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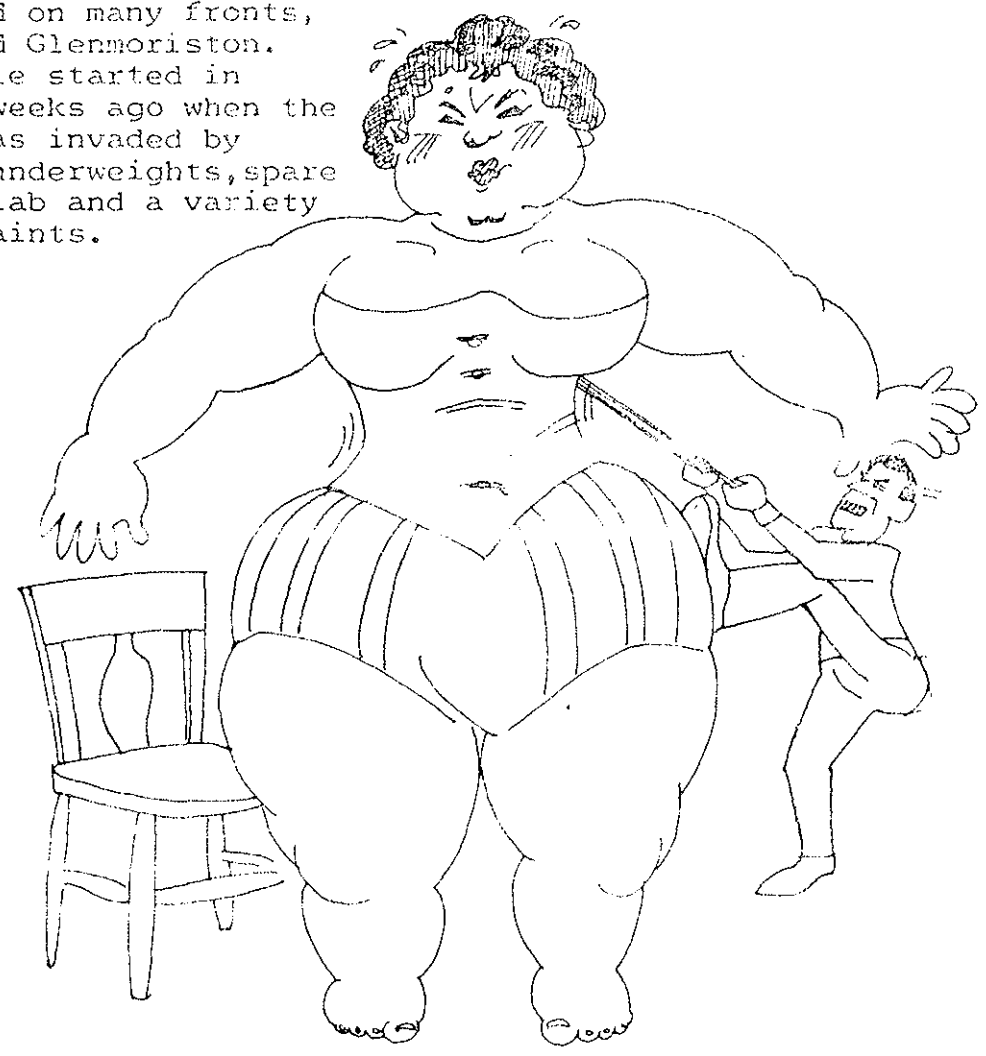
Moriston Matters



PRICE 10p NO 15 JUNE 1980

THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE.

This famous war which has for long been waged on many fronts, has now reached Glenmoriston. The local battle started in earnest three weeks ago when the Village Hall was invaded by heavy-weights, underweights, spare tyres, spare flab and a variety of other complaints.



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EDITORIAL

Congratulations to Pat MacDonald, the Pier/Inver Service Station, on the success of his efforts and of those who entered the lists in his support in earning a reprieve for the Station. We trust that in the fullness of time the reprieve will be remitted into a permanent pardon. It is invidious in such causes to single out particular individuals; so Pat and the others concerned would like to express their gratitude for all the help and support given. Tribute too must be paid to Esso for their constructiveness in reconsidering their position.

The importance of all this is encapsulated in the words of Mr Tom McKeith, Esso's Scottish Regional Manager (from the report in the "Press & Journal") 'We were conscious of the publicity and the views of some very sensible people and came to the conclusion that we should not close this station.' Public opinion can be mobilised and can mobilise itself to effect. This is a point we will return to in our assessment of the role of the Community Council.

No little space in this issue is devoted to the activities of the schools, publicising splendid achievement from pupils and staff alike. In connection with the "improvement" in one of the schools we are sure that S.G. would not mind if we all remind ourselves that the things which are understandably popular should not unduly eclipse the hard work done and being done which tends to be unsung.

The prize for 'Creative Writing' has been withheld this time until the young people recharge their batteries after a hard session. Its value for the next issue will be doubled.

cont. from p.1.

The Battle Cry on everyone's lips was "We want to lose". A strange slogan for any army surely, but perhaps if we explain that this was the inaugural meeting of the Glenmoriston Slimmers the phrase is quite appropriate.

It is encouraging to report that since the club started over 100 lbs. of unwanted flab have been lost and it is hoped that the club will continue to increase its losses.

The weapons that this club uses are relatively simple, and if you want to join a truly losing team you will be welcome along any Wednesday evening at 8 p.m. The war effort has been greatly helped by Mrs Everett from Fort Augustus, who has introduced music and movement during the evening, and this is very much appreciated by everyone.

So if you have a weight problem, don't be selfish and keep it to yourself; come and join our army and throw your weight around.

S.J.

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PADDY PATERSON DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

Mr Patrick (Paddy) Paterson, the new District Councillor for Fort Augustus and Glenmoriston, was born in Sutherland and brought up in Ross-shire. He had his introduction to the area which he now serves when he spent four years (1959 - 63) with other members of his family on the catering staff at Carmichael's Camp at Dundreggan when the Leviskie Power Station with its ancillary workings was built. It was during this period that he married Jan Nelson from Fort Augustus and their family consists of Jamie (13), David (12) and Julie (8).

Paddy remembers with warmth the compassion and understanding he found among the people of the Glen, and this feeling he reciprocates for he says that he was led to accept nomination for the Council because he has people at heart - they matter to him and he cares about their well-being. He works on different sites as a senior clerk of works with a company based at Fort William, but he is most anxious that anyone who wishes help with District Council business should feel free to contact him at his home in Fort Augustus. He is new to District Council work but he wishes to acknowledge the insight he has received from his predecessor, Peter Fraser, whose experience and enthusiasm have been a great support to him.

With regard to the recently re-organized local government, he feels it still requires time to prove itself, and he



would not judge it hastily. The new-type councillors are rather more limited in their powers and scope than under the previous system, but he aims to be guided by what is good for the area and for Inverness District Council. Community Councils have been accused of being mere 'talking shops', but he feels that they have come into their own with a wide spectrum of interests with which they can concern themselves, and although they do not have executive powers they are directly in the firing line to make suggestions from the community and agitate to see them carried through.

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He is a member of the Highland River Purification Board who have recently been making suggestions to combat pollution, etc. by the ever-increasing number of pleasure craft using the Caledonian Canal - e.g. emptying bases for their tanks with purification of the raw sewage - and this will be one of his special interests as District Councillor. He also feels that an Old Folk's Home and/or sheltered housing is very desirable in the area, and he will be pushing for the establishment of small industry such as he has knowledge of in Sutherland and Ross-shire. He is very concerned about the imminent proposed closure of the pulping side of the Pulp Mill with its resultant loss of

related jobs through-out a wide area. He will strive to see that Council property, especially Council housing, is kept in good repair and that the Caledonian Canal, a valuable growing tourist attraction, is also kept in good repair.

Again, at the end of the interview, he stressed how willing he was that anyone wishing to contact him should do so. Glenmoriston was good to him, he said, and he must do all he can to be good to Glenmoriston.

His address is BRAEVARD, FORT AUGUSTUS, and his telephone number FORT AUGUSTUS 6438.

M.E.F.

THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

—AN INVESTIGATION—

Perhaps one of the most important elements of the Local Government (Scotland) Act of 1973 will turn out to be the provision enshrined in the Act for the setting up of Community Councils, the serving members of which must be on the current electoral roll of the area the Council represents and who must be elected, for the most part, by those whose names appear on the current electoral roll of the area.

The Fort Augustus and Glenmoriston Community Council has been functioning for 3 years; "Moriston Matters" will now devote some space to its work. This will be in a series of four parts:

A. Relevant extracts from the

Council's Constitution and Standing Orders;

B. A quick run-through of its work so far, with particular reference to Glenmoriston;

C. Reactions and comments of members of the community; and

D. Assessment.

We acknowledge gratefully the assistance and information provided by Mr Everett, Secretary of the Fort Augustus and Glenmoriston Community Council and Rev. Peter Fraser, former District Councillor for the area.

We will give space over the next few issues to any relevant comments and views members of the community offer.

FORT AUGUSTUS AND GLENMORISTON
COMMUNITY COUNCIL.

A. How it works.

(a) The following are relevant extracts from the Council's Constitution. The numbers correspond to the numbers of the Constitution.

3. The objects of the Council shall be to ascertain, co-ordinate and express to INVERNESS DISTRICT COUNCIL and the HIGHLAND REGIONAL COUNCIL, Statutory Boards and other Public Bodies the views of the Community which it represents, in relation to matters for which those Authorities and/or Bodies are responsible, and to take such action in the interests of the Community as appears to its members to be desirable and practicable.

5. (a) The Council shall consist of a maximum of 10 (TEN) elected members; elected by and from persons living in the area whose names appear on the relevant electoral registers.

(b) Casual vacancies may be filled by co-optation at the discretion of the elected members of the Council. A member so co-opted shall be a person resident in the area whose name appears on the relevant electoral register and have full voting powers as had the member whose place is so filled and shall be entitled to serve out the term remaining to that member. A member^{so} co-opted shall be deemed an elected member.

(c) In addition the elected members may at any time co-opt members, having full voting powers, provided always that these shall be persons resident in the area whose names appear on the relevant electoral reg-

ister and the number of members so co-opted does not exceed one less than the number of elected members. In the selection of co-opted members due regard shall be given to sub-committees not represented by elected members. Elected and co-opted members shall be known collectively as ordinary members.

(d) The Council may at any time appoint any number of Associate Members, being members without voting powers.

(e) The Regional Councillor and the District Councillor for the area shall be invited to become ex-officio Associate Members.

6.(b) Each candidate (for election to the Council) must have a proposer and seconder. Candidates, proposers and seconders must be persons whose names appear on the current relevant electoral registers.

7. There shall be not less than 6 (SIX) meetings annually of which not less than 3 (THREE) shall be open to the public.

8. The Quorum of the Council shall consist of one third of the Ordinary Members provided that always at least one half of the quorum shall consist of elected members.

11.....A financial statement shall be prepared annually as at the 31st March.

12. Proposed alterations to the Constitution must be submitted in writing to the Secretary signed by two persons whose names appear on the current relevant electoral registers. The Secretary shall notify the members of the proposals not later than 14 (FOURTEEN) days before any meeting at which they will be discussed and

voted upon. Such proposals shall only be adopted on the approval of two-thirds of the members present and voting at that meeting, and subject to the approval, in writing, of Inverness District Council.

13. If the Council decides at any time that it is advisable to dissolve the Community Council it shall call a Public Meeting....The Community Council shall not be dissolved if 20 (TWENTY) or more persons present whose names appear on the current relevant electoral registers vote for it to be continued....

(B) The following are relevant extracts from the Council Standing Orders. The numbers correspond to the numbers of the Orders.

1) Voting shall be limited to Elected and Co-opted Members, always excepting that Co-opted Members shall not have a vote in matters concerning co-option.

2) The Chairman shall have a deliberative and casting vote.

3) Voting shall be by a show of hands unless a secret ballot is required by the Chairman or by not less than TWO members who themselves are eligible to vote.

4) A Resolution shall be passed on a simple majority of those present and voting. In the event of a tie the Chairman shall use his Casting Vote.

7) The Chairman shall have the right to defer the consideration of a motion or amendment to the next meeting unless the motion has been submitted to the Secretary by its proposer, in writing, prior to the current meeting in sufficient time to have it circulated with the notice of the current meeting.

9).....In the case of meetings open to the Public, the Secretary shall post notices of thesewithin the area served by the Council.

10) In exceptional circumstances, the Chairman may call a special meeting to deal with the exceptional item concerned provided that not less than FORTY-EIGHT hours' notice of the meeting and item is given to the members.

11)....The Secretary shall make available access to the Minutes of Council Meetings after their adoption.

13) These Standing Orders shall remain in force unless changed by a resolution of the Council. Proposed alterations must be submitted in writing to the Secretary, signed by two members eligible to vote. The Secretary shall notify the Members of the proposals not later than FOURTEEN days before any meeting at which they will be discussed and voted upon. Such proposals shall only be adopted on the approval of two-thirds of the members present and voting.

DARTS

The Annie Fraser and Duncan Grant Trophies were played for in the Glenmoriston Bar. There were about 30 entries and some high-scoring good close games were played.

However, the four finalists were Mary, Maggie, Dave and Zeb. Mary and Dave met in the Duncan Grant Shield - it's a pity there has to be a loser because it was an excellent game. As we commiserate with Mary and congratulate Dave we look forward to next season.

The Annie Fraser Trophy was battled for between Maggie and

(The following tribute from Father Mark Dilworth to Rev. Peter Fraser was just too late for inclusion in the last issue of "Moriston Matters".)

ED.

REV. PETER FRASER.

When I became parish priest at Fort Augustus just six years ago and began to work in Glenmoriston alongside Mr Fraser, the first thing that struck me was how well he knew the Glen and its people. He knew everybody, long-established inhabitants and newcomers alike. What was more, he cared about them all. He excluded nobody, whether they belonged to his congregation or not.

Soon I realised that Mr. Fraser, far from ever doing anything that would keep Protestants and Catholics apart, was eager to bring all sections of the community closer together; Glenmoriston could give a few lessons to some less enlightened places on how to make all citizens alike feel that they belong. All were welcome at the various occasions, in the Laird's house or the schools or the hall or the hotel, and Mr. Fraser was present whenever possible. I am sure he did a lot to foster this spirit.

It was the custom for the priest to go to the Invermoriston School each Friday morning at the same time as the minister and teach the Catholic children. At the time I had more schools to visit than there were days in the week and so I could not manage every Friday. Mr. Fraser, however, was ready to include the Catholic children in his class whenever I did not arrive, and we all knew that he would honour that trust most

faithfully. Later he arranged for me to join him in teaching all the children together, and even to take the class alone when I was there and he was not. This is one of my most pleasant memories of my five years as parish priest and I am grateful to Mr. Fraser and also to Mrs. Morris and, later, Mrs. Nicholson.

Mr. Fraser carried this christian co-operation a stage further when he began to involve the priest to take part in funeral services whenever the family of the deceased had Catholic connections. It was a great pleasure to me when Catholics on their side expressed the wish that he would take part in a service conducted by the priest.

A typical example of how Mr. Fraser worked was the Christian Aid collection each year. He was already including the Catholics, giving them too the chance to contribute if they wished. Then he invited me to share the collecting and organising, and the cause of christian unity was advanced a little further. And let me say at this point, all the time one was aware of Mrs. Fraser sharing his ideals and extending her kindness and thoughtfulness to everybody alike.

While willing to help and co-operate with Catholics in the Glen, Mr. Fraser - and this impressed me greatly - was always careful not to give any appearance of infringing their rights or putting pressure on them or treading on their toes in any way. He was, for example, anxious that the hall should be ready for us whenever we had Mass there, and I remember how concerned he was on the few occasions when every-thing was not in order.

In fact, my abiding impression is of his dedication and spirit of service, his genuine pastoral care, his love of his flock. He was clearly trying to follow his Lord and Saviour. I am grateful not only for having worked

with Mr. Fraser for five years but also for his friendship and his christian example. To him and to Mrs. Fraser I say Thank you and may God's blessing remain with you.

M.D.

FROM REV. P. FRASER

Thanksgiving and Confession

This was to have been a letter to the Editor; but perhaps it can suitably take the form of a short article. On behalf of my wife and myself I have to thank the Editor and all his contributors who, on top of all those who gave so generously, have written so generously on the occasion of our official send-off from Glenmoriston.

For us all, of course, "The End of an Era" means the beginning of a new lap of the Road. Let us bring to it the best and highest that we can and it will prepare us for the next, and so on. The nearer we live to the Best One we know, the nearer we shall be drawn to each other. Many of our troubles begin with misunderstanding through lack

of time, fairly, to see the other point of view. Here is the Confession part of this article. The Best One I know has bidden me say, "Forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors." We are right to have dreams and hopes. If in any way at any time these have been spoiled by us, please forgive. Someone has said that every good thought you have ever had can be brought to its fulfilment.

Thankfully remembering and not forgetting any good thing, let us allow ourselves to be braced for the new days,

Go, lean upon the work,
The work you have to do;
For God is in the work,
And God loves YOU!

May His Blessing be with you all for ever.

PETER FRASER

Appendix to Mr Fraser's Article

In deference to requirements of time on April 18th I left out part of my address. It included Names of Office-Bearers in the Glenmoriston Congregation of the Church of Scotland during my Ministry 1949-1980, as follows:

Elders: Andrew Duff (Session Clerk), James Warren, Edward Ballard, James Ewen Grant of Glenmoriston (Session Clerk),

William Newlands, Kenneth MacCallum, Leslie A Ward (Organist and Auditor), Magnus B. Marr (Clerk to the Congregational Board and Organist).

Members of the Congregational Board: Hugh Mackenzie, Mrs Anne Mackenzie (Pier), John A. Grant, Mrs Catherine Ross, Miss Margaret Campbell, Mrs MacCallum, Mrs MacTavish, Mr and Mrs James Innes, Kenneth Craft (Treasurer, Free

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SERVICE OF LINKAGE

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will Offering), Mr R Tomlin, Mrs Tomlin (Organist), Mrs Sey, Gordon Cowie (Treasurer, Free Will Offering), Alick Sandilands, Iain MacKenzie.

Organists in addition to those above:

Mrs Officer, Mrs Oliver, Mrs McNab (Sunday School).

Woman's Guild Presidents:

Mrs Fraser (also Sunday School), Mrs Margaret Grant of Glenmoriston (who regularly gave use of her house).

Church Officers:

John Smart (Elder in Free Church), Mr and Mrs McNab, The Manse Family.

Elders who helped:

J.D. Michael, Tom Barr, John M. Macleod, William Johnstone, Donald Fraser (all of Urquhart), James S. Bennet (Mrs Fraser's father), and many others who helped in many different ways, including our two families.

FREE CHURCH COMMUNION.

The Free Church in Fort Augustus had their Communion season from the 8th to the 12th of May.

On Thursday the services were conducted by Rev. Roy Kilpatrick, minister of Kiltarlity and Kirkhill. This was Mr Kilpatrick's first visit to the Fort Augustus Church. The service on Friday was taken by the minister.

On Saturday the preacher was Rev. Duncan Beaton, Senior Minister of Leith and now retired to Inverness. Rev. D. Beaton also preached on Sabbath and Monday. Mr Beaton recalled how he had once before preached in the Fort Augustus Church as a lay preacher about 40 years ago.

The weather was very favourable throughout and representatives from the three congregations managed to attend the services, which were greatly enjoyed.

J.F.

On Tuesday, 27th May, the service of Linkage, Ordination and Induction took place at Kilmore Church, Urquhart, when a large representation from Glenmoriston were present at this special occasion.

The Linkage was a historic and somewhat sad occasion for Glenmoriston as it meant that we were finally saying goodbye to the sole charge of the Rev. Peter Fraser, and joining with the congregation of Urquhart to form a new dual charge under the ministry of the Rev. Bart Buell.

Following the ceremony of linkage, the ordination and induction of the Rev. Bart Buell took place, conducted by the Moderator of the Inverness Presbytery, the Rev. Tom Swanson, and ministers and elders of the Presbytery.

At the end of the service, the congregation moved to the Public Hall, where, under the chairmanship of the Rev. Fergus Robertson, Interim Moderator in the vacancy and the Rev. Bart Buell, the assembled company were treated to an evening of song and humour, the former coming from the Urquhart Sunday Schools and the Church Choir. Equally in fine voice were the ladies and gentlemen of Glenmoriston whose spirited singing of "The Dancing Heart" soon had the audience clapping in time. The humour came from the many witty speeches made throughout the evening, mainly from the ministers, which goes to prove that they do have a sense of humour!

Perhaps the highlight of the evening was the robing of the Rev. Buell by Mrs Michael, an incident not without humour as Mrs Michael struggled to place the hood over the head of the Gentle Giant. She eventually made it!

cont. next page.

As the 'wee sma oors' approached the proceedings were brought to their conclusion with the singing of the Doxology and the pronouncement of the Benediction. To ward off the chill of a May night, the ladies of the parishes produced the welcome cup that cheers and so an unforgettable evening was brought to its final conclusion.

On Sunday, 1st June, at 3 p.m. a large congregation gathered in the church to hear the introductory service conducted by the Rev. James Philip of Edinburgh, in which he welcomed the Rev. Bart Buell to the service of God in the parish of Glenmoriston and hoped that his stay would be a long and happy one.

D.R.T.

KILRAVOCK

On Thursday, 24th April, myself and 11 others, Mr and Mrs Fraser all went in three cars for an overnight stay at Kilravock (pronounced "Kilrock") Granary.

We left the church about 1.15 p.m. heading towards Culloden. When we reached Culloden, we unpacked our packed lunch and ate while watching a rather small bulldozer moving some earth. While some of us were eating, two of our group discovered they had rushed off in such a hurry they had left their lunches! We soon sorted that out, though. After sufficiently stuffing our faces we left Culloden and after about quarter of an hour we reached Kilravock. After a mad rush to get the best bedroom (there is one with a sitting-room attached) we were ready

to unpack (the amount some of us took, you would think we were staying for a month!).

Having settled in, some of us went to Kilravock Castle, where there are such games as squash, tennis, croquet and putting, but if none of these appeals to you, there are still the gardens to enthral you.

When we returned to the Granary, Christine and I started to prepare the dinner. It wasn't a lot, but it sure did taste good (even if I say so myself). Then the boys washed the dishes. We did odd things, each of us doing our own. At 10 o'clock, Mr Fraser called a meeting where we talked and sang hymns. This was followed by tea or hot chocolate and biscuits. Then it was off to bed as lights had to be "out" at 11 o'clock.

Next morning we were all up before 8 o'clock and had breakfast, which was prepared by Catherine and Lorraine. After breakfast some of us stayed or some went to Croy, but at 10 o'clock we all met in the sitting-room where the local minister chatted to us and we sang a couple of hymns. Then all of us went to the Castle until lunch, which was prepared by Tricia, Karen and Amanda. That over, we all went upstairs to pack.

At 3 o'clock Mr and Mrs Grange were prepared to take us home. We stopped at Inverness and stayed for about half an hour before going home.

S.L.R.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11.

plenty more fish in the sea - I hoped. Gus's attractiveness was only skin-deep, and feeling strangely unsatisfied and unattractive, I departed alone from the cafe and headed home to mum.

S.F.(15) (Larkhall Academy)

Disaster: A modern Story

My alarm rang loudly. Lazily I reached over and silenced it. It was only quarter past eight. Half awake, I wondered what on earth had possessed me to get up this early on a Saturday morning, of all mornings. Then suddenly I remembered and was wide awake in an instant. Tonight was to be my big night, a night I would always remember - tonight was my first date. Of course, at the ripe old age of thirteen my first date would have to be with Gus. Gus was the local dreamboat. He had, as it seemed to me, all the assets a perfect guy should have: he was tall, muscular, handsome and dressed always in black leather. He was gorgeous, but, perhaps most important of all, he had a motorbike, a huge, powerful, shining machine which looked far better than anything I'd ever seen before. Yes, I'd be the envy of every girl for miles around and I was determined to impress him, if it was the last thing I did.

After recovering from the general shock of what was going to happen tonight, I rushed into the bathroom to wash and get all dressed up for my début. It was only half past eight in the morning but I had to meet Gus at seven that evening and, although I knew I'd have hours to spare, I wanted plenty of time to get myself looking perfect - or as perfect as was possible.

Once I was spotlessly clean and polluting the air with perfume, I squeezed into my pink satin trousers and sequined skin-tight top and prepared for the war-paint ceremony. Actually I thought I was fairly competent in the

art of plastering myself in make-up and prayed that Gus would have the same opinion.

When I was finally ready I looked at the clock. Only two o'clock. So I busied myself playing records and rehearsing what I would say to Gus when I met him. At six o'clock, too excited to eat my tea and well-equipped with cigarettes and chewing gum, I put on my long black leather coat and headed for the café where I'd to meet my idol, still unsure whether to greet him a "Hey man! how you doin'" or just a simple "Hello!"

I arrived at the café just before seven and my feet were killing me in my new stiletto-heeled shoes. My stomach fluttering as I walked in, I stumbled over the step at the door. I felt my face heat up in embarrassment and from the moment I heard Gus laugh and mock me, I knew the night would be a disaster. Slowly I walked over to the table where he sat with four of his friends, also dressed in black leather. He mumbled a few words of recognition to me, pointed to a chair and signalled me to sit down. After that I felt as if I never existed. He talked among his friends all night and even when I attempted to speak, he just ignored me. I felt very rejected.

But that was nothing. The grand finale came when he and his friends rose from the table at nine o'clock, mumbled something about work, and left. As I watched the guy I had dreamt of and longed for turn his back on me, he suddenly seemed less attractive. In fact his nose was rather big, come to think of it. Why worry! There was

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10.

Many of the readers of this magazine will remember Miss.C.A. Macdonald the school teacher in Invermoriston, or 'Old Benbecula' as she was more commonly known to parents and pupils alike.

She was, obviously, from Benbecula, but had been so long in the village that she was one of the locals. She took a great interest in her pupils, past and present, although when I think of the tricks we played on her, I wonder sometimes why she didn't expel us all.

"Putting on the clock" was a favourite pastime. The said clock used to stand on the window-sill and had no glass covering the face, so it took no more than a second to move the minute hand on a little. The trouble was that almost everyone moved it, with the result that no one knew just how fast the clock was. Eventually we went beyond the score and were found out, but not before we had time to hide under the bridge between the School and the Post Office and watch "Old Ben" chase after us on her bike.

Another favourite ploy was to hide the Library Books when the time came to check them. Naturally we helped look for the missing ones - this usually took until the Library Van arrived at the gate.

I am quite sure she breathed a sigh of relief when we finally reached Primary 7 and moved on to Senior School, but not before we were given a half-crown which she gave to every child at both Christmas and summer holidays, and there were usually about thirty of us.

Of course, we didn't spend all our time getting up to mischief.

- we did work at times as is obvious from the careers followed by several of her pupils. One teacher to seven different classes must have been very frustrating - most of our mischief was carried out when she was engrossed in teaching younger classes and we had finished the work she had set out for us.

She was one of the kindest people you could hope to meet. On cold winter mornings we were taken round the fire for a heat, and many a bus home was missed (the Editor should remember this) so that we could have a cup of hot cocoa and a cream bun in the school-house.

I often think if I for one could go back to those days I would not be a party to all the tricks that were played on her - or would I?

H.D.

Muir of Ord.

Postscript

Miss C.A. Macdonald took up her appointment as Headmistress at Invermoriston Primary in 1945. Before this, during her forty-five years' service in Inverness-shire, she had been teaching in various schools in Benbecula and on the mainland. She retired in 1962 when she was presented with an inscribed gold watch from the people of the Glen, and returned to her native Aird in Benbecula to keep house for her brother, on the family croft.

She died in hospital in Glasgow in 1972, where sadly in terminal illness, but nonetheless courageous throughout and expressing real appreciation, she was visited by the former pupils from Glenmoriston who lived then in the Glasgow area.

GLENURQUHART SEC.

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Ever since Mr Maxwell arrived at Glenurquhart Secondary School as the new headmaster the school has done nothing but improve.

The first signs of improvement came with the changing of the timetable. On a Friday afternoon we were given 3 periods (2 hours) for leisure. Now the pupils enjoy activities like the Bird Club, Football, Badminton, Tennis, Hockey, Swimming, Cookery, Circuit Training, Local History and others.

Next came the arrival of the portable classrooms, which will come into use after the summer holidays. When the new rooms are in use the future plans are to have ^{the} old buildings modernised internally with a whole new layout.

Recently the school became more mobile with the appearance of a long-awaited School Minibus. This 6-year old Ford Transit

has been near the top of the 'necessities list' for a long time, and now after a lot of work on behalf of the whole school we have at last got one. Other further improvements include a new chemical balance, which seems relatively unimportant, but must be of great necessity as it will cost the school around £750. There will be a clearout of all the chemicals in the science lab and a whole new batch purchased, which should please the Science teacher, Mr Brough, greatly, as the present chemicals never seem satisfactory due to impurities and age, or are simply - NON-EXISTENT.

All in all, since Mr Maxwell's arrival and with a great effort from the rest of the school (teachers and pupils) GLENURQUHART SECONDARY SCHOOL HAS NEVER LOOKED BACK.

S.G.

THE GREAT TREK

Seventeen pupils of Glenurquhart Secondary School went on a walking expedition to Glen Affric. There after a long trip we set up camp. Beside our three tents was the White House Bothy with three rooms, kitchen, lounge (with beds) and bedroom. Cooking in the bothy was easy and sitting playing cards at night was cosy and very warm indeed.

Before setting off on our first walk next day we were sent packed lunches from the school to eat on our walk. On this twelve-mile walk the rucksacks were not needed as we would only take a few hours to get there and back. This walk was on a track and walking on the stones

was quite painful on your heels. When we stopped half way we could see the youth hostel far ahead. As it was getting late, we didn't try to get to it. Looking to the north-west, we could see the snow-capped mountains being blotted out by mist and a slight wind brought rain.

On Tuesday morning we set off on the same route, this time with rucksacks. We set off at 3.30. Some other pupils stayed with Mr Swann for ornithology. These included Robbie Paterson, James McDonnell, Ronald Mackenzie, Amanda Grange, Paul Tomlin, John Mackenzie and Julie MacDonald. This walk took us about 4 hours, and when we arrived exhausted at the youth hostel, we found

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out that we had to walk another 2 miles to the bothy we were actually going to stay in! Eventually we arrived at the bothy, where we were welcomed by three men who were staying there also. We set up a fire, and we ate our packed tea, enjoying the warmth from the fire. We then played cards. At 11.30 we went to bed, but before we could get to sleep the door flew open and into the bothy came a young man, drenched. He was able to be accommodated upstairs in the bothy.

In the morning we ate breakfast and set off for Ratagan Youth Hostel. This was a 7-mile walk, passing the Five Sisters of Kintail. Eventually we came down to Shiel Bridge Café. We all met there, and then after another long walk we saw the sign, "RATAGAN 3 miles". And was I glad to see that!

Mr Maxwell and myself stopped, meeting Mr Robertson on the way. He said he could carry one person to Ratagan. I had no second thoughts about taking the lift. On the way, what did

we see but a pile of rucksacks standing by a gate! I got out and Mr Robertson piled these into his car, leaving me by the road, waiting for the other four walkers who were coming up the road. I walked on with them. Mr Robertson collected us half way and took us to the hostel.

We had walked 43½ miles in 3 days along some of the roughest mountains from Glen Affric to Ratagan, passing three of the highest peaks in the Highlands, Carn Eige, Mamsodhail and Sgurr na Lapaich. In fact, 4 of the fittest boys and a teacher climbed the 3 peaks in one day, ringing ptarmigan, golden plover and sandpiper. We arrived in Glenmoriston in a thunderstorm. We thoroughly appreciated the trip.

Our thanks must go to Mr Maxwell, Mrs Court and Mr Swann for organising and leading this super expedition; the janitor, Mr Robertson, and Mrs Muirhead for providing food and transport. We all hope that a similar trip will go ahead next year.

Karen Tomlin

CANNA TRIP.

On the evening of 21st May twelve pupils from Glenurquhart Secondary School, accompanied by six youths (former pupils) and two adults - Mr Swann and Mr MacLean - set out on their annual ornithological trip to the Isle of Canna. We travelled by car to Mallaig, where we slept overnight aboard the 'Pioneer', the ferry-boat which was to take us to Canna the following morning. Within a couple of hours of leaving Mallaig, we were going ashore on the island where we were met by 'Packy', the Canna porter, who kindly transported ourselves and our luggage by tractor and trailer to the bothy. This was to be our base and, for some, their sleeping quarters while the remainder of the group slept in tents and a caravan

which were nearby. During the afternoon of the first day we took a walk round Sanday, a nearby island which is connected to Canna by a bridge. There we caught and ringed puffins, fulmars and eiders. Next day we set off for Garrisdale where there is the largest shag colony on the island. It was a highly successful outing and we also caught a guillemot. That night we split into two groups - one went seeking shearwater and the other corncrakes. This arrangement continued for the other nights of our stay. On Saturday, we went to Lambscale, a new shag colony. Although we did not get many shags we were pleased with the results considering this was a new colony and not yet properly established.

FORT AUGUSTUS SEC.

"JOSEPH..."

At 7.30 last Thursday and Friday nights (29th and 30th May), there was a certain anxiety filling the School Hall at Fort Augustus. The well-known "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat" production was only about two minutes from starting. The producer, Mrs Sheila Bruce, was going through the final preparations. The cast, pupils from Fort Augustus Secondary School, were filing on backstage, trying desperately to keep quiet. A silence filled the hall, the cast entered, the stage lit up and the first number began immediately. This one, "Any Dream Will Do" was also to finish the show.

Joseph (Ian Morrison) took the leading part and received a loud burst of applause at the end of each number. Each of the brothers were highly commended for their well-acted parts; and the highlight of the evening came early in the second half, when Pharaoh (Ruairaidh MacDonald) entered to sing "The Song of the King". Most people said this was the most enjoyable part of the show, and even the cast were inclined to agree!

The three MacDonald brothers were a credit to the show; not only did each suit his part, but their voices could be heard at the back of the hall.

A big vote of thanks can be given to the costume ladies and the helpers backstage, as the show would not have been completed without them.

When the last song had ended, and the encores were sung, rousing

applause went up, and Donald MacDonald asked the audience to thank Mrs Bruce for all her hard work.

The curtain went down and the audience left the hall in high spirits. Backstage, Mrs Bruce gave a final thank you to the cast for their own hard work.

A last mention can be made on behalf of Neil Robertson and Ingrid Everett, who gave the audience wide grins and smiles, and gave an extra bit of life to the show, as Mr and Mrs Potiphar.

The cast and helpers would just like to say thank you to all the people who attended the shows.

JAMIE PATERSON.

It was Thursday night. Backstage, excitement was building up. Girls were rushing about, combing their hair and fixing their tights. 7.30 drew near, everyone was nervous, the audience getting impatient. Now we stood, ready to start the first song. The audience were quiet, eyes wide, waiting. The music started and Joseph - Ian Morrison - began to sing. The sweet music drifted through the hall and everyone in the audience watched intently.

We sang through the first half with ease and it was obvious to us that everyone was enjoying themselves. We had a break, tidied ourselves up and started the second half. When Pharaoh - Ruairaidh MacDonald - made his entrance, the audience laughed with glee and obviously thought he was a real star. His older brother, Donald, did a very good solo as Reuben and the other brother, Colin - Judah - sang the "Benjamin Calypso" and

I think the audience must have enjoyed his little dance.

All in all, I think the audience had a rare time and the show was thoroughly enjoyed.

EILIDH WILSON.

Special mention should be made of the girls' choir for their superb singing. The following, from Invermoriston, were all members of the choir: Caroline Grant, Christine MacMillan, Shona Robertson, Catherine Smart and Patricia Stoddart.

DALCHREICHART

The session started off with fourteen pupils, four of whom left before Christmas. Two new pupils have taken us up to twelve, and five new infant entrants next August will push the roll up to seventeen - exactly what it was as many years ago!

During the year we lost the services of Mr Chris Sharp as school transport driver. As a token of appreciation, the school presented Chris with a pair of framed prints depicting Highland wildlife and an illustrated book on the Highlands. We are very happy to hear he is to marry again.

We shall also be saying good-bye to Mr and Mrs Fraser, who have our very best wishes for a happy retirement.

Meantime we look forward to our forthcoming sale, and our annual trip in conjunction with Invermoriston School.

M.C.G.

INVERMORISTON

The school year is rapidly drawing to a close after the usual crowded programme of a summer term. The earlier weeks brought visits from the school doctor and dentist, and among the more pleasant events were the presentation concert for the Rev. Peter and Mrs Fraser, and an exhibition of books held by the Inverness Children's Book Club.

The children were invited to compete in Fort Augustus School sports on 19 June, and weather permitting, our own sports will be held at Riverside Park on Tuesday 24 June at 2.15 pm.

Along with Dalchreichard School and a number of parents and friends, we look forward to an outing to Fort William on Friday 20 June, which will include visits to Lochaber Police Headquarters and the West Highland Museum.

The school prize-giving will take place on Monday 30 June at 2.15 pm.

M.L.N.

DARTS cont. from p.6.

Zeb. It was some match; normally one can learn a bit of French when watching Maggie and Zeb play, but as the 100s and 140s started notching up and the silence fell, the tension on both sides was quite something (including the marker) but alas once again there has to be a loser. Great play Zeb - tough luck Maggie!

M. Smart

PS The Glen Albyn Darts League would be grateful if the Manager would consider changing the Dart Board as the crowds at the door make play difficult.

cont. from p 14

We went to 'The Nunnery', another shag colony, on Sunday, where we were surprised to find the beginnings of a guillemot colony. We ringed razorbills there too. Monday was to be our last day, the morning of which we spent checking the shearwater observation burrows. After dinner, we packed up our belongings and were transported back to the pier by 'Packy'.

By the time we reached Mallaig on our homeward journey, we were all tired and weary after a happy but exhausting week. I'm sure I speak for the whole group when I say that we thoroughly enjoyed our trip to Canna and hope we may be able to repeat the experience next year. Mr Swann and Mr MacLean, without whom the trip would not have been possible, deserve our thanks and appreciation for their help, interest, and not least, their patience!

JAMES MCDONELL (Jnr.)

IN MEMORIAM

Mrs. Agnes McNab (Nabby) came to Invermoriston in 1955 when her husband retired from his job as an engineer with the jute mills in Calcutta and Dundee, and soon fitted happily into the life of the community. She joined the W.R.I. and the Woman's Guild and faithfully attended the meetings, deriving great pleasure from all the social occasions of village life. She was also a loyal member of the Church of Scotland congregation - always first in her place on Sunday morning - although her previous connection had been with the Baptist Church where she learned the thrill

SPORTS.

On the 30th of May, Glenurquhart Senior School had its annual sports. The weather was fair, but not many "fans" turned up.

After the sports there was a presentation and Mr Buell, the new minister, gave a little talk. The sale then began. The things on the stalls were soon taken, but the plant, bric-a-brac and book stalls were not quite empty. There were 5 games stalls which raised quite a lot of money.

It was a busy but quite an enjoyable day.

A.G.

The following pupils were among those receiving prizes:

Fiona Grant - 1st in 5th year
and prize for English
Paul Tomlin - prize for
Religious Knowledge
Amanda Grange - 3rd equal in
1st year.

of hearty singing. She also served the congregation by looking after the church for several years and by playing the organ for the Sundayschool for many years. We missed her, and she often said how much she missed Glenmoriston, when she went to live with her daughter in Dornoch two years ago. There she found the care she needed as she began to be aware of her eighty-odd years taking their toll.

To Chrissie and her family, and to George, now retired in Wales from the Merchant Navy, and his family we offer our sympathy.

in brief

UNDER- 12 SHINTY - 'GARRY.

The Glengarry under-12 Shinty Team played 6 games and lost each one. The first game at Drum we lost against Fort, 6-0. The second game at Drum we lost 4-1 against Cannich. Kenneth Anderson scored the goal. The third game at Fort Augustus we lost to the Fort 4-0, and to Cannich we lost 2-0. At Invergarry we lost the first game 2-0, the second against Drum 4-1. The goal scorer was Gary Robertson.

The outright winners were Fort and the runners-up were Cannich.

GARY ROBERTSON.

SWIMMING CLUB.

Every Friday there is a bus from Fort Augustus that takes people to the swimming baths in Fort William.

On Friday, 23rd May, we started getting tuition from people at the baths. Everybody pays £1.20 and that pays for going there and getting into the baths.

KIRSTEEN DOUGLAS.

The next meeting of the Community Council will be held in Glenmoriston Hall - the first it is hoped of more such - on Monday, June 23rd at 7.30 p.m. This is an open meeting and members of the public are warmly invited to come and hear what is (or is not) being done on their behalf.

Mr. J.E. Grant and Mrs Sey wish to thank all who gave generously for the Red Cross to raise the sum of £15.82.

The Christian Aid Collection in Glenmoriston in May 1980 amounted to £56. Thanks to all concerned.

P.F.

We welcome to the community Mr Calvin Booth, District Officer with the Forestry Commission in succession to Gordon Cowie, with his wife and their family.

...Mr Dennis Horsfall and his wife Helen, who are wardens of the Loch Ness Caravan & Camping Park.

And we offer congratulations to Gordon and Alison Phimister on the safe arrival of the youngest member of the community, their son born on June 12th - Andrew Matthew.

Since the last issue we have said goodbye to Miss Kitty Fraser who has settled down very happily in one of the single persons' houses in Balmacaan Road, and to Jimmy and Lorna Service, with Lorraine and Yvonne, who now have a new house at Sunnyside.

S.W.R.I. * * * *

On 12 May we held our Annual General Meeting when Mrs Nicholson was re-elected President and Mrs W. Tomlin Secretary. Mrs Sutton, from Corpach, came to speak about A.C.W.W. and its achievements; which were beautifully illustrated by slides taken at the Tri-ennial Conference last held in Nairobi. Mrs Sutton made two presentations for us, firstly to Mrs P. Fraser now "officially" retired from our branch of S.W.R.I. and secondly to Mrs J. Service, we wish them both a happy "settling in" and do hope they will visit us whenever they can. Mrs W. Tomlin won the competition of the evening, which led to her being overall competitions winner this session, for which she received an S.W.R.I. Silver Spoon. We all look forward to our next session commencing October. K.W.

WANTED: Automatic also bunk beds
punchcard knitting machine LYNDA.