

## TURNBULL CLAN ASSOCIATION

## NEWSLETTER

It was a proud and happy day for all those who attended the first U. S. Gathering of the Turnbull Clan Association on August 11th at the Rocky Mountain Highland Games in Golden, Colorado. The response was grand enough to spur on any committee. Members journeyed from California, Washington, Montana, Colorado, Missouri, New York, Minnesota and Illinois. The host committee was pleased that 29 of our members turned out for their Clan Societies dinner at which our own Rev. William D. Turnbull of St. Francis De Sales Church, Troy, New York, was pleased and honored to deliver the blessing.

Our two tartans made their first U. S., public debut, at the Games. The tartan presentation card shown at the tent was the subject of compliments from some of the other Clan representatives. Being one of the "new kids on the block", the compliments were well received and made us feel we were one of the bunch.

The following day, a business meeting was held. The meeting was well attended and member participation turned up a lot of projects for the future.

While we have done extremely well with direct mail campaigns, it was felt that representation at Games in areas where we have a goodly number of members is a desirable way to raise our visibility, not only to future members but in the realm of the Scottish Clan Societies. With that thought in mind, Rev. William D. Turnbull volunteered to represent the Clan at the Capital District Scottish Games in Altamont, New York on September 1st. He reported that the tent was not as busy as the one at Golden but he had time to mingle with some of the other Clan Representatives and to exchange thoughts and ideas. Rev. Turnbull said that our tartan presentation was commented upon at the Games in Altamont.

Our Clan has lain dormant for so long that we have to begin from the beginning and the learning process takes time, but our experiences at Golden and Altamont show we are on our way.

The weekend of October 12-15th, our parent organization held its Second International Gathering of the Clan. They planned a very interesting program. It is hoped that all U. S. members who were making plans to attend were able to do so. Your fellow Clansmen would love to hear a report from you.

## 1980 GATHERING - ORLANDO, FLORIDA

In keeping with our decision to try to chose those Games close to where we have a fair number of members, we have chosen the Games at Orlando, Florida as our 1980 site for a Gathering. The Orlando Games will be held January 18 - 20th. The host committee has obtained rooms at the Court of Flags Hotel at a very affordable price. Details are on a separate sheet. Please read carefully.

We are trying to figure out a good time to have a business meeting without cutting into the social program or personal plans. Inasmuch as everything but the Games will be held at the hotel, perhaps we could hold that meeting at 6:00 PM on Sat., the 19th, in our hotel room.

The Tartan Ball costs \$12.50 per person, includes lavish hors d'oeuvres and set-ups. Reservations for the Tartan Ball must be received by December 31, 1979. Send check and reservation to Orlando Scottish Highland Games, P. O. Box 2948, Orlando, Florida 32802. Bill and I will not be attending the Ball in order to allow ourselves maximum visiting time with our members who do not care to attend.

The program on Sunday is quite full and we do not want to deprive anyone of the Kirking of the Tartans ceremony in the morning, nor of spending the rest of the day at Disney World where the bands and dancers from the Games will perform again.

To guarantee a room at the Court of Flags, send check for first night as a deposit, ask for confirmation. Mail to Court of Flags, 5715 Major Blvd., Orlando, Florida 32805. Phone 1-305-351-3340.

The address for any other inquiries regarding the Games, Cocktail party, Tartan Ball, etc. is: ORLANDO SCOTTISH HIGHLAND GAMES, P. O. Box 2948, Orlando, Florida 32802. An enclosed self-addressed, stamped envelope will speed up a reply.

Those members attending the meeting in Golden have asked for a Directory of our members. It is with pleasure that we enclose our first Directory. It is hoped that this will instill some communication between those Turnbells who reside nearby or thru whose area we pass in our travels. As you can see, our membership roster could use some more members. Go thru your local phone books and dial those who share our name and let them know we are seeking to take our place among the Scottish Clan Societies, here and in Scotland, and we need their support. Memberships received after this Newsletter will find their names and addresses published in the next Newsletter so the general membership can insert them on the Directory.

This will be the last Newsletter which will be mailed to those on John's list and who have not as yet become U. S. members. Those of you who receive a membership application with this Newsletter will receive a Directory upon receipt of your 1979-80 dues.

We regret that there has been some confusion regarding the dues. Our U. S. mailing and the dues renewal forms from our parent organization in Scotland arrived rather close together. Some folks thought they were paying for the one when they were actually paying for the other. To set the record straight: the dues for Scotland are \$5.00 and the dues for the U. S. are \$8.00. The folks at the meeting suggested a combined dues for next year, but we will have to take that up with the Council in Scotland.

We have had many requests for genealogical articles and reference books and also names have been submitted that folks are searching for. We will list anything you would like to send us. We welcome any articles on the subject you care to submit. It would seem that the Turnbells in general were very poor family record keepers.

It is hoped that the snapshots taken of the U. S. Gathering in Golden arrived in time to be viewed at the Gathering in Hawick. Would like to know what remarks they invoke. It has been agreed by most that the Turnbull men share a very strong resemblance to each other. We Turnbull women are a little more original. However, there are some pretty strong characteristics that come down the line and which are shared by both sexes. Being independent and strong willed are strong traits.

May you all have a happy, glorious fall season. Bill joins me in wishing all of you the happiest of holidays and a Happy New Year. Remember, if you go first footing, it is a dark haired person that has to cross the threshold first for good luck. Happy Hogmanay.

AUDACI FAVET FORTUNA



## THE KIRKING O' THE TARTAN CEREMONY

One of the colorful ceremonies often seen at large Scottish gatherings is the solemn ritual of blessing the tartan. It can be performed either indoors or in the open and combines the colorful Scottish attire, the national colors and of course the stirring sound of the piper. No one who has witnessed the ceremony is likely to forget it.

As practiced in the outdoor church service at the Grandfather Mountain Highland Games, the tartan attached to a pole as if it were a banner is carried by a representative of the appropriate clan. After the sermon, to the sound of the pipes the group - some sixty or more - in column of fours approach the altar. The pipers take position at either side of the altar. At the beginning of the actual blessing, the tartan poles are dipped in reverence. At the conclusion of the blessing, the poles are brought up and the files follow the pipers from the area before the worshippers leave.

It is desirable that all concerned wear the characteristic Highland dress, but this is not always possible nor required. Those carrying the tartans are considered to be in uniform; they do not remove their bonnets nor salute with the playing of the anthems. Rather, they maintain a posture of "attention" with their head covering in place. At the time of writing, only males have been seen participating in this ceremony.

Several knowledgeable officers in Scottish organizations were asked for their comments on what constitutes the most desirable form for the kirking. Their replies have been abstracted, revealing considerable divergence of opinion.

One suggested that those bearing the tartans be followed by other kilted clansmen who would peel off to the sides rather than proceeding to the altar, to places prepared for them.

Another added the detail that the pipers should lead the tartans and should take up positions close to the altar facing the congregation. He added his voice to those who would like to see women and children participate.

It was emphasized that while bearing the banner or tartan the bearer is considered "Under arms", and as in the army does not remove headgear at any time. If the banner has been put down in a stand, then he does act like all other citizens, showing the appropriate respect for the anthems of both countries or all countries. In some church services the tartan is carried folded to the altar where it is held during the ministers words. Other groups take the tartan goods folded to the altar at the end of the ceremony.

It is acknowledged that the Kirking O' The Tartan is a ceremony that originated in the United States - first performed in Washington, D. C. about one hundred years ago. It is infrequently practiced in Scotland.

The above article was published in the "Claymore", the Newsletter published by the Council of Scottish Clan Associations Inc., June, 1979.

A suggestion from the "Claymore" : Invest in suitable Scottish attire. It never goes out of style; needs little care, is appropriate anywhere.