

Caledonian Club  
of San Francisco

104th Annual Banquet

1866



1970

O Scotia! My dear, my native soil  
For whom my warmest wish to Heaven is sent,  
Long may thy hardy sons of Rustic Toil  
Be blest with health, and sweet content.

BURNS

JACK TAR HOTEL

International Room

San Francisco, California

SATURDAY, MAY 16, 1970

## DOXOLOGY

Praise God from Whom all blessings flow  
Praise Him all creatures here below  
Praise Him Above, Ye Heavenly Hosts  
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost

INVOCATION . . . . . Jack Massey, Chaplain

Some hae meat and canna eat  
And some hae nane that want it  
But we hae meat and we can eat  
Sae Praise The Lord be thae



## TOASTS

The President of the United States  
"The Star Spangled Banner."

H.B.M. Queen Elizabeth  
"God Save The Queen."



## MENU

Avocado and Grapefruit Supreme  
or

California Vegetable Salad  
Tossed Fresh Green Lettuce Garnished with  
Asparagus, Tomato, Cucumber and  
Mixed Vegetables  
Choice of Dressing

\* \* \*

Breast of Capon Cordon Bleu  
Stuffed with Canadian Bacon and Cheese.  
Mushroom Sauce

Colbert Potatoes      Baby Belgian Carrots

\* \* \*

Coupe Rosemarie

\* \* \*

Coffee

## PROGRAM

ADDRESS OF WELCOME . . . . . Genl Charles M. Beresford  
Introduction of Organizations

\* \* \*

### Honored Guests

The Rt. Hon. James W. McKay  
Lord Provost of Edinburgh

Alan D. Morgan  
Acting British Consul General

\* \* \*

## ENTERTAINMENT

Master of Ceremonies . . . . . P.C. Frank Love

Bagpipe Selections by the Prince Charles Jr. Pipeband

Exhibitions by  
The Northern California Highland Dancing Association  
and  
The Royal Scottish Country Dance Society, San Francisco Branch

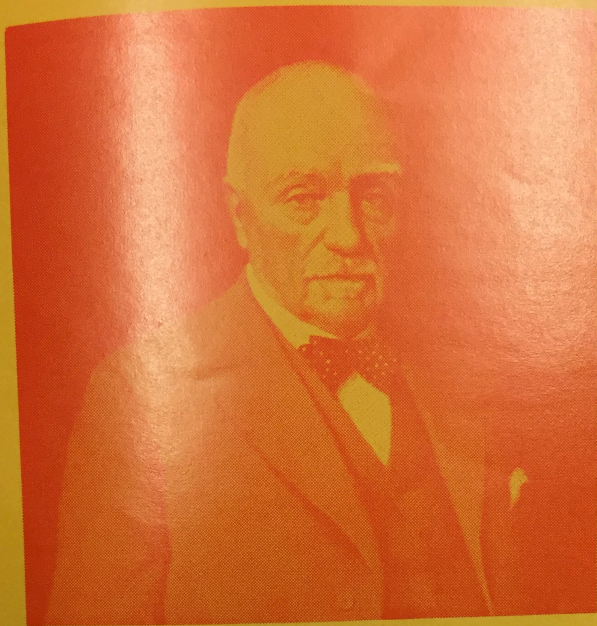
Songs of Scotland by James Wright

\* \* \*

### BALLROOM DANCING

10 p.m. until 1:00 a.m.

Eddie Harkness & Orchestra



JOHN McLAREN  
1846 - 1943

John McLaren's contribution to San Francisco is one of the most important ever to have been made in the entire history of the City. It also bids fair to be one of the most lasting; and any effort to calculate the number of the people who have benefited is simply an exercise in statistical futility.

While not the founder of Golden Gate Park, he is the man who was able to conquer the shifting sands on which the Park is built. When he came to the Park as Assistant Superintendent in 1887 only the Eastern end was under much cultivation. Under his guidance as Superintendent, which he became three years later, using techniques partly based on his experience in his native Scotland and partly from Australia, the Park was extended under cultivation to the Pacific Ocean and the sand dunes completely tamed. His benevolent hand and the policies laid down by him have made Golden Gate Park — and over forty other parks in San Francisco — verdant stretches of variegated loveliness vital to the City's well-being.

John McLaren was born in Stirling, Scotland, December 20, 1846. He early took to gardening, gaining experience at Bannockburn House, Blairdrummond and other estates in Scotland and studying and working at the Botanical Gardens in Edinburgh. At age twenty-three he came to this country, working for fifteen years on estates on the San Francisco Peninsula.

He joined the Caledonian Club June 17, 1887, at about the time he came to the Park in San Francisco. His recorded major interest in the Club was the Games, his name first appearing on the program of the 1888 Games. It appears with magnificent regularity on successive Games Programs until way into the Twentieth Century, often as Judge of the Games, or as a member of the Reception Committee. His activities in the Scottish Societies were not limited to the Caledonian Club. He was a member — later an Honorary Life Member — of the St. Andrew's Society of San Francisco, as well as serving as President of that organization in 1893 and 1894. Further, he was not just a social member, but gave his advice and counsel in business meetings over a very long time indeed. In the Caledonian Club John McLaren was the first man to be presented with his jewel as an Old Timer, at the very first "Old Timer's Night", held by the Club on March 20, 1931.

There is a statue of John McLaren in Golden Gate Park, an excellent likeness. He hated it, being one of the detested "stookies" — his name for the Park statuary — and during his lifetime — he died January 12, 1943 — he hid it from public gaze, even as he tried, more or less successfully, to hide the other stookies, except that of Robert Burns. But there is a more fitting memorial to John McLaren. It is Golden Gate Park itself. As in the case of Christopher Wren, whose true memorial is St. Paul's Cathedral in London, the visitor to San Francisco, as well as the resident, would do well to stand in Golden Gate Park and remember the words over Wren's tomb: *Si Monumentum Requiris, Circumspice!* — "If you would seek his monument, look about you."



Note: One seeks in vain for a biography of John McLaren, good, bad or indifferent. There are several sketches of his life in books, some riddled with obvious errors. It is to be hoped that someone will remedy this biographical omission, and soon. Grateful appreciation is extended to Millie Robbins, of the *San Francisco Chronicle*, and the staffs of the Sutro Library and especially the Special Collections Room at the San Francisco Public Library for assistance in preparation of this all too brief note on John McLaren.