

## Wull o' the Wynd's Common Riding Countdown: 3 weeks

THERE looks like being a bumper number of Colonials home this year.

World travel has changed beyond all comparison since the Society was formed in 1910, at which time America was more than a week's sailing and the Antipodes were months. Many left Selkirk never to return, although the flame still burned within them.

Such was Will Hogg.

Will sailed for South Africa at the outbreak of the Boer War. He was one of an old Selkirk family — his father presented the Hogg cup for which the rifle club still competes — and his last relatives to live here were kenspeckle figures indeed: teachers Scott and Beth (still well remembered by many in the town).

Throughout the Boer War, Hogg acted as a scout for the British forces and came to the notice of the Boers who put a price on his head. They dubbed him 'Owld Skellum', the slippery fellow — a nickname he was to carry with pride for the rest of his life.

After the war he went to what was then Southern Rhodesia, and after extensive travel, he decided where he wanted to settle — on the banks of the Tokwe river.

He bought 30,000 acres of scrubland from the African Chief and set about building a cattle ranch out of what was available on his land. Success came through toil and enterprise and his herd rose to 3,000 quality cattle crossed with Hereford bulls.

He never lost his love for Selkirk although he described his home as



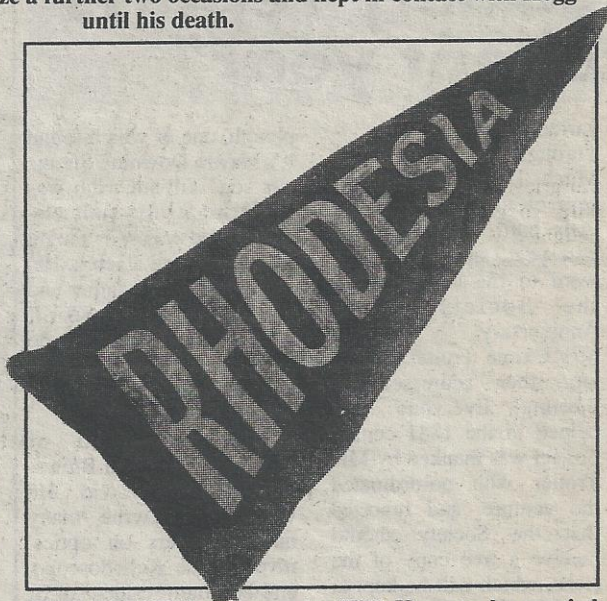
**THE FIRST** Will Hogg prize in 1932 was shared by Willie Riddell and Elsie Linton. Elsie went on to win the prize a further two occasions and kept in contact with Hogg until his death.

"God's own country", and every year he would declare "I'm going home for next Common Riding".

He never did, although in his letters he would fantasise about landing in the Haugh in an aeroplane. He did, however, send home every year, starting in 1932, a money prize for the best turned out young rider and keen competition there was among the youngsters, grooming their ponies and polishing their saddlery.

Every Common Riding, there was also a message for the Standard Bearer, wishing him the traditional 'Safe Oot and Safe In'.

He must have been in a position to come home: perhaps he was afraid of disappointment?



**THIS PENNON** was sent by Will Hogg to be carried round the Marches by Elsie Linton in 1935, the year of the Selkirk Pageant