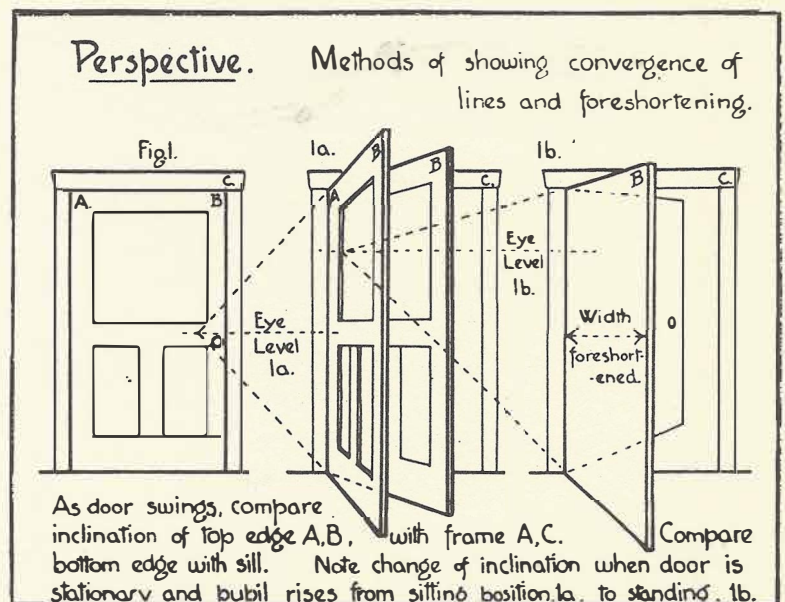
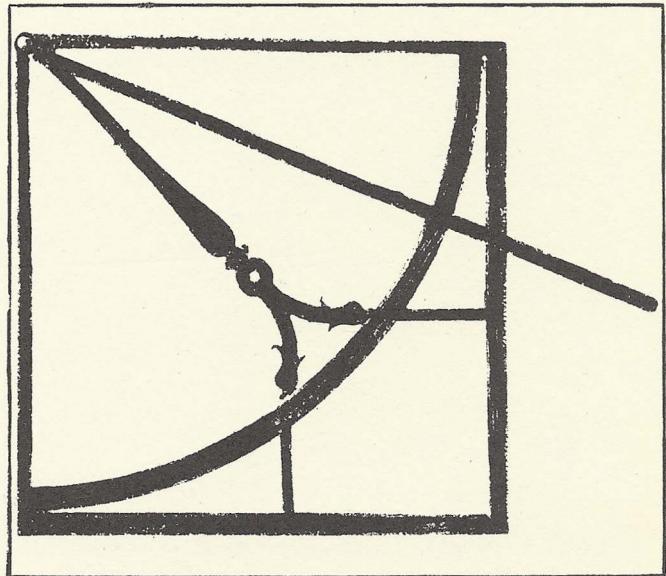
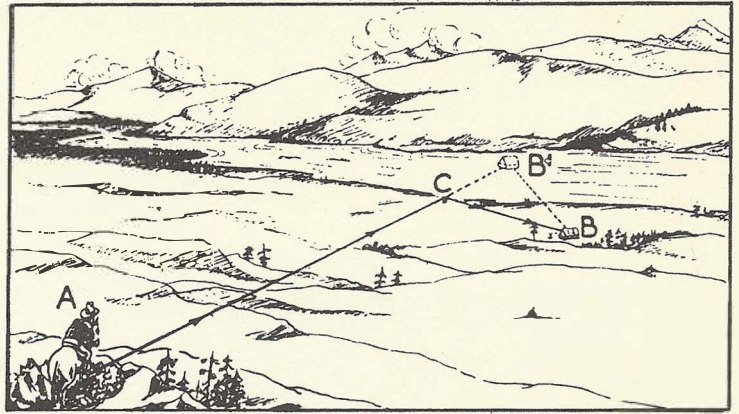
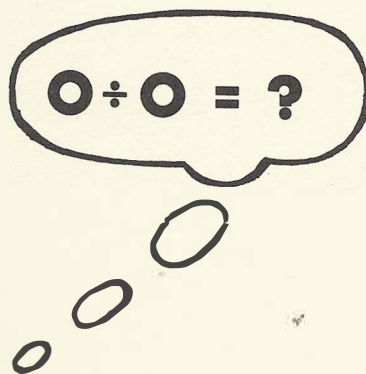


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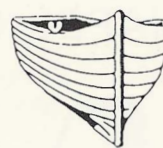
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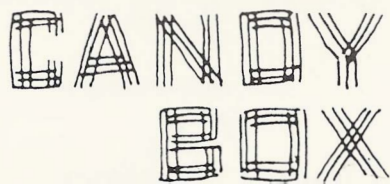
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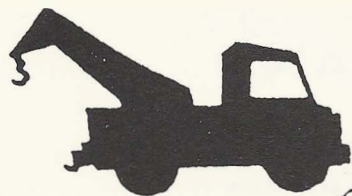
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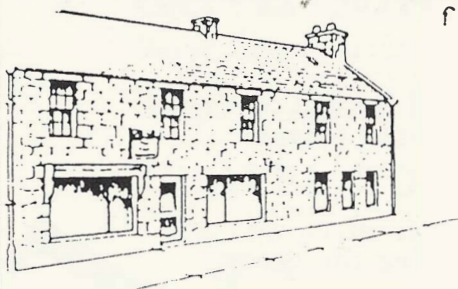
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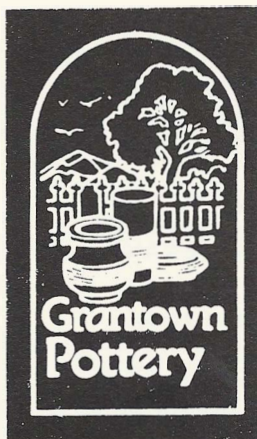
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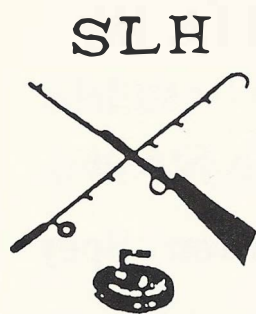


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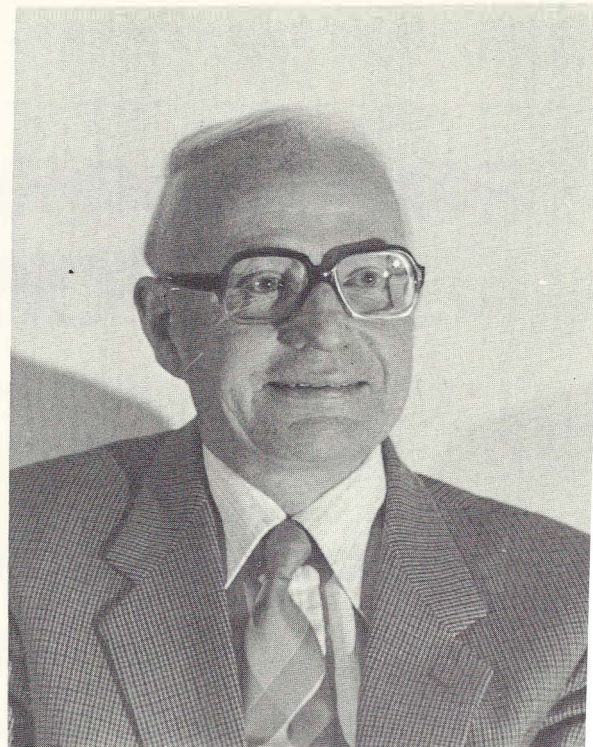
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THE RECTOR TALKS . . .

.... to Nikki Win

and

Rhoda Campbell



Nikki:

What have been the main staff changes since the appearance of the last school magazine, Mr Grant?

Mr Grant:

The main ones have been: Mr Hendry, who left the Geography department after many years; Mr Turnbull, who left the Science department, and Mrs Taylor, the Principal Teacher of Guidance - both of them had also been with us a considerable time; and Mrs Cairns, who left the English department to have a baby.

But the one I would most mention would be that of Mr Liggat, who retired a Assistant Rector in April. We were very sorry indeed that he had to retire in those circumstances, in the car accident, and we hope that he will soon fully recover and be able to visit us on his own two legs again.

Rhoda:

How long had Mr Liggat been at the school?

Mr Grant:

In excess of twenty years.

Rhoda:

Would you describe his going then as the end of an era?
And how would you describe that era?

Mr Grant:

I don't know that I would say that Mr Liggat's leaving heralded the end of an era, because change in education is continuous - it happens all the time, more and more as the years go on it appears. But, certainly, there was a link, one of the few left, with a time when education in Grantown, and everywhere else, was very different from what it is today. Twenty years ago there weren't even O Grades in Scotland let alone the Standard Grade and the Foundation, General and Credit courses which are coming in now. And not only that but the whole atmosphere and approach in schools has radically changed over that time, so I suppose you could say that Mr Liggat was a link with a past and very different form of education in Grantown.

Nikki:

And what about Mr Liggat as a person?

Mr Grant:

The thing that struck me, and that struck most people, about Mr Liggat was his friendliness. He was always affable - well, nearly always affable! Nothing was ever too much trouble to him: if we had things to do, timetabling and that kind of thing, Mr Liggat was always available, at any time of day or night. And, from the pupils' point-of-view, they will remember, I think, a very, very friendly man - someone they could approach at any time and know that they would get a sympathetic hearing and a friendly response.

Nikki:

In the present session, we have seen the first of the Standard Grade, or 'Munn and Dunning' courses at this school: what differences have they made, Mr Grant?

Mr Grant:

As far as I'm concerned, on the administrative side, I am very much aware that a tremendous amount of work has been required of staff over the last two years - two or three years, in fact - in the three subjects in which these changes are first being introduced here, namely English, Mathematics and Science. And there has been a corresponding amount of in-service training involved which has meant closures of the school on several occasions during the past two sessions.

Rhoda:

How will this affect standards of education in the school, as far as the pupils are concerned?

Mr Grant:

First of all, it is a broadening of the examination scene to all pupils and not just the fortunate few. So, those who would not have been previously in the certificate classes in English, Maths and General Science, will all now be working towards a certificate; so there will be a goal for all pupils to aim at. Not only that, the courses have been carefully worked out to reflect the needs and interests of all pupils and so should have a wide appeal.

Rhoda:

Will this affect the standard of education received by the more academic pupils?

Mr Grant:

I don't think it will in the slightest. In any event, I would find it difficult to disagree with the philosophy that all pupils in the school should receive the kind of attention that, perhaps, we have tended in the past to give only to the more academic. I think it is only fair and reasonable that a fair allocation of the resources of the school - in terms of teaching staff and money - should go to all pupils. However, I'm not sure I agree with the way it is being done - in other words, the tremendous load that has been put on teaching staff.

Nikki:

As we will be describing later on in the magazine, a fair number of extra-curricular activities have taken place in the school over the past year - educational trips, sports and recreation, music and drama. Do you think these are valuable in an educational sense?

Mr Grant:

I think they are absolutely invaluable. In fact, I would very nearly say that a school can be judged by the amount of extra-curricular activity that is going on there. Apart altogether from the direct educational value of the activity itself, this type of thing leads to a better relationship between staff and pupils - they get to know each other better, and this can only be for the good of all.

Rhoda:

Sponsored activities are one way in which the school directly involves the public. Could you tell us what has happened in this line this year, and what the money has been used for?

Mr Grant:

The main activity has been the sponsored afternoon which takes place in June each year, through which we raise about £1000. Basically, that goes into the School Fund and is, therefore, available for almost any purpose for the benefit of the pupils. But the main purpose it is used for is the upkeep and running of the minibus. This costs several thousand pounds a year: it is subsidised in part from Regional funds, but a great deal of the money required comes from the sponsored afternoon in June.

Nikki:

We are going to put you on the spot with this one, Mr Grant. What do you think of the prefect choice this year?

Mr Grant:

It's a little early to be sure, but so far things are going well. It is nice to see prefects out in the corridors when they ought to be out there supervising: this has not always been the case.

Rhoda:

Now, on a more personal note - how long have you been in teaching, Mr Grant?

Mr Grant:

Oh dear! Well, I'll give you a sum. If you subtract 54 from 84, the answer is a lot.

Rhoda:

And does it still seem enjoyable?

Mr Grant:

Yes and no. I enjoy classroom teaching, but, of course, I have not been able to do much of that over the last ten years or so. There are times, of course, when things can be difficult. Times have

changed and I suspect that this coming session is not going to be altogether pleasant from many points-of-view because of various difficulties which are looming on the horizon.

There are times too when, as a teacher, you feel that you see too much of the negative side of young people, at the end of the discipline system as I am, rather than contributing positively to the life of the school. That can sometimes be a bit dispiriting.

But, yes, I enjoy my job. I find it difficult at times but it is a job well worth doing and I get considerable enjoyment out of doing it.

Nikki:

What do you think is the value of education in this day and age?

Mr Grant:

I don't think you can put a value on it - it is essential.

Education is not just a tool, a way of preparing yourself for a job.

It is far, far more than that. This is something I find it difficult to convince pupils at the end of their second year when making their subject choice. Education is good in itself - it makes a better, more rounded person even if there is no job at the end of it - so it is always worthwhile, in my view, to take your education as far as you can take it. That is what I would like every single person in this school to do.

Rhoda:

What do you think are the main advantages and disadvantages of a small school?

Mr Grant:

Disadvantages? Taking the rather limited field of academic success, in a larger school you would have a greater number of pupils who are committed and able to go forward in an academic way and who can provide an atmosphere that doing so is the 'normal' thing - everyone should do it. In a smaller school, you may find that only a few pupils, even in the better classes, are really dedicated and they may find it difficult to pursue the course that they would in a bigger school - I mean, in terms of homework, of attitude - because they find it difficult to combat the peer group pressure.

On the other hand, you are likely to have a more favourable staffing ratio in a smaller school. In this school, the staffing ratio stands at eleven pupils per teacher. This means that, in many of the senior classes, for example, groups are very small and you can almost get individual attention. It is an advantage also that every pupil knows every member of staff and every teacher can know the first name of every pupil. That may sometimes be uncomfortable for the pupil, of course, but it is also a very good thing that nobody is anonymous.

Nikki:

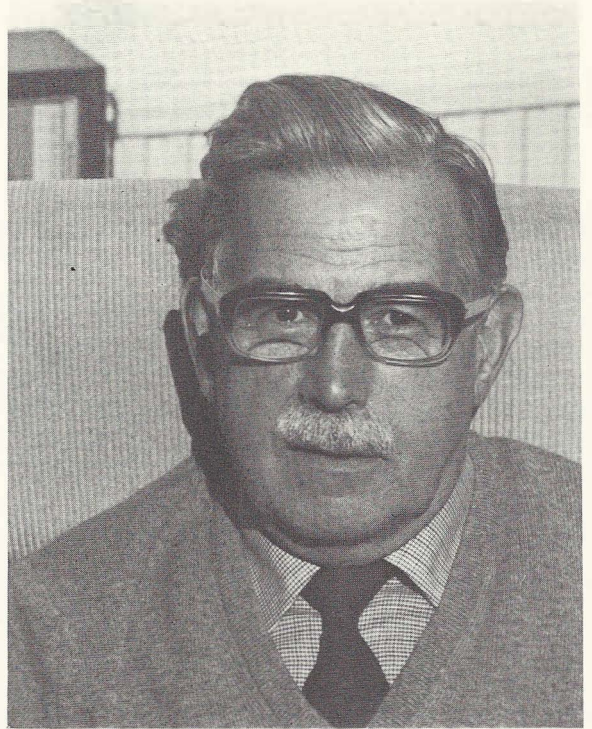
Looking further ahead, what changes do you see coming in education?

Mr Grant:

We have already seen stark changes, in some subjects, in the third and fourth year curriculum this year, but one can see that these same changes, or even more far-reaching ones, are going to happen at all stages of the school over the next five or ten years. There is a tremendous job to be done in changing the curriculum and teaching methods in S1 and S2, and

"Pupils will remember, I think, a very, very friendly man - someone they could approach at any time and know that they would get a sympathetic hearing and a friendly response."

Mr Rob Liggat



changing a lot of the things we do in S5 and S6 as well. In S5 and S6, we and all Scottish schools do a great job as far as coaching pupils for Highers and SYS is concerned, but, perhaps, we need to have time to widen the curriculum for our fifth and sixth year pupils. At the moment, it tends to be a bit of a grind, trying to get between O Grades and Highers in two terms: there is more to life than that and, in the next five to ten years, there will be changes to reflect that. If I shall see all these things done in Grantown, I shall retire a happy man.

Nikki:

Apart from retiring a happy man, Mr Grant, if you had one wish as far as education is concerned - money no object - what would it be?

Mr Grant:

I think the most important thing, as far as quality of education is concerned, is the quality and number of the teaching staff. Although we already have, as I have said, a better than average pupil-staff ratio in this school, we could be doing with three or four extra members of staff, who would be used to aid existing members of staff by giving time for curriculum development. Then, instead of doing a rushed job, straining the resources and patience of teachers, we would have time to think these things through and do them properly.

Secondly, as far as material resources are concerned, particularly equipment, we are very hard pressed. We spent around £2000 on such things last year and I had a list of things we needed which would have cost about £10 000. For example, we have only five computers, which isn't much good if you have a class of ten or twenty wanting to take computing. Finally, the fabric of the school is now getting on for nearly twenty years old and is beginning to look very shabby.

So, if I had a free hand, I would like to see better staffing, more pupil resources and improvements to the fabric of the school.

Rhoda and Nikki:

Good luck! And thank you very much for this interview.

Mr Grant:

Thank you.

WHERE ARE THEY NOW ?

17

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Trying for electronic engineering at Bathgate College
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Trying for College of Commerce, Edinburgh
Working with his father
Gray's College of Art
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THOSE IN HIGH PLACES !

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LESLEY HAY:	"I cannot associate pleasure with any sort of intellect activity." George Bernard Shaw
ALISON MACINTOSH:	"Funny peculiar or funny Ha Ha?" John Hay Bieth
LOUISE FORBES:	"One cannot be in two places at once." 17th century proverb
VIKKI MACLEAN:	"Every Jack has his Jill." Old English proverb
MORNA MILLER:	"Needs must when the devil drives." 15th century proverb
JULIET NOBLE:	"Fair in the cradle, foul in the saddle." Old proverb
JENNIFER GRANT:	"One tongue is enough for a woman." English proverb
RHODA CAMPBELL:	"To strive, to seek, to find, and not to yield." Alfred Lord Tennyson
CINDY MASSON:	"So little done, so much to do." Rhodes
SCOTT SHIELLS:	"Though I am not naturally honest, I am sometimes by chance." William Shakespeare
ANDREW RIMMER:	"Wake me up in time for the weekend." Anon
PETER MACLEOD:	"God made him and therefore let him pass for a man." William Shakespeare
CRAIG LAMBIE:	"But a far more singular fact is the power the species possesses of making a noise." Charles Darwin
ANDREW FALCONER:	"Like a little ghost." Belloc
ALISTER STOUT:	"First think and then speak." English proverb
BRIAN RITCHIE:	"One fool makes many." Old English proverb
GORDON HAY:	"A hungry man is an angry man." Old English proverb
JOHN RATTRAY:	"Early to bed, early to rise makes men healthy, wealthy and wise." 16th century proverb
ALAN WIGHAM:	"Out of sight, out of mind." English proverb

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and

Suzanne Moir

Armed with our tape-recorder and notebooks, we set about the task of finding out from the pupils and staff about sporting activities since the last edition.

First, we asked some of the pupils at break what were their favourite and least favourite sports at school.

Typical comments?

"Cross country? YUK! " "I can't stand swimming." "Tennis is OK."

We eventually came to the conclusion that, among the girls, tennis and basketball were "No' bad" and "All right" but cross country was "Too much like real work".

The boys were more enthusiastic.

"Football's ace!" And it came unanimously top, whereas swimming was "turbo-boosted" (what?) in one case and loathed by most others.

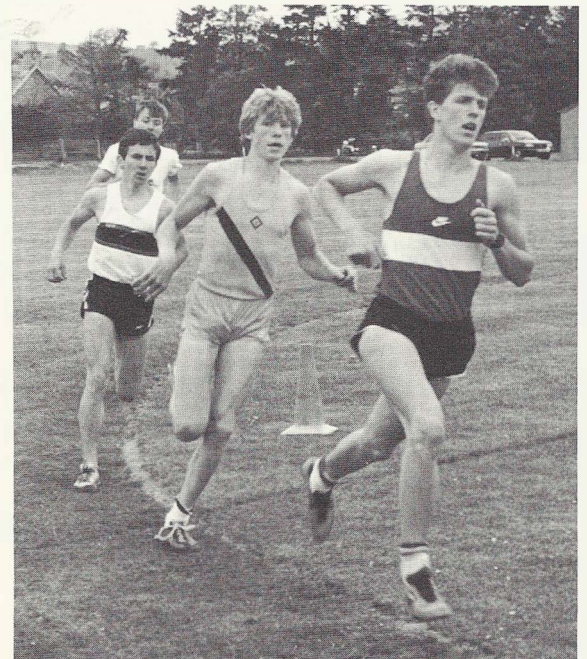
Next we trotted down to the PE department to meet Mr Mathieson and Miss Jardine. We asked a few questions about progress in the various sports.

A Cosy Chat

We had a cosy chat with Miss Jardine and Mr Mathieson in the former's office. Our first question was about football. Had there been any important matches recently?

"There haven't been any competitions," came Mr Mathieson's reply. "We had a friendly match against a visiting team from Edinburgh - I think the score was two-all - and another against a visiting German school."

Our next question referred to competitive swimming - a bit of a sore point as the pool has been out of action for months. Last year's inter-house gala was successful and Miss Jardine is hoping to run another in November. There have been three inter-school galas - two against Culloden and one against Aberlour - of which our team won all three.



"We took a look in one lunch-time to see several boys flapping about like fish out of water." - Grant Chapman and Scott Anderson demonstrate break-dancing.



Next we enquired about tennis.

"There is no school tennis team as such," replied Mr Mathieson, "but some of our pupils are in the local tennis club and have been doing very well."

The school's budding tennis star, Colin MacLeod, has been doing very well (as usual) but our keen ears picked up a rumour that he had been beaten in the Grantown men's Final by his dad!

Hockey has not been played much this year except on activities afternoon.

When we asked about topical sports "Outdoor pursuits?" asked Miss Jardine hopefully. "Well, canoeing has been going very well. Unfortunately, hill-walking has been confined to Duke of Edinburgh Award expeditions. But a new thing - we have fourteen people going rock-climbing at Glenmore now. And oh yes, we'll have skiing as usual this winter and orienteering at activities - these are among the best sports we do."

Next we moved on to higher things, namely national competitions.

"We've had boys who, over the last couple of years, have been involved in running events such as road relays and cross country at inter-county and national level," said Mr Mathieson. "We have about six to eight boys who have been taking part regularly in Scottish events."

New Activities

Recently some new, weird and wonderful lunchtime activities were introduced. Mr Mathieson wanted to encourage the pupils to run and organise them for themselves, although he is there to supervise. These activities include batinton, weight-training, aerobic dancing and break-dancing (we took a look in one lunchtime to see several boys flapping about like fish out of water!).

"Break-dancing is perhaps the most popular activity," reported Mr Mathieson. Scott Anderson and Grant Chapman instruct (or whatever) our budding body-poppers; Scott says the response has been good. Richard Air gave us his comment on it -

"Brillan'".

We asked what the less popular activities would be replaced by.

"Yes, well, several pupils have asked about basketball and volleyball but the most important thing is that the interest must come from the pupils and not from me," said Mr Mathieson.

Mr Mathieson claims to have a few winter ideas up his sleeve but, as he said, "They are a bit vague yet."

He went on, "If we had a large snowfall this year, I would like to push the snow off the playing field and use the area for ice-hockey, skating, etc. The Canadians do a lot of this, that is, using summer facilities as winter ones."

How successful had this year's PE been?

"Well, this year we introduced gymnastics in mixed groups, which was very successful but it will have to stop after October because of timetables."

"Rugby?" we enquired. "Rugby is only included in the summer term because any other time the blocks would be too short to learn anything," explained Mr Mathieson. "The choice is between football and rugby but football is what is played in this area rather than rugby."



Golf

After interviewing the PE staff we went down to visit Mr Strathdee to ask about golf during the year. He refused to lisp into our recorder as he had had his teeth knocked out in a fight (with his granddaughter!)

It seems that a lot of boys from the school have been doing well in local competitions. Revoan won the trophy for inter-house golf and Norman Campbell was last year's school champion.

After this I think poor Mr Strathdee was getting sick of us and muttered something about, "Ashking Mackenshie".

"We had a team in the Doig Shield, which involves lots of other schools in Morayshire and Grampian," said Mr Mackenzie. "The golf of the pupils is of a reasonable standard and the classes for beginners were successful. Most pupils have managed to reduce their handicap. Oh and, by the way, we've got a new handicap system for the juniors." He paused for a moment and then added that they could do with more junior females - so, all would-be junior female golfers, take note!

SOMETHING DIFFERENT

Windsurfing

During the warmer months of the year, Miss Sutherland offered to take a group windsurfing on Loch Insh on Thursday afternoons. Here is a survivor's report.

"When zipped up in your wetsuit, the water was quite bearable. Then we took to the boards and messed about on them for a while. This was to help us with our balance. Then we had a shot with the sails! It is much harder than it looks but we were managing to get the sail out of the water so we weren't too bad. It is quite an expensive hobby to take up but I think it is worth it."

Clay Pigeon Shooting

We managed to corner first year pupil Ian Sanderson in the corridor to question him about his unusual hobby, which is clay pigeon shooting. Not only is he interested but he is good too: he came second in the Scottish championship in his age-group!

Badminton continues to be popular and both school teams have played other schools, with some success.

Shinty

Shinty, which is very new to the school, is now one of the most popular sports. Dr MacLeod, who arrived last year, introduced it to the school and the results have been good considering how new the pupils are to it.

The school has already competed in several inter-school six-a-side tournaments, including one at Inverness in June and one in Kingussie in September. The lunchtime inter-house shinty competition was won by Revoan, captained by Roy MacLeod.

We asked Roy how he had become interested in this new sport.

Shinty had been introduced in Grantown Primary School by the headmaster, Mr Campbell, he said, and later they had been coached by Jack MacLean, himself a former Kingussie player. He took it up because he wanted a change from playing football all the time.

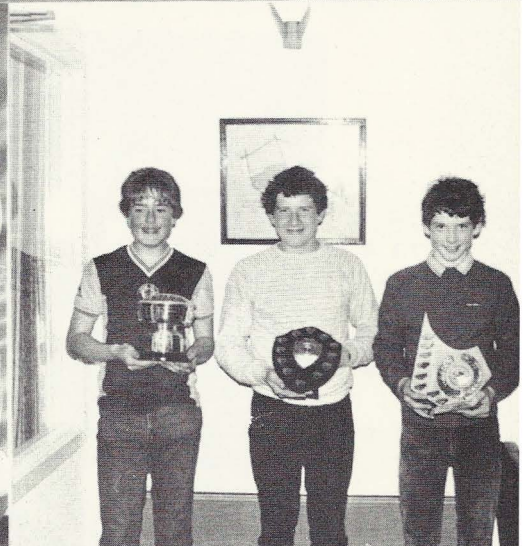
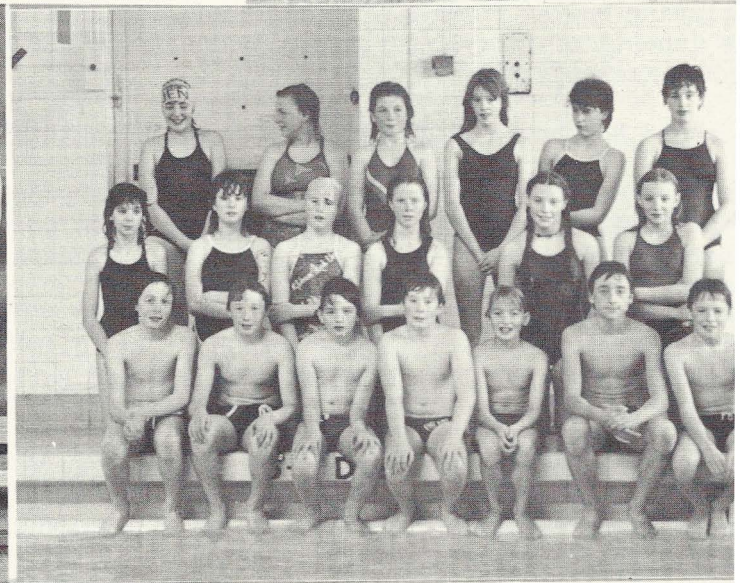
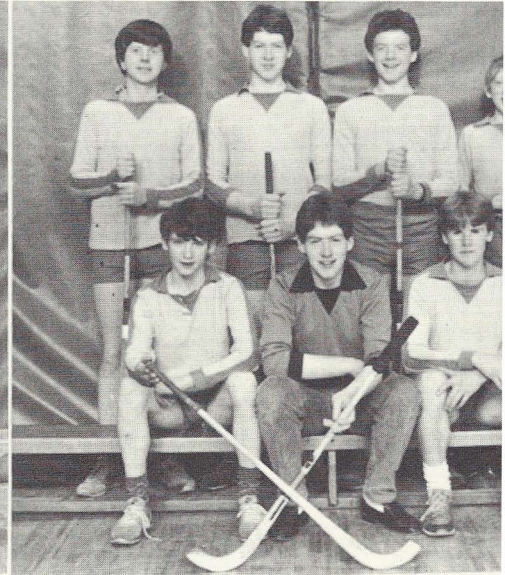
Roy said the most exciting game he had played in since shinty was started up at the Grammar School was a friendly against Portree: Grantown were two-nil down at halftime, pulled back to lead three-two, but finally lost four-three!

You need to be both strong and skilful to play shinty well, according to Roy; for example, you have to be able to hit the ball far but you also have to be able to play the ball in the air. In fact, he claims, at the top level "shinty is the fastest game in the world"!



TEAMS

Clockwise, from top left - Junior badminton, senior shinty, junior swimming, golf trophy winners, senior football, cross country.



Football

Senior squad: Andrew Craib, Kevin Dunbar, Iain Lambie, Michael MacDonald, Neil MacDonald, John Mackenzie, Stuart Mackenzie, Brian Ritchie (capt.), Scott Robson, Neil Shand, Neil Warner, Kenny Wheatley, Colin Macintosh.

Shinty

Junior squad: Richard Air, Andrew Connolly, Don Dunbar, Alan Grant, Ian Grant, Billy Green, Keith Finlay, Dai Lovatt, Neil McCann, John MacFarlane, Martin McGillivray, S. McGillivray, Craig MacLean, Niall MacLeod, Roy MacLeod (capt.), Billy Sellars, Barry Taylor.

Senior Squad: Dawn Calder, Kenneth Campbell (capt.), Dominic Macadam, Campbell Munro, Scott Robson, Scott Ross, Alan Smith, Ross Smith.

Badminton

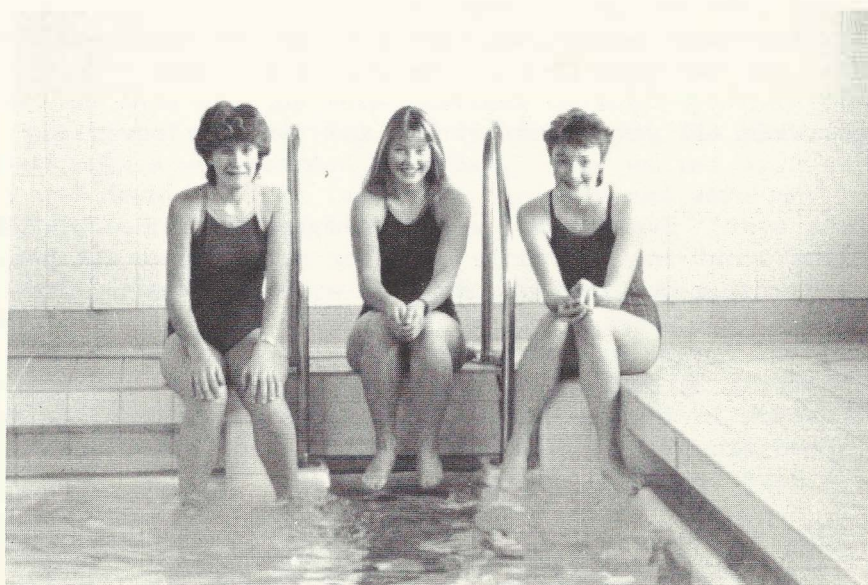
Junior squad: Annette Anderson, Andrew Craib, Sharon Duncan, Emma Hart, Colin MacLeod (capt.), Billy Sellars.

Senior squad: Rhoda Campbell, Stuart Mackenzie, Peter MacLeod (capt.), Cindy Masson, Morna Miller, Fred Willis.

Swimming

Senior squad: Diane Dargavel, Sharon Duncan, Louise Forbes (capt.), Roderick Green, John Mackenzie, Stuart Mackenzie, Vikki MacLean, Morna Miller.

Junior squad: Deirdre Angella, Alasdair Barclay, Joanna Barclay, Helen Bonnington, Heather Dargavel, Jenny Everest, Ewan Forbes, Fiona Fraser, Nicola Freebairn, Roslynn Grant, Emma Hart, Laurie May Hogg, Ian Lambie, Alison Leitch, Calum MacDonald, Neil MacDonald, Nicky McGregor, Margaret Muir, Catherine Ogilvy, Gordon Simpson, Robert Taylor, Karen Watson, Eilidh Wigham.



"I would very nearly say that a school can be judged by the amount of extra-curricular activity which is going on there." - Mr Grant, in his interview with the magazine.

In the next four pages, we have given some pupils and teachers the opportunity to tell us about extra-curricular activities they took part in.

First two pupils - Suzanne Moir and Catriona Ross - and an anonymous teacher describe a Duke of Edinburgh Scheme walking expedition in Glen Affric.



It was a beautiful morning as we set off from Cannich Youth Hostel: the sky was a brilliant blue and the sun was beginning to shine. We drove in the minibus to the place where we were to begin our walk to Alt Beithe Youth Hostel.

The scenery was breathtaking. The hills were mirrored in Loch Beinn a' Mheadhoin and Loch Affric and the trees were beginning to take on the yellow tints of early autumn. Along the way we saw so many hairy grannies that we soon lost count.

At Affric Lodge we met a shepherd and had a blether with him. He told us that the estate had just gathered the sheep in for the lamb sales and warned us to leave all gates as we found them. He was very friendly and told us lots of stories: one we thought quite funny was about a party who had two cars, one at each end of the glen, and had agreed to meet in the middle to exchange car keys: they missed each other!

We continued on up to our next stop, a junction of paths quite high up, where we stopped to have a snack. When we set off again, we had only walked about 200 yards when we came to a bridge with a small waterfall underneath it, in a fair-sized burn. Some of us couldn't resist the temptation and dived in - it was great! When you got out you felt really good - tingling and fresh.

About half an hour further on we met a lady coming along the path with a bike! She was really hardy as she had come from a long way up the path - Morvich, I think

We, on the other hand, were all getting a bit hot and tired by now

.... (and Suzanne takes over) Eventually, we reached the Youth Hostel. From the distance, it looked like a hut in the middle of a bog but when we got nearer we realised that it was a hut in the middle of a bog! However, it was a bed and we were thankful for that.

And next day, after tramping through the hills, now greyish-green and mysterious in the rain, and collapsing in a tired heap at the minibus, we were, in fact, rather sad that our expedition to the wilderness, which had been planned months before, was now over - despite the blisters!

.... A Teacher Writes

Something of the legendary Duke of Edinburgh spirit was displayed recently by six girls on a two day expedition through Glen Affric. Little did the group anticipate the high drama that was to ensue that fateful weekend.

The adventurers began in good spirits, confidently stepping into unknown territory. These girls were not to be daunted by tales of thick mists and misread compasses. They had undergone rigorous training and taken expert advice.

The first day was extraordinarily fine and the sun smiled benignly down on the girls as they "yomped" their way through the picturesque valley. They were fortified not only by the beautiful weather and scenery but by a seemingly constant supply of Mars bars. Spirits were high and the realisation that rucksacks became lighter as Mars bars were consumed kept them soaring.



The Author

At one stage the girls had to cross a bridge fording what looked like a natural jacuzzi - a fast-flowing, crystal-clear river inundated with glittering rock pools. For one or two of the girls the temptation was too great and, divesting themselves of as many garments as modesty would allow, they abandoned themselves to the moment.

Then, it was onwards, ever onwards, teeth bared in a smile, until the wanderers reached Alt Beithe and their resting place. And it was here, in the scenic "rustic" grade 3 youth hostel that the girls were to meet their first trial of fortitude.

They were shown to their "dorm" and their spirits sank. The place had all the charm of a well-used air-raid shelter. Certain images spring to mind: iron bedsteads, army issue blankets - grey and damp, unusual wall decoration - green and grey flock, someone suggested mould, and the all-pervasive aroma of mushrooms. And worse still, the ultimate horror - mice!

During this night, certain age-old rituals were performed - the ceremonial scattering of coco-pops around the room (rather reckless in view of the wildlife situation) and the tying of boots to bedheads. Who knows how far these practices go back in the annals of time.

Next morning the clouds looked ominous but, after a hearty breakfast, our little crew were bright-eyed and bushy-tailed once more. To the haunting melody of that ever popular song, 'Like a Bat out of Hell', they set off on the most arduous part of their journey past the dramatic and imposing Five Sisters Range. Then the rains came.

However, it was not on this but the very last leg of their journey that the mettle of the girls was really put to the test. They arrived at the minibus, jubilant, and rewarded themselves with a well-earned Mars bar. They waited and waited and waited. They got down to their last Mars bar - things were getting desperate. Then, in the distance, a pitiful sight met their eyes.

Miss Sutherland was limping and in great pain: she would be unable to drive the minibus home! Miss English would have to drive. With chalk-white faces the girls boarded the bus, among talk of loved ones, quarrels unresolved and feelings not expressed.

Still, it is a tribute to the quality of these girls - and to the true Duke of Edinburgh spirit - that not one of them suggested getting out and walking the 130 miles home.

DRAMA

Drama continues to be a popular activity at the school. Last year's Christmas concert included a pantomime, 'CinderellaBaba', produced by Mrs Barley. In the summer term, Dr MacLeod's senior activity group toured local primary schools with a programme they had written themselves. Miss English's junior drama club continues to be a popular lunchtime activity.

Here Angus MacLennan writes about his own part in the Xmas show.



The junior choir at the concert: music has been a popular activity

"It'll be all right on the night - I think."

The first performance of the pantomime went very smoothly and was very much enjoyed by audience and cast alike.

But the next day we were asked to go down to the Primary to do it again - and this was quite a different story.

The first problem was where to change into our costumes - well, we would have looked ridiculous going down the street with the boys in dresses and one girl sporting wings!

Anyway, we managed to solve that problem and, at last, we were ready to start. There was no curtain on the stage. More to the point, there was no stage.

Then, of course, there was the audience. When we acted in the secondary school, the audience were below us, a good distance away and, most important to any actor, in darkness, which means you cannot be distracted by anyone. In the primary school, on the other hand, the kids were in full view and only a couple of feet away.

The play was meant to be funny but, at the start, the kids laughed only once or twice which scarcely helped our confidence.

But we kept our cool - after all, the show must go on! Then - disaster!

I had just finished speaking and stood back to let the Fairy Godmother speak. Close to the end of her speech I started to move. I found I couldn't. My right foot was stuck to the floor - one of the kids must have spilt glue there. I quickly saw the funny side of it and started to giggle. Then all the rest of the cast started giggling too as they realised what was going on. Then, at last, the audience started to laugh. And they kept on laughing right through the performance - the ice was broken!

At the end of the play we waited nervously for a response - and the kids almost raised the roof.

So, aside from that disaster, we were quite pleased. There was only one thing wrong - my shoes were still covered in glue!

But I'll do it again.

At Easter, a school party,
accompanied by Mr and Mrs
Thom, Mr Barnie, Mrs Cairns
and Mrs Taylor, visited France.

FRANCE

Here Billy Green -
assisted by Colin George,
Paul Mackay and Ian Masson -
tells some of what they did.

When we set off in the bus for France everyone was excited, but after about three hours everyone was asleep: a certain fat person who refused to put the light off was not exactly popular!

We reached London early in the morning and went to a cafe for about half an hour so we could swap drivers. After we had been shown around a bit, we left for Dover.

We took pictures of the white cliffs of Dover, then boarded the boat - most people headed straight for the Space Invaders. Once out to sea, if you went outside the door, you nearly got blown off your feet.

Eventually, we got to our destination in France: we went to our rooms first, then had something to eat.

Afterwards we went down to the beach. We found a tunnel that led on to the rocks but we couldn't get in because it was dark and full of water. We were then called back and assembled but Steven and I disappeared into the bushes and we doubled back to try to get down the cliff. But we were caught, I'm afraid!

We went to the market one day. Colin and Paul bought a big bag of sweets and sat on the pavement to share them out: about thirty French people gathered round to watch and, after they had shared them out, the crowd were still there. As the rest of us were wandering around, we saw a whole chicken being roasted on a spit, so we bought it and ate it. Ian saw a caravan with 'Fresh Horse Meat' written on the side: we didn't have any. We didn't like some of the French food - raw carrots covered in vinegar, for example, horrible!

On the way home from the market, there were boys going up on the pavement on their mopeds, trying to knock us down.

Another day we went to the hypermarket and had some good fun. Colin was desperate for the toilet so he ran in but he was grabbed by a Frenchman who held him against the wall and kept shouting at him: it turned out you had to pay one franc but Colin didn't know this. Then someone noticed that Billy Sellars and Richard Preston were missing. Mr Parney asked the woman to make an announcement, which she did - although they probably would not have understood it anyway - but they did not appear. When we went outside we found them sitting there. Mr Thom was not amused.

The day before we went we went shopping: Richard Air wanted a pair of swimming trunks and he went up to a dummy thinking it was an assistant.

Then that night, to celebrate, once we got back to the hotel we started throwing bangers out of the window at the French people down below until Mr Thom came up and took them off us.



Twilight

The ancient ruins carressed with warmth by evening breeze
Looked down upon the valley, swathed in silent green
The whispering, sighing, singing breaths amongst the trees
Seemed to recall the words of those forgotten, no longer seen.

As in the darkening shadows, soft and grey
The shafted oriels glistened with a gentle light
Reflecting in each grove of ancient stone the dying day
And shapes and forms melted quietly out of sight.

The bat, so weak and small, hung upon his brand, or rafter rude
As in the West the remnants of the smiling hours of gold
Sped far away, midst clouds of silent, inexorable mood
And light departed all, the flowers new and bright, the forests old.

Each gothic pinnacle, overgrown with ivy, was thrown in dusk.
The last bright flowers their petals closed, and bent toward the ground
All fowl were quiet, and only owls flew from their roost
To haunt the gathering stillness with their distant sound.

The quiet and still, through plants and trees, pervaded all
And mists of Summer moisture on toadstools and on bracken lay
And the billowing wind around the castle wall
Seemed to proclaim, once more to all, the death
of yet another day.

Autumn Rain

1) A rainy day
A cold day,
With leaves and robins flying,
And the clouds,
Of big black clouds,
Across the sky are lying.

2) The trees are swinging,
The cloths are wringing,
People rushing here and there,
The rain is dancing,
Litter prancing
Around in the cold chilly air

3) Across the sea,
Waves dance with glee,
Tossing ships and boats,
Just as if they were
Tossing corks or floats

4) The clouds are blowing,
The winds are throwing,
Litter every where,
blowing so hard,
and very cruel,
leaving the birch trees bare

Ross Macdonald
18

Autumn Leaves

Autumn is here, feel it in the air,
The fair messenger of Winter,
Is turning trees into golden pillars,
The sun is an old weary one,
Basting off its last dancing sunbeam,
Follow the sunbeam as it goes,
The last reminder of the Summer.

Heather Dargave
162

The wind roared
And the rain poured
And all was cold and wet.
There I sat in dad's tent
While rain was coming in the vent.
Wet and cold, I changed my mind
And made a dash for home.
With head down and shoulders bent
I looked back at the billowing tent:
The rain slanted, the puddles huge,
The river made a roar,
But I was snug by the fire,
And thought the rain a perfect bore.

John Hay 18.

When Autumn comes around again
And leaves begin to fall
The world puts on its coat of brown and beige

Autumn tightly grasps its coat of brassy colours
The wind pulls and tears at its seams and tries to rip it open

In the rain the coat twinkles and crackles
Keeping the ground dry, it starts to smell musty
Like a suit left too long in a cupboard

Soon Autumn starts to disappear its coat vanishes
As the nights get longer and colder and the days are darker
The world puts on its new white fur coat

Simon Gregson S.I

SONG--POEMS

Craig Walker

School

They came into the building in hordes of grey,
 Being transformed from humans into clones,
 The clones of group pressure.
 The mask of their ideal being is donned,
 The human is transformed.

Group Pressure

They met, they loved, it blossomed.
 They grew strong and close.
 Then came school.
 It lasted, it faltered, it broke.
 The masks of deceit and dishonesty
 concealed it.
 Why did she want to be that which she was not?
 Group pressure.
 She was afraid to be part of it there,
 She had to be seen to be what she wanted
 But not to be what she desired.
 Whispered conversations were born,
 but not between them.
 The plot grew until it tore them apart.
 Group pressure.

Why?

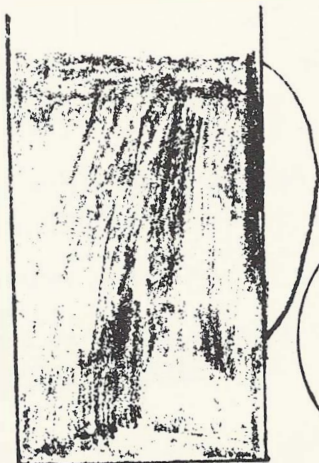
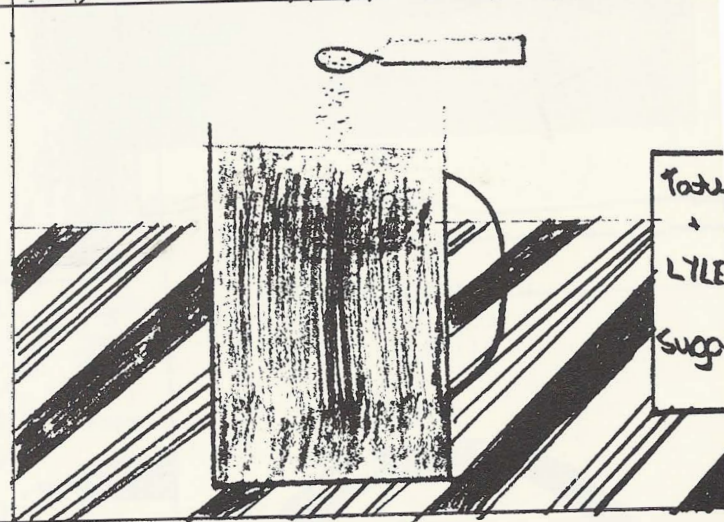
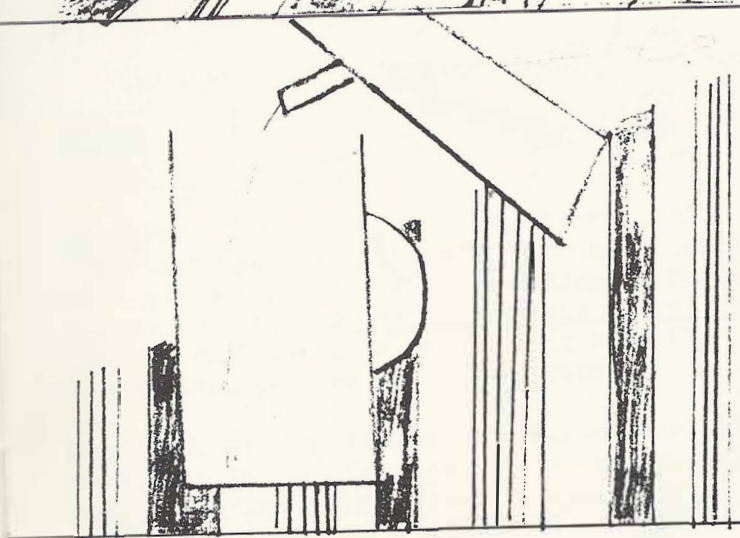
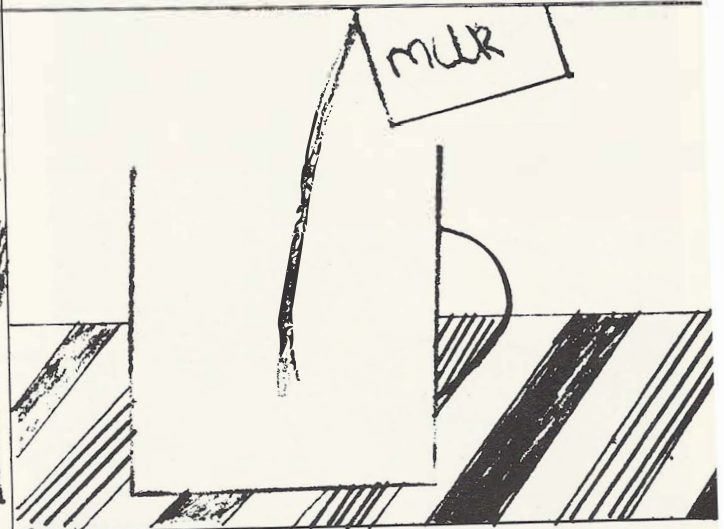
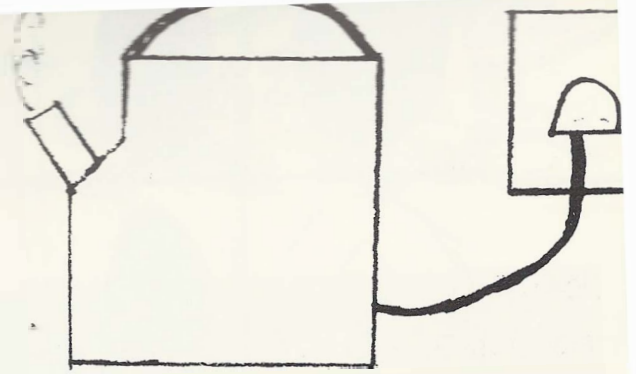
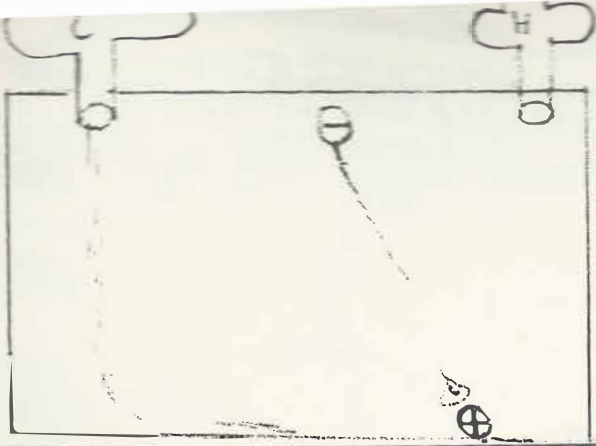
Hey people, listen here and listen good
 Coz I got something to say
 Something that always makes me brood
 And I say, "Why? Why, my friends, why?"
 It's a why for bombs, a why for hatred
 But a why not for peace and love?

The politicians live in a world of their own
 Happy to earn what is a fortune to a man
 Dictating and ruling bad for us
 As long as they're rich
 Clubbing and drinking.

And I say, "Why? Why, my friends, why?"
 It's a why for rulers and a why for class
 But a why not for equality and harmony.

The message plain to see

An Alien hand opens the Book of Future
 The date is obscured, the message plain
 "Help me, help me, please, help me ...
 Holocaust is coming."



RICH
TEA

TEA

Deane
Lawson 1162

WHISKY

by

Steven Watt

Balmenach - history

Making whisky is one of the main industries in Speyside. In my area, for example, the Balmenach distillery near Cromdale is one of the biggest employers of labour.

The history of Balmenach - which now trades under the name of John Crabbie & Company, a member of the DCL - goes back to 1824, when it was founded by a family of smugglers called Macgregor, who had come over the hills from Tomintoul. It was only the second distillery to be licensed in Scotland.

It was built on ground whose history goes even further back for nearby stands the ruins of the old castle where the Jacobites took refuge after the disastrous battle on the Haughs of Cromdale.

Sir Robert Bruce-Lockhart - a descendant of the Macgregor family - describes, in 'Scotch - the Whisky of Scotland in Fact and Story', a childhood spent at the Balmenach distillery before the First World War. He particularly remembers travelling on the little railway which his uncle built from the distillery to the station at Cromdale a mile away.

There was almost another, less happy, railway connection also, for, on the night of the Tay Bridge Disaster, the whole distillery came close to being destroyed by fire. A chimney had crashed through the roof of the stillhouse and spirit began to pour into the furnaces. But the stillman turned the discharge cocks just in time and ran the spirit into a sewer.

A pleasanter memory concerns Queen Victoria who regarded Balmenach whisky so highly that she had a special consignment of it delivered to the Gairloch Hotel at Lochmarea when she stayed there. Today, sadly, this fine malt whisky is used only for blending.

A Family Connection

My family are very involved in the whisky industry. My father works at Balmenach, for example, and two uncles and a cousin work at other Speyside distilleries. Another uncle has just been made redundant from Balmenach, and my grandfather worked there before he died. As well as that, I

have two more uncles who drive lorries and haul whisky a lot of the time.

Since this would be true of many other families hereabouts, obviously the future of this community depends very much on the survival of the distillery. We have already seen the effects that a slump in the whisky trade can have.

In 1980, for example, there were around 60 people living in company houses connected to the Balmenach Distillery. Now the total just scrapes over 30. In tandem with this, there were 31 people employed here fulltime in 1980 and now, after the closure of the dark grains plant and the maltings, there are only 19 fulltime workers. On top of that, the summer break is getting longer - from four weeks in 1968 to almost four months now.

If the distillery were ever to close down entirely, it would break up small communities such as this.

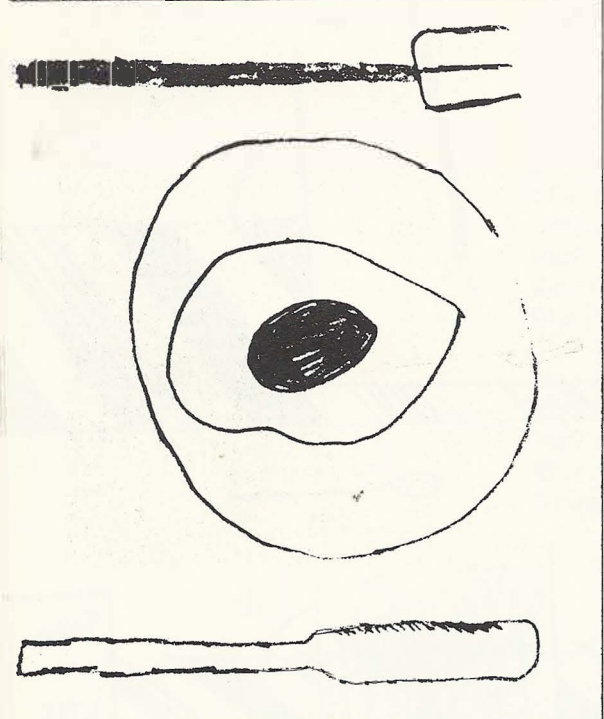
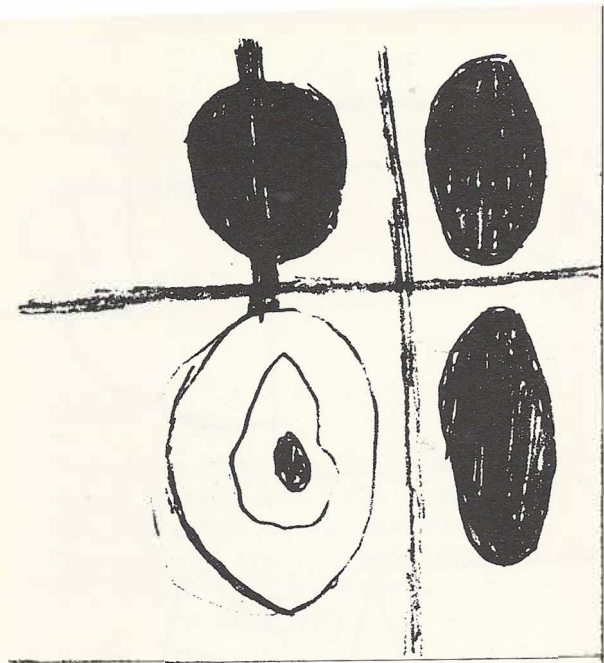
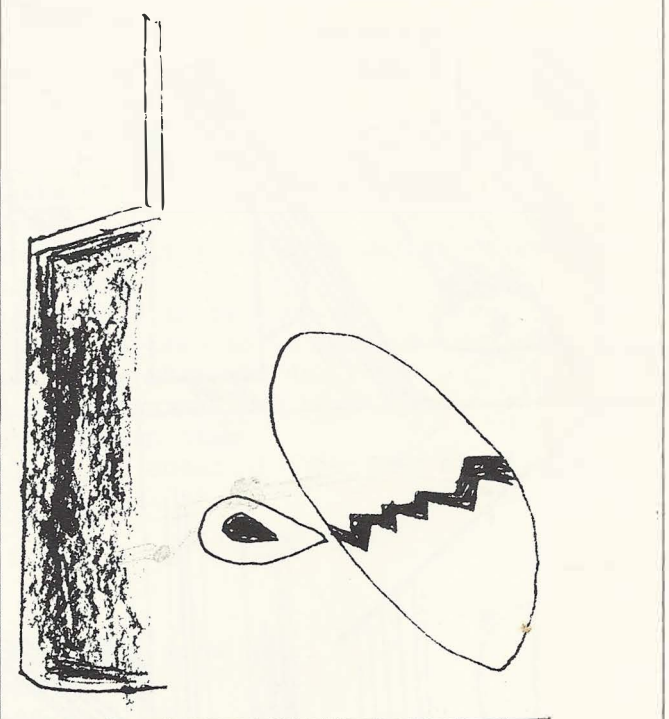
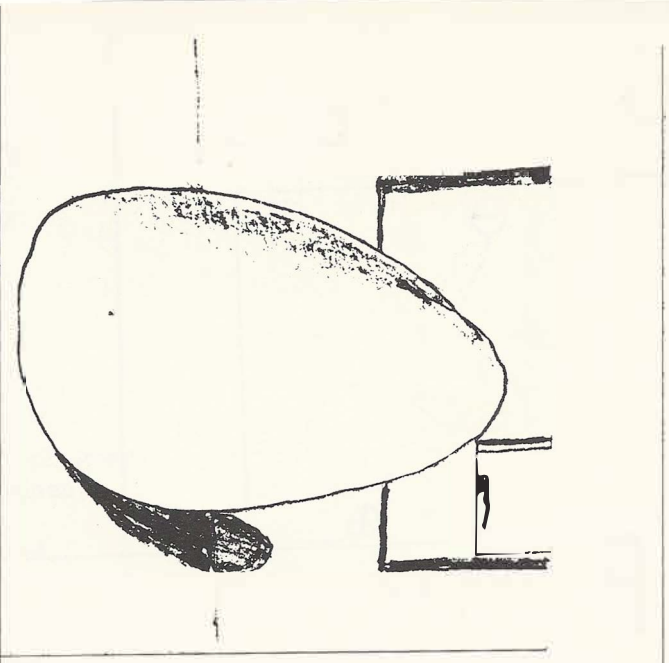
Recession

The whole of the Scotch whisky industry has been very badly affected by the recession, because, of course, it is a luxury product which people can cut back on when money is scarce.

Looking at Scotland as a whole, between 1968 and the present day, there has been a reduction of around 7000 in the number of those employed in the distilling and related trades. The Canadian groups of Seagrams and Chivas have had to shut some of their stills. Tomatin, the largest distillery in Scotland, suffered a £1 million loss in the six months before June and, at the time of writing, the South Queensferry producers of VAT 69 have just laid off a large number of workers.

This slump has affected SMD (Scottish Malt Distillers) as much as, if not more than those others; its distilleries now number only a fraction of what they were in SMD's heyday.

So, all-in-all, the future for whisky distilling - and, therefore, for communities such as ours - is, at best, uncertain, and, at worst, bleak.



Robert
Bryant
18

GRANTOWN GOSSIP

CONGRATULATIONS!

The first issue of the new Spey Valley newspaper, the Grantown Gossip, has met with widespread approval. Here are some of the messages we have had.

"Congratulations!" - Ronald Reagan

"An excellent paper." - Lech Walesa

"Brill!" - Pope John Paul II

"I enclose my picture for your front page." - Arthur Scargill

"Cancel my order." - Ian Macgregor

"The Grantown what?" - Ken Jones, editor of a Grantown newspaper

"Quite good." - Mr Lewis Grant, a rector

TAKE-OVER SENSATION!

Mr Rupert Murdoch, of Sun Newspapers, and Mr Robert Maxwell, of the Mirror Group, were last night locked in a bitter struggle for control of the new Grantown Gossip newspaper. Mr Maxwell is reported to have bid £1½ million for control of the paper.

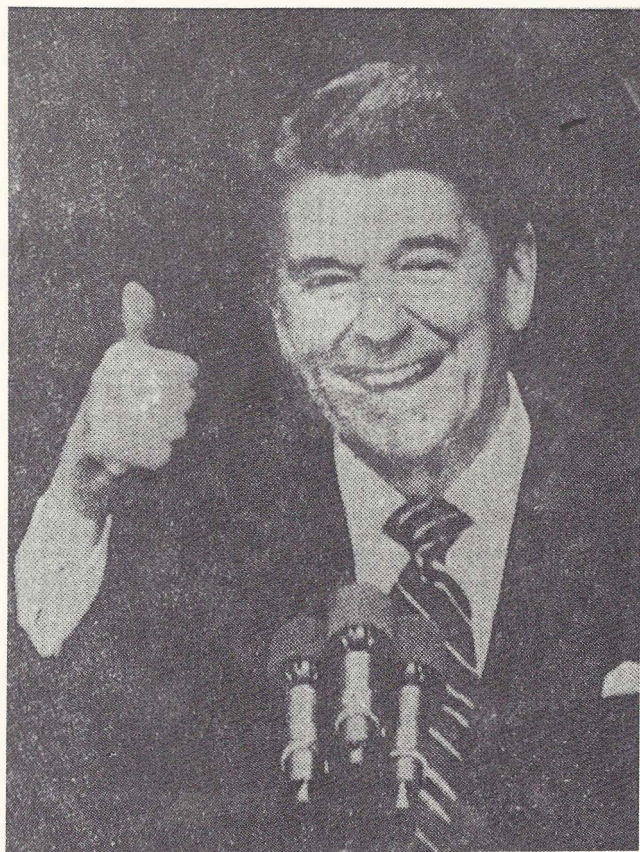
Meantime, at its Achnahannet head-office, a spokesman for the Grantown Gossip group, Mr Teuchie Grant (34), told a packed press conference that (continued on page 36).

WIN A BILLION!.

Yes - YOU!

YOU can win a BILLION with the Grantown Gossip.

For further details -
read -
the next exciting episode of -



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NEWS

For news of the important events of the week, at home and abroad, see page 38.

SCHOOL - WHAT DO YOU THINK OF IT SO FAR?

Teachers

"I am not going to name names but some teachers are rather grumpy and usually do nothing but complain." - Amanda Macintosh.

"I like most of my teachers and that is partly why I like school because I don't think you work well with a teacher you dislike." - Lisa Adams, S1.

"Teachers should be given more say in what they teach, rather than the 'wise old owls' in Edinburgh, who may not have been in a classroom situation for over twenty years." - Rhoda Campbell, S5

Education for all?

"The present system of comprehensive education educates the mass but not the individual." - Rhoda Campbell.

"Brighter pupils are held back by the system which, at the same time, drags the unacademic pupils in its wake, pointlessly. Year upon year, they batter on through endless streams of low grades, destroying their pride and confidence. Then, after eleven years of schooling, they are allowed to leave - with what?" - Alister Stout, S5.

Choice

"I think you should have six weeks of subjects such as Geography and then be allowed to choose if you want to take it or not." - Alan Sinclair, S1.

"I think children should be asked what job they want to do and then what subjects they want to take They should have one year of all the subjects to see which ones they liked. That way nobody would be bored with classes they don't like." - Fiona McCafferty.

Pupil representation

"We had a pupil council at my old school, made up of pupils and teachers - ideas from both about the running of the school were discussed at the meetings. For example, if you thought a ramp for disabled people at the front door was a good idea, you could

bring it up: the advantages and disadvantages would be discussed, and agreed, the idea would be forwarded to the Rector. I think a pupil council would be a good idea here." - Michael Mitchell, S3.

Environment

"School should be made more enjoyable. It should be brighter instead of the uninteresting colours it is now." - Cindy Masson, S5.

"Schools should be inspiring buildings full of variety and colour." - Rhoda Campbell, S5.

"A twenty minute break spent relaxing over a coffee in a comfy chair will produce a happier, more enthusiastic than one who slogs through the day without a real break." - Juliet Noble

Learning by doing

"Learning is always easier when you are enjoying yourself. For example, it is easier to appreciate the ecosystem walking out in the country than by looking at a black and white diagram staring you from a textbook." - Juliet Noble

"Group sports should be encouraged to engender team work and team spirit."

"All pupils should learn basic life skills such as typing, accounting and even driving at school." - Cindy Masson

Last thoughts

"The best part is waiting for the bell to go and rushing out at 4 o'clock." - Keith Finlay, S2.

"Overall, I think school is not too bad because when you are at home all the time it is boring." - John MacFarlane, S1

"If there wasn't such a thing as school everyone would be thick and stupid." - Gordon Simpson, S1.

TOURISM

Tourism is a major industry of the Spey Valley. Here Alister Stout describes how his family moved into the guesthouse business.

Food was plentiful, life was warm and simple. Even the climate of my ex-home was above average. My parents' first priority was their offspring and yet I did not appreciate my haven of peace and prosperity. For, I fear, I never even dreamt of leaving.

A scorching heat radiated from the glowing embers as they crumbled reluctantly into ashes. Dad sat in "his" chair, running his fingers through his dark matted hair. His eyes were dull and stared transfixedly through the hypnotic glow of the fire. This "Munn and Dunning continuous assessment" was really getting him down.

Mum folded her newspaper and laid it on the thick carpet. She retreated a little from the sharp arrows of the fire's bows.

"What about a guesthouse?" she said. These fatal words did not strike with their full force on their listeners. We assumed it was "just another of mum and dad's games". We could not possibly have imagined what disastrous consequences lurked like shadows beneath these seemingly harmless utterances. However, as time passed, we began to realise that mum's words had more meaning than we had anticipated and, day by day, the wind of change grew stronger.

Finally, the day arrived when we found ourselves on the road, with lock, stock and barrel, all crammed into a cattle-truck heading for our "new home".

It has all changed now - the guests are the sole function of our home.

"Should we put the heating on - the guests might catch cold?"

"What's for tea, mum?" "We'll have to wait and see how many guest we'll have."

"Don't let the door slam! You'll waken the guests."

Many a time I close my books of toil and stagger through to the toilet to be informed, "The guests have the lot!"

Commonly my only chance to wash bitterness and strife of life is the guests have used all the bath.

Mum's conversations nowadays ran "the thrills and spills of the kitchen floor" to doing "wheelies" with the Hoover. As for dad, it's peas, potatoes, cabbage and leeks - the garden is his only domain.

The only literature that meets the tourist is "Stern" magazine (left by a German tourist) and "the Secret Diary of Adrian Mole". How am I supposed to become an intellectual?

* * *

"OH, I'M BORED!"

by Annette Anderson, Fiona M
Gavin McGillivray

We carried out a survey for the magazine to find out what there is for young people to do in this area and they think of it all.

In Grantown, the overwhelming majority apparently spend their free time at the YM with 12% each giving golf and tennis as their favourite activity. Table tennis was the most popular activity in the town with pool, television, basketball and volleyball also popular. On the whole, young people in Grantown were quiet.

In Boat-of-Garten, however, 70% of people were dissatisfied, while, in Bridge, most of those we talked to there was nothing for young people there. Of those in the combined district who said they would like to see more provision for young people: 28% said they would like a swimming pool, 28% a youth club, 18% an amusement centre, 21% a BMX track and 5% a football pitch.

In Carrbridge, football, pony riding, fishing and walking were all popular. 48% gave "watching television" as their favourite leisure activity. All our interviewees wanted more facilities: 38% a cinema, 38% a BMX track and 21% a centre like the YM in Grantown.

Profile

The Grantown Gossip talks to

KEN JONES,

Editor of an older Grantown newspaper



Lesley Hay:

How did you get started in journalism, Ken?

Ken Jones:

On leaving school I worked for nine months in W H Smith's; then I joined a weekly paper in Staffordshire, completing my training there over three years. Fraserburgh was the next place: I worked with the P & J as a district reporter for five years. Then I moved to Sutton Coldfield, to a morning paper called the Birmingham Post; to Staffordshire again and then to York where I was deputy news editor of the Gazette and Herald. Finally, I was editor of the Pontefract and Castleford Express before coming to Grantown in 1983 to edit the Strathspey Herald.

Susan Allan:

Why did you decide to come to Grantown?

Ken:

I was born in the Borders and my family and I are very fond of Scotland. Also I wanted to get out of the "rat race", as there was a lot of trouble to do with trade unions.

Lesley:

What stories do you remember most from your years in journalism?

Ken:

One of the stories I most enjoyed reporting on was about a man and a woman in their late forties, who had always wanted a child - but without any success. The wife went into hospital for an operation which they thought was to remove a cyst. She woke up to find she had given birth to a baby girl! One of the saddest stories was about a woman who had tried many times to commit suicide but had failed. In one of these attempts she had lost a leg. She decided then to jump off a bridge into the river, but two boys who saw her rescued her. The boys received a bravery award but the woman was left feeling a complete failure in not even being able to take her own life.

Susan:

What main changes have you made to the Strathy?

Ken:

I have condensed reports - not to everyone's satisfaction! I also introduced a youth column and increased the type size for a better appearance. I like to think that these changes reflect the bright go-ahead area the paper serves.

Lesley:

What did you first think of Grantown?

Ken:

Grantown greatly impressed me from the start because it has dignity. I see it as the capital of the Spey Valley - I hope this will not offend anyone. Grantown has a dignity of the 1930's, hardly changing with the times. If I have any criticism it is that I would like to see more facilities for tourists and also for the young people.

Susan:

What future do you see for the paper?

Ken:

Unfortunately the size of the paper is dictated by the demand for advertising space and this is not very large. However, the Valley is expanding and this may, in time, allow for changes in the size and style of the Strathy, including the use of colour.

THE BEST SHOW IN TOWN!

by the Grantown Gossip's theatre critic,

Lesley Hay

In the North East End of Grantown (a million miles from London's West End), I was recently privileged to see an unusual talent contest, featuring young and old, the talented and the not so talented.

The programme was smoothly compered by Herr Schmidt, a cool sophisticated man in black, who started with a very intellectual speech which, I'm afraid, went well over the heads of his audience.

The first contestants were "The Oldest Swingers in Town" - a very entertaining act this, featuring Tinkerbelle on the piano and the two guitar players with their catch-phrases, "That's right enough" and "Fit like".

A juggling act was next. How the woman managed to fiddle that till I'll never know but it is good to see her still in the pink.

A "New-found way to youth" was demonstrated by a man who publicly shaved off his moustache - I didn't think this act came off very well, though. Another attempted to show the power of mind over matter by bringing all the prefects within his control - he threatened to show their photographs to the audience.

Next, there was the sad case of the "one man band blues". All his partners had left him to go their separate ways, leaving this red-nosed comedian to waddle off to the bright lights of Tomintoul to look for new partners.

The new generation of Barbara Woodhouses had just finished their training and gave an unusual demonstration. One had trained her dogs to look up words of no less than eight letters each. The other managed to do the demonstration with popper beads. (An unusual slant to take, if I may say so.)

The most lively performance was given by the PSE (Powerful Super Energetic) brigade. One demonstrated the amazing feat of climbing on to the stage with a canoe paddle and doing aerobic exercises at the same time. The other managed to make a red coloured football rattle and hit a golf ball on to the green only 100 metres away.

For the younger generation, there was the pink panther show, starring pink panther, in his new pink overalls (he used to be the white panther of course) and Inspector Clouseau a mass of computers playing Space Invaders.

There was some magic next, with a tall-small-tall trio doing tricks with number cubes, with a hit of golf ball, a swing of a hockey stick and an outburst of song now and then.

The Irish comedienne was very funny without even knowing this. Her sense of an illogical mind at work was hilarious. I think she should change her stage name, however - it didn't seem very appropriate.

The cultural part of the evening featured a Scottish patriot reading the poems of Burns with great feeling - the mutterings between verses were a distraction, however.

There was a change in programme with a fashion show: the latest fashions were modelled for us by Prudence Esmeralda Helen and Bonnie.

I must admire the highwire act - they were amazing! One balanced a pile of library books on her head as she walked across, another used a musical board that played Genesis and then went across on a bicycle that had to overcome the laws of physics.

The piste de resistance was the last, starring two wellknown faces. Their acting was excellent. You could tell that they were not new to this town. However, it should be stressed that there is no connection even though they share a name.

Finally, it was decided to award a prize to the mature expert on cooking the interval cuisine, none of the acts being up to standard. The director spoke only in Gaelic to explain this. Unfortunately, one of the cast was unable to take part.

Computer Notes

by Gordon Gray

There has been a tremendous boom in the micro-computing industry in recent years and it is reckoned that, by the turn of the century, every television will have a computer accompanying it.

Therefore, as this paper is always abreast of the times, we are including a computer corner. In this issue, we give some facts, hints and tips about probably the most popular of home micros, the Sinclair ZX Spectrum.

In 1982 Sinclair brought out a small colour computer and priced it at £125/170. This paved the way for a price-cutting boom in home micros. It then slashed its prices to £99.95/127.95 and the Spectrum computer has retained its No. 1 position ever since.

Alongside the computer, of course, you have to pay extra for a tape recorder but any will do so long as it has MIC and EAR sockets.

Anyone already owning a Spectrum, who has purchased the game, Jet Set Willy, may be interested in this tip on how to get endless lives.

First, MERGE the introduction and then stop the tape.

Then, just in front of the RANDOMIZE USR instruction, put these POKES in:

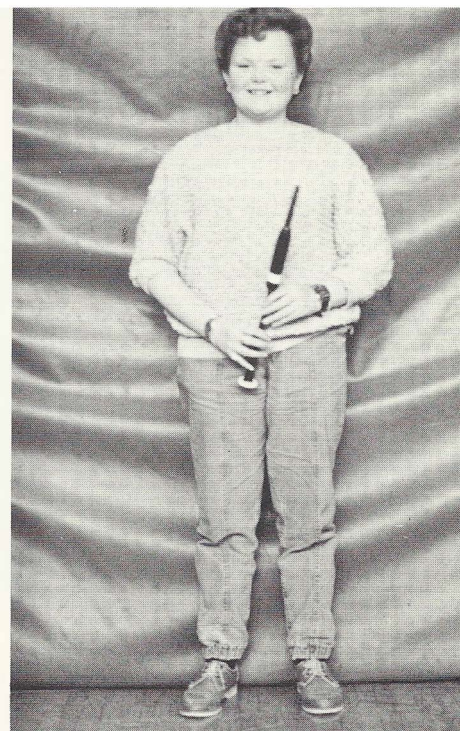
POKE 35899,0 - endless lives

POKE 36477,1 - stops you dying when you fall from a great height

POKE 35123,0 - obliterates anything that moves.

To see the final effect POKE 41983,255, collect the tap, run along to the bedroom and surprise surprise!

Finally, the school computer club meets every Tuesday after school and everyone is welcome. If you bring your own micro, you get in for half price.



Donna Robertson, winner of the Spey Valley and MacKellar Cups for practice chanter recently.

Books

We do not have room in this issue for book reviews but we include a notice of some recent publications, contributed by Ranald McConnachie, Angus Adcock, Alan Davidson, Mark Robertson, Gordon Simpson - all, as you may have guessed, first years.

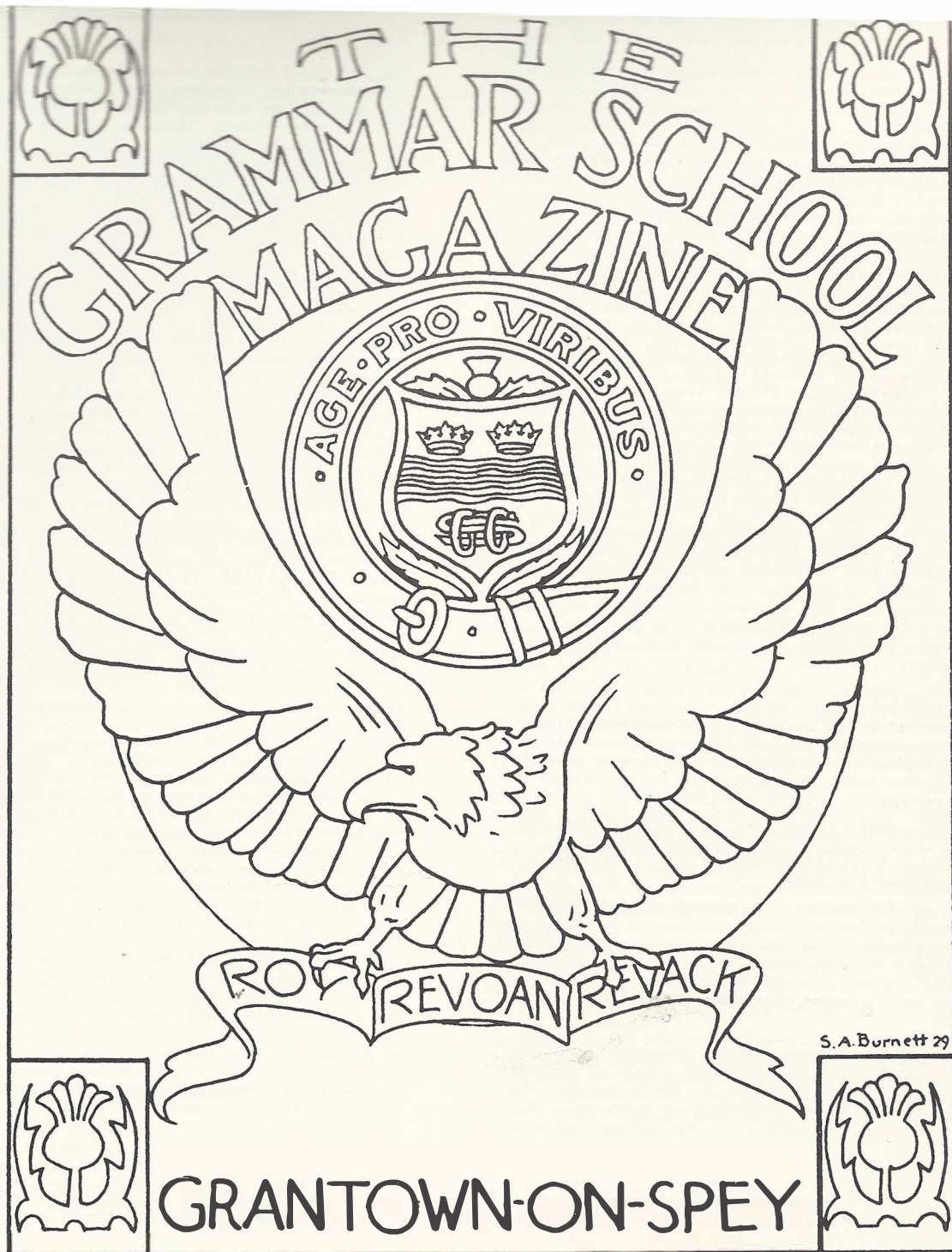
The Bank Robbers - Willy Getaway
Vegetables - Rosa Cabbages
The Missing Guest - Willy B. Ere
A Fall of Snow - Ava Lanche
Chinese Golf - Ho Lin Wan
At the Toilet Door - Wilma B. Muchlonger
The Mystery of the Flooded Toilets -
I. P. Squint
Muck of the Window - Hugh Flung Yon
Quicker Shopping - Carrie R. Bagg
Breakfast - Chris P. Bacon

Times Change

from the Grantown Gossip of 200 years ago

"Macgregor must go," claimed an eminent citizen of Grantown, Mr Teuchie Grant, at a public meeting there last night. "He should be sent back where he came from before he completely destroys our industry

The Grantown Gossip has to agree that something must be done about the cattle-raiding of Mr Macgregor, commonly known as Rob Roy



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Ferrets - a beginner's guide

by Andrew Maciver, S3

I have two ferrets and a polecat. The main difference between them is that a polecat is larger, differently coloured and smells more.

To start to be a ferreter, you first need a ferret! It is better to buy in a six week old ferret than an older one so that you can get to know it well.

After you have bought your young ferret, you then need to train it. This is not difficult as most of it comes naturally to the ferret - by instinct.

When you go out first to train your ferret, you don't need nets. Place the ferret at the mouth of the hole and simply let it sniff about and wander in. It will only go a little way in and come back. Praise it for this and then let it go down again. It will eventually go all the way and bolt rabbits - it soon catches on that it is supposed to chase the rabbits.

From then on use your nets. These have two rings at each end and are called purse nets. When the rabbit bolts into the net, the net closes and the rabbit is trapped.

You then need to act quickly and re-set the nets - most likely there will be more rabbits at home.

The total beginner's cost, for the ferret and nets, is roughly £9 - £1.50-£2 for the ferret and nets at 65p each, of which you need about a dozen. You can pay off the £9 quite quickly, however, as you get about 75p per rabbit.

In this issue we feature a sport does not feature often on Scotspc SportsScene, but which is, nevertheless very popular in this area - ferre

Andrew Maciver gives some advice beginners and Colin George writes the albino ferrets owned by himself his brother, Stephen.

(Sadly, since this was written, the two George ferrets have failed to return from a mission.)

In the summer, do not give your ferret too big a bed - just a little hay straw - or else they can get too hot which is bad for them. If they get too hot, let them have plenty of water and cool drinks.

In the winter, on the other hand, give them a large bed and, if it is frosty, keep the hutches off the ground, as frost can kill ferrets. Always make sure that your hutch is water-proof: if the snow melts and then freezes, you could wake up to a dead ferret as hard as a brick. I always fatten up my ferrets for winter as they need to be stronger to withstand the cold.

Our ferrets

Colin George, S2

A ferret is a fearless animal, which is not afraid of anything. One day when my brother and I were out with our ferret, it ran after a lamb and caught it by the neck. It would have killed it if we hadn't kicked it off.

Another night, when we were watching TV, we heard a squeal and ran into the hall to find a ferret had got out and was chasing the pups.

Our ferrets are albinos. They don't have names, but they are hard workers and have caught a lot of rabbits.

editorial

LATE NEWS EXTRA

Looking back on 1984 at our A.G.M. late in October we concluded that it had been a successful year for the Clubs. We had supported the School by contributing £30 for prizes, and we had subsidised the magazine with a donation of £70 towards production costs. The Clubs' financial affairs were in a healthy state also, with members having donated more than enough to cover our postage bills for information slips and magazines. We sent out over 140 magazines to exiles last Christmas, and a similar number is on order for this year. The Biennial Dinner in April was not only a financial success, but a resounding social success also, developing into a very acceptable kind of ceilidh, with the combined musical talents of Sandy Mackenzie, Gordon MacGregor and Billy and Eileen Mutch providing great entertainment. We hope we may count on a continuation and extension of this trend in 1986.

Mention of the 1986 Dinner gives us the opportunity to inform members that we agreed to invite our recently retired Assistant Rector, Mr. Rob Liggat to be the main speaker on that occasion, and Mr. Gillies Campbell (Principal Art Teacher at James Gillespie's High School and at present seconded to Advisory Service for the introduction of the new Standard Grade exams.) to reply. We are delighted to say both have been accepted, and we hope members will approve of our attempt to "bridge the generation gap" as Mr. Liggat's connection with the school stretches back over more than quarter of a century, while we hope Gillies will encourage more of our younger members to share in the enjoyment provided by the reunion.

We have printed a further pair of nostalgic photos in this issue which we hope will find favour with members. We are always glad to consider publishing photos which we feel will interest a large number of people, so, if you have something in that category, please be good enough to send it to us, so that others may share it.

We congratulate Mrs. John Grant (Betty Templeton) who was elected to succeed Jeannette Munro as Honorary President at the A.G.M., and we wish her a happy tenure of office.

May we also apologise to Mrs. G. Shiach (Margaret Smith) for the unfortunate mistake we made last year in the sympathetic mention column, when we confused her aunt and her sister, both of whom had the same name. It was of course her aunt who died. We are most sorry for the unnecessary distress we caused.

Finally may we thank all of you who helped in the production of the magazine by dutifully completing your slips with something interesting and amusing. That really makes the editor's job a pleasure! We hope that you enjoy your magazine and that you have a very happy Christmas and a healthy and prosperous New Year.

I. S.

* NEW RECRUITS *

Our recruits this year include Calum Beange who has joined the R.A.F. and works on the administration side at Cottesmore; Lesley Craib, last year's Deputy Head Girl, who gained a bursary in the Aberdeen University competition, and who has started a Modern Languages degree there; the Rector's younger son Colin, who is making his way in ski-ing, and whose prowess has earned him a place in the British National ski team; Walter Grant, whose years in school were 1929-34, and who runs his own building firm in Elgin, and Fiona Walker who is with the Northern Constabulary as a W.P.C. stationed in Nairn.

We welcome also as new life members Charles and Johnnie Ross and their sister Gill (Mrs. J. MacLean.) and Business Studies student Ian Herd (details in Late News Extra.)

Neil McTaggart detects a tendency to return to North in his two daughters, now students in Aberdeen. Neil himself has been appointed Session Clerk of Holyrood Abbey Church. Mrs. Walling (Isobel Jackson) has a new address in Essex - 278 Holland Road, Holland-on-Sea, Essex. CO15 6NR.

Allan Chisholm has had a busy year with the completion of his company's development in Epsom a shopping centre, theatre and office complex. Great excitement of course when the Queen officially opened it in October. Richard Surtees recently first prize in the P.T.A. 100 Club. He was 'recruited' for it by our star saleswoman Margaret Ross. Richard was also in Grantown and helped at the time of Margaret's removal to Strathspey District Charles Ross, Ballintomb is now serving in the Northern Constabulary as a constable at Bonar Bridge. We had a very pleasant visit from George and Isobel Johnston in late September, bringing news of Catherine (Mrs. Harvey) and her husband and daughter Natal who visited Paris this summer. (See Nostalgia Corner for the record of a previous visit!) Bill has qualified C.I.T. and is now a schedules officer with Lothian Region Transport, but still finds time for ballooning, while G.B. has been doing 3 services per Sunday pulpit supply over the holiday period. The Johnstons have frequent meetings with Betty with whom they play bridge.

Gregor Allan paid us a visit in school in September and gave us a generous donation of books which will be useful for the Maths. and Business Studies departments. Iain Brown is now manager of an estate agency in Stirling. He took up Rugby at the advanced age of 30 and is still playing for Stirling County's teams.

As she handed in slips for Rita (Mrs. Khamisi-Stuart) and Ann (Mrs. Perk) Marion Stuart joked "It's no family I've got - it's a blinking League of Nations!" Rita is now a documentalist with UNESCO in Paris, and Ann is likely to move to Zaire next April after completing her social work diploma in Winnipeg. Dr. Jimmy Allan who pays regular visits to his 'second home' in Grantown complained "only one depressing event - another birthday!" James Stewart's new address in Edinburgh (see Cutposts) is 4, Murrayfield Court, which sounds handy for watching Scotland's star rugby team. Eddie Duncan passed all his exams after the first year of his electrical engineering course at Inverness Tech., but, having passed his bus-driver test in Inverness as well, is taking time out driving locally for Highland Omnibuses. James Macpherson's slip arrived from Surrey just time for a mention in this column. We were pleased he was able to make the Dinner this year. Also just in time for a mention were Sine Fergusson and Mrs. Webb (Margaret Templeton) who reports that she has been busy looking after her husband who has been ill for a year. We wish him better health. Ian Herd recently sent in his application for membership from Leicester, where he is a Business Studies student. We will add his name to the mailing list in the next issue. His address is 12 Newton Street, Leicester.

Guess Who?

"By nature, he is not an extrovert character who demands attention and creates himself into something to be held in awe. But, behind his reassuring silence, one senses a power that is well disciplined and rarely used, but mighty nevertheless..... Publicly, he would seem to be dominated by a good-natured, but rather ebullient wife. In reality this is not so, but my grandfather allows her to occupy much of the lime-light during socialising.

For the answer, please see the paragraph at the end of the page containing the list of local members.

Obituary

We record with regret the deaths of the following members:

On the last day of 1983 WILLIAM (Billy) THOMSON died in his adopted home, Corby, Northants., where he retired early from his position as a C.W.S. branch manager in November 1979 after being injured in a street accident. He bore these injuries and serious eye trouble bravely, and maintained to the end his love for Grantown where he was laid to rest in the New Cemetery. To his brothers and sister we extend the sympathy of the Clubs.

ALEXANDER MACKINTOSH, M.P.S. died in Surrey on 21st January 1984. He entered Watson's Chemist Shop on leaving school and qualified M.P.S. in 1928, spending the greater part of his working life in the South of England where he latterly had his own pharmacy business in Selsdon. He rarely missed his annual visit to Strathspey. To his son and daughter and other relatives including his brother Robert (Bert) who furnished us with details for this obituary we extend our sincere sympathy.

We lost one of our oldest members in February with the death at 84 years of MRS. F. MUNRO (Gertrude Lawson) in Folkestone where she had lived for many years. Mrs. Munro was the last surviving member of the family of the late Dr. and Mrs. Lawson, and was qualified as a nurse. She kept regularly in touch with the doings of the School and the Clubs and enjoyed receiving her copy of the magazine. We send our condolences to her family and grandchildren on their loss.

SIDNEY MCGREGOR, youngest son of the late ex-Provost McGregor of Grantown and Mrs. McGregor, died suddenly at his home in Banavie near Fort William on 22nd August 1984. Dux of the School in 1922 and a graduate in Classics, Mr. McGregor retired from his teaching post as Principal Classics Teacher at Lochaber High School, Fort William some 14 years ago. We send sincere sympathy to his wife Helen on behalf of the Clubs.

After a year of illness bravely borne, ALISTAIR MACKINTOSH died in September of this year. After qualifying M.R.C.V.S. at the Royal Dick College, Alistair was in practice for many years at Inch, Aberdeenshire. To his wife Peggy, his son and daughter and other relatives we offer our sincere sympathy.

* ENGAGEMENTS and MARRIAGES *

Congratulations and best wishes to:

Lorna Forbes who married Murray Crichton at Cromdale in June.
Peter Henderson who married Elaine Hughes in St. Andrews in June.
Raymond McMurray who married Carol Ramsay in Aberdeen in July.
Audrey Murray who married John Wilson at Carrbridge in July.
Archie Liggat who married Elizabeth Sallows in Inverallan in October.

and likewise to Diane Hamilton and Philip Leigh who became engaged in May, and Graham Grant and Shevaun Coulter, and Pamela Main and Henry Glasse who both became engaged in September.

MR. and MRS. PETER MCGREGOR (Mary Telfer) and MRS. PETER GRANT (Annie Telfer).

In the 1981 issue we reported the sense of shock in the community at the tragic and untimely death of Graham, the son of Peter and Mary McGregor, in a motor cycle accident. This was a shattering blow to his father and mother, and one from which they never fully recovered. The death in April of David Terris, with whom Peter had worked since leaving school, and uncertainty as to how to plan their future preyed on their minds, although it did not disturb their relationship with one another. The fact that Inverallan Church was barely large enough to contain all of those who came to pay their last respects is testimony to the esteem in which Peter and Mary were held by so many, and the goodwill we all felt towards them. Mr. Alston, in his service, expressed excellently our feelings of our failure as a community to support two greatly loved members and save them from the despairing step of ending their lives.

The shock of this news was still fresh in our minds when there came word of the death of Mary's sister Mrs. Peter Grant (Annie Telfer) which occurred within 24 hours of that of Peter and Mary. Mrs. Grant assisted her husband and sons in the running of the family garage business on the outskirts of Nairn. She died peacefully in the Nairn Hospital.

To all the bereaved we extend our sincerest sympathy, but especially to Peter and Mary's daughter Margaret and her husband, and may our sympathy be of a real comfort and assistance in helping them to come through this time of seemingly unrelenting trial and tragedy.

We send condolences on behalf of the Clubs also to the following members who have suffered bereavements in the course of the year:

to John Burgess and his sister Mrs. Jean Lugg on a double loss at the turn of the year with the deaths of their sister Annie and Jean's husband Kenneth. to the Oakes family who lost a dear mother and grandmother also in December 1983. to the Terris family on the death in April of their father David, so well known throughout the area for his fifty years of blacksmithing services. to the Hastings family on the loss of their well known and much loved aunt Peggy who died suddenly in her 89th year last November.

To Mrs. Butler-Lee (Emily Campbell), to Mrs. Simpson (Jessamine Anderson) and to David and Margaret Williamson, all of whom lost their mothers in the course of this year.

Martin Grant expressed the feelings of many F.P.'s with Dulnain Bridge connections also in a fine tribute in the Herald to Evan Mackintosh (late of "The Larches") who died on Christmas Eve in Aberdeen Royal Infirmary.

* BIRTHS *

We are pleased to record the following 'happy events':

a son to Mr. and Mrs. Hankinson (Mairi Macdonald) in October 1983.
a son to Mr. and Mrs. John Lilley (Jane Macaulay) in November 1983.
a son to Mr. and Mrs. Michael Wood in March 1984.
a daughter to Mr. and Mrs. Ian Smith (Janette Macdonald) in March 1984.
a daughter to Mr. and Mrs. Hunter (Fiona Henderson) in July 1984.
a daughter to Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Macleman (Dianne Duncan) in October, 1984.

LOCAL NEWS

1984 weather is hard to summarise - extra-violent winds and snowstorms in January and temperatures low enough to allow outdoor curling, then soaring temperatures in April - (we envied the Primary staff as we saw them set off with a crocodile of youngsters to roll their eggs in Grant Park!) - an absence of late spring frosts - and also of summer rain (great for the holiday-makers, but no spates for the fishers!) - the drought finally ending in September, and then an early onset of night frosts. In a word - unpredictable!

Controversy seems to have been a feature of the year too, with the miners' strike dragging on, as if compromise were unthinkable. Local controversy has sprung up too about the developments at Castle Grant, about the felling of woodlands and the roads policy around Kinveachy.

The Strathie has a new technicolour face and a new office in the Information Centre in High Street. Nethy Golf Club has a new Clubhouse, and there are plans to build another golf course at Ballindalloch. Marathons, fun-runs and shinty continue to attract lots of attention - the latter especially, since Kingussie brought the Camanachd Cup home this year, and enthusiastic West-coasters Neil Campbell (Head of the Primary School) and Donald John McLeod (English Dept.) are fostering it in both schools.

On now to the doings of our local members: Congratulations to N.S.H.E.B. electrical engineer Alastair Mutch who came out as top student in his craft at Inverness Tech. about this time last year. George Paton received a presentation in March on the occasion of his retirement after 19 years as district-agent with the Pearl Assurance Company. He has taken up a new job with Highland Region. Betty Grant reports having had 'a grand ceilidh' with Marr Illingworth when he visited Grantown in summer. Jock Paterson continues to support the 'Dons' enthusiastically, and officiated at a Dinner to honour Willie Miller as Player of the Year. Alistair McLeod continues to play effective tennis, and was joined by his young son Colin (a second year pupil) as members of the Grantown team which won the North of Scotland Men's League in August. The 'Strathie' carried a fine action photo of horsewoman Sammy Pettifer taking a jump in elegant style at the Nethy Riding Centre Open Day in July. We note that Elizabeth Main and Gordon Jack are now members of the local Health Council. Both have excellent records of public service. Pat McLean is another member who keeps busy in this sphere, having looked after the affairs of the Abbeyfield venture, and now taking on those of the Nethy Golf Club. Former pupils have donated two new trophies for the Primary School. Tom and Netta Hunter (Mrs. Booth) gave a trophy for the best all-round athletic achievement in memory of their father, the former Rector of the school, and Mrs. McGregor (Annette Hogg), who did sterling work with young swimmers in both schools, gave a trophy for the most improved swimmer, before she moved away from Grantown after her marriage. Your editor was honoured to be asked to hand over a cup competed for by the Badminton Friendly League at a function at the end of last season. It is satisfying to see this handsome cup which was originally presented in 1937 by Mr. Tom Hunter (senior) back in contention after a lapse of some 30 years.

SERVICES

New recruit to the R.A.F., Calum Beange, is on a 2½ years posting at a tri-national establishment, experiencing the reality of N.A.T.O. we assume. John Clark, now in command of an Engineer Training Centre in Germany, liked the photo of the 1961 hockey team in last year's magazine. 'I seem to remember I was in love with about four of them,' he says, adding gallantly, (or maybe just tactfully!)

'but I refuse to say which ones!'

Janet Dixon continues as a Nurse Tutor in Princess Mary's R.A.F. Nursing Service.

Archie Liggat is nearing the end of a tour of duty as flying instructor at R.A.F. Linton-on-Ouse. R.A.F. man Peter McMillan has a mysterious sound address - and an expanding family!

Squadron Leader Thomas Stuart is now in command of the Engineering Squadron at Ascension Island, but will return to his old job at High Wycombe in December 1984 after a 6 month tour.

* WITH THE SERVICES *

Alan Anfield, B.E.M., Captain, R.A.O.C., 'Alder Nethy Bridge; Vehicle Depot, Aschurch, near Gloucester.

* Calum P. Beange, 'Derry Carne', Grant Road R.A.F. Cottesmore. Administration.

John S. Clark, B.E.M. 130 High Street; Captain O.C. Combat Engineer Training Centre, B.A. Gordon Barracks, Hameln, B.F.P.O. 31.

Janet Dixon, R.S.C.N., R.G.N., Heath Cottage; 48 Crabtree Lane, Kingshill Estate, Ciren. Glos. Squadron Leader, Princess Mary's R. Air Force Nursing Service. Nurse Tutor, Princess Alexandra Hospital, Wroughton, Nr. Swindon.

William Dobson, B.Sc. (Agri.), Milton, Nethybridge Flight Lieutenant, Officers' Mess, R.A.F. Lyneham, Chippenham, Wilts. Transport Command Pilot.

Archie M.S. Liggat, B.Sc. (Hons. Aeronautical Engineering), 'Brierlea', Mossie Road; 7 Hambledon View, Tollerton, Yorks. Flight Lieutenant Flying Instructor, R.A.F. Linton-on-Ouse.

Peter K. McMillan, 13 Ellanwood Road, Carrbridge S.A.C. U.K.D.S.U. (Supply Flt.), H.Q. Air B.F.P.O. 28. Supply Controller R.A.F.

David Ross, A.F.M., 4 Railway Houses, Dava; 51 Spey Road, Abington, Berks. Flt. Sergeant, R.A.F. Parachute Team.

John H. Stuart, Aird House, High Street; Flight Sergeant, ZOR 661 Sergeant's Mess, S.O.A. Masirah, P.O. Box 897, Muscat, Sultanate.

Thomas B. Stuart, C.Eng., M.I. Mech.E., M.I. Pr. 8 Grampian Crescent, Boat of Garten; Squadron Leader, H.Q. Strike Command, High Wycombe 41 New Road, Sands, High Wycombe.

* FISHING CLUB * (Report by Secretary, John

The competitions at Lochindorb have survived for another year due mainly to the support of invited guests from the Forres area, and of visitors to Grantown. Although a few die-hard members turn out regularly, some of the older ones have now dropped out, others feel that they perhaps should and few younger 'Old Guards' have joined.

Catches generally were very poor, and though Iain Macpherson very nearly made a come-back, he had finally to be content with second place to Alis Paterson (Gordonstoun), who had an exceptional one night, which gave him an unassailable lead. Lawson looks like being a future champion, but this year just edged out by A. Rennie for third Booby prize, not surprisingly went to D.D. Rose the organisers are seriously thinking of presenting a special prize - for perseverance!

Competitions will again be held next year, and school leavers will be especially welcome because we understand, the school activities programme helped to foster an interest in fly fishing, and we hope that very soon some of them will be able to win the coveted 'Old Guard Trophy'.

Guest members: C. Allan, W. Bartlett, R. Dunlop, S. Grant, A.M. Lawson (G.G.S. Staff), G. Light, A.G. Logan, I. McArthur, A. Paterson, A. Rennie, J. Sutherland, P. Thomas, S. Thomas, W. Thomson, D. Wilcox.

Former Pupils: J. Gordon, R. Grant, I.D. Macpherson, I. Paterson, G. Paton, A. Robertson, D.D. Rose, J.C. Shand, J.R. Stuart.

 ** L O C A L M E M B E R S **

Mrs. Fred. E. Anfield (Winifred Shaw) Dip.D.Sc.
 Mrs. J.D. Archibald (Sheila S. Macpherson).
 Mrs. Barclay (Margaret Hastilow).
 Mrs. Bruno Bettoli (Susan Grant).
 Mrs. Guthrie Booth (Netta R. Hunter).
 Mrs. Mark Brook (Sally Grant), Clerical assistant,
 Grantown Police Office.
 Donald E. Calder, Joiner.
 Frank Calder, Head Forester.
 James D. Calder, Hotelier.
 John Calder, Postal Officer.
 Mrs. Allan Callum (Sandra W. Paterson), Bank employee.
 George Cameron, Burgh Chamberlain (retd).
 Vera Campbell, M.A., School teacher (retd).
 Graham Clark, Gardener.
 Ainslie Cruickshank.
 Margaret Cruickshank, Shop Assistant.
 John Cumming, Commercial representative, N.S.H.E.B.
 Raymond Davidson, Master painter.
 Alex. Dick, Draper.
 Mrs. Alex. Dick (Muriel Morrison), Draper.
 Mrs. H. Dixon (Beatrice Reid), M.A.
 Catherine Donaldson, S.R.N.
 George E. Donaldson, M.A., B.A., Deputy Rector (Retd.)
 Grantown Grammar School.
 Edward Duncan, Highland Omnibuses.
 John Duncan, Bus driver, Highland Omnibuses.
 Jessie Fraser, M.A., School teacher (retd).
 Margaret Fraser, M.A., School teacher (retd).
 Angus Gordon, Representative.
 Mrs. David C. Gordon (Jessie Laing).
 Mairi Gordon, Secretary.
 A. Martin Grant (retd.)
 Mrs. A.M. Grant (Christina Calder).
 Brian Grant, Joiner.
 Colin Grant, Ski Instructor.
 Evelyn C. Grant, School Secretary, Grantown Grammar
 School. (Retired).
 Mrs. George Grant (Jane Stewart).
 Mrs. G.S. Grant (Margaret Calder).
 Mrs. J. Grant (Isobel Mackintosh) M.A.
 James J. Grant, Draper.
 Mrs. J.J. Grant (Netta Duffner).
 J. Stewart Grant (Dip. Photography), Aviemore
 Photographic.
 Mrs. John Grant (Betty Templeton).
 Lewis N. Grant, M.A. (Hons.) Rector, Grantown
 Grammar School.
 Mariel Grant, M.A., B.Sc., Teacher (retd.) Grantown
 Grammar School.
 Mrs. Peter Grant (Jenny Winchester).
 Robert F. Grant, Motor repair work.
 Mrs. W.B. Grant (Margaret Cruickshank).
 Diane Hamilton, Trainee hairdresser.
 Mrs. G. Hamilton (Evelyn G. Mackintosh) M.A. (Hons.)
 Mrs. John D. Hogg (Jean Cruickshank).
 Gordon Jack, G.P.O. Grantown.
 Mrs. J.R. Jones (Christine Innes).
 Elsie Keith, Drapery manageress.
 Alexander Ledingham, Photographer.
 Margaret M. Legge, Infant Mistress (retd.) Grantown
 Grammar School.
 Karen Low.
 Mrs. Isobel S. McCafferty (Isobel Bruce), Assistant
 Head Teacher, Grantown Primary School.
 Douglas C. Macdonald.
 E. Donald McGillivray, Postman (retd.)
 Harry Macgregor, M.P.S.
 Roy McGregor, Mechanic.
 Raymond McIntosh, Electrician.
 James S. Mackenzie, Draper.
 Mrs. James S. Mackenzie (Ailie Robertson).
 Mrs. McLaren (Jeannie B. Nicoll) Teacher (retd.)
 Mrs. A.D. McLaren (Sheila MacDougall).
 M. Helen S. McLaren.
 D. Patrick McLean, M.A. L.L.B., Administrative
 Director (retd.)
 Mrs. Ian Maclean (Helen A. Calder).
 Mrs. J. MacLean (Gillian Ross).
 Alistair McLeod, Managing Director, McLeod Buildings.
 James McLeod, Chairman, McLeod Buildings.
 Alexander MacPhail, Painter and Decorator.
 Isa MacPhail, (retired).
 Ian Macpherson, (Stores Dept) R.A.F. Outdoor Centre,
 (retired).
 Mrs. D. Main (Elizabeth McGillivray).

Barry D. Main, Messrs. Beale and Pyper.
 James B. Marshall, Spey Fishery Board.
 Shirley A. Masson, Boots, Inverness.
 Debbie Milne, Dental Assistant.
 Mrs. Mustard (Dorothy I.R. Shivas), M.S.S. Ch., M.B
 Ch.A.
 Alastair J. Mutch, Electrical Engineer, N.S.H.E.B.
 Sheena Ogilvie, Teacher, Abernethy Primary School.
 Ian L. Paterson, Mechanical Engineer.
 Jean M. Paterson (retired).
 John L. Paterson, J.P. Master plasterer.
 Neil G. Paterson, Plasterer.
 * George G. Paton.
 Eric Pirie, Electrical Engineer.
 Lewis Rattray, Motor Engineer.
 Mrs. Lewis Rattray (Sheila Grant).
 David Ritchie (Contractor).
 Mrs. Thomas Robertson (Mary E. Hastilow).
 * Danny Rose, Apprentice Joiner.
 Jacqueline Ross.
 John Ross, Garage proprietor.
 Robert Ross, Garage proprietor.
 Mrs. Robert Ross (H. Margaret S. Davidson) M.A.
 Teacher (retd.)
 Mrs. M. Shand.
 * James Shand, Decorator.
 Mrs. David Sinclair (Lisi Fuchs).
 Brian Smith, Joiner.
 Ian Grant Smith, Farmer.
 John R. Smith, M.A. (Hons.) Deputy Rector,
 Grantown Grammar School.
 Sheila M.G. Smith, B. Comm. Teacher of Business
 Studies, Grantown Grammar School.
 Mrs. Helen Stephen (Nellie Byers).
 Mrs. J. Stuart (Marion N.G. Paterson) M.A.,
 Teacher (retd.)
 * John R. Stuart, Fishing Tackle Dealer.
 Mrs. Colin Sutton (Catherine M. Mackay).
 * A.G. Telfer, Burgh employee.
 Margaret M. Terris, Bank clerkess.
 Roderick J.D. Thomson.
 A. David Williamson, Telephone Engineer.

 * SWIMMING CLUB *

Swimming Club Secretary Mrs. Margaret Masson reports a drop in membership last session, but hopes that, with the pool having been given a good overhaul at the beginning of this term, it will be more regularly available for members on Tuesday and Friday evenings this year again, and that this will encourage better attendances. We append a list of last year's members.

Sandra Bairstow; Lynda Beveridge; Susan Burns; Mrs. Jean Campbell; Calum Fraser; Gail McCulloch; Eddie McTavish; Margaret Masson (Secretary); John Rennie; Danny Rose; Helen Rose; Mrs. Marie Shand.

Help!

Can any of our readers help with up-to-date information about the following members with whom we have lost touch? George Flett, David Houston, Frank Roberts and Kerr Wilson. We would appreciate your aid in tracing them.

Guess Who?

The Answer

These are two extracts from an essay by 15 year old Brian Weston, the grandson of one of our past honorary presidents, George Donaldson and Mrs. Donaldson, and the son of Sheina and Roy Weston. Obviously a percipient and articulate young man! The extracts appear by kind (and justifiably proud) permission of those so accurately described.

News from the Outposts

Eunice Allan whom we congratulate on her Ph.D., has "left Aberdeen, home and Scotland" to take up a new Biotechnology job at Sheffield University. Brother Sandy is "climbing another mountain!" Gregor Allan was packing up in Bermuda when he sent his slip, but is moving to another desirable spot nearer home - Jersey in the Channel Islands. Mrs. Allan (Mona McLean) writes that she is "too old for careers and family events, but enjoying retirement immensely." "Can't think of anything interesting!" confessed Mrs. Anderson (Shona MacDougall). Mrs. Angus (Ella Wood) has moved to Fleurs Road in Elgin (pronounce flooers as in Scots!). Stuart Archibald's slip contains the enigmatic statement "the escape tunnel is nearing completion" which we could understand if he were a School Christmas Leaver! Any offers of explanation? "Having a lot of fun with our 15 month old daughter, Tania-Fiona, who is enjoying a change of scene with her grandmother in Elgin during August" wrote Bruce Bain. Mrs. Banks (Lorna Stephen) must have qualified as the youngest F.P. at the Dinner in April.

Iain Beange is "serving as 3rd Officer aboard the M.V. United Drive which is trading out of communist China to North America." He expects to return to Glasgow Nautical College next year to sit his Class II OTL Exam. Mrs. Bettoli (Susan Grant) and her husband have just returned to Scotland from Switzerland and are helping Dad run Seafield Lodge. Mrs. Braid (Pamela Gibson) modestly declined to be credited with the mysterious degree we had awarded her, pointing out that the letters L.D. were in fact her initials! Sorry! Mrs. Brazendale (Evelyn McMurray) is presently studying on a Post Enrolment Course leading to R.G.N. at Musgrove Park Hospital, Taunton, Somerset.

We wish Mrs. Brocklehurst (Margaret McWilliam) "Bon Voyage" for the trip to India and Nepal she and her husband are making this year. She congratulated us on keeping the magazine cost down - may we also express our gratitude to those of you who enclose donations towards our ever mounting postage bill. These are greatly appreciated. After a visit home in July Mrs. Brooksbank (Margaret Mackintosh) had her slip delivered by her sister, Mrs. Sandra Grant, to order her magazine copy. Iain Burgess reported a new appointment for himself and the marriage of his elder son last March. Mrs. Butler had "nothing to report" from Forres. The editor might have been tempted to wax eloquent about the excellence of the summer bedding schemes there! Sandy Calder called in mid-July after helping his 81 year old mother to 'flit' from Applegrove to a smaller house in Beachan Court. He brought news of Alasdair's completion of his training as a printer, and his move into a 'bachelor flat' at Culloden. An even more eligible bachelor than before we would think!

We quote Mrs. Cameron's (Margaret McGregor's) slip: 'To Hamish and Margaret (née MacGregor), a dog, Lassie. Neil and Alan delighted with new pal(!); father has his girl at last, and mother reports that potty training has met with mixed results. Life's full of little surprises!!' We nearly had it among the "Births"! Mrs. Chapman (Irene Edwards) writes "hoping to visit Granny in August, as we can't persuade her to visit us!" Thanks to Mrs. Chapman (Elizabeth McDonald) who sent another beautiful lot of N.Z. stamps. (Our G.P.O. could take a lesson in stamp design from New Zealand!) Elizabeth is to be home around the end of the year. Mrs. Fred Clark (Alison Ronaldson), now in Inverness, still misses Grantown, but is "glad to be able to return for election duty and see everyone in one day!" David Clark is moving back to Scotland after an interesting year spent in England with Marley Tiles. Mark Clark is currently doing a 9 months sandwich period as part of the H.N.D. in Agriculture, involved in the

and marketing. He cast a professional eye over our Sharpe's Express when he delivered his slip.

Adrian Cooke decided to do a round the world trip after a year of 'sard with everything in Kuwait'. He had a grand trip including a totally coincidental meeting with Alistair MacDonald in Sydney. He has at present his own consulting business in London but will probably go abroad again. George Coutts reports 'No Change'. Mrs. Irving (Wilma Cowan) writes that her family 'is now branching out and following in father's footsteps into the Forces. The oldest son has joined the Royal Engineers, and the middle son, the R.A.F. The youngest has now left school, and joined the ranks of the many youngsters hunting for that elusive job. We wish him speedy success.

August brought a nostalgic return to Grantown for Mrs. Craig (Dorothy Calder) the occasion being the wedding of her daughter Jane which brought back memories of her own wedding in the former South Church 25 years ago. We had a nice note from Mrs. Crichton (that's a new name for the list now!) which is what Lorna Forbes became on her marriage on June 9th to Aberdeen radiographer Murray Crichton. Mr. and Mrs. Cropp (Margaret Templeton) are both retired now, but still enjoy a busy life - voluntary work, golf, swimming, walking, bridge and travel of course. "Now retired" proclaims Duncan Davidson. We wish him good health and happiness. Mrs. Davidson (Margaret McBeath) from Dumfries was one of the first to return her slip.

Walter Dempster sent us a slip full of news last year, but it arrived even after Late News Extra was glued up! In it he reported contacts with Angus Mackintosh, Gordon MacGregor, Stephen Anderson and Campbell Rose. George Dixon wrote to say he had joined the Economic History Dept., Glasgow University as a Part-time Research Student adding 'whether anything at all will come of this connection remains to be seen.' Margaret Donald visited us with her slip and, as an enthusiastic aunt, gave us a run-down on the activities and interests of her sister Jean's girls, Jane and Julie. Our apologies to Fiona Donn for the belated despatch of her magazine last Christmas, especially as Fiona is one of our most conscientious correspondents! Daphne Duncan reports she is a 'Secretary with McDermott's, Ardersier' - not engaged in welding, as rumoured! Jane Dunlop is enjoying her nursing training in Inverness, and hoping to have a spell in the new Central Hospital once it is in operation. Clive Elick sent us a note on his driving school notepaper "Drive with Clive". He confesses to 'greying slowly' - driving instructors are no doubt more exposed to this than most folk!

Mrs. Robert Erskine (Michele Heawood) was married in July, but has continued her job with the Mobile Chest X-Ray-Unit. "Tried my hand at lace-making", wrote Mrs. Fearnley (Maureen Macaulay) "but I prefer golf!" Too many holes in the lace?? Mrs. Ferguson (Pamela MacDonald) wrote "Young son Christopher starts school this August so that's yet another milestone passed. Dad Tom feeling his age!" Although we tried unsuccessfully to marry George Findlay off to his bridesmaid in last year's issue, we present our apologies and we are glad to report he is still firmly married to his 'Miss Right.' They are both in Papua, New Guinea, George in telecommunications and Jane teaching in Port Moresby High School for a three year tour. Good luck to Alison Forbes who has taken up her first teaching post at the Duncan Forbes Primary in Culloden, having completed her B.Ed. this summer. Her sister Gill is into 2nd year of Commerce at Robert Gordon's, enjoying the course (and student life!).

Mrs. Forsyth (Nancy Gray) writes 'Thought we'd retired - we don't know what the word means!' Her myriad of activities include charity work, floral art, gardening, campaigning for the S.N.P. (far too effectively! - Ed.) - and lecturing on retirement! She is to be speaking on a B.B.C. chat show soon. Congratulations to David Fraser who was promoted to principal inspector of taxes in August 1983. Mrs. Fraser (Elsbeth Mitchell) has a daughter entering teaching this year in the Business Studies Department at Dingwall. She was also looking forward to another family gathering in August for

the wedding of brother Bill and Judy's daughter. Taking advantage of her residence in Germany, Shonagh George bought a new VW Golf and intended driving it home this summer. Andrew George is starting the final year of his Business Studies Degree in Edinburgh prior to "setting off into the big wide world...." We had a nice note from Mrs. Gordon (Ann Paton) despatched just before her husband and she set off for a fortnight in Majorca. Helen Gordon is now in Second Year Pharmacy at Heriot Watt University, while brother James reports 'just starting final year of my Ph.D. studying zeolites - no breakthrough yet, but working on it' - Courage men brave! Alison Grant is now in her third year as a student nurse at Bangour.

Mrs. Allan Grant (Margaret Telfer) is still Head Teacher at Tyrie School Fraserburgh. Computer buff Donald Grant has left I.C.I. and is now a programmer with Expert Software International in Edinburgh. Graham Grant called with his slip and told us of his being made redundant (along with 500 other employees of C.P. Ships.) We realised why he didn't seem bothered about not sailing the world any longer, when he also told us about the development of a serious relationship with a certain Shevaun from Dunfermline. Good luck in the job hunting Graham! Fiona and Shelagh Grant enjoyed holidaying in Chicago and London Ontario in June. The latter is still greatly enjoying working for British Midland Airways. Valerie Grant is still with the Civil Service in Edinburgh. New recruit Walter Grant has his own building company in Elgin, and Ed. Munro tells us Walter was responsible for the new Indoor Bowling Stadium there. A Nethy loon, he is also building a house at Craigmore for himself. Mrs. Greenwood (Mary Winchester) called in July after a holiday in the West. She brought news of Jock, who is pleased to get around a bit, as Winnie and daughter now drive the car. Mrs. Greig (Margaret Grant) has profited from her husband's 6 month stay in Torquay on business. She had had three holidays there, and was looking forward to a fourth! 'Enjoying retirement' reports Donald Gunn from Dingwall.

Of her son Mark Andrew born in October '83 Mrs. Hankinson (Mairi MacDonald) wrote on her Christmas card "when he gives me his big gummy grin I willingly forgive him the many hours of lost sleep he has cost me." God bless you Mum! Mrs. Harris (Kathleen Dunn) enjoyed a July holiday in Grantown meeting Mrs. Hollins (Maureen Gardner) and Mike Moir who were also home on holiday. Albert Hastings, still busy in his Gift Shop, has a new address in Nairn. Gillian Henderson is teaching part-time Manipulative Therapy in Western Australia besides practising in an out-patient department. Outdoor pursuits like wind-surfing, and camping occupy her leisure time. Peter Henderson continues to work with the Inland Revenue in Edinburgh. (See also marriages for the important news!)

Susan Hendry has acquired a spinning wheel (a left-over from the Spanish Civil War) and now spins a yarn on it which 'gives a wonderful texture to my weaving.' Otherwise her life seems to consist of fiestas and classes, punctuated by fairly regular visits from Mum, and Dad. Andrew Howlett has a new post as Assistant Company Secretary, Argyll Stores Limited and Duncan had no change to report. Congratulations to Mrs. Hunter (Fiona Henderson) on the birth of Rachel Anne in July. Tom Hunter reports a happy transition 'from orthopaedic surgeon to housekeeper and chef de cuisine.' His wife Terry has made a remarkable recovery' and Tom does a half day a local private hospital 'just to keep my hand in.' Edward Illingworth sent us a greeting from Newton Mearns. Marr Illingworth has taken early retirement and was home for two months holiday. He enjoyed a visit from Herbert and Shona Wright in the Spring. John Irving's son Keith, a keen B.B. member, was presented with the Queen's Badge by the Lord Lieutenant of Lancashire in June. Mr. and Mrs. Alistair Jack (Susan Archibald) have moved to Londonderry where Alistair has a new management post with 'Boots', and where they have found the schools have a greater emphasis on the 3 R's. than those in Leicester. Alister Jack had nothing to report from 'Twickers'. Dena Kelman is kept busy organising everyone else in the

Surgical unit of the Marsden Hospital!' She recently gained a Pet Dog Trainer's Certificate but 'the Kelman dogs don't seem to appreciate my paper qualifications,' says Dena. Mrs. Ker (Susan Mann) is 'enjoying seeing the other side of school work' as she now works part-time in the Careers Office. 'so between that, the children, a dog, a rabbit and a cat there is never a dull moment.' she adds.

Grace Kirk writes that she 'Enjoyed hearing about the happy Reunion Dinner and was sorry not to be with you. It's remarkable how "busy" retirement can be!' Mrs. R. Knopping (Ruth Mathieson) feels she has "no news that would add anything to the mag!" Mrs. Laing (Katharine Templeton) has a new address in Edinburgh. A nice letter from librarianship student Jill Lennon instructs us to send her mag. to her flat in Liverpool. Otherwise, she says, it is circulated with great ingenuity round the family and she doesn't see it for weeks! She has successfully completed the second year of her course, including a month in the research department of the city library. There was some mutual incomprehension due to the encounter between a Scots accent and the local lingo of "de Pool"! Mrs. Lewin (Edith Kyd) has a new post as Senior Administrator, Moben P.L.C. Mrs. Lilley (Jane Macaulay) wrote that she had not had a slip for two years, but then confessed she had moved without telling us - there's a moral there somewhere! Please see Jane's big news in the Births column. We enjoy her commonsensical comments on T.V. programmes in the Press and Journal. Mrs. Littlejohn (Elsie Young) writes 'We gave up pub tenancy 2 years ago. My husband now manages a pub, but I am not involved after illness last year. We now have a 1 year old grandson.' Mrs. Lugg (Jean Burgess) 'continues to live a busy life' in spite of the trying time at the turn of the year with the loss of both her sister and her husband. She was looking forward to a visit from Mr. and Mrs. McCurdy (Alice King). We quote Mrs. Lynch's (Pam MacPherson) slip: 'Enjoyed a sunny day in Grantown this summer - my first visit for almost twenty years. So many changes, but happily so much unchanged too. Best of all was a nostalgic trespass in the old school; father (Peter MacPherson) and I stood in the hall by the lectern, and I was again a small child, not tall enough to see over the top, stepping up to read the lesson at morning assembly.' Thank you for that fine evocation of a memory many must share. Simon Macaulay, whose degree of course was in French and Politics, has deserted the idioms and irregular verbs of the French classroom to plunge himself into the muddy waters of teacher politics as a field officer with the E.I.S. We wish you good luck Simon - there will certainly be plenty to do over the next year or two! Kenneth McCabe reports he is 'now retired and spent six wonderful weeks in Australia on holiday.' Fiona McCafferty is now a sister in the Gilbert Bain Memorial Hospital, Lerwick and enjoys a life full of ups and downs with air ambulance trips to Aberdeen and helicopter missions to the oil-rigs. Claire McCann has 'taken one year out of Art College and intends to go back in September to study graphic design' She has also been travelling in France and Tunisia.

'To return to Grantown after an absence of 18 years was quite a nostalgic experience. The town itself has not changed all that much and it was very pleasant to meet a few old friends again, particularly Mr. and Mrs. Donaldson' comments Mrs. McClelland (Beth Lawrence). Mrs. McCurdy (Alice King) is 'Enjoying retirement living on quaint and peaceful Cape Cod' but she misses the views of the Manhattan skyline from her old home in New Jersey. Letter writing is not on the agenda for Alistair MacDonald in Australia but he telephones home regularly - 'a trifle more expensive, but much more satisfying!' David MacDonald has 'retired' from his sea-going career and taken up a position ashore (Hertfordshire). He is now enjoying a proper home life with Marilyn and Rory. Marilyn enjoys the many sporting amenities in this new environment, 'but the three of us will miss the ski-ing in winter!' he adds.

We were glad to be back in touch with James Macdonald again, for whom we have had no address in the twelve years we have been responsible for the F.P. list. James has had a notable career in television, both with the B.B.C. and I.T.V., for whom he is currently Technical Controller of the Thames T.V. Studios at

Teddington. He writes: 'After very many years of Outside Broadcasts in the North of England and now in London latterly as Controller of Technical Operations (Mobile) I have left the fresh air and events like the Derby, the Cup Final, Royal Weddings, This is Your Life, for a more peaceful life with Benny Hill, Des O'Connor, CB,TV and dramas. The studios, on the river at Teddington Lock have a wonderful situation where, from the restaurant, you watch the boats going up and down stream, while, from my office in the summer, I can see cricket being played in the playing fields opposite.' James' wife has just been appointed an inspector of schools, after serving as head of a large Middle school. Welcome back! We note that Rev. Sandy Macdonald moved this year from St. Andrew's Paisley to Neilston Parish Church and we wish him a happy and successful ministry there. Since leaving Ghana, Stuart Macdonald, has spent the last two years in the Sudan, helping to 'channel water'. He came home in July to join wife Carol and daughter Karen, and await an addition to the family. Mr. and Mrs. John McGregor (Pat Lawrence) lead a busy life in Chelmsford. With the family grown up, Pat has accepted promotion in her school and is now i/c both the Library and the Music Department.

They holidayed in Cyprus this summer. After her marriage, Mrs. Ian McGregor (Annette Hogg) had just got established near Portsmouth when duty called Ian to Norway for a 2 - 3 year tour. They are now near Oslo. Douglas McInnes writes 'we added an extension to our house this year, but still found time for ski-ing in the Cairngorms, and we all enjoyed an Easter ski trip to Italy with a small group of older pupils.'

David McIntosh was still in Geneva working for the European Centre for Nuclear Research, but planned to move to somewhere new at the end of the year. His parents enjoyed attending his Ph.D. graduation celebrations in July. We send our congratulations too. Donald McIntosh sent a friendly greeting from Aberdeen. Mrs. McIntosh (Iris Forbes) and her husband were at the Garden Party at Holyrood this summer and bumped into former classmate Harry McGregor and his wife. Was it the year for the chemists at Holyrood this year we wonder? Randal McIntyre is still engaged as a self employed consulting engineer and accident assessor - 'interesting work' he writes 'but very few of my friends wish to see me on business!' Gilbert Mackay has moved to Jordanhill College of Education where he is a lecturer in Special Education.

Dr. Sandy Mackenzie is 'already looking forward to the next reunion' secure in the knowledge that he did his turn admirably as principal speaker, but we don't feel that precludes us from asking him to sing again! Mrs. Mackenzie (Jean MacLachlan) is now a proud grandmother of 3. She plans a trip home in 1986. We are glad to see Angus Mackintosh back on form after a serious illness last spring. He writes 'Managed to stagger round the inaugural Grantown Half-Marathon on 5th August, so convincing myself that the Grantown air has indeed put me on my feet again! Followed up by running the 10 mile road race at Nethy Games six days later! Fair proof of a return to fitness we think! (Incidentally Mike McCulloch won the latter and was second in the former: first-rate performances on his part.) Angus's mother, Mrs. Edith Mackintosh, was in good form when she visited Grantown with her sister in early summer. Bert Mackintosh has been coming to Grantown more frequently of late to visit his sister Bella at Nethbridge. Isobel Maclean continues her successful career in hotel management in Glasgow. Congratulations to Morven MacLean on her B.A. (Hotel and Catering Management). She has opted for another year of education and joins the Scottish Business School at Strathclyde to do a post-graduate course in office automation. Her 'sandwich' working periods were spent in St. John's College, Cambridge ('fantastic' she comments), London and Edinburgh. Mrs. McLeod (Elizabeth McGregor) is still in ever expanding Aviemore. Sandy MacLure has a new posting as Assistant Forester with the Forestry Commission in Fort Augustus. Raymond McMurray's big news is in the 'marriages' column of course - his best man, by the way, was fellow F.P. Charles Ross of Ballintomb. Raymond is at present doing elective studies in Newcastle and York. 'Retirement looms' writes Peter McNicol from

Canada, 'and I'm wondering where to anchor myself after 47 years at sea'. He still keeps in touch with Mrs. Squires (Isa Moyes) in Montreal. Peter McPherson had a memory of the Normandy battles of 40 years ago stirred by the ceremonies marking the anniversary - a nightingale singing in a lull during a fierce engagement as if underlining the contrast between peace and war. Alan McTaggart is now managing a Primary Industries Research Station in Biloela, Queensland, using his 'dour Scots nature to help maintain an even keel across a wide range of personalities.' He has plans to come 'up over' in 1986. Pamela Main is still enjoying life in London and has a new post at Guild Hall, City of London as a Personnel Relations Executive. In spite of the attractions of the City Lights she is happy to come home to Grantown and meet old friends. Retired schoolmaster John Milne still attends the annual 'Interskola' conference. This year nine nationalities were represented at Stirling University. Wishart Milne writes that he enjoyed the Dinner very much and is especially grateful to Jean Paterson 'who helped to identify so many people for me.' Mrs. Mitchell (Jan Templeton) 'thoroughly enjoyed the F.P. Reunion' and had her sister Margaret and husband (Mr. and Mrs. Paul Cropp) home from the States during September. Bill Mitchell reports on his visit to the Ryder Cup in Florida last year. He had a most enjoyable tour thereafter, following in the footsteps of Bobby Cruickshank and playing a few of the courses that Bobby played in the American Opens of yesteryear! Selsdon Park resounded to the pipes amid an invasion of kilted gentlemen in August for the wedding of daughter Anne (now also a qualified teacher). Son Stuart is off to Cambridge as well, to read Engineering, while Judy carries on teaching 'to keep me out of mischief'. Mike Moir has taken on another year as Hon. Secretary of the Hong Kong Rugby Football Union. 'Any visiting F.P.'s.' he writes 'are welcome to contact me.'

Jane Morris is 'currently running an Art Gallery in Bath, specialising in 17th century to 19th century oils and watercolours.' Shaw Mortimer had lots of news: son Allan and daughter Jacqueline both graduated, in Edinburgh and Aberdeen respectively. Jacqueline has since married, and is setting up home in Nairn. Allan (whose degree was a 'first' in Chemical Engineering) joins B.P. research division at Grangemouth. 'Life is full of variety' writes Anne Munro (Tormore). Having completed her research at Strathclyde, she is now a marketing cost controller with Heinz in Middlesex. Brother Ian is with McDermott's, Ardersier as a computer operator. 'Sam' Munro reports winning an indoor bowling cup in the new Elgin stadium and is grateful to new F.P. member Walter Grant for his part in building it. Jeannette Munro is 'always trying to catch up on gardening between frequent holidays' (your editor's ideal life-style that!). Jeannette, now secretary of Elgin South Women's Guild, meets lots of F.P.'s. through this kirk connection - Hamish and Barbara Templeton, Ed. Munro, Bill and Isobel Baird and Alice Clark (née Banks). Mrs. Andrew Murray (Maureen McMurray) is now in charge of non-sterile manufacturing at Ninewells Hospital, Dundee. Mrs. Murray (Ann Stewart) had an extended visit from brother James this summer as he was between assignments in Korea and Australia. James met up with Allan Grant in Sydney, and Mike Moir in Hong Kong on his travels, but has now bought himself a flat in Edinburgh so 'may be more home-based' soon.

Mrs. Murren (Fiona MacDonald) continues as a Staff Midwife in the Special Care Baby Unit, Raigmore. Of her spring visit, Betty Mutch writes 'the pièce de résistance was of course "the F.P.'s Biennial". I was just sorry that I did not have time to chat to more old friends. Better luck next time!' Mrs. Newbould (Rachel Smith) has closed up her Doncaster home for 6 months to come back to Grantown, as her husband has been posted for a tour in Port Stanley. Mrs. Notman (Mairi Paterson) is in a female surgical ward at Leith Hospital, as a staff nurse. She writes 'Our free time tends to be taken up with DIY and home improvements - with some help from JLP!' (i.e. Dad!). Ernie and Amelia Oakes are now well settled in Burchhead and are coming to terms with the idea they have a daughter doing Sixth Year Studies. (Pause while Editor comes to terms with the memory of Mum at that stage!).

Mrs. O'Connor (Dorothy Cameron) reports a meeting with Mrs. Ritson (Mina Keith) and Mrs. Cathers (Cathy Hogg) during a recent holiday in Canada, but regrets just missing Marr Illingworth for the third time. What about a date at the Biennial in 1986? (Many thanks for the nice photo. Ed.). Beatrice Oliphant's slip arrived betimes from Oxford where she is a midwifery sister. Mrs. Orford (Isobel Calder), now a 'grannie' of some nine months standing, is to be off to Canada to see 'Katy' for herself. 'I have a new position as Associate Director of Support Services for a home for young women in St. Petersburg (Florida)' writes Mrs. Parrott (Catherine Douglas). 'Main duties include fund raising and public relations - a far cry from my Diploma III in Domestic Science!' Ron Philip has taken a year's sabbatical from General Practice in Freeport to study Osteopathy in London. He saw Dr. Hugh Williams at the Open Golf, but missed Billy Mitchell. He adds, 'Raymond and Bob Philip's observation lounge overlooking the 18th Green is certainly the right way to see the Open!' Timothy Pott is now in his 2nd year at Falkirk Technical College doing Communication Studies, having passed the first year exams and spent the summer in France and Spain. If we understand Mrs. Rae (Mona Grant) aright, her slip is really a contented song of praise for the everyday. 'By the time I've helped out at Brownies, Guides, Anchor Boys (junior B.B.), attended parents meetings for school and organisations, delivered kids to karate, majorette meetings, been to playschool 3 mornings a week, helped at church jumble sales, coffee mornings, daffodil teas etc. attended committee meetings for this, that and the next thing, I find that I really don't have time for any outstanding events!' Bill Reid has 4 children now all at school, ranging from Pr. 1 to Sec. 1, so should be well abreast of current educational activities! He also has a new address. Shirley Robb writes 'now on my sandwich placement, in the accounts department of Marathon oil in Aberdeen'. She adds 'the free three course lunches at college go down a treat after 2 years of college canteen snacks!' Mrs. Robertson (Davis Thomson) and family had a memorable holiday in South Africa with Wilma Watt (Mrs. Gardiner). Wilma's elder daughter graduated B. Comm. in March and has a post with a computer firm. Wilma herself is busy setting up a Customers' Relations Service with a big store.

'Not yet retired!!!!' proclaims Jessie Ronaldson, whom we congratulate on the award of the Imperial Service Medal last February. Brother Michael and sister Alison complete the Ronaldson colony in Westhill, Inverness. Alex. Ross continues at Carter Street Police Station. Sorry we missed seeing Dorothy when she delivered the slip. Brother Walter continues as a Police Superintendent at Buckingham Palace, but would prefer more normal police work, we gather. Margaret Ross (Broomhill) sent a greeting from Glasgow. 'I did enjoy the F.P. Dinner. Here's to the next time and hopefully a classmate might be there!' writes Mrs. Scott (Alison Stuart). Contemporaries please note! Bill Sellar celebrated his 30th anniversary as a doctor in June. We wonder how many throats he has looked down in that time?? Mrs. Selman (Elise Kirk) had no fresh news from Edinburgh. Mrs. Shiach (Margaret Smith) reports that her husband has been appointed to Edinburgh Sheriff Court, so no longer needs to travel to Linlithgow.

Mrs. Shoesmith (Dr. Elizabeth Stuart) reports 'moved to our new home in Orkney, an old farmhouse in the country. Working as a full time locum, - island hopping round Orkney!' Kay Smith has reached three score years and ten but still feels 'in great form.' She has taken up rambling, amid a host of other activities, and boasts of an average 12 miles a day! We had a nice note from that other Mrs. Ian Smith (Janette MacDonald) who is delighted with her new daughter 'always laughing and gurgling to everyone.' Brother Stewart likes to help apply the powder etc. (and to keep his grand-parents on the hop!). John Smith (Burnfield) is now Senior Geophysicist for his company in Indonesia. He has had to master the local language 'which', he says, 'I have taken to much faster and more competently than I ever did for French'. The motivation for this, he declares, is 'exposure, necessity, and the beauty of Indonesian women!' Nuff said! Mrs. Louis Smith (Elspeth Gow) uses the

expressiveness of the Doric to sum up her year in the one word 'Chavin!'. Mrs. Spalding (Isobel Gunn) has suffered broken bones twice this year. The first accident caused her to miss the Dinner, and the second marred the celebrations for her son Neil's graduation (B.Sc. Eng. with First Class Hons. - Congratulations!) Neil joined B.P. at Dyce in September. Nick Spence reports he is 'still travelling around Europe a lot' in pursuance of his duties as Project Manager (Avionics and GW Test Systems). Mrs. Springall (Jessie Stewart) took care to send us her new address via Jean Paterson. Mrs. Squires (Isa Moyes), now one of our most senior members at 83, reports she is 'quite active and healthy yet.' She enjoyed visiting the 'Tall Ships' when they called at Montreal. Mrs. Storey (Barbara Smith) has moved from St. Albans to Thame near Oxford and joined a new sales promotion firm as a data controller.

Retired policeman Lachlan Stuart has a new job as a Housing Assistant with Moray District Council, Elgin. S.E.B. Examination Officer Neil Stuart has been heavily engaged in the Munn and Dunning developments, especially the new 'Craft and Design' venture. He fears now the effect of industrial action by teachers on his last two years' efforts. Alistair Surtees was to be off on a month's trip to revisit some of his 1940's haunts in Germany when he sent in his slip. Mrs. Sutherland (Elspit McIntosh) writes 'I am sitting outside the front door at the Garlyne, glorious sunshine, listening to the Altmore burn and this is pure bliss'. Hamish Templeton, now retired for six years, was looking well when he called with his slip in July. Rita and Billy Templeton wrote a nice letter with news of their eldest son's marriage and the graduation of their second son (Hons. French). Son No. 3 is in 6th year at Buckhaven High where of course Ian McGillvray is an assistant head. Mrs. Vickerman (Seonaid Grant) is now a Primary Teacher at the High School of Glasgow. We met a dapper looking Derek Walker earlier this year exercising his functions as Assistant Manager at the Gloucester Hotel, Aberdeen. Sister Fiona is enjoying 'life on the beat' and is close to completing 1 year's service as a W.P.C. stationed at Nairn. Mrs. Walker (Sherie Sutton) with 4 youngsters aged 6 and under lives a busy life, but still finds time to ski, to take up wind-surfing and to 'get the linguistic brain cells back in motion' doing Italian at evening classes. Mrs. Walsh (Rhona Cameron) still in Texas had a 3 month visit from her parents in early summer. The latter were delighted to see their grandsons, Ryan (4) and Craig (2). Later Rhona joined her oilman husband for a week or two in Venezuela. Jay Ward still (Just!) clings to a single figure handicap (9) but complains the skills of golf have an inverse relationship with his waistline. Anything to do with performance at the 19th? (Editor's speculation merely). We quote in full Mrs. Weston's (Sheina Donaldson) slip 'The social event of the year was definitely the F.P. Reunion. I very much enjoyed meeting again lots of old friends and contemporaries like Rita, Evelyn, Judy and Alison, Gordon, Sandy etc. It was well worth the special visit.' Even my English husband enjoyed it, ably supported by Adrian, Lorna's husband!!' Our thanks to Mrs. Wilson (Helen Scott) for her complimentary remarks about the magazine. Her parents (now retired in Portsoy) enjoy reading it too.

Mrs. John Wilson (Audrey Murray) is busy with her husband setting up home in a new flat near Old Aberdeen. Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Jock Winchester who celebrated their silver wedding in August. Barry Wood continues as a journalist with the Sunday Express in Glasgow. Brother Michael reports 'in the past year completed two marathons - Glasgow and Loch Rannoch, but recent exercise involves pushing a pram' - see births! Paddy Wood is still in Culloden. Alan Wright has joined Thomson McLintock in Aberdeen after graduating M.A. (Hons.) in July in Economics and Accountancy. Sister Alison is entering 2nd year Biological Sciences at Aberdeen University. We are grateful to John Wright who sent us some photographs of which we hope to make use this year. They were delivered to us by his brother-in-law Sandy Calder. We had news of Stanley Wright's doings in Frome from his father Jimmie who called on us while on a visit to his sister in Nairn in early summer.

NOSTALGIA CORNER



Paris - July 1971

Front row L - R: Maureen Wallace; Fiona McLean; Hazel Cant; Eileen Calder; Alma Campbell; Rhona Cameron; Rachel Smith; Mairi Paterson; Joan Taylor; Barbara Smith.

Second row: Fiona MacLennan; Wendy Stewart; Jean Miller; Catriona Johnston; Shirley Miller; Elizabeth Terris; Amanda Dunlop; Elizabeth McDonald; Margery Macaulay; Margaret McGregor; Susan Robertson; Rosemary Masson; Andrea Taylor; Janette Macdonald; Kirsty Cumming; Alison Hendry (and the portly chap is the Editor!).

Back row: Evelyn McMurray; Jane Macaulay; David Wasilenski; Susan McGillivray; Mike McCulloch; Garry Rattray; Georges Lecoutre (bus driver); Iain Brown; Mrs. Smith; Mrs. Cameron; Sheila Neilson; Mrs. Calder; Shona George; Lesley Calder.

Picture taken by Mr. Jack Cameron (the then Principal Technical Teacher).



We are grateful to John (Bertie) Wright who sent us this picture of a play rehearsal in the Old School hall in the '40's. From L. to R. we think we have identified: Marion Grant; Marion Mortimer; John Stephen; John Wright; Mary Tulloch; (?); Donald McIntyre; (?); Constance McKerron; (?); May McWilliam; Marjory McIntosh; Marie Wright; Alistair Jack; Sandy Gordon.

In front L. to R. Gordon Smith; Hugh Tulloch; Ian McIntosh.

We would welcome corrections or further details for future publication.

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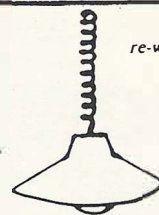
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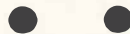
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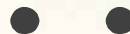
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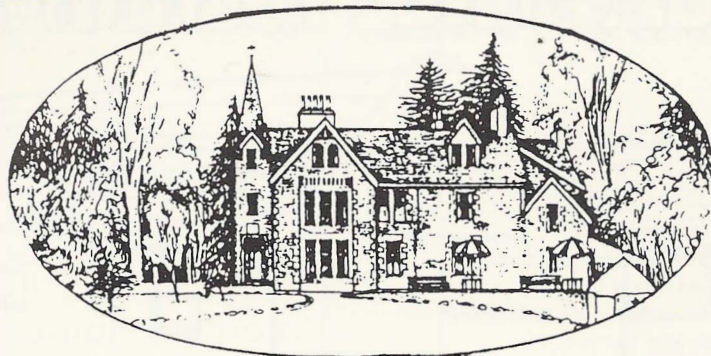
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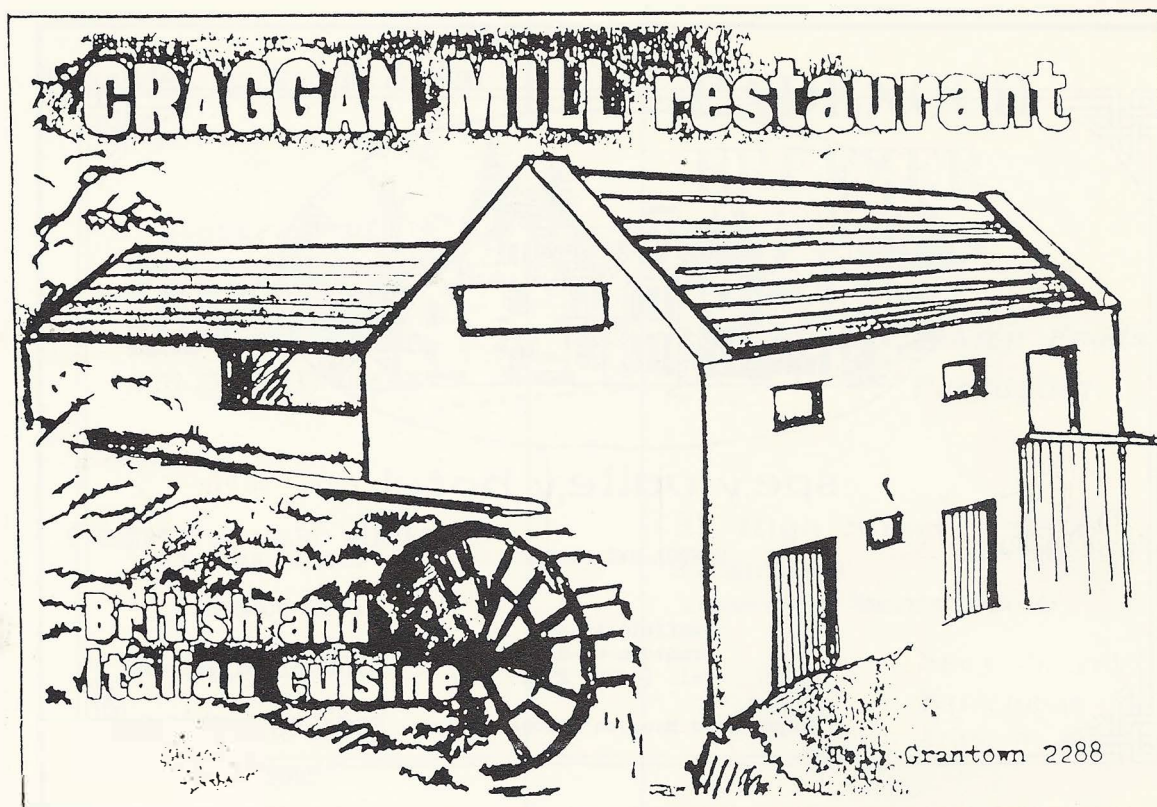
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Grantown-on-Spey**

Best for every occasion!



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CROMDALE

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"COUNTRY INN"

BAR LUNCHES AND SNACKS
DINNER PARTIES CATERED FOR - MAXIMUM 25
BASKET SUPPERS - EVERY EVENING

Your hosts Margaret & Mike Heawood

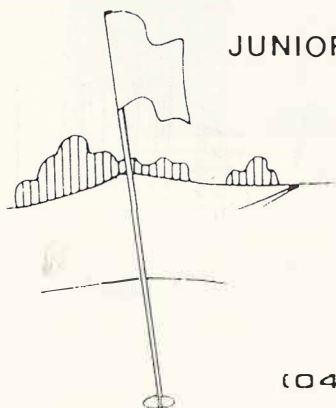
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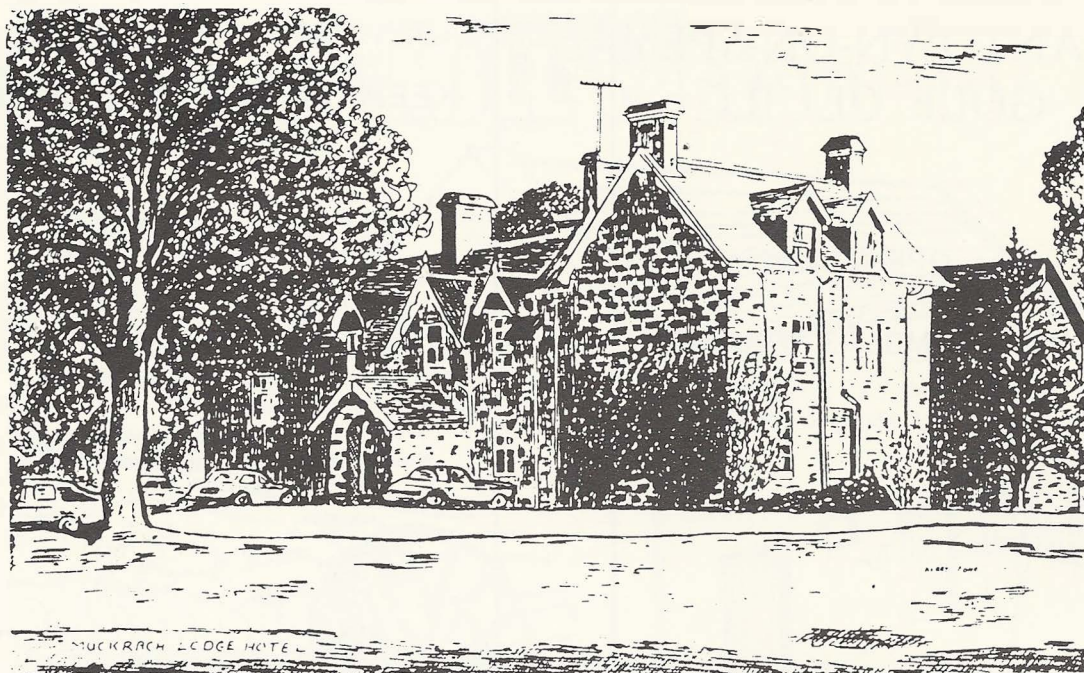
*You will receive a warm welcome when you come
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SWAROVSKI CRYSTAL, HEREDITIES COLD
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PAINTINGS to suit all pockets!

FOR GIFTS TO TREASURE



Muckrach Lodge Hotel



This former shooting lodge is located in ten secluded acres in the beautiful Dulnain Valley which lies between Granttown-on-Spey and Aviemore. The Dulnain is a tributary of the Spey and both rivers are famous for their salmon and sea trout.

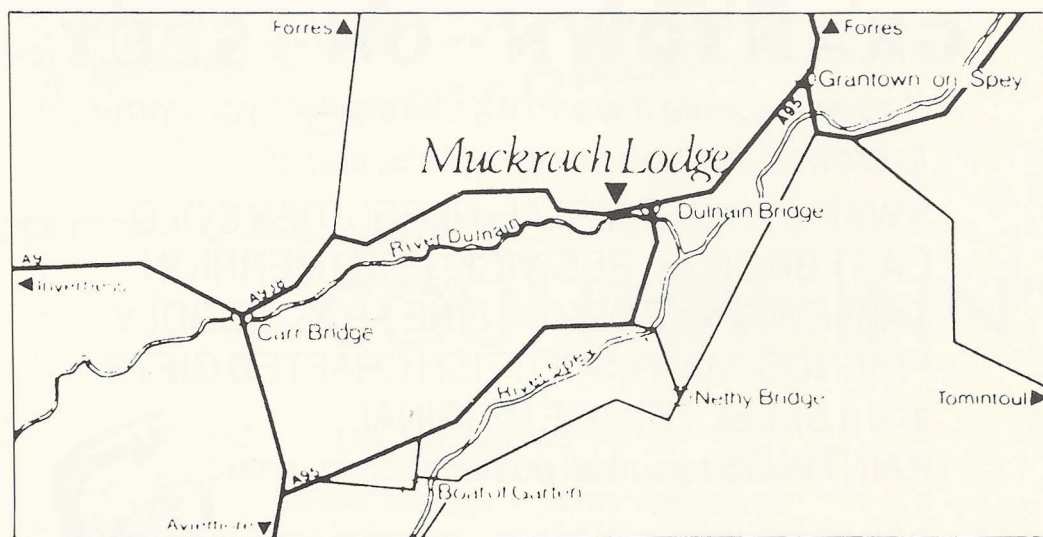
The whole area abounds with wild life of every description - peewits, oystercatchers, curlews and buzzards together with all the game birds are but a few of the frequent visitors to the Hotel grounds as are the timid roe deer and the capricious red squirrel.

Sportsmen have an unparalleled choice of activities - Game fishing and shooting; hill-walking, skiing and climbing in the Cairngorms; ice skating, curling and swimming at Aviemore; pony trekking and riding; golfing on the four courses within five miles of the hotel.

We are confident the Gourmet will enjoy our six course CORDON BLEU dinners and the wines from our extensive cellar.

If you wish 'just to take it easy,' the log fires and the welcoming and friendly atmosphere of this fully centrally heated, family run hotel will ensure the success of your holiday.

The hotel is open throughout the year.



Dulnain Bridge, Granttown-on-Spey, Morayshire PH26 3LY

Telephones: Office - Dulnain Bridge 257 Guests - Dulnain Bridge 286

Resident Proprietors: Kerry and Babs Fone, Jerry and Lesley Ogilvie



Personally, I only
bought it for the free
"Meat Loaf" poster!

