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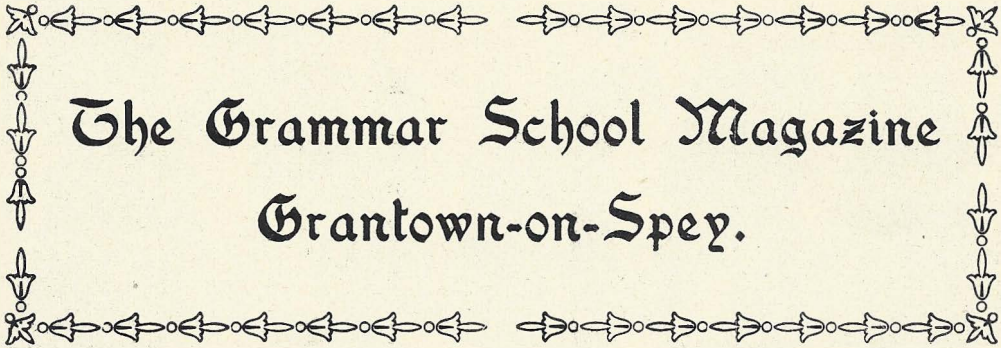
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# The Grammar School Magazine

## Grantown-on-Spey.

No. 28.

December, 1956.

Editor—Andrew Howlett.

Advertising Managers—Kay Hepburn.  
Elizabeth McDonald.  
Lorna Stephen.  
Douglas McInnes.

Staff Adviser—G. E. Donaldson, M.A., B.A.

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## Editorial

IT is doubtful whether very many people will, on picking up this magazine, look at the "Editorial" first, and there is really no reason why they should; it is, after all, a mere formality, a space which has to be filled with about three hundred and fifty words (of a sober and restrained nature, if possible, as only befits a self-respecting Editor) for the sake of tradition, and, it might well be argued here, the edification of the reader. This cannot be termed a classic example in that respect.

However, shortly after last year's magazine had been compiled and sent to Press, Grantown's cinema, as we all know too well, was burnt to the ground in a spectacular but disastrous conflagration, which, had it occurred earlier, might have inspired some youthful scribe to commemorate the event in, dare I say, glowing prose, for the magazine. Strangely enough, this subject was not taken up by contributors this year.

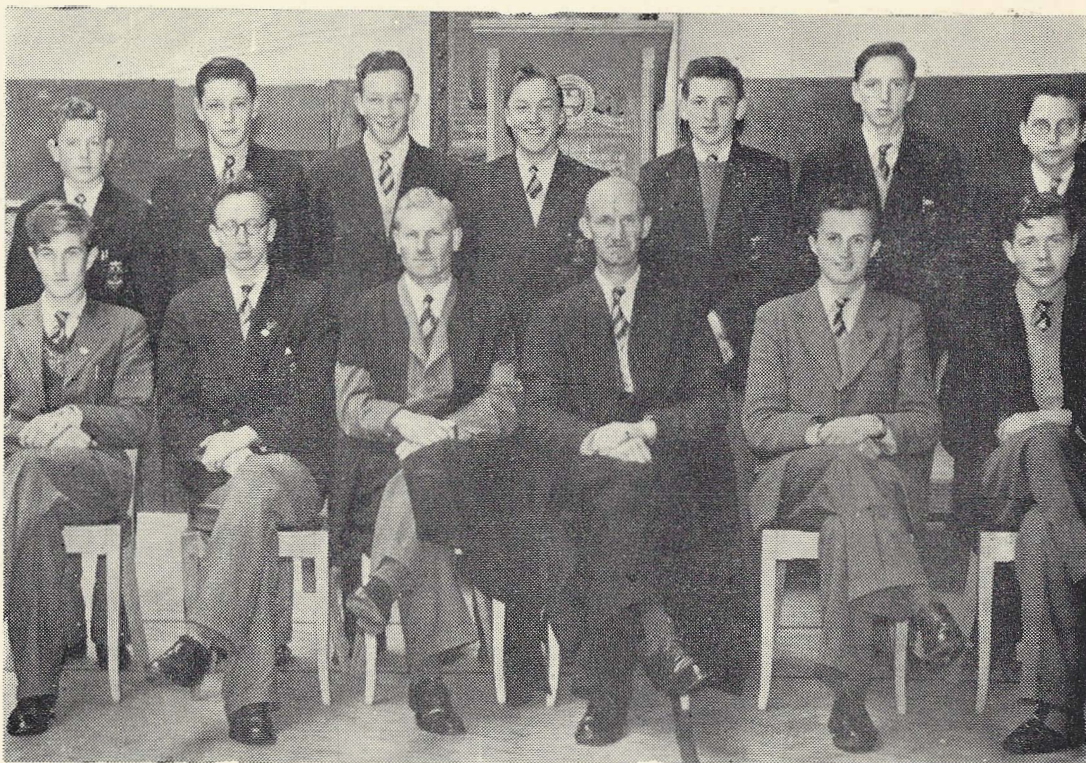
Let us not dwell in the distant past, however. To recall a few events of the year very briefly, the opening early this year of a new school building comprising science laboratory and canteen was quite an event,

Grantown gained further laurels at the Inter-School Sports, and a Glenmore weekend in September met with the usual success.

Elsewhere, Summer, 1956, or, if we adhere to facts, something barely recognisable as Summer, 1956, saw Jim Laker practically reducing Australian batsmen to nervous wrecks by feats of masterly spin bowling which broke records in all directions and played a vital part in retaining the Ashes for England this year. Apart from the threat of Automation, which receives fuller attention on another page, Britain has had to put up with such entities as Rock 'n' Roll, Colonel Nasser, who, as you may have noticed, has been getting quite a lot of publicity lately, and Liberace, a pianist of certain individuality and American origin, who, complete with sequins, candelabra, dimples, family, piano, and other odds and ends, recently invaded our shores.

This is the 28th School Magazine, and it is hoped that it will provide the link that its predecessors have provided through the years; and we send with it, as usual, very good wishes for a Happy Christmas and an equally Happy New Year.





**BOY PREFECTS**—Standing (l. to r.)—Tommy Edwards, Calum Scally, David Hogg, Colin Keith, Sandy MacGregor, Willie Grant, Lewis Smith. Seated—G. Goutts, Robin Fraser (School Captain), Dr J. Bain (Rector), Mr A. McKenzie, Andrew Howlett (Vice-Captain), G. McInnes.



**GIRL PREFECTS**—Standing (l. to r.)—Margaret McLennan, Margaret Macdonald, Evelyn McIvor, Alison Stuart, Amelia Edwards, Margaret Nelson, Isobel Ferguson, Margery Thomson. Seated—Gay Grant, Joyce Mackay (Head Girl), Dr J. Bain (Rector), Miss E. Pyper (Lady Superintendent), Effie Macdonald (Deputy Head Girl), Grace Shand.



## RECTOR'S LETTER.

22nd October, 1956.

Dear Editor and Pupils,

Some of our hopes of last year have been fulfilled—electricity has been installed in the Primary Infant Hut, the conversion of the old Science Room to a Geography Room has been completed, our new Canteen is now a *fait accompli* and we have with it a new Science Laboratory. At the time of writing, electrical convactor heaters are being fitted in Primary 1, 2 and 6 Rooms to provide additional heating, and will come into action automatically when the temperature drops below 55°F. in these class-rooms.

The new Laboratory is one of the most up-to-date in the North of Scotland, and the Canteen is one of the best in the area. Our only fault with it is that the Dining Hall is not large enough to house, at two sittings, all the pupils who take canteen meals. Family service has now been operated by the Secondary Pupils for over three months, and operated most successfully. I congratulate our Canteen Staff and Senior Pupils on the efficient way in which they have combined to make this service a success.

The Library is now used as a Music Room as well as a Reading Room—gone are the days of manipulating the piano through corridor and classroom doorways to the detriment of the woodwork encountered on the way, as well as to the piano itself, which

is now a fixture in the Library. The piano in the Hall is on loan for this year, and we are grateful for the use of it—we expect to have a new school piano near the end of this session. It is hoped that, with additional bookcases, the Library will soon house a permanent set of reading books, in the region of 400, from the County Library. Each year we add a few books to the Library through the grant of £10 which we get from the Education Committee, but most of the books are for reference only. We could extend the number of books considerably, if each pupil, on leaving school, donated to the Library a book which was no longer required by him or her. Books of this kind would, of course, be acceptable at any other time in the life of the pupil, and the Library would become something more than a mere name. Now then, pupils, and there are 430 of you, what about it?

We had a successful Whist Drive at the end of last month, and the proceeds will help us to continue the many activities connected with our school life. The success of the school depends on these activities, and the success of these activities depends on you all. I hope that in the year that is ahead you will all play a part in making it a very successful one in work and play.

Good Luck to you all in 1957!

Yours sincerely,

JAMES BAIN, Rector.

## SCHOOL NOTES.

A Dux Prize in History, to be awarded annually, has been donated by Mr J. G. Bruce, Holmhill.

Towards the end of 1955 correspondence was started between pupils of Bo'ness Primary School and Primary pupils here.

A combined donation was made by the School and the Former Pupils' Clubs to the Trans-Antarctic Expedition.

Susanne McKenzie and Isobel Bruce were chosen to take part in a hockey trial at Inverness, after which Susanne was selected to play for the Highland Junior Hockey XI against the corresponding team from the Midlands.

The Technical boys of IVc and IVb, under Mr Fraser's supervision, converted the space beside the blank door of the Art Room into a cupboard for sports and gym. equipment.

The rector acted as questionmaster when a Top of the Form type of "quiz" was held in School between teams representing the two Former Pupils' Clubs.

Members of the band of R.E.M.E., under their director, Lieutenant Birkin, gave a demonstration of the use of band instruments in School.

There were two staff changes during the Spring Term. Mr G. Y. George, M.A., left to take up an appointment at Langholm, while Mrs Mackay, Infant Teacher, received an appointment in Glasgow. In April, Mr R. M. T. Duncan, M.A., took up Mr George's post, while at the end of the session Mrs Macrae was appointed to the Infant Department.

Mr H. G. Cumming, M.A., B.Sc., Mrs G. E. Donaldson, M.A., Mrs R. Ross, M.A., and Mrs A. McKenzie deputised during interim vacancies caused by the above staff changes.



The new Canteen and Science Room building, on the other side of South Street from the School, was opened on May 15 by Miss I. G. Wharton Duff, O.B.E.

\* \* \*

On its first day of service, the new Canteen provided meals for 201 persons. Service was operated by the Secondary pupils on the "family" system, with the double object of inculcating self-help and efficient service.

\* \* \*

Empire Day address was given by Thomas Shankland, Esq., C.M.G., O.B.E., Deputy Governor of the Ibadan District of Nigeria.

\* \* \*

Mr A. Fraser, Head of the Technical Department, succeeded the Rev. W. Mackay as Provost of Grantown on Mr Mackay's departure to Glasgow.

\* \* \*

The School was again represented at the Badenoch and Strathspey Primary School Sports. The team took third place.

\* \* \*

At the Moray and Nairn Inter-School Sports, the School was runner-up to Nairn Academy in the senior championship and joint champions with Elgin Academy in the junior section.

\* \* \*

Five first class and eleven second class certificates were gained by School entrants at Moray Musical Festival. At the Provincial Mod in Grantown four School competitors obtained places.

\* \* \*

Two plays, one adapted by the pupils themselves, were performed at end of Term in the Hall by pupils of IIIc. Mrs McGillivray supervised production.

\* \* \*

Prize Day address was given by Ivor MacTaggart, Esq., M.A., B.Sc. Mrs MacTaggart, M.A., presented the prizes. The Rev. Joseph Grant, M.A., M.C., Cromdale, chairman of the Education Committee, presided.

\* \* \*

Dux Medallist of 1956 was Marjory E. Mackintosh, who also had the distinction of being one of four county pupils to achieve the possible of five Highers and one Lower in the fifth year.

\* \* \*

Two new members joined the staff at the beginning of the 1956-57 session. Miss A. Humble, Dip. P. Ed., took charge of Physical Training of girls, and Mrs J. Mathieson, Dip. Mus. Ed., R.S.A.M., succeeded Mrs Calder as Music Mistress.

\* \* \*

The roll at beginning of session was 430—237 Primary and 193 Secondary pupils.

\* \* \*

A party of members of staff and senior secondary pupils spent a week-end at Glenmore Norwegian Hut on September 7-10.

\* \* \*

A Whist Drive was held in aid of School Funds on September 28.

An innovation of the new session has been golf matches between staff and senior boys of the School and those of Forres Academy. From home the School lost 1-9, but at home won 6-2.

## 1956 SCOTTISH LEAVING CERTIFICATE RESULTS

Below are the complete Certificates of Class VI leavers:—

Isobel Bruce—Hr. English, Hr. French, Hr. German, Lr. Latin, Lr. Maths., Lr. History, Arithmetic.

Rosalind Cousins—Hr. English, Hr. French, Hr. German, Hr. Maths., Hr. History, Lr. Latin, Arithmetic.

Elza Ferguson—Lr. English, Lr. French, Lr. Maths., Arithmetic.

Charles Gall—Hr. English, Hr. French, Lr. Maths., Lr. Science, Lr. Tech., Arithmetic.

Patricia Lawrence—Hr. English, Hr. French, Hr. History, Lr. German, Lr. Maths., Arithmetic.

Elizabeth Macpherson—Hr. Homecraft, Lr. English, Lr. French, Lr. German, Arithmetic.

Below are the subjects gained by Class V in their first sitting:—

George Coutts—Hr. English, Hr. French, Lr. Maths., Lr. Science, Lr. History, Lr. Tech., Arithmetic.

Robin Fraser—Lr. English, Lr. French, Lr. History, Lr. Science.

Andrew Howlett—Hr. English, Hr. French, Lr. Maths., Lr. Latin, Lr. German, Lr. History.

Jean Laing—Lr. English, Hr. French, Lr. Maths., Lr. Latin, Lr. German, Arithmetic.

Joan Lamont—Hr. English, Hr. French, Lr. German, Lr. History.

Anne Macdonald—Hr. English, Hr. French, Lr. Latin, Lr. German, Lr. History (Univ. Prelim.).

Effie Macdonald—Lr. English, Lr. French, Lr. History.

Rosemond McHattie—Lr. English, Hr. Homecraft.

Joyce Mackay—Hr. English, Lr. French, Arithmetic.

Marjory Mackintosh—Hr. English, Hr. French, Hr. Latin, Hr. Maths., Hr. Science, Lr. History, Arithmetic.

Susanne McKenzie—Hr. English, Hr. French, Hr. Homecraft, Lr. German, Lr. History, Arithmetic.

Grace Shand—Lr. English, Lr. French, Lr. Homecraft, Arithmetic.

David Williamson—Lr. French.



### THOSE WHO SIT IN HIGH PLACES

ROBIN FRASER, our studious-looking School Captain, might well be mistaken for a junior master. Robin's appearance is deceptive, for he has excelled chiefly at football, in athletics and on the accordion.

ANDREW HOWLETT, who, as Vice-Captain, supports Robin, has remained seemingly immune to the influence of the Highlands. He retains his Oxford accent, his preference for cricket and his liking for linguistic studies.

JOYCE MACKAY, with leanings towards music, literature and domesticity, represents a change from the usual athletic type of Head Girl.

EFFIE MACDONALD, Joyce's deputy, came in two years ago as a shy country lass. She is getting on.

GEORGE MCINNES, an exceptionally gifted footballer, has become Football Captain. George, however, is knacky at all sports, a rather dubious asset for a student. His engaging smile gets round most people.

CALUM SCALLY hails, like George, from Carr Bridge, and has the same flair for sport and the same disarming smile.

COLIN KEITH is a pretty good all-rounder and an amazing runner for his age. His speed on the left wing caused him to be sought by Grantown's senior team.

GAY GRANT, a neat little figure, has shouldered a big burden as Hockey Captain with a largely untried team. Gay also carries a heavy L.C. programme.

ALISON STUART, with the family flair for all sorts of things, must also have a busy life.

AMELIA EDWARDS must guard the hockey citadel if Gay and Alison fail. For such occasions Amelia's engaging smile changes to a look of grim hostility.

ISOBEL FERGUSON, with a sweet and gentle expression, belies a flair for hockey and athletics.

TORQUIL MACKENZIE has fallen heir to the distinguished post of Librarian and Museum Curator. Torquil's rather professorial aspect suits the post, and when we see him holding forth to his classmates in the playground we seem to see him rehearsing for more important occasions.

LEWIS SMITH has abandoned the curatorship, but finds artistic solace in music and step-dancing.

GEORGE COUTTS, though a good all-rounder, seems to have evaded the major responsibilities of office, but continues to regard school life with a genial and humorous twinkle.

SANDY MCGREGOR and DAVID HOGG, our senior delivery boys, have found that such activities debar them from the field of sport, but they go their rounds with unabated good humour.

WILLIE GRANT, on the other hand, plays a good game of football, is our most consistent golfer and generally gives an impression of quiet efficiency.

TOMMY EDWARDS, youngest of the boy prefects, is graduating into a bigger edition of the bright-eyed little footballer we used to know.

MARGARET MACDONALD cheerfully undertakes the most difficult journey to school of Grantown pupils.

GRACE SHAND, now that Nethy football season is over, is freer for study.

MARGARET NELSON finds Strathspey encouraging to a poetic temperament.

EVELYN McIVOR emerged as the star of last year's Quiz trials.

MARGERY THOMSON and KAY HEPBURN are among our youngest girl prefects. Withal Kay has long been a hockey stalwart, while Margery's gifts are more obvious in the realm of study.

MARGARET McLENNAN and CHRISTINE McKENZIE, two young athletic stars, have also made the grade as officials in their fourth year.

### IN LIGHTER VEIN

The School Canteen has arrived at last, with a new Science Laboratory thrown in. Rumour had it that the new building might be complete by October, 1955, but an early time lag dispelled that hope. As winter closed in, it became evident that 1955 would not see the opening, but we hoped it might be made by Easter. However, it was not till May 15 that Miss Wharton Duff, heroine of the battle for the canteen, performed the opening ceremony. We were told by the Director of Education that it was the best-equipped school canteen in the north, and we recognised this as an obvious fact. It is very inspiring to feel that you possess something that is the best of its kind. On the other hand, our high status in the matter of canteens makes us feel all the more bitterly our still deplorable lack as regards a well-equipped gymnasium.

Romance has been on our doorstep in recent months. The recent marriage of Mr Charles Macdonald suggests a cogent reason for his securing a country schoolhouse a year ago and taking leave of Grantown. Mr George, his successor, also found romance a stumbling-block to residence in Strathspey, and betook himself to Langholm, which could provide posts both for himself and for the young lady who is now Mrs George. Mr Duncan, Mr George's successor, is, fortunately, already married. We feel happy that romance will not beckon him from Strathspey.

The School is honoured in having two of its masters on the Town Council, both in key positions. Mr Fraser recently became Provost. His promotion to the position of magistrate awakes new terrors in the hearts of those who break the law. It would be a bitter sentence if the new Provost were to forget himself and request some malefactor to write out, "I must not cycle without lights,"



five hundred times. If he went a step further and invoked the aid of the tawse, it might well discourage law-breaking altogether.

We have all heard of "haunted castles," but have you ever been haunted by castles? This magazine was. We usually rely for copy on holiday experiences, and this year a big percentage of our contributors seemed to have been visiting castles all over the place. We apologise to the writers of many interesting articles, but you can have too much of a good thing.

### GLENMORE, SEPTEMBER, 1956

This year's expedition will probably be remembered as one of the happiest by many concerned, although Mr McDonald, of the flashing, faintly sardonic smile, and Mr Gillan, of Elgin Academy, were missed.

At about 9.45 on Saturday morning (following, it must be explained, unusually Spartan efforts at getting up) our party set off in the general direction of Cairngorm itself. As we ascended into the upper atmosphere, we became aware that we were gradually being cut off from the world beneath by mist, which lent a slightly ethereal air to the proceedings.

Cairngorm's summit was reached in time for lunch, after which we pressed onward into the swirling mists, bound for further conquests. Ben McDhui was honoured with our presence for tea, after we had followed a route via Cairn Lochan. Tracks of a homeward and rather muddy nature were then made.

Sunday saw a party of somewhat smaller proportions en route for Bynack, whose peak was still shrouded in mist on our arrival there. Master Bruce Bain showed great stamina in accompanying the party all the way there and back, surely a sign of greater accomplishments to come. The descent was made with plenty of time in hand, not that this made the slightest difference to those upholders of a classic tradition, the "Hoggers" and the "Plodders," who refused to remain within half-a-mile of each other.

In the evenings, the staff, all too well aware of the presence of about two dozen near-delinquents in search of amusement, promptly blockaded themselves in the kitchen where, in all probability, they prayed fervently that Rock 'n' Roll had not hit Grantown-on-Spey. Amusements, however, followed the usual trends. Ping-pong and darts, the sacred sports of Glenmore, were well attended, while those desiring to improve their minds could turn to cards, notably to a game suited only to the most meticulous of tastes, which obliged participants to leap up from their chairs at irregular intervals or to give vent to half-demented cries of "Good Morning, Sir!" or "Good Evening, Madam!" Such actions usually culminated in howls of wholly demented laughter.

This, then, was the situation which Robin Fraser had to face whenever he wished to squeeze immortal melody from his accordion. Nothing daunted, however, the Wandering Minstrel persevered manfully, and soon the Hut rang as it had not rung since another memorable occasion in May, 1955.

Sandy McGregor, incidentally, proved himself capable of producing a fruity and remarkably authentic Cockney accent, which seemed strangely out of place in such Scottish surroundings.

The presence of a section of the diabolical "Goon" cult could not be ignored: even at dead of night such evilly significant words as "I'm walking backwards for Christmas," such foul oaths as "Sapristi Nurk!" and many other unprintable and, to a greater extent, unspellable ejaculations could be heard filtering insidiously through cracks in dormitory walls.

Various members of the party chose to spend Monday morning by Loch Morlich, either sitting on the small wooden pier dangling bare and often blistered feet in the water, or following, with envious eyes, the manoeuvres of sailing and canoeing parties on the glassy surface of the loch.

A post-prandial game of soccer was cut short by the early arrival of the return lorry, into which everyone and everything were miraculously fitted. Thus ended this year's Glenmore week-end.

ANDREW M. HOWLETT, VIA.

### THE SPORT OF SKI-ING

The sensation experienced by a skier as he or she glides smoothly over the crisp sparkling snow, through the unequalled beauty of winter scenery, cannot be surpassed by any other sport. The fascination of ski-ing lies mainly in the fact that without any mechanical assistance and under favourable conditions, one can reach speeds of up to forty miles per hour. Another reason for its immense popularity is the fact that a considerable element of danger is involved, when ski-ing down a steep incline at a high speed. Naturally, if it was possible to ski down a snow-covered slope without any risk whatsoever, the sport would immediately lose its fascination. However, it is only after endless practice and many falls, that the skier can finally experience the thrill of gliding effortlessly through space, balanced on his two polished "blades," which hum quietly as they slice through the snow.

For centuries skis have been necessary household articles in such countries as Norway and Sweden, where winter conditions freeze other methods of travel. In the past fifty years, however, ski-ing has become one of Europe's most popular winter sports, and each year the number of enthusiasts is rapidly increasing.

COLIN R. KEITH, V.B.



## CHICAGO INTERLUDE

The other night I am sittin' in some night-club joint I know, downin' the contents of a bottle of hooch that I have on the table before me, lightin' a cigarette, and otherwise doin' nothin' in particular. There is a guy at the piano gettin' carried away over somethin' real cool he is playin', but besides this there is nothin' much happenin', and I am tellin' you guys that I am not very appreciative of the atmosphere of this place at all.

Furthermore, they now decide to bring on some guy who is drippin' with hair-oil, and who wishes to croon. Personally, I am not too fond of crooning guys who are also drippin' with hair-oil, and when I hear the kinda noise he is makin', I am soon forming the opinion that this guy is nothin' but an acute pain in the neck. Seemingly I am not alone in this opinion, for at this point some wise guy situated somewhere behind me opens up with a sub-machine gun. Some other guys over the other side of the room rod up and start takin' pot-shots back, and within a very short time the lead is flyin' in the old-established manner.

I see that the croonin' guy is hangin' onto his microphone makin' a penetratin' sorta noise, and I think maybe he thinks he is Elvis Presley or somethin', but after contemplatin' this guy further, I come to the conclusion that he has stopped so many slugs he is just not feelin' so good.

However, I am for postponin' further reflection until I am more securely situated under the table, and as I dive for it I hear a sound from above which leads me to believe that some smart guy has taken a bead on my bottle of rye and has not missed. Most people are now takin' cover under or behind tables, and the shindig is somewhat deafenin', on account of the amount of artillery these palookas are usin'.

Some guy, whom I assume to be the manager of this joint, now stands up and starts to open his mouth. As it is hardly the time to burst into song, I am of the opinion that this guy is openin' his mouth in order to say somethin', but he soon shuts it again when some bozo lays him out with a chair. I now perceive some real destructive-lookin' guys who are commencin' to pull hand-grenades and such outa their hip pockets. Now these guys I believe to be becomin' a little too far. I meanta say, it would seem that they are under the influence of this Rock 'n' Roll, or somethin'. Furthermore, the guy with the sub-machine gun, who seems to be havin' a lotta fun, is now occupyin' himself by knockin' chunks outa the table-leg against which I am leanin' my head, which I find disconcertin', and I am seriously beginnin' to think that this joint is really jumpin' some, and perhaps it is becomin' a little too hot to hold me, when a lotta cops appear outa thin air and commence gumshoein' all over the place.

After this, several of those present are beginnin' to lose interest, for several of those present are so full of lead they are not

feelin' quite themselves. These guys are also runnin' outa shells, and I am greatly relieved to learn that the lethal kinda guy with the sub-machine gun has gone off in search of somethin' else to play with. After a while, the noise dies down somewhat, and these cops are left to do a little cleanin' up.

I myself am highly delighted, on emergin' from under the table, for the glass outa which I am formerly drinkin' hooch is still intact, and the same goes for about four fingers of rye whisky within same, although I am greatly annoyed to find that my cigarette has gone out completely during my absence.

ANDREW M. HOWLETT, VIA.

## APPARITION

One foggy evening in November I was out for my evening stroll when, for some reason or other, I turned down a long, dark alleyway, where no lights from lamp-posts could penetrate. It was one of those nights when one's imagination runs astray, and when it is best always to go accompanied. My footsteps sounded hollowly as I walked quickly and alertly along the lane. Then, suddenly, I froze in my tracks and my eyes dilated with horror. For, from a doorway, a shapeless blur appeared. Beside this apparition a "head" swung to and fro. Wild, fiendish eyes over a grinning mouth stared fixedly at me. The sweat broke out all over me as one thought chased another across my mind. "It's a ghost carrying his head in his hand," was my one and only thought. Then, to top everything, there was a hollow rattle like chains and "the ghost" moved towards me, his head swinging backward and forward—backward and forward. I tried to scream, but the sound choked in my throat. Then a voice broke the eerie silence, "A penny for the guy, mister?"

WILLIAM GRANT, Vb.

## THE HAUGHS O' CROMDALE

In 1690, a battle was fought,  
About which in school we've often been taught,  
And a cairn was erected,  
In a spot well selected,  
'Way up in the Haughs o' Cromdale.

Near the cairn lies a stone,  
With history of the days that are gone.  
The piper stood bravely, and he still played on,  
His wound it was mortal, and his blood stained the stone,  
'Way up in the Haughs o' Cromdale.

Years have elapsed since that grim day,  
Wars have been fought and won  
But the memory is still green  
Of the deeds that were done,  
'Way up in the Haughs o' Cromdale.

HELEN MILLER, IIA.



### THE FALL OF LEARNING

A very long time ago, history records that the pupils of a school well known to us all were so eager to learn and so greedy for education that every Saturday morning the poor janitor used to be besieged in the small hours by boys and girls clamouring for admission to the school in order to study more.

Frantic parents telephoned the rector to do something about the situation, as they feared the families' health would suffer, but always the answer was the same, "But, dear parents and teachers! We do not want to waste time playing foolish games. We wish to study the works of our great friends Cicero, Livy and Caesar, French and German grammatical constructions and the great mysteries and wonders of science."

The teachers themselves began to worry in case the pupils would soon know more than themselves, and then their meagre salaries would be stopped. Suddenly the rector had a brainwave, and the next Saturday morning a body of teachers was seen to be ascending a nearby hill, each armed with a bag of potato crisps and a sherbet dab to dispel the pangs of hunger.

You may wonder, dear reader, where they were going. Well, here is the answer. They were going to visit the Council of Wisdom, a group of wise hermits, who lived on the summit of the hill. The poor teachers told their woeful story, and the wise hermits were immediately thrown into a state of confusion. "Why! Bless our beards and whiskers! They will soon know more than ourselves," exclaimed the president as he helped himself to a crisp from the rector's bag. The conference continued without success.

Suddenly a teacher dislodged a stone with his foot, and as it rolled down the hill the president shouted, "Eureka! Eureka! The solution. We will scatter the ground round Grantown with these spherical objects called balls, and perhaps the pupils will chase after them."

Thus on Monday morning, just as the pupils were about to enter the school-gate, a strange rumbling sound was heard, and down the hill rolled balls of every description — footballs, tennis balls, hockey balls, cricket balls, moth balls, and brandy balls. The ball-starved population fell on them with vigour. Even parents and grandparents seized whichever appealed to them. It is also to be noted that one or two teachers furtively seized a few golf balls.

The Grantown sports stores did a roaring trade selling bats and equipment of all kinds to fit the precious balls.

Now all the desires of parents and teachers were satisfied, and even yet pupils can still be seen kicking balls, batting or smacking them in sheer ecstasy. But, as physical health began to improve, the mental condition of the pupils sadly worsened, and another staff meeting was called. It decided to revisit the Council and ask them to destroy every ball.

The following Saturday morning found the teachers wearily climbing the hill again, but at the top they found only heather and rocks. The days of study were over, and now the call of the ball is more powerful than that of the book.

THE CURATOR, IVa.

### A VISIT TO THE PAST

During the Easter Holidays, we spent a day in York, where we visited the Castle Museum. It seemed like any other museum, until we found "The Street."

We were in one of the period rooms which possessed a large Georgian bay window. On peering out we saw the Old Cobbled Street.

We entered it by Aldermans' Walk, a cobbled roadway containing various "shops." Passing under an inn sign, we entered the "street"—typifying some bygone community which one expected to come to life at any moment.

The house and shop fronts are genuine remains, salvaged from old York buildings. The central feature is a timbered Elizabethan house. Further along are a Toy Shop, Haberdashery, also Barber and Tobacconist, the latter with a 200-year-old sign of a Highlander with a snuff-box in his hand.

Across the "street" is the Coaching Station, with stagecoach fully loaded. Next door is an old Fire Station with horse-drawn fire-engine.

A hansom cab, with horse and cabby, and a sedan chair further along, both lend to the reality of the scene.

One of the last shops is Joseph Terry's. In one window are many mouth-watering sweets, offered at 2d per  $\frac{1}{4}$  lb.! In the other window is a replica of the Duke of Windsor's christening cake.

On our departure from the museum, we all had the feeling that, just for a while, we had been living in the Past.

DOUGLAS McINNES, IVb.

### A SURPRISE

One morning I went out for coal,  
I saw a grey cat in a hole;  
And by her side three kittens small  
Were snuggled up against the wall.

The cat looked up in great alarm,  
For fear that I should do them harm;  
And by her side six bright round eyes  
Stared out at me in great surprise.

The mother cat o'ercame her fear,  
And, tail in air, she came quite near,  
Inviting me with many a purr  
To view those playful balls of fur.

One day when we were all away,  
The mother took them out to play,  
And where they went I cannot say,  
But they've been gone unto this day.

BILL REID, Ia.



### THE GIANT EYE

One of the greatest wonders of the modern world is the giant telescope on the top of Mount Palomar, in California. This telescope is capable of seeing twice as far into space as any other telescope and with it the astronomers hope to solve many problems about the shape and size of the universe.

Palomar Mountain is 5,700 feet high, and the road over the summit was especially built to convey the massive parts of the telescope to the top. If you travel up it, the very first thing that you see is the glittering silver dome of the observatory in which the telescope is housed. This huge dome is about the same size as the dome of St Paul's Cathedral, London, and its height above the ground is about that of Nelson's Column in Trafalgar Square.

A wide slot in the dome can be opened by sliding shutters when the telescope is in use, and the entire roof of the observatory rests on thirty-two four-wheeled bogies, running on rails, so that it can be turned round to enable the telescope to point to any part of the sky.

ALEXANDER MACDONALD, IIIa.

### THE LONE GREY HOUSE IN THE WEST

As the *Britannia* sailed up Kyle Rhea Strait, a lone grey house was pointed out to the Royal Family. In front of this ancient building approximately one hundred people from the surrounding glens were gathered, waving gaily-coloured handkerchiefs and plying binoculars. It is most unlikely that any of the people reflected upon the history of the bleak edifice in front of which they stood, and perhaps it is fortunate that they did not, or they might have become so engrossed with their thoughts that they would not have noticed the passing of the *Britannia*.

When the Queen's great-grandfather sailed up the same Strait, fifty years before, the building was a drovers' inn. Long before that, however, it was no uncommon thing to see the hillsides dotted with drovers and huge herds of cattle from the distant glens of Skye. Their method of crossing the fast current between the "Misty Isle" and the mainland is interesting in the extreme, and pays tribute both to the hardiness of the beasts and the ingenuity of the men.

With yells and shouts they urged the cattle into the water and yoked them in groups of six or eight. A man, sitting in the stern of a small boat, held the rope of the foremost cow while his companions rowed vigorously across the turbulent waters. When the crossing was completed, the dripping cattle were led up a slipway—the same slipway as is now used by a modern ferry-boat. After partaking of the hospitality of the inn, the drovers continued on their way to the cattle marts of Falkirk and the Lowlands.

Nowadays, the house, after being a drovers' inn for three centuries, is a moderately busy

youth hostel, which is visited by about one thousand people each summer. It is surprising that it is not more popular, as the surrounding countryside is both beautiful and romantic. Many are the legends centred round the hostel which, according to local repute, is haunted—not at all astonishing when the burial ground of Fingal's giants is nearby! Nearby, also, is a fairy stone which has marks on it which might well be the fossilised footprints of tiny, fairy feet. The hostel is interesting in another way also, for the great Samuel Johnson and his chronicler Boswell slept there on their tour of the Western Isles in 1772.

Who knows but in time to come the old inn will be able to boast that two even greater men have slept in it—although they passed unheralded at the time!

D. D. CHISHOLM, IIIa.

### WILLIE WENT TO MELVILLE CASTLE— AND SO DID I

On holiday this year, I visited Melville Castle Hotel, near Dalkeith, Midlothian. This old castle is situated amidst some very beautiful gardens and trees, and the display of flowers in the nearby Dobbie's gardens adds to the beauty of these surroundings.

Gazing at the beautiful old staircase, I could almost imagine Willie's farewell to his four lady-loves, but what attracted me most was the beautiful painted ceiling, which is indeed a masterpiece.

A brass plaque hangs over the old-fashioned brick fireplace in the hall, and on it are the words of the famous ballad, "Willie's Gane to Melville Castle."

ALISON D. STUART, Vb.

### REVOAN

One day during the summer my aunt and I paid a visit to an old house, which stands in the foothills of the Cairngorms.

Several generations ago it was one of the many houses in the area, and the crofters got a meagre living from the hillside. It is now almost a ruin, but thanks to the work of many people who use it, it still offers shelter to climbers.

The place I mean is, of course, Revoan Bothy. To my family, however, it is rather more than a shelter, for here they can find memories of the past. For many generations this had been the home of my father's ancestors, his grandmother having been born there.

With the passing of years they were forced to leave the croft, and now the old house stands deserted. James Grant, better known to people of his generation as "The Old Pensioner of Revoan," was my great, great, great grandfather. He fought in the British Army at the Battle of Corunna in 1809.

JAMES MACGILLIVRAY, IIIb.



**THE OTHER SIDE OF GLENMORE**

What fascination or magic is there about Glenmore which draws us back time after time? Every year we head for the hills, well equipped with elastoplast, and every year we look at our blistered feet and say ruefully, "Why didn't I take two tins?" When we go climbing, we clamber up almost vertical hillsides in a howling gale, more often than not in pouring rain, led by diabolical fools who seem to think there is a train to catch at the top and their lives depended on catching it. At night, after the lights go out, the weary Glenmoron climbs into bed and settles down for a well-earned sleep. Does he get his sleep? After the conversations between people in dorms. at opposite ends of the hut have quietened down, there are the Flying Objects. At this stage the person who sits up at the wrong moment may be hit on the head by an orange, or enveloped in a blanket being passed from one end of the dorm. to the other. When the hero gets to sleep, he is quite liable to be awakened by the sound of the bears growling; but fear not, this is only the person in the next bed snoring. When, at the crack of dawn, everyone is awakened by some fiend who likes to get up early, we all think of breakfast. Crisp bacon, beautifully fried eggs, nicely browned toast. Then we remember who does the cooking, we do. When breakfast is eventually served, the bacon is half raw, the eggs like leather, and the toast burnt to a cinder.

These then are the horrors which confront the novice going to Glenmore. It is needless to say that when we next go I'll be there. There must be a magic spell over that place.

EVELYN McIVOR, VB.

**A DREAM OF TO-MORROW**

All men in factories are complaining,  
 Their anger does not need explaining.  
 Unemployment! They are blaming  
 Botheration! Automation.  
 Boys and girls in school are plotting  
 Towards the day when, without swotting,  
 Answers trite will out come trotting.  
 Machination—Automation.  
 The gardener mid his toil is needing  
 Someone else to do his weeding,  
 Something with a little speeding,  
 Acceleration—Automation.  
 The busy housewife, craving leisure,  
 Seeking time for well earned pleasure,  
 Sees in dreams new household treasure.  
 Anticipation—Automation.  
 From Aix at lunch to Ghent for tea,  
 To see the world then you'll agree  
 We'll travel in comfort, trouble free.  
 Gratification—Automation.  
 Reys. and docs. from slot machines,  
 Teachers cede to T.V. screens,  
 We're heading for the land of dreams,  
 Culmination—Automation.

MARGERY THOMSON, IVa.

**THE KUKRI**

I was recently shown, by a veteran of the Burma campaign, a Kukri knife, the standard and favourite weapon of the Gurkha.

The Kukri was originally made at a monastery north of Darjeeling in Nepal. The blade is about fifteen inches long, curved and razor-sharp. On the blade is a drawing of a branch of a tree, and near the hilt is a small semicircle cut into the inside of the blade with a small projecting piece in it. This is the Gurkha's "sight" when throwing the knife. He lines it up with his target, and a Gurkha very rarely misses.

The handle is decorated with carvings and pieces of ivory inlaid in it. It is about six inches long, and where it meets the blade is about one inch and a half broad. It tapers slightly in the middle and then widens until it is about three inches wide at the end, and so provides a very good grip.

The sheath is made of very strong leather and joins on to the Gurkha's belt. A wide strap of leather around it provides a sheath for a small skinning knife (the Kukri is also used for hunting) and a small metal hone.

An idea of the Kukri's sharpness can be gauged from the fact that every Christmas the Gurkhas hold a festival in which a bullock is killed. A Gurkha is selected, and with his Kukri decapitates the animal. A Gurkha failing to do this is considered a disgrace to the regiment.

The Gurkhas are brave, fearless fighters, worthy of the honours they hold, masters of jungle fighting, and it is fitting that they never sheath their knives after battle unless they have drawn an enemy's blood.

TOMMY EDWARDS, IVb.

**THE FIRST PNEUMATIC TYRE**

You would not normally associate the invention of the pneumatic tyre with a veterinary surgeon, but that is actually what John Dunlop was.

Being a lover of animals he was sorry for the horses who pulled the trams in Belfast, where he carried on his practice. He decided to help them by making and fitting rubber shoes to their suffering feet.

This made him think of a rubber cover filled with air for bicycle wheels, for, up until that time, the tyres were made of solid rubber. This invention started the great, world-wide Dunlop tyre industry.

He was a man of very high standing—his fame being hardly equalled at that time. In fact, when he produced his invention, at the age of forty-nine, he was about to retire from business.

On his old house in Belfast, there is a plaque to Dunlop's memory. This old building is used to-day as a hospital for sick animals—a truly fitting memorial to a man who had devoted his life to the care of dumb creatures.

DUNCAN CHISHOLM, IIIb.



### SOME IMPRESSIONS OF A TOUR IN NORTHERN SCOTLAND

I had often been impressed by the beauty of the view of sea, fertile fields and heather-clad hills which is to be seen if, on a clear day, one is willing to delay for a few minutes at the top of Bogbain Brae, instead of hurrying on down the steep slope into Inverness. One sees, of course, the blue waters of the Beaully Firth and beyond them, the rich farming lands of the Black Isle. Often had I wished to take the winding road through this fair land and to know something too of the more northerly countryside, and very recently I was able to fulfil my ambitions.

On leaving Inverness the road winds round the Beaully Firth but suddenly turns inland again, as though to remind one that wooded slopes and growing corn are as easy on the eyes as rocky headlands overlooking the restless sea. And so to Dingwall and Golspie, Brora and Helmsdale, all thriving townships set in surroundings so truly favoured that one wonders where there could possibly be anything more completely satisfying. Soon there is Wick, a neat town where in the same street one may buy things truly Highland and a few doors further on the products of Bond Street and of Birmingham. But one must not loiter but press on to achieve a long cherished ambition—to stand on the most northerly point of Scotland—Dunnet Head. But there is not much to look at, and so it is on to admire "Castle Mey," the Queen Mother's Highland home, solid as the grey rock on which it stands and looking out on a magnificent view of sea.

Here one begins to experience a change in the landscape. What is it? There are no trees! No trees—just sea and rock, rock and sea, and now and then hedgerows of gorse and whin—but no trees! How sorry we suddenly become, for the people who inhabit the crofts and small townships of this area. No trees! Poor souls! And so it is for mile after mile, all along the coast to the Kyle of Tongue, and Loch Eriboll, the latter a sea loch of unforgettable beauty and with waters fed by the streams so crystal clear that one longs to swim but is very quickly forced to give up by the sheer coldness of the water. And on again past Kyle of Durness, Rhiconich and Loch Laxford to Scourie, through a countryside barren and forbidding, with now and then a trout stream, inviting and beautiful, to look upon, but again and again the ruins of small croft houses, their thatched roofs now fallen in and their walls slowly crumbling, evidence of once happy homes where children played and men toiled, and where now there is only silence and decay. On to Kylestrome, where one may enjoy free of charge a trip by ferry across a very lovely sea loch—so on to Loch Assynt, to Ledmore and Loch Broom, where one is conscious of a sadness for the barren land and its roofless homes and absent people.

But soon there is Ullapool, surely a gem of sheerest beauty, its waters busy with sailing boats, trim yachts and pleasure steamers. On by Little Loch Broom to Loch Ewe, and thence down beautiful Loch Maree to Kin-

lochewe and by Loch Garve to Dingwall, and so to Inverness once more.

A tour of indescribable beauty, and of sadness for the silent glens, and of hope that something may yet be done to find work and build homes to claim back the lost lands of the North.

LEWIS M. SMITH, IVb.

### THE ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL

During our holiday in London this year, we were fortunate enough to attend a concert in the Royal Festival Hall, which ended the 1956 Musical Festival.

As we entered the brightly lit hall, we fixed our eyes on the platform where the Royal Symphony Orchestra and the band of the Royal Military School of Music were waiting calmly in their places ready to begin.

After a few minutes the trumpets sounded their opening call, and in walked the Dutch Choir. We all stood and sang the National Anthem, and then the choir sang the Dutch National Anthem.

The lights went out; the programme had started.

First of all, the orchestra played "The Brazilian Country Train," which sounded just like a train chugging along leisurely at its own time.

And so on went the programme until we all stood and sang "Land of Hope and Glory." The lights went on; and we all trooped out, tired but happy.

LINDSEY STEPHEN, Ia.

### A PLEASURE CRUISE

When the holidays came, we went to Aberdeen to embark on a vessel going to the Northern Isles of Scotland. The boat "St Ninian" left Aberdeen at five o'clock on Tuesday afternoon. We sat on the upper deck until dinner-time, while the sun still glowing sank beneath the horizon. After dinner we went to bed, and I thought it was great fun to sleep in bunks on top of each other.

Next morning we were in Kirkwall. While we were taking breakfast, a steward came round to tell us that there was a bus-run to the famous Churchill Barriers and Scapa Flow. We boarded the bus soon after and started off. When we arrived we saw a small abbey built by Italians when they were prisoners. On our return we set sail for Lerwick. Then a mist came down and through it we could see Fair Isle. At seven o'clock we were in the capital of Shetland. Next day at two o'clock we went for a tour down to Sumburgh Head. When we arrived there, we all went to see Pictish dwellings and had tea in the hotel. On our return to the vessel I felt sick.

Next we arrived in Orkney and went to see St Magnus Cathedral, which is eight hundred years old, and the ruins of the Bishop's Palace. We set sail for Aberdeen at five o'clock and arrived there on Saturday morning after a week of enjoyment.

ORMOND SMITH, Pr. 6.



### THE SEEKERS

I do not believe in ghosts (although I'm quite sure I would break the record for the mile if I saw anything remotely resembling one) but I must confess that one night in Inverness this summer my non-belief was somewhat shaken. Accompanied by my father I was walking along by the River Ness near St Andrew's Cathedral. It was about half past twelve and, in the summer darkness, the great building, beautiful though it is, looked weird and sinister. There was no one in sight and no sound but the steady surge of the River.

As we drew nearer to the Cathedral the moon suddenly appeared from behind the black clouds which had covered it all evening and, in its rays, we saw bats wheeling to and fro. Laughingly my father said, "One of these will be Dracula."

I looked at the great bulk of the Cathedral outlined against that cloud-strewn sky and shivered a little. Only the previous day I had heard of Bram Stoker's famous book about the vampires—the walking dead—who rose from their graves in the darkness and prowled abroad in search of living victims.

Reassuring myself with the thought that vampires like Dracula were found only in Hungary, I said nothing; but, just as I was reflecting that the bats in Inverness were probably more afraid of me than I was of them, I saw three or four small lights moving about in front of the Cathedral. There was no sound and no one in sight—only those lights moving purposefully to and fro close to the ground.

I do not know how to describe my emotions in the next few seconds. I stood still, almost paralysed with fright. "Wh—what's that? I stammered in answer to my father's astonished questions.

He looked across at the lights and laughed. "Oh, that! Did you think it was the vampires? It's men getting worms for the fishing."

HAZEL ROSS, IIB.

### NOVELS

Ours is pre-eminently an age of novel-reading. More novels are printed and read than of all other works together. While it is inevitable that in such a mass of literary writings some must be worthless, and that among so many thousands of readers some must be unprofitable, the general tendency of novels is of great public benefit.

It is true that novels tend to create false impressions of life. Glowing tales of pirates and highwaymen are dangerous amongst young boys, and exciting stories of detectives and plain clothes men are inclined to make people discontented with their lives. Novels are also chief agencies for corrupting language.

But novels give relaxation from the drudgery and worry of every-day life. They convey instruction in history and morality in

agreeable forms. Novels help while away idle hours, arouse our sympathies for, by increasing our knowledge of people in less fortunate positions than ourselves, and, probably most important of all, novels have the sanction of our Lord himself, who taught largely by parables.

NEIL MACDONALD, IVb.

### THE COUNTRY-SIDE

The country's at its best in June,  
When all the birds do keep in tune.  
The morning and the afternoon  
Go sailing by.

As travellers, hikers, pass away,  
The birds, the bees all seem to say,  
"Oh! please do stop with us and play,  
This afternoon."

And as the summer days go by,  
We greet the autumn with a sigh,  
And as the leaves blow to the sky,  
The summer fades away.

ADA YOUNG, IId.

### WHEN I GROW UP

When I grow up, I am going to be a farmer with a dairy. I am going to buy seventy cows, four milking-machines, one Ferguson tractor and two ploughs. I am going to have seven workmen and a litter of pigs.

HAMISH JACK, Pr. 5.

When I grow up, I am going to be a scientist, because I like putting designs on things. But before I can be a scientist, I have to go to a big school called a College.

ROY CAMPBELL, Pr. 5.

When I grow up, I am going to be a policeman and take drunk men into gaol for a few weeks.

ALICK HEWLETT, Pr. 5.

When I grow up, I am going to be an engine driver, because I like trains and I will get twenty-four pounds a week.

DENNIS COMERFORD, Pr. 5.

When I grow up, I want to be a teacher, because I think it is a good job.

CATHERINE MACGREGOR, Pr. 5.

When I grow up, I am going to be a boxer, because I have two pairs of boxing gloves.

RAYMOND GREEN, Pr. 5.

When I grow up, I'd like to be  
A sailor on the bright blue sea,  
I'd like to sail to foreign lands  
With coral reefs and golden sands,  
To India and to Africa, Australia and Japan,  
To all the other countries, wherever there is  
man.

So I wish I could get going before I change  
my mind,  
For better than a sailor's life is very hard  
to find.

BRIAN KING, Pr. 7.



**THE OWL**

The owl is very wise;  
At night he doth rise.  
"To-wit-to-whoo," he cries.  
All night through.

On the boughs we see him,  
With his beady eyes  
Peering through the night.  
With its darkening skies.

PATRICIA ANDERSON. Pr. 7.

**AT THE ZOO**

When I was at the zoo one day,  
I saw some little chimps at play;  
They jumped and skipped with lots of glee.  
And looked as happy as could be.

The grizzly bears they growled at me,  
I saw the monkeys having tea,  
The lions, the tigers, and even the seals  
Stood up before they started their meals.

LESLEY DIXON, Pr. 7.

**SPORTS SECTION.****FOOTBALL**

Although the School football eleven once again finished at the foot of the Moray and Nairn league, we might have, with luck, drawn one or two games. In the North of Scotland Cup we had a splendid win against Forres Academy in Round I., while in Round II. we were very unfortunate to lose to Elgin Academy 1st XI. by 1-0. We had a great deal of trouble in finding a team because more than half the recognised 1st XI. left at the end of the previous session. However, Mr Cullen and several of the senior members of the School set out to raise a team, and with outstanding players in George McInnes, who had already made a name for himself in the Local and Highland Leagues, and Colin Keith, who has since graduated into the Grantown-on-Spey team, we got a reasonable side together.

The first game was played against Forres Academy at Grantown. The Forres boys were too strong for a gallant, but weak, Grantown team, and they eventually ran out winners by 7-1, the Grantown goal being scored by Scally.

Our next game against Forres Academy in the Cup at Grantown was the best game of the season. At half time the School led by a Scally goal. However, in the second half the Forres boys found their form and established a 2-1 lead. Fraser equalised, and a few minutes later Keith forced home the winner. The whole team played well, especially the half back line, with Williamson playing centre half in the absence of MacInnes. I. MacDonald also had a good game.

At Nairn the Grammar School, although having most of the play, lost by 2-0. On the whole the team were worth a draw, but the forwards missed many chances.

At Elgin the Grammar School, without Taylor as keeper, lost by 4-1. R. Fraser playing in goals. The team played reasonably well, but the defence was slack. G. MacInnes had a very good game and cleared his lines time and time again. Keith scored our only goal.

In the game against Nairn Academy at Grantown the School won by 2-1. It was a

good game, and Fraser and MacInnes scored the goals.

In the second round of the Cup we lost to Elgin Academy by 1-0. The forwards again threw away many chances, but the defence was steady. S. Taylor played a very good game and we have to thank him for keeping the score so small.

At Forres the Grammar School lost by 6-1. The side was greatly weakened without MacInnes, Urquhart and Scally, and although we scored first the Forres boys were too strong for us. Keith was the scorer.

Our only friendly game was against Kingussie at Grantown. The School eventually won by 2-1. The team played fairly well, but Kingussie were worth a draw. Fraser and MacInnes were our scorers.

A number of Junior games were played. At Grantown the Juniors beat Milne's High School, Fochabers, by 3 goals to 1. In the return game, however, they were overwhelmed and lost by ten clear goals. At Kingussie the team lost by 3-1, while at Elgin a match was drawn with Lhanbryde J.S. School. On the whole the young team played well, and in a few years some of them should find a place in the 1st XI.

Again Grantown's chief weakness lay in the fact that they had no capable reserves to fill vacancies in the 1st team. Two keepers played during the season. Of these H. Grant was fairly steady but rather weak with his clearances, while S. Taylor played some excellent games, especially the Cup-tie against Elgin.

The two backs, A. MacTaggart and R. Smith, played very well with Smith, perhaps, the more polished of the two. MacTaggart, however, with his long clearances, often turned defence into attack. The half-back line of D. Williamson, G. MacInnes and I. MacDonald played fairly well, with MacInnes being easily the best player throughout the season; Williamson, although rather erratic at times, played many fine games; and MacDonald, with his do-or-die spirit, gave valuable services to the team.

The forward line was changed a great deal. The wingers, R. Fraser and C. Keith, had





**FOOTBALL TEAM**—Standing (l. to r.)—Eric Urquhart, Andrew Howlett, Sandy Johnston, George McInnes, Alex. Rintoul, Colin Keith. Seated Robin Fraser, John Stuart, Patrick Buchanan, Calum Scally, Tommy Edwards.



**HOCKEY TEAM**—Standing (l. to r.)—Stella McIntosh, Irene McKenzie, Margaret Donald, Gay Grant, Chrissie Buchanan, Kay Hepburn, Amelia Edwards. Seated—Alison Stuart, Evelyn McIvor, Anne Campbell, Dorothy Lawson, Isobel Ferguson.



some good games, with Keith, who has a fine turn of speed, always a dangerous raider. The inside forward positions were filled by G. Urquhart and Wm. MacCreadie. Urquhart proved himself to be a strong tackler, while MacCreadie, although being a little wild, had some good games. C. Scally at centre-forward had a good season, although he didn't get the necessary support from his inside forwards.

Of the reserves, T. Edwards, although lacking in inches, played well and should gain a regular place in this year's team. A. Rintoul has developed a Willie Fernie flair for dribbling, but at the moment holds on to the ball too long, and J. Calder also played well. Of the younger classes, S. Johnstone, D. Chisholm and D. Moir look like making the grade.

ROBIN FRASER, Vib.

### HOCKEY

The Hockey Season started off with a 3-1 victory against Milne's High School 1st XI., the scorers being Isobel Bruce, Cherry Mathieson and Susanne McKenzie, all of whom have since left school. On account of the strong defence of the backs, the goalie was not overworked for a change.

Our second win was against Inverness Technical High School, when Isobel Bruce scored two goals to their one. It was inevitable that defeat would come sooner or later, and a terrific game with Forres Academy resulted in a 2-1 victory for the visitors. Our goal was scored by our very able left winger, Susanne.

The Junior XI. drew at Kingussie, the team's only goal being scored by Anne Campbell, who has since been promoted to the 1st XI. Other players worthy of mention were Iris Young (right winger), Elizabeth MacDonald and Norma Irvine (defence).

At Inverness the 1st XI. was unfortunate in being beaten 2-1 by the Technical High School. Isobel Bruce (centre) was the scorer. However, a home game against Inverness Royal resulted in a 2-0 win for the school.

No practice during the following ten weeks, on account of weather conditions, resulted in a disastrous 7-0 defeat by Milne's High School at Fochabers. One other reason could be that four regular members of the team were unable to play.

During the session we played two "friendly" matches against the senior boys. These hockey-golf games resulted in 2-0 and 5-3 wins for the boys.

On the 4th November, Susanne Mackenzie, Isobel Bruce and Marjory Mackintosh played in the North of Scotland Schools' hockey trial at Inverness, and on 24th February Susanne and Isobel formed the left wing against the Midlands at Perth.

At the end of the season, we lost five of our best players; but new talent has been spotted among the younger classes, and with Amelia Edwards, our plucky goalie, Kay

Hepburn, vice-captain, a strong right back, Alison Stuart, a very able right half; Gay Grant, our new captain and gallant centre half, should be able to line up quite a good team to play against Elgin Academy in our first match of this season.

GAY GRANT and ALISON STUART, V.

### CRICKET

The customary two matches were played against the Old Guard this year. Although the School suffered defeat in both, the second match proved a close contest.

The first match was played on a glutinous wicket. The School, going in first, scored 36, Williamson hitting an accomplished 17 not out. The Old Guard total was 51 for 9 declared. Howlett took five wickets, Williamson three.

In the second match, bowling outshone batting on both sides. The Old Guard batted first; Williamson opened the School bowling and received a gentle return catch off his second delivery. He went on to take six wickets in all, bowling at peak form with sustained pace, deadly accuracy and devastating effect. Howlett gave just as little away from the other end, and took three wickets, each thanks to the safe hands of McInnes. The Old Guard total was 30. The School batting, however, collapsed likewise under the concentrated attack of the strong bowling team of Milne, Winchester, Dempster and D. McTaggart. Grant was the only School batsman to belabour the bowling to any extent, but Feltham, a young batsman of remarkable staying power and style, played extremely well in a noble attempt to hold the innings together. The last wicket fell at 26, when victory seemed almost within reach.

A. M. HOWLETT, VI.

### SPORTS

In spite of indifferent weather, competitors were well tuned up for the School Sports, and several events were keenly contested. This year Revack was Champion House, with Roy second and Revoan, last year's winners, in third place.

Robin Fraser again won the Senior Boys' Championship, and in doing so broke two records, for the 100 yards and for the long jump. All the more praise is due to the runner-up, Colin Keith, who scored 16 points against Robin's 19. In the Senior Girls' Championship Susanne McKenzie managed to come level with last year's champion, Marie Mackenzie. Both had 15 points. Ronnie Feltham, runner-up in 1955, easily won the Junior Boys' Championship, with Douglas Chisholm and Barnett Campbell as joint runners-up. The Junior Girls' Championship, however, was very closely contested, Audrey Campbell, with 9 points, being only one point ahead of Betty Kirkwood.



**INTER-SCHOOL SPORTS**

The School again sent a Primary team to compete in the Badenoch and Strathspey Primary School Sports. Though we had no stars this year, the team's performances were solid, and the team took third place.

At the Moray and Nairn Inter-School Sports our Seniors came in a close second to Nairn Academy. Among the boys we had no stars but a good range of talent. The performances of Robin Fraser in the 100 yards, of G. McInnes in the mile, of Colin Keith in the javelin, of D. Williamson in the high jump, of Sandy Grant in the shot, of Robin Fraser again in the long jump, and of the relay team—all these built up points. Marie Mackenzie had a first and a second in the short races, and Susanne Mackenzie a place in the long jump; and the relay team also took a point.

In the Intermediate Section Margaret McLennan was something of a prodigy: she was first in the long jump and second both in the 100 yards and in the 150 yards.

In the Juniors Grantown School shared first place with Elgin Academy. Barnett Campbell did yeoman service with two seconds in the shorter races, while the boys' relay team was also second. Audrey Campbell also had two seconds in races, Betty Kirkwood won the high jump, and the girls won the relay race.

The above performances, achieved by training and team-work, give us a good deal of satisfaction. We are also pleased to record that Robin Fraser and Colin Keith took part in the Glasgow Inter-School Sports, and that Colin was placed in both his preliminary heats, for the 100 yards and for the 220.

**SCHOOL OFFICIALS****Boys**

School Captain—Robin Fraser.  
 Vice-Captain—Andrew Howlett.  
 Football Captain—George McInnes.  
 Vice-Captain—Robin Fraser.  
 Athletics Captain—Robin Fraser.  
 Vice-Captain—Colin Keith.  
 Cricket Captain—Andrew Howlett.  
 Vice-Captain—Alexander McGregor.  
 Secretary to Prefects' Court — Alexander McGregor.  
 Librarian and Museum Curator — Torquil McKenzie.  
 House Captains—  
   Revack—George McInnes.  
   Revoan—Calum Scally.  
   Roy—Robin Fraser.  
 Additional Prefects—George Coutts, William Grant, David Hogg, Lewis Smith, Thomas Edwards.

**Girls**

Head Girl—Joyce Mackay.  
 Deputy Head Girl—Effie Macdonald.  
 Hockey Captain—Gay Grant.  
 Vice-Captain—Kay Hepburn.  
 Athletics Captain—Margaret McLennan.  
 Vice-Captain—Isobel Ferguson.  
 Secretary to Prefects' Court—Alison Stuart.  
 Hockey Secretary—Alison Stuart.  
 House Captains—  
   Revack—Margaret McLennan.  
   Revoan—Christine McKenzie.  
   Roy—Amelia Edwards.  
 Additional Prefects — Margaret Macdonald, Evelyn McIvor, Margaret Nelson, Grace Shand, Margery Thomson.



# THE OLD GUARD

## OLD GUARD MEMBERS—1956-57.

### Office-Bearers.

- Honorary President — Thomas Hunter, O.B.E., M.A., B.Sc. (Glasgow), 54 Devonshire Road, Aberdeen; Rector (retired), Grantown Grammar School.
- \*Honorary Vice-President—Robert Wilson, M.A. (Aberdeen), 37 Braeside Terrace, Aberdeen; classics master, Aberdeen Grammar School.
- \*President—David Winchester (1930-34), Northolme; assistant postmaster, G.P.O., Grantown.
- Vice-Presidents—
- \*Albert M. Hastings (1942-46), 42 High Street; partner, J. K. Hastings, Butchers, Grantown.
- William G. Templeton (1942-48), The Lodge; teller, The National Bank of Scotland, Ltd., The Square, Grantown.
- Secretary—William J. Cruickshank (1933-35), Grange Cottage; district agent, Prudential Assurance Co.
- Treasurer—A. Martin Grant (1931-35), High Street; cycle agent, High Street, Grantown.
- Committee—Messrs A. S. McKenzie, G. W. K. Donaldson, A. D. Mackintosh, I. C. Burgess (University representatives); Jas. G. Bruce, J. Duncan, James McLeod, and Ian MacPherson.

### WITH THE FORCES.

- William M. Kerr (1943-44), Kynlra Crescent; signaller, Royal Navy.
- A. John McGregor (1948-54), Woodburn Place; gunner, Royal Artillery.
- \*P. McNicol (1933-35), 85 High Street; petty officer, Royal Navy.
- W. Donald McTaggart (1945-51), M.A. (Hons.) (St Andrews), Easter Gallovie; lieutenant instructor, Royal Navy.
- \*David Ross (1948-53), 4 Station Cottages, Dava; remedial gymnastic instructor, R.A.F., Plymouth, Devon.
- Alexander D. Smith (1931-32), 103 High Street; 27 Valiant Avenue, West Park, Higher St Budeoux, Plymouth; sick bay petty officer, Mass Radiograph Unit, Royal Navy.

### At Universities and Colleges.

- \*Ian C. Burgess (1946-52), The Larches; 3rd year Science, Glasgow University.
- \*Walter Dempster (1950-55), Allt Druidh, Aviemore; 2nd year Arts, Aberdeen University.
- \*G. W. Keith Donaldson (1949-54), 32a The Square; 3rd year Medicine, Edinburgh University.

Alexander Gordon (1945-51), Achnahannet, Durnain-Bridge; student at University of Bonn.

Alexander S. Mackenzie (1947-53), Gowanlea; 4th year Medicine, Aberdeen University.

Robert P. Mackenzie (1949-54), Hawthorn Cottage, Lynemacgregor; 2nd year Engineering, Glasgow University.

\*Angus D. Mackintosh (1949-54), 5 Castle Road East; 3rd year Science, St Andrews University.

Neil McTaggart (1950-55), Easter Gallovie, Durnain-Bridge; 1st year Arts, Edinburgh University.

\*J. Raymond M. Philip (1943-44), M.A., B.Sc. (First Class Hons.—Physics) (St Andrew's University), Strathspey Hotel; scholarship assistantship, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, U.S.A.

Robert J. M. Philip (1949-50), Strathspey Hotel; 1st year Science, St Andrews University.

\*Ronald G. M. Philip (1945-46), Strathspey Hotel; 4th year Medicine, St Andrews University.

D. Maxwell Smith (1946-52), 19a Castle Road; student, Royal Dick Veterinary College, Edinburgh.

### Exiles.

James R. Allan (1927-31), M.B., Ch.B. (Edinburgh), Ballintomb, Durnain-Bridge; medical practitioner, 56 Northumberland Street, Edinburgh, 3.

Ian Anderson (1941-42), (Briar Cottage); 1 Ardconnel Street, Inverness; porter, Craig Dunain Hospital, Inverness.

John L. Beaton (1944-49), Schoolhouse, Durnain-Bridge; c/o Shaw, Savill & Co., Ltd., London; 2nd officer, S.S. "Bardic."

Kenneth I. G. Benson (1940-43), M.B., Ch.B. (Edinburgh), (Viewhill, Spey Bridge), Dalnaglar, Crieff; medical practitioner.

\*D. James Cameron (1935-38), 37 The Square; c/o The Crown Hotel, High St., Cowdenbeath; first assistant county officer, Cowdenbeath.

\*George M. Catto (1935-38), (Ivy Bank Cottage); 3 North Street, Inverurie, Aberdeenshire; storeman, Aberdeen County Council.

\*Donald C. Collie (1934-39), B.Sc. Agriculture (Aberdeen), Tullochgruie, Aviemore; 4 Carden Terrace, Aberdeen; assistant inspector, Dept. of Agriculture for Scotland.

John F. Cooke (1926-32), (Balmenach, Cromdale), Convalmore, Dufftown; Police Buildings, Dalmuir, Glasgow; police constable, Dumbarton Constabulary.

\*Charles Cruickshank (1923-29), (Lochindorb, Dava); Leantach, Durnain-Bridge; lecturer, School of Agriculture, Narrogin, West Australia.



- \***Duncan Davidson** (1931-37), M.A., B.Sc. (Edinburgh), 33 High Street; Stonebyres, Fairlie, Ayrshire; physicist, Imperial Chemical Industries, Nobel Division, Ardeer.
- William K. Fotheringham** (1929-30, 1934-36), B.A. (Oxford), LL.B. (Edinburgh), (The Hotel, Nethybridge); 29 Ann Street, Edinburgh.
- \***David D. Fraser** (1948-53), Craginay, Dulanain-Bridge; assistant collector of taxes, Inland Revenue, Longman, Inverness.
- George I. Fraser** (1935-40), Hillview, Dulanain-Bridge; 34 Fortrose Street, Glasgow; civil servant, H.M. Customs and Excise.
- \***R. J. Douglas Gibson** (1940-45), M.B., Ch.B. (St Andrews), Ivydene; medical practitioner.
- \***John Grant** (1928-33), B.Sc., Agriculture (Aberdeen), (Rothiemoon, Nethybridge); 14 Victoria Drive, Inverness; regional director of county work, North of Scotland College of Agriculture.
- \***Donald Gunn** (1933-36) Swinlees, 6 Castle Road East; Lemlair Cottage, Dingwall; depot clerk, Scottish Oils and Shell Mex, Ltd., Dingwall.
- William J. M. Hair** (1943-48), 10 The Square; Customs and Excise Officer, Balmenach Distillery.
- James Hay** (1937-40), Glencairn, Kincardine, Aviemore; 167 Great Western Road, Glasgow, C. 4; clerk, Messrs Adam G. Brown and Co., Steel and Aluminium Merchants, 2 Oswald Street, Glasgow.
- \***John Holmes** (1939-40), (Craggan House); technician, Fairey Aviation, Sydney, Australia.
- \***David E. Houston** (1944-49) (Glengyle), 46 Brunswick Street, Edinburgh; representative, North Central Waggon Finance Co.
- Thomas Hunter** (1930-36), M.B., Ch.B. (Aberdeen), F.R.C.S. (Edinburgh), Rosemount, Woodside Avenue; 25 Heath Park Road, Romford, Essex; senior orthopaedic registrar, Oldchurch Hospital, Romford.
- \***D. M. Marr Illingworth** (1938-40), Scorrybreck, Castle Road East; 711 Saffer Street Raleigh, N. Carolina, U.S.A.; sales representative, General Electric Co.
- \***E. A. Illingworth** (1939-42), Scorrybreck, Castle Road East; Milnfield, Linkwood Road, Elgin; inspector, Scottish Amicable Life Assurance Society.
- \***Arthur Innes** (1946-47), Carndearg, 17 Kylintra Crescent; 22 Eldith Avenue, Fordham, Ely, Cambs.; fitter, Geo. Wimpey & Co., London.
- Fraser Innes** (1938-39), Carndearg, 17 Kylintra Crescent; 19 Montgarrie Road, Alford; manager, Egg Packing Station, Alford.
- John Innes** (1939-49), "Carndearg," Kylintra Crescent; "Elmwood," Townhead Street, Strathaven, Lanarkshire; dental technician, Mr Boyd, Strathaven.
- Maxwell Innes** (1941-47), B.Sc. (Aberdeen), Heathbank; 8 James Street, Colville, Leicester; engineer, Pegsons & Co., Leicester.
- Patrick Innes** (1941-42), "Carndearg," Kylintra Crescent; 9 Scotland Place, Bo'ness, West Lothian; driver, Geo. Wimpey & Co., Ltd., Grangemouth.
- Walter H. Innes** (1938-39), "Carndearg," Kylintra Crescent; 22 Eldith Avenue, Fordham, Ely, Cambridgeshire; transport foreman-fitter, Messrs Geo. Wimpey & Co., Ltd., Hammersmith, London.
- \***John Irving** (1943-48), Kirkton Cottage; "Hawthorndene," 1 Hill Place, Inverness, assistant collector of taxes, Inland Revenue.
- Alistair W. Jack** (1937-43), St Leonard's; 14 Gladstone Avenue, Whitton, Twickenham Middlesex; C.I.D. officer, Hounslow Police Station.
- Gordon W. C. Jack** (1935-37), 16 Kylintra Crescent; c/o Postmaster General, Dares-Salaam; superintendent, East African Post and Telecommunications Administration.
- Laurence S. Jack** (1938-39), Y.M.C.A. House; 37 St Kilda Crescent, Kirkcaldy; motor mechanic.
- James J. Johnson** (1943-48), 16 The Square; 53 Ommaney Road, Newcross Gate, London, S.E.14; Customs and Excise Officer, London.
- \***William N. Ledingham** (1933-38), Viewfield, High Street; 2 Ayling Road, Aldershot, Hants; manager, Alexandra Laundry, Aldershot, now back in Grantown.
- Findlay MacAndrew** (1949-50), Castle Road.
- Frank Macaulay** (1933-36), Lettoch, Nethybridge; clerk, Royal Bank of Scotland, Dingwall.
- Donald M. McBeath** (1934-39) (1 Station Cottages); 158 Market Street, Aberdeen; clerk, National Bank of Scotland, 67 Union Street, Aberdeen.
- \***Kenneth McCabe** (1926-30), Rosebank, Cromdale; 51 Kingsway, Harrow, Middlesex; assistant works manager, Philplug Products Ltd., Lancelot Road, Wembley.
- James Macdonald** (1933-37), Upper Port; police constable, Moray and Nairn Constabulary, Elgin.
- \***James Macdonald** (1943-46), Grade I E.E., Birch Cottage, Nethybridge; 43 Kings Road, Old Trafford, Manchester, 16; engineer, British Broadcasting Corporation Television Service.
- \***Ian McGillivray**, Dip. Com. (1938-43), Ord Ban, Aviemore; 24 Gartcows Road, Falkirk; teacher of commercial subjects, Falkirk Technical School.
- D. J. Macdonald** (1950-52), Lynestock Crescent, Nethybridge; police constable, Inverness-shire Constabulary.
- G. W. Gordon McGregor** (1948-53), B.Sc. (Aberdeen); Ivy Bank, 36 Creiff Road, Perth; teacher, Perth High School.
- John McGregor** (1934-39), Backharn, Nethybridge; 14 East Hill, St Astells, Cornwall; salesman.



- \*T. Donald McIntosh (1934-39), 44 High Street; Walker & Greig, Ltd., Linduea, Ceylon; branch manager.
- Alexander McIntyre (1929-35), M.A. (Edinburgh), (4 Spey Avenue, Boat of Garten); 7 West Banks Terrace, Wick; teacher, High School, Wick.
- \*Donald B. McIntyre (1939-41), Ph.D., F.R.S.E., D.Sc. (Edinburgh), (Parkburn, Woodlands Crescent); 5 Abbotsford Crescent, Edinburgh; Professor of Geology, Pomona College, Claremont, California, U.S.A.
- \*Ronald C. McIntyre (1939-42) (Parkburn, Woodlands Crescent); 19 Merchiston Mews, Edinburgh, 10; garage manager, Park Garage, Millar Crescent, Edinburgh, 10.
- Samuel Mackay (1942-48), Advie Mains; Craighead, Edinville, Aberlour; seed traveller.
- William McKenzie (1936-37) (Caberfeidh, Castle Road East); 6 Queen Street, Kirkintilloch; house painter.
- \*Keith McKerron (1937-39), B.Sc. (Agric.) (Glasgow), Ivybank, High Street; agricultural officer, Colonial Agricultural Service, Agricultural Dept., Akyan.
- \*Alistair G. Mackintosh (1929-33), M.R.C.V.S. (Edinburgh); (Craigard Hotel, Boat of Garten); Manorlea, Inch, Aberdeenshire; veterinary surgeon.
- \*Donald Mackintosh (1930-33), Cambrae, Cromdale; 3687 Buckingham Road, Hillcrest, Bulawayo; signals and telegraph technician, Southern Rhodesian Railway.
- \*Evan G. Mackintosh (1926-33), P.A.S.I., Ardochattan, Sky, Dulnain-Bridge; 12 Reid Avenue, Crossgates, Fife; quantity surveyor, Messrs Wilkinson and Lowe, A.R.I.C.S., chartered quantity surveyors, Dunfermline.
- Evan C. Mackintosh (1928-32), The Larches, Dulnain-Bridge; The Leas, Lossiemouth; civil servant, Ministry of Food, Elgin.
- John Mackintosh (1931-33), Cambrae, Cromdale; Cambrae, Mole Road, Feltham, Surrey; factory manager, Decca Navigator Corporation.
- \*Robert D. Mackintosh (1926-32), M.A. (Aberdeen), Congash Cottage, Spey Bridge; 51 Tomnahurich Street, Inverness; teacher, Inverness Technical School.
- William L. Mackintosh (1942-46), Cambrae, Cromdale; Fascalley Forestry School, Pitlochry.
- \*D. Patrick Maclean (1930-36), M.A. (Aberdeen), LL.B. (Edinburgh), Croftallan, Nethybridge; Clunie, Letham, Ladybank, Fife; legal assistant, County Offices, Cupar, Fife.
- Alistair McNicol (1933-35), 85 High Street; 52 Bramber Road, Kensington, London, W.14; Taylors, Ltd. (Electrical Engineers), Battersea Power Station.
- James McPherson (1946-48), The Neuk, Nethybridge; 2 Broughton Road, Thornton Heath, Surrey; police constable, London Metropolitan Police Force.
- Peter S. MacPherson (1926-29), Struan, Grant Road, Inverallan; Dundas Street, Comrie, Perthshire; manager, D. & J. MacEwen & Co., Ltd., Comrie.
- Michael McTaggart (1942-48), B.Sc. Hons. (Physics) (Edinburgh), Easter Gallovie; 46 Upton Crescent, Basingstoke, Hants; physicist, Atomic Weapons Research Establishment, Atomic Energy Authority.
- Eric Masson (1933-34), Braeriach Cottage, Spey Bridge; Ham Common, Richmond, Surrey; craftsman, surgical appliances for limbless, Queen Mary's Hospital for Limbless, Roehampton, London.
- \*John A. Milne (1925-31), M.A. (Edinburgh), Braehead, High Street; "Telscombe," Seafeld Crescent, Elgin; headmaster, Seafeld Primary School, Bishopmill, Elgin.
- J. Wishart Milne (1935-39), Elgin House, High Street; 9 Woodside Road, Aberdeen; engineer, G.P.O., Aberdeen.
- James G. Mitchell (1941-45), Caledonian House, High Street; chief officer, S.S. "Cabana," Elder Dempster Line, Liverpool.
- W. A. Mitchell (1947-48), 20 Castle Road East; c/o Cementation Co., Cashlie Tunnel, Glen Lyon, Aberfeldy; chairman (Cementation Co.).
- I. Bruce Munro (1934-38), M.B., Ch.B. (Glasgow), (Bank of Scotland House, High Street); Woodilea, Lenzie, Glasgow.
- Louis C. Mutch (1939-44), (Ivy Bank Cottage, High Street); c/o Wright, Hawthorndene Hill Place, Inverness; assistant pumpman, Scottish Oils and Shell Mex, Ltd., Inverness.
- Andrew Phimister (1932-37), Woodburn Cottage; The National Bank of India, Calcutta.
- H. Roy Phimister (1936-40), Woodburn Cottage, South Street, golf professional, St Knuds Golf Club Nyborg, Denmark.
- John Reid (1930-33), L.M.S. Station House; 56 Merchiston Street, Carntyne, Glasgow; radio mechanic, Messrs Reid Bros., 6 Alexandra Park Street, Glasgow.
- \*Ian Ritchie (1950-52), 12 High Terrace, Boat of Garten; c/o Dykes, 124 Bothwell Street, Glasgow, C.2; apprentice chartered accountant, Messrs Wardhaugh & McVean, C.A., West Regent Street, Glasgow.
- \*Frank M. Roberts (1929-32), The Baptist Manse; The Gangway, Renwick, Penrith, Cumberland; assistant, English Electrical Co., Stafford.
- \*Michael Ronaldson (1938-40), Strathallan; 58 Grant Street, Inverness; technical officer, G.P.O., Inverness.
- John Ross (1926-32), Ivy Cottage, Dulnain-Bridge; 14 Greyhound Road, Philplane, Tottenham, London; engineer, Morgan Crucible Co., Ltd., Battersea, London.
- John C. Ross (1944-46), Broompark Cottage; P.O. Box 64, Gilgil, Kenya; assistant manager, Mr H. Chart, Kariandusi Farm, Gilgil.



- \*Leslie G. Ross (1927-29), (Ballieward); 2 Westfield Avenue, Gorgie, Edinburgh 11; inspector (Tyre Division), N.B. Rubber Company.
- Victor J. Ross (1930-37), H.W.C., A.M.I.E.E., Ivy Cottage, Dulnain-Bridge; Mo Dhachaidh, 37 Dumgoyne Avenue, Bearsden, Glasgow; Scottish Area Sales Engineer, Scottish Cables, Ltd., Renfrew.
- \*William T. K. Sellar (1939-45), M.B., Ch.B. (Edinburgh), The Birks, Advie.
- Ian D. Smith (1943-49), 103 High Street; Section House, Ramsgate Street, Dals-ton, London; police constable, London Metropolitan Police Force.
- W. Gordon Smith (1937-43), 103 High Street; police constable, Police Station, New Machar, Aberdeenshire.
- \*Angus M. Stuart (1929-36), Dunedin, High Street; 154 Muirfield Road, South Oxhey, Watford, Herts; structural engineer, London Transport Executive.
- Donald Stuart (1928-32), Vulcan Cottage, Market Road; 4 Nayland Road, Mile End, Colchester, Essex; male nurse, Severalls Hospital, Colchester.
- Lachlan A. Stuart (1934-37), 104 High Street; 24 West End, Whitehills, Banffshire; police constable, Banffshire Constabulary.
- \*Thomas B. Stuart (1944-50), 8 Grampian Crescent, Boat of Garten; 72 Hamilton Drive East, York; instrument maker, Government Workshops, York.
- \*Alistair G. Surtees (1935-42), 107 High Street, 21 Axminster Crescent, Welling. Kent; Contracts Branch, Ministry of Supply.
- \*Richard Surtees (1928-33), 107 High Street; 12 Cheeseman Court, Sydenham, London; sergeant, Metropolitan Police.
- \*W. Robert Surtees (1931-33), 107 High Street; 10 Broomfield Avenue, Eastwood, Southend-on-Sea; constable (traffic patrols), Southend Police.
- Lewis Sutherland (1939-40), Morven, Castle Road East; 6 West Avenue, Renfrew; engineer. Messrs Babcock and Wilcox, Ltd., Renfrew.
- Gordon D. Templeton (1929-33), The Lodge, Messrs Grant; commercial traveller, Messrs James Watson, Aberdeen.
- \*Roderick J. D. Thomson (1934-36), 81 High Street.
- \*William Thomson (1930-34), 84 High Street; 4 Bellfield Road, Bridge of Don, Aberdeen; grocery manager, N.A.A.F.I., Aberdeen.
- Andrew J. Wright (1946-49), 37 Kylintra Crescent; 171b Married Quarters, Evan-ton, Ross-shire; clerk, 11th Batt. Seaforth Highlanders (T.A.), Dingwall.
- \*Herbert John Wright (1935-41), B.Sc. (Engineering) (Aberdeen), 34 High Street; 15 Dunblane Road, Eltham, London, S.E. 19; specialist engineer, Messrs Babcock & Wilcox, London.
- Stanley Wright (1949-53), 33a The Square; 188 Poynters Road, Dunstable, Bed.; apprentice engineer (aero), D. Napier & Son, Ltd., Flight Development Establishment, Luton.

#### Local Members.

Albert Anderson (1932-34), 93 High Street; storeman, No. 24 Command Workshop, R.E.M.E.

\*James G. Bruce (1924-30), Holmhill Hotel; hotelier and coal merchant, Grantown.

\*Alexander Calder (1940-43), Northolme, Castle Road; telephone linesman, G.P.O.

Donald Calder (1941-43), 20 Castle Road; carpenter and joiner, No. 24 Command Workshop, R.E.M.E.

Frank Calder (1941-43), Ballieward; forester, Seafield Estates.

George Cameron (1930-32), 38 The Square; District Clerk and Burgh Treasurer.

William Cruickshank (1926-30), (Rosebank, Cromdale); The Square; manager, Ironmongery Department, S.C.W.S., The Square.

John A. Cumming (1941-42), 18 Castle Road; linesman, North of Scotland Hydro-Electric Board, Grantown.

William Dunbar (1937-39), Castle Road; salesman, Messrs Mackenzie and Cruickshank, Ironmongers, The Square.

\*John Duncan (1942-47), 114 High Street; partner, Duncan's Bakery, Grantown.

Angus Gordon (1943-45), Achnahannet; farmer.

Douglas Gordon (1943-49), Delachapple; farmer.

Herbert Grant (1942-45), Topperfettle; farmer.

William C. Grant (1942-44), South Street; postman, G.P.O.

George Hamilton (1944-48), Tullochgribban Farm, Dulnain-Bridge; farmer.

Hugh J. B. Hogg (1944-49), 11 South Street; coalman, Messrs James Bruce & Sons, Grantown.

Johnston Innes (1945-46), Heathbank; Automobile Association Patrol.

John A. Kennedy (1945-48), The Dell Farm, Nethybridge; farmer.

William J. Laing (1950-52), 17 Castle Road East; cinema projectionist, Caledonian Associated Cinemas.

Charles J. Lawson (1936-38), Grange Cottage, Castle Road; joiner, Mr Charles Lawson, 18 Castle Road.

Robert Lawson (1944-45), 18 Castle Road; joiner, Mr Charles Lawson, 18 Castle Road.

\*Alexander Ledingham (1936-39), Viewfield, High Street; photographer, Alex. Ledingham, Grantown.

Stuart McCook (1949-52), The Larches, Speybridge; clerk, The Bank of Scotland.

\*W. Colin McIntosh (1934-39), 44 High St.

Ian C. McIntosh (1936-42), National Diploma Mechanical Engineering, Waverley, High Street.



- Lewis A. McIntosh (1934-39), Waverley, High Street; proprietor, Gordon Hall Hotel.
- Alexander Mackenzie, M.A. (Aberdeen), 15 Kylintra Crescent; principal modern languages master, Grantown Grammar School.
- Angus MacLean (1941-42), Kylintra Cottage; tractor driver, Frank Syme, Ltd.
- James McLeod (1927-28), The Beachan; master builder.
- Ian D. Macpherson (1930-35), (Thornhill, Castle Road); Lynstock Crescent, Nethybridge; storeman, "A," R.A.O.C. Depot.
- William J. McWilliam (1934-36), Silverdale, South Street; manager, The Dundee Equitable, High Street.
- James B. Marshall (1941-47), Elmgrove; clerk, Post Office, Nethybridge.
- A. Shaw Mortimer (1943-46), 119 High Street; forester, Seafeld Estates.
- Ian R. Mortimer (1932-35), Ravelrig, Woodside Avenue; plumber, Mr George Mortimer.
- \*Edwin M. Munro (1928-33), B.E.M., B.Com. (Edinburgh); proprietor, Coppice Hotel, Grant Road.
- John L. Paterson (1927-29), Ivy Bank, High Street; master plasterer, Messrs L. Paterson & Son.
- \*George J. Paton (1943-45), 19 South Street; storeman, 24 Command Workshops, Grantown.
- James Rattray (1927-28), 13 South Street; Grantown Water Manager.
- Lewis Rattray (1946-49), 12 Woodburn Place; mechanic, Messrs John Ross & Co., Electrical & Mechanical Engineers, Dulnain-Bridge.
- Neil Robertson (1944-46), Mid Curr, Dulnain Bridge; telephone engineer, G.P.O., Grantown.
- \*Charles E. Ross (1924-26), Ivy Cottage, Dulnain-Bridge; partner, Messrs J. Ross and Co., Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, Dulnain-Bridge.
- David Ross (1936-37), Benmhor Hotel; hotelier.
- Grant Ross (1947-48), Broom Park Cottage, Craggan; apprentice mechanic, Messrs John Ross and Co., Dulnain-Bridge.
- Robert Ross (1928-32), Cairngorm View, Dulnain-Bridge; partner, Messrs John Ross and Co., Dulnain-Bridge.
- Angus Shand (1940-42), Lethendry Cottage; storeman, 24 Command Workshops, Grantown.
- Fraser Sime (1950-52), Police Station House; upholsterer, Mr James Archibald, Grantown; now in R.A.F., Cheshire.
- \*Ian Grant Smith (1943-46), Auchernack; farmer.
- John A. Stephen (1938-41), Connielea, High Street; sales and service representative, Morayshire Motors.
- John R. Stuart (1932-38), 1 Spey Avenue; bookseller, Messrs Angus Stuart, High Street.
- Alan Taylor (1942-43), 8 Castle Road; postman and telephonist, G.P.O., Grantown.
- \*James Winchester (1924-26), Glengyle; manager, Local Ministry of Labour and National Service Office, Grantown.

## \* Life Members.

\* \* \*

## BIRTHS.

- ALLAN.—On 11th September, 1956, to Dr and Mrs Jimmy Allan, 56 Northumberland Street, Edinburgh, 3, a daughter.
- CALDER.—On 2nd September, 1956, to Mr and Mrs Frank Calder, Ballieward, Grantown, a daughter.
- HAIR.—On 3rd October, 1956, to Mr and Mrs Jim Hair, Cromdale View, Grantown, a son.
- HOUSTON.—On 11th August, 1956, to Mr and Mrs David Houston, 46 Brunswick Street, Edinburgh, a daughter.
- HUNTER.—On 27th August, 1956, to Mr and Mrs Tom Hunter, 25 Heath Park Road, Romford, Essex, a son.
- JACK.—On 2nd March, 1956, to Mr and Mrs Alistair Jack, 14 Gladstone Avenue, Whitton, Twickenham, Middlesex, a daughter.
- LAWSON.—On 3rd February, 1956, to Mr and Mrs Charles J. Lawson, Grange Cottage, Grantown, a son.
- MITCHELL.—On 9th March, 1956, to Mr and Mrs Jim Mitchell (Caledonia House), a daughter.
- McINTYRE.—On 20th June, 1956, to Mr and Mrs Ranald C. McIntyre, 19 Merchiston Mews, Edinburgh, 10, a daughter.

## MARRIAGES.

- CRUICKSHANK — MAIN. — At Church of Scotland, Burghead, on the 25th October, 1956, William J. Cruickshank, Hazel Bank, Grantown, to Lena Main, Dunedin, Park Road, Burghead.
- HOLMES — MURRAY. — At St Thomas's Church of England, Kingsgrove, Sydney, Australia, on 16th December, 1955, John S. Holmes to Norrie Murray, Sydney, Australia.
- MACKINTOSH — MATHESON. — At the Presbyterian Church, Bulawayo, on the 8th September, 1956, Donald Mackintosh, Cambræ, Cromdale, to Margaret C. Matheson, Belmont, Bulawayo.
- PATON — FISHER. — At Inverness Free Church, on 29th March, 1956, George Paton, South Street, Grantown, to Mary I. Fisher, "Ordunan," Slochd.



### OLD GUARD ACTIVITIES

The sun sank slowly over the horizon, and with it the wind too disappeared, even the birds stopped their evening song and all was quiet. All, that is, except the industrious anglers who tirelessly, it seemed, were casting and recasting in vain hope! Such was the scene at Lochindorb one late June evening, and the anglers were some dozen Old Guard Members competing in the Club's first Angling Competition of the season. Only an occasional blasphemous oath prompted by a tangled line, broke the silence until suddenly the calm of the evening was shattered when an almighty yell of "got one" came careering across from the North side, and we wondered if Jim Winchester had hooked the traditional loch monster, or if the yell merely signified that he had managed to find one of his carefully hidden "revivers" earlier placed in the shallow water to keep cool! It later was discovered that Jim's yell heralded his first victim of the night, and what a fish it was! Barely two inches long and of no measurable weight, the poor creature must have given itself up! Settling down to serious business again, the rest of us fished our hearts out in an effort to fill our strangely empty baskets, but alas! the unrewarding loch had the last laugh when after three hours the kind and friendly keeper fired the "cease fishing" signal. Over-all the results were poor for this supposed-to-be-easy loch, but we were consoled by the keeper, who said it was too calm a night for "the fish to be taking."

The results of the evening's work were announced after the weighing and counting was completed. Jimmy McLeod was first, followed by Jock Paterson. The booby prize went to Peter Bruce after a tie with yours truly, who, in spite of some lovely casting strokes more in keeping with the golf course, drew a blank. The second competition, held a fortnight later, drew a slightly higher entry, and competition was much keener. The loch was in no better mood; in fact if anything it was calmer, and the baskets were again very light. The poverty of the catch could perhaps be partly attributed to Willie Cruickshanks' floating "light refreshment bar." He spent his evening rowing round the contestants attending to their needs. The winner on the second night was that pipe-smoking angling expert, Ian Macpherson, who just beat Bill Mitchell into second place. Jimmy McLeod was third, and Jock Paterson, whether due to ill-luck, or beginner's luck on the first outing, had a "duck" and collected the booby prize.

This innovation—or should it be revived activity?—proved to be very popular, and those members who missed the competitions would be well advised to attend next year's competitions. They will be advertised in the local paper as they were this year. If we are able to beg, borrow or steal a trophy of some sort, we hope to hold a large scale competition with a small barbecue-style picnic to finish off the evening.

In the field of sport we had our usual cricket matches with the school. As usual, too, we appeared on the school pitch prepared to do battle without having as much as seen a cricket bat or ball since last year's tussles. The first shock of the evening came when the school won the toss and elected to bat! This was a break from tradition so far as we were concerned, as in former years it was understood that we always batted first no matter who won the toss, the reason for this being the fact that some of our team always arrived late and we were never able to field at full strength when play was due to start. The fat was in the fire though, and we had to enlist several junior boys to help us out; but gradually the missing members of the team turned up and just as gradually the wickets of the school team began to tumble. Only David Williamson, who batted all through the innings for an undefeated 17, gave any bother to our bowlers, and their total reached a modest 36. Opening for the club, Tommy Rattray hit a whirlwind 13 off the first over he received, then skied an easy catch to mid-wicket. Jimmy Bruce lashed out to get a four from the first ball he faced, then in trying to repeat the dose he, too, was caught. Our other batsmen adopted the same style, and the school total was passed for the loss of five wickets.

The second match a week later proved to be a very different affair—perhaps the school bowlers had indulged in extensive practice—but whatever it was we batted first and our quick scoring tactics were no use against accurate and fast bowling from the school. Half the team were out for 12 runs, but a spirited knock, blessed by much fortune, by Angus Mackintosh (11), and a few rather edgy runs from the tail-enders brought the total to 30. We felt we were up against it now, but with rapid bowling changes and good fielding upset the school batsmen, and soon they too were falling as cheaply as our batsmen did. The school total crawled to 26 for seven, and the writing seemed to be on the wall when another bowling switch saw the last three wickets fall for no addition to the score. Jock Winchester, Walter Dempster, Donald McTaggart and our co-opted "guest," P. Milne, were the bowlers who saved us, but with five catches in the field the win was a fine team achievement.

A third match was played with the local R.E.M.E. Unit. Each side was allowed a maximum of one hour to bat, and batting first the Old Guard scored 63 for 9. Angus was again top scorer with 16. The soldiers started well, but a break through by David Williamson, one of the two members of the school team who were playing for us, saw the R.E.M.E. resistance lessen, and they were all out for 52 in 50 minutes. A rather unusual feature of the R.E.M.E. innings was that all the wickets fell directly to the bowlers and not one catch was made—I hasten to add that none were offered!

It was with regret that we were unable to accept the school's invitation to run a



teacher, had done much to restore Tam's equilibrium, by an entertaining display of extravagant gestures and hysterical shouting as he struggled unavailingly to discipline a class of diabolically unmusical young men.

Nevertheless, when four o'clock eventually came round, Tam had fairly sped from the scene of his trials with a song in his heart...

Tam's mother was wise in the ways of boys. Tea was ready—a substantial, wholesome meal to which the wee lad did justice. Then he was away, heading for the rolling moorlands which encompassed his own private wonderland of heather and springy moss fringing dark peat pools.

To the north a single conical hill towered some hundreds of feet above the moor. It was a magnificent vantage point from which Tam could see his whole domain, and detect the slightest unusual movement among his furred and feathered friends.

Lying in the deep heather, with no discordant note to interrupt the smooth flow of pleasant thoughts through his mind, Tam would reflect on his good fortune. This was the life for which he had been born. To listen to the haunting cries of moorland birds; to feel the breath of winds austere and pure that set the heather sea atremble; to hear and understand the chatter of an amber stream hurrying down to the mighty Spey with news of the high plateaux; to watch vast rain belts sweeping in from the Western seaboard, leaving in their wake dripping heather wastes from which arose a wondrously sweet aroma compounded of the thin dark earth itself and the hardy flora of the Highlands; and, above all, to cast his flies on the spring-fed lochans where lusty trout in prime condition flashed golden-yellow as they rose to insects blown from the powdery heather.

For this was Tam's abiding and all-consuming passion—to fish, with fly, for trout.

Men might brag of their titanic struggles with the lordly salmon, or of fine baskets of sea trout caught on the worm when the waters were in spate. But after trying every legal and a few illegal methods of catching fish, Tam had made up his mind that, for him at least, fly fishing was the thing—and not for great dour fish that called for heavy tackle and a constant flogging of over-fished "lies."

But to our tale.

Lying on a heather couch, luxuriously comfortable in the soft evening sunshine, Tam drowsed. His thoughts drifted idly back and forth between reality and dream. The noises of the moor grew faint, then stopped, and he was asleep and dreaming...

Perturbed by the ever increasing invasion of their sanctuaries by hikers, climbers, naturalists, poachers, and B.B.C. recording experts, the wild creatures of the moor, forest and hill had arranged to meet together to discuss pre-cautionary measures.

One by one they arrived at Tam's domain, greeted their friends and erstwhile foes (for a general truce had been declared), and settled down to await their colleagues.

First to arrive was a peregrine falcon from Glenmore Forest, followed closely by the rarest bird in the district, an osprey; from the high tops came a ptarmigan. A black and white snow-bunting broke its long flight to Greenland to attend the meeting, and a dotterel, newly arrived from sunny Palestine, flew in with a golden plover, a greenshank and a curlew. From some high hill loch came a goosander and a sandpiper, a colourful crossbill and a tiny titmouse from the pine forest, a willow warbler, a siskin and a redstart. A blackcock, a capercaillie and a woodpecker had ventured from the security of their ancient pinewood sanctuary. Then came a hedge sparrow, a tree pipit and a chaffinch, followed by a fussy young dipper who bobbed excitedly. An oyster catcher, a raven, and a crafty old "hoodie" crow completed the assembly—with one notable exception.

Last to arrive was the greatest of them all, a golden eagle who made an appropriately impressive entry. There was a whistling rush of wings as the great bird plummeted earthwards. The lesser birds cowered down instinctively, paralysed by abject terror; but to-day King Eagle found himself signatory to a non-aggression pact (besides, he had dined royally on grouse and rabbit), so for the present at least the other birds were safe. Under his cold, keen eye, they settled down to await the animals who had undertaken to attend.

A proud stag from one of the high corries of the Monahd Ruadh was the first to arrive, followed at a respectful distance by a soft-eyed roe who had not yet quite overcome a feeling of insecurity at leaving the shelter of the pines. A fierce-eyed, grey shadow lurked on the outskirts of the gathering, unrecognised until its bushy striped tail showed it to be a wild cat—ill at ease in such genteel company. A mountain hare, a fox and a stoat arrived together, wary and suspicious. A pine marten from the far North-West hesitated before introducing himself, for he was a stranger in a strange land. Finally came an amphibious otter and a badger who gave no indication that when the necessity arose he could transform himself into a slashing, ripping terror.

The assembly was complete. The meeting could start.

There was an awkward moment when it came to choosing a Chairman, for although the eagle naturally assumed that he would preside, the animals considered that the royal stag was the obvious choice. However, he, wise old campaigner that he was, forestalled any trouble by himself proposing that the eagle should "take the Chair." And so it was agreed.

The weird gathering of birds and animals closed in expectantly, the eagle took up his position on a prominent boulder, spread his wings for silence, and declared the meeting open.

Then... Tam woke up!

A lone whaup glided silently over the darkening moor. A covey of grouse rose with



raucous protests and whirled into the twilight.

And Wee Tam trudged reluctantly homewards, smarting under this final blow. What a day it had been!

IAN MACPHERSON.

### ROAD TO ROWANDUZ

Deep in the heart of Kurdistan lies the small town of Rowanduz. The road to it winds along the sides of the spectacular gorges that the rivers have cut across the mountain ranges that surround it. Completed in 1932, and four years in the making, this road still ranks as one of the wonders of modern engineering; and it was along this road that we prepared to make our way, with our goal the small village of Hajji Umrani, on the border between Iraq and Iran.

Our party consisted of four students (myself included), our guide and mentor Kuleita, an Assyrian (Laboratory Superintendent in the Geology Dept.), two drivers, a 30-cwt. truck to carry our food and bedding, and, for ourselves, a de Soto limousine.

We left Kirkuk early one Tuesday morning in September, and headed North across the plain. The temperature was already well over 100° F. The sun beat down on the golden sand, and flashed on the wings of thousands of sand grouse that rose from either side of the road. Though apparently barren at this season, the soil in this area is very fertile, and where irrigation has been carried out, heavy crops are produced. It has been for centuries the home of man, and mounds marking the sites of ancient cities are scattered throughout its length.

At 11 a.m. we reached Erbil. Here we had to wait some time while police passes, and permits to enter Kurdistan were obtained from the Mutasarif—the local governor.

One of the most ancient cities of the plain, Erbil stands partly on a mound of earth rising about 100 feet above the level of the surrounding countryside. This mound was built by Jewish prisoners of the Assyrians several thousand years B.C. On the mound, there is a maze of narrow, dirty, winding streets, and small, dark houses, entirely without sanitation. Plans have been made to clear the whole area, and build instead a public garden.

This trend to modernisation is prevalent throughout Iraq, and the entire revenue from oil, amounting to many £ millions per year, is being set aside for reconstruction of towns, for construction of roads, of dams for irrigation and flood prevention, and of modern schools and hospitals in the smaller towns and villages. It is hoped to set an example in modern architecture, by these last, to the local people, encouraging them to build their houses in a similar manner. In many villages we passed through, no houses could be seen that had windows—due to the tradition of fear of attack by enemies.

From Erbil, we turned eastwards towards the mountains that had for a long time been visible in the distance. After crossing a few miles of plain, we climbed, the road twisting and turning on itself, over the heights of the Khanzad Pass. Already, the country had begun to look greener. Descending from the summit, we passed through an extensive plantation of young trees. This is one of the Government's experimental stations. Trees from all parts of the world have been brought here, and planted, to discover which are best suited to the hot, dry climate.

The road crossed a narrow valley, then climbed again up the steep side of Pirnun Dag. On the top stands the beautiful town of Salahuddin. This is an artificially created town, built as a rest centre, with modern hotels, and chalets for renting. From here, looking north-east, we had our first real view of the mountains of Kurdistan—rising to over 12,000 feet—with, here and there, patches of snow visible, sparkling white in the sunlight.

A short stop for a picnic lunch, and we were again on our way—another valley, another hill, and we descended to the village of Shaqlaeva, deep in the valley, its streets lined with walnut and poplar trees. From Shaqlaeva, an hour's run brought us to Harir, where we were to spend the night at the home of a cousin of our guide, the Bishop of Harir.

As it was still early afternoon, we drove to a nearby beauty spot, the Bachine Gorge. Here, the Greater Zab River cuts straight across the mountain of Berat Dag, in a steep walled gorge, with cliffs of over 1000 feet high on either side. This is to be the site of an irrigation dam, which will, when completed, be one of the largest in the world. We walked a short way up the gorge, then, as evening was falling, returned to our car, then back to Harir, to a dinner of curried meat, chapattis and butter made from sheep's milk, eaten in the garden by the light of the moon, aided by the flickering light of a paraffin lamp; and so to bed.

The next morning we made an early start, but others were on the road before us. The first of the sheep and lambs were being driven down from the hills where they had spent the summer, and every few miles our car had to stop to allow the flocks, each one numbering several hundreds of animals, to pass. In the open road, this was easy enough, but soon we entered the most spectacular part of the road, the Allanna and Rowanduz Gorges. Here, with a cliff on one side of the road, and a sheer drop to the river on the other, such meetings caused some difficulty. Luckily, the animals had all travelled long distances, were tired, and so were easily controlled. Even though this was so, it was surprising that none slipped from the road. At some times of the year, herdsmen are obliged by law to drive their herds by night, and rest them during the day.

All morning we drove through the gorges, till just before mid-day, when we came suddenly out on to a broad plain, the Dasht



Diana. To the south was the hill town of Rowanduz, a famous health resort; to the north, beyond the village of Diana, we could see in the distance the mountains of Turkey—many miles away, yet still towering above the nearer hills. This fertile plain, set in the heart of the mountains, is believed to be one of the first places in the world where grain was cultivated.

Beyond Rowanduz, the road again followed a river, in the Barsarin Gorge—wider, and less steep-sided than those we had passed through in the morning, but hemmed in on both sides by sharp-peaked mountains, where wolves, ibex, bears and leopards are still to be found. We saw none of these, but often, at night, we heard the wolves howling.

Lunch was eaten by the side of the river, the icy waters of which quickly removed the hopes we had entertained of having a swim before our meal.

After lunch, a short run took us to Galala, a little village off the main road, built on a hillside. Here, in the school, surrounded by

the debris of eight weeks' stay, we met the four members of the Oxford University Expedition to Kurdistan, who were packing in readiness to return to Kirkuk the following morning. A pleasant hour was spent in conversation, then we left on the last lap of our journey.

North of us, we could see, through breaks in the hills, the Peak of Allgurt, the highest mountain in Iraq, rising to over 13,000 feet.

The road climbed steadily up the valley, and soon we passed through the little village of Rayat—nearly 7000 feet above sea level. Now we were nearing our goal. Over the last few miles the road climbed even more steeply, twisting to gain height. Then, a last bend, and there before us was Hajji Umran. Behind the village, we could see the tiny hut that was the Customs Post on the border, and beyond that, far in the distance through the Shinak Pass, loomed the hazy outlines of the mountains of Persia.

IAIN C. BURGESS.

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## FORMER PUPILS' CLUB MEMBERS, 1955-56.

### MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE FORMER PUPILS' CLUB.

Dr Bain presided over a very small attendance of members at the Annual General Meeting held in the Grammar School on Wednesday, 14th November, 1956, at 7.30 p.m.

Apologies for absence were received from Dr Duncan Fraser, Mr and Mrs T. Hunter, Mr and Mrs H. W. Dixon, Miss J. S. Duncan, and Messrs G. E. Donaldson, J. Templeton and W. J. Cruickshank.

The minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting were read by the secretary and their approval was moved by Mr J. G. Bruce, seconded by Mr A. M. Grant.

The adoption of the financial report was moved by Mrs Schleppie and seconded by Miss J. Paterson.

The Club had donated the sum of £3 3s to the Transantarctic Expedition and this had been added to the donation from the Grammar School, so that the following items would be contributed:—1 Windproof Anarak, 1 pair Gloves, 1 Balaclava, 1 pair Silk Gloves, 2 Blizzard Masks and 1 pair Seaboot Stockings. Dr Bain reported that Newsletters of the Expedition were being received by the School and details of these would be inserted in the Grammar School Notes in the "Strathspey Herald."

One very successful "Quiz" between teams from the Old Guard and Former Pupils' Clubs had been held, the F.P. Club emerging the winners by a narrow margin.

The following office-bearers were appointed:

Honorary President — Ex-Lord Provost Duncan Fraser, C.B.E., D.L., LL.D., J.P.

Honorary Vice-Presidents—Mr T. Hunter, O.B.E., M.A., B.Sc.; ex-Provost W. A. Glass, Miss J. M. Paterson, Mr J. Templeton, ex-Provost H. G. Cumming.

President—Dr J. Bain, B.Sc., Ph.D.

Vice-Presidents—Mr W. F. Cruickshank, Mr H. W. Dixon, Mrs J. Schleppie, Miss E. M. Pyper, M.A., B.Sc.

Secretary and Treasurer—Miss J. I. Munro.

Committee—Mrs P. Spalding, Messrs W. J. Cruickshank, W. G. Templeton, A. M. Grant, J. A. Templeton, M.A.; G. E. Donaldson, M.A., B.A.; J. G. Bruce and A. M. Hastings.

Owing to the very healthy state of the Club's finances, it was unanimously agreed that the practice of sending free copies of the Grammar School Magazine to all exiled members be re-introduced for a minimum of three years, commencing with the 1956 issue. It was also agreed that the Magazine Committee arrange to meet earlier next year.

Dr Bain thanked the Club for donating six prizes to the Grammar School and it was

proposed by Mr W. G. Templeton and seconded by Mrs Spalding that these prizes be awarded as usual in the coming year.

It was also unanimously agreed that the Club send a donation to the Hungarian Relief Fund to be earmarked for the work amongst the children of that country.

Dr Bain reported that last year's Reunion had been very successful. Mr Templeton said that the 1956 Reunion would be held in the Palace Hotel on Friday, 28th December.

The following Reunion Committee was elected:—

Joint Conveners—Messrs W. G. Templeton and W. J. Cruickshank.

Committee—Mrs Spalding, Mrs Archibald, Mrs John Grant, Dr Bain, Messrs W. F. Cruickshank, A. M. Hastings and J. G. Bruce.

As the Annual Reunion is now attended mainly by the younger generation of Former Pupils, it was agreed that if at all possible a function be arranged for the older members. It was finally decided that enquiries be made as to the possibilities of holding a dinner and social evening about Easter. Numbers would be limited to a minimum of fifty and a maximum of one hundred. Only members of the Club would be eligible to attend. Notices would be sent out after Christmas to all Club members asking them to state whether they would be likely to attend such a function so that further arrangements might be made.

The following Committee was appointed:—

Dr Bain (Convener), Miss J. Paterson, Mr or Mrs H. Dixon, Messrs J. G. Bruce, J. J. Grant, H. G. Cumming and W. F. Cruickshank.

The Meeting closed with a vote of thanks to Dr Bain for presiding, proposed by Mr A. M. Grant.

JEANETTE I. MUNRO,  
Honorary Secretary.

### At Universities and Colleges.

\*George A. Dixon, Mhorile, Woodlands Crescent; 4th year arts, Aberdeen University.

\*Patricia A. Lawrence, Bank of Scotland House; ~~4th~~ <sup>2nd</sup> year student, <sup>200 Alderman Road, Glasgow, W. 2, 21st</sup> year student, Jordanhill Training College, Glasgow.

\*Elizabeth M. R. Mackenzie, Gowanlea, Woodside Avenue; Hilton Hostel, Aberdeen; ~~2nd~~ <sup>3rd</sup> year, Aberdeen Training College.

\*Jean L. Mackenzie, Birchview, Woodlands Crescent; student, Girls' Technical College, Elgin.

\*Marjory E. Mackintosh, 5 Castle Road East; West Park Hall, Perth Road, Dundee; ~~2nd~~ <sup>3rd</sup> year dental student, Queen's College, St Andrews University.

cf. Mrs. HERRI  
STELLA MARIS  
10, HALLHEAD ST.



\*Sheena A. Ogilvie, Craigvarren, Tulchan; Abergeldie Hotel, 451 Union Street, Aberdeen; 3rd year, Aberdeen Training College.

\*Margaret G. Smith, Gladstone House, Castle Road; Playfair Hall, East Suffolk Road, Edinburgh, 9; 2nd year arts, Edinburgh University.

### Exiles.

\*Mrs John Allan (J. Evelyne Geddes), Diploma of Domestic Science, Edinburgh.

\*Jessamine I. Anderson, Wester Laggan, Dulnain-Bridge; 10 Chester Street, Edinburgh; 3rd year, ~~Wester Laggan, Dulnain-Bridge~~.

\*Margaret R. Anderson, Institutional Management Association Certificate, Wester Laggan, Dulnain-Bridge; Gordonstoun School, Elgin; assistant housekeeper and caterer.

\*Mrs Fred E. Anfield (Winifred M. D. Shaw), Diploma of Domestic Science, Aldersyde, Nethybridge; 71 Elmhall Drive, Liverpool 18; 3rd year, ~~Wester Laggan, Dulnain-Bridge~~.

\*Mrs George Angus (Ella A. Wood), (Balmennach, Cromdale); Dalrannoch, Fleurs Place, Elgin.

\*Mrs Howard Aston (Kathleen Mutch), R.G.N. (Edinburgh), D.N. (London), 28 High Street; 50 Hayes Road, Bromley, Kent.

\*Mrs Robert Balfour (Dorothea M. Smith), (30 Kylintra Crescent); P.O. Box 15, Masindi, Uganda, British East Africa.

\*Janet G. Barclay, 9 Macgregor Avenue; c/o Henley, H.Q. Troops, Malta; children's nurse.

\*Mrs Robert W. Bass (Christine A. Tulloch), (Dallas Brae, Grant Road); New York, U.S.A.

Mrs Douglas A. Berry (Elizabeth M. McWilliam), M.A., Silverdale, South Street; c/o Mackay, 2 Cochran Terrace, Edinburgh 7; teacher.

\*Mrs Archibald A. Beveridge (Elizabeth A. Gordon), M.A. (Aberdeen), Lower Dellieure; 64 Albyn Crescent, Clackston, Glasgow; c/o IRRO PETROLEUM CO. KIRKUK, IRAQ.

\*Mrs Guthrie Booth (Netta R. Hunter), Rosemount, Woodside Avenue; Nether Bogside, Elgin.

\*Mrs John Boyne (Doris J. Cameron), (Willow Bank); 237 Auldhouse Road, Newlands, Glasgow, S.3.

\*Mrs James B. Braid (L.D. Pamela Gibson), (The Knoll); P.O. Box 62, 5 Fairlie Place, Calcutta, India.

\*Mrs Edward Brooks (May Smith), (18 Castle Road); Caberfeidh, The Crescent, West Hartlepool.

\*Norman W. E. Buchan (Grant Arms Hotel); Windyridge, Willow Lane, London Road, Amersham, Bucks; ~~garden~~ grower, A. F. Dutton, Ltd., Iver, Bucks.

\*Stanley J. W. Buchan (Grant Arms Hotel); Windyridge, Willow Lane, London Road, Amersham, Bucks; nursery gardener, (Slough Seed Trial Grounds), Sutton & Sons, Slough, Bucks. MILTON HUTCHINGS LTD., HILLINGDON, MIDD.

\*Mary A. S. Butter (The Knoll); 9 Sandringham Terrace, The Esplanade, Greenock; teacher (retired), Grantown Grammar School.

\*Alexandra Cameron, N.F.F., The Knoll; Bon Accord, Marmion Road, North Berwick; teacher, High School, North Berwick.

\*Eva M. Cameron, M.A. (Hons.) (Aberdeen), (Willowbank); 4 Victoria Road, Elgin; teacher of English, ~~Duffus J.S. School~~, Hopeman; ~~HISTORY, ALVES J.S. School~~.

\*Mrs Harry Chart (Margaret Mackintosh), The Larches, Dulnain-Bridge; Karian-dusi Farm, Gilgil, Kenya, East Africa.

\*Mrs William Christie (Isobel C. Bain), M.A. (Aberdeen), (Holmfild); 89 Forest Ave., Aberdeen.

\*Mrs Michael G. Clark (Heather M. Mathieson), R.M.S.N., S.A. (Aultcharn Farm); Rockfield, Cooper's Green, Uckfield, Sussex.

Mrs Edwin J. Colclough (Isabel Cumming), 18 Castle Road; 19 Eversley Road, Normacot, Longton, Stoke-on-Trent.

Mrs Joseph R. Dawson (Phyllis G. MacNicol), (85 High Street); 26 Homefield Rise, Orpington, Kent.

Anne F. Donaldson, Diploma of Domestic Science, The Garth; Superintendent of St Clare's Home for Girls, 295 Great Western Road, Aberdeen.

\*Sheina M. Donaldson, M.A. (Aberdeen), 32a The Square; teacher, Andover School, Brechin.

\*Mrs Harry Douglas (Constance A. Winchester), (10 Mackay Avenue); 32 Ballifearry Road, Inverness.

\*Mrs James F. Duguid (Rhea Pyper), M.A., B.Sc. (Edinburgh), Riversdale, Grant Road; 9 Kent Road, Avondale, Salisbury, Southern Rhodesia.

Mrs George Dunbar (Margaret M. McLean), Kylintra Cottage; 25 Waverley Crescent, Grangemouth.

\*James Duncan, 28 High Street; 95 Cromwell Road, Aberdeen; accountant, National Bank of Scotland, 140 Union Street, Aberdeen, retired.

\*Sine H. Ferguson, Housekeeper's Certificate (Institutional), Swiss Cottage, Ballindalloch; Inveran, 2 Anderson Street, Kingsbarns, By St Andrews, Fife; cook, Royal Hospital for Sick Children, Sciennes Road, Edinburgh, 9.

\*Ian C. G. Forbes (Connage); 32 Seaview Road, Buckie; teller, Bank of Scotland, Buckie.

\*Mrs William Forsyth (Jane A. Gray), 1 Balmennach Road, Cromdale; Cawdor House, Kingussie.

\*Duncan Fraser, C.B.E., D.L., LL.D., J.P. (Kylintra Cottage); Braemoray, 6 Woodburn Avenue, Aberdeen; draper, Duncan Fraser (Draper), Aberdeen, Ltd.

\*Anna B. Gilbert (Strathallan, Grant Road); 55 Morningside Park, Edinburgh, 10; teacher (retired).

\*Mrs William J. Fraser (Elsbeth M. Mitchell), BENHAGEN, 20 CASTLE RD. EAST; BALVULLICH, KILMORACK, BY BEHALLY, INVERNESS-SHIRE.

CHEVALIER DE  
LEGISLATION



- \*Mrs Donald M. Gordon (Ann M. Paton), 19 South Street; ~~700 High Street, Forres Elgin~~ <sup>105, South</sup>
- \*Grace T. Gordon, M.A. (Aberdeen), Lower Delliefure; teacher of mathematics, Secondary School for Girls, Freetown, Sierra Leone.
- \*John A. Grant (Reidhaven); 1 Carlton Close, Edgeware, Middlesex; civil engineer (retired).
- \*Mrs Lewis M. Grant (M. Sarah Macdonald), Sunnylea, Aviemore.
- \*Margaret C. Grant, Higher Tullochgribban, Dulnain-Bridge; Elginshill, Nr. Elgin; teacher, Urquhart Public School.
- \*Mrs Peter Grant (Isabella C. Mackintosh), M.A. Ord. (Edinburgh), (Congash Cottage); Ravenscraig, Aviemore.
- \*Mrs Peter J. Grant (Ann Telfer), East Lodge, Castle Grant; The Bungalow, Forres Road, Nairn.
- \*Violet Grant, S.R.N., R.M.N., 107 High Street; night sister, Belmont Hospital, Sutton, Surrey.
- \*William Grant, L.R.C.P. & S. (Edinburgh) (Briar Cottage, Grant Road); Cairnform, Lyons Lane, Appleton, Cheshire; medical practitioner.
- \*Mrs George Gray (Barbara Hepburn), (22 The Square); ~~5 Backyett, Thornton Stirlingshire~~ <sup>14, Crosshill St., Lennock Glen Glasgow</sup>
- \*Mrs J. Gordon Hall (Georgie Gordon), (Brooklyn, Grant Road); Sunny Bank, Craigellachie.
- \*William Hepburn, Braemoray, Woodlands Terrace.
- \*Mrs William Hepburn (Rita Mackay), Braemoray, Woodlands Terrace.
- \*Mrs John D. Hogg (Jean Cruickshank), 3 Woodburn Place; 24 Polwarth Crescent, Edinburgh, 11.
- \*Thomas Hunter, O.B.E., M.A., B.Sc. (Glasgow), (Rosemount, Woodside Avenue); 54 Devonshire Road, Aberdeen; rector (retired), Grantown Grammar School.
- \*Mrs Thomas Hunter (Rosemount, Woodside Avenue); 54 Devonshire Road, Aberdeen.
- \*Wilina Irving, Kirkton Cottage; Y.W.C.A., Rainings Stairs, Inverness; assistant collector of taxes, Inland Revenue, Inverness.
- \*Mrs Basil B. Jakeman (Diana F. Mackintosh), Ladysturn, Dulnain-Bridge; 240 Revidge Road, Blackburn, Lancs.
- \*Grace M. Kirk, R.G.N. (Edinburgh), S.C.M. (Irvine), (Rockmount, High Street); 8 Gillespie Crescent, Edinburgh; ward sister, Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh.
- \*Harold G. Laing, (Craig Revack, Woodside Avenue); 79 Eastbourne Road, Birkdale, Southport, Lancs.; ladies' hairdresser.
- \*Elizabeth M. Lawrence, Bank of Scotland House; Nurses' Home, Royal Infirmary, Castle Street, Glasgow, ~~CT~~ <sup>final year student nurse. PUPIL MIDWIFE.</sup>
- \*Mrs ~~IR~~ <sup>JOHN</sup> R. Jones (Christine M. Innes), Canndeege, 19, KYLINTRA CRESCENT; 65, HUDSPETH CRESCENT, PITY ME, Co. DUBLIN.
- \*Edith M. Lawson, Certificate of Speech Fellowship (London), (Willowbank); ~~Uplands, 251 Leigham Court Road, London, S.W.16; warden of Uplands House, senior lecturer in Spoken English and Dramatic Work, Furzedown Training College for Teachers, Wellham Road, London, S.W.17.~~
- \*Mabel G. Lawson, O.B.E., M.A., M.B., Ch.B. (Aberdeen), S.R.N., D.N. (London), (Willowbank); 2 Trevarra Court, Bouverie Road West, Folkestone, Kent; deputy chief nursing officer, Ministry of Health, Savile Row, London, W.1.
- \*Mrs Hugh Leckie (Marie J. Grant), Higher Tullochgribban, Dulnain-Bridge; 15 Forthview, Bannockburn; teacher, Stirlingshire Education Authority.
- \*Mrs A. Peter Lewin (Edith M. Kyd), (Craggan House); Desswood, 130 Green Lane, Coventry.
- \*Mrs James C. Littlejohn (Elizabeth L. Young), Fairview, Boat of Garten; ~~121 Lowland Road, Rugby; teacher, Warwickshire Education Committee (Rugby Division).~~ <sup>CHARNBORN 170, A DOISCH RD.</sup>
- \*Mrs Duncan M'Arthur (Margaret I. Grant), (Grant Cottage, High Street); 8 Maurann Court, Hunter Street, Yeoville, Johannesburg, South Africa.
- \*Mrs Ian G. Macarthur (Catriona M. B. Grant), M.A. (Edinburgh), Balnagown, Nethybridge; Newton, Dalcross; ~~teacher, Merchiston School, Inverness.~~
- \*Mrs John N. M'Callum (Isobel O. M'Beath), (1 Station Cottages); Argyll Mansions, Oban.
- \*Mrs William T. M'Curdy (Alice K. M. King), (3 Woodburn Place); 14 Burnett Place, Nutley, New Jersey, U.S.A.
- \*Shona G. Macdougall, Monaliadh Bungalow; Boat of Garten; teacher, Crieff Junior Secondary School. <sup>2 B, SAUCHIE PLACE CRIEFF;</sup>
- \*Mrs McGinnis (Sheila M. E. Mann), 9 Castle Road East; 66 Fowler Avenue, Middlefield, Aberdeen.
- \*Sydney G. Macgregor, M.A. (Edinburgh), 46 High Street; The Whins, Banavie, Nr. Fort William; teacher of classics, High School, Fort William.
- \*Elspit McIntosh, Diploma of Physical Education, Garlyne, Nethybridge; physical instructress, Falkirk Technical School.
- \*Sheena S. R. McIntosh, 8 Castle Road East; 21 Needless Road, Perth; teacher, Northern District School, Perth.
- \*Mrs Archibald M. McIver (Elizabeth M. McBeath), S.R.N. (Aberdeen), (1 Station Cottages); 8 Daal Terrace, Port Charlotte, ~~Isle of Skye~~ <sup>Isle of Skye</sup>
- \*Mrs Matthew Mackenzie (Jessie M. Campbell), (Parkburn); 18 Kingsford Road, Alford; teacher of domestic science, Alford School.
- \*Max D. Mackenzie, 46 High Street; 4 Craigauchty Terrace, Aberfoyle, by Stirling; teacher, Aberfoyle J.S. School.
- \*Mrs. Gordon Jack (M. McWilliam)
- \*Mrs. E. A. Knopping
- MATERNITY HOSP. ABERDEEN;
- \*ALEX. MACKENZIE M.A. (HONS)



Mrs. R. Keith

- \*Elsie Keith, 6 Birchview Terrace; assistant, Messrs Alexander Mackenzie and Son, drapers, High Street.
- \*Doris E. Laing, Benmore, High Street.
- \*Jessie M. Laing, 113 High Street; telephonist, General Post Office.
- \*Margaret M. Legge, Woodberry, Spey Bridge; teacher, Grantown Grammar School.
- \*Mrs Kenneth J. Lugg (Jean Burgess), Rosehall Hotel, The Square; or Apartado A, Guantanamo, Cuba, ~~Orlando~~; hotel proprietrix.
- \*Mrs John G. MacDougall (Jessie A. MacLennan), The Mill House, Craggan.
- \*E. Donald McGillivray, Isla Cottage, High Street; postman, General Post Office.
- \*Mrs Robert McGillivray (Morag Gray), 18 Lynstock Crescent, Nethybridge.
- \*Elizabeth R. Macgregor, 2 Cambræ, Cromdale; shorthand - typist, Mr Gordon McCulloch, Solicitor, The Square.
- \*Mrs Alexander MacKay (Isabella B. Grant), Braemoray, Woodlands Terrace; proprietrix, Craiglynne Hotel, town councillor.
- \*Alexander MacKenzie, M.A. (Aberdeen), 15 Kylintra Crescent; principal modern languages master, Grantown Grammar School; town councillor and burgh treasurer.
- \*James S. Mackenzie, Gowanlea, Woodside Avenue; draper, Messrs Alexander Mackenzie and Son, High Street.
- \*Mrs James S. Mackenzie (Elizabeth Robertson), Gowanlea, Woodside Avenue.
- \*Morna G. Mackenzie, Birchview, Woodlands Crescent.
- \*Mrs William R. Mackenzie (Alma Laing) Birchview, Woodlands Crescent.
- \*Alexander MacPhail, Hillview Cottage, High Street; painter and decorator.
- \*Isa MacPhail, Hillview, High Street.
- \*Charles Munro, Woodlands Hotel, The Square; banker (retired), South Africa.
- \*Jeannette I. Munro, 38 Kylintra Crescent; civil servant, No. 24 Command Workshop, R.E.M.E.
- \*Mrs Archibald Mutch (Elizabeth Duncan), 28 High Street.
- \*Jean M. Paterson, Parkburn, Woodlands Crescent; partner, Paterson & Co., Shoe Specialists, 23 High Street.
- \*James Philip, Strathspey Hotel, High Street; proprietor, Strathspey Hotel.
- \*Elizabeth O. Phimister, Woodburn, South Street; postal and telegraph officer, General Post Office.
- \*Ella M. Pyper, M.A., B.Sc. (Edinburgh), Riversdale, Grant Road; principal teacher of Mathematics and lady adviser, Grantown Grammar School. ~~SES (ada.)~~
- \*Mabel M. Pyper, Riversdale, Grant Road.
- \*Mrs Thomas S. Robertson (Mary E. Hastilow), Achnagonlan.
- \*Alison Ronaldson, ~~Rowan Cottage~~, Grant Road. ~~STRATHALLAN~~
- \*Jessie D. Ronaldson, ~~Rowan Cottage~~, Grant Road; postal and telegraph officer, G.P.O.
- \*Mrs Joseph Schleppe (Elizabeth Meldrum), Granite Villa, Woodside Avenue.
- \*Mrs Peter G. Spalding (Isobel M. Gunn), 6 McGregor Avenue; hairdresser, Messrs Mackintosh & Cumming, High Street.
- \*Mrs John Stuart (Marion N. G. Paterson), M.A. (Edinburgh), 32 Kylintra Crescent.
- \*Mrs Colin Sutton (Catherine M. MacKay), Craiglynne Hotel.
- \*James Templeton, Croix de Guerre (Gold Star), The Lodge, Castle Grant; electrician and plumber, Seafeld Estates. ~~(ada.)~~
- \*Netta Templeton, Gladstone Cottage, Castle Road.
- \*James Williams, M.B., Ch.B. (Edinburgh); Stonefield House, The Square; medical practitioner.
- \*Mrs Jack Wood (Joan Cruickshank), Seafeld Lodge Hotel, Woodside Avenue; hotel proprietrix.

\* Life Member.

## BIRTHS

- DUNBAR.—On 8th February, 1956, to Mr and Mrs George Dunbar (Margaret M. McLean), 25 Waverley Crescent, Grange-mouth—twin daughters (Sheila and Carol).
- FORSYTH.—On 12th March, 1956, to Mr and Mrs Wm. Forsyth (Nancy Gray), Cawdor House, Kingussie—a daughter (Lynn MacDonald Lorraine).
- GRANT.—On 7th April, 1956, to Mr and Mrs John Grant (Mary E. Templeton), Dun-alastair, Heathfield Road—a daughter (Fiona Mary).
- McIVER.—On 15th January, 1956, to Mr and Mrs Archibald M. McIver (Elizabeth M. McBeath), 8 Daal Terrace, Port Charlotte, Islay—a son (Fergus).
- MACLAREN.—On 7th May, 1956, to Mr and Mrs Alexander D. Maclaren (Sheila Macdougall), Colombia, South America—a daughter (Cairine Sheila).
- OLLASON.—On 7th May, 1956, to Mr and Mrs Peter Ollason (Margaret A. S. Grant), Roseville, 95 King Harald Street, Lerwick—a daughter (Frances Jane Margharet).
- SELMAN.—On 10th September, 1956, to Dr and Mrs Geoffrey G. Selman (Elise M. H. Kirk), 1 Merchiston Bank Avenue, Edinburgh—a son (Peter Geoffrey).
- WILSON.—On 25th May, 1956, to Dr and Mrs David L. Wilson (Ada R. Inray), Lubwa, Chinsali, Northern Rhodesia—a son (Colin Moffat).

## MARRIAGES

- ALLAN—GEDDES.—At Glasgow Cathedral, on 23rd December, 1955, John Allan, Helensburgh, to Janet Evelyne Geddes (65 High Street).
- HAMILTON—HOGG.—At Inverallan Parish Church, Grantown-on-Spey, on 31st March, 1956, Louis Wollacott Hamilton, Glasgow, to Margaret Isabella Hogg, 11 South Street.



## LETTER FROM HONG KONG

23rd September.

Dear Jeannette,

I am afraid this is my third attempt to write you, and this time I hope to finish the letter. I only hope I am in time with my subscription for the F.P.'s Club.

I still have the last five or six years' copies of the school magazine, and I read and re-read them and never get tired of it. Somehow, it makes me feel so much closer to home, and I am looking forward to this year's edition already.

I hope it will be of interest to readers if I tell you my first impressions of life out here. I suppose the most apt heading would be, "Pearl of the Orient," as that is what Hong Kong is called.

A year ago, I would have ridiculed anyone had he or she told me I would be in the Far East in 1956. However, here I am.

The voyage out was quite fascinating. Our first port of call was Genoa, then we proceeded to Port Said, where you could leave the ship, visit the Pyramids and rejoin the ship at the foot of the Suez Canal. In the Red Sea I had my first glimpse of flying fish, and at Aden I found the heat just bearable and the flies unbearable. After that we had no sight of land till we came to the Straits of Malacca on one side and Malaya on the other. We stayed at Singapore for three days, and then past North Borneo to Manila, where we spent another three days, and then to our destination, Hong Kong.

This, I think, must be one of the most beautiful natural harbours in the world. The temperature from April to September is hot and humid, with little variation between day and night temperatures; and from October to March the weather is cool and sunny.

The Chinese themselves seem to be happy and laughing all the time, and love to celebrate their many festivals with lots of noise and fire-crackers. The first festival I encountered was the most important—Chinese New Year. This is usually reckoned according to the lunar calendar and falls on the first day of the moon, although preparations start as early as the 24th day of the 12th moon.

A very pleasant custom at Chinese New Year is for workers to draw double pay, as an extra bonus!

New Year's Day is a general birthday for everybody. The Chinese generally reckon their ages from this day rather than from the actual days on which they were born. Consequently everybody becomes a year older.

The day following New Year's Day is usually spent with the family, as visiting is

rare. A dinner is usually held for the immediate family members, and this is called "Starting the Year." After that, everything diminishes in intensity until everybody gets back to normal routine in a couple of weeks.

Here are a few more of the Chinese Festivals.

*Ching Ming* — The Chinese Easter, when pilgrimage is made to tombs of ancestors and homage paid to the dead.

*Dragon Boat Festival* — When boat races are held to commemorate an upright statesman who, in the third century B.C., drowned himself on the fifth day of the fifth month to shock into making reforms a ruler who had scorned his pleadings when alive.

*The Maiden Festival* — When, on the seventh day of the seventh month, every unmarried girl makes offering to the Goddess of Love to secure a speedy marriage to a husband of her choice.

*The Moon Festival* — When everyone eats moon cakes, stuffed with meat or fruit, paper lanterns are lit and, of course, fire-crackers are set off.

Such are some of the festivals, and some of these ancient customs date back thousands of years.

And now, as the Chinese would say, when wishing you a Happy New Year and prosperity, "Kung Hay Fat Choy."

Yours sincerely,

ANN M. MUNRO.

P.S.—I forgot to thank you for doing so much for the magazine, which we readers take so much for granted.

## ABERDEEN LETTER

Dear Mr Editor,

On behalf of all Grantown students in Aberdeen, I send good wishes to all former and present pupils of Grantown Grammar School.

Last year the Grantown contingent in Aberdeen was considerably strengthened—in Varsity by Walter Dempster, in Gordon's Technical College by Billy Lamond and Donald McBain, and in Training College by Gordon McGregor and myself. This year, however, the Grantonians have lost a few of their number. Sheena McIntosh is teaching in Perth, as is Gordon, while Shona McDougall is teaching in Crief.

We still have the three stalwarts—Sandy Gordon, George Dixon, Sandy Mackenzie—with us, however. Sandy Gordon has just returned from a year's study on the Continent, and is now an even finer linguist than previously. George, after a successful third year, is now facing a very hard



honours year. Sandy Mackenzie, after going through his third year successfully, is now spending most of his time at Forresterhill, where he is being introduced to the horrors(?) of the operating theatre.

Well, so much for the old hands! This year our number has been augmented by two girls—Isobel Bruce and Mary Ward. Isobel has joined Sheena Ogilvie, Lettie Gordon and myself at T.C., while Mary is learning about all the mysteries of culinary art in the Domestic Science College.

It seems much longer than a year ago since I myself went as a first year student to Aberdeen. My first impression seemed to be a haze of unknown faces, seemingly endless corridors, and far too many flights of stairs to climb! However, after getting these seemingly unimportant things into proportion I became aware that there *were* such things as lectures to attend and endless pages of notes to write.

After about a week the first "teaching day" arrived. On that bleak October afternoon I faced my first class—thirty-five infants. I'll never forget the awful helpless feeling I had while facing that class—what can one teach thirty-five chattering, restless five-year-olds? However, during the ensuing terms I learnt some of the interesting ways in which infants can be taught. My two "crits" passed quite successfully, the exams were completed and before I knew where I was Christmas time had arrived and my first term had finished.

The second and third terms passed in much the same way as the first. Second term was considerably brightened by Charities Week—a week when all students are, more or less, allowed to show their youthful exuberance. The highlight of the third term was "Open Day." On that day the whole college is open to the public, and there they can see what sort of work we do in college.

Of course, a student's life at T.C., like everywhere else, is not all work. In the first term there was a most enjoyable first year reception as well as the usual number of hops and concerts.

Training College has the usual large number of clubs and societies. The Athletic Club caters for all those interested in badminton, netball, basketball, fencing, hockey, football, swimming and tennis, while the Dramatic Club interests the budding actors and actresses. The T.C. Film Society has quite a following. The Film Society shows its members a series of films which could be of use in the classroom and also films which give the teacher a great deal of background knowledge.

These then are but a few of the facilities open to the student at Training College.

In years to come we hope that many more G.G.S. pupils will come to Aberdeen to further their education—be it 'Varsity, Gor-

don's, Do. School, Dunfermline College, or T.C.—all are worthy of the pupils of Grantown Grammar School.

With best wishes for Christmas and 1957.

Yours faithfully,

ELIZABETH M. R. MACKENZIE.

#### EDINBURGH UNIVERSITY LETTER

Dear Mr Editor,

This year it is my pleasure to offer greetings from Edinburgh—home of the youngest of our Scottish Universities.

In October, 1955, I arrived here to attend the Annual Fresher's Conference. This effort would, I feel, have been more successful if it had given us more opportunities of meeting others like ourselves and had told us something of the future hazards, instead of having us listen to rather pointless addresses by members of the University Staff. If one had taken their advice, one would, most certainly, have joined all the societies and clubs and altogether scorned laborious days. Indeed there were a few who took this advice very much to heart—with no good results (relating to exams or otherwise). There were also, at this Conference, tours of the University buildings conducted by disinterested graduates—the outcome of which was utter chaos.

After the initial shock of hearing about 285 people stamping or hissing during lectures, one settled down to a rather humdrum routine with an occasional tutorial to ease the boredom. Surely the teaching method with regard to the French language is unique here — during the whole session I spoke not one word of it save to answer "Oui" in reply to the tutorial register.

Leisure hours need be mentioned but little. Societies abound, there are ample facilities for sport, and the Union Palais, Dick Vet. and Art College Dances provide an outlet for the exuberant spirits of many individuals.

Among the "Flowers of Edinburgh" this year we find many F.P.s. Patsy Grant continues to fare well at Moray House and is now a "connoisseuse" in the art of coffee tasting. Seonaid Grant at present lends to dressmaking at Atholl Crescent, the hand which, after January, will soothe many a fevered brow in the Royal Infirmary. There she will find ex-classmate Marjorie Macdonald, who, though seldom seen, is not by any means forgotten. One of Marjorie's clanswomen—Helen—is now at Atholl Crescent. There, too, is Rosemond McHattie, who is adding to her already more than adequate knowledge of the culinary arts. Another Macdonald—this time Annie—is at Moray



**Cromdale**

And northward down the pleasant vale,  
We see the meadows of Cromdale,  
Where modern workers match the skill  
Of those who wrought in secret still.

**Castle Grant**

At Castle Grant this generation  
Can view the ancient clan's foundation.  
The massive walls there still "Standfast"  
And call to mind the wondrous past.

**Viewpoint**

By Viewpoint next we make a sally,  
And there admire the Dulaig valley.  
Past Dreggie and Glenbeg we turn  
To Craggan's rural mill and burn.

**The Bathing Pool**

The winding burn of Kylintra  
Must listen to industrial saw.  
Its confluence there makes a pool,  
The rendezvous of swimming school.

**The Road to Tomintoul**

Direct ascent to Tomintoul  
Reveals domain of sheep and fowl,  
While, right in front and looming near,  
Gigantic mountain shapes appear.

**Up Strathspey**

And southwards up the vale of Spey,  
First Nethybridge lies in our way.  
Past Boat o' Garten and Aviemore,  
We hie to mountain lodge, Glenmore.

**Round Strathspey**

If we return by circling route,  
Carrbridge and Dulnain well may suit.  
Perhaps by Lochindorb we sweep  
Past island stronghold's massive keep.

**Conclusion**

Exiles from sublime Strathspey,  
Your homeland calls from far away.  
Here all may find a blissful land,  
Made beautiful by Nature's hand.

DORIS LAING.



## NEWS FROM THE OUTPOSTS.

As we read the voluminous F.P. lists, we again feel very apologetic that we find so little to say about so many worthy members, this in spite of assistance from a news committee.

A glance at our local lists suggests that most of the hotels that have made another good holiday season in Grantown are in the hands of very competent F.P.s. Some of these have been in the news otherwise, hence the following items.

Mrs Mackay's success — we might say genius—in the hotel line was recognised in 1956 when she was co-opted to the Town Council to represent the hoteliers.

Mrs W. Mackenzie brightens the winter months with her "Sunbeams" when the season is over.

Jimmy Bruce, always a good friend of the school, has made Holmhill an even more attractive guest house. One wonders how he finds the time.

Mrs Lugg varies the season by winter flights to join her husband in Cuba.

Sam Munro, after building up a grand connection at The Coppice, now takes over the management of Strachan's, the family business, in addition.

This readjustment followed the departure from Grantown, to assume management of a grocery business in Comrie, of one of the original "few" of the Old Guard, Peter Macpherson. We can hardly imagine Grantown without Peter. As well as being a former secretary and vice-president of the Old Guard, he was a pillar of Inverallan Church and of the Reels and Strathspeys Society. He complains that he has had no time this summer for his favourite hobby of gardening, but we feel sure that next year his garden in Comrie will be a riot of colour as a result of his skill. We hear that the River Earn runs past his garden and that Peter intends setting "scanties" next year and entering his catch for the Club fishing competition. Good luck to Peter and his family!

Another figure familiar to these notes but lately departed is that of Lawrence Jack, now a mechanic in a Kirkcaldy garage. His climbing friends missed him in their trips, and they say that an increased waist-line suggests that Lawrence also misses the trips.

As we compile these notes, Willie Cruickshank, the second most hardened bachelor among the Old Guardsmen, prepares for his fate. Willie has always had a way with the ladies, but nothing came of it until "Miss Right" came along.

Billie Templeton fittingly acts as best man. Good practice for Billie!

By the way, there is no need to mention who is the most hardened of Old Guardsmen. Perhaps Willie's example may influence him.

Two veteran F.P.s. Messrs H. Cumming and W. Duncan, figured in the January F.P.

quiz. The former now feels old enough to take bowls seriously. The latter has been reducing his activities, but is still a Gaelic enthusiast. We wish his banker brother, James Duncan, a happy retirement.

John Grant (Rothiemoon), now recognised as one of the North's foremost agricultural experts and advisers, was a star member of the B.B.C. team in a recent Farm Forum broadcast from Grantown.

Willie Ledingham, now back in the family business in Grantown, provides a happy reinforcement to the local O.G. ranks.

Edward Illingworth has also returned to the district and to his old love, Insurance, after a spell in the Gold Coast. Edward figures in Moray golfing news.

Mrs Balfour (Dorothy Smith) has been on leave this summer from East Africa. Mrs Milner (Margaret Templeton) is another exile due a visit home this fall.

Mrs Braid (Pamela Gibson) has again been with us in 1956 on summer leave.

We have had reports of a meeting between Ruth Mathieson (also on visit to the Old Country) and Mr Norman Morrison, now rector of Kemnay.

Another exile to re-appear in Strathspey this summer was Edith Lawson, while Mrs Watt made her usual appearance along with her bowling husband.

Dr Duncan Fraser's annual visit to Strathspey was unhappily clouded by a prolonged illness. We wish him restored health.

Bill Sellar is back after his year of further training at the University of Pennsylvania. Bill may go into general practice, for which he is well suited.

Douglas Gibson, after the completion of his five years in the navy, was back in Grantown this summer. Douglas has also to plan what future his profession holds for him, but he may do some further study before final decision.

Raymond Philip, we are told by Bill Sellar, who saw him in Boston, is faring well in the States.

Arthur Innes has returned to this country after a six months' spell with his firm's establishment in New Guinea.

Donald McIntyre has been carrying out some pioneer work in the San Beni Islands off Baja, and in Baja, California, as well. In the process of mapping geologically a largely uninhabited and unexamined area, the party was at times forced to distil water to supply their needs.

Donald's brother Ranald, who now manages a garage in Edinburgh, became the proud father of a baby girl in June.

Our merchant seamen, James Mitchell and John Beaton, continue to sail the open seas. John was recently second officer on board the s.s. Bardic, bound for Australia. James, now chief officer on the s.s. Cabana, was



home on leave in September with his charming wife and baby daughter.

Billy Kerr, after a varied naval career, has returned to a civvy job in Grantown.

We have had two rather interesting communications from newly distant F.P.s. Gordon Jack seems to get around in his inspectorial duties in Tanganyika, where he consoles himself by comparing the rigour of the tropical heat with the rigour of the Grantown winter.

Anne Munro has written from Hong Kong to give us a vivid glimpse of life in the Far East.

We do not often hear of John Holmes, but John has now left the oil business in Iraq to take up an appointment with the Fairey Aviation Company in Australia.

Another exile in a far away land, Donald Mackintosh, Cambrae, is also in the marriage news this year.

Jimmy Macpherson, now of the London Metropolitan Police, found romance on duty and married a policewoman last October.

David Houston, now well and truly settled down, is also the father of a baby girl. In spite of having "to walk the floor at nights," as he says, he still returns good golf scores.

James Hair, whom the wave of adventure always tosses back, is now stationed at Balmenach. He, too, was recently presented with a gift from the stork in the form of Richard James Hair.

Jim Allan, Charlie Lawson, Tom Hunter, Alistair Jack, Frank Macaulay and Frank Calder are also in the "Births" news. We congratulate them and send our best wishes for a happy future.

Our sympathy goes out to Mrs Duguid (Rhea Pyper) in her sudden bereavement. She has courageously undertaken a teaching post in Umtali.

We also extend our condolences to Mrs George Morrison and to Mrs Naughton in their time of sorrow.

Two young Old Guardsmen are now in the Services. Johnny MacGregor has had to forsake the trials of balancing bank books and enforcing the Credit Squeeze and now, a R.A. gunner, is bound for the Far East.

Fraser Sime, in the R.A.F., is stationed in this country. His friend Roy will miss Fraser and their joint adventures in a veteran Baby Austin.

We follow the adventures of the Mac-Taggarts with interest. Michael is settled in marital bliss and atomic research. Donald, after achieving First Class Honours in History-Geography, is now in the navy as an education officer. Neil, after a year in a law office at Elgin, commences the study of law at Edinburgh University.

Gordon MacGregor has graduated B.Sc., married, done his T.C. course and obtained a teaching appointment at Perth.

Perth must have an almost Grantown atmosphere, with Shona MacDougall, Rita Marshall and Sheena McIntosh all teaching there. Judy Stuart is not so far away at

Killin, where Bailie Mitchell has a Hydro-Electric post. We sometimes see Billie back home, having inserted his tall figure into a particularly diminutive car.

Joan Fraser now teaches in Edinburgh, while Mona Scott has landed a good job with Glaxo in Montrose.

Evelyn Mackintosh, who gained her degree with Second Class Honours in Economics in Edinburgh, has got a post with the Board of Agriculture.

At St Andrews University Ron Philip continues his studies in medicine, and Angus Mackintosh enters on the Inter-Honours stage of his Science course. This year Angus has the distinction of being captain of the University football team.

Bobby Philip has now entered the Science Faculty at St Andrews.

Marjory Mackintosh makes her debut in quite a new line at St Andrews University—dentistry.

At Glasgow University Michael Pauli has got his B.Sc. with Second Class Honours in Science.

Iain Burgess enters on his Inter-Honours stage after an adventurous summer spent partly in Holland and partly, after flight by air, in touring the oil fields of Iraq.

Robert Mackenzie continues his Science studies.

Louise Mearns enters upon her second year at the West of Scotland Commercial College.

Susanne Mackenzie and Pat Lawrence share digs. and prepare for a teaching career in Glasgow.

In Edinburgh Keith Donaldson pursues his medical studies. At Cowan House, his hall of residence, he annexed a senior scholarship and a couple of tennis cups in 1956.

Margaret Smith enters on her second year in Arts, while Neil MacTaggart begins his study of Law.

At the Training Centre Patsy Grant is joined by Anne Macdonald, while at Athole Crescent Seonaid Grant is reinforced by Rosemond McHattie.

At Aberdeen University George Dixon enters on the final year of his Honours History course.

Sandy Gordon, back from his scholarship year at Bonn and Vienna, resumes the study of Modern Languages at Aberdeen.

Sandy Mackenzie, who passed his Second Professional with Distinction in Anatomy, was actually the most outstanding student of his year in Medicine in Aberdeen.

Walter Dempster, studying Arts in Aberdeen, was the outstanding javelin thrower at University sports.

Sheena Ogilvy, Letty Gordon and Elizabeth Mackenzie were joined at T.C. by Isobel Bruce.

It is seven years since Angus Watson left Speyside Orphanage for Australia. Angus, we learn, passed in all his T.C. subjects and qualified for university, but has entered the Australian Customs Service. Good for Angus!



David Williamson and Charlie Gall are now Post Office engineers.

Jean Laing has a Civil Service job in London, while Joan Lamont and Betty Macpherson are doing a Commercial Course in Inverness.

David Ross was back recently as best man to brother Alistair.

We see Charlie Ferguson and Duncan Dick home occasionally on leave.

Stephen Anderson and Jimmy Thomson, when last we heard, were on the Rock of Gibraltar.

Biggest Service news of the year, however, so far as Grantown was concerned, related to Sergeant Kenneth McConnell, who crashed with his plane in the Malayan jungle. Though badly injured, he survived three weeks alone in the jungle and managed to reach a friendly village. The fortitude of "the Jock who made it" provided newspaper headlines in the month of June, and recalled to us some of the epic exploits of school F.P.s which Mr Wilson used to record in the war years.

The above notes represent the news which our news committee has garnered. We are particularly indebted to Billie Templeton for

his researches and wisecracks. Billie now demits office as Old Guard secretary, with Willie Cruickshank as a worthy successor. We also owe a great debt to Miss Jeannette Munro, the F.P. secretary, for her painstaking work.

We again hope that, in spite of omissions, this column will provide information of interests, and we again send sincere wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all our readers.

G. E. D.

#### NOTES.

Subscriptions for membership and life membership of the two F.P. clubs remain at 3/- and 21/- respectively. These should be paid to Miss Jeannette Munro or Mr W. Templeton.

Members are again reminded of the desirability of early return of the 1957 information circular. The secretaries would be greatly obliged for exact details as regards births and marriages; otherwise much work and time have to be devoted to getting full details.

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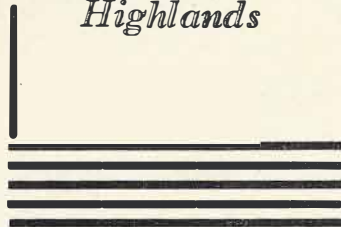
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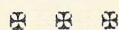
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