

# BULLETIN *of the* North American Manx Association



To Preserve "Whate'er is left to us of ancient heritage." *T.E. Brown*

Vol. 62, No. 3½

March 1990

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*Laa Mie*

As I write this, I am in the Metro-pole Hotel in Douglas looking out over the Irish Sea. There are many dark clouds over the water with brilliant shafts of sunlight between. There are flocks of sea gulls circling overhead, and the small shore birds on the beach are racing in and out to avoid the heavy surf. The waves are crashing high on the rocks in Onchan at the north end of the beautiful curve of the bay. Throughout the Island the gorse is in bloom along the sides of the roads and the grass is bright green. Here it is, only January, and yet it feels like April in Massachusetts. The temperature is in the high 40's but people here are complaining about how cold it is! Tina and I spent Christmas in Vermont and it was -20F, Friday and Saturday nights, and got up to only -10 during the day.

Last night I went with fellow NAMA members Noreen Cottier, Eleanor Gawne, and Mary Cannell-Andrews to a meeting of the Isle of Man Family History Society. We heard a very impressive presentation about the Manx orphans who were sent to Ontario, Canada in the second half of the 19th century, to be "farmed out" to families needing help on their farms. Having just watched the recent TV serialization of "Anne of Green Gables", I was particularly interested. Over three hundred Manx orphans were sent over and the briefer is researching what happened to them. I believe she said that she has information on about 180 so far, and is very interested in finding out about the rest. If you are descended from any of these orphans or know of them, she would like to hear from you. Send any information you might have to me at 25 Sheridan Rd., Wellesley, MA 02181, and I will forward a package of all the responses back to the I.O.M.

I spent yesterday morning in Ramsey, and then went to Sulby, Ballaugh, Kirk Michael, and on down to Peel. The Promenade in Douglas is very

quiet in January without the "come overs", but the rest of the Island seems just the same. The little crooked, narrow streets in the Peel shopping area were full of people going in and out of the quaint shops.

When I landed back in Boston, it was in the middle of a snow storm. Tina and I are looking forward to seeing you all in the sunny warmth of California at the NAMA convention this summer.

*Marshall Cannell  
President*

P.S. The Chairman of the Isle of Man Family History Society spoke to me about the trouble he is having researching his family in the US:

"Three of my paternal uncles emigrated to the USA around 1870 or earlier. They were followed by two paternal uncles at the beginning of the present century.

"My great uncle John Kelly emigrated in 1869, possibly through Cleveland, he had just completed training as a carpenter. In 1973 he returned to the Isle of Man and married Ellen Coole and returned to the USA. They had a family of four sons and one daughter, of whom I have no knowledge of names or location and circumstances. John Kelly died in 1909.

"Great Uncle William Henry was born in 1861 and emigrated to the USA about 1882, as far as I can ascertain he served his time as a blacksmith. In 1927 he visited the Isle of Man as a member of the 'Homecomers Group,' he was accompanied by his wife. That is all the information I have on him except that he was a member of the Cleveland Manx Association.

"I have a vague idea that one further paternal great uncle also emigrated but I have been unable to determine his name as there were four more boys in the family, including Robert (1850), Thomas (1853), Joseph (1858), and Charles Edward (1865), my grand-

## CLAGUE HOUSE

Robert Clague, born in 1802 on the Isle of Man, immigrated to America and settled in Dover in 1829. A few years later he returned to his native land and married Margaret Cowell. He brought his young family to their Dover home in 1837, to set up house-keeping in a log cabin.

Clague became a farmer, and his nine children learned farming also, as was the custom in the pioneering communities of the 19th century. The Clagues prospered as farmers, primarily fruitgrowers, and around 1876 moved into a new two-story brick home, which is today the Clague House Museum, home of the Westlake Historical Society.

The Clague farm eventually consisted of 66 acres on the west side of a dusty lane (one of the original Western Reserve survey lines) and 12.5 acres on the east side. Today the land is known as Clague Park, and the dusty lane of long ago is now Clague Road. It was largely through the sweat of Robert Clague's brow that Clague Road was cut through. He went to the County Commissioners to have it accepted after felling more than a mile of heavy timber to get it on the map.

Two of the Clague children, Walter and Sophronia, donated their former farm to the Village of Dover in 1926. Three years later a monument was dedicated opposite the Clague House. During the depression of the next decade, the federal government provided a great deal of public works labor to Dover, and some of this labor was used to convert the Clague farm into the present park. Vineyards, orchards, and fencing were removed; trees and grass areas were planted, roads were put in, and the Clague Cabin was built from native stone.

The Clague House, now listed in the National Register of Historic Places and the current headquarters of the Westlake Historical Society, has been

*Continued on page 4*

*Continued on page 9*

## North American Manx Association Officers 1988/90

**Hon. President:**

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Nisswa, Minnesota

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Orland Park, IL 60462

**Bulletin Editor:**

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Fremont, NE 68025

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Cleveland, Ohio

## FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

At our January Meeting were pleased to welcome the President of NAMA Mr. Cannell and his sister Mrs. Andrews on a visit to the Island. The subject of the talk for the evening was appropriate, as Miss Dulcie Cringle spoke on "Emigration of Home Children to Canada 1884-1928". This most interesting talk was followed by discussion and members questions. Miss Cringle would be glad to hear from anyone who has any information on these children or who is descended from any of them.

In February the speaker will be Mr. Peter Kelly, well-known expert on things Victorian on the Island who will give a talk on "Strathallan Park".

We are planning three exhibitions this year. We will hold our annual Open Day on July 6th at the Castletown Town Hall, and we have also been asked to take part in an exhibition arranged by the Manx Heritage Trust in the autumn, probably at the beginning of October. The LDS Church celebrate the 150th Anniversary of the arrival of their first missionaries in Douglas and have invited the Society to take part in an exhibition planned for September.

As from the end of February Mr. Ernest Cleator, for many years the Editor of the Isle of Man Family History Society Journal and a founder member of the Society will take over as Secretary. He will be writing the reports on the Society's behalf. With best wishes, for the last time from me . . .

*Sylvia Mylchreest  
Retiring Secretary*

## WORLD MANX

The Officers, Committee and Members of the World Manx Association send New Year Greetings to all members of the NAMA with best wishes for your good health, happiness and prosperity in 1990, and a happy successful Convention in August in Santa Clara.

On December 16th we held our Christmas Party at the Rutland Hotel and once again it was a very happy occasion. 110 members were present but several were unable to come because of an influenza epidemic. After an excellent meal, we were favoured with a visit from Father Christmas, our good friend Mr. Ernest Ackary in

disguise. Our entertainer was Mr. Geoffrey Corkish—a former Cleveland Medallist who not only delighted us with his singing but also with his gift as raconteur and comedian. He involved the whole company in his version of The Twelve Days of Christmas and at the end everyone joined in singing favourite carols and the Manx National Anthem.

At our Committee Meeting on January 20th, we were planning our programme for the year. Our A.G.M. will be on March 17th and the "At Home" will be on Thursday, April 19th, probably at the Imperial Hotel. The dates and venues for various outings will be made known at the A.G.M. when we hope the new syllabus will be ready.

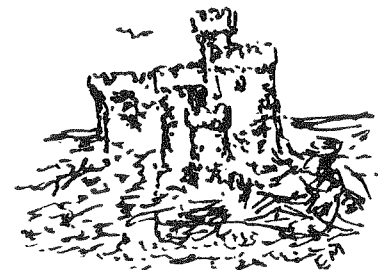
At our A.G.M. we shall be losing the valuable services of our treasurer, Miss Noreen Cottier, who has come to the end of her five year period in office. We shall miss her but we hope to have her back in some other capacity in years to come. We need her energy and forcefulness to keep us "up to scratch".

In the Isle of Man, 1989 was the warmest year on record. So far this year we have not had any snow unlike other parts of the British Isle. We have also escaped the worst of the gales, although today, with a very high tide, both Douglas and Castletown promenades have been flooded and closed to traffic.

Our Patron, the Lieutenant Governor of the Island, Major General Laurence New, was knighted at the Queen's New Year Honours List and after his term of office ends in September he will spend some time in England before returning to take up permanent residence in the Island near Ballaragh.

If any members of the NAMA are planning to visit the Island during the summer please contact me or any member of the committee.

*Winifred Musgrove  
11 Terence Avenue  
Douglas, Isle of Man*



## MEMBERSHIP

Part of my duties as third V.P. are to suggest ways to increase local and NAMA membership. Not knowing what has been done or said previously, I would like to present these ideas to see if any of our societies might be of help in increasing membership.

*For Local Societies:*

1. Move your meetings around if possible to different parts of the territory that you cover. We have been doing this in the Minnesota Society and have been successful in obtaining new members all the time.
2. Obtain the NAMA mailing list from me and check to see who belongs to NAMA in your area. You'll probably find some people that belong to NAMA, but don't belong to your local society. Send these people an invitation to your next local meeting. We tried this in our society and did get some new members.
3. Obtain a list of distinctive Manx names from me and check the area phone books and invite them to join.

We at NAMA would also be grateful if you would mention to your members our national organization. You can join NAMA for \$10 simply by writing treasurer:

Mr. Clarence E. Greer  
14228 Union Avenue  
Orland Park, IL 60462

If you would like to pursue any of the membership ideas I have presented here, please contact me at:

10215 38th Court North  
Plymouth, MN 55441

*Norman W. Gill  
Third Vice President*



## NORTH AMERICAN MANX ASSOCIATION FINANCIAL STATEMENT

*January 1 to December 31, 1989*

*On Hand 1/1/89* \$25,510.56\*

### Receipts

|                        |            |          |
|------------------------|------------|----------|
| Dues & Donations       | \$5,859.66 |          |
| Membrship Certificates | 16.00      |          |
| Memorials              | 70.00      |          |
| Interest               | 1,314.40   |          |
| Cookbook               | 13.22      |          |
| Video Sales Commission | 123.04     |          |
| Convention-1988        | 101.38     | 7,497.70 |

### Disbursements

|                              |          |          |
|------------------------------|----------|----------|
| Bulletin (5 Issues)          | 4,884.88 |          |
| Treasurer's Expense          | 450.00   |          |
| Allowances (\$1,000 payable) |          |          |
| Insurance                    | 350.00   |          |
| Addressing Expense           | 105.00   |          |
| Officer's Meeting            | 1,609.63 |          |
| Convention Advance           | 1,000.00 |          |
| Pin Purchase                 | 543.56   |          |
| New Member Project           | 387.22   | 9,330.29 |

*On Hand 12/31/89* \$23,677.97

*Memorial Fund Balance included in  
above amount*

\$748.70

*Account Balances at 12/31/89*

|  |             |
|--|-------------|
| Orland State Bank-Checking Account         | \$ (196.68) |
| Orland State Bank-<br>Money Market Account | 20,244.02   |
| National Trust-Canada (in Canadian \$)     | 3,630.63    |

### Total

\$23,677.97

*\*Includes \$211.23 held at 12/31/88  
pending final Convention report.*

### NAMA-Myles Standish Fund

|                       |            |
|-----------------------|------------|
| <i>On Hand 1/1/89</i> | \$5,767.12 |
| Interest              | 294.22     |

*On Hand 12/31/89* \$6,061.34

*C.E. Creer, Treasurer 1/24/90*

## SAYINGS AND PROVERBS (Manx and Otherwise)

*"No skin off my nose"*

*"Full of old Nick, as an egg  
is full of meat"*

*"Fish of one and flesh of another"*

*"Blood is thicker than water"*

*"He who lies down with the dogs,  
gets up with fleas"*

*"Going to the goat's house for wool"*

*"When one poor man helps another  
poor man, God Himself laughs"*

*"As stiff as Kitty's leg"*

*"A devil you know, is better than  
one you don't know"*

*"Cut off your nose to spite your face"*

*"However black the raven,  
he'll find a mate"*

*"A change is as good as a rest"*

*"As slow as a wet week"*

*"Doin' nothin' and doin' it well"*

*"As busy as a flea on a fit"*

*"Handy as a button on a shirt"*

*Hilda (Bridson) Penrice*

# NORTH AMERICAN MANX ASSOCIATION

## Report of Membership

|                        | 8/81 | 7/82 | 7/83 | 7/84 | 8/86 | 6/87 | 7/88 | 8/89 |
|------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| <b>NAMA MEMBERSHIP</b> |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| Regular                | 527  | 498  | 511  | 522  | 519  | 502  | 521  | 500  |
| Life & Honorary        | 94   | 104  | 118  | 130  | 149  | 155  | 187  | 226  |
| Associate              | 109  | 101  | 94   | 79   | 68   | 45   | 75   | 70   |
| Society                | 15   | 14   | 14   | 13   | 10   | 10   | 8    | 13   |
| Junior                 | 12   | 12   | 10   | 8    | 3    | 6    | 13   | 18   |
|                        | 757  | 729  | 747  | 752  | 749  | 718  | 804  | 827  |
| <b>NEW MEMBERS</b>     |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| Regular & Life         | 63   | 82   | 66   | 75   | 67   | 55   | 68   | 81   |
| Associate              | 15   | 22   | 7    | 3    | 11   | 12   | 15   | 11   |

C.E. Creer, Treasurer, 8/89

### THE GINGER TREE

The BBC's new major drama series, part filmed here in August, starts Sunday night before an estimated audience of 10 million. Viewers of the first episode will be able to spot Bishop's Court chapel transformed into a Manchurian chapel, and part of King Williams College used as a quadrangle in a Jesuit college.

The four part series tells the story of a 20 year old Scottish girl, Mary Mackenzie, who travels at the turn of the century to marry a British military attache in Peking. After an affair with a Japanese soldier she is rejected and forced to survive alone in an alien culture.

The series has been produced in conjunction with NHK, the equivalent of BBC in Japan, where it will be shown this spring. It was their quest for a railway to take Mary across Europe to her new life which brought the BBC production unit to the Island. The local steam railway was of identical gauge to those used during that period in Japan, and had an unmatched number of carriages still in prime condition.

After a plea for local people of Chinese, Japanese, and Malasian descent, the team recruited around 20 extras. They will be seen in the first episode as soldiers, guests at the Embassy wedding, and playing croquet on the lawn. Port Erin and Santon railway stations plus the Douglas engine shed were variously transformed into stations at Vladivostock, Muk Din in Manchuria, and a border station in China. Kentraugh house in Port St. Mary was used during filming of scenes involving the British Embassy in Tokyo, while the Victorian Pier was

used to film action in a Yokahoma customs depot.

The series was shot using a high definition TV system which operates on 1125 lines. While most sets in this country have 625 or 525 there will be little difference to the picture here, but viewers in Japan will receive the crystal clear benefits of this latest technology.



### LA MIE

*Continued from page 1*

father James remained in the Isle of Man.

"Of my paternal uncles, Charles emigrated to Michigan around the turn of the present century. He was accompanied by his wife, they had only one child, a girl, who died in her late teens.

"Uncle George also emigrated in the early years of this century. The only information I have about him is that towards the end of his life he lived with his wife Effie in Raine, Wisconsin. I am uncertain as to how many children they had. Last year I wrote to Raine enquiring as to the whereabouts of any members of the family, my letter was returned without any information."

[Any help out there? The Chairman is Professor W.R. Kelly, "Salamanca," 80, Eary Veg, Tromonde Park, Douglas, Isle of Man, or furnish your findings to Marshall as above and he will forward it. Ed.]

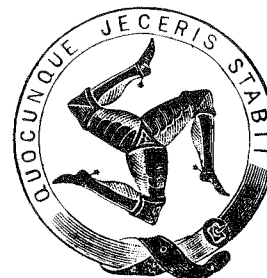
### OUR OWN PEOPLE

Deborah Anne Glass and Paul Mortimer announced their engagement in the Fall of 1989, the marriage will take place on October 13th, 1990, at St. Christopher's Church, Burlington, Ontario, Canada.

Debbie is the daughter of Jean (Penrice) and Ron Glass and granddaughter of Hilda Penrice, former Bulletin Editor, and the late Sam Penrice, Past President of NAMA.

Debbie accompanied her grandparents to the Isle of Man for the Millennium year celebrations in 1979, she had the honour of speaking to Queen Elizabeth and the Duke of Edinburgh at the Royal Garden Party, Debbie also attended the NAMA Convention in San Diego, California in 1982.

Debbie graduated from McMaster University in May 1989 with an honour's Degree Bachelor of Commerce, she is presently employed with the Toronto Dominion Bank in Hamilton, Ontario, Canada.



# NEWS FROM MANX SOCIETIES

## VANCOUVER

So far this winter, our weather has been very mild. However, the mountains surrounding Vancouver are lightly covered in white and are reminders that winter is not over yet.

Our pre-Christmas Pot Luck supper held on December 9, 1989, was, as usual, a success. Christmas carols and Manx songs played on the piano by **Frank Kewley** preceded the dinner and started the evening off with a festive feeling. Approximately 80 sat down to a great variety of dishes prepared by the members of the Society. **President Terry McCaffrey** greeted everyone and led the evening with all present reciting the Lord's Prayer in Manx Gaelic. **Colleen McCaffrey** (Terry's daughter) had generously had the prayer printed phonetically as well as in the Manx Gaelic for all present. This certainly helped us to correctly pronounce what otherwise would have been difficult words. It was a time also to honour **Past President Chris Stirling**. Chris was presented with a gold Manx medallion by President Terry McCaffrey in appreciation of all the hard work and time (four years) as President. It is a tradition the Vancouver Society has carried on over many years. It is our way of saying "thank you" and was justly merited by Chris. Also present at our dinner were three men and their wives who had participated (many years ago) in the Manx T.T. races. They brought pieces of memorabilia with them to share with the group and it was indeed a pleasure to hear them talk so fondly of their experiences on the Isle of Man. After a raffle, more carols and, of course, Santa Claus, the evening ended with the singing of the Manx National Anthem.

On December 13, 1989, we all met to ride the bus on our Christmas lights Bus Tour. A full bus, beautiful evening and gorgeous decorations—what more can one ask? A good time was had by all!

Lovely mumsettias were delivered Christmas week to our shut-ins and our not-so-wells. The flowers and our warm wishes were most appreciated. It was nice to be able to give a little cheer to those who have done so much for the Society over the years.

On January 27, 1990, the female descendants of the **Christian** family met at the home of **Margaret Ray** of West Vancouver for afternoon tea and

reminiscing. The occasion was made all the more enjoyable by the welcome addition of **Rose Christian** of New Norway, Alberta and **Peggy Gray** of Saltspring Island, B.C.

A get well wish to one of our Past Presidents, **Flo Tregellis**. Flo fell and broke her ankle and will be in a cast for some time.

As we look ahead to the last decade before the 21st century, we remember those Manx pioneers who came to North America at the turn of the 20th century. What horizon is ahead for us Manx next?

*Vera Henry, Secretary  
3142 W 32nd Avenue  
Vancouver, B.C. V6L 2C1, Canada*

## NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

Here it is—1990—the year we convene in Northern California!!

Plans are underway for our "NAMA-90 Santa Clara" Convention. In our four meetings of what is becoming a "Northern California Chapter" we have pulled together about 100 Manx-related people, mostly from the Bay area. Since there are over 100 Skillicorns alone in this area, we have not dented the surface.

Our first mailer has gone out (by press time) to our NAMA mailing list. If you do not/have not received it, you are not on the labels provided by Ray and Mona Haldeman/Clarence Creer. Have you paid your dues?? If you have friends or relatives that should attend our Santa Clara convention August 10-13, send me their names and addresses and we will see they get the next letter which will contain registration materials.

We are looking for a great convention with more choices and options and a chance to vacation while seeing old friends and making many new ones. We want you to be a part of it so start planning now—what do you like? Redwoods, beaches, the city (S.F.), wine country, lake Tahoe, Yosemite, or??? The chances are, besides the world champion 49ers, Oakland A's, Giants and Santa Clara we have it here—along with great weather and cool nights for good sleeping. Please come.

*Sincerely,  
Lawrence L. Fargher  
NAMA 1st Vice President &  
1990 Convention Chairman*

## WASHINGTON

Greetings from the members of the Greater Washington, D.C. Area Manx Society and friends.

On March 18th our Annual Meeting and Dinner will be something of a preview of our forthcoming Manx Heritage Celebration in April. We will also elect a new Board of Governors and hear about some of the many activities planned for the future.

On Sunday April 29th, the Society will celebrate a millenium-and-a-half of Manx Christianity at a special church service on the grounds of the National Cathedral in Washington, D.C. With drama, prayers, the singing of Manx hymns and the spoken word, we hope to present a lively overview of how the Isle of Man has contributed to the development of Western Christianity and government and American society.

Vice President Dan Quayle and his family will be among those invited to attend. We also invite you to be there, should your travel plans include a stop in the nation's capital over that weekend. Please consult the special announcement elsewhere in the Bulletin for details.

*Russell Woodgates  
Vice President  
2325 42nd St., NW #306  
Washington, D.C. 20007*

## CLEVELAND

In keeping with a schedule established some years ago when winter meetings often were cancelled due to weather, no activities for our society were held in January and February.

On Sunday, March 11th, we had a dinner/meeting at the Panorama restaurant (Clague and Detroit Roads). Our board members also met to outline programs for the rest of our fiscal year. We are still seeking active participation by our members to arrange programs to follow our business meetings. It is our hope that in this manner new ideas and fresh input may be presented to our membership.

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



## GALVA

The Galva Manx Society will meet on Sunday, March 4, 1990, at 1:00 pm at the First Methodist Church in Galva, Illinois. There will be election of officers during the meeting and a program about the Isle of Man. Refreshments will be served. Please tell your friends and family about the meeting.

*Russell Kelly*  
316 NE 6th Avenue  
Galva, IL 61434  
(302) 932-3848

## WESTERN AUSTRALIA

**Barbeque at Yanchep:** Well, "they" say, "A bit of rain never hurt a Manxie!" And Gordon Crosby said, "The TT races have been run in worse weather!" And May Crossley, who found the bus warmer than the barbeque plate, said, "Loverley! This is why I emigrated!" So with these positive thoughts, and despite the force 10 gale, the bus set off on a trip reminiscent of a Sunday School picnic to Glen Whyllin. Sadly, only 17 went on the bus—we made a loss on that—but the fifty or so Hamiltons, Quayles, Hewitts, Fairbains, Clagues, Martins, and assorted Christians, Crosbys, Crossleys, Searles, Craines with Ingrid and Annete, and a mob of children, got stuck into the snaggers. And then! The sun came out! We were able to walk off the lunch, investigate the caves, or admire the Koalas. Many thanks must go to the friendly Transperth Bus Driver, Peter Reece, who was presented with a Manx Cat badge for his hospitality.

Thanks to John and Jackie Clague who brought lots of Manx Souvenirs back for the Society: Tea towels, GBM stickers, badges, etc., will all be on sale at future events. I have also got some booklets: "Manx names for your house" and "Labours of Love," a story of Nellie Brennan, a heroine of the 1800s, for sale, and a video tape of Manx Railways. Mr. Ian Radcliffe, who helps run a dance group on the Island, has sent me a lovely tape recording of Traditional Manx Dance Music, enthusiasts are welcome to listen to it, and copies will be for sale at \$7. Autumn edition of "In Britain" has a nice article on the Isle of Man.

The Ballajura Primary School group still seems as enthusiastic as ever, now they have the Manx names of Viking, Ballona, Conister, and Mona as house names in Junior Primary School, and have invited John Burn to speak to the parents of the new stu-

dents for 1990 on the Manx connection. They have been supplied with illustrations and explanations of the place names, and a video tape of Manx Railways, which should intrigue the children.

The Tourist Office on the Island is now in touch with us by FAX—if you have any booking enquiries we can send them off for you for a small fee.

"Get all that you know into print by hook or by crook. Then you've got it on record for the benefit of those who come after you," said the late William Cubbon, former Curator of the Manx Museum.

*Mrs. Kathleen Craine*  
8 McGill Street, Kewdale, WA 6105

## CHICAGO

With the Holiday Season now over, we will be looking for a great New Year. Our weather here had been extremely cold and now we are in warmer weather, but I know we have more bad weather ahead.

In the spring we will have a Manx meeting but, as of now there have been no definite plans made. I hope this note finds all Manx relatives and friends in good health.

*Sincerely,*  
*Florence Abbinanti*  
Secretary-Treasurer  
Chicago Manx Society

## MINNESOTA

Now that the holiday season is over, it is time for the Minnesota Manx Executive Committee to get together for lunch and plan our Spring meeting. Tentatively, it was decided to have our meeting on a Saturday in Duluth toward the end of June. We had a delightful meeting there a few years ago, and hope to repeat our success.

We also will be asking our members, who are interested, to put together a history of the migration of their Manx connections from I.O.M. to this country. We are planning to publish a bulletin containing these stories. We have produced two of these types of bulletins in the past.

Finally, many of our members are looking forward to the NAMA Convention in California this summer. I think our Society will be well represented there.

*Norman W. Gill*  
President

## BISBEE

Since our Manx Society meetings were discontinued, there hasn't been much to write about. I do keep in touch with all my cousins in the Island. Got word from Cousin Deemster Jack Corrin and wife Pat telling of the thrill they had during Tynwald when they were invited to dinner on the Britannia with Queen Elizabeth, Prince Philip, Charles, Andrew and Fergie. Apparently Diane didn't attend! About 30 were in attendance, 16 from the Island. They also attended a Garden Party at Buckingham Palace during the year. Their only daughter Jane has been studying to be a Methodist Minister and had a Church in London but recently the old Church was demolished so she is now counselling at the University in London.

I am very sad to hear that the Tourist Seasons are not good these days, and quite a few of the Boarding Houses along the Promenade are being bought up for office space. My cousins Tom and Kathleen Taggart ran the Bay View Flats on Central Promenade until the past summer, when they sold out and have gone into a Bungalow on Blackberry Lane in Onchan. Kathleen has not been too well so I'm hoping she can rest up now. Tom is busy with his sheep.

*Best wishes to all,*  
*Lovingly, Ivy Dillon*  
207 Hazzard, Bisbee, AZ 85603



## FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY RENEWAL

The Isle of Man Family History Society thanks George Clucas, 1727 Coralitos Avenue, San Luis Obispo, CA 93401, for helping us collect the 1990 subscriptions of our US members. If any NAMA members who are also IOMFHS members have not yet renewed for 1990, you may do so at any time of the year by sending George Clucas \$15—make check payable to George Clucas with IOMFHS dues written in the lower left of the check. This method saves you \$5.80 and us £ 6 for converting your \$ to £. New members may also use this method.

*Roger J. Christian*  
Treasurer, IOMFHS  
"Croit-y-Keeil"  
Port Grenaugh, Santan  
Isle of Man, British Isles

## OLD MANX WEATHER LORE

During the past years Manx people were farmers or fisherman, and knowing what the weather was going to be was not just useful, it was an essential part of their way of life. Here are just a few of the old Manx weather rules and sayings.

The best of all signs for good weather ashore and afloat is to see the Welsh hills from the Manx uplands with 24 hours of fine weather immediately following. If on the other hand rain or a storm comes within 24 hours of seeing the Welsh hills, you can look for a long unsettled period.

If you see schools of porpoises playing off the coast, this is an indication of warm but unsettled weather.

Smoke rising straight up on a windless day is an excellent sign, but if on a windless day the smoke wavers and falls below the chimneys, then it will soon be raining.

Watch the sheep on the mountains. If they scatter to the top of the hills, then the shepherds can take it easy because there will not be any heavy weather. If you see sheep gathering in the hollows and around streams, then a storm is brewing.

The worst storm sign of all is a perfectly calm, dark sea with the surface breaking into bubbles here and there. No fishing boat would put out, and smaller craft along the shores were pulled up high and dry and made fast against the giant waves which the Manx fisherman knew were coming.

Dark clouds on the hills at dawn mean a wet day. If the clouds were white and fairly high, wind only. If fallen rain was hanging in beads on trees and gates, it was "waiting for more." Dust flying along the highways was "asking for rain to lay it."

One of the strongest superstitions was that to kill a "creg" or small beetle was to bring seven days incessant rain. It was not unusual to take advantage of this superstition by having a ceremonial killing of a creg to bring rain during a drought.

In winter, clouds coming up against the wind are a sure sign of snow. If there is a fall of snow before Hollantide (November 12) there is likely to be much during the winter. If there is no snow before Christmas, January and February will be white months.

Manx mothers would tell their children that if snow fell in big flakes on the Isle of Man, they were plucking geese in Scotland. If the sun shone whilst rain was falling, the fairies were baking and there was only just

enough rain to moisten their dough.

At a time when a man might be a fisherman as well as a farmer, and have work to do undercover as well, the weather lore was his working guide as to which job to do next.

Nowadays, we have scientific weather forecasting, and it is easier to let someone else make observations. We simply watch the television and listen to the radio. Then what do we do? We take an umbrella anyway, "just in case!"

## SNIPPETS OF MANX NEWS

Arthur and Mrs. Bridson have "hors-de-coarbat" (horrid influenza) and are now recovering well. They send best wishes for the New Year and kindest thoughts to all you readers. Ed.

**1989 was warmest and one of the driest years on record.** Mean temperature was 51°, hottest day was July 7, 79°, coldest night was March 16/17, 27°, 28" of rain, some 6½" below average. Sunniest day was June 29 with 16 hours of unbroken sunshine. Average windspeed 14 mph, gales on 13 days, highest gust was 73 mph on February 13, hail on 9 days, thunder on 5, and snow on only 2 days during April.

**Ozone friendly** shops and consumers have virtually rid the Island of harmful CFC aerosols. The Isle of Man Friends of the Earth organization has claimed a remarkable 90% success rate in its vigorous campaign to ban the sprays. Whilst the group is delighted with this initial response, it has said "Satisfaction will not come until the whole Island is free of CFC cans."

**The Steam Packet Coy** has axed its ferry link with Stranraer, marking the end of an era for sailings between the Isle of Man and Scotland. Scottish passengers now travel through Carlisle to use the Heysham route.

**Hotel and guest trade** in the West of the Island is currently booming despite claims that this year's tourist season was one of the worst in living memory. Peel proprietors agreed unanimously that 1989 had been a "very successful" year.

**A rampaging wallaby**, believed to have escaped from the Wildlife Park, leapt over the bonnet of Canadian Tourist Larry McAlastair's car near the summit of Snaefell. "I sat there with my mouth hanging open," said Mr. McAlastair. "I never knew they had kangaroos this far north." Eight broke free from the Curragh's park last sum-

mer but only one is still on the run. Four were recaptured almost immediately, whilst the other three were caught about a month later following a number of searches by park staff.

**A clause to outlaw "cruel and savage blood sports"** from the Isle of Man has been successfully included into the 1989 Wildlife Bill. The concern was that, if hare coursing and fox hunting were made illegal in the UK, the Island should make it clear that it would not tolerate any attempts to establish the sports here.

The recently-appointed Island Bishop, the **Rt. Rev. Noel Jones**, believes the **time is not yet right for the introduction of women priests**, and voted against the move at the Church of England's General Synod in London. The Synod approved the move by a larger majority than anticipated during an impassioned debate.

**The Diocese of Sodor and Man** finished right at the bottom of the 43 diocese league table regarding average weekly giving per head (94 pence). But at the other end of the scale, it was towards the top of the table as far as clergy stipends were concerned (minimum £9,100, average £9,683).

**The Manx Youth Orchestra** has been invited to make a concert tour of Russia centered on Moscow in 1991. Recent major tours include trips to Norway (1980), West Germany (1982), USA (1985), and Israel (1988). The Soviet tour will be the most ambitious yet for the 80 musicians.

## 1990 FEDERAL CENSUS

The following is an excerpt from an article in the November-December 1989 issue of the National Geographic Society Newsletter:

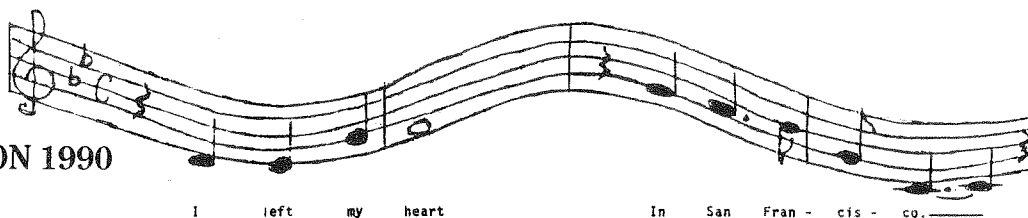
*On March 2, 1992, the National Archives will release microfilm on the 1920 Census. On that date all necessary copies will have been distributed and ready to use. Every state is indexed, which simplifies access for genealogists and family historians.*

*After four years of work the National Archives will have produced seventeen complete duplicate sets of the Census (fifteen positives and two negatives). Of the seventeen duplicate sets, one is for the Microfilm Research Room in Washington, D.C., twelve for the regional archives, two for the microfilm rental program, and two negatives for fee duplication.*

*A law passed on October 5, 1978, provides that the Census remain closed to the public for 72 years after the enumeration date.*



## NAMA CONVENTION 1990



### Travelogue #4: San Francisco

"The coldest winter I ever spent," once remarked Mark Twain, "was a summer in San Francisco." San Francisco weather will be cooler than you expect. Even in summer the average temperature is around 62°—and wind usually comes up in the afternoon. The famed fog, "nature's air conditioning," rolls in morning and evenings and doesn't burn off 'til about 11 a.m. so pack a warm sweater and a jacket. To us living on the Peninsula, it is routine to take off the shorts and dress differently for a trip to "The City," and we always grab a jacket or coat just in case; if the day there is warm it will be a pleasant and welcome treat.

About 750,000 people live in San Francisco; it covers 47 square miles at the tip of the Peninsula bounded by the Pacific Ocean and San Francisco Bay. A gateway to Asia, San Francisco supports a multicultural population.

During the gold rush days (1848-49), San Francisco went crazy! You can read about The Silver Kings (Fair, Mackay, O'Brien and Flood) who had their greatest strike, Big Bonanza, in 1870-73 when San Francisco went mining-stock crazy all over again. The guiding powers behind the Central Pacific Railroad's western portion of road through the Sierra Nevada Mountains—the eastern part being Union Pacific—were the "Big Four"\* (Charles Crocker, Leland Stanford, Collis P. Huntington and Mark Hopkins). Being wealthy and prominent, they all had mansions built on Nob Hill (named after "nabobs", slang for millionaires). Who hasn't heard of the Mark Hopkins Hotel on Nob Hill in San Francisco and Stanford University at Palo Alto. Also, there is a Huntington Hotel and Huntington Park, Crocker-Citizens Bank and Stanford Court apartments so the names linger on.

I think we'll skip over the April 18, 1906 San Francisco Earthquake! Incidentally, the greatest destruction was by uncontrollable fires owing to the broken water mains. And as for the

October 17, 1989 Earthquake, we'll just pretend that never happened . . .

Called "Carpenter's Gothic", the neat mixture of Victorian architecture in the old houses consists of Tudor, Colonial, Renaissance Revival; Queen Anne; Stick; Italianate; Georgian and French Baroque Revival and tiled-roof Mediterranean style and don't miss the Octagonal house on Green Street. Just driving through the city one can catch a glimpse of many of these homes, some now restored, some on Union Street used for shops so you can go inside and view the interiors. Victorians are way up on my list of favorite things to see; they truly fascinate me. Everyone has his own favorite thing to do or place to go in "the city". Seeing the night lights from the Top of the Mark, Hyatt Hotel on the Embarcadero or other high-rise buildings and viewing the lighted Golden Gate and San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge at night is a real treat. I remember a time sitting at the Top of the Mark in the late afternoon and the Fog started to slowly envelop the place totally obliterating the view but what an unusual experience.

Listed below are famous attractions one should see and most can be covered by driving through the city; there are many good maps to guide you on tours, or Greyhound and other bus lines have city tours lasting a few hours to an entire day. The more time you have, of course, the better acquainted you can become but a short trip will give you a good feel of the hills, view of the Bay, Alcatraz and Angel Island. Here is my list of mostly old, familiar favorites:

Starting at the southeastern tip of the peninsula and following the shoreline: Fleishacker Zoo; Sigmund Stern Grove with its giant eucalyptus trees has outdoor summer concerts; the beach and the Cliff House looking out over Seal Rocks; the Palace of the Legion of Honor in Lincoln Park. The museum houses a permanent collection of 18th century French art and furniture and Rodin's, "The Thinker" concentrates in the courtyard. Be sure to walk down below the museum and view the ocean—if you go far enough out along the edge you will see where

the ocean narrows to enter the gorge of the Golden Gate. This, in my opinion, is the classic view of Golden Gate Bridge, so be sure to get a picture of it.

Continuing around the shoreline, you will come to the 1500-acre, park-like grounds of the U.S. Army Post, the Presidio—if you take a short detour inside the Presidio, you will come to Fort Point at the tip of the San Francisco peninsula. Above the old army fort, built in 1853, looms the Golden Gate Bridge, anchored to the ground by a huge concrete pillar. Here you get your close-up view of the massive bridge and the red, lace-like network that swings gracefully above you.

Now proceeding on to the Marina, the yacht headquarters of the city, and there is the bridge again! The Marina is on landfill used for the Panama Pacific International Exposition of 1915 which celebrated the completion of the Panama Canal. One Exposition building, the Palace of Fine Arts, has been restored; a beautiful round building in Classic style with Corinthian Columns built to remind one of a Roman ruin, it stands beside a lagoon with swans and ducks—a most picturesque setting. An exploratorium is housed in the Palace and kids (as well as adults) love this hands-on scientific experience.

Next pass along Aquatic Park, the Maritime Museum and on to Fisherman's Wharf. Here are shops, walk-up crab cocktail eateries, fish restaurants, a wax museum, the Ferry Building and Pier 39 (with parking). Across from the waterfront is Ghirardelli (Gear-a-deli) Square, the old chocolate factory made into shops, restaurants, and other attractions along with The Cannery not far away with the same type of attractions; both are interesting and fun especially if you meet up with the latest street artists who usually hang around unless the city is now forbidding that—*again*.

Upon leaving the Wharf area, an interesting way to get to Coit Tower is to walk up the Filbert Steps. To do this go southeast along the Embarcadero to Sansome Street, follow Sansome about 3 blocks to Filbert where you will find the steps up the hillside

\*See Oscar Lewis' (noted San Francisco writer) Big Four; Silver Kings and This was San Francisco. I can personally recommend Big Four as a good history of the feelings and personalities at that time.

Continued on page 9



## CLAGUE HOUSE

*Continued from page 1*

restored to around 66% of its circa-1900 Victorian look. The Museum, open to the public on Sunday afternoons from 2 pm to 5 pm (excluding holiday weekends), house a vast array of artifacts and displays from the earlier days of Westlake. Especially unique to the Clague Museum is its collection of artifacts and books on Robert Clague's native Isle of Man, and a miniature replica of the Clague House that has been reduced in size with delightful perfection right down to the photographs on the museum walls.

Those who would like to write the Westlake Historical Society for more information should address their correspondence to:

*Westlake Historical Society  
Richard Parker, President  
PO Box 45064  
Westlake, OH 44145*

## FROM THE SECRETARY

I really have nothing interesting to report, as I did not go home this year for Christmas (first time in 21 years). My sister and her husband came here, so it was very different for both of us. They arrived December 13th and on the 14th we had a blizzard and snow on the ground all the rest of the time they were here until January 3rd! I had ordered a white Christmas, but it was whiter than I expected! They must have taken four rolls of film of the snow, it was a beautiful sight and they had never seen anything like it. But it didn't keep us in, we were out every day, and inspected every shopping mall within a 10-mile radius. That was their favourite place, the malls! Each went home with an extra suitcase full of goodies, lots of unusual Christmas items.

That was their second visit in one year, so next year it is our turn to go home and celebrate their 25th wedding anniversary.

No big plans for this year yet, other than the Convention in the summer, and hoping for a nice long hot summer.

*Elizabeth Duncan*

## NAMA CONVENTION 1990

*Continued from page 8*

leading to Coit Tower. Allow about 3 hours up and back—the sights of this little-known spot are worth your time. The steps, festooned with flowers and greenery, carry you into a fantasy

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*at*

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realm inhabited by stray cats and framed clapboard houses. Next drive to Lombard Street, between Hyde and Leavenworth, and see the "crookedest street"—no longer open to traffic, but perhaps you can park near an intersection below and take a picture.

If you catch the Cable Car at Market and Powell (watch them turn the cars around here), get off and go into the Mark Hopkins Hotel at the California Street stop (all three cable cars intersect here). From the "Top of the Mark" there is a superb view of the city. Afterwards take the California Street Cable Car to the foot of Nob Hill and visit the heart of Chinatown at Grant Avenue; at Grant and Busch, Chinatown's entry is through an arching gate bedecked with dragons.

For a grand finale, head for Golden Gate Park with its Japanese Tea Garden, Planetarium/Aquarium, M.H. de Young Museum, Conservatory of Flowers and Strybing Arboretum (a kind of park within a park with over 5,000 species of different flowers and plants co-existing in 70 acres with pathways among the plants).

Remaining is the heart of San Francisco with the Civic Center, its City Hall and Opera House; the financial district with old and new buildings and South of Market is Mission Dolores

if you have not yet seen one of the 21 California Spanish Missions.

Food, in my opinion, is generally good in this entire area and there is an endless selection so come prepared to forego diets you may be dealing with and enjoy yourself—the French bread and butter you encounter everywhere can add the calories fast.

Hotels, motels, and living accommodations are endless and the prices vary so ask a friend or pick up a guide book for advice in that department.

San Francisco is different, a very special place and unlike any other city in the world. Its climate, its location (surrounded on three sides by water), its topography (hills, hills, and more hills) allow the city to retain a certain remoteness it had in earlier times, and its unique skyline all contribute to the 'San Francisco flavor'. And the best sour dough French bread (crustier and even more sour than in France) baked daily except Wednesday and Sunday, along with the fresh local fish, wine, and cheese blend with the climate and atmosphere of this great city—Don't miss it!

*See you at the Convention!*

*Polly Ernst*

*1457 Ravenswood Drive  
Los Altos, CA 94024*

## OBITUARIES

I wish to report the passing away of my brother, **EDWARD QUINE**, Box 485, Idaho Springs, CO 80452, on October 29, 1989, of cancer. He had retired as an engineer of Coors. He was 62, leaves three grown children, his wife, and two grandchildren. (Mrs. Lillian Quine Wasser, 1400 South Shields, Fort Collins, CO 80521)

**CHARLES R. MEAKER**, 45, Mattoon, Illinois, died January 14, 1990. Born July 21, 1944, in Kewanee, son of Raymond J. and Hazel (Clague) Meaker, he was founder, owner, and operator of Rogala Public Links golf course in Mattoon. He was a member of Masonic Lodge, Eagles, Loyal Order of the Moose, First United Methodist Church, Golf Course Superintendents of America, and Central Illinois Golf Course Superintendents Association. He married Donna Jean Craig June 23, 1963, in LaFayette. She survives as well as one son, Joseph at home; two daughters, Mrs. Lenny (Nancy) Luchtefeld of Marion and Karen Meaker of Schaumburg; three grandchildren; his mother, Mrs. George Pahlow of Galva; his father of LaFayette; and one brother, Jim of Bloomington. Burial in Dodge Grove Cemetery, Mattoon.

**ELEANOR MAY (KARRAN) GAWNE** passed away peacefully at her home in Douglas, Isle of Man, on December 24th, 1989. Eleanor was born in Cleveland, Ohio, her father had emigrated from the Island in 1910. At age twenty-one she came to the Island to visit relatives, went to church, and her uncle asked Edward Gawne and his mother if they would look after his niece. Mr. Gawne drove his future wife home. They became engaged before the end of the holiday, and in 1938 Mr. Gawne went out to the US and the couple were married. After a holiday they returned to Peel and built their own home in Rheast Lane.

Mr. Gawne was employed in the family business of Looney's of Peel, which had been founded by his grandfather. He remained in the business, apart from a short period in 1948 when they returned to the US, until retirement.

Last year they celebrated their Golden Wedding in Ohio, their daughter and grandchildren went with them and returned after a holiday while Mr. and Mrs. Gawne spent the winter with Mrs. Gawne's sister in Arizona. Mrs. Gawne leaves her husband Edwin, a daughter Elvira, and two grandchildren Jamie and Serena.

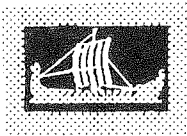
## RAMSEY TOWN

A drunken Ramsey man who swore at a visitor was sent to prison for 28 days by the Deputy High Baliff, Mr. Andrew Williamson, who told the defendant it was not surprising tourist figures on the Island are down if this was the picture holidaymakers are taking back with them. Robert Evans of Benenden, Brookhill Road, Ramsey, admitted a charge of using provoking behaviour.

Visitor David Pratt, a merchant navy man of Cleveleys, Lancashire, said he had been crossing St. Pauls Square at 11:15 pm when the defendant approached him and started using abusive language. "He started to push me a few times and I grabbed him and forced him onto the road," said Mr. Pratt. His wife called the police, and both Constable Duncan Livingstone and Constable David Hopkins said Evans was aggressive.

Evans told the court that his drinks must have been spiked, as he had little recollection of the events. He had several previous convictions, and the Deputy High Baliff described his past record and his behaviour as "lousy".

*Manx Independent*



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## CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

For many centuries the season we know as Lent has been observed in the Christian Church. For some, it is a period of fasting and self-denial. For many, it is a time spent in special prayers and religious devotions, alone or with groups. In any case, it can be a time of preparation and anticipation, in the six weeks preceding Easter.

The Church long ago realized that a discipline was needed for the health of the human spirit, just as discipline and exercise is required if the physical body is not to become flabby and soft. In a sense, we can say that Lent is the annual "fitness program" for the Body of Christ, the Church.

In Paul's letter to the Galatians, he is telling of his own spiritual pilgrimage. He says that after his encounter with Christ on the road to Damascus, "I went away into Arabia." He went into the desert to meditate, and to prepare himself for this new turn in his life.

This is a pattern that is a familiar one in the Bible. It began with Israel in slavery in Egypt. That was a very long period, but sometimes it seems to us that God moves slowly. In those years in the desert, after the escape, Israel was putting itself together as a nation. Those were difficult years, during which there were some strong feelings expressed about returning to Egypt. But, in looking back in later years, the Sinai desert was remembered as a place of their growing up, where they cast off the slave mentality that had developed in the years of bondage. They became ready to move forward and enter the Land of Promise.

It is no accident that we observe our season of Lent with remembrances of Jesus' spending forty days in the wilderness, encountering his temptations. His temptations are not, perhaps, the same as ours; and yet, do we not at times have some urge to control and manipulate others, to exert power for selfish gains? We all need these seasons of Lent, to take our personal pilgrimage into our "desert places", where minds can be renewed and attitudes of heart can be reshaped and souls refreshed. Our "desert" can be any place where we can be alone before God, and be open and ready for the renewal of our lives. May our pilgrimages of Lent lead us to more fully experience the newness of life of the resurrection that is Easter.

*Herbert G. Kelly  
Chaplain*

