

BULLETIN *of the* North American Manx Association



VOL. 53 NO. 3

"To preserve whate'er is left us of ancient heritage"

March 1981.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As I look out my window on the snow covered ground, I realize that here we are in that month when the very nature of our Spring is starting to develop under the snow.

In an early Roman calendar February was the last month of the year, and took its name from Februarius a Latin word meaning "to purify", then that noted calendar revisor, Julius Caesar, moved February into second place, where it has remained ever since.

All of this brings me to the consideration of the New Year (1981), because on New Year's Eve we all enjoy a spot of wishful thinking, but next day we brace ourselves for the effort to make our dreams come true.

Every New Year people all over the world think of what they want the next twelve months to bring them. Some people merely make wishes, but many make resolutions to regulate their daily living so as to increase their prospect of happiness.

Just as the date of the beginning of the New Year differs from continent to continent, so the things that people desire differ.

Human nature is subject to whims, adaptable to good or bad influences, and swayed by many cultural patterns.

The answer to the great question of life: "What do we want?", will change, too, as a person progresses in age, however nobody is too old to revise their opinion about what he or she wants out of life, and work toward getting it.

Our wants for a happy life are of several kinds: physical, social, spiritual and inner-self, and each has several aspects, however it must be stated that every person differs from all others in the nature and the relative intensity of his wants.

When the early Manx settlers came to this great Continent they were already cultured people with ancient roots in literature, fine arts, music, science and of course Government.

They had social structures of high quality, but what of their wants? especially in a new land. It is recorded that many endured hardships, however they were determined and prepared to work and contribute to the building of a new life, this was to be their Utopia, because without the Utopians of other times, men would still live in caves miserable and naked. Expressed "Utopia is the principle of all progress, and the essay into a better future".

One can state that Utopia is necessary because of the universal desire among human beings in all ages to change living conditions for the better. During the past sixty years the conditions of life have been more altered than they were in all of the previous two thousand years, today men and women everywhere are living through a change in the human scene that challenges many ideas and institutions inherited from other days. In the year 1979 the Manx Nation celebrated its "Millennium" and the Manx are proud of the national independence and freedoms they have won, and, of those generations of young Manx men and women who have planted in so many countries around the world the noblest characteristics of their blood and race.

But let us look at freedom for the moment: The very word freedom has many shades of meaning, depending upon its context, it stands for political liberty, personal liberty, non-slavery, independence, or the power of self determination.

It implies more than mere liberty, for it demands insurance and protection by provident institutions such as governments which secure us from arbitrary subjection.

Recently through modern medium's satellite and television million of viewers witnessed the dramatic return to freedom of the fifty two hostages, a freedom that had to be negotiated. We in this free world have a list of freedoms that would run to many pages yet we take all this for granted without realizing we should miss any part of it if it were taken from us.

Therefore in conclusion to make the best of our freedoms we must become intelligent, educated, informed citizenry, acquainted with the values, privileges and responsibilities of our respective nations and way of life.

George Curphey,
President.

NEW I. O. M. COINS

Two new commemorative coins are announced for the Isle of Man. One is a Fifty Pence, celebrating Tynwald with a Viking Ship on one side and Queen Elizabeth II on the other. These are offered at \$47.95 in silver proof, or \$7.95 in cupro-nickel.

The other Manx coin honours the Queen Mother on her 80th birthday, these are of one crown (25p) denomination, offered in silver proof - \$79.00, or in cupro-nickel - \$8.50

For more information and how to order write - World Proof Numismatic Association, 1429 Hawthorne Street, Pittsburgh, PA. 15201.

No address is given for Canadian collectors, they could also contact the above address.

A LOST TALE

This first novel by young Canadian writer Dale Estey is a curious mixture of fantasy, romance and the realities of World War II.

Set on the ISLE OF MAN where, the author tells us, belief in the supernatural like fairies, unicorns and the ancient rites of the Druids, is still rampant among the country folk, it is the story of a plot to prevent the Nazis from stealing the secret of the atom bomb.

During the darkest days of the war, a modern band of Druids join forces with no less than Canada's own Man Called Intrepid, spymaster William Stephenson, to foil the Nazis. Estey, who lives in New Brunswick, does a fine job of weaving fact and fancy in his story, his characters are engrossing, and his evocation of the Celtic religion, history and traditions is fascinating. (Nelson, \$12.95).

**North American Manx Association
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N.A.M.A. Membership Fee \$6.00 per year
(from Aug. 1st, 1981) this includes sub-
scription to Bulletin published four times
annually. Membership without Bulletin
\$2.00

Life Membership Fees in N.A.M.A.
Members over 50 years of age \$40.00
Members under 50 years of age \$50.00

1981/82 DUES

Annual dues were increased at the Halifax Convention to \$6 a year for Regular members and \$2 for Associate members. The change will become effective with the fiscal year which begins on August 1, 1981. The pink slip which will be sent out with the June Bulletin will bear the \$6 and \$2 rates. Life membership rates were not changed.

C. E. Creer, Treas.
14228 Union,
Orland Park,
Ill. 60462. USA.

ANCESTORS

Many of our members will remember Paul Gregson and his wife Madeleine formerly of Montreal, Quebec, they were active members of the Montreal Manx Society, and took a prominent part in the running of the N.A.M.A. Convention held in that city in 1961. They now reside in Daly City, California.

I recently received a letter from Paul with an enquiry. - To quote -

In the early thirties when I was a toddler, my parents enjoyed pushing me in the pram for many walks in and around Douglas, Isle of Man, on one such walk up West Baldwin and into St. Luke's churchyard my mother pointed to a stone and told my father "that's one of our family". Last year when I visited the Island I prodded my father's memory as I worked on the family tree and he remembered that walk, off we went again and here is what we found.

WILLIAM GELLING OF BALDWIN
VILLAGE, BLACKSMITH,
WHO DEPARTED THIS LIFE
25TH AUGUST 1879,
AGED 67 YEARS.

THIS STONE IS ERECTED BY
HIS SON WILLIAM GELLING,
OF CLEVELAND, OHIO, U.S.
AMERICA.

If William Gelling's descendants are out there looking for relatives, will they please speak up. (unquote).

Paul E. Gregson,
79 Florence Street,
Daly City, CAL. 94014.

**DUE TO LACK OF SPACE
HELD OVER FROM
SEPT./DEC. 1980 BULLETIN
Financial Statement
Ladies' Auxiliary**

August 1978 - August 1980

Balance - August 25, 1978	\$347.84
Receipts:	
Received from dues:	
65 members @ \$2.00 - \$130.00	
1 member @ 4.00 - 4.00	
1 member @ 5.00 - 5.00	139.00
Proceeds of Auction - Sept. meeting of Cleveland Manx Society. 9/78	65.85
Donations from members	33.00
Special Memorial donation from Mrs. Harold Cain, I.O.M.	23.20
Proceeds of Drawing - Cleveland Manx Picnic - 8/80 - Mrs. Abell and Committee	45.00
Bank Interest:	
6 months, 1978 - \$ 6.76	
12 months, 1979 - 10.47	
6 months, 1980 - 2.85 -	20.08
Disbursements:	
Ethel Christian - for gifts to non-members, material only	\$15.93
Edith Cox - for extra flowers (mat.)	20.00
Special cards signed for absent member - and postage	4.62
Helen Clucas - for bronze plaque	40.00
Old Austria Restaurant	229.35*
N.A.M.A. dues (2 years)	10.00
Donation to Conevention Fund Halifax	125.00
Two trees planted - I.O.M.	24.70
Souvenir Book Greeting	8.00
Prize Distribution Tickets	5.00
Postage - sweater guards and member cards	5.00
Bank Balance - August 23, 1980	186.37
*673.35 - Old Austria Total 444.00 - Paid by members 229.35 - Above paid by treasury	
TOTAL	\$673.97

Audited and found correct:

Florence Lyon

Respectfully submitted,

Eleanor Cain, Secretary-Treasurer

**NOT DUES TIME YET
BUT . . .**

Dues notices will be included in the June issue of the Bulletin. In the event that you should send in dues before June, please note that the annual dues are now \$6 for Regular Members and \$2 for members who do not receive the Bulletin.

C. E. Creer, Treas.

NEWS OF THE MANX SOCIETIES

SAN DIEGO MANX SOCIETY

Our Christmas meeting was held at the home of Chuck and Mickey Gemeroy, the meeting centered mainly around discussion of the 1982 N.A.M.A. Convention which will be held in San Diego, California. Refreshments were served and gifts were exchanged.

In January we were saddened to learn that Chuck passed away following heart surgery, our sincere sympathy goes to his widow and family, Mrs. Gemeroy is the Secretary of the San Diego Manx Society.

Marge Weber
4575 Catherine Ave.
San Diego, CAL. 92115.

CHICAGO MANX SOCIETY

The Chicago Manx Society is looking forward to a Spring Meeting. At this time, a date for the meeting has not been set.

We had a lovely Sunday dinner in the late Fall at the Lilac Lodge. We did not have a program planned, so we "Chit Chatted" about the history of the Isle of Man.

Florence Abbinanti
Sec. - Treasurer

VANCOUVER MANX SOCIETY

Hello Everyone,

The Vancouver Manx Society held a very successful Christmas tea on December 13th at St. Davids Church Hall with close to 50 people attending and enjoying the good fare provided. The highlight of the evening was an extremely enjoyable film show put on by one of our members, Chris Sterling. The film complete with commentary and music was made by Chris when he and his family visited the I.O.M. during the Millennium Year.

Our next event will be our annual Pot Luck Supper at the lovely home of Dr. and Mrs. Gell, this will probably be in early May.

Winter here in Vancouver, has been a very mild affair with only one light snow fall in early December. Daffodils are already starting to bud, snowdrops and crocuses are in flower.

P. Tregellis, Sec.
10260 Shell Road,
Richmond, B.C.

WORLD MANX ASSOCIATION

Patrons: Sir Nigel Cecil and Lady Cecil

President: Miss Doris M. Clague, 1 Hilary Road, Douglas, Isle of Man, Tel: Douglas 6741

Chairman: Mr. John Quilliam, Colby, Isle of Man.

Hon. Correspondence Secretary:

Mrs. M. Weller, Kerrow Ne Cronk, Bride, Isle of Man

Tel: 88 453

It was with much pleasure that World Manx Association Officials entertained Homecomers, Anne and James Robison, in early October 1980, and during an enjoyable "cooish", many items of news and recollections were exchanged.

The same warm welcome awaits any Manx returning to the Island for a holiday, and contact can be made by phoning Secretary Mrs. M. Weller, 88 453, or President, Douglas 6741.

It was a joy also to have Mrs. Joyce Kinley accompanying W.M.A. Officials, and Committee, to Government House for a reception, when a parting gift was handed to the then Lieutenant Governor, Sir John and Lady Paul. The gift took the form of a crystal glass flower vase, beautifully engraved with the design of the badge of the World Manx Association. The presentation was made by President, Miss Doris Clague, who spoke in appreciation of the Patronage lent by His Excellency and Lady Paul by their attendance at W.M.A. functions. In reply, Sir John spoke of the importance of the work of the World Manx Association, and expressed warmest thanks for the crystal vase, which he said both Lady Paul and he would treasure.

Tynwald Day saw a good representation of Manx from various parts of the world, gathered in the Gardens Room, Villa Marina, when all felt honoured by the presence of His Excellency and Lady Paul, and the Mayor and Mayoress of Douglas.

Homecomers, who were welcomed by Chairman, Mr. John Quilliam, and introduced by President, Miss D. Clague, received a tremendous welcome and a very happy atmosphere prevailed. The Cleveland Medalist 1980, Miss Daphne Murray, was the soloist and accompanist was Miss Marilyn Kissack, L.R.A.M. Later, a most enjoyable tea was served.

W.M.A. Syllabuses will be issued to all Manx Societies after the Annual General Meeting in March.

Dates of W.M.A. Outings

May - Thursday 7th	2:30 p.m.
June - Thursday 18th	6:30 p.m.
July - Sunday 12th	2:30 p.m.
August - Thursday 13th	2:30 p.m.
September - Saturday 12th	2:30 p.m.

All outings leave the Masonic Temple, top end of Hilary Park, Douglas. Further details can be obtained by phoning Douglas 28105.

MINNESOTA MANX SOCIETY

The meeting of the Manx Society of Minnesota was held on December 8, 1980, at 6566 France Avenue South, Minneapolis.

New officers for the year 1981 are as follows:

President - T. R. Anderson
1st Vice President - Corrin Hodgson
2nd Vice President - Ruth H. Cadwell
Treasurer - Alfred Clague
Secretary - Jean Lavelle

A very interesting report, including a colour slide presentation, of the North American Manx Society Convention held in Halifax, Nova Scotia, was presented by Jean Lavelle. Information was also furnished concerning the next convention of N.A.M.A. to be held in San Diego, California, in 1982.

A discussion then followed concerning the Viking Show which is coming from Europe and will be held at the Minneapolis Institute of Arts from March 3rd to May 3rd. Attention was called to two items which are included in the show from the Isle of Man.

One of our members, Dr. John Parker, Curator of the Bell Library of the University of Minnesota, reported that his staff was preparing a special Viking show from the archives of that library. He then invited the members of the Manx Society to hold their next meeting in March at the library during its Viking show.

Since our last meeting, our society has received two special donations of \$500 each for the purpose of carrying on research into the history and genealogy concerning the Isle of Man.

T. R. Anderson, President
1903 First National Bank Building
Minneapolis, Minn. 55402.

NEBRASKA MANX SOCIETY

Due to the fact that the President and Secretary-Treasurer were in England for the fall, the Nebraska Manx Society did not meet. James and Annie Robison and their daughter Elizabeth attended the Convention in Nova Scotia and then went to England and the Isle of Man for several weeks holiday.

We are looking forward to April and our Spring Meeting and hearing from the Robison's about the Convention and their trip.

Millie Corkill, Secretary
2220 S. 49th,
Lincoln, NEB. 68506.

CLEVELAND MANX SOCIETY

Cleveland area winters of the past few years prompted our Society to dispense with a regular meeting in January. We have programs or entertainment after each meeting. Different hostesses provide refreshments for our members.

Florence and Bill Roseman conducted a Valentine-Bingo party after our February meeting. In March, Mona Haldeman shared her slides of scenes of Nova Scotia, and "highlights" taken at our recent convention in Halifax.

A slide presentation of "Down Under" country (Australia) is scheduled for April. Our annual fund raising card party will be held in May.

As you read this, Spring won't be too far away. Better weather will be conducive to more participation in all events. We hope all other Manx groups are continuing to be active in N.A.M.A.'s endeavor "To preserve whatever is left us of ancient heritage". Keeping in touch is important, and you never know where or when you'll meet up with another who is Manx, of Manx descent, or just interested in the Isle of Man and its people

Mrs. Marge Kennish Krach
319 Ridgeview Drive
Seven Hills, Ohio 44131

LADIES AUXILIARY

Our membership is down considerably from two years ago. Since we will be looking forward to the 50th anniversary of the Ladies Auxiliary in 1982 let's try to increase our membership as we approach this important milestone. Dues (still \$2.00 until 1982) may be sent to Mrs. Amo C. Fisher, R. R. #3, Tottenham, Ontario, LOG 1W0. Either U.S. or Canadian funds are acceptable.

Amo C. Fisher,
Secretary-Treasurer

LADIES AUXILIARY N.A.M.A.

Happy 1981 to all members. Last years Craft Table proved very successful, so maybe now is the time to start making some of your favourite crafts or try new ones. This would enable us to have a head start on the 1982 Convention to be held in San Diego.

Our new Secretary is Mrs. Amo Fisher, R. R. #3, Tottenham, Ontario, Canada LOG 1W0.

For anyone wishing to join and not yet having done so for the year 1981 the fee is \$2.00 and in 1982 will be \$3.00. I would like to say thank you to all those who sent me letters saying they had received their Raffle Prizes - several had never received one before and were really thrilled, over thirty were mailed out.

Irene E. Curphey
President Ladies Aux.

WASHINGTON, D.C. AREA MANX SOCIETY

Our Board of Directors met in January to conduct the business of the Society and plan our annual meeting which is scheduled for April the 4th. The meeting will be held at the Ft. McNair Officers Club in Washington, D.C. The program will include a "special" speaker whose topic will be "Meanderings of a Man from Mann".

We are sad to report that Thomas E. Comish, 92, died in his sleep on 25 January 1981. He has resided in Fairfax, Virginia since the early 1960s. He is survived by two sons, Thomas E. Comish Jr. of Mobile, Alabama and John W. Comish of Fairfax, and a sister Eleanor Craine of Colby, Isle of Man. Mr. Comish was born in Colby, Isle of Man and came to this country in 1910. He was a founding member of our Society and a long time member of N.A.M.A.

John W. Comish, President
9119 Ashmeade Dr.
Fairfax, Virginia 22032

Mary E. Hayslett, Secretary
2121 Columbia Pike, Apt. 302
Arlington, Virginia 22204

OUR OWN PEOPLE

Visitors with Mrs. Hilda Penrice, Georgetown, Ontario, were Mr. & Mrs. Phillip Bridson of Manitouwadge, Northern Ontario, Phillip & Dorothy came to Canada in 1957, they have four children, Phillip is the son of the late "Ginger Bridson who was so well known as Captain on the Isle of Man boats.

BISBEE MANX SOCIETY

Bisbee Manx met at the home of Ivy Dillon on December 9th for the annual Christmas party. Several of our members had already left to spend the holidays with family so there was not as large an attendance as usual. However a grand get-together was held by those still here.

The John Hughes were still with us but left Dec. 15 for Cleveland to be with their son, granddaughters and Kathryn's mother. They are still away but I understand will be back for our February meeting.

Ida Corrin is still away too, having gone to California to be with her daughter and family.

There was no meeting for January due to the absence of so many but we will meet again the second Monday in February when all should be back again.

I was very pleased to get a letter and Christmas greetings from my cousin Deemster Jack Corrin and to know of his reading of the laws in Manx at Tynwald in July. They may hopefully make the Convention in 1982. We are looking forward to that get-together. Want to wish all a Happy Healthy and Prosperous New Year.

Ivy Dillon, Sec.
207 Hazzard St.
Bisbee, Arizona 85603

TORONTO MANX SOCIETY

By the time this bulletin is printed I hope we are all enjoying warmer weather, or at least some signs of Spring. Here in Ontario we have been experiencing a real 'deep freeze' and envy those N.A.M.A. members who enjoy life in the sunny South. Maybe we could arrange some kind of exchange programme one winter. For example, how about the Toronto Manx exchanging places with the Southern California Manx!

Our last meeting was the Christmas Party which was a real success. Good fellowship, games, carol singing and lots to eat. Since then most of us have been staying home keeping warm.

Our President Phyllis Linsley will be flying to the Isle of Man in March and plans to stay for several months. During that time Phyllis will be joining the World Manx gatherings, and looks forward to meeting other N.A.M.A. members.

Our next meeting will be in May.

Marion Welton, Secretary,
229 Bond Street North,
Hamilton, Ontario

KNOW YOUR ANCESTORS

Again we are indebted to Maryellen Robison Hinrichs (Mrs. William) of Douglas, Wyoming for sharing the following information with our readers.

BARK STAR OF INDIA

Launched as EUTERPE on November 14, 1863 at Ramsey, Isle of Man and now on display at the Maritime Museum, Embarcadero, San Diego, California. It is the oldest merchantman afloat and some of its specifications are:

Length (on Waterline)	205'-0"
Beam	35'-0"
Depth of Hold	23'-0"
Tonnage	1197 01/100

No greater tribute could be paid to the integrity and skill of the Manx shipwrights of the 1860s than the fact that the *Star of India* is still here, and starting nicely into her second century.

As the oldest merchant ship afloat, she has become a major attraction not only to visitors from afar, but to the people of San Diego. Although she has now settled into a calm and graceful old age, it would be idle to assume that the century and more of her life has been without a bit of tumult now and then. She has known mutiny and sudden death, she has been aground and on fire, she has been ashore, and there were those grim days when, helplessly trapped in the ice, she was carried to within all too short a distance from disaster. Gales and tumbling seas have taken their toll, as did, for many years, rust and decay and neglect.

She was launched Nov. 14, 1863, from the now long-gone yard of Gibson, McDonald & Arnold, at Ramsey, Isle of Man. Originally she was named *Euterpe* and was an iron, full rigged ship, intended for cargo and limited passenger service between England and India — although at the time there was a rather pointed reference to her spacious 'tween-deck, with port-holes, which would make her suitable as a troop-ship should the occasion arise. Her owners were Manxmen, although her home port was Liverpool, and it was from that city that she set sail on her maiden voyage, early in 1864.

Trouble began early. Only a matter of hours out of Liverpool, she collided with a Spanish brig and took extensive damage to her fore-rigging; considering her unsafe for the voyage, the crew arose and demanded that she return to port, or they would refuse to work her — for which subsequently they all did time in Beaumaris Gaol. The long voyage to Calcutta and return was then made without incident.

On the second trip it was worse. Bound for Calcutta, Colombo and Madras, she left Liverpool Dec. 31, 1864 — fated not to get home until Nov. 29, 1866. In those nearly two years she lost all three masts in a hurricane off Madras, sheltered for four months at Trincomalee, and finally got on to Calcutta for a complete re-rigging. Ten days out of port on her way home, the captain died of a tropical fever, and the first mate had to take over.

After changing hands twice and spending a few years in the Indian trade, she was acquired by Shaw, Savill & Albion — today's Shaw Savill Line of long-ranging freighters and cruise ships — and was put on the run to New Zealand and Australia, with emphasis on the former. This was her period of Round-the-World voyaging: she'd head from London to Glasgow or Liverpool out into the Atlantic, round the Cape of Good Hope and square away in the "Roaring Forties" to go boom in along, across the Indian Ocean and up to Auckland or Wellington or some other New Zealand port with both cabin and emigrant passengers. Homeward bound she'd head eastward to take advantage of the prevailing winds and pass Cape Horn after crossing the Pacific. Then it was up the Atlantic and eventually to an English port. Each of these voyages, and she made more than a score of them, was a trip around the world.

Opening of the Suez Canal enabled steamers, dependent as they were on frequent coaling, to take the cream of the trade from England out to the Colonies, and by the end of the century Shaw Savill were glad to get rid of her. She was sold to the Pacific Colonial Ship Co. of San Francisco and was placed under Hawaiian registry — which enabled her, when Hawaii became a United States territory, to obtain American registry not otherwise available to a foreign-built ship. They used her in the export timber trade, out of Puget Sound — lumber out to Australia, coal from there to Honolulu, and sugar for the last leg of the triangle, back to the West Coast. They in turn sold her to the Alaska Packers Association of San Francisco, and in 1902 she made her first voyage from San Francisco up to Bristol Bay; she repeated this, once a year, until she finally was laid up in 1923.

How did she get the name *Star of India*? It was like this: The Packers, during the period of bargain-rate purchases of British-built vessels under the Hawaiian flag, had picked up four beautiful ships from an old line known around the world as "Corry's Irish Stars" — the Belfast-built ships *Star of Bengal*, *Star of Italy*, *Star of France* and *Star of Russia*. They liked the "Star" prefix, and one by one as they acquired new ships, they picked up the old nomenclature of the Corry fleet, and changed the ship's names accordingly. And what could be more appropriate than *Star of India* for a ship which was built originally for the Indian trade?

Now that her globe-girdling days were astern of her — days which had seen her in a couple of collisions, afire in Liverpool, dodging icebergs in the high southern latitudes, and battling storms which the mate would duly record in her log-book: "Winds of gale force, seas mountain-high. Ship labouring and straining in a most distressing manner, shipping great quantities of water fore and aft." Behind her, too, was her timber voyaging, which had been enlivened by hanging up on a reef in Hawaii, and almost capsizing at Newcastle, N.S.W. From now on it would be up to Alaska in the spring and back to San Francisco in the fall. She would drag her anchors and bring up the mud at Nushagak, and in 1918 she would be frozen in for a fortnight and the ice would carry her almost onto the rocks — while her people helplessly watched the Abner Coburn go to her doom, just ahead.

The Packers made changes in her. She was reduced from a full-rigged ship to a bark, her mizzen now carrying only a spanker and topsail instead of its original five yards, to permit handling by a smaller crew. They built a long extension from her poop-bulkhead, forward almost to the mainmast, to accommodate 45 fishermen. What hardwood trim was left disappeared under coats of "box-carred" paint, which also trimmed the new buff paint which covered the once-white deckhouse and bulwarks. And it was in these colours that she made her last voyage to Alaska, in 1923.

Headed for the scrappers, or for use as a storage hulk or even perhaps as a breakwater, she was rescued by the late James Wood Coffroth, who bought her and gave her to the Zoological Society of San Diego in 1926, the idea being to fit her out as a floating aquarium and museum. Soon after came the grim Depression, and money for such a project simply dried up. Now neglect began to take its toll; paint cracked, decks began to rot and to leak, cordage burned away in the bright sun, and during World War II the Navy declared her a menace to aerial navigation, and sent a work-party aboard to send down her yards and her upper masts.

Sick and tired of its white elephant, the Zoological Society gave her to the newly organized Marine Museum Association of San Diego — who, had they known what they were getting into, probably would have gracefully declined. There were hopes of restoring her, but that was all — until 1957, when Capt. Alan Villiers, noted author, lecturer and square-rigger veteran, visited San Diego on a lecture tour. Duly recounted in the press, his remarks about the kind of people who would let this happen to a fine old ship may not have been too complimentary, but they lit the

spark, and again there was interest in a maritime museum. It was a slow work, but by 1959 they were able to get her into dry dock for a survey, and found that she could still be saved.

The task was Herculean. Money-raising is never easy, but with the exception of \$17,000 voted by Congress to replace what had been removed during the war, every dollar came by cajoling and arm-twisting on the part of the committee — just as today she is kept going almost exclusively by the paid admissions.

Nov. 14, 1963, was a big day in her life — her 100th birthday. Although far from finished, she was well enough along for a bang-up birthday party, and Captain Villiers came back to San Diego to take a hand in the festivities.

Since then the work has gone on, in accordance with the age-old saying that "a ship is never finished until she sunk." The utilitarian but hardly photogenic extension to her poop is gone; there is hardwood where she had hardwood originally, and most of her spars are new. Much of her rotted decking has been replaced, and she even has sails.

It was not easy, especially when any suggestion to economize or to speed up the work by reducing its quality was met with firm (and even angry) refusal. The problems were made more difficult by the scarcity, in the 1960s, of men who were qualified riggers and caulkers and shipwrights — and of such exotic items as hemp hambroline, genuine Stockholm tar, and hardware which included things like jib-hanks and dead-eyes and cringles.

She has come far since she slid down the ways of that little Manx shipyard more than a century ago, and there were times when her end was very, very near. There is a lot, however, which dedicated people can do, and now she is a genuine source of pride to San Diego.

Mrs. Robert S. Cowin
1223 West Melrose Drive
Westlake, Ohio 44145

MANX-AMERICAN GIRLS ON HIGH SCHOOL GYMNASTICS TEAM

An interesting letter from William S. Shimmin of Virginia, MN, will be of interest to our readers.

Two Virginia, Minnesota girls of Manx descent were on the Virginia High School gymnastics team this past year, they were Linda Shimmin and Sue Callister. Linda is the daughter of William and Frances Shimmin, the maternal grandparents came from Douglas, Isle of Man, both deceased.

Sue is the daughter of Richard and Pauline Callister and the grandparents are Arthur and Ethel Callister, Arthur Callister was born at Lower Foxdale, Isle of Man, they reside in Virginia, Arthur is now retired.

Arthur Callister and his wife and William Shimmin and his wife visited the Isle of Man in 1979 during the Millennium celebrations.

At a gymnastics meet at Roosevelt High School, Linda Shimmin captured the uneven bars and the all-around competition for Virginia, both Linda and Sue took part in the Vaulting competition.

Virginia, Minnesota is an iron mining town in Northern Minnesota, 100 miles from the Canadian border, the Virginia High School has an enrollment of approximately 650 students in grades 10 through 12.

Good luck to Linda and Sue.

**MEET YOUR OFFICERS
GEORGE CURPHEY,
PRESIDENT N.A.M.A.**

George Curphey, President of N.A.M.A. needs no introduction, he was elected 3rd Vice-President in 1974 and since that time has devoted much time and effort as an executive member of N.A.M.A., he chaired the 1980 Convention held in Halifax, N.S.

George Curphey received his early education in Andreas, Isle of Man. On completion he began an engineering apprenticeship, first with John Clague & Sons, Ramsey, Isle of Man, later transferring to Gelling's Foundry and later to the Isle of Man Steam Packet Co. During this period he attended evening Technical Classes at Douglas High School.

He started as a Junior Engineer with Port Lines (Cunard) and rose through the ranks. Between sea service he attended the College of Marine Engineering, Liverpool, Eng., where he obtained his Certificates.

In World War II he saw active service in both the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans for which he was mentioned in dispatches by being decorated by the reigning monarch and Sir Winston Churchill.

During the latter part of the War he was attached to the Ministry of War Transport at various world centres, being engaged in the repairs and conversions of disabled shipping.

Upon his release from war service in 1946 he went to Buenos Aires on behalf of Union Cold Storage and Blue Star Lines to supervise their refrigeration plants and floating equipment in South America, in addition he personally supervised for International General Electric several large marine and industrial engineering projects in the Argentine and neighbouring countries.

In 1952 he came to Canada as Manager of Halifax Shipyards Marine Slips, remaining in this position until 1960.

George is now a consulting engineer, he developed a new approach to the fishing industry by designing and building a modern Floating fish processing plant which has been an ideal solution to many undeveloped nations.

He is a member of the advisory Committee of Nova Scotia Marine Engineering and Nautical Institute, Member of the Society of Naval Architects and Marine Engineers, Great Britain. As for hobbies he is very fond of gardening, collecting war souvenirs and ancient sundials, he enjoys oil painting seascapes and still life.

Happily married to the former Irene Eleanor Quirk who was a nursing sister at Noble's Hospital, Douglas, I.O.M., George and Irene have two sons and five grandchildren.



**MRS. RAY
(MONA) HALDEMAN,
1ST VICE-PRESIDENT,
N.A.M.A.**

Mona Haldeeman, the 1st Vice-President, is a native of Cleveland, Ohio. She is the daughter of Edith Cowell Gurney, and the granddaughter of Henry Coux and Marianne Kermode Cowell, who migrated to Cleveland from Peel in 1888. Mona's aunt, her mother's elder sister, Isabelle Cowell, was the wife of John Christian, the first President of the N.A.M.A., and the mother of Henry Christian, President at the time of his death in 1965.

Mona is a graduate of Baldwin-Wallace College in Berea, Ohio, where she majored in mathematics and minored in music. She married Ray Haldeeman in 1948, and moved to Avon Lake, a western suburb of Cleveland. Ray is Personnel Manager at The Hill Acme Company, where he has worked for almost 42 years. They have three children, all members of the N.A.M.A. Douglas, married to Diana and the father of two little girls, Kelley and Kerri, lives in Dayton, Ohio. Gail, the wife of David Shewfelt, lives in Salt Lake City, Utah. Candace, the wife of Sang Ki Han, lives in Burlington, Iowa. Candy visited the Isle of Man in the spring of 1978 while spending her junior year of college in Spain.

Mona has been the organist of Lake Shore United Methodist Church for over 17 years, and served as organist of Avon Lake Chapter, Order of Eastern Star, for 11 years. She has been active in the P.T.A., serving as President at both the elementary and junior high schools her children attended. She is a Past Honored Queen of Job's Daughters, a masonic organization for girls, and both she and Ray served in many capacities with the adult council when Gail and Candy became members. She is

active in women's societies in the church, and has sung in the choir.

While she had never attended a convention outside of Cleveland until 1965, she attended every convention in Cleveland, including the first one. In 1970 and 1972, she assisted at the Registration desk, taking over the duties of Registration Chairman in 1974, a job she has held ever since. In 1978, she was also Convention Treasurer. She became 3rd Vice-President in 1978, and 1st Vice-President in 1980. At present, she is busy with plans for the 1982 Convention in San Diego, as well as being treasurer of the Cleveland Manx Society.

She has only visited the Isle of Man once, in 1970, but she would love to go back.

**MR WILLIAM E. BRIDESON
3RD VICE-PRESIDENT**

William E. Brideson was born in 1919 on a farm in Iowa, graduated from High School in the depression years and attended business college in Nebraska, he entered the Government through a civil service examination and worked for the Social Security Board. His great-grandfather left the Isle of Man in 1870, he died in Monmouth, Illinois in 1884, William's grandfather was eight years old at the time, the family name was in the Manx spelling of BRIDSON. His widow took her four boys and two daughters to Cuthrie County in central Iowa and on that trip the boys decided to solve the pronunciation problem and put the e in Brideson.

A few years ago William E. Brideson joined the N.A.M.A., enjoys the Bulletin and the Conventions, he retired from the Government in 1972 as a budget and finance officer for the Central Intelligence Agency, he now works for a Wholesale Distributor doing for the first time the kind of commercial accounting he was originally trained to do.

There is no picture of William E. Brideson at this time, but many of our members who attended the last N.A.M.A. Convention in Halifax will remember meeting with him, he has many new ideas for contacting Manx people in various areas of the U.S.A., especially in the Monmouth, Ill. area where his great-grandfather lived and died, William resides at 6821 Duke Drive, Alexandria, VA. 22307.

OBITUARIES

GEMEROY, Charles, (Chuck), passed away on January 27th, 1981, following heart surgery, at the age of 61. He was an enthusiastic member of the San Diego Manx Society, his widow Mickey holds the office of Secretary of the Society.

He is survived by his widow, one son, Douglas; three daughters, Susan, Sally and Maureen; four grandsons; his mother who was the former Eleanor Gale who was born in Peel, Isle of Man; one sister; and two brothers. The late Mr. Gemeroy and his wife were members of N.A.M.A., they resided at 2003 Bayview Heights Dr., Space 137, San Diego Cal. 92105.

QUAYLE, Edward - At the Etobicoke General Hospital on Saturday, December 27th, 1980, Edward Quayle dearly beloved husband of May, dear father of Bruce, dear brother of Mona of the Isle of Man. The service was followed by cremation.

Edward Quayle was born on the Isle of Man and attended school at Peel, one of his class mates was the late Sam

Penrice. Edward was in the navy for a great many years before coming to Canada, although not a member of N.A.M.A. he and his wife had attended several Toronto Manx Society meetings.

SHORROCK, Robert - Suddenly at York County Hospital, Newmarket, Ontario, Canada, on November 11th, 1980, dearly beloved husband of Catherine (Corrie) and father of Robert, Harold, James, Catherine (Mrs. L. Trollope) and Hugh, all of Ontario, Canada.

The late Mr. Shorrock was born in Montreal, Quebec and was a member of the Montreal Manx Society for some years before moving to Toronto and Vancouver. He visited relatives of the late Mrs. Effie (Maddrell) Sloan in Peel, Isle of Man when overseas on business/pleasure trips.

STUART, Dr. E. M. W. (Ted) died in hospital February 1981 at the age of 54 after an illness which he bore with great fortitude.

Dr. Stuart was well known in Douglas, Isle of Man and other parts of the Island in his younger days. He was a son of the late Dr. J. H. J. Stuart who practiced in Douglas for many years. His wife Angela, is a daughter of Mrs. Eunice Reid of Douglas, I.O.M. and the late Rev. Bert Reid.

Dr. Stuart had a brilliant career in which he reached the top rank in his field. He qualified at Queen's University, Belfast, and practised for a short time in England. He joined the Canadian Air Force as a doctor and after working in the U.S.A. became Professor of Gynaecology and Obstetrics at the Memorial Hospital, Roanoke, Virginia.

His qualifications included Fellowships in relevant Colleges in the United States and Canada in gynaecology, M.D., M.R.C.S., and B.Ch.

He and his family lived at Roanoke and sympathy will be felt for his wife and their four children, Gavin, Patricia, Glenn and Deidre.

A memorial service was held in Hamilton Cathedral, Ontario, Canada. Dr. Stuart and his wife were members of N.A.M.A.

DEATH OF MISS EMILY CHRISTIAN, L.R.A.M., M.B.E.

The death of Miss Emily Christian in December 1980, will be very much regretted in Musical circles on the Isle of Man. She belonged to an old established family in Kirk Bride, I.O.M., her brother Mr. W. D. Christian having been Captain of the Parish of Bride since 1971, another brother is a retired bank manager, Mr. Arthur Christian, of Port St. Mary, the Rev. James Cowin Caley, former Chaplain and Past President of N.A.M.A., of Huntington Beach, California is a cousin of the late Miss Christian.

Emily Christian will long be remembered - as conductor of the Ramsey Male Voice Choir for 47 years, as official accompanist at the Music Guild for a long period and as organist at the Trinity Methodist Church in Douglas, I.O.M. She was an outstanding musician and was just 21 years of age when she became accompanist to the choir, then under the baton of the late Miss Collins, she later took on the conductorship, she led the choir to triumphs year after year both on the Isle of Man and at the Blackpool Music Festival.

Miss Christian contributed a great deal to the Musical life on the Isle of Man and she will be greatly missed.

To those members sending in Obituaries, please include the name and address of next of kin.

To relatives and friends of the above we offer our deep and sincere Sympathy.

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

A recent copy of *Reader's Digest* has a story, "Drama in Real Life", telling of the ordeal of John and Marge Fairservice, marooned in a storm on Egg Island Rock near Halifax, N.S.

This was of more than ordinary interest to us, recalling our mid-September visit to scenic Halifax. The weather was lovely, the waters calm, as we ferried across the harbor, and enjoyed the Saturday afternoon boat cruise along the bay. Sail boats of every size and description were out, as weekend sailors enjoyed what was perhaps one of their last jaunts of the season. Obviously, these natives loved the sea.

But -- the sea is a fickle friend. Even "land-lubbers" like us know that. This same salty, sparkling water can kill quickly, when whipped into mountainous waves by savage storms. Such a storm was experienced by John and Marge Fairservice. Yet, they had the pluck, the stamina and the skills to survive, as light-keepers on an island. They were severely tested, and won.

Human history reveals many stories of "ordinary" (?) persons, rising out of obscurity to meet extraordinary challenges, and mastering them. The Bible contains not a few: Moses, a sheepherder, summoned to confront the Pharaoh and demand, "let my people go". Gideon, the farmer's son, challenged to raise an army against the marauding Midianites. David, tending the flocks of Jesse, was sought out by Samuel and anointed to be king in Israel's most critical era. Esther, a Jewish girl chosen to be queen, was jolted out of a life of luxury by the words of her cousin, Mordecai: "Who know whether you have been called to the kingdom for such a time as this?" "Who knows . . . ? Remembering the recent hostage ordeal, who can say what may test any one of us -- "ordinary" people -- in the days ahead? The evidence of the Bible -- and of history -- is that there are hidden resources within each of us, ready to be called on and used to meet unexpected crises -- and especially if that inner force is tuned to the Source of all our power.

Our physical world testifies to this. Scientists predict that some day we may get most of our power from the sun, transmitted to earth from great satellite collectors. This may be so. Since "all power is from above" (John 19:11) we have been using His power all along! Thanks be to God for all His gifts!

Herbert G. Kelly