

N A M A

NORTH AMERICAN MANX ASSOCIATION

Vol. 77, No. 2

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

Summer 2006

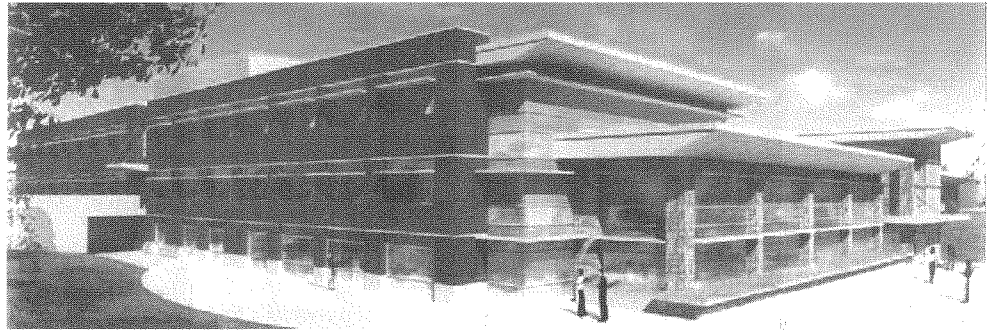
San Diego Convention in August To Be NAMA's 48th Biennial Meeting

NAMA members gather together every two years to renew acquaintances, celebrate their common island ancestries, strengthen their Manx bonds and plan fresh ways to keep the keep the Manx culture strong in North America.

The 2006 convention in San Diego, CA August 27-30 will be the association's 48th such gathering, plus which there have been a number of "homecoming" gatherings on the Island of Man between conventions. NAMA has convened four times previously in California: San Francisco in 1955, Huntington Beach in 1968, San Diego in 1982 and Santa Clara in 1990.

This year's convention will provide of full schedule of association events, which are detailed in the convention registration form that is part of this bulletin mailing, plus abundant time to tour historic and beautiful San Diego and to enjoy the features of the Bahia Resort Hotel, site of the convention.

Convention chairman Laurence Skelly, who will take office as NAMA president at the gathering, is a former San Diego resident and is supported by members of the very active San Diego Manx Society.



Ground Is Broken for University Center That Will House a Manx Museum

The University of Wisconsin – Platteville held a groundbreaking ceremony of May 9, 2006 in Velzy Commons of Ullsvik Hall to mark the beginning of the construction phase of a three-story addition and complete remodeling of the complex. The building will house the new Luce Center with a museum including the North American Manx Museum, the Southwest Wisconsin Archives, and the Harry Nohr Art Gallery, plus banquet facilities and offices.

When completed the center will focus attention on the heritage of early settlers on this section of the tristate (Illinois, Iowa and Wisconsin) region as well as prepare students for careers in an ever-changing world.

In addition to allocating permanent space for displaying Manx historic items of the area, the university has offered to house and preserve many of the treasures now held by the NAMA trustees. Members of the association would have access to these items for display at conventions and other events. The NAMA Board will consider the UWP offer at its convention in August.

Mary Kelly, a NAMA director and a former NAMA president, is a member of the museum committee which planned the project.



The Bahia Resort Hotel

site of the 2006 NAMA Convention.

Now is the time to sign up for the NAMA 2006 convention in San Diego, CA August 27 - 30.

A schedule of events and registration form are enclosed in this issue. Please join us for event-filled days in beautiful San Diego.

Chaplain's Corner

from Rev. Devore C. Smith

Our Manx convention of 2006 at San Diego will feature the barque Star of India, launched at Ramsey, Isle of Man November 13, 1863 as the Euterpe. The figurehead at her bow is the Greek mythological goddess Euterpe, goddess of lyric poetry. She inspired the sailings of the square-rigged ship for 21 times around the world. Lyric poetry inspires the citizens of many nations, including Americans with our "Star Spangled Banner" and "America the Beautiful" and especially us Manxmen with our "Ellan Vannin" (the name Enchanted Island given by the Romans). Be inspired with us at our San Diego Convention as we sing our Many lyric poetry:

*When the summer day is over
And its busy cares have flown,
I sit beneath the starlight
With weary heart alone;
Then rises like a vision,
Sparkling bright in nature's glee,
My own dear Ellan Vannin,
With its green hills by the sea.*

NAMA's Annual Awards Honor Manx Culture

Again in 2006 as they have for many years the presentation of NAMA awards for achievements in cultural areas on the island remind residents of the continued interests of their North American "cousins" in their ancestral homeland.

In May the Cleveland Medal was won by a young Manx-born soprano who achieved an ambition she had held since she was a child. The Cleveland medal was first sent to the island by 1923 by the ladies auxiliary of the Cleveland Manx society, many of whom were singers and who wanted to acknowledge their musical roots.

The Cleveland Medal is a highly sought honor among Manx musicians and the annual competition is widely reported.

In July, for the 27th year, awards will be presented by NAMA to Isle of Man students who are judged to have made special contributions to preserving Manx culture. Prizes will be given for achievements in music, arts and crafts, Manx language and other cultural areas. The entries are submitted by students and judged by the island's Department of Education.

Manx Heritage Foundation Establishes Music Database

In 1986 The Manx Heritage Foundation was created by an act of Tynwald to promote and encourage all aspects of Manx culture. As part of their recent music policy, Cinzia Curtis was appointed in 2003 as Manx Music Resource coordinator to collect together all the references to Manx music and pieces for performance.

The result is the Manx Music Database that was launched in February 2006. It is now accessible via the Manx Heritage website at www.manxheritage.com. The coordinator may also be reached at the Center for Manx Studies, 6 Kingswood Drive, Douglas, Isle of Man IM2 3LX.

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HATS OFF TO ANCESTORS! Keeping Memories Alive

A fun way to remember someone's life is to create a decorated hat. On the hat can be small items, perhaps miniatures, that represent events in a life or characteristics of the person. This started out in our family with Mom decorating a straw hat for each of three teenage daughters. I put a fancy ribbon and bow around the brim in colors that coordinated with their rooms. I made lists of the qualities I admired in each of the girls. Then I combed the stores for little items to represent those qualities and attached them around the ribbon.

Since then, several hats were made by some of my children to represent ancestors. This was especially enjoyable for two great grandmothers who had stories about hat making in their lives. The fun part is to take your time thinking of and finding or making any little item to use. We found a number of small items like a sewing machine, butter churn, stack of books, small bottle, shell, flags, ships, sewing fabric/thimble/needle, scissors, farm implements or animals, and even a framed photo. In fact, all items could be drawn or printed and the frames could surround the brim.

The hat need not be a straw one; it could even be a baseball hat. Or, you would not have to use a hat at all, the items could be displayed any number of ways, such as a shadow box, glass jar, glued to a board, etc. The best part of this type of project is that as you search for or make items, you are remembering a wonderful person who is part of your life.

Hats off to our ancestors!

— Lucy Q. Peterson



New Island Stamps Salute Six Noted Manx-Americans



A set of six stamps issued by the Isle of Man Post in May celebrated Manx links with Washington, DC. by showing six influential Manx-Americans who had been associated with the city.

Joseph Cannon, whose Manx origins were in Kirk Michael and German, was the most powerful speaker ever in the US House of Representatives and was known as "Czar Cannon."

Journalists Mary Clemmer, whose mother came from Peel, lived on Capitol Hill and was regularly sought out by politicians for her advice. She is credited with creating the term "First Lady" to identify the wives of US presidents.

Virginia-born Letitia Christian Tyler, wife of the 10th US president John Tyler, became First Lady in 1841 and could trace her ancestry back to Daniel Christian of Baldromma.

Manx-American Matthew Stanley Quay was credited with being responsible for the election of President Benjamin Harrison and was one of the first to qualify for the new Congressional Medal of Honor.

Henry "Marse" Watterson, whose origins were in Patrick, was a Florida-based newspaper owner credited with dissuading President Theodore Roosevelt from seeking a third term in office and with shaping Democratic party policy for two generations.

Ewan Clague, the Washington-born son of a Castletown couple, led a team of statisticians responsible for America's Marshall Plan of economic aid that helped the economic recovery of Europe after World War II.

Stamps are available for purchase at www.iompost.com/stamps

***Don't miss out on all the fun -
book your Convention reservations today!
Details on page 8 - Registration form enclosed.***

NEW BOOKS OFFER NAMA READERS A VARIED CHOICE OF SUBJECTS

A quintet of new books ranging from mystery to history, all with a Manx connection of sorts, has come off the presses and on to the book shelves. NAMA members can take their choice.

For mystery lovers there is *The Chef Who Died Sautéing*, co-authored by Honora Finkelstein and Susan Smily, a page-turner about a psychic detective of Manx-Irish heritage. The sleuth, named Ariel Quigley, talks to ghosts and has precognitive dreams which help unravel the killing of a gourmet chef in an upscale Virginia restaurant. Author Finkelstein is a member of the Washington Area Manx Society and while of Irish heritage has an attachment to the Manx people and the isle. Her maiden name was Moore, which should count for something. "The Chef Who..." is the first of Ariel Quigley mysteries yet to come and can easily be found at the Amazon.com website, if your local bookstore can't help.

Admirers of the noted Manx marine biologist Trevor Norton will welcome his latest book *"Under Water To Get Out of the Rain"*. Professor Norton recently retired as Director of the Marine Laboratory at Port Erin and writes, the London Times says "so lyrically that you can taste the salt of his bonding with the oceans, from the submarine lava tunnels of Lanzarote to the kelp forests of California and the pure silver strands of the Hebrides." This autobiographical travel book can be found at the Amazon website, Borders and other book stores.

For fans of the TT races and of mysteries in general there is *"Murder on the Mountain"*, a new thriller by author T.D. Maughold. It is a tale of mystery and intrigue set against the backdrop of the TT on the Isle of Man, which the writer calls "the road racing capital of the world." The book may not yet be available from Amazon.com, but can be ordered through www.infopath.co.im.

Fans of the Peel-based writer Ean Wood may be interested in his just issued biography of the famous dancer Isadora Duncan. *"Headlong Through Life"* is described as a racy and compelling history that gives readers a front-seat ride in the breathless career of that extraordinary woman. Mr. Wood has written popular biographies of a number of famous performing artists, all of which, like the latest, are listed on the Amazon website.

Finally, for real NAMA purists two books have just been printed in the Manx language, believed to be the first such volumes. First serialized in the Manx independent newspaper, Dunveryssyn Tooder-folley (The Vampire Murders) and Reks Carlo ayns Mannin (Rex Carlo in the Isle of Man) were launched by the Manx Gaelic Society -Yo Cheshaght Ghailckagh. Written by Brian Stowell, the vampire story is believed to be the first full length novel written in Manx. Set in the present day, it involves scandalous shenanigans and the suspicious death of two politicians. The other book is translation from an Irish work. Contact the Gaelic Society about copies.

And for all those members who have been awaiting **The Manx Connection** by John Quirk, this chronicle of how Isle of Man folks settled in many scattered parts of the world is getting closer to final publication, the author reports.

The Bulletin will keep you abreast of it's release date.



What a Great Gift! A NAMA Membership

The editor of the bulletin recently received an email that said "I think my aunt signed me up and paid for a one-year membership in your organization. I looked through the spring 2006 newsletter and noticed that the annual convention is here in San Diego. That's where I live. I also noticed that there is a San Diego chapter. Here are my questions: are my dues paid? It appears they are. How do I get in touch with someone in the San Diego chapter?"

A couple of emails to members of the San Diego chapter got all parties together.

Our new member commented "I have a VERY thoughtful aunt, the best a nephew could ask for. She is ¼ Manx. Need I say more?"

Hopefully this story will inspire other aunts, or uncles etc to give a gift of NAMA membership.

Manx Bird Atlas To Be Published

A five year study to record bird species and numbers in every square kilometer of the island will result in the publication this fall of the Manx Bird Atlas. The study has been hailed as a world leading project in its field.

The Manx Bird Atlas is a charity formed to undertake scientific research of the birds of the island. It is run by a board of four directors and employs two full-time and two seasonal contract staff and operates from the home of one of the directors.

Project director Chris Sharpe said that while the publication of the atlas itself marks the end of the specific project, the work of the Manx Bird Atlas as an organization will continue.

Recounting a Manx Family Heritage

I am Florence Abbinanti, the mother of Brad Prendergast, the current NAMA president and of John Prendergast the treasurer. I am proud of both of my sons, and I know that my mother and father would be busting their buttons over them.

My folks raised me American Manx, and I am glad that they did. My mother was born in Port St. Mary and was the daughter of a sea captain, Edward Elliott. She had five brothers who were also sea captains. One of her brothers, William, was a Lieutenant in the British navy in World War 1. Another brother, David, was honored by the Queen for saving six sailors from the North Sea in World War 2.

My father was born in Douglas and came to the United States in the early 1900's. He stayed with Harry and Elsie Corrin, until he could find work. Harry and Elsie were the parents of Charles Corrin who once was NAMA president. My Dad went all through grammar school in the Isle of Man with Bill Clucas, the father of a former NAMA president, Norman Clucas. My father was a carpenter by trade and became a building contractor in the area of the Chicago south shore.

These last four years have been such a pleasure for me because Brad was convention chairman, and I took all his Manx telephone calls and mailings, as I work in his office two days a week. I was able to talk to people that I had not heard from in years. It was a wonderful experience.

Then Brad became president and I did some of the correspondence for him. Before the 2004 convention in Chicago my son John did all the footwork for Brad. All the committee members were busy as well. Now John does all the treasurer duties for NAMA, and at times I have helped him. John gets lots of correspondence and seems to enjoy the work very much. Last year my family and I went to the Isle of Man for the Homecoming. We had a wonderful time even though it rained every day we were there. Our umbrellas were a good investment. Will close now. Have a good convention. Sincerely, Florence Abbinanti.

'Freedom to Flourish' Is Isle's New Motto

After a search for a verbal phrase to sum up the image the Isle of Man should present to encourage business and tourist interest, those concerned with the island's "branding" are spreading the idea that the isle offers "Freedom to Flourish".

According to a Manx radio report, the "Brand Book" put it in these terms "we have to stand out and play to our own strengths. We mustn't lose sight of what makes the Isle of Man unique and we mustn't make the mistake of becoming plastic and featureless."

Why the need for a brand strategy? The news report said the people desire 'a strong national identity that encourages social cohesion and economic success.'

The branding program and "Freedom to Flourish" phrase has been endorsed by Tynwald. Reportedly, 83% of residents found the phrase personally appealing and even more thought it would appeal to outsiders.

Society Formed to Honor Designer Archibald Knox

Admirers of the noted Manx designer Archibald Knox, 1864-1933, earlier this year organized an international society in his memory.

Its stated mission is "To promote the legacy of Archibald Knox both nationally and internationally, thus furthering the artistic and cultural identity of the Isle of Man and attributing to Knox his rightful place in the history of the decorative arts as one of the foremost artists/designers of the late 19th and early 20th century."

Born in the village of Cronkbourne, Knox was deeply influenced by the many ancient Celtic crosses found all over the island. The intricately carved patterns of the stone crosses were to become the recognizable symbols of his work, especially in his decorative jewelry pieces.

Knox was a teacher of wide repute in both England and the Isle of Man.

Membership applications and further information may be had at The Archibald Knox Society at 6 Kingswood Grove, Douglas, IOM, IM1 3LX or at AKSociety@manx.net.

Walkers from the US Join Island Festival

The annual Manx Walking Festival, a five day 95-mile coastal hike around the island, has drawn the interest of a group of hardy Americans.

The Naples Club from Florida is sending 13 walkers to the event, and they will be joined by individuals from Boston, Florida and California. There are no known NAMA members in the group, but hopefully one from Naples will be wearing a shirt supplied by Laurence Skelly bearing the NAMA logo.

Freedom to Flourish

Society News

CLEVELAND MANX SOCIETY

It is hard to believe that summer is around the corner, but here in Northeastern Ohio it is most welcome! We have finally put away our snow shovels and started our warm weather adventures!

In May, the membership went to visit the Clague House Museum. A tribute to the Clague family, it was a treasure trove of Manx memorabilia! Robert Clague immigrated to the States in 1829. He returned to the Isle of Man long enough to marry Margaret Cowell. Together they returned to Dover, Ohio and set up housekeeping in a log cabin. The cabin was later replaced by a frame house, then a magnificent brick house (in 1876), which is now the Clague Museum. The house is located at what is now known as Clague Road. Having a road named after you in the late 1800's was no easy feat. Robert Clague had to hand cut a thick forest to create the road that was named after him! In July of 1975, the Ohio Historical Site Preservation Committee recommended that the Clague House be included in the National Register of Historic Places. Thus, a rather obscure Manx immigrant couple has made a contribution of National significance.

In June, we plan to take a train ride to historic Peninsula, Ohio. Peninsula is the location of the Hale Farm, which is run the same way it was during the American Civil War. People still dress the part in authentic costumes. However, our group will probably head for the restaurants and antique shopping! More on our train adventure in the next issue. Have a wonderful summer!

- CJ (Carol) Burhenne

VANCOUVER MANX SOCIETY

Right now, the activities of our society are at a standstill, but there are a lot of happenings occurring with some of our members.

Vice President Angus Gillon and his wife Judith have moved to a new home. We wish them well in their new abode, but the great backyard where we have had our annual picnics has gone with the move. Happily their son, also Angus, has donated his backyard in Surrey for our picnic on July 16. The committee held its first meeting of this year in the Gillon's new home, with discussions of the picnic, a date for the "Back End Do" and ideas on how to celebrate our 100th anniversary.

Our treasurer Mona Witsten has had relatives Moira and Mark Pendelberry from Port St. Mary, Isle of Man, visiting her and her family. The trip to Canada is a 25th anniversary celebration and has included excursions to Alaska by cruise ship and a train trip on the "Rocky Mountaineer" from British Columbia into Alberta at Banff.

In June, Dave and Mary Costain of Kamloops, BC will be on their first trip to the Isle of Man, where they will trace his family roots and visit relatives.

Our treasurer Mona Wilson and fellow member Gladys Jones have been busy knitting teddy bears. The count is now over 100, all for donation to the BC Ambulance Service which gives them away when needed on their calls.

- Barbara Condon

WASHINGTON AREA MANX SOCIETY

In a break with tradition, the Washington Area Manx Society decided to hold a spring picnic instead of our usual formal dinner, to encase our annual business meeting this year. With 18 adults and 22 children in attendance we for once managed to shake off our "gray wave" identity. We booked a park in Washington, DC, ordered BBQ, had all the items gathered for a sports day with eggs and spoons, and potato sacks and tape for the three-legged race at the ready. And guess what? A truly Manx experience for all those children – it poured rain.

We were fortunate that our own Bill Cassidy (or William as he becomes for our events) brought the other half of his Celtic Duo, Na Maraghan, in the form of Ed Bradshaw, who played great music in the park hut for us as we gazed out through the raindrops to see all the children kicking a soccer ball around the park. They didn't seem to care about the weather and worked up a great appetite before descending on us all covered in mud to devour not only the pulled pork but masses of the home-made desserts and cookies brought by the members. Despite all the rain, it was a fun, informal afternoon which allowed a great of socializing and catching up with members.

(Washington Area Manx Society Continued)

The members voted to make Mrs. Avril Shipman an Honorary Governor of the society in recognition both of her long service to the society and for being our prodigious “institutional memory” of all things to do with it. We are also planning a field trip out into the Shenandoah to the Frontier Museum and there about to see where the early Manx settling families of the Christians and the Looneys established themselves in Virginia. Anyone interested should check our website for occasional updates at www.manxdsociety.com. This is a great source of all sorts of things Manx and is maintained by the multi-talented WAMS secretary – Jim Kneale. – Kelly McCarthy, President

Discovering New Relations By Tracing Your Ancestors

Greetings from sunny San Diego. My husband Don and I belong to the San Diego Chapter of NAMA and would like to share with you my Quayle family genealogy. You may have read in the last issue that we reviewed at our local chapter meeting how our genealogy linked with two other members of our chapter, Robert Kermeen and Kermeen Fristrom. I am also related to Ronald J. Quayle, of Maine, a member of NAMA.

Our link to the IOM began with three brothers who lived on the IOM in the late eighteen hundreds and eventually immigrated to Crystal Falls, on the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. We have traced these three brother's ancestry back to a Patrick Quayle born in the mid 18th century from the Lezayre area.

One brother, Robert Benjamin Quayle married Emma Jane McKenzie on February 24, 1902. One of the 7 children born on the IOM was my maternal grandmother, Gladys Evelyn Quayle Welch Lundin.

A second brother, Thomas Albert Quayle is the grandfather of Ronald J. Quayle, which makes Ronald my second cousin once removed.

The third brother, William Henry Quayle married Eleanor Jane Kermeen in 1890. This marriage joined my ancestors with those of the Kermeen family and resulted in my being related by marriage to two members of the San Diego Manx Society, Robert Kermeen and Kermeen Fristrom.

As you can see, learning about your genealogy can lead you to discover relationships that we all share in our rich IOM heritage. My husband and I have worked with our genealogy for 9 years and have printed three booklets about our various sections of our ancestors. Genealogy is always a ‘work in progress’ and an activity ‘to be continued’.

– Linda and Don Beauregard

Volumes of Island History Now in Publication

Two additional volumes in the five-volume history of the Isle of Man being developed by the Liverpool University Press are now available for purchase.

The first volume of the series, **The Evolution of the Natural Landscape**, comprises a natural history of the island from some 500 million years ago to the present day. Beginning with the story of the first arrival of plants and animals on the island's rocky shores. it concludes with an appraisal of changes in the environment of the island wrought by its human residents. The authors are Richard Chiverrell and Geoffrey Thomas.

Volume 3, **The Medieval Period**, covers a period of importance to the isle's development, as the island's proximity to Britain, Ireland and Scandinavia made it a nexus of differing military, political, economic and ecclesiastical aims. These interests helped lay the foundations of the current Manx culture. The author is San Duffy.

The books may be purchased from the University of Chicago Press. They are \$100 each in cloth bound and \$40 in paperback. Information is available on the internet at www.press.uchicago.edu

Volume 5 in the series, **The Modern Period 1830-1999**, was published several years ago and is also available from the University of Chicago. It also is written by Messer's Chiverrell and Thomas.

Volume 2 called **Prehistory** and volume 4 **The Derby and Atholl Periods 1405 - 1830** are still awaiting publication.

48th Biennial NAMA Convention

Bahia Resort, San Diego, CA

August 27-30, 2006

Plans are now set for this exciting event. The San Diego local society looks forward to welcoming member and friends to their fabulous city, known as America's Finest City

Here is an outline of the program:

August 27 - Registration check-in desk - 2PM - 8PM

Afternoon NAMA Board meeting - 1PM - 3PM

Welcome reception - 4PM - 6PM

August 28 - NAMA General Meeting - 9AM - Noon

Registration desk open - 8:30 AM

Afternoon free

Depart 4PM for San Diego Maritime Museum. Private tour and reception onboard the "Star of India". Afterwards we board the "Berkeley" (old bay area steamer) for a meal.

August 29 - Manx landscape photography show - 9:30 AM - 11AM

Myrci Corrin from Ramsey will show works from his collection that spans over 40

Years

Afternoon -Optional Harbor Cruise - details to be sent with registration

Evening Farewell Banquet - 6:30 PM.

Guest Speaker - President of Tynwald -Noel Cringle

Convention registration cost is \$160 per person, which includes:

Registration fee and welcome pack

Convention program

All events except the harbor cruise

2 evening meals - 28th and 29th and welcome reception on the 27th

Transportation to and from the Maritime Museum.

Hotel costs are \$119 plus tax per night twin/double room only. www.bahiaresort.com or 800-576-4229. Bahia Resort, 998 West Mission Bay Drive, San Diego, CA 92109. Please advise that you are booking for the NAMA convention for this special rate. Please note that you can stay 3 nights either side of the convention dates for this special rate. There is much to see and do in San Diego.-

Airport transportation is extra from San Diego airport. Please call Cloud 9 Shuttle. 1-800-974-8885. which is offering a special rate of \$12 each way for arrival/departure transfers to the Bahia Resort

Registration Form

**NAMA 2006 Convention
Bahia Resort, San Diego, CA
August 27-30, 2006**

Full Name/s of all registrants:

.....
.....
.....

Full address:

.....
.....

Telephone number.....Email.....

Any special requests?.....

.....

Optional Harbor Cruise? (Approx. \$25) Yes..... No thanks.....

**Please make checks payable to North American Manx Association.
Registration: \$160 per person (Isle of Man attendees may pay in full
at registration desk, but please return this form.)**

**Please send form and check to: Mrs. Hilary Harrison
2353 Geranium Street
San Diego, CA 92109**

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**If you can't be with us but would like to share in the fun by taking part in the
traditional convention raffle, you can order tickets from Ms. Harrison: \$1 each,
6 for \$5 .**

See you in San Diego

Bring a friend