

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 online Scotpourri form at 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.

The skirl of The Pipes and Drums of the Royal Caledonian Society



The skirl of The Pipes and Drums of the Royal Caledonian Society bringing music, fit for the Queen's 90th birthday, to the ears of the Burnside Library during the recent Scottish Diaspora Tapestry Exhibition.

It gives me great pleasure to inform you that The Scottish Diaspora Tapestry Exhibition, and its associated events, has been selected as the recipient of the prestigious 2016 City of Burnside Australia Day Community Event of the Year which is no mean feat. The award was presented at the Burnside Australia Day Celebration which was held at Hazelwood Park on Tuesday 26 January.

This was due in no small measure to the teamwork involved with all of the participants. It is good to see, and it fills me with great pride, that Scottish culture has been recognised in this manner.

Rosemary McKay
Adelaide, South Australia

Ed note: Congratulations Rosemary to you and all involved in this project.

Fond Memories

Reading the August edition of *the Scottish Banner*, I enjoyed the article on Finlaggan on the Isle of Islay. I have many fond memories of Islay especially Port Askaig. My great aunt had a house on the shore just beyond Port Askaig. Looking out to the Sound of Jura and then to see the lovely Paps of Jura. My family name was McEachern and there were many in and around Port Askaig, fond memories. I have a cousin who lives in Port Ellen. Also in the same edition a lady wrote about being born in Dumbarton, I had family from there also. I came from Alexandria not far from Dumbarton but came to America in 1949 and settled in Philadelphia. I now live outside the city. Keep up the good work, I pass my copy on to a friend who came from Edinburgh. If anyone wonders where in Alexandria I live it's Holmes.

Yours aye,
Jean Dunlop
Porteque, Pennsylvania
USA

Tunnock's and The Flying Scotsman

Thank you for sending me my Scottish "fix" of *the Scottish Banner* each month and enjoyed some of the articles in the February issue which included Tunnocks' and The Flying Scotman. While we were in Scotland the local post office stopped getting it in, the suppliers wouldn't supply it. The dollar speaking I suppose. A supermarket in Kununurra, Western Australia was selling Tunnock's and they are delicious, unfortunately they don't stock them now. There are similar products, but not a patch on Tunnock's, the marshmallow isn't as fluffy and the biscuit not as nice. It's a pity to see the lion

go but I suppose there are reasons, at least we know that it's a Scottish product.

I saw The Flying Scotsman many years ago when it travelled around Australia in company with another big steam engine and have never forgotten the sight. I have a couple of DVD's of The Flying Scotsman. Diesel and electric trains don't have the style and charm of the steam trains.

Jocelyn Layton
Wyndham, Western Australia

Irn-Bru

Thank you *Scotspeak* for your little story on Irn-Bru. When I was 15 years old I went to work in the factory. I loved working there, it was a fairly small factory and a very happy place to work. Every day there was a sing song, Hannah McMillan would start it off with sunny side of the street and before you knew it everybody in in the factory was singing. It was a great place to work and everybody looked forward to going to work every day.

Thanks for the memories.
Anne Watson
Kalbarri, Western Australia

Ed note: Thanks Anne for sharing your story with us!

Reader help with a family photo



Let me introduce myself, my name is Hiram Dunn and I am carrying out some family research, for my sister and her husband who is a Sanders. His great Grandfather married back in 1905 when he was 35 and his wife to be, was Mary MacInnes she was 23. He died in 1925 she moved to reside in London and subsequently past away there. The attached photograph was in her possessions and was kept in a rather expensive, for the period, leather folder personalised in gold lettering "Duncan MacInnes". I have sent this enquire off to the MacInnes Clan which they are kindly going to publish on the clan website. Nevertheless, Donna McKinnis Vice President - Culture, International Association of Clan MacInnes, has advised that it would be better, to give the photograph a wider audience, and suggested I contact your good selves and have the photograph, along with an article published in your monthly tabloid *the Scottish Banner*.

Details of the photograph:
The only makings on the photograph are embossed "Copyright, *The Bulletin*" on the bottom right corner, nothing further. We think Duncan may be standing on the right welcoming, what we believe is a MacInnes Clan disembarking sometime in the early 1900's from where we have no idea. What can be gleaned from this photo is limited, but

may assist in identifying, Who, Where, When:

1. The ship is docked in Scotland, it is raining by the looks of the crewmen attire.
2. From the attire of the crewmen it appears to be prominent shipping company of the time, White Star Line?
3. What I have managed to learn so far is that, *The Bulletin* was an Australia publication from 1880's.
4. I think the people coming down the gangway are looking at a piper, They are being greeted by the pipes on arrival in Scotland. Why I say that is because just above the arm of the gentleman at the end of the gangway, one can see the top of the pipes, belonging to the piper on the right of the gangway.

I have sent the photograph to a professional photo dating agent and she was able to give from the attire, well-dress gentlemen and ladies, the style of the ladies fur-trimmed coats and deep-crown cloche hats confirming a date range of, circa 1925-31, with the most likely years 1926-30. The men's coats, hats and trousers also accord with this, and should date no later than 1930. I would very much like, and would be very grateful, if you could publish this photograph to see if any one might be able to shed some light on it, and answer any of the "W's", in *the Scottish Banner*. I also believe it is of interest to the MacInnes Clan, also to your wider audience, as an interesting photographic record of clan members efforts to stage a gathering, when travel was not so convenient and speedy as it is today.

Help and assistance in this enquiry is very much appreciated.

Hiram Dunn
Dunfermine, Fife
Scotland
Email: hiram.dunn@talktalk.net

Tunnocks



After reading the article my first thought was that is a bit early for an April Fool's joke. The first 13 years of my life was living on Bellshill Road, Uddingston almost directly across the road from the Tunnocks factory, I have fond memories of walking to primary school and on any given day factory workers would throw down what was known as scraps of wafers minus the chocolate from their famous caramel wafer biscuit. To this day I still buy wafer biscuits and when I give any away to friends I am proud to point out that they are made in Scotland and tell them the story about being a young girl and getting the free scraps. Should scotch whisky be labelled made in Britain, what about Walkers shortbread? Living in Canada I am well aware that I am living in North America but branding is normally done by country things are labelled "Made in USA" or "Made in Canada". Believe it or not Mr Tunnock, Canadians love to see anything labelled "Made in Scotland". Hopefully Tunnocks will never go the same way as other companies like Royal Doulton which was synonymous with England and now "Made in China".

Margaret Kelly
Tiny, Ontario
Canada

West Virginia Highland Dancers Win



Kaylea McCutcheon and Resi Anderson were both winners during the 2015 North Central West Virginia Scottish Festival and Celtic Games in Bridgeport, West Virginia. McCutcheon, from Elkins, West Virginia, was the *Best Young Dancer of the Day*. Anderson from Dryfork, West Virginia, was selected the *Most Promising Young Dancer*. Both are students of Katy Dillon, Instructor for the West Virginia Highland Dancers located in Elkins. The annual games are sponsored by the Scottish Heritage Society of North Central West Virginia whose objective is to celebrate and educate Scottish and Celtic heritage.

Donald Smith
West Virginia, USA

Getting a subscription

I am looking forward to having my own copy of *the Scottish Banner* sent each month and I sometimes miss out on a copy, which to my mind is a major disaster.

With thanks,
John Ferguson
Moorina, Queensland
Australia