



# Craigellachie



SPRING 96

IT'S GREAT TO BE A GRANT

VOLUME XVIII - NO 1

## MEMORIAL LETTER HONORS NIGEL GRANT (1928-1995)

Mr. Sydney Grant, retired Covener in Canada, recently sent a newsletter from the Grantown Museum and Heritage Trust in Scotland, thinking that we would be interested in the letter in memory of one of our members who helped the Clan Grant Society revive after it had faded away after World War II. We are grateful for his contribution:

### Nigel Grant (1928-1995).

Through life, we are sometimes lucky enough to meet a person who leaves a lasting impression, not created by any outward show of bravado, but by their quiet integrity, gentleness and consideration for their fellow man. Nigel Grant was such a person.

I got to know Nigel when we first moved to Grantown. We bought his house. Indeed for a number of years afterwards it was still known as "Nigel's house".

Sometimes during a property transaction a person's attitude can belie the public perception of them, but not Nigel. Everything was as he said and more. I always remember the bottle of wine and good luck

card awaiting our arrival, plus the numerous other thoughtful notes left to ease our settling in. Small gestures maybe, but it was the mark of the man.

Over the following years I became aware of all the charity work he did for the community, especially of course for the Museum and Heritage Trust. All of it was carried out in a quiet efficient self effacing manner. The list is legion, yet he continued with it all right to the very end. For all this work and for his very presence, he will be sorely missed.

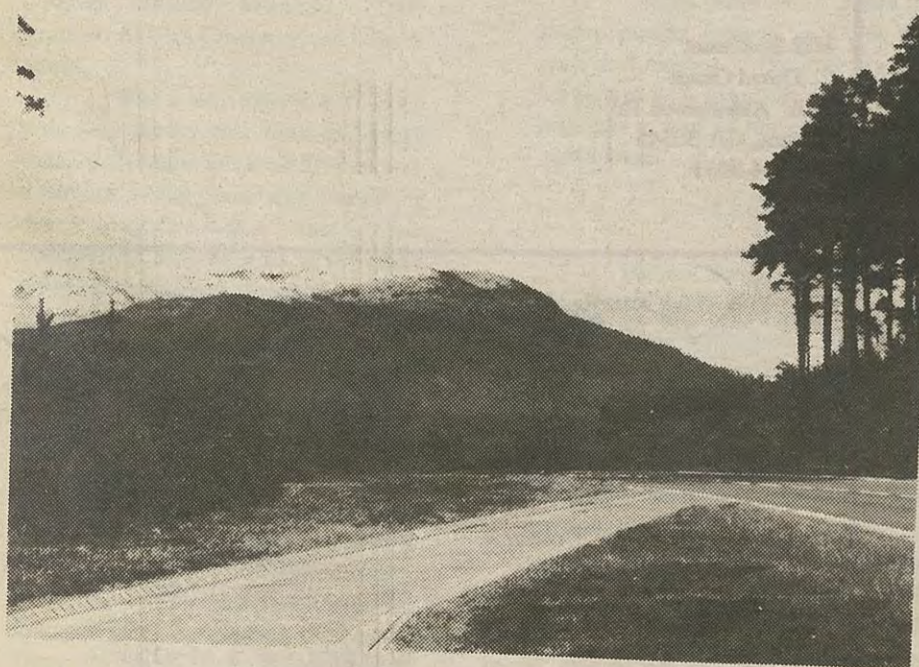
Yet above all this, he had an almost indefinable quality that set him apart. He was a gentleman in the truest sense of the word. We may never see his like again.

Our thoughts are with Sheila and all the family.

Dear Nigel, thank you and goodbye.

Gavin Cullen

This pretty well expresses all of the Society's feelings toward Nigel. It was a real honor having known him.



\*\*\*\*\*  
Photo of Craigellachie - May 1995  
submitted by Dr. Phil Smith  
\*\*\*\*\*

### Grand Opening Fredericton Indoor Tennis Club

Article submitted by Everett Grant

The Fredericton Indoor Tennis Club, now in its tenth season, will have its grand opening Saturday (ed note Oct, 1995) -- a chance to show off its brand new bubble and other improvements.

A tornado in July (95) ripped the original bubble apart and destroyed it. Fortunately, it was

completely covered by insurance so a new bubble, worth \$130,000, was put up two weeks ago.

The work was overseen by Ian Farley, the manufacturer from Guelph, Ont. As well, new lights were installed and flooring repaired.

Total cost of the bubble lights surface and foundation repair is approximately \$220,000.

"The new bubble is a noticeable improvement," said club manager Susan Rouse.

(For those not familiar with Everett, he is very involved with lawn bowling and the bubble is where they practice.)

**SUMMER DEADLINE**  
**APRIL 23, 1996**

**Craigellachie**

Published in February, May, August and November by the Clan Grant Society

**Convenor**  
George H. Grant  
301 Masters Rd.  
Hixson, TN 37343  
800-445-2185

**Treasurer**  
Elizabeth B. Riggs  
14994 Dufief Dr.  
No. Potomac, MD 20878  
301-424-8926

**Secretary**  
Shirley G. Smith  
372 Churchtown Rd.  
Narvon, Pa 17555  
717-768-3714

**Sustaining Secretary**  
Marianna G. Hansom  
12085 North 68 Lane  
Peoria, AZ 85345  
602-878-8809

**Genealogist**  
Beryl Grant  
1063 Leesome Lane  
Altamont, NY 12009-0004  
518-861-8520

**Publications**  
Mrs. Anne Grant Knapp  
4177 Circle Ct.  
Williamsville, NY 14221  
716-633-6066

**Games Co-ordinator**  
Ronald J. Grant  
809 Jackson St.  
Roanoke Rapids, NC 27870  
919-537-9018

**Historian**  
James H. Grant  
1257 9th St.  
Hickory, NC 28601  
704-322-2659

**Duthil Chairman**  
Edward A. Grant  
4355 Chatsworth St. No.  
Shoreview, MN 55126  
612-635-5580

**Editor**  
Helen McIlroy Furr  
3125 Zion Church Rd.  
Concord, NC 28025  
704-782-5613

*This and That*

**Helen Furr**  
Whew! Guess everyone has noticed a few things missing this issue. Rest assured that George and Beryl will be back next issue.

This is the renewal issue. Please send in your renewal to Shirley as soon as possible.

Please make a note that the publication dates have been changed to February, May, August, November. This will hopefully get the newsletter off the holiday and vacation schedule and will make getting it put together a little easier for me. It seems that when the newsletter needs to be done, I have a holiday to get ready for too. Not a good thing at my house. It throws everything off and nothing gets done.

I have a new grandson, Dillon James Furr born February 27. I had four grandchildren at my house that week. Nice but very tiring. Two went to school, but two were home all day. Grandma loves them, but.....!

I hope to see some of you at Loch Norman Highland Games. If not there than maybe at Grandfather Mountain Games. I only wish I could go to more of them. I really do enjoy all the activities and music.

Until next issue,  
**STAND FAST**

**Clan Grant Commissioners**

**Western**  
Eugene G. Grant  
1250 Crestmont Drive  
Angwin, CA 94508  
707-965-2405

**Upper Midwest**  
Edward A. Grant  
4355 Chatsworth St. No.  
Shoreview, MN 55126  
612 635-5580

**New York**  
Harold C. Grant  
1063 Leesome Ln.  
Altamont, NY 12009-0004  
518-861-8520

**Atlantic**  
Howard T. Parsons, Jr.  
1414 Carrsbrook Dr.  
Charlottesville, VA 22901  
804-973-5409

**Florida**  
Edmond M. Grant  
12 South Rd. Ocean Reef  
Key Largo, FL 33037  
305-367-2515

**Northern California**  
James T. Suttie  
6558 Kaneko Drive  
San Jose, CA 95119  
408-225-3305

**Southern California**  
Bryan Pratt  
7415 Faust Ave.  
Canoga Park, CA 91307  
818-703-0341

**Hawaii**  
Robert B. Grant  
60 Aalapapa Place  
Kailua, HI 96734  
808-261-2653

**Mid Southeast**  
C. David Grant  
1842 Alderbrook Rd.  
Atlanta, GA 30345  
404-634-9051

**Northwest**  
Wayne R. Grant  
30478 Butte Creek Rd.  
Lebanon, OR 97355-9234  
503-451-3815

**Washington State**  
John W. Grant  
HC 76 Box 2491  
Garden Valley, ID 83622  
208-462-3024

**Ozarks**  
Stephen E. Grant  
4731 S. Clifton Ct.  
Springfield, MO 65810  
417-886-5868

**High Plains**  
John A. Grant, III  
307 Valley View  
Derby, KS 67037  
316-788-0420

**Northeast**  
Callum D. S. Grant  
Rt 3, PO Box 94  
Lincoln, NH 03251  
603-745-3958

**Deputy Commissioners**

MD, VA, DC  
Allan F. Grant  
651 "C" Street  
Pasadena, MD 21122-4924

Western NY  
James M. Grant  
57 Watertree Dr.  
East Syracuse, NY 13057

Lysle E. Grant  
36 Tuttle Lane  
Dover, NH 03820-4917

**PERIODICALS**

One of the many benefits of belonging to the Society is the reduced price subscription to the Highlander and the Scottish Banner. To subscribe fill out form and check the publications you desire.

The subscription dates are from October 1 - September 30. Please be prompt in subscribing.

**SCOTTISH BANNER**

\$18.50 per year

**HIGHLANDER**

\$12.00 per year

Name

Address

City State Zip

Telephone

Please make out check to Clan Grant Society and mail to:

Anne Grant Knapp  
4177 Circle Court  
Williamsville, NY 14221

**NEW MEMBERS**

1. DEATON, Mr. Grant  
701 White Oak Road  
Mooresville, NC 28115
2. GRANT, Jr., Mr. Donald R.  
551 Oakland Ave., #4  
Atlanta, GA 30312
3. GRANT, Mr. & Mrs. James  
Garron  
1510 W. Sea Haze Drive  
Gilbert, AZ 85234
4. GRANT, Mr. & Mrs. James V.  
1222 Victoria Circle  
Norwalk, IA 50211
5. MARKS, Mr. Joshua Grant  
3 Merriam Place  
Bronxville, NY 10708
6. WALKER, Cdr. & Mrs. Paul D.  
6000 Schofield Drive,  
Pensacola, FL 32506

**NOTES FROM SHIRLEY**

**FLOWERS OF THE FOREST:** Mr. Ludovic Grant-Alexander died last November. He taught architecture at the Citadel in Charleston, SC and served as Pipe Major of the Citadel Pipe Band. He also gave private lessons and had a small shop specializing in piping and drumming supplies. A member of Clan Grant, he and his wife, Margaret, spent a week with the group and helped us put together a Clan Grant Bagpipe Band! He gave freely of his time and we will miss them. (Margaret died in the Spring of '95).

\*\*\*\*\*

Word received from several persons (see news article printed elsewhere) informs us that Nigel Grant, former owner of the Seaford Lodge Hotel in Grantown passed away in late December. We offer condolences to his wife, Sheila, and their children, Stewart, Susan and Sally.

Nigel's hospitality to the Clan Grant Society will be remembered by all who have traveled on the earlier "Grant" tours. On our second trip, he hosted a reception and dinner in connection with the Grantown historical society's exhibit of paintings and news articles on well-known Grants in the area. This helped us get acquainted with Grant history and was much appreciated.

\*\*\*\*\*

**AND HAPPIER NEWS:** A note from Sir Patrick Grant of Dalvey, Bt., LLB states that they would love to see many more Americans and Canadians at the Abernethy Games held at Nethey Bridge in Scotland every August. The Games are followed the next day by the AGM (Annual General Meeting). All members of Clan Grant are welcome to attend!

We would urge you to plan your trip during this time--everyone there in Scotland are most helpful and it lets them make plans with visitors in mind. August is a good time to visit Scotland and there are a lot of activities going on throughout the country in the summer.

Remember, our hosts lead busy lives, too, and when we go over, a few at a time, throughout the year, we disrupt their schedules (although they are too polite to say so!). This is especially true now that we have grown in membership! Imagine having company (and unknown to you at that!) dropping in to see you (often unexpectedly) throughout the year! Once the hospitality centre/museum is permanently manned, of course, you will be welcomed to drop by any month during the established hours!

\*\*\*\*\*

Commissioner Ed Grant (MN) is serious when he writes that his postage expenses mostly go to his son and "Yours Truly"! A letter to him came back--his comments written in "school teacher's red!"

\*\*\*\*\*

Several great persons are lined up for "Another Great Grant" column but the problem is that we've not had time to write them up! Hope to get "back to it" soon

Thanks for your patience!

\*\*\*\*\*

Nancy Brown, a new member living in Connecticut, returned from Grantown recently. She visited Lady Pauline's newly opened restaurant and gift shop and can recommend it to all! Friends (and Grants, of course) took her to the old Grantown cemetery. (Nancy's mother's family came to the U.S. in 1774. Hannah Mariah Grant Pilling is a descendent from Vermont.) She is also happy to report that the Duthil cemetery is in good shape and the Clan sign is quite impressive!

\*\*\*\*\*

James Owen states that he visited Grant's tomb recently and is happy to report that the exterior is washed clean and a new roof laid! A new stone esplanade and tree pruning are planned for the centennial ceremony this Spring, according to the Park Service Guide.

The person that showed him around did not know that the General was a clans-man nor that "we" are still around! Now he understands why the young boy in a family portrait (lithograph) is decked out in philabeg and a kilt! (James wonders if it is a Grant tartan so upon asking our tartan experts they replied, "Not sure!")

James notes that, "There is a sentry posted dressed in Civil War garb and musket." Because some of his personal pictures did not turn out, he drew a map of the interior of the mausoleum.

\*\*\*\*\*

Michael Bongertz (FL) located some Bissets and tried to talk them into going to the Orlando games with him. He planned to wear his kilt to work the day before the games--thinking that if he can wear his Lederhosen prior to the Ocktoberfest (the other side of his heritage) he could surely pull it off for the Scottish side!

After a few frantic phone calls we discovered that Grants had not signed up for the Orlando games but we had Jean Grant Wilson (working on the Jacksonville games and planning to visit the Orlando ones) get in touch with Michael and they met! We really

need someone helping out at those games! Michael will be glad to assist! Any volunteers for next year?

\*\*\*\*\*

Corrine and Dale Garrison finally sold their home in Gettysburg, PA, moved to a rental in Florida, then purchased an older home and moved once again--in time for Christmas! (People like this keep the Secretary busy updating addresses!)

Corri underwent surgery at the end of December. A few complications arose but she is recovering slowly.

\*\*\*\*\*

Thanks to all who have written, phoned, stopped by or whatever concerning Phil! The "good" news is that he had the rod taken out of his leg on Dec. 6th (from an earlier auto accident in Scotland) successfully! The Doctor said it was easier than they originally thought it would be (he'd broken all 4 screws holding it in place!). The "bad" news is that he had a stroke as he was leaving the hospital! The "good" news: prompt action saved him from serious consequences and he is recovering from both incidents very well! Our son, Ed, and daughter-in-law, Sarah, and children helped us over the hurdles!

We left for Florida to help out the Garrisons on Xmas day (great day to travel--no people!); then to Calif. unexpectedly for an aunt's funeral and Mom's cataract surgery arriving back in time to have missed all the record breaking snows, freezing rains, etc. Are we spoiled!

\*\*\*\*\*

Our Commissioner out in Kansas, John Grant, writes that his wife, Helen, had her final hip joint replacement and experienced a marvelous recovery. He feels that as soon as she realized she was one inch taller and both legs of equal length, none could hold her back!

He mentions running into the Wallace Strongs--and hopes to have their son help out at the Arlington Games next year! Bob Pullings of New Mexico plans to assist there, too! John has worked hard for the Society and we will soon have a good strong hold in the Mid-West! We appreciate his efforts, as we do all of our Commissioners! A lot of hard work on their part but that's what keeps us growing!

\*\*\*\*\*

A quick phone call to Beryl Grant tells us that she is well on her way to recovery after two serious operations! She is resuming her

genealogy work--so her piles of mail will soon be answered! We are grateful for all of this good news!

\*\*\*\*\*

Treasurer Betsy Riggs reports that between work, church and Grant activities she feels "overwhelmed!" (a familiar feeling!)

\*\*\*\*\*

Greetings from Jean Wilson and Doris Folejewski!

\*\*\*\*\*

Also a note from Carl and Diane Grant in California stating that their family reunion hosted a tug-of-war, adaptations of the caber and haggis toss (not together!), and relays with Scottish themes! They used numbers to mix people up since many did not know each other. Diane notes that they gave out humorous prizes with Scottish motifs!

The reunion, located just outside Vancouver, British Columbia, drew members from California, Texas and Kentucky! It had been 9 years since the last reunion--and 92 attended the banquet!

\*\*\*\*\*

Marianna Hancin plans to go to Europe this October! She has a friend in Germany and they will visit Switzerland, Austria and Slovakia! (And if things go as scheduled I will have met Marianna at the Mesa, AZ Games in February. We enjoyed finally "seeing faces instead of names" last year!)

\*\*\*\*\*

Tom's River, New Jersey is the new home of Henry and Mary Grant. They manned the Old Westbury Games tent for several years. He writes, "Our apartment-sized mailbox is too small for "Craigellachie" and so had to get a P.O. Box and number!"

\*\*\*\*\*

**UPDATE:** After a flurry of phone calls, Jean Wilson and Michael Bongertz got together at the Dunedin games and had a Clan Grant tent! So, all you Floridians, keep these games in mind for next year! It's a lot of fun--you might even find a relative or two and they'd love to have you join them!

Jean has been working on the games in Jacksonville and we hope it was successful! Michael sent pictures of their work at Dunedin (see article elsewhere) together. Thanks to these two for keeping our recruiting going strong!

\*\*\*\*\*

## GAMES AND THINGS!

The Scottish American Society of South Florida announces their games in Hialeah Park and Race Course on Saturday, March 2nd. Advance tickets are available by writing: P.O. Box 633, Miami Shores, FL 33153.

Georgia's second annual "Highland Games and Scottish Festival" in Culloden celebrates the 250th anniversary of the Battle of Culloden on April 12-14 of this year. Representatives of all the clans who fought for Bonnie Prince Charlie at the battle will be recognized on this special occasion. (Note: The Grants were generally loyal to the King except for the Glenmoriston Grants! Bonnie Prince Charlie hid in a cave on their land--so--we'll acknowledge invitations from either side!). If interested in these games, write to P.O. Box 109, Culloden, GA 31016. (And if you are going, let us know and we'll put you to work!)

April 19-21, 1996 is the date for the Loch Norman Highland Games and Rural Hill Sheep Dog Trials, sponsored by the Catawba Valley Scottish Society. In their announcement they state that, "The Meckleburg County Commission has done the worst thing that they thought they could possibly do to us! They gave us what we asked for. . . a 20-year lease on Rural Hill located in the Catawba River Valley Historic Corridor! . . ."

Last Fall, 55 Border collies from five states and Canada competed in the Society's first trials. This Spring a one-day golf tournament is planned (March 30th).

Rural Hill is near Charlotte, NC and lies between Highways 73, 16 and Interstates 85 and 77. Mailing address for information is P.O. Box 1009, Huntersville, NC 28078-1009.

May 17-19 are the dates for the 1996 Gatlinburg Scottish Festival and Games at Mills Park in Gatlinburg, TN. A "Mountain Stroll" on Friday morning and a parade that evening are on the agenda. After the parade, Colin Grant Adams, Margaret Gravitt and the Scottish duet of Ralph and Roy highlight a free evening ceilidh. Saturday and Sunday events include a Scottish heritage seminar (Mr. Jerry Finnegan on the history of bagpipes, along with his collection of antique pipes); an all-day ceilidh & dancing, professional and amateur athletics, Highland dance competition, and plenty of events are planned for the kids! A piping concert Saturday evening features Michael Cuzak and both evenings feature live music accompanying the dancing. Contact Dr. Houston Lowry (423) 442-5297 for additional information.

"Heart of Tennessee Scottish Celebration" is the new name for the former "Nashville" Highland Games, June 7-9. The new location is on the grounds of the Middle Tennessee State University at Murfreesboro (Nashville metropolitan area).

Plans are to keep the costs as low as possible and to work on awards for Clan participation. A reception, dinner and country dance is set for Friday night followed by traditional events on Saturday. A "Kirking of the Tartan" highlights Sunday's activities. For further information write to the games, c/o P.O. Box 2053, Murfreesboro, TN 37133-2053.

Last game notice is the Sebring, Florida games, September 28, 1996. This is sponsored by the Vietnam Era Veterans of the Heartland. Mailing address for information is 3303 Lakewood Road, Sebring, FL 33872.

\*Please note: we do not have representatives at these games at the moment. If you are interested in attending, please contact our Games Coordinator, Mr. Ronald Grant--something can be worked out! Often tent representatives get admission tickets and/or parking tickets along with our tent rental space.

Advertisements come in weekly from various vendors and although we do not carry advertising in the newsletter, occasionally we receive notices that are unique in the articles being sold.

One such is from a Taxidermist who now offers fur and leather fabrications, including day and evening sporrans. The day sporrans have a fur front and flap, and the back is leather, dyed to compliment the fur. The animal mask sporan for evening wear has a mounted head on the flap and the front is of the same fur.

A variety of North American furs are in stock and customizing services are available. If interested, contact S. C. Helin, 3406 Loon Lake Court, Waterford, MI 48329. Phone: (810) 674-3008.

Another one our readers might like to know about is jewelry firm by the name of Walker Metalsmiths, P.O. Box 76, Andover, NY 14806-0706. (Home location is One Main Street). Mr. Stephen Walker, of Scottish descent, is a silversmith and has been interested in Celtic traditions for a number of years. There are 6 other craftsmen working with the firm, some of the members being native Scots and still working today in Scotland. A catalogue is available--you may call 1-800-488-6347.

**ODDS AND ENDS:** Glee mentions that she went to the Celtic Festival in Bethlehem and found no Grant tent! (Sorry--we just can't get to all of them--glad you enjoyed the events, anyway!)

\*\*\*\*\*

The Grantown Museum and Heritage Trust is holding a "The 'Not the Burns' Supper" in honor of Burns. (Think about it--it takes awhile! \*Hint: he was not a Highlander.)

\*\*\*\*\*

Remember the tale of the license plate that came out "Clang" instead of "Clan-G"? Now we get "free" address labels that read, "Mrs. Shirley Grr Smith"! Guess they can be used for "down" days!

\*\*\*\*\*

Hank, Linda and daughter, Betsy, made their annual "pilgrimage to England and Scotland last winter! Hank's been writing about the "Grants of Blairfindy."

They had planned to visit James Scarlett but ended up snowbound in Grantown on Christmas Day! (They did get to see Nigel Grant before his sudden death.)

\*\*\*\*\*

The plans for our museum and clan centre at Duthil Kirk have passed the first hurdle in a series of steps to be taken before the project becomes reality. The Divisional

Planning Committee has okayed the outline of the project. Next comes the application for "Listed Building Consent." (This is similar to our "Historical Register" for buildings where the building must be kept as originally built but permission must be granted making any changes in its use. (In this case, a parking area, picnic and toilet facilities must be approved next).

\*\*\*\*\*

Linda Grant (MN), Glee Krapf (PA), and Wolf-Dieter Klose (AZ) are among our first renewals for the '96-'97 year! If you don't have your dues in yet, remember, the deadline is the end of March!

\*\*\*\*\*

A shaving mug with a detailed picture and reading, "Grant Iron Works, Mahanoy City, Penn." recently sold for \$3,300.00 according to Kovel's, an antique dealer's newsletter. This reminds me of a small, oblong plate that read, "McCurdy Hotel" that we found at an auction and which we promptly gave to my cousin because he is a McCurdy and has a lot of company! The hotel was located in New York.

It would be wonderful if some of our members should know the history behind these two items! Any takers?

### SUMMER DEADLINE APRIL 23, 1996

#### GRANT ITEMS FOR SALE

Make checks payable to Clan Grant mail to:

**George H. Grant**  
301 Masters Road  
Hixson, TN 37343

#### BOOKS

**TRADITIONS of SCOTLAND**  
by Gilbert Summers  
\$25.00

**A HISTORY of CLAN GRANT**  
by 32nd Lord Strathspey  
\$30.00

#### THIS & THAT

12 oz Clan Grant Glasses  
etched w/crest & badge  
Set of 6 \$35.00

Clan Knit Shirts (made in USA)  
Specify S-M-L-XL  
Teal Blue w/gold badge \$17.50

Clan Badge Rubber Stamp  
\$10.00

McIan Color Print-Grant Gillie  
\$10.00

Please add \$2.00 each order and give street address for UPS shipment.  
Clan Society only sells items that are Clan Related.

### 19TH ORLANDO SCOTTISH GAMES BIG SUCCESS!

Fifteen Grants signed in at the Orlando, FL games on January 20th, in spite of the cool weather that pervaded the state earlier! Michael Bongerz and Jean Wilson coordinated their efforts and came up with success--proving once again "It's Great to be a Grant!"

In addition to the usual events, these games had re-enactments, a Scottish craft village, a British Car Exhibit, a Haggis Hurl, a Shortbread Contest and a British Dog Breeds exhibit. Eric Duncan and Donald and Marybeth McCallum performed as entertainers for the games.

Those signing in included: Milton Camp, Patricia Kiskis, Guy & Pat Pickett, Ed and Margaret Thomson, Burt & Cathy McIlroy, Martin Grant, Cathy Oberwitis, William Cunningham, Mary Grant, Fred & Leta Muir, Anne Burleson, James W. Green, Jack & Patty Grant, Roland Campbell., and Geraldine

Austin.

George Grant did not get away with not attending these games, however, as both John Olin and Bob McPherson noted his absence and left notes for him!

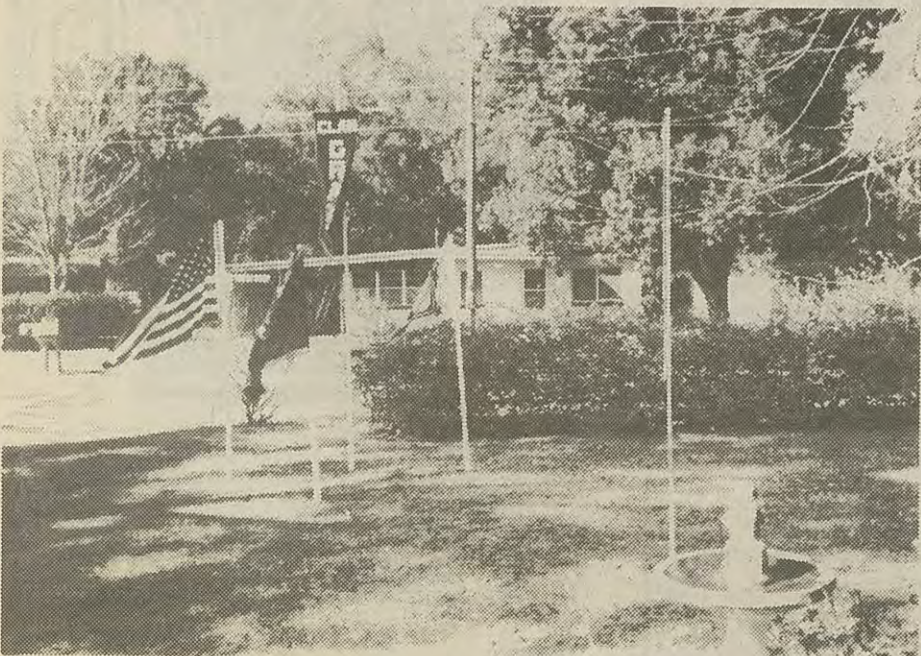
(His shoulders are broad).

Previous to the games, the Orlando Sentinel (Friday, Jan. 19th edition) wrote an article on our newest Florida member, Michael Bongerz! In Don Boyett's column, he begins, "Neither snow, nor sleet, nor whistles, nor ..." Letter carrier Mike Bongerz got cat calls, whistles, toots and yoo hoos as he faithfully made his appointed rounds Thursday. Two carloads of out-of-town visitors even stopped to take his picture!"

The article goes on to say that he had permission from the Postmaster to wear his kilt delivering his mail prior to and in honor of the Orlando games! Michael became interested in the games several years ago after delving into his genealogy. His German ancestry also led him to discover a great-grandmother--a Grant--whetting his appetite for things Scottish!



Top right: Michael Bongerz  
Center: Wide angle of Orlando Games  
Bottom: Flag array in Michael's yard and Jene Wilson and Michael Bongerz



FRAOCH - Heather Ale

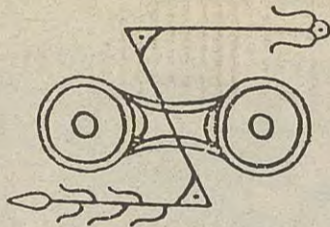


Heather ale is undoubtedly Scotland's oldest brewing heritage. The brew is made by first mashing Scot's ale malt, boiling the wort with flowering heather tips, then covering the surface with fresh heather flowers leaving it to cool and ferment for twelve days until the heather blackens. In the 17th century it was drunk straight from the cran (barrel) with the tap hole one quarter of the way up.

The brewing of heather ale pre dates history, an archaeological dig on the Scottish Isle of Rhum discovered a Neolithic shard, circa 2000 b.c., in which were found traces of a fermented beverage containing heather. Much later, circa 100 b.c., the definitive Europeans, i.e. the Celts, were known to produce an intoxicating decoction from heather flowers and honey, but the most powerful heritage for heather ale is during the time when Scotland was PICTLAND.

THE PICTS circa 100 b.c. to 800 a.d.

The famous navigator Pytheas noted that the Picts were accomplished brewers, the Scottish dictionary quotes "The Picts brewed some awful grand drink they ca't heather ale out of heather and some unknown kind of fogg". The Kings' of Pictland fought off many invasions from Europeans, Anglo Saxon's and Ireland, they even turned the mighty Roman Empire, they became known as a ferocious race with a secret magical potion called heather ale. One legend still told today is recorded by Neil Munro, Sir Herbert Maxwell and is the subject of a poem by Robert Louis Stevenson, the three accounts differ only in detail.



HEATHER ALE

Extracts from the poem by ROBERT LOUIS STEVENSON

One hundred years after his death, his words tell of the Pictish legend, when it was more alive than it is today:-

From the bonny bells of heather, They brewed a drink long-syne  
Was sweeter far than honey, Was stronger far than wine  
They brewed it and they drank it, And lay in blessed swound  
For days and days together, In their dwellings underground

There rose a king in Scotland, A fell man to his foes  
He smote the Picts in battle, He hunted them like roes.

Summer came in the country, Red was the heather bell;  
But the manner of the brewing, Was none alive to tell

The King rode and was angry, Black was his brow and pale  
To rule in a land of heather, and lack the heather ale

Down by the shore he had them, And there on the giddy brink -  
"I will give you life, ye vermin, for the secret of the drink."



In 400 a.d. an Irish King invaded Dalriada, south west Scotland and began to wipe out the local Picts. In his frenzy to win the battle he was thought to have killed them all before remembering the Heather ale. He sent out his army to find survivors and they returned with a Pictish Chief and his son, the Irish King was going to torture them to gain the secret of the Heather ale when the Chief agreed to tell the secret if they would kill his son quickly. Once his son was dead the old chief took the Irish king up to a crop of heather by a cliff face and according to Robert Louis Stevenson said "But now in vain is the torture, fire shall never avail, here dies in my bosom, the secret of the heather ale". He threw himself at the king and they both fell to their death over the cliff.

Although this legend is based on fact the Picts were not totally wiped out, they were cleared from the Dalriadic area and the custom of brewing heather ale continued, particularly in the highlands.

By the 12th century the Pict and Dalriadic lands had united to become Scotland, "Alba" to the Gaels and heather ale became the common drink of the Clans. One ceilidh legend often told is of a cold winter inside a cave in the Highlands where a Gaelic Clan were gathered. They sat around a pot of heather ale warming over the fire, telling stories, singing and drinking. Meanwhile... the steam from the heather ale was condensing against the roof and dripping straight into a bowl on the ground. The clansmen drank from the bowl and experienced sensations of euphoria, warmth and coolness they had never known. "Uisge-beatha!" they exclaimed (water of life) had been discovered that night, its name was soon shortened to "Uisge", uis-ge, which was bastardised by the English language to "Whisky".

18th century Scotland was at its darkest, after the massacre at Glencoe and fifty years of fighting the British empire Bonnie Prince Charlie's 1745 rebellion was defeated by overwhelming odds and Scotland lost its independence. To prevent any fur



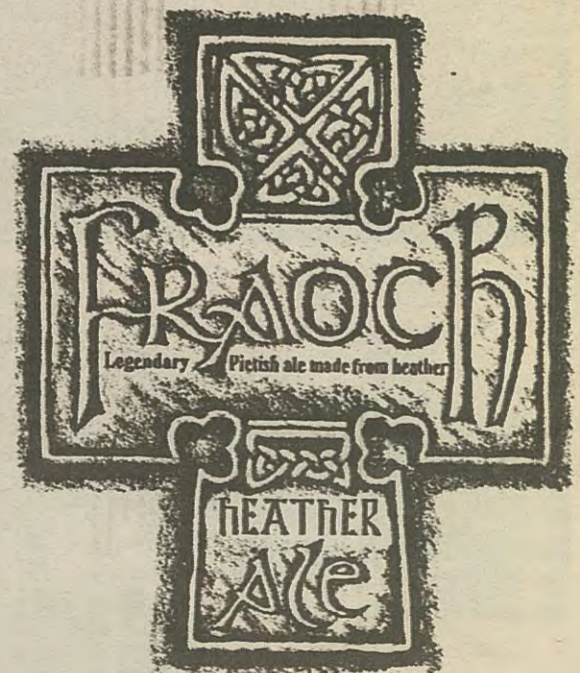
ther uprising the British government tried to destroy the entire Clan system by banning the wearing of tartan or any traditional Highland clothing, the carrying of arms, outlawing the Gaelic language and generally repressing Highland communities. This and the Highland clearances resulted in the loss of many crafts and skills in fact a whole cultural way of life was under threat. Heather ale was soon reduced to legend, legislation prevented the use of anything but hops, malt and water in the brewing of ale. This "ethnic cleansing" by the British caused thousands of Scots to be transported to the West Indies, New Zealand, Maryland or South Carolina, this in turn created a mass exodus, Scottish society began to emigrate and follow their clans.

The 20th century saw the recognition of Scots Whisky as the definitive distillate, and Scot's Ale was being shipped to destinations all over the world. Heather ale is known to have been produced, perhaps in defiance, in the remote highland and islands from ancient Gaelic recipes which were recited by clan ale wives to their descendants.

In Glasgow in 1986 a Gaelic speaking Islander translated one such recipe to Bruce Williams who tried and tried again before successfully reviving the Leann Fraoch. He began brewing the ale in July 1993 at the small West highland brewery in Argyll and selected three pubs in Edinburgh and three in Glasgow to sell the naturally conditioned cask ale, the publicity was good and it took off. The six pubs chosen were ordering more than the capacity of the plant and by September he was renting the Thistle brewery in Alloa. By November the heather flowers were gone and only one batch of eighteen thousand 50cl bottles was produced which sold within ten weeks, Fraoch heather ale became a cult product within the year.



Imported by:  
**Legends Ltd**  
14833 NE 20th Avenue  
N. Miami, FL 33181  
(305) 919-7484 (800) OLD ALE-1



"Life is dear to the aged, and honour a little thing  
I would gladly sell the secret, Quoth the Pict to the King  
"For life is a little matter, And death is nought to the young  
And I dare not sell my honour, Under the eye of my son

They took the son and bound him, and flung him far and strong  
And the sea swallowed his body, like that of a child of ten  
And there on the cliff stood the father, Last of the dwarfish men

"True was the word I told you, Only my son I feared  
For I doubt the sapling courage, That goes without the beard  
But now in vain is the torture, Fire shall never avail  
Here dies in my bosom, The secret of the heather ale..."

heather ale

**SOCIETY MEMBERS VISIT SCOTLAND**

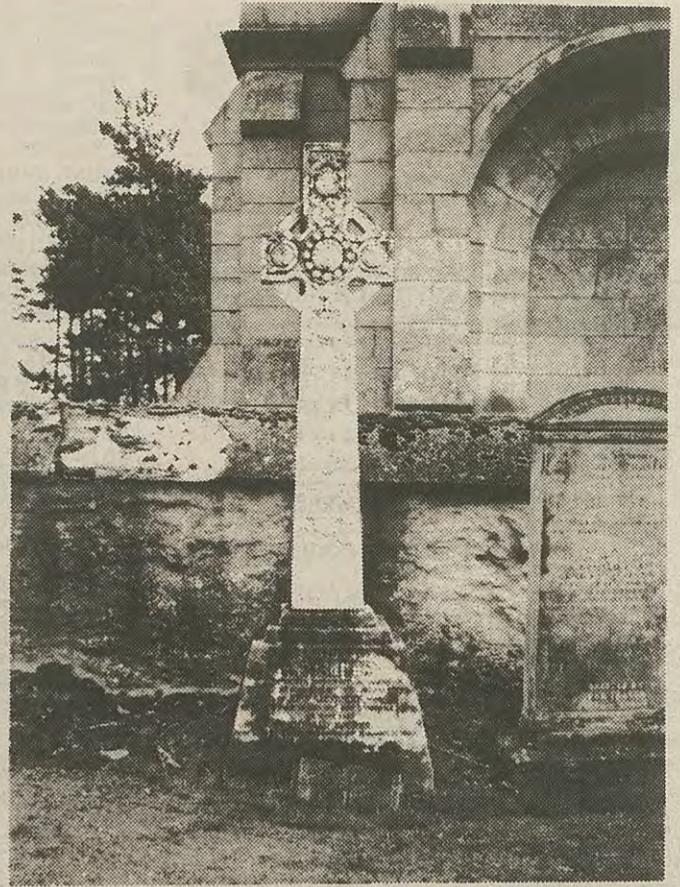
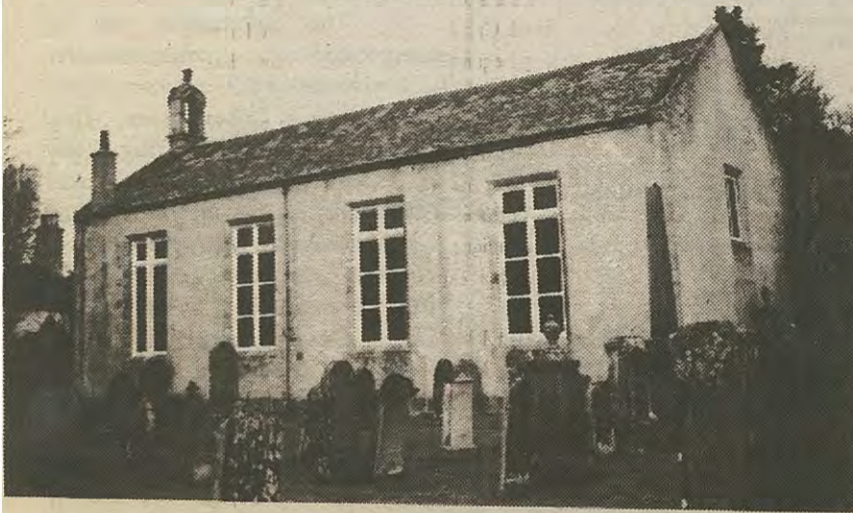
Carol Riley, her brother, Bob (Our Commissioner in Hawaii) and his wife, Shirley, visited Scotland last year on a vacation trip. Carol writes about their journey and offers to answers any questions that our readers might have.

First they visited the library in Elgin, a house once belonging to the Grants. At that time the local people said that the castle was undergoing renovations and will be the residence of the new owner who promised to get it up to touring standards.

The trio stayed in two self-catering homes. The first week across the River Clyde in Old Kirkpatrick in a charming stone farmhouse, complete with sheep at the front door. The second week they stayed in Aviemore and, "Every day we were in the Highlands doing interesting things. Self-catering certainly beats bed and breakfast accommodations. They were reasonable, comfortable and gave us a place from which we could travel out each day," states Carol.

She continues, "It was snowing when we landed in Glasgow...Bob and Shirley direct from Honolulu, and I came direct from Orlando! We arrived within minutes of each other and had to scramble to get warm clothes on. The snow stayed several days...but those daffodils and lilacs don't know it is cold! What a remarkable land. The people take such good care of the environment and their homes."

"Coming from New England, we found it much like traveling in the Berkshire hills and through villages...even the weather held true"



Clockwise from top right: Celtic cross- Duthill, Grave yard-Duthill, Castle Grant road access, Castle front, Side view-pasture land and tenant farm, Back of church-Duthill, Duthill church ( manse, rear right is Bed & Breakfast)



