

Scot Pourri



Searching for Rick McGurk

I stumbled upon your website as a result of the article in the Sunday Post of August 20th. I have many relatives scattered all over Canada and Australia, both of Scots and English descent. Some of them must be aware of your existence. I am trying to locate Rick McGurk and his wife Pippa and family, they are ex Royal Engineers circa 1960s and served in the Army postal service prior to getting married in 1964. I was the best man at Birmingham registrars and have lost touch since moving home. Thank you,

Alan Davies
19 Mclean Drive
Irlam, Lancashire,
M44 6JB England
Email: aljo2.davies@ntlworld.com

Need Map of Stirling

My late father-in-law emigrated to South Australia from the Scottish city of Stirling, in the early 1900's. Our son is so proud of his Scottish ancestry that he has become a piper in Australia's oldest pipe band, the Royal South Australian Caledonians, and he wishes to visit his grandfathers birthplace. However, we have tried, without success, over several years to obtain detailed maps of Stirling and its surrounds, tourist literature and historical information.

Can any readers through the Banner's columns advise us where to source such material?

We would be most grateful.

Colin & Margaret
Schumacher
45A Beatty St.
Linden Park,
South Australia 5065

Looking for McKerls

If there is any ex pats from the Kirkintilloch area my wife (Sandra Kavanagh) and myself would love to hear from them. Also I have been tracing the family tree and apart from my immediate family I do not know of anyone with the same spelling. There are variant spellings and it is possible after the Battle of Culloden the spelling was changed to escape persecution. It is also possible after the Highland clearances that some of my ancestors were shipped overseas. I would love to hear from anyone in America / Canada / Australia with the same or similar spelling (McKerl or MacKerl) All the best and keep up the good work.

Jim and Sandra McKerl
21 Heather Drive.
Lenzie, Kirkintilloch.
Glasgow G66 4UE
Scotland
Email: j.mckerl@ntlworld.com

Old School Friends

I was born in Aberdeen on Dec. 5th 1932, and am trying to trace John Chalmers Hastings born 6th December 1932. We were old school friends and if possible would like to make contact. The last place that I believe he worked was the Toronto Bus Company, which would have been about 43 years ago.

John Burr
Scotland
Email: suewinson@hotmail.co.uk

Two Requests

What a great paper you have. I would like to make two requests in Scotpourri. First I would like to obtain any information on the actor called Finlay Currie, such as, where he was born and year, area of Scotland he is from, films he worked on, did he work overseas, and did he work on the stage as well as on film?

I am also trying to make contact with any living relations still in the old country, in and around Dumfries, Thornhill and surrounding towns of that area. My relatives seemed to have moved around in the area working on big estates there. My dad was born in Durisdeer in 1902 and the second to James and Jane Currie. The whole family moved to Perth, Western Australia, then moving on to Northern Victoria. With one of the son's John Currie staying on in Scotland and was a blacksmith and I believe is buried in Gray Friars Church in Dumfries.

Mr Ian M Currie
20 Ngarveno St.
Moonee Ponds
Melbourne, Victoria
3039, Australia

Interesting Stories about Women

I am writing songs about Scots in Australia, historical and contemporary. It is fairly easy to find stories about men - explorers; soldiers; botanists; down the pub etc., but it is more difficult to find interesting stories about women. Can anybody help?

Mrs Grace Reid
65 Sydney Street
North Perth 6006
Western Australia
Email: hibby@mac.com

In Search of Malcolm McGlashan

I have just read the article in the Sunday Post regarding your paper The Scottish Banner which I found very interesting. I would be grateful if any of your readers could help. I am looking for any information on a Malcolm McGlashan who is my Great Grandfather. He emigrated to USA about 1880 and he would have been about 30 years of age.

He originated from Perthshire, Scotland. I can be contacted at my e-mail address or my home address

Mrs. L. Knowles
The Laurels
460 Colne Road,
Burnley, Lancashire,
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Scottish Banner in Scotland

I received a copy of the Scottish Banner in the post this morning, seemingly direct from yourselves. I suspect that a relative has taken out a subscription in our name but has not informed us.

I have read the Banner often as relatives in Australia send me the occasional copy and my wife and I think that it is a superb publication. We have nothing to match it in Scotland!

Yours aye,
Iris and Hugh White
Gilmerton, Edinburgh
Scotland

SEND US YOUR INQUIRIES ON LIFE'S LITTLE QUESTION MARKS...

We enjoy them, the readers enjoy them, and some lasting friendships have been made from corresponding through our columns. Please keep your letters brief (under 150 words) to enable us to publish as many requests sent to us as we can. We do reserve the right to edit the content and length of original letters. Letters, photos and other items cannot be returned.

Drop us a line at any of the addresses on page 2, or email to mail@scottishbanner.com or Aus./NZ at info@scottishbanner.com, or visit www.scottishbanner.com.

When e-mailing, remember to include your postal address also, for those who don't have a computer.

Chum Club Memories

Margaret Morrison's letter about the Daily Record Chum Club certainly awoke a few memories that will be forever on my mind. The Mantra of "Being A Chum is Fun" is one that is never forgotten no matter how many years have passed, and my pin, although looking a little the worse for wear, is still with me. There



Chum Club Pin

were so many days of fun and competition in the club that there was no thought given to other forms of entertainment. In those days, money was not plentiful and the Chum Club took up a lot of slack, even to inviting us to Clydebank to sit in the Record Pavilion to watch the Queen Mary going down the slip from John Brown's in 1934. I will

never forget the panic of the crowd lining the river bank opposite the slipway when they realized that there was going to be an overflow as big as a small tidal wave when the 534 came close to filling the channel end to end.

And when I joined the staff of the Record in 1944, the Chum Club had been superceded by "Spot the Ball" competition and Uncle Jack was still there in another capacity and still a brass band enthusiast. Memorable days.

Bill Cadzow,
19 Crownhill St. Ottawa ON K1J 7K3
Canada.

The Chum Club Salute

I was pleasantly astonished to see a letter from a fellow member of the Chum Club in the September Banner. Perhaps if we met we could give each other the Club Salute I remember getting my badge and certificate - we lived in Knightswood, Glasgow then. Uncle Jack ran weekly competitions in the Daily Record with small prizes, such as paint boxes, for the winners Long after I was past the age of such childish things, I noticed a competition which appealed to me. The entrant had to draw a lion-tamer alongside a couple of ferocious lions already printed in the paper. I was seventeen then (1937), and was working in an office. I dug out my certificate and enclosed the required membership number. I won the prize for that week. Three dainty handkerchiefs! Another feature I remember - Chum Club cakes could be ordered for children's parties. The club badge was reproduced in coloured icing.

Lots of Luck to the Banner,

Catherine St. John.
Home Address:-
6521 Glen Erin Drive Apt. 618
Mississauga ON L5N 2X2
CANADA

Her Majesty's Armed Forces Veterans Badge

Of interest, and in case you have not heard I have recently learned that in England they are now awarding an HM Armed Forces Veterans Badge. This is to be worn on civilian clothing.

It is available to anyone who served in the HM Armed Forces including Merchant Navy Seamen, up to and including December 31st 1954.

For more information contact help@veteransagency.gsi.gov.uk, Fax 01253 330561, Telephone in UK 0800 169 2277 and from overseas 011 +44 1253 866043

Ian Broderick
1306 Moaghan Circle
Mississauga, ON L5C 1R8 Canada

Information Sought on a Clockmaker of Dundee

I have enjoyed my Scottish Banner for several years now and still look forward to its arrival. Keep up the good work.

Since I retired from teaching in 1990, I have been collecting antique clocks of all types. I have over the years acquired an extensive collection. Among all these clocks, I have a Scottish Grandfather clock dated ca. 1790-1820 made from Scottish Oak by a clockmaker named Rattray of Dundee Scotland. I am hoping that among your readers that another clockman like me who can help me gain information on this certain clockmaker of Dundee.

I am an old bachelor and this is my only hobby these days. It has been a Godsend to me.

Sincerely,

Jerry C. Spain, Ed. D., 1507 Vincent, Brownwood, TX 76801, USA