

BULLETIN *of the* North American Manx Association



Ollick Ghennal As Blien Die Noa



Vol. 60 No. 2

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

DECEMBER 1987

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The Executive Board of the North American Manx Association meets on Friday afternoon before a convention, on Monday afternoon following a convention, and one time between conventions. That off-year meeting was held September 12, 1987, at Cleveland. Our only absentees were Past President Stan Shimmin of Canada who suffered a heart attack right after the Williamsburg Convention, and who did not feel strong enough to make this trip although he has high hopes of coming to the Toronto Convention, and Chaplain Herbert Kelly who had a recent stroke and might have tried to come but his doctor advised against it.

Membership was discussed extensively. In NAMA, we charge the most newly elected board member, the Third Vice President, with membership, and he serves most of his term before he is sufficiently familiar with our organization to really tackle his job. Larry Fargher feels membership is every member's concern, and is our most imaginative board member in this area who can verbalize eloquently a variety of ideas for attacking this problem. Ron Quayle is presently Third Vice President, and is exploring Washington census and other means of finding Manx people. I hope Larry or Ron or both will write an article for the Bulletin. Our discussion opened interesting areas which should not only be worked on, but be explained and passed along to you all.

A very long discussion took place on exchanging students with the Isle of Man at the high school level. It opened with a report by the Exchange Student Committee (TR Anderson, Larry Fargher, and Mona Creer), and closed with a motion that this same committee continue the matter. One possibility of affiliating ourselves with organizations in this field could involve expense that would double our NAMA dues. Mr. Anderson and Mrs. Betty Hanson on the IOM side are personal friends, and we are hopeful we will receive developments from the Committee for publication in the Bulletin that will be both sensible and exciting.

Mr. Anderson reported that sets of the Bulletin as complete as he has been able

to make them, from the first publicity sheets whooping up enthusiasm for the 1927 Homecoming steamer trip to the Isle of Man, have been furnished to the Family History Society and the Manx Museum on the Isle of Man, the Bulletin Editor, and a motion was approved to place the record copy in the Bell Museum of the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis.

The Family Map suggested by Chaplain Kelly at the Williamsburg Convention for our next convention was discussed, and it was decided to leave this to the Toronto Convention Committee. We will no doubt hear more about this from Convention Chairman Marshall Cannell as we go along. You societies who are ready, keep your materials at the ready. You who do not know what this is all about had better look back, lest you arrive in Toronto looking at a blank spot.

Trustee Robert Camaish presented a newly revised list of property owned by NAMA, where it is, and invited updating. Discussion followed on what items might be stored at Clague House Museum in Cleveland. The Silver Jubilee Convention at Cleveland in 1978 visited Clague Museum, but that has been a while. Past President Edna Cowin is an officer and an active worker in that Museum, our only Manx Museum in North America, and if she will be so kind as to give us an article on its interesting origin and present usage it may enlighten many of our newer members, and refresh some of the older ones.

The Trustee vacancy on the Board occasioned by the death of Russell Gawne of Illinois was filled for a one-year term until the Toronto Convention by the election by board members of Norman Standish of Texas. You may remember him from Williamsburg; if not, please look forward to getting to know him at Toronto.

A Nominating Committee for the Toronto Convention will consist of our Honorary President Norman Clucas as Chairman, 1418 Cheshire Lane, Webster Groves, Missouri, 63119; Mrs. Hilda Penrice, Bulletin Editor for many years, 20 Mountainview Road South, Unit 13, Georgetown, Ontario, Canada, L7G 4K3; and Miss Mary Hayslett, Registrar for

the Williamsburg Convention, 5000 Fairbanks Avenue, # 221, Alexandria, Virginia, 22311. If you have names you would like to submit for consideration, please forward them to one or more of these people. And if you are approached by one or more of these people to fill an office, I urge you to consider it most carefully, it is unlike any other opportunity you will ever receive and portends experiences you cannot imagine.

We had a delightful meeting this year which generated no controversies, brimmed with goodwill for NAMA and any contribution it can make to North American Manx people, and at a Saturday evening gathering at the Haldeman home and a Sunday morning brunch before we all scattered friendships were made, renewed, and deepened. Mona Haldeman is a past president, a past most every office in NAMA, and she and her husband Ray attended to all the administrative details not only this year, but every time since I have been an officer we have held our off-year meetings in Cleveland. Ray runs a considerable taxi service during these meetings. The facilities have become so comfortable and familiar to us we settle into our business quickly and easily.

Merry Christmas and a Bountiful New Year to you all,

William E. Brideson
President

XMAS GOODIES

There are still a few cookbooks to be sold. With the probability that postage will increase in 1988, why not send for one (or more) now while they are still available at the old postal rates. The books, containing about 250 recipes, are now \$3.50, with postage \$1.25 for one, and only an additional 25¢ for two or three. More than three have to be shipped separately or by UPS. Hurry and send now to insure the lower postal rates and to be sure of a copy before they're gone. You'll find many recipes that will please you, including a number you can use during the Christmas season. So HURRY! Send your check and the number you desire to Mona Haldeman (Mrs. R. F.), 191 Glenview Drive, Avon Lake, Ohio 44012.

FOOLISH FORTNIGHT

Today we speak of "Christmas Week", and for at least a month before December 25th the shops are busy extracting from the general public their harvest of the Christmas Season, while mechanical carols blare forth and Father Christmas parades (at so much per hour) through various big stores. But do people really take time off from work and worry to celebrate the big winter festival to the full?

Our Manx ancestors did, and they had much less money to spend, and on the whole worked much harder through the year, though probably not so fast.

They stood out firmly for the Kegees Ommidagh, the Foolish Fortnight, which started on Laa'll Fingan, December 21st, and ended on Shenn Nolllick, Old Christmas, January 6th, celebrated by the Church as Epiphany.

Like many old customs, this one had a pre-Christian origin, for it is the period of the longest and darkest nights of the year, and songs, dances, lights and feasting both mitigated these natural conditions and were a propitiation for the return of the life-giving sun and the new birth of the spring. In the Christian era the celebrations were for the birth of Christ, conqueror of death and darkness and herald of a new spiritual life.

Here on our Island every household used to prepare beforehand for the Kegeesh Ommidagh with extra cleaning, cooking and so on, and after December 21st no field work was done, tradesmen put away their tools, fishing-boats were laid up, and the houses were only given a quick "kiartaghey", or tidying up in the mornings. Meals had to be catered for of course, and animals fed and milking done — and then the day was your own, and the night too, for every night was given to revelry, interspersed with churchgoing.

A Manx Table-book published in 1863 records that "After Christmas begins there is not a barn unoccupied for the whole twelve days, every parish hiring fiddlers at the public expense, and all youths, nay, often also persons well advanced in years, make no scruple to be among the nocturnal dancers. . . This time is indeed a Carnival."

On Oie'll Fingan there was the first big Giense, or party, when everyone gathered in the biggest barn in the neighbourhood, lent for the occasion by the farmer who owned it, whose wife also usually provided supper in the farmhouse kitchen for a continual succession of guests.

The barn would be well swept, provided with improvised seating, often of straw or meal-bags covered with sheets of sacking, decorated with holly and other evergreens and with a big "kissing-bush" hung in the middle of

the roof, and lit by lanterns hanging from the beams. A couple of fiddlers would be perched upon the "daash" at one end and would play on through the night, with pauses from time to time for refreshment, when the rest of the company would join in some well known song such as Mylecharane. Jigs, reels and set dances would follow each other in quick succession until well on in the early hours of the morning, when the company would troll out the Arrane Oie-vie and go home for a few hours' sleep.

This kind of thing went on for the whole fortnight. Well, I suppose many of us have a few late nights over Christmas — but have we the stamina today to keep it up for a fortnight? I doubt it!

Mona Douglas

TORONTO

To those of our members who remember, the last Convention held in Toronto was July 25-28, 1965, at the King Edward Hotel in downtown Toronto.

The Association had lost its Presiding President, the late Mr. Henry C. Christian, a very fine gentleman. His widow Ethel now resides in Largo, Florida. She carries on the tradition of being proud of her Manx Heritage.

Mr. Norman D. Glucas, as First Vice President, took over the reins as Acting President. A fine programme was arranged for the delegates and friends of NAMA. The General Chairman of the Convention was the late Mr. Sam Penrice, and he was assisted by a very capable committee of members of the Toronto Manx Society, which, alas, today is no more.

Looking back through the files I came across the Souvenir book of the 1951 NAMA Convention held in Toronto at the Royal York Hotel. The President of the Toronto Manx was the late Mr. Fred Caveen, while the late Mr. Tom Moore of Toronto was President of NAMA.

To quote from the booklet extolling the virtues of Toronto: "Toronto is the capital city of Ontario, and the great gateway to the vast Lakeland and Forest Playground of that Province. In addition to its interesting business and commercial districts, the city is marked by widespread and beautiful residential sections, and in it are centered the most important phases of Canada's postwar development. Toronto is a city of great wealth; a city of homes and gardens, clean streets, fine parks, interesting architecture and friendly hospitality.

"Toronto, named 'The Meeting Place' by the Huron Indians, dates to pre-Colonial times. A monument in Exhibition Park marks the site of Fort Rouille, the first recorded white settlement established by the French in 1749-50.

"An old lighthouse on Fleet Street, now painted white, marked the entrance to Toronto Harbour for nearly 100 years. Toronto's oldest civic clock in its graceful Corinthian tower tops Saint Lawrence Market, once City Hall. Fort York — the original, not a restoration — was built in 1794 by General John Graves Simcoe one year after Toronto was selected to become the capital of Upper Canada. Its blockhouses still bear the bullet scars of its capture by American forces in 1813. Here too is a memorial to General Zebulon Pike (Pike's Peak) who was killed when the Fort's magazine blew up. Holy Trinity Church, marooned on its own little Trinity Square, is a more than century-old downtown landmark of Toronto's earlier history.

"One of the city's most impressive monuments commemorates that grand and determined old lady whose reign was an era, Victoria the Good. It stands in Queen's Park, where also will be found the only North American memorial to the founder of Sunday Schools, Robert Raikes.

"A progressive city, with a strong memory of its yesterdays and a big promise for the future, a unique blending of old and new, of British and American ideas and atmosphere, Toronto is the 'largest American city outside the United States and the most British in the British Commonwealth'.

"Industrious Toronto — yet in summer it presents all the attractions of a great summer resort. Canada's commercial and financial capital, it is also a great educational and cultural city; leading the country in bank clearings, yet also the home of the largest University in the British Empire."

Since the above Acticle was written 36 years ago, Toronto has changed and grown considerably. The following article will give our Manx friends an idea of what to expect when they join us at the next North American Manx Convention, July 29 - August 1, 1988, The Holiday Inn, Airport Road, Toronto.

Hilda (Bridson) Penrice

"Just about everyone has heard of or read Charles Dickens' classic, A Tale of Two Cities . . . but how many people have read a Tale of Quintuple Cities Plus One?"

"Although not quite precise, that's what Metropolitan Toronto has become in the past decade. Perhaps a little explanation might help.

"Metropolitan Toronto is more than Toronto, it's actually a federation of five distinct cities and one borough. When you travel to Metro Toronto, you can experience all the communities for the price of one. Call it the ultimate travel package deal.

"Each city (and the borough) has its own history, its own attractions, sights

(Continued on page three)

(Continued from page two)

and sounds, and even its own government, but is still part of the whole travel experience called Metro Toronto.

"Annually, tourists, business travellers, and convention delegates make 17-million visits to this unique destination, and that makes Metro Toronto the number one attraction in Canada.

"To make sure you take advantage of our entire community, all 244 square miles, we have prepared a few brief notes on how to 'Discover the Feeling' of each city (and the borough) in Metro Toronto. Mind you, these are only the highlights . . . the listings throughout the book will help you to more adequately plan your journey.

"The City of Toronto lists three words on its coat of arms . . . industry, intelligence, and integrity. When you visit this city, which is the largest in the Metropolitan Toronto federation, with a population of 599,000, you're tempted to add another word to this list: inestimable.

"The City of Toronto boasts so many attractions, restaurants, theatres and hotels that they are too excellent to be listed or rated. Any list would surely be incomplete so rather than do the city injustice, let's look at its neighbourhoods.

"The City has more than nine distinct districts, many representing the cultural diversity of the community. The Kensington area (Spadina & Dundas) is arguably the most vibrant. Developed as a market area in 1905, it has become an international meeting ground for shopkeepers who list their mother tongues as Chinese, East and West Indian, Spanish, Hungarian, Ukrainian, Italian and Portuguese. Kensington Market offers not only the best in produce and meats, but it's also a wonderful place to browse and learn more about Toronto's ethnic heritage.

"A walk north to College Street and then west puts you in another district, this one called Little Italy. Proudly named by postwar immigrants who were drawn to Toronto because of numerous opportunities in the construction industry, Little Italy is now a bustling shopping and dining strip. (Little Italy is also the name of a district along the city's northern boundary on Saint Clair Avenue, and it too offers exotic foods and beautiful Italian fashions and furniture.)

"Toronto also boasts Chinatown, which is not one separate district but five in total. The largest Chinese population in Canada lives in Metropolitan Toronto and the Chinatown that most visitors see is on Dundas Street, west of University. Originally a centre for some of Toronto's elite at the turn-of-the-cen-

tury (the mansions still stand), Chinatown on Dundas came into its own in the 1960s. (The original Chinatown in Toronto was just west of the Eaton Centre, where the City Hall now stands.) Some of the most interesting attractions here are the Ship Thoy Yen, founded in 1932 as a men's club (today it promotes local social and charitable activities), and the Chinese United Society, which has staged a Cantonese opera and several plays each year since 1933. The Art Gallery of Ontario also shares space in Chinatown on Dundas.

"Another great area of Toronto is its Port District, which includes beaches, bicycle trails, the Toronto Islands, Leslie Street Spit/Aquatic Park, and the Marine Terminals. This is also where you'll find Harbourfront, an ambitious and highly successful shopping/dining/skating complex on the shores of Lake Ontario. Toronto is the second busiest port on the Canadian side of the Lower Great Lakes, and is perfectly safe and clean to walk through. Watch for two amusement parks on the waterfront, Ontario Place and Centre Island, the latter accessible by public ferry. A harbour tour is highly recommended.

"Tied directly to the port is Toronto's financial district, which is known as Canada's economic capital. This is the area of the stock market and the bank towers. More than 150,000 people work here, and dozens of companies run their international operations from head offices in the city. A walking tour takes about an hour and a half.

"Any description of the City of Toronto would be incomplete without mentioning the districts of Yorkville, the Beach, the Spadina Garment District, and Queen Street West. Each offers its own distinct brand of shopping and dining, with prices that range from inexpensive to Rolls Royce class. You'll find the city has its fair share of parks and residential areas, including two of Metro's most exclusive, Rosedale and Forest Hill.

"The City of Toronto is served by two major expressways (the Don Valley Parkway and the Gardiner Expressway) as well as two subway systems, surface bus and streetcar routes. The Toronto Island Airport handles domestic flights, while the Bus Terminal and Union Station accommodate bus and train passengers."

GREETINGS

To add a personal touch to his Christmas cards, a friend of ours decided to have the local ones delivered by hand. He told his son he would get two cents for each card delivered. Later the boy returned. "Some people said they had enough Christmas cards," he said. "Others paid the two cents, and Mr. Jones only had a nickel."

Larry Fargher's "Cheer"

WORLD MANX ASSOCIATION

Our last two outings took place on 20th August and 19th September when we visited the Waterfall Cafe at Glen Maye and Bradda Glen Cafe, Port Erin, for afternoon tea. It was unfortunate that on both afternoons the rain was extremely heavy but everyone made the best of the adverse conditions and thoroughly enjoyed the excellent meal at both venues.

On 31st October we shall be honouring our National Poet, Thomas Edward Brown, when we hold our annual T. E. Brown Luncheon at the Rutland Hotel, Palace Terrace. Our special guests will be the Right Reverend the Lord Bishop of Sodor and Man, the Rev. Arthur Attwell and Mrs. Attwell, and Mr. Bernard Caine, F.I.M.L.S., will present the Immortal Memory of T. E. Brown. A record number of members will be present on this occasion.

Three recent deaths involve persons probably known by some NAMA members: Mary Ann Weller served the London Manx Society as President in 1951, and a second time in the late 60s, and as Secretary for several years. When she returned to live on the Island she became Correspondence Secretary of the WMA. Mrs. Isa Lewney also belonged to the London Society and held various positions on its Committee. Mrs. Joan Mary Corlett was one of our members in the WMA.

To all Manx people throughout the world from all members of the World Manx Association —

We wish a very joyful Christmas and a New Year blessed with Good Health and Happiness.

E. Winifred Musgrove
Secretary

MANX BOOK SALE

101 books pertaining to the Isle of Man are available for purchase. A list of these books has been sent to all Life members and is being sent to those who pay their dues annually at the time payment is made for 1987/88. Do yourself a favor and pay your dues now if you haven't already done so, so that you won't miss getting this fine list of books.

C. E. Creer, Treas.

UNPAID DUES

It's time to renew your membership for the 1987/88 year if you haven't already done so. Our by-laws provide that the mailing of future Bulletins and convention announcements are contingent upon your payment of dues, and we ask that past due dues be paid at your earliest convenience. Where else can you get news pertaining to your Manx ancestry at so little cost.

C. E. Creer, Treas.
14228 Union Ave.
Orland Park, IL 60462

OUR OWN PEOPLE

Mrs. Ethel Christian of Largo, FL and her brother Harry Shimmin of Oak Park, IL visited the Isle of Man for two weeks at the end of August, staying at the Sefton in Douglas, and at the Cherry Orchard for the second week. They both enjoyed this visit immeasurably as being together this time made it a really nostalgic trip. Harry was over last year, and Ethel was with the Homecomer trip in 1983.

After her return from the Isle of Man, Ethel Christian flew to Cleveland to join Mona and Ray Haldeman and Edith Gurney on a three-week trip to Idaho, where they visited Haldeman daughters Gail and Candy and their families, which included grandchildren Jared and Vori Shewfelt, and the newest member Christina Danielle Hansing. While in Idaho, the travellers took several side trips to out-of-the-way places, such as Redfish Lake, Custer (a ghost town), Idaho City, Anderson Reservoir, as well as Boise. On the return trip, they visited Canyonlands and Arches National Parks, and drove through the Colorado mountains, via Durango. Needless to say, the scenery was outstanding, breath-taking, awesome, and a few other adjectives. All in all, it was a never-to-be-forgotten experience.

Charles and Wendy Kennish from Bowmanville, Ontario visited family on the Isle of Man in July. After a chance meeting with Noreen Cottier, they offered to help re-start the Toronto Manx Society when they returned. More recently in September, Donald Bottomly of Onchan, IOM contacted Noreen to ask how he could join NAMA, as he was thinking of a move to the Toronto area sometime in 1988. With their membership, there are now 18 NAMA members resident in the Isle of Man.

SALVATION ARMY ON THE ISLE OF MAN

The Salvation Army has served the Isle of Man for 104 years. The Army's present-day busy community centre and corps is in Douglas, and there is a small extension of the work in Laxey.

The Island has a large proportion of elderly people, and it is to help meet some of their needs that a day centre is open on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Arriving at 10 o'clock in time for coffee, the elderly then enjoy various handicrafts. Among the articles produced are mug trees, miniature bird houses, and trays.

The lunch club caters not only to the day centre members, but also is open to other members of the public. Young people and local shop workers are among those who call at lunch time.

An all-day playgroup is held on weekdays. It is divided into three sessions — morning, lunchtime (when the children bring packed lunches), and afternoon. Single parents who need to

work are able to leave their children for the whole day knowing that they are in good care.

Attached to the centre is an emergency accommodations unit of three twin-bedded rooms. There is no hostel on the Island, so the rooms provide temporary shelter for people with different needs — ex-prisoners, homeless families, battered wives, those who find themselves stranded on the Island. The unit includes a kitchen, so it is self-catering.

Both Captain and Mrs. Mizon and Philip and Jill Worthington are ready to listen to the problems of those using the unit, and do what is possible to help.

A weekly coffee morning and jumble sale, and a daily charity shop, not only help raise funds but also provide other opportunities for meeting at the centre.

Added to all this are Sunday services, over-60 clubs and women's fellowships, both at Douglas and Laxey, and a variety of activities for children.

One of the best known people on the Isle of Man is Gordon Cowley, who has just completed 50 years working for the British and Manx post offices. "For the past 30 years I have enjoyed being the corps bandmaster, and caring for more than 20 members and their families at any one time," he says. "Often in my business life I am asked by pensioners to attest that they are still alive! this to enable them to receive certain payments. As for me, I'd like to use some words of the Apostle Paul and confirm that 'I live, yet not I but Christ liveth in me.'"

The War Cry, Great Britain
Susan Nealy, Trainer, PA

GREETINGS

It was a good summer for me in the Isle of Man, with meeting many old friends who visited the Island. I know that the other Manx based members join with me to wish everyone in the NAMA, a very Happy Christmas and good health and fortune for the New Year.

Noreen Cottier,
Regional Rep. in the Isle of Man
3 Cowley Terrace, Peel
Tel. No. 84 2527

LOST MEMBERS

We've lost contact with the following persons — can you contact them or send us their new address — thanks.

Mrs. Marilyn A. Finch
5827 Orchard Court, Apt 1
Lansing, MI 48911

Gordon H. Evans
512 Madison Twrs, 22 E. 38th St.
New York, NY 10016

William Moore
768 - 24th Street
Ogden, UT 84401

FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

Greetings from the Isle of Man Family History Society. It is hard to realise that we are once again approaching Christmas. We resumed our monthly meetings in September, when we had a Members Evening. These evenings, when two or three local members give a short talk on their own research into their family roots, have proved very popular and it is hoped that to have at least two of these each year. In October, Mr. John Callister gave a very interesting and beautiful film slide show on the Manx wild flowers he so expertly photographs. In November, we look forward to a talk on Manx Place Names by Mr. Radcliffe. As we enjoyed our first annual Christmas Dinner so much last year, we have booked again at the Ballaquane Restaurant in Peel.

We have thought for some time that we should have rooms or premises in Douglas, as near to the Manx Museum as possible, where we could meet and help new and potential members and especially meet visitors from overseas searching for their family roots. As yet we have not found suitable premises, but we hope to be able to offer a service to visitors in the coming summer. We are planning our 1988 events and have a list of interesting speakers booked for the coming year and we are considering the theme for our Open Day, which we will hold in Douglas at the Promenade Church, after being out of town for the last two years in Castletown and Peel. Perhaps we may meet some of our NAMA friends and relatives in 1988, in the meanwhile, may I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and peaceful New Year from the Isle of Man Family History Society.

Sylvia Mylchreest

WEATHER RECORD FOR OCTOBER?

The Month of October in the Isle of Man is well on the way to becoming the wettest on record, according to statistics provided by weathermen at Ronaldsway Airport.

Following another wet night on Wednesday rainfall total reached 154.5 millimetres — or almost six inches. The October average is 92 millimetres.

The wettest October ever recorded was in 1954, when a total of 185 millimetres of rain fell.

Manx Independent 23 Oct. 1987



Christmas Greetings and News from the Manx Societies

BISBEE, ARIZONA

Sorry I can't send some Manx news. We don't have a Manx Society here any more. I've tried to keep it going through the years, but no one is interested but my sister-in-law and myself.

I did have a wonderful trip to the Island for the Homecoming, and stayed on for a month with relatives. Had a wonderful time and enjoyed seeing old friends. I'm expecting the John Hughes down to spend the weekend with me. They had a grand time in the Island too.

I do want to keep in touch, and to know what goes on. My love and best wishes to all for the Holidays.

Ivy Dillon
207 Hazzard
Bisbee, AZ 85603

THE SAN DIEGO COUNTY CHAPTER MANX SOCIETY

Our annual pot-luck picnic and swim at the home of our president, Marge Frederick in August was enjoyed by all. Marge Weber reported about copies of the logs of some of the earliest voyages made by the Star of India which were obtained from a university in Newfoundland. Bingo was played after the meeting.

In October the meeting was held in the home of Virginia Mellon who is a cousin of our long-standing member Doris Doebbel. We were glad to see Aline and Ed Wittenkeller. She had made a successful recovery from knee surgery. It was nice to have present Karen Rege and her mother, Arline Archer. We have mis-

sed them. Two active members, sisters, Alice Zettel and Marion Kelly, were on a tour of Yosemite National Park and were unable to attend. Although we were having an unusual rain storm, eighteen were present.

During the business session we discussed sending copies of two IOM tapes possessed by the Maritime Museum in San Diego to the Museum in Douglas, IOM if they might want them. Also about sending a contribution to the Peel Castle diggings. Both projects are to be investigated further before action will be taken. It was also discussed about the possibility of having a contact on the IOM to let us know if someone was travelling here so we could entertain them. It was voted to send our 1988 NAMA membership fee. During refreshments, the members enjoyed viewing a VHS tape from Norm Gill of the 1986 NAMA Williamsburg Convention Report.

Our Christmas celebration, December 13th, will be at the home of Marge & Don Weber.

From all of us to each of you we extend our best wishes for a Happy, Joyous and Peaceful Christmas Season.

Mrs. R. Virginia Mellon,
Secretary-Treasurer
Box #1743
La Mesa, CA 92044

REPORT OF THE MANX SOCIETY OF MINNESOTA

The Minnesota Manx Society held its fall meeting at St. Andrews Episcopal Church on Lake Superior in Duluth, Minnesota, on September 26, 1987. The activities included a social time and buffet lunch preceding the business meeting. The beautiful autumn day helped bring out an enthusiastic crowd of about forty.

The meeting was called to order by Norman Gill, President. Special acknowledgements were given to Charlene and Jerry Shimmin for their work on the Duluth arrangements and Manx designed placemats; to Fran and Bill Shimmin for promotion of the event in Northern Minnesota; and to Margaret Gill and both Shimmin families for the Manx memorabilia on display.

The first item of old business was to update the progress of a student exchange program with the Isle of Man. Also discussed was the variation on the time, day and location of the Minnesota general meetings. A presentation of a homemade windsock with the three legs of Man symbol was made by Bill Shimmin to T.R. Anderson, Chairman, in recognition of his contribution in founding the Manx Society of Minnesota. Mr. Anderson gave a brief history of the organization. The Manx film *Traa dy lioor* was shown, followed by a Manx folktale told by Joan Gill. Finally, a silent auction was conducted on Manx items donated by Margaret Daugherty, one of our members. The remaining items will be offered at our next general meeting which is scheduled for January 14, 1988. We

will be pleased to present a surprise Manx speaker in conjunction with the James Ford Bell Library. Meeting details will be announced next month.

Many new Manx people enrolled with our society at our Duluth meeting. We would like to share with you their names:

| | |
|------------------------|----------------------|
| Susan Glimsdale | Mona Burgher |
| Scott & Nancy McAdam | Georgia Johnsen |
| Barbara Ramondino | Carole Miller |
| Kerry Shimmin | Carolyn Harrington |
| Marion J. Greene | Mary Towkin |
| Katherine B. Simons | Norman Gill (Duluth) |
| Josephine B. Teare | Albert Faragher |
| Bernard D. Fossett | Mona Abel |
| Mary K. Heltsley | Myra Meittunen |
| Charles & Lynn Hiti | Gordon Garrett |
| Larry & Sharon Shimmin | |

Welcome on behalf of the Minnesota Manx.

by Joan Gill, Acting Secretary

NEBRASKA MANX SOCIETY

We held our Fall meeting on October 11 in the home of the Phil Corkills in Lincoln, Nebraska. Twenty-three members were present.

After an outstanding potluck, we held our meeting and election. Our new President will be Elizabeth Robison of Omaha, and Vickie Gobber of Gretna is our new Secretary.

We wish everyone Holiday Greetings, and look forward to hearing more plans for the upcoming convention.

Vickie Knudsen
Past Secretary

CLEVELAND MANX SOCIETY

Time to send greetings to friends — near and far — for a truly Happy Holiday season. Our society's officers and members wish for all is . . . Love, Peace, Good Health in the year ahead.

We have found Sunday afternoons an attractive time for our get-togethers. In September, and again in early November, we combined dinner and meeting. Reservations were made ahead of time, and menu choice indicated. At the restaurants, our group was served in a dining room apart from the other restaurant patrons.

December 13th is date of our Annual Christmas dinner/meeting. It will be held again at the Rocky River Sheraton Inn. Gift exchange and program are to follow the dinner.

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

VANCOUVER MANX SOCIETY

Once again that extra special season of the year has rolled around and President Chris Stirling on behalf of the Vancouver Manx Society, wishes one and all Seasons Greetings — Health and Happiness in the coming year.

We in Vancouver experienced one of the warmest, loveliest summers on record. However, wouldn't you know — our picnic scheduled for July 5th, Tynwald Day was rained out. Luckily we were able to reschedule for Aug. 8th and the weather co-operated. A fun day in all respects. The races, tug-o-war, candy toss and train ride made for a memorable day. We had out of town visitors from Winnipeg Man and Lillooet B.C.

On Sept. 19th we held a wine and cheese party and at that time showed films sent to us courtesy Mr. Wm. Bride-son, N.A.M.A. Everyone present thoroughly enjoyed the evening and the films were a great success. I am sure the beauty of the Manx Choir singing Ellan Vannin at the end of the film brought many a silent tear.

Plans are now on the way for our pre-Christmas Pot Luck Supper. This will be our last event of the year.

We wish to congratulate Lesley Gillon and Glenn McGee on their marriage Oct. 24, 1987 in St. Albans Anglican Church - Burnaby B.C. Lesley is the daughter of Angus and Judith Gillon - Burnaby B.C. Happy New Year to all.

Vera Henry Sect
Vancouver Manx Society
3142 West 32nd Ave.,
Vancouver B.C.
V6L 2C1

WASHINGTON SOCIETY

Members of the Greater Washington, D.C., Area Manx Society have been busy celebrating their common heritage with several diverse groups.

In September, Society President Ronald Quayle officially greeted the Athol Highlanders of Scotland at ceremonies marking their visit to the city.

In October, Society representatives and costumed members of a local Viking Club distributed flyers noting famous Manx colonizers and seamen at the national convention of the Council of Colonization Period Ships, which brought scores of historical restoration and commemoration experts to Washington.

The following week, the Society attracted more than a dozen new members at a widely publicized evening of dinner and musical theater marking the Isle of Man's Arthurian links at a rousing performance of "Camelot!"

For Christmas the Society is organizing an authentic Manx "Foolish Fort-night" party in a huge converted barn in rural Virginia, replete with Manx and

Celtic dancing and carols, groaning board, bottomless wassail bowl, and family games. More than 200 revelers are expected.

Merry Christmas to all.

James R. Woodgates
Vice President

WISCONSIN MANX SOCIETY

Thirty-five Wisconsin Manx Society members attended the October 11th Smorgasbord Dinner and meeting at Madison. Mary Kelly, our new president, presided. Mary had prepared a two page questionnaire that had been sent to the membership with the Fall Newsletter. This was discussed and results will be used in planning meetings and activities for the next two years and future planning.

We all introduced ourselves giving our Manx connection and location. Mary asked for all those present to indicate interest in the possible tour to the Isle of Man and British Isles in 1988. Doris Alf suggested to those wishing to work on genealogy while there, contact the Isle of Man Family History Society and purchase their beginner's booklet on searching for family information. This booklet, she said, would help inform them as to what is available on the Isle for research and where to find it.

Slides of the July Laxey Picnic were shown as well as some very interesting ones Mary had prepared from pictures taken probably in early 20th century on the Isle of Man — several were from the Laxey area.

Roselyn Callin announced additional books have been donated to our lending library. She encouraged everyone to look over the materials she now has and check out those of interest.

Our Spring Meeting date will be announced after an appointed committee checks new meeting places.

We who "share the Manx heritage in Wonderful Wisconsin" extend our warmest wishes to all of you for a wonderful holiday and a very happy New Year!

E. Mae Reese

THE MANX BIBLE

The first part of the Bible printed in the Manx Language was St. Matthew's Gospel in 1748; and the very first issue of a printed Manx Bible was in the period of 1750 - 1809, afterwards the Rev. Dr. John Kelly, and the compiler of the First Manx Dictionary were entrusted when young with the carrying of the First Manuscript of the translation of the books from Deuteronomy to Job from the Isle of Man to the printers in England. It so happened that the boat on which the Rev. John Kelly was travelling to Whitehaven was shipwrecked, and

the Reverend was five hours in the water before being rescued, however during the whole time he managed to hold the Manuscripts in his hand above the water, so it would not be damaged.

It is interesting to note that the following is a list of clergymen most all evidently Manx who translated the Bible into the Manx Language, and how it was apportioned.

- Genesis — Revs. W. Mylrea, and R. Radcliffe
Exodus — Rev. Henry Corlett (Parish of German)
Leviticus — Rev. Nicholas Christian (Parish of Rushen)
Numbers — Rev. William Crebbin (Parish of Jurby)
Deuteronomy — Rev. John Moore (Parish of Arbory)
Joshua — Rev. James Wilks (Parish of Michael)
Judges & Ruth — Rev. Robert Quayle (Parish of Braddan)
L. Samuel — Rev. Samuel Gell (Parish of Lonan)
2. do — Rev. Jos. Cosnahan) (Parish of Braddan)
1. Kings — Rev. Thomas Quayle (Parish of Onchan)
2. do — Rev. John Christain (Parish of Marown)
1. Chronicles — Rev. Daniel Gelling (Parish of Malew)
2. do — Rev. John Gell (Parish of Lezayre)
Ezra & Nehemiah — Rev. Thomas Cubbin (Parish of Santon)
Esther — Rev. John Crellin (Ramsey)
Job — Rev. Thomas Corlett (Parish of Bride)
Psalms — Revs. J. Gell, P. Moore, & Teare
Proverbs — Rev. T.W.J. Woods (Parish of Maughold)
Ecclesiastes — Rev. Charles Crebbin (Douglas)
Song of Solomon — Rev. William Clucas (Parish of Marown)
Minor Prophets — Rev. William Fitzsimmons (Edinburgh, Scotland)
Gospel & Acts — Uncertain
Epistles — Rev. James Wilks (Parish of Michael)

It is further noted that the Revs. Philip Moore, and John Kelly, revised and corrected the **versions** of the **Old Testament**, while the Revs., James Wilks, and Mathias Curphey completed the Acts and Epistles. It can be stated that a Manx Bible will be a prized possession, and even today few exist on this continent, no doubt many of the early Manx emigrants brought a bible with them to their New World.

Submitted by
George Curphey
Nova Scotia, Canada
Dear Editor,

THE ARCHEOLOGICAL DIG AT PEEL CASTLE

"What did you find at the Dig?" This was the question I was asked most frequently after my husband and I returned home from the Isle of Man this summer. For two weeks in July, I had participated in the archeological dig at Peel Castle undertaken by the Saint Patrick's Isle (IoM) Archeological Trust. I took the one week Field Course given by Dr. David Freke and volunteered for the second week.

This was the fifth and final year for this phase of the excavation. A detailed report will be written in 1988. In 1987, the excavation of the burial area near the Lord's House extended down to the Christian Celtic burials in the sixth century. Digging was also undertaken near the fortifications and wall to find out how and why the earliest ramparts and towers were built in the mediaeval period. Further research was being done along the cobblestone area near the demolished tower on the eastern ramparts.

St. Patrick's Isle is an ideal site for an archeological dig. It is a microcosm of history extending from many years before Christ to the Victorian period. The Isle must have sheltered Vikings and pirates, kings and lords, slaves and monks. From its ramparts, ships of all kinds could have been sighted as they sailed back and forth from Europe to Scotland and the Viking lands. It is the site of keeils, chapels, cathedrals, and the castles of Lords and Bishops. Amber from the Baltic, painted glass and glazed pottery from France, and bronze pins forged by the Vikings were evidence of the vast trading routes.

What did I find? I discovered the excitement and stimulation of working under Dr. Freke, Chief Archeologist, whose knowledge and eloquence made the stones and battlements come alive. His seminars on Stratigraphy, On-site Planning, Photography, Recording Methods, and Finds Processing were an educational experience. It was a privilege to work with students and scholars from the Isle of Man, England, Scotland, Scandinavia, and the United States. The discoveries of a pair of bronze tweezers, a Viking pin, or the outline of a Celtic grave were events shared by all. I found that the Manx wind and rain could be tolerated and digging could go on. The screaming of the gulls protecting their young, the salt spray from the pounding waves, the seals waiting for the fishing boats to unload were backdrops to the vast drama of the past. Never will I see a wall of the cathedral without the memory of using a theodolite to plot every niche and arch to get an accurate drawing for future use. I can now relive the thousands of years of history of that

seven acre island and know that I, too, am a small but vital part of it. That was my discovery.

Mona L. Creer

LETTER FROM ELLESMERE PORT.

Greetings my friends,

It is the Eve of Halloween and the night is typical. Very dark and moonless with merely the light from the street lamps illuminating the slight mist which is swirling around the houses. In the Isle of Man, it is known as 'All hallow-e'en' or 'hollantide.' There, they have the insular custom of 'Hop-tu-naa' and it was formerly counted as the first day of winter. The Celtic races looked upon this day as a 'witches sabbat' when all the witches and warlocks careered around and held high festival. Indeed, according to the local papers some of this 'carry-on' is still continuing.

After a poor uncertain summer with little sunshine, the autumn and winter has so far been disastrous. On the night of October 15th last, a ferocious storm struck across the south of England creating a corridor of carnage, disaster and death. Listed on the Beaufort Scale as 'violent storm force 12' — it was impossible to describe. Literally thousands of trees, many of which had stood for hundreds of years, were blown down with much loss of life. No trains ran, all electricity was cut off. Thousands of buildings damaged and many razed to the ground. Weather experts computed that it was the sort of storm which strikes but once in every five hundred years. Things are not yet back to normal. Truly, as one paper put it 'it was a Wind of Death.' Great sorrow and hardship was caused. One cleric even said — "In this wicked world, it is like a glance from the Lord from which there is no Refuge."

In spite of this, we must look forward with hope and confidence for the future. The summer will return and the sunny days will come again. Everyone here is looking forward with anticipation to the coming of Christmas and the festive season. The best time for giving and loving and with this sentiment in mind, all the family join with me in wishing everyone a very happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year: "OLLICK CHENNEL AS BLEIN FEER VIE SEIHILL AS SLAYNT D'AN CLANE LUGHT-THIE."

Kindest Regards,
ARTHUR BRIDSON

LADIES AUXILIARY

The Ladies Auxiliary sends greetings to all our Manx friends and their families for a Holiday Season full of Peace and Joy and a New Year of Success and Happiness.

Mrs. Amo Fisher
Secy treas

SNIPPETS OF MANX NEWS:

THE PLASTIC POUND. The Isle of Man pioneered the introduction of plastic currency some years ago. Bank notes were fabricated from a plastic element giving notes of beauty and durability.

Alas, latest news indicates that the company which produced the notes is finding it necessary to go into voluntary liquidation. Apparently, there are enough notes of Manx currency to last for a year or two then the Manx government will revert to the old process for paper money. Many people feel this is a great pity. The plastic notes were clean and practical; unfortunately, they proved to be too durable.

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THE NUNNERY. This morning, Manx Radio announced that the famous Nunnery with its farms and buildings extending over 750 acres are to be put on the market. This is probably one of the most prestigious estates on the Island, known well by locals and visitors alike. The asking price is likely to be in the region of £1,500,000 and the Auctioneers state that, strangely, most interest seems to be shown by Manx buyers.

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ISLE OF MAN UNEMPLOYMENT. It was heartening to read that the latest figures — issued this week continue the upward trend in employment opportunities. The total of unemployed in the Island is now 1,263. Down by 746 on the figures appropriate to this time last year. Good news and in line with the resurgence in economic growth both on the Island and the Mainland.

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ISLE OF MAN HOUSING. Listening to Manx Radio on the morning of October 9th last there was quite a converse in regard to the sales and prices for Manx property. It was stated that just now, there are ten buyers contending for each presentable house for sale. It has been estimated that prices have risen by 35% over the last year after the early 1980 period of stagnation. Further, it computed that prices will rise by a further 25% by next year. N.B. A highly profitable but slightly ludicrous situation, proving perhaps that the Government encouragement of new wealthy residents has been very successful, whilst the young Manx 'locals' with low assets have no chance to secure a home in their own land as first time buyers.

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ISLE OF MAN TOURIST INDUSTRY. The numbers of people visiting the Island this year are down once again. To the end of August 293,000 passengers arrived by air and sea for their holidays.

OBITUARIES

FRANK L. SHIMMIN, 89, retired life insurance agent active in many Shrine organizations, died July 22, 1987, at Monmouth, IL. Born November 14, 1897, in Warren County to Edward R. and Sophronia Elliott Shimmin, he married Ella Cobb on November 3, 1923, in Peoria. She died June 23, 1971, in Peoria. One brother and two sisters preceded him in death. Surviving are two sisters, Mrs. Marie Benner of Mullen, NE, and Mrs. Gertrude Taylor of Monmouth, IL. He was an active member of First United Methodist Church, a charter member of the Peoria Manx Club formed in 1926, a regional director of NAMA, and a member of the Lakeview Museum and the Peoria Historical Society.

GENEVIEVE A. CALLIN, 85, Mineral Point, Wisconsin, died June 4, 1987, after an extended illness. The former Genevieve Kelly was born July 1, 1901, in Linden Township, the daughter of George and Carrie Kelly. She married A. C. "Sandy" Callin on September 14, 1921, and he preceded her in death in June 1969. She and "Sandy" farmed in the Diamond Grove-Bloomfield area near Mineral Point their entire married lives. She was an active member of the United Church of Christ, Bloomfield Merry Mixer Club, and a charter member of the Wisconsin Manx Society. Survivors include two sons, Robert of Mineral Point and Glen of Sun Prairie, a daughter Norma Bircher of Blanchardville, ten grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by two brothers, Wendell and Thomas, and two sisters, Ruth (in infancy) and Martha Walker. Burial was in Graceland Cemetery in Mineral Point.

MRS. MARY B. QUINNEY, 65, Galva, Illinois. She was born in Elmwood, October 22, 1921, educated in the Lafayette schools, and graduated from Kewanee beauty school. She operated a beauty shop in Galva until ill health caused her retirement in 1981. She married Kenneth Quayle in 1940, he died in 1947. She married William Quinney in 1952, and he died in 1986. Surviving are daughter Mrs. John (Elwanda) Sheriff of Seaton, stepdaughter Mrs. Kay Bumphrey of Galva, stepsons Everett Quinney of Streator and David Quinney of Galva, Three grandchildren, two stepgrandchildren, four stepgreat-grandchildren, and two brothers W. E. Briggs of Kewanee and Richard Evans of Galva.

RALPH M. KNEALE, SR., November 2, 1987. His field was printing until retirement in 1970 when the Kneale Printing Company, established by his father in 1888, was sold. He was an Army Veteran of WWI, a 1918 graduate of Case, an EE major and member of Sigma Nu and ETA Cappa Nu fraternities, the Cleveland Museum of Art, Cleveland Manx Society, Cleveland Science Club, and Geauga County Farm Bureau. A postcard advertising sweet corn brought eager buyers to his home on Caves Road in Chester Township where he and his wife Katherine sold choice vegetables for 27 years, until Katherine's death in 1977. The family credited the tastiness of the corn to the watering of the soil by an artesian well. In 1960 Mr. Kneale was among a group of Geauga County farmers who sent hybrid seed to southern India. Survivors include daughter Sarah Stringer of Columbus, son Ralph M. Jr. of Chagrin Falls, and three grandchildren.

JEANNETTE BIEGER MARCUS, Mayfield Heights, Ohio, died October 28, 1987, after a bout with cancer. She was born January 25, 1918. She was an active supporter of the Cleveland Manx Society. She and husband Joseph Marcus had no children. Joe had serious illnesses, and she always took such good care of him that no one ever thought she too had problems, never complained. She is survived by Mrs. Richard (Betty) Stiles of Vancouver, Washington.

FRED T. GORY, 90, Cleveland Heights, Ohio, died October 15, 1987. He is survived by his wife Florence, both come from Peel, Isle of Man, they were married 65 years, no children. Both have been active members of the Cleveland Manx Society and NAMA. Other survivors include sister Eleanor M. Miller and nieces and nephews.

CAROL J. GRIGSBY passed away November 1, 1987, on her birthday, and following a long illness. She was the daughter of Amy Abell, a member of the NAMA since it began. Carol was active in the Cleveland Manx Society as well as the NAMA, filling in as Registration Chairman at the 1976 Convention in the Isle of Man. Besides her mother, she is survived by a daughter, Barbara McMillen, sisters Lois Hricko and Kay Hogg, and aunt Helen Kewley.

Chaplain's Corner

As we have seen Christmas festivals come and go, we have come to feel that the Christmas season, more than any other time of the year, is a time of increased awareness of life's intangible forces, the forces we cannot see or touch but can feel and experience; the power of ideas, influence and faith. In this era of technology, an age that seems to be enthralled by size or power, we need to be reminded of the significance of the spiritual. Within the Christmas story itself, we have a prime example of the power of simple unpretentious forces. There is beauty and surprise in those words — "... this shall be a sign for you, you shall find the Babe wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger."

As we think about the birth of Jesus, the more we see how consistent it was with what he taught about God and His Kingdom. In his parable of the mustard seed, the tiniest of seeds is put into the ground; the silent unseen forces go to work, and without human effort or fanfare the seed grows into a plant large enough for birds to lodge in its branches.

People respond to the Christmas season in many different ways. For some it means increased social activity, social obligations that are more burden than blessing. For others it can be a time of painful memories of the past. And for still others, a more joyous time of affirmation and celebration. But in any case, it is seldom a time for business as usual, when some very definite things are happening in our lives. The season is a fertile time for us to be aware of where people are and to plant our seeds of encouragement and love that people so desperately need. The seed will begin to grow unobtrusively, and the transformation takes place. And we should not be surprised; this is how God works — at Christmas — or at any time. This was how Phillips Brooks saw it when he wrote:

"How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heaven.
No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive him still the dear Christ enters in."

Herbert G. Kelly

NAMA MEMORIAL FUND

The following were honored with a donation to the NAMA Memorial Fund since the last issuance of the Bulletin

Phillip Charles Clarke
William B. Fargher
Lawrence A. Fargher
Mrs. Gertrude Skogen