

Scotland-The land of pride and past achievements

By DAVID WILLINGS

If it were not for the climate Scotland would have everything a tourist could want. There are places in the world with a higher annual rainfall but Scotland's rainfall is distributed throughout the year. You can go to Scotland and find your self soaked through every day.

If you should be lucky with the weather then it is worth every cent of the cost. It is just taking a little. The Scots are hospitable, proudly proud of their achievements and rabidly anti English. Centuries of border raids by the Scots in the North of England were equalled only by the ferocity of the border raids of the Scots in the North of England. In 1605 the crowns of England and Scotland were united. In the early 17th century the Parliaments of Scotland and England were united and Anglo-Scottish relations have been degenerating ever since. The risings are still felt by every Scot with a sense of history. Anti English feeling was whipped to fever pitch, to my way of thinking quite unnecessarily, by

some stupid Senior Civil Servant who advised Her Majesty to name the new Cunard Liner "Queen Elizabeth II". The Scots feel strongly about the fact that Her Majesty is Queen Elizabeth the First of Scotland and Queen Elizabeth the Second of England. There were many Scots who were in favour of naming the liner Princess Margaret. The moment the Queen announced "I name this ship Queen Elizabeth the Second" there was a sense of national shock went through the whole country (I know, I was there). This lasted for a few seconds and then spontaneous eruptions of anger and frustration broke out all over the place. In any cinema there is a general rush at the end of the show to get out before the National Anthem is played. This is not so much anti-monarchist but just a reasonable objection to yet another political insult. One verse of God save the Queen calls on the Almighty to

Scatter her enemies
Confound their knavish tricks
Their loathsome politics

and it is historical fact that this refers to the Scots. The story is told of a tourist from overseas who arrived at a hotel and was refused accommodation because he had addressed the letter making a reservation "Scotland, England". I don't know whether or not the story is true but it could be.

You might say all this happened years ago and isn't it time to get down to the economic problems that are paralyzing England and Scotland alike. I would agree but the Scots are a contentious race with a vested interest in their own miseries who will moan and nauseam about how their economy is being bled dry by the English, toast their own past achievements and cling to any excuse not to get off their asses and do something about the problems of the present. Having said that I must qualify it by saying outright that my feelings are coloured by two years trying to set up Vocational Guidance Training, meeting resistance justified by oblique references to the fact that I was English and getting precisely nothing done except what in sheer desperation I did myself without asking anyone.

If you go to Scotland by boat you will probably land at Green-

ock. This is by far the least attractive part of Scotland. There used to be a Royal Navy Base at Greenock. When the Navy moved out they put a wall round it and made a prison of it. If you fly in you will land at Glasgow or Prestwick. An American friend of mine described Glasgow as "the asshole of Scotland". But this article has got sufficiently anal for one week and I will stop disgracing. Honestly I will! It is a dismal town but it has a certain character about it. The information office in George Square will be able to give you information on places to see.

Glasgow is one of the easiest heavy industrial towns to get out of. A few miles outside Glasgow there is some impressive countryside. Off George Square is Queen Street Station, you can get a Blue Line Train out to the coast or to some of the country areas. There is fast main line service to Edinburgh the former capital of Scotland.

The view from Edinburgh Castle is unforgettable. The Scottish Crown Jewels are on show there. I doubt if anyone would want to pretend that they are as impressive as the Crown Jewels in London but they are steeped in history. Then you can walk along the Royal Mile.

This starts at the Castle and ends at the Palace. If there are several of you it is well worth the money to pay a guide who knows all the buildings along the Royal Mile and their history. Half way along the Royal Mile you will stop at the Cathedral. When Charles I tried to enforce the Anglican Prayer Book on Scotland a certain Jennie Geddes struck a worshipper in the face with her Prayer Book and said "Traitor, does thou say Mass at my ear" (Scotland is not Protestant it is just anti Catholic) and she reinforced her point by flinging her stool at the Bishop.

Princess Street is one of the best shopping centres in Scotland. Many of the shops will mail your purchases direct to your friends or family in Canada or elsewhere. Scotland really has no typical food, indeed the best food in

Scotland is served in Italian Restaurants and some of the Italian meals I have had in Scotland are far better than those I have had in Italy.

Next week: Stirling Castle.

FEEDBACK

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at deliberately provoke players to anger, and cheer when someone else's blood appears on the ice. It is an entirely different story, though, when the "fans" and themselves in "body contact" with the provoked players. Encouraging pre-game pep-talk from an owner: "I don't like losers". The same owner being usually encouraging pre-Stanley Cup playoff: issuing unsigned messages to each team member, he says he will sign them when they bring him the cup. Persistent expansion, players required to play increasing numbers of games; tired coaches, tired and irritable players.

in life, that physical strength is the real test of manhood, he is being used to make money for greedy arena owners and hockey franchise owners and to give the United States public the vicarious pleasure of watching him get hurt.

Yours is a nation of bullies, gentleman. You had best look to your own arrogance.

Yours sincerely,

Iris E.T. Jones,
Canadian citizen.



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And last, but by no means last, the promotion in the kiddies edition of the comics, Philadelphia Bulletin, September 17, 1972:

"Derek Sanderson... is 26 and will make more money than any other athlete in the world this season... Last year he helped them win the Stanley Cup, the World Series of hockey... other players say he isn't afraid of anyone on the ice."

Derek Sanderson was born in Canada. He is a hockey gladiator from a foreign country; indoctrinated with the deadly virus of United States dogma that winning is the only thing that matters, that money is all that is important