

MARCH 1976

THE ROYAL CALEDONIAN SOCIETY OF S. A. INC.

NEWSLETTER

REGISTERED AT G.P.O. ADELAIDE. 20 cents.

NEXT QUARTERLY MEETING IS ON

FRIDAY 28th MAY, 1976 at 7.30 p.m.

379 KING WILLIAM STREET, ADELAIDE.

1.

A change of format in a publication irks readers somewhat. It disturbs a pattern; things are not in their familiar places; there needs to be a good reason for such a change. In the case of our Quarterly we thought there was one.

Our Newsletter carries reports on the activities of the diverse groups in the Society. Consequently, we would like to present it in a style which would attract readership from all of these groups. Further, we would hope to lay it out in a form which would allow us to extend the coverage as our activities expand. If you share our optimism, this expansion will come to pass.

Every year is an Anniversary of some kind and this particular year is no exception. In April we celebrated the Fiftieth Birthday of the Reigning Sovereign of the United Kingdom and the Commonwealth, a Royal Monarch of Scottish Lineage -

Going further forward, the Act of Union, which for better or worse, joined the fortunes of Scotland and England, becomes 270 years old in March of the following year. Time moves on, making history in the passing. In the more immediate field of activities, we started the year off brightly with a strong representation at the Mt. Barker Highland Games and carried on to play Host at the 17th S.A. Highland Games. We had what might be described as a selective Annual Pione and the Bairns launched this year's crop of engagements spiritedly. In our premises at King William Street, we are investigating the updating of our accommodation and our Social Director is planning a series of Cabarets for our enjoyment. Regretably, every year has a sad note. Overleaf, the Chief refers to this appropriately.

OBITUARY

By now you all know the sad news of the death of our late Member and Secretary, Barton Hopkins.

What many of you will not know is the tremendous amount of time and effort he put in, far, far in excess of anything he was ever paid for, helping to put our Society in the favourable financial position we now find ourselves. Bart took over the Secretaryship of the Society at a time when we were at our lowest ebb financially and by dint of hard work and good business acumen, built our finances in the nine years he occupied the Senior Administrative post in the Society.

Over the years Bart won many friends, his activities were many and varied, but the Society was perhaps the thing closest to his heart. He was a man of many attainments. He was once a King's Cup Oarsman for South Australia and retained membership of his Club until his death. He reached heights that few ever attain in the Masonic Craft, and put his teachings into everyday use. He was an active Member of the 27th (Scottish) Regiment Association, having earlier been the Quartermaster of that Regiment.

It was typical that he nursed his ailing wife for several years before her death, in addition to his duties with the Society. He seemed to go downhill rapidly after her death, but his sudden death came as a shock even to those of us who knew him intimately. Bart was a man of the utmost integrity with the tenacity of purpose which helps to make a good Executive. He will be sadly missed and difficult to replace and his name will go into our Annals amongst those who did so much to build this Society.

Chas Gardiner

TO HONOUR-- THE-- QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY

We have received an allocation of invitation cards for a Reception to be held at Tower House, Belmont, in honour of the Birthday of Her Majesty the Queen and to celebrate Commonwealth Day. The function is to be held on Thursday 10th June, from 5.30 pm to 7.00 pm and will be graced with the presence of His Excellency, the Governor, Sir Mark Oliphant, K.B.E., and Lady Oliphant. Applications for invitation cards may be made to the Secretary. Cost \$5.00 per person.

BAIRNS EVENING GROUP

Our young dancers started the year in a burst of enthusiasm, commencing with their appearance at the Australia Day Celebrations at Elder Park and following this with performances at Rymill Park and the Royalty Theatre with other Ethnic Groups.

The Group would like to record their appreciation of Miss L. Marshall for her efforts in achieving a finely balanced performance from such a span of age levels. The Council and the parents of the Bairns are quite proud of their efforts and would hope that the standard of dancing can be sustained.

For the record, the Bairns' Evenings began on Friday 26th March with 35 Bairns in attendance. General practice is from 7.30pm to 9.30pm. The more experienced Bairns avail themselves of a further period of practice until 10. pm, this allows them to concentrate on their preparations for future engagements. The Directors of the Group, K. McDonald and J. Tuesner extend an open invitation to anyone with Bairns aspiring to perform Highland Dancing.

ANNUAL PICNIC

The report from Director W. McBey on the Picnic held at Scots Creek on Sunday 28th March is not so enthusiastic. The magnificence of the day and the setting was offset by the dismal attendance. The composition of the party would have conveyed the impression that it was being held for the benefit of Council Members and friends only. None of the ordinary members of the Society seemed to be aware of, or interested in the event. The embarrassingly poor turn-out left the Director ruminating as to whether or no the event had been adequately advertised. This would have accounted for the situation. The Director's view is that a repeat of the lamentable attendance could sound the death knell of this event. He promises that next year's picnic will be well advertised and energetically promoted.

GOOD NEIGHBOUR COUNCIL

Director Jan Tuesner of the Bairns Group put on her other hat and reported on her attendance as our Representative at the Folk Art Committee. She says that it is from these gatherings that requests originate for Ethnic Dance performances. Some times the call is for two or three National Groups to appear at a function. On other occasions a full scale concert is requested, involving all the groups. Our own group has responded to invitations three or four times since late last year and will certainly be active again this year. The next opportunity is at the Folklore Festival weekend July 23rd-24th. This event is being staged in the Festival Theatre complex and our dancers are being relied upon to produce a performance worthy of our reputation.

SOCIAL HAPPENINGS

Director Bramley reports that the 1976 Highland Games Ball held on Saturday 6th March was eminently successful, both socially and financially. The attendance of 300 guests ensured this. The Director wishes to thank everyone who assisted on this occasion. He has outlined a calendar of functions for the coming Social season. The formal Quarterly Meeting of the Society on Friday 28th May will be followed by a Cabaret from 8.30 p.m. onwards. This event has been limited to a capacity booking of 200 tickets. Reservations can be made by 'phoning the Director at 261.7265 any weekday after 6.00 p.m. Tickets are \$1.50 each and a basket supper. A Liquor Licence has been obtained. Other projected dates for Cabarets are 25th June, 23rd July, and 27th August.

BAND NEWS

The Australian Pipe Band Championships have passed and although our Band did not win the Competition, they achieved very high points. They were indeed worthy representatives of the Royal Caledonian Society and congratulations to all concerned for their time and effort.

The Band is now going through a period of intensive training in preparation for the competition circuit at the end of this year and early next year.

The learners classes for pipers and drummers are well under way and many juniors are showing great promise.

Equipment and uniforms are being assessed with respect to upgrading and updating them to keep your Band the best dressed Highland Pipe Band in this State.

C.F. Chatfield - Band Secretary.

FROM OUR PAST

From our Archives, Director Ron Layton has produced an interesting item on the origins of the Society's Badge. The following is an extract from the Annual Report of 1946-47:

"OUR BADGE.

Our Badge which has been designed by the Chief, Andrew Small, has been approved and is now in course of manufacture.

To enlighten our members as to its composition the following particulars will be of interest:

His Majesty the King having given permission to use the Crown in the Badge enables our Society to have incorporated the three traditional emblems of Scotland, namely, the 'Crown, the Sword and the Septre'.

The Sword and the Septre were the two emblems continually used on all occasions up to November 24th, 1331, when the Crown was then first used ceremonially at the Coronation of David 11., of Scotland.

From the year 1331 onwards, the Crown, Sword and Septre have continued as regular 'Honors of Scotland' - hence the oft quoted phrase 'SCOTLAND WI' A' HER HONORS THREE'.

The Badge also embodies the Cross of our Patriot Saint, ST. ANDREW, and the RAMPANT LION."