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The

Grammar School Magazine

Grantown - on - Spey

No. 49

December, 1977

Editor — Lesley Hendry

Sub. Editors — Trudi Sutton
Sally Anderson

Advertising Managers — Sheila McCulloch Rachel Smith

Staff Adviser — J. K. McDowall, B.A.

EDITORIAL

Once again it is time to issue the school magazine and this year as always we hope that there is a varied and interesting selection from each class. Unfortunately there is not enough space vavailable to include many of the contributions from the pupils, though a more enthusiastic response from senior pupils would be welcome, and again the primary section is quite short.

The task of finding quotations for 'Those in High Places' is proving more difficult each year, but we hope that they still give some idea of the individual's personality.

At Easter, the Head of the English Department, Mr J. Thomson, retired and we wish to thank him for his help and advice in the production of the school magazine in years past.

Finally we would like to thank the pupils for their 'literary gems', the advertisers, Mrs McDowall this year's staff adviser, and all those who helped to make this year's publication possible.

School Notes

At the beginning of 1976-77 session we welcomed three new teachers in the Secondary Department. Miss E. Fraser in the Biology Department replaced Dr Tyler, whom we wish well in his new post in England, Mr Angus Robertson joined the Mathematics Department and Monsieur Balluffier became assistant in the French Department.

During the first term we had with us a German pupil, Ina Belle, from Baden Wurtenburg. Ina joined sixth year and while she was here improved her knowledge of the English language and the Scottish people.

Several hillwalks took place throughout the year, with the assistance of Miss Jardine and Mr Hogarth. These included walks to Braeriach, Carn Eilrig, a senior expedition to Glenshee and a four day senior trip to the Ullapool district.

Football and badminton league games were played as usual and the annual house swimming gala was won this year by Revack. A primary gala was also held between Duthil, Deshar, Nethybridge and Grantown in October.

On the Austrian slopes the school's contingent at the British Junior Ski Championships took second place in the Baidland Trophy events for schools.

Two trips were arranged by the school this year. Mr Grant took a group to Austria for a skiing break and Mr Jones accompanied some of the third year Social Studies class to London for five days. Both trips were thoroughly enjoyed by both staff and pupils.

Discotheques held throughout the winter months by senior pupils raised the money needed to support various activities formerly subsidised but which now have to be funded from other sources.

A very successful bazaar was held before Christmas raising £490 for P.T.A. funds and a further £330 was realized from the draw for school funds. Also on the subject of money raising £105 was raised by some of the third year pupils for Action for the Crippled Child and a Sponsored Musical Chairs in April realized £320 for the same cause. The Primary department did their bit too, by collecting 1000 labels from tins of beans which raised 1p each for the building of a National Children's Home.

In November Mrs McRobert with some of the senior pupils made the school's first trip to Eden Court theatre in Inverness to see Bridie's play 'The Forrigan Reel'. Mrs McDowall took a party to Aberdeen to see 'A Midsummer Night's Dream'.

Mrs Winnie Ewing MP paid a visit to the school in November and talked to the third year

modern studies class about the duty of an M.P. at Westminster and Europe.

A very interesting two day conference, organized by the Highlands and Islands Development Board and Industrial Society for fifth and sixth year Grantown and Kingussie pupils was held in the school in February. Lectures and presentations aimed at informing the pupils about Industrial situations were given, and small discussion groups tackled problems typical of those arising in practise.

Bronze and Silver Duke of Edinburgh awards were gained by several pupils and two achieved the Gold award. Our thanks again to Mrs Stuart for instructing pupils who took their Junior Red Cross Certificate.

Our congratulations go to Mr Mathieson and Mr Sadler who both graduated from Open University, and also to the wives of Mr Dyer, Mr Mathieson and Mr McKenzie who all gave birth to daughters this year.

We were very sorry to lose Mr Thomson in May. He had been Head of the English Department for EIGHT years and we thank him for all the work he has done in the past both in encouraging scholars and producing the school magazine and we wish him a long and happy retirement. In addition to this we say goodbye to the Misses Jessie and Margaret Fraser, who have dedicated so many years to the teaching of both primary and secondary pupils in this area — and we hope that they will enjoy their new found leisure after so much hard work. We wish Mr Hogarth well in his step back into industry.

The Harvey Dux Medallist for 1977 was James Gordon.

THOSE WHO SIT IN HIGH PLACES

Lesley Hendry: There are giants on the earth these days. (Old Testament).

Lorna Forbes: Speak in French when you can't think of the English for a thing. (Lewis Carroll)

Anne Munro: We are not amused. (Queen Victoria).

Sally Anderson: To mind one's P's and Q's. (Proverb).

Shona Grant: Let us be happy while we are young Pauline Ritchie: That schoolgirl complexion (Anon) Sheila McCulloch: She speaks three or four languages word for word without book. (Shakespeare)

Carol Massie: Is this the silent woman? (Ben Jonson).

Rosalind Archibald: Gentlemen prefer blondes. (Anita Loos).

Moira Sim: Not that the story need be long, but it will take a long while to make it short. (Henry Thoreau).

David Bairston: Tell me, are there any more at home like you? (Owen Hall).

James Gordon: Mum's the word. (George Colman)
Kenneth McIntosh: I can resist everything except
temptation. (Oscar Wilde)

David Clark: The minority is always right. (Henrik Ibsen).

Ewan McCulloch: I am as sober as a Judge. (Henry Fielding).

Donald Grant: A chip off the old block! (Proverb).

John Calder: As bright as a dark night. (Anon).

Derek Walker: Smarter than the average bear.

(Anon).

lan Beange: Praise the Lord! We are a musical nation. (Rev. Eli Jenkins).

John Clark: When angry, count four, when very angry, swear. (Mark Twain).

SCOTTISH CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATION RESULTS — 1977

Class VI

Aileen Campbell — Higher English, Higher Maths, Geography.

Daphne Duncan — Higher English, Higher Maths, French (Sixth Year Studies), Biology.

Fiona Grant — German (Sixth Year Studies), Higher English, Higher French, Biology.

Walter Jones — Higher English, Higher Maths, Higher Geography, Higher Biology, Chemistry, Physics.

Rodena Kelman — Higher English, Higher Secretarial Studies, French, Biology.

Fiona McCafferty — Higher Maths, Higher Biology, Geography.

Sandy McCook — English, Physics.

Kathleen McCulloch — English (Sixth Year Studies), Biology (Sixth Year Studies), Higher Geography.

Alison McLennan — Biology (Sixth Year Studies), Chemistry (Sixth Year Studies), Geography.

Raymond McMurray — Maths (Sixth Year Studies), Higher Biology, Higher Chemistry, Statistics.

Pamela Main — Higher English, Higher Art and Design, French, Biology.

Phillipa Parsey — Higher English, Higher History, Higher Maths, Higher Biology, Geography.

Charles Ross — Geography, Statistics, Physics, English.

Stephen Walker — English (Sixth Year Studies), Higher Chemistry, Physics.

Barry Wood — English (Sixth Year Studies, Chemistry, Physics.

Class V

Sally Anderson — Higher History, Higher Arithmetic (Syll. A.) Higher Biology, English.

David Bairstow — Higher Geography, Higher Maths, Higher Biology, Higher Chemistry, English.

David Clark — Higher Maths, Higher Biology, Higher Chemistry, Higher Physics, English. Mairghread Davies — Higher English, Higher Maths, Higher French, Higher Chemistry, Higher Physics, Biology.

Lorna Forbes — Higher Maths (Syll. A.), History, English, French, Biology.

Gilbert Gallie — Higher Maths, Higher Chemistry, Higher Physics, English.

James Gordon — Higher English, Higher History, Higher Maths, Higher Chemistry, Higher Physics, French.

Lesley Hendry — Higher English, Higher Geography, Higher Biology, Higher Chemistry.

Alan Kennedy — Arithmetic (Syll. B.), Maths (Syll. B.).

Grant Macaulay — Higher English, Higher Maths (Syll. B.), Eng. Drawing, Physics.

Ewen McCulloch — Physics, Eng. Drawing, Maths (Syll. A.)

Michael MacGillivray — Arithmetic (Syll. B.), Maths (Syll. B.), Metalwork.

Kenneth McIntosh — Higher Maths, Higher Chemistry, Higher Physics, English, Eng. Drawing.

Norman McIver — Maths (Syll. A.), Biology. Alistair MacLennan — Higher English, Higher

Maths, Higher Chemistry, Physics, Biology.
Colin Matthew — Higher English, Arithmetic (Syll. A.).

Anne Munro — Higher English, Higher Geography, Higher Maths, Biology, French.

Sandra Paterson — Higher Biology, English, Maths, Chemistry.

Kevin Strathdee — Arithmetic (Syll. B.), Maths (Syll. B.), Metalwork, Eng. Drawing.

Trudie Sutton — Higher English, Higher History, Higher French, Secretarial Studies, Food and Nutrition.

Class IV

Rosalind Archibald — English, Geography, Arithmetic (Syll. A.), Maths (Syll. A.), Accounting, Fabric and Fashion.

Iain Beange - English, History, Arithmetic (Syll. A.), Maths (Syll. A.), French Alt., Chemistry, Physics.

Rhona Brandie — Arithmetic (Syll. A.)

John Calder - English, Geography, Arithmetic (Syll. A.), Maths (Syll. A.), French Alt., German Alt., Physics.

Catriona Campbell -- History, Arithmetic (Syll. B.), Fabric and Fashion, Biology.

John Campbell — Woodwork.

John Clark — English, Geography, Arithmetic (Syll. A.), Maths (Syll. A.), Metalwork, Chemistry, Physics.

Andrew Dobson — English, Geography, Arithmetic (Syll. A.), Maths (Syll. A.), French Alt., Chemistry, Physics.

Edward Duncan — Geography, Arithmetic (Syll. A.), Maths (Syll. A.), Woodwork, Eng. Drawing, Physics.

Sheena Fowler — Food and Nutrition. Isobel Gordon — English, Accounting, Secretarial Studies, Food and Nutrition, Fabric & Fashion.

Alexander Grant — English, Biology.

Donald Grant --- English, History, Arithmetic (Syll. A), Maths (Syll. A.), French Alt., Chemistry, Physics.

Shona Grant — Secretarial Studies, Fabric and Fashion, Biology, Chemistry.

Susan Grant — Secretarial Studies, Food and Nutrition.

Alistair Hogg — Arithmetic (Syll. A.).

Susan Horton — Arithmetic (Syll. B.).

Evelyn Little — Secretarial Studies.

Sheila McCulloch — English, History, Arithmetic (Syll. A.), Maths (Syll. A.), French Alt., German Alt., Biology.

Anthony Forbes — English, Geography, Arithmetic, (Syll. B.), Maths (Syll. B.), Art and Design, Woodwork, Eng. Drawing.

Ian McDonald -- History, Arithmetic (Syll. A.), Maths (Syll. A), Metalwork, Chemistry, Physics.

Graham McGregor — Woodwork

Kevin MacKenzie -- Geography, Arithmetic (Syll. B.), Maths (Syll. B.), Woodwork, Biology, Chemistry.

Alan MacKintosh — Arithmetic (Syll. B.), Woodwork.

Barry Main — Arithmetic (Syll. B.), Metalwork.

Carol Massie - English, Arithmetic (Syll. A.), Maths (Syll. A.), French Alt., Biology, Chemis-

Ruth Millar - English, History, French Alt., Biology.

Anne More — Arithmetic (Syll. B.).

Kim Murray - Secretarial Studies, Food and Nutrition.

Katrina Parsey - English, History, Accounting, Secretarial Studies, Food and Nutrition.

George Paton — Metalwork

Freda Reid — English, Secretarial Studies.

Malcolm Reynolds - English, History, Arithmetic (Syll. B.), Maths (Syll. B.), Woodwork, Physics.

Pauline Ritchie — English, History, French Alt., German Alt., Secretarial Studies, Biology.

Moira Sim — English, Geography, Arithmetic (Syll. A.), Maths (Syll. A.), French Alt., Biology.

Rachel Smith — English, History, Arithmetic (Syll. A.), Maths (Syll. A.), French Alt., German Alt., Biology.

Trevor Stewart — English, Arithmetic (Syll. A.), Maths (Syll. A.), French Alt.

Helen Sutherland — Arithmetic (Syll. A.), Maths (Syll. A.).

Sandra Taylor — English, Arithmetic (Syll. B.).

Wendy Taylor — English, Food & Nutrition.

Colin Vaughan — Arithmetic (Syll. B.), Metalwork

Derek Walker - English, Woodwork.

Clifford Williamson — English, Arithmetic (Syll. A.) Maths (Syll. A.), Metalwork, Applied Mechanics, Eng. Drawing, Physics.

THE INTRUDER

Creak go the floorboards, Creak goes the door! Somebody is in the room, Coming across the floor. What is he doing? I can't tell. 'Cause I'm under the blankets Like a tortoise in his shell. What should I do? Should I scream? No, there's no need It was only a dream!

Claire McCann, Class 1

THE BEAUTY OF THE WORLD

As the sun was setting, we began to see the beauty of the scene. It was the most beautiful stretch of land in the world. We were in a place of wonder; palm trees surrounded the lake. The water was warm and a lovely yellow-orange colour. As we pulled our boat into the water even the bottom of the lake was soft to stand on. We could sail the ocean wide if the beauty were to stay like this. It was so clear that we could see a long way ahead of us. The birds started singing; the sounds of the animals echoed. We could just believe it was true and not our imagination. We were in a land of beauty.

Lorna McIntosh, Class 1

"White in the Moon the long road lies The Moon stands blank above".

The evening was mildly warm, only so because the warm Mid-Atlantic Drift was rolling up the pebbly cove. If not for the warm south westerlies, which come hand in hand with the drift, the evening would be frosty and grass and rocks would have glistened and twinkled in the moonlight.

Instead it was peaceful, there was a large white moon above and a gentle breeze stirring the sheath-

like grass round the edges of the cove.

A long, winding, single track road stretched down to the cove. Once it was used by romantic smugglers who would push treasure-laden carts up the easy gradient, swinging their razor-sharp cutlasses as they went. Today the road was used only by local fishermen and sportsmen who wanted a natural harbour for their craft. Evenly spaced out along the track were passing places. At each location were sign posts which protruded long, narrow shadows parellel to the track. Every now and then, the shadows would flicker as the gentle breeze caught the knife-like blades of grass and sent them rippling like waves of water.

The road came to a halt on the beach where cars and trailers had to turn on the multi-shaded pebbles. These pebbles were deposited thousands of years beforehand, and, after the artistic work of nature, lay round and smooth with precision-type beauty.

The moon was getting lower, pulled to the dis-

tant horizon as if by a mysterious magnet hidden on the other side of the world. As it slowly descended, it left a silver pavement glimmering across the sea, the pavement getting gradually narrower as the diameter of the moon lessened. One would almost expect to see an inscription imprinted on the moon. Alas, it is always blank and somewhat meaningless.

As the moon became distant, the waves came nearer, lapping farther and farther up the shore. The cove increased in size as the shore contracted. Once stationary little boats were now bobbing up and down as the waves rolled past and under them.

The day grew lighter as the moon sank almost below recognition leaving its silvery glow to get fainter and fainter. To the east the sun was sticking its fiery head over the high mountains.

As night transformed into day, somehow the peacefulness and warmth of the scene disappeared. The dark blanket of night seems to keep one warm, and noise at bay. Now as the sun rose higher, exposing its full array of flame, noisy seabirds swooped up and down the coast, eliminating any possible peace.

The somewhat consoling scene had been discarded and in its place was the hustle and bustle of familiar sealife.

Walter Jones, Class 6

THE AMAZING TREE

The seedlings grow in the nursery until the foresters decided it was time for replanting in the new forest. Dozens of other plants were put in at the same time, and for a time, they flourished. But then a disease swept through them and killed them all except one. Although very small, it stayed green and healthy until one day a large dog burying its bone unearthed the little plant. There it would have died if some children had not noticed it and taken it home. They placed it in a pail of water and it drank thirstily.

The day came when it was put out into the garden and it began to grow steadily again. Often a football would hit it and bend it, sometimes breaking its small branches, but it survived still. One of the boys with a carpenter's set even tried to saw it but fortunately the saw was blunt.

After a few years the family had to move house and decided that the tree had to go also. With much

digging and pulling it was uprooted again and taken to the new house, but in the upheaval was forgotten about. Amongst other rubbish, it was thrown beside the dustbin and carried away in the dustcart.

On the way to the dump the tree fell off the cart and lay neglected at the side of a country road. The rain beat down upon it and once again the roots crept into the mud and the tree grew again. Soon it was as tall as the other trees around it. Then disaster struck again — the winter brought gales and trees were uprooted. But though other trees around it fell, the amazing tree still stood.

Now the amazing tree is carefully looked after. The countryside it grew in was turned into a park and people came to admire the old oak tree, even though they didn't know the story of how it came to be there.

Shirley Masson, Class 1

AN OLD MAN I KNOW

In the summer evenings when it gets dark late, about seven o'clock you can see "Old Jock" wandering about in his garden, talking to the birds or humming that same old tune. His eyes look blurred and weary and his tough tanned skin seems to resemble an old rag of leather. His old checked shirt which he always seems to be wearing is peeping through the holes in his elbows of that familiar greenish-brown waist-coat.

His garden is the best kept in the village. The small pond, at the edge of the lawn has a few withered leaves floating in it, and the old gnome, still looking the same with its broken foot, is still perched on the bank. The old salt in front of the beehives where Jock loves to sit and smoke that same brand of tobacco in his pipe seems never to change.

Slowly he creeps over to the garden shed and gets an old-fashioned garden rake. In a little while he has gathered a few piles of leaves together in various places like bundles of sunlight.

Jock wasn't a very big man but he had a very broad mind. He had travelled world-wide, or so he said. He was slightly deaf in one ear, and when you spoke to him he often bent down closer to you and you had to repeat yourself. His grey hair was still quite thick but when he went outside he always wore an old, worn and dirty cap.

He was very wise, and knew a lot. He didn't ever buy anything he didn't need. He used to pedal slowly down the road on his old, heavy, black bike with a canvas bag slung over his back early in the morning. He would just buy sufficient food for one day; maybe a pint of milk, a small amount of meat and a portion of cheese.

He seemed very fit and healthy for his age, since he was not bent or crippled, just a bit slow in walking. He was of medium build, not fat and not thin. His wife, Mary died last summer; she was much younger than him. Now he and his spaniel, Fang, are left alone.

Jock used to work on the railway. For many years he served, just walking up and down the same place with a shovel in his hand making sure that the line was in perfect condition.

He had rather big lips and when he smiled they would stretch like big elastic bands. His hands were big and bony, almost gnarled, with long black hairs on the backs like long strands of seaweed protecting an old worn rock. Jock was an excellent fiddler and used to play for hours in the winter evenings while the snow was falling peaceful. Without doubt he was a man to remember.

Gladys Fraser, Class 3

A THING OF BEAUTY

I was just in time to see the taillights of the bus disappear round the corner — the last bus for the night. Now I would have to walk home through the woods. Or would I? I could easily walk along the road and hope someone would give me a lift. No, that was out of the question, as nobody local would be out on a Saturday night. All the people with cars would be sitting in their comfortable armchairs in front of an electric fire with two bars on.

I could picture them all, sitting on the edge of their seats, trying to deduce 'who done it', before Starsky and Hutch, and wondering where they had seen 'him' before.

"Where was it?"

"Top of the Pops."

"Don't be ridiculous! What would he be doing on there?"

"Singing."

"Singing! You call that rubbish singing?"

"Well, he's number ten in the charts."

"I just don't know what the world's coming to. When I was young we had real good, honest, down-to-earth music. You young people — I just don't know."

"Yes, Mum."

And so it goes on, just one happy family enjoying a quiet evening in.

By this time, I had decided on walking through the woods, and proceeded to do just that. As I walked, I thought about the night's happenings. It had been a great dance. It would have been better if there hadn't been any teachers there, but they're always the same aren't they?

I looked up just in time to see the moon disappearing behind a cloud. I don't know why, as I had walked through these woods countless times before, but at that moment a peculiar shiver ran up my spine.

I walked on, congratulating myself on having such a vivid imagination, and wondering why it strangely deserted me when it came to writing essays. Had I seen a light? I thought I saw light shining through the trees and for some reason I began to walk faster.

I stopped, and listened. I heard nothing. No rustle of leaves, no wind, no animals — silence. I ran. I don't know yet why I did, but I ran. Down to the bottom of the hill I went, and straight through the village until I arrived at my front gate, where I stopped and caught my breath.

I walked slowly up the path and opened the door. There were no lights on, no noise from the television, no dog to greet me. I turned and retraced my steps to the gate, and, looking about me, I realized the village was in complete darkness and utter silence.

I made my way down the road, my footsteps echoing loudly on the tarmacadam surface. I reached the telephone box and called my friend's house to see if she had arrived home from the dance. There was no answer. I tried five other numbers but each time I met with the same response.

I left the phone off the hook, ringing, so that I could hear it. Somehow it gave me a sense of security, that I was not entirely alone.

At that moment the moon appeared from behind the clouds and I looked around me again. Once more I started to walk towards the wood. I couldn't help myself: it drew me like a magnet.

With quickening step, I reached it and began to walk through. I had the peculiar sensation that I was being watched, but, somehow, I managed to keep going and arrived at the other side in one piece.

I returned to the bus stop and a few minutes later was startled by the sound of a motor engine. I was even more surprised to see the last bus. It stopped, and I boarded. There was nobody there . . I closed my eyes tightly and tried to convince myself that I was asleep and that these happenings were all part of a nightmarish dream.

. . . . I opened my eyes and stared in disbelief. The bus was full! From the back seat, David shouted at me for being so stupid as to leave the door open. It was the most beautiful sound I've ever heard.

Moira Sim, Class 4

IN THE FISHING HARBOUR AT NIGHT

There is silence at night in the fishing harbour, No movement of any kind.

The trawlers sit in the water, waiting —
Waiting for the night to pass into day.

The stars shine brightly on the water
Making it glitter like gold
Small waves slap against the trawler
But fall back in failure.

If you listen carefully,
You can hear the rattling sound of shells
Rat-a-tat-tat....it's like someone
Hitting two stones together.

The fishing nets sway in the breeze softly
In the fishing harbour.... at night.

Jackie Doran, Class 1

TIM

There was a boy whose name was Tim, His friends weren't very good to him. They gave him slugs and worms to eat, They even made him wash his feet-Slugs and worms as you have seen Tend to turn the face quite green. And if you think that that is bad You should have met his nasty dad The meanest thing that he would do Tim wasn't to watch any "Dr Who".

Well, once when Tim was washing his feet (His friends thought this was very neat) He turned around in time to see A big black and yellow bumble bee Although this was to be his fate Tim thought it was a friendly mate And so he grabbed it in his hands — His scream was heard in foreign lands. So with a whine down poor Tim went And six feet under then was sent.

Andrew George, Class 2

A SCHOOL TRIP

In March the Modern Studies class at school had the chance to go on a trip to London to visit famous sights. This all came about after Winnie Ewing came to school to lecture to us. As she was leaving she told us that if we were ever in London we should let her know and she would show us round the Houses of Parliament.

Mr Jones, our Modern Studies teacher, asked if any of us thought that our parents would allow us to go to London. He said that if there were enough of us, and if Mr Grant, the rector, agreed to the idea, that he would arrange the trip.

Finally, we left Aviemore Station on a Sunday night, arriving at Euston Station in London the following morning. There we were collected by a coach which took us to the hotel where we were going to be staying. On arriving at the hotel we had our breakfast and then we visited some of the places that we wanted to see. Of course we had a guide to show us round because otherwise we would have got lost.

So of the places we went to see which I remember best were the Tower of London, Buckingham Palace to see the changing of the Guard, St James Park, Piccadilly Circus, London Bridge and Westminster Abbey. We had a guided coach tour of London and then went to Greenwich and sailed down the Thames. We all enjoyed our trip to London, but came home with no money left!

Audrey MacLean, Class 3

A VISIT TO THE DENTIST

Do you feel a kind of sick feeling rising in your stomach every six months? I do. The days speed past like cars on a motorway and the date comes closer and closer.

The dread starts when the little white postcard arrives in the post. It usually gets disregarded and is used as a tea stand by the side of the bed for a few days. However, in spite of all attempts to avoid the underneath of that menacing white card, facts cannot be ignored, it's time to go to the dentist's. Who first mentions that taboo word anyway? Of course, it's those tender-loving parents of yours who are stout believers in going to the *****! Not one false tooth, they proudly boast, flashing a mouthful of teeth at us, the victims of modern day life. They even try and bribe you to go by offering you a few hours off school. That certainly brings a smile to the lips, but no, nothing can dispel the gloom (but it certainly helps!)

Here I am at last, in the waiting room, cramped onto the end of a bench, staring at the walls. The depressing poster stating the cost of one tooth to a whole set of false 'choppers' - the prices are ridiculous. Still, it won't come to that, will it? I'm convinced that it won't, but mind you, I have been getting little twinges in that big tooth up at the I stick a finger to the back of my back there. mouth to feel it. It seems o.k. but how can one tell? After waiting half an hour, spent eating chewing gum, which supposedly keeps'em clean, my name is called out. Suddenly the posters on the waitingroom wall look positively Old Masters and that bench which has left its own imprint on my posterior seems to swell and puff, with cosiness bursting out of the corners.

Well, here I am, lying down on the black, shiny chair which is supposed to be designed for your "comfort". This is roughly the dialogue.:

Dentist: "So you're Linda".

(My Dad's been in before me and probably told him that I'm bone idle. It seems a strange thing to tell someone, but he never fails to tell it to one and all).

Me: "Yes."

Dentist: "Just open your mouth wide. That's right Now, just move your tongue to the right — no, to your right, my left — Good that's right. Now open your mouth a bit wider please. (It's bursting at the corners!) That's lovely. (He's a real 'patter merchant'! Who'd think that staring into someone's mouth could be lovely.) Now just relax.

He then squirts some stuff into my mouth which dries it up. Then that pronged instrument comes

out and he rams it into my back tooth, which has the twinge.

"Aagh!" say I.

"So that hurts does it?" says the dentist, and jabs at it again.

"Ow (No)", say I, suppressing a scream, but fearing the worst (These dentists are really crafty).

He then jabs all the rest of the teeth and rams a mirror in as well — I feel more metal than flesh! At last he extracts the instruments from my sorely battered mouth and says with glee, "I'm afraid that you've got to have a filling."

I stagger out of the room, pale and disheartened. Life isn't fair — and to cap it all, it's German when we get back to school!

Linda Archibald, Class 3

THE DONKEY

He may look stupid, he may look sad, But within himself, he's quite a lad; One morning on the crowded sands He trod upon a lot of hands.

"Ouch! Geroff!" came the cry, As people lay gazing at the sky, But the donkey took not one bit of heed And carried on with his terrible deed.

The people now in utter dismay
Watched the donkey gallop away,
"Come back!" cried his master, "Come back
you brute!"
But the donkey didn't care two hoots!

Russell Ferguson, Class 2.

HOLIDAY '77

The sun was shining with all its might
There were ice-cream vans and birds in sight
All the seagulls swooped way over head
And all the wee babies faces were red.
The waves were smashing against the rocks
Lying upon the sand were children's socks
There was broken glass scattered all over the
place,

The wind blew over footprints and left no trace. The beach was crowded with old and young And yet the fun had just begun.
There was a funny smell of sun tan lotion And a salty taste which came from the ocean It wasn't really all that bad — Perhaps the best holiday I've ever had.

Debbie Wood, Class 1



THE TRAIN

The train speeds along with all its might,
Headlights gleaming through the night,
Sleepy passenger are inside
Enjoying the long and weary ride.
A big black tunnel is straight ahead
But the light shows a path of yellow and red
Right through the tunnel to the other end
Where the train is approaching a big wide bend
The night moves on, and so does the train
The beast is groaning as though in pain
Then the driver sees a ghostly light
Reflecting its gloom through the bleakness of
night.

The station looms straight ahead,
Deserted like an empty bed.
The train trundles in and the travellers climb

And so does the driver who's quite old and stout The train hisses softly, his day's work is over Peace at last, for the shining steel rover.

Lynn MacGillivray, Class 1

THE CAT

In front of the blazing fire Sat the cat eating a fish, When out jumped a cinder Which landed in its dish Not noticing any difference The cat continued to eat Until he'd eaten everything Fish, cinder and some meat. He lay down and loudly wailed -I could tell something was wrong So I took him to the vet Who made a mixture strong, Although it smelt so terrible He'd to take it twice a day. But it certainly worked wonders 'Cause now the pain's away!

Gillian Paton, Class 2



THE ROAD NOT TAKEN

Here at this lonely fork of the road, the man must make the decision. Which road should he take? The left road is well kept, leading to a well known town. The other fork is less travelled, in fact it is almost never travelled; it leads to nowhere, tapering off into oblivion way up, in the hills of this desolate place.

He chooses the road which does not lead to anywhere.

Starting along this decrepit track he begins to feel the heat of this arid place telling on him. The sun is only half way up the sky and yet it is still obvious this portion of the world was not meant for man. A few lizards scuttle back to their safe holes beneath the rocks as this old man passes. His apparel shows he is a seasoned traveller in this desolate region. His dark, wrinkled, sun-blackened face attests to this. The heavy rucksack on his back infers that he is going for a long time.

His thoughts wander occasionally, wondering if civilisation's merits outweigh its destruction. Maybe this is why this aged man is taking such a desolate route. His eyes fall on the scenery: the

shrubs, stunted and burnt, try desperately to grow; sparse patches of grass mix with sand and rocks; no trees or anything else give shade from the steadily growing heat of the days; waving hills, with this same vegetation barely covering them, extend as far as the eye can see.

This withered old man increases his pace, knowing he must speed up if he is to reach the oasiscausing spring by the time the real heat of the day has come. When the oasis is reached, one can stay indefinitely in this lush haven in the desert. He arrives and drinks deeply of the delicious water. Surveying the surroundings he finds large trees and lush grass alive with the little creatures who have come to drink the cool waters, too. Various larger animals are shown only by their burrows.

He sits watching — thinking. The heat of the day is past: the shadows grow longer. The night is cold so he prepares his bedding and eats. As he is lying awake, the moon gives enough light to barely make out the shapes in the gloom as he still ponders life in this creation, and the road not taken.

Patrick Williams, Class 3

SCHOOL SKIING TRIP TO ITALY

Early on Thursday morning, March 3, saw a dozen or so pupils from Grantown Grammar School along with the Rector, Mr Grant, on their way to Pinzolo in Italy. We joined up with several other schools at Dyce Airport to fly to Venice. After a four hour bus trip we arrived in Pinzolo at the Hotel Bellavista.

Every day we skied on the slopes which were about a twenty minute walk away. The slopes were really impressive and quite often you were ski-ing with a belt of trees on either side of the piste.

The weather was absolutely great, sunshine continually, with the exception of the last day when the conditions resembled the Cairngorms — misty and cold.

During the time we were there discotheques, films and a pizza and wine party were laid on for us, along with various other activities. Everyone really enjoyed their holiday and everyone's ski-ing was greatly improved when we returned home.

Evelyn Mooney, Class 3

The Best Entries for the G.I.T.A. Essay Competition

Section I : Classes 1 - 3 Prizewinner : Patricia Laing, 2nd year WHY I WOULD RECOMMEND THE SPEY VALLEY TO TOURISTS AND HOLIDAYMAKERS

I would recommend the Spey Valley to tourists and holidaymakers for a number of reasons. In summer we have a lovely river to bathe in and in which to keep cool. When it is not too warm, fishing, for our famous salmon, is a must in the River Spey. If you are the more sporting type, there are quite a number of activities for you to do; for instance we have tennis courts, a bowling green and lovely golf course. If you wish you could take pony-trekking from either Nethybridge or Carrbridge. In winter, and if you are the ski-ing type, you will like our ski resort at Aviemore, which is handy for the Cairngorms. On the road to the Cairngorm Ski Lift you pass Loch Morlich and a caravan site. If you are more experienced you could go hill-climbing. Also up in the Cairngorms you will find the famous rein-

In Grantown there are numerous walks for young and not so young, through lovely wooded countryside. If you are lucky enough you may come across some wildlife in their natural habitat. Nearly every Sunday evening, the Grantown and District Pipe Band, with their four dancers, play in the square, where you can sit on the seats provided and watch and listen. The caravan site at Grantown is situated in a beautiful spot with woodland all around and is said to be the best caravan site for shops and such like, in the Highland Region. All four approaches to Grantown are shaded on both sides by trees which are picturesque even in Autumn. If you are not so young, then a seat in the square or by the river is recommended. There are some nice shops with one or two selling local crafts. Our hotels are first class - Queen Victoria slept at the Grant Arms hotel.

There are a number of lovely places to visit outside Grantown. Tomintoul, for instance, leads you up through some beautiful scenery. There is a

whisky trail which leads you to many distilleries, such as Tormore. There is also a scenic route which leads you through picturesque countryside.

If you wish to get tuition for canoeing and sailing, Loch Insh is the place to go to. At Boat-of-Garten you can see one of the few remaining pairs of ospreys which go to Loch Garten each year to have their young. You may also get a ride on one of the last remaining steam engines. At Carrbridge you can go to Landmark where there is also a nature trail. If you wish to see deer then go to Dalnahatnich, past the railway station, where you can see red deer.

If you wish to spend more of your money, then Aviemore is the place to go. There is go-karting, an amusement arcade, Santa Claus Land, which is open all year round, a cinema, swimming pool and plenty of other entertainments. Just outside Aviemore, before you get to Kingussie, there is a Highland Wildlife Park which contains a lot of animals which originated from Scotland. There is also a shop which sells souvenirs.

In Dulnain Bridge, or rather just outside at Skye of Curr, there is a Heather Centre where you can buy plants and relax with some tea.

You can visit ancient places such as Wade Bridge at Carrbridge built by General Wade in about 1717. There are also a number of castles which include Castle Grant, once home of the Grants, Castle Roy, Castle Muckrach and the Wolf of Badenoch's Castle at Lochindorb. There are many other Lochs to visit, such as Loch-an-Eilan.

If you want to find out more about where to go and what to see you should visit the Tourist Information Centre. There are many more places in and around the Spey Valley to visit that I haven't mentioned. In all, the Spey Valley has facilities for young and not so young and always gives a friendly welcome.

Runner-up: Susan Stevenson 1st year

GRANTOWN'S ATTRACTIONS

Grantown-on-Spey is a beautiful place to come to for a holiday.

There are many things to see and it's lots of fun for the children. There is a play-park with swings, a paddling pool, sand pit, and, of course, a chute. A Y.M.C.A. Community Centre is opening up, with lots of things to do inside for both teenagers and younger children.

For older people there are dances nearly every night. There are also shops with lovely things inside. The sweet shop sells home-made jam and tablet, rock and many other kinds of sweeties. You can buy tweeds and kilts and other garments of tartan colours from Kerr-Nugent. There is also lots of countryside to explore. The hotels are comfortable and you get lovely meals.

Grantown is near hills which you can climb. The Cairngorms are the most popular. There are lots of wild animals to see on them in summer and in winter you can go ski-ing. There is a tearoom where they sell a lot of refreshments half-way down the Cairngorms.

There is a safari park not too far from Grantown where you can see bears and wolves and other wild animals

The River Spey is popular for fishing and swimming, but you have to be careful because it's dangerous in parts. There is a very sandy bank where everyone goes because it is not too deep and the current doesn't flow fast.

At night it is cool and the countryside is full of lovely things to see. There is a caravan site on the edge of Grantown. It is by an old railway bridge and if you go under it and walk right up to the right on a dust road, you will see stuck on a tree VIEWPOINT. If you go up to the top you get a good view of Grantown and other small places around it.

At Christmas time there is a lot to do in Grantown, too. There are lights and tinsel in the shop windows, and stars are hung across the street with lights hanging from them. In the square a big fir tree is decorated. The children can go and see Santa in the Sports Shop. On Christmas Eve there is a firework display and then a bonfire is lit. A table is standing quite near the bonfire. Here you can get jacket potatoes with butter in the middle.

Grantown has a lot of things to do all through the year and all the tourists who come to it can enjoy themselves.

Section 2: Class 4 upwards

Prizewinner: Pauline Ritchie 4th year

OUR TOURIST AREA

Surrounded by mountains — including the Cairngorms famous for its ski-ing facilities — lies the small but picturesque town of Grantown-on-Spey, a town with a character of its own. The immediate reaction of foreign tourists coming here on holiday might be that Grantown appears a rather sleepy little town which needs some magic potion to waken it, but I think their ideas would soon be changed.

Tourists are catered for by members of the rapidly expanding hotel industry. Families spending their holidays in some of the larger hotels in Grantown will find complete satisfaction in the variety of activities offered both for the mature and the young alike. Organised bus tours are available throughout the summertime, at a reasonable cost for a day's outing, to the famous distilleries throughout the Highland Region, such as Glenlivet, Tormore and Dufftown. or those who enjoy a 'dram' there is always a free taste of our fine scotch whisky, and of course plenty for sale.

Country-loving people are catered for in the scenic woods, surrounding Grantown, which also lie along the River Spey. Enjoyable walks can be taken by this "the fastest flowing river", and through the attractive forest nature trails. Fishing permits can be obtained in the town for those who enjoy a peaceful, but perhaps exciting afternoon at any of the Lochs in the vicinity, some of which cater for swimmers. Many of the larger hotels have their 'fishermen's catch' displayed for other guests to admire with envy, so bringing a moment of pride for the lucky person.

Sports enthusiasts can enjoy tennis, bowling and horse-riding, all of which are available in or near the town at reasonably low costs. There is also a pleasant 18-hole golf course beside Anagach Wood where both young and old can amuse themselves.

In some cases, for those who enjoy shopping in large stores, visitors can travel to Inverness, the capital of the Highlands, for a day's shopping. But, I am sorry to say that I feel transport facilities are not adequate for those who do not possess their own means of transport. This serious lack of public tranport is perhaps the only disadvantage for tourists staying in the Spey Valley area.

At the foot of Dreggie hills to the west of Grantown, country lovers can find a Caravan and Camp Site, fully equipped with a playpark for children and for "mum" a shop which caters for all needs from 'cheese to shoe polish'. There are other amenities such as wash house, showers and baths which cater for the more mundane needs of everyone.

Night entertainment is usually organised by each individual hotel for their own clientele: this includes dances for both young and old with varying tastes in music. There are almost certainly discotheques for the teenagers. For those who enjoy the theatre how about a trip to Eden Court in Inverness. Or, a fifteen minute trip to Aviemore could bring you an evening's viewing in a large and comfortable 'picture house'.

Tourism is the most important 'industry' in our area and therefore we should do our utmost to foster it.

Sheila McCulloch class 4

Highly Commended late entry:

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

Over the past ten years, tourism has developed greatly in the Spey Valley. As it is now the main industry of the area, it is important to secure its success for the future. Unlike other industries, tourism has no ill-effects on the ecosystem. So, in this way, the tourist trade has saved the district from pollution, which would have been caused had the government decided to centre any heavier industry here. Tourism helps the area financially by bringing much money into the area. This means that local shopkeepers are benefiting immensely from this upward trend. Tourism also cuts the unemployment level in the Spey Valley drastically. It is not difficult to find hotel work in the district, and therefore young people leaving school here are more fortunate than those in other places.

If it were not for the many admiring visitors, many more of us would be taking our beautiful surroundings for granted. In this way, tourism gives us a sense of pride, and helps us to appreciate our good fortune. Also, if the nature lovers did not use our footpaths, most of them would have been overgrown long ago. We are fortunate in the fact that most of the visitors are sensible, thoughtful people, and therefore do not do any significant damage to the countryside.

The many guest houses and hotels which have been established in the area not only provide entertainment for the tourists, but also provide activities for the locals. We can make use of the many nature trails, picnic areas and places of historical interest, which were originally intended for holiday-makers

So, at the moment, the tourist trade is prospering. But, if we want to be certain of success in the future, we shall have to keep our area attractive. Many large towns are expanding, so that, before long, more and more rural districts will become urban. As the Spey Valley is partially dependent on tourism, we must ensure that our nature and wild-life is preserved. The future for some areas may seem uncertain, but the natives of the Spey Valley have more reason to be confident than most.

We have benefited from tourism in a number of ways and it is very difficult to think of any disadvantages in the industry. It has taught the locals many things, and hard work is showing its result. The Aviemore centre has brought many visitors to the area, and again the natives benefited. But, above all, the growth of the tourist trade has meant the transition from a small farming community to that of a prosperous, busy tourist attraction.

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PRESS

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This year saw the Primary Department embarking on a new project in the form of 'Primary Report', a regular newspaper giving their news and views. Here we include a selection to whet your appetite for future editions, which can be obtained from the Primary School.



PUPIL ESCAPES — News from Primary 1

The great search took place for the missing pupils on Thursday night. Jock had gone and it looked is if he had gone for ever. However, Mr Grassick and his search party looked in every corner of the classroom and eventually Jock was found safe and well. Jock is a hamster, for those who do not know him personally, and is now happily back in his cage none the worse for his adventure.



NOISE IN SCHOOL

I like noise The noise of banging desks The slamming of doors The tip tap noise of chalk on the board The noise of laughter Of shouting There's a working noise People turning over pages Squeaking of chairs It's a humming noise But there is complete silence When the children all go home.

Glenda Lawson, Primary 7



VOLCANOES

I saw smoke, white black and grey, Billowing down the mountain like ghosts. It was like someone grumbling. Lava poured like porridge out of the crater. I was frightened. Shooting stars went up into the sky. Sandy Birnie, Primary 3.

Primary Section

THOUGHTS FROM THE JUBILEE EDITION OF PRIMARY REPORT

I wish I could be a king and I would make everyone fat by making them eat too much.

Keith Grant

Kings and Queens are rich people. They have priceless jewels named the King's Orb, Queen's Orb, State Crown of Queen Mary, jewelled state sword and scabbard, King's Sceptre with cross. I wish I could put one of the crowns on. Then I would feel like a King.

Frederick Willis

The Queen and her husband have nice cakes in their palace.

James Macleav

The Queen has a crown and she wears it to dinner dances.

Dai. J. Lovatt

The Queen came in a black taxi wearing a yellow dress, a man made a speech with a curly wig on and the Queens family came in last.

Neil Macdonald



SCHOOL

I hate school. I wish I was on the tractor.

Grant Laing, P. 1



ON THE OTHER HAND

Today we jim with Mr Sadler. He gives you nice jim. He is a nice man, he had a beerd with a mistash.

Karen. Primary 3

Every Thursday I get a violin lesson. I have my own violin. Now I am learning to play a tune. I can already play one tune but this one is much harder. There are four strings on a violin. They are called G. D. A. E. And the bow is made of wood and horse's tails.

George Delmar

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Former Pupils' Section

EDITORIAL

September finds us again trying to draw together the various threads that make up the F.P. Section.

We are very grateful to all the members who returned interesting and amusing letters and information slips, and especially to those who included donations to club funds.

The alterations to the lists seem particularly numerous this year, and we hope we have recorded them accurately. If you do discover any errors, please don't just fume at the editor—drop him a line!

Recruitment has again been good. There is a total of twenty names to add to the list this year.

The usual functions are planned: the Christmas Dance and the Biennial Dinner. The date and details of the latter will be decided by the A.G.'M. next month, taking into consideration the various suggestions made about the best time of year for it.

We publish an article from the effervescent Betty Mutch which we are sure will find favour with our readers,

OBITUARY

We record with regret the death of Ian Grant of Ballintua on May 2nd and send the condolences of the club to his daughter Mona (Mrs Rac).

Also the death of Miss Elsie Logie a former infant teacher at this school, and later infant mistress at Greenock Academy, who died in Edinburgh on 11th February.

We extend our sympathy also to the McTaggart family, whose father died at Kirriemuir last September, to John Wright, whose mother died in Grantown in August this year, and to John Irving and his sister Wilma (Mrs Cowan) whose father died also in August.

BIRTHS

We are delighted to be able to record the following: a son to Brian and Ann Murray in September 1976, a son to David and Marilyn Macdonald (nee Oliphant) in November 1976, a daughter to Ainslie and Marian Cruickshank in January 1977, and in February a son to Martin and Susan Kerr (nee Mann), a daughter to Jim and Flora Calder and a daughter to Johnnie and Cheryl Ross: a daughter to Alex. and Dorothy Ross in June in Farnborough.

MARRIAGES

Best wishes for the future to: Lisi Fuchs who married David Sinclair in December, 1976; Susan Archibald who married Joe Burgess in Kirkcaldy in April, and Ian Paterson who married Sandra Sellars in March.

Mention was already made in the late news of our last issue of the marriages of Joan Paterson in October, 1976 to George Macarthur and Bruce Bain in November 1976 to Mirjana Pavlovic in Belgrade.

Imminent, as we complete these notes, is the wedding of Catriona Johnston to Stewart Harvey, due on 10th September, and that of Iain Brown and Catherine Kidd on 5th September.

ENGAGEMENTS

Congratulations on their engagement in October 1976 to Janette Macdonald and Ian Smith, also to Elizabeth Terris, who is engaged to Brian Lobodzinski from Innerleithen, to Michael Wood who became engaged in February to Jessie Campbell of Kelty, Fife, and to Dianne Duncan also engaged in February to William MacDonald of Inverdruie Fisheries,

NEW MEMBERS

Fifteen recent leavers have joined our ranks this year. They are: Andrew Duff, who enters his second year at Aberdeen University: Daphne Duncan, who goes to do a Diploma in Commerce at Glasgow College of Technology: George Flett, who is to go to college in Edinburgh: Fiona Grant (Mullingarroch), who enters a B.A. course at Edinburgh: Sally Grant, who is to train as a medical secretary: Dena Kelman, who is to go to Napier College, as also is Sandy McCook, who is to do a H.N.D. in Photography: Raymond McMurray, who enters a B.Sc. course at Edinburgh: Pamela Main, whose mother Mrs D. Main (Elizabeth McGillivray) joined with her: Jane Morris, who is to start a degree in French and Italian after a year in Switzerland; Charles Ross (Ballintomb), who is to go to the North of Scotland College of Agriculture: Trudie Sutton, who is to do a H.N.D. in Secretarial Studies and French at Napier: Sandra Paterson, who starts a banking career locally: Neil Paterson who is in the second year of his apprenticeship with the family plastering firm, and Mairi Paterson who is to enter nursing training.

Besides these, we welcome also Peter Henderson who starts a Civil Engineering Course at Heriot Watt, Mrs Margaret Davidson (nee McBeath) who was recruited for us by Mrs Lugg, Mrs Jean Kydd, recruited for us by Mrs Lugg's brother, John Burgess and Mrs L. Smith (Elspeth Gow) who joins the ranks of Life Members. Just in time to be included was Edward Duncan, who goes to Inverness Technical College to do a course in Fish Farming.

YESTERYEAR NOTES

(from the magazine of 1937—the year of the coronation of George VI)

First a quotation:

"Christmas has an entirely new significance! It is magazine time, when F.P.'s flick over the pages of that familiar book, reading with interest of the successes of the old school's pupils and, perhaps, with a sigh, of the changes taking place in it."

Some items of news: the graduations of Catherine Smith, Jessie Fraser and James Templeton; reports of a concert! the Scout troop won the County Flag at Lochnabo; Mr Wilson's "Pioneers" covered the Green Loch, Bynack, Loch Avon, the Shelter Stone and Cairngorm: Richard Surtees completed training for the Police at Peel House: Vera Campbell and Margaret Davidson (Mrs Ross) contributed accounts of a trip to Germany with rather ominous references to the political indoctrination of the Hitler Youth and the widespread use of the "Heil Hitler" greeting.

Finally from a poem:

If we should meet upon the street, you'll know us by our ties,

They're red and grey, so well you may, express your feigned surprise!

The poem stands above the initals of the late John Laing, an Old Guard who was killed in the Second World War.

LATE NEWS EXTRA

Fince the above was written we have heard with regret of the death of two of our members, Miss A. Cameron and Miss E. Lawson. Obituaries will appear in our next issue.

We have also had news from Mrs Gray (Barbara Hepburn), Alex. McKenzie, Walter Dempster, Charles Ross, Fiona Donn, Iani Ritchie, Mrs Anderson (Shona MacDougall), Wishart Milne, Mrs Butler (Dorothea Syme), Mrs Croff (Margaret Templeton), Ma and Mrs Billy Templeton and Alister Jack (Twickenham).

We are glad to welcome also two new life members, Barry Wood and Mrs John B. Taylor (Marjory Cattanach) who will be added to the list in the next issue.

News From the Outposts

Mrs G. Angus (Ella Wood) is active in the W.R.V.S. in Elgin, where she is also secretary of the Flower Club.

Dr Bain had to undergo surgery in Aberdeen early in the summer for a perforated colon. Of all things, a tooth brush bristle did the damage. Happily he is making a good recovery. He was taken ill while holidaying in the north with Bruce and his wife.

Mrs Bahzad (Christobel Terris), now in private practice as a gynaecologist in Wisconsin, has taken up tennis as a summer sport and curling in the winter

Mrs R. Balfour (Dorothea Smith) is still in Salisbury, Rhodesia.

Mrs A. Banks (Lorna Stephen) was in Grantown around the beginning of term and gave us a welcome bundle of books for the languages dept. library. Many thanks!

Mrs Booth (Netta Hunter) sent best wishes from Alford.

Iain Brown enters matrimony (see marriages) and his second year at Stirling University this autumn.

We were glad to hear again from Stanley Buchan in Amersham and also from Miss Eva Cameron in Elgin, two of our most senior members.

Dorothy Carse has moved North from Northumberland to Inverurie where she now works with Thoroughbreds and American Quarter horses instead of Welsh Ponies. Brother Douglas continues his Civil Engineering studies at Paisley.

George Catto reports no change at Port Elphinstone.

Mrs Chapman (Irene Edwards) says she is "degenerating into a stay-at-home housewife" though she plays badminton and tennis and supports her cricket-playing husband!

Thanks to the other Mrs Chapman (Elizabeth McDonald) for a nice "newsy" letter and some more superlative stamps. She writes enthusiastically of a holiday trip to Northland in May (the equivalent of November in our hemisphere). "In the sub-tropical climate we wore summer things. Imagine doing that at Nairn in November!" Her family is musically inclined with Janet in the school orchestra and Richard learning the recorder "in anticipation of playing the bagpipes in a few years"!

Allan Chisholm moved house in Edinburgh in spring. Douglas Chisholm is well settled in his consultant post in Child and Family Psychiatry in Aberdeen where he also lectures part-time at the university.

John Clark, who is a Warrant Officer in the Royal Engineers, has been recently on operational tours in Oman and Muscat and Belize. In January 1978 he becomes R.S.M. of 28 Amphibious Regiment in Hameln, West Germany (of Pied Piper fame).

Adrian Cooke is now putting his degree in computer science to use with I.C.L. as a systems programmer and living in a new town outside London. We hear he has had his hair cut too!

"How tempus doth fugit"! remarks Charles Cooke somewhat ruefully on realizing he has been retired for 7 years. He sees Ian Forbes occasionally. The latter is very active still in charitable causes in Buckie, such as the R.B.L., Earl Haig Fund, Abbeyfield, etc., but regrets his luck with rod and line on the Spey.

George Coutts had no change to report.

Mrs Cowan (Wilma Irving) is now established in Co. Durham and paid her first visit to Grantown for six years this summer. We were sorry to miss her when she called.

Mrs Craig (Dorothy Calder) had no news of note from Knockando.

Grant Cumming, home from Johannesburg, and now a member of a 4 man veterinary practice (all Scots!) in Retford, gave away the bride at his sister Marie's wedding in January. Bridesmaid was younger sister Kirsteen who enters the fourth year of her speech therapy course at Jordanhill. Brother Iain is now sailing as chief officer on M.V. Beaverbank on the New Zealand run.

New member Mrs Davidson (Maragaret M'Beath) recently had visits from Mrs McCurdy (Alice King), Mrs Lugg (Jean Burgess) and Mrs Cowan (Wilma Irving) and the latter's brother John.

Valerie Dewar, we noted, is assistant secretary of Aberlour Games besides her secretarial job at Aberlour House School.

Willie Dobson enters his third year of the B.Sc. (Agri.) course at Aberdeen. He has been accepted for a commission in the R.A.F. and will train as a general duties pilot on completion of his degree.

Andrew Duff has successfully completed first year at Aberdeen University gaining passes in Physilogy, Psychology, Zoology and Chemistry.

Diane Duncan is now Secretary at the Kincraig Wildlife Park.

George Dixon apologised for failure to return previous information slips and avers that "nothing of the slightest interest happens to me," a manifest fib, as anyone who reads the Strathie can testify! We noticed for instance, that he had been conducting the visiting clansmen around the local sights in connection with the Gathering earlier this summer.

The Elrick twins, Clive and Nigel, have started a Scout troop and Cub pack in Birnie and Pluscarden. Nigel is now an Enrolled Nurse at Dr Gray's and Clive has completed his first year of a B.A. Librarianship) course in Aberdeen. Both turned up at the Christmas Dance squiring attractive young ladies

We met Mrs Fearnley (Maureen Macaulay) during a brief holiday in Aberdeen where she has put down some roots after many moves. She and her three children look well, as also does brother Callum. Her slip says "Uneventful—failed to flit and failed to find anything under the gooseberry bush!"

Sine Fergusson is now canteen manageress at the Bank of Scotland Training College in Edinburgh.

George Flett reports from Brora that he is to go to college in Edinburgh to study for the entrance requirements to a H.N.D. course in Hotel Management.

Mrs Forsyth (Jane Gray), one of our keenest Scottish Nationalists, says she met many old school pals at "Bannockburn 1977".

David Fraser is still with the Inland Revenue in Glasgow.

Mrs Fraser (Elspeth Mitchell) sent a greeting from Beauly. Robin Fraser "like so many others", finds "that there are not enough hours in the day," but still manages to run his Junior B.B. Company.

We thank Mrs Gardiner (Wilma Watt) for drawing our attention to an inaccurate address and also for sending details of her daughter Catriona's progress. The latter intends to do a B.Sc. at the University of Witwatersrand (Johnannesburg). An accomplished equestrian too, she has qualified again to ride her horse Highlander in the Transvaal Junior Championships.

Congratulations to Shonagh George on completion of her diploma at Moray House. She has started teaching at Alvie Primary School.

Mrs Gordon (Ann Paton) is to be moving to Huntly soon where her husband has been appointed manager of the Royal Bank. Lesley, her elder daughter has just graduated M.A. at Aberdeen, but has unfortunately not been successful in gaining entry to College of Education.

Proud Grannie Grant (Margaret Telfer) is still head teacher at Tyrie.

Allan Grant has commenced a course to become a Physical and Health Education teacher in Sydney, N.S.W. He says "Australia is treating me very well indeed, and the summer is quite something, with a beach every few miles."

Fiona Grant qualified as a nurse in June, and is now on the staff of the Heart Unit at Edinburgh Royal Infirmary, while sister Shelagh successfully completed first year at Edinburgh University. In October 1976 Shelagh was presented with her Gold Award by the Duke of Edinburgh at Holyrood Palace. Congratulations!

June Grant returned from Australia in November 1976 and paid us a call in school. She brought news of the rest of the family: Gladys, Ann and Maureen are all married, and James and Alison doing well as apprentice precision engineer and hair-dresser respectively.

Mrs Greenwood (Mary Winchester) had nothing new to report from Todmorden, nor had Donald Gunn from Dingwall.

Congratulations to Harry Harris on his B.Sc (Hons.) in Botany. "Currently" he says "I am seeking employment," which is all too common a situation for our graduates at present. Sister Sheila is still teaching science at Haddington.

Mrs Harris (Kathleen Dunn) is still teaching in Brechin.

Fiona Henderson has completed a year as trainee social worker with Lothian Region and obtained her diploma. She is now to start work as member of the Gilmerton Social Work Team afte a holiday sailing round Ireland.

Susan Hendry divides her time between her ar work and teaching English in Spain where she live "in a small cottage in a tiny village in a valley no unlike Stathspey, but with a better climate". Sh plans further exhibitions of her drawings, weavin and silversmithing for this summer.

Mrs Hepburn (Rita Mackay) returned her slir from Cheshire.

Mrs Hogg (Jean Cruickshank) and her huban who has retired from the police, were present at th Tercentary Parade of the Royal Company of Archers at Holyrood. Her husband is now Chie Security Officer for Scottish and Newcastle Breweries in Edinburgh.

Andrew Howlett has changed jobs this year and becomes assistant to the secretary of Berger Jenson and Nicholson. He now has two children, Sarah and James,

Tom Hunter enjoys his work but finds the administrative structure of the N.H.S. "an increasing anathema". "Son Scott" he says "is now attending the Royal Academy of Music—still on percussion. Mea Culpa!" His wife Terry puts up with them both "with commendable placidity".

Edward Illingworth paid a visit to brother Marr in America in June, while the third of the triumvirate, George, had a wedding in the family, when his eldest girl married Nicholas Pelly, a P.E. teacher at the American School in Aberdeen. George is a past captain of St Andrew "New Golf Club".

We met a dapper-looking Alistair Jack in his branch of Boots at Perth this summer. We established, among other things, that he still has that appendix which occasioned his hurried departure from the school trip to Koblenz!

Mrs G. Johnson (May McKenzie) is to take up Jaelic this winter. Her nationalist enthusiasm took wer to the Bannockburn Rally too, where she met Mrs Forsyth (Nancy Gray).

Congratulations to Catriona Johnston who graduated M.A. with honours in French at St Andrews this summer and is to be married on 10th September to Stewart Harvey, B.Sc. Bill Johnston restarts at Heriot Watt University on his Town and County Planning course after this year's practical with the Scottish Special Housing Association in Edinburgh.

Grace Kirk had no change to report from Edinburgh, while Ruth Knopping asserts she "has reached the stage where no news is good news".

Mrs Kydd (Jean Jack) joins us through the good offices of John Burgess.

Mrs Laing (Katherine Templeton) still works as a part-time nurse in Edinburgh. Her sister Dorothy as home last September and is expecting another baby in December 1977.

Fiona Ledingham has a promotion to report. She is now Senior Occupational Therapist and plans to represent her hospital at a World Congress in Israel next year.

We are grateful to Mrs Lugg (Jean Burgess) for recruiting her friend Mrs Davidson whom she had not seen since 1941 but whom she immediately recognised. She reports also "a wonderful natter" with Mrs McCurdy (Alice King) who was home from New Jersey in June. Archaeology is one of Jean's in-

terests and her husband and she found some neolithic pottery at a recent dig.

Jane Macaulay is now editor of the Weekend Section (women's pages) of "The Scottish Farmer". "This involves" she writes, "some travelling—agricultural shows, features, etc.—as well as a lot of office work in Glasgow". Brother Simon is "still teaching French in the three Secondary schools on Harris. Also learning Gaelic and cutting peat!"

Mrs McClelland (Beth Lawrence) has been busy with a move to Port Glasgow. Her daughter Karen $(7\frac{1}{2})$ is "following in her granny's footsteps" by successfully passing piano exams, while her husband is engaged in joining the pieces of large tankers for the nationalised Lithgow's Shipyard.

Alistair Macdonald graduated from Aberdeen College of Education with a Diploma in Technical Education. Congratulations!

Janette MacDonald has also completed teacher training at Moray House and has "been one of the lucky people to obtain a teaching post" (Geography/ English) at Maxwellton High School, Dumfries. No doubt the "bonnie braes" will soon be echoing with her fine soprano voice.

We see Rev. Sandy Macdonald opened the Nethybridge Church Sale of Work in August.

Stuart Macdonald is based in London, but has been working at a power station outside the city.

Susan MacGillivray has just completed the third year of her B.Ed. degree at Aberdeen, and has, we are reliably informed, developed an interest in the Law!

Mr and Mrs Andrew McGregor (Pat Lawrence) have a new address in Chelmsford.

Gordon MacGregor reports that Alyth School, of which he is rector, has been upgraded to Senior Secondary status.

David McIntosh has completed second year at Heriot Watt and moved to a new flat close to the university. He spent the holiday working with Ferranti.

Mrs McIntosh (Iris Forbes) corrected her address for us. We hope we have it right now.

Alex. MacIntyre had no news from Aviemore.

Mrs McIver (Betty McBeath) is a sister in the County Hospital, Oban; her husband is with the Lighthouse Commission, and her son Fergus is now back in Australia after his brief visit for his 21st birthday last Christmas. Betty and her daughter Joanne had an extended holiday in Australia in 1975.

Sandy Mackenzie continues in medical practice in Banff.

Angus Mackintosh is still a keen hill-walker, as is his son Fergus. Elder son Alistair prefers golf.

With the sale of Bracklinn his mother, Mrs Edith Mackintosh is to join daughter Marjory (Mrs White) when the latter obtains accommodation in Helensburgh. Meantime she is to stay with Angus. We wish her Godspeed.

Alex. Mackintosh had no news of note.

Bertie Mackintosh did in fact make it to New Zealand and Australia last November and seems to have explored with all the zeal one would expect of the geographer. We hear that his health has been somewhat indifferent again and wish him a speedy improvement.

Mrs McLeod (Elizabeth McGregor) had no fresh news from Aviemore.

Peter McMillan joined the R.A.F. in February, and was promoted L.A.C. on completion of trade training. He is now with the T.S.F. Supply Squadron at Lossiemouth involved in delivery of equipment and motor maintenance. He has been collecting some awards for athletics and cross-country running.

Ian Macpherson and your editor came close to managing a long planned combined assault on the Speyside brown trout this season. Let us hope the fates smile on us next season Ian!

James Macpherson had nothing to report from Surrey.

Rachel MacRobert is cooking at Logie House and has developed an interest in breeding Scottish Bearded Collies, budgies and cockateils. There seems to be a possibility of some interesting crosses!

We had the pleasure of meeting Mrs McSween and her family while they holidayed in Grantown in August.

Alan McTaggart reports "no activity of any interest" but says he is always pleased to receive the magazine. Brother Michael this year "fulfilled an old ambition to climb Lochnagar" via a snow gully at the end of January "in near, perfect weather". We met Neil at the memorial service for the late Rev. H. Jackson in Dulnain Bridge in April. The Jackson family were represented by both Arthur and Barbara. The sadness of this occasion was somewhat tempered by the opportunity of renewing old friendships.

We hear of a change of address for Mrs Mills (Kate Campbell)..

John Milne "joined the ranks of proud grandfathers" in December last with the arrival of Tamsin Jane Bassett.

Mrs Mitchell (Jan Templeton) had no news this year.

We had the pleasure of meeting Mr and Mrs Bill Mitchell (Judy Stuart) at an apres-kirk coffee. Bill is golf professional at the exclusive Selsdon Park Hotel course. Locally Bill golfs with Billy Templeton, John Grant and Charlie Lawson but in Surrey he often partners the diminutive Ronnie Corbett. An incongruous two-some they must make, as Bill must be about 6ft. 3in.! Wife Judy is still teaching, and son Stuart enters Dulwich College on a Scholarship this September.

"Sam" Munro says he "tried really hard to think of something to put on his slip but—nothing to report".

Jeanette Munro got a "sudden and quite unexpected transfer" to R.A.F. Lossiemouth. "To return to my native county was an absolute gift" she says.

Mrs Murren (Fiona Macdonald), at present a staff nurse in London, plans "to come out of exile in the spring and return to the Highlands".

We were disappointed to have to turn down Betty Mutch's invitation to her first wine-tasting (50 guests and the wine home-made of course!) due to another engagement, but Betty characteristically made it up for us by paying us a call with a bottle of her elderberry to taste. She reports also on the arrival of the first French grandchild of her sister Kathleen (Mrs Aston).

Mrs Murray (Ann Stewart), a Mum since September "always though teaching hard work, but being a parent is a full-time occupation—and unpaid".

Ernie and Amelia Oakes (nee Edwards) are still doing well in Alness, and looking forward to the next Christmas Dance! Amelia keeps busy doing supply teaching.

Mrs Perk (Ann Stuart) is now established in Portage la Prairie (where your editor once learned the rudiments of air navigation).

The husband of Mrs Rae (Mona Grant) has moved to a maintenance job at Moray Firth Maltings "just a little nearer the "spirit" of things" she says.

Alex. Ross has managed the double again; another daughter and a promotion (to Inspector at Brixton) in the same year. Elder brother Walter also moves up—to Chief Inspector. Congratulations both!

David Ross is now in his seventh season with the R.A.F. Falcons parachute team.

Margaret Ross wrote us a nice letter with news of her transfer to a school in Easterhouse. "I find this to be a challenge akin to my days in Bridgeton. Apart from teaching, there seems to be so many social problems to sort out" she writes.

Victor Ross and his wife are visiting daughter Carole and family in Canada in July.

Bill Sellar now has a Border cottage, and ac-

cess to a house at Kinloch Rannoch, to cater for the "country" interests of his family, Sonya 8 and the twins $4\frac{1}{2}$.

Mrs Shiach (Margaret Smith) is still in Edinburgh.

Barbara Smith has completed her second year at Aberdeen University and, after another summer "au pair" in France, goes to Zurich University on an exchange scholarship for the next year.

Catherine Smith was in Grantown last September and enjoyed a "news" with Nellie Stephen over lunch. She enjoys retirement with lots of interests, including presidency of the Guild at St Mungo's Church.

John Smith, having gained some "A" levels last year, goes to Edinburgh to do a B.Sc. in Ecological Sciences.

Mrs Smith (Elspeth Gow) is about to take up a teaching post in the English Department at Peebles High School.

Mrs Spalding (Isobel Gunn) sent a greeting from Aberdeen.

Mrs Speer (Morna Mackenzie) is enjoying her Open University course. She now sees Mrs Fair-clough (Margaret Murray) and her mother quite often in Doncaster.

Nicholas Spence reported last year that he had been appointed president of the Munich International School P.T.A. for 1976-77 and in a recent letter says "it was quite an insight into human nature. My committee consisted of myself and SEVEN ladies, so that a good deal of my time was spent on the phone as mediator". Experience, they say, Nicholas, is cheap at any price, but sometimes it does seem a bit high! Nicholas is to stay in Munich, heading a group working on the M.R.C.A. and has moved out to the Munich suburbs.

Mrs Springall (Jessie Stuart) "hopes to visit Grantown in July and celebrate our Ruby wedding in November".

Mrs Squires (Isa Moyes) reports on an "unstable political situation in Quebec" but her personal news—about her son John is much more cheerful. Having passed with honours, he has a good position with a Swedish firm and travels extensively in many countries.

Eric Stewart continues studying for his M.A. at St Andrews.

Elizabeth Stuart has received a Clinical Clerkship in Canada and hopes to be quite near sister Ann for a spell before returning to complete her medical degree in Aberdeen. Rita is still with UNESCO in Paris.

Alistair Surtees reported in from Sidcup.

James Templeton is still headmaster at Alves. Elizabeth Terris is working as a secretary in Renfrew. See also engagements.

From Toronto Hugh Tulloch echoes Mrs Squires' anxieties about Quebec separatism and says he has found the extremes of temperature last winter and this summer hard to take. "Inflation", he says however, "is being weathered".

Mrs Walling (Isobel Jack) sent greetings from Norwich and recorded the arrival of another grandson.

David Wilson now enters second year Law. He writes of occasional meetings with Kerr Wilson, Alec Fraser and Robert McAllister, other members of the Edinburgh contingent.

David Winchester sent regards from Fort William

Michael Wood's main news is in the engagements' column, but he is also entering third year at Moray House.

Globe trotting seems to be the speciality of Mrs Yates (Gillian Henderson). After extensive travels in Africa followed by Physiotherapy appointments in Raigmore and Perth (Australia) she is soon to set off to drive 2,000 miles to take up an appointment in a hospital at Wyndham, Western Australia.

LOCAL

The face of Grantown has been undergoing fairly steady changes in this Jubilee Year. The most obvious to the returning exile would no doubt be the disappearance from the Square of some of the trees which had reached the end of their allotted span, and the new housing developments at Coppice Court and on the hills behind Craiglynne and the Dulaig. Besides these Jimmie McLeod is now busy on the construction of 48 houses in the much discussed development area of the Lower High Street.

Traffic congestion in the High Street has been an increasing problem of late, but the yellow lines which appeared in June do not seem to have improved the position.

The revamped Victoria Institute has reopened as a community centre, and will be a useful asset, if charges can be kept down to an amount less than that which has been forced on the schools by the financial stringency. This last has made life difficult for a number of organisations, including our own F. P. Swimming Club.

No doubt these and other problems will be exercising the minds of the recently formed Community Councils.

In the surrounding area, work continues on the A9, though the uninitiated wonder why the road-builders seem to have tackled the easy stretches first, rather than going for the problem spots! At Ballindalloch the messy conglomeration of girders has at last been removed to reveal the not unpleasing cantilever lines of the new road bridge.

At the Primary Department the playing field is just having its first major improvement since 1935 by volunteer labour laying much needed drains. F.P's. who have ever been "clarted wi' dubs" on the field will be interested to know that the rate of flow is some 2,000 gallons per hour!

On, however, to the doings of our local members:

Joe Beange was the prime mover in the creation of a Fiddle and Accordion Society which is enjoying great success. Of course Netta and the boys are actively engaged also.

In spite of his own indifferent health, Jimmie aruce found time and energy to be a helpful neighbour to George Miller when the latter was taken ill this summer. Jimmie now has a grandson in school.

Frank Calder had a wedding in the family, when Lesley married Gordon McLean.

We wish Jimmie Calder a happy retirement from his long service as a night telephone operator.

Congratulations to George Cameron who was one of the retired public servants to receive a medal issued in connection with the Queen's Jubilee.

Raymond Davidson is vice-captain of the Golf Club, while Sheila Smith is ladies captain.

Mr Donaldson missed the prize-giving this year due to back trouble, but seems quite hale and hearty again and has been exercising his mind devising quiz questions for the T.W.G.

Jessie and Margaret Fraser had the original sea of entertaining the staff to tea at their house on the occasion of their retirement presentation and a very pleasant occasion it was. We hear they are planning a trip to New Zealand, and the acquisition of a dog on their return. Jessie figured in a tree planting ceremony in the Square to mark the Queen's Jubilee.

Jimmie Grant is again Show Manager for the Horticultural Society. Martin Grant is retiring by stages, having had a new house built at Skye of Curr, and Chrissie is negotiating the disposal of the shop. Martin has given up the running of the Xmas dance and the fishing competitions this year, and we thank him for these services to the club which he has long performed so efficiently.

Good Samaritans Miss Grant and Miss Legge cransported Dr Bain home to Elgin after his spell in hospital in Aberdeen.

Gordon Jack, we note, has been elected to the local health council, and we have pleasure in restoring him to our list from which he had somehow disappeared.

The Grantown Society continues to flourish under the presidency of Frank Macaulay, while daughter Margery has completed her training at Aberdeen, and returns to her old school as a primary teacher this term.

David and Marilyn Macdonald (nee Oliphant) were justifiably proud parents at the christening of son Rory in August. David has added to his qualifications becoming T.Eng (C.E.I.) and A.M.I.N.E.

Donnie McGillivray had an unpleasant shock when his car inexplicably took fire in its garage and was written off. We see he now has a spanking new one.

Harry McGregor is secretary and treasurer of the Football Club which has been having a successful season. He is also senior vice-president of the curlers.

Besides offering Grantonians (and others!) a comprehensive choice of housing, the McLeods are as usual prominent in sport. Under Alistair's presidency the Tennis Club's revival continues apace. Donly captains the football team, and all the family are to the fore in curling. Alistair, we noted, skipped a rink to win the trophy donated by father Jimmie.

We thank Sandy Macphail who refurbished the war memorial lectern in the Primary School free of charge. Sandy is also a great source of advice on "do-it-yourself" home improvements.

Jean Paterson has retired from business so her shop, long the mecca for so many returning F.P. exiles, has been sold to Mr and Mrs John (Chelsea) Grant, but Jean will, if we know her, continue her invaluable service to the clubs from her home in Shankland Court. We wish her many happy years of retirement.

John "Bookie" Stuart (who more natural?) has taken over the running of the Old Guard fishing competitions at Lochindorb from Martin Grant. The cup this year went to associate member A. Paterson a previous winner. The real Old Guards will have to look to their laurels however, as they finished last in a three-cornered contest this year between staff, pupils and Old Guards, and pupil Kevin Mc Kenzie caught the biggest fish!

Marion Stuart, who is also president of th local Red Cross Centre, retired this year from long career as a Sunday School teacher.

Dr Williams has had some setbacks in healt this year, but is somewhat better, and had, we noted donated a new trophy to the Tennis Club.

"DRINK THY WINE WITH A MERRY HEART"

"Be not afraid of retirement etc." — to misquote William Shakespeare! For sad domestic reasons, I had retirement thrust upon me some six years ago. The first four of these years were spent literally in purdah. I do not regret those years in the least. They taught me much, especially patience — a virtue with which I had not been endowed at birth by any of the fairies present on that auspicious occasion.

When freedom eventually arrived, there was a surprisingly prolonged period of reaction and readjustment, during which well-meaning friends inundated me with all sorts of advice, none of which I deigned to accept. One "idiot" even suggested that I should take up wine-making as a hobby. This suggestion having been shrugged aside as a messy and unnecessary chore, I nevertheless find that I am a compulsive and fanatical winemaker.

It is a fascinating and gregarious hobby! Not for me the fool-proof wine-kit! I do my "own thing", using the produce of hedgerow and garden—anybody's garden! I am not too proud to accept gifts of slightly damaged fruit from amused, but interested local market gardeners. Neighbouring farmers are smiled upon in exchange for gifts of wheat and barley, and later invited to "come ben" to sample the end-products.

Wine-making requires three things: — time, room and patience. Happily I possess all three. The acquisition of suitable bottles was something of a problem at the start and I felt tempted to emulate a niece, who one placed a large notice outside their garden gate in Bromley: "My mother is a compulsive wine-maker. Please bring your empty bottles!" Within a couple of hours dozens of bottles had arrived. Mine are brought by friends in more modest numbers.

There are draw-backs of course! The other night I had a few friends in for supper (and wine!) (This was in addition to the wine-tasting festival on July 8 which, I may add, went off without a hitch!) On the latter occasion, i.e. "the other night", I discovered in the course of the afternoon that a sudden rise in temperature had caused a fermentation of bananas, grapes and tokay yeast to erupt like a volcano, spraying kitchen ceiling, walls and floor with a substance like soft-soap!

While I was coping with this revolting mess, the local joiner arrived for the seventh time to fit a new draught-excluder on the front-door, the previous six having been mis-fits., but that is another story.

Well, kitchen having been cleaned up, and draught-excluder finally in situ, the menu had to be hastily revised, so that raspberry cheese-cake, my piece de resistance, was abandoned in favour of plain unadorned raspberries and cream, and a few other minor changes made.

From some stupid women's magazine read at the hairdressers I learned that the overwrought hostess could create the right atmosphere by placing a lovely floral arrangement in the hall, stacks of "posh" towels in the bathroom, together with a plentiful supply of expensive soap, meantime putting up a silent prayer that the guests would turn a blind eye on other imperfections. Well I took this advice! Roses are plentiful just now and more or less arrange themselves; a recent birthday provided the expensive soap, and for good measure I even bothered to put on some make-up, and sprayed myself liberally with some exotic scent — not of my own purchasing!

I don't know whether it was the roses, the soap, the green eye-shadow or maybe the wine (home-made of course) but the evening was a WOW!

"Here with a loaf of bread beneath the Bough a Flask of Wine, a Book of Verse — and thou Beside me, singing in the wilderness — And Wilderness is Paradise enow."

E. D. Mutch.

P.S. Who says that retirement is boring? I am now looking for a new ploy. Any suggestions please? E.D.M.

CONCLUSION

We wish the compliments of the season and good fortune and health in 1978 to all members and friends.

I.S.

Paintings, Pottery and Gifts

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- Mrs Erwin Abromeit (Nancy Maclean), R.S.C.N, R.G.N., S.C.M. Kylintra Cottage; RR4 Evergreen Tr. Pk., Box 59, Prince George B.C. V2N 2J2 | Canada
- Mrs John Allan (J. Evelyn Geddes), Dip. Dom.
 Sc., Berlsay, 26 Raith Gardens, Kirkcaldy.
 Mrs Thos D. Allan (Mona M. McLean), N.D.D.,
 N.D.P., Croftallan, Nethy Bridge Parkhouse, Thankerton, Biggar, ML12 6ND.
 Mrs Adam Anderson (Shona G. Macdougall),
 Monaliadh Bungalow, B. of G., Mains of

- Mrs Geo. Angus (Ella A. Wood), Balmenach, 9 Wiseman Road, Elgin. Mrs Howard Aston, R.G.N., D. N., (Kathleen Mutch), 28 High Street; 50 Hayes Road,

- Mutch), 28 High Street; 50 Hayes Road, Bromley, Kent.

 Mrs Bahzad, M.B., Ch. B. (Christobel Terris), Strathview; 49-22 Beacon Lane, Windpoint, Racine, Wisconsin, U.S.A.

 James Bain, O.B.E., B.Sc., Ph.D. Morlich; 7
 Wittet Drive, Elgin; Rector (retired).

 R. W. Bruce Bain, M.A. (Hons.), Morlich; Deputy Director Fadip I.F.C. Yugoslavia. Prilucka 1 Repard, Yugoslavia. lucka, 1 Beogard, Yugoslavia.

- Mrs R. Balfour (Dorothea M Smith), Gladstone House; 25 Luangwa Terrace, Montague Avenue, Salisbury, Rhodesia.

 Mrs Adrian Banks (Lorna M Stephen) M.A., D.P.S. The Larches: 1 The Paddock, Vigo Village, Meopham, Kent, DA13 0TE.

 Mrs Robert W. Bass (Christine A. Tulloch), B.Sc., Dallas Brae, Grant Road: Teacher Donaldson's School for the Deaf, 3 West Catherine Place, Edinburgh 12
- Catherine Place, Edinburgh 12.

 Mrs G. Beaton (Sheena S. R. McIntosh). 8
 Castle Road East, Ruanlos, Ness Castle, Inverness.
- Mrs J. Murray Beattie (Ellzabeth A. Reid), R.G.N., S.C.M., Q.N., "Bynack", Philip-haugh, Nursery, Selkirk.
- Mrs Douglas A. Berry (Elizabeth M McWilliam), M.A., "Silverdale"; "Mortlach"; Forres

- Mrs Archibald A. Beveridge (Elizabeth A. Gordon), M.A., Lower Dellifure; 240 Old Castle Road, Cathcart, Glasgow S.4.
- Mrs Robert Birrell (Jean Donald), 15 Castle Road East; 75 Wester Road North Mount Vernon, Glasgow.
- Mrs Guthrie Booth (Netta R. Hunter), Rose-mount; "Glengarrie", Whiteside, Tullymount; nessle, Alford.
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