

Manx Notes 375 (2019)

“TRANSVAAL MANX ASSOCIATION”

(1955)

It is some considerable time since we have sent a report of our activities to any of the Manx papers. I suppose the real reason for this omission has been caused by that “wicked lil falla, Traa dy Liooar.” However, having given him a “scutchin and purrim to the dhure,” here am I in the chiollagh, on a frosty night in the high veld, writing at long last to the “Pabyn-Naight” in Ellan Vannin, to give an account of ourselves during the past eighteen months.

Our present Reiltagh is Mr Evan Kaye, who has held this office since January, 1955. Evan hails from Ballamillaghyn, Kirk Braddan. We consider ourselves extremely fortunate in having Evan, and his wife “Jonee,” at the head of affairs. “Jonee” being as interested in all things Manx as her husband. Besides carrying out their official duties, they have carved a number of Manx emblems which have been raffled to the benefit of our funds. They also have designed our Christmas cards for several years.

During their term of office a number of Braaioleise have been held, all the members and their friends cooking their suppers over fires in the open, these have been most enjoyable.

Picnics have been held at Heidelberg Kloof and Fountains Valley, the children, in particular, enjoying themselves to the full. The films of these events, taken by Mr William Carine, caused much amusement when shown at his home during one of our monthly meetings.

The birth of our national poet, T.E. Brown, Hollantide and Tynwald are celebrated annually. (It is to be regretted that you in Ellan Vannin observe the death of our poet, and not his birthday and that it and the celebration of Hollantide are combined. The Manx people cannot afford to lose any of their Gaelic customs, as Ellan Vannin is becoming too Anglicised).

This year, through the kindness of one of our members, Tynwald Day was celebrated at the Wanderers’ Club, on Saturday, 2nd July. It was a most successful and enjoyable evening—forty-three members and friends and representatives of the Kindred Societies being present. We were much disappointed that the Norwegian Consul was unable to attend.

I am enclosing a copy of our menu (designed by “Jonee” and Evan), which, I hope you will find of interest. Probably scholars of Manx Gaelic will criticise our efforts at the Manx translations, but please remember we were not taught one single word of our own language at school, neither do I remember having been taught the history of Tynwald.

Whilst our Association is not very large, our monthly meetings are well attended—the “cooish,” after the conclusion of business, being a lively and happy part of the gathering.

Owing to our small membership we have not a great deal to report, but everyone looks forward to exchanging the Manx papers when they arrive.

P. MARSHALL KELLY,
Hon. Secretary.
Transvaal Manx Association,
Johannesburg.

[The attractive kaart-bee (menu) was: Mess mest (Grenaby grapefruit Onchan orange-juice); Anvroie (Sulby Soup—Dhoon Dishwater); Lyebaeg Scheim jeh Greesee (Scholaby Sole, Sauce Tromode); Tunnag Rost, Orange Gort (Dalby Duckling a la Ballamillaghyn); Praase as Paese Losreeyn ayns Imbagh (Maughold Vegetables in season); Ooyl Strauan as Key (Agneash Apple Tart and Crosby Cream).]

P. Marshall Kelly, “[Correspondence] Transvaal Manx Association.”
Mona’s Herald 16 August 1955: 2b.

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“The Manx people cannot afford to lose any of their Gaelic customs, as Ellan Vannin is becoming too Anglicised.” Such was the view from the Transvaal and here we see the Transvaal Manx Association coming together as the Manx and celebrating being Manx. The menu is comical and meant to be so, the names reminding them of home—Grenaby, Onchan, Sulby, the Dhoon, Tromode, Dalby, Maughold, Agneash, Crosby—and written in Manx, though “we were not taught one single word of our own language at school.”

STEPHEN MILLER, 2019

