

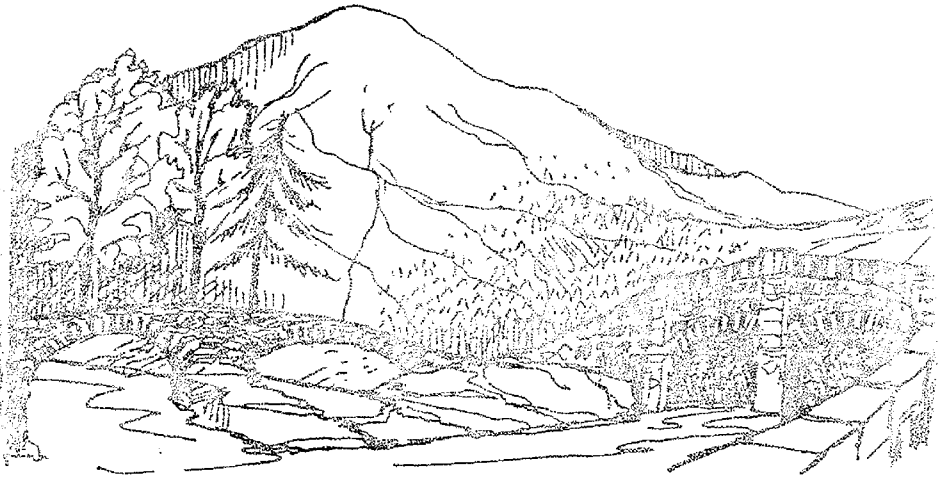
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Moriston Matters

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FEBRUARY 1983



FROM THE EDITOR

* * * *

Well - the first issue of 1983 is printed and published, and thanks again to all who contributed. Read on for poems, articles on local social occasions over the festive season and for an insight into the life of our elected European Member of Parliament - to name but a few !

Should anyone wish to start submitting ideas for a regular feature - recipes, useful hints, games, etc., don't feel shy - it's the sort of thing that gets everyone involved in passing on their knowledge for the general benefit ! In the meantime, I'll leave you in the hope that you will enjoy this issue, and hoping to hear from you for the next !

S McDONELL

A LOOK BACK TO THE CHRISTMAS SEASON

* * * * *

On the last day of term, the Invermoriston School children presented their musical Nativity Play "Sing a Song for a Baby". There was a gratifying turn-out of parents and friends, and the Rev and Mrs Buell were also present.

Thanks are due to all parents who provided, or helped with, costumes, and to Lynda Nairn who also assisted in dressing the children; to Mrs Buell for accompanying the hymns, and to Rev Buell for his address to the children.

The cast was as follows : -

Narrator	Calum McLean
Mary	Catherine Steele
Joseph	Alan McLean
Innkeeper	Brodie Nairn
Shepherds	John Grant, Daniel Talbot, Leonard Grant
Angels	Jennifer MacDonald, Karen Tracy, Nicola Grant
Stars	Eilidh Nairn, Heather MacDonald
Kings	Sandy Grant, Calum McLean, Derek Steele

A collection which amounted to £6.50 was taken for Quarrier's Hoses.

M.L.N.

PANTOMIME

* * *

Invermoriston and Dalchreichart Schools went to Eden Court Theatre to see the Pantomime "Cinderella" on the 20 December. A bus was hired to take us there, and there were seats for anyone who wanted to come along. The bus journey to the theatre was without incident, and we arrived in plenty of time. A little while after we were shown to our seats, the Pantomime began. The two Ugly Sisters were very funny, and Cinderella was very pretty. I enjoyed the Pantomime very much.

ALAN McLEAN

THOUGHTS ON THE CINDERELLA PANTOMIME

FROM DALCHREICHART SCHOOL

* * *

First part too long, I nearly fell asleep I liked the dancers and their lovely costumes They were good at imitating the Inverness accent What lovely clothes they had on at the ball ! It was good when Buttons was throwing the packets of 'buttons', but he should have thrown more ! The dancing at the ball was boring I liked them when they were punks It was nasty when the Sisters ripped up Cinderella's invitation And it was very sad when Buttons was turned down by Cinderella They should have made the teachers stand up and sing I liked "Mother Goose" better.

* * * * *

CHRISTMAS PARTIES

* * *

The teenagers' party was held on the evening of Friday 17 December. Unfortunately, there was a disco on at Fort Augustus that night and attendance in Invermoriston was very poor. However, those who came appeared to enjoy themselves. The committee felt that, unless more interest would be shown by the teenagers, it would not be worthwhile holding anything in future years. We realise that perhaps we are not providing the kind of entertainment wanted, but would welcome any suggestions from the teenagers for whatever form they would like their evening to take.

The following afternoon it was the childrens' turn, and this time it was not clashing dates but 'flu' that kept the attendance down. The children thoroughly enjoyed the games, dancing, cartoons and tea, but the highlight was the visit from Santa, who had a present for all, although he had dropped James Girvan's out of his sack and it was only found after some searching !

The committee were sorry to hear of David Tracy's resignation as Chairman after doing the job so well for the last couple of years, but we are sure Lynda Nairn will be equally efficient

Santa also drew the raffle, which had been held to boost funds. We would like to thank all those who gave prizes and helped us raise about £140

M.S.G.

SENIOR CITIZENS' PARTY

* * * *

On Wednesday, 12 January, at the Lovat Arms Hotel, Fort Augustus, a large gathering of Senior Citizens and friends from Invermoriston and Glenmoriston arrived at approximately 7 p.m. for their annual party. Transport for the occasion was kindly provided by John Martin.

On arrival, guests were given a drink which warmed them all up, and each person was issued with a sticker on which a name had been written and, before dinner, each one had to find the person with the appropriate sticker, i.e. Darby and Joan.

Father Andrew said Grace before an excellent three course meal was served and thoroughly enjoyed by everyone. Margaret MacRae was then asked by Jerry Johnson to sing for her supper, which she did beautifully, giving a rendering of "Danny Boy" and "Eilidh".

Rev Bart. Buell gave his thanks to Margaret for her singing and to the Hotel staff for their work in preparing and serving the meal. Afterwards he asked us all to be upstanding and to drink a toast to absent friends.

We then returned to the area allocated for dancing, where the fun and games really started. Farquhar Boyd supplied the music by playing his accordion. Various games were organised by Alistair and Jerry, including the hilarious Rag Bag dance, the winners being Jessie Steele, Jim Diamond and Rev Bart Buell.

The games and dances continued until about 1.00 a.m. with Margaret giving us the occasional song.

Many thanks must be extended to all the organisers of this very successful evening.

N.M. & C.G.

* * * * *

WINNIE EWING, M.E.P.

* * * *

From much informative material received from Winnie Ewing, M.E.P. (Highlands and Islands) I have chosen to publish the following material which constituted her diary for October 1982. While not wishing to give any political slant to our local newspaper, I wondered if there might be some interest in the activities of our elected representative in the European Parliament.

Read on !

EDITOR

DIARY OF WINNIE EWING, M.E.P. FOR OCTOBER 1982

* * * * *

One of the few drawbacks of being a Member of the European Parliament for the Highlands and Islands Constituency of Scotland is the travel. As the Westminster M.P. for Moray and Nairn travelling up and down to London each week and travelling from Inverness to Lossiemouth and from Lossiemouth to Glasgow was very much a feature of my life. Now the scale of the operation broadened. Often planes and cars are laid on but it is still pretty tiring. October was a month of maximum travel with some of the frustration of fog delays at airports. I went from Salonika to Skye, Lossiemouth to London, Brussels to Barcelona via Paris, then on to Strasbourg and back to Scotland via Amsterdam.

My month began with the Regional Committee of the European Parliament in Greece. I am a member of the Regional Committee, one of the pivotal committees of the European Parliament. We started off in Athens and thereafter divided into smaller groups. Mine went on to two of the beautiful islands of Greece, Samos and Milos. The wonderful thing about visiting a foreign country as part of a delegation is that so much is packed into it. We make contact with the people that perhaps could not be made in a lifetime and receive magnificent hospitality from the inhabitants, in particular town mayors. This is one of the truly beneficial aspects of the Parliament, the communication between the various peoples of Europe and the spread of friendship.

In the/....

In the second week in October, it was on to Portree for Mod Eilean Cheo. I had my name down to compete as I had last year. However, I found myself with a fairly sore throat. With a mixture of relief and frustration I withdrew. Skye in the autumn sun was a place of magic and beauty which certainly did not take second place to the Greek islands. I am sure I see new air of confidence blowing in the Gaeltacht. There seems to be far more learners, particularly among the young, with parents insisting on tuition for their children.

In the third week in October I attended the official meeting of the Lomé Fishermen's Working Group in Brussels. We finalised a draft report to put before the Assembly in Rome at the beginning of November. I shall be there in the presence of representatives of the 63 Lomé countries and the 10 E.E.C. States. As always, I shall have my Saltire on my desk in front of me. For reasons that I can't begin to understand my Saltire seems to irritate enormously the U.K. delegates but delights even more enormously everyone else present. The Third World deserves whatever help Europe can give. I think Scotland has an immense contribution to make here.

From 22nd to 23rd October I was in Barcelona at the invitation of the C.D.C. (Convergencia Democrática Catalunya). This Party fielded candidates in the recent Spanish Parliamentary elections and they managed to increase their M.Ps. from 8 to 13 in the Cortes. I had the very pleasant experience of canvassing for them and loud speaking on the streets of Barcelona. I got a magnificent welcome from the Catalonians who, incidentally, have a great measure of autonomy. I used my school Spanish and they tell me it went down quite well. I mentioned I had a cousin who had fought in the International Brigade. This got tremendous applause from the Catalonians.

In the last week in October I attended the European Parliament in Strasbourg at the very important Budget Session. I lodged 15 amendments in my name with my Group's support, mainly on fishing and farming matters which are, of course, vitally important to my constituency.

I tried/...

I tried to get a fuel subsidy for my fishermen. Sadly, I got no support from the British Members and it was lost. The same fate greeted my efforts for hill farmers. The majority of the British Members didn't support my efforts for an agricultural development programme for the Highlands and Islands (with a few English and Welsh exceptions). Please note that all the Scottish members of the European Parliament voted against my efforts for assistance for the farming community. A Scottish Socialist M.E.P. stated that the development programme "wasn't wanted by the farmers in the Highlands". The good lady must mix with different people from me. Incidentally, my proposal was in fact supported by the Highland Regional Council, the N.I.D.E. and the Farmers' Union, but as I stated before, my proposal got the chop from the Scottish M.E.Ps. I sometimes wonder whose side they are on ! The outcome of the fishing talks are now known and, as was expected, my Orkney and Shetland fishermen have been sold out once again. They were sold down the river when Mr Heath took this country into the Market. The same sell-out proceeded when Mr Wilson "renegotiated the entry of the UK". Quite obviously, Scottish fishing rights are being used as a mere pawn in the European chess game.

Now for the good news. I have managed to attain the following E.E.C. fundings :-

Fair Isle Wind Power	-	£42,000
Kirkwall Creamery	-	a similar sum
Royal Bank	-	£5 million to create jobs in special areas of coal and steel redundancy.
Highland Regional Council	-	Borrowed £2.3 million at cheaper rates and saved their ratepayers £220,000.

As they say, you win some and you lose some. But how much more we would win for Scotland had we the control of our own country's affairs in our own hands.

I complete/ . .

I complete this report on the 15th anniversary of my by-election victory in Hamilton. How long ago it seems and yet I can remember it all as if it were yesterday. As the run-down of Scotland's industry speeds up, it is becoming clearer than ever to our people that if we don't protect our own interests no-one else will. If Australia, New Zealand and Canada can be self-governing, prosperous members of the Commonwealth, then why not Scotland ?

WINNIE EWING, M.E.P.
(Highlands & Islands)

* * * * *

FESTIVE GUN SHOOT

* * *

Despite very wintry weather, a good turn-out of 60 guns braved the conditions to shoot at Loch Ness Gun Club's festive shoot. The shoot was won by Ian Robb from Inverness and the prizes of festive fare were presented at the ceillidh, which followed at the Benleiva Hotel. The Club League was won by Louis Stewart from Inverness.

Gun Club members again met at the Benleiva on 4 February for the annual dinner and dance. We all enjoyed the meal and the music played by Malcolm Munro from Glenurquhart.

Martin Girvan received this year's Skol shooting award at the Sportsman of the Year dinner, held in Edinburgh. He was awarded it for his performance at the Commonwealth Games.

R.S.G.

* * * * *

FROM THE REV. F. B. BUELL

* * * *

Stags on the road between Fort Augustus and Inverness have presented something of a terrifying hazard of late. Someone collided with one near Fort Augustus and someone else nearly did over near Dochfour.

Fallen stones, deer, and pedestrians all present a hazard on the road and provide a collision course for the unsuspecting driver.

Jesus and His disciples collided with a violent storm on the Sea of Galilee. Their collision course was thrusting them into the jaws of a watery death. The disciples cried out to their sleeping Master, "Master, don't you care that we're drowning?" and he woke up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves, "Hush now! Be still!" The wind dropped and everything was very still. "Why are you so frightened? What has happened to your faith?" he asked them.

He invites us to trust Him amidst the collisions of life.

* * * * *

H O W M A N
R E C O



INVERMORIS
1962 GLENN

Y CAN YOU
OGNISE ?



ION SCHOOL,
MORISTON 1962

GLENURQUHART AND GLENMORISTON WOMAN'S GUILD

* * * *

The Speaker at the November meeting, held in Kilmichael Hall, was Mrs Whyte of Nairn, whose subject, as part of the "Room to Grow" theme, was "Expressions of Growth".

Ranging from the literal understanding of the subject in producing good vegetables, to various areas of growth in worship, the speaker presented many thought-provoking points.

Mrs Whyte's sense of fun, and the use of Art and Music to illustrate her theme, guaranteed a lively and interesting evening for her listeners.

An evening of Christmas Celebration was held in Kilmichael Hall on 6 December when a film-strip of Nativity paintings by Great Masters throughout the World, and from many centuries, was shown.

Very informative and interesting commentaries were read by guild members.

The fact that the paintings, which are usually seen in books, were enlarged by the projector to a size, in many cases, much nearer to the originals added greatly to the enjoyment and understanding of these works of Art.

Carols, old and new, with piano and guitar accompaniment, were an important part of the celebration and the evening ended with a beautifully prepared meal which was very much appreciated.

At the first meeting of the New Year, on 17 January, the speaker was Mrs Dobson of Glenurquhart, whose late husband, Canon Dobson, was the Minister of St Ninian's Church.

Using the title "Still Growing", Mrs Dobson outlined the conditions necessary for growth throughout the various stages of life. Our thoughts were channelled towards helping others to grow and to our conscious and unconscious influence on those around us. The informal discussion which followed illustrated that the practical nature of the talk had been most beneficial. N.N.E.

MORISTON MATTERS PRIZE FOR CREATIVE WRITING

* * * *

A NARROW ESCAPE

In the woods, there was a very deep hole under an old oak tree. This is where Hilda Haggis, and her husband Harold, lived. They were supposed to wake up one day in Spring, but silly Harold put the alarm clock to the 24th January. What a silly haggis !

Anyway, Hilda was expecting babies in the spring, so just before the winter, Harold had collected their store of berries, seeds, nuts, leaves and, as a special treat, two 'combs of honey. To drink, they had water in a stream. Well, that's what Harold thought, but of course, it was all frozen !

Suddenly the alarm clock rang ! Harold and Hilda woke up. They both walked out, into the snow of course. "Crikey !" exclaimed Harold and Hilda together, "It's winter !" "We'll still go out; it's not too cold," Harold assured Hilda. So out they went They were just about to turn back when they met a fox. "Oh dear !" wailed Hilda "We're done for this time". But, in a flash, some hunters came. The fox ran away when it saw them but they were not hunting for foxes, they were hunting for haggis! ^{Just} _{missed} Harold and stuck into the oak tree. Hilda and Harold turned and ran into their hole. When they heard the hunters going away Harold said, "I think we'd better go back to sleep till the Spring". "Yes", agreed Hilda. And that's just what they did.

CLAIRE TOMLIN

* * * * *

WATER

The water flows near the rose
and then it comes out of the hose;
then right clean under my nose,
then to the rest of the roses;
then I say, "What a good thing I've got a hose!"

ERODIE NAIRN

Erodie wins a special creative prize for this piece.

HARRY AND THE ECHOES

It was coming up for winter and Edward Eagle and Robby Rabbit were gathering food for the winter. "Come along, Harry Haggis", called Edward Eagle. "First I'll listen to my echoes for a while", said Harry the Haggis.

His grandfather had been made into a Burns Supper, so Harry made his way to the Land of Echoes, "Ah-eee", he shouted. "Ah-eee", shouted his echo. Then, suddenly, he heard a strange voice calling his name. "Wh-o-o's th-that?" murmured Harry. "I am the ghost of your grandfather. I was lazy like you and I was caught-tt-t", said the voice. "What shall I do now?" said Harry, and a tear dropped from his eye. Suddenly Robby Rabbit and Edward Eagle jumped out of the bushes. "You are saved", said Edward Eagle. And they gave him the food they had kept for him.

MARTIN GERVAN

* * * * *

MY MOTHER

My mother's name is Mary but I call her Mam. She bys me nice things. She dus baking it is good. She like like a bon in her car. She is crabit some times. I love her becas she is good to me.

ANN MARIE GILLIES

* * *

SNOW

It is much fun in the snow
When my fingers glow,
I love to glide
and love to glide
In the wintry blow.

CALUM McLEAN

Snow is fun, snow is cold. It falls most years at Xmas time. The moon shines down on the snow. An owl hoots. Except for that everything is quiet.

CALUM McLEAN

A "SPRITELY" THEME IN VERSE

* * * *

A Poem

I am a sprite,
I live in the snow,
I make it swirl,
And I make it blow.

I will redden your nose,
And freeze your toes;
How do I do it ?
Nobody knows.

Look out for me,
I'm very wee;
I might be hard
For you to see.

But I'm always out,
Round and about;
Doing my mischief,
Be sure to watch out.

CLAIRE TOMLIN

A POEM

I am a sprite,
I live in the snow;
When Winter comes,
I have a show.

The grass will not grow,
Nor the rivers flow;
No-one will know
I am their foe.

The wind is my friend,
Hard he will blow;
People ne'll freeze
From head to toe.

I hate the summer,
So do my friends;
I'm always happy
When it ends.

JOHN McDONELL

* * * * *

THE HOULET

A big broon houlet
Sittin' in a tree,
Watchin' the gerse
An' waitin' for his tea.
Here comes a rottan
Sleekit an' fat
Doon swoops the houlet
An' catches the rat.
Name flees the houlet
Wi' his tea,
Back tae his auld branch
In the tree.

ALAN McLEAN

I made a snowman and I put
a hat on him and some gloves
too, and a scarf, and I gave
him a pipe. Then he came
alive.

KAREN TRACY

"TREES" POEMS

* * *

Charled, twisted, craggy and rough,
The trunks of winter trees
Stretch upwards to the sky.
No leaves adorn
Their twiggy limbs
As they probe the winter air.
A coat of snow
Lies thick on branches
That once were covered in a shawl of green.

ALAN McLEAN

In Winter, some trees are white,
But very cold it is.
Some tops of trees are white,
But bottoms of trees are green
Sometimes.
But some are ugly
With broken branches,
But leaves fall off
And some look sad.

CATHERINE STEELE

It is winter and the trees are covered in snow and I
love Christmas trees in the Winter and I like them when
they have decorations on them.

JENNIFER MacDONALD

The prize for Reportage has been withheld this issue -
hopefully, to encourage more entries for the next issue.

HALL NEWS

* * *

The new Hall Committee Members, elected at the A.G.M. on 6 December are :

Mr Arkle Fraser - Chairman
Mrs Lynda Nairn - Secretary
Mrs Nancy MacLeod - Treasurer

Rev F B Buell, Messrs Ian Grant, Tommy Girvan,
Tom Kane, Pat MacDonald, Alistair MacKintosh,
John MacRae, Peter Stoddart, Bob Watson,
Mrs Margaret MacRae and Miss Christine
MacDonald.

Margaret and Alistair Smart have given up as Hallkeepers after a spell - not their first - in the job, and Guy Beech has taken over.

The last load of wastepaper went off in December in a big van, with a big trailer that drew in at the Church Steps for the bundles to be manhandled down to it from the shed. Many thanks to all who lent their arms to this task. The sum realised for the load was £29.35, making a total of over £400 for Hall Funds over the years. The collection of wastepaper in Invermoriston has now been discontinued.

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BADMINTON CLUB

* * *

At a friendly match played in Fort Augustus on 21 February, the Glenmoriston team lost by one match.

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IN MEMORIAM

MRS MACLENNAN

Mrs Catherine (Kay) MacLennan, with her husband Willie, and their baby son, was one of the first occupants of the Council Houses at Riverside Park, but when an opportunity arose they moved to Fort Augustus which was more convenient for Willie's work as a bus driver. She belonged to Arisaig and brought a warm West Highland kindness to her relationships. Her death on 14 January leaves her many friends the poorer in that respect. We extend our sympathy to William in his loss.

* * *

MR MASON

We were sorry to learn of the death, on 18 January of Mr Herbert (Bert) Mason in Northumbria after some weeks of failing health. With Mrs Mason and Susan, he had lived at Port Clair - the name of the house at that time was Gobhar Sgiathach - during the sixties in active retirement, spending much of his time fishing. A marine engineer by profession, he had been owner and manager of Whitebridge Hotel for some years before coming to Glenmoriston, and it was when he felt that he was no longer able to look after the large garden at Port Clair as he wished, that he moved South. He retained a foothold in the North, however, with a little cottage at Bunloit which he visited regularly. His ability to improvise and put the materials at hand to an ingenious use no doubt reflected his engineering background, and his cheerful personality and ready conversation made him an interesting companion. We offer Susan and her family our sympathy.

* * *

IN MEMORIAM contd ...

GORDON PHIMISTER

On Saturday 5 February, the Church of Scotland, Fort Augustus was packed to say farewell to a young man whose life had been cruelly cut short as a result of an unfortunate accident at work. A quiet, unassuming young man, Gordon was liked not only by his colleagues in the Forestry Commission, but by all who knew him.

Having only recently moved from Port Clair to Fort Augustus, Gordon, Alison and their two young children had just settled in to their new home when tragedy struck. Our deepest sympathy goes out to Alison and the children on their terrible loss.

D.R.T.

* * *

MRS MANNIELEAN BUELL

We extend our sympathy also to the Rev Bart Buell, and his sister, whose mother died on 19 February in Conrad, Montana

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SPONSORED WALK

* * *

A sponsored walk in aid of the well-publicised Cavitron Fund was successfully completed on Saturday 19 February, by Stevie Macleod, grandson of Alastair and Chrissie, Dalchreichart. Stevie, who will be eleven on 6 March, has undergone three major operations, to remove a brain tumour, in the past two years. He wanted to carry out the sixteen mile walk - and at the end even suggested doing the return trip - to show his appreciation to the nursing and surgical teams of the Dundee Royal Infirmary.

At first Stevie thought he would raise about £500, but it now looks as if the final amount will be more than £2,000. There are around one hundred sponsor forms circulated throughout the country in his name, and in addition to this he is receiving many donations. The response to this fund has been marvellous, and on behalf of Stevie I wish to express my special thanks to all the people locally who contributed so generously.

NANCY MACLEOD

IN BRIEF

We welcome to the community Jenny Beech, daughter of Guy and Mandy, born on 23 November.

Congratulations to Alastair and Margaret Smart who celebrated their silver wedding on 15 January.

We wish Mrs Peggy Smith (Achlain) a speedy return from hospital, and a good recovery from her illness.

The footpath from the shop to the bridge is nearing completion and those who use it frequently are especially grateful for the extended street lamps.

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DARTS COMPETITION

* * *

On Friday 21 January, the Annie Fraser Trophy was contested for in the Glenmoriston Bar. After many matches, the final was between Norman MacLeod and Neil Robertson. Neil eventually triumphed in the best of three matches, and once again won the cup.

On Friday 28 January, the Duncan Grant Shield attracted a large entry. After many close encounters, the final was fought between Ronald Ferguson and, wait for it, Neil Robertson, and once again, it was Neil who picked up the Shield. Well done, Neil ! We would like to thank Mr Shepherd who kindly donated a bottle of whisky.

A. McC

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