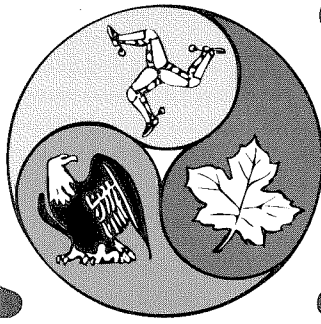


NAMA



NORTH AMERICAN MANX ASSOCIATION

Vol. 64, No. 3

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

March 1992

NAMA Convention Update

By the time you read this article, you should have received your NAMA92 Convention Registration packet. Approximately 1000 packets were assembled and mailed in late January and early February. Members of the NAMA92 Convention Planning Committee drawn from the Washington Manx Society assembled on a Saturday afternoon (just before the Washington Redskins Super Bowl victory) at the home of Don and Vonn Quayle to stuff, lick and label all the envelopes. NAMA thanks this group for all their past and future convention support! About 100 envelopes went to Canada, thirty to the Isle of Man, five to England, three to Australia and one to Portugal with the balance going to the U.S.

If you have Manx friends or relatives who are not members of NAMA and you believe they may be interested in attending the convention, please send their name and address to Ron Quayle, 3934 Fort Worth Avenue, Alexandria, VA 22304 and he will see that they receive a packet of registration materials. This is a wonderful way to introduce your Manx friends to their ancestral Island.

You are again encouraged to send your Booking Form to the Everymann Holidays group on the Isle of Man promptly. Don't worry about not having made airline reservations to Great Britain. Tell the Everymann Holiday group that you will send them details of your flights in and out of Great Britain as soon as you have made your reservations. The Palace

Hotel wants room reservations as soon as possible so reserve now. It is not known how long all of their rooms will be held for us, so act quickly. Send your registration materials to Mary Hayslett at the same time you send your Booking Form.

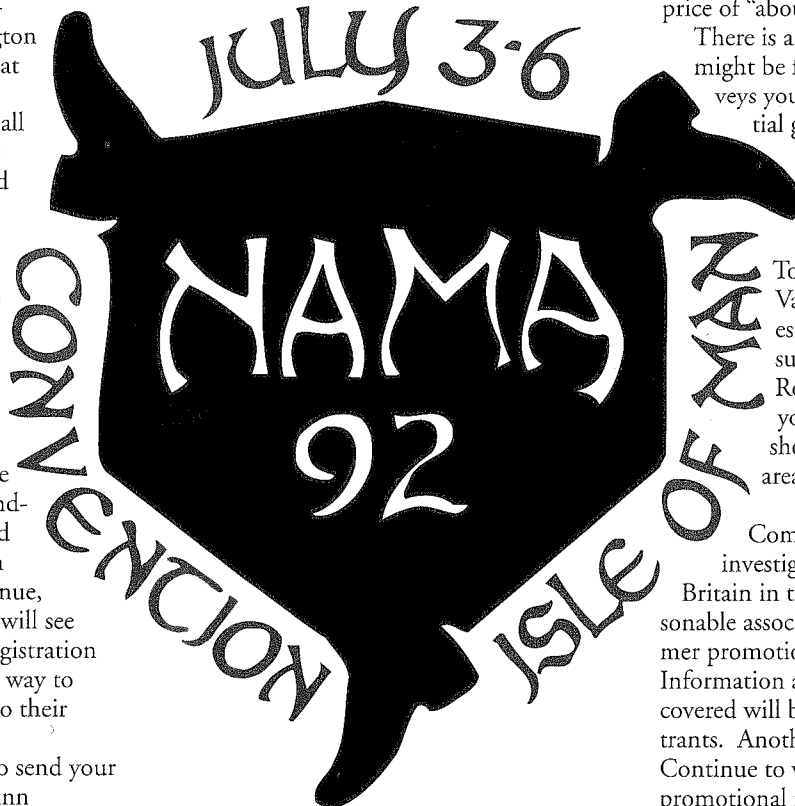
During a recent telephone conversation, Russ Cannon told Ron Quayle that

for those under 62 is \$807. The "regular" fare being quoted is \$879. If you wish to learn more about this opportunity, contact "Sandy" at Murdock Travel in Salt Lake City at 1-800-365-7747. The Utah group has a full tour package arranged including three days in London after the convention for a total package price of "about \$2100" per Russ.

There is a possibility that other groups might be formed. Based on the surveys you returned, there are potential groups in the following areas: Washington, Cleveland, Minneapolis, Chicago, Denver, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Tampa, Toronto/Detroit, and Vancouver. If anyone is interested in trying to organize such groups, please contact Ron Quayle and he will send you a list of people who have shown an interest from those areas.

The NAMA Planning Committee will continue to investigate reduced fares to Great Britain in the coming months as reasonable association group fares or summer promotional fares become available. Information about any "good deals" discovered will be sent to convention registrants. Another reason to register early. Continue to watch your local papers for promotional fares and use them if possible, since they are highly likely to be the lowest available.

If you have questions, feel free to call Ron Quayle in Alexandria, VA, at 703-370-8975. His address is shown else-



the Utah Cannon group would be flying from Los Angeles to London Heathrow on American Airlines. The group round trip fare is \$729 for those 62 or older (fare also applies to this person's traveling companion of any age). The group fare

Continued Page 2

CONVENTION *Continued*

where in this article.

An exciting and memorable NAMA Convention is planned. As you noted in the convention brochure, a full schedule of interesting activities will be available for your enjoyment. You will also be able to explore the Island, research your family background, visit Island family and friends, and renew and initiate NAMA friendships.

Remember to share NAMA92 Convention information with your Manx friends and encourage them to attend. We look forward to greeting you on the Isle of Man in July.

Why You Should Come-On-Over

"First, that the idea of your coming back every few years in as large numbers as may be possible to the little Island that was formerly your home, or that of your forebears, seems to me to be a good and happy one. We have little to show you that you do not know already. We have nothing here that is comparable with the grandeur of scene and the throb of tumultuous life on the vast continent of your adoption. Just a sweet little green island, set in the blue waters of the Irish Sea, with its rolling hills and slumberous glens, full of gorse and heather and fern; three or four quaint little fishing ports, and one larger town devoted to the joyous and rather rollicking life of the visiting industry. Only this and a few broad stretches of curragh land with their sweet-smelling salley-bushes and their white-washed thatched cottages that were perhaps the homes of your ancestors, as they were of mine. If, like myself, you are growing old, you can sit on the three-legged stool in the 'chollagh' and think yourself back to the time when your grandmother sat there before you, feeding with dry gorse, the cracking fire under the 'oyen-pot' that is linked to the 'slowrie' which hangs down the open chimney. And then there is always the Anglo-Manx speech which seems to every Manxman, as often as he hears it in a foreign country, to creep somewhere between his flesh and his skin. That is all; but perhaps it is enough if it awakens the child in you, and brings back the memory of much that was purest and the best and dearest in your life."

This is an excerpt from a message by Sir Hall Caine in the NAMA Bulletin of February, 1930. Hall Caine was not regarded by the Manx people for many years as a national literary hero in spite of the phenomenal success of his Manx novels, not only in America and the Continent. Gradually they came to appreciate the breadth and moving quality of his work, and honored him not only as an author, but as a Manx patriot. His words are just as timely today as they were over sixty years ago.

What to Do on the Isle of Man

After you have visited the Manx Museum, Castle Rushen, Cregneash Village, and The Groves; after you have seen Odin Raven and St. Patrick's Isle in Peel; after sightseeing in the towns and villages; after shopping at St. John's and Laxey Mills for your Manx tartans; there's no better way of slowing the pace of life a little, and seeing the beautiful hills and sea views, than to catch the Manx Electric Railway to Royal Ramsey, just as King Edward VII and Queen Alexandra did in 1902. Or relax in a carriage on the Steam railway as the clackety-clack of wheels on rail joints marks the leisurely progression to Port Erin.

Then, to top off this experience, take the Snaefell Mountain Railway to the summit (2,036 feet) and look out over six kingdoms — England, Ireland, Scotland, Wales, Mann and Heaven.

The Manx Electric Railway and the Steam Railway are unique examples of

Victorian and Edwardian technology which have been maintained by generations of Manx railwaymen.

The Manx Electric Railway, 100 years old in 1993, carries thousands of passengers yearly between Douglas and Ramsey. One of the original 1893 cars is still in use.

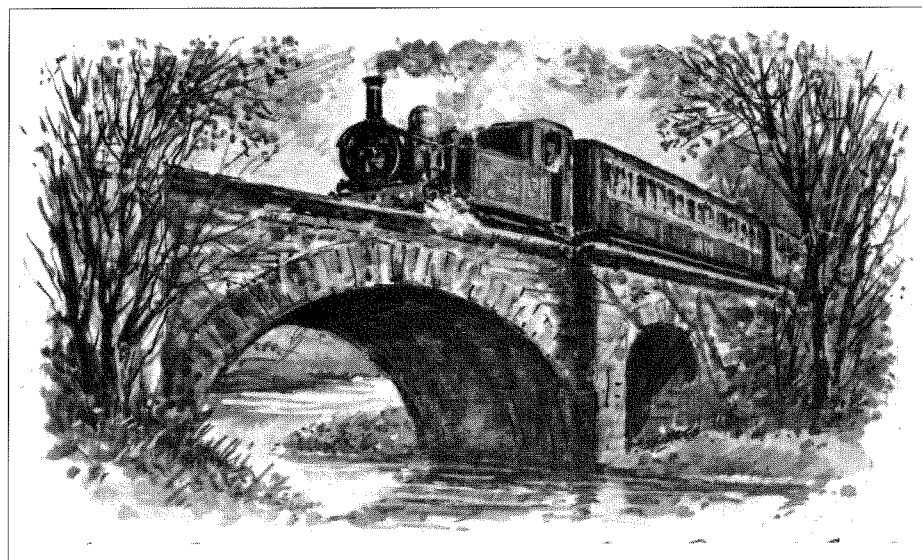
The narrow gauge Steam Railway has some engines and coaches dating back to 1874. There is no better way to visit the south of the Island from Douglas than through the countryside on the train.

The Snaefell Mountain Railway, opened in 1895, is the only electrically-worked mountain railway in the British Isles today.

Every Electric Railway departure from Douglas leaves from Derby Castle Station at the northern end of the Douglas Promenade and the Steam Railway Station is along North Quay beyond the Sea Terminal. The horse trams or bus 30 will get you there.

Or if you need some fresh air and exercise, what better way to see the Island than by walking. The Isle of Man has many established rights of way and they are clearly signposted as public footpaths with green fingerposts, supplemented as necessary by a system of way-marking incorporating a circular green disc with the words 'public right of way' and a directional arrow.

Short walks are available in the National Glens which are described in the leaflet *The Glens of the Isle of Man*, published by the Isle of Man Tourist Board. For longer walks, up to six hours, check the leaflet *Walking in the Isle of Man*, also by the Tourist Board. The serious or more adventuresome casual walker can obtain information for longer or more difficult walks from brochures pub-



Isle of Man Railway. Train on bridge over Silver Brown at Castletown.

lished by the Manx Conservation Council Footpath Group available from bookshops throughout the Island.

The Isle of Man offers a wide variety of coastal and moorland scenery with a wealth of archaeological remains and traces of a long-gone mining industry, all seen to advantage from these footpaths. Enjoy this aspect of the Island but remember to follow the Country Code:

- Keep to paths across farm land and shut gates.
- Leave no litter.
- Do no damage fences or walls.
- Safeguard water supplies.
- Protect wild life, plants and trees.
- Keep dogs under control at all times.
- Guard against all risk of fire.



The Arches

The most notable casualty of the (autumn) storms was the partial destruction of one of Douglas's best-known highway landmarks, The Arches, above Mona Drive.

Mona Drive was originally a path from the Castle Mona to its kitchen gardens at the area often referred to as 'Olympia' because of an athletics stadium in the area.

The landscape was very different when the arches were first constructed, Peter Kelly, of the Society for the Protection of the Manx Countryside and the Environment, said.

'During that time, it was in a semi-circular valley. It was filled in to create Victoria Road. People cannot really appreciate what the arches were like at the time they were built.'

When the arches were built, over 150 years ago, one collapsed and had to be rebuilt, he said.

Excerpts from an article in the *Isle of Man Examiner*, November, 1991.

SIR — I wonder how many of our town councillors know the history of The Arches and its historical connotations, and why it should be preserved as part of Douglas's history.

The Arches were the gateway to the Island's first purpose-built sport complex in 1891.

We are trying to become an Island of sport, and The Arches are all that is left of an era when Belle Vue, and Isle of Man Racecourse near the Strang and Olympia, brought thousands of tourists to the Island, and this piece of Douglas history should be retained.

Excerpts from a letter to the *Isle of Man Examiner*, November 12, 1991.



Bird Watching on Man

by Ginger Anderson

A warm clear day on the Isle of Man is a treasure. We chose to spend ours on the Calf of Man, a 616 acre island bird sanctuary off the south coast of the Isle of Man. We made the journey, from Douglas to Port Erin, by my most favorite means of transportation, the clickety-clack and rockety-rock of the steam train. Such a beautiful well kept train. It was a marvelous ride!

As we rocked through the countryside, the only bird I was able to focus on was the large Grey Heron waiting at attention, along the banks of the fresh water stream, ready to stab a fish with his long pointed beak.

Time being "right-on," we arrived breathless at the end of the pier, just in time to jump aboard a wood skiff, painted in the gayest of primary colors, head for the Calf of Man. There was a real salty dog at the helm. And he knew his birds, though I wasn't to find that out until the ride back.

We putt, putt, putted out of the harbor and headed south along the shore to the Calf. Isn't that a wonderful name for the delightful island trailing behind the Isle? Birds swooped and dove along the cliffs. I was torn between staring through the binocs and thumbing through *Hamlyn's Guide to Birds of Britain*. So many "black and white" birds!

We were whipped by the wind as we stepped onto the Calf and by the shrieks from the orange bill of the Oystercatcher. We wandered the island for hours watching the birds swoop from water to cliff and back. We saw the Great Gannet, the Common Gull, and the beautiful lesser Blackhead Gull. There were Shags snaking along the shore and through the waves. And the delightful Razorbills and Guillenots floated and dove in the waves behind the boat. More than enough birds to add something to everyone's life list.

The next day, we took a jaunt to the Point of Ayres, at the other end of the Isle. Fighting the gale of the winds, we trekked to the beach. We caught glimpses of the Rock Pipit and Stonechat as they flit and dove from bush to bush in the somewhat protected gully running parallel to the beach. In that wind, the beach only showed us a few Ringed Plovers in their search for little tastes among the rocks.

Another area of particular interest for bird watching is the Langness peninsula off Castletown Bay. For marshlands or "churragh" birds, such as Redpole, there are two large tracts on the island, Ballaugh and Greebe. And don't forget the many beautiful wooded glens throughout the Island, hiding such diverse birds as Tree Pipits and Magpies.

The best months for viewing the greatest variety of birds are during the migration periods, particularly May and September. The sighting of more than 280 species has been recorded during that period. This has included such unusual species as the Spoonbill and Nightingale.

All in all, the Isle of Man is a bird watchers paradise, with woodland birds, ocean birds, freshwater waders and the most beautiful countryside to find them in.

Co-Editors' Corner

As co-editors of the NAMA Bulletin, we inherited four file boxes of the past Bulletins. It was only recently that I had the opportunity to explore these historic issues.

The Bulletin started out in 1928 as a monthly publication. What an ambitious undertaking! In January of 1929 the Bulletin stated the purpose for publication: "This Bulletin is published with the happy thought of reaching every Manx man or woman or the descendants of Manx in the North American continent. The idea being to cement a closer bondship between you and us, to preserve whatever is left to us of ancient heritage, and to show we are still proud of being Manx despite our long absence from our native Isle. Let us be patriotic Manxmen and women and being so we are better citizens of the countries we have adopted. United there is much we can do to put the name Manx on the map and to win that place in the sun we believe the Manx deserve and have earned."

By the mid 1930s it took on the present format of quarterly issues. It was at this time that several of the current columns came into being—President's Message, Obituaries, and Society News. Our Own People began in 1937. At that time it appeared to be the equivalent of a small town society page giving all the local Manx news — weddings, births, out of town visitors, etc.

Some things never change. In most issues there was a plea for additional members. However, the early membership was only one dollar. In 1945 sample issues were sent out to names submitted by members in hopes of increasing circulation. And we thought this was a new idea in 1991! The early Bulletins were published by a committee rather than by a single editor. Many issues were dedicated to the upcoming conventions. In 1931 the list of convention activities was very similar to what we have at present conventions. In 1948 "Meet Your Officers" appeared, very similar to our "Up Close and Personal". In the late 1930s the Bulletin started a Children's Corner. Maybe this should be reinstated to encourage younger members. It was at this same time that a Manx Quiz was included.

Through the 30s and 40s there were a number of interesting articles on Manx pioneers and settlers in various North American communities. Also common were articles on important sites on the Isle of Man and serials of longer pieces about the IOM.

Did you know that Dan Quayle was not the first Manx-U.S. presidential connection? In 1929 Herbert Hoover invited his little old school teacher, Mollie Carran, of West Branch, Iowa, to an honored seat near him for the inauguration ceremonies. Mollie's husband was Manx and came from Peel. On October 6, 1945, President Harry Truman was best man at the wedding of former U.S. Senator Bennett Champ Clark and Miss Violet Heming, actress. Miss Heming's childhood was spent in Douglas, Isle of Man, where her father, Alfred Heming, was manager of the Grand Theatre on Victoria Street. Her mother created the part of "Glory Quayle" when the dramatized version of Hall Caine's novel *The Christian* was first performed at the Grand Theatre.

Also in 1940 there was a contest to rename the Bulletin. In the December issue it was stated "...a number of excellent suggestions were received. In fact, there were so many good ones that it was the consensus of opinion that the final selection of a name should be decided upon by the Executive of the Association, along with the Bulletin Committee." From the January, 1941, issue we learn "...it was decided that the name of this publication shall remain as heretofore, namely — 'The Bulletin.' It was the feeling of some of those present that, since this name had been used ever since the first issue was published, it should be continued under this name." We are curious. Does anyone know what some of the suggested names were?

This is only a sampling of the information found in these files. Now we need your input. What do you want in your Bulletin? Should we reprint some of the historical pieces from the past? What about a Manx Quiz or a Children's Column? Should we concentrate on what is happening now in North America and the Isle of Man? Please send us your ideas.

For 1929 we have only January, February, and March. Were there issues for the other months? Also missing is Vol. 8 No. 3, 1935, covering January through April. We do not have page 4 of Vol. 10 No. 4, May, 1937. We would appreciate your assistance in completing our files.

Bishops court

The Manx Heritage Foundation has called on the government to buy Bishops court to return it to the nation.

The foundation feels the property — which is...up for sale for only the second time in 700 years — is of such historical and architectural importance that government should step in to preserve it as a part of Manx heritage for future nations.

The call is being supported by the Lord Bishop, the Right Reverend Noel Jones. He said, 'I have written to the government asking them to think about it.'

The foundation believes that if Bishops court remains in private ownership, it would deny Manx people access to this piece of heritage.

Chairman of the foundation, Sir Charles Kerruish, told the Examiner, '...This is a matter of importance to the Manx people because Bishops court is the one remaining element of Manx heritage that is not in public possession. We feel that the time has now arrived for it to become the property of the nation....the public will be given the opportunity to express their views as to whether or not it should, as we believe, become a part of national heritage readily available to the Lord Bishop of Sodor and Man to go back to, readily available for the people of the Island to have access to and understand part of our heritage. It belongs to the people.'

The foundation says that in addition to a home for the bishop, the building could also be used as a centre for Manx or inter-Celtic studies, possibly being used as a base for a Manx studies institute developed in co-ordination with universities that surround the Island's 'geographical position in the Irish Sea.'

Excerpts from an article in the *Isle of Man Examiner* by Paul Speller, October 29, 1991.

SIR — A few weeks ago I gave a talk on Bishops court on Manx Radio. I too called for its re-purchase by Government and the support we had was tremendous. Indeed, over the years since its deplorable sale I have heard over and over again from all sorts of people, 'We should never, never have sold Bishops court.'

Love of the place is deep in the hearts of the Manx people and, indeed, in the hearts of all who truly love and treasure our Island. It is a place beyond price in historic and architectural importance, and, above all, is of most sacred tradition.

Excerpts from a letter by Jean Thornton-Duesbery, *Isle of Man*



President's Message

I am extremely excited about our adventure to the Isle of Man this June and July. In the Northern California Society, I seem to be the only neophyte, and I am supposed to be their leader. When we talk about the Isle of Man at our meetings, most share experiences of past visits, and with enthusiasm.

So far my Manx education is academic. I still have two aunts who write and tell me Manx information. One, Mary Deffinbaugh, from Shelton, Washington, still sharp at 92, has share many happy memories of her family and my dad at Laxey. They came over in 1910 and emigrated to homesteads in Montana. The Montana winters were too tough, so they found a more Manx-like weather in the pacific Northwest around Tacoma. Apparently fog and rain must be part of the heritage.

After this summer, I'll be able to share with relatives and friends my perspective of Ellen Vannin, and of our old family farm at Gretch Voar. I'll even show off my new Manx woolen pullover or sweater made from Loaghtan wool from Gretch Voar (and other farm sources). Sound great to you??? Then, why don't you go with??? (See other articles in this Bulletin.)

As you may see, if Normy/Joanie print it, I have now run up my Manx "Jolly Roger" on my Buick. I'll advise you if it brings me new friends, so you can try it.

Please recruit your friends and relatives for NAMA. We need new members regularly to keep vital and strong. All of us have relatives not in NAMA, not to mention friends and people we meet with Manx surnames. Please introduce them to us!!!

Your Manx leader,

Lawrence L. Fargher
President

Manx Tartan

At the inaugural festival concert of Ellynyn ny Gael in 1955 the late Lord Sempill, who presided, suggested as a contribution to the international cultural image of Ellan Vannin that the Island should adopt a national tartan, as had been done not many years previously by Norway.

The idea caught on, probably aided by the long historic connection between this Island and Norway and by the fact that a young Manx singer had during that very year made an outstanding success at the International Folk Music Festival in Oslo. Ellynyn ny Gael, then a very young society struggling to propagate Manx culture generally, invited the submission of designs and offered to sponsor the one chosen.

The winning design was sent in by Miss Patricia McQuaid of Ramsey who, in view of the fact that the tartan was to represent not one family as did the existing clan tartans but a whole nation, based her pattern on the physical characteristics of the Island — green for the fields and woodlands, purple for the heather-clad hills, white for the cottages, yellow for the cushag, the Manx national flower, and blue for the surrounding sea. Largely through the instrumentality of Lord Sempill and of the then Governor, Sir Ambrose Dundas Flux Dundas, the Manx tartan was duly registered and put on sale, and was soon adopted enthusiastically by Manx people at home and abroad.

Since then it has become quite an important export to many parts of the world, and a favourite souvenir buy with tourists. Although, of course, it has not the historic value of the Scottish clan tartans, like them it is symbol of national culture, and as such Manx people are proud to wear it in some form — a kilt, a tie, a scarf or sash — especially when taking part in Manx national or inter-Celtic gatherings, or when representing the Island abroad.

Source: *Manninagh, A Review of Manx Culture*, No. 1: May, 1972.

Here is a more modern version:

THE LAXEY MANX TARTAN

with

The Blue for the Sea,
Green for the Hills
Gold for the Gorse,
Purple for the Heather
and
White for the Cottages.



SOCIETY NEWS

SAN DIEGO

Greetings to our NAMA friends and best wishes for this new year. Many of our group are looking forward to meeting with you on the Isle of Man this summer.

San Diegans are enjoying sunny warm days with temperatures reaching 80°. Actually, the natives wish for rain, but the tourists are happy.

The December meeting of the San Diego Manx Society was held at the home of Brian and Hilary Harrison. We enjoyed Christmas treats and a gift exchange. Election of new officers was held:

Marge Frederick, president
Ruth Smith, secretary/treasurer
Aline Wittenkeller, historian

If a trip to San Diego is in your future, please contact us. We would love to meet you and show you around our fair city.

Ruth Smith
4966 Rockford Drive
San Diego, CA 92115

WASHINGTON D.C.

By now your mailman should have delivered the fruits of our labors, as ten of us recently gathered for the better part of an afternoon to stuff, stack, stick, stamp, sort and ship more than 1,000 registration packets for the NAMA92 Convention.

On January 4th we had our second annual Twelfth Night Christmas Party. Nearly one hundred members and guests stuffed themselves with roast pork and turkey with all the trimmings, then danced it off. We've become quite good at Cutting the Turf and Hunting the Wren! There was also a Viking storyteller (telling a "Manx tale" of a different sort), a heavenly harpist and two Epiphany Cakes, containing secret charms for the men and boys and women and girls.

If you plan to be in Washington, D.C. the first week of April, be sure to plan on attending our Annual Dinner on Sunday the 4th! Contact me for details.

Russell Woodgates, President
2325 42nd Street, NW, #306
Washington, DC 20007-49

VANCOUVER

The past year has been a busy one. We started the year off with our Spring Tea once again held at the home of Dr. and Mrs. GORDON GELL. At that time an election of officers was held. We are extremely grateful to TERRY MC CAFFREY for once again taking the helm. His hard working committee remains the same except for one change. We welcome Geoff Cannell on board.

On July 5th (Tynwald Day) the committee celebrated as usual with a dinner at a local restaurant. At that time we raised our glasses and drank to the health of our "Island". Dr. GORDON AND ISABEL GELL were our guests and at that time drew the winning tickets on our "fund raiser" raffle.

On July 27th our picnic was held at Stanley park. The weather was good. For this we were thankful as our summer weather was not too great. However, our fall more than made up for it and during September and October we had record amounts of sunshine. Also during the summer we held a car wash fund raiser. Unfortunately it was rained out but, we will try again in '92.

On November 16 we held a "back end do" at St. David's Church Hall. The Manx expression means - let's celebrate, harvest is over and we give thanks. We had a very good turnout of members and friends. The tables were beautifully done in maple leaves and fall colours. The food table groaned with a - you name it - we have it - type of menu. PRESIDENT TERRY MC CAFFREY welcomed all and after games for the children and a sing-a-long led by FRANK KEWLEY on the piano the evening closed with the singing of Ellan Vannin. As the children left COLLEEN MC CAFFREY handed out ginger bread men. These delightful cookies were baked and decorated by COLLEEN and were a work of art. Our last event for '91 was a Christmas light bus tour.

It is with sorrow we announce the passing of Dr. GORDON GELL on November 2, 1991. Gordon was born in Vancouver of Manx parents. His father, CAESAR JOHN GELL, was born in Glen Maye and was one of the founding

members of the Vancouver Society. His mother, MARTHA ELLEN (CREGEEN), of Arracy Glen Rushen met and married Caesar Gell in Vancouver. GORDON served overseas during WWII in the medical corps. While in the Army he met and married his wife Isabel (Solvason) who was a nursing sister also of the Canadian Army. They honeymooned in the Isle of Man and have always had fond memories of their stay there. Upon GORDON'S return to Canada after the war he returned to the University of B.C. and obtained his B.A. and medical degrees. He practised in the VANCOUVER area and had several of the Manx as his patients. GORDON was very proud of his Manx heritage and he and his wife have always opened their home to the Manx for their "Spring Tea." We will miss him for his caring heart and gentle ways. GORDON is survived by his wife ISABEL, his son GORDON, his daughters LINDA and JANE, his sister MONA BOHEMIER of Lillooet and his brother NORMAN of Penticton. To his family our sympathy.

Also, with sorrow we announce the passing of CATHERINE E. HORNALL on November 8, 1991. Kitty as she was known was born in Douglas, IOM. After her parents deaths KITTY and her siblings went to live on a farm in Baldwin with an aunt. She resided in Canada for many years and after the death of her husband JAMES she returned to Peel to live with her sister Emily. Upon Emily's death she returned once again to Canada to be with her sons. Kitty was very musical and up until quite recently was still interested in all forms of music. She was predeceased by her daughter JOAN and is survived by her two sons ALFRED and JOE and their families. We will miss her. To her family our sympathy.

Two of our members have celebrated their 90th birthdays. We wish them Happy Birthday and many more. First was Mrs. BESSIE (COSTAIN) VARLEY. Bess has been a long time member of the Society and is still very active helping neighbours and visiting her daughter ETHEL in Seattle. ISOBEL KELLY also a long time member though in failing health still takes an avid interest in the

Society and enjoys hearing all the news.

It is with sadness we announce the passing on December 12, 1991, of BEATRICE GRICE (nee GELLING) of Port Erin, Isle of Man. BEA (as she was called) was a long time member of the Vancouver Society. Her father, the late NED GELLING, was a former President. She had many friends in the Society and a great fondness for Canada and the Vancouver Manx. BEA and her husband JIM had returned a few years back to live in Port Erin and thoroughly enjoyed their new lifestyle. Our sympathy to JIM, her friends and family. We will miss her.

This year the "CHRISTIAN" ladies tea was held at the home of VERA HENRY, VANCOUVER. These are descendants of the late CHARLES and MARGARET JANE CHRISTIAN, of Peel, Isle of Man. Out of town guests were PAT HARDY, QUESNEL B.C.; KAY CHRISTIAN, QUALICUM BEACH, B.C. and BERTHA CHRISTIAN, SPOKEN LAKE, B.C. The highlight of the tea was a video taken from a movie made many years ago. On it was a picture of our GRANDMOTHER, JANE CHRISTIAN (nee MOORE) and this of course brought back many happy memories.

Vera Henry, Secretary
3142 West 32nd Ave.
Vancouver, BC
V6L - 2C1
Canada

CHICAGO

The Chicago Manx Society will hold its next meeting and pot-luck dinner on Sunday, April 26th, at the home of Dorothy Gawne in Niles, Illinois. We hope to show the Manx Museum videotape, "The Story of Mann," which gives an historical view of the Isle of Man and is narrated by the late Sir Anthony Quayle. We also hope to have a display of Manx coins and learn of their history. We invite all Manx friends in the Chicagoland area to attend this meeting which will be in a northern suburb. For further information contact Bob Kelly, President, (312-792-2584) or Florence Abbanti, Secretary (708-423-9363).

We are looking forward to the Convention on the Isle of Man in July and several of our members are planning on attending pending further details. We look forward to seeing many of our friends at that time.

Robert Kelly
6858 N Osceola Ave.
Chicago, IL 60631-1157

CLEVELAND

Our activities program for the rest of this year is to include going to restaurants, dinner theatre, picnics, etc. No definite places or dates have been arranged as of this writing but planning is underway. We have no meetings in January or February.

Edna Cowin (written up in the last Bulletin) has been delegated to present the Cleveland Medal at the annual Music Festival in the Isle of Man.

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

CATS' CORNER



A charming book for children, "Tea Time Tales" by Rose Fyleman, contains a new version of "How the Manx Cat Lost His Tail." A beautiful Princess in the Isle of Man, carried off by a wicked giant, was accompanied into captivity by her faithful cat. When Prince Charming came to rescue her from her prison, the giant was heard ascending the stairs, so to give the lovers time to escape the gallant cat pushed his tail into the keyhole so the giant could not insert his key. So energetic was the cat that he pushed his tail right through — to be grasped by the giant on the other side. In the resulting tug of war, Pussy's tail was pulled right out, but the lovers had escaped and the heroic but tailless cat made haste after them. All three lived happily together ever after, and the descendants of this truly Manx cat, so far from being ashamed of their lack of tail, are proud of it as a badge of heroism. (1942 NAMA Bulletin)

It was announced in a recent Isle of Man newspaper that the world-famous Manx Cattery in Noble's Park would close at the end of March. The reason given for this decision was that the it was no longer viable either as a commercial concern or as a tourist attraction. The cattery was opened nearly 40 years ago to insure the future of the Island's unique tailless cats.

UP CLOSE & PERSONAL

Norman and Joan Gill

Norman grew up in Duluth, Minnesota, along the shores of Lake Superior. Norm enjoyed spending summers on the Iron Range with his Manx grandparents. It was from them that he first learned of the Isle of Man. He remembers reading the Isle of Man paper, especially about the TT races, at their home. Norm attended the University of Minnesota, Duluth, for his undergraduate degree in chemistry.

Joan was raised on a farm in northern Iowa. She has fond memories of visits from her Manx Canadian relatives. Great Uncle Josh always had amusing stories to share. She received her teaching degree from the University of Northern Iowa.

Following college graduation, both moved to the Twin Cities: Norman to continue his education at the University of Minnesota and Joan to begin her teaching career. They were introduced by mutual friends and were amazed to discover their shared Manx heritage.

Both became active in the Manx Society of Minnesota prior to the 1984 NAMA Convention in Minneapolis. (A trip to the Isle of Man in 1983 was an inspiration to explore their Manx heritage.) Since that time both have served as elected officers of the Minnesota Society. Norman was elected third vice-president of NAMA at the 1988 convention in Toronto. At the 1990 convention in California, they assumed co-editorship, with Sally Dahlquist, of the Bulletin.

Norman's great-grandfather, Norman William Gill, had a tobacco shop in Douglas and his wife was Elizabeth Foster. His other great-grandmother was from St. John and his great-grandfather was a deep sea diver. His grandmother was born in St. John and her family, Corris, had the job every day and night of opening the gate at the railroad crossing to let the train through. His grandfather was a conductor on the railroad. Norman has relatives on the Isle of Man who he has visited on previous trips.

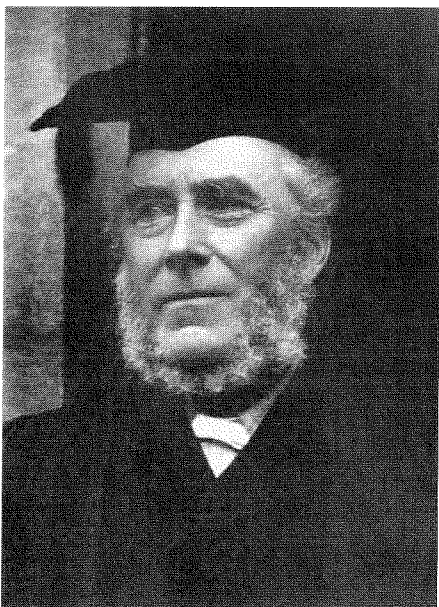
Joan's grandfather, Paul Clark(e), was born in Glenmoye. He and all his siblings emigrated, most of them settling in Canada. According to family lore, great-grandmother Elizabeth Kissick's brother,

1895, he said the following: "We are all Manx people together, and I want you to feel how intensely Manx we are ...You, when you go away have the 'longing'. Oh, it is a terrible thing, this longing. I assure you it has been at the root of everything I have done in connection with Manx literature..."

He had the typical local humor and story telling ability. Some of his humor shows in his comments on the Manx personality. "His own final verdict as that though the Manxman had faults such as proneness to exaggeration, fondness for gossip, vagueness of statement, trad-dy-liooar (time enough), imitation of trippers and lack of initiative, these faults were outweighed by sterling qualities such as sobriety, frugality, skill, industry, shrewdness; and on the whole he was "good and sound and a man to live with."

None of Brown's works were printed for the public until 1881. Many of his poems are in Manx Gaelic....really difficult to read...it takes a genius at least as eminent as Robert Burns, Scottish poet, to lift dialect to the level of the accepted language of English Poetry.

A tribute written seventy years ago expresses the love of all Manx for T.E. Brown: "His day will come, if indeed it has not already come: and I trust that the centenary of his birth may contribute to establish him in the heart of the Manx people, in Ellan Vannin and scattered throughout the world, and to all who love the beautiful and the true. Happy are those who have learned to love and enjoy Brown's poems; and happiest of all are those who also loved and enjoyed the man himself. We shall not look upon his like again."



T.E. Brown

KNOW YOUR ANCESTORS

As most of you know, especially those working on their genealogy records, the surname CHRISTIAN is very popular in the Isle of Man. I came across this Last Will and Testament from 1799 of John Christian and I thought it might be of interest to our readers. Who knows you might find a name or place that you are looking for to complete a missing link.

Last Will & Testament of John Christian of Ballacallow, Kirk Bride - Oct 1799

October 8th 1799

In the name of God Amen.

The Last Will and Testament of John Christian of Ballacallow in the Parish of KK Bride being sick & rather weak in body but of Perfect sound mind & memory at the making hereof:-

First I do commit my Soul to God & my body to Christian Burial.

Item. I do Leave and Bequeath to my Brother Wm. Christian the Amount of all the maney a Mortgaged in his own lands belonging to me as Legacy.

I do Leave and Bequeath to my Brother's Son in law namely John Crow/Airy/ all the Money belonging to me/ which is in a Mortgage in John Crow's own Lands as Legacy.

I do Leave and Bequeath to my Sister Judy Christian all the money belonging to me in /Rheen Corkagh/ in Mortgage and all the money belonging to me in John Kneale /Tocs's/ in Mortgage and also a quarter of My crop as Legacy.

I do Leave and Bequeath to my Sister Bahee Christian all the money belonging to me in a Mortgage in /Close my Gramman/ and also the Amt. of a Mortgage in Wm. Calley's Croft and also a Quarter of my Crop as a legacy.

I do Leave and Bequeath to Daniel Christian /Ballabeg/ Fifteen Pounds of the Money which Daniel Kneen has belonging to me as Legacy.

Item. I do Leave and Bequeath to John Christian /Ballafail/ John Christian /Ballaquark/ and Wm. Christian /Ballabeg/ Three Pounds each of the Money belonging to me in Mortgage in Ballachrink as Legacy.

I do Leave and Bequeath to my Sister Mary Christian /Ballaquark/ Ten Pounds of the Money belonging to me in Mortgage in Ballachrink as Legacy.

I do Leave and Bequeath to the Children of Dorothy Christian /Ballafail/

Nine Pounds between them of the Money belonging to me in Mortgage in /Ballachrink/ as Legacy.

I do Leave and Bequeath to my Grand Nephew John Christian widow Christian's Son / Twenty Pounds of the Money belonging to me in Mortgage in Patrick Knea - Land as Legacy.

I do Leave and Bequeath to the Four Children of Margaret Christian /Ballavarkys/ widow has at her own House Twenty Pounds between them of the Money belonging to me in Mortgage in Patrick Kneale's Land as Legacy.

I do Leave and Bequeath to Marget Christian /widow/ Ballavarky's the Money she has in her own hands belonging to me, as Legacy.

I do Leave and Bequeath to the Poor of the Parish Th— Pounds to be put on Interest for their use.

I do Leave and Bequeath to Phillip Christian, Sal— Christian and Charlotte Christian all of /Ballaquark/ Twenty Pounds between them of the Money belonging to me in Mortgage in Gilbert Christian's Land, as Legacy — and the Remainder of the Money which Gilbert Christian has to my Executors.

I do Leave and Bequeath to my Sisters Judy Christian and Bahee Christian the assignment which I have on the — of Grenaby and also the Amt. of a mortgage which James Brew Esq., had in the aforsd. Estate which I clear'd — as Legacy.

I do Leave and Bequeath to my Grand Nephew Wm. Christian/wid/Christian Ballavarky's son the Amt. of a mortgage which John Kneale Stanley had on the Estate of Grenaby which I cleared of and also which Thos. Cowin had which I cleared of as Legacy.

I do Leave and Bequeath to my grand Nephew Wm. Christian Wid/Christian Ballavarky's Son one Half ?moisty of any Horses, Cattle and Sheep, one Cart —ow and Harrow, and a quarter of my crop as Legacy and Likewise I care of my aforsd. Grand nephew Wm. Christian.

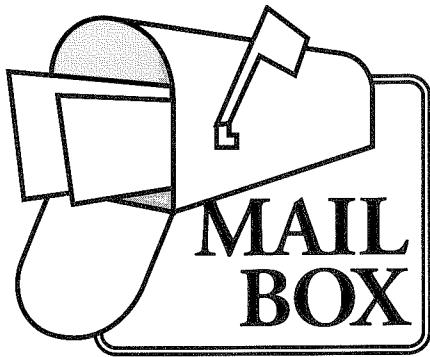
I do Leave and Bequeath to Isabel Christian, Margret Christian and Jane Christian /Ballabeg/ my Sisters Children Ten Pounds each as Legacy of the Money which I had in Mortgage in the San's Croft and the remainder of sd. Mortgage which I have in Sans Croft to Daniel Christian /Ballabeg/ as Legacy.

I do Leave and Bequeath to Daniel Christian /Ballabeg/ all the Money which I have in Mortgage in Thomas Kaneen's House and also on Quarter of my Crop as Legacy.

Continued Page 10

ANCESTORS *Continued*

Lastly I do Nominate, Constitute, appoint, ordain my Sisters, Judy Christian and Bahee Christian, whole and sole Executors of all the Rest of my Goods, Chattels and Effects, moveable and Immovable of what kind soever, and to the witnesses of my Will Five Shillings each as Legacy, of Witnesses present.
John Christian X his mark



Congratulations on the appearance and content of the Bulletin.

I am not Manx and have little knowledge of the history of the Isle of Man. Will you please explain the background or reason for a couple things I have heard or read frequently.

First, T.E. Brown is mentioned often. I believe he was a poet and would like to know about his background and why he is revered.

Also the Island is referred to as "Ellan Vannin." How did this name come about?

I look forward to seeing the answers in a future issue of the Bulletin.

Jo Teare
Inver Grove Heights, Minnesota

In answer to your questions, first see an article about T.E. Brown in this issue. He is generally considered the Manx national poet. He wrote of his own dialect poetry:

*"To my own people do I sing
And use the old familiar speech
Happy, it I shall reach
Their inmost consciousness".*

Second, Ellan Vannin is Manx Gaelic for Isle of Man.

Though you might like to hear a little vignette about our experience in September. We were visiting the Plimoth Plantation in Massachusetts - a living history reconstruction of the Pilgrim Fathers settlement. They live in the period before 1627.

We entered the house of Miles

Standish. He was standing in front of his fireplace greeting visitors. I asked him where he as born. He immediately answered, "The Isle of Man." When I said my mother was born in Ramsey, he answered, "Yes, I was born in the north, too. At Ellanbane!"

So T.R. Anderson's research was accepted well.

Mona Creer
Orland Park, Illinois

Your latest Bulletin delighted me with the interesting articles and even more with the response it elicited. Your "Up Close" feature of me prompted a retired individual, who lives in Billings, Montana, to write to me. His mother was a daughter to the brother of my Manx grandfather who was mentioned in my article. While I had been aware that most of my Great-uncle John's family had moved west (some to California), we had not heard from any of them in the past fifty years. Fred Brew's letter arrived just before Christmas. This unexpected bounty from your paper has brought me the best gift of this holiday season. Thank you!

My good fortune makes me think it would be nice to feature a short article on each member who has lost contact with segments of their Manx families. Would it be too cumbersome or could it be done on a first-received first-to-press basis as Bulletin space permits? My thought is that members should not have to take an office in NAMA to get the opportunities of connecting with family member.

Mary F. Kelly
Cottage Grove, Wisconsin

The editors think this is an excellent idea. Anyone wishing to hear from or about members of their family should send a letter to the editors (address on page 15) with the information they have and a complete address for responses.

By using Prodigy's genealogy bulletin board a member sent me this message: "In researching a Lacy family legend about 'French Huguenots', I came across the surname Lace. There was a group of Huguenots that settled in Dublin, Ireland, and these may account for the surname in the Isle."

George Clucas
San Luis Obispo, CA

The following is from a letter to Robert Kelly of Chicago:

You might recall that we met last year in Chicago at ITME and we discussed arranging a get-together with your fellow

Manx-men in Australia.

There is a Celtic ceremony in Tamworth, nine hours from Sydney in February over a weekend and I realize that this might be a little too sudden for you to contemplate. There is, however another special day, Tynwald on July 5th and with your assistance we might be able to put together a group of Manxman for this occasion. Fares have not been so cheap for many years and the US dollar is very strong against the Australian dollar.

There is also a strong body of Manxman on Norfolk Island some 600 miles north-east of Sydney. The island is inhabited mainly by descendants of the "Bounty" from over-crowded Pitcairn Island who settled in Norfolk Island back in 1861.

If you'd like to discuss visiting your fellow countrymen in Australia please call me in New York or speak to our office in Chicago on 312-368-0525. I suspect that they are not far from where you live. We are at 230 North Michigan, Room 1018, ask for Emi Weir, our Regional Sales Manager.

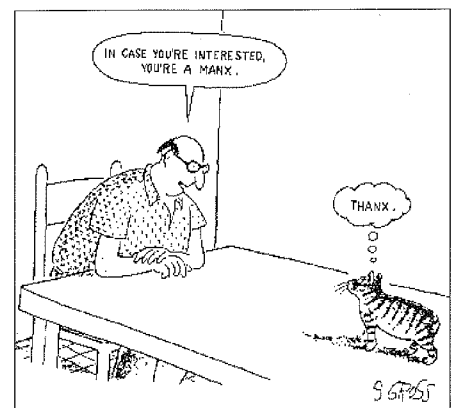
Eric Engledew
Austravel
Suite 616
New York, NY 10017

I sincerely apologize for my lateness (for 1991 and 1992 dues)—I do so enjoy the NAMA, have belonged to it for many years—and the Bulletin is wonderful to read—it's the best ever.

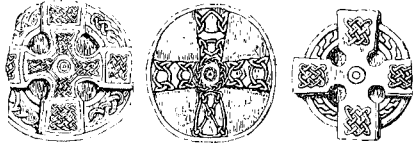
Ena Kermode Boroman
Longboat Key, Florida

We really enjoy the Bulletins each quarter. Like to hear the news from the Isle of Man, past and present. Also the history, folk tales and upcoming events. It is very interesting and just keeps getting better. Thank you for all your good work.

Marilyn Kelly



New Yorker magazine Aug. 19, 1991



Chaplain's Corner

As I was preparing to write a column for this Bulletin, I was asked to plan for a talk for a men's group (of another denomination than mine) to speak about our Manx heritage. This is quite a challenge. How much of Manx history and culture can one cover in about thirty minutes! I have attended the conventions since 1974, and have been chaplain at all of them. I have visited the Isle twice, and I have gathered quite a collection of bulletins, programs, and other memorabilia, including a few books. Obviously, I cannot make use of all of these—but perhaps the group will at least have some idea of "Ellan Vannin, with its green hills by the sea". And, we shall include mention of the part the Church has played in undergirding a stalwart religious faith in these sturdy Celts, our ancestors.

Herbert G. Kelly, Chaplain



Manx National Heritage

The Manx National Trust and the Manx Museum have combined under the public title of Manx National Heritage. Similarly, their support groups have combined and approved the adoption of the name Friends of Manx National Heritage.

This new organisation will have over 2,000 members and with this strong support, plus the finances of the combined organisations, will be able to assist the Trustees much more than in the past. It will enable them to give a much better service to their members.

The recent increase in the properties under the control of the Manx Museum requires the support of one strong body of Friends. The new organisation will be there to support any part of the work of what is now called Manx National Heritage, and will include not only the Museum, but also Cregneash with its farm, Castle Rushen and the Nautical Museum in Castletown, the Castle and Odin Raven in Peel, the Wheel in Laxey, and the The Grove in Ramsey, as well as the Calf and the lands and Ancient Monuments.

Cre'n Traa T'eh?

by Mary F. Kelly

No matter how you ask "Cre'n traa t'eh?" in Manx Gaelg or "What time is it?" in English the correct answer is "THIS is the right time to get acquainted with your Manx ancestry and the wonderful cultural heritage of the Isle of Man." You know about the North American Manx Association and enjoy the bountiful NAMA Bulletin. Why not use the coupon below to share a complimentary issue with someone with Manx ancestry who has not yet learned the benefits of belonging to our group? Encourage other Manx friends to join NAMA today!

Complimentary NAMA Bulletin Request Form

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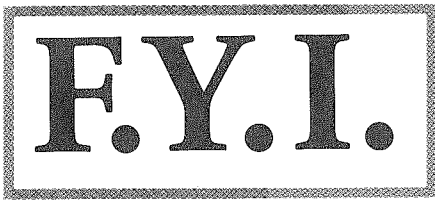
Broadview Heights, OH

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RAMSEY LIFEBOAT STATION

There may well be a number of your Members who have connections with Ramsey and will be aware that ours is one of the oldest Lifeboat Stations in the world. This year we have a new boathouse with some of the most sophisticated launching equipment existing.

To mark the occasion Captain Bill Seybold volunteered to write a station history. The result is outstanding. It is a high quality production giving a detailed history of the Station and all of the boats, personnel and rescues over the one hundred and sixty two years of the Station's existence. The book is liberally illustrated.

Captain Seybold is organising all postal sales and if any of your Members would like to order copies of it, could they please get in touch with him as follows:

Captain Bill Seybold, Cair Vie, 36 Ballerterson Fields, Ballaugh, Isle of Man, BRITISH ISLES.

Excerpts from a letter from the Royal National Lifeboat Institution.

DIRECTORY OF MANX HERITAGE

The Northern California branch of NAMA voted to serve as the sponsoring group for the following project: the publication of "The Directory of Manx Heritage in the United States and Canada." The planned production would contain an Introductory section on the Manx Heritage, Manx contributions to the History of North America, and famous people with Manx heritage; a section of about 250 pages of paid listings with photographs and biographies of community leaders, business and professional people, and others who have Manx heritage; and a section of Manx related organizations and their contact addresses, plus NAMA membership listings, and paid line listings for other individuals with Manx heritage.

This group is planning to get the information mailer out to NAMA membership soon.

Dale Skillicorn
729 Palm Avenue
Watsonville, CA 95076
408-722-0580

MANX YANKS

In the November 19, 1991, edition of the *Isle of Man Examiner*, there was an article about the "American invasion" being planned for next July. Don Quayle, member of the Greater Washington DC Area Manx Society, was on the Island to set the wheels in motion for the NAMA 92 Convention. He hopes the visitors will be offered an alternative to the typical 'tourist' experience and is appealing to Island residents with knowledge of nature hikes, children's activities, traditional handicrafts and Manx farming or fishing to come forward.

VIDEO

An excellent video, *Story of Mann*, was produced by the Manx Museum when they opened their new wing. This historical view of the IOM is narrated by Sir Anthony Quayle. If your society would like to borrow a copy of this video, contact Ron Quayle or Norman Gill. Their addresses are listed on page 15.

WORLD TITLES FOR MANXMAN IN US

Bob Allen, 60, a Douglas hotelier, won two world championships and finished as silver medallist in a third cycling event in the recent World Senior Games at St. George, Utah, USA.

A native of Northern Ireland, Bob became a roving ambassador for the Isle of Man, his home for many years, and was invited to address the town council by the mayor.

"That was a bit of an ordeal," said a modest Bob, a member of the Ellan Vannin Cycling Club which is sponsored by Pepsi and Smithwicks, who won a bronze medal in the British national 100

miles times trial championship and a silver medal in the 12 hours championship earlier this year.

Bob is now planning his return to America for the next year's championships. 'I won some special prizes along the way including a night for two at the Holiday Inn and a meal for two in a Mexican restaurant — that's one day's cost taken care of,' he joked.

Excerpts from an article in the *Isle of Man Examiner*, November 19, 1991.

KELLY REUNION

Thousands of people are expected to descend on the Isle of Man (for the) May Bank holiday weekend for a "Kelly reunion" as part of ITV's fundraising Telethon extravaganza.

Every 'Kelly' in the British Isles will be invited to come to the Island to spend a weekend with their indigenous namesakes.

Excerpts from an article in the *Isle of Man Examiner*, December 3, 1991

DEADLINES

We plan to issue four NAMA Bulletins each year. We welcome and need your contributions to the Bulletin at any time. However, listed below are the deadlines by which we must receive your materials in order to make a given issue.

<u>Deadline</u>	<u>Bulletin Issue</u>
February 10	March
May 10	June
August 10	September
November 10	December

Please keep these dates in your reference files. We are looking forward to hearing from you. Photos, preferable black and white, are greatly appreciated with your articles.

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