



THE BLEETHERS



Ree Grisham, Chair

Laurie Walter, Editor

Summer dancing: Has been great! And is still going!! At Fox Center in Oak Park, we've had three splendid and well-attended Friday evenings hosted by Jeanette Parrott and there are two more dates: August 7 (Doug Jensen and Mady Newfield) and August 21 (Noel Chavez). Silk and Thistle (Fermilab) has been going strong every Tuesday and will continue to do so for the foreseeable future (and maybe even beyond). See below for Fall start dates for these and ScotReel.....

Fall dancing: Starting in September or October...or continuing...the best way to spend an evening!

Loch Michigan: Social dancing with light teaching, 6:00-8:30 PM, September 13, 20, and 27; special evening with Elke Baker on October 4; Open House on October 11; classes start October 18. Keep your eyes on your mail box for a late August *Blethers* with updated information. Loch Michigan Scottish Country Dancing, a class of the Chicago Branch of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society, takes place on Sunday evenings at St. Josaphat Parish Hall, corner of Southport and Belden Aves. in Chicago. Call Ree Grisham at (773) 528-7824 or Noel Chavez at (708) 848-9218 for more information.

ScotReel: ScotReel classes will be on the following Fall Thursdays, 7:00-9:00 PM: October 8, 15, 22, and 29; November 5, 12, and 19 (no dancing on Thanksgiving, November 26); and December 3 and 10. Ingrid adds: "That is 9 weeks instead of the usual 10 weeks because I will be in Scotland during September [tough!]. However we can choose another weekday evening/s during Fall and the Park District will give us the hall. The Park District would appreciate if you will register ahead of first night of class if at all possible." ScotReel Scottish Country Dancing is a Chicago Branch class, sponsored by the Home-wood-Flossmoor Park District, taking place on Thursday evenings at the Marie Irwin Center, corner of Ridge Rd. and Highland Ave. in Homewood IL. Call Ingrid Kendall at (708) 957-4494 or the Park District at (708) 957-PARK for more information.

Silk and Thistle: Silk and Thistle never stops: they will continue to dance at Fermilab every Tuesday evening, 7:00-9:00 PM. At some point, however, they will switch from the Auditorium back to the Barn. Silk and Thistle Scottish Country Dancing is a Chicago Branch class, taking place on Tuesday evenings at either the Fermilab Barn or Auditorium, Batavia IL. Call Doug or Susan Jensen at (630) 232-9089, Mady Newfield at (630) 584-0825, or Mary Helen Polensky at (815) 756-7182 for more information.

Dance with Elke Baker: As noted above, on Sunday, October 4, we have the privilege of dancing to the music of the renowned Elke Baker, fiddler *extraordinaire*. This pleasant evening will begin at 6:00, as usual, in the St. Josaphat Parish Hall, Southport & Belden Aves., Chicago. Be there!

Indianapolis Beginners' Ball: Our Hoosier friends are hosting their first Beginners' Ball on Saturday, September 26, 1:00-3:00 PM, at the Ramsburg YMCA, Indianapolis. There will be a tea after the Ball. For a program, directions, more information, or to RSVP (which they request!), contact Eric and Tine MacKay, 7089 Bridgemont Court, Avon IN 46168; (317) 272-2231; ericmackay@sprintmail.com [Thanks to Noel Chavez for passing this on.]

"Frolic on the Fox 3": The Silk and Thistle Scottish Country Dancers present an informal Scottish ball on Saturday, October 17. Dancing begins at 7:30 PM at the Baker Center in St. Charles IL, one block south of Rte. 64, on the corner of Walnut and Rte. 31. Only \$7 at the door; non-dancers are welcome to observe and listen for \$2. Music by Mike Briggs, Susan Conant, and Dave Mullen. For more information, call Doug or Susan Jensen (630-232-9089), Doug at work (630-840-8194), Mady Newfield (630-584-0825), or Mary Helen Polensky (815-756-7182); email: folkdance@fnal.gov

Halloween Dance: The Milwaukee Scottish Country Dancers cordially invite you to attend the 6th Annual Halloween Dance, Saturday, October 31, 2:00 PM, at St. Paul's Church, Milwaukee WI. Music by (coincidentally enough) Mike Briggs, Susan Conant, and Dave Mullen. Potluck supper to follow. St. Paul's Church is located on the corner of Knapp and Marshall in downtown Milwaukee. Cost is \$7; please bring a dish to share if you are joining us for the potluck. For more information, call **Mrs.** Sonya Fitak at (414) 964-8253. Raffle! It's a masquerade! Wear your favorite costume!

Brunch with Quarries & Claudia: On Sunday, August 23, those of us that remember the days of yore can relive some of them by meeting Avril and David Quarrie and Claudia Gronvaldt for brunch at Drury Lane, Spring Road, Oakbrook IL, 12:00 noon. Call Ingrid at (708) 957-4494 by August 16 to RSVP.

Performance: And since you'll be out that way anyway, check out the Silk and Thistle Demo Team performing at Cantigny that afternoon. The Cantigny grounds, formerly the McCormick estate, are a lovely park on Mack Road in Wheaton. A bagpipe band will be performing there, starting at 3:00 (August 23) and the Team will be the intermission entertainment at about 3:20.

Upcoming Branch Team Demos: Celtic Fest, September 19 & 20 in Grant Park; Scottish Cultural Society Highland Fair, October 3 in Midlothian.

Trends: "The kilt has crossed over into the world of interiors. What started as a men-in-kilts fashion statement--think Mel Gibson in *Braveheart*, David Byrne in concert, singer Donovan Leitch at the altar [!] and Prince Charles at Balmoral--is suddenly hanging in the windows, covering the sofas and papering the walls of the most stately American homes. And it isn't just tartans and plaids, but all things Scottish--from furniture to paintings.

'We are getting deluged with people asking for Black Watch plaid,' says John Knott, owner of Quadrille Fabrics, a New York wall-covering and textile company that sells Black Watch plaid for \$70 a yard. 'Basically, people are seeing it in fashion magazines and think it will look great in mountain hideaways in Aspen,' he says. Scalandre Silks Inc. also has a line of Scottish-inspired fabrics.

New York decorator Michael Valente lately has used tartan and other Scottish touches on large estates in Connecticut and Virginia. 'The houses are huge and don't have that homey, lived-in feeling. I cozy them up with lumpy furniture and plaids,' he says. Mr. Valente's most recent Scottish inspiration was custom-made plaid carpeting that he installed in a home in Greenwich, Conn. Mr. Valente is also big on the thistle motif, which is the Scottish national emblem, and mudrooms, where Scots change out of muddy boots and rain gear. 'Every house we do has to have a mudroom,' he says.

Also riding the wave is 19th-century Scottish designer Charles Rennie Mackintosh, famous for his tall chairs. Since a tour of his work last year at museums in Chicago, New York and Los Angeles, sales of Mackintosh reproductions have increased noticeably, says Nancy Reedy of Cassina U.S.A., a maker of Mackintosh furniture copies.

Some popular Scottish motifs even predate plaid. Glasgow-born artist Lex Braes has recently begun using Scottish imagery in his work, and his latest show at a trendy New York gallery was filled with ancient Celtic themes. Mr. Braes says his work isn't trend-driven. And he doesn't don a kilt when he paints. 'They're too expensive,' he says. 'They're not practical for painting. They're more suitable for fighting.' " [How about for dancing? Thanks to Mel Whitson and Ken Heinemann.]

CD index: Around Scotland there are many Scottish Country Dance enthusiasts. Now available from Highlander Music is the Highlander Music *Scottish Country Dance CD Index*, which lists all the dances featured on more than 40 CD's. The index will be updated at intervals as new recordings are released. Copies of the index are available free from Highlander Music, Unit 7D, Muir of Ord Industrial Estate, Rosshire IV6 7UA [Scotland]. [from Ingrid Kendall, who clearly got it from a Scottish publication!]