

FORMER PUPILS' SECTION



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 Mrs. JOHN GRANT. Mr. J. SHAND; Mr. J.R. STUART.

President - Mr. LEWIS GRANT, M.A.

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Secretary and Treasurer - Mr. J.R. SMITH, M.A.

editorial

The final stages of the magazine are being completed at breakneck speed this year. In fact we are aiming to finish it and distribute it if possible before the Biennial Dinner. We hope the quality will not suffer too much, and crave the indulgence of our readers, pleading the nicest sort of extenuating circumstances. You see the presence of your editor and his secretary/typist/spouse is required in Doncaster as they are due to become grandparents again around the date of the Dinner, (15th April) and the father of the baby is unavailable, having been sent off on a course by an unthinking Air Force!

But to business! At the A.G.M. of the Clubs last autumn we welcomed Ian Macpherson to the office of Honorary President for the now customary two year term, and we wish him a happy tenure of office. He follows of course his cousin, John Stuart, who completed his term at the A.G.M.

Both these gentlemen were greatly involved for many, many years with the Fishing Club which is meantime in abeyance, and because of this, the handsome Old Guard Trophy has been handed over to the School for safe-keeping, and is now displayed in the Dr. Bain memorial cabinet. We take this opportunity of expressing the gratitude of the Clubs to John Stuart in particular for the time he devoted to the running of the Fishing Club competitions, and for all the financial help the Fishers have given to the Clubs over the years.

Still on the subject of finance, we were pleased at the A.G.M. to be able to increase our annual contribution towards School Prizes from £50 to £70. This was due to the continued generosity of our members in sending donations with their magazine orders, and also to the extremely favourable terms of use of the photocopier which the Rector has allowed us for the production of the magazine.

We are delighted to be able to feature contributions from two members in this issue, namely Miss Mariel Grant and Mrs. Netta Booth. It was George Dixon, ever attentive to the historical perspective, who drew our attention to the fact that Miss Grant's connection with the School now dated back over 60 years and suggested she be asked to contribute an article. Netta's contribution takes us back to the early days of World War 2 and the arrival of the evacuees. That must have been quite an upheaval, with consequences lasting right through till to-day, as Miss Grant also demonstrates.

We hope you enjoy your magazine. Please keep sending in those well filled slips. We enjoy cobbling them together!

I.S.

* NEW RECRUITS *

We welcome as new members this year Mrs. Beckett (Carol Stuart), the daughter of John and May Stuart, who is now a "special measures" teacher in Huddersfield and Shona Fraser who has just commenced Nursing training at Dundee College.

* BIRTHS *

We offer congratulations on the following "happy events":

in August a son to Felix and Susan Pacheco (née Hendry), a son to Mandy and Flt. Lieut. Willie Dobson, and a son to Allan and Sandra Callum (née Paterson); in September a daughter to John and Audrey Wilson (née Murray); in October a son to James and Diane Shand (née Matthew), and a daughter to Garry and Rosemary Rattray (née Masson); and in November a son to Peter and Ann Perk (née Stuart) in Ontario; in March a daughter to Stuart and Amanda Farquhar (née Munro).

Congratulations and Best Wishes to the following on their marriages:

- in January (1987) - Squadron Leader Janet Dixon, R.A.F. Nursing Service and Peter Jones.
- in April - Shonagh George and Sergeant Richard Dunn, R.A.F. Gatow, Berlin.
- in May - Lorraine Gordon and Frank Peet from Dundee.
- in June - Harry MacGregor and Louise McIver (nee Collyer); Malcolm Smith and Samantha Pettifer and Elizabeth Wallace and Stuart Young from Giffnock.
- in July - Sheila McCulloch and Stephen Drumm from Dublin.
- in September - Graham Grant and Siobhan Coulter from Dunfermline; David Clark (now of Aboyne) and Sheonaid MacGregor; Sandy McCook and Marion Miller of Galashiels; Ian Munro and Alison Conaghan of Inverness and Derek Walker and Catherine Gordon of Methlick.
- in November - Tom Hunter and Roma Sibley of Hornchurch.

and to the following on their engagements:

Lesley Craib who celebrated her 21st birthday in April 1987 by becoming engaged. Her fiancé is Corporal John Meehan of R.A.F. Kinloss.
John Calder who became engaged to Kirknewton lass Carolyn Boak in July 1987.
Jane Morris who became engaged to Hew Hamilton-Dalrymple of Leuchie, North Berwick in October 1987.
Valerie Dewar who became engaged to Aubrey Moore of Lhanbryde in March 1988.

H.M. Services

"It seems funny leaving Grantown to find snow!" comments John Clark on the surprisingly mild winter we have had. Now promoted to Major, John is serving with the British Outward Bound Centre, Kristiansand, Norway.
Flight Lieutenant Willie Dobson writes: "Now 6 months into the joys of fatherhood with a son called Michael." He continues - "We are moving soon to the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst where I will be the R.A.F.'s sole representative in a sea of khaki!"
Now in his second year with the Phantom Squadron at Leuchars, Archie Liggat has been on detachments to Germany, Cyprus and the Falklands, but says most of his flying is done at night over the North Sea. Recently he ferried a replacement Phantom to Ascension involving several in flight refuelling rendez-vous.
Younger brother Andrew who is with the R.A.F. Regiment had to undergo serious eye operations when a routine eye check showed he had glaucoma. The early diagnosis and successful surgery have fortunately combined to assure him of excellent long term prospects, and the last we heard of him was he was on leave and skiing in France.

David Ross is in sunny Oman with the Sultan's parachutists. He writes: "Now I appreciate how Sheena McIntosh and Shona McDougal felt going back to college. The R.A.F. sent me on a 10 week Arabic Language Course last year. Still have not decided which was most taxing at 50+ - learning Arabic or board sailing. The weather here has tempted me into the skies again with those "square" parachutes."

* SWIMMING CLUB MEMBERS *

Andrew Anderson; Linda Archibald; Linda Beveridge; Dorothy Bruce; James Calder (Jnr.); Wendy Calder; Linda Cameron; Heather Cruickshank; Calum Fraser; Ian Fraser; Margaret Fraser; Carol Grant; Irene Grant; Colin Gray; Glenda Lawson; Colin McLean; Gwen Morrison; Amelia Oakes; Ernest Oakes; Neil Paterson; John Rennie; Diane Shand; Marie Shand; Linda Sim; Lisi Sinclair; Edna Smith; Diane Thomson; Margaret Masson (Secretary).

Obituary

Former member of staff MRS. BEATRICE DIXON (née Reid) who died last August, will be remembered gratefully by many former pupils and by the many Grantonians who came into contact with her through the various organisations in which she served during her sixty years in Grantown.

A native of Aberdeenshire and an Aberdeen University graduate, she taught in the Grammar School from 1927 till her marriage to the late Hamish Dixon in 1933. She served the community well in many spheres: as the town's first Cub Mistress, as a Sunday school teacher, as a town councillor and as a founder member of the Townswomen's Guild.

Her effectiveness as a teacher was proved by the outstanding success of her pupils, particularly in handwriting skills, and the editor can testify to her continued sharpness of mind as she tackled German at an evening class in the languages laboratory when well into her seventies.

To her son, George and her daughters Janet, Louise and Lesley we send the sincerest condolences on behalf of the Clubs.

We also send sincere sympathy to the Hamilton family who lost their mother last May and to Mrs. Hollins (Maureen Gardner) who lost her mother in December. Both these deaths moved the whole community through their startling suddenness.

Our condolences go out also to the Anderson family (late of Ravenscourt) who lost their father in February 1988 and to Hugh Mackintosh who also lost his father in August 1987.

We have borrowed a title from the world of the film-makers for the following contribution from our good friend Muriel Grant, one of the major figures in the history of the School:

60 GLORIOUS YEARS!

I started my teaching career in Grantown just over 60 years ago, arriving in August 1927 on the same day as the new Rector, Thomas Hunter, and Bob Wilson whose first appointment here was for classics. Of course we were then all in one school building - now the Grantown Primary - with incoming pupils of 11+ (should they wish to have Secondary education) from surrounding one - two - or Three teacher schools.

At that time there was rail service between Forres and Boat of Garten and up Speyside to Boat of Garten so pupils arriving by train had to make their way from Grantown East or West stations - there were two in those days - to the G.C.S. hopefully in time for morning prayers!

A staff photograph shows the Rector surrounded by 7 Primary teachers - one for each class - and 5 Secondary teachers; not shown were the 'visiting' P.E. lady from Elgin who came once a week, the Cookery and Needlework lady who came from Forres on two days and a Woodwork gentleman who came on the same two days from Elgin. The greatest difficulty for the Rector at the end of 1927 was that there was no School Secretary in the G.C.S. and in addition to being head of Maths. and also of Science he had all Registration returns to complete on a Friday before being free to go home.

I had been appointed to assist in the Science and Maths. departments and also to be responsible for the Art of Sec. 1, 2 and 3. The Rector, himself a Science/Maths. man decided that I should do all the Chemistry while he did the Physics, and that in Maths. he would do all the Geometry and we'd share the other Maths. subjects. Now in a Chemistry class one often requires to use heat and Calor Gas had not yet appeared. Gentle heat came from glass containers holding methylated spirits and strong heat by the use of four evil-looking blowlamps. I was absolutely terrified. Happily help was at hand in the Senior Chemistry class and Jim Bruce of Sec. 4 lit the blowlamps for me when required; little did he know that my terror was centred on the possibility that Jim was any minute going to be minus one - or possibly two hands.

There was a new head of English, James K. Robertson, who produced some delightful dramatic work; sadly he left us to study for the Church of Rome and Norman Morrison took his place as English head so happily our School seniors continued to delight everyone with their efforts on stage. Kathy Ross whose home was in Nethy Bridge was head of French, sharing her assistant with the English department. The obvious leaders on Staff in 1927 were Edith Lawson whose home was in Grantown, who was always willing to escort pupils to Elgin for matches, and Hetty Gray from Boat of Garten who had a kindly and thoughtful welcome for all young newcomers to the Staff. About this time a young graduate from Aberdeenshire, Beatrice Reid, came to teach in the Primary Dept., and spent most of her life in the town as Mrs. Hamish Dixon.

In 1933 two Peggys joined the Staff, Peggy Legge to teach Infants, and Peggy Fraser as head of Science. This allowed the Rector more time for Maths. with myself sharing Maths. and still doing Sec. 1, 2 and 3 Art. There was no specialist Art teacher until many years later. (1957 in fact with the arrival of Rob Liggat. Ed.)

The middle and late 'thirties' proceeded quietly and then came the shock of War, with influx of official evacuees from the Edinburgh area, and private ones from all over the country. Not all evacuees went back at the end of the War, and I can think of one who stayed and built a home in which he now lives on the outskirts of Grantown. He drives for the W.V.S., takes friends around who have no car, and in any time left over after that, he grows superb specimens to show at the "Horticultural" - of course you have guessed - it's Archie! (Ballantine for the uninitiated. Ed.)

48 YEARS ON!

by Mrs. Guthrie Booth (Netta Hunter).

In 1940 South Africa seemed a world away from Grantown-on-Spey and Aultcham Farm where Ruth Mathieson and her sister Heather lived while evacuated during the last war. Ruth now lives in that distant country of South Africa and has done so for some years since moving from Zimbabwe. She is now Mrs. Edgar Knopping, and I have corresponded with her for the last 48 years though I had not seen her during all that time!

Imagine my surprise, therefore, when I received a phone call from her in September from Pitlochry. She, husband Ed. and sister Heather were enjoying a month's holiday in Scotland, revisiting some of Ruth's old friends and places of former interest. With my husband Guthrie and myself at our home here in Grantown-on-Spey they spent an afternoon which proved to be a very happy one full of nostalgic memories! It gave us great pleasure to be able to transport them to Aultcham Farm, and their eagerness to visit it and their delight in seeing it again was very obvious.

It was with regret we said our goodbyes at Aviemore, and as they boarded their southbound bus we promised to continue our long-standing correspondence.

Yet another F.P. exile had "returned to the fold", which illustrates well the enduring friendships which developed from these unforgettable days.

News

from the Outposts

We have moved Debbie Allan to the Local list as she now lives mainly at home while working at the Renal Unit Raigmore. Sister Susan has begun training as a nurse at Ninewells Hospital, Dundee where Debbie already served. Our slip must have reached Dr. Jimmie Allan on a good day. He describes himself as "like vintage port - improving with age!" "Nothing original to say" writes Mrs. Allan (Mona McLean) contentedly "just glad to be alive and fit to bowl and walk the southern upland paths." Michael Anderson (formerly of Ravenscourt) has recently qualified as a Chartered Accountant and just taken up a new job in Aberdeen. Congratulations and best wishes. Ed. Bruce Bain is "Busy in the new job." He has left Dunlop and is now Yugoslavian Director for Rank Xerox. He is "over in London quite frequently and hopes to arrange an occasional long weekend in Scotland. Family all well." Mrs. Banks' (Lorna Stephen) family is growing up - one getting ready for G.C.S.E. and the other in 3rd year. "Presently working for Monaco based company - 'Transocean Maritime', and running up an extortionate phone bill" writes Merchant Navyman Iain Beange. Fortunately his globe-encircling travels are due to be interrupted soon when he comes back to Scotland to work for his master's ticket. Of her son Paul James, born last year, Mrs. Brazendale (Evelyn McMurray) writes: "Although he was born in England, will be brought up as a true Scot!" "Still travelling!" writes Mrs. Brocklehurst (Margaret McWilliam) "have just returned from a trip to Singapore and Malaysia, now off to Cyprus for January and February to escape the winter!" Did I hear someone murmur something about retired teachers and the life of Riley? Other teachers know you work hard for it!

Sandy Calder, still in Inverness, had "Nothing new to report." Gillies Campbell has a new post as Standard Grade Curriculum Development Officer for Lothian Region. He waxed poetical about it: "A travelling person come of age
I hawk around my Standard Grade
Selling to upwardly mobile peers
Who crash their way up through the gears
While older colleagues play it cool.
Have you ever seen anything NEW in school?"

Norman Campbell is (reluctantly we think!) putting football on the back burner this year as he tackles the final year of his civil engineering degree in Aberdeen. Mrs. Chapman (Irene Edwards) says her husband Ralph and she are "now struggling with French pronunciation etc. and trying to dredge forgotten vocabulary from our memories!" but she admits "the maths and science defeat me!" This is because their elder daughter started secondary education last September! They hope to be here in August for Amelia and Ernie's Silver Wedding. We were delighted to receive a beautiful "first day cover" from Mrs. Chapman (Elizabeth McDonald) in New Zealand. Somehow her last two slips had not reached her so she was in the dark about the difficulties regarding the production of school magazines since the teachers' strike. We hope her copy of the F.P. magazine will make it to the other side of the world. In fact our experience of the postal services is that they are generally marvellously reliable - though there is bound to be the odd exception. Elizabeth and her husband hope to be in the U.K. in June and July this year.

Allan Chisholm did a great job in bringing us up to date on the Chisholm clan. Douglas, still in Aberdeen, has moved house to Fountainhall Road, Duncan and his wife Shena paid a flying visit to Scotland in February, visiting Mrs. Chisholm (senior) and Douglas in Aberdeen before flying off back to Ontario. Allan himself is also to move house, but only 100 yards along the road! Allan's firm (Bredero) are to have a new shopping centre in St. Albans opened by Princess "Di" in April. He reports "a most enjoyable time reminiscing" spent last autumn with David and Betty Davidson whom they had not met for many years.

Finally reconciled to her move to Inverness Mrs. Clark (Alison Ronaldson) is as busy as ever as W.R.V.S. Projects Organiser at Raigmore Hospital. She enjoys "meeting Grantown people when they are unfortunate(!) enough to have to visit the hospital." She met the Duchess of Kent on her visit to open the Scanner and found her charming and very easy to talk to. She also recently did a Home Study Course for O Grade English and passed with a top Grade "A". David Clark can be forgiven for the late return of last year's slip. He wrote: "Moved to Edinburgh January '87, taking up a new appointment as sales manager with Marley Roof Tiles. Will be married to Sheona MacGregor (a fellow F.P. of course!) on 5th September." That future tense is now past, the marriage taking place in Inverallan in September last. Congratulations! Mark Clark seems to be living a full life in the Mearns. He is an Agronomist with Grampian Growers, a farmers co-operative selling bulbs to Holland and other European countries, potatoes to North Africa (and strawberries to two Royal Weddings!) He is also Vice-Chairman of Fettercairn Young Farmers and an active member of Montrose and District Round Table. Mrs. Cowan (Wilma Irving) and family are delighted at the arrival of a granddaughter. "Nice to have a girl in the family" she writes, "having had 3 sons ourselves." (Special congratulations to Mrs. Irving on her first great grandchild and kindest regards. Ed.)

Lesley Craib, who graduated M.A. last year, is just completing Primary teacher training and is busy applying for posts. Best wishes for a successful outcome. Thank you for the Christmas greetings to Mrs. Craig (Dorothy Calder). Mrs. Crichton (Lorna Forbes) still enjoys working as a secretary in the Personnel Department at Woodend Hospital, Aberdeen "despite the changes in the N.H.S." Literally immersed in his work Iain Cumming writes: "I have now left the Deep Sea Trade and am working in the Brae Field of the North Sea. Recently promoted to Captain/Offshore Installation Manager on the Ocean Nomad, a semi-submersible drilling rig." His wife (Fiona Ledingham) continues working part-time as a Community Occupational Therapist for Lothian Region. Jane Morris (as she then was!) "Returned in July 1987 from 8 months travelling in U.S.A., Hong Kong, China, Malaysia, Thailand, Burma and northern India." and became Mrs. Hew Dalrymple in December. Thanks to Mairghread and Jim Davies who sent Christmas greetings from Bromley. Duncan Davidson checked in as usual from Ayrshire. George Dixon deserves the credit for suggesting the magazine should contain an article by Miss Mariel Grant. The editor thought "What a good idea!" and phoned Woodberry immediately!

Thanks to Margaret Donald for a nice newsy letter. Like so many other senior people in the N.H.S. she is unhappy with the present state of the service. She is now Senior Nurse at the Western Ophthalmic Hospital in N.W.1. She spent Christmas with her sister Jean whose daughters are now grown up. "I'm currently staffing in Ward 1A, Raigmore, but commence my midwifery training at the end of February 1988" writes Jane Dunlop. She goes on "Also planning to get married at the end of October 1988, after a 3 year engagement to William Chisholm from Inverness. Manage to get home frequently on my days off and still enjoy my skiing on Cairngorm, despite the adverse skiing conditions and the crowds!" Clive Elrick is still in Elgin but had no further news. Mrs. Amanda Farquhar (née Munro) who has moved from Dundee to Ellon writes: "Much has happened in the last year - new status - that of housewife and future mother, new home, new friends and picking up again with my old ones of midwifery training days." Her baby is due on our magazine deadline date (15th March) so we may manage to publish details in this issue. Mrs. Fearnley (Maureen Macaulay) is "still doing supply teaching in between dog walking, golfing and 'ferrying' kids here and there. I thought it would be easier when they got older!" She sends best wishes for the Dinner and hopes to make it next time. "Mum and Dad out in Australia visiting little brother (Alistair). Have been there since November and won't be back till beginning April. Hoping to miss the worst of the winter, which of course has not materialised yet." wrote Mrs. Ferguson (Pamela MacDonald). She goes on: "Husband Tom is having trouble with militant staff at the moment (Edinburgh Royal Infirmary Catering Dept.) as for myself I'm enjoying my job on the University's Research Park, with a private Biotechnology Company."

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Apprentice Grannie Mrs. Fraser (Elspeth Mitchell) writes: "All my spare time is taken up with my first grandchild - a little girl. As my daughter, her husband and little girl live nearby I see quite a lot of them, which is nice for me!" (A happy situation which we confess to envying! Ed.)

"I am currently starting out on a new career in Insurance Broking" writes Mrs. Glasse (Pamela Main). "On 30th March my husband Henry and I will be going to Chicago for 4 months to work with an American Broking House." We wish Bon voyage and all success. We wish Mairi Gordon well in her new job as she changes status from "local" to "exile" with her move to Edinburgh as a medical secretary at the Royal Infirmary there. Sister Helen also has a new address in Edinburgh, while brother James is still with B.P. in the South. "Settling down well to married life here in the Riviera of Easter Ross" (= Invergordon!) reports Graham Grant. "Recently joined the Royal Naval Auxiliary Service (Dad's Navy) and enjoy playing the part of Weekend sailor with the Service on the Clyde - haven't spotted a Russian Sub yet!" Civil servant Valerie Grant has a new address in Edinburgh. Judging from the post-code it must be pretty central! Walter Grant puts his enthusiasm for Clan Grant affairs to practical use. Now U.K. Chairman of the Society he was instrumental in saving Duthil Church from falling into ruin and is now busy fund raising to establish a small museum there. Mrs. Greenwood sent good wishes from Todmorden - and apologies for forgetting to return last year's slip.

"Still enjoying retirement" remarks Donald Gunn contentedly. "This August I'll be on the other side of the fence" being a parent! writes teacher Mrs. Ronald Harris (Kathleen Dunn) as it is then that her daughter Jill, who started nursery school last August, will be starting school proper. Amid those biting frosts of December (weren't they wicked this year,) we envied Albert Hastings' address in the milder clime of Nairn! A request to Gillian Henderson for some news produced a plentiful result in the form of a computerised circular letter. The item which stood out amid the details of yacht racing in sunny Fremantle, was of course, her whirlwind romance and forthcoming marriage to ecologist Dr. Richard Hobbs, a fellow exile Scot, to take place in Nethy Bridge in May. Peter Henderson has a new post with British Gas in Livingston. Ian Herd writes as follows: "Since April I've been on the year's Industrial Training part of my Business Studies Course working in a company in Southern Germany. I finish at the end of March, then it's back to College for the 4th and final year." We wish you all success! "I visited Grantown briefly in early August 1987 but was staying in Kingussie" writes John Holmes from Australia. "The U.K. traffic is rather hectic these days, however we coped. The Highlands were lovely, but many, many changes!" "My husband John is working for the British Linen Bank and I am a Social Worker with Lothian Region finding Respite Care in Families for children who are handicapped" writes Mrs. Hunter (Piona Henderson). Tom Hunter, who remarried last November, plans to attend the Dinner with his wife Roma. We look forward to seeing them. He is also in the process of moving house.

We enjoyed reading Grace Kirk's vote of confidence in the enduring charms of Grantown! "With the passing years my link with Grantown past seems to strengthen. My annual trip North always includes a fleeting visit and a nostalgic wander into places remembered, sometimes recognised, sometimes not. In spite of the inevitable changes in people and places, the marvellous accessibility of hills, river and woods remains unchanged - special memories indeed!" "Netta Booth and her husband made us so welcome, and we had a most enjoyable and amusing time together, evoking memories, memories and more memories." Thus writes the Mrs. Knopping (Ruth Mathieson) mentioned in Netta Booth's paragraph "48 years on". Mrs. Laing (Katherine Templeton) continues to work as a Community Midwifery Sister based at the Eastern-General Hospital in Edinburgh. Mrs. Laing (Lindsay Wood) reports she is now "Sales correspondent with Finning Ltd., Bridge of Don, Aberdeen. (Northern Dealers for Caterpillar Equipment)." We spotted our P. and J. journalists features: writer Mrs. Lilley (Jane Macaulay) and photographer Sandy McCook in the pictures when the paper recently did a special report on itself and its staff. We continue to admire the

quality of the work done by the P. and J. with its acceptable mix of national and local news. Jane herself writes: "Son Andrew started nursery school (Walker Dam) in September - and finds himself in the same class as Alastair Matheson (son of Roderick). At work I'm coming to terms with the new technology and finding it more fun than expected - remember our German class trying out the new language lab?" Yes indeed - we remember the engineer's course of instruction on the Console too: "Just play with it and see what it will do! We have tried to make it teacher-proof as well." Brother Simon continues in his post as an E.I.S. field officer. "Having seen all I want of tropical climates, my next holiday will be to Iceland!" writes Mrs. Lugg (Jean Burgess). "We hope that, by May, the weather should be kind to us." At her home in Stranraer the crocuses have been in bloom since New Years Day! Butler Colin McBain has been enjoying the high life, working for a merchant banker. He lives in a Georgian masterpiece rented from the National Trust and has attended Royal Ascot, Henley, Glyndebourne etc. However the hurricane which hit the south recently proved to be something of a leveller, rendering the family "roofless, treeless and powerless!" Mrs. McIver (Elizabeth McBeath) who is still in Connell, reports that she keeps in touch with Mrs. Irving (late of Kirkton Cottage) and Mrs. Lugg (Jean Burgess) in Stranraer. Congratulations to former Head Girl Claire McCann who graduated B.A. from Glasgow School of Art last year. She has moved south to London to work as a graphic designer. "Sorry, nothing to report this year" apologises Mrs. McClelland (Elizabeth Lawrence) from Port Glasgow.

"Having been repatriated now for three years" writes Derek McCulloch who was previously in the oil business in Holland, "it looks as if the youngsters (Caroline and Craig) may develop Scottish accents after all!" A fine newsy slip from Mrs. David Macdonald (Marilyn Oliphant) ran as follows: "David is still with the B P Shipping. A recent change of job has curtailed his worldwide travels - no more nights out with Mike Moir in Hong Kong, meantime. Marilyn is enjoying life as a school secretary at a secondary school close to Stansted Airport. Now I know what Evelyn went through! Rory is about to change to a secondary school - time flies! Met up with John Campbell (ex Carrbridge), who now also lives in Bishop's Stortford. Also delighted to meet Mhairi Frazer on the ski slopes at Easter. She had returned from Canada for her parents' Ruby Wedding..." "On 5th February last I retired" writes James MacDonald. "It was not a bit traumatic and the send off was tremendous. A few days later I took my grandson to the Natural History Museum. I was told that as a "Senior Citizen" I could get in half price. Then I did feel old!" We have no doubt the thrifty Scotsman in James soon overcame these feelings! That's our experience anyway! We are glad to have an up-to-date address for Ian MacGillivray and thus be back in touch with him, thanks to one of his pupils conveying our slip to him. We noted from the Strathie that Falklands veteran Petty Officer Ian McGregor, R.N., the husband of Annette Hogg, had received special commendation from an American Admiral for his radio operator work in a NATO exercise.

"I must be getting there by "degrees!" quips Gordon MacGregor on the award of his F.E.I.S. In fact it marks more than two decades work as secretary of East Perthshire E.I.S. branch, followed by four as secretary of the Perth and Kinross branch. Gordon has been headmaster of Alyth High School for 17 years. Donald McIntosh sent his good wishes to us from Aberdeen. Kevin Mackenzie has moved from Anatomy to the Department of Plant Sciences, Aberdeen where he is now in charge of the Biological Sciences Electron Microscopy Facility, Old Aberdeen. He also has a change of address to record.

"I have had a number of very pleasant meetings in Orkney with Dr. Elizabeth Stuart and her husband Richard Shoesmith when, over local scallops, oysters etc. we put Grantown to rights. The living is good in Orkney. Visits up there and to Shetland are perhaps the most enjoyable aspects of my (still) quite new job." So writes Dr. Sandy Mackenzie - Maybe that explains the editor's unexplained attacks of burning ears. Any one else affected? Former member of staff Mrs. Edith Mackintosh has been profiting this year

from the advantageous off-season rail fares to visit old friends in both Grantown and Nantwich from her base with daughter Marjory (Mrs. White) in Helensburgh. We learned (through the good offices of Jean Pat.) that Hugh Mackintosh has left farm management and gone into the Agricultural Chemicals business as a Spray Consultant. He now has two sons, the elder one already at school. "I must still be recognisable in old age" writes Bert Mackintosh explaining "I had to go for a hospital examination here. The theatre sister came in and gasped - "You used to teach me in Inverness". I left there 33 years ago. We were just starting an interesting chat when the nasty little anaesthetist jagged my arm. When I awoke in the ward later she had unfortunately gone off duty." Isobel MacLean was one of the first to return her slip. She is still helping to manage the Grosvenor Hotel in Glasgow. Vikki MacLean, whom we see regularly doing her holiday job behind Walker the baker's counter is "In 2nd year of the B.Ed. Degree (primary teacher training) in the Northern College of Education at the Aberdeen Campus."

Mrs. MacLeman (Dianne Duncan) was "Looking forward to the tropical climate!!" when she returned her slip as she moved to the Solomon Islands in February. Her husband has been appointed for a 2 year spell as Chief Magistrate there. "I am still not retired" writes Peter McNicol "and spent last August and September in the higher Arctic at Baffin and Cornwallis Islands amongst the inuits(?) - what are these please Peter? - and a few polar bears, all very interesting and a new adventure for me. After this I travelled to Britain for 9 days and then to Acapulco for two weeks in glorious sunshine. Now my wife and I are looking forward to being in Grantown for the Reunion and to seeing you all again." "Sorry - no real news or 'events'!" apologises Ian MacPherson who is still with the naval depot at Rosyth. Peter MacPherson sends "Best wishes to all we used to know" together with the following reflections on the ageing process - "Just a line to say we're living and not amongst the dead, Tho' we're getting more forgetful and mixed up about the head, We've got used to our rheumatics - to our dentures we're resigned, We can manage our Bifocals - But oh God, we miss the MIND!"

Mrs. MacSween (Margaret Ross) had nothing fresh to report from Chester. We quote Alan McTaggart verbatim: "All three children now in the work force - a vet, an urban geographer, and a ballet dancer. The latter had his 21st birthday while with the N.Z. Ballet Co. in Wellington, which resulted in a clan gathering in that windy city - much enjoyed!! All the best from Bicentennial OZ."

"I am here in Kansai, that region of Japan close to the city of Osaka, for about six months, in residence at the Kansai University of Foreign Studies" writes Donald McTaggart. "There are several exchange students here who come from Arizona State University (where I am normally). They spend up to a year here in residence, often with Japanese families in order to gain fluency in Japanese. I expect to be back in Arizona by the end of the summer, when the temperatures there are beginning to come down a little. I hope to use some of the summer to make a long bicycle trip from Kansai to Hokkaido (and back). We have our own little house here on the university campus. It has a kitchen, a "tatami" living room, a "tatami" bedroom where we spread out our "futon" each night, a study (with a desk, and a low table eighteen inches off the floor), and a shower-bathroom complete with a tub that functions as a Japanese bath. We are by now pretty adept at living on the floor!" Neil McTaggart's law firm has just celebrated its centenary - it has quadrupled in size since Neil joined it! He reports (with some relief, we suspect!) that his family are now all "in remunerated employment". "Granddaughter Tamsin Bassett shows promise as a chess player" writes proud grandfather John Milne, "and at the age of 10 played for Scotland." Grandad has also had to make a medal case for her!

"We are now well into the swing of our Darby and Joan life" writes Mrs. Mitchell (Judy Stuart) of Bill and herself. They celebrated their Pearl (30th) Wedding Anniversary last March with a trip to Lanzarote, and

have also recently made trips to Austria - and Scotland of course! Besides this they are enthusiastic grandparents - not bad this Darby and Joan syndrome isn't it? "Despite the stock markets crash, life continues to be busy in Hong Kong" writes Mike Moir. He continues - "I am looking forward to spending a month in Scotland in the summer, seeing as many old friends as I can." Former Secretary Jeannette Munro reports: "I frequently exchange visits with Isobel Sinclair who taught English and French during my early years in the Secondary Dept. She remembers many of her F.P.s. and enjoys hearing any snippets of news I can give her." We had a nice cheery 'phone call from Betty Mutch on a wintry Saturday morning in March. She regrets her inability to tackle long distance driving nowadays, but nevertheless keeps active. Recently she has been using her well-known home wine-making skills to good effect supplying the needful for a fund-raising party (for 100!) in aid of the local church.

Mrs. Newbould (Rachel Smith) writes "Giving up work 13th January to be a lady of leisure until the birth of my baby in April, then chaos will descend!" - not to mention the grandparents! Mrs. O'Connor (Dorothy Cameron) is as busy as ever. She writes "Last June I was appointed Chaplain of the Seattle Branch of the Royal Canadian Legion and was very honoured to be asked to raise the Union Jack at the Scottish Highland Games in July. I have just begun my fifth year as president of our church Fellowship Club, and am also a member of the Parish Council. We had a lovely visit from Mrs. Webb (Margaret T. Templeton) last summer when I got caught up on all the latest Grantown gossip!"

Mrs. Felix Pacheco (Susan Hendry) has had her son christened with two Christian names, one Spanish, Pablo and one English, James. Grandmother Hendry has been taking her obligations seriously and following Spanish classes in Aviemore. "Since August 1987 I've been teaching a J.2 class in the British Overseas School" writes Mrs. Paterson (Margery Macaulay). She goes on "Only 7 children in my class, so I can't complain! 90 children in the school altogether. My husband is Director of a Security Company." Apparently our slip took from November to February to get there - and we sent it airmail! A nice chatty slip from former Head Boy John Rattray reveals that he is now with Barclay's Bank Computer Centre in Manchester and well on the way to becoming a Cheshire Set Yuppie! We hope Santa did oblige with the filofax! "Still teaching in Turriff, and saving up hard for my holidays in the Solomon Islands!" writes Mrs. Ritchie (Daphne Duncan). She continues: "Eddie will not be getting much of a wedding present in April! I fell heir however to most of Dianne's clothes, so I won't need anything for the wardrobe, - and their dog too, which is keeping my feet warm at the moment of writing." Ian Ritchie reported in as usual from Saffron Walden. We spotted a nice picture of Jessie Ronaldson's retirement presentation in the P. and J. after 46 years with B.T. She writes: "I am now retired, but kept busy with Church work, W.R.I. and W.R.V.S. If fit, no one need be bored in retirement!! I have also taken up indoor bowling as a hobby!"

Alex Ross regretted not being able to make the Dinner this year "as we had such a good time at the last one." "Looking forward to retiring in April this year." writes Margaret Ross (Broomhill) who by then will have completed nearly 40 years service in teaching. We send every good wish. Mrs. P. Ross (Patricia MacDonald) and her husband have moved to just outside Toronto since her husband retired. They were in Scotland in November, staying a week in Cromdale. Of their new place she writes: "We have a pine wood behind our house, and lots of hills - which reminds us of Scotland." Dr. Bill Sellar's eldest girl Sonya is now studying Psychology at Aberdeen, while his twin boys are at Merchiston and Rannoch. "As my four children are now grown up" writes Mrs. Simpson (Lesley Dixon) "I decided to do something I've always wanted to do, so I took my Heavy Goods test for articulated vehicles and passed! I then took my Advanced Driving Test and passed! Next on my agenda is the P.S.V. for coaches!" Obviously a new life is beginning (at 40, she admits!) for Lesley.

"We are unsure of how long we shall be at our Perth address" writes Mrs. Ian Smith (Janette Macdonald) "as

Ian has been promoted to Training Manager at the Nationwide Anglia Training Centre at High Wycombe outside London. He starts on Feb. 23rd! We hope to move during the summer. I enjoyed competing in the National Mod in Stirling last October and was pleased to come third in the Gold Medal Finals after an absence from National Mods of 15 years! I go to Glasgow once a week for singing lessons and have started learning the songs for this year's Mod in Glasgow in September. Perhaps I shall have more success this year." Well done for last year and best wishes for Glasgow! Mr. and Mrs. Peter Spalding (Isobel 'Poppie' Gunn) are looking forward to retirement next December. Peter is due for a hernia operation in April which may cause them to miss the Dinner.

Nicholas Spence was one of the first to return his slip (and order Dinner tickets!) from his base with his new firm in Germany. He has joined Marconi Defence Systems as Regional Marketing Manager (Europe) and as such operates from Munich and covers the continent from Turkey to Finland. His eldest daughter is planning to spend a year working out there before embarking on a Modern Languages degree. We were delighted to learn that Nicholas has persuaded Margaret Fotheringham (née MacLennan) to accompany him to the Dinner and look forward to meeting them again. We had a long and interesting letter from 87 year old Mrs. Squires (Isa Moyes) which we hope to read at the Dinner for which she sent her greetings. She has a new address in Quebec. Mrs. Stevens (Meta King) had nothing to report from Leeds. Mrs. Storey (Barbara Smith) moved house in Thame just before coming to spend Christmas in Grantown. She has participated in the Adult Literacy Campaign for a year or two now and has just taken on two new pupils, a Nepalese lady and one from Taiwan.

MR (as distinct from SGT.) John Stuart is "still in the aircraft trade, teaching the Saudi Air Force about the Tornado". He goes on "I'll miss the Dinner again, but will make it one day, even if it's in a wheel chair!" His expanding family count numbers five sons, two daughters-in-law, 1 granddaughter - and one on the way! Our thanks to brother Neil for help in tracking John down! Lachlan Stuart enjoys "Regular social golf, particularly with the Banffshire Seniors Golfing Society." The expression "social golf" appeals to us. It seems to convey a mature attitude to the game! Alistair and Molly Surtees are enjoying retirement and occupying themselves with DIY jobs and French evening classes. "Passe-moi le papier peint, chérie!" Richard Surtees told us an extraordinary story of how he had to leave his wife Joyce behind as surety at a garage in Spain last year when he found himself short of enough cash to pay for the petrol he had bought - "Joyce was a bit anxious too" he adds!

Mrs. Sutherland (Elspit McIntosh) writes (in early March): "What a good winter! I can see Christmas roses, snowdrops, primula rosea, scabious and buds on shrubs and trees, all from the kitchen window." Her son Colin is to be married in April and her daughter Mhairi has been promoted to a post in the Prince's Street Marks and Spencer store. The author and the subject of the following third person report are one and the same, namely: "Hamish Templeton, who is about to enter the 2nd decade of retirement, continues to enjoy a leisurely existence, breaking out from time to time to speed down the A9 to visit his son in Newton Mearns and cast a grand-fatherly eye on yet another generation of Templetons." "Happily married and living in Sunderland - what an exciting place to start married life!!" writes Derek Walker. Derek was unfortunate enough to have to postpone his wedding for some weeks last year after being involved in a motor accident. Happily he has made an excellent recovery.

DAMSEL RESCUES EDITOR IN DISTRESS! The scene is set in Inverness after 10 p.m. in a monsoon-like March rainstorm. Your Editor's carburettor has let him down (again!) and his engine won't start. The local AA shut up shop 3 hours ago - what's to be done? We try the police. A winsome lady copper appears at the grille. She soon has us in touch with the AA in Aberdeen, and in no time we are back on the Grantown road! Yes, it was W.P.C. Fiona Walker, who is "on the beat" in Inverness town centre! The Editor thinks our Policewomen are wonderful! "Golf has become too big

a handicap in time, effort and strokes so have changed to badminton" explains Jay Ward. The fact that his elder daughter, Elaine, is soon to start 'O' levels has also driven home the unremitting passage of time! Mrs. Webb (Margaret Templeton) went on a trip to U.S.A. last August and made contact with several F.P.'s: Dorothy O'Connor, Margery Taylor and Billie Ritson who made her very welcome and showed her the sights. "Now" she says "I'm looking forward to the Reunion in April." "No special news" writes Mrs. Weston (Sheina Donaldson) "except that I keep feeling older especially as my youngest son, aged 18, should be leaving to go to University this year. The eldest is working in London, and the middle one is in the middle of his University Course. My husband suggests it is time he retired and I went out to work!" "It's good to have the mag. to keep in touch" writes Mrs. Wilson (Helen Scott) but she would be better pleased if it were in the old fashioned form! We are sure many share your view, the fault however is not in us, but in the politicians who drove the goodwill out of the teachers and are now doing likewise with the N.H.S. workers! Meantime we continue to do our best! Thanks to Jock Winchester who sent us Christmas greetings from Fort William. Michael Wood is still teaching in St. Columba's, Dunfermline. He has two sons aged 4 and 2. Paddy Wood writes: "We are all fine and still living in Culloden. When not working for the Roads and Transport Dept. of the Highland Region, I can usually be found on a BMX track somewhere in Britain, but this summer we are off to Slagharen in Holland for the European BMX Championships in which all my three children have qualified and will be representing Scotland over there." We wish them all success. Congratulations to Alan and Alison Wright. Alan qualified as a C.A. in October last year, while younger sister Alison graduated B.Sc. with Honours in Microbiology from Aberdeen, and has gone on to do an M.Sc. in Food Science and Microbiology at Strathclyde.

* LATE NEWS EXTRA *

Late News Extra may be more extensive than usual this year as we closed "Outposts" ruthlessly right on the deadline date in order to get it typed up before our long suffering typist dons her expectant grandmother's hat and departs for Doncaster!

We have left Stuart Archibald among the "exiles" after some hesitation. He has just returned to the U.K. after 2 years travelling in America and Canada and is now job hunting! We wish speedy success. Mrs. Findlay (Shirley Masson) is still with Simmers Bakery in Hatton. Mrs. Gordon (Ann Paton) had nothing to report from Huntly. The Jacks Alistair and Susan (née Archibald) reported as follows: "Susan has returned to 'physio' part-time at a Geriatric Hospital in Dundee and is finding work with the 'Gerries' both rewarding and stimulating. "For myself" writes Alistair "I keep filling up the shelves ever hopeful that they will empty again - a strange life really!"

"Has your dog sat down for a rest yet?!" asks W.P.C. Jill Lennon from her base in the Albany Street nick where she has nearly completed her two years probation. The answer is no, Jill, as anyone who knows our Braid will tell you! Jill tells us she "was on scene for the Kings X fire, as we cover the three stations" (St. Pancras, Kings X and Euston) and was subsequently up at the Yard manning phones in their specially set up casualty bureau. All good experience, though earned somewhat tragically." The Low family are notable wanderers - Douglas is touring and working his way round Australia while Karen is spending a couple of months crossing the Sahara. Susan of course is another of these delicious policewomen. We always had a soft spot for Law and Order! Father and Mother also got itchy feet and moved house (but not far!) from above the shop to the house vacated by the Downies when they moved to Nairn.

Alistair MacDonald who is enjoying a visit from his parents writes from Adelaide "It's nice to see the family again". He adds - "Things are very busy in the oil industry here". "Still employed on NATO Planning Duties at R.A.F. High Wycombe, but hoping to move to Yorkshire within the year to prepare for civilian life." writes Thomas Stuart. He goes on - "I paid a rare visit to Grantown in the summer to play golf and had a long chat with old classmates Ernie and Lorna who were running the clubhouse catering. Resolved to return more frequently in the future. Also became a grandfather in 1987, but I'm trying to ignore the fact!" Why not just enjoy boasting about it like the rest of us?!

The McIntosh boys, David and Kenny, both have new addresses, David in New Hampshire, U.S.A., and Kenny in Alva. David had a visit from his mother over Christmas and New Year, and hopes to make a trip home this summer. Kenny is now with Mowlan in Alva. Mrs. McLeod (Elizabeth Macgregor) reported in from Aviemore. Mrs. Perk (Ann Stuart) is back in Canada again with a new address (and a new son!) in Ontario. Mrs. Stuart-Khamsi (Rita Stuart) is still with UNESCO in Paris. Mrs. Shoesmith (Dr. Elizabeth Stuart) is now in partnership with Dr. Hazlehurst at Dounby, Orkney. Robin Fraser has "just become a Granda for the first time" so Granny and he are "over the moon." John Irving's slip arrived just in time for him to get a mention.

We have learned that Janet Dixon was married in January last year and is now Mrs. Peter Jones. We confirmed the information with a quick 'phone call to sister Lesley, who gave us Janet's new address which is now 6 Juniper Court, Eastville, Bristol. She continues her work as a Nurse Tutor in the R.A.F. Nursing Service with the rank of Squadron Leader. We regret we obtained this information after we had completed the updating of the computerised list, so Janet will figure in it in her maiden name until the 1989 issue.

LOCAL NEWS

The weather never ceases to interest and amaze us.

The summer of 1987 was generally held to have been a poor one, and it has been followed by one of the mildest winters of the thirty the writer has now seen in Grantown. The festive season was brightened up by the best display of Christmas lights ever. The skiers and those who depend on them suffered for a time from lack of snow, but February and March have brought better conditions and the now apparently inevitable congestion on the approach roads and car parks.

Returning exiles will note considerable road improvements on the A95 around the Broomhill Bridge area - and the bridge itself was also refurbished and reopened last June - and the completion of the A95 works should reduce the number of people taking the Skye of Curr road as it can no longer be regarded as a short-cut.

McLeods the local family building firm continue to transform the face of Grantown. We have been able to observe them at work this past year as the formerly derelict telephone exchange building has been agreeably converted into seven flats, and now Speyside House, the former Children's Home, is due for the same sort of treatment.

The Palace Hotel is shortly to follow in the footsteps of Mount Barker and become a private home for the elderly.

An active group of young mothers has seen to the re-equipment of the playpark in Castle Road East, but has recently run into difficulties with the local residents about a proposed fun castle to be erected there.

Old Guards who formerly vied with one another to hook the tiny and sometimes elusive Lochindorb trout will be mortified to learn that some presumptuous Glasgow visitor named Anderson took a 6lb13oz. trout from the loch last May! Ian Macpherson seems to have recovered from the shock by now!

Helicopter trips were a great attraction at the Bicentennial Farmers' Show last year. Special efforts and reasonable weather attracted some five thousand people.

After serious architectural problems with the College of Commerce in Aberdeen, both the new buildings at Kingussie High and Grantown Grammar were investigated as all three were designed by the same firm, but the two schools have been pronounced safe, although the Aberdeen College has been evacuated.

The world of the countryman also seems to be beset with problems at present. We have just read that the large (two hundred head) Ayrshire herd at Ballintomb is to be sold off, the purchase of the Forest Lodge Estate by the R.S.P.B. has not met with unqualified local approval, and there are continuing worries about policies concerning woodlands. It seems that either affluent individuals or organisations or long term agricultural trends are behind most of the problems.

On however to more cheerful matters, namely the doings of our local members!

Sheila Archibald has moved from Coppice Court to Birchview Terrace.

Frank Calder is meantime assisting Leonard Grassick with the janitorial work at the Secondary School.

Dorothy Carse has returned from Yorkshire to Carrbridge and is working meantime at Landmark, chiefly in the shop there.

John Cumming has had a long absence from work with painful back trouble. We hope the better days will bring relief.

Scott Clark has returned to Grantown to manage the Ben Mhor.

Sandy Ledingham is currently preparing to retire. His High Street Photography business is up for sale.

Congratulations to our two crowned heads of 1987!

Debbie Allan was Highland Games Queen last June and Shareon Duncan (youngest member of the family of John and Anne Duncan) was Queen of the Bicentennial Grantown Show.

None of the Duncan family will however be attending the Biennial Dinner this year - no, we haven't fallen out with them, but by some terrible lack of foresight, we arranged the Dinner to take place on the day of Eddie's wedding in Edinburgh! We send every good wish for the future Eddie!

On the subject of Shows again Jimmy Grant retired after more than 30 years of service as Show Manager for the Horticultural Society. Jimmy had a long spell in Raigmore about a year ago during which he was unable to swallow food. In spite of his indifferent health he remains as chirpy as ever.

Gordon Jack also retired from the Post Office and was awarded the Imperial Service Medal for 50 years service. This was family history repeating itself with Gordon's father having received the same award in 1956.

Calum Beange tells us he is "Still with the Bank of Scotland, and 'fiddling' at weekends." The Bank Manager need have no worries however as, with the name Beange, he can be sure the 'fiddling' is to be taken literally!

Several members figured in an nostalgic photograph of the Scouts of 35 years ago which appeared in the Strathie recently. We spotted Jim Mackenzie and son Sandy, Keith Donaldson, Charlie Gall, Peter MacPherson and Bob Philip and James Thomson.

It is often difficult to get in touch with Martin Grant in the evenings - if he is not out attending to the affairs of Dulnain Bridge as Community Council chairman, he is likely to be playing indoor bowls or snooker!

Mrs. Stuart (Marion Paterson) took a nasty tumble entering her own house when brother Jock brought her back from Aviemore on her return from a visit to Rita in Paris. Happily the damage seems to be mending well. We met sister Jean recently escorting one of the residents of Mount Barker along Seafield Avenue. As it was a gentleman and we have a gossip column to write, we were immediately alert, but Jean assured us she was just doing her good deed for the day!

FORCES

CLARK John S., B.E.M., 130 High Street. Major (Q.M.) British Outward Bound Centre, Norway. P.O. Box 246, 1 Sefjaer N-4601 Kristiansand (S) Norway.

DIXON Janet, R.S.C.N., R.G.N., Heath Cottage. : Please see Late News Extra. Squadron Leader, Princess Mary's Royal Air Force Nursing Service. Nurse Tutor, Princess Alexandra Hospital, Wroughton, Nr. Swindon.

DOBSON William, B.Sc. (Agri.), Milton, Nethybridge. Flight Lieutenant. Chapel Corner, Garsdon, SN16 9NW. R.A.F. Representative, R.M.A., Sandhurst.

LIGGAT Andrew, Brierlea, Mossie Road. Pilot Officer, R.A.F. Regiment, R.A.F. Honington.

LIGGAT Archie M.S., B.Sc. (Hons. Aeronautical Engineering), Brierlea, Mossie Road. Flight Lieutenant R.A.F. Leuchars. Trobhad, New Gilston, Fife. 111 Squadron, Flying Instructor and Instrument Rating Examiner on Phantom Aircraft.

McMILLAN Peter K., 13 Ellanwood Road, Carrbridge. S.A.C. R.A.F. Lossiemouth. 12 Argus Place, Bishopmill, Elgin. Supply Controller, R.A.F.

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* LATE NEWS EXTRA *
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(CONTINUED)

Donald Grant is "Still living in Edinburgh, working in Fife and visiting Grantown a lot during the ski season!"

Allan Grant informs us he has given up his teaching post in order to concentrate on his "Team Sports" business in Castle Hill, Sydney. He reports visits from Mike and Anne Moir and James Stewart (ex Inverallan) in the past year, and also having attended the wedding of David Scott ex-Nethybridge who lives nearby. Patricia Laing is still involved with the administration of British International Helicopters operations at Dyce. She moved to Oxford for a time when the firm was taken over by Robert Maxwell, but didn't like it and managed to engineer her return to Aberdeen. She is now "Secretary and P.A. to the General Manager, the Aberdeen Base Manager, the Flight Operations Director - and most of the pilot workforce - so I'm keeping quite busy!" George Illingworth sends apologies for being unable to attend the Dinner, but his wife Elaine and he are off to America for 30 days at the end of March with David and Isobel Ross, taking in the Masters Golf Tournament in Augusta among other things. He also hopes to visit brother Marr in North Carolina. Karen Low has just sent us a detailed account of her Sahara trip and the attendant car problems but this has not quenched her appetite for travel. She is already planning a trip to New Zealand and Australia - to visit Douglas - if she can find him! Mrs. Peet (Lorraine Gordon) and her husband of 11 months have a new address in Balmedie - it is 16 Oldmill Crescent - too late for the list we fear as it is already completed! Lorraine hopes to complete her midwifery training in November at the Aberdeen Maternity Hospital, having already built up "the necessary 40 deliveries!"