

Christian Mattison Returns From Scotland

On Saturday, August 17, Chris Mattison flew from London, via Halifax, Nova Scotia to Montreal after spending eight weeks in Talmine by Lairg, Southerland County, Scotland. His purpose there was in taking a course entitled "Photography and Drawing in Scotland" under the auspices of Alfred University.

Chris and the other four University students stayed in croft-houses (farm houses) with individual families. Chris hosts were Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Mackay whose home was like all other Highlanders, four rooms kitchen and sitting room and bath under the stairs in the first floor with two bedrooms on the second floor. The houses are of stone with walls 14 inches thick for insulation as well as withstanding the tremendous gales from off the coast. The temperature stays between 55 and 60 degrees all summer with two hours of darkness at the middle of summer. Vendors with meat and fish come around daily to the small rural communities. Chris really appreciated the Alaskan King Crab that the Lobster fishermen did not want to keep due to lack of refrigeration. At low tide, which varied 10 feet, the students enjoyed picking cockles and mussels from the seaweed. Chris gained six pounds due to the enormous breakfast and dinners the Mackays served him every day. The food is cooked with more grease than we're accustomed to.

The crofters have very little as they were chased to the shore by landed aristocracy. The Dutchess of Southerland is the main enforcer of law. A croft consists of a piece of land 40 x 200 yards. This is all one man owns and if he has no heirs it reverts back to the Dutchess of Southerland. Taxes are paid to the Dutchess as well as the Crown.

For centuries these Presbyterians worshiped on the Sabbath and then five years ago the Church of England decreed they must worship on Sunday. Needless to say the attendance has declined. The clergy is paid by the government thus is a civil servant.

The Mackays croft house was so close to the beach that Chris could hear the herd of 11 seals barking on the beach at night. The coastline is both rugged and sandy beaches. The ruggedness resembles the fiords of Norway. One of Chris' experiences was being

suspected of foul play when a man came up missing. Every day for a week the police came to question him about his activities at the time of the disappearance of the man. However when the body washed up on the otherside of the bay it was determined the man had drunk too much, stumbled and fell into the bay. Then the police stopped their interrogation.

Getting home was also an experience. Chris left Talmine Tuesday afternoon and went to Inverness, Scotland staying there overnight. The next day, Wednesday, he arrived in London and was fortunate to be able to leave there on Saturday when 40 men cancelled their reservations. There were over six hundred students waiting in the London Airport to get to Montreal. The U.S. Gov't cancelled all stand by student tickets this summer, but the Canadian Gov't continued to sell them and so BOAS was over sold by many tickets. Some students had already been at the airport four weeks.

The last two days he had run out of money and so watched peoples luggage for a sandwich. All they brought back were egg salad sandwiches. The attendants at the airport would not allow the kids to sleep and kept waking them. Thursday night, however, Chris camouflaged himself to look like luggage under a lounge with his own luggage and got a good night's rest.

Needless to say, the entire trip was one of great adventure, much learning and invaluable experience. One of his comments has been, "We just don't realize all that we have in the U.S., our freedom as well as our wealth."

Alleg. County Treasurer's Office Preparing 1974 Delinquent Tax List

The Allegany County Treasurer's Office is now in the process of preparing a list of the 1974 delinquent taxes for the purpose of advertising a tax sale to be conducted November 22, 1974.

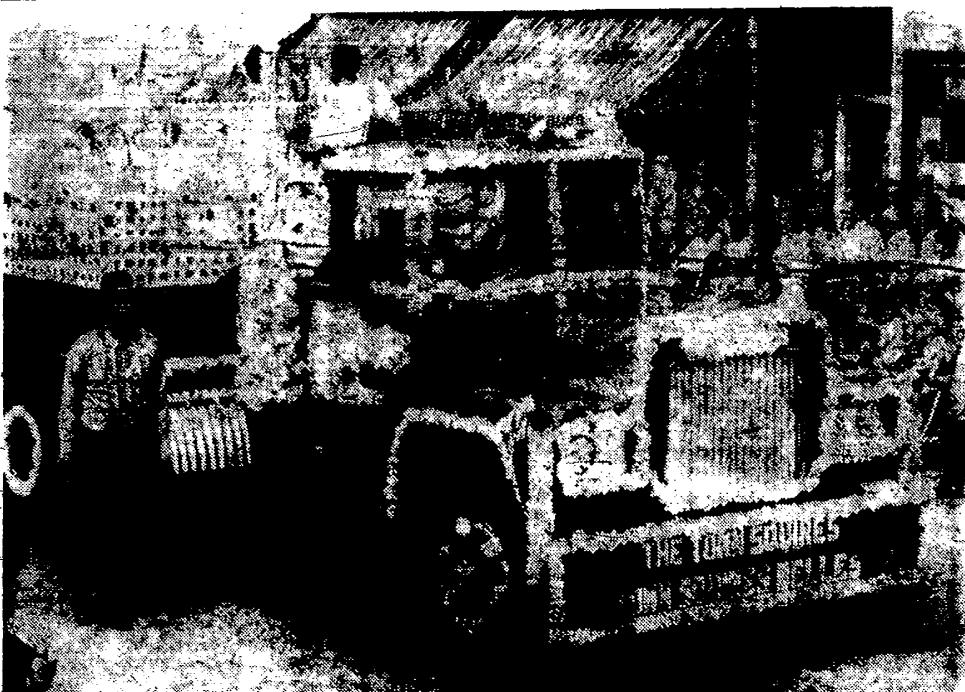
Property owners who may wish to pay their taxes before advertising costs are added, should make remittance to the Allegany County Treasurer's Office before October 7, 1974.

We would also like to announce that the 1973 redemption list will go to publication starting September 9, 1974, and conclude October 23, 1974, after which a 20% penalty will be added the 19th of December.

JAMES F. MULHOLLAND,
Allegany County Treasurer



The Hustlers and Hustler Belles Chapters of the First Place Trophy in the Class for "Originality" in Andover's Sesqui-Centennial Parade on August 17th, 1974 with their old-fashioned Locomotive and Passenger Car. News Photo



The Town Squires and their Belles in the two pictures above, with their beautiful 3-piece float that won First Prize in the "Historical" Category. The float was so long and huge on the truck and (low-boy) that it took 2 pictures to make sure that the "Town Hall" was included. News Photo

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