

Happy Easter



St Andrew's Society of Oakland

3565 Whitehall Court

Pleasanton, CA 94588

ST ANDREW'S ECHOES



St Andrew's Society of Oakland Echoes

March 2008 Issue

Society News

February Business Meeting:

Meetings are held every 2nd Friday of the month at Dick's Restaurant, Alvarado St, San Leandro. All are welcome.
Next meeting: Mar 14th at 8 pm.

Report from the Sick Committee

Jacqueline reported on:

Ernie Shanks – Ernie had received yet another injection in his back, but the procedure has failed once more. He is to see his doctor at Stanford soon.

Ann Sagramoso – Ann is still nursing her foot and although she has gone through many surgeries, she is still in a lot of pain.

Joe Collins – Joe is doing really well.

Ralph and Wanda Paulk – Ralph, aged 92, had some surgery last month and is bearing up.

Karen Harp – Jacqueline spoke to Rosemary who said that Karen is fairing well.

Please keep Jacqueline informed of any illness or of anyone who needs some solace in times of sadness or hard times. Her contact details are at the end of this issue.

The Society has received sad news since the last meeting.

Mark Pierce, active member of the Society for many years, aged 74, passed away on March 1st.

John Bell, husband to Society member Julie Bell and son Michael, was taken from us suddenly on February 18th, aged 43.

Our thoughts and prayers are with both families at this sad time.

Relief Request

The Society received an email from a gentleman called Michael Mitchell, via the Society website, requesting some financial aid. He is a Scotsman living in San Francisco, who is ill and is in a state of hardship financially. He is 69 years of age, but is unable to work due to illness and because of this has received no income for over a year. The Society Officers decided to send a check to the value of \$100 as stated in the byelaws. However, at the meeting in February another \$250 was voted on to send to Michael as well as extra money, which was collected from other members. Since the meeting, Ian Myles, Treasurer, has sent the monies to Michael.

Ian stated that in the absence of a Relief Committee and a President that the by-laws should be worded differently and the first reading of the constitution change is under Unfinished Business.

Unfinished Business

The role of President was once again discussed and Ian Myles stated that he is willing to take over the role of President as long as someone can fill in for the Treasurer's position. He read out his proposal of a change in the by-laws:

Article V – duties of President and Vice-President

Propose new Section (Sec.5) as follows:

In the event no President of the Society be elected by the members of the Society, and as long as the position of the President be vacant, then the duties of the President as described in Section 1 of this Article shall be fulfilled by a Past President chosen by the members at each meeting to preside at such meeting, preserve order, put all questions and announce the decision of the same. If no Past President is present at a meeting then the Vice-President will preside and chair that meeting as described in Section 4 of this article. Further, as long as the position of the President be vacant, any committees which would have been appointed by an elected President can be appointed by a majority of members present at a meeting.

BY-LAWS CHANGE

Article IV – Committees and Their Duties

Propose new Section (Sec.7) as follows with existing Sec.7 to be renumbered as Sec.8.

In the event no President of the Society be elected by the members of the Society, and as long as the position of the President be vacant, any committees covered in this article, not formed and required, can be appointed by a majority of members present at a meeting.

Submitted 2/8/08

Ian Myles

Treasurer, St Andrew's Society of Oakland

The second reading will take place at the next regular meeting.

Entertainment Committee

Kenny reported that the Entertainment Committee met on the 24 January and arrangements for the Burns Supper are well in hand and the dates for upcoming events were chosen.

Picnic – Saturday June 21st. Not sure where it will be held yet, but please keep reading your Echoes for more information.

4 Clubs Ceilidh – Planning is in progress to hold this on the 9th August at the same place as last year; the Alameda Yacht Club.

Banquet – November 22nd at the Hilton Hotel.

Christmas Party – December 7th at oor Nancy's Hoose.

Tribute to Mark Pierce
By Jim Hutchinson

Mark passed away on the 1st March at the age of 74. He was born on 4th April 1933. The Memorial Service will be held on Saturday 15th, March at 11.00 AM, at the First Methodist Church, 2950 Washington Blvd, Fremont. Jim included the newspaper article with his email and I have typed this out for all to read below:

Mark L. Pierce, Sr. of Fremont, entered into rest on March 1, 2008 at the age of 74, surrounded by his loving family. Loving husband of 50 years to Shirley Pierce of Fremont. Beloved father to Monica Spangler and her husband, Scott of Fremont, Laura Fuller and her husband, Jeff of Newark, Mark Pierce Jr. of Pleasanton, and Michael Pierce and his wife, Michelle of Fairfield. Treasured grandfather to Jessica, Scarlett, Scotty, Spenser, Nicole, Julette and Ian. Proud great-grandfather to Logan. Dear brother to Gail Wedding of Laytonville. Also survived by many nieces and nephews, cousins, brothers-in-law, and sisters-in-law. Born April 4, 1933 in Richmond, Mark was employed by State Farm Insurance Companies for 36 years. He was an agent in Fremont for 33 years before retiring in 1995. Mark was a lifetime member of Washington Township Men's Club and St Andrew's Society of Oakland. He served in the Navy on the USS des Moines during the Korean War. That's where he got his wonderlust, and always wanted to "see over the next hill". Mark, Shirley and family would travel all over the United States and Canada during school vacations. He helped coach sons, Mark and Mike, baseball teams for Fremont National Youth Baseball. He also served on the Board of Directors during that time. Mark was a manager with Coach Hugh Kinnear for the Fremont Celtic soccer team. He was instrumental in making sure proper papers were filled out for all tournaments and in raising money for all tournament travel. He also served as Treasurer for the Al Caffodio Soccer League. A memorial service will be held Saturday, March 15, 2008 at 11.00 am at the First United Methodist Church, 2950 Washington Boulevard, Fremont, CA 94539. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations to Pathways Hospice, 7901 Oakport Street, Suite 3500, Oakland, CA 94621, the First United Methodist Church, 2950 Washington Boulevard, Fremont, CA 94539, the American Cancer Society, 1710 Webster Street, Oakland, CA 94612 or to the charity of your choice.

Tribute to John Bell
By Kenny Lawrence, Vice President

It is always sad to lose a friend; doubly so when that friend is taken too soon.

As many of you know, John Bell, devoted husband to Society member Julie and father of 21 years old son Michael, died suddenly on Monday, February 18th. The cause of death is unknown at this time.

John was the young age of 43 and family and friends were all shocked by his untimely death.

A service was held for John at St. Augustine's Church in Pleasanton this past Tuesday, 4th of March. It is a testament to just how well John was loved and respected that so many family, friends and co-workers (past and present) attended to pay their respects.

I first met John in July 1999 when I joined Sun Microsystems (Linlithgow, Scotland) as his manager. He was a Product Engineer with Sun; a true professional who required no managing! John taught me much about the job and soon became a good friend.

In the summer of 2000, John came to California on assignment with Sun (Newark) and set up home with Julie and Michael in Pleasanton.

Anyone who knew John knows that he was a wonderful family man and was regularly to be found at Home Depot on the weekend and busy working on a different home project. He also loved golf and was a fellow golfer in an "Ex-Pats" Golf Club, which he enjoyed immensely for the camaraderie and 'craic' with his friends.

He always enjoyed a good party and was in fine form at our recent Burns Supper, sadly his last night out with Julie.

A memorial service will be held for friends and family in Scotland on Tuesday 11th March at the Howard St. Andrew's Church, 5 Portland Road, Kilmarnock. Refreshments afterwards will be at Kilmarnock FC's stadium, Rugby Park.

Yes, John also loved his football and was a huge 'Killie' fan - sporting the team's name on his car plates - and always delighting when his team took points from the Old Firm!

John was a lovely, helpful guy who always greeted friends with a smile. He will be dearly missed by everybody who knew him.



Happy Birthday to You!

March birthday wishes go to –

Eddie Galley – 1st

John White – 8th

Alan Wigley – 8th

Neil Lundy – 25th

(Apologies to Joe Collins for the typo last month. His birthday was the 22nd February and not the 28th. Hope you had a good day nonetheless, Joe!)

*Happy Birthday and Best Wishes
from the St Andrew's Society of
Oakland*

(Next item is an excerpt from the Rampant Scotland Newsletter)

Next Week in Scottish History



March 9 1566 - David Rizzio, Mary Queen of Scotland's secretary, murdered by Lord Ruthven in the Palace of Holyrood.

March 9 1776 - "Wealth of Nations" by Adam Smith published

March 10 1916 - Birth of James Herriot, author of "All Creatures Great and Small"

March 11 1955 - Sir Alexander Fleming, discoverer of penicillin, died.

March 13 1395 - Death of poet and historian John Barbour, author of "The Bruce" recounting the history of King Robert I.

March 13/15 1941 - Blitz of Clydebank by German Luftwaffe.

March 14 1952 - First television programmes broadcast in Scotland.

March 15 1689 - Sir George Mackenzie of Rosehaugh founded Advocates' Library "equipped with works written by lawyers".

March 16 1309 - King Robert the Bruce convened his first parliament, at St Andrews.

March 16 1995 - Death of Simon Fraser, Lord Lovat, chief of the Fraser clan. He developed the Commando force in the British army and was active in the Dieppe Raid (1942) and the D-Day landings (1944).

March 17 1328 - Treaty of Edinburgh between King Robert I and Edward III which recognised Scotland's independence, ending the 30 years of Wars of Independence.

March 17 1984 - Scotland won Rugby "Grand Slam" at Murrayfield - the first time in 59 years.

March 18 1689 - Earl of Leven raises a Border regiment to hold Edinburgh against the Jacobites. It later becomes the King's Own Scottish Borderers.

March 19 1286 - King Alexander III died after crossing the river Forth to Fife at Queensferry.

March 19 1813 - David Livingstone, missionary and explorer, born Blantyre.

March 20 1141 - King Malcolm IV born.

March 21 1859 - National Gallery of Scotland opened in Edinburgh.

March 22 1727 - Neil Gow, first of a famous family of Fiddle players and composers, born at Inver, near Dunkeld, Perthshire.

March 22 1868 - Last fully public hanging in Scotland - that of Joseph Bell at Perth.

A Wee Bit of Blethers

Mr Robert Burns

The St Andrew's Society Burns Supper was held on the 16th February and a great time was had by all. Unfortunately, I don't have any photographs at this time to put in the Echoes. (Thank goodness I hear you say!)

Billy Edmiston sent in an article, which was in a 100 years old newspaper! The article was about the Unveiling of Burns Monument - February 22, 1908 in the Golden Gate Park, San Francisco. I've typed up a few paragraphs from the article, which reads as follows:

"BURNS' STATUE UNVEILED IN S.F.

Oakland St Andrew's Society Takes Active Interest in Affair"

"Thousands of Scotchmen, with their wives and children, gathered today in Golden Gate Park to celebrate the unveiling of a life-sized statue of the poet Robert Burns, set in a shaded nook and surrounded by evergreens, opposite the Eighth-avenue entrance to the park on the main drive.

Here, accompanied by the music of the bagpipes, Scotch songs were sung, speeches were made and the memory of the man was the embodiment of all that the Scots hold most dear was made green as the award in which the monument itself is set.

Mayor Accepts.

Mayor Taylor accepted the monument on behalf of the city and read verses of his own to express the feelings he had upon the subject. The reading of the verses was preceded by a short speech by the Mayor, in which he said:

"We are met today in honor of Scotland's renowned son, Robert Burns – man whose sympathies were coextensive with life, and who, as a poet, still lives among the stars. Scotland in the eighteenth century was rich to exuberance. In the wealth of her house – she had her historians, her scientists, her philosophers, her poets, her novelists, but the particular one among them at whose name all Scotland thrills is Robert Burns – the sweetest song writer of all time."

The article then went on to report: "Many members of the Oakland St Andrew's Society attended the affair. Robert Howden, president of the Oakland society, took an active interest in the unveiling".

Quotation from Rampant Scotland Website

I'd heard of a man named Burns - supposed to be a poet;
But, if he was, how come I didn't know it?
They told me his work was very, very neat,
So I replied: 'But who did he ever beat?'

The boxing champion Muhammad Ali, on his visit to the Burns Country in 1965.

Ides of March

Can't believe that we are in March already! I've often heard of people talk about the Ides of March and I've used the saying myself, but never actually understood why we use it apart from the fact that I think it means doom and gloom. So, I decided to do a wee bit of research. This is what I came up with:

In the Roman calendar, the term *ides* was used for the 15th day of the months of March, May, July and October, and the 13th day of the other 8 months.

In modern times, the term **Ides of March** (Latin *Idus Martiae*) is best known as the date that Julius Caesar was assassinated, in 44 BC, the story of which was famously retold in William Shakespeare's play *Julius Caesar*. The term has come to be used as a metaphor for impending doom.

Caesar summoned the Senate to meet in the Theatre of Pompey on the Ides of March. A certain seer warned Caesar to be on his guard against a great peril on the day of the month of March which the Romans call the Ides; and when the day had come and Caesar was on his way to the senate-house, he greeted the seer with a jest and said: "The Ides of March has come," and the seer said to him softly: "Yes, the Ides of March has come, but it has not passed."

As the Senate convened, Caesar was attacked and stabbed to death by a group of senators who called themselves the *Liberatores* ("Liberators"); they justified their action on the grounds that they committed tyrannicide and were preserving the Republic from Caesar's alleged monarchical ambitions.

So, the Ides of March is just one of a dozen Ides that occur every month of the year. Kalends, the word from which *calendar* is derived, is another exotic-sounding term with a mundane meaning. *Kalendrium* means account book in Latin: Kalend, the first of the month, was in Roman times as it is now, the date on which bills are due.

Och, trust they Romans to determine when we pay our bills!

References: www.wikipedia.org; www.infoplease.com.

Name that Scot

- ✦ born 19 November 1600
- ✦ born in Dunfermline Palace
- ✦ his father was, King James VI
- ✦ advocated the suppression of Puritanism in favour of a "high" church with richness and ceremony
- ✦ claimed the right to raise money without the authority of Parliament
- ✦ came to Scotland in 1633 to be crowned at Holyrood
- ✦ he was sentenced to death and beheaded on January 30, 1649.

Last month's answer is: **Gordon Ramsay**



Joke time

The following jokes were sent in by Billy Edmiston.

Thanks Billy!

Traditionally Burns Suppers were for men only, so one year the wives of the members decided that if the men can hold their Robert Burns Supper, they could have theirs and named it the Mary Donti Supper. The only way you could be invited to this affair you had to be....."Married on to" a member of the St Andrew's Society of Oakland.

So, Jimmy turns to Alec in the pub and say, "I'm thinking about divorcing the wife – she hasn't spoken to me for the best part of three months."

And Alec says, "Don't be too hasty, mate. Women like that are hard to find."

A nice calm and respectable lady went into her local Boots, walked up to the pharmacist, looked straight into his eyes and said: "I would like to buy some cyanide."

The pharmacist asked: "Why in the world do you need cyanide?"

The lady replied: "I need it to poison my husband."

The pharmacist looked shocked and he exclaimed: "Lord have mercy! I can't give you cyanide to kill your husband. That's against the law. I'll lose my licence. They'll throw both of us in jail. All kinds of bad things will happen. Absolutely not. You CANNOT have any cyanide."

The lady reached into her purse and pulled out a picture of her husband in bed with the pharmacist's wife.

The pharmacist looked at the picture and replied: "Well now, that's different. You didn't tell me you had a prescription....."

A young man from Glasgow met this young girl from Hawick. It was love at first sight and they got married right away. Leaving the Registry Office in a taxi, he said to her, "I'm sorry, but I never asked you what you did before we met." "I was a "Hooker" the girl replied. "Why didn't you tell me this before we got married?" the man said. "I did not think you would be interested in woman's rugby!"

A Wee Quiz

How much Scottish Trivia do you know?

- 1 From the viewer's perspective, in which direction does the lion face on the Lion Rampant?
- 2 Apart from athletics, in which other sport did sprinter Eric Liddell represent Scotland?
- 3 Whose symbol comprises a burning bush and the motto, "And yet it was not consumed"?
- 4 What name is given to a steamed fruit pudding cooked in a cloth?
- 5 Whose silent film comedies featured Scotsman, Eric Campbell, as a bearded and bushy-eyebrowed 'heavy'?
- 6 By what name is the pattern of coloured squares and lines in tartans known?

- 7 How many members of the Broons family are entitled to vote?
- 8 Whose catchphrase was, "In the name of the wee man" – Harry Lauder, Will Fyfe or Tommy Lorne?
- 9 Which triumphant golfing team was captained by Bernard Gallagher in 1995?

- 10 In which area of Glasgow is the novel, No Mean City, mainly set?
- 11 Where would a person be going if they were sent to the 'Bar-L'?



Sports News

Soccer

Rangers defeated Aberdeen 3-1 last Saturday

Rangers remain 4 points ahead of Celtic at the top of the SPL

Celtic are now out of this season's European competition.

Rangers are progressing in the European Cup, the next leg being in Germany on the 13th March.

Rugby

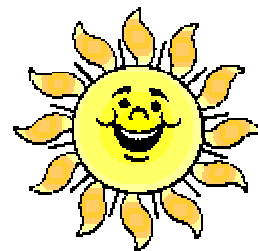
Scotland won the Calcutta Cup against England with a final score of 15-9

Tennis

Scotland's Andy Murray has been in the news again for beating Roger Federer in the first round of the Dubai championships. However, in the last eight he was defeated by Nikolay Davydenko 7-7,6-4.

Ponder This

How can you tell when you've run out of invisible ink?
 Why does your nose run and your feet smell?
 If practice makes perfect, and nobody's perfect, why practice?
 If swimming is so good for your figure, why are whales so fat?



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Calendar of Upcoming Events:

March 15 2008	Caledonian Club Pub Night
June 21 2008	Picnic
Aug 9 2008	Four Clubs Ceilidh
November 22 2008	St Andrew's Society of Oakland Banquet, Hilton Hotel, Pleasanton
December 7 2008	Christmas Party, Oor Nancy's Hoose

Answers to A Wee Quiz:

1 Right to Left; 2 Rugby Union (7 caps); 3 Church of Scotland; 4 Cloutie Dumpling; 5 Charlie Chaplin; 6 The Sett; 7 Seven; 8 Tommy Lorne; 9 European Ryder Cup Team; 10 The Gorbals; 11 Barlinnie Prison



