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# editorial

As the magazine year has come full circle once again, we don our editor's bonnet to pen another editorial. In spite of the many changes mentioned in our 'Local News', most of the topics for the editorial are hardy perennials.

We were delighted to print Miss Mariel Grant's article in our last issue, and we are doubly pleased that it has inspired two of her former pupils to write follow-up letters. They appear on the page headed "Dear Mr. Editor". Many teachers earn some degree of respect in the eyes of their pupils, but it is only the exceptional who inspire the genuine affection which shines through these contributions. Our thanks to both authors for putting it into words.

We are happy to say that arrangements for the 1990 Biennial Dinner are in hand. Our two speakers have already accepted the invitation to address us; they are Mrs. John Lilley (Jane Macaulay) who will be known to many of our members as a Features writer on the Press and Journal, and Mr. Nicholas Spence who has wide experience in the fields of aircraft and defence, having held important posts connected with the production of the Tornado, and who is now with Marconi Defence Systems. The date is Friday 20th April, 1990, and a provisional booking has been made with the Grant Arms Hotel. We have been fortunate in the past to have had the support of volunteer entertainers, both vocal and instrumental - please let me know if we may look forward to your contributions again. At the 1988 Dinner our President, Rector Mr. Lewis Grant, intimated his intention to retire before the next Dinner, and the Committee feels that this would be a suitable occasion to mark his twenty-one years of devoted service in a very demanding post. Accordingly it is our intention to organise a presentation to Mr. Grant to take place at the Dinner. Details will be circulated to all members along with our usual December mailing of information slips.

Our thanks to all our members who have again provided us with ample interesting material for inclusion in 'News from the Outposts' which is really the heart of the magazine, and a special thank you to those who included donations. These already amount to over £60 this year. Our chief outlays are postages, expenses incurred in the production of the magazine and our annual contribution to School Prizes. (We increased this to £75 at the last A.G.M.).

We do strive to keep the lists of members up to date, but sometimes members move house, and we lose touch. If you notice any entries in the lists which you know to be out of date or otherwise inaccurate, we would be greatly obliged if you would let us know. We are again greatly indebted to David Calder, Head of the Computing Dept. for his willing assistance in printing the lists of members.

For the convenience of local members we have approached local newsagents Graham Grant and Jim Low, and both readily agreed to help distribute the magazine. We are most grateful to them for this service.

## Late News Extra!

This item contains only a couple of omissions for which we apologise - we omitted to add new recruit, Mrs. Gallagher's name (i.e. Amanda Dunlop) to the main list while we had the computer home, but it is in the index Amanda, so will be there next year we promise! Her address is - 10 Charnwood Avenue, Sutton Bonnington, Nr. Loughborough, Leicestershire.

Also, as the parents of our grandchildren, Mrs. Newbould (Rachel) and Mrs. Storey (Barbara) are so busy preparing them for the forthcoming grandparental inspection at the end of April, they failed to return their slips! (Cries of Shame!) Pamela, Rachel's daughter will be a year old in April and Catriona (Barbara's) will be 4 in July.

## \*\*\*\*\* \* MARRIAGES and ENGAGEMENTS \* \*\*\*\*\*

We offer congratulations and best wishes to the following on the occasion of their marriage:

Eddie Duncan and Heather Mason from Whitburn, married on 15th April (the day of our last Biennial Dinner!)  
Gillian Henderson and Richard Hobbs who came from Australia to be married at Nethybridge in May.  
Debbie Allan and Kenny Kinnaird married at Inverallan in May.  
Alison Forbes and David Baxter married in Aberdeen in July.  
John Calder and Carolyn Boak married at Balerno also in July.  
Valerie Dewar and Aubrey Moore married in Elgin in September.  
Jane Dunlop and William Chisholm married in Cromdale in November.  
Rachel MacRobert and Murdo MacKay of Kinbrace, married in Spynie in December.  
Eric Pirie and Dr. Lesley Cowan of Enniskillen, married at Nethybridge in March.

and to Nicola Bans on her engagement last Easter to Brian Robertson, a dentist who hails from Edinburgh and practices in Yarmouth, and to Alasdair Calder and Joyce Mackenzie from Inverness who became engaged in January 1989.

SILVER WEDDING congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. O'Connor (Dorothy Cameron) now of Seattle on their Silver Wedding which they celebrated in November 1988.

## \*\*\*\*\* \* BIRTHS \* \*\*\*\*\*

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

Belatedly Mrs. Finlay Marshall (June Grant) informed us of the birth of a daughter in September 1985:- a daughter also to Mr. and Mrs. Newbould (Rachel Smith) in April 1988:  
a son to Mr. and Mrs. Bettoli (Susan Grant) in May 1988:  
a daughter to Mr. and Mrs. Findlay (Shirley Masson) in June 1988:  
a son to Mr. and Mrs. Crichton (Lorna Forbes) in August 1988:  
a daughter to Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Carse in October 1988:  
a son to Mr. and Mrs. Ian Grant in November 1988:  
a daughter to Mr. and Mrs. Hobbs (Gillian Henderson) also in November 1988.  
a daughter to Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Jamie (Eileen Calder) in January 1989.

Incidentally young Daniel Bettoli had the distinction of being the first baby born in the new maternity unit at Raigmore and received a presentation of a silver fork and spoon to mark this.

## \*\*\*\*\* \* NEW RECRUITS \* \*\*\*\*\*

We are delighted to welcome this year the three MacKenzie brothers from Tigh-na-Coille, Speybridge. The eldest, Grahame, is in the final year of an honours degree in Mediaeval History at St. Andrews University, and the twins, John and Stuart, are both at Aberdeen University, studying respectively Land Economy and Forestry. The twins recently both received Duke of Edinburgh Gold Awards at a ceremony at Holyrood House. We welcome also Mrs. Patrick Gallagher (Amanda Dunlop) who succinctly described her post-school career as follows: "After completing my M.A. degree in History at Aberdeen I did a P.G.C.E. at Nottingham University. I taught History and Humanities in Leicestershire schools for 6 years. In 1983 I got married to Patrick Gallagher, an industrial chemist, and since then have lived in the Nottinghamshire village of Sutton Bonington. In 1987 our daughter Fiona was born, and I gave up teaching except for the occasional day on supply."

# Obituary

MRS. G. BUTLER (Dorothea Sime) who spent most of her life in the Forres area, died on 10th June last year. After leaving the Grammar School, she qualified as a Primary teacher in Aberdeen, and took up a post in Kinloss School where she taught for two years. She moved to Forres on her marriage to Grigor Butler who farmed near Forres. On behalf of the Clubs we send sincere condolences to her husband, to her son Tony, and her two daughters, Angela and Cynthia.

We are indebted to two of her friends and former class-mates, Mrs. Stephen (Nell Byers) and Mrs. Shearer (Rhoda Asher) for providing us with details.

On the same day in June DONALD COLLIE, formerly of Lower Tullochgrue, Rothiemurchus, died peacefully at his Edinburgh home. After leaving the Grammar School he worked for a time as clerk at Aviemore station, then helped run the family farm during the war. In 1947 he entered Aberdeen University where he gained not only an honours degree in Agriculture, but also a shinty "blue". Entering the Dept. of Agriculture he rose to the position of Chief Livestock Inspector for Scotland.

His ashes were interred at Rothiemurchus Cemetery. To his wife Aileen, son David and daughter Sally we express sincere sympathy on behalf of the members of our Clubs.

Inverallan Church was well filled in August 1988 for the funeral service for local member SANDY MACPHAIL who was well known and respected in his home town where he spent most of his life. He took over the family painting and decorating business in 1946 after war service as a navigator in the R.A.F. His service career was adventurous and included being shot down and imprisoned in North Africa, subsequently escaping from a P.O.W. camp in Italy and reaching the British lines in Naples.

Loyalty was one of Sandy's characteristics, and he kept in touch with the other members of his bomber crew right till the end of his life. He demonstrated his loyalty to his old school also and his generosity by refurbishing the war memorial lectern which was presented to the school by the Clubs and which is still in regular use in the old school building (now the Primary School).

Sandy's knowledge and expertise in his trade made him an invaluable adviser to those attempting D.I.Y. jobs about the house and he was always ready to take time to explain difficulties to the uninitiated. His quiet good humour and efficiency as stage manager in a long succession of Clachan Players productions endeared him to all who enjoyed his friendship in those years.

To his wife Janet and his sister Isa, we extend sincerest condolences on behalf of the Clubs.

We learned from Mrs. Kathleen Hearn that she and members of her family came to Grantown last year to carry out the wish of her late mother MRS. F. SPRINGALL (Jessie W. Stewart) that her ashes be scattered on the family plot in Grantown cemetery. Mrs. Springall, who died in November 1984, formerly lived at The Larches (now Dunallan).

We extend sympathy also to the following members who have suffered bereavement in the course of the year: to the family of Rev. Dr. Ross, well known locally for his ministry in the former Grantown South Church; to Dorothy and Margaret, the daughters of Donald Smith, late of Mossie Road; to Ian, Alasdair and Patrick, the sons of Mrs. Flora Grant, who was formerly head teacher of Alvie School; to Morna, Jean, Alma and Hazel, the daughters of William Mackenzie, Birchview; to Alistair Surtees who lost his wife Molly; to the McIntyre family Sheila, Donald and Ranald who lost their mother;

to the Paterson family, Liza, Derek, Roy, Sandra and Pam (late of Garvault, Advie) who lost their father. to the Moir family (late of Mackay Avenue) on the loss of their mother; to John Duncan and family on the loss of their mother and grandmother; to Lachlan Stuart on the loss of his wife, Helen.

## LOCAL NEWS

Change is always a feature of our human life, but in Grantown, the past year has been one in which many things that had an air of permanence about them seem to have been in a state of flux. The report commissioned by the local Community Council spoke of four revolutions, the agricultural, industrial and transport, and most recently, retailing revolutions which are changing the fortunes of our town and district.

Returning exiles must be bewildered by the changes in the HighStreet. Motorists beware! There are now traffic lights at the "Strath" corner! The former Palace Hotel, scene of many an enjoyable F.P. function, is in the process of being converted into a private home for the elderly, the photography shop has gone with the retirement of Sandy Ledingham, Donaldson's has changed hands with the retirement of the Gows, the former Grant's Pharmacy has moved to more commodious premises at the corner of Chapel Road, and now has Harry Macgregor's name above the door. There are disturbing reports about the future status of the Post Office.

Further afield, the Aviemore Centre is to undergo sweeping changes, the arguments about extending ski-ing developments rumble on, and there are plans to rob Lochindorb of its bleak grandeur (opposed, as we might have predicted by Ian Macpherson). Twice weekly free buses now run to Inverness to woo Grantown shoppers to take their custom to one of the Inverness super-stores. Forres has been by-passed and there are questionings as to whether our 1931 vintage Spey Bridge will be able to cope with the A95 traffic when it is improved.

In the educational sphere it is not surprising that the government's half-baked plans to allow schools to opt out of local authority control have attracted harsh criticism from our President, Rector Lewis Grant and his next-door neighbour Murdo Grant at Kingussie High, for they seem to have little relevance to the Scottish situation.

The whole Grantown community was shattered shortly after Christmas by the tragic road accident which cost the lives of two young folks (one still a pupil at the School) and seriously injured two others. Inverallan Church was filled to capacity as the community expressed its sympathy with the bereaved families.

We have been encouraged to see the success of the venture of the Grantown Heritage Trust in mounting an excellent summer exhibition, and also the setting up of a Chamber of Trade and Tourism which has taken over activities formerly run by the Merchants and C.I.T.A. The Castle Road East Playpark has been fitted out with some fine up-to-date equipment provided by local voluntary effort, and the car park behind the "Strath" has been properly laid out and marked.

The weather has been an even more popular topic of conversation than usual, with much speculation about whether the theories regarding the so-called "greenhouse effect" are beginning to be proved correct. The unusually mild January had the keenest gardeners cutting their lawns - yes, in Grantown!! while the lack of snow put in jeopardy the jobs of those involved in the winter sports business. There were heavy gales in July '88 and February '89 with consequent damage to property and trees, and flooding did much damage up the valley, with the Spey reaching 5 feet 9 inches on the New Bridge marker, and spilling on to the road at the Bathing Pool.



Life continues nevertheless, in spite of chance and change, so on now without further ado to news of our local members -

Jock Paterson is still to the fore, seeing to all sorts of jobs like for example fixing the skating pond sluice which was blocked and causing dangerously high water levels in the "Lochan". When manager Fergie left the Aberdeen Football Club, the rumour flew round Grantown that Jock was applying for the job - but only on condition that he could have Dougie MacDonald as his second in command! Somebody called Smith eventually got the job! Congratulations to Jock's son Ian who was recently co-opted to the Community Council.

Congratulations also to Sheila Smith who has been playing some champion golf of late. The golfers will of course have to be practising hard to be on form to celebrate the centenary of the club next year. We hear they will have the services of our own retiring professional, Bill Mitchell, who is to take up the post as the club's first professional for nearly forty years as a "retirement" job.

We offer best wishes to electrician Eric Pirie and local doctor Lesley Cowan who became engaged at Christmas and married in March. Lesley hails from Enniskillen and Eric is well known locally for his involvement in climbing and mountain rescue work.

More congratulations are in order for Alistair McLeod and the family firm on being the only Scottish builders to win a certificate of merit in the competition run by the New Homes Marketing Board.

Martin and Chrissie Grant were both pictured in recent "Strathies", Martin, as uncrowned provost of Dalmuin Bridge, was helping erect the Christmas tree, and Chrissie was receiving a trophy as a winning member of an indoor bowls team, an interest she shares with Martin.

The Donaldsons, though frail, still maintain their contacts with Kirk and community. They were justifiably proud of the achievement of their granddaughter Victoria (Keith's daughter) who has been awarded a Rhodes scholarship to Oxford University. Sheina makes frequent trips North from Morpeth to see how the 'old folks' are doing, and Nell Stephen and Archie Ballantine are always on hand to help.

It was nice to see a reminder of Isa MacPhail's work with the Brownies in one of the old photos sent to the "Strathie" by Mrs. Gordon (May Paton).

We wish happy retirement to Sandy Ledingham and John Cumming, and success in his new premises to Harry Macgregor.

Sheila Archibald has retired from her work in the law office, but remains active in the T.W.C. The Guild's Drama Group had a most successful season last year winning an award with a play in which the star part was played by the mother of the three brothers we welcome as new recruits this year.

Our early morning activities with our dog are enlivened by a series of Mrs. Smiths! The first two come with the milk - and it would be difficult to find a more winsome milkmaid than Malcolm's wife (Sammy Pettifer). Our dog is madly keen on Edna (the other Ian's wife) and insists on some attention, while of course the trusty vintage model (now an O.A.P.!) is dutifully preparing our breakfast! No wonder we are usually on good form in the mornings! Incidentally Malcolm and Sammy were unlucky in the February gales when the wind blew down the chimney of their cottage at Auchernack.

Mrs. Bettoli (Susan Grant) is suffering from the lack of snow this winter. It meant no work for her chef husband Bruno at the restaurant on Cairngorm, so he has gone back to Switzerland for three months to earn some hard currency! Susan and her two boys are meantime getting lots of help from Uncle Stewart and Aunt Sally, not to mention the grandparents!

Marion Stuart was off to Canada recently to visit Ann (Mrs. Perk) and her latest grandchild. Ann also had a visit from sister Rita. While Marion was in Canada, John Wright was able to get in contact with them - one of the 'perks' of having an unusual surname - John phoned the only Perk in the book!

Busy man James Shand who has a business and a family to keep him occupied still found time to be the chairman of the local Heart-Start appeal which quickly raised the necessary cash to provide a defibrillator for the local ambulance.

Returning exile Billy Templeton has quickly been incorporated into the Abernethy Kirk Session. Billy already served as an elder in Fife.

## H. M. Services

Major John Clark is now serving as quartermaster with 73 Engineer Regiment in Nottingham. This is his first posting in the U.K. for 12 years. "After completing initial Officer Training at Cranwell and Regimental Training at Catterick I was posted to Harrington for 2½ years", writes Andrew Liggat. "Now I'm at Stafford on an instructional tour teaching scribbles and blanket stackers which end of a gun goes bang!! Ah well, who said life is never varied??" Archie Liggat is "Still as crazy on flying as ever." We hear his latest ploy is building an aeroplane in his (fortunately very large) garage! "Am still in Oman until May '89" writes David Ross, "and still parachuting and wind surfing. I retire from the R.A.F. in September with no special job in mind, but as I have never done a hard day's work in my life, have no intention of starting now! Betty is still in the civil service and both sons are engaged to be married - but it does not make me feel my age!" Squadron Leader Thomas Stuart reports - "Although still living in Buckinghamshire, I am now O.C. Engineering Squadron at R.A.F. Linton-on-Ouse, Yorks, but I hope to move to Yorkshire in the near future."

## News

from the Outposts

### CONCLUSION.

We were pleased to hear again from lawyer David Wilson who, unbeknown to us, had got himself married to "another lawyer and university contemporary" in 1983, then moved to London in 1984, and is now likely to be off to New York with his wife Kathleen for a year or two. Meanwhile we had been persistently trying to reach him at his Edinburgh address! We offer our belated congratulations and best wishes for continued success. David has specialised in international finance and Kathleen in arbitration work. Mrs. Wilson (Helen Scott) enjoyed showing off Grantown and district to her husband in the summer. In November they met Roddy Mathieson and his wife at a dinner dance. She goes on "Even with the age difference we still remembered a lot of things in common about Grantown and Cromdale." Jock Winchester sent us a greeting from a wet and windy Fort William. Patrick Wood checked in from Culloden but had no news for us. Congratulations to Alan Wright who has taken up a new post with BP Petroleum Development at Dyce, Aberdeen as Group Accountant.

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# Dear Editor,

Your Information Slip has been lurking reproachfully in my writing pad with your plea for something interesting and amusing for the Mag., but what to write? Over 50 years ago I was blithely reciting "All the world's a stage" with never a thought of being overtaken by the tail end of the seven ages, but now, although I could still recite that passage, I really don't care to! However, if I have no riveting information regarding my present activities, I can at least thank you for all your hard work in keeping the Magazine alive during these recent years, and say how much I enjoyed Miss Mariel Grant's "60 Glorious Years" and Mrs. Netta Booth's "48 Years On." in last year's copy. These comfortably high figures encourage me to offer a follow-on piece to Miss Grant's article, written from a pupil's point of view.

I started school in Miss Hetty Gray's class, receiving that same kindly and thoughtful welcome, then passing on to the more volatile atmosphere of Primary 2. We sat at tiered desks, all seemingly within reach of a blackboard pointer wielded from the front of the class, while we chanted "1 and 1 are 2, 21 and 1 are 22." Walking past the school many years later I heard that same chant, and saluted that faithful teaching of basic arithmetic.

I remember Miss Reid in Primary 4 and in Sunday School. Perhaps I just realized how beautiful Grantown was when, one Christmas Eve, she took us to sing carols round the town. We stood by the L.N.E.R. Station House, looking down on the Old Bridge over the river with brilliant moonlight on the snow.

Miss Lawson taught us in Primary 7 - the Qualifying Class! In the event we were almost unaware of the "11+". I remember a test coming out of the blue, quite a welcome break from routine, where we answered questions on long strips of paper.

On then to the Higher Grade, where Mr. Robertson was leaving. It was fortunate indeed for the whole town that Mr. Morrison was to carry on his dramatic work. The School Play was the highlight of the summer term for senior pupils, and, if they were lucky enough to remain in Grantown, there was the Dramatic Society whose plays packed the Institute every year.

I think Miss Grant must have been quite pleased when Science abandoned me at the end of the third year, nor could she have been much impressed by my Art offerings. I got by in Algebra and Arithmetic (1 + 21 etc.) but Geometry was a real trial to us both. Mr. Hunter's Saturday morning classes were my final hope for Higher Maths, and I remember the anguished look on his face at the Oral when I endeavoured to solve a problem using four sides of a triangle. I had hoped for better things when we started Trigonometry. Surely that slim book in the lime green cover, simply entitled "The Straight Line" could be mastered. Alas, the only recollection I have of the subject now is that I invariably made the wrong choice between sine and cosine. My bridge finesses seldom come off either!

My last term in school was a time for looking ahead, while still remembering with gratitude the busy, happy years that had gone. The war had yet to come, but when it did, I am sure that our school training did much to help us play our part. Joining the A.T.S., I found another little book entitled "Electricity and Magnetism" and was soon operating a radar set. Miss Grant would have been proud of me at last!

MRS. MORTON STEVENS (META KING).

What a splendid idea to persuade Miss Grant to write of her early days teaching in Grantown! Her arrival in 1927 - with the new Rector, Mr. Hunter, co-incided with my arrival in the Upper School, and perhaps a few of your readers may be interested in some additional notes of these faraway days.

Miss Grant, being not exactly a large, physically dominant type, and in her very first appointment, must have been rather apprehensive, but her delightful personality and her teaching ability, soon had us all under her spell. In retrospect I would have liked more talks on botany - she very occasionally, in the summer term, took us for walks down General Wade's Road, and she seemed to know every type of flower, bush and tree.

She mentions Edith Lawson - the Bell Ringer - from the class of eight year olds. Next came dear old Miss Macgregor, then the rather strict Miss Campbell. I remember one afternoon when Mr. McLennan, the Rector, came in to her class and told us boys we were to learn knitting, and how useful this would be, should we find ourselves in Labrador! I doubt if Jimmy McLeod or Jock Paterson know how to knit - I certainly don't.

When we were in Miss Macrae's class - the Qualifying - her engagement was announced. Each member of our class produced sixpence, and we bought her a tortoiseshell brush and comb set at the old Beale and Pyper shop - the lounge of the Palace Hotel now occupies the site. Fifty years later I met a son of this marriage and was pleased to hear how much his mother appreciated this wedding gift.

Then up to the Upper School. Miss Grant mentions the English teacher Mr. Robertson, but I think we had, for at least a term, a Mr. Jack. Both were wonderful teachers and charming men. Jim Robertson was the main pillar of the Grantown Dramatic Society - how many remember him in "The Price of Coal" and "Campbell of Kilmhor"?

Bob Wilson - like Miss Grant, also in his first term - was popular with everyone - and especially with those keen on games. He worked tremendously hard to get our games organized and to get equipment - for cricket, rugby, hockey, badminton and athletics as well as football. In that first year also he founded the Old Guard Club.

Our French teacher, Miss Ross, motored each day from Nethy Bridge in a two-seater Morris Oxford. I am afraid I was not one of her favourites - quite frequently Latin words would appear in my French prose - and vice versa!

Cath. Brown - her father was manager of the Royal Bank - had a dreadful time - she was perhaps too kind and gentle to have any control over rowdy boys. Another who had a tough time from unruly boys was dear old Mr. Jack, the Janitor.

Miss Hetty Gray of the Kindergarten is mentioned in Miss Grant's article, but not Miss Butter of the same department. She was a well-upholstered lady, and one hot summer day she was walking rather quickly to the school gates when Ian Forbes of Connage said - "Butter always runs on a hot day" - not realizing the Rector was a yard or two behind him -

Happy Happy Happy Days!!!

J.R.A.

We have accorded the author of the above letter the (rather transparent) degree of anonymity he requested!

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\* SWIMMING CLUB MEMBERS \*  
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Richard Air; Andrew Anderson; Jean Anderson;  
Wendy Calder (Dunlop); Heather Cruickshank; Jackie Farquhar; Rosemary Farquhar; Calum Fraser; Irene Grant; Billy Green; Roderick Green; William Laing; Colin McLean; Ian Masson; Tracy Milne; Neil Mutch; John Rennie; Diane Shand; Marie Shand; Linda Sim; Lisi Sinclair; Margaret Masson (Secretary).

# News

## from the Outposts

Eunice Allan has a new address in Aberdeen. She is engaged in research in the Agriculture Dept. at the University. Septuagenarian golfer Dr. Jimmie Allan reports having won the Scottish Over 70's title last year, and having followed that this year with the East of Scotland and North of Scotland titles. Congratulations! Little wonder the golf club has decided to make him an honorary member! Mrs. Allan (Mona McLean) sent good wishes from Biggar and tells us she is - "just thankful to be alive and still interested in the magazine." C.A. Mike Anderson tells us "I am doing my bit for 1992! I joined an international firm of C.A.'s in Luxembourg at the start of 1989 and I now wish I'd paid more attention during my French lessons!" We've heard that one before! Nevertheless, Courage mon brave! Mrs. Banks (Lorna Stephen) reports that her daughter Caroline is now doing 1st year of a 2 year Business and Finance Course at the Merchant Navy College, Greenhithe, Kent. ILEA are closing this college down this summer in anticipation of its own demise next year, so the course will transfer either to City and East London College, or to a college in Kent. A great deal of Caroline's energy has been expended in the students' campaign to keep the college open, but seemingly to no avail! "I am still playing basketball", writes Nicola Bans, "although, due to my age(!), I now play only in a local, and not the national league! I am working as a secretary for a printing firm here in Great Yarmouth where I have decided to settle." We are able to disclose that the reason for this is that Nicola (wise girl!) found a suitable Scot in these foreign parts. He is a dentist who hails originally from Edinburgh. Our official congrats. are of course in the Engagements column. We are indebted to Mrs. John Grant (Betty Templeton) for providing us with new addresses for Mrs. Bass (Christine Tulloch) and her brother Hugh. The former is now in Swansea and the latter still in Toronto. "I'm still working at Newburgh Mathers, Primary School" writes Mrs. Baxter (Louise Forbes). She became Mrs. Baxter last July, when she married David, her student architect husband.

Calum Beange is on a 6 months vacation in the American South and has been enjoying the sights and scenery around New Orleans, Orlando, New York and Fort Lauderdale. He has been doing a bit of busking with the fiddle on the Streets of New Orleans so the Ceilidh Bands around Grantown had better be prepared for some hot stuff when this wanderer returns! Iain Beange is still employed with "Transocean Maritime Agencies". In the past 12 months he has been in and out of ports from Korea, Vancouver, Taiwan, HongKong, Shanghai, Philippines, Canada, Lake Charles U.S.A. His wife Teresa joined the ship recently "to keep a watchful eye on my activities!" Sheena Beaton who is now a Learning Support Teacher at Nairn Academy was interested to meet up there with John MacKenzie, Principal Teacher of Modern Languages and son of Alex. MacKenzie her former Mod. Languages Teacher. "I remember the day John was born!!" she adds. We are indebted to Mrs. Braid (Pamela Gibson) for a new address for her brother Douglas, a former dux of the school who is in practice in Bingley, W. Yorkshire. Mrs. Braid still maintains the annual Essay Prize in memory of her mother who was a most faithful friend and supporter of the school over many years.

Mrs. Brocklehurst (Margaret McWilliam) spent 8 weeks at the end of 1988 in Letojanni, Sicily. "We toured all the important archaeological sites on the island" she writes, "and of course went up Etna as far as one is allowed, approx. 9,000 ft. up. We had snow the week-end before Xmas - the first snow there for 25 years!" She adds, "Both of us are now sporting replacement hips - very successful ops. in both cases." (We know some of our other readers will be heartened by that piece of information.) Iain Brown is now commuting to Edinburgh daily from Blackford". Anyone having an elegant New Town house going for a song is asked to write to

Bell-Ingram, estate agents, and mark the envelope for the personal attention of Mr. I.C.I. Brown. Iain Burgess has informed us that he took early retirement from the British Geological Survey on 30/9/87 and is now an Honorary Research Fellow in the Dept. of Earth Sciences, at Leeds University. John Calder's big news is in the matrimonial column of course. He writes "Currently getting our new home in Inverness in order, and still roaming the Highlands and Islands seeking out the television licence dodgers!" John served as best man for Eddie Duncan last April, and enlisted fellow F.P. Barry Main to do the same duty for him in June. After a spell at R.A.F. Leuchars (where he met pilot Archie Liggat and R.A.F. policeman Norman McIver) civil engineer Norman Campbell has now moved to a different site in ~~Orkney~~ with his firm Mowlem Construction. While at home last September Norman again distinguished himself on the football field by scoring a hat-trick against league champions Carrbridge and helping Grantown United to win the MacLean Cup.

The daughter, Elaine, born to Douglas and Jane Carse arrived on Douglas's birthday! Douglas is now qualified as a member of the Institute of Civil Engineers. An immaculately typed reply from Mrs. Chapman (Irene Edwards) underlines the fact that she has been doing a course this year. She reports "We did make it to stay with Amelia & Ernie for their Silver Wedding celebrations, but the weather was not very kind during our fortnight. At the time of writing Gran is staying with us, but returns home at the end of January." She goes on "I was elected a school governor at our younger daughter's school in September so I'm doing my bit for education. Otherwise nothing momentous to relate, I'll leave that to the more adventurous exiles!" Mrs. Chapman (Elizabeth McDonald) reports she and her family are all well in New Zealand. She goes on - "Had a visit from Douglas Low just before Christmas - he is well, tanned and enjoying his "walkabout". Thought Scotland was looking very bonny, summer of '88 while over there. Sad to see all the empty shops and the Palace Hotel on the High Street, but generally, still the same Grantown."

"1988 has been a pretty hectic year" writes Mrs. Chisholm (Jane Dunlop), "Became a god-mother and auntie to Paul and Wendy's son Damen and on the 5th November got married at Cromdale Church, with Fiona Walker as my bridesmaid. I'm now half-way through my midwifery training which I'm finding very interesting."

David Clark reports from Fairmilehead that he is to move to Staffordshire or Derbyshire this summer following a promotion within his firm (Marley Roof Tiles). His wife (Sheonaid McGregor) has been teaching at Buckstone School in Edinburgh and hopes to continue her career in the South. Mrs. Clark (Janet Barclay) wrote us from her home in Carnoustie with instructions to send her magazine to Brechin. Duly noted! Mark Clark says he has moved on from growing bulbs, and is now employed by Shell as an Agrichemical Specialist in Forfar. He is also Chairman of Fettercairn Young Farmers, and Secretary of the District Y.F.C. "Have recently been promoted to District Manager's Clerk with the Prudential - a very interesting job." writes Mrs. Cowan (Wilma Irving). She reports the addition of a grandson to their family. As her two sons now live in Germany and Holland this was a good excuse to spend their holidays there last year. This year they are hoping to visit Grantown. "We have no plans to get married until my probation's over" writes Lesley Craib who is now Primary teaching in Kingussie. John is still at R.A.F. Kinloss, so we manage to keep in touch." She finds teaching "exhausting but very interesting."

Our first mail of 1989 was a nice New Year card for which we are grateful to Mrs. Craig (Dorothy Calder) who is still at the Glenesk Distillery near Montrose. Mrs. Crichton (Lorna Forbes) returned to work, part-time in the Personnel Department, Woodend Hospital, in January 1989 and is "enjoying both motherhood and work very much". Her son Alasdair was born last August. Seasoned traveller Mrs. Cropp (Margaret Templeton) hopes to be back in Grantown in July. Of her movements for the current 24 months she reports - "We motored over Canada to Vancouver where we have a daughter and her family. We revisited our favourite places in the Rockies. We returned through the States visiting the Grand Canyon. We went on a moonlit dinner-cruise at Hot Springs, on a paddle boat down the Mississippi and explored the Mammoth Caves in Kentucky - a few of the highlights. This year? Classical spots in Italy - Rome, Pompeii, Florence, Pisa - as well as Paris, Luxembourg, Venice - then to Scotland as always. Hope to see some friends in Grantown."

Iain Cumming is now Captain/O.I.M. on the drilling rig "Ocean Nomad" presently drilling for gas in the Piper East Field, while his wife Fiona (Ledingham) continues as a Community Occupational Therapist in Edinburgh.



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Mrs. Findlay (Shirley Masson) has her big news item in the Births column. Laura Jayne was christened in October in Inverallan - one of the five youngsters christened by new minister Rev. Morris Smith at his first christening service. "Still enjoying working life - currently in the mortgage department at the Halifax Building Society." reports Gillian Forbes. She has now a new address as she has moved to Aberdeen's West End. Sister Louise is pleased with things too and "Currently enjoying third and final year at Grampian School of Physiotherapy." "Still Guide Dogging, Gardening, S.N.P'ing!" reports Mrs. Forsyth (Nancy Gray). "Still enjoying life, although my 50th birthday is just around the corner!" writes Robin Fraser. He is still involved in B.B. work. The Aberdeen Battalion is 100 years old in 1991, so preparations to celebrate this have already begun. Mrs. Fraser (Elspeth Mitchell) just made the deadline having been kept busy by the arrival of granddaughter No 2! She has a son being married this summer, and is also looking forward to the return of Judy and Bill to Grantown. Congratulations to Shona Fraser who was recently presented with her Duke of Edinburgh's Gold Award. Shona is doing nursing training in Dundee. Mrs. Gordon (May Paton) who has been unearthing some old photos of her class-mates and fellow Brownies for the Strathie is obviously endowed with a good memory - everyone in the photos is identified! Helen Gordon moved to Chester in September to take up her first post as a fully qualified pharmacist. She is at present working on rotation in the Chester hospitals. "Co-incidentally," she writes "James is also now in Chester - keeping an eye on his little sister!" Big Brother duly reports his move to Chester last August "to take up employment with Unilever Research, still on the same subject - conversion of crude oil to petrol." Sister Mairi now has a permanent position as a personal secretary in the Diabetic Out-Patient Department at the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh. Congratulations and best wishes to all three!

Colin Grant is in his second year at Strathclyde University. He writes - "landed lucky with the lecturers' strike and was awarded two "free" degree passes in mathematics and economics." "This is probably too good to last," commented his former headmaster! Donald Grant is still living in Edinburgh but is changing jobs from Marconi to a smaller Edinburgh based company called OWL. By careful manipulation of dates he has managed to have a few weeks gap which may well be spent on skis! Fiona Grant is "Still working in the Eye Pavilion but now doing 8a.m. till 5p.m. Mon. to Fri., and only one weekend on in a month. Lovely to work normal hours for a change!" She goes on, "Took Mum to Wimbledon last June (one of her life time ambitions). From our Front Row Centre Court seats we saw all our favourites from Chris Evert to Ivan Lendl - a great experience." "Settled down well to married life" writes Graham Grant from Invergordon. "Realised lately" he continues there appear to be no Strathspey Exiles in Easter Ross! But no doubt Graham keeps the flag flying! "Still enjoying life with British Midland" (Airlines) writes Shelagh Grant, "taking as much advantage as possible of the 'perks of the trade.'" (i.e., cheap tickets to everywhere - Editor's jealous note!) Valerie Grant is soldiering on with the Inland Revenue in Edinburgh. Clan Grant enthusiast Walter Grant assures us that "Any F.P. Grants will be made most welcome if they join the Clan Grant U.K. Society." Walter's address is in the list of course, if you are interested. We note from the Strathie, by the way, that Walter's firm has been entrusted with the building of the new school at Duthil. An appropriate choice!

Mrs. Greenwood (Mary Winchester) is still in Todmorden, Lancs. Donald Gunn assured us he was "Still enjoying retirement!!" when he called with his slip early in February on one of his regular trips down from Dingwall to visit his father. Mrs. Hankinson (Mairi Macdonald) reports a new address in Harrogate. "Daughter Jill is enjoying her first year at school", writes Mrs. Harris (Kathleen Dunn). "Mum is doing some teaching part-time but otherwise nothing new to report!" Mrs. Harvey (Catriona Johnston) reports that she has taken on a part-time job in an antiques shop near St. Andrews and enjoys doing that. Husband Stewart and daughter Natalie are both well. Albert Hastings is still running his 'Gift Shop' in Nairn High Street. Peter Henderson is still working for British Gas Supplies Department in Livingston. We are pleased to be back in touch with Mrs. Hepburn (Rita Mackay) who now lives in Inverness. "Final year at last, and busy at the moment finishing off my honours project and attempting to do some swotting for the finals in June" writes Business Studies student, Ian Herd. All good wishes for June, and congratulations on achieving your Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award. (Ed.)



"Please note change of surname" writes Pam Macpherson (formerly Mrs. Lynch). "Since last filling in an information slip (three years ago!) I ~~have~~ remarried and am now Mrs. Malcolm Higgins. I am still living and teaching in Chesterfield." Mrs. Hobbs (Gillian Henderson) wrote us to say she had "a gorgeous, dark-haired, blue-eyed, healthy and happy baby" (Kate) and she is planning a christening at Nethy about the time we go to press. She has also moved to a "fabulous two-storey open plan house" in Fremantle - altogether "another exciting and full year." Now "happily settled in Perth" Mrs. Hollins (Maureen Gardner) "began working as a Playleader at our church's playgroup - usually a most enjoyable experience!" Both her children recently started piano lessons "and normally practise without having to be pushed!" We remember Maureen as a most dependable pianist at morning assemblies so the youngsters have a tradition to maintain. We are indebted to Andrew Howlett for the news that his brother Duncan has got engaged. His fiancée's name is Christine, and she also lives in Aberdeen. Andrew himself is still in S.W.1. "No change", reports Mrs. Hunter (Fiona Henderson) "except that our new neighbours turned out to be Raymond and Daphne Green!" Would you believe that this information and news of another neighbourly coincidence (see the item from Mrs. Moore (Valerie Dewar) reached us during the week of the visit of the cast of 'Neighbours' to this country!:

Edward Illingworth sent a friendly greeting from Newton Mearns. He called on us last year on Midsummer Day en route for Hopeman, then U.S.A. to visit brother Marr. He retired in 1987 and says he is "enjoying life to the full." John Irving is still collecting taxes in Bolton. Mrs. Douglas Jamie (Eileen Calder) was delegated by the family to return their slips this year and gave us a full run-down on the news. Mum and Dad (Sandy and Mary) were just off for a fortnight in Spain, a nice change from slaving away for British Telecom in Inverness in February! Alasdair is still with Speedprint, but has other important news in the "Engagements" column! Eileen herself has remarried - her husband is a self-employed Painter and Decorator, and she also has important news in the "Births" column. Congratulations! "Still retired - but not completely retiring!" confesses Grace Kirk! Our thanks to Mrs. Laing (Katharine Templeton) who sent good wishes from Edinburgh where she is Community Midwifery Sister at the Eastern General. W.P.C. Jill Lennon will have completed 3 years service by our publication date and is still at Albany Street Police Station. She has moved out to the "countryside" of Waltham Abbey to live, however P.C. Andrew George is at the same station and forms part of the Tartan Mafia which is the backbone of policing in Kentish Town and Albany Street. Press and Journal features sub-editor Mrs. Lilley (Jane Macaulay) has been involved in the Paper's recent re-vamp. She has to plan, lay-out and check pages. Of her five year old son she writes "Andrew has started school and loves it. Whatever they say about new teaching methods, not much seems to have changed in the basics of learning to read and the thrill of starting to recognise the printed word - since Miss Campbell's class at Abernethy Junior Secondary!"

Douglas Low has "gone bananas" while travelling in Australia and New Zealand! One of his jobs was in a bakery where the computer went haywire and over-produced banana slices tenfold. Douglas lived on these for a month in the bush! Karen Low is touring South America and is just back there after a two month trip to the Antarctic with a French Television Service Unit which was producing a documentary on that area. Karen must surely qualify for the title of our furthest flung F.P! As a W.P.C. in Lothian and Borders Constabulary and a Drummer with Edinburgh City Police Pipe Band, Susan Low enjoys opportunities to make all sorts of visits with the band - including one to Canada. "Hope to visit Grantown in late April, to introduce two friends to Strathspey" writes Mrs. Lugg (Jean Burgess). She goes on "Visited Iceland in May 1988 and enjoyed it very much. The weather changed in minutes from hail, sleet and rain to blue sky and sunshine! That was my travelling swan song! My passport has expired - after 50 years, and it is time to stay at home. We have had such a mild winter (in Stranraer). We had crocus, snowdrops and bergenia for Xmas and our first daffodil on 18th Jan! We now have tulips and hyacinth but the present high winds (February) have played havoc with the daffodils."

Mrs. MacArthur (Joan Paterson) tells us she "recently returned from a most enjoyable trip to the French Alps with a party from Auldearn Primary School". Congratulations to Simon Macaulay who has been promoted to the second-top job in the Educational Institute of Scotland after only five years as a full-time official of the organisation. Previously Simon, who graduated with Honours in French and Politics at Edinburgh University, taught in the Western Isles. "I am looking forward to my responsibilities" he writes. Claire McCann has been working at the British Medical Association Graphic Design Department and enjoying London - but is planning to go to Nigeria in June. We wish Bon voyage et bonne chance! Mrs. McClelland (Beth Lawrence) reports that her daughter Karen is now in her first year at Glasgow University. We noted that press photographer Sandy McCook who has been with the Press and Journal for nine years, recently took first place in a Sport Photographer of the Year competition with a fine action shot which really caught the exhilaration of a young water-skier on Aboyne Loch. Congratulations Sandy! Oil services engineer Derek McCulloch transferred from Aberdeen to Bahrain in April 1988, and was promoted to Division Engineer with his firm last December. "After three happy years in the cold, wet climate of Scotland," he writes "it was reassuring to know that there really is sun above all that cloud."

Colin McBain has a new address in London and a new job too as a Credit Checker with a South Bank business firm. He had the misfortune to suffer a break-in at his new flat after he had moved his things in, but before he had settled in himself. Alistair MacDonald is "Still chasing 'black gold' in the Australian Outback". He has recently been in contact with Stanley Cooke and Joyce Campbell who have moved to "Oz", and has visited Gordon McIntyre in Queensland. "Retirement is great" writes James MacDonald. "We have been able to go to our holiday home in the south of France when we wanted and have also walked the length of the North Norfolk coast. Feeling very fit." There speaks a contented man! Extra-specially proud grandad Gordon MacGregor is "Happy to say I now have a grandson and his name is (right first time) - Gordon! Grandchildren total now three." Congratulations! "We're still in Inverness" reports Douglas McInnes. "Son John, is now in 2nd year at Glasgow University. Rachel is in 5th year in school." Douglas's parents are still living in Nairn.

Mrs. McIntosh (Iris Forbes) wrote us a nice letter with details of Valerie Dewar's wedding to Aubrey Moore at which she was "most privileged to be Matron of Honour." Ten days before the big day Iris had an unfortunate fall which resulted in a severe dislocation of the middle finger of her right hand. Subsequently she has had to have a plastic replacement joint inserted so that she can bend the finger once again. Iris has a daughter who is senior receptionist at the Crest Hotel in Peterborough, and a son in third year of secondary school. "Still investigating accidents," writes Randal McIntyre, "and looking forward to the Magazine." "No connection!" he adds hastily! "My wife is depute head teacher in Neilston Primary School where Sandy MacDonald (ex Durnain Bridge) is school chaplain" writes Gilbert MacKay. Gilbert himself is now a Course Director in Special Education at Jordanhill, and his book on "Teaching communication to children with severe mental handicap" is being published next month. Mrs. Murdo MacKay (Rachel MacRobert) was married between Christmas and New Year at Spynie Church. She and her husband both teach at Farr Secondary School. Brother Alister came home from Papua-New Guinea to attend the wedding. We learned (from one of the press cuttings carefully selected for us by Jean Paterson) that Keith McKerron's son was married to a Lossie lass at the Chapel of Edinburgh Royal Infirmary in January.

We were pleased to hear from Alex. McKenzie in Lossiemouth that he is "still on the move" and looks forward very much to the magazine. "I am busy at the moment organising the Reunion celebrating the 30th Anniversary of graduation of my medical class which falls this year - I'm glad it's not a Biennial event!" writes Dr. Sandy Mackenzie. He goes on "It seems like yesterday that I set out from Grantown East with my cabin trunk on that first journey to Aberdeen in October 1953!" Kevin MacKenzie reports that his unit has been moved into the Zoology building of Aberdeen University. Jean Paterson's close reading of the local papers provided us with the notification of the marriage of Evan MacKintosh's son Alastair, which took place in the chapel of Magdalen College, Cambridge last October. His bride hails from Lochmaben. Former staff member Mrs. Edith Mackintosh visited Grantown late in



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George Dixon is "in the middle of moving the second most extensively used local authority record office in Scotland - almost 700 years of records on about half a mile of shelving - to what are alleged to be temporary premises, Scottish Highland Hotels, Ltd. having leased the Old High School to turn it into what they aim to make a 4-star hotel." Life for George therefore "is not exactly placid at the moment." He is happy however that his youngest sister Lesley (Mrs. Simpson) and her husband have bought the front Heath Cottage. He goes on "As Lesley and I are fifth-generation West Enders, it's good to have the surviving Dixon toehold in the home town reinforced to that extent, however brief our visits have unfortunately to be these days." Margaret Donald is still Senior Nurse Manager at The Western Ophthalmic Hospital, Marlebone Road, London W.1. She says - "Life in the N.H.S. in Central London still remains tough - what I need is frequent injections of Grantown's fresh air and tranquillity." and she hopes to be applying some of this treatment this year! It was nice to hear from Fiona Donn again after a two year gap. Responsible for Fiona's silence was a nasty attack of post viral syndrome which caused her absence from work from February to August last year. (She takes Primary 1 at Merkinch, Inverness). She keeps in touch with Julia Owens (nee Jackson) and Margaret Fraser (nee Campbell). Fiona's parents (Rev. and Mrs. Donn, formerly of Carrbridge) celebrated their golden wedding last April. Andrew Duff is now working at the Police Mortuary in Aberdeen and has a flat at Bridge of Don, so is quite handy for visiting his folks at Tarves. We hear also that he won an award for his performance in his technical exams this year, and that he is just back from a winter holiday in Spain.

"Returned from Berlin in July 1988 to live in Wellingborough" writes Mrs. Dunn (Shonagh George). "My husband has taken up a post with M.O.D. in Whitehall. I have been doing Supply Teaching this term, and take up a full time post in Redwell Infant School in January." We look forward to some funny stories from the Infant Room in your next report Shonagh! We had a nice letter from Mrs. Drummond (Kay Hepburn) who moved to Sussex two years ago. There her husband manages an R.A.C. Country Club which includes two eighteen hole golf courses as well as other sporting activities and the "hotel" side. Kay herself works part-time in the Christ's Hospital school office. "It is an amazing school," she writes, "with so many traditions - the school band for example plays every lunch time as the sixteen 'houses' march into the dining hall - not quite as I remember G.C.S.!" "Still greying slowly but surely at Driving Instructing" reports Clive Elrick with the patient resignation necessary in that line of business! "Now a Staff Nurse enjoying my work in Elgin very much" writes Nigel Elrick. "I have now also bought a house in New Elgin, but I hope one day to be able to work abroad. Enthusiastic Mum Mrs. Farquhar (Amanda Munro) is "Looking forward to Siobhan's 1st birthday" which is to be spent at Nethy. Siobhan loves singing and dancing and also her weekly session in the swimming pool. Late in 1988 we had a very pleasant visit from Sine Fergusson whom we had not met before. She told us she intends to retire from her post as Canteen Manageress at the Bank of Scotland Training Centre this year, and she also gave us her new address. We wish her a long and happy retirement.

Mrs. Findlay (Shirley Masson) has her big news item in the Births column. Laura Jayne was christened in October in Inverallan - one of the five youngsters christened by new minister Rev. Morris Smith at his first christening service. "Still enjoying working life - currently in the mortgage department at the Halifax Building Society." reports Gillian Forbes. She has now a new address as she has moved to Aberdeen's West End. Sister Louise is pleased with things too and "Currently enjoying third and final year at Grampian School of Physiotherapy." "Still Guide Dogging, Gardening, S.N.P'ing!" reports Mrs. Forsyth (Nancy Gray). "Still enjoying life, although my 50th birthday is just around the corner!!" writes Robin Fraser. He is still involved in B.B. work. The Aberdeen Battalion is 100 years old in 1991, so preparations to celebrate this have already begun. Mrs. Fraser (Elspeth Mitchell) just made the deadline having been kept busy by the arrival of granddaughter No 2! She has a son being married this summer, and is also looking forward to the return of Judy and Bill to Grantown. Congratulations to Shona Fraser who was recently presented with her Duke of Edinburgh's Gold Award. Shona is doing nursing training in Dundee. Mrs. Gordon (May Paton) who has been unearthing some old photos of her class-mates and fellow Brownies for the Strathie is obviously endowed with a good memory - everyone in the photos is identified! Helen Gordon moved to Chester in September to take up her first post as a fully qualified pharmacist. She is at present working on rotation in the Chester hospitals. "Co-incidentally," she writes "James is also now in Chester - keeping an eye on his little sister!" Big Brother duly reports his move to Chester last August "to take up employment with Unilever Research, still on the same subject - conversion of crude oil to petrol." Sister Mairi now has a permanent position as a personal secretary in the Diabetic Out-Patient Department at the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh. Congratulations and best wishes to all three!

Colin Grant is in his second year at Strathclyde University. He writes - "landed lucky with the lecturers' strike and was awarded two 'free' degree passes in mathematics and economics." "This is probably too good to last," commented his former headmaster! Donald Grant is still living in Edinburgh but is changing jobs from Marconi to a smaller Edinburgh based company called OWL. By careful manipulation of dates he has managed to have a few weeks gap which may well be spent on skis! Fiona Grant is "Still working in the Eye Pavilion but now doing 8a.m. till 5p.m. Mon. to Fri., and only one weekend on in a month. Lovely to work normal hours for a change!" She goes on, "Took Mum to Wimbledon last June (one of her life time ambitions). From our Front Row Centre Court seats we saw all our favourites from Chris Evert to Ivan Lendl - a great experience." "Settled down well to married life" writes Graham Grant from Invergordon. "Realised lately" he continues there appear to be no Strathspey Exiles in Easter Ross! "But no doubt Graham keeps the flag flying! "Still enjoying life with British Midland" (Airlines) writes Shelagh Grant, "taking as much advantage as possible of the 'perks of the trade.'" (i.e., cheap tickets to everywhere - Editor's jealous note!) Valerie Grant is soldiering on with the Inland Revenue in Edinburgh. Clan Grant enthusiast Walter Grant assures us that "Any F.P. Grants will be made most welcome if they join the Clan Grant U.K. Society." Walter's address is in the list of course, if you are interested. We note from the Strathie, by the way, that Walter's firm has been entrusted with the building of the new school at Duthil. An appropriate choice!

Mrs. Greenwood (Mary Winchester) is still in Todmorden, Lancs. Donald Gunn assured us he was "Still enjoying retirement!!" when he called with his slip early in February on one of his regular trips down from Dingwall to visit his father. Mrs. Hankinson (Mairi Macdonald) reports a new address in Harrogate. "Daughter Jill is enjoying her first year at school", writes Mrs. Harris (Kathleen Dunn). "Mum is doing some teaching part-time but otherwise nothing new to report!" Mrs. Harvey (Catriona Johnston) reports that she has taken on a part-time job in an antiques shop near St. Andrews and enjoys doing that. Husband Stewart and daughter Natalie are both well. Albert Hastings is still running his 'Gift Shop' in Nairn High Street. Peter Henderson is still working for British Gas Supplies Department in Livingston. We are pleased to be back in touch with Mrs. Hepburn (Rita Mackay) who now lives in Inverness. "Final year at last, and busy at the moment finishing off my honours project and attempting to do some swotting for the finals in June" writes Business Studies student, Ian Herd. All good wishes for June, and congratulations on achieving your Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award. (Ed.)



November and enjoyed a day or two looking up old friends and colleagues before returning to her home with her daughter Marjory in Helensburgh. Bert Mackintosh's feet are obviously itching! He writes, "I'm thinking it is time to plan another trip to New Zealand." Bon voyage! "Still at Grosvenor Hotel, Glasgow" writes Isobel MacLean who is House Manager there. In a late return last year Morven MacLean wrote us as follows: "Still with the Hilton International Kensington, London. I was promoted in September and then again in January, so I am now the Information Systems Manager which means I am in charge of all the hotel's computers. Still enjoying life down here, mind you, staying single and concentrating on my career." Vikki MacLean says she is "Surviving 3rd year at Northern College of Education, Aberdeen Campus, completing a degree in Primary Education." She looks well enough on it to us! Mrs. MacLeman (Dianne Duncan) is "Lazing in the tropical sun and enjoying the world's best diving", in the Solomon Islands. She was also grateful for the mild weather during their January visit to Grantown. Mrs. McLeod (Elizabeth Macgregor) checked in as usual from Aviemore. Peter McNicol spent three months "in stormy seas off Eastern Canada" before a brief trip to Grantown in February to attend Alister's funeral. He reports from Quebec "Weather here still very wintry. A lot of skiers on the Plains of Abraham to be seen from our window." Peter and his wife look forward to the next reunion and send best wishes to all their friends.

No news from Ian Macpherson (Junior) is in fact good news, for it means he has been unaffected by the cuts at the Naval Depot at Rosyth where he is a supervisory officer. On behalf of the Croydon Scottish Society James Macpherson says good-bye to Bill and Judy Mitchell. They will soon of course be resident in Grantown and "their talents will be sorely missed, especially in drama!! There by hangs a tale!" You must tell us that tale sometime James - Promise? "The year was 1925 and Mr. Roberts, then minister of the Baptist Church, suggested to his son Frank and me that we take the new teachers, Robert Wilson and James Robertson, for a walk to Lochindorb over the hills. We duly arrived and Mrs. Cruickshank gave us tea and Mr. Hugh Cruickshank and his son Charles took us by boat across to the Castle. I remember it was very wet coming back. This was the beginning of the Old Guard - Happy Memories!" We are grateful to Peter Macpherson for that nostalgic piece of the history of our clubs. Readers of the "Strathie" will also recall that Peter sent in a photo showing his father's coach-building business in Spey Avenue in 1912.

Unfortunately our resources don't stretch to reproducing the dramatic snaps that Michael McTaggart sent us of a high level mountaineering trip near Zermatt, but we were nevertheless left in no doubt that the exhilaration of biking half-way up Cairngorm with Hamish Marshall (as a prelude to tackling the Macdhu plateau) still ranks as one of the most memorable experiences of his life! Of his work in Whitehall he says "It covers such diversity as the aftermath of nuclear testing in Australia, maintaining the exchanges with the U.S.A., and providing advice on nuclear matters." There is word of a family reunion next year, with Donald coming from Arizona and Ian from Australia. It would be nice if this could be timed to include the F.P. Dinner! Mrs. Findlay Marshall (June Grant) was late in reporting her 2nd daughter's arrival (see Births). No. 1 Jean Clare continues to thrive. She goes on "I have extended my family to include 4 milking goats. These join 1 cat and 1 dog (speaking loosely). Being surrounded by females and outnumbered 9 to 1, Findlay should be spoiled. I have told him that being a farmer's husband is a hard life!" Sue Martin writes - "I am getting married to fellow F.P. Raymond McIntosh in March '89 and then we are emigrating to Australia, Sydney initially, in April '89. I am hoping to continue in my chosen career in nursing." We wish you both all happiness and success. (Ed.) Mrs. Mason (Mary Tulloch) who now lives in Alicante, Spain apologises as follows for not filling in an information slip - "Sorry, Ed - I'm delighted not to have a career any more, and the only degrees I'm interested in now are those between 15 and 30 centigrade." John Milne sent his good wishes from Elgin. Wishart Milne is "Still busy and having an exciting time in local politics." He goes on "Last year we were 'allowed' to take our eldest (11) grandson on holiday and chose Egypt. This year we are off to Finland, Russia and Poland. Hope I'll be home to write you next year!"

"1988 has been a very eventful year with the addition of two new girls to the family!" writes Mrs. Mitchell (Judy Stuart). "Grand-daughter number two arrived in August and son Stuart was married in October. Bill's mother and sister, Elma Fraser, flew down to join us for the wedding in Devon as did my mother and sister Lillian and husband Jim Hair." She goes on "We are looking forward to moving north in the Spring. I have handed in my resignation and will be 'hanging up my chalk' at the end of March. Bill's contract ends in April, so all being well, we hope to move up permanently next May. I certainly do hope we will be installed by the 1990 Dinner!!" Mrs. Mitchell (Jan Templeton) is still in Inverurie. "Life in Hong Kong is still very busy and enjoyable" writes Mike Moir. "Ann has returned to teaching Art in English speaking schools." The 'Strathie' recently reported Mike's meetings with fellow F.P.'s Martin Riley and Andrew Scott. "It's strange how life goes full circle!" writes Mrs. Moore (Valerie Dewar). "Many will remember Iris McIntosh (née Forbes) and me being inseparable at school. Now over thirty years later, we are next door neighbours in Lhanbryde. I married during the summer of 88. Aubrey was a widower with two children, (Emma 14 and Trevor 10). He is Production Manager at Baxters of Speyside and I still have my job as secretary to the headmaster at Aberlour House so I am enjoying the best of both worlds."

Shaw Mortimer writes, "Our son Allan was married to Fiona Cation at Methil Parish Church last October and they have set up home in Edinburgh." Of the destruction of the PANAM jet over Lockerbie he says - "Moira and I feel very grateful that we were among the lucky ones who survived the disaster, as wreckage and debris from the plane landed all around us, but nothing hit the house." The past twelve months seem to have brought us more than enough reminders of our vulnerability and mortality. Anne Munro (ex Tormore) has changed her job, joining the Scottish Provident in Edinburgh where she has also bought herself a flat. Edwin (Sam) Munro has "Just returned from a lovely three months in the warmth of New Zealand" and was not enjoying the cold Scottish winds of March at all. He goes on "Mike joined me for the last few weeks and it was a joy to have all my family round me after all these years!" Jeannette Munro wrote us a nice appreciative letter after the 1988 Dinner and another along with her information slip confessing that she had staged a mini reunion of her own with classmates Grace Kirk and Mrs. Ewen (Betty Robertson). The latter had got in touch with Jeannette after a gap of nearly half a century! "Many ears must have been burning that day" Jeannette confesses further. The upshot for us is that Mrs. Ewen intends to become a member and attend the next reunion. We look forward to meeting her.

"We are about to move in a fortnight with nowhere to go (our new house isn't ready)" writes Mrs. Brian Murray (Ann Stewart). She goes on - "A family of four dogs, guinea pig and goldfish in limbo! It should be fun!" Read our 1990 issue for the next gripping instalment! Meantime - Good luck Ann! Raymond Philip, we note, has a new home address in St. Andrews. Dr. Ron Philip reports "I joined the Clan Grant Society at the Highland Games in North Carolina - Grandfather Mountain Gathering - just like Scotland, but with much better weather! - a three day event which made me very homesick!" Tim Pott is now employed by Greater Glasgow Tourist Board as a Tourist Information Assistant. He is also a partner in a ski holiday business. We failed to recognise John Rattray when we last saw him as he was disguised by a handsome beard. He is enjoying his job with Barclay's and reports enigmatically that "all aspects of life are fine." Reading between the lines we jealousy that the beard will be not unattractive to the fair sex!

Mrs. Ritchie (Daphne Duncan) needed an extension sheet to her information slip to tell us about her £2000 win in a "Scotland on Sunday" fashion contest! Here is her account - "Stephen and I were taken down to Edinburgh to choose £1000 of clothes by designer Betty Davies (owner of the Campus shops). What fun it was trying on all those coats and jackets in Harris Tweed and woollen skirts and dresses! I managed to spend the £1000 in no time at all! We were then wined and dined with the designer in The George Hotel - another unforgettable experience! On the second trip, down to Glasgow, the £1000 was to be spent on another Scottish designer's 'rags'. Moira Withers (under the Pod and Jois label) specialises in cocktail dresses and ball gowns, and as 'one' doesn't frequent many Balls around Whitehills and Banff, 'one' had to settle for three little cocktail numbers in silk velvet and jersey. Am now waiting



patiently for those invitations to the cocktail parties ..." and bang went twa thoosan'!! We bet the menfolk in the family would have fain diverted some of it into useful purchases like fishing tackle or golf clubs! But well done Daphne all the same! Ian Ritchie had nothing to report from Saffron Walden. "I saw the tragedy of the drought on a two month trip across the Prairies (Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, North and South Dakota, Iowa) to attend a cousin's Diamond Wedding - it was hot - up to 40 degrees C. all the time." writes Mrs. Ritson (Mina Keith) "then I finished up the year at the O'Connors' (Dorothy Cameron) Silver Wedding in Seattle." Margaret Ross (ex Broomhill) is "Adjusting to retired life and enjoying many activities." She wrote us an enthusiastic account of a long planned trans-Canada trip last September involving travel by air, bus and especially train. True to her origins, Margaret is still passionately interested in trains, and enjoys observing and photographing them. One regret was her inability to contact Mrs. Ritson (Mina Keith) while in Vancouver. In a late return last year Mrs. Robertson (Davis Thomson) reported as follows - "Still being very peripatetic around Dunbartonshire, teaching ESL: (i.e. English as a second language) - but at least I don't have the worries of Standard Grade. I just watch everyone else doing the worrying!! Son Iain now at Sec. School!". Now married, P.C. Charles Ross has moved to Rhiconich and is Officer in Charge of the largest one man beat in Britain. It must be a big job sorting out the sheep from the goats in and around Lairg! Walter Ross continues his successful career in the Metropolitan Police as Chief Superintendent in charge of the Diplomatic Protection Group. Eyes in the back of the head, though not essential, would be a decided asset, we feel! Dr. Bill Sellar "Left the family behind this summer and travelled to Santa Fe, making the acquaintance of the Navajo and Pueblo Indians. Sounds like an interesting trip.

Our latest news of Mrs. Selman (Elise Kirk) comes from last year's slip which we received in July, with profuse apologies! Catherine Smith was also a bit late last year but reported - "Life going along pleasantly as usual" from Cumbernauld. Mrs. Ian Smith (Janette Macdonald) is now established in High Wycombe following her husband's promotion to a post in the H.Q. of the Nationwide Anglia Building Society there. He is at present selecting 52 staff members to take part in "Operation Raleigh". "I have at last discovered the secret of academic motivation and success" writes John Smith, (ex Burnfield) "having just completed my Master of Business Administration Course (MBA) at the University of Bath." John has spent several years in the Far East before taking a year out to sponsor himself for this further qualification, and he already has an appointment with a Nottingham Marketing Systems firm as Sales Manager. Congratulations! "Enjoying our retirement" writes Mrs. Spalding (Isobel Gunn). "With the fine open winter the garden came in for some added attention, and the pathways have all been re-paved and tidied up generally. We look forward to the coming months, and making the most of our extra leisure time." We had another nice letter from Mrs. Squires (Isa Moyes) who is coming up to her 88th birthday in July. She writes "I count myself lucky to be able to lead a healthy, active life" and proves it by relating her recent travels to Newfoundland (by 'plane) and Toronto to visit relatives. She also keeps in touch with a wide circle of F.P.'s including Betty Mutch, John Stuart, Mae Marshall, Jean Lugg and Peter McNicol of course, whose home is also in Quebec. Mrs. Stevens (Meta King) whose letter we are delighted to publish, also ordered a magazine for her sister Alice (Mrs. McCurdy) who lives in Massachusetts, U.S.A.

Lachlan Stuart had "Nothing to report" but sent good wishes to everyone from his Portgordon home. Examination Office Neil Stuart writes "Up to my eyes in developing Standard Grade and Higher Grade courses in Technological Studies, Technical Drawing and Craft and Design. My older son (Peter) is presently making his S3 course choices - John McPhail (ex Grantown) is his guidance teacher!" Neil is looking forward to visiting his sister Judy (Mrs. Bill Mitchell) and other Grantown friends once the Mitchells are established in their new home in Grantown.

We had a nice letter from Alistair Surtees who is coming to terms with the sad loss of his wife Molly so soon after his retirement. Alistair spent Christmas with his brother Richard, Joyce and family in Eastbourne, but is now back in Sidcup. He plans to buy a flat in London and perhaps a place in Grantown for the summer months. We look forward to having him back among us. Richard Surtees is looking forward to "Our Golden Wedding on 20th October 1989" and also to teaching "our oldest grandson, James to drive." We wish serenity and satisfaction in both ventures! "Have been delighted with the very good winter - no snow!" writes Mrs. Sutherland (Elspit McIntosh). "Only problem is that the grass is growing!" Her son Colin was married last April, and he and Louise are busy working on their house - an old one. Her daughter Mhairi is A.P.M. in M. and S., Edinburgh where she sees lots of kent faces e.g. Billy and Rita Templeton. "Gordon and I are as usual being deluged by paper which seems to be an essential in modern education!" "Just taking off on a trip down memory lane" writes Mrs. Taylor (Marjory Cattanaach) "back to S. Australia, where we lived in the 1950's, to see old friends and visit old haunts. I'll bet they have changed more than somewhat!! We are also doing some touring in N. Zealand - then home via Bali, Singapore, Bangkok and Hong Kong, which we have visited before - we have Invernessian relatives there!" We wish Bon Voyage et Bon Retour! Gordon Templeton checked in as usual from Aberdeen. The author of the following magisterial lines reveals himself fully - right at the end! "It is difficult to realise that the baby of the family brought up at The Lodge has now retired to Nethy Bridge (where the local golfers had better look to their laurels!) Despite the fact that I am now in the "sere and yellow" stage I still attempt to keep the rest of the family in order, true to the James Templeton tradition. "Now Retired!" say the slips from Mr. and Mrs. Billy Templeton (Rita Marshall) so this brings them a free transfer to the 'Local' list, and the editor's best wishes for a long and happy retirement at "Coire Cas" Nethy Bridge to which they returned in December.

Congratulations to Mrs. Vickerman (Seonaid Grant) who gained a Bachelor of Education Degree a year ago. "Hard slog at my age" she comments, but no doubt it contributed to her appointment as Assistant Rector at Hutchesons Grammar School, Glasgow. Congratulations again! And also congratulations to Fiona Walker who successfully retained her singles title at the Tennis Club championships last September. Fiona also escorted Jane Dunlop (now Mrs. Chisholm) to the altar as her bridesmaid in November. Fiona was clad in jade satin instead of the constabulary blue she normally wears when on escort duty! Jane Wallace is now working with Scotsman Publications in the advertising department of the new "Scotland on Sunday". We wish both Jane and the Paper continued success. Sister Rona is still in the travel business, working as a Senior Sales Support Executive for Continental Airlines. Both have new addresses. Jay Ward is proud of his eldest daughter Elaine who achieved 8 Grade 1 'O' levels "trying to beat Dad!" Dad confesses to being "Fat and Forty", but did manage to qualify as a S.B.U. Badminton coach! Recently divorced Wilma Watt is coming on holiday to Grantown about the time we will be completing this issue. She became a grandmother for the first time with the son born to her daughter Catriona last November. Mrs. Webb (Margaret Templeton) went to London on 6th October last to the A.T.S. Reunion. "It was wonderful to be there and take part" she writes. "I was in St. Paul's at the service and at the Barbican Centre on Saturday where I met girls who had been in the Army with Betty Maitland. I also met my recruiting Sgt! Altogether I thoroughly enjoyed it!"

"I enjoyed the F.P. Reunion very much indeed, greeting old friends and having a very kind and receptive audience" writes Mrs. Weston (Sheina Donaldson) whose speech at the 1988 Dinner was greatly appreciated. She continues, "Life is much quieter in the Weston home with our youngest son now at University. No. 2 is still a student and No. 1 has now been working in London for 2 years." Mrs. White (Marjory Mackintosh) proudly reports that her son, Andrew, graduated this year with the B.A.(Accounting and Economics) of The Business School, University of Strathclyde. Mrs. Wilson (Ada Imray) "Completed a year as President of the Whitley Bay and District Society of St. Andrew (first time in their 60 years they had ventured to try a lady!) An enjoyable year of Scottish activities which included a visit to the Burns Federation Conference held in Hamilton, Ontario. Daughter Christine was married in Glasgow in October so many trips to Glasgow, but managed to fit in visits to the Garden Festival. Have plans to move North of the Border in the coming year."