

# BULLETIN *of the* North American Manx Association



VOL. 58

NO. 3

"To preserve whatever is left us of ancient heritage"

MARCH 1986

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I have often been asked why I have such a strong interest in the North American Manx Association and in general all things Manx. When I was growing up in the small town of Fergus Falls, Minnesota I was surrounded by Manx people; my mother, her two sisters, her brother, and my grandparents who loved the Isle of Man. My grandparents were born on the Isle of Man and they had many friends and relatives there.

In 1936, my Aunt Mary attended the N.A.M.A. Convention in Winnipeg, Manitoba. Upon her return I was regaled with the stories about the meeting and given a souvenir with the three legs on it. This began my fascination for my Manx connection. I dreamed that some day when I grew up I would visit the Island and search for my ancestral background.

Mrs. Anderson and I made the first visit to the Island and became acquainted with J.O.L. Christian, an attorney and distant relative. It was there that we met Mr. Christian's daughter, Erica, and her husband Robert Curphey, whom we have visited many times. During our first trip I was made a member of the Friends of the Manx Museum of which Mr. Christian was one of its leading members.

Since I came to the Island to search for relatives, I found Mr. Roy Cowin, a young genealogist to assist me. Our search produced a report going back to 1550 of the Thomas Corrin family. Thomas Corrin, who built Corrin Tower on Peel Hill, was my great great grandfather. The old homestead at the bottom of the eastern slope of the hill was still occupied on our first visit. The area was called Knockaloe Beg next to the big Knockaloe farm.

My family and I have made many visits to the Island. Considering its small size, the Isle of Man still remains an irresistibly attractive place. It has a great history with many areas to be researched and explored, including the Myles Standish episode. Mrs. Anderson and I hope to return next summer and help celebrate the Manx Heritage Year. We still have plans to

explore and uncover more genealogical background.

T. R. Anderson, President

## PRESIDENT'S SPECIAL REPORT ON MANX MEDALS

When visiting the Island last summer all of us from N.A.M.A. enjoyed meeting Betty Hanson, member of the Legislative Council. She was chairman of the committee responsible for administering the North American Manx Association awards to young Manx people for outstanding achievement.

The meeting was well attended including the representatives of the press which gave wide coverage of the proceedings. It was a great pleasure to present the awards and to see that this program is indeed greatly appreciated.

Betty Hanson writes about the program as follows:

"You will have received a letter from the Director of Education for the Isle of Man and I would like to offer you my great personal thanks, for the generous donation of \$2,000 for the continuance of the medals for the young people in the Isle of Man. A press release was given, and from what I heard from the general public, it met with widespread delight and approval. I attended the T. E. Brown Lunch of the World Manx Association, and I announced to the large gathering there about this generous donation from the N.A.M.A., which was greeted with loud applause. Would you please convey my personal thanks to your Committee. I look forward to meeting you again next year and I would like to add my good wishes to N.A.M.A. for 1986."

## GET WELL WISHES

Clarence Creer, Treasurer of N.A.M.A. underwent surgery a couple of times since October 1985, this was for a painful hip arthritic condition, he is improving nicely, good wishes go out to Clarence for a complete recovery.

## CHANGE OF ADDRESS

To my many friends and members of N.A.M.A., as of APRIL 1st, 1986, I will be moving from my old address - 60 Park Ave., Apt. 502, Georgetown, Ontario, Canada L7G 4Y9 to my new Townhouse - 20 Mountainview Road South, Unit 13, Georgetown, Ontario Canada L7G 4K3

Mrs. Hilda Penrice

## BULLETIN EDITOR

As stated in the last Bulletin, Mrs. Hilda Penrice has asked to be relieved of her duties as Bulletin Editor. She has done an excellent job in what is perhaps the most important one in the association. She has agreed to continue until the Convention, but will retire at that time.

Thus, we are in need of a replacement. If you are interested or know of someone who might be, please contact Mona Haldeman (Mrs. R. F.), 191 Glenview Drive, Avon Lake, Ohio 44012. It does not necessarily have to be one person. It can be a couple, or two or more friends. There is a small stipend that accompanies the job, and there are usually seven issues every two years. During Convention years, we omit the September Bulletin. The editor is also an officer of the Association, and has a seat on the Executive Board.

If you have any questions about the job, please contact Hilda, for only she has the answers. We would like to have someone lined up before September, so please think about it. The Bulletin is the way we keep in touch with each other and with Manx events around the world, and we must keep it going!

## JOURNALISTS

Where are all the budding Journalists within our Association?

Up to date only one enquiry has been received for the office of Bulletin Editor, if anyone out there is interested please get in touch with Mona Haldeman, Chairman of the Nomination Committee, her address - 191 Glenview Drive, Avon Lake, OH 44012. USA.

**North American Manx Association  
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NAMA Membership Fee \$6.00/year (from Aug. 1st, 1984) this includes subscription 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

## SERVICE OF BLESSING

Not many brides have the opportunity to have two marriage ceremonies within one month, but these two happy events occurred for Elizabeth (Clucas) Duncan and her husband, Bill. Elizabeth and Bill were married December 6th, 1985 in Cleveland, Ohio. They left to spend their honeymoon on the Isle of Man, for many years Elizabeth has spent Christmas in Peel, Isle of Man with her mother and sister, on January 4th, 1986 a Service of Blessing was held at Atholl Street Methodist Church, this is where Elizabeth grew up, attending Sunday School and singing in the choir. The original marriage service was followed except the exchanging of vows, it was a happy time with Elizabeth's mother, family and friends attending.

A lovely reception followed at the Sefton Hotel in Douglas, with a beautiful wedding cake, this was all arranged by Elizabeth's sister, Helen. To our members, Elizabeth needs no introduction, she has held the office of Secretary of the N.A.M.A. for several years, we wish she and Bill much happiness.

Elizabeth Clucas, now Mrs. W. Duncan, left the I.O.M. in 1968: she had worked as a Medical Secretary at Noble's Hospital and went out to Cleveland, Ohio for one year. She was secretary to Dr. Howard Fagin, one of 12 doctors in a Cleveland Medical Practice, a position she still holds.

Her visits back to the Island have been frequent, she had not missed spending Christmas there until this past Christmas.

Bill Duncan owns a flower shop in Cleveland, their marriage took place on December 6th, 1985 at Faith United Church of Christ, the service was at 7:30 p.m. by candlelight which was most impressive.

The bride wore a dress of coffee coloured chiffon over taffeta with a lace overblouse. As could be expected, the flowers were particularly prominent. The bride carried a posy of fresias, miniature orchids, roses and gerber daisies and wore a hair decoration of matching flowers. The theme was taken up in the magnificent flowers in the Church, at the reception and decorating the beautiful wedding cake.

Elizabeth was given away by her boss, Dr. Fagin, and the ceremony was attended by 130 relatives and friends including members of the Cleveland Manx Society.

Since their return home they have acquired a Manx kitten which they have named "Dhooley" being jet black, in far off Alaska, two kittens were brought into an animal shelter, the girl

who handled the problem had a Manx mother and she recognised the kittens as pure Manx, she got in touch with the Cleveland Manx Society and "Dhooley" has found a good home and will be a constant reminder of the Isle of Man, to Elizabeth and Bill.

## NOSTALGIA

I did not know how I would feel returning to my home Island and place of such happiness whilst growing up, but I knew that this, my first trip home since moving to the U.S.A. would be a special one. Moreover, it was Christmas and so was sure to be full of family gatherings, love and laughter.

I was worried that the Island would have drastically changed, and that after getting used to the high-pressured East Coast way of life, I would find the "traa-di-llooar" way of thinking tiresome. I am more than pleased to report that the Island has lost none of its quaint and gentle charm and that I immediately fell into the relaxed and carefree way of everyday life.

It also seemed to me, especially coming from Peel, that there was a heightened sense of importance in maintaining and exploring our culture and great Heritage. I refer to the important and fascinating excavations taking place in Peel Castle, and the preparations for Heritage Year which are too numerous to mention. It is therefore an ideal year for members to visit the Isle of Man, and I was successful in persuading several family members to plan for the Williamsburg Convention.

As you can imagine, my wife and I loaded our suitcases with as many Manx artifacts as possible, and our favorite piece is one of the fine reproductions of Manx Celtic art from Ballabrara Arts of Port St. Mary.

I also spent some time further investigating my own past, and successfully traced my family tree back a futher two generations to 1767.

My wife and I returned to our home in the Philadelphia/New Jersey area without too much sadness, and we now hope to make many new American friends. See you in Williamsburg!

Andrew and Patricia Quirk  
905 Cherrywood Apts.  
Clementon, NJ 08021

## MEMORIAL FUND NOTICE

Those who are remembered through donations to the Memorial Fund will be shown under this heading. No Memorials were received this period.

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## WILLIAMSBURG SEPTEMBER 12 - 15, 1986

The purpose of this piece is to take you on a verbal walk-through of our North American Manx Convention at the Patrick Henry Inn, Williamsburg, Virginia, September 12-15, 1986, to try to assist you in budgeting your time.

How much time do you need to see Williamsburg? The answer is probably not the same for any two people. The Capitol, the Governor's Palace, and the Dewitt Wallace Gallery are perhaps the centrepiece items. The Capitol is a must for everyone, so the lines to get in become long, the tour itself will fit within an hour. The same for the Governor's Palace, but the grounds include formal and kitchen gardens, a sculptured boxwood garden, and outbuildings with activities like colonial cooking and baking and carriage and wheel building -- these will require different amounts of time for different people. The Dewitt Wallace Museum is huge, it was designed by the same architect who built the "Gateway to the West" arch in Saint Louis, so it is unusual.

With the registration mailing in April we plan to include a brochure describing the 25 stations in the historical area, and the different admission fees ranging up to a \$19 Patriot's Pass for use on several days. Research is going on all the time to better authenticate the work costumed craft people are doing in using hand tools to make the same joints that were made in colonial times, cooks are beating dough by hand to get air into the mixture to compensate for the absence of baking powder not yet invented -- some of you may be fascinated by some of these things, others may go along fairly quickly.

The Patrick Henry Inn is extending to us the same room rate ((\$55 per night single or double, each room contains two double beds and there is an additional charge of \$5 per person over two sharing a sleeping room) for those who wish to arrive early or stay on additional nights. We are going to make Saturday afternoon and Sunday afternoon free time, but we caution that buses of school children and a good many families do come to visit Williamsburg on weekends, and the lines lengthen. We are planning a trip for Sunday afternoon, not that we need to take you away from Williamsburg, but if people come by plane we feel we should offer them an opportunity to visit Jamestown, Yorktown, and the Carter Grover Mansion which has been called "the most beautiful house in America" overlooking the James River.

Registration for the Convention (\$55 for full registration) will begin Friday afternoon, and at 8:00 an informal welcoming program will begin. Saturday morning the Convention will open at 9:30, afterward the Convention photo will be taken, and the women will go to the Ladies' Auxiliary Luncheon and the men will tour the Budweiser Brewery where free beer and modestly priced pizza, hot dogs, or garden salad will be available. Incidentally, Busch Gardens theme park, "The Old Country" (England, France, Germany and Italy) is about two miles from the Patrick Henry Inn, and is open Saturdays and Sundays in September. Saturday evening a cash bar will open a hospitality hour at 6:30 at the Patrick Henry Inn, and the banquet will begin at 7:30.

Sunday morning the Convention will open at 9:30, and after lunch those who wish to take the tour will board buses at 12:30. We will all return to the Patrick Henry Inn for a buffet supper at 7:00 followed by an evening of entertainment. Monday morning the Convention will open at 9:30 and adjourn at noon. We are trying to arrange Monday evening at one of the taverns, if we are unsuccessful you may want to seek your own reservations during your time in Williamsburg for this unusual colonial food and entertainment.

Throughout the weekend there will be a hospitality room adjacent to the convention meeting area where you may sit and visit with friends and have a cup of tea or coffee. We hope to have a piano and Manx songbooks, our past convention photos, and a souvenir table for the sale of gifts and mementos.

Two mailings should reach you, one concerning the Souvenir Book and prizes mailed in January, and the other with registration forms for the Convention and lodging at the Patrick Henry Inn to be mailed in April. If you have not received the first mailing, or know of others you would like to have included, please get in touch with us right away. Please remember that the cutoff date for the Patrick Henry convention rates is August 12. We surely hope we see all of you there.

William E. Brideson  
6821 Duke Drive  
Alexandria, VA 22307  
703-768-7454

CONVENTION 1986  
FACTS AND FIGURES  
WHEN — SEPTEMBER 12-15, 1986  
WHERE — THE PATRICK HENRY  
INN, WILLIAMSBURG, VIRGINIA

### COST OF HOTEL ROOMS —

\$55.00 per night single or double, each room contains two double beds and there is an additional charge of \$5.00 per person over two sharing a sleeping room for those who wish to arrive early or stay on additional nights.

### REGISTRATION —

#### FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 1986

\$55.00 for full registration, this will begin Friday afternoon.  
Friday evening informal welcoming get-together.

#### SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 1986

Ladies' Aux. Luncheon, gentlemen will tour the Budweiser Brewery.  
Saturday evening Banquet - 7:30 pm

#### SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 1986

Optional Bus Tours.

Sunday evening, Buffet supper at Hotel followed by entertainment.

#### MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 1986

Convention will adjourn at noon.

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## DELEGATES FROM THE ISLE OF MAN FOR 1986 CONVENTION

Ron Richmond (now a N.A.M.A. member) has about forty people from the Island planning to attend the Convention in Williamsburg. He has a two week tour designed to include stops in New York, Boston, Philadelphia and Washington, D.C. with the possibility of a tour of the White House. The names of some in the group are, Green, Mansfield, Cain, Killey, Fisher, Corlett, Collister, Skelly, Kinley, Corrin and Clucas. A more detailed itinerary will be available in the next Bulletin so that local Manx folks will be able to meet them at their Hotels.

## DUES AND EXCHANGE RATES

The fluctuating cost to Canadians to pay dues in U.S. dollars was discussed by the N.A.M.A. Executive Committee at their meeting in September. In keeping with the basis on which the N.A.M.A. was founded, it was determined that it is not necessary for dues to be paid in U.S. dollars.

Accordingly, Canadian members may pay their dues at the rates stated on the pink dues slip. Similarly, members from other U.K. countries may base their payment with the value of the Canadian dollar. All dues payments should be payable on either a Canadian or U.S. Bank including payments of other U.K. countries.

The above statement pertains to dues payments only and does not include Convention registrations, book purchases, etc.

# NEWS OF THE MANX SOCIETIES

## VANCOUVER MANX SOCIETY

In November a pre-Christmas pot luck supper was held at St. David's Church Hall. Unfortunately, our November was cold and snowy and many of our members were kept home indoors. However, those who did attend were indeed pleased with the Christmas decorations and tree committee members had set up. It put everyone in a festive mood. President Chris Sterling welcomed everyone and led the singing of Land of our Birth. A lovely dinner was followed by a raffle and a film.

It is with sorrow we announce the death of long time member Alice Kelly. Mrs. Killey had celebrated her 100th birthday in October and passed away in December. Our sympathy is extended to all the family and friends. Especially to her daughter Mona Witsten and to her grandchildren Jo-Anne and George. We will miss her.

Congratulations to George and Doritt Illot on the birth of their son Kevin Eric. Also welcoming baby Kevin were brothers Brian, Donald and Steve.

Vancouverites are busy preparing for EXPO 1986 and the visits of friends and relatives from far and wide. This is also Vancouver's Centennial year so, many celebrations are in the offing. Our new rapid transit service system was finished and operating in December. All new construction to house domestic and foreign exhibits is in the final stages. In May all should be ready for the Gala event. We know it will be a good one.

A committee meeting will be held in February at the home of George and Doritt Illot. At that time plans will be made for coming events.

Vera Henry  
Sec., Vancouver Manx Society  
4305 Prince Albert St.,  
Vancouver, B.C. V5V 4J8  
**GALVA**

While there is no active Manx Society now in Galva, Mr. Russell T. Kelly sends news from time to time of people who are of Manx descent. I received three obituaries - Mrs. Hazel Halsall, she married Ralph Halsall in 1926, he was Manx.

Mrs. Ellen (Kelly) Swank and Mr. Leon E. Lewin who was of Manx descent.

Mr. Kelly is presently wintering in Florida, his home address is - 310 N. E. 2nd St., Galva, ILL. 61434. It is possible that some Manx folk in this area might like to get in touch with him. He returns to Galva after April 1st, 1986.

## WASHINGTON MANX SOCIETY

The Christmas Party was held Saturday, December 7, at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Quayle. A large red and white Manx flag was displayed on the front lawn of the home. Smoked turkey and ham prepared by the Quayles and Dirk Ramsey-Spencer was served along with casseroles, salads, hot and cold punch. Australian wine provided by Orry Kelly, and trifle for dessert. The old Manx custom of toasting was led by Dirk Ramsey-Spencer.

The United States flag presented by U.S. Senator Dan Quayle to the Manx Youth Orchestra during their visit to Washington last spring has a permanent home at Government House of Tynwald. Recently the flag was prominently displayed during the presentation at Tynwald of the Manx Heritage Achievement Awards.

Our annual meeting/dinner will be held on Saturday, March 15, at Fort McNair Officers' Club. Mr. David J. Freke of the University of Liverpool will speak on the archaeological excavations on St. Patrick's Island off the Peel shore. Mr. Freke will be on a lecture tour in the U.S. at that time. The major item of business at the meeting will be election of two members to the Board of Governors.

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

## ISLE OF MAN FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

Greetings from the Isle of Man Family History Society. We are still in the grip of a cold and wet winter here on the Island, but look forward to the better weather of the spring and summer.

As you may know, 1986 has been designated Heritage Year and a very full and varied programme of events is planned to promote a greater interest

in our culture and heritage and to attract visitors to come and join us in the celebrations. There will be pageants, fairs, exhibitions, displays, music, dancing and many other attractions during the year. We in the Society look forward to welcoming many of our American cousins, some for the first time maybe and others who have become old friends. Our annual Open Day this year will include all the usual displays and will be at Castle Rushen in Castletown for two days - 4th and 5th July. We feature the life and times of three prominent Castletown families and trace their family trees over 100 years in the town. We will also be in attendance at Tynwald Fair, this year on 7th July.

We have a full calendar of events for the coming year. In March we are very fortunate to have David Freke as our speaker once again who will give us a report on the progress of the Peel Castle Excavations. Another high point of our summer programme is a proposed visit to the Laxey Mines in June with a talk on the Laxey Mines Project in May by Mr. W. B. Vannin. I hope to give an account of these events in the coming months.

With very best wishes,

Sylvia Mylchreest, Sec.,  
3 Wesley Terrace,  
Douglas, Isle of Man

## CHICAGO MANX SOCIETY

Warmest greetings from the Chicago Manx Society. I hope everything for the New Year will be good.

We have not had any meetings as our President, Clarence Creer, had surgery in November. I spoke to his wife, Mona, last week and she said he is recuperating very well and we should have a meeting in the spring.

Florence Abbinanti, Sec. Treas.,  
9330 South Richmond Avenue  
Evergreen Park, Illinois 60642

## THE SAN DIEGO CHAPTER MANX SOCIETY

Our Christmas party was held December 7th at the home of Karen Rege. We had election of officers. Marge Weber will be President and Marge Frederick will be Secretary Treasurer. We then enjoyed

exchanging gifts, and taking each other's until all were distributed. Our hostess had prepared a table full of goodies, and Christmas punch which was enjoyed by all. Would like to mention that our member, Bill Cleator is running for the office of Mayor of San Diego. He was acting Mayor at the time Queen Elizabeth came over, a couple of years ago. We all wish him success.

We meet bi-monthly and our next meeting on February 9th will be at Brian and Hilary Harrison's home. They had the pleasure of having Brian's oldest brother, Ian and his wife Myrtle here over the holidays. They were from Andreas, Isle of Man.

Marjorie H. Frederick, Secy.  
3870 Chippewa Ct.  
San Diego, Calif. 92117

## TO THE LADIES!

I am happy to report that we have added three members to our Ladies' Auxiliary membership list and now total 26. Did you know that we had 48 members in 1980-82 and again in 1982-84? We are still hoping to hear from more of you who want to help increase our members. Just send \$3.00 (U.S. or Canadian) membership fee to the Ladies' Auxiliary Secretary-Treasurer.

To those ladies in our northern climate - what better way could you spend these cold winter days and evenings than to be making something for our Craft Sale table at the Convention? To the ladies enjoying balmy southern breezes - how nice to be able to do some needlework while sitting under a palm tree?

Wherever you are across this wide continent we're counting on you to supply some items for the Ladies' Auxiliary Craft Sale!

Thanks for your solid support.

Amo Fisher, Secretary-Treasurer  
Ladies' Auxiliary, N.A.M.A.  
R.R. 3, Tottenham, Ontario  
Canada L0G 1W0

## WORLD MANX ASSOCIATION

The Immortal Memory of Thomas Edward Brown, M.A. was presented on October 26th, 1985 by Mrs. Gina Mercer, as a reader of Brown's work for many years and a member of the W.M.A. she was given a warm welcome.

Mrs. Mercer spoke of Brown's loyalty to the Island and its people, especially his Verse and Letters and Narrative poems which revealed Brown's own character. Mrs. Mercer expounded on his lesser known works, with a high literary standard, excerpts from these were illustrated with readings by Doris M. Clague, an

excellent tribute to the great Manx writer.

The two ladies were thanked by Mr. Aiden Corlett, B.A., all those present enjoyed a most interesting evening. Prior to the proceedings lunch was served at the Villa Marina Restaurant.

The Association is extremely pleased that a World Manx Assoc. stamp will be issued in May in celebration of 70 years since the W.M.A. was founded, a most fitting recognition of W.M.A. in Heritage Year.

An "At Home" luncheon will be held on Saturday, February 22nd at the Villa Marina. The Annual General Meeting will be held on March 15th at 2:00 p.m. at the Promenade Methodist Church.

Following are the dates for this Heritage Year, 1986:

MAY 5TH - 3:15 P.M.

Placing garland on the T. E. Brown Memorial Plaque in Glen Falcon Gardens.

MAY 29TH - 6:30 P.M.

Outing to the North of the Island, Tea at Grand Island Hotel.

JUNE 26TH - 2:15 P.M.

Attending Laa Columb Killey at Colby.

JULY 7TH - 2:00 P.M.

Annual Gathering, Tea at Palace Hotel.

JULY 13TH - 2:00 P.M.

Attending the Open Air Church Service at Peel Castle, Conducted by the Lord Bishop, The Right Reverend Arthur H. Atwell, M.A., M.Th.

AUGUST 21ST - 2:30 P.M.

Outing to South of the Island, Tea at Castletown Golf Links Hotel.

SEPTEMBER 13TH - 2:30 P.M.

Outing to West of the Island, Tea at Silverdale Cafe.

OCTOBER 25TH

Luncheon for the Immortal Memory to T. E. Brown. We extend a hearty invitation to any Homecomers visiting OCTOBER 25TH

Luncheon for the Immortal Memory to T. E. Brown.

We extend a hearty invitation to any Homecomers visiting the Island to join us at any of the above events. Please contact our Secretary, Mrs. M. Weller for further details.

Mary Weller, Secy.  
Kerroy-ny-Cronk  
Bride, Tel: 88453

Doris M. Clague, President  
Peel, Tel: 84 3467

## CLEVELAND MANX SOCIETY

As has been our custom for the past few years, no monthly meetings were scheduled for January or February. Following our regular meeting in

March, we'll have a "Game Night".

Plans are underway to have another theatre party in April as this was enjoyed by many last year. May will be time for our annual card party. This is a social evening and also a means of raising funds to contribute to the N.A.M.A. Convention Fund. The card party is always well supported for there are many door prizes (donated by members) and one needs not be present to win.

Marge Kennish Krach  
319 Ridgeview Drive  
Seven Hills, OH 44131-5617

While there is no Manx Society in Florida, Mrs. Ethel Christian, formerly of Rocky River, Ohio, sends me news about all the Manx folk who visit with her particularly during the winter months. Lena Watterson, Peel, Isle of Man recently visited with Ethel, who is her cousin, they drove to Sarasota and visited with Ena Kermode Bouman who live on Longboat Key, they also contacted Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Cameron, turned out that Mr. Cameron's mother was Manx, Old Pete Kinnish was an ancestor of his mother's. Edith MacWilliams and her sister, Peggy Greggor also visited with Ethel between Christmas and New Year. Mrs. Edna Cowin, Ohio, spent a vacation with her.

Ethel's brother, Arthur is not too well at this time, we wish him good health, Mrs. Christian would like to attend the 1986 Convention, she has not missed many in all the years she has been associated with the N.A.M.A., it will depend on the state of her brother's health, she is looking forward to a visit from her brother, Harry, sometime in February, he lives in Chicago.

## MANX FLAGS FOR CANADIAN SHIPS

One of the world's top shipping companies, Canadian Pacific, is considering the registration of three of its vessels in the Isle of Man, according to a report in this month's Telegraph, the journal of The National Union of Marine, Aviation and Shipping Transport Officers.

This would be a significant success for the Manx Shipping Register which now has ships with a gross tonnage of 150,000 on it. A year ago it was only 25,000 tons.

Chief Marine Surveyor Captain Geoffrey Davis had talks with Canadian Pacific earlier this year.

The latest ship to join the Register belongs to the Ellerman Line, which already has five on it, and the number of vessels sailing under the Manx flag is expected to show further considerable increases next year.

## LETTER FROM ELLESMERE PORT

Greetings my friends,

In our so-called temperate clime, January is the month when most people long for the far-off 'balmy days' of summer. It is a dismal month - afflicted with darkness, dampness, influenza and fog. Sharpened with bitter winds and ravaged often by snowstorms. Marvel, therefore, (when I quote from today's papers) on this last weekend at the end of January, more sunshine was recorded in this country than in any other January days since the beginning of this century.

It is with some confidence then that I observe the daffodils growing quickly and the snowdrops, under the trees at the bottom of the garden, already green and vibrant, ready to thrust through the soil their small carpet of white beauty! So, all is well: nature changes but little. Soon spring will renew its annual ritual of new life, perhaps heralding a lovely summer. My friends, that is the way I feel and that is the dream that many people cherish. Let us hope that all our dreams come true. Remember the saga of the family of black crows. Well, their nest fell out of the great oak tree during a wild winter storm. The crows are still around cawing and croaking. Just now, they seem to be gathering nesting material. Wonder will they nest here again in the oak tree or will they retreat to the forest hinterland? We will have to wait and see.

Finally, I am writing down for you a touching little poem which is inscribed on the wall at the Cottage Hospital, Ramsey, Isle of Man:-

*"She was a child before we were born -  
Now she is helpless old and forlorn;  
She was a bride long ago.*

*Walking in beauty - cheeks all aglow.  
She was a mother - babes at her breast.  
Caring for others giving her best.*

*She is a woman - salute her for this.  
Now she is withered and harder to kiss  
Speak to her gently - nurse her with pride.*

*Now as she waits to sail with the tide.  
Ours are the last hands she'll ever hold  
- Let her know love again  
Now she is old."*

Yours sincerely,  
Arthur Bridson

## "SNIPPETS OF MANX NEWS"

Herewith, as usual, a few items gleaned from Manx Papers and from the mainland press:

"£7,200 FOR TOY CAR" A Toy Car found in the Isle of Man was sold yesterday at Christies in London for

the amazing amount of £7,200. The owner was originally offered £25.00 for the Car by a "knocker".

P.S. A "knocker" is a door to door buyer of antiques and 'old and rares'. In theory a sophisticated 'snapper up of unconsidered trifles' - in practice "an expert in greed and gain".

### "ISLE OF MAN JOBLESS RISE"

Unemployment in the Isle of Man reached a new record for the third week running yesterday. The Government confirm that 2,526 people were out of work - taking the unemployment rate to just under 10%. P.S. Obviously the I.O.Man's New Resident programme needs revising in the direction of New Industry and new investment in employment opportunities rather than creating a Tax Haven for rich writers and sundry other financial entrepreneurs!

### "INFLATION RUNS AT 5.2%"

The annual rate of inflation on the Island has dropped slightly to 5.2%. This is for the month of December, according to the latest figures from the Economic Adviser's Office at the Treasury.

P.S. more or less in line with U.K. figures. However, the actual cost of living on the Island is substantially higher than the U.K.

"£75.00 OFFERED FOR 3d MANX STAMPS." It has been reported that a firm in London is offering £75.00 for 3d. Manx stamps dated 1973. The issue is the subject of an unusual and unexpected error.

It has been discovered that the stamp borders have been printed with the colour yellow ochre rather than the normal green. The firm is offering £75.00 for mint condition stamps and from £5.00 to £25.00 for used specimens, according to condition.

P.S. Philatelists - 'Eyes down looking' - a tedious but maybe rewarding task!

"POSTAGE INCREASE" The price of posting letters from the Isle of Man will be a penny dearer from February 1986. The cost of a stamp for local letters will go up from 11 pence to 12 pence, while letters to the U.K. will cost 15 pence.

N.B. Still some two/three pence cheaper than U.K. rates. Philately in the Isle of Man is of course a 'blooming industry'. Profits still increase and the service is super efficient.

"SHOWBOAT FERRY" A Ferry service between Fleetwood and the Isle of Man is to be revived this summer. The announcement says that the service is to be established on Mississippi Showboat lines! There will be eighteen sailings each Tuesday and Wednesday.

N.B. Incredible. Imagine the prospect of the cruel old Irish Sea lying in wait for such a maritime charade!! Eighteen sailings per day? How can this happen? Never mind. Ah fancy gittin down dere on de Levee at Douglas to serenade dose luckless travellers wit dat old ditty - See dem shufflin along.'

## \* \* \* \* \*

### NORTH AMERICAN MANX ASSOCIATION FINANCIAL STATEMENT

January 1, 1985 - December 31, 1985

On Hand 1/1/85 \$24,827.01

#### Receipts

Dues	\$4,182.16
Memorials	40.00
Membership Cert.	39.00
Interest	1,740.22
Pins	206.00
Cookbook	543.50
Gifts	650.00
Convention	
Advance - Refund	419.06

7,819.94

#### Disbursements

Bulletin -	
Printing	\$1,466.68
Editor's Expense	847.44
Treas. Expense	250.00
Sec. Expense	75.66
Allowances	600.00
Insurance	350.00
Executive Meeting	1,618.22
Convention	
Advance	\$1,000.00
Medals - Isle of Man	
Awards	\$2,000.00

8,208.40

On Hand 12/31/85 \$24,438.55

Memorial Fund Balance included in above total	\$ 521.50
Account Balances at 12/31/85	
Orland State Bank Checking Account	\$2,373.58
Orland State Bank Money Market Account	19,791.18
National Trust - Canada	2,273.79

C. E. Creer, Treas.  
1/27/86

## COOKBOOK

Spring has Sprung! Well, almost! You'll be looking for some new and exciting recipes for spring and summer. There are a lot of good ones in the cookbook "Culinary Capers". If you haven't already purchased your copy, send now to Mrs. R. F. Haldeman, 191 Glenview Drive, Avon Lake, Ohio 44012. Send \$5.75 U.S. (\$4.50 plus \$1.25 postage). Don't miss out! Act now!

### CANADIAN MEMBERS AND N.A.M.A.

It is of some concern that our Canadian members of N.A.M.A. are dwindling, several years ago the various Manx Societies in Canada were very active, hosting many successful Conventions, there could be many reason why young Manx people in Canada have no interest in carrying on the traditions which their forbears worked so hard to achieve. It seems as if not many young Manx now emigrate to Canada, their choice now seems to be either Australia or New Zealand. With air travel now so available they can journey back home to the Isle of Man in a few hours instead of an eight day boat trip.

For many years Toronto had a flourishing Manx Society, mostly run by the older folk, sad to say this Society is no more. Vancouver seems to carry on with enthusiasm, always on time with their news for the N.A.M.A. Bulletin and yet only 8 members from B.C. are fully paid up members in N.A.M.A., this means they receive the Bulletin four times a year, Associate members are not on the Bulletin mailing list.

Perhaps this is an area where a Regional Director could help promote membership in the N.A.M.A.

Manitoba has 8 members on the Bulletin mailing list, Nova Scotia has 9 members, Ontario has 48 members, Quebec has 2 members and Sask. 1 member, making a total of 80 for the whole of Canada, this was the total at the Christmas 1985 mailing.

When the 1980 Convention was held in Halifax, N.S., a Maritime Society was formed through the hard efforts of George and Irene Curphey and their committees, it seems as if this Society is not too active at this time.

Winnipeg, used to have a large Society as did Montreal, is it possible that sometime in the near future an N.A.M.A. Convention could be held in Canada?. Perhaps the very beautiful Province of British Columbia, either Vancouver or Victoria, would host such an event. It is up to all Canadian Manx to rally around, increase memberships in Societies and the N.A.M.A. now is the time to revive interest in our Manx Heritage, we have some very fine Manxmen and Manx Women in Canada. When Washington formed their Manx Society they checked the phone book for Manx names, contacted the descendants of Manx folk and soon they were a thriving Society, it means a lot of work but it can be done, so come on Canada we can do it too.

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### NORTH AMERICAN MANX ASSOCIATION

Mrs. Betty Q. Hanson, M.L.C. has received from the North American Manx Association a cheque for \$2,000 in order that more medals may be purchased in connection with the awards given to young people for outstanding merit in various facets of Island life.

The North American Manx Association, as part of the Millennium Year celebrations, set up this annual award with an initial gift of \$1,000 and now, with this most recent gift of \$2,000, the scheme will be able to continue for some years to come. Details of the scheme are set out below:-

The awards are given to young people under the age of 18 years on the Isle of Man and are arranged into four categories. For each category a silver medal has been minted for presentation to the suitable candidates and in order to preserve standards it has been decided that where in any category there is no candidate of sufficient merit, the award should be withheld. The categories are as follows:-

1. Outstanding ability in Music.
2. Outstanding ability in Arts and Crafts.
3. Outstanding ability in Manx Language.
4. (a) An award to be made to young people who have made an outstanding contribution to the Manx community in general, either by their work for voluntary organisations or by their involvement with, and assistance to, handicapped people or groups of people who need special help such as the elderly or infirm and/or,

(b) An award to be made to a handicapped youngster as a recognition of his or her outstanding efforts in overcoming the handicap, with the criteria here being a determination to contribute to the Isle of Man community in spite of such handicap, not for the triumph but for the struggle.

In July this year some 30 representatives of the North American Manx Association took part in a homecoming. On that occasion Mr. T. R. Anderson, President of the Association personally presented the awards to young people on the Island and at that time indicated the eagerness of the Association to continue their support for the scheme.

### PEOPLE WE MEET

Recently upon reading a weekly "Nova Scotia" publication our curiosity was stimulated upon seeing a "BEN MY CHREE" mentioned and located in the "YUKON, N.W.T."

The journalist who contributes articles to this publication was immediately contacted and found in a pretty Nova Scotia village aptly named "Mill Village" being approximately ten miles north of the writers home in "Liverpool, Nova Scotia".

After a lengthy (COOISH) conversation the lady journalist proved quite knowledgable of the "MANX" and their famous Isle of Man, therefore let us now meet this most interesting lady.

Jean Lockwood writes "straight stuff" nowadays as the editor of "TIDINGS" - a weekly church bulletin produced for the congregation of the Anglican churches in Eagle Head, Port Medway, Mill Village, and Brooklyn, all of which make up the Parish of St. John.

It's a far cry from the days when she hammered out crusading editorials calling for better fire protection, schools and hydro service, ranted about land grabs, and treated readers of the weekly newspapers she once owned in British Columbia to recipes for potato champagne, carrot whiskey, or "Sneaky Pete" homebrew, the time the government wiped out the "booze" delivery service to the people living on the Gulf Islands.

No more does she produce stories "hatched in the hen house", a large chicken coop she converted into an editorial office in her heyday as a writer-publisher.

Jean's retired, you see, living back home in Mill Village, making pickles and preserves, and nursing the sore back that never lets her forget an accident five years ago when she fell from the cliff out West. Whats more, she's enjoying the reunited lives of her sisters, four in all, one of whom once was the secretary to the late Angus McDonald, Premier of Nova Scotia.

They've all gone home back to Mill Village, to live as neighbours. Jean bought a lovely historic house in Mill Village, and it was built by Jason Creed, about 1815, and she has been busy having it restored, along with the restored fireplace in the kitchen, beamed ceilings, the handsome doors with H-hinges, all of which mark the house as one of the oldest in the village, in fact Jean Lockwood's home boasts the memorabilia of an exciting life.

There are books, and files, and newspapers reminding her of days when she owned papers like the "West Vancouver Adventurer", or the Gulf Islander, along with copies of scripts and tapes containing her stories of the Yukon which the CBC broadcast in a series.

continued on page 8

Now where is the Ben My Chree? Well there are paintings and photographs depicting what was once a famous and evidently profitable Gold Mine, which was owned and operated by a Manxman named Capt. Otto Partridge, who lived in Santa Clara, California, and along with his wife had come to the Yukon.

Capt. Otto Partridge in addition to his gold mining, was partner in the White Pass and Yukon Company's steamer ferry operations, which is still in operation as a tourist attraction, however the Captain returned to California after many years in the Yukon, and has since passed on. I understand the mine has now closed, but the famous name given by this Manxman to his mining operation lives on "BEN MY CHREE"

Perhaps another little "Cooish" with Jean Lockwood will produce another interesting story of the Manx influence in the Yukon, N.W.T.

Geo. & Irene Curphey

## TALE OF MANX CAT FILLED WITH LOVE

DOUGLAS, Isle of Man (AP)-

The tailless Manx cat ends with the unsettling abruptness of a sawed-off shotgun, but makes up for this anatomical shortage in an abundance of love and loyalty.

This curious feline has long fascinated pet lovers and the absence of its rear appendage is the stuff of legend.

Its tail got caught in the doors of Noah's Ark. It is part cat, part rabbit. It escaped minus its tail from a Spanish shipwreck and threw a litter on this little island in the Irish Sea. Viking invaders cut off the tails to adorn their helmets.

The boring truth, of course, is that it is a genetic defect enhanced by inbreeding on the tiny Isle of Man, which gave it its name.

Manx cats are recognized as a distinct breed by the keepers of the pedigree books and are highly rated for loyalty and friendliness.

Although they are bred in the United States and Britain, as well as at the Manx Cattery in Douglas, the capital of the Isle of Man, the islanders regard it as a uniquely Manx species.

"To me they are a symbol of this island," said Peter Dunn, in overall charge of the Manx Cattery. "The Isle of Man has always been somewhat independent-minded. It stands up for its apartness and so does the Manx cat."

"Any fool can breed a Siamese or a Persian, but a Manx is something else," said Iris Burgess, who breeds Manx cats in northern England. "You

can't define them. They just are."

It is not enough just to have no tail, explained Claire Uren, who runs the Manx Cattery. If it has a bump where its tail should be, it is a Stumpy and thus of inferior breed. The real thing has a small depression at the base of the spine, covered with a tuft of hair. Then it is a Rumpy and can sell for \$100 or more.

Any cat can have tailless kittens, but to qualify as Manxes, they must have long hind legs, a double coat, a tall and compact build and "absolutely no tail at all," said Uren.

About 10% of the island's cats are tailless and about 30 a year are raised at the Cattery, mostly for export.

J.M.W. Turner, the 19th-century English painter, was reputed to own several Manx cats. More recently, said Dunn, an order for a pure-bred Manx reached the Cattery from Sheikh Ahmed Zake Yamani, the Saudi oil minister.

Edward Lear, the Victorian nonsense poet, had a tailless cat named Foss, but Foss was no Manx. He was cut short by Lear's butler, who believed Foss would not stray far from the house where he had lost his tail.

Of course, cutting of the tail is blatant cheating, and Burgess said nothing annoys her more than someone casting a critical eye over her seven Manxes and asking at what age they had their tails amputated.

The agility of the Manx disproves the notion that cats need tails to keep their balance and to signal anger. "You know when a Manx is angry" said Burgess, "because you can see it in his face."

"They're not like ordinary cats who only condescend to come to you if it suits them. Manxes are rather like little dogs. My husband said that until you've been owned by a Manx you don't know what a cat is."

## CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

As I write this, we are in mid-winter, and with Ash Wednesday coming up soon, February 12, we begin to think of Lent and the approach of spring, always a hope-filled anticipation.

Did you ever stop to reflect upon how much of our lives are regulated by cycles, what one poet called "the rhythm of the spheres"? The dependability of the seasons' recurrence we take for granted.

I may have started thinking of this with the current "visitation" of Halley's Comet, albeit the "visitor" is more than 100 million miles away. This insignificant (in size) ball of ice and dust travels constantly through our galaxy, approaching our sun once every 76 years, and has done so for as

long as we can know. How reliable are the ways of our Creator! Since I was a "yearling" at the comet's last visit, it seemed important to me to view its present appearance, which I have done.

There are several reasons for human interest in astronomy, besides the chief one of curiosity about the mysterious, the "out beyond". I believe that, beginning with the Psalmist who wrote, "When I consider the heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars which thou hast established . . ." and on through Copernicus, Galileo and all the rest, we find a sense of unity, a oneness with all that has been created, and we are brought closer to the One who can give meaning and sense to it all. We glimpse this reaching out for this overview in Tennyson's "In Memoriam", as he seems to mournfully grope for faith:

"Behold, we know not anything,  
I can but trust that good shall fall  
At last -- far off -- at last, to all,

And every winter change to spring."

It is our hope that spring -- and Easter -- may renew your faith in the God who is always our help and strength, through His risen Son.

Herbert G. Kelly

## OBITUARIES

MOORE, Mr. Wilfred Arthur, age 86, died suddenly at his home, Somerset Road, Douglas, I.O.M., dearly loved brother of Ada and the late Ethel Moore, the late Mr. Moore was a long time member of the W.M.A. for some years he and his sister lived in Toronto, Canada, but retired back to the Isle of Man several years ago. Members of N.A.M.A. would remember the Moores when attending the Conventions held in Toronto. Funeral service was on October 17th, 1985. Interment at Douglas Borough Cemetery.

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

To those members sending in Obituaries, please include the names and addresses of next of kin.

The Rev. R. Kissack received several orders for his book about the history of the Kissacks of the Isle of Man "Seed of Isaac" mention was made of this in the last Bulletin.

One reference interested him, he would like to hear any information about a William Kissack who farmed at Wallbridge, Ohio (near Toledo) in the 1890's, he wondered if there were any descendants among our readers, if so would they please get in touch with him, he may have been born in Liverpool, England in 1838.

The address to which you may write  
— Glen Moor, Kirk Michael  
Isle of Man