



# MACHINE WITHOUT HORSES

Royal Scottish Country Dance Society—Detroit Branch

November 2013

Although we are past the beginning of a new season, we are all happy to be dancing again; we look forward to the year's activities, seeing old friends again and welcoming new ones, but also feeling the loss of those who have left us. Some of the group attended the combined birthday party for Al and Margaret Cook on September 1 at Madison Heights First United Methodist Church. We welcome newcomers Kathrine (K.T. (Katie)) and Andrew Truong, who have moved to the area from Orange County in southern California.



Margaret and Al Cook



Kathrine (K.T. (Katie)) and Andrew Truong

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, December 8 – Branch unit in Rochester Christmas Parade

Thursday, December 19 – Branch Christmas Party, Troy FUMC

Saturday, December 21 – London, Ontario, Christmas Dance

Saturday, February 15 – London Workshop & Dance + Friday night ceilidh dance

Saturday, March 22 – Annual Workshop & Dance, Windsor (Friday night practice)

Saturday, May 5 – London Ball

Thursday, May 22 – Detroit Branch AGM



I was fortunate to spend my summer at Chautauqua Institution on the shores of Chautauqua Lake in Western New York State for nine weeks this summer. It is a cultural summer center which promotes lifelong learning. Chautauqua is on the National Historic Register for promoting American culture.

A good part of my summer was filled with activities as a Board Member of the century old Chautauqua Bird Tree and Garden Club which was presided over at one time by Mrs. Thomas Edison. The garden club is very active in promoting and preserving the beauty of the grounds and its habitats and ecosystems and works closely with the watershed. They provide lectures, walks, and weekly chats for Chautauqua. This year my garden was recognized by the garden club with a "Beautiful Garden" award.

There is so much to experience at Chautauqua that I cannot describe it. The number of programs to attend is overwhelming and includes lectures, ballets, orchestral concerts, popular concerts, and much more. Some of my favorites were Kobe Boykins (NASA), Ruth Bader Ginsburg, the Beach Boys, Paul Simon, and the Chautauqua Ballet Company, to mention just a few. One of my yearly favorites comes when the orchestra plays the 1812 Overture and the audience pops paper bags to mimic the sound of Canons.

Throughout the summer I was constantly reminded of my Scottish Heritage. For a month, our neighbor serenaded us with the bagpipes every evening at dinner time. If not that, I might hear the Bluebells of Scotland being played on the carillon tower. A Scottish flag hangs in the amphitheater along with the other United Nations flags. Robert Burns poetry about dance was quoted at a ballet lecture by Jean Pierre Bonnefoux (the famous ballet dancer who received the President's Award). The only thing missing was Scottish Dancing! The closest group is 1 1/2 hours away in Buffalo.

Chautauqua is a very multi-generational place where families of all ages come together each year. I was fortunate to have my daughter, Betsy, there with me all summer. She worked in the amphitheater all summer and was exposed to all of the wonderful events. Chautauqua is also very rich in tradition which makes us want to go back year after year. You can look up Chautauqua Institution at [www.ciweb.org](http://www.ciweb.org). If you are driving through Western NY in the summer, you are welcome to stop by!

Christine Wipasuramonton

## **CLASSES**

### **Detroit Branch - Troy**

Thursday PM 6:30 - 7:30 Basic

7:30 - 8:30 Combined

8:30 - 9:30 Experienced

Troy First United Methodist Church,

6363 Livernois Road, Troy MI

Laurel Paterson (586) 294-4329

### **Roseville - "Red Hackles"**

Tuesday PM 7:30 - 9:30 Experienced

Erin Presbyterian Church

Gratiot at Common Rd. (12 1/2 Mile)

Roseville, MI

Laurel Paterson (586) 294-4329

### **Ann Arbor - "Tartan and Thistle"**

Monday PM 6:30 - 7:30 Basic

7:30 - 8:30 Combined

8:30 - 9:30 Experienced

Helen Welford (734) 426-0241

Joan Hellman (734) 769-1052

We have heard of the death last month of our friend from the Windsor Branch, Ann Hammond, who will be sorely missed. She was a great help in planning and working as Registrar on the Border Cities' Workshops on both sides of the Border but especially when the Workshop was held in Windsor. She was always welcome in Detroit.

We welcome corrections, suggestions, pictures, stories, poems, and other items connected with Scottish country dancing and Scotland.

Carrie Carnes



**From the (early)  
Halloween Dance**

Picture above left

From left to right:  
Al (Conrad Birdie) Cook  
Sue (Snow White) Boczek  
Mary (Wicked Witch) Low  
Corrie (Bun in the Oven) Cortez

Picture below left

Al (Conrad Birdie) Cook and  
Sue (Snow White) Boczek