



Craigellachie



SUMMER 1998

IT'S GREAT TO BE A GRANT

VOLUME XX¹- NO. 2

GRANTS GATHER AT GRANDFATHER

Once again we'll get together at the largest & oldest Highland Games in the Eastern United States.

We'll have, as usual two tents, one on the front row for watching the games, eating and socializing. Tent two on the back row for greeting cousins not yet joined with us and encouraging them to become part of their extended family.

We have condos for the week, so most of us will arrive early for golf, antique and bargain shopping. Great seafood restaurant near entrance to Sugar Mountain Resort, where we stay. Shirley Smith loves the place. They have a special, "All the Shrimp you can Eat". Three years ago the manager came out to see who was eating the fourth platter, now she must go in disguise.

A picnic will be held at McRae Meadow, (site of the games) Thursday evening for the gathering of the Clans. Howard Parsons will represent us. Friday we have a party at our condo in Snow Lake for all the Grants.

Saturday after the games we will go to The Matthews home in Linville for our traditional Clan Grant party. This year we will have a Celidh, ("Irish Wake") to celebrate Bill Matthews life with his family. Please come and be with us.

At Sundays Church service, "Flowers of the Forest" will be played for Ronald J. Grant, Sr. and William Lee Matthew. If at all possible come to the field by 10:00AM to participate.

The George Grant's will arrive Monday July 6th @ Snow Lake D25 704-898-4960. We may be playing golf so keep trying.

p.s.-- George hopes to be playing golf by then = he broke three ribs and punctured his lung in April doing his duty in Tallahassee during Spring Break!

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PIPE DREAMS

More than two dozen people sign up to perform bagpipe music, described as 'an out-of-this-world sound'

By ANNE CLARK
The Daily Inter Lake

If the skirl of a bagpipe gets your blood going or stands your neck hairs on end, you're a brother, says Jim Fitzgerald of Kalispell.

Proving the brotherhood of those who are passionately attracted to this evocative music, just a rumor on the wind brought not only the Irish, but Scots, Norwegians and people with no idea of their ancestry to see Fitzgerald.

The word he had put out was this: The Royal and Ancient Order of Hibernians, a social fraternity of the Irish, hoped to form a pipe-and-drum band.

"Most of these pipers were just sitting up in the woods somewhere," said Fitzgerald, and, like Jim Moyer of Coram, they weren't happy.

Moyer can't explain his attraction to the bagpipes, only that it's been there since childhood. During a stint in Alaska with time on his hands and some discretionary money, he bought a set and learned to play them.

Then he moved to the Flathead and suffered bagpipe withdrawal.

"One time I just got rid of my pipes," Moyer said. "I had looked and looked for other pipers, and there was nothing around here."

The pipers just hadn't found each other. But now, with Fitzgerald leading the charge, they hope to make the hills come alive with their penetrating music.

"It's an out-of-this-world sound," Fitzgerald says. "Some people don't like the music, but to me, it is the greatest there is. I've grown up with it."

He can't describe the sound, but the Germans can describe the effect, he says: "In the second World War, they called bagpipers 'ladies from hell.' With their kilts, they looked like a bunch of gals running at them, and the pipes looked like bayonets."

It's not quite the sound you heard in the movie "Braveheart," he points out. That background music

was from the softer uilleann pipes, powered by bellows and suitable for indoor engagements.

Those are sweet sounds, too, he says, but not quite what he envisions for a flashy, pipe-and-drum band that will march in a flourish of kilts and a swirl of white drumsticks and will be called the Ancient Order of Hibernians Pipe and Drum Band.

His plans might sound like blarney if it were not for the response. More than two dozen pipers and drummers have flocked to practice sessions, with the Hibernians providing financial support for their instruments.

They pipe up a storm every other Saturday at the H.E. Robinson Vo-Ag building, under the direction of Rob Laing, pipe major of Missoula's Celtic Dragon Pipe Band. And the diehards among them meet on the alternate Saturdays to learn from Moyer and from each other.

They're not all longtime pipers, musicians or even people of Gaelic heritage. They are teachers, businessmen, loggers, truck drivers, cops and high school band students who are working hard to learn on practice chanters; it will take a while for most to acquire bagpipes, which cost at least \$650.

Meanwhile, the drummers are gearing up — including Fitzgerald, who lost a couple of fingers since he played in a pipe band in his youth, so he switched to drums.

Like him, he says, "These people are having the time of their lives. And it takes a certain amount of devotion, because you just can't put on a kilt and go for the march."

Their first march will probably be on St. Patrick's Day, in kilts of a color and design to please all the clans and heritages involved.

Fitzgerald invites more to join.

"The more the better," he says. "Most of us are Hibernians, Irish Catholics, but we have no prejudices. Scots, Irish, Welsh, Norwegian, Viking — we're all the same breed of people. Even my Italian friend likes bagpipe music."

"Anybody who plays the pipes is a brother."

From the Editor...

The new baby has arrived! Thank you for all your congratulations on the newest member to our family, Mitchell (3 mos. old), but what I'm talking about is a piece of technology that I have wanted since I assumed the position as editor of this publication: a scanner.

Yes it is here, and now I have the task of figuring out how to work it. I'm sure that with a little practice, I will be able to make it hum like a sewing machine. The main point to all of this is that I wanted all of you, the membership, not to be afraid of sending in articles for the *Craigellachie*. What used to take quite a bit of time (typing) should now be rather easy, that is, preparing copy for printing.

Hand-written articles will still have to be prepared the old fashioned way, but typed (or word processed articles) can now be scanned and saved, ready to be edited. Perhaps I should note here that the Society did not spend the money for this tool (in case any of you were worried). As a teacher, I will be using more for my classroom activities than for anything else.

I have already received a few articles for the next issue, but I expect many more to come in following this busy games season. So keep those items to me and we'll keep telling everyone what a wonderful society we have.

Speaking of games, I should mention two that were not included in the *Coming Events*. The **Yuba-Sutter Games** in Yuba City, CA are Sept. 26 and the **Loch Lomond Games** in Ben Lomond, CA are Oct. 3. Contact your California commissioners for more information on these games.

Finally, the next newsletter should be coming to you in a relatively short amount of time. In an attempt to get the publication back on its original schedule, I need to put together a couple of issues quickly. You may have noticed that there is no deadline listed in this issue and that is why. Please send me your articles as quickly as you can put them together and I will get them into one of the next two issues.

Have an enjoyable summer and we'll see you in the fall *Craigellachie*.

**NEW MEMBERS**

1. BARNARD, Ms. Loretta Garvey (CA)
2. BERKMAN, Mr. & Mrs. Sidney (OK)
3. BINETTE, Mr. & Mrs. E. Roland (ME)
4. BOUGHTON, Mr. & Mrs. Grant S. (FL)
5. BROER, Mr. & Mrs. Andrew William (CA)
6. EAST, Mr. & Mrs. Grant (TX)
7. GRANT, Mr. & Mrs. James R. (OR)
8. GRANT, Mr. & Mrs. Scott E. (NH)
9. GRANT, Mr. William E. (NY)
10. HEE, Ms. Lenora Grant (NJ)
11. HOMAN, Ms. June E. (AZ)
12. HOVASSE, Mr. & Mrs. David R. (MA)
13. HOWE, Mr. Travis (NM)
14. IARDELLA, Ms. Judi (OK)
15. INGALLS, Mr. Grant L. (NJ)
16. JOHNSTON, Mr. & Mrs. Toker A. (CA)
17. MC FERRIN, Mr. & Mrs. Eirik Brennan (CA)
18. MYERS, Dr. & Mrs. James H. (SD)
19. SANDERS, Ms. Dianne A. Grant (NJ)
20. SPENCER, Mr. & Mrs. Scott A. (IL)
21. WALLACE, Jr., Mr. & Mrs. Sherman C. (NY)
22. WASHBURN, Mr. & Mrs. Grant A. (AZ)
23. WOOD, Mr. & Mrs. Randell K. (MO)

*FLOWERS OF THE FOREST***RONALD JACKSON GRANT, JR.**

He served the Society as commissioner for the Carolinas, and games commissioner. He was a quiet, honorable, effective man, very proud of his Grant and Scottish heritage. He and Patsy traveled to Stone Mountain and Grandfather Mountain Games many times to share experiences. We are all saddened by his passing and will miss him.

Craigellachie

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15. WRIGHT, Mr. & Mrs. John A. (FL)

Great Grants at the Games



Members from San Antonio (l to r): Melissa, Brian, Dan, Sara & Evan

27th Annual Houston Highland Games and Scots Fest

Gordon K. Grant Sr.
Commissioner for South Texas

FAILTE A--CHAIRDEAN CHOIR' (Welcome Dear Friends), I am delighted to report here in my premier address from South Texas that our members in attendance at this years Houston games proved truth in the adage quality is better than quantity. Of the twenty five clans represented, Clan Grant was easily the smallest (in number only). However, in the sweltering 90F plus heat and humidity we were held in high esteem by all clans present, as I will explain later.

The gates opened to the public at 10:00 a.m. with professional competition commencing shortly thereafter. Athletes representing various US cities and Canadian Provinces were thrilling the crowd with their demonstration of prowess in all the traditional Highland field events. I wasn't

able to spend much time monitoring these pros as I was eager to visit with as many people as possible at our booth in addition to sharing a wee dram of some excellent 10 year old Glenfarclas.

One of the people I spoke with during this time was Mr. Dean McAlpin of Mineral Wells, Texas. I need not explain the link between the McAlpins and the Grants. Dean stated that if he can ever be of any assistance to our commissioners or members to please let him know. His e-mail address is SHORTY4MACKTRACK@webtv.net. Other people of prominence that stopped by our booth were a couple of ladies I remember only as Mary and Lynne. They picked up a membership application for their neighbor and his son, a Mr. Timothy Grant Taft and Jr. These ladies went on to tell me how Mr. Taft was a descendant of President Taft, Yes as in the 27th President of the United States, William Taft. They supplied me with the address of these two prospects and needless to say I will be writing them. Also stopping by were the Eric (Grant) Holmans of San Antonio, They are Melissa, Dan (16), Sara (15), Evan (6) and Brian (4). Eric regretfully could not attend due to his military obligation with the Air Force. However, his family left their mark this day and did us all proud. As I have already stated once before in the article I will elaborate further on.

CELTIC FEST '98.

John Grant, High Plains Commissioner

On Saturday, April 18th, Clan Grant participated in the second annual "Celtic Fest at Westfair" in Council Bluffs, Iowa. We were invited by the Celtic Arts Council, which is comprised of local Welsh, Irish and Scottish Societies, that organize the event. The Councils intent is to promote the education, entertainment, preservation and awareness of the Celtic heritage to the surrounding populace. They accomplished that by offering music, history, and other cultural aspects of the various "tribes" blending them together in a pleasant and joyful day of entertainment.

The event began with the opening parade led by the Omaha Pipes and Drums Corp. The Fest was restricted to indoor pavilions since it is not uncommon to have an April snow storm in the area this time of year. Highland Dancing was intense through out the day in our pavilion. We were entertained with Welsh Folk tunes, Welsh and Irish folk dancing and of course the Pipeing competition. The evening hours were filled with various concerts. Local performers as well as musical groups from the surrounding states participated in performing Celtic music.

The event was a one day affair, but an educational one, especially so, if you were musically inclined or just enjoyed the diverse culture presented. By the end of the day we felt that the Council had accomplished their intent. Although a long trip to Omaha, we hope to make Celtic Fest '99.

The official opening ceremony took place promptly at 12:30 p.m. With the grand entrance of the massed bands ushered in by the VP of competition Mr. Gordon Sampson and announced by President of the Houston Highland Games, Mr. Michael McClellan. The 3000 adoring spectators in the stands stood and cheered with fervor as one by one the clans paraded in behind them to the scurry and rhythm of the pipes and drums. The last clan now in position, the drum major snapped his signal for silence. The tight transition was awesome. All remained standing as the national anthems were sung, US, British, and Canadian respectively.

At this time Mr. McClellan dismissed the assembly and all activities got into full swing. I went immediately toward the children's competition, which was in progress. Last year our only entry was our middle son, Aaron who won three ribbons in his first attempt ever at Highland events. His accomplishments were so heralded in this publication that his brothers were now ready to try their hand at fame and notoriety. Joining them this year were our San Antonio contingents, the Holmans.

This year's entries and ribbons won were as follows: 3-4 year divisions, Brian won 1st place sack race, and 2nd place rock toss. 5-6 year divisions, Evan won 3rd place dash and 3rd place egg and spoon. Next came my boys in the 9-10 year divisions, Gordon Jr. (Last year mistakenly listed as James) won place kilted mile and 3rd place three legged race. Gordon said he could have done better in the 3-legged race if they had paired him up with a Grant, it seems his partner lacked rhythm. Seriously though, this was the first attempt by all these kids and an excellent showing I'm sure you'll agree. Next (See HOUSTON, p. 4)



Showing Ribbons at the Houston Games
(l to r): Gordon Grant, Sr, Aaron, Matt and Gordon, Jr.



FLOWERS OF THE FOREST

WILLIAM LEE MATTHEWS
FEBRUARY 14, 1934 - MAY
19, 1998

Bill died May 19, 1998 and his services were held Friday May 22, 1998 at Grandfather Chapel. Internment was in Tanglewood Cemetary, Linville, NC.

He is survived by his wonderful wife Doris, three beautiful daughters, Judy, Janice & Joyce. and numerous grandchildren. Growing up they were all either Scottish Dancers or Pipers.

Bill was THE FIRST LIFE PAID member of CLAN GRANT Society. He was active in Scottish activities in Dunedin, FL. With two others he started the Highland Games there to help support the school pipe bands. Band uniforms were donated and when he could he would act as manager and go to Canada and elsewhere to compete. He started Dunedin Scottish in Dunedin, Florida and just sold it several years ago. Through the years, he was very supportive of Clan Grant. Whenever he could he would give us or sell to us at a low price tartan or other things to increase the Society's funds. He was a true friend to the Clan Grant.

Bill and Doris and family have hosted the Clan Grant Saturday evening party at their home in Linville for several years, and Doris wants to continue. Of course we will. Over the years, George & Lucille have become close friends of the the Matthews. When Clan Grant started and Bill started his business and games participation we would enjoy visiting him. For several years Bill couldn't pass up stopping at our home in Tennessee with his friends to help him and get his truck worked on. That was one of our jokes with him.

We were thankful that Janice Mathews tracked us down in Key West and told us of his death. It was quite a shock, as the last time we talked to him he was on his way to Scotland and did us a favor while there. We all thought that he had overcome his heart problems. It was impossible for us to attend but he was in our thoughts. We will miss him but plan on being with the family at Grandfather Mountain. We will plan a Celidh or as I'm Irish will be a Wake. It won't be the same without him. Please plan to join us to honor Bill. We will all miss Bill and his stories.

JULY

- ROUND HILL HIGHLAND GAMES
Cranbury Park
Norwalk, CT (203) 324-10944
- GRANDFATHER MOUNTAIN HIGHLAND GAMES
Linville, NC (704) 733-133310-12
- COLUMBUS SCOTTISH FESTIVAL
Mill Race Park
Columbus, IN (812) 379-277317-19
- 46TH ANNUAL PORTLAND SCOTTISH HIGHLAND GAMES
Mt. Hood Community College
Gresham, OR (503) 241-112418
- GLASGOW LANDS SCOTTISH FESTIVAL
Fairgrounds
Blandford, MA18
- PIKE'S PEAK HIGHLAND GAMES & CELTIC FESTIVAL
Coronado High School
Colorado Springs, CO (719) 481-459718
- CELTIC HERITAGE FAIR
City Hall Grounds
Warren, OH18-19
- 25TH VIRGINIA SCOTTISH GAMES & FESTIVAL
Episcopal High School
Alexandria, VA (703) 912-194324-26
- PACIFIC NORTHWEST HIGHLAND GAMES
King County Fairgrounds
Enumclaw, WA (206) 522-254125-26
- INDIANA HIGHLAND GAMES
Zollner Stadium
Fort Wayne, IN (219) 486-124925
- GLENGARRY HIGHLAND GAMES
Maxville, ON (613) 527-287631-Aug.1
- WEIR FAMILY REUNION
Glengarry Highland Games
Maxville, ON (540) 869-293831-Aug.2

AUGUST

- ST. ANDREW'S SOCIETY OF DETROIT HIGHLAND GAMES
Livonia, MI (313) 832-18491
- 1998 CENTRAL NEW YORK SCOTTISH GAMES
Long Branch Park
Liverpool, NY (315) 463-88767-8
- FERGUS HIGHLAND GAMES & SCOTTISH FESTIVAL
Fergus Community Center
Fergus, ON (519) 787-00997-9
- HIGH DESERT CELTIC SOCIETY FESTIVAL & GAMES
Crooked River Park
Prineville, OR (541) 447-35618
- ANNUAL KIRKIN' O' THE TARTAN
Knox Presbyterian Church
Stratford, ON (519) 271-03739
- 20th MAINE HIGHLAND GAMES
Thomas Point Beach
Brunswick, ME (207) 236-803815
- 20TH ANNUAL MAINE HIGHLAND GAMES
Thomas Point Beach
Brunswick, ME (207) 236-803815
- ST. ANDREW'S SOCIETY OF VERMONT
26th ANNUAL SCOTTISH FESTIVAL
Quechee Polo Field
Quechee, VT (802) 295-535122
- KALAMAZOO SCOTTISH FESTIVAL
River Oaks Park
Kalamazoo, MI (616) 375-282022

SEPTEMBER

- CLAN MONTGOMERY SOCIETY INTERNATIONAL 1998 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Ramada Inn
Albany, NY e-mail: tryon@klink.net3-6
- CALEDONIAN CLUB OF SAN FRANCISCO HIGHLAND GAMES
Alameda Fairgrounds
Pleasanton, CA (408) 223-62255-6
- CAPITAL DISTRICT SCOTTISH GAMES
Altamont Fairgrounds
Altamont, NY (518) 438-42975-6
- LONGS PEAK SCOTTISH HIGHLAND FESTIVAL
Estes Park
Estes, CO (800) 90-ESTES10-13
- LIGONIER HIGHLAND GAMES
Idlewild Park
Bethel Park, PA (412) 851-990011-13
- CINCINNATI HIGHLAND DANCE COMPETITION & CELTIC FESTIVAL
Ault Park
Cincinnati, OH (513) 231-404112
- KIRKIN' O' THE TARTAN
Westminster Presbyterian Church
Albany, NY (518) 436-854413
- CELTIC FESTIVAL
Caesar's Creek Pioneer Village
Waynesville, OH (513) 897-112018-20
- NEW HAMPSHIRE HIGHLAND GAMES
Loon Mountain
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- OKLAHOMA SCOTTISH GAMES & HIGHLAND GATHERING
Chandler Park
Tulsa, OK (918) 499-258519-20
- McPHERSON SCOTTISH FESTIVAL
McPherson, KS (316) 241-296825-27

COMING EVENTS

OCTOBER

- FLORA McDONALD HIGHLAND GAMES
Flora McDonald Campus
Red Springs, NC (910) 843-50002-4
- CELTIC HERITAGE FESTIVAL
Bedford Boys Ranch
Bedford, TX (817) 923-313810-11
- WESTERN KENTUCKY HIGHLAND GAMES & CELTIC FESTIVAL
Carson Park
Paducah, KY (502) 443-206410
- RADFORD HIGHLAND FESTIVAL
Radford, VA (540) 831-518210
- THE GORDON SETTER CLUB OF AMERICA NATIONAL SPECIALTY AND OBEDIENCE TRIAL
Inn at the Crossings
Warwick, RI11-13
- STONE MOUNTAIN HIGHLAND GAMES & HIGHLAND GAMES
Stone Mountain Park
Atlanta, GA (770) 521-022815-18
- CELTIC NEW YEAR IN RENO
Washoe County Fairgrounds Events Center
Reno, NY (702) 332-333623-25
- BEL AIR HIGHLANDER FESTIVAL AND GAMES
Bel Air High School
El Paso, TX (915) 591-005524-25

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(HOUSTON, from p. 3)

came last year's hero Aaron, determined to improve on the three ribbons he won in '97 and he did indeed Placing 1st in virtually every event except kilted mile where he placed 2nd He also received two 2nd place ribbons for team events (tug-o-war and three-legged race.) That's seven ribbons in all.

At this point we sent in our eldest, as did the Holmans. Matt, our boy, is 14 years old and 6' 1". Dan Holman is 6' 4" at only 16 years of age. As I mentioned in the first paragraph we were small in number only. Unfortunately there were no events for the 13 - 19 age groups ---- Pity. Oh well, there is Grandfather Mountain to look at yet this year for a shot at glory for Matt. I know Dan will be attending other games as well, as he and his parents are active in the "Black Bexar" pipe band, which brings me to the next segment on two of our member's success this time in the face of adversity.

The Black Bexar were notified prior to entering the field judge arena that they would not be eligible for placing, due to their being short one piper (five or more are required.) Undaunted though facing what seemed like an exercise in futility on a very hot day they performed with such spirit that they were named most spirited band and awarded \$200.00. Now that's Craigellachie! Congratulations Melissa and Dan.

On another positive note, no pun intended, back at the clan booth we had a Duthil Kirk fund raising video which ran continuously two hours each showing. The video received kudos from all who watched it. It contained pictures of Castle Grant in '93' before restoration as my family and I first saw it and then again from our trip with Dr. Phil and Shirley Smith, at last years Ceilidh. Much of the 300,000 acres of course are featured. The best news is that we raised \$200.00 for the Duthil fund!

In closing I want to say tapadh leat gu dearbh (Thanks A Lot) to my dad Frank Grant for showing up early on Friday to help set up the booth and supplying the PVC pipe needed. Also my Thursday night prayer group for their donations to the Duthil fund

Two of them good God fearing Scotsmen, in there own rite, from Clan Campbell and the other Martin of Cameron Also, special thanks to the daughter of another member of our group, young Lauren Gentempo for the use of her TV / VCR. Our Duthil program would have been unimpressive without it.