



My First Trip to Scotland

by David Mostardi

Monday, 10th September 2001

I arrived in England on August 19th for a week of training at my company's London office. Later that week, my wife Arlene Baxter joined me and we drove off on two weeks of holiday in Kent and Sussex.

On this, our last night in England, we arrive at our B&B in Henley-on-Thames, a 400-acre estate worthy of Masterpiece Theatre. Charming hosts with a wonderfully dry sense of humor. Paintings of seven generations of our host's ancestors. Beautiful William Morris "chrysanthemum" wallpaper. A huge billiard table used to assemble a jigsaw puzzle of the Sistine Chapel. Two adorable dogs, named Sprocket and Ginger, roll over on their backs at the slightest provocation. We wish that we had stayed three nights here, not just the one night before our flight home.

Tuesday, September 11th

I take a bath looking through a picture window onto a field of cows, pheasants, and bunnies. Lots of bunnies. Rural England is swarming with bunnies. We have an easy trip back to Heathrow, drop off the car, and catch the Hertz shuttle to the terminal.

Last-minute shopping at the Harrods shops at Terminal 4. Good grief, we have a lot of stuff. Our carry-ons weigh a ton. We've never learned how to travel light. There are so many flights through Heathrow that there aren't enough gates for all the airplanes, so we take a bus out to the airplane. Goofy way to get on a ten-hour flight.

We take off at 1:00 p.m. without incident. Arlene and I smile each other: the end of a lovely vacation. Endless problems with the in-flight entertainment system; they restart the movie five times. I peer out the window. We're two and a half hours into the flight now, directly over Iceland. Stark rugged beauty, but there's nothing green in sight. That's odd, shouldn't the mountain shadows be pointing the other way?

The pilot makes a sudden announcement: "Ladies and gentlemen, you may have noticed that the sun is now

on the other side of the aircraft. We have turned around and are heading back to Britain. There has been terrorist activity in the U.S. and all the airports have been closed. As London Heathrow is already full with diverted planes, we are going to take you to Glasgow. British Airways will put you up in hotels, and we'll fly you to San Francisco tomorrow."

Arlene and I stare at each other. Dozens of questions race through my mind. Then we shrug. What can we do? I guess we're going to Glasgow. Arlene laughs and says, "You've always wanted to go to Scotland!" True, after sixteen years of playing for SCD I have yet to visit Scotland. In ninety minutes that will all change.

Two deaf men, Ken and Butch, are sitting next to me. "What's going on?" they ask. They read lips, but this is so crazy that I write out the pilot's announcement. It turns out that Arlene took a sign-language course from Ken twenty-five years ago. Small world.

We land in Glasgow at 5:00 p.m. At the gate, the pilot announces that airplanes have been deliberately flown into the World Trade Center. Bewilderment. As we wait to get off, a flight attendant says that both Trade Center buildings have collapsed. Gasps, then stunned silence. Five minutes later, a fat man in a yellow shirt is laughing and telling jokes. I want to punch him.

We stand in queues in Glasgow airport. Despite the logistical nightmare, British Airways is doing an efficient job, and they're being pleasant and helpful to boot. I

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wonder what the passengers on United are going through. It's hard to imagine that any American airline would have service like this.

Rumors quickly travel backward in the queue. BA will pay for a hotel if we stay in Glasgow, but not if we return to London. This is an easy decision-it seems obvious that there won't be any flights to the U.S. for several days-so get in line for a Glasgow hotel. We are herded outside. I hum the "Are we like sheep" chorus from Handel's Messiah. We are pointed to a taxi and get in. The driver is told to go to the Crieff Hydro and off we go.

Soon it is clear that we are not driving into downtown Glasgow. We ask the driver, "Is the hotel outside the city?" He replies, "It's in Crieff, sixty miles away." Sixty miles? There's nothing closer? "There's a big diabetes conference in town. There aren't any empty hotel rooms anywhere in Glasgow or Edinburgh." On the drive to Crieff we listen to the awful details. Both towers are in rubble. A third plane hit the Pentagon; a fourth crashed in Pennsylvania.

We arrive at Crieff Hydro Hotel. Goodness me, what a nice place. It's an old spa resort built in 1868. We are treated enormously well. We have a nice room. Then we turn on TV and watch the horrifying images that are now so familiar. Fifty thousand people work in these buildings every day. How many of them are dead? Will anything ever be the same?

I'm feeling numb all over as well walk downstairs for a buffet dinner. Smoked salmon, roast lamb, all the trimmings. I feel undeserving of this wonderful food when so many people were slaughtered just a few hours ago. We both order Guinness; I need something strong tonight. Ken and Butch are here, too. We say hi and catch up on the latest rumors.

All of a sudden we hear Scottish music! Two twenty-something musicians: fiddle and guitar, pipes, and flute. Hey, I've played most of these tunes with Fiddlesticks & Ivory. At the break we walk over and introduce ourselves. Their names are Neil Patterson and Karen (I've forgotten her surname). I said I played SCD accordion, whereupon Neil asks me to join them on piano for the second set. So just six hours after this horrific attack aborts my trip home, I am playing Scottish piano in a posh resort hotel in Perthshire. This is too surreal for words.

Wednesday, September 12th

I scan the morning papers. They all have the same photo: the second plane smashing into the second tower.

The headlines read "War declared on America" and "The Day that Changed the World."

We have a nice buffet breakfast that includes a steaming tray of haggis. I take my first-ever bite of the famous food. Gosh, it's not bad at all. "What's all the fuss?" I ask Arlene. She says that not all haggis is this good, and that it is much tastier with single-malt.

One hundred passengers from our flight are staying at the Hydro. We gather for a 9:00 a.m. meeting with our two British Airways representatives, who have stayed with us at the hotel. No planes to San Francisco today, maybe tomorrow. We are skeptical and think tomorrow is highly unlikely. Why should we leave when it's so nice here?

We have the rest of the day in Crieff; too bad it's raining. We cajole the hotel courtesy van driver to take us to the nearby Glenturret distillery. On the way we ask the fellow what he thinks of Glenturret. "It's very geud," he says, "especially with lemonade or even water." (Lemonade?) Arlene replies that "we usually take our whisky neat." He laughs. "Neat? Aye, well, my view is, if I put some water in, it lasts longer."

We take the distillery tour at Glenturret. We see the statue of Towser, the cat who lived twenty-four years and caught 28,899 mice (as calculated by the Guinness Book of Records). There are Towser postcards, Towser t-shirts, Towser placemats, Towser pens and pencils. There is a new mouser named Amber, but she must not be as photogenic. We buy some whisky and malt liqueur, but pass on the Towser keychain fobs.

The same fellow comes round to pick us up. He sees our bag of goodies and smiles. "Did ye buy some water to put in it?" He drops us off in town for half an hour, and with a grin promises to carefully guard our bag of whisky.

When we arrive back at the hotel, the St Andrew's Cross is flying at half-mast. We take a walk up the hill, taking advantage of a sudden outbreak of blue sky. We enjoy a beautiful vista of Crieff and Strathearn beyond. Dramatic clouds, a cold breeze.

Just before dinner we're advised that we're leaving at the bleary hour of 7:00 a.m. tomorrow, coach back to Glasgow, plane 9:30 a.m. to Heathrow. That means getting up at 5:30 a.m. We're not morning people. At best, this will be a very long day.

Smoked trout and salmon for dinner at the Hydro's fancy restaurant. Tonight's dinner entertainment is Ian

Anderson. No, not the flutist Ian Anderson from Jethro Tull, but the accordionist Ian Anderson. Never heard of him? Gosh, he plays ballroom music every week at the Hydro. His first set was Jimmy Shand, then he morphed his midi-accordion into Lawrence Welk. He pushed a button for instant tango percussion. He played a Parisian musette waltz. He segued “Swanee River” into “Road to the Isles.” Ian is a magnificent musician, but not my style. I am not invited to join Ian on piano. Just as we get up to retire, he plays “Scotland the Brave” for a Gay Gordons. Arlene and I dance to polite applause, as an American couple behind us wildly and unsuccessfully tries to reproduce our pas-de-basque.

Thursday, September 13th

Yawn, is it really 5:30 a.m. already? We eat a quick breakfast, assemble with the others in front of the hotel. The hotel staff members give us their heartfelt sympathy, and wish us safe journey back to San Francisco. Many of them gather to wave goodbye. It’s a shame that we’re driving to Glasgow, because none of us really thinks that we’ll be flying today.

Long drive back to Glasgow. Stunning clouds. Sheep. Rain. Look, there’s some blue sky! No, it’s gone now. Scotland has crows like England has rabbits. Cows. More sheep. More rain. Rush hour traffic.

It turns out that British Airways is the only airline that is paying for travelers’ accommodations during this time. Everyone else is on their own, and we hear that many hotels in London are taking advantage of the situation and charging £200 per night for rooms. Most people can’t or won’t pay this, and so are sleeping on chairs in Heathrow. All through this we have known that we are feathers blown in the wind, and must go where the wind takes us. We were blown to Crieff and I feel very fortunate indeed.

By 10:15 a.m. we are standing in a queue at Glasgow airport. Just as the first passengers get checked-in, BA cancels the flight. Damn, we knew we should have stayed in Crieff. We move en masse to a waiting area, then are given a room at the Glasgow airport Holiday Inn. It’s just a two-minute walk away, so we push our trolleys over. Oops, they won’t let us check-in until 2:00 p.m., but we’re free to leave our bags in the storage room. Amazingly, despite the obvious security implications of Tuesday’s attack, I am left alone to put the luggage in myself. The room is stuffed fuller than Fibber McGee’s closet. I climb over a mound of suitcases and move ironing

boards and baby hi-chairs in order to make room for our things.

Arlene and I take a bus into Glasgow and spend the day on a Charles Rennie Mackintosh pilgrimage: the Willow Tearooms, the Glasgow School of Art, the Mackintosh House. I have heard many stories about Glasgow’s slums and pollution, but the parts I saw were very pretty indeed. I would cheerfully go back.

On the bus back to the hotel we see a stupendous 180° double rainbow. It’s easily the most beautiful rainbow I’ve ever seen in my life. The Torah says that after the Flood, God created the rainbow to assure us He would never again destroy the world. I pray that this stunning rainbow portends that no one will fly airplanes into buildings ever again.

Friday, September 14th

The London Times headline today is “America prepares for war.” No British Airways flights will leave for the U.S. today, although some United flights will. Some planes are flying to Canada.

We see Ken and Butch at breakfast. They’re checking out because our hotel is full tonight. Damn, we can’t stay in our room? We reluctantly check out and head to the other airport hotel, which has rooms available. On the way we stop at the BA counter for the latest news.

The latest news is that there are no flights to the U.S. today, but if we want, we can fly to Vancouver. Flying anywhere tomorrow is out, as there aren’t any seats from Glasgow to London. Hmm, at least we’d be in North America. On the other hand, British Airways would no longer be responsible for us and we’d have to find our own way back to the Bay Area. On the other hand, who knows when the next flight to the U.S. will be? Ken and Butch are going to Vancouver; we decide to join them. At least we’ll all be together.

We check into the flight to Heathrow. As we walk to the gate, it is 11:00 a.m., when all of Europe is observing a three-minute silence for the victims in New York and Washington. We stop and hear the chimes of Big Ben over the TV. To me Big Ben means BBC news broadcasts, but today it sounds like a funeral peal. There is complete silence: everyone is standing, no one is moving. I’ve never been in a silent airport before.

I pick up a copy of the Glasgow Herald. There is a two-page foldout full of faces of the dead. Inside is a travel brochure from the Dumfries Tourist Board: “You’re closer than you think to the best holiday in Scotland.”

We take off at noon, arrive at Heathrow Terminal 1 at 1:30 p.m. Along the way, BA loses my green backpack full of the fruits of three weeks' foraging at second-hand bookstores. I fill out a lost luggage claim; they'll ship it to Berkeley when they find it.

We lug our bags to the shuttle train to Terminal 4. An elevator door opens and here we are again, exactly where we were three days ago, in a more innocent age. We consider staying in London and waiting for a San Francisco flight, but several BA workers tell us that we're lucky to be on the Vancouver flight, so we keep our seats.

We take off seventy-five minutes late. Everything is late today. Sitting next to me is a young German couple just starting their honeymoon in the Vancouver area. They were scheduled to fly today and, amazingly enough, made it onto the plane. Arlene and I honeymooned in the same area; I recommend Port Townsend to them.

Nine hours later we land safely in Vancouver. We quickly realize that there is no hope of flying to California from here. Together with Ken and Butch we rent a car and drive to the U.S. border. We get a tip to avoid the standard border crossing and instead to take the "truck exit," which also has car lanes. This saves us at least ninety minutes of waiting. We drive into Washington until we see a Denny's next to a Super 8 Motel. At Denny's I skillfully avoid an egg dish called "Moons Over My Hammy" and have the French toast instead. Arlene books us on a Southwest flight from Seattle to Oakland. We rent two rooms and collapse into bed.

Saturday, September 15th

The morning TV shows say that there are very long lines at Seattle airport, so we decide to give ourselves three hours for check-in instead of two. It's a very pretty one hundred miles to Seattle. We arrive at the airport at 10:30 a.m. for a 1:20 p.m. flight. The lines at Southwest are ridiculously long.

After three hours in line we check into flight 520, which is now ready to leave. We run to the gate, board, and have a blissfully uneventful flight to Oakland. As the plane lands, the four of us exchange thumbs up. Home at last. Our friend Laurie picks us up. Camera shots of us with Ken and Butch. We exchange email addresses and business cards.

On the drive home, Laurie tells us that her research assistant, who is from India, has been called a "dirty Arab" twice since Tuesday and is afraid for her safety.

Obviously, many Americans have forgotten the lessons of the Japanese internment during World War II.

We arrive home at 4:30 p.m., four days late. Within those four days was my whirlwind inaugural trip to Scotland, whose memories will forever be bound up with a senseless tragedy. I renew my resolve to not waste my time on Earth, to remember that every day is a blessing. I eagerly await my second trip to Scotland, which I hope will be on a more leisurely pace, detached from the winds of Fortune.

NOVEMBER MONTHLY PARTY

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2001, 7:30 P.M.

San Mateo Masonic Hall.

100 North Ellsworth, San Mateo.

Hosts: Stanford Class and Red Thistle

Dance	Source	Type	Level
A Sunday Stroll*	Skelton	32J2	B
Balquidder Strathspey	XXIV 2	32S3	I
Fife Ness	5 for 1978	32R3	A
John Derek Evans*	Whiteadder	32S3	I
Tomalena	SF Coll II	32R5	I
Swashbuckling Ian	SF Coll II	32J2	I
Gramachie	MMM I	32S3	I
Farewell to Crumlin	XXXII 4	32J4	A
There's Nae Luck			
About The Hoose	X 10	32S3	I
Caberfei *	18th Century	32R3	I
St. Andrews Fair	4 for 1982	32J3	B
From Scotia's Shores			
We're Noo Awa'	Leaflet	32S3	A
White Cockade	V 11	32R3	B
Birks of Invermay	XVI 2	32S3	B
Birks of Invermay	XVI 2	32S3	B

*new this month

From 101: Take the 3rd Avenue exit west to Ellsworth. Turn right and follow Ellsworth to the corner of Tilton Street.

DECEMBER MONTHLY PARTY
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2001, 7:30 P.M.
Lucie Stern Center
1305 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto
Mountain View Class

JANUARY MONTHLY PARTY
SATURDAY, JANUARY 5, 2002, 7:30 P.M.
Alameda Masonic Hall
2312 Alameda Ave, Alameda
Livermore & Lafayette Classes

Dance	Source	Type	Level
Sunday Stroll	4 for 1982	32J3	B
Birks of Invermay	XVI 2	32S3	B
Fife Ness	5 for 1978	32R3	A
John Derek			
Evans	Whiteadder	32S3	I
Queen Victoria	MMM I	32R2	B
The Barmkin*	Goldring	88R4	B
There's Nae Luck			
about the Hoose	X 10	32S3	
Ifarewell to Crumlin	XXXII 4	32J4	A
Grant's Reel	XIV 2	32S2	B
Gates of Edinburgh	XV 5	32R3	I
White Cockade	V 11	32R3	B
From Scotia's Shores			
We're Noo Awa'	Leaflet	32S3	A
Swashbuckling Ian	SF Coll II	32J2	I
Gramachie	MMM I	32S3	B
Reel of the 51st	XIII 10	32R3	B

Dance	Source	Type	Level
Hooper's Jig	MMMII	32J3	B
There's Nae Luck			
about the Hoose	X 10	32S3	I
Farewell to Crumlin	XXXII 4	32J4	A
Lammermuir Hills*	Goldring	32S2	I
Reel of the 51st	XIII 10	32R3	B
The Barmkin*	Goldring (24 dances)	88R4	B
Grant's Reel	XIV 2	32S2	B
Fife Ness	5 for 1978	32R3	A
Tibby Fowler			
o' the Glen	VIII 11	32S3	B
Queen Victoria	MMM I	32R2	B
Lucy's Flittin'*	Davison	32J3	I
Gang the Same Gate	XXXVI 4	32S3	I
Argyll's Fancy	Graded 23	48J4	B
Jimmy's Fancy	XIV 11	32S3	B
Gates of Edinburgh	XV 5	32R3	I

From 280: take Sand Hill Road until it bears right, and becomes Arboretum Road. Follow Arboretum Road until it bears left, and becomes Embarcadero Road. Follow Embarcadero to junction with Middlefield Road. Turn left. Lucy Stern Center is 200 yards, on the right.

2312 ALAMEDA AVENUE, ALAMEDA (between Park and Oak Streets).

FROM THE SOUTH: Take 880 North, exit at High Street (south of the Bay Bridge) and drive west across the High Street bridge into Alameda. Continue on High Street for about six blocks and turn right on Central Avenue. Go for another 10 blocks to Park Street (with traffic light, past Park Avenue). Turn left on Park Street, go one block and turn right on Alameda Avenue. The Masonic Temple is on the left about 1/2 block before Oak Street.

FROM THE NORTH: Take 880 South and exit at 23rd

Avenue. When you have crossed the bridge going west, you will be on Park Avenue. Continue on Park until you come to Alameda Avenue and turn right. There is free parking after 6:00 pm in a city lot right across the street from the Temple, but accessible only from Central Avenue, one block east. You can turn right from Alameda onto Oak, right on Central and right into the lot, after about 1/2 block-or just drive straight across Park the lot after about 1/2 block, and walk to the Temple at the far end of the lot. The party will be in the Banquet Room on the fourth floor. There is an elevator.

Admission:	
New Dancers, with coupon from teacher.....	\$2.00
Members.....	\$6.00
Non-members.....	\$8.00
Non-members, please join the Branch! You can join now, as an affiliate member (January to May), for \$9.00. You receive the <i>Reel & Strathspeyer</i> , lower Party fees, help the Branch meet insurance requirements, and support the organization. Membership forms are available from your class manager, or at Monthly Parties.	

2002 Ball Gown Sale and Tea Party

Come and join us for a good time browsing, trying on, buying, or selling. You're sure to find some great bargains! In the past, we've had fun admiring and commenting on dresses others were modeling. Susie's house has lots of space and a huge mirror. So...don't get rid of that gown that doesn't fit or no longer seems to be the right color! Bring it to the Ball Gown Sale!

The annual pre-Valentines Ball tea party and ball gown swap will again be held at Susie Langdon Kass' home in San Francisco. The date is Saturday, January 26 from 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. Even if you don't find something to buy, you still can enjoy a cup of tea, good food, and socializing.

The proceeds of each sale go to the seller, but the entry donations (\$3 per person) will go to the scholarship fund. If you can't make it, you can still send in garments for possible sale.

Look for flyers with directions to Susie's house and **SAVE THE DATE!**

Volunteers needed!

Branch Committee Candidates

The nomination committee will soon be recruiting members to run for election to the "Branch Committee," our organization's Board of Directors or Executive Committee. Four members will be elected at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) in May for a two-year term. If you would be interested in being on the Branch Committee, or could suggest someone, please let us know. Contact any "board" member or Susie at susielk@itsa.ucsf.edu, 415-333-9372.

To find out more about the Branch Committee, why not go to a meeting? All RSCDS-SF Branch members are welcome at Branch Committee meetings. The committee usually meets at a member's home in the afternoon of monthly party days. Call one of the Committee members to find out the location. Or, talk to any of the current or former committee members.

The Nominating Committee.

The Valentine's Ball

by Melinda Davis

The RSCDS-SF Branch will be hosting its 36th Annual Valentine's Ball on Saturday, February 9, 2002, at the Scottish Rite Center, 1547 Lakeside Drive in Oakland. The Sherry Social starts at 7:00 p.m., with the Grand March following at 7:30 p.m. A midnight supper will be served. The theme of the ball this year is a Highland/Celtic/Tartan theme. Wear your tartan! If you don't have a tartan, adopt one for the evening. Flyers will be available at local classes, monthly parties, and at the bookstore at the Asilomar Weekend. For further information, please contact Art Tarsa at (650) 365-5574.

Lost and Found

I have many Lost and Found items from the Pleasanton Games. Only four items have already been claimed. Here is the list of items, since people sometimes don't realize they are missing an item until weeks or months later.

1. Tan beach towel
2. Women's blue jeans, size 10
3. White men's polo shirt, size L
4. Black nylon shorts, size M
5. White Famous Grouse t-shirt, size XL
6. Gray Asilomar 2000 t-shirt, size L
7. Navy Vertex baseball cap
8. White nylon slip/pants, size L
9. Black rubber sandals with velcro strap, size 8
10. Clip-on sunglasses
11. Cassette tape: Joie de Vivre, Gang the Same Gate, Caberfei

I strongly urge you to mark all your clothing, shoes, and other belongings with your name. Then forgotten items can be easily returned to you.

To claim your item, please contact me at 415-333-9372 or susielk@itsa.ucsf.edu. We will figure out a way to get the item to you.

I will bring the items to the October and November Monthly Parties and to Asilomar. If necessary, I'll bring them in December, too.

I also still have these items found LAST YEAR at the games and at Asilomar:

1. Pink hooded polyester jacket size L
2. Black nylon jacket size L
3. Red tartan lined skirt size 12 (in plastic bag)
4. Navy knee-high thick socks, large size
5. Navy baseball cap with Fox sports logo
6. White baby's hat with yellow, pink and blue embroidery
7. Black ghillies size 6 with no insole, no silicone coating
8. Cassette tape of Long Pond Reel by Terpsi chore
9. Small hairbrush with wooden handle
10. Dark brown fold-up umbrella
11. Silk navy and white paisley scarf with navy border
12. Black sweat shirt, no tags, about size L
13. Purple sweatshirt with white teddy bear design, size L
14. Light blue plastic poncho, folded
15. Silver earring, round shape, diamond with spokes pattern
16. Other umbrellas

Susie Langdon Kass

Pleasanton Games

by Doug McConnell

I have never received so many positive comments about the Celtic Heritage Program as happened this year! The whole two day/two stage program was successful, with such highlights as the children's sets (all of them); the wonderful shows of the various groups on the lower stage; the fifty-five or six fiddlers, led by Alastair; our twenty plus harpers orchestrated by Verlene Schermer; and the great contributions of Kersty Fitch with her puir-t-a-buel and John Kelly with his folk singing-over 360 performers in all!

None of this would have happened if it had not been for the hard work of the volunteers who help in so many ways-before, during and after the Games. I sent out an e-mail asking for help setting up on the Friday and these people showed up and worked: Mel Creusere, Gary Knox, Mimi Mueller, Alastair Brown, Vern McEvoy, Gale Holladay, Bud Wisecarver, Gene Bissell, George Gates, Larry Wakeman, Bill Stocker, Dave Gord, Paula Jacobson, Michael Howard, Mark Caplin, Steve Wyrick,

Jonathon Lovell, Sparky Gregory, Harry Butler, and Margaret Mitchell, This great group, and forgive me if I have missed anyone, was fed a sumptuous luncheon by the East Bay Ladies, this year comprising Marjorie Henry, Sue Marchand, Jane Oliviera, Linda Henderson, Susan Reznick, Joyce Mann, Virginia Bissell, and Connie Wai. The set up started at 8:00 a.m. and was completed by 3:45 p.m. The tear down began at 5:00 p.m. and was finished by around 7:15 p.m.-remarkable efforts!

Many of the same people stayed after the Games and helped with the tear down. These were supported by a contingent of fiddlers and other members of the Scottish Country Dancers. By then I'm afraid I was remiss in not adding to my list of names, but you who were there, please accept my grateful thanks.

Thanks are due to our adjudicators, Mary Murray, Marianna Harvey, and Gloria McConnell; those who volunteered as scribes, as MCs for the lower stage (Bob McMurtry, Bruce Herbold, Alastair Brown, Linda Baptiste), and as tent helpers for Susie Kass; and again to Alastair Brown who spent two days as the sound engineer on the lower stage.

Finally, many thanks to the organizers of the sets and groups who performed at such a high and crowd-pleasing standard. We are the envy of the country dance world with this showcase and recruiting vehicle. This year Mary and Dave Brandon modeled an adjudication dance event on the Queen Mary copying our program format.

Happy dancing one and all.

A New beginners Class to start in San Francisco on Sundays!

Tell your friends and co-workers! Millberry Recreation and Fitness Center at UCSF is offering a Scottish Country Dancing class for new beginners starting Sunday, January 20, 2002, at 6:00 p.m. The fee is \$72 for the eleven-week winter quarter session. Parking in the parking garage is just \$1 for the evening. Students should bring tennis shoes or dance slippers; no street shoes are allowed in the studio. Continuing beginners and experienced dancers are welcome, too. Registration is by mail, Fax, or in person at Millberry Recreation and Fitness Center, 500 Parnassus. Call 415-476-1115 for a catalog. Contact Susie Langdon Kass at 415-333-9372, susielk@itsa.ucsf.edu, for more information and directions.

Calendar

NOVEMBER 2001

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 3

November Monthly Party, San Mateo Masonic Hall

SUNDAYS, NOVEMBER 4, 11, 18, 25

Advanced Technique Class, UCSF, San Francisco

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 17,

7:30 p.m.Red Thistle performs in "Dance to Tradition," a mini ethnic dance concert produced by Raices de Mexico, to be held at the Cubberley Theatre at the Cubberley Community Center on Middlefield Road in Palo Alto.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 21

Thanksgiving Bash, Mountain View Class

DECEMBER 2001

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 1

Monthly Party, St. Mark's, Palo Alto

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 5

Last Mountain View Class before Holiday Break

MONDAY, DECEMBER 10

San Jose Class Holiday Party

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 15

Berkeley Class Holiday Party, at the Arlington Community Church, 52 Arlington Ave., Kensington. Potluck Dinner at 6:00 p.m., Dancing at 8:00 p.m. For information, call Heather at (510) 653-7507 or email her at mackay@voicenet.com

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 20

SF Class Winter Solstice Party

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 29

Tween Party, Lafayette Veterans Hall

MONDAY, DECEMBER 31

Monterey Class Hogmanay Party, Carmel

Directory Additions

George Stevenson	(O): 925-776-1234
Marita Stevenson	(H): 925-524-0400
1170 Mardon Ct	
Concord CA 64521-4744	catocito@pacbell.net
Glenn A Wildman II	(O): 408-842-3962
Vicki Wildman T	(O): 408-741-0508
2058 Colusa Way	(H): 408-374-2263
San Jose CA 95130-1807	gwwildman@aol.com
fax 408-374-8391	

Directory Amendments

Laura M Cooper		
12894 Pierce Rd	(H): 408-867-6774	
Saratoga CA 95070	laurmaric@earthlink.net	
Marlene Cowan S	(O): 415-759-2852	
101 Cervantes Blvd #111	(H): 415-921-4458	
San Francisco CA 94123	cowanm@aol.com	
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The Origins of Hallowe'en

Next to Christmas, Hallowe'en is the most commercialized celebration in the United States and Canada. This ancient festival originated far from North America however, and centuries before the first European set foot on the continent.

The ancient Druids, who inhabited what we now call Great Britain, placed great importance on the passing of one season to the next, holding "Fire Festivals" which were celebrated for three days (two days on either side of the day itself).

One of these festivals was called *Samhain* (pronounced Sha-Von) and it took place on October 31 through to November 1. During this period, it was believed that the boundaries between our world and the world of the dead were weakened, allowing spirits of the recently dead to cross over and possess the living.

In order to make themselves and their homes less inviting to these wayward spirits, the ancient Celts would douse all their fires. There was also a secondary purpose to this; after extinguishing all their fires, they would re-light them from a common source, the Druidic fire that was kept burning at Usinach, in the Middle of Ireland.

Samhain was considered to be a gateway not only from the land of the dead to the land of the living, but also between Summer and Fall/Winter. For the Druids, this was the last gasp of summer (it was also the Celtic New Year), so therefore they made sure it went out with a bang before they had to button down for the winter ahead.

They would dress up in bizarre costumes and parade through their villages causing destruction in order to scare off any recently departed souls who might be prowling for bodies to inhabit, in addition to burning animals and other offerings to the Druidic deities. It is also a popular belief that they would burn people who they believed to be possessed, but this has largely been debunked as myth.

This yearly festival was adopted by the Roman invaders, who helped to propagate it throughout the rest of the world (and at that time, the Roman Empire was the world). The word "Hallowe'en" itself actually comes from a contraction of All Hallows Eve, or All Saint's Day (November 1), which is a Catholic day of observance in honor of saints.

This tradition was later brought to the North American continent by Irish immigrants who were escaping the

Potato Famine in their homeland. In addition to the festival itself, the immigrants brought several customs with them, including one of the symbols most commonly associated with Hallowe'en - the Jack 'O Lantern.

According to Irish folklore, there once lived a man named Jack who was known for being a drunk and a prankster. One night Jack tricked the devil into climbing a tree, and quickly carved an image of a cross on the trunk, trapping the devil. Jack then made him promise that, in exchange for letting him out of the tree, the Devil would never tempt him to sin again. He reluctantly agreed, but was able to exact his revenge upon Jack's death. Because of his mischievous ways in life, Jack was barred from entering heaven and because of his earlier trick, he was also barred from hell. So he was doomed to wander the earth until the end of time, with only a single ember (carried in a hollowed out turnip) to warm him and light his way.

In Ireland, they originally also used turnips for their "Jack Lanterns", but upon arriving in the new world, they discovered that pumpkins were abundant and easier to carve out.

If you have any concerns about the S. F. Branch, or would like to attend a Branch Committee (Board of Directors) meeting, please contact one of the members. Branch Committee meetings are usually held in the afternoon before Monthly Parties.

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: **Sacramento** (April): 916-557-0764, www.sacaledonian.org/; **Campbell** (June): Sparky
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(July): Lori Farrell: 925-934-1928, firenite@ix.netcom.com, Eleanor Hotchkies: 510-339-8705,
whistledow@aol.com; **Monterey** (August): Sara Gratiot: 831-384-4783, SEGratiot@aol.com; **Pleasanton**
(September): Doug McConnell: JDouglasMcConnell@compuserve.com, 650-493-5974; Information tent:
Susie Langdon Kass: 415-333-9372; **Dixon** (September): Lori Farrell: (see above)

Revised August 2001 • SLK

PLEASE SEND CHANGES FOR THIS LIST TO:

Susie Langdon Kass
susielk@itsa.ucsf.edu, 415-333-9372

SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLASSES IN NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

SAN FRANCISCO BRANCH CLASSES

Berkeley

FRIDAYS: **Beginners:** 8:00 PM; Grace North Church, 2138 Cedar at Walnut. **Experienced: Technique:** 7:30 PM; **Social:** 8:00 PM; All Souls Episcopal Parish, 2220 Cedar at Spruce. *Call George Gates 925-709-1046 or Heather MacKay 510-653-7507. Youth Classes (2 levels): 6:30 PM.; *call Kathleen McAdam 925-934-6148.* Teachers: Youth: Kathleen McAdam; Adult: David Newitt, Avril Quarrie, David Quarrie, Ailya Rose, Lori Farrell.*

Berkeley

MONDAYS: **Intermediates:** 8:00 PM; St. Clement's Episcopal Church, 2837 Claremont Blvd. at Russell near Ashby. *Call Heather MacKay 510-653-7507.* Teachers: Claudette Sigg, Pat O'Brien, Trina Merriman, others.

Lafayette

THURSDAYS: **Beginners & Intermediates:** 8:00 PM; *call Bill Wakeman 925-283-3908. Children's Classes (3 levels): 6:00 PM; *call Kathleen McAdam 925-934-6148.* Veteran's Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd. at First Street. Teachers: Eugene Bissell, Kathleen McAdam, Cathy Bertics.*

Livermore

MONDAYS: **Beginners & Intermediates:** 7:30 PM; *call Gale Holladay 925-447-5771. Family Class: FRIDAYS: 7:00 PM; **Children's Class:** MONDAYS: 6:30 PM; *call Sheena MacQueen 925-447-1833.* Livermore Presbyterian Church, 2020 Fifth Street at L Street. Teachers: Sheena MacQueen, Coletta Busse, Don MacQueen.*

Monterey

MONDAYS: **Beginners:** 6:30 PM; **Experienced:** 7:30 PM; Monterey Senior Center, 280 Dickman at Lighthouse. *Call Kathy Wendell 831-663-3227 or Brian Campbell 831-656-9923.* Teachers: Sara Gratiot, Brian Campbell.

Mountain View

WEDNESDAYS: **Beginners & Intermediates:** 7:45 PM; Mountain View Sports Pavilion, 1185 Castro Avenue. *Call Denise Francis 510-713-7813 or Anita Geleynse 408-262-9705. Children's Class: MONDAYS: 4:00 PM, Circus Studio, 1350-#5 Grant Road. *Call Connie Wai 650-906-6219.* Teachers: Alan Twigg, Armin Busse, Bob McMurtry, Bruce Hamilton, Jo Hamilton.*

San Francisco

THURSDAYS: **Beginners & Experienced:** 8:00 PM; Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez Street at 23rd Street. *Call Linnea Johnson 415-841-9456 or Susie Langdon Kass 415-333-9372.* Teachers: Bruce Herbold, Susie Langdon Kass, Trina Merriman.

San Francisco (affiliated class)

SUNDAYS: **Advanced:** October-November; 6:00 PM. Call for permission. Teacher: Bruce Herbold. **Beginners:** 6:00 PM; *Starts 1/20/02.* Teacher: Susie Langdon Kass. Millberry Recreation & Fitness Center at UCSE, 500 Parnassus Avenue. *Call Susie Langdon Kass 415-333-9372.*

San Jose

MONDAYS: **Beginners:** 7:30 PM; **Experienced:** 8:30 PM; American Legion Hall, 1504 Minnesota Avenue. *Call Sparky Gregory 408-257-2294 or Jonathan Lovell 408-924-4437.* Teacher: Marianna Harvey.

Santa Cruz

THURSDAYS: **Intermediates/Beginners:** 8:00 PM; First Congregational Church, 900 High Street. *Call Karen MacQuarrie 831-479-1615.* Teacher: Juliet Davoren. **Beginners:** 5th Thursday Family night or anytime.

Santa Rosa

MONDAYS: **Beginners:** 7:00 PM; **Intermediates:** 8:15 PM; FRIDAYS: **Advanced** (call for permission); Santa Rosa Senior Center, 704 Bennett Valley Road. *Call Emily Evans 707-874-2512.* Teachers: Gary Thomas, Ron Wallace, Emily Evans. **Children's Class:** WEDNESDAYS: 11:00 AM; *Call Ron Wallace 707-795-2185.* Teacher: Ron Wallace.

Soquel

FRIDAYS: **Beginners:** 7:00 PM; **Intermediates:** 8:30 PM; Soquel Grange Hall, 2800 Porter Street. *Call Bob McMurtry 831-335-7459.* Teachers: Paula Jacobson, Bob McMurtry.

Stanford

TUESDAYS: **Basic & Experienced Social:** 7:30 PM; *call Doug or Gloria McConnell 650-493-5974.* J. L. Stanford Middle School, 480 East Meadow Drive. Teachers: Gloria McConnell, Rebecca Davis, Bob McMurtry, Doug McConnell.

DEMONSTRATION TEAMS

Dunsmuir Scottish Dancers

TUESDAYS: 7:30 PM; **Advanced** (by invitation only). *Call Shari Salis 510-558-8644 or Ron Wallace 707-795-2185.* Teacher: Ron Wallace.

New World Scottish Dancers

THURSDAYS: 8:00 PM; **Advanced** (by invitation only). *Call Claudette Sigg 510-526-8192.* Teacher: Claudette Sigg.

Red Thistle Dancers

THURSDAYS: 8:00 PM; **Advanced** (by invitation only). Call Jennifer Kelly 650-327-1350. Teacher: Jennifer Kelly.

SACRAMENTO BRANCH CLASSES

Sacramento

FRIDAYS: **Beginners:** 6:30 PM; **Combined classes:** 7:30 PM; **Intermediates:** 8:00 PM; **Technique & Demonstration Class:** MONDAYS, 7:30 PM. *Call Lynne Lockwood 916-491-4032. Youth classes: SATURDAYS: **Beginners** (10 yrs.-Teens): 9:00 AM; **Experienced:** 10:30 AM; White Heather Dancers: 11:45 AM. *Call Cherilyn Larsen 916-429-9170.* YLI Clubhouse, 1400 27th Street. Teachers: Lynne Lockwood, Peggy Hamilton.*

Stockton

WEDNESDAYS: **Experienced:** 7:30 PM; Unitarian Church, Bristol & Pacific. *Call Charles Wood 209-465-8871.* Teacher: Carolyn Hunt.

Truckee (See Reno)

CHANGES FOR NEXT SCHEDULE
DUE **DECEMBER 1**

Contact: Susie at 415-333-9372
susielk@itsa.ucsf.edu

www.rscds-sf.org

OTHER CLASSES

Arcata

FRIDAYS: 4:00 PM; SATURDAYS: 10:00 AM; **Experienced Social:** Arcata Presbyterian Church, 11th & G Streets. *Call Helen Macpherson 707-822-3056 or Virginia Rumble 707-822-1854.* Teacher: Ann McClary.

Campbell

FRIDAYS: **Beginners:** 7:00 PM; Campbell Community Center. *Call Rebecca Davis 408-378-3817.* Teacher: Rebecca Davis. *New class begins November 9.*

New!

Grass Valley

MONDAYS: **Beginners/Experienced:** 7:00 PM. *Call Ed Johnston 530-622-1519.* Teacher: Ed Johnston. **Beginners:** anytime.

Merced

MONDAYS: **Beginners/Experienced:** 7:00 PM; Merced Multicultural Arts Center, 645 W. Main Street. *Call Lisa Kayser-Grant 209-384-1016.* Teacher: Lisa Kayser-Grant.

Mill Valley

FRIDAYS: **Beginners:** 7:30 PM; **Experienced Social:** 8:15 PM. Almonte Hall, Wisteria Way at Almonte. *Call Mike Hird or Marghie Goff 415-884-2716.* Teacher: Marghie Goff.

Redding

THURSDAYS: **Beginners:** 6:30 PM; **Experienced:** 7:00 PM. *Call Margaret Anne Schlobohm 530-472-1154.* Teacher: Margaret Anne Schlobohm. **Beginners:** anytime.

Reno, Nevada

WEDNESDAYS: **Beginners/Experienced:** 7:00 PM; **Call to confirm!** McKinley Arts & Culture Center, 925 Riverside Drive. *Call Martha Norrie 775-829-8680, Marian Stroh 775-825-1224, or Barbara Sullivan 530 587-5919.* Teachers: Martha Norrie, Marian Stroh. **Beginners:** anytime. THURSDAYS: **Experienced:** 7:30 pm. **Call to confirm!** California Building, Idlewild Park. *Call Dave Wilson 775-825-6867.* Teacher: Dave Wilson.

STEP DANCING CLASSES

Atherton

TUESDAYS: **Beginners:** 7:00 PM; THURSDAYS: **Experienced:** 7:00 PM. Carriage House. *Call Jo Hamilton 650-328-0474.* Teacher: Jo Hamilton.

Petaluma

2nd or 3rd SUNDAYS: **Scottish Step & Cape Breton:** 12:00 noon; Hermann Sons Hall, 860 Western Avenue. *Call Ron Wallace 707-795-2185.* Teacher: Ron Wallace.

Pleasant Hill

THURSDAYS: **Beginners:** 6:00 PM & **Experienced:** 7:00 PM. Diablo Light Opera Co., 1948 Oak Park Blvd. at Douglas Lane. *Call Claudette Sigg 510-526-8192.* Teacher: Claudette Sigg.

Scottish Step or Cape Breton Step classes are held also in Monterey, Sacramento, and Santa Rosa. *Sara Gratiot 831-384-4783, Peggy Hamilton 209-956-6676, Bob Schuldheisz 209-745-9063, or Ron Wallace 707-795-2185.*

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