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# THE SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCER

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Volume 15, Issue 1

July/August 1998

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## Teacher's Tunes

Marge McLeod van Nus

We've had a great dancing year, including 12 demos/cum Show and Tell!! THANK YOU TO ALL; for dancing, for behind-the-scenes help, for photos, for videoing, for the lending library, for refreshments, for stashing the cash, for host/hostessing, for editing/printing, for the fabulous finger food, for spreading sunshine (birthdays, etc.) -- for everything!

January 1999, we have the Ft. Vancouver Regional Library window for displaying things Scottish. Something about Robert Burns would be appropriate for January. And something about dance and music is a must. The window is kept locked. Anyone having a large picture of Burns, Scots Dolls/dogs/cows/sheep, any tartan, book of poetry, or ? suitable for a display, please let Geri know. Any person interested in creating and/or helping set up the display, let Geri or me know.

*Marge*

## Manager's Message

Geri Stuart

Hello Everyone!

Seems like it's been a long time since my last communication. Well, my first surgery was a success; even though I'm not up to dancing yet, I'm doing fine. My next surgery is tentatively scheduled for July 16 and that will be confirmed shortly. So, I still won't be dancing for a while but hope to be up and about in time for fall classes. So keep up the good work and do some dancing for me.

Thanks to all of you who have been signing up for the different functions. Everything I've heard has been positive and it sounds as though you're all having FUN! I'm looking forward to the time I can join you on the dance floor.

Have a great summer and we'll see you in the fall. Bring someone new with you!

See you then!

*Geri*

## Deaf Dancer

Valeria K. Moore

I wondered myself if it was possible for the deaf to learn Scottish Country Dance. After a few classes (the first being the 1997 ceilidh practice at Westminster Presbyterian Church), the answer is Yes! I watched with the help of an interpreter, Geri Stuart, who said she knew the teacher and how she taught. She never said it was her mother. I found my feet could do the steps and in watching others keep the "beat", I could keep up with the music.

My beginning logic was there are deaf ballet dancers, deaf musicians, and deaf music ministers -- why not Scottish country dancers?

A year later, I feel the music as I dance and it is fun!

It is my hope that in years to come I will meet other deaf dancers or other deaf who are willing to try a class. Dancing is a "do as I do", with the instructor showing what to do. No, it's not easy to catch all of the instructions or remember what comes next but mistakes make it fun. We all goof and laugh. That is the social part. Life would be boring if we were all perfect dancers. I like life spicy!

## Calendar of Events

- July 8 At 7:30 in the Luepke Center, rehearsal for the dances for Kirkin' of the Tartan
- July 12 Kirkin' of the Tartan, at the Westminster Presbyterian Church, 1624 N.E. Hancock, Portland. Service at 10 AM, with dancing to follow
- July 14 Celtic Arts Camp at St. Edwards School in the Ranier Valley of Seattle. For more details call (206) 689-2966 or email [slighe@eskimo.com](mailto:slighe@eskimo.com)
- July 18 Portland Scottish Highland Games - Mt. Hood Community College, N.E. 247<sup>th</sup> at 17<sup>th</sup> Street, Gresham, OR. For info, call (541) 293-8501
- Aug 1 Picnic at Dawn Pratt's, starting at 1-2 PM. For info, call (360) 834-3450
- Sept 11-12 Kelso Highlander Festival - Tam O'Shanter Park, Kelso, WA. For info, call Leah Wheeldon at (360) 425-6232

You may remember in the May/June issue of this newsletter, a quote from Moliere: "All the ills of mankind, all the tragic misfortunes that fill our history books, all the political blunders, all the failures of the great leaders have arisen merely from a lack of skill in dancing." I smiled at that one -- it was humorous that something I enjoy as a pastime should be considered so fundamental to the success of mankind. Maybe, I thought, Moliere was exaggerating *just* a little.

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*"Dancing in all its forms cannot be excluded from the curriculum of all noble education..."*

*F. W. Nietzsche*

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So, consider the following from Nietzsche: "Dancing in all its forms cannot be excluded from the curriculum of all noble education: dancing with the feet, with ideas, with words, and, need I add that one must also be able to dance with the pen?"

Hmmm -- "dancing with ideas". A sports oriented society might say "wrestling with ideas". With this expanded definition of dance, perhaps Moliere was not exaggerating at all!

### Miscellaneous Notes:

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN IRISH CULTURE? There is an international organization, Comhaltas Ceoltoiri Eireann (CCE), which promotes the traditional music, dance, and language of Ireland. According to the newsletter of the Vancouver WA CCE, they plan to start a Family Night Ceilis this September at the Marshall Center on Monday nights at 7:30 PM. Admission will be free. For more info about the CCE, call (360) 737-0656.

FROM THE MAY/JUNE '98 ISSUE of The Highlander: the second Bel Air Highlander Festival will be held on October 24-25, 1998, in El Paso, Texas. One of the highlights of the festival will be the Second National Haggis Cook-Off. (Texans have cook-offs for barbecue and chili, so why not haggis?) At last year's Cook-Off, the recipes varied from the traditional to the Southwestern-flavored (with the latter likened to Scottish menudo). For festival information (or a cook-off entry form) contact Fred Fraser, The El Paso Celtic Society, 8904 Turrentine, El Paso, TX 79925-5930.

*Do you have an item of Celtic interest you would like to see in print?*

You can contact me (John Shaw) in any of the following ways:

By mail: John Shaw - SCD  
P.O. Box 2438

Battle Ground. WA 98604-2438

By email: [bcjs@pacifier.com](mailto:bcjs@pacifier.com)

By phone: 360.576.5678

## La Bastringue

Mademoiselle, voulez-vous danser  
La bastringue, la bastringue.  
Mademoiselle voulez-vous danser  
La bastringue va commencer.

Oui, monsieur, je veux bien danser  
La bastringue, la bastringue,  
Oui, monsieur, je veux danser  
C'est pour vous accompagner.

Mademoiselle, vous avez dansé,  
La bastringue, la bastringue.  
Mademoiselle, vous avez dansé.  
Vous allez vous fatiguer.

Oh! monsieur, je sais bien danser.  
La bastringue, la bastringue.  
Oh! monsieur, je sais bien danser,  
Je suis prête à r'commencer.

Mademoiselle j'n'peux plus danser.  
La bastringue, la bastringue,  
Mademoiselle j'n'peux plus danser,  
Je vous prie de m'excuser.

TO THE LEFT ARE THE WORDS of a song about a dance. They tell a little story. To my copy was attached this note: "Sally likes to use this dance as a class warm up. Marge used it at the Pomeroy Farm Herb Festival. We have a great fiddle recording of the music, but in years past people sang as they danced."

I was provided with the following translation:

Miss, would you dance  
The Bastringue, the Bastringue  
Miss, would you dance  
The Bastringue is beginning.

Yes sir, I would indeed dance  
The Bastringue, the Bastringue  
Yes sir, I would dance  
To accompany you.

Miss, you have danced  
The Bastringue, the Bastringue,  
Miss, you have danced  
You will become tired.

Oh sir, I dance well  
The Bastringue, the Bastringue  
Oh sir, I dance well  
I'm ready to begin again.

Miss, I can dance no more  
The Bastringue, the Bastringue  
Miss, I can dance no more  
I beg you to excuse me.

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THIS ITEM IS FROM [The Rant](#), the newsletter of the London Branch (presumably of the RSCDS):

"The following advertisement appeared in *The Morning Chronicle, and London Advertiser* on Friday, January 5<sup>th</sup>, 1787:

**Scotch Dancing** - MR. JENKINS, under the patronage of several Ladies of Quality, begs leave to acquaint the Nobility and Gentry, that he teaches THE SCOTCH DANCES.

Cards and messages left at Mr. Willis's, No. 55, Harley-street, Cavendish square, and at Mr. Jenkin's, No. 125, High Holborn, near Southampton-street, Bloomsbury, will be punctually attended to.

Mr. Jenkins appears to have prospered because the following advertisement appeared, nearly two years later in *The World* on Monday, December 1<sup>st</sup>, 1788:

**Scottish Dancing** - G. Jenkins, No. 125, High Holborn, Bloomsbury, respectively informs the Nobility, Gentry, and the Public in general, that he teaches with peculiar Grace, Ease, and Elegance, the SCOTCH STEPS, so remarkably well adapted, and so universally admired for COUNTRY DANCES and REELS. He has the honour of instructing many persons of Distinction in this Country in the above Steps, who have expressed the warmest approbation of his Diligence and Mode of teaching. His Terms are exceedingly moderate to Individuals privately taught; and much more so those Families who can make up a certain number to receive instruction together. His scientific knowledge of Music enables him to impress on the minds of his Pupils an early and lasting Idea of Dancing in Time. -Cards and Messages directed as above will be punctually attended to."