



**LORD PROVOST KEN CAMERON OF DUMFRIES, SCOTLAND** and nine members of his 28-member Nithdale District Council pose in front of Dumfries' Town Hall with Dumfries, Virginia Mayor Marjorie Davis, following an official luncheon and reception Oct. 23. The Lord Provost is wearing the keys of his office—a solid gold medallion depicting

St. Michael the Archangel on a long, heavy, traditional draped chain. With Mayor Davis and Lord Provost Cameron in the forefront, the councilors are shown from left, Roy Watson, Tom McLaughtrie, Peter Rennie, Bert Saunders, Jean McMurdo, Donald Sutherland, George Carmichael, Tom McCollum and William Japp.

Photo by Joanne Nanna

## *Scots visit Dumfries, Va.*

By **BARBARA DUBUC**

A 35-member delegation from 801-year-old Dumfries, Scotland, pop. 32,000, headed by Lord Provost Ken Cameron of the Nithdale Council, arrived in 238-year-old Dumfries, Va., for a reception in their honor on Friday afternoon. The two Dumfries have long exchanged individual visits, but this is the first visit of an official delegation.

"This is a historic occasion," said Lord Provost Ken Cameron. "We are very proud to be here with the mayor, her council, officials and citizens of Dumfries, and to be associated with this town, with its strong ties to the name of Dumfries."

The Lord Provost (equivalent to our mayor) and his entourage arrived by chartered bus from Annapolis, Maryland, where the delegation is enjoying a 10-day stay. They are meeting with, and being feted by, Ann Arundel County and state officials, and they may meet with Maryland's Gov. William Schaefer.

As part of their sight-seeing itinerary, a White House tour has been arranged by a Maryland senator.

"We sent a get-well card from my delegation to the president's wife," said Cameron. "I think it is a courtesy to wish Nancy Reagan the best of health in the years to come."

John Paul Jones, who is called the father of the American and Russian navies, was born in Dumfries,

Scotland, and is that city's mutual tie with Annapolis. The Scottish delegation is discussing not only mutual trade and tourism possibilities, but the possibility of "twin cities," says Cameron. He says that the trip was organized by Annapolis' Robert Burns Society.

Burns, who spent the last seven years of his life in Dumfries, Scotland, was made an Honorary Burgess, which gave him the freedom of the town and the right not to pay taxes.

While the councilmen, their wives, Scottish journalists and others were exchanging gifts with their Virginia counterparts, enjoying a bountiful repast and getting along famously with the 35 or more past and present town officials, staff and citizens who greeted them enthusiastically at Town Hall, Earl and Countess DelKeith were arriving by plane in Baltimore. The Earl is one of their 28 council members, says Cameron, who expressed regret that they couldn't be in Dumfries, Va.

With the exception of the journalists, the majority of the visitors were visiting the United States for the first time, and all expressed favorable impressions.

"We're delighted with the hospitality of the people in Virginia and Maryland," said Cameron. "It is a great credit to the United States and I am sure that the people of Scotland wish you all the best of health and happiness in years to come."

"One thing we have all tried to achieve in this world today is to secure peace, health and happiness and we must never forget our senior citizens, or our children who will be our leaders tomorrow," he con-

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tinued.

William Japp, who is the Nithdale Council's senior paid official (one of the 28 elected councilmen selected by his peers for this position) says that they employ about 600 people in a number of departments. Elections are held every four years, with the next scheduled in May 1988. The present council is constituted of seven Independents, seven Labor, seven Scottish National Party, and seven Tory members.

Lord Provost Cameron is nearing the end of his first term of office.

Japp says the council meets every six weeks, but its committees meet frequently within that period.

Dumfries, Va. Councilman Samuel Bauckman says that he had a lengthy talk with one of his Scottish counterparts, who said their meetings sometimes last for days, using Robert Burns' poetry as the basis for some of their philosophy.

Describing his impressions of this country, Japp said, "I have always wanted to come to the United States. What I find almost overwhelming is the warm-heartedness and generosity of the American people. Americans are not portrayed all that pretty on television. I am very impressed. I think this particular area is lovely at this time of year."

The visiting Scots were most generous, presenting books, brochures and other gifts to the

mayor and to the council members. Mayor Marjorie Davis presented the Lord Provost with the "keys to the city."

On a personal note, Sheena Watson presented octogenarian Emma Bishop a birthday gift of a gray scarf bearing a red "D" monogram. Ms. Bishop said that she was thrilled with the gift.

Former Mayor Olney A. "Butch" Brawner said that he was delighted to finally meet Ken Cameron—they exchanged New Year's Eve greetings via telephone and radio for several years—and present Mayor Marjorie Davis said, "This is a beautiful group of people—I love them!"

The feeling appeared to be

mutual, as the delegation—many of whom were resplendent in their distinctive clan-kilts—ate, drank and "made merry."

Some seemed especially interested in posing with police and police vehicles, and the Lord Provost proudly showed one of his presents—a large decal bearing the town seal, a replica of which is on each police vehicle.

Annapolis had a full schedule for the delegation, with a "celidh," or Scottish dance, on Friday night, a Tartan ball on Saturday, and a visit to the Naval Academy on Sunday. The group also planned a sightseeing tour to Baltimore's Inner Harbor.