



# 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.

## Becoming A Scot

For many years now I have admired all things Scottish, my wife Helen comes from Edinburgh we are both retired. Sometime ago we bought some land in Scotland and were told that we are now Lord and Lady, which we found quite amusing at the time.

How do I who was born in London in 1931 become a "Scot"? This is something I would be proud of if it can happen?

I look forward to your comments.

All the best

Michael M Wimborne JP

35/800 Kings Road

Taylors Lakes, Victoria

3038, Australia

Mobile ph 0451 593 660

## Searching For Grants and Herberts

My name is Jenny & my Mother was a Grant.

My Mum's sister Irene married Frederick Burgess. After Irene's death in the 1970s Fred returned to live in Hastings, Victoria, Melbourne.

Fred was the Convener of the New Zealand branch in 1980. I have a copy of the "Arms of the Chief" Newsletter with application form for membership.

Fred went under the surname name of Frederick C. Grant- Burgess.

I am wanting to trace Fred for my genealogy search with the Grants & Herberts in New Zealand.

If there is any chance of anyone being able to help I would be very grateful.

Thank you.

Jenny McKenzie

New Zealand

ian-mclean@xtra.co.nz

## A Lifetime of Scottish Music

A copy of your November issue has just fallen into my hands and I was pleased to find pages of CD's and DVD's for sale. When I first bought a turntable in 1965 one of the first albums I bought was by Jim Macleod and it has been played until it is transparent. Incidentally the price was \$2.99 which in those days on my wages took some serious thought.

You will have guessed I am of an age that considers that computers will be just another passing fad.

Best wishes to you all,

Brian Torrens

New Plymouth,

New Zealand

## Just Rapt!

Just to send you a belated thank you for publishing my story about my experiences at the 60th anniversary of the Edinburgh Tattoo in Edinburgh. I went to our local newsagent to see if the November issue was available and it was! Opening up and flipping through I found my article.

I'm just rapt! I do hope others will share their Scottish memories - or just the Tattoo experiences too.

Kind regards

Elizabeth Kraus

Australia

**Ed note:** Thank you for your note Elizabeth. We agree! If any other readers wish to tell us their story or memory of the Edinburgh Military Tattoo they have attended, please send us a letter or email to share them with us and other readers.

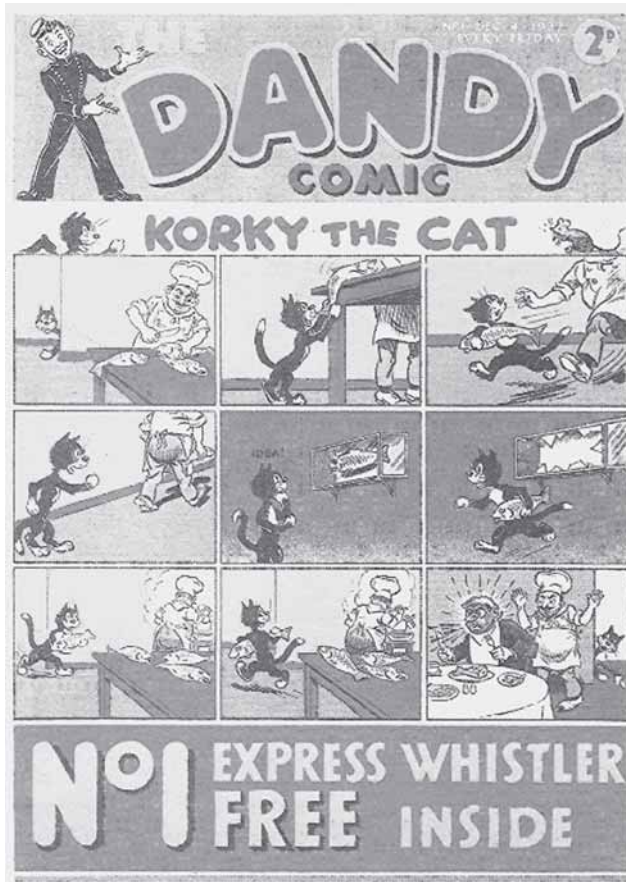
## Christmas Traditions

"I really enjoyed the Christmas Traditions article. I was not fortunate enough to have been in Scotland for Christmas, always left just before and once returned just after that Holy Day. Such is the lot of an American serviceman."

Liam Smith, USA

Sent via Facebook

## The First Dandy



As a regular reader of the Scottish Banner I attach a copy of a post card copy of the first issue of the Dandy Comic (and as a youngster I was an avid reader), which clearly shows the date of the first issue as Dec 4 1937 and not 1837 as your paper suggested. Jack Todd

Lake Munmorah, NSW

Australia

**Ed note:** Thanks for your note and pointing out our typo error Jack.

## Robert Burns

I get the Scottish Banner each month and really enjoy reading it. My grandfather came from Scotland in the early days, his name was Robert Burns, he was a reporter on a paper in Sydney and moved around NSW before going to Queensland (he had three sons who all went to the first world war and my Dad was the only one to come home).

Sarah Burns married a Campbell and came out to Castlemaine in the early days and is buried in the local cemetery, strangely it has at the bottom of the head stone it was the grand daughter of Robert Burns the poet.

Mrs C Davis

Castlemaine, Victoria

Australia

## Tell Us Your 'Scottish Banner' Story

As we herald in 2011 and the new year, we at the Scottish Banner will begin to launch our 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations. A major milestone for us at the Scottish Banner and we want to include our readers in the July anniversary issue. If you have a Scottish Banner story to tell please share it with us and possibly our readers. Have you found an old friend or family member through the Banner, joined a Scottish club or attended an event listed in our pages, been a long time reader or connected to the Scottish community in any way via our pages? Please tell us your Banner story and we will be publishing a mix of letters over the coming months. Help us celebrate 35 years of connecting Scots and their descendants with Scotland and to each other as we celebrate three and a half decades of uniting Scots around the world. Send your letter, fax or email to your nearest office or leave your message on our Facebook page.

## Power o' the Pipes!

I recall many years ago the annual Highland Gathering was in full swing at the old showground in Sydney when the city was suddenly hit by the worst hailstorm in memory.

In a matter of seconds dancers, pipers, bandsmen, officials and spectators were sent scurrying for protection from the icy barrage. The sun was bolted out, lightning flashed and thunderclaps shook the very air. Rain sheeted down as if it would never stop. It seemed the Gathering was doomed. After a time, the rain eased off, as many people made ready to abandon the day.

But just then a piper emerged from his shelter under one of the piping platforms and clambered up the slippery stairs.

Coming smartly to the ready he tucked his pipes under his arm and started playing. With stirring notes defiantly dispelling the prevailing gloom, the lone piper strutted majestically up and down the piping platform. In an instant the scene was transformed. The crowd yelled and clapped with approval, tartan flashed again as contestants emerged from shelter and carried on with the Gathering. Nature relented and the storm passed.

But who can doubt that it was the power o' the pipes that really saved the day?

John Campbell Dillon

Blackheath, NSW

Australia

**Ed note:** Thanks John for such a descriptive memory. Pipers really can set the tone!

## Thinking Back!

I have just received my subscription renewal reminder - as if I would ever forget to renew my "Scottish Banner".

Thinking back, I well recall discovering the "Banner" and then attempting to find out how to obtain it. Thus I drove way out to the east end of Toronto on Kingston Road, and low and behold, I discovered your office.

I well remember meeting Valerie and since then have had the pleasure of chatting with her on a number of occasions.

Further I seem to recall that at one time she had restaurant north of Toronto called the "Highlander".

As you approach your 35th year of publication, allow me to thank you for the hours of pleasure I have received in being able to read the many fine articles and stories, as well as learning about events around the world.

Continue your good work and all the very best of health and happiness for the coming New Year.

Ian Brodrick,

Mississauga,

Ontario,

Canada

**Ed. Note:** I remember it too. Thank you so much for your kind comments. Life with the "Banner" has been most rewarding.

I wouldn't have changed a thing.

## 'Scunner'

I cannot resist writing this on demob from WW11. I took a night school class at Edinburgh University in writing. The teacher was a wonderful wee man, the Headmaster of Broxburn High. During one lesson on words he told us of one unequalled Scottish word, to howls of laughter, he chalked "scunner".

I asks yer!

Charles Delworth

New Zealand