

LOCH MICHIGAN SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCERS

NOVEMBER 1985

## Loch Mich 'Blethers'

Why "Blethers?" According to the the Chamber's Scots Dictionary, Blethers means "to speak indistinctly, to stammer, to talk nonsense, to prattle or chatter." As a noun it means "nonsense, foolish talk, or a wind-bag." Actually the dictionary translation does not convey the nuances of the word as used in Scotland. It is a word often used with feelings of affection or amusement, sometimes exasperation. A wall hanging that Ingrid brought home from Scotland pictured two "wifies" at a bus stop with heads close together "blethering." Ingrid says it reminds her of herself and a certain Evanston friend when they are together.

Fall Dance Party, November 16, 1985. This party, our 6th annual, will be a benefit dance for our workshop next May. Martin Mulligan has put together the dance program for that evening, and he has chosen a great mixture of easier as well as some challenging dances. No doubt, the 16th will be a clear, crisp evening, just perfect for dancing. Come and have a great time.

December 8th and 15th we will have to have classes somewhere other than Palos Park. The Palos Players will be using the building again. Many thanks to Bill Moorhead who arranged a place for us so quickly when this happened (with very little notice) last month. We will announce the location in class as soon as we have a place.

Christmas Dinner for all Loch Mich folk will be enjoyed after class on Sunday, December 22nd, at the Matterhorn Restaurant. Please let Ingrid know if you plan on coming, so she can make the reservation.

Our 6th Anniversary Dinner-Dance is scheduled for Saturday, January 4, 1986, at the Glendora Ballroom in Chicago Ridge. The evening will be "semi-formal" as before. Fiona has invited us to her place for an after-party party. More details later.

The notice board (on the stage at class) is our regular information center. Check it periodically to see what is coming up between editions of the Blethers. It usually contains minutes of the last officers meeting. You can always use it to make sure the officers are doing their jobs!

RSCDS membership is available to all members of Loch Mich. The dues are small and members receive an annual bulletin and a book of new dances. See Chris if you're interested. He must get our payment to Edinburgh in a week or so.

The Beginner's Workshop last month was a great success. We had a number of "rank" beginners as well as some more experienced dancers who wanted a review of the basics. Participants sure got their money's worth with Avril leading them through three daytime classes, followed by a dance party in the evening organized by Kent Smith. Many thanks to the organizers. We do hope that all the new beginners will join us for regular classes on Sundays.

The Quarries have just returned from Germany where they attended the Hamburg SCD Weekend. David had to present a paper overseas and the timing just about coincided with this annual event of their old group, so Avril went also. Dave and Avril coached the Hamburg group before coming to the states.

The Feast of the Haggis will be held in the newly-renovated Grand Ballroom of the Chidago (formerly Conrad) Hilton Hotel on Saturday, November 9th. This annual dinner is sponsored by the Illinois St. Andrew Society as a benefit for the Scottish Home which they manage in North Riverside. The Italian Chef at the Hilton serves the best haggis in the mid-west and he won't give out his recipe. So the only way to enjoy it is to buy a ticket (\$40.00). Our Highland Dancers (David, Chris, Jimmy and Martin) will be dancing the Argyle Broadswords. Kenneth McKellar, a very popular Scottish singer will be providing additional entertainment. The dinner is the highlight of the Scottish social calendar in the Chicago Area.

The Minneapolis Ball is (unfortunately) the same day. Stan Hamilton and the Thistledown Band will be playing. Ingrid, John and Mary will be attending.

Sister Dorcas' group at Racine, Wisconsin, has invited us to a dance, Saturday afternoon, December 28th. Dance programs will be available at class. We hope to have several cars going. See Ingrid if you plan to attend.

The Madison group is sponsoring two events this season that we hope several of our group will be able to attend. December 7th is their Social Dance and March 22nd is their annual Mid-Winter Ball.

Fiona Robertson had to retire early from her office of publicity coordinator due to increased duties at work. Greta Telford has fortunately agreed to replace her. Others who have agreed to do specific jobs are: Avril Quarrie, workshop coordinator; Jeanette Parrot Spring Party coordinator; Ken Schoon, Blethers editor; and Martin Mulligan, demonstration team instructor. Martin was the leader of the Pittsburgh, PA, group before he came to Chicago. He has a preliminary teaching certificate from the RSCDS.

The Demonstration Team has been hard at work since September. Demonstrations have been performed at the Oak Park Mall, Donnelley Hall, Homewood, the Scottish Fair, and at Southlake Mall in Merrillville, Indiana. The team is open to experienced dancers who can do certain dance patterns without instruction and who are recommended by Martin. Check the bulletin board at class for particulars and if interested, ask him. Certain demonstrations require certain proficiencies, so Martin decides who dances in each demo.

Annabeth Packard wrote from her new home at Des Plaines, enclosing dues money (thanks) and best wishes for all. She hopes to see us at up-coming events.

New kilts have arrived (round Chris Day, Bill Moorhead and Ken Schoon).

Congratulations to all the Fermilab folks who succeeded in their anti-matter experiment. An anti-proton is a proton with a negative charge. (Normal protons have positive charges, remember?) If it is difficult to understand anti-matter, just think of Scottish Country Dancing with all the men on the ladies side, and all the ladies on the men's side. That could be called anti-dancing, right?? Seriously, the work at Fermilab has given this area world-wide recognition, (Kathy sent a newspaper clipping from Japan). Many of our dancers have played a large part in its success.

Yoshi and Kathy are married, partied, and living in Japan. Ingrid, the Schoons and the Quarries who all made the trip to Boston were joined by Dan and Joan Rawson (who made the trip from Connecticut), Dan's parents (Bostonians themselves), and Doug Schneider (formerly from Minneapolis, now of Boston). Yoshi's father and brother came from Japan.

A number of Kathy's relatives were a little surprised to see so many kilted men in the church! (Not to mention 4 year old Jacob Schoon in full evening dress--Sorry for the obvious showing of paternal pride) The reception following included many Scottish Country Dances with Dave Guarrie, Doug Schneider and Mr. Rawson instructing.

The newlyweds thoroughly enjoyed spending part of their honeymoon in the Chicago area. It was great to see more than 60 people at the party we gave for them here.



**POST CARD**  
ADDRESS ONLY

Sunday, October 13<sup>th</sup>

Dear Loch Mich people,

We have safely arrived in Japan. Thank you very much for the nice party and wonderful gifts while we visited in Chicago. For both of us, all of you and Chicago mean a lot. Now, Kathy has started going to a Japanese school and finding a job. We bought a condo. and will live in the condo in December. We are busy because, besides the adjustment, we have another reception in my birth prefecture this weekend, but won't forget dancing.

Thank you for everything. Love, *Jacob*



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POST OFFICE  
JAPAN

TO: Loch Michigan  
Scottish Dancers  
% Mr. Ingrid Kendall  
[Redacted]  
[Redacted]  
[Redacted]  
U.S.A.

**by AIR MAIL**

The Rawsons, by the way, are expecting their first child sometime in April.

The Schoons, I should mention, are expecting their second on St. Andrew's Day.

COMING UP:

November 9	Feast of the Haggis	Chicago Hilton Hotel	6:00 pm
	Minneapolis Ball		
November 16	6th Annual Fall Dance Party	Palos Park Village Hall	7:30 pm
November 17	No class		
November 22	Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders and the Royal Marines Band Concert	Rosemont Horizon	
December 7	Social Dance at Madison, Wisconsin		
December 22	Christmas Dinner following class (reservation required)		
December 28	Dance at Racine, Wisconsin		2:00 pm
January 4	6th Anniversary Dinner-Dance	Glendora, Chicago Ridge	
January 25	Nicht Wi' Burns	Oak Lawn Hilton	

Loch Michigan Scottish Country Dancers  
K. J. Schoon  
[REDACTED]  
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Address Correction Requested

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