

GRACE NOTES

Vol. 22, No. 6

June 2006

The Monthly Newsletter of the Memphis Scottish Society, Inc.

IT WAS A DARK & STORMY NIGHT...

Well, it was, but that didn't stop a bunch of hardy Scots bent on having a party. So, on Saturday, April 29th while April was going out like a lion (ahem), these fifty-some-odd folks (including a table-full of visitors who had been invited at the Lyon College games the week before) chatted and ate and sang and listened and danced.

The evening officially opened with stirring skirls by pipers Charlie Jester & Rick Clausi; then, the crowd set to eating the banquet spread out on three groaning tables. As is the

occasional luck of the pot-luck, it was a sad day for chickens as all but 2 of the entrees brought were chicken: hot fried, cold fried, & roasted! (Those who didn't care for chicken were glad to have the meat balls & cold cuts.) The most acclaimed dish was a salad from Pat Bevier: her recipe appears by public request elsewhere in this issue.

After lingering at table engrossed in convivial conversation, the crowd made the rafters ring with a spirited sing-a-long of 3 songs about getting married. Next, the Caledonian

Chorale performed songs about love (as in, "In springtime a young man's fancy turns to..."). A special arrangement of "Eriskay Love Lilt" brought a tear to many an eye, but especially to Margo Wright, who hales from Eriskay.

Then hostess Emily Smith led a score of dancers through the lively steps of the Cumberland Reel. After that, all those attending helped to clear and put away the tables, just like their mothers taught them.

Thanks and kudos to Emily for a delightful ceilidh!



YOUR MSSI BOARD

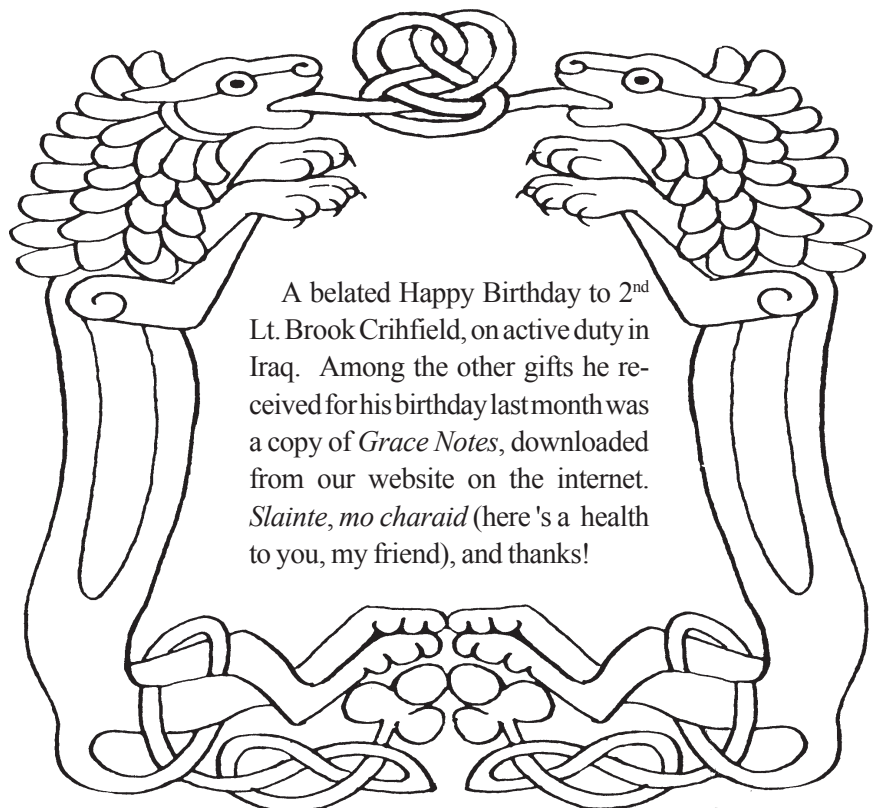
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A belated Happy Birthday to 2nd Lt. Brook Crihfield, on active duty in Iraq. Among the other gifts he received for his birthday last month was a copy of *Grace Notes*, downloaded from our website on the internet. *Slainte, mo charaid* (here 's a health to you, my friend), and thanks!

NOW YOU KNOW

A gushy reporter told Jack Nicklaus, "You are spectacular, your name is synonymous with the game of golf. You really know your way around the course. What's your secret?"

Nicklaus replied, "The holes are numbered." -- Thanks to Dan Irvin for this gem!

To the right...

A picture of your humble Grace Notes staff, by request. From left, Gavin Anderson on tin whistle, Sammy Rich on stool, Mary Ann standing with Melissa Gibson at the piano. At far right is fellow Caledonia Chorale member, Diane Wade.

A Word to the Thrifty:

If you turn in your empty printer cartridge at Office Max, the nice people there will give you a free ream of copy paper.

From the Webmaster:

We now have a perfect 10 at SiteReportCard.com.

We are still holding at 4th position on Google.com, but the other 3 sites above us offer direct links back to our site. Also, our photo gallery page is 5th down on the Google list, so, come on, everybody, sign in and post photos of MSSSI events. (It's FREE to sign in, and FREE to post photos — this should be music to every Scottish heart!)

Gavin Anderson

News from the National Library of Scotland

Almost 110 years after it was completed, an illuminated manuscript by Scotland's leading Arts and Crafts artist has 'gone digital'. This week the National Library of Scotland published online one of its treasures - Phoebe Anna Traquair's manuscript of poems by Elizabeth Barrett Browning. *Sonnets from the Portuguese* was a five-year project for Traquair. She lavished each page

with vivid watercolours and decorative motifs and added gold leaf to great effect. All 44 sonnets can be viewed on the NLS website, with 'zoom-and-pan' images allowing the details to be examined close up. Expert commentary provides background on the manuscript and on the artist herself. Enjoy the Traquair manuscript at:

<http://www.nls.uk/traquair/>



GRACE NOTES

Grace Notes is the official publication of the Memphis Scottish Society, Inc. It is published monthly. Like the Society itself, the credo of Grace Notes is "to foster education and promote understanding of things Scottish."

If you have something of interest to readers of this newsletter, please submit a typewritten manuscript to the editorial staff. If the article or notice is very brief (30 words or fewer), just use the telephone. Grace Notes will accept and publish good quality photographs (preferably black and white; no Polaroids, please).

The deadline for all submissions is the second week of each month preceding the month of publication. Please include a self-addressed stamped envelope with each submission, if you want the material returned.

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to foster education
and promote
understanding of
things Scottish



SCOTTISH CONNECTION

Think you can identify a Scot at first glance? Maybe not: check out these two celebrities, Joan Baez and Jay Leno, both of whom have a strong **Scottish Connection**, their native Scottish mothers.

Joan Baez' mother was born Joan Bridge in Scotland, though her family moved to the US when she was a toddler. In her first autobiography, *Daybreak*, Baez relates being nursed through a severe childhood illness by her mother, who followed every exacerbation with the ubiquitous pot of tea, and home schooled (as we would call it today) the girl when she couldn't go to school. The elder Joan also made an impression on young Joan by stubbornly adhering to her principles of civil disobedience. They were jailed together, during which time the elder Joan came to be called "Mama" by the other inmates. When "Mama" was released, Joan Jr. reports, she smuggled 14 letters

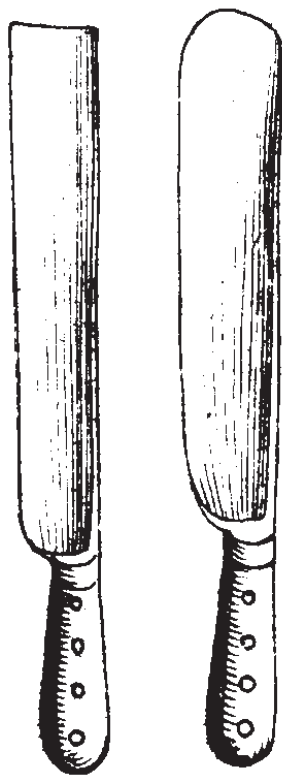
out of the prison by stuffing them into her long-janes.

Jay Leno's mom Catherine was born in Glasgow and also came to the States as a young girl. From her he got what he calls in his autobiography *Leading with My Chin*, his Scottish side: "...practical, analytical, even a bit frugal." A bit? Leno relates that during one maternal visit, Catherine collected hundreds of little individual packages of fast food condiments and tableware, even though he had plenty of the stuff already. However, since she had inculcated young Jamie with her innate thriftiness, he couldn't bring himself to throw them out after she went home, so he mailed them to her there! He also says of his mother, "...she always stressed the importance of education to me – which was kind of sad, because I may have been the worst student in the history of academia." (His hyperbole no doubt came from his Italian father Angelo, called "Angus" by his in-laws.)

So, through the distaff side of family trees, there are Scots with last names of Baez, Leno, Schultz, Clausi, Hisky, Bevier, Melendez, Cannito, Mandanna, Meister, and Zavodny. Sense of tradition, strong conviction, thrift, commitment to education – these are attributes with which we, like Joan Jr. and Jay, are all indelibly imprinted by the influence of our Scottish maternal models. And one Sunday in May isn't enough to honor them. So, take some extra time to consider your mother, grandmother, or mother-in-law and her **Scottish Connection**. (And on the third Sunday in June applaud the sagacity of her parental partner in having selected such a gem.)

Editor's note: Jay Leno, featuring both his Scottish and Italian sides, will be performing in the Memphis area early in July.





You asked for it!

Here is Bill Crump's kraut salad that received much acclaim at the '05 Christmas party:

Bill's Kraut Salad

1 #3 can kraut, *well drained*
 ½ cup chopped celery
 ½ cup chopped green pepper
 ½ cup chopped onion

2 tablespoons chopped pimento
 ½ cup sugar
 ¼ cup vinegar
 ¼ cup oil

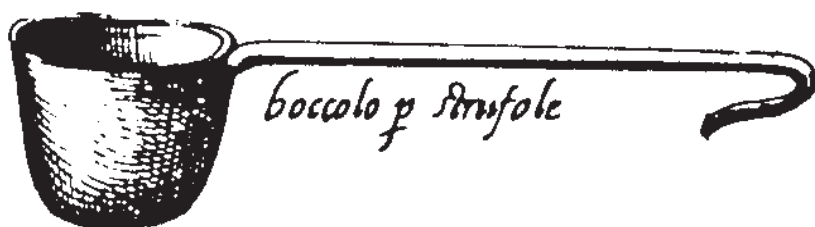
Drain kraut completely. Place 1st 5 ingredients in large bowl. Combine sugar, oil, and vinegar into a smooth dressing. Toss vegetables with dressing until well coated. Refrigerate overnight. (Bill's methods in the kitchen are more enthusiastic than precise, so he doesn't rely on exact measurements. In sharing this recipe from *Tennessee Homecoming Cookbook*, he notes that similar kraut recipes found in the *Prime Meridian Cookbook* and the *Blue Willow Inn* vary only slightly in quantities and assures us that seasoning to taste is best.)

Here is the recipe for the fabulous salad Pat Bevier brought to the Spring Ceilidh, by request of many of those who relished it:

Pat's Chinese Salad

1 bag broccoli slaw	1/2 cup oil
5 green onions, chopped	1/3 cup sugar
1 cup sunflower kernels	1/4 cup white vinegar
1 cup toasted sliced almonds	1 or 2 seasoning packets from
2 packages chicken Ramen noodles, uncooked, crushed	Ramen noodles package

Combine first 5 ingredients in a large bowl. Mix oil, sugar, vinegar, and seasoning packet(s). Dressing can be boiled for smoother consistency. Refrigerate dressing and toss with salad right before serving. (Some with elephantine memories may remember a similar salad brought by Dorothy McWhorter to the Halloween party year before last. Thanks to both ladies for sharing their culinary creativity.)



Letter to the Editor

Greetings from Edinburgh!
 Thank you for sending us the latest newsletter. I think it's great. And I like the photos as well, it seems that you folks are having a great time over there. Just one thing: where are the photos of the editorial team? I've looked in vain....(See page 2.)
 Congratulations to the editorial team and to the publisher for a highly readable newsletter. Looking forward to the next number.
 Do you need bits of news from Edinburgh?

Cheers,
 Carmen Wright

Calendar of Events

Mondays

Caledonia Chorale 7:00 p.m. - Church of the Holy Communion, Walnut Grove at Perkins, 272-7159 for more info.

Thursdays

Wolf River Pipes & Drums, 6:30-9:30 at St. Luke's Lutheran; G'town Pkwy, Rick Clausi - 753-9494.

Fridays

DANCING: 7:30 til 10:00 p.m. - Idlewild Pres.; 1750 Union Ave, West entrance.

1st, 3rd & 5th Friday

Contra Dancing. Contact Martha Phillips, 278-1216.

2nd & 4th Friday

Scottish Country Dancing. Contact Brenda Maguire, 274-1889.

June 8

Board Meeting at Shoney's, Summer and I-240, 5:30 pm.

June 12

Regular membership meeting at Holiday Inn, Poplar and I-240. Reservations required, call 725-1879. 6:00 pm dinner & 7:00 pm speaker. PROGRAM: Mary Ann Lucas on "The Other William Wallace"

June 28

TN Genealogy Society workshop: at Germantown Community Library, 3:00 pm. Contact Kathy Schultz for more information.



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May 27-28 | Beyond Borders
Fiona talks to fellow broadcasters to hear what appeals to them about the emerging sounds in Celtic music.

Scottish/ Celtic RadioMusic

Sundays, 12 noon

"Delta Celtica"
Cassie Tobin, host
WEVL-FM 89.9

Sundays, 5:00 p.m.

"The Thistle and Shamrock"
WKNO-FM 91.1

Saturdays, 10:00 a.m.

"Strands of the Celtic Knot"
Robert Campbell, host
WEVL-FM 89.9

Saturdays, 7:00 p.m.

"The Thistle & Shamrock,"
PRM-FM 90.3

June 3, 4 | Sea Sound -Images and moods of the sea emerge from traditional and new music, including the classical sounds of William Jackson's work for fiddles, pipes, woodwind and strings: A Scottish Island.

June 10, 11 | Heart and Soul (1)
Across Celtic traditions, contemporary innovations, New World variations, and cross-cultural collaborations, the international appeal of Celtic music far exceeds its core audiences.

We follow the music from the pub to the performing arts center in an attempt to distill the essence of what we call "Celtic," and get to the heart and soul of its universal appeal.

June 17, 18 | Heart and Soul (2)
Join Fiona as she seeks to uncover the appeal of so-called "Celtic" music and to discover its essential spirit across varied landscapes and languages.

June 24, 25 | Singers and Songwriters-While radio often seems over-populated by performances from media manufactured acts, public radio is still a haven for singers with voices of their own. Meet some of them this week, including Karine Polwart, who crafts new songs, often in an authentic traditional style, and Christine Kydd, who shapes and develops traditional song styles in her solo, duet, and trio collaborations.

July 1, 2 | Young Tradition -The finals concert of the BBC Radio Scotland Young Traditional Musician 2006 took place earlier this year at the 13th Celtic Connections Festival. Meet the winner, learn what the year will hold for her and enjoy music from the successful recording artists who launched their careers after winning the coveted title in previous years.



A Scene from the Spring Ceilidh. Who would have ever thought there would be so much food? You'd think we(e) Scots are just a bit afraid we might go hungry, since we bring food by the bucket-full to our pot-lucks. Kudos to Emily Smith for a memorable evening with our fellow Scots.

Next Regular Monthly Meeting -June 12th - Dinner Reservations Required 725-1879

Holiday Inn at Poplar and I-240

Membership Meeting, Dinner @ 6:00, Program @ 7:00

Board Meeting, May 8th at 5:30 Shoneys at I-240 and Summer

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The Memphis Scottish Society, Inc.

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