

C-128881

QUEEN O'A' BHE BOBBER - Hawick commemorates the days when it was necessary to guard against encroachment by the "old enemy England". -Scotland-

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Picture:- Early in the morning, just before 6 o'--

--clock, Hawick wakens up for the ceremony of riding the Common. This custom dates back from the time when Borderland ownership was a disputable point. The first thing that happens is a scramble for snuff.

What this has to do with the original custom, nobody knows, but it's--

--done just the same. Then the Cornet, with the towns flag and his supporters ride--

--over the common land to see that no English--

--enemies have obtained possession overnight. Just as they did hundreds of years back.

Finding all's well, he is cheered by the townsfolk.

Curds and cream are then fed to them. Why I have no idea. Anyway--

--they sup them right heartily and return home, tak off their tile hats and prepare for the real work of the day.