

Received from Karyn Collie, November 15 , 2004

Greetings from Glasgow!

I have once again been very busy since my last email. Apart from the daily routine of class and reading, I spoke to my first Rotary Club, attended the District Conference in Dundee, and had my first experience with National Health Care in Scotland! Time really does fly when you are having fun and I can't believe it's been over a month since I last updated everyone! Before I begin my update, I want to thank the Rotary Club of Reidsville for the wonderful care package I received a couple of days ago. It was completely unexpected and it really brightened up my day! I am very proud to be sponsored by such a thoughtful and sincere group of Rotarians.

I guess I should begin my update by sharing a little about my first Rotary speaking engagement in Scotland. On October 18, I spoke to the Saltcoats and Androssan Rotary Club. They are located in the western part of Scotland, very close to my host Rotary Club of Hunterston. The Saltcoats and Androssan Club is a small club, only consisting of approximately 15 members. They all sit at one round table and are very welcoming. I was a little nervous about my first speech, so speaking to a smaller club was the perfect way for me to begin. They immediately made me feel at home and included me in their dinner conversation. My speech went smoothly and my first speaking experience was an enjoyable one.

The next week, I attended the District Conference in Dundee. I must admit that I was not expecting to enjoy myself as much as I did that weekend! The Rotarians in District 1230 are very friendly and go out of their way to make you feel at home. Several of the Rotarians from the Saltcoats and Androssan Club were there, and introduced me to their spouses and other Rotarians. The other two Ambassadorial Scholars, Go and Kenji, also from the University of Glasgow, and two Peace Scholars from the University of Bradford, Elsje and Karen, were there. We had a lot of fun hanging out and getting to know each other. The schedule for the weekend included dances on both Friday and Saturday nights, entertainment on Saturday night, and interesting speakers on Saturday and Sunday. The highlight of the entertainment on Saturday night was the band, Vanity Fare. They were famous in the 60s/early 70s. Their most famous song was "Hitchin' a Ride." In case you need a memory boost, the song goes, "Ride, ride, ride, hitchin' a ride." Apparently the song started a dance craze called the hitchhiker, and Elsje and I participated in the dance with a few other enthusiastic Rotarians. At the dance on Saturday night, a few Rotarians and their spouses partnered with me, Kenji, Go, Elsje, and Karen to dance Strip the Willow. Strip the Willow is a traditional Scottish dance in which two lines are formed and the partners alternate spinning with others and their partner. I had a very energetic partner who almost spun me right out of my shoes! However, we all had a lot of fun and the dance was one of the highlights of the weekend for me. One of the other highlights was a speech by Terry Waite, who is famous for being a hostage in Lebanon for nearly five years. He gave an interesting speech on international affairs and was an engaging public speaker.

Shortly after my return from the District Conference, I developed a cold and fever. After I had not gotten any better, I finally went to the doctor. I cannot tell you how strange it is to go to the doctor and not have to check out or pay a co-pay when you leave! The doctor was

very nice and prescribed some medicine for me. I'm finally all better now and am looking forward to returning to the gym for the first time in ages!

Well, I guess that's about it. I'm still enjoying all that Glasgow has to offer, especially all the shops in the City Centre! Things that were once really strange for me, like riding the underground or getting a taxi, are becoming second nature. There is always something going on in Glasgow, whether going to the theatre, the movies, or enjoying the nightlife. They are beginning to decorate for Christmas and I will take some pictures once they finish. I have also added pictures from the District Conference and updated some of the Scotland pictures. Just follow the link at the end of this email to view them. I hope everyone is doing well and I will write again soon!

Sincerely,

Karyn Collie

A little tidbit:

Charles Macintosh, inventor of the waterproof coat, lived and worked in Glasgow where, in 1824, he was responsible for the first commercial manufacture of the waterproof material. (just to give you an idea of how often it rains here!)