshop, and participation dancing (of course), with lots of refreshments. A good time to introduce your friends to the joys of Scottish Country Dancing.

Nicht Wi' Burns: January 27th. As we celebrate our 10th anniversary, the Nicht Wi' Burns committee will be celebrating its 20th. The dinner, as usual, will be accompanied and followed by piping, and highland and country dance demonstrations. There will be haggis; Burn's poetry will be recited and his songs will be sung.--A first class affair with all the colors and sounds associated with Scottish events. The evening will end with a social hour and a chance for all to dance.

Invitations to the Nicht Wi' Burns will be sent out after the holidays. If you do not receive one, contact Ken or Peg Schoon at (219) 836-8593. When you return your reservation, please write RSCDS on it and we can all be seated together.

Chicago Workshop flyers were sent out last week and reservations have begun to arrive. Our teachers will be Alistair MacFadyen and Wilma Miller from Scotland, and our own Martin Mulligan now of Newfoundland. Providing their fantastic music again will be the Tullochgorum Band of Massachusetts. To assure a place for yourself at this spectacular three-day event, be sure to return the form along with your deposit. Don't delay and take the chance of being disappointed.

Workshop Schedule: Next year, as it has been for the last six years, our annual spring workshop will be held during the first weekend in June. It is probably impossible to schedule events so that there are no conflicts--but we would certainly like to try to do our best. We know that there are some conflicts with our current date (such as the Milwaukee Highland Games) and our workshop committee is trying to determine whether another weekend would be better. Please complete the enclosed form and return it to Barbara if you have a preference.

The Auction last November 12th was another success adding over \$800 to our treasury. Many thanks to all the members who supported our group by providing items for auction and for bidding so generously. We especially appreciate those members who were unable to attend and so sent monetary donations. No doubt we'll have another one next year--It's not too early to start gathering your treasures and ideas.

Winter Snow Policy: On days when there is inclement weather within the Chicago Area, the teachers will confer by phone and will decide by 3:00 pm whether or not there will be class that day. Others can then call the Branch "hot-line" at 708-957-4494 to find out. Please remember that in a geographic area as large as ours, it may be clear in your area but impassable somewhere else--so call to be sure.

Technique Classes will be conducted beginning February 4th. This is a special class for improving your dancing skill. Footwork and poise will be emphasized. If you are interested in this series, see Ingrid Kendall soon or call her (or leave a message on the hot-line) at (708) 957-4494. Deadline for enrolling in these classes is January 10th.

Trip to Scotland: There was not sufficient interest for an RSCDS trip. The Scottish Cultural Society will still sponsor a trip and our members may contact Austin Travel for information. Summer School at St. Andrews begins July 23rd. For an application you need to write to the RSCDS Secretary.

Pipes Awa' Wi' the Fiddle is a new cassette tape featuring pipe and fiddle tunes and songs of Scotland. It is performed by Leslie Paterson along with several members of the band Tullochgorum. Order blanks can be located on the class notice board or by writing PO Box 1113, Cambridge, Massachusetts 02238.

Ten Years Ago: These flyers were made to announce the formation of a new Scottish Country Dance group. They were distributed at the Nicht Wi' Burns on Saturday, January 26, 1980.

The new group's first class was held at 8:00, Thursday evening, February 7, 1980, at the rustic Community Center Foundation in Palos Park Illinois. Nancy LeNoble (McGladdery) and Jeannette Parrott shared the teaching responsibilities.

Current members attending that first class were Ann Wood and Ken and Jeanette Parrott. Peg and Ken Schoon first attended the next week on February 14th.

The Community Foundation Center proved to be too small (and the chandeliers hung too low, thus causing slight cranial injuries to our taller dancers). Class location was changed to the larger (and higher ceiling'd) Palos Park Village Hall.

Tenth Anniversary T-Shirts:

Members are invited to submit designs by February.

First "Loch Mich" Announcements:



You're Invited

WE'RE FORMING A SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE GROUP AND YOU ARE INVITED TO JOIN US FOR GREAT FUN AND EXERCISE. SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING, THE BALLROOM DANCING OF SCOTLAND - REELS, JIGS AND STRATHSPENS - IS THE PROGRAM. CLASSES EVERY WEEK, RSCDS FORMAT.

NO PARTNER NEEDED - COME ALONE OR BRING A FRIEND!

WHERE: COMMUNITY CENTER FOUNDATION
12700 SOUTHWEST HIGHWAY
PALOS PARK, ILLINOIS

WHEN: THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 1980

TIME: 8:00 PM - AND EVERY THURSDAY THEREAFTER.....

CHARGE: \$1.00 PER PERSON PER CLASS NIGHT

DRESS: WOMEN - SKIRTS OR DRESSES (NO PANTS PLEASE)
MEN - KILTS (IF YOU HAVE ONE) OR TROUSERS.

"SOFT SHOES" FOR ALL, PLEASE!!!!
(SAVES SHINS, TOES AND ENERGY FOR DANCING)
TENNIS, MOCCASINS, BALLET OR HEAVY SOCKS WILL DO.

FOR INFORMATION PHONES:
LENOBLE 389-6497
PARROTTS 985-6065 (AFTER JAN. 21, 1980)

"Scottish Country Dancing is more fun than jogging - it's done with a shintee."

TEACHERS:
ANNY LENOBLE
JEANNETTE PARROTT



FOUNDED 1970

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

Calendar:

December 17	Christmas Dance and Pot-luck Supper	3:00 at Ellis'
December 24	no class	6:00 at St. Josaphat's
December 28	reservation deadline for New Year Ball	
December 31	no class	
January 6	New Year Ball	6:30 Glendora House
January 7	no class	
January 10	Wednesday classes begin	Irish-American Center
January 10	deadline for enrolling in the Technique Workshop series	
January 21	Open House / Mini-Workshop	6:00 St. Josaphat
January 27	Night Wi' Burns	Oak Lawn Hilton
March 10	Spring Dance Party	Palos Park Village Hall
June 1-3	Chicago Workshop	

Royal Scottish Country Dance Society
Chicago Branch
K. J. Schoon
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Address Correction Requested
