

Selkirk Colonial Society

Bulletin 1999



No. 5

Edited by Jack Harper, Membership Secretary



The climax of the concert: Judith Douglas bussess the Colonials' flag for 1999.



Dear *Jennie*,

The years roll on and I now find myself settling down to compile Bulletin No. 5. It has been a very great pleasure to produce this sheet which, you may remember, started off as an A5 newsletter. The idea of such a thing had been talked about in Selkirk for quite a few years, but the catalyst which finally got it going was a letter from the late Rex Donaldson, who was Colonial Standard Bearer in 1977, saying how much he and many others would appreciate such a communication along with a Bussin' programme. Sadly Rex died before the first newsletter reached him, but it is perhaps timely to recall his great enthusiasm for the Colonial Society and the Common Riding.

It must be admitted that the majority of copies of the Bulletin are never acknowledged (we send off well over a hundred) but the response that we do get makes it well worth the effort - if not the expense!

I myself am getting on in years and I feel that it is now time for me to bow out from editing this paper and also from being membership secretary, an office I have held since stepping down from chairmanship in 1993, as I find myself becoming less reliable. I recall a man who said that there are three things that happen as you grow old: first you begin to lose your memory, and he could not remember the other two!

I would like to thank all of you who have taken the time to write to me and have kept me in touch with what you have been doing. I must say, too, how much we are indebted to those who have undertaken to distribute the copies in their respective countries. The saving in postage has been appreciated by the Society.

I sincerely hope that someone else will take over this very pleasant job and carry on for another year or two. In this age of high technology, E-mail, fax, etc., it need not necessarily be someone in Selkirk. Our chairman, Jim Henderson, is on the internet and can pass on information, pictures and comments, so I hope all of you volunteers will form a queue at 27 Thornfield Avenue!

I hope you all enjoy the contents herein, and take note - Common Riding 2000 will be on the 16th June.

My very best wishes to you all.

Yours aye,

Jack Harper

Jack Harper
Membership Secretary

From your Chairman.

Monday, June 28th, 1999



During the weeks leading up to the Common Riding this year I was working on a book about neurolinguistic programming. For those of you who may not have heard, it's just a complicated way of describing positive thinking; perhaps the watchword for this year's Colonial Common Riding.

No doubt positive thinking was involved in our Standard Bearer and Lady Bussess reaching these shores despite formidable problems in Qatar. But having arrived belatedly, both Craig and Judith acquitted themselves with considerable distinction. Judith bussess our Flag with consummate grace; Craig carried it with style and Cast our Colours on Common Riding morning in the face of the most arduous wind conditions witnessed in years with skill, strength and determination. Surely an example to all future Standard Bearers to think positively and never to give up, even in the most difficult of circumstances. Both Craig and Judith have been a credit to the Society and to their families in Selkirk and we hope that their association with the Society will be a long and happy one.

Every year it is a particular pleasure to meet again those old friends from Common Ridings past, just as it is to make the acquaintance of those who have made the pilgrimage to Selkirk for the very first time. This year has been rather exceptional in that we were able to welcome no less than five ex-Colonial Standard Bearers to our celebrations. Jack identifies them elsewhere in this Bulletin but two of them, Marcus and Lawrence were of great help to me acting as Guest Chairman and offering the Vote of Thanks at the Bussin' Concert respectively. I thank them and hope that all ex-Standard Bearers and everyone who attended our various functions enjoyed them as much as I did.

The Society continues to depend on all those associated with it to work together to make our participation in the Common Riding each year the success it invariably is. In particular I am grateful for all the efforts which our local members make each year in preparing for our functions and in helping to welcome you home; the Society simply could not function without them and I hope you will join me in thanking them wholeheartedly.

Again, to all of you who were unable to be in Selkirk this year, it is our hope that you will have the opportunity to return home soon when you can be assured of a warm welcome. In the meantime, please allow me to extend to everyone the best wishes of all in Selkirk.

Jim Henderson