



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 <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.

A Fitting Gift

I refer to my letter in June enclosing an old WW1 photo which you kindly published in August, I do appreciate your assistance.

I did receive help from New Zealand, so items really do get noticed everywhere!

I was at Manly Highland Gathering on the weekend. I would now like to subscribe to your magazine.

I have ordered it for my Scottish cousin Mrs. N. Crichton in Queensland and I thought it was a fitting gift.

*Helen Strachan
Balgowlah, NSW
Australia*

Ed. note: We think this is a fitting gift also. Hope she enjoys her subscription.

Scottish Spirit

I always knew the Scottish Spirit was strong, but I had it proved on the week-end of the 27th and 28th September. My 14 year old grandson, Bayne Brashaw who is a beginner piper with the City of Melbourne Highland Pipeband was selected as one of 16 pipers to support Powderfinger at the Australian Football League Grand Final in front of 100,000 people.

Then on the following day he was awarded Champion 2008 Beginner Piper by the Victorian Pipers Association! Scots blood is hard to beat!

*Robert Bradshaw
Melton West, Victoria
Australia*

Girdle Scones Revisited

Thank you for printing my request for Girdle Scones.

It has been a delight to receive various recipes from your readers, all of whom I thanked sincerely.

I am now working on perfecting the making of the scones.

Wishing the Scottish Banner continued success in the future and always.

*Janet Williams
Toowoomba,
Queensland
Australia*

Digging at St. Andrews

In regards to my letter in the June issue, the enquiry was if anyone read about the fairway being dug up on the famous R&A Golf Course in St. Andrews, Scotland-it might have been called Hills Bunker.

At the time the owner had it dug up for shell.

A journalist was present at the time and was told not to print it, someone got in touch with a paper in Ontario (this is how Jim Donaldson knew about it).

Perhaps a retired journalist might be able to help (around 1953-54).

Thanks to Bill Rothney and a gentleman from Ipswich who tried to help.

Have just come back from Scotland and still not able to find an answer to my enquiry, so here is hoping someone can help.

I have read the "Banner" for over ten years. It is great to keep up to date with what is going on.

*Elizabeth Donaldson
47 Nundah St
Kendron,
Queensland 4031*

Contact Help For Newarthill Resident

I would like to make contact with a gentleman living in Newarthill near Motherwell, who at one time regularly exchanged correspondence and music with Ed Wilson here in Auckland.

The only name I have is Alastair, but I know that he has an extensive library of recorded music of the 19-20s, 30s, 40s, 50s and possibly later, and I feel sure that because of this, would be well known in and around Newarthill.

If he or someone who knows him receives my message, I would like him to write me.

*Fred Waller
PO Box 48119
Blockhouse Bay
Auckland
New Zealand*

Never Miss A "Banner"

Thank you for posting the July issue of the Scottish Banner to us. This was the first time we missed a copy since the early days of your publishing so would not like to miss out now after all this time.

Thanks again
*Lois & John Rae
Donvale, Victoria
Australia*

Subscription Renewal

Please find enclosed my cheque for payment for my subscription renewal to the Scottish Banner,

I look forward to receiving my usual monthly copy to keep me in touch with home. Despite being the only one left of my family which left Scotland back in 1952 for New Zealand.
*Ralph C Kelly
Cooloola Cove
Queensland
Australia*

Who Owns The Scottish Distilleries?

I just read Lady MacGregor's column (September 2008,) in which she reports a Borderland distillery, closed in 1919, was re-opening.

That made me think of my early 1980's visit to Scotland, (it was my third), in which the near universal lament was "the Japanese are buying up all our distilleries."

OK, the Japanese experience was severe economic times in the late 1980s, in all of the 1990s, and even today.

So you must, please, tell us, perhaps through a Scots expert, just how many Scots distilleries the Japanese own today? And name them.

Valerie, let me say again: I read a lot of "ethnic" publications and yours is the best.

*Joe Boyle,
Cheyenne, WY
USA
Mail: jboyle5161@aol.com*

Dyer/Cameron

I am attempting to locate relatives and would like your assistance. My great-uncle Thomas Walter Dyer born in Peterborough, Ontario 01/09/1877 moved to Bow Island, Alberta 1908 where he and his wife, Susie opened Bow Island Grocery, Flour and Feed Store.

Approximately 1919 a daughter Myrtice Elizabeth was born. Thomas was divorced from Susie and married Margaret Mary Clokesey 15/11/1920 in Medicine Hat. A son, Bobby was born from this marriage. Thomas died in Medicine Hat 06/28/1943.

Myrtice married Joseph Cameron in Medicine Hat 12/10/1939 and divorced him 1946.

Myrtice and their four children David Thomas, Joanne, Bonnie Faye and Jerry William then moved to Dothan, Alabama USA.

If anyone has information on this family please contact me.
*Beryl Motes
209 116 Place SE
Everett, WA 98208 USA
bbm@gte.net*

Purveyors of Tartan Tat

The article "Purveyors of Tartan Tat" Taken to Task" in the "Scottish Banner" (by Matt Newsome September 2008) prompted me to reflect on my visits to Edinburgh.

My first visit was in the early 1970s and I have fond memories of interesting and beautiful shops containing quality goods, both in Princess Street and The Royal Mile.

In July this year I returned to find Princess Street with a focus on fast food shops, chain stores, and The Royal Mile resembling a bazaar with small shops crammed with unappealing goods which overflowed into the street.

I felt this detracted from the beauty and historical significance of the area.

I wonder if the people of Edinburgh feel the same as I do?
*Anne Quested
Alexandria, NSW
Australia*

A Great Ship The Queen Mary

My husband has just bought the Australian edition of the "Scottish Banner"...

While perusing it I found the interesting letter about "The Queen Mary" by Rebecca Paten Steven, USA.

I should like to add my knowledge of this great ship.

My grandfather James Torrance was both an architect and a marine architect. He was head of the drawing office of John Brown's Shipyard in Clydebank for many years, and one daughter and his three sons worked in the same office.

The reason Clydebank became the great ship building centre it was is because the River Clyde had a tributary which made it possible for launching large ships which could make a three point turn (like a car).

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Well, there is nothing like a war to turn things around, and John Brown's Shipyard got busy again.

When I was very young I was carried around on the shoulders of a shipbuilder who was showing my mother around The Queen Mary prior to her launching. I still remember the cheers of the men at the launching of the ship by her Majesty as she slipped her chains and the water rats fled.

*Jessie Torrance Isabella
Bannerman
Kincumber, NSW
Australia*

Ed note: Thank you for sharing this fascinating piece of history with us.

Thank You For The "Banner"

On September 6, 2008, I had the privilege of being at the 50th Anniversary of the Scottish Highland Games at Idlewild Park in Ligonier, Pennsylvania, USA for the first time.

Being a Scot, Irish,

German, I was always drawn more to my Scottish roots. Only recently I have been reading romance novels- mostly about Highlanders, learning more about the past.

I have loved the bagpipes (my favourite movie is 'Bridgaddon') and hearing the Scottish accent can make me swoon!

It was at these games that my friend bought your newspaper.

I borrowed it from her and was totally enthralled. I read every word in it! It is for that reason that I would like to subscribe to this newspaper so I can learn more.

Thank you for such a wonderful newspaper and I hope to go to the games again.

Thank you so much.

*Deborah L. Rose
Belle Vernon, PAUSA*

Tribute To Scots Dock Workers

They are among Glasgow's unsung heroes. Often working in difficult, dangerous conditions, the city's dock workers have made an invaluable contribution to our prosperity and international maritime reputation.

From the mid-19th century, on countless merchant ships that circumnavigated the globe, they loaded and unloaded a multitude of supplies (including grain, coal, iron ore, loco-motives, cattle and all manner of foodstuffs) benefitting Glaswegians and many others living overseas.

Determined to set the story straight - and to acknowledge their crucial role in a future display at the new £50 million Riverside Museum (of transport) - we want to hear from those who worked on Glasgow's docks and would like to record their experiences and recollections. The Museum will open in 2011. Glasgow Culture and Sport Glasgow (Trading) CIC, 20 Trongate, Glasgow, G1 5ES, Scotland
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