



# Scot Pourri



Send us your inquiries on life's little question marks.

Ever wanted to know what happened to your old pal from home, how to make your favourite Scottish meal, or wondered about a certain bit of Scottish history? Pose your questions on Scottish related topics to our knowledgeable readership who just may be able to help. Our letters page is a very popular and active one and many readers have been assisted across the world by fellow passionate Scots. Please keep letters under 200 words and we reserve the right to edit content and length. Letters, photos and any other items posted to the Scottish Banner cannot be returned. We prefer letters to be emailed to your nearest office or please visit our on line Scotpourri form at [www.scottishbanner.com](http://www.scottishbanner.com), alternatively you may post or fax your letters to us. Please ensure you include your full contact details, when emailing it is best to include your post address for those without internet access.

This page belongs to our readers so please feel free to take part! Thanks to all our readers from around the world who have made this such a special page.

## S.S. Caledonian Monarch

Since being introduced to the Scottish Banner in October 2009, I have really enjoyed its contents with the progress of the country I left behind at the age of 15 in join the Merchant Navy in 1935 as a cadet.

During the war years on the Glasgow ship the *S.S. Caledonian Monarch* in 1940 as a 3<sup>rd</sup> mate I befriended the 2<sup>nd</sup> mate Roderick MacDonald Smith, a Canadian citizen from Glasgow. On our return voyage from the Argentine I took ill and was hospitalised in Buenos Aires British Hospital for three months. Regretfully the *SS Caledonian Monarch* was torpedoed and sunk in the North Atlantic with the total loss of 48 crew members (in 1942).

Over the years I have tried to contact Roderick's Canadian relatives with the assistance of the Canadian Veteran Affairs Department, who has advised me it is difficult with so many Smith's in Canada. I understand his grandson Craig Smith was looking for information on his grandfather via a web site but his details are no longer available.

If any family of Roderick MacDonald Smith or 'Scottish Banner' readers may know any family please do get in touch.

Joe Maxwell  
7/46 Lane Cove Rd  
Ingleside, NSW  
2101, Australia

## Recalling the 'Waverly'

Forbes Abercrombie's item on wee Jean on the Waverly (June 2010) reminded me of almost similar circumstances. The year was 1938 so my parents decided to take my older sister Margaret and myself, twelve and seven to the Empire exhibition at Bellahouston Park. We were two young to ride the roller coaster but around the base there was a miniature railway so we boarded the scale model of the Royal Scot and soon we were chugging around the track. Sooner than expected the train stopped at the station so we got "aff" only to find there was no maw and paw waiting for us. I became very scared but Margaret just grabbed my hand and we began walking through the Saturday crowd. Fortunately she had the good sense to have us hug the border fence of the train track and eventually we found our equally worried folks standing outside the station where we boarded. Unknown to us all there were two stations on the line.

Ian Carmichael  
New Hamburrg, Ontario,  
Canada

## Family Connections

Thank you for the 'Scottish Banner'. We have enjoyed each issue and every article in it.

My Mom was born in Blairgowrie, Scotland. Some of my family have been to Scotland and worked on family genealogy on my Mother's side.

I have now located a cousin who has come to the States to visit and stayed for a month. What a wonderful lady she is. I have adopted her as my sister and hope to visit her in Scotland one day.

Keep up the good work on the "Banner". I look forward to each issue.

Malcolm Griswold,  
Barkhamstead, CT  
U.S.A.

## Hours Of Enjoyment

Thank y'all for all the wonderful hours of enjoyment you have given me over the past 23 years reading the "Scottish Banner".

I just want to let y'all know it is much appreciated.

Norma Merrill  
San Antonio, Texas.  
U.S.A.

**Ed note:** Thank you for your kind words. We have enjoyed bringing each edition to you.

## Glasgow Corporation Transport Pipe Band 1956

I am continuing to enjoy the read of your great monthly Scottish Banner magazine which I purchase from my local newsagent at Westfield Miranda Fair.

I enjoyed the articles about the Glasgow Transport Museum at the Kelvin Hall being moved to the new building, Clydeside. These snippets were in the June and July issue. This was a great place full of Glasgow's transport history. No doubt now it may now be more



Left to right are, L/D Bobby MacGregor, Willie Slicer and Allan Chatto.

accessible to both for locals and visitors. While I was living in Glasgow, there I was a conductor on the Glasgow Underground, going around the circle eight times a day on my shift. Great times I remember.

By way of interest I was also a member of the "Glasgow Corporation Transport Pipe Band" when I was living and working in Glasgow in the 1950's. This attached photo is of the bands snare drummers section and was taken just before we went on to compete in the Grade 1 Cowal Championships in August 1956.

The following year I was invited to join and play in the Drum Corps of the Rutherglen Pipe Band, another Grade 1 Pipe Band of the Scottish Pipe Band Association. I competed with them in the following two years before moving to Sydney Australia with my Scots wife, Helen.

Congratulations on the 34th Birthday of the "Banner" this month. A great publication achievement. Best wishes for the future.

Slainte  
Allan Chatto O.A.M.  
Sydney, NSW  
Australia

## Haggis Recipe

I am a long-time subscriber to the "Scottish Banner" and would very much like to find a good recipe for Haggis. Can anyone help?

William H. Lane  
Lt. Col. USAF (Ret)  
7720 Essington Circle  
Dayton, OH, USA

*Gracing our cover: The future of piping leads the way at the World Pipe Band Championships, Glasgow*

## Fife Miners Stew

I smiled when I saw your recipe for "Fife Miners Stew" in a recent *Banner* (June 2010). I grew up in a Fife village where the main employers were the railway and the pits, sadly, both things of the past now. When the pits were operating, virgin olive oil and red wine were unheard of in the household cupboard. My mother certainly didn't have either and there was no way she could have afforded either, so the stew recipe has had some poetic license. Whilst the basic recipe is good, the vegetables in the stew were what we grew in the garden. In those days just after WW2 everyone had a vege garden help out the weekly wage.

I enjoy the Scottish Banner, it keeps me in touch with my roots.

Mrs Sheila Milne  
Glengowrie, South Australia

## Baltic Street

Betty McKay, I see in your letter (May 2010) you were raised on Baltic St. My mother was raised at 403 Baltic St. and would have been around ages with you.

Her Mum and Dad were Jeanie and Fred Horton, my mother's name was also Jeannie, sisters were Helen and Elsie and a brother John. I was wondering if you knew them? My mother was a war bride and settled in Verdun, Quebec, Canada.

Have great memories of visiting my Gran and Granddad on Baltic St. My Gran lived there until around the mid- 60's.

Sincerely,  
Diane Hericks  
Wisconsin, USA  
E-mail: [ahericks@centurytel.net](mailto:ahericks@centurytel.net)

## Not To Be Forgotten

I have just read in the 'Scottish Banner' that Kenneth McKellar is dead - at 82.

I saw and heard him sing in Montreal and Toronto a few times during his tour of Canada. He was great!

I have several of his records, including "Songs of Robert Burns". He was the best!

I know a man in Toronto who has collected every single record of Kenneth McKellar, including all '45's' that were recorded. Also records that were recorded and only released in the U.K.

Kenneth McKellar will not be forgotten in our lifetime.

God Bless.  
John D Rooney,  
Toronto, Ont.  
Canada.

## Great Highland Games

We have enjoyed the 'Banner' for many years, and have attended the Highland Games at Maxville, Ontario for at least 25 years.

If anyone has any Scottish blood - or even if no - these are great Games to attend. The people, the music, the competitions, the vendors -are all just great.

Keep up the great paper.  
Mrs R. Halliday,  
Cowansville, P.Q.  
Canada.

## A Way Of Remembering

When we first subscribed to the 'Scottish Banner', it was one of Mom's favourites. Mom passed away in 2004. Keeping her name on the address label is my way of saying 'Hello' now and then.

Ron Harber,  
LaSalle, P.Q.  
Canada.