

THE SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCER

Volume 16, Issue 6

May/June 2000

Vancouver Spring Dance

By Liza Halpenny

Our May 6 Spring Dance was a blooming delight. There were flowers about and a happy congregation completed the bouquet. There is nothing like having live music to make a dance genuine and joyous all the way to your bones. The players -- Theresa Webb on accordion and Ellen Hanson on fiddle, with help from Tom Webb on drum and Kathy Wheeler on guitar -- did themselves proud. Our mighty leader, Lisa Scott, and our musicians re-tuned the dance program with skilled versatility to include visitors new to Scottish dancing.

Susan, Gayle, Don, and Liza took a turn at briefing dances, while Donna and Rosemary took the prize for bringing guests from both work and



Irish dancing class. Welcome, familiar faces from Portland and Ashland helped fill out two sets for each dance. We missed Van's friendly presence at the front door and look forward to having her back.

Because of room-booking complications, our usual "order of business" was changed this dance. But no one seemed to mind partaking of the tasty repast in the middle of the dance instead of the end. We all managed to re-set our brains 180 degrees to have the head of the sets at the opposite end of the room from what we're used to, too. (Unless we want to use that as our excuse for struggling with "The Immigrant Lass"!)

So, *friends plus fun plus flexibility* added up to a great evening. Thank you one and all.



Fort Worden, 2000!

"Steps Through Time"

I have been looking over the packet of information from the RSCDS Seattle Branch describing their Fort Worden 2000 workshop and ball, scheduled for **September 15, 16, and 17**. It looks like it's going to be even better than last year! Consider the opening description:

"Come join us at Fort Worden 2000, the RSCDS Seattle Branch's 26th annual weekend retreat/workshop, where we'll be exploring and celebrating the history of Scottish Country Dancing. What better way to start a new century than by looking back through the centuries and examining the traditions that underlie this dance form and its music? This year's classes, which are ALL elective, include English Country Dancing, Stepdancing, beginning and intermediate Cape Breton Stepdancing, and Shetland Isles dancing, as well as Scottish Country Dancing, with an emphasis on some of the earliest dances recorded and their evolution. We welcome dancers with at least one year of Scottish Country

Dancing experience. The music will also be carefully selected to be appropriate to the century and style of dance being taught."

The weekend starts with a ceilidh Friday night. Then, Saturday keeps you busy from 9am till 4pm with the workshops, dinner at 6pm and the Ball at 8. On Sunday, there is one last combined class.

Here's a sampling of the workshops:

- Quadrilles - the earliest of the Square Dances, brought to Scotland from Paris in 1816; includes skip change step, strathspey, as well as some fancy steps;
- Cape Breton Stepdancing: Jigs, Strathspeys, and Reels;
- Old Reels - energetic dances, the only indigenous dances of Scotland; dancers set for 8 bars, then reel; setting steps can be as simple or complicated as desired; attendees will learn two basic and two more challenging steps in strathspey and reel time;
- English Country Dancing, a precursor of

(cont. next page)

Manager's Message

Geri Stuart

Hello Everyone!

It's membership dues time again! Just to refresh your memory - fees are:

- \$5 for membership in our local group only (includes the newsletter)
- \$20 for membership in RSCDS and local group (includes newsletter and book from RSCDS)
- \$18 for each additional family member in RSCDS
- \$2.50 for the newsletter only (membership elsewhere)

Please take time to fill out and return your dues and the form before you set this aside and forget where you put it!

Enjoy your dancing and the summertime -- hope to see you on the dance floor!

Calendar of Events

- May 13 **Portland SCDance Party**: Odd Fellow's Hall, 13720 SW Pacific Hwy., Tigard .8:00pm (*Note the changed time!*)
info: John 503-635-3885 blackjohns@aol.com
Don 503-692-5963 dlgertz@teleport.com
- May 20 **Herb Festival**, Pomeroy Living History Farm, 20902 NE Lucia Falls Rd, Yacolt, WA 98675 360-686-3537.
- May 20 **Seattle May Ball** Congregational Church, 4545 Island Crest Way, Mercer Island. "Full Dress" banquet & ball (Champagne Reception 7pm, Grand March 8pm, Midnight Buffet Supper 11pm) Music: Lisa Scott, Linda Danielson, Janet Kurnick, Hugh McCready.
info: Adeline Crinks 425-823-7842, Susan Brady 425-823-9248
- June 9 **Deadline - Fort Worden 2000** registration. Info: Eileen Hsu, Ft. Worden Registrar 425-462-0507 eshsu1@alumni.haas.org
- June 10 **Portland SCDance Party** Odd Fellow's Hall, 13720 SW Pacific Hwy., Tigard 7:30pm
info: John 503-635-3885 blackjohns@aol.com
Don 503-692-5963 dlgertz@teleport.com
- July 9 **Kirkin' of the Tartan**, at the Westminster Presbyterian Church, 1624 N.E. Hancock, Portland. Service at 10 AM, with dancing to follow.
- Sept 15-17 **Seattle Branch Fort Worden Weekend** - Classes in SCD as well as English Country Dancing, Stepdancing, and Cape Breton Stepdancing. Info: Eileen Hsu, Ft. Worden Registrar 425-462-0507 eshsu1@alumni.haas.org
- Sept ?? **Fall SCD Class Starts**, Oak/Elm Rooms at the Marshall Community Center, 1009 E. McLoughlin Blvd. Vancouver, WA.
Check July/August newsletter, or Parks & Rec catalog for date!

Fort Worden 2000! (cont)

- contemporary Scottish Country Dancing, having in common many figures and patterns;
- Dances from the Shetland Isles - wonderful, driving music, compact figures, a variety of "cool" setting steps; the class will look at some typical Shetland reels from before 1900, and learn setting steps like the backstep, the heel-toe step, and the double pas de basque...

And that is only a *partial* list!

We are advised to register early for this popular weekend. Registrations are due by **June 9, 2000**. Contact any of the following people with your questions or concerns:

- Eileen Hsu, Ft. Worden Registrar 425-462-0507 eshsu1@alumni.haas.org
- Tonna Kutner, Ft. Worden Chair tonna@serv.net
- Helen Van Mater, Music Coordinator Vanmaterh@aol.com

Or you can visit their web site, see all the info, and download a registration form. Their web address is:

<http://www.scn.org/arts/scottish/>



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Do you have an item of Celtic interest you would like to see in print?

You can contact me in any of the following ways:
By mail:

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By email: bcjs@pacifier.com